

MINUTES OF TERRITORIAL AERONAUTICAL COMMISSION MEETING
HELD AT THE "DEN" OF THE SWEET SHOP, HONOLULU, T. H.,
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1929, AT 6:30 P. M.

PRESENT:

Colonel P. M. Smoot, Chairman
Mr. Will C. Crawford
Mr. Herbert F. Cullen
Mr. Charles H. Dolan, Jr.
Mr. Leo G. Fehlman
Commander Victor D. Herbster

ABSENT:

Mr. Chester R. Clarke (On the Mainland)

DINNER-MEETING:

The meeting was preceded by a dinner at the Sweet Shop "Den", Honolulu.

GUESTS

1st Lieutenant Reuben C. Moffat, Army Air Corps, successor to Lieutenant Robert J. Brown, Jr., as local representative of the Department of Commerce, was present at the dinner and meeting. Representatives of the Honolulu Advertiser and Honolulu Star-Bulletin were present at the meeting.

TALK BY CHAIRMAN:

Preceding the regular business of the meeting the Chairman gave a very interesting resume of his visit to the Mainland in the interest of commercial aviation. He was absent from the Territory from December 29, 1928 to February 13, 1929.

READING OF MINUTES:

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

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Dredging - John Rodgers Airport. A letter to the Superintendent of Public Works with reference to placing a dredger within striking distance of John Rodgers Airport was read. This was in accordance with a motion made at the meeting of January 18th. Upon Commander Herbster's recommendation it was unanimously agreed to secure a contract price for dredging operations for the development of John Rodgers Airport, to be presented to the Legislature.

Mr. Crawford, chairman of the committee to suggest the minimum requirements for a field, made a report. Mr. Crawford stated that he, in company with Captain J. L. Giffin of Lewis Field, went over the matter of improving the Lewis field. Mr. Crawford showed the Commission a blueprint on which is marked the Ward Property which, if secured, would probably lengthen the field to 1800 feet (after the present hangar is moved) and increase the width of the present field 3 or 4 times. The power line would still be somewhat of a hazard, and which hazard exists at present. Lieutenant Robert J. Brown, Jr., U. S. A., received a letter from the Department of Commerce stating that it would be perfectly proper for this Commission or Lieutenant Brown to take action toward the improvement or vacating of

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inadequate fields. Mr. Crawford read a letter which Lieutenant Brown wrote on January 12th to Mr. Edwin H. Lewis calling his attention to the inadequacy of his field and giving him 90 days in which to improve his field by making certain stated changes, or vacating the field. Upon the recommendation of the Chairman it was decided to dissolve this committee as it has performed its duties and the Commission as a whole will attend to any further matters to be done in this connection. Mr. Crawford remarked that at a field so centrally located there would be considerable tourist trade. The Chairman pointed out that the type of flying done by Lewis Tours (mostly sightseeing flights) is very risky not only because of the condition of the field but also because many more landings would be made daily than a transport plane operating from John Rodgers Airport. The Chairman also mentioned that on the Mainland people will go wherever there are flying activities and seem to enjoy the ride to the airports.

Mr. Dolan wishes to go on record as saying that the people of the Territory have signified their willingness to provide \$750,000 to foster commercial aviation in the islands and that every precaution should be taken to prevent an accident as one accident would be a greater detriment to aviation than 1,000 successful flights would benefit it.

The Chairman read a communication from the Department of Commerce dated December 27, 1928 stating that it is believed that the Territorial Aeronautical Commission can regulate the establishment of airports within the Territory whether the same be private or commercial.

The following motion was made by Mr. Fehlman, seconded and unanimously carried: "The Chairman is directed to address a letter to Mr. E. H. Lewis basing our recommendations on the letter of the Department of Commerce's local representative and stating that if his field is not improved within 90 days from January 12th that we will take steps to prohibit flying from that field". In this connection Mr. Fehlman pointed out that we will have to offer him a field if he does not intend to improve his own.

The following motion was made by Mr. Dolan, seconded and carried: "In view of the fact that we expect to obtain additional appropriations from the 1929 Legislature, the \$54,000 remaining in the appropriation of John Rodgers Airport be used to complete the road to the airport; erect a hangar and an apron in front of the hangar; and construct a connecting road from the main road to the airport". It was Commander Herbster's opinion that this sum should not be spent for a hangar or roadway.

The following motion was made by Mr. Dolan, seconded and unanimously carried: "That steps be taken by the Chairman to have the present runway of John Rodgers Airport placed by the Superintendent of Public Works under the jurisdiction of this Commission".

OLD BUSINESS:

A communication dated January 22nd from the Commissioner of Public Lands stating that as soon as the survey of the Koko Head area we have requested for an emergency field is completed he will negotiate for the acquisition of the land, was read.

Communications from the Department of Agriculture and Aeronautics Branch of the Department of Commerce with reference to air navigation facilities were brought to the attention of the Commission. In this connection Commander Herbster suggested that if the proper steps were taken we might obtain weather forecastings from the local Naval Station. It is now against Naval policy to furnish such information to civilians.

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NEW BUSINESS:

The Commission is in receipt of Executive Order No. 350, Territory of Hawaii dated January 16, 1929, setting aside 86 acres as an addition to the Hilo Airport. ✓

Mr. David K. Richards reports that the Hilo Airport on February 2, 1929 was 2,500 feet long with an average width of 300 feet. ✓

On January 3, 1929 the International Airports Corporation wrote requesting a conference in connection with constructing and managing our airports. The Commission replied that it and the Superintendent of Public Works are handling these matters for the Territory.

Correspondence with reference to the advisability of a Coast Guard Cutter being stationed in the Territory as an additional element of safety in inter-island air transportation, was read. The following motion was made by Mr. Pehlman, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the Chairman is authorized to communicate with the U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C., stating that it would be of considerable benefit to commercial aviation if a Coast Guard Cutter were stationed in the Territory". X

The following motion was made by Commander Herbster, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the Chairman is authorized to take steps to acquire the Army Section of the Port Allen (Hanapepe) Airport to be placed under jurisdiction of this Commission". ✓

The following motion was made by Commander Herbster, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the Chairman is authorized to request the City and County of Honolulu to assist in the development of John Rodgers Airport". ✓

The following motion was made by Mr. Dolan, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the Chairman communicate with the Chambers of Commerce of the various islands soliciting their cooperation in raising money to sponsor a building, road or other project that would assist in the development of an aviation field on their island".

The original budget of this Commission was in amount of \$467,290. The reduced budget as approved by the Governor is for \$273,000. Commander Herbster stated that the Associated Chamber of Commerce has gone on record as backing up our original budget. They are very interested in the establishment of air mail transportation. The following motion was made by Mr. Pehlman, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the Chairman is authorized to prepare and present a bill to the Fifteenth Session of the Legislature covering our original budget and to the effect that the expenditure of the funds will be under the jurisdiction of this Commission".

The Chairman discussed the advisability of having the Commission divided into committees to study various phases of our work, such as airports; laws and regulations, and for the reception of air-minded guests. The following motion was made by Mr. Dolan, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the Chairman appoint these committees, the number of committees and number of members to serve on such committees to be left to his judgment".

Mr. Irwin Spalding, Vice-President of The Bank of Bishop, made application on February 18th to take aerial pictures from aircraft over the Island of Oahu. The Chairman announced that his application will be approved.

An application from the Secretary for leave of absence from May 21st

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to September 7th, 1929, both dates inclusive, was read. The following motion was made by Mr. Pehlman, seconded and unanimously carried: "That the leave requested by Miss Samson is approved".

The Chairman called the attention of the Commission to an error in the Honolulu Advertiser wherein he was quoted as advocating having all expenditures for aviation under the Jurisdiction of an airport engineer and to abolish the Commission. It is the Chairman's idea to have the Commission continue to function and have an airport engineer to work with them.

A vote of thanks was extended the Chairman for the valuable information he obtained for the Commission on his recent trip to the Mainland.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p. m., to meet again at the call of the Chairman.

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