



COLLEEN HANABUSA
PRESIDENT

RUSSELL KOKUBUN
VICE PRESIDENT

GARY L. HOOSER
MAJORITY LEADER

FRED HEMMINGS
MINORITY LEADER

The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

FIRST DISTRICT
DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE

SECOND DISTRICT
RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN

THIRD DISTRICT
JOSH GREEN, M.D.

FOURTH DISTRICT
SHAN S. TSUTSUI

FIFTH DISTRICT
ROSALYN H. BAKER

SIXTH DISTRICT
J. KALANI ENGLISH

SEVENTH DISTRICT
GARY L. HOOSER

EIGHTH DISTRICT
SAM SLOM

NINTH DISTRICT
LES IHARA, JR.

TENTH DISTRICT
BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI

ELEVENTH DISTRICT
CAROL FUKUNAGA

TWELFTH DISTRICT
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT
DONNA MERCADO KIM

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT
NORMAN SAKAMOTO

SIXTEENTH DISTRICT
DAVID Y. IGE

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT
MICHELLE N. KIDANI

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT
CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA

NINETEENTH DISTRICT
MIKE GABBARD

TWENTIETH DISTRICT
WILL ESPERO

TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT
COLLEEN HANABUSA

TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT
ROBERT BUNDA

TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT
CLAYTON HEE

TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT
JILL N. TOKUDA

TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT
FRED HEMMINGS

CHIEF CLERK
CAROL TANIGUCHI

January 12, 2010

Mr. Paul Hawke
Chief
American Battlefield Protection Program
National Park Service
Dept. of the Interior
1849 C Street NW (2255)
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Ms. Kristen McMasters
Grants Manager
American Battlefield Protection Program
National Park Service
Dept. of the Interior
1849 C Street NW (2255)
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Re: Ewa Field

Dear Mr. Hawke and Ms. McMasters,

I support the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program grant application to conduct a GPS/GIS site survey to determine the delineation of the extent of the December 7, 1941 battlefield boundaries at Ewa Mooring Mast Field between US Marine defenders and attacking Imperial Japanese naval air units. Historical records show that the well-planned air raid on the Ewa Marine Corps Air Station preceded the later, fateful attack on Pearl Harbor which brought the United States into the Second World War.

This survey will be of significant assistance in clarifying the specific battlefield area that needs further future preservation, analysis and historic interpretation. There is widespread community support and interest in this project from local civic, veteran and historic interest groups.

The courage and patriotism of the Marines who lost their lives defending the Ewa Air Field in the ambush was no less deserving of respect and honor than other members of our uniformed services. The American engagement of

Japanese dive bombers over the field was one of the most famous dogfights of the war. At least one Bronze Star was awarded to an airman, who with another Marine, jumped into an aircraft to fire back at the Mitsubishi fighters overhead. Japanese Lieutenant Yoshio Shiga, leader of the first fighter unit aboard the aircraft carrier *Kaga*, recorded for posterity the account of a lone Marine who stood amidst the Japanese gunfire striking the ground around him. The Marine heroically emptied his sidearm at the aircraft attacking overhead. Lt. Shiga commented that this was a man in whom he found the "spirit of dogged tenacity that was the very embodiment of bravery and valor" not expected from an American. Shiga declared that this Marine was the bravest soldier he ever encountered. These are just a handful of examples in the historical record of Ewa Marine Corps Air Station.

The USS Arizona Memorial averages 4,500 visitors each day and more than 1.5 million visitors from around the world each year. The Park's brochures are written in 23 different languages and its audio tours are in seven languages to accommodate international visitors. This demonstrates the tremendous interest in the historic sites of World War II in Hawaii. The interest in the historic value of a future National Park at Ewa Field can be extrapolated from these figures.

I humbly request your approval of the Battlefield Survey Project grant application presented by the Save Ewa Field organization and its coordinator Mr. John Bond. It is among the first steps toward the efforts to preserving this very important World War II site both as a place of significant historical value and in honor of our fallen heroes in uniform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Will Espero". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Will Espero
Senator

Cc: John Bond