

Kaula Island

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

House records, Central files, K, Box HR4, Folder 25

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October 2, 1961

Dr. Harold Seidman
U.S. Bureau of the Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Seidman:

Thank you for your letter of September 27, 1961
and the enclosed copy of the priority review report on
Kaula Island.

I am referring this report to the appropriate
State departments for their attention and follow-up action.
As soon as I have reviewed these departmental reports, I
will provide you with the State's comments on this priority
review report. I will expedite consideration of this
report as rapidly as possible.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. QUINN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

cc Atty. Gen.
Land & Nat. Res.
Plan. & Res.
Sen. Fong
Sen. Long
Rep. Inouye

HAWAII PROPERTY REVIEW REPORT

Prepared pursuant to Bureau of the Budget Circular No. A-52 (Section 6b)

1. AGENCY Department of the Navy 2. DATE 11 August 1961
3. NAME AND/OR LOCATION OF INSTALLATION, TRACT, OR INTEREST Kaula Island (Kaula Rock), Kauai, Hawaii
4. TYPE OR BASIC FUNCTION OF INSTALLATION, TRACT, OR INTEREST Aerial Bombing Target, Barber's Pt., Oahu, Hawaii

A. SET-ASIDE ACTIONS	B. METHOD OF ACTION	C. DESCRIPTION	D. STATEMENT OF NEED
GEO No. 173 dated 24 December 1924.	Set aside to U. S. Coast Guard from ceded property.	Kaula Rock is located about 20 miles southwest of the Island of Nihoa and contains an approximate area of 108 acres.	<p>Kaula Island has been used continuously since 1952 as an aerial bombing target for Fleet training during exercises testing the final readiness of combat units deploying to areas of the western Pacific. It is also used extensively as an air-to-ground target by Marine Corps units based on Oahu and as a target for Regulus firing ships and submarines.</p> <p>Kaula Island is the only available air impact area other than Kahoolawe Island which is currently fully utilized by land, air, and surface units. Further, Kahoolawe's proximity to civil airways renders its use in place of Kaula impracticable. No other site is currently available where the vital task of insuring the combat readiness of Pacific carrier air groups can be determined.</p> <p>In view of the island's unique advantages in remote and danger-free location as well as lack of human habitation, it appears most</p>

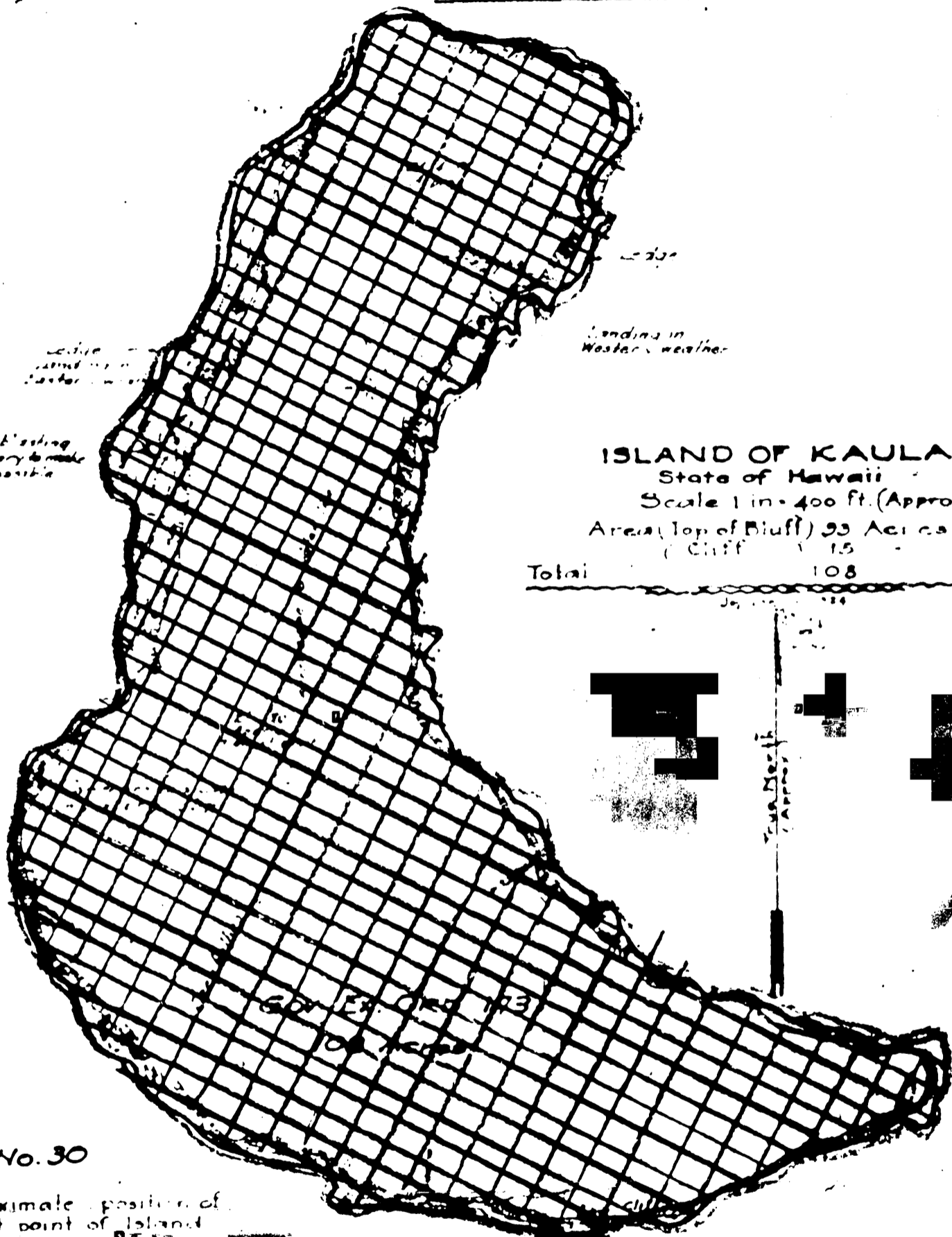
HAWAII PROPERTY REVIEW REPORT (con't)

A. SET-ASIDE ACTIONS	B. METHOD OF ACTION	C. DESCRIPTION	D. STATEMENT OF NEED
			<p>desirable to retain the island for training purposes. Otherwise, operational readiness inspections of carrier air groups would be drastically curtailed and incomplete.</p> <p>The net effect of this would be deployment of combat units to WESTPAC in an unacceptable readiness status. It would also mean elimination of low level night bombing training and regulus missile firing - two aspects of combat operations considered vital to successful offense. At present, and for the foreseeable future, the division of live impact target requirements between Kahoolawe and Kaula Islands represents the only way that training and readiness requirements can be met.</p> <p>Other than Kaula Island all target areas adjoin civilian activities to the degree that only dummy ordnance may be used. Any other area either requires or would require a prohibitive degree of coordination and scheduling with civilian authorities for the safe conduct of operations.</p> <p>Current utilization of Kaula Island is expected to continue after 21 August 1964. Its transfer from the Coast Guard has been requested.</p>

CEDED



OWNERSHIP MAP



Some blasting
necessary to make
top accessible

Landing in
Westerly weather

ISLAND OF KAULA
 State of Hawaii
 Scale 1 in = 400 ft. (Approx)
 Area (Top of Bluff) 93 Acres
 (Cliff) 15
 Total 108

Job 425

Key No. 30

Approximate position of
 highest point of Island
 (elevation 950 ft)
 North Lat 21° 32' 30"
 West Long 156° 32' 30"

SURVEY DIVISION
 DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
 STATE OF HAWAII

CSO Feb 9, 1930

9607

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 27, 1961

AIR MAIL

Honorable William F. Quinn
Governor of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Governor Quinn:

Enclosed is a copy of the priority review report which we received on Niha Island and which was inadvertently omitted when the reports were transmitted to you under date of September 13.

Thank you for calling this to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Spidman
Acting Chief, Office of
Management and Organization

Enclosure

May 26, 1961

Honorable Raymond X. Aki
Chairman and Executive Officer
County of Kauai
Lihue, Kauai

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to advise you of the results of my efforts relative to your Board's Resolution No. 36, "requesting the United States Navy to cease bombing operations on Kaula Rock."

I enclose herewith the numerous communications I have had on this matter and call your attention particularly to the letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy dated May 8, 1961. As you may know, the State is presently working with the Federal government in an effort to determine what federal lands will be returned to the State pursuant to the provisions of the Hawaii Statehood Act.

While most of the agencies and departments involved in this matter have been most cooperative, the Department of Defense, including the Navy, has been most reluctant about returning lands within their jurisdiction to the State. I am not, at the present time, able to say whether or not Kaula Rock comes within this review of lands to be returned to Hawaii. If it is, then I suspect that one of the reasons for the Navy's reluctance is due to the position they have taken with respect to the land transfer review that is now being conducted by the State and the Federal Government.

It is my understanding that the Bureau of the Budget who is coordinating this transfer of land to the State has been requested to give priority consideration to Kaula Rock. I am hopeful that this matter can and will be resolved by the Bureau of the Budget.

I regret that my efforts in seeking Kaula Rock for a bird sanctuary has not been more successful. If you believe that there is anything further that I might be able to do, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

DANIEL K. INOUE
Member of Congress

DKI:sb
Encs.

MAY 18 1961

May 15, 1961

Mr. Harold Seidman
U.S. Bureau of the Budget
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Seidman:

Pursuant to Section 8 of the Bureau of the Budget's Circular No. A-52, Procedures for Reports on Federal Property in Hawaii, I wish to request herewith that an additional priority review be made. This request covers the parcel of land known as the Island of Kaula, consisting of approximately 108 acres, which was set aside to the U.S. Coast Guard by Governor's Executive Order No. 173 dated December 13, 1924, for lighthouse station purposes.

It is my understanding that this parcel is excess to the requirements of the Coast Guard, but that steps are being taken to transfer it to the Navy for a bombing practice area.

The basis for this priority request is that the island is very important as a bird sanctuary -- both for birds which breed nowhere else in the islands and for birds which play a very necessary role in Hawaii's fishing industry. Continued use of the island as a bombing target may have very serious effects upon our bird population and upon our fishing industry, which is already experiencing serious difficulties in maintaining its economic existence.

For these reasons, I urge an early review of the continued need by the Federal government for the purpose for which it is now being used. In support of this request, I

Mr. Harold Seidman

-2-

May 15, 1961

am sending you herewith copies of the following: (1) Resolution No. 36, which was adopted on March 2, 1961 by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Kauai, (2) a report of April 6, 1961 to the Governor from the State Department of the Attorney General, and (3) a report of April 18, 1961 to the Governor from the State Department of Agriculture & Conservation.

If you need additional information on this matter, please let me know. Your attention to and favorable consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. QUINN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

cc Dept. of Ag. & Cons.
Dept. of Atty. Gen.
Dept. of Land & Nat. Res.
Dept. of Plan. & Res.
Kauai County Bd. of Supervisors
Senator Fong
Senator Long
Rep. Inouye
Admiral Campbell



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

Op-505C/blt
Ser 5065P50

15 MAY 1961

My dear Mr. Congressman:

This is in reference to your letter of 20 April 1961 to the Secretary, Department of Treasury concerning preservation of Kaula Island, Hawaii as a bird sanctuary. As you know this letter has now been referred to the Secretary of the Navy by the Commandant of the Coast Guard for reply. The office of the Secretary has requested me to advise you concerning this correspondence.

There is little that can be added concerning the Navy's need for Kaula Island to that information contained in the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (I&L) letter to you of 8 May 1961. It is hoped that this information now enables you to better understand and support the Navy's requirement for continued use of Kaula Island as an aerial bombing target.

Please do not hesitate to call on me if I can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. B. Pirie", is positioned below the typed name.

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

R. B. PIRIE
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air)

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

8 MAY 1961

My dear Mr. Congressman:

Your letter of April 20, 1961 addressed to the Secretary of Defense in which you request information covering the Navy's intentions with regard to Kaula Island, Hawaii has been referred to this office for reply.

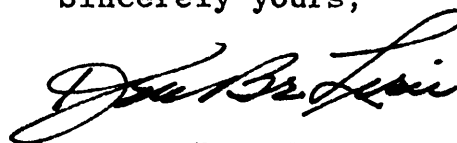
Kaula Island is presently in the process of being transferred from the jurisdiction of the U. S. Coast Guard to that of the Navy. The Island contains approximately 108 acres and was transferred to the U. S. Government by the Territory of Hawaii in 1924. For 9 years, since 1952 until the present, it has been in continuous use by the Navy as an aerial bombing target. As such, it has become indispensable to Fleet training during exercises testing final readiness of combat units deploying to areas of the Western Pacific. Additionally, it is used extensively as an air-to-ground target by Marine units based on Oahu Island, and as a target for Regulus-firing ships and submarines. It is the only air impact area other than Kahoolawe Island available for this purpose.

Increased use of Kahoolawe Island is not possible as it is currently fully utilized by land, air, and surface units. Further, its proximity to the civil airways renders its use in place of Kaula impracticable. No other site is currently available where the vital task of insuring the combat readiness of Pacific units can be determined.

In view of the Navy's requirement for the Kaula Island target, its unique advantages in remote and danger-free location as well as lack of human habitation, it appears most desirable to complete the transfer of jurisdiction to the Navy.

If there is any further information I can furnish you on this subject, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,



Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Kenneth E. Belieu
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Installations and Logistics)

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
COMMANDANT
U.S. COAST GUARD
HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



.CPA

4 MAY 1961

.Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
House of Representative
Washington 25, D. C.

MAY 5 1961

Dear Mr. Inouye:

Your letter of 20 April concerning preservation of Kaula Island, Hawaii, as a bird sanctuary has been referred to me for reply. As you know, the island is presently being used as a bombing target by the U. S. Navy. The authority for such use is by virtue of a letter of permission from the Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District.

We have recently expressed our intentions to the Secretary of the Navy to transfer this property to the Navy subsequent to lifting of the Hawaiian property suspension. We have no further need for the island, since the lighted aid to navigation formerly located thereon was permanently discontinued in 1948.

In view of the above, I suggest that the defense requirement for this island can best be answered by the department directly concerned. I have taken the liberty of forwarding copies of this correspondence to the Secretary of the Navy for his information.

I appreciate your continued interest in matters concerning the Coast Guard.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. A. Hirschfield".

J. A. HIRSHFIELD
Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Acting Commandant



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1961

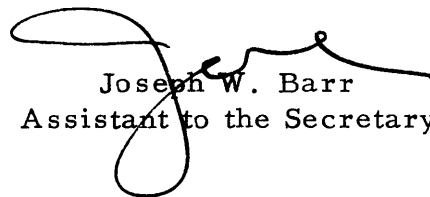
APR 26 1961

Dear Mr. ~~Inouye~~: *Danny*.

This will acknowledge your letter of April 20th, enclosing a copy of House Resolution 52, adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, concerning the preservation of Kaula Rock for a bird sanctuary.

I am looking into this matter and you will have a further reply shortly.

Sincerely yours,


Joseph W. Barr
Assistant to the Secretary

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 24, 1961

APR 25 1961

Dear Mr. Inouye:

The Secretary of Defense has asked me to thank you for your expression of interest of April 20 in behalf of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii relating to the proposed preservation of Kaula Rock as a bird sanctuary.

Your request is receiving attention and you will be advised further as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. R. Roderick", is written over the typed name.

S. R. RODERICK
Brigadier General, USAF
Director
Office of Legislative Liaison

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye

House of Representatives

J. K. BURGESS, JR.
COUNTY CLERK

OFFICE OF
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAI
LIHUE, KAUAI, HAWAII

Kaula Rock

K. K. YAMAMOTO
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

April 7, 1961

APR 10 1961

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Congressman from Hawaii
425 Old House Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Inouye:

Subject: Resolution No. 36 - Requesting
the United States Navy to Cease
Bombing Operations on Kaula Rock

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Kauai
thanks you most sincerely for giving this matter your
immediate attention.

Very respectfully,


J. K. Burgess, Jr.,
County Clerk, County of Kauai.

k