

MINUTES OF TERRITORIAL AERONAUTICAL COMMISSION MEETING
HELD AT THE HONOLULU ARMORY ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON,
AUGUST 11, 1927, AT 2:00 P. M.

PRESENT:

Colonel P. M. Smoot, Chairman
Mr. Will C. Crawford
Mr. Herbert F. Cullen
Mr. Leo G. Fehlman

ABSENT:

Mr. A. W. Van Valkenburg

Mr. Van Valkenburg was unable to attend this meeting as it was necessary for him to be present at a meeting of Honolulu Chapter, National Aeronautic Association, to discuss plans for the "Dole Derby".

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. There being no corrections, the minutes stand approved as read.

The Chairman advised the Commission that the first item under "Old Business" was the matter of regulations to be promulgated by this Commission. A letter from the Attorney General dated August 8, 1927 in regard to his views on regulations to be promulgated by this Commission was read. Though it is the opinion of the Attorney General that these regulations (except regulations with reference to the right to use Territorial airports) have no actual validity owing to the fact that the Federal regulations are very controlling, it was the unanimous decision of the Commission to have these regulations stand until they are contested. These proposed regulations are to be submitted to the Governor for his approval as required by law, in compliance with the suggestion made by Mr. Crawford at the meeting of July 14. X

A copy of a letter to the Attorney General dated July 23 requesting his opinion as to the legality of the Commandant, 14th Naval District, establishing and enforcing regulations prohibiting the flying over the waters and naval reservation of Pearl Harbor was read. No reply has been received.

A letter from Mr. Geo. Cruickshank, Manager, Kaeleku Sugar Company, dated July 18, 1927 was read. At present Mr. Jos. Herrscher is absent in California but Mr. Cruickshank has no doubt that he will wish to cooperate in this matter of obtaining a landing field at Hana, Maui. It was the unanimous decision of this Commission to hold this matter in abeyance until we can determine whether we will need this field as an emergency field. V X

The first item under "New Business" was the reading of a letter from the Governor dated August 8, 1927 inclosing a certified copy of Executive Order No. 293 setting aside land for air port and landing field purposes to be known as the "John Rodgers Airport" and to be under the control and management of this Commission. X

A letter from Mr. Van Valkenburg to this Commission requesting that an opinion be obtained from the Attorney General on the maximum term and other conditions which can be legally incorporated in a lease for a portion of a Territorial airport desired for use in connection with the erection of hangars, shops, etc. and letter from this Commission dated August 8 requesting this information of the Attorney General were read. X
The desired opinion has not as yet been received.

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The medals to be presented by this Commission to the first trans-Pacific fliers, Pilot Ernest L. Smith and Navigator Emory B. Bronte, Jr., were shown to the Commission and were found to be most satisfactory. It was unanimously agreed that these medals be exhibited in one of the store windows on Fort Street and that the Chairman make arrangements to personally present these medals to the fliers at a meeting of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce.

A letter from Captain W. M. Gorham of Port Allen dated July 27, 1927, addressed to Major B. A. Yancey, was read. The Chairman stated that Captain Gorham is very anxious for this Commission to consider a landing field adjoining the Hanapepe Army Field and that Alexander and Baldwin are anxious that we cooperate with the Army at Hanapepe.

The Chairman informed the Commission that in a talk with the Superintendent of Public Works that gentleman stated that he would start the grading of the landing field at Paukukalo as soon as possible. The Land Commissioner is going to have this field surveyed immediately and also forty or fifty acres additional land below the field toward the sea, with the view to having it used by this Commission.

The letter of Mr. A. J. Williamson of Hilo dated August 3, 1927, making application for appointment as a member of this Commission, was forwarded to the Governor on August 10 with the information that the present commissioners consider it more desirable that the balance of the members of this Commission be appointed from suitable persons permanently located in Honolulu. In answer to Mr. Williamson's letter the Chairman informed that gentleman that his letter was being forwarded to the Governor and that the Governor would probably wait to see just what the Federal Government intends to do relative to the enforcement of federal flying regulations within the Territory.

The Attorney General has approved of this Commission's obtaining some Hawaii Homes Lands for use as landing fields. A member of this Commission is to accompany Mr. Duncan of the Hawaii Homes Commission to Molokai with the view to staking off a landing field in lower Palaau. Planes are landing there now. Mr. George Cooke and Libby, McNeill and Libby have another place in mind and they are willing to donate 50% respectively towards the expense of grading same if the Territorial Government will not furnish the necessary funds.

The Chairman leaves Honolulu for the Mainland on August 31, 1927. The Attorney General rules that the Chairman can appoint with the approval of the Governor any member of the Commission as Acting Chairman. The Chairman stated that as Mr. Fehlman was the oldest member of the former Territorial Aviation Examining Board that he would be considered as Acting Chairman. It was the opinion of Mr. Fehlman that as Mr. Crawford is in the employ of the Territory that it would be more appropriate for him to hold such office. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman submit the names of Mr. Crawford and Mr. Fehlman to the Governor for his consideration as to which shall be the Acting Chairman. The Acting Chairman is to see that a member of the Commission accompanies Mr. Duncan to Molokai about the 2nd of September.

The Chairman informed the Commission that the Army has offered to take members of the Commission on flights to the other islands. However, in view of the fact that at least three planes must go together to the other islands and the funds for gasoline are limited, there is small chance of taking advantage of this offer.

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Mr. Crawford gave a talk on his visit to Hilo. He left Honolulu on August 8 and returned this morning (August 11). The work on the Hilo Airport is progressing very nicely. Mr. David K. Richards, jailor on duty at the Hilo Airport, has thirty-six prisoners at work on the airport and they deserve much credit for the work they are doing. The power and telephone companies have agreed to remove their wires from the airport so as not to interfere with the planes. The following motion was made by Mr. Cullen, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the Attorney General be requested to purchase thirty-six raincoats at \$2.25 a piece for use of the prisoners at the Airport. Mr. Crawford estimates that planes should be able to land at the Hilo Airport next month. There will be a runway of about 1,000 feet. Mr. Crawford has agreed to take up with the Attorney General and the Superintendent of Public Works certain matters incident to his visit to Hilo, It was the unanimous opinion of the Commission that the Chairman should ascertain from the Attorney General whether we can appoint sub-agents on the islands other than Oahu and if so, that Dr. Milton Rice of Hilo be appointed as one and that others be appointed as deemed necessary. Mr. Crawford stated that the field we are desirous of securing at Kilauea is the one originally picked out by Mr. T. A. Jaggar, Jr. and some aviators. This field is considered very safe. Under date of July 30 these Headquarters requested the Governor to secure this field. The Governor's letter of August 3 states that he has requested the Secretary of the Interior to set aside this land for use of this Commission. A vote of thanks was given Mr. Crawford for the excellent manner in which he handled matters pertaining to this Commission while on the Island of Hawaii.

The Chairman informed the Commission that while in Washington he will take up with the Department of Commerce, Aeronautics Branch, the matter of aviation within the Territory.

The following motion was made by Mr. Cullen, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the meeting be adjourned to meet again at the call of the Chairman".

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P. M.

P. M. Smoot
P. M. SMOOT,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Chairman.