

HAWAII AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Monday - April 4, 1949

The regular monthly meeting of the Hawaii Aeronautics Commission was held in the Conference Room of the Commission at Honolulu Airport on Monday, April 4, 1949, at 3:30 p.m.

Present were: R. R. Bright, Vice Chairman
R. C. Honda, Secretary
R. A. Anderson, Commissioner
E. A. Bolles, Commissioner
O. J. Burnett, Commissioner

Absent was: C. B. Wightman, Chairman (on Mainland)

Attending were: G. T. Belcher, Director
R. B. Black, Assistant Director
G. R. Sims, Administrative Assistant
C. E. Perin, Superintendent, Honolulu Airport
Wm. Neilson, Supt. of Airports, County of Maui
M. E. Martin, Supt. of Airports, County of Hawaii
W. S. Holloway, Superintendent of Safety
P. J. O'Shea, Superintendent, Maui Airport
Walter Flanders, Island Aviation
Ernest K. Kai, Attorney for Mr. Flanders
W. E. Bertram, Hawaiian Airlines
Capt. B. J. Hogg, Hawaiian Airlines
E. L. Hart, Civil Aeronautics Administration Traffic Control
O. R. Prince, CAA Traffic Control
T. R. James, K-T Flying Service
W. Birnie, Transocean Airlines
Mrs. M. Wood, Hawaiian School of Aeronautics

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 1949, were approved as circulated.

BELLOWS FIELD LICENSE: The Director read portions of the Bellows Field license and requested authorization to execute same. Authorization was granted, on motion by Mr. Bolles, seconded by Mr. Honda and carried.

✓ CRASH FIRE-FIGHTING PROTECTION, HONOLULU AIRPORT: A memorandum, dated April 4, 1949, from the Assistant Director to the Commission, with regard to the crash fire-fighting operation on the airport, was read. It was pointed out that there were only nine fire-fighting positions established under the Hawaii Aeronautics Commission, and that this small fire-fighting organization would be "hopelessly inadequate" to control a fire involving thousands of gallons of high octane gasoline. It was further pointed out that, after consultation with experts, it had been determined that the minimum requirement for personnel to man equipment necessary to successfully fight a crash fire is 31 men. It was also brought out that the Hawaii National Guard is willing to make available to the Territory certain pieces of fire-fighting equipment.

In the course of discussion, it was asked whether or not provision could be made for the employment of additional men, until such time as action were taken by the Legislature upon the Commission's request for an appropriation of funds to provide for an adequate, permanent fire-fighting organization at Honolulu Airport. Mr. Holloway stated that if the Commission were to hire additional men, either temporarily or permanently, it would first have to purchase sufficient protective clothing to outfit the crew, and explained that the present fire-fighting crew has only one protective suit.

It was suggested by both Mr. Bolles and Mr. Anderson that some effort be made to contact the Navy Department in Washington and request a delay in transferring needed equipment from the airport. It was pointed out, however, that this equipment had already been removed.

The Director then requested authorization for the expenditure of funds from the airport revenue fund for the temporary employment of fire-fighters for the interim period, on a contract basis.

After further discussion, Mr. Bolles moved that the Director make necessary arrangements to acquire 11 additional men, effective immediately, on a temporary basis for a period of time not to exceed the end of the fiscal year. Motion was seconded by Mr. Anderson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Honda moved that the Director be instructed to purchase immediately the necessary protective clothing for fire-fighters. Motion seconded and carried.

The Director was also instructed to prepare a new organizational chart to include permanent fire-fighting positions, for submission to the Commission at its next meeting.

✓ SENATE BILL 158: Mr. Walter Flanders requested the Commission's endorsement, in principle, of Senate Bill 158. The bill was read aloud. It provides for the exemption from the fuel tax of gasoline sold for use in airplanes operating out of private airports in the Territory of Hawaii where such private airports are not supported by or receive public funds. Mr. Bolles said he thought the bill was acceptable in its present form and was in favor of the Commission's endorsing it.

An open discussion of the bill was held. It was felt by several of the fixed base operators that the bill was discriminatory, in that only owners of private fields would benefit by the measure. Mr. Ernest Kai explained that the purpose of the bill was to encourage aviation and was not intended to discriminate against or compete with other operators.

After further discussion of the matter, it was agreed by the Commission that it should take no stand on the measure and that the matter should be left entirely up to the Legislature. The Commission agreed, however, to study further the possibility of acquiring a long-term lease on the Kailua Airport lands for the purpose of promoting aviation.

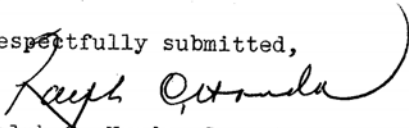
STUDENT SOLO FLYING, HONOLULU: The Director was instructed to contact the Navy Department and make inquiry about the possibility of opening Honolulu Airport to student solo flying. He was requested also to present for the Commission's approval, recommendations for all phases of the operation of solo flying at Honolulu Airport.

AIRPORT COMPLETION DATES: Kona, Hana, Lihue: Mr. Bolles asked for an estimate of completion dates for Kona, Hana, and Lihue airports. The Director reported that he would know definitely two weeks in advance of the opening date for each airport and that to date: Hana should be finished around the end of June (about 1½ months ahead of time); Lihue is scheduled for the latter part of August, but is 30 days behind schedule; Kona runways, taxiways, etc., should be completed about May 15.

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ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Ralph C. Honda, Secretary