

APPENDIX F

TERRITORY OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

November 26, 1945

Major General H. T. Burgin
Commanding General
Central Pacific Base Command

My Dear General Burgin:

Your letter requesting that approximately 6,608 acres of government land at Makua, Oahu, be transferred to the War Department by an Executive Order for a combat training area was referred by me to the Commissioner of Public Lands and to the President of the Board of Agriculture and Forestry for reports. These reports have now been received.

According to those reports, the area in question comprises forest reserve, land formerly under lease for ranch purposes, and the Keawaula Beach Park. The leases and executive order for park purposes were cancelled in order to permit the establishment of the combat training area for the duration of the war and six months. I understand that now you wish this transferred to the War Department.

The public lands on the Island of Oahu have been very seriously depleted. At the present time, not including forest reserves, etc., they constitute less than 4% of the area of Oahu. Should this land be transferred, as you propose, it will take approximately fifty percent of the public lands now remaining on the Island of Oahu under territorial control.

Inasmuch as there has been a substantial change of conditions (including the acquisition of large areas of other lands) since the War Department's plans for the establishment of this reservation, it appears to me that it may not be necessary to remove from the small remaining area of public lands on Oahu this considerable tract.

The land requested to be transferred includes not only grazing and agricultural land which is important to the economic development of the Islands, but also almost the only remaining area suitable for camp sites and other recreational areas. The vicinity offers good fishing and a beach formerly enjoyed by the Public. The Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry has already made plans for the establishment of camps and recreational areas in this locality. Unless clearly endangering natural defenses, I feel strongly that these lands should be made available to the public again and not permanently removed from their enjoyment.

Appendix F, continued

I am enclosing copy of a report from Mr. Lennox, President of the Board of Agriculture and Forestry, relative to the proposed use of those lands.

I need not point out that of the 180 miles of coast line on the Island of Oahu, various federal departments already hold or are acquiring under other projects, more than one-third of the total. These holdings include such projects as the beach at Ft. DeRussy, the one at Bellows Field, beaches and fishing grounds at Ft. Kamehameha, Hickam Field, Makapuu Peninsula, Waialua, Waianae, Leilehua, Barber's Point, Ft. Weaver, and Pearl Harbor.

In view of the foregoing, I suggest that the War Department's decision in this matter be reconsidered.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ingram M. Stainback
INGRAM M. STAINBACK
Governor of Hawaii

Encls.