

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 7, 2015

Committee
Report No. _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, having met on March 16, 2015, makes reference to County Communication 15-80, from Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "URGING THE HAWAII STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO RENAME IAO STREAM TO WAILUKU RIVER".

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to urge the Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names ("State Board") to rename Iao Stream to its previous name of Wailuku River.

Your Committee noted numerous documents from the late 19th century and early 20th century reference the body of water that flows out of Iao Valley on Maui as "Wailuku River."

Your Committee notes the name "Iao Stream" was first officially recorded by the United States Board on Geographic Names ("U.S. Board") in 1914. The U.S. Board confirmed the name in 1954.

Your Committee noted Maui-based advocacy organization Hui o Nā Wai `Ehā submitted an application for the name change to the State Board, pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 4E, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Your Committee notes the State Board met on the matter on March 25, 2015. The State Board decided to have a public meeting on Maui to solicit input before making a decision, possibly in May. The U.S. Board will review the State Board's decision and take final action.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Page 2

**Committee
Report No.** _____

Your Committee notes the English translation of Nā Wai `Ehā is “the four great waters” and refers to the Waikapu, Wailuku, Waihee, and Waiehu rivers of Maui.

Your Committee acknowledged the appropriateness and timeliness of restoring the name to Wailuku River because of the recent decision to restore water flow to portions of Nā Wai `Ehā.

Your Committee voted 7-0 to recommend adoption of the proposed resolution and filing of the communication. Committee Chair Victorino and members Baisa, Carroll, Cochran, Crivello, Hokama, and White voted “aye”. Committee Vice-Chair Couch and member Guzman were excused.

Your Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution _____, attached hereto, entitled “URGING THE HAWAII STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO RENAME IAO STREAM TO WAILUKU RIVER”, be ADOPTED; and
2. That County Communication 15-80 be FILED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



MICHAEL P. VICTORINO, Chair

Resolution

No. _____

URGING THE HAWAII STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO RENAME IAO STREAM TO WAILUKU RIVER

WHEREAS, in 1914, the United States Board on Geographic Names recorded the name of the river flowing out of Iao Valley in Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, as Iao Stream; and

WHEREAS, Hui o Nā Wai `Ehā, a Maui-based advocacy organization, has submitted an application to the Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names to rename Iao Stream as Wailuku River; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Hawaii, in the case of Peck v. Bailey, 8 Haw. 658 (1867), repeatedly referred to the river as “Wailuku River”; and

WHEREAS, 19th-century maps of Wailuku Plantation and Sprecklesville Plantation designate the river as “Wailuku River”; and

WHEREAS, a 1969 report for the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, prepared by Sara B. Cole, cites the river as “Wailuku River”; and

WHEREAS, “Wailuku River” is referenced in books such as “LEGENDS OF MAUI, A DEMI-GOD OF POLYNESIA AND OF HIS MOTHER HINA” by W. D. Westervelt and “WAILUKU SUGAR COMPANY CENTENNIAL, NOVEMBER 1862-1962: A CENTURY OF PROGRESS IN SUGAR CANE CULTIVATION” by Alvin K. Silva; and

WHEREAS, water is once again flowing from the river, and it is proper to restore the river’s name to Wailuku River; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names to take appropriate measures to rename Iao Stream to Wailuku River; and

Resolution No. _____

2. That certified copies be transmitted to Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; Joan Delos Santos, Acting Planning Program Manager, Hawaii Statewide GIS Program, Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names, State Office of Planning; Leo R. Asuncion, Jr., AICP, Planning Program Manager, Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program, State Office of Planning; Lou Yost, Executive Secretary, United States Board on Geographic Names, United States Geological Survey; Dean Uyeno, Program Manager, Stream Protection and Management Branch, Commission on Water Resource Management, State Department of Land and Natural Resources; Kamana`opono Crabbe, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Honorable Alan M. Arakawa, Mayor, County of Maui; David Taylor, Director of Water Supply, County of Maui; Isaac Moriwake, Esq., Mid-Pacific Regional Office, Earthjustice; Irene Bowie, Executive Director, Maui Tomorrow; John Vincent and Rose Marie Ho`oululahui Lindsey Duey Ohana; and Hui o Nā Wai `Ehā.

paf:kcw:14-273a