



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

DATE: September 19, 2013  
TIME: 10:00 am  
PLACE: Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building  
Office of Planning, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
235 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order**

Kamanao Mills, Chairperson of the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN or Board), called the meeting to order at 10:05 pm.

The following were in attendance:

**MEMBERS:** Kalani Akana (Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Joan Delos Santos (Office of Planning), Betty Kam (Bernice P. Bishop Museum), Holly McEldowney (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Kamanao Mills (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), and Ryan Morales (Land Survey Division)

**ABSENT:** Noenoe Silva (University of Hawai‘i)

**ADVISOR:** Renee Louis, PhD.

**OTHERS:** Nick Belluzzo (Historic Preservation Division)

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2013 and May 16, 2013**

A motion to approve the April 18, 2013 and May 16, 2013 meeting minutes was made and seconded and the Board voted to approve the motion unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Inquiry Regarding Selected Place Names within Haleakala**

Ms. Delos Santos provided background on an inquiry made regarding place names in Haleakala. Ms. Cecilia Awai Ani, who works at Haleakala National Park, wrote to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names saying that many Haleakala place names in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) were incorrect and asked that they be corrected. The following are the correct names for those she believes need correcting: Ka Lu‘u o ka ‘Ō‘ō; Ka Moa o Pele, Mauna Hina, Nā Mana o ke Akua; ‘Ōilipu‘u; Pā Ka‘aoa, Pu‘u Kumu, Pu‘u Maile, Pu‘u Naue, Pu‘unianiau, Pu‘u Nole, Pu‘u o Māui, and Pu‘u o Pele. She suggested that the Board confer with Mr. Kiope Raymond of the Hawaiian Studies Department, Maui Community College, as he also has thoughts on how these names should be spelled. Ms.

Delos Santos searched through past Board decisions and found that many of the names identified by Ms. Ani had already been changed by the Board because they are in *Place Names of Hawaii*.

Mr. Mills noted that past Boards followed the convention of condensing names that included Pu‘u and wondered if that was her concern. Ms. Delos Santos responded that Ms. Ani did not say what her specific concerns were with the names, but she thought it was offensive to have them be incorrect. Ms. Kam pointed out that the first three names Ms. Ani lists are in *Place Names of Hawaii* and the components of the names are combined. The convention of combining name components could be Ms. Ani’s concern. Ms. Louis checked the GNIS and found that those names had been corrected in the GNIS in 2003 and that they are consistent with *Place Names of Hawaii*.

Ms. Delos Santos arranged a conference call with Mr. Raymond during the Board meeting so that the Board could discuss these concerns with him and hopefully better understand them. The Board continued its review of names on the Maui Island list until Mr. Raymond called. When he called, he apologized that he was delayed by personal matters which also meant that he did not have the Haleakala names in question with him. He asked that discussions be deferred to another meeting.

Before proceeding, Mr. Raymond explained that Haleakala National Park has a kupuna working group which was asked to create a cultural map and brochure for the park. They have done a wonderful job. Because the park includes Kīpahulu, the group also has members from the Kīpahulu and Hāna communities. The group had asked him to translate their narrative in the brochure which he did. When they started looking at place names used by the park, they noticed some glaring errors. For example, they understood that one pu‘u is named ‘Ōili, but this name had no diacritical marks on the park’s map. They asked him to help get the National Park Service to change these names. The National Park Service cartographers said that they could not change names until they were officially changed by the HBGN. This is why the kupuna working group is approaching the HBGN now. The list of names in the letter includes those they are questioning. Board members introduced themselves to Mr. Raymond before the discussion proceeded.

Ms. Delos Santos explained to Mr. Raymond that she looked up all the names listed by Ms. Ani in the HBGN spreadsheets and found that the Board had made decisions on these names and the decisions were based on *Place Names of Hawaii*. Mr. Raymond was encouraged to hear this and believes that any remaining difference could probably be resolved by email. He asked that someone send him a list of the Board’s decisions and he can discuss it with the kupuna group. He does not anticipate it being contentious. Ms. Delos Santos agreed to send him the names. Mr. Mills notes that if the kupuna have any concerns about previous HBGN decisions, the Board would be glad to discuss them as well. Mr. Raymond agreed to get back to the Board with any comments or concerns from the kupuna group.

Ms. Kam suggested that the Board explain to the kupuna group the conventions used by the Board when it makes decisions on place name spellings and use of diacritical marks. Ms. Delos Santos noted that it would also be good to have these conventions well defined as part of the Board’s record keeping. Ms. Louis clarified that the conventions used are those established by ‘Ahahui ‘Ōleo Hawai‘i (‘Ahahui). This guidance document was created around

the time the HBGN was formed and has been generally followed ever since. Ms. Kam asked what would happen if the kupuna group's recommendations are not consistent with the conventions. Which would take precedence? Ms. Louis noted that the Board has not had to address these potential conflicts often because they are more likely to arise in a subsequent phase when the Board works directly with communities. For Kaho'olawe, the community chose not to follow the conventions and decided to separate the individual words in a place name. The guidelines say to concatenate the names.

Ms. Kam stressed the importance of having a history of the Board's decisions and a record of why the guidelines are not followed in particular cases. Ms. Louis pointed out that, historically, community knowledge and usage have always superseded *Place Names of Hawaii* when Board decisions are made. Although Mary Kawena Pukui conducted research broadly, her real area of authority was Hawai'i Island and specifically Ka'ū and Puna. In other areas, community usage or knowledge overrides the general guidelines. Ms. Kam noted that this also happens when deciding how to write peoples' proper names. Sometimes there are different versions on how a name should be written within a single community. Ms. Louis pointed out that, during this phase, it is up to the community to come forward and request name or spelling changes. In the second phase, Board representatives would be in the communities seeking needed changes and assisting with filling out the appropriate forms. Mr. Mills noted that a name can be entered as a variant even if there are disagreements. Ms. Kam reiterated how important it is to have a record of how and why Board's decisions were made and asked if these records will be made available. Ms. Delos Santos said the spreadsheets are available on the HBGN website and she is currently checking to make sure they are current. She also pointed out that the Board's meeting minutes should be posted online which would be another means of making discussions and decisions more available.

Mr. Mills asked if this Board wanted to officially adopt the 'Ahahui guidelines again or at least review them. Ms. Louis said that a past Board formed a subcommittee to address the issue of conventions and it was that subcommittee which recommended following the 'Ahahui guidelines. She also noted that the Board records have become more sophisticated through time with more specific notes being entered when decisions are made. As information on names and places has become more accessible electronically, the Board's decisions have become more sophisticated. Mr. Mills asked Board members to look through their archives to see if they could find a copy of the 'Ahahui guidelines. Once found, review and potential re-adoption of the guidelines could be put on a future agenda.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: Discussion of Maui Island Place Names**

The Board reviewed a total of 36 place names on the Maui place name list. As with previous meetings, this list includes names that are in the GNIS but were not entered into the HBGN's working spreadsheets created when the HBGN began its review of all the Hawai'i USGS Quads. The board's decisions are as follows:

- No Change: The Board determined that the following 16 place names do not need to be changed because they, independently or by association, are in *Place Names of Hawaii*: Honolulu-Mokulē'ia Bay Marine Life Conservation District (individual names checked separately); Hononana; Huialoha Church; Ka'ili Stream; Kaahumanu Church, Kaahumanu Shopping Center (associative based on Kaahumanu Highway); Kahauiki

Gulch; Kahikinui Hawaiian Home Land; Kaihukiako; Kapalua (Summit); Kapalua (Populated Place); Kapalua Census Designated Place; Kapalua-West Maui Airport; Kapoli Beach Park; Kapoli Spring; and Kapueokahi Beach (entered twice in the GNIS).

- More Research Needed: The following 11 names were determined to need more research:
  - Hopoi Village and Hopoi Reservoir: Hopoi is not in *Place Names of Hawaii* but is in *Atlas of Hawai'i*. Ms. Louis noted that the Board has previously said that more research is needed in these situations because we know the research techniques used by Mary Kawena Pukui for *Place Names of Hawaii*, but do not know those used for other sources. She clarified that once the Board finishes going through these lists, the plan is to go back and address names needing more research. Phase 2 of this work will focus on reaching out to communities to learn, when possible, correct pronunciations or stories behind those names. That phase will need to be a funded phase because it takes time and resources to go to communities and to work with them.
  - H-Poko Papa and H-Poko Point: As these places are in Hāmākuapoko, they are probably a shortened or slang name for the area. John Clark's *Hawaii Place Names* is given as the GNIS source for the name.
  - Ka Pā Pua'ā o Pele (Lava): It is not in *Place Names of Hawaii*. It is described as a being a small spatter cone vent in Haleakala. The source given in the GNIS is Kenneth Emory's 1921 publication on Haleakala. Mr. Akana asked if grammatically it should be an "a" instead of an "o" before "Pele". Ms. Louis suggested that it be discussed with Mr. Raymond because this could depend on the story behind the name.
  - Ka'ehu Beach: It is not in *Place Names of Hawaii* or in *Atlas of Hawai'i*. John Clark's *Hawai'i Place Names* is the source listed in the GNIS. More research is needed because we do not know the source of his information. Ms. Kam said she would ask John Clark if he would consider coming to talk to the Board about how he does his research on place names.
  - Ka'ekaha (Cape): It is not in *Place Names of Hawaii* but is in Lloyd Soehren's *Hawaiian Place Names*. Mr. Mills noted that word kā'ekā has kahako over the "a" in the Hawaiian dictionary. More research is needed.
  - Kaahumanu Hou Christian School: Mr. Akana suggested that "Hou" in this context probably refers to the conversion to Christ. Mr. Mills said he would call the school and ask about the name's history.
  - Kalua (Beach): The name is in *Place Names of Hawaii* but for a place at Honolulu, O'ahu.
  - Kapua'ikea Point: The name is not in *Place Names of Hawaii* or in other sources so more research is needed.
  - Kapuaraaka (Bay): This appears to be misspelling or an entry error in GNIS. The "r" should probably be an "i". There is a Kapuaiaaka on the topographic map. This name is not in *Place Names of Hawaii* so more research is needed. Mr. Akana noted that the Hawaiian dictionary says that 'a'aka is a rocky undersea cavern according to Malo. This may be appropriate given the location of the place name.

- Name Corrected by Adding Diacritical Marks: The Board determined that the following four names should be corrected by adding diacritical marks:
  - Ka Puali to Kapū‘ali (Cape): This name is in *Place Names of Hawaii* and is identified as being in the same general location which is Lahaina.
  - Kaheka to Kāheka (Village): Kāheka is in *Place Names of Hawaii* where it is identified as being in the same location.
  - Kaiwaloa Heiau to Ka‘iwaloa Heiau: Ka‘iwaloa is in *Place Names of Hawaii* as being a heiau and is identified as being in the same location.
  - Kalaepohaku to Kalaepōhaku (Land Section): Kalaepōhaku is in *Place Names of Hawaii* and is also identified as being in the Kahului area.
  
- Name Change by Board: The Board agreed to the two following name changes:
  - Kalae‘ili‘ili (Cape): The Board approved this as a name change by acclamation based on there being no reasonable alternative meaning in the Hawaiian language. A name indicating the potential presence of small stones seems appropriate given its location on the shoreline.
  - Kāneloa (Cape) to Kanaloa: The name Kāneloa is in *Place Names of Hawaii* but only on Kaho‘olawe, not Maui. This could be a variant name because there is a Kanaloa on the USGS topographic map at this location and it is in *Place Names of Hawaii* as Kanaloa for the same coastal area of Maui. More research is needed. The GNIS notes say that Kāneloa is a 2000 revision, but the source of the decision is not given. The Board approved by acclamation to change the name in the GNIS from Kāneloa to Kanaloa.
  
- GNIS Name Correction. The Board determined that the following two names should be changed in the GNIS.
  - Kalaeola (Cape) to Kalaeloa: The name Kalaeloa is on the USGS topographic map but it appears to be spelled incorrectly in the GINS database. Kalaeloa is in *Place Names of Hawaii* and identified as being in the same location at Makena.
  - Kanaherra Point to Kanahena Point: Kanaherra appears to be a spelling error in the GNIS database because the name Kanahena Point appears on the USGS Quad at the same location. Kanahena Point is not in *Place Names of Hawaii* but is in Atlas of Hawai‘i. The Board approved this spelling of the name based on available resources and there being no other reasonable spelling or meaning in the Hawaiian language.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:     Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11.35 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly McEldowney