

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

DATE: March 1, 2023  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
235 S. Beretania Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order**

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division) [remote]  
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources) [in-person]  
Niniau Kawaihae (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands) [remote]  
Keith Gutierrez (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) [remote]

**ABSENT:** Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)  
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division)  
Scott Glenn (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development)

**GUESTS:** Bobby Camara (retired) [remote]  
Jenny Runyon (USGS) [remote]  
Melia Lane-Kamahele (NPS) [remote]  
Arthur Buto (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development) [in-person]

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Kawaihae moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 2022; Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

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

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments**

Ms. Kawaihae shared in an email that she is serving as Chair of the Federal Land Unit Subcommittee for the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names. Mr. Kamana'o Mills serves on the Geographic Features Subcommittee.

Ms. Lane-Kamahele shared recent articles with conflicting views on the future of artificial intelligence and indigenous languages. One article supported the use of AI as a way for non-

speakers to understand and hear proper pronunciation of words. The other felt that the current state of the technology is not good with indigenous languages.

This spilled over into some discussions on a later call around the use of diacriticals in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. The DOI is developing guidance about how agencies and bureaus use diacriticals across the Department.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements**

Mr. Marzan announced that Dee Jay Mailer has accepted the position of Interim CEO of Bishop Museum for one year.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and decision on Kapoho Crater / Pu‘uolekia**

A few months ago, Mr. Camara was contacted by a geologist who was trying to figure out the process of eruption for that crater.

Rather than use Kapoho Crater, the name of the ahupua‘a, Mr. Camara suggested they use Pu‘uolekia, the name that is found in several accounts from the late 1800s. Lekia is one of seven or eight pohaku that Pele brought up from Tahiti. On the rim of the cone, there is one large pohaku that may be Pohaku o Lekia.

**MOTION:** Ms. Kawaihae made a motion to change the name of the feature from Kapoho Crater to Pu‘uolekia. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

Mr. Camara will work on completing a name change request form before the next meeting.

*Mr. Marzan tabled the motion until the next meeting when the Board will have the official name change application form.*

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion and decision on Lō‘ihi Seamount / Kama‘ehuakanaloa**

Over the past many months, all of the Board members have heard or read all of the testimony related to the name change. Mr. Marzan noted that although not all Board members are present today, several of those not present have made their feelings known at prior meetings.

Included in today’s meeting packet are the minutes from the July 2021 meeting at which the Board approved the name change to Kama‘ehuakanaloa. Given that the feature lies outside of the boundaries of the State of Hawai‘i, the decision today is whether to recommend that ACUF adopt this as the Primary Name or alternatively, as a Variant Name.

Ms. Kawaihae appreciates the Board’s process, even though the feature is outside of the Board’s jurisdiction and supports forwarding the Board’s recommendation to ACUF to adopt the name change. Ms. McEldowney and Mr. Gutierrez agreed with Ms. Kawaihae’s recommendation.

**MOTION:** Mr. Gutierrez made a motion to recommend that ACUF adopt the name change based on the Board's 2021 naming decision. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

Mr. Camara suggested that along with the recommendation, the Board should present the context around the naming decision, given the current attention on place names and the discussions that Ms. Kawaihae is having with DOI and other organizations. *“Even though the feature is outside of the jurisdiction, it's still part of Hawai'i and they should be respectful of that.”*

**MOTION:** Mr. Gutierrez made a motion to amend the original motion to include an explanation of the context of the naming decision in the recommendation to ACUF. Ms. Kawaihae seconded the motion to amend the original motion.

*All members present voted unanimously to amend the original motion.*

Mr. Marzan called for a vote on the amended motion.

*All members present voted unanimously to recommend that ACUF adopt the name change based on the Board's 2021 naming decision and include an explanation of the context of the naming decision.*

Ms. Kawaihae volunteered to listen in on ACUF's March meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Discussion and decision on selected place names on the Island of Hawai'i**

**MOTION:** Mr. Buto moved that the review of this list be tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to table review of this list of names until the next meeting.*

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Ms. Kawaihae moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.*

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.