



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
LEO ASUNCION
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HR 137

**URGING THE STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO CONSULT WITH
COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIRECT TRADITIONAL, CULTURAL, AND
FAMILIAL TIES TO THE DISTRICT OF PUNA TO ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE NAMES
FOR THE FISSURE 8 VENT AND OTHER FEATURES OF THE 2018 ERUPTION OF
KILAUEA VOLCANO.**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land,
& Hawaiian Affairs.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HR 137, which urges the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) to "consult with community members who have direct traditional, cultural, and familial ties to the district of Puna to establish appropriate names for the fissure 8 vent and other features of the 2018 eruption of Kīlauea volcano."

OP notes that a similar resolution was adopted in 2018 by the Hawai'i County Council (Res. 640-18). Councilmember Susan Lee Loy, who introduced the resolution, and Councilmember Ashley Kierkiewicz, who represents the Puna District, both attended meetings of the HBGN in recent months and have expressed their willingness to help facilitate meetings with the Puna community.

HBGN is moving forward with the naming process and has established a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) which is expected to engage in dialogue with and collect feedback from the community through one or more meetings in the Puna area. The PIG is tasked with setting a submission deadline for any new name proposals for the fissure 8 vent, review the proposed names for all features associated with the 2018 Kīlauea eruption event, and report back to the full Board with its recommendations no later than December 31, 2019.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.