

HAWAII AERONAUTICS COMMISSION  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 19, 1951

The regular meeting of the Hawaii Aeronautics Commission was held in the Conference Room of the Commission, Overseas Terminal Building, Honolulu Airport, at 1:15 p.m. on Monday, March 19, 1951.

Present were: Dr. F. K. Sylva, Chairman  
Mr. R. C. Honda, Secretary  
Mr. R. A. Anderson, Member  
Mr. R. R. Bright, Member  
Mr. H. W. Rice, Member (Maui)  
Mr. D. W. Edwards, Member (Kauai)  
Dr. Geo. J. Silva, Member (Hawaii)  
Mr. O. J. Burnett, Member

Absent was: Mr. C. J. Pietsch, Vice Chairman

Attending: Mr. Clark M. Kee, Consult. Engr.  
Mr. R. M. Lee, Adm. Asst.  
Mr. Guy Murray, CAA  
Mr. C. J. Brenham, Prop. Adm.  
Mr. H. K. Graves, PAA  
Mr. Leo Char, photographer  
Mrs. M. Wood, HSA  
Reporters, Advertiser & Star-Bulletin  
Col. Cobb, Dir. Terr. Disaster Agency

MINUTES: The Minutes of the regular meeting held February 19 and special meeting held March 5 were approved as circulated.

TERMINATION OF SERVICES, CLARK M. KEE: Mr. Rice moved that the services of Mr. Clark M. Kee be terminated as of April 30, 1951, in view of the fact that Mr. Kee's Master Plan Report has been completed and is in the hands of the printer. Motion seconded by Mr. Bright and carried.

UPOLU POINT AIRPORT: The Director explained that repair work on the Upolu runway had been stopped on March 9th because of inclement weather and that only a limited amount of work had been accomplished because workmen had been taken off the airport to do work on other County jobs. He said also that complaints had been received from Hawaiian Airlines to the effect that closing of the airport was interfering with their schedule. Finding HAL's assertions to be true, the Director had ordered the work on the runway suspended until such time as County personnel could be more fully organized for a concentrated effort to complete the job.

KIPAPA TOWER: The Director reported that the Department of Institutions (Oahu Prison) was desirous of obtaining the Control Tower at Kipapa, and had received an offer to salvage the tower and pay the Commission \$25,000 for same. In discussing the matter, it was pointed out that the tower had been purchased for \$500 with aviation fuel revenue and that therefore the same amount should be realized in its sale.

Mr. Edwards moved to approve the purchase by the Department of Institutions for an amount of \$500, payment to be made in services to be contracted from time to time. Motion seconded by Mr. Bright and carried.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS: The Director recommended that as of the 1st of April all accounts 60 days overdue be charged interest at the rate of 5% per annum. Recommendation approved on motion by Mr. Rice, seconded by Mr. Honda and carried.

TPA'S ACCOUNT: The Director reported that Trans-Pacific Airlines has not made any payment on their account since December 1st, and that the account was outstanding in the amount of \$34,000. He read a portion of a memo from the property administrator to the effect that Mr. Tongg had reported to him that no payments could be made until the mail contract had been received, and that it was expected shortly.

The Director was instructed to obtain a copy of TPA's financial statement from the Public Utilities Commission.

Mr. Edwards recommended that the Director have a conference with Mr. Tongg and have him explain how he proposed to handle his present delinquency.

✓ **KAU, REPORT ON:** Mr. Harrison told the Commission that the report on the feasibility of constructing an airstrip at Kau, Hawaii, had been completed and that cost for same had been estimated at \$618,000. He was instructed to transmit the report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, on motion by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Honda and carried.

✓ **RELIEF FOR PRIVATE AVIATION SCHOOLS:** The Chairman informed the Commission that bona fide private aviation schools were having financial difficulties and expressed the belief that it was the Commission's duty, as the agency charged with fostering aviation in the Territory, to find some means of relief for them. He suggested that space rental rates for these schools be cut 50%. The matter was discussed at length.

Mr. Edwards moved that the Director be authorized to include a special classification cutting space rental rates by 50% for CAA approved schools of aviation in the schedule of rates and charges to be drawn up for all territorial airports, in view of the Commission's legal responsibility to "cooperate with and assist others engaged in aeronautics" and to "foster and aid the development and progress of aeronautics in the Territory". Motion seconded by Mr. Honda and carried.

**EQUIPMENT:** Mr. Bright, Chairman of the Equipment Committee, recommended that all equipment in excess of normal operating requirements be disposed of and use of all equipment for occasional jobs be contracted for. It was also pointed out that purchases of equipment on outer islands should be put out to bid on the islands concerned.

✓ **KAMUELA AIRPORT:** The Director said that various surveys at Kamuela are still in progress.

**PASSENGER SHED AT KALAUPAPA AIRPORT:** Referring to a Legislative Bill for the erection of a passenger shed at Kalaupapa Airport, Mr. Rice moved that the Commission authorize building a shed at Kalaupapa from material available at Puunene, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. (Mr. Lee reported a balance of \$39,835.57 in the General Fund for Improvements and Paving at Kalaupapa Airport -- Act 23, SL 1947.) Motion seconded by Mr. Honda and carried.

✓ **LIHUE AIRPORT - Runway Extension; Addition to Lihue Terminal:** Mr. Kee reported that the DPW submitted a set of working plans as developed by their architect, to the HAC for final review and acceptance, but that on February 9 these plans were returned with the request that they be restored to the original plans as approved by the people of Kauai and HAC; that the DPW had been requested to advise their architect to this effect and see that the original approved plans were adhered to in every respect.

Reporting on the runway extension, Mr. Kee said that he had been informed by the DPW that they are waiting to see the outcome of bids on a Kauai road project before calling for bids on this runway extension as they might possibly call for an alternate type of pavement materials in the runway extension proposals.

Mr. Edwards moved that the Commission notify the DPW of the urgent desire to see these projects advertised for bid within the next 30 days. Motion seconded by Mr. Rice and carried unanimously.

**FENCING, HONOLULU AIRPORT:** The Director requested permission to erect a fence from the Pan American gassing area to old nose hangar, pointing out that this would prevent motorists from driving out onto the PAA plane parking area -- estimated cost: \$1500.

Mr. Rice moved that the fencing be erected by the HAC's own crew and that the cost not exceed \$1500. Seconded by Mr. Honda and carried.

**IMPROVEMENTS TO QUONSET HUTS, HONOLULU AIRPORT:** The Director suggested that the HAC improve the looks and comfort of the Health, Immigration and Customs quonsets. He said that Mr. Philip Fisk (architect) could submit a report on what can be accomplished for between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The type of improvement desired was discussed.

Mr. Bright moved to authorize the Director to work out a plan for the improvement of that area and submit a proposal as to cost at the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Honda and carried.

✓ LIHUE AIRPORT, Lease of Land to Lihue Plantation: The Director read a portion of a letter from American Factors, Agents for Lihue Plantation, requesting the extension of their lease from the Commission (Parcels A, B, C, D, and E, containing a total of 30.0 acres, being portions of Runway 35-17, Lihue Airport) for as long a period as possible, and requesting inclusion of an additional area containing 3.33 acres (Parcel G).

Mr. Edwards moved that a lease be granted for 15 years with a withdrawal clause permitting the HAC to take back the land if needed for aeronautical purposes; also that the Director be permitted to execute the lease. Motion seconded by Mr. Honda and carried.

✓ PARCEL 1, HONOLULU AIRPORT - LEASE: The Director reported that the lease covering Parcel 1 had been drawn up and was satisfactory to the Air Force, Director and Attorney General's department. He pointed out, however, that it had been discovered that the Navy had an option on one portion of this area and was desirous of renewing it for another 5 years. He asked the Commission's wishes in the matter.

After discussion, Mr. Rice moved to approve the lease, but to request that, at such time as the Navy gives up the area in question, it automatically revert to the HAC. Motion seconded by Mr. Edwards and carried.

REPORT TO LEGISLATURE: The Director pointed out that his report for the Legislature on activities of the current biennium and proposed projects for the 1951-53 biennium had been circulated to all commissioners for their comments and had been revised accordingly. He requested permission to forward copies to the Legislature.

Mr. Rice moved to authorize the Director to send sufficient copies of the report, as approved by the Chairman, to the Legislature. Motion seconded by Dr. George Silva and carried.

AIRPORT AT LAHAINA, MAUI: Relative to a Resolution introduced in the Legislature, requesting that the HAC inquire into the feasibility of constructing an airport at Lahaina Maui, the Director was instructed to ask of the Legislature the primary purpose for constructing an airport at Lahaina (freight, passengers, schedule or non-schedule operations), and that the Director then proceed with a study of the matter on the basis of their request. Motion by Mr. Edwards and carried.

SIGNING OF LEASES BY DIRECTOR: Mr. Honda pointed out that no authority had been given the Director for signing legal documents and asked if it was the Commission's desire to grant blanket authority for this purpose. ✓

The Commission decided that signing of leases and other documents should be authorized separately.

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, Honolulu Airport: The Director reported that a system has been worked out whereby the Hawaiian Electric's main power plant in Honolulu can be tied into the airport system to supply the entire airport with a second source of emergency power in the event there is a failure in the regular system....at a total cost of \$7,000 for poles and wiring.

Mr. Edwards expressed the belief that the HAC should not be responsible for installing poles and lines outside of its own property. Discussion followed.

Dr. Sylva said that some of the Commissioners want to give the matter further consideration and requested that it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

TERRITORIAL DISASTER RELIEF: After explaining briefly the background of the establishment of the Civil Defense Administration, Mr. William B. Cobb, Director of the Territorial Disaster Relief Agency, informed the Commission that the Territory is asking Congress for a substantial

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amount of money, principally for bomb proof shelters. He said that the shelter money will probably be used to modify existing structures and incorporate in structures yet to be built an adequate degree of shelter for people engaged in the performance of necessary functions. He pointed out that the HAC would be primarily interested in protection of essential personnel and installations on territorial airports. In this regard, he asked the Commission's cooperation in contacting various local legislators in support of the Disaster Relief Agency's request of the Territorial Legislature for slightly over one million dollars to be used as matching funds for Federal appropriations in the Disaster Relief Program.

Mr. Cobb presented the Commission with copies of the Disaster Relief and Civil Defense Plan for Hawaii.

Dr. Sylva thanked Mr. Cobb for the information and said it would be taken into consideration in the construction of the terminal building.

**FIRE & POLICE PROTECTION, HONOLULU AIRPORT:** The Director read a letter received from the Airport Users Committee relative to existing fire and police protection at Honolulu Airport, in which it was stated that the provision of adequate policing and structural fire protection is the responsibility of the City and County or Territory or for the account of the General Fund; that, however, there is justification for a portion of the crash truck charges, to be carried by the airlines, but that this specialized cost should be shared in some proportion by the General Funds of the Territory. Letter ordered filed.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET, FINAL DRAFT:** Mr. Bright moved to approve the Budget in its final form. Motion seconded by Mr. Rice and carried.

**LEGISLATIVE BILLS - DIGEST:** The Director was requested to obtain a digest of all legislative bills relative to the HAC from the Chamber of Commerce, for reference.

**HONOLULU AIRPORT, PHOTO CONCESSION:** The Director read a letter from Mr. Leo Char, airport photographic concessionaire, requesting a 4-year extension of his present concession. Motion approving the request was made by Mr. Rice, seconded by Mr. Bright and carried.

**REMOVAL OF POSITIONS FROM CIVIL SERVICE JURISDICTION:** The draft of a proposed bill drawn up by Mr. Richard Sharpless, Deputy Attorney General, to amend section 4915.03 of the Revised Laws of Hawaii 1945, as amended, providing for the exclusion of the positions of Assistant in Charge of Engineering and Maintenance, Superintendent of Airport and Operations, and Administrative Assistant from Civil Service, was approved on motion by Mr. Honda, seconded by Mr. Anderson and carried.

**REPORT ON REVENUES & EXPENDITURES - GAS TAX:** Mr. Lee explained a series of 11 charts depicting revenues and expenditures for the biennium 1951-53 and the effect reducing the present 4¢ gas tax to 1¢ would have on airport operations. He pointed out the present operating deficit at outer island counties under the present 4¢ fuel tax rate, and compared it to the greatly increased deficit which would develop should the tax be reduced. He explained that the total operating deficit is balanced by total fuel tax collection, and that if the tax were reduced, landing fees for all types of aircraft would have to be greatly increased to make up the deficit, and this would place the financial burden on local operators only, in view of the frequency of their operations.

Mr. Lee said, further, that the charts demonstrated that the Commission should call upon the Legislature to leave the tax at 4¢.

The Chairman instructed the Director to keep in touch with the Legislature on matters affecting aeronautical affairs in Hawaii and to request that HAC be invited to appear at any hearings concerning this.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ralph C. Honda*  
Ralph C. Honda, Secretary