

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

DATE: June 7, 2023
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

Ms. McEldowney called the meeting to order at 2:06 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)
Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum)
Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development)

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

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for March 1, 2023

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved to approve the minutes of March 1, 2023; Mr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of March 1, 2023.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) received an email inquiry about the origin of the name of Kure Atoll. Mr. Buto referred them to the *Kure Atoll Conservancy* which provided two documents: 1) a paper outlining efforts to research and recover the historical and cultural names for the islands of Papahānaumokuākea, including Kure Atoll, and 2) a research bulletin on the natural history of Kure Atoll that included historical context of Western encounters, exploration, and scientific research from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Ms. Runyon sent a guidance document from the Domestic Names Committee, “*Cultural Sensitivity of Native American Names.*” Non-native name proposers intending to honor an indigenous culture or person need to do their research to be sure that the community is okay with it, that it’s spelled correctly, and that it means what they think it means. The burden should not be on the staff to do the research and reach out to the community.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

Ms. Kawaihae attended the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Underwater Features (ACUF). She had an opportunity to share the HBGN’s mana‘o about the name *Kama‘ehuakanaloa*. Her testimony was well received and the ACUF later voted affirmatively to change the name of the feature from *Lō‘ihi Seamount* to *Kama‘ehuakanaloa*.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Briefing on activities of the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names

Ms. Kawaihae provided an update on the activities of the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names (ACRPN). ACRPN has agreed on a working definition for the term “derogatory.”

“A derogatory place name is any term attached to the national landscape, its places and geographic features that a) is used or intended as a disrespectful, belittling, hurtful, or disparaging slur, b) pejoratively labels any racial or ethnic group, gender, religious affiliation, sexual identity, or physical or mental condition, or c) uses insulting slang/linguistic derivatives to negatively stereotype certain social groups or identities. All of these forms of derogatory place naming have the impact of perpetuating long standing structural inequalities causing harm or exclusion.”

The ACRPN is traveling to Grand Canyon, its first in-person meeting. Ms. Kawaihae has been trying to convince the ACRPN to come to Hawai‘i in the fall, specifically to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO). The National Park Service in Hawai‘i has done well with naming – Haleakalā, Hōnaunau, and Kalaupapa. It would be good for other committee members to see a system that is not broken.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion and decision on Kapoho Crater / Pu‘uolekia

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved to table this item until the next meeting, since the proponent was not able to attend this meeting. Mr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to table this item until the next meeting.

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

[361672] **Lae o Puni.** Mr. Cummins found it on Registered Map 909. It's hand-drawn and added to the map. A notation on the map indicates a feature labeled, "*Nat.Br.*"

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved to change the Status to "7." If more information comes to light later, the Board can consider it at that time. Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to change the Status to "7."

Mr. Camara pointed out that in Andrews' dictionary, **puni** means, "*to surround, as water does an island.*" Mr. Camara, Ms. Kawaihae, and Ms. McElDowney recalled that years ago before the arch totally collapsed the floor of the natural bridge was not submerged.

MOTION: Mr. Cummins moved to concatenate the spelling, "**Laeopuni.**" Ms. Kawaihae seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to concatenate the spelling.

[361674] **Lae Pohue. Pōhue** is a gourd similar to an ipu; a beach vine related to the maunaloa, in the pea family. Mr. Camara suggested adding this name to a list he's compiling for the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park to consider.

[361892] **Lua Halapepe. Halapepe** is an endemic tree in the lily family. Ms. Kawaihae recalled that it is in the *Kaulilua* chant. She will do further research.

[361904] **Lua Olai. Ōla'i** means earthquake. Mr. Camara noted that in 1868 there were earthquakes in Kahuku, and one big pit crater was formed there. It is located close to the bottom of Hawaiian Ocean View Estates and near the highway. That lua likely formed as part of the 1868 earthquake series.

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved to change the Status to "7," to concatenate the words and to correct the spelling to include a kahakō over the "O" and add an 'okina before the "i," **Luaōla'i.** Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

Mr. Cummins asked that the source of the spelling change be documented. Mr. Camara will write up his reasoning and will send to Mr. Buto.

The members present voted unanimously to change the Status to "7" and the spelling to "Luaōla'i."

Status Key: 1 = Not Hawaiian; 2 = Not Reviewed; 3 = More Research Needed; 4 = HBGN Corrected; 5 = Already Correct in GNIS; 6 = Name Change; 7 = HBGN partial correction, exhausted available reference and research resources

Stat	Feat ID	Feature Name	Feature Class	Corrected Name	Source	Notes	USGS Quad Name
7	361672	Lae o Puni	Cape	Laeopuni	HBGN	PNH: not listed; Puni means "to surround, as water does an island;" the lae is labeled on RM 909; a notation on the map indicates a feature labeled, "Nat.Br."; several Board members recalled that years ago before the arch totally collapsed, the floor of the natural bridge was not submerged; concatenated per Style Guide, 06-07-2023.	Papaikou
3	361674	Lae Pohue	Cape			PNH: not listed	Naalehu
3	361892	Lua Halapepe	Crater			PNH: not listed	Kahuku Ranch
3	361894	Lua Hokio	Crater			PNH: not listed	Kahuku Ranch
3	361900	Lua Ioane	Crater			PNH: not listed	Kooloolau
3	361896	Lua Kalupenui	Crater			PNH: not listed	Kahuku Ranch
3	361897	Lua Kaumakani	Crater			PNH: not listed	Kahuku Ranch
7	361904	Lua Olai	Crater	Luaōla'i	HBGN	PNH: not listed Keola Awong: don't know much about it; will bring it to attention of Kupuna group, 2-14-18; ōla'i means "earthquake;" Mr. Camara noted that there were earthquakes in Kahuku in 1868 and one large pit crater was formed, located close to the bottom of Hawaiian Ocean View Estates and near the highway; concatenated per Style Guide, 06-07-2023	Kahuku Ranch

AGENDA ITEM 8: Adjourn

MOTION: Ms. Kawaihae moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. McEldowney adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.