



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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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.