

MINUTES DRAFT
FOR THE MEETING OF THE
HAWAI'I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

DATE: December 7, 2021
TIME: 2:30 p.m.
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
235 S. Beretania Street, 6th Floor Library
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)
Brad Ka'aleleo Wong (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable
Development)

ABSENT: Niniau Kawaihae (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division)

GUESTS: Jenny Runyon (US BGN, USGS)
Dr. Larry Kimura (UH-Hilo)
Jeremy Goldsmith (member of the public)

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2021

MOTION: Mr. Wong moved to approve the minutes of November 16, 2021; Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of November 16, 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

Melia Lane-Kamahele from the National Park Service forwarded Secretarial Orders from the US Department of the Interior about offensive names. Ms. Runyon from USGS clarified that although the memo refers to federal lands, the Secretarial Orders are meant to address offensive and derogatory names in all locations, and in particular "squaw" names. An advisory committee will be established and will include a member from a Native Hawaiian organization. The committee will probably meet in the Spring and decide on the extent of

outreach they will do. State names authorities are unclear about their roles in the process, but the expectation is that they will be tasked with proposing alternate names. More information should follow in the coming months.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

None.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Review and discuss previous HBGN decision on Mauna Kea

Ms. McEldowney provided HBGN meeting minutes from 2013-2014 at which the Board previously discussed and made a naming decision about **Mauna Kea**. Ms. McEldowney is the only Board member from that time still on the Board.

Ms. McEldowney recalled that the decision was not an easy one and the discussion went back and forth between one word and two. Dr. Kimura and others approached it from the position that these kinds of names should be concatenated.

Dr. Kimura referred to Papakilo that has a collection of historical Hawaiian newspapers; statistics from that source shows 1,400+ instances as two words, but more than 6,000 instances as one word, which include the steamship, the street name, the family name, as well as the mountain. His concern is about proper names, they should be spelled as one word.

Mr. Marzan noted that Mr. Akana at the 2013-2014 Board meetings was the primary advocate for changing the spelling to two words. He felt that “Kea” wasn’t just a descriptor but was the name of the mountain. With the change in the membership of the Board and the current focus on Mauna Kea, it might be time for the Board to review the name of the mountain again.

The purpose of today’s agenda item is to provide the current Board with an understanding of the naming decision of 2013-2014. There is no decision making on this item today. The Board can at its discretion add a name review with decision making as a future agenda item.

Mr. Marzan asked to keep this item on the agenda for further discussion when Ms. Kawaihae and Ms. Oliveira are present.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion and decision on Kūkahau‘ula

The purpose of this item is to consider adding **Kūkahau‘ula** to the GNIS as a place name on its own rather than as a Variant name for Pu‘u Wēkiu. Ms. McEldowney researched maps of the area and old references and created a table listing the pu‘u names at the summit and when they first appeared on maps. There are pu‘u names that first appeared in the 1970’s that were named by surveyors who wanted to identify features for which there were

no names. There are only three major features in the summit area whose names were already recorded; the other names were added later.

A name application form was submitted in 2009 by Paula Helfrich and Kanoë Sukanuma Wilson, anthropology students at UH requesting restoration of the traditional name, **Kūkahau‘ula**, for the cluster of pu‘u (Pu‘u Hau‘oki, Pu‘u Kea, and Pu‘u Wēkiu). The application included references to historical survey maps and other archival documentation.

Dr. Kimura also found in OHA’s Papakilo Database, several nupepa articles from the 1800’s referencing the name **Kūkahau‘ula**.

Mr. Marzan would like to continue this discussion with more of the Board members present.

No naming decision was made.

[3:47pm Dr. Kimura left the meeting]

AGENDA ITEM 7: Discussion and decision on global concatenation

Mr. Buto compiled a spreadsheet of 112 features that are candidates for concatenation from HBGN’s lists for the Island of Hawai‘i. Of these 70 are pu‘u names with two words, 23 are kīpuka, and the rest are lae and lua feature names.

At Mr. Wong’s suggestion, the Board decided to review each name individually and consider the placement of ‘okina and kahakō, if that could be determined. Feature names that were not ambiguous in the placement of diacritical marks were highlighted, but left on the list so that the full Board can review them for decision making at the next meeting. In ten minutes the Board identified a dozen names for concatenation and placement of diacritical marks that could potentially result in naming decisions.

No naming decisions were made.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Review selected place names on the island of Hawai‘i (Camara)

Mr. Marzan confirmed that this list will be reviewed at the next meeting when more Board members are present.

Mr. Buto will remove **Kūkahau‘ula** from this list and leave it as a separate agenda item.

With respect to **Kūkahau‘ula**, Ms. Runyon suggested that the most appropriate Feature Class is “summit,” which typically refers to a single high point, among the choices of summit, ridge, and range. The latitude and longitude for the feature should represent the highest point. Ms. McEldowney suggested using Google Earth to find the highest point in this area and using its coordinates for this feature.

No naming decisions were made.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Adjourn

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.