

**MINUTES
FOR THE MEETING OF THE
HAWAI‘I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

DATE: June 1, 2022
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
235 S. Beretania Street, 6th Floor Conference Room
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum) [remote]
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division) [remote]
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa) [remote]
Niniau Kawaihae (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands) [remote]
Keith Gutierrez (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) [remote]
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable
Development) [in-person]
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources) joined the
meeting at 2:22pm [remote]

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Melia Lane-Kamahele (National Park Service) [remote]
Bobby Camara [remote]

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2022

Ms. McEldowney emailed earlier to note that the draft of the minutes misidentified HB 2026 as SB 2026. Mr. Buto has corrected the bill number to HB 2026 in the summary of bills passed by the Legislature.

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved to approve the minutes of May 4, 2022; Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to approve the revised meeting minutes of May 4, 2022.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

Mr. Camara said that he spoke to Larry Kimura about a Name Application Form for Kūkahau‘ula. He will submit a form at next month’s HBGN meeting.

Mr. Marzan asked about extending an invitation to Dr. John Smith to speak to the Board about Lo‘ihi / Kama‘ehuakanaloa. Dr. Smith is currently on a research vessel and is not able to attend this month. He plans to attend next month and an item will be placed on the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

None.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and decision on Kūkahau‘ula

Continued from last meeting. Mr. Camara contacted Dr. Kimura who will work on the preparing a Name Application Form.

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved that this item be put on a future agenda when the Name Application Form is submitted. Mr. Buto seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to move discussion and decision on Kūkahau‘ula to a future meeting when the Name Application Form is ready.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion and decision on global concatenation

Discussion continued from last meeting.

The names before the Board today are a representative sample of feature names that it has been suggested be globally concatenated – kīpuka, lae, lua, and pu‘u. These features are all on the Island of Hawai‘i. The Board had previously stated its intent to review the sample list one by one to better understand the time required to do so and to assess the value of doing that rather than globally concatenating and going back to review specific ones later as needed.

Ms. Kawaihae stated that her preference is to use just the place name without a Hawaiian word descriptor (like “Lae”). Mr. Buto confirmed that removing the descriptor would be considered a name change rather than a spelling correction.

Mr. Camara expressed his concern about all of the Hawaiian descriptors being removed. This is different from removing the English word “Crater” from the craters in the Park. He doesn’t know how a reader would know/understand what the intent was supposed to be – for example, Pu‘u Kamoamoā is in the ahupua‘a Kamoamoā, so removing “Pu‘u” would cause confusion.

Mr. Marzan clarified that the Board is not considering globally removing the descriptors at this time. The Board is evaluating globally concatenating the names. To do so, the Board had previously discussed creating a new Status Code and possibly color coding the records so that they would be easy to identify as being part of the global concatenation activity.

[Ms. McEldowney joined the meeting remotely at 2:22pm]

Ms. Kawaihae noted that if further research will be required to determine if a descriptor in Hawaiian should be included in the feature name, it would not be productive to globally remove them at this time.

Mr. Camara noted that researching the features to identify their original names will not be successful in every case; some names will never be fully resolved. Global concatenation without the use of diacriticals will be consistent with historical nupepa and in compliance with the established HBGN guidelines. He pointed out that the Board has already concatenated many similar feature names.

Ms. Kawaihae asked for information about the kupuna group referenced in the notes in the feature name spreadsheet. Mr. Camara explained that they are an advisory group to the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Some members may not be kama'aina to or familiar with some of the areas in the park.

Ms. Oliveira asked what will be accomplished by globally concatenating the names. Mr. Camara sees value in consistent concatenation to be understood as a standard spelling of place names, especially for someone unfamiliar with the Hawaiian language. Ms. Oliveira is concerned that what is evident when the words are separate might be lost when concatenated and might lead to more confusion and possibilities for misinterpretation.

Mr. Cummins agreed with the argument that these names should be concatenated if the Board is standardizing on concatenation and wants to be consistent.

Ms. Oliveira asked if all spaces are to be removed in the concatenation or just the space following the descriptor, e.g., "Kīpukapeleoiki" or "Kīpukapele o Iki." Mr. Camara's hope is that the global concatenation would apply to all of the words in the name.

Ms. Kawaihae noted that however well-intentioned, imposing Western processes and conventions has historically had lasting negative impacts on the Native Hawaiian culture. She understands the purpose of the Board but is wary of perpetuating that in how the Board approaches its naming decisions. She is interested in having a discussion in the future about statutory changes to HBGN's functions if there is an appetite to put Hawaiian context on an equal footing with the Western concept of standardization.

Mr. Buto expressed his interpretation of the Board's mission as applying standards from recognized language experts and native speakers rather than developing and imposing its own language standards. The names and spellings approved by the Board are meant to

establish official names to be used by everyone consistently and unambiguously on maps and documents. Mr. Marzan reviewed some of the guidance already in the HBGN Style Guide around concatenation – some exceptions to the general concatenation convention were cited. Mr. Camara noted that in the current list “Kīpuka Major” is an example of one of those exceptions since Major refers to a person’s name. Most of the names on the current list do not fall into this category though.

Ms. Lane-Kamahale recounted some of the history of the name-by-name review of features and noted that it has been going on for many years. She supports taking the time to continue evaluating each name individually.

Mr. Marzan noted that the names on the current list are all “3s” meaning that they’ve been reviewed at least once, but the Boards at the time were not able to reach a decision. The remaining names are the “hard names” and will take time to research.

Mr. Marzan suggested that Board members take the first eight feature names to research during the interim between meetings with their respective resources. Then at the next meeting Board members will bring the results of their research to discuss. Mr. Buto will send the Board members the current spreadsheet of names under consideration.

Ms. Oliveira suggested that a vote be taken to suspend the discussion about global concatenation.

MOTION: Mr. Cummins moved to suspend the discussion about globally concatenating names for now. Mr. Buto seconded the motion.

All of the members present unanimously approved the motion.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Oliveira seconded the motion.

Mr. Buto confirmed that the Board will meet regularly on the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

Mr. Buto confirmed that the Board can continue meeting in a hybrid fashion, with Board members and the general public having the option to attend in-person or remotely via Zoom.

The members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.