

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Honolulu Hawaii Branch

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March 14, 2019

To: Members of the Hawai'i Review Board of Historic Places:

Re: Nomination of Quonset Hut #33 to the Hawaii Register of Historic Places

Aloha,

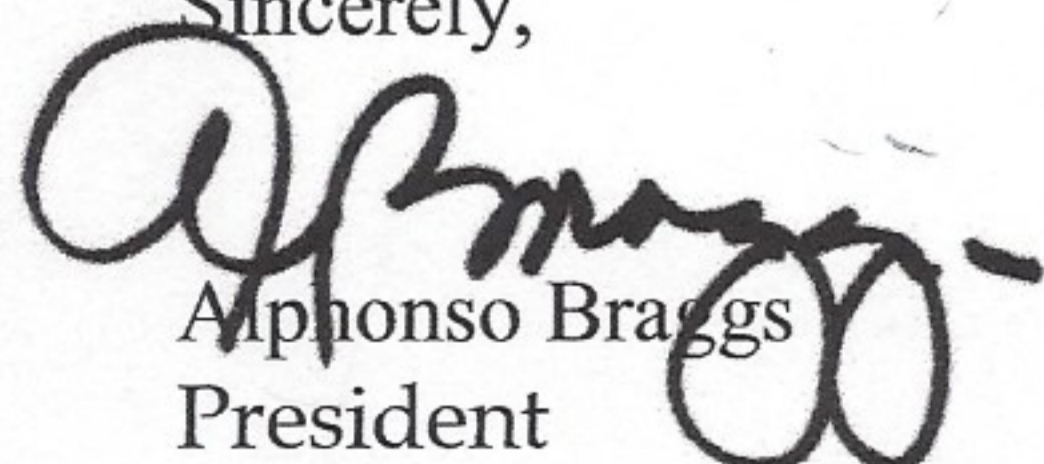
The officers and members of the Honolulu Hawaii Branch NAACP are pleased to offer this letter of strong support for the nomination of Quonset Hut #33 to be included in the Hawaii Register of Historic Places (HRWP). Having Quonset Hut #33 on the Hawaii Register of Historic Places will ensure that future generations are afforded the opportunity to share in the legacy and rich contributions of African Americans during World War II. For many of the thousands of visitors to our islands, this may be the one missing link to connect them and/or a family member who served in defense of our national democracy here in Hawaii.

Quonset Hut #33 is a WW II-era structure located at 955 Kamehameha Highway, Pearl City, Hawaii. Quonset Hut #33 was originally constructed in 1944 by the US Navy as part of a segregated personnel camp at the Naval Aviation Supply Depot. This personnel camp was intended for the use of and occupation by African-American service members stationed in Hawaii. The site is currently owned by the State of Hawaii.

Quonset Hut #33 is the last physically remaining structure of what was once a substantial number of WW II-era buildings and structures associated with the African-American service members who were required to live and work within segregated areas of military lands on Oahu. The other structures associated with the former Manana Barracks are no longer standing as they were demolished in the last 20 - 30 years and replaced by various forms of urban development. In addition, Quonset Hut #33 is a surviving, unmodified example of a type of utilitarian structure built by the US Navy during WW II. The Quonset hut is still in its original location and retains its integrity of materials and workmanship. Quonset Hut #33 is also significant under criteria A, B, and C, as described in the supporting nomination. For all these reasons, Quonset Hut #33 definitely merits placement on the HRHP.

We therefore strongly urge the Hawaii Review Board of Historic Places to vote in favor of placing Quonset Hut #33 on the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,


Alphonso Braggs
President