

MINUTES DRAFT
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)
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division)
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa)
Niniau Kawaihae (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)
Keith Gutierrez (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable
Development)
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources) joined the
meeting at

ABSENT: None

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

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

Continued from last meeting.

The names before the Board today are a sample of several hundred 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 stated its intent to review a sample list one by one to assess the amount of time required to do so and to evaluate 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 we 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. On the contrary, globally concatenating the names is being discussed. 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. Kawaihae noted that however well-intentioned, imposing Western processes and conventions has historically had lasting negative impacts on the Native Hawaiian culture. She is wary of perpetuating that in how the Board approaches its naming decisions.

Mr. Buto expressed his interpretation of the Board's mission as using and adopting standards from the language experts and native speakers rather than developing and imposing its own standards. The standardization the Board should impose is in the consistent use and adoption of feature names, so that everyone is using the same name for a feature; so that there is no ambiguity in the name of a feature.

Mr. Marzan reviewed some of the guidance in the HBGN Style Guide around concatenation, which was adopted from the 'Olelo...

Mr. Marzan suggested that Board members take a small number of feature names to research and review in each member's respective areas and resources, then at the next meeting bring the results of that research to discuss. Mr. Buto will send the Board members the spreadsheet of names under consideration.

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.

moved that all the Board members review the same small number of names

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 4:00 p.m.