LORAN STATION UPOLU POINT &
KURE ISLAND

16 OCT 1959
Land Acquisition

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Subject:
Acquisition of land at Kure Islands and Ulool Point, Hawaii

Three enclosures (copies)
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

SECRET

AIRMAIL:

From: Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District
To: Commandant (CGS)

Subj: Acquisition of land at Kure Islands and Upolu Point, Hawaii

Ref: (a) HQ Ltr G08/2-4 Ser 006190AN of 13 July 1959
     (b) HQ(OSU) Ltr (Spd) Ser 001350 of 18 Sept 1959

1. Reference (a) directed this office to investigate the availability of land at Upolu Point, Hawaii, and to reserve Green Island, Kure Islands, for proposed LORAN-C installations. In regard thereto, this information is submitted.

2. Kure Islands:

   a. Informal inquiry from officials of the Territory of Hawaii in July 1959, indicated that there would be no opposition to use of Green Island by the Coast Guard, but no forecast could be obtained as to the method of occupancy which would meet approval. Accordingly, the Governor was requested to inform CCGD14 of the disposition of the Territory toward setting aside the Island for use and purposes of the United States (Enclosure 1), it being planned to request a lesser interest in the property if outright transfer were not approved. This request was referred to the Territorial Land Commissioner and became victim of inaction due, it seems obvious, to local political controversy which subsequently dictated his resignation.

   b. After Statehood was granted, an informal inquiry of the Governor indicated that a license for exclusive use would be granted. This inquiry was formalized by Enclosure 2. Meanwhile, a new land Commissioner had been appointed. Under direction of CNO and CINC PACFLT, at about this time COMHANSEAFRON undertook to obtain a permit from the State of Hawaii to enter Green Island for the purpose of making the island habitable for albatross ("gooney birds"). This was part of a "crash" program
to relieve pressure of public opinion arising from efforts to reduce strike damage to aircraft at Midway by exterminating the offending albatross. This office had no knowledge of such program until after the new State Land Commissioner had granted the Navy permit. He assumed of course that the federal agencies involved were aware of the plans of each other. Having granted the Navy permit, Hawaii was in no position to assure the Coast Guard that it would be authorized exclusive use of Green Island. Hurried high-level conferences finally ironed out the Navy-Coast Guard/Gooney Bird-Loran differences.

c. Just as this was about resolved, MILSPAC entered the picture with a proposed request to Hawaii for use of Green Island which was derailed at the last minute by intervention of this office.

d. In order to avoid further confusion of Navy, State and Coast Guard interests in the Kure Islands, the District Commander decided that the most satisfactory solution would be to request the State of Hawaii to grant the desired license forthwith. Accordingly, such request was made and a form of license proposed to the Governor (Enclosure 3). Support of CINCPACFLT and COMHAW-SEAFLON has been obtained as to this action and all Navy requests have been withdrawn upon the assurance by this command that a permit will be issued as required for the MILSPAC operation. Coddling of "goonies" by the Coast Guard is not planned if incompatible with flight safety at Kure. It is believed that this license will be granted, whereupon it will be forwarded to the Commandant for approval without delay.

3. **Upolu Point:** The required site at Upolu Point includes two and possibly three parcels of land. Progress is as follows:

   a. Certain land is owned by the Bernice P. Bishop Estate and leased to Kohala Sugar Company, which is owned by Castle & Cooke, Limited. Bishop Estate has assured this office that it will make this parcel available for lease at normal rental by withdrawing it from the Kohala lease. This is valuable sugar cane land which was improved about four years ago. It is fully irrigated and fully fertilized, and presently enjoys a stand of thirteen-month cane which is expected to mature in April–June, 1960. If it becomes necessary to commence construction on this parcel prior to maturity of the cane, an additional cost will ensue.
b. Another parcel is owned by the Parker Ranch. Assurance has been received that this will be available for lease at normal rental. This is unimproved pasture land.

c. A small parcel of about three acres belonging in fee to Kohala Sugar Company may or may not be involved, depending upon results of the final site survey scheduled to commence about 30 October. If it is involved, Kohala agrees to lease on terms similar to those indicated in 3.a. above.

4. Rights-of-Way and assurances have been requested as directed by reference (b). Parker Ranch has granted same and favorable action by the other land owners has been informally indicated.

Encl:  (1) Copy of CCGD14 ltr of 7 Aug 1959 to Governor of Territory of Hawaii
(2) Copy of CCGD14 ltr of 15 Sept 1959 to Governor of State of Hawaii
(3) Copy of CCGD14 ltr of 9 Oct 1959 to Governor of State of Hawaii
HONORABLE WILLIAM F. QUINN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
IOLANI PALACE
HONOLULU, HAWAII

MY DEAR GOVERNOR QUINN:

IN CONNECTION WITH AN URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COAST GUARD FACILITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, THIS OFFICE HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO ASCERTAIN AVAILABILITY OF THE FOLLOWING:

GREEN ISLAND OF THE KURE ISLAND GROUP, TERRITORY OF HAWAII, APPROXIMATELY IN LATITUDE 26°-27°-40' NORTH AND LONGITUDE 178°-17°-53' WEST FROM GREENWICH.

IT IS REQUESTED THAT THIS OFFICE BE ADVISED IF THE GOVERNOR WILL BE DISPOSED TO GRANT A REQUEST THAT THE ABOVE LAND BE SET ASIDE BY EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR THE USE AND PURPOSES OF THE UNITED STATES.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

/S/S. H. EVANS

S. H. EVANS
REAR ADJUTANT, U.S. COAST GUARD
COMMANDER, FOURTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT

COPY (BLIND) TO:
CCGD14(d/dcs)
CCGD14(o)

HEDILCHER/bbb/8-6-59
SAMPLE LICENSE

In consideration of safeguarding and caring for Green Island, Kure Islands, State of Hawaii, lying approximately in latitude 29°-29°-40° North and longitude 178°-179°-55° West from Greenwich (and Sand Island, Kure Islands, State of Hawaii; lying approximately in latitude 28°-29°-30° North and longitude 178°-179°-35° West from Greenwich) as shown on United States Coast & Geodetic Survey Chart No. 477 (copy attached hereto and made a part hereof), and in consideration of the Coast Guard's services to aeronautical and maritime safety, a license is hereby granted the United States Coast Guard to use and occupy the aforesaid Green Island (and Sand Islands) for aids to navigation and/or other purposes, effective upon acceptance hereof by the United States Coast Guard, under the following provisions and conditions:

(a) The Coast Guard shall have the exclusive use and occupancy of the entire Island(a) aforesaid, for such indeterminate period as the Coast Guard may find necessary;

(b) The Coast Guard shall have the right to remove or demolish any existing building, structure, improvement or equipment now on the aforesaid Island(a) and to build, construct or install any building, structure, improvement, or equipment as the Coast Guard may elect, including, but not limited to, landing facilities for aircraft and docking facilities for surface vessels;

(c) The Coast Guard, at the termination of its occupancy, shall have the right to remove from the aforesaid Island(a) any buildings, structures, improvements, or equipment placed thereon by its operations but shall have no obligation to restore the property to the condition existing at the time its occupancy commenced.

STATE OF HAWAII

BY:

Accepted this __ day of ____________, 19__.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

BY:

www.loran-history.info
Honorable William F. Quinn
Governor of Hawaii
Iolani Palace
Honolulu, Hawaii

My dear Governor Quinn:

Reference is made to my letter of August 7, 1959, requesting that a certain portion of the Kure Islands be set aside for the use and purposes of the United States.

This procedure being no longer possible, information is requested as to whether the State of Hawaii will be disposed to grant a license to the U. S. Coast Guard for the use and occupancy of Green Island and possibly Sand Island of the Kure Island Group. This license would be similar to the attached sample.

It is understood that the status of the Kure Islands is in some doubt, due to ambiguity of the Hawaii Statehood Act and earlier legislation. This request, of course, assumes that the requested land will be found to be part of the State of Hawaii.

Very truly yours,

S. H. EVANS
Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District

Encl: Sample License

Copy (blind) to:
CCGDI4(o) [w/encl]

MEDILCHER/bbb/9-15-59 MAILED: bbb
Honorable William F. Quinn
Governor of Hawaii
Iolani Palace
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Governor Quinn:

The point raised in Mr. Ellis' interim reply dated 21 September 1959 to my letter to you dated 15 September 1959, relative to a license for use of a portion of Kure Islands, has been cleared between the Coast Guard and Navy, and the Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District has assured me that a letter is being sent to you expressing the Navy's strong support of the Coast Guard's request for exclusive use, occupancy, and control of Green Island, Kure Islands.

In extension of my letter dated 21 September 1959, I now request that the desired license be issued to the Coast Guard at your earliest convenience. In this regard, I attach a sample license for possible use in lieu of the sample attached to my letter of 15 September 1959. The new sample license takes account of a recent determination that our requirement is limited to Green Island; mention of Sand Island, accordingly, has been eliminated.

Moreover, the new sample license takes account of the State of Hawaii's recently expressed interest in the preservation of certain flora and fauna indigenous to Kure Islands. The Coast Guard is in sympathy with the principle of conservation and is agreeable to addition of a conservation clause as suggested in sub-paragraph (d) of the sample license attached hereto.

Very truly yours,

S. H. Evans
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, 14th C.G. District

Incl: sample license
LICENSE

In consideration of safeguarding and caretaking Green Island, Kure Islands, State of Hawaii, lying approximately in latitude 28°-23'-40" North and longitude 178°-17'-55" West from Greenwich, as shown on United States Coast & Geodetic Survey Chart No. 4177 (copy attached hereto and made a part hereof), and in consideration of the Coast Guard's services to aeronautical and maritime safety, a License is hereby granted the UNITED STATES COAST GUARD to use and occupy the aforesaid Green Island for a)is to navigation and/or other purposes, effective on acceptance hereof by the U. S. Coast Guard, under the following provisions and conditions:

(a) The COAST GUARD shall have the exclusive use and occupancy of the entire Island aforesaid, for such indeterminate period as the COAST GUARD may find necessary;

(b) The COAST GUARD shall have the right to remove or demolish any existing building, structure, improvement or equipment now on the aforesaid Island and to build, construct or install any building, structure, improvement, or equipment as the COAST GUARD may elect, including, but not limited to, landing facilities for aircraft and docking facilities for surface vessels;

(c) The COAST GUARD, at the termination of its occupancy, shall have the right to remove from the aforesaid Island any buildings, structures, improvements, or equipments placed thereon by its operations but shall have no obligation to restore the property to the condition existing at the time its occupancy commenced;

(d) The COAST GUARD will conserve animal (except rodent), bird, and vegetable life on the Island so far as practicable and compatible with COAST GUARD operational requirements, giving particular attention to Lepturus rapens, Solanum nelsoni var. intermedius, all species of turtles, and the Hawaiian monk seal.

STATE OF HAWAII

BY: ________________________________