

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

DATE: December 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 2:02 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum) [remote]
Meyer Cummins (Land Survey Division) [remote]
Lilliane Makaila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands) [remote]
Hailama Farden (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 3:06pm*) [remote]

ABSENT: Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)

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

[0:00:55]

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2024

[0:01:37]

MOTION: Mr. Cummins moved to accept the minutes of October 1, 2024. Mr. Farden seconded the motion but will abstain on the vote since he was not present at the meeting on October 1st. Ms. Makaila will also abstain.

[0:02:16]

The remaining members present voted to approve the meeting minutes of October 1, 2024.

[0:02:30]

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

No public comments were received.

[0:02:36]

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

There were no announcements.

[0:02:48]

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

Mr. Buto recalled that at a previous meeting the Board members decided to draft materials to make available to the public prior to meeting to decide on the name change, in order to allow time for public input and comments. Mr. Cummins prepared some drafts of information about the background of HBGN, a long version and a shorter version more suitable for posting, and a draft combining the background of HBGN with information about the reason for HBGN’s consideration of the name change for the **Island of Hawai‘i**.

The Board reviewed and revised the drafts. Mr. Buto will expand the sections about the US BGN and about submitting comments and feedback. Ms. Makaila noted the importance of hearing from lineal and cultural descendants in an area being considered by the Board.

Ms. Makaila suggested that the meeting to take up this naming decision should take place in the summer. That would give people ample time to look at recordings and minutes from previous meetings. Board members can also disseminate the information through their networks to get the most feedback.

Information about the proposed name change as well as information about the meeting itself should be posted on the HBGN website and agency websites (or links to the HBGN website), and the information sent out to all of the Board members’ networks as well.

This will be on the agenda for a future meeting, but not the next meeting. Once we know what the meeting schedule is, the Board can decide on when it will take this up.

[1:06:45]

Ms. Oliveira joined the call.

[1:08:25]

AGENDA ITEM 6: Meeting schedule for 2025

Members settled on a quarterly meeting on the second Wednesday of the month starting on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 2pm-4:30pm.**

[1:27:50]

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn

Mr. Marzan suggested adding the selection of a Chairperson for the Board to the next meeting agenda. He has been serving continuously since 2016.

[1:28:05]

MOTION. Mr. Buto moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

The members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.