

MINUTES OF TERRITORIAL AERONAUTICAL COMMISSION MEETING
HELD AT THE HONOLULU ARMORY ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23,
1928, AT 2:30 P. M.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

None

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

OLD BUSINESS:

At the meeting of Monday, November 19, 1928 the budget of this Commission for the next biennial period was reduced to \$100,000.00 upon request of the Budget Director. It was the Budget Director's understanding that the Governor desired our budget reduced to that sum. However, the Governor wished this budget reduced only \$67,290.00 as it was not his intention to make any changes at the present time in the item of "Structures and Permanent Imp'ts to Land", \$300,000.00. The following motion was made by Mr. Crawford, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the budget as approved at the meeting of last Monday be reconsidered". The following motion was made by Mr. Fehلمان, seconded and unanimously carried: "That a new budget be submitted to the Director of the Budget as follows: Other Personal Services, \$25,400; Other Current Expenses, \$20,000; Equipment; Other Equipment, \$54,600; Structures and Permanent Imp'ts to Land, \$300,000. The budget as then finally submitted by the Commission totals \$400,000, instead of the \$467,290 as originally voted. X

The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics under date of November 8th wrote that for the present it is impossible to establish radio beacons in the Hawaiian Islands and that he is taking up with the Weather Bureau the question of securing improved weather service for the islands.

A reply dated November 15th was received from A. S. Davis and Platt Cooke, lessees of a proposed Koko Head emergency field, that they are willing to grant the Commission a lease under certain conditions. The Army wrote that they will probably not be able to establish an Army field at Koko Head for some time and are in favor of this Commission's establishing a field there. The following motion was made by Mr. Crawford, seconded and unanimously carried: "The Chairman is authorized to investigate this proposed site in company with as many members as desirable, and if found satisfactory, that he negotiate with the present owners and lessees as to possible arrangements for acquiring the use of this site as an emergency field". X

On November 17th the Superintendent of Public Works informed the Commission that the price for preparing the present runway for the John Rodgers Airport is \$0.056 per square foot. X

The Superintendent of Public Works is now calling for bids for additional work on the John Rodgers Airport. Plans and specifications for

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this work were perused by the Commission.

According to a letter dated November 15th from the Commissioner of Public Lands, negotiations have been re-opened with the Pioneer Mill Company for the acquisition of a landing field at Hanakao, near Lahaina, Maui.

The office of the Attorney General has prepared some legislative bills to be presented by this Commission to the next session of the Legislature. These will be kept intact and presented to the Commission for their consideration at a later date.

The Land Commissioner under date of November 21st wrote that he has requested the Territorial Surveyor to make a survey of an area of 86 acres requested as an addition to the Hilo Airport and upon receipt of the survey will submit the matter to the Governor for his consideration and issuance of an executive order.

Correspondence with reference to improvements to the Port Allen Airport was read. The Chairman was instructed to write the Superintendent of Public Works that it is satisfactory to complete the work on the territorial area only.

NEW BUSINESS:

A blueprint submitted by Mr. Richards of the Hilo Airport shows the completed area of the runway on November 5, 1928 to be 2,070' long by from 400' to 600' wide. The prisoners are now working on the southern end of the airport.

A copy of a letter dated November 6th addressed to the Governor from the Acting Director of the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, was furnished this Commission by the Governor. This letter states that the authority granted the Army to clear a landing field for planes within the Kilauea Crater contemplates its use solely for emergency landings.

The Superintendent of Public Works has been requested to erect a hangar 70' x 100' on the John Rodgers Airport. Mr. Van Valkenburg has called attention to the fact that an "A" rated airport requires at least one hangar 80' x 100'. The Superintendent of Public Works will be requested to increase the size of the proposed hangar to meet this rating.

An opinion received from the Attorney General on November 15th states that this Commission has the power to make rules covering private flying fields. Mr. Clarke moved that this matter be considered at the next meeting so that the members might have an opportunity to give it sufficient thought. The following motion was made by Mr. Crawford, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the motion of Mr. Clarke be amended to add that the Chairman be authorized to appoint a committee to suggest minimum requirements for a field (after perusing Department of Commerce Regulations and other publications) and that such suggestions be presented at the first available opportunity". The committee appointed were: Mr. Crawford, Mr. Cullen and Commander Herbster.

At the meeting of October 24th a committee consisting of the three flying members of the Commission was appointed to examine applicants for pleasure and non-commercial pilots' licenses. Commander Herbster was

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designated its Chairman. Commander Herbst expressed himself as not desiring to be a member of this committee for in view of his status as a naval officer he did not feel disposed to grant a license to an oriental. Commander Herbst feels that should a license be granted to Mr. Crawford and Mr. Cullen (He has in his possession their applications), that it would establish a precedent and that all applicants would be entitled to such a license, provided they were found proficient. Mr. Cullen and Mr. Crawford withdrew their applications and the Chairman dissolved the committee. The Chairman announced he will discuss with the Department of Commerce and their local representative the subject of the examination of applicants for pleasure and non-commercial licenses.

The Chairman informed the Commission that a wind vane has been erected on the Hilo Airport and that Mr. Richards will submit monthly reports on the direction and approximate velocity of the wind and that a National Guard Captain will make similar reports with reference to the "Old Race Track" at Kanaapali, Lahaina.

A letter dated November 8th from the Attorney General states that without having gone thoroughly into the matter, it is his tentative opinion that the Commission may enter into agreements with private individuals or corporations whereby they may erect hangars on territorial airports, to be removed by their owners without charge, or to be purchased when funds are available at an agreed figure. X

A letter dated November 2nd from Mr. Van Valkenburg on the subject of flying students using territorial airports was read. This matter will be given due consideration when there are applications for the use of territorial airports by flying students.

The Chairman read an extract of a meeting of the Aviation Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu wherein Mr. Van Valkenburg wishes it understood that he intends to work for the abolition of the Territorial Aeronautical Commission and the widening of the scope of the Board of Harbor Commissioners to include jurisdiction over aviation problems. The Chairman announced that he felt that Mr. Van Valkenburg had belittled the Commission by not discussing this matter with them before presenting it to the Chamber of Commerce and that though every member has a right to discuss such matters with other committees, it should be debated with the Commission beforehand. The Chairman remarked that he wondered if the Governor had been approached by Mr. Van Valkenburg on this matter. Mr. Van Valkenburg stated that the Commission was not in a position to decide whether it should exist or not and that it was a matter for the (individual members) to decide. X
Mr. Van Valkenburg also stated that there was no legal Commission on October 25th (the date of the Chamber of Commerce meeting). (The minutes of the ⁵⁰⁰ Commission show that a meeting was held on October 24th and that the Commission was then legally constituted as Commander Herbst and Mr. Clarke were present as members). The Chairman expressed himself as feeling that if a member considers that the Commission is not doing its work properly, such member should submit his resignation. The Chairman stated that he had approached the Governor on his reaction to the abolition of the Commission and that the Governor replied that this is not the time to place it in the hands of the Board of Harbor Commissioners or any other governmental agency. By combining with any other public body there would not be any saving of money in the abolition of the Commission as it would still be necessary to carry on the office and administrative work. The Chairman stated that he is receiving considerable "razzing" from people around town as they have the impression that the Commission may soon be abolished and that his work has
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been greatly handicapped as someone has been working against the sincere efforts of the Commission. Mr. Clarke remarked, with reference to the transferring of the Commission to the Board of Harbor Commissioners, a member of such board stated he would not "take a foot off the ground", and that the Commission is not receiving sufficient cooperation as illustrated by the fact that when Mr. Clarke requested a set of the plans and specifications of the work to be done on the John Rodgers Airport for the purpose of perusing same, the Superintendent of Public Works said he could have them upon the payment of \$25.00. Mr. Van Valkenburg's reply was that he, Mr. Van Valkenburg, has the interest of the Commission at heart.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p. m. to meet again at the call of the Chairman.

P. M. Smoot.
P. M. SMOOT,
Chairman.