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Statement of
LEO ASUNCION
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
SCR 205 / SR 165

**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 Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports SCR 205 / SR 165, which urge 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.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

LATE

Testimony of
Aha Moku Advisory Committee

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Wednesday, March 27, 2019
1:20 p.m.
Conference Room 229

**In Support of SCR 205 and SR 165
Relating to Kilauea Volcano; Fissure 8; State Board on Geographic Names**

SCR 205 and SR 165 urges 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. **Aha Moku supports SCR 205 and SR 165.**

It is collectively believed within the culture of Native Hawaiians that the names for geographic places have specific and special meanings that relate only to that specific place. In Puna, this is traditionally so. And while we can appreciate the global community of amateur lava watchers, well-meaning University of Hawaii advisors, and others who have offered their suggestions of names for this Pu'u, commonly known now as Fissure 8, we ask that the correct protocol of consulting only with those who have direct traditional, Native Hawaiian cultural and familial ties, as well as those who have generational knowledge of the mo'olelo, cultural history and natural and cultural resources of what was once there, from ancient times to now; and what can be again. The generational knowledge of the Native Hawaiian elders and communities of Puna is essential to the correct physical and spiritual naming of Fissure 8. If this naming is not spiritually and culturally correct, then it will be probably satisfy those who live outside of Puna. But will be a great insult and disservice to those who have, for hundreds of years, been directly connected to Puna and been most impacted by the eruptions that resulted in Fissure 8.

It is stated in the resolution that Section 4E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides that the members of the State Board on Geographic Names shall consist of the following or their representatives: The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Director of the Office of Planning, the President of the University of Hawaii, the State Land Surveyor, and the Director of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. These are the entities who will approve the naming of Fissure 8. Our fear is that it is not known if any of these people are from Puna or have the generational and lineal knowledge of that place. Only the people of Puna have that spiritual connection to their lands that have been devastated by lava, only to be renewed now through future growth.

We pray that the members of the State Board on Geographic Names have the sensibility, compassion and wisdom to work with the community members who have direct traditional, cultural, familial and generational ties to the District of Puna; and to turn to them to establish the appropriate names for fissure 8. As Aha Moku is attached to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, already makes recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources in regards to natural and cultural resources, and already works for, and with, the traditional and generational families of Puna, we offer our assistance to the State Board on Geographic Names on connecting to the 'ohana of Puna who are the only correct ones to name this fissure as they are part of the 'ike and 'uhane of Puna.

Piilani Kaawaloa, Po'o, Moku O Keawe
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SCR-205

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 2:29:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/27/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments: