

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

DATE: October 5, 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. Cummins called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division) [remote]
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa) [remote]
Niniau Kawaihae (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands) [remote]
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable
Development) [in-person]

ABSENT: Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)
Keith Gutierrez (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)

GUESTS: Jenny Runyon (USGS) [remote]
Dr. John Smith (UH / ACUF) [remote]

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2022

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved to approve the minutes of September 7, 2022;
Ms. Oliveira seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to approve the revised meeting minutes of September 7, 2022.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

Mr. Buto is following up on the inquiry from Mr. Peter Young about HBGN’s naming decision in 2012 adding “(Military Reservation)” to “Pōhakuloa Training Area.” It is labeled on a USGS topo map with “(Military Reservation)” appended to the name, but it is listed in the GNIS as “Pōhakuloa Training Area” without that additional designation. Ms. Kawaihae and Mr. Cummins did not find any additional information about the name or this decision. Mr. Buto did not find any more information in the files for this naming decision. Ms. Runyon noted that this phrase appears on a topo map and thinks that the Board may

have carried that forward believing that it was part of the name. However, it is not; the GNIS shows “Pōhakuloa Training Area.” Ms. Runyon will check the most current USGS topo to see if the parenthetical phrase is still included in the label.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

None.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and decision on Lō‘ihi Seamount / Kama‘ehuakanaloa

Mr. Cummins introduced Dr. Smith who recapped the HBGN proceedings at the last meeting he attended in July. Dr. Smith consulted with the ACUF leadership about the naming. Their quarterly meeting was yesterday, but there was no further discussion about Lō‘ihi Seamount / Kama‘ehuakanaloa. Dr. Smith provided the ACUF guidelines and comments about some specific guidelines.

1. A. *“International concern for naming undersea features is limited to those features entirely or mainly (more than 50%) outside territorial waters (i.e., twelve nautical miles).”*

ACUF comment. The U.S. doesn’t have sovereignty outside of the 12-mile limit, and international norms for naming have to be taken into consideration. Such features fall under the jurisdiction of SCUFN (Subcommittee on Undersea Feature Names) which is part of GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans), an international group of hydrographers and ocean scientists. This feature is outside of the territorial waters of the State of Hawai‘i.

1. D. *“Names approved by national names authorities in waters beyond national limits... should be accepted if the names have been applied in conformance with internationally accepted principles.”*

ACUF comment. If this name change is accepted, internationally accepted principles for naming call for inclusion of a descriptor, i.e., “Seamount.”

2. A. 1) *“Short and simple terms (or names) are preferable.”*

ACUF comment. Some may take issue with the proposed long name since the shorter name has been in longstanding and widespread use.

2. B. 2) *“Generic terms applied to features appearing on charts or other products should be in English.”*

ACUF comment. This is reiterating that the name should include a generic term, i.e., “Seamount.”

3. *D. “New names must be approved by ACUF and US BGN before being published.”*

ACUF comment. There is some concern that HVO and HAVO are using the proposed name, “Kama‘ehuakanaloa” before it has passed through ACUF.

3. *I. Newly discovered and proposed feature names identified by individuals, institutions or agencies, which fall outside of territorial limits but within established EEZ claims by nations under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, (UNCLOS-82) should be identified and referred to naming authorities in those nations and GEBCO SCUFN.*

ACUF comment. Since the feature falls outside of the 12-mile limit, the naming proposal should / could be referred to SCUFN as well as ACUF.

Dr. Smith confirmed that the feature is about 20 miles southeast of the Island of Hawai‘i, so is outside of the 12-mile territorial waters of the State. Ms. Runyon added that if this outside of the State’s jurisdiction, this would just be recommendation to ACUF. Mr. Buto confirmed that the statute gives the Board authority over feature within the State.

ACUF wouldn’t have a problem adding “Kama‘ehuakanaloa” as a variant name. If ACUF did not accept changing the primary name to “Kama‘ehuakanaloa,” then HBGN could submit a recommendation directly to SCUFN.

Mr. Buto did not recall if the jurisdictional issue was raised in 2021 when HBGN made its naming decision and submitted it to ACUF for its consideration. At the July 2022 HBGN meeting at which Dr. Smith discussed ACUF concerns, there were only four HBGN members present; a decision was deferred until more members could be present to participate in a discussion. Today’s meeting also only has four members present.

Ms. Kawaihae appreciates Dr. Smith’s attendance today and providing more information about ACUF role and its guidelines.

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved to table further discussion until more members and Mr. Bobby Camara are present; Mr. Buto seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to table further discussion until more members and Mr. Bobby Camara are present.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion and decision on selected place names on the Island of Hawai‘i

Mr. Cummins said that he researched several maps in the Survey Office but didn’t find anything more about the features on the list. Other members present had no additional information.

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved that further discussion on these feature names be tabled until more Board members are present; motion seconded by Ms. Oliveira.

The members present voted unanimously to table further discussion until more members are present.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn

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

The members present voted unanimously to table further discussion until more members are present.

Mr. Cummins adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.