



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

DATE: May 15, 2014
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building
Office of Planning, 6th Floor Conference Room
235 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Mr. Kamanao Mills, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN or Board), called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning), Kamanao Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), and Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai'i)

ABSENT: Betty Kam (Bernice P. Bishop Museum), Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources), and Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division)

ADVISORS: Renee Louis, PhD., Naomi Losch (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa—retired)

OTHERS: Amber Stillman (Office of Mauna Kea Management), Larry Kimura (University of Hawai'i at Hilo), Fritz Klasner (Office of Mauna Kea Management) by Conference Call

Before proceeding, Mr. Mills asked Board members to introduce themselves for the benefit of those who were joining the meeting by conference call.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2014

A motion to approve the March 20, 2014 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Joan Delos Santos and seconded by Mr. Kalani Akana. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2014

Ms. Delos Santos noted that she made a few minor corrections to the minutes distributed and moved to approve the April 24, 2014 minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Akana. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Further Discussion of Draft HBGN Style Guide and Past and Future Decision-Making Criteria

Mr. Mills announced that the Board's ongoing discussion on combining place names would begin with three Board guests, Ms. Amber Stillman, Mr. Larry Kimura, and Mr. Fritz Klasner, who asked to discuss the issue of combining or not combining the name Mauna Kea. He asked them to proceed with their comments.

Mr. Klasner began by explaining their request to address the Board. They have followed the place name information available on the HBGN website for last two years or so and the discussion on Mauna Kea in particular. The Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMK) has a cultural advisory group, the Kahu Kū Mauna Council (Kahu Kū Mauna), of which Mr. Kimura is an *emeritus* member. The council had reaffirmed the spelling of Mauna Kea as a single name and OMK began the process of transitioning to this spelling. They noticed in the January 2014 HBGN meeting minutes that there was a motion to return to a spelling that separates the name. OMK raised the issue at a subsequent Kahu Kū Mauna meeting and asked members how they wanted to proceed. Mr. Kimura was invited to the meeting to express his thoughts on the matter from the perspective of the local community. Mr. Kimura said that this decision not only affects the name of OMK and all its publications, but it raises a bigger concern over the basis of these kinds of decisions or policy used to make them. The issue is much broader than just Mauna Kea.

Mr. Mills explained that over the last three months the Board has been trying to establish some consistency in the writing of Hawaiian geographic names. It is currently in the process of drafting guidelines for this purpose. The draft guidelines have been prepared and the Board is planning on approving the guidelines at some point after some edits. It is good to have community input on the guidelines and the Board would be happy to send the draft to OMK and to others, particularly Kumu Kimura, for comment. He explained that a founding document of the guidelines is the 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo guidelines developed by the 1978 spelling project. The priority step in the Board's guidelines is to consult with knowledgeable community members and to check written resources as long as those resources do not cite USGS documents. This is to avoid the Board citing its own past decisions as a source. Under the guidelines of the federal Board of Geographic Names, common usage should also be considered. This was the basis of the Board's decision not to combine the name Mauna Kea. The common usage policy is that names "that reflect historical spellings or forms commonly used or preferred by the local population should be considered by the Board on Geographic names, as long as those names generally conform to the rules of Hawaiian and/or English." When information from the community or resources is not available, then the Board uses the 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo guidelines to guide decision making. Some of the 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo rules are incorporated in the HBGN guidelines. These include having geographic names written as one word; any single word modifier of a geographic name being capitalized with the geographic name, and compound geographic names being written as one word if the initial word is a common noun frequently used to describe geographic features. Instead of reading the guidelines over the phone, Mr. Mills suggested that he send them the draft for their review. The Board would appreciate their comments and take those comments into account when discussing revisions to the draft.

Mr. Kimura asked that the draft guidelines be sent either to OMK or to him directly. He then gave a brief overview of past efforts made to address spelling concerns when writing the Hawaiian language. All were part of an effort to return the language to the children and families of Hawai‘i. The Hawaiian Lexicon Committee was officially established in 1987 and the Hawaiian Immersion, Kaiapuni, was founded in the Department of Education. Before that, the Pūnana Leo program was created in 1983. All of these entities continued the effort that resulted in the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo guidelines. The need for guidelines increased as teaching of the language increased. This was especially true when Hawaiian was offered as a second language in schools, particularly high schools. The language had already been taught at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa since 1921. The Hawaiian language is relatively new in written form, but some ways of writing this language have become accepted as common usage. It is very fortunate that so many Hawaiian language newspapers are now available and that it is so convenient to search them to see how often Mauna Kea is written as a single word. He conducted a search on Mauna Kea and Maunakea beginning with the earliest newspaper, *Ka Lama Hawaii*, and the last, *Ka Hoku o Hawaii*. He counted 399 times that it was spelled as a single word and 66 times it was spelled as two words. This is just using Mauna Kea as an example, but it is a strong indication of what common usage was for our kupuna and native Hawaiian speakers. The missionaries, of course, introduced use of the alphabet and began writing the language based on common sense. He believes common sense still prevails in that we are using the Roman alphabet which includes capital letters and small letters. Common nouns are spelled with small letters and proper nouns, or names, with capital letters. Words are spelled as one word whether they are common nouns or proper nouns. This is basis for all language using the Roman alphabet, including Hawaiian. It would be very valuable to have a policy to assist us in spelling proper nouns such as place names or geographic names. There are other concerns such as adjectives or descriptors attached to a proper noun. Other complications will also occur. In general, a policy to address a proper noun in the Hawaiian language would have a proper name marker, which is ‘o. This is the way our kupuna identified names and from there we have to identify the spelling. Deciding to use capital letters was a good start, but concerns continued to be raised on whether to spell names as one, two, or three words. The tendency is to spell them as one word. His recommendation is that the proper nouns be written as one word and not be separated.

Mr. Mills thanked Mr. Kimura for his comments and staff of OMK for attending the meeting by conference call. He noted that the Board cannot make a decision on the specific issue of Mauna Kea because it is not on this month’s agenda. He asked that OMK submit a written request to the Board asking that it recognize Maunakea as the official spelling. This provides the Board with documentation of the request. Mr. Kimura said he has been working with Ms. Stillman and Mr. Klasner on other place names in the Mauna Kea Science Reserve. There are hundreds of other names to consider as well. They are dealing with policy statements and looking at how to understand proper nouns. For example, there are many pu‘u names. He asked if the Board wanted them to discuss these other names now. Mr. Mills suggested that they review the draft HBGN guidelines first. He emphasized that the Board seriously debated whether Mauna Kea should be combined or not over a series of meetings. He noted that one rule says that compound names shall be combined when the initial word in the name is a common noun describing geographic features. This includes Pu‘u, Lae, Wai, Pōhaku, and Hale. The guidelines include these types of examples. This is where the Board’s policy is

probably consistent with Mr. Kimura's recommendation. He reiterated that the Board will email them the draft guidelines and welcomes any comments. He encouraged them to include other place names on the mountain when they ask the Board to consider combining Mauna Kea.

Mr. Kimura pointed out that caution is needed when deciding if a feature name, such as pu'u or lae, is really part of the name or not. It would be great if these decisions could be substantiated by documentation. Because the Hawaiian language newspapers ran for such a long time, they show the progression in what might be called the thinking of native speakers who knew how to use the language. We have to acknowledge this kind of usage which was handed down by generations. We cannot turn our eyes away from this thinking. We need to see how they used the word pu'u as a name or not as a name. We must rely on this documentation to substantiate policies. He also noted that oral recordings can be used. These are critical in determining pronunciation and use of glottal stops and macrons. He used the example of Pu'uohoku above Hālawā Valley on Moloka'i. Native speakers used this name as one word. Another example is "Kapu'u o something or somebody". Kapu'u is used as a common noun rather than a proper noun because it is preceded by a ka'i or article. He has seen this name written in different ways which shows that people were already dealing with the problem of how to spell names. They knew, however, that it was a name because this was indicated by use of the language. Because we know the pronunciation, we know that it is Hoku and not Hōkū. The hard part was hearing whether there was an 'okina before the "o" in Pu'uohoku. It can be hard to detect 'okina. As he hears them, people of Moloka'i say "Moloka'i". He agreed to review the draft guidelines to see how they apply to place names within the Mauna Kea Science Reserve.

Mr. Mills reiterated that the draft guidelines would be emailed to OMK and emphasized that Mr. Kimura's voice has weight with those in the Hawaiian community. Mr. Klasner asked that the guidelines be sent directly to Kahu Kū Mauna as this discussion originated with the council. It will review the guidelines and the comments will come from the council, not from OMK itself. This will increase the time needed to respond. Mr. Mills stressed that it is a draft document and is still open to comment. The Board has not adopted the guidelines yet although it plans to do so during one of the upcoming meetings. The conference call ended.

Ms. Silva pointed out that this discussion demonstrates just how difficult these decisions can be and how different perspectives approach the question differently. Mr. Akana expressed his appreciation for the data Mr. Kimura provided on the spelling of Mauna Kea in Hawaiian language newspapers. Ms. Naomi Losch clarified that names are "proper nouns" and not "proper names". A proper noun is a name.

Discussion then began on the second draft of the Board's guidelines. Mr. Mills called attention to changes he made since the last meeting. First, he switched the order of "Check Resources" and "Consult with Knowledgeable Community Members". Consulting with knowledgeable community members is listed first. Under "Check Resources", he removed the short list of resources and instead noted that recommended references are listed in the attachment. The rule not to cite the USGS was placed in the second paragraph. Under "Consider Common Usage", he removed the end of the paragraph which read "...and are not

obscene or derogatory.” Mr. Akana suggested that “Board on Geographic Names” be changed to “Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names” in the rule discussing common usage.

For the “Naming Guidelines”, Mr. Mills noted that he added “Luna” and “Lalo” as examples under “c” as well as “Loko” and “Waho”. The third page will be the list of standard references used by the Board. He thanked Ms. Silva for preparing the draft of this list. Ms. Silva asked if members had any suggestions on references that should be added or removed from the list. Ms. Louis recalled that we discussed adding Mr. Fredrick Wichman’s book on Kaua‘i place names. Ms. Silva said she would add it. Mr. Mills noted that nupepa.org was left off the list. Ms. Silva agreed its omission was an oversight. Mr. Mills asked Ms. Louis if she was comfortable adding the “Hawaiian Place Names” database compiled by Mr. Lloyd Soehren. Ms. Louis said yes although she has some concerns. She is concerned that names do not have diacritical marks and it does not include descriptions of the places which can help users understand the meaning of a place name. It is a good reference in that it cites the source of each name in the database, many of which are from old land documents. Also it includes many more names than are available on any map and it would be a good starting point when the HBGN is ready to populate its database with names not found on topographic maps or in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). The Soehren database uses State Plane coordinates to indicate the locations of names. This coordinate system is not used any more so the locations would need to be rectified. Ms. Silva said that a note should be added explaining these cautions. She really appreciates the database because it includes so many place names not found in other sources and it at least provides the general location of a name. She has found it to be very useful when she finds a place while reading something but has no idea of its location. The database includes some information transcribed from the Boundary Commission documents which could contribute to Board deliberations. A note could suggest that the database be used for research only.

Mr. Akana asked to discuss the guideline rule which addresses names such as Kalihi Uka and Kalihi Kai. Based on available information, he believes the rule should be changed to recommend combining these kinds of names. It should be like combining Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. The modifier “Uka” modifies “Kalihi”. In Hawaiian language newspapers the words are combined into a single name and he believes the rule should conform to what appears in the Hawaiian language newspapers. He could not find examples of place names with “One” or “Two” in the newspapers, but other modifiers were combined with geographic names. Ms. Silva suggested that more research be done on this rule. Mr. Akana clarified that this was what he observed although he did not tally his findings. He supports Mr. Kimura’s perspective that priority be given to usage and spelling as expressed in the Hawaiian language newspapers. The newspapers were published over a long period of time and represent how native speakers grappled with how names should be spelled. He believes we should follow their decisions. Ms. Losch pointed out that much of this has to do with listening to how the language is spoken. If you hear Kalihi Uka, it sounds like one word but it is describing upper Kalihi. If you were to write it as you heard it, you are going to write it as one word. There is no separation when people speak these names. They heard it as one word and wrote it as such. Is this a problem? Mr. Mills reiterated that this rule is from the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo guidelines. These names were separated because they saw the place name as being “Kalihi” and “Uka” only clarified that the speaker was referring to the higher part of Kalihi. Mr. Akana relayed

some of his findings from the newspapers. He found Kalihikai and Kalihiuka written as one name along with many other examples. This was as early as 1834. If the Board accepts this rule, then Ko'olaupoko and Ko'olaupoko are not exceptions. Ms. Losch noted that, in 1978, those developing the guidelines did not have access to these kinds of resources to check past usage. Mr. Akana pointed out that Mr. Kimura alluded to this point when he described efforts to clarify spelling usage as a process that has progressed through the work of various committees and groups over the years and they are still grappling with how to spell this written language.

Ms. Louis asked if anyone could think of examples that justify keeping rule "c" in the guidelines. Mr. Mills thought that names such as Kealia 1 and Kealia 2 are examples of names that should not be combined. This is not a Hawaiian language issue. He suggested that the Board continue to look for any other examples. Mr. Akana noted that the Board may still want to consider keeping names separate when it is common usage to do so. This would include schools in Kalihi. Ms. Delos Santos reiterated that the law requires state agency to use names determined by the HBGN. If the HBGN decides to combine a name, then all agency signs and documents should combine the name. Mr. Mills said that when he sends the guidelines to Mr. Kimura, he will let him know that the Board is considering removing the "unless a single word modifier at the end separates an already established place name into two or more geographic regions." Rule "c" would then read: "Geographic names shall be written as one word." Ms. Louis noted that "c" and "d" are different in that "c" was meant to address words that refer to an area within a place name whereas "d" deals with words that describe a geographic feature type. Mr. Mills then questioned whether or not "d" was needed at all if "c" is removed. Ms. Silva believed that it would be helpful to keep "d" because it is a way to affirm the Board's decision that these should be one word. The rule should be left in with examples.

Mr. Mills asked if there are any examples in which it is appropriate to separate a place name. Mr. Akana noted that the guidelines do not currently address separating a place name that includes a proper noun. Kīpuka Mizota is an example as is Kīpuka Kapā'ū. Ms. Louis recalled that someone at Hawaii Volcanos National Park wanted to keep place names with kīpuka separate because it would be easier for people to understand that the name applies to a particular feature type. The Board at that time did not agree and believed all these types of names should be combined. Mr. Akana noted that it is clear that Ms. Mary Kawena Pukui also grappled with this issue. Ms. Losch pointed out that *Place Names of Hawaii* has Maunakea the street written as one word while the mountain is written as Mauna Kea. Mr. Akana said he still believes that Hale o Lono and Hale o Keawe should be separated because each includes a proper noun. Ms. Losch pointed out that "Hale" is not a geographic feature. Ms. Louis suggested that having a rule for separating names with proper nouns would give the Board the opportunity to discuss situations such as Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa more easily. She recommended that an "unless" clause be included in "d" which specifies that names with proper nouns should be separated. This could also be addressed in a separate rule.

Mr. Mills asked if he should include the phrase "when a place is named after someone." He could then add the example Kīpuka Kapā'ū. He can also add a statement like "when evidence suggests" that the place name includes a proper noun. He is trying to draw a line between

names such as Haleolono when it is combined and Kīpuka Kapā‘ū where it is separated because the place was named after someone. He wants to emphasize the need for evidence because without any evidence, the Board will not know if it is a person’s name or not. This accommodates situations in which someone comes before the board and says a place was named after my grandfather. Ms. Louis pointed to the example of Palikapuokeōua at Kealakekua. It is a combined name that includes the name of the person named Keōua. Mr. Akana also suggested that the Board do more research on names that include an “o” as in Pu‘uohoku.

Mr. Mills encouraged Board members to email him with suggestions or thoughts. He will continue to compile and revise until the Board is comfortable with the guidelines.

Ms. Louis suggested that the guidelines include an explicit statement acknowledging that the guidelines are not the final word on this issue and that it will evolve over time as more information and perspectives become available.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion of Maui Island Place Names (Continued review of Maui Island place names for spelling and diacritical marks)

Mr. Mills announced that he needed to leave and the Board would therefore lose quorum. Agenda Item 5 was deferred to a future meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Adjourn

Mr. Mills moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Silva seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly McEldowney