

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

DATE: September 20, 2023  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 204  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

*[0:00:00]* **AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order** (*recording started late*)

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:00 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]  
Lilliane Makaila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)) [remote]  
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources) [remote]  
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable  
Development) [in-person]

**ABSENT:** Keith Gutierrez (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)

**GUESTS:** Bobby Camara (retired) [remote]  
Richard Hazlett (USGS) [remote]  
Jenny Runyon (USGS) [remote]  
Niniau Kawaihae [remote]

*[0:01:12]*

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Introduction of Lilliane Makaila, DHHL member**

Mr. Marzan welcomed Lilliane Makaila to the Board.

Ms. Makaila introduced herself. She is a planner in the DHHL Planning Office focusing on the Island of Hawai‘i working with homesteaders. Her undergraduate studies were at the University of Hawai‘i (UH) in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, pre-Hawai‘inuiākea when it was still Kawaihuelani. Her graduate studies were also at UH in Urban and Regional Planning. She just started her position at DHHL in February/March of this year. The Chairperson designated her as his representative on the Board. She expressed her appreciation for the warm welcome from the Board members.

*[0:03:53]*

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Review of Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2023**

[0:04:35] **MOTION:** Ms. Oliveira moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2023; Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of June 7, 2023.*

[0:05:12]

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Public Comments**

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) received an email from Lamakū Mikahala Roy regarding the celebration of Kamehameha Day 2023. A copy of the article is included in the packet for this meeting.

Mr. Camara emailed in the last half hour about names at the summit of Kīlauea. He's been talking to Pua Kanahale and her daughter-in-law Ku'ulei about Kaluapele and Halema'uma'u and their application geographically. There is a label "KaluaPele o Kīlauea" on Kalama's map of 1837. In the last month or so in their discussion, Pua, Ku'ulei, and he have concluded that Kaluapele is a descriptor rather than a place name. They loosely translate "Kaluapele o Kīlauea" to mean "the volcanic crater of Kīlauea" referring to Halema'uma'u. Similarly, there is a "Kaluapele o Maunaloa" that refers to Moku'āweoweo. Halema'uma'u refers to the entire floor, even though only a small portion is active now. Back in the mid- to late-1800's the entire floor was active; various places throughout the floor that were erupting. He doesn't think that anything has to happen; Kaluapele is the name of the caldera; Moku'āweoweo is the name of the caldera at Mauna Loa; Halema'uma'u is the name of the eruptive center of Kīlauea.

Mr. Camara also expressed concern about the spelling of Lahaina in the news and online. Many places are spelling it with diacriticals, "Lāhainā." An article in Hawai'i Business Magazine by Kalawai'a Nunies referred to Kamuela Yim. They listened to the Kani'āina tapes. Larry Kimura taped a lot of his radio shows in the 70's and 80's and spoke with native speakers. Kepā Maly is a fan of Lāhainā.

[0:17:18]

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Announcements**

None.

[0:18:35]

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names update**

The US Department of Interior Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names (ACRPN) is coming to Hawai'i November 17, 18, and 19 with a visit to Waimea Valley to experience old Hawaiian lifestyle. They'll also visit the Arizona Memorial. ACRPN will hold meetings at the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa's Campus Center Ballroom.

When she was originally appointed to ACRPN, Ms. Kawaihae pushed for a meeting at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park to show an example of an easy way to work with indigenous peoples. However, the Park will be paving roads in November and can't host.

Ms. Kawaihae is hoping that HBGN members can attend the meetings at UH to listen in. ACRPN will be reviewing several pages of federal land unit names and US BGN features with potentially derogatory names associated with them.

Kamana'o Mills is also reaching out to the Hawaiian Studies program at UH to develop a protocol for ACRPN members to conduct a ceremony to honor victims of the Lahaina fires; Ms. Kawaihae wants to also remember and honor boarding school children who are buried without names across the United States and Canada.

Mr. Camara suggested that given that Pūowaina and Leahi are both federal facilities or partially federal, it would be good to talk about them during the meetings. Ms. Kawaihae thinks that Pūowaina might be a better location for a site visit than the Arizona Memorial.

The meetings are open to the public, so HBGN members are welcome to attend.

[0:32:39]

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Discussion and decision on Kapoho Crater / Pu'uolekia**

Dr. Hazlett is a geologist with some research association with UH Hilo and HAVO. In 2018, he frequently had to describe what was happening in the area of Kapoho Crater, an old eroded tuft cone. At that time, it became apparent that there was an evolving place name situation going back 100 years or so. Locals referred to it as "Green Mountain," but the USGS referred to it as Kapoho Crater.

He is uncomfortable with the name because it is more hill-like. He and Mr. Camara researched the name of the feature to see if there was a traditional name before Kapoho Crater. Mr. Camara found some documentation ascribing the name, Pu'uolēkia to the hill itself. In some of the early surveys Green Lake was referred to as Waiapele.

The local landowner and others, are very protective of the traditions of the district, many of which relate to volcanic activity and there is concern that an outside organization would a name for the feature. The landowner thought that the feature name should be Puuohanalei, referring to Lēkia's partner. Two large boulders on the banks of Waiapele are named Lēkia and Hanalei.

Dr. Hazlett and Mr. Camara advocated for more community outreach before the Board makes a decision. They recognize and acknowledge that the landowner has a lot of knowledge about the mo'olelo, place names, and the history of land use in that area.

Board members expressed support for Ms. Kawaihae’s recommendation that the Chair convene a Permitted Interaction Group to consult with the community when it’s appropriate to do so. Mr. Marzan will keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting in order for the discussion to continue.

Mr. Camara expressed a concern that community sentiment may have a louder voice than careful historical research. Dr. Hazlett volunteered to facilitate a meeting between Mr. Camara and community members to discuss the proposed name change. Mr. Marzan expressed appreciation for Dr. Hazlett’s efforts. If appropriate, Ms. Makaila will reach out to beneficiaries in the nearby agricultural areas for their mana‘o.

[0:56:12]

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Discussion and decision on selected place names on the Island of Hawai‘i**

[361097] **Lua Poholo.** Mr. Camara provided some background for this feature – this pit crater is located on the edge of Moku‘āweoweo on Mauna Loa. When Poholo collapsed, part of its surface got “stuck,” so there’s a big tilted slab in the crater. In the Hawaiian Dictionary [Pukui, Elbert], “poholo” means “*to sink, slip into easily, plunge out of sight, vanish; to miscarry.*” Dr. Hazlett noted that the feature name, Lua Poholo is well-used in scientific publications internationally.

Mr. Camara noted that this feature is in the Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. Mr. Camara asked that an email be sent to the Park to ask that they review the name.

[1:05:00]

[1853112] **Puu Alaea Stream (historical).** Alaea is red ochre clay not uncommon in Hamakua. This feature is located in north Hilo, near Laupahoehoe. Mr. Cummins found Registered Map 2060 that shows this feature, “Puu Alaea” labeled on the map. Ms. Kawaihae suggested that the Board consider using Status “7” and align the name to the current style guide.

[1:14:32]

**MOTION:** Mr. Buto moved to change the Status to “7,” concatenate Puu and Alaea, and add an ‘okina to “Pu‘u.” Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to change the Status to “7,” concatenate Puu and Alaea, and add an ‘okina to Pu‘u, resulting in **Pu‘ualaea Stream (historical).***

[1:15:10]

[363666] **Puu Alauawa.** Mr. Camara believes that the pu‘u labeled “Kaaiialauwa Hill” on Registered Map (RM) 1449 is this same Pu‘u Alauawa and that over time the name has been misspelled.

“Kaai” may be referring to food, “alala” to crows, and “uwa” to quarrelsome and noisy. There used to be alalala in this area of Hualalai near Huehue Ranch. Ms. Kawaihae speculated that “ka‘ai” could refer to burial remains of ali‘i that crows were fighting over, if this was a place similar to the cliffs in Makua on O‘ahu where kahuna would dry the bones of ali‘i. Ms. Makaila and Mr. Marzan noted that “‘alalauwā” is a word meaning the young of the red ‘āweoweo fish. Schools of alalauwā near shore were a major hō‘ailona that royalty would die.

Mr. Camara noted that this pu‘u is grassy with silver oak trees; it’s not barren. You can see the ocean; the elevation is just over 2,000 feet. It was the source of a lava flow down to the ocean; there is a large lava tube associated with it that has burials in portions of it.

The May 29, 1924 issue of the nupepa, *Ka Hoku o Hawaii*, contains an article listing the names of 30+ pu‘u going up the mountain – “Ka puu o Kileo,” “Kaaialalaua,” “Kapuukao,” etc. – matching the features on RM 1449. There’s no mention of the Pu‘u Alauawa feature name.

Since there is no documentation for the meaning of the name, Ms. Makaila recommends using the spelling found in the nupepa article. Mr. Marzan recommended submitting a Name Change to the US BGN, using RM 1449 and the nupepa article as supporting documentation.

[1:35:33]

**MOTION:** Ms. Makaila moved that we change the feature name of “Puu Alauawa” to “Kaaialalaua” based on the documents provided by Mr. Camara. Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to change the feature name of “Puu Alauawa” to “Kaaialalaua” based on the documents provided by Mr. Camara.*

[1:37:15]

[363691] **Puu Haole.** Mr. Cummins found it listed on RM 1877 within Grant 4594 to Eben Low.

[1:44:03]

**MOTION:** Mr. Cummins moved to concatenate “Puu Haole” and add an ‘okina to Puu, “Pu‘uhaole.” Ms. Makaila seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to concatenate “Puu Haole” and add an ‘okina to Puu, “Pu‘uhaole.”*

[1:44:56]

[363703] **Puu Hilea.** Mr. Camara noted that Pu‘u Hilea is in Ka‘u, mauka of Punalu‘u on the other side of Kalae. Current maps show the feature in Ocean View next to the main

highway. Mr. Cummins will continue trying to locate this feature on a historical survey map.

*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
3	361097	Lua Poholo	Crater			PNH: not listed; HBGN: Since this is within Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Mr. Camara will take this up with them, 09-20-2023	Mauna Loa
7	1853112	Puu Alaea Stream (historical)	Stream	Pu'u alaea Stream (historical)	HBGN	PNH: Pu'u' alaea, Haleakalā, Maui; HBGN: name found on Hawai'i State Survey Reg. Map #2124 without an association to a distinct feature 1/17/13; HBGN: concatenated per Style Guide, but more research needed; exhausted available reference and research resources, 09-20-2023	Papaaloa
6	363666	Puu Alauawa	Summit	Kaai alalaua	HBGN	PNH: not listed; AH3/UHP: Pu'u alau' awa; HBGN: Based on RM 1449 and nupepa article (Ka Hoku o Hawaii, May 29, 1924), change name to Kaai alalaua, 09-20-2023	Kiholo
7	363691	Puu Haole	Summit	Pu'u haole	HBGN	PNH: not listed; HBGN: Pu'u haole, combined; HBGN: concatenated per Style Guide, but more research needed; exhausted available reference and research resources, 09-20-2023	Puanahulu

[1:56:50]

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Mr. Buto moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.