

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

DATE: May 7, 2024
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
235 S. Beretania Street, 6th Floor Library
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

[0:00:00] AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum) [remote]
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division) [remote]
Keith Gutierrez (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) [remote]
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable
Development) [in-person]
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa) *joined at 2:55pm* [remote]

ABSENT: Lilliane Makaila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL))
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)

GUESTS: Bobby Camara (retired) [remote]
Regina Hilo (Department of Land and Natural Resources) [remote]
Others (see Appendix) [remote]

[0:00:52]

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2024

[0:02:35]

MOTION: Mr. Cummins moved to approve the minutes of April 2, 2024. Mr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

[0:02:58]

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of April 2, 2024.

[0:03:08]

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

Mr. Buto received an email this afternoon asking that the Board review the name of Kipapa Gulch on O‘ahu. The GNIS has two entries, “Kipapa” and “Kīpapa Stream.” Mr. Camara

noted that [361265] Kīpapa Stream is probably what the inquiry is referring to. Mr. Buto is not sure that the Board’s practice of removing English descriptors includes “Stream” and “River.” Mr. Marzan recalled that the renaming of ‘Īao Stream to Wailuku River included the “River” in the name because it appeared that way in historical documents and maps. He also noted that the Board decided to rename the **Seven Sacred Pools of ‘Ohe‘o** to **‘Ohe‘o**, removing English descriptors from the feature name. Mr. Cummins noted that from a surveyor’s perspective, including the type of feature in the name or in parentheses after the name on a map can help to clarify what feature is being referenced, but he doesn’t recall if a decision has been made by the Board to incorporate that as a standard.

Mr. Camara suggested that the Board research the meaning and use of Hawaiian feature classes and consider using them in the feature names. Mr. Marzan asked to include a discussion of feature descriptors on the agenda for next month. Mr. Cummins agreed that it is worthwhile to do some research and discuss this further. He noted that using the Hawaiian feature class in the name is consistent with historical grant documents and nūpepa.

[0:13:40]

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

Mr. Gutierrez announced that OHA is going through some internal restructuring and a new HBGN designee will be named soon. He expressed his mahalo for the members’ support during his time on the Board. Mr. Marzan thanked him for his time and energy serving on the Board.

[0:16:35]

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and decision on establishing a Permitted Interaction Group to research the name of the Island of Hawai‘i

Mr. Buto explained that based on the level of interest expressed at last month’s meeting, that more engagement with the community on the Island of Hawai‘i, especially in-person is called for. A Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) allows more flexibility to engage with the community, as the Board experienced recently with the PIG for Ahu‘ailā‘au (formerly known as “Fissure 8”). It may be easier for individual agencies to fund travel than for the Board as a whole. The PIG could schedule more frequent interactions with the community than the Board’s monthly meetings and also allow community members who are not comfortable with remote meeting technology to participate in-person in a more local setting.

Mr. Buto attached information about PIGs – the full Board would need to identify the PIG members and set clear objectives for the PIG. The PIG would be free to schedule its own meetings, possibly travel to the Island of Hawai‘i, and would be responsible to report back to the Board with its recommendation(s). Up to three HBGN members can be named to serve on the PIG as well as cultural resource people; the PIG could also consult with other knowledgeable persons.

Mr. Marzan noted that some key Board members are not present; he would like more Board members to be present to discuss and make decisions about the PIG.

Mr. Camara suggested that one of the objectives of the PIG include adding an ‘okina to the name of the State in the State Seal. There was a bill this legislative session that would have made that change, but it died. There was significant opposition to that proposed measure as not everyone and not all Native Hawaiians support the use of diacriticals.

Mr. Buto expressed his hesitation to broaden the scope of the PIG beyond the name of the island to include making a change to the State Seal. Conversely, Mr. Cummins thought that the PIG’s engagement with the community might be a good opportunity to gauge sentiment for or against the ‘okina in the State Seal.

Mr. Camara suggested that the PIG’s work include well-documented evidence and reasons for its recommendations and should not necessarily reflect the “loudest voices” heard at the meetings.

[0:35:00]

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

Mr. Camara reported that the Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park’s Kupuna group met and will be compiling a list of proposed name changes, including **Lua Poholo** along with crater names and feature names with English descriptors. The process will take a few months. Mr. Camara will suggest that they submit packets in batches rather than wait for all the names to be reviewed.

Mr. Buto asked if the Board wants to consider a name change for **Mizotas Kīpuka**, since it is named after a person. Mr. Camara found that according to standard naming guidelines the proper name is written separately from the geographic feature, so the feature could be **Kīpuka Mizota**. Mr. Buto will work with Mr. Camara to put together a Name Change Application Form.

[0:45:45]

AGENDA ITEM 7: Discussion and decision on selected feature names on O‘ahu.

[0:45:50]

[358471] **Aimuu Gulch**.

Mr. Cummins found this feature on Registered Map 2252 displayed with no diacriticals as it appears in the GNIS. The feature class in the GNIS is “Valley,” so replacing “Gulch” with the Hawaiian feature class would result in the name **Awāwa Aimuu**. Mr. Gutierrez found a reference to Pu‘u‘aimu‘u and ‘Aimu‘u Stream. He would like to continue researching the feature.

Mr. Marzan suggested that more research is needed for this feature name.

[363581] **Punchbowl.**

Mr. Camara did not get a response yet from Puakea Nogelmeier about his research into “Punchbowl.”

[358537] **Alapena Pool.**

[358606] **Aniani Nui Ridge.**

[358618] **Api Spring.**

Mr. Gutierrez didn’t find any alternate spellings for **Alapena Pool** but he would like to continue researching it and some of the other feature names, particularly **Aniani Nui Ridge** and **Api Spring**.

Mr. Buto will leave these unresolved names on the list for the next meeting. Most of them include an English descriptor and will be affected by next month’s discussion about using Hawaiian terminology instead of English descriptors in feature names.

The Board members confirmed items for next month’s agenda: review the use of English descriptors in feature names; continue discussion about a Permitted Interaction Group in consideration of the island name, Island of Hawai‘i; revisit the names on the O‘ahu feature names list.

[0:59:15]

AGENDA ITEM 8: Adjourn

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 3:04pm