

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

DATE: February 13, 2026
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
235 S. Beretania Street, 6th Floor Conference Room
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

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

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

The following were in attendance:

- MEMBERS:** Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum) [remote]
Arthur Buto for Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development) [in-person]
Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa)
Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division) [remote]
Hailama Farden (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) [remote]
Lilliane Makaila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands) [remote]
- ABSENT:** Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources)
- GUESTS:** Raymond Sin (member of the public) [in-person]
Samantha Keller (Mauliolo Ke‘ehi) [in-person]
Addison Trainer (Mauliolo Ke‘ehi) [in-person]
Kēhaulani Kupihea (Mauliolo Ke‘ehi) [in-person]
Shellie Zahniser (USGS) [remote]
Ghassen Dakhlaoui [remote]
Hélène (University of Hawai‘i) [remote]
Aaron Magee (Global Preservation Initiative) [remote]
Kennedy Cambra-Cho [remote]
Keli‘ikipikāneko‘olāka Ohi‘aku Keali‘iwāhāmānā [remote]
Clemens Mayer (University of Hawai‘i) [remote]
Taylor Engle (Department of Land and Natural Resources) [remote]
Christina Jayne (Department of Land and Natural Resources) [remote]
Landon Keller (University of Hawai‘i) [remote]
Jennifer Kelleher (The Associated Press) [remote]

[0:00:58]

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2025

[0:01:45]

MOTION. Ms. Makaila moved to accept the minutes of December 10, 2025. Ms. Oliveira seconded the motion.

[0:02:04]

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of December 10, 2025.

[0:02:11]

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

Raymond Sin introduced himself. He is an active-duty member of the US Air Force (USAF), a former teacher in Las Vegas, NV, and has been serving in Hawai‘i for about a year and a half. He attended the OHA Board of Trustees meeting yesterday and shared some of his thoughts about the local culture and Native Hawaiian people. Hawai‘i is unique in its economy, military history, and plantation history; preserving the culture and language are important for its identity, history, and its melting pot status. He saw that “Mauiola” is on today’s agenda and noted the expression “ola ike aloha” life through love, life sustained by aloha.

He spoke to Board of Trustees and its Chair, Kaiali‘i Kahele, a USAF veteran and commercial pilot, about the 60th anniversary of “Aloha Friday.” It was established by Bankoh President, Wilson Cannon in 1966, allowing employees to wear an aloha shirts on Fridays, which eventually spread to the mainland as “casual Friday.” A few decades before that, Ellery Chun, an entrepreneur, combined elements of Filipino, Hawaiian plantation, Chinese, and Japanese fashion with the American button down shirt and became known as the “father of the aloha shirt.”

He noted that the mixing of mnemonics with other languages can help spread usage, e.g., “matcha map” and “pō‘ai potions.” In addition, the Internet and technology provide opportunities to better understand each other in a spirit of aloha.

He pointed to some parallels between Hawai‘i and Singapore with its colonial history under the British, and the intertwining of multiple political, cultural, economic, and social histories.

Going into 21st century, Hawai‘i must be respectful of its past. “I ka wā ma mua, I ka wā ma hope,” the future and wisdom is found in the past.”

[0:07:45]

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

The State Ethics Commission noted that Ms. Evans, Ms. Oliveira, and Mr. Marzan need to complete the online ethics training. Mr. Buto will send a link after this meeting.

[0:08:12]

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O'ahu to Mauiola

Kēhaulani Kupihea introduced herself. Their 'ohana are lineal descendants of David Malo Kupihea from Kahaka'aulana; her tutu, Mahina o Hokumalamalama was raised there and shared stories about the island; they still take care of Kahaka'aulana; she was raised there, her family were fishermen, and she lived on Mokuweo for a short time.

She worked for two decades as an archaeologist and started a nonprofit, Mauiola Ke'ehi. She is here to share her mana'o. They started the process to change the name two years ago. The name was changed from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola by King Kamehameha V as a place of healing. Mauiola carries a cultural meaning of "life force" or "breath of life." She noted that many documents erroneously state that Kahaka'aulana was destroyed and that Sand Island is a "gathering" of different tidal islands. She provided a 1913 fisheries map that shows both Mauiola and Kahaka'aulana. She urged bringing back the mana to this sacred space and use the traditional name of Mauiola.

Aaron Magee introduced himself. He is the Executive Director of Global Preservation Initiative, a local nonprofit and Adopt-a-Park partner of Mauiola leading the restoration of this space for the past three years.

Mauiola has power and cultural meaning to it that Sand Island does not. The public space is one of the least visited on the island. He thinks that the name change will bring more public awareness and attention to it and to its cultural and historical significance and encourage more respect and stewardship.

Mr. Marzan thanked Kēhau and Aaron and others who submitted written testimony on this agenda item. If no decision is made today he encouraged those present to solicit others to provide additional testimony.

Mr. Farden also thanked the testifiers and expressed his appreciation for the map and the information that was shared. He asked the Chair for "time certain" for a decision to be made; he is ready to vote today.

Mr. Morales noted that the naming of the State Park was made in the Governor's Executive Order setting aside the land for the park. Changing the name of the park might require approval of the Land Board.

Ms. Makaila thanked the people who took time out of their day to testify today and for taking the time to put together the information to educate the Board. Although she is not a lineal descendant of that place, she feels it's important for the Board to "elevate the voices of lineal descendants and those who are knowledgeable and carry kuleana for that place." She too is ready to make a decision and urged the Board to take a vote today.

Mr. Marzan noted that based on Mr. Morales' comment that changing the name of the State Park may require an action by the Land Board, a name change approved by HBGN may need to then be presented to the Land Board.

[0:27:55]

MOTION. Mr. Farden moved to accept the recommendation to rename what is now known as Sand Island to Mauiola, and to contribute to whatever effort there is to see the name change through. Ms. Makaila seconded the motion.

Mr. Farden stated that the second part of the motion is to find the path forward to effect an official name change in the Executive Order for the park.

Ms. Oliveira expressed her mahalo to the testifiers for contributing to the process to restore our inoa wahi pana. It's helpful to the Board's understanding to hear from lineal descendants and people knowledgeable about these wahi pana.

[0:36:15]

Mr. Marzan called for a roll call vote:

Ms. Makaila aye
Mr. Farden aye
Ms. Oliveira aye
Mr. Buto aye with reservations
Mr. Morales aye
Mr. Marzan aye

Members unanimously approved the motion to accept the recommendation to rename what is now known as Sand Island to Mauiola, and to find the path forward to effect an official name change for the State Park.

Mr. Marzan thanked the community members for testimony and the Board Members for their discussion and decision.

[0:37:30]

AGENDA ITEM 6: Follow up on the name change from the Island of Hawai'i to Hawai'i.

Mr. Buto asked for help filling out the US BGN Name Change Form. Mr. Buto will reach out to Ms. Zahniser. A form will probably be needed for both Hawai'i and Mauiola decisions.

Ms. Makaila thought that a media release for the Hawai'i is not necessary; the media response to the decision was pretty minimal.

Mr. Buto noted that on the HBGN website there are placeholders for the rest of the meetings in 2026.

[0:44:50]

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn.

[0:44:55]

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

[0:45:15]

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.