

October 25, 2015

Dr. William Chapman  
Chair, Hawaii Historic Places Review Board  
c/o Megan Borthwick  
Hawaii State Historic Preservation Division  
601 Kamokila Boulevard, Unit 555  
Kapolei, HI 96707,

Dear Dr. Chapman,

The purpose of this letter is to support Ewa Field for both the Hawaii and National Registers of Historic Places.

I think that several points need to be made.

- (1) The nomination focuses on the base. Indeed, the soldiers who died, and the soldiers who survived, were **defending the base**, not just portions of the base. The base, compared to other facilities that were attacked at the time, is very small. The area under consideration should not be minimized.
- (2) The fact that members of the community pursued and received funding from the federal government for the nomination shows that residents of the Ewa Plain (and the entire island) consider this an important issue that should not be minimized.
- (3) No less than the federal Battlefield Commission has provided the nomination grant.
- (4) The Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places has indicated eligibility. The Keeper has recommended inclusion of Criteria D, additional research and acreage. The Navy itself had stated that inclusion of Criteria D would warrant further remote sensing. The Navy has also commissioned a cultural landscape assessment (which unfortunately is not complete, but could be provided in draft form.)
- (5) The fact that Ewa Field was a major element in the Pacific War, especially immediately previous to and after hostilities began, should not be discounted.
- (6) The fact that the federal government has not as yet included Ewa Field in its list of Pacific War sites is an oversight that needs to be corrected.
- (7) The upcoming urbanization of the Ewa Plain will make the preserved open space of Ewa Field all the more of a focus for community activities. What better way to honor our fallen soldiers than to have the location of their sacrifices be frequented by our people?
- (8) As to the argument that there is nothing there: Incorrect. The former base contains building foundations, runways, and artifacts. Note that recently the Honouliuli Internment Camp, just a few miles mauka of Ewa Field, was placed on the National Register. Honouliuli also consists mostly of foundations. I can see no difference between these two sites in eligibility.

(9) Listing Ewa Field on the Historic Registers will encourage research and preservation of other battlefield sites in Ewa (such as Ewa Villages, Camp Molokole and Fort Barrette) and also help create more employment based on cultural histories there.

I do hope that the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board will follow the community's will and both place Ewa Field on the Hawaii Register of Historic Places and recommend listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Also important is that the Board be on record supporting the Keeper's recommendation for additional research to better define a larger battlefield boundary.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ross W. Stephenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Ross W. Stephenson, PhD  
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