MINUTES DRAFT
FOR THE MEETING OF THE
HAWAIʻI BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

DATE:	December 10, 2025
TIME:	2:00 p.m.
PLACE:	Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building Office of Planning and Sustainable Development 235 S. Beretania Street, 6th Floor Conference Room Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96813

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

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS:
Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum) [remote]
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa)
Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division) [remote]
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development) [in-person]
Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources) [in-person]
Hailama Farden (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) [remote]
Lilliane Makaila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands) [remote] *(joined at 2:40 p.m.)*

ABSENT: NONE

GUESTS:
Bobby Camara [remote]
Katie Hansen (University of Hawaiʻi) [in-person]
Rachel Li (University of Hawaiʻi) [in-person]
Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development) [in-person]
Rachel Beasley (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development) [in-person]

[0:01:45]
AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2025

[0:02:25]
MOTION. Ms. Oliveira moved to accept the minutes of April 9, 2025. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

[0:02:55]

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of April 9, 2025.

[0:03:00]
AGENDA ITEM 3: **Public Comments**

Mr. Camara emailed to voice his disappointment in the Board for not meeting during much of 2025. Mr. Buto did not include it in the meeting packet but will post his email on the website. Mr. Camara thinks that the Board should meet monthly because names are foundational to Hawaiʻi.

Mr. Marzan acknowledged that the meeting schedule was changed in 2025 for the first time in a long time, and that the Board is open to changing the frequency and format of the meetings to improve their effectiveness; setting the meeting schedule for 2026 is on today's agenda.

[0:09:10]
AGENDA ITEM 4: **Announcements**

Ryan Morales is the designee from the State Surveyor's Office. Mr. Cummins has moved to a different department. Mr. Morales introduced himself. This is his second time on the Board; he recognizes some of the members from his first term and he's familiar with the operations of the Board.

[0:11:00]
AGENDA ITEM 5: **Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, Oʻahu to Mauliola**

The Honolulu City Council passed a resolution to rename Sand Island and urges HBGN to designate that name. The resolution and some informational documents from John Clark related to the name were included in the meeting packet. Mr. Clark's documentation indicates that "Mauliola" initially refered to the crematory.

Ms. McEldowney noted that Sand Island includes a State Park. Changing the name of the island would probably result in a name change for the park as well. Mr. Buto suggested that BLNR should be consulted since they are the fee owner of the land and suggested that Councilmember Cordeiro take the matter to the BLNR for a decision; HBGN would approve / recognize BLNR's decision.

Mr. Farden agrees that the BLNR should be given an opportunity to comment on restoring the name but is concerned that if a deadline for a Board decision is not set, then a decision would not be made. Mr. Farden's intention is for the Board to conduct more research and map out the different islands and set a time limit for responses and comments.

Ms. McEldowney noted that there is a federally owned portion of the island as well, but title to the largest portion is held in fee by DLNR. Mr. Morales will look for historical survey maps that may have the island(s) names.

To keep this moving, Mr. Farden suggested that the Board hold a hearing at the next meeting and ask impacted agencies to testify. They may want to testify, or they may ask for more time. Ms. Makaila agreed with Mr. Farden about setting a time period for the discussion and decision making among the Board members. During that time, continue to agendize the item so that interested parties can send in testimony or testify at the Board meetings until decision making.

Mr. Buto will put this on the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, Ms. McEldowney will reach out to State Parks and other affected agencies at DLNR in advance of the meeting. She also suggested contacting canoe clubs that use that area. Mr. Buto suggested drafting an outreach communication.

Mr. Marzan summarized: establish a standing agenda item to discuss this matter; in the next month or two identify the stakeholders to reach out to; during that time draft the outreach communication materials (resolution and relevant documentation); learn how it might affect various groups and give them time to share their thoughts and concerns; determine a date for decision making.

[0:42:15]
AGENDA ITEM 6: **Discussion and decision on changing the official name of the Island of Hawai‘i.**

Mr. Buto received a postcard and an email opposing the name change. These are included in the meeting packet. No other Board member reported receiving any feedback.

Ms. Oliveira would like to make a decision today; there’s been media coverage and it’s been under consideration for almost a year. Ms. Makaila concurred.

[0:45:44]
MOTION. Ms. Oliveria moved to change the name of the “Island of Hawai‘i” to “Hawai‘i” and make “Island of Hawai‘i” a variant name. Ms. Makaila seconded the motion.

[0:47:45]
Mr. Marzan called for a roll call vote:

Ms. Oliveira	*aye*
Ms. Makaila	*aye*
Mr. Farden	*aye with reservations*
Ms. McEldowney	*aye*
Mr. Buto	*abstain*
Mr. Morales	*abstain*

Mr. Marzan *aye*

The motion carried.

Mr. Marzan suggested that a press release be drafted; Mr. Buto asked for help drafting that statement. He will submit the draft to the DBEDT Public Information Officer and suggested that other members do the same. This might be a joint release. Mr. Marzan suggested using elements of Mr. Cummins' information document in the press release when the time comes.

Mr. Camara suggested waiting to hear back from the US BGN about their decision about the name change as a courtesy and precaution. He recommended reaching out to the Mayor's office, reps, senators, and Governor's Office.

[0:57:40]
AGENDA ITEM 7: **Review Board meeting schedule.**

Mr. Farden suggested that a schedule of the meetings be set ahead of time whether it's quarterly or bimonthly so that we can adjust beforehand if it conflicts with a holiday.

[1:11:21]
MOTION. Mr. Farden moved that the Board meetings for 2026 be held bimonthly on the even months, second Fridays at 10am, subject to consideration of holidays. Ms. Makaila seconded the motion.

Ms. Makaila noted that on the calendar for State holidays, the second Fridays are pretty clear. Mr. Farden noted that the Merrie Monarch Festival will conflict with the April meeting; the April meeting will be held on April 17th instead. Ms. Oliveira noted that public schools' fall break will conflict with the October meeting; the October meeting will be held on October 16th instead.

[1:18:10]
The Board voted unanimously to approve that the Board meetings be held bimonthly, on even months, on the second Friday of the month (except for April and October, which will be held on the third Friday), from 10am-12pm.

[1:19:05]
AGENDA ITEM 8: **Adjourn.**

[1:19:25]
MOTION. Mr. Farden moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Makaila seconded the motion.

[1:19:35]
The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.