

MINUTES OF TERRITORIAL AERONAUTICAL COMMISSION MEETING
HELD AT THE HONOLULU ARMORY ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON,
OCTOBER 24, 1928, AT 2:00 P. M.

PRESENT:

Colonel P. M. Smoot, Chairman
Mr. Chester Clarke
Mr. Will C. Crawford
Mr. Herbert F. Cullen
Mr. Leo G. Fehlman
Commander Victor D. Herbster
Mr. A. W. Van Valkenburg

ABSENT:

None

Act 236, Revised Laws of Hawaii, 1927, reads in part as follows:

"At least three of the members of said Commission shall be competent licensed aeronauts, or aeronauts holding commission as such in the aviation service of some branch of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, including the Hawaii National Guard, the Naval Militia and Reserve Corps".

On July 27th the Chairman notified the Governor it had just come to his attention that Mr. Crawford had resigned as a 2nd Lieutenant, U. S. Army Air Corps, (Reserve), and that Mr. Cullen had decided not to continue his application for a pilot's license, Department of Commerce. This meant that the Commission was illegally constituted at that time as Mr. Fehlman was the only member qualified as an aeronaut. The law, quoted here, requires there be three aeronaut members. In order to rectify this condition, the Governor on October 2, 1928, appointed Commander Victor D. Herbster, Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station, Pearl Harbor, and 2nd Lieutenant Chester Clarke, U. S. Army Air Corps Reserve, as members of this Commission for a period of 4 years. These two new members were introduced and their appointments read and filed with the Secretary.

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 Superintendent of Public Works and the local representative of the Aeronautics Branch of the Department of Commerce had been invited to attend this meeting but were unable to do so owing to previous engagements.

The Territory of Hawaii Airport Rules submitted on June 14, 1928 to the Governor were approved by His Excellency on the 9th day of July, 1928. These rules are incorporated in the annual report of the Chairman for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1928.

As the Commission was considering the establishment of a territorial airport on land known as "Wailua Mauka" in the vicinity of Lihue, a letter was addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Kauai with reference to the road leading to Wailua Falls. The reply stated it was believed it would be several years before the road could be improved by the County. Mr. Crawford stated that he visited this field about three weeks ago with Mr. Charles Fern of Lihue; that there is quite a bit of rainfall but does not think it would make the field dangerous as the soil is not of the mud-clay kind. He thought that the road situation would be a difficult one as the present one is unimproved. Mr. Crawford recommended that for the present we spend our ef-

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ports on the Port Allen Field and though a field should be established at Lihue, that we wait until the Lihue people want it.

The Chairman welcomed home Mr. Van Valkenburg who recently returned from a trip to the Mainland which was for the purpose of getting in touch with the latest developments in aircraft and the methods of operations at commercial airports. Mr. Van Valkenburg gave a brief narrative of his trip. He declared that the Oakland Airport is one of the finest in the United States. The Chairman inquired in what respects it was one of the finest. Mr. Van Valkenburg replied that it was because of its area; present equipment, possibilities for further development; the management and public backing. In commenting on the Air Races and Exposition held in Los Angeles from September 8 to 16 he said it was a wonderful means of educating people who are not air-minded in the development of aviation. \$400,000 was spent on the Exposition. Mr. Van Valkenburg was greatly impressed by two new amphibian planes which he saw in the East.

A note of thanks from Captain Kingsford-Smith and his comrades of the "Southern Cross" was read.

Mr. Ralph P. King and Mr. D. H. Miller were granted licenses by the Chairman to take photographs from aircraft over the Island of Oahu. This was in accordance with a motion unanimously carried at the meeting of April 23rd "That the Chairman is authorized to approve any applications for licenses to make aerial pictures over the Island of Oahu that he deems desirable".

A report by Mr. Dolan to the Assistant General Manager of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company on an inspection trip of emergency fields on the Island of Oahu was read. In this connection the Chairman stated "We cannot spend money on land that is not territorially owned except it is specifically stated in our legislative appropriation bills. We should not have any strings attached to appropriations for the next biennial period".

Mr. William Walsh of Kahului writes that the Spreckelsville location is not considered favorable but that he is impressed with the possibilities at Kihei and has requested Mr. J. H. Foss of Paia to make a survey of Kihei Flats. To date this Commission is not in receipt of a copy of this survey. Mr. Walsh mentioned the visit of Mr. Hugh Hill who is favorably inclined to the establishment of an inter-island service by seaplanes. As regards the Maui situation the Chairman stated "This proposed operation of seaplanes is hindering our program for landing fields".

Under date of August 20th a letter was forwarded to the Superintendent of Public Works suggesting he consider the advisability of using an oil dressing on John Rodgers Airport. To date no reply has been received but on October 16th at John Rodgers Airport Mr. Bigelow mentioned to Colonel Smoot that he did not think oil would be satisfactory as it would require constant application. Instead, grass seed will be planted to prevent the surface of the airport from blowing away. It was Mr. Van Valkenburg's suggestion that pilots be encouraged to use wheels or "frying pans" on the tail skids of their planes.

There was a discussion of the runway of John Rodgers Airport. The following motion was made by Mr. Cullen, seconded and unanimously carried with the exception of one member who did not vote: "That previous action on the shape of the runway to be constructed at John Rodgers Airport be rescinded and the matter left open for reconsideration". It was unanimously agreed to meet at John Rodgers Airport on Friday afternoon, October 26th, at 4:00 p. m. to further consider this subject.

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Correspondence with reference to athletic equipment for the Hilo Airport prisoners was read. Mr. Crawford stated that some of the schools have given the prisoners some athletic equipment. The Chairman mentioned that the Military Department of the Territory had also given some equipment and that on his next visit to the Island of Hawaii he would find out what the prisoners need and endeavor to secure it from the Supervisors.

The Hilo Electric Pole Line has been removed from the Hilo Airport at the expense of appropriations under the control of the Attorney General for the development of that airport.

Correspondence with reference to the suggestion of the Hilo Chamber of Commerce that the runway of the Hilo Airport be lengthened to 10,000 feet was read. The Chairman recommended that we acquire additional land as outlined on a blueprint in possession of this Commission and comprising approximately 87.92 acres. The following motion was made by Commander Herbster, seconded and unanimously carried: "That we acquire the land as recommended by the Chairman". Mr. Van Valkenburg remarked that the Hilo Airport needs a slightly longer runway than the other fields owing to the lack of wind. It was unanimously agreed to notify the Hilo Chamber of Commerce that we have voted to acquire this additional land of 87.92 acres, which for the present will be sufficient as it will increase the length of the present runway 1200 feet, and that we are keeping in mind the future lengthening of the runway in the makai direction.

Mr. Crawford and Mr. Cullen were excused from the meeting at 3:45.

A letter was sent to Mr. Voorhees of the local U. S. Weather Bureau requesting whether his office could furnish definite data as to general meteorological conditions existing throughout the territory. The Chairman stated that he was informed unofficially that the communication will be forwarded to Washington.

A communication dated October 9th was directed to the Department of Commerce, Aeronautics Branch, as to what assistance we can expect in the establishment of radio beacons and meteorological stations. At the suggestion of Major Clarence M. Young, in this letter was stressed the point that for the present lighted airways would not be required, and that on account of this saving it is hoped we might be authorized a radio beacon and at least three meteorological stations.

According to Mr. Bigelow's statement of last Tuesday to the Chairman, work on the Molokai Airport is almost completed. The members perused a tabulation of bids for work on this airport.

Commander Herbster was excused at 4:00.

The following motion was made by Mr. Fehlman, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the Superintendent of Public Works be requested to call for bids for the grading and clearing of the entire Army and territorial landing field at Port Allen (Hansapepe) and that an alternate bid be called for the clearing and scraping of the runway".

The Commission looked over a sketch showing the position of the boundary barrels and approximate dimensions of the Hawaiian Pineapple Company's field at Lanai.

Commander Herbster has furnished this Commission with a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy on the "Policy Governing Naval Aircraft Participation In Demonstrations".

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A communication was received from the Department Air Officer to the effect that the Secretary of Interior has authorized the reestablishment of a landing field near the Halemaunau Pit, by the removal of boulders, for use solely as an emergency field. The Chairman remarked that Colonel Howard is very much pleased over this action. ✓

An Act of Congress to authorize the leasing of public lands for aviation and other purposes was furnished by Mr. Dolan. This bill may prove of value to this Commission in the future.

The Chairman announced that through the courtesy of Mr. David Fleming the Golf Links on Maui have been marked with a tee and a runway cleared.

The following motion was made by Mr. Van Valkenburg, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the Commission make application to the Land Commissioner for the acquisition of an airplane landing field at Hanakao, Lahaina, without drawing on our airport appropriation". ✓

Under date of October 19th Mr. Dolan of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company submitted a map showing a field at Koko Head which he recommends this Commission secure as an emergency landing field. The following motion was made by Mr. Fehلمان, seconded and unanimously carried: "That this Commission get in touch with the present lessees of this field and ask permission to use this site as a commercial field". ✓

Copies of the preliminary budget of this Commission for the biennial period July 1, 1929 to June 30, 1931 were furnished each member. Mr. Van Valkenburg commended the Chairman on his preparation of this budget.

In a letter from the Attorney General's Office dated July 26, 1928 it is stated "As to aircraft used solely for pleasure or non-commercial purposes, the Commission may require a license". In view of this the Chairman appointed the three flying members of this Commission to examine applicants for such licenses.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5 p. m. to meet again on Friday, October 26th, at 4 p. m., on John Rodgers Airport, for a discussion of the work to be done on that airport.

P. M. Smoot,

P. M. SMOOT,
Chairman.