

Minutes draft
FOR THE MEETING OF THE
HAWAI‘I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

DATE: April 24, 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

[Timestamp: 0:00:00]

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order

Mr. Marzan called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Marques Marzan (Bishop Museum) [remote]
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), *joined 10:16 a.m.* [remote]

ABSENT: Kapā Oliveira (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa)
Lilliane Makaila (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)

GUESTS: Jill Kuramoto (KHON2) [remote]
Shellie Zahniser (USGS) [remote]

[Timestamp: 0:00:50]

Agenda Item 2: Review of Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2026

[Timestamp: 0:01:44]

MOTION. Mr. Morales moved to approve the minutes of February 13, 2026. Ms. McEldowney seconded the motion.

[Timestamp: 0:02:22]

The members present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of February 13, 2026.

[Timestamp: 0:02:35]

Agenda Item 3: Public Comments

No comments.

[Timestamp: 0:03:54]

AGENDA ITEM 4: Announcements

No announcements.

[Timestamp: 0:04:17]

AGENDA ITEM 5: Followup on the renaming Sand Island, O‘ahu to Mauiola

Mr. Buto worked with Ms. Shellie Zahniser (USGS) to complete the USGS’ Name Proposal Form and asked Board members for comments or revisions before submitting the form to the US BGN. Because there are still some possible steps in the process, the draft will be finalized later.

Two additional items to follow up on: 1) does the Board want to send a letter to Radiant Cordero, who introduced the Honolulu City Council resolution and the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association to let them know that the Board approved the name change; and 2) there is also a question about whether or not the Land Board needs to make decision. Ms. McEldowney noted that the State Parks Division may want to discuss it internally and hear from more community members about the name change as it reviews the Master Plan for the park. She agreed with Mr. Farden’s reluctance to pause the name change process – State Parks supports the use of traditional place names. She also noted that HBGN has an “Alternate Name” category that carries the same official weight as the Primary Name, which may be an option for displaying both names simultaneously, until the Hawaiian name becomes more well-known and prevalent.

Ms. Zahniser commented that the federal use of “Variant Name” is similar; agencies use the Primary Name and can add a Variant Name in parentheses. Regarding the Name Proposal Form, the USGS will add the federal landowners to the form in the appropriate sections. The State should just indicate the State landowners.

[Timestamp: 0:24:52]

AGENDA ITEM 6: Identify agenda items for the next meeting.

Mr. Buto would like to include this as standing agenda item for future meetings.

Mr. Farden asked to also include an agenda item for an open forum to discuss specific names of interest. This would not be a decision-making item but would allow names to “popcorn up” from Board members and the public. He cited the common usage examples of Kaka‘ako Makai, Kapālama Makai, and Kahalu‘u Makai – the more they are used, the more it gets ingrained in people’s heads. If it is deemed appropriate, it could be agendized for a future meeting. Set a time limit, e.g., 30 minutes, and ask people to bring names forward.

Mr. Marzan asked Mr. Buto’s recommendation for a handful of names in specific areas. Mr. Camara had suggested that the Board look at undecided names within an ahupua‘a, rather than go through the undecided names for an entire island.

Mr. Farden asked that the agenda for today's meeting be corrected to show the correct spelling of "Mauliola." Mr. Buto will make the correction.

[Timestamp: 0:33:58]

Agenda Item 7: Adjourn.

[Timestamp: 0:33:58]

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

[Timestamp: 0:34:12]

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Marzan adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.