

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

DATE: October 1, 2024  
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 Library  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum) [remote]  
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division) [remote]  
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources) [in-person]  
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development) [in-person]

**ABSENT:** Hailama Farden (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)  
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)  
Lilliane Makaila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)

**GUESTS:** Jenny Runyon (Staff, US BGN, USGS) [remote]  
Dr. Shellie Zahniser (Executive Secretary, Domestic Names Committee (DNC), US BGN, USGS) [remote]  
Bobby Camara [remote]  
Regina Hilo (DLNR, SHPD) [remote]  
Donna Kimura (IHVCB) [remote]  
Kalei Bridges (IHVCB) [remote]  
Lei DeMello [remote]  
Jill Kuramoto (KHON2 News) [remote]

**[0:00:39]**

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for September 3, 2024**

**[0:01:25]**

**MOTION:** Mr. Cummins moved to accept the minutes of September 3, 2024. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

**[0:01:44]**

*The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of September 3, 2024.*

[0:01:50]

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments**

Mr. Buto was contacted by Ms. Jill Kuramoto from KHON; she also reached out to Mr. Cummins. She was interested in having the naming decision for “Island of Hawai‘i” on the agenda for today’s meeting. The item was added to the agenda with an option to prepare outreach materials prior to the decision making.

[0:03:46]

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and decision on changing the official name of the “Island of Hawai‘i”**

Mr. Marzan acknowledged three members of the Board are not present at today’s meeting; he would like to wait until more members are in attendance before decision making.

Mr. Buto noted that at a previous meeting the Board expressed its intention to reach out to the media and the community prior to making a naming decision. The media release would include what is currently in the database, why the issue came up, and what naming options are being considered – a couple of paragraphs for the media release accompanied by a longer document with more background details. Mr. Buto recommended that Ms. Oliveira provide a statement about why this is on the agenda, since it was her request originally. Mr. Cummins volunteered to put together information about the background of HBGN, in both short form suitable for a media release and a longer form as a reference document.

Mr. Marzan asked members if their agencies or other agencies would have concerns about the proposed name change. Ms. McEldowney noted that the County of Hawai‘i would probably have the most concerns. Mr. Cummins suggested that the outreach include information about how to provide feedback to the Board, i.e., comments and concerns, prior to its decision-making meeting. Mr. Buto noted that the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) should be the receiving office for the comments.

Mr. Cummins wanted to confirm the content of the media release and reference information – the background of HBGN, why the proposed name change was on the agenda, what the nature of the inquiry was, what will be decided, and a discussion of the process. Mr. Buto recommended that the discussion of the process should note the impact of the potential decision on State agencies and should make it clear that there is no impact on the Geographic Names Information System database (GNIS), unless the US BGN decides to approve the name change recommended by the HBGN.

Mr. Marzan asked about the current status of the name of island in the GNIS. “**Hawai‘i**” is already a variant name as are “**Hawai‘i Island**,” “**Hawaii Island**,” “**Island of Hawaii**,” and “**Hawaii**” – with and without the ‘okina.

[0:18:45]

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements**

Mr. Buto reached out to Mr. Craig Tasaka, the former Manager of the Statewide GIS Program and to Ms. Renee Pualani Louis, who was a long-time cultural resource person for HBGN to ask if they were available to help document some of the history of HBGN as part of orientation materials that will be used to onboard new incoming members of the Board.

[0:27:05]

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion and decision on selected feature names on O‘ahu**

Mr. Buto explained that the feature names on the list are the Status “3” names from the ahupua‘a of Wai‘anae and Honouliuli (there were no Status “3” names in the ahupua‘a of Nānākuli). *[corrected from recording, which states that the list consists of Status “3” names from Wai‘anae and ‘Ewa and none from Honouliuli].*

[0:28:50]

[361084] **Keka‘a Point.**

Mr. Cummins found “**Keka‘a Point**” on three maps – Registered Map (RM) No. 2103, dated 1897 and RM No. 2335, dated 1903, where it is labeled “**Kekaa Pt.**”; RM 322, dated 1873, where it is labeled “**Kekaa.**”

[0:34:30]

**MOTION.** Mr. Cummins moved to change the name from “**Keka‘a Point**” to “**Keka‘a,**” removing the English descriptor “Point.” Mr. Buto seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to change the name of the feature from “Keka‘a Point” to “Keka‘a,” removing the English descriptor “Point” and changing the status from “3” to “6.”*

[0:36:06]

[360040] **Kalalula Stream.**

Mr. Cummins could only find it on RM 2372, dated 1906 but it may be labeled as “**Kalalua Stream.**” There wasn’t sufficient information found to make a determination about the name.

[0:41:25]

[361438] **Ku Tree Reservoir.**

Mr. Marzan asked if HBGN has naming authority over reservoirs. Ms. Runyon stated that US BGN has naming authority over reservoirs. They are similar enough to natural features, that the US BGN decided not to differentiate – reservoirs, channels, and canals are under the US BGN’s purview.

Ms. McEldowney noted that there doesn't appear to be any water at that location in Google maps. Mr. Cummins didn't find the reservoir in any Registered Maps. The old topo maps show the reservoir in Schofield Barracks.

There wasn't sufficient information to make a determination about the name.

[0:47:05]

[361510] **Kukaki Stream.**

Mr. Cummins found it on RM 2372, dated 1906 labeled as "**Kukaki Stream**"

[0:50:00]

**MOTION.** Mr. Cummins moved to change the name from "**Kukaki Stream**" to "**Kukaki**," removing the English descriptor "Stream." Mr. Buto seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to change the name of the feature from "**Kukaki Stream**" to "**Kukaki**," removing the English descriptor "Stream" and changing the status from "3" to "6."*

[0:50:35]

[363576] **Punanaula Stream.**

Mr. Cummins found it on RM2372, dated 1906 labeled as "**Punanaula Stream.**"

[0:54:28]

**MOTION.** Mr. Cummins moved to change the name from "**Punanaula Stream**" to "**Punanaula**," removing the English descriptor "Stream" with an added note that the Board has exhausted its current resources and is not deciding on any diacritical marks at this time. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to change the name of the feature from "**Punanaula Stream**" to "**Punanaula**," removing the English descriptor "Stream" and changing the status from "3" to "6" with a note that if additional information becomes available, the Board will revisit the spelling to determine if diacriticals are appropriate.*

[0:55:05]

[363692] **Pu'uhapapa.**

Mr. Cummins found it on RM2988, dated 1925 labeled as "**Hapapa**." Mr. Camara found "**Hāpapa**" in *Place Names of Hawaii*, "Mountain, Wai'anae Mountains. O'ahu. Lit., rock stratum."

[0:57:15]

**MOTION.** Mr. Cummins moved to change the name from "**Pu'uhapapa**" to "**Hāpapa**," removing "Pu'u" from the name and adding a kahakō over the first

“a” consistent with the spelling in *Place Names of Hawaii*. Mr. Buto seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to change the name of the feature from “Pu‘uhapapa” to “Hāpapa,” removing “Pu‘u” from the name, adding a kahakō over the first “a” consistent with the spelling in Place Names of Hawaii, and changing the status from “3” to “6.”*

[0:59:15]

[1852963] **Pu‘ukalena.**

Mr. Cummins was not able to find “**Pu‘ukalena**” or “**Kalena**” labeled on any of the Registered Maps of this area. *Place Names of Hawaii* does list “**Kalena**,” “Land section and peak near Schofield Barracks, O‘ahu...” but the Board was not able to find it on any maps.

Ms. Runyon noted that the GNIS shows two decisions related to “**Pu‘ukalena**.” The first Decision Card in 1914, approved “**Kalena**.” In 1954 there was a decision to add “Pu‘u” possibly when they were doing the first topo maps, they may have decided to add “Pu‘u” to every peak.

[1:07:26]

**MOTION.** Mr. Cummins moved to change the name from “**Pu‘ukalena**” to “**Kalena**,” removing “Pu‘u” from the name based on the evidence in the GNIS of a previous name decision and the listing in *Place Names of Hawaii*. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

*The members present voted unanimously to change the name of the feature from “Pu‘ukalena” to “Kalena,” removing “Pu‘u” from the name based on the evidence in the GNIS of a previous name decision and the listing in Place Names of Hawaii, and changing the status from “3” to “6.”*

[1:07:47]

[363581] **Punchbowl.**

Mr. Buto noted that Ms. Makaila, Ms. Oliveira, and Mr. Farden are not present.

[1:08:12]

**MOTION.** Mr. Buto moved to defer discussion on “**Punchbowl**” until more Board members are present. Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

*The members present voted to defer discussion of “Punchbowl” until more members are present.*

[1:08:40]

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn**

Mr. Marzan noted that he will be traveling in November and will not be able to attend that meeting. Mr. Cummins volunteered to chair the meeting in Mr. Marzan's absence.

[1:11:16]

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

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

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 3:15 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	361084	Keka'a Point	Cape	Keka'a	HBGN	PNH: Keka'a, Maui; HBGN: found on RM 2103, dtd 1897 and RM 2335, dtd 1903, labeled as "Kekaa Pt."; on RM 322, dtd 1873 it is labeled as "Kekaa;" per HBGN practice, remove English descriptor "Point" from the Hawaiian name of the feature, 10-01-2024	Pearl Harbor
6	361510	Kukaki Stream	Stream	Kukaki	HBGN	PNH: not found; HBGN: found on RM 2372, dtd 1906 labeled as "Kukaki Stream;" per HBGN practice, remove English descriptor "Stream" from the Hawaiian name of the feature, 10-01-2024	Schofield Barracks
6	363576	Punanaula Stream	Stream	Punanaula	HBGN	PNH: not found; HBGN: found on RM 2372, dtd 1906 labeled as "Punanaula Stream;" per HBGN practice, remove English descriptor "Stream" from the Hawaiian name of the feature; if additional information becomes available, the Board will revisit the spelling to determine if diacriticals are appropriate, 10-01-2024	Waianae
6	363692	Pu'uhapapa	Summit	Hāpapa	HBGN	PNH: Hāpapa, "Mountain, Wai'anae Mountains. O'ahu. Lit., rock stratum;" per PNH entry, remove "Pu'u" from name of feature and add kahakō over the first "a," 10-01-2024	Schofield Barracks
6	1852963	Pu'ukalena	Summit	Kalena	HBGN	PNH: Kalena, "Land section and peak near Schofield Barracks, O'ahu..." not found on any maps; in GNIS there was a 1914 Decision Card that approved the name "Kalena;" a second decision card in 1954 added "Pu'u" to the feature name, possibly when the first topo maps were being made; HBGN returning name consistent with the original GNIS entry and the entry <i>Place Names of Hawaii</i> , 10-01-2024	Schofield Barracks