

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

DATE: September 3, 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 2:09 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum) [in-person]
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable
Development) [in-person]
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa) [remote]
Lilliane Makaila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands) [remote]

ABSENT: Hailama Farden (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division)

GUESTS: Jenny Runyon (Staff, US BGN, USGS) [remote]
Dr. Shellie Zahniser (Executive Secretary, Domestic Names Committee
(DNC), US BGN, USGS) [remote]
Bobby Camara [remote]
David Fogel [remote]

[0:01:18]

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for August 6, 2024

[0:01:38]

MOTION: Ms. Oliveira moved to accept the minutes of August 6, 2024. Ms. Makaila seconded the motion.

[0:01:55]

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of August 6, 2024.

[0:02:04]

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

None.

[0:02:19]

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

The meeting packet includes information about the Council on Geographic Naming Authorities (CoGNA) annual conference, including a link to register. This year's conference includes an option to attend virtually.

[0:03:30]

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and decision on selected feature names on O‘ahu.

Ms. Makaila felt that Puakea Nogelmeier's research provides sufficient documentation to support changing the feature name from "**Punchbowl**" to "**Pūowaina**," including the variant names.

Mr. Buto suggested that the Board reach out to the community in that area and affected stakeholders. Ms. Makaila noted that the National Memorial Cemetery is there and there are three Hawaiian Homesteads adjacent to that area – Papakōlea, Kewalo, and Kalāwahine, plus Papakōlea Community Development Corporation, which manages the community center and runs programs for the community, and Kula no nā Po‘e Hawai‘i, a homestead beneficiary-led organization providing programs and services to the community. There are also two schools on the slopes of Pūowaina – Stevenson Intermediate and [Lincoln Elementary]. Ms. Makaila suggested drafting a consultation letter to provide background and context and asking for comments. Mr. Buto suggested also putting together a media packet similar to what the Board intends to do for the proposal to change the name of the "**Island of Hawai‘i**."

Mr. Camara suggested summarizing the key points in Mr. Nogelmeier's report. He noted that Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park's process for name changes starts with the Kūpuna group's recommendations that are sent up to the regional office, then sent to the US BGN. He suggested the HBGN's outreach include the person in charge of the National Memorial Cemetery. [National Cemetery Administration/VA, NPS]

Ms. Makaila suggested a process – she should have time later in the month to put together a draft consultation letter for the October meeting. The Board can review and revise it at the October meeting as well as put together a consultation list. Invite people to provide comments within a 30-day comment period. It could be agendaized for the November meeting.

Ms. Oliveira suggested preparing a checklist for similar processes going forward – outreach list should include schools, community associations, homesteaders, other stakeholders – media release should include Ka Wai Ola, UH News, etc.

[0:26:37]

[358870] **Haili Gulch.**

Ms. Makaila did not find specific references, only more contemporary references.

[359018] **Hanaimoa Gulch.**

Ms. Makaila noted that “**Hanaimoa**” is the name of one of five gulches in Hau‘ula. The second from the northernmost. She is pretty sure that it is also the name of the stream there. In the Kīpuka database there is a historical map included from 1900 that names all five of the gulches. There are no diacriticals in the map and it does not include the English descriptors. She is comfortable removing “Gulch” from the name but is not comfortable including any diacriticals.

[0:41:31]

MOTION. Ms. Makaila moved to rename the feature to “**Hanaimoa**,” removing the English descriptor “Gulch” and changing the status from “3” to “6.” Ms. Oliveira seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to rename the feature to “**Hanaimoa**,” removing the English descriptor “Gulch” from the feature name and changing the status from “3” to “6.”*

[359197] **Hina Gulch.**

Ms. Oliveira suggested that removing the English descriptor “Gulch” from the name. Mr. Camara suggested that for clarity the Board should delete all English descriptors from feature names. Mr. Marzan and Ms. Makaila were supportive of this approach; Mr. Buto recalled that this has come up before the Board before and that members were not comfortable with a global “search and replace” and preferred to review individual names. Ms. Makaila suggested that the Board take up this discussion again when more members are present.

Ms. Makaila would like to review feature names within an ahupua‘a or moku rather than portions of an alphabetical list. Mr. Buto will use the current ahupua‘a layer to divide up the list of names to be reviewed.

[359484] **Ihihi Gulch.**

[359566] **Kaaikahi Spring.**

[359567] **Kaaikukai Gulch.**

[359607] **Kaaoo Gulch.**

[359731] **Kahawainui Gulch.**

[359732] **Kahawainui Stream.**

For the remainder of the names on the current list Ms. Makaila suggests removing the English descriptors.

[1:09:10]

MOTION. Ms. Oliveira made a motion to remove the English descriptors from the feature names on the current list. Ms. Makaila seconded the motion.

[1:09:35]

The members present voted unanimously to remove the English descriptors from the feature names on the current list.

[1:10:42]

Mr. Camara spoke about a meeting he had with Smiley Burrows who is the property owner of Kapoho Crater about renaming it to “**Pu‘uolekia**” after a rock that was brought to Hawai‘i by Pele. They decided to table it for now. One idea being considered is to ask the community to offer a name for the newly formed kīpuka that is surrounded by lava from the 2018 Kīlauea eruption.

He also gave a status update of the discussions with Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park about removing the word “Crater” from the feature names of the craters in the park. They are agreeable and are talking now about the impact on signage, e.g., “lua poho,” the name for pit craters would be listed on the left with “(pit crater)” underneath and in larger font on the right would the feature name in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

He hopes that by the end of the year they can present to HBGN fleshed out packets of 10 or 15 different names. This is in conjunction with new trail signs for the park, redesigned exhibits in the Park Visitors Center, and new maps, films, etc. This is for education of the public.

In that same vein, Mr. Camara mentioned seeing testimony at the Legislature to putting an ‘okina in the name of the state in the State Seal. He feels that the arguments against the need to do so are missing the opportunity to educate non-speakers.

[1:21:25]

AGENDA ITEM 6: Review Board meeting dates through calendar year 2024.

Mr. Buto noted that it has been challenging to get more Board members to attend meetings. Ms. Oliveira would like the Board to consider fewer, but longer meetings, e.g., quarterly for four hours.

Mr. Buto will poll members by email.

[1:29:10]

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn

[1:29:15]

MOTION. Mr. Buto moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Oliveira seconded the motion.

[1:29:24]

The members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

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 references and research resources

Stat	Feat ID	Feature Name	Feature Class	Corrected Name	Source	Notes	USGS Quad Name
6	358870	Haili Gulch	Valley	Haili	HBGN	PNH: Haili, Hawai'i; HBGN: remove English descriptor; no action on diacriticals until/unless additional evidence/documentation found, 09-30-2024	Kaena
6	359018	Hanaimoa Gulch	Valley	Hanaimoa	HBGN	HBGN: remove English descriptor; no action on diacriticals until/unless additional evidence/documentation found, 09-30-2024	Hauula
6	359197	Hina Gulch	Valley	Hina	HBGN	PNH: Hina, Moloka'i; HBGN: remove English descriptor; no action on diacriticals until/unless additional evidence/documentation found, 09-30-2024	Kahuku
6	359484	Ihiihi Gulch	Valley	Ihiihi	HBGN	HBGN: remove English descriptor; no action on diacriticals until/unless additional evidence/documentation found, 09-30-2024	Kahuku
6	359566	Kaaihahi Spring	Spring	Kaaihahi	HBGN	HBGN: remove English descriptor; no action on diacriticals until/unless additional evidence/documentation found, 09-30-2024	Honolulu
6	359567	Kaaiukai Gulch	Valley	Kaaiukai	HBGN	HBGN: remove English descriptor; no action on diacriticals until/unless additional evidence/documentation found, 09-30-2024	Schofield Barracks
6	359607	Kaooao Gulch	Valley	Kaooao	HBGN	HBGN: remove English descriptor; no action on diacriticals until/unless additional evidence/documentation found, 09-30-2024	Kahuku
6	359731	Kahawainui Gulch	Valley	Kahawainui	HBGN	HBGN: remove English descriptor; no action on diacriticals until/unless additional evidence/documentation found, 09-30-2024	Kahuku
6	359732	Kahawainui Stream	Stream	Kahawainui	HBGN	HBGN: remove English descriptor; no action on diacriticals until/unless additional evidence/documentation found, 09-30-2024	Kahuku