

LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Willie Espero, Vice-chair
Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

Colonel Lance D. Bleakley, USAF (R)
Treasurer
Air Force Association (AFA) Hawaii Chapter 138
PMB 431, PO Box 30800
Honolulu, HI 96820

Hearing: Tuesday February 5, 2008

Support of SB 2303, Relating to Appropriation for the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor

The Air Force Association (AFA) Hawaii Chapter 138 comprises over 800 members throughout Hawaii and is part of the Air Force Association which includes state organizations and more than 230 chapters. AFA is an independent, nonprofit, civilian education organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. As an Executive Board member of AFA Chapter 138, I am testifying in support S.B. No. 2303, relating to appropriations for the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor.

The mission of the Air Force Association is to educate the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation; advocate aerospace power and support a strong national defense. The Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor helps to accomplish this role. More importantly AFA Hawaii Chapter 138 has seen the impact of the Pacific Aviation Museum on the education of Hawaii's youth. This year the Chapter is awarding more than \$5,000 in scholarships plus numerous other specific awards. Two of last year's awardees specifically mentioned the museum as an influencer for their interest in aviation.

From an economic impact standpoint the museum has already been a magnet for visitors. During the official opening of the Pacific Aviation Museum, over 30 former Japanese pilots came to see the restored Japanese Zero. What is a dwindling base of World War II vintage aircraft has brought aviators from around the world. The addition of aircraft and aviation information after World War II will bring more visitors. Ten years ago Amsterdam Schiphol Airport estimated that their small aviation museum brought over a 1,000 visitors to the country. The Pacific Aviation Museum which is orders of magnitude larger and has a larger potential customer base should be at least 10 times that amount. The impact on the economy will be significant.

In closing Air Force Association (AFA) Hawaii Chapter 138 supports passage of SB 2303. Besides the economic impact, we believe that the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor will raise Hawaii students' interest in science and aviation. We have already seen the impact through student comments at various AFA Hawaii attended and sponsored 2007 events. We urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 2303.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY ON SB 2303

Testifier's name with position/title and organization:

James Metcalf Bugbee, retired FAA Engineering Flight Test Pilot

The Committee the comments are directed to:

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

The date and time of the hearing:

Tuesday, February 5, 2008, 1:15 pm
Conference Room 224, Hawaii State Capitol

Support for: SB 2303

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PACIFIC AVIATION MUSEUM PEARL HARBOR

Testifier:

James Metcalf Bugbee, retired FAA Engineering Flight Test Pilot and WWII combat pilot, wishes to offer testimony in support of needed funding for the planning, design and construction of Phase 2 of the Pacific Aviation Museum at Pearl Harbor. Mr. Bugbee flew 65 missions in B-25s during WWII and is a volunteer at the museum.

Testimony:

I have witnessed first hand as a volunteer tour guide at the Pacific Aviation Museum, the importance of this museum to Hawaii. Visitors of all ages come to the museum from around the world, including: family members of those who fought in WWII; veterans (WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, etc); young through middle aged who studied WWII and the bombing of Pearl Harbor in school and/or heard about the war from their parents, grandparents and other relatives. There are quite a few Japanese visitors to the museum and the story boards telling about the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the first year of the war in the Pacific, located throughout the museum, are in both English and Japanese. There are many local school groups and scout troops visiting the museum also, learning about America's entry into World War II from where it began. The museum's educational programs are coordinated with the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards III. A day long class on Saturdays fulfills the necessary requirements for the Scouts Aviation Merit Badge. This exposure to aviation history may open a new world to many young people and lead some to pursue aviation careers.

Visitors to the museum are very impressed with the fact the three hangars that will eventually make up the museum, were in use by the military on Ford Island at the time of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and survive to this day; there are still bullet holes remaining in some of the hangar windows. Hangar 37 which currently makes up the first phase of the museum, is dedicated to the first year of the war in the Pacific and Hangar 79, the second phase of the museum, will be dedicated to the remainder of World War II in the Pacific.

All visitors I have talked to have expressed very positive comments about the museum exhibits and their historical significance. Very often visitors tell me the Pacific Aviation Museum is at the top or among the top of all the attractions they have experienced while visiting Hawaii. As the museum grows, so will businesses and employment connected to the museum. The Pacific Aviation Museum will become a destination point on Oahu as its reputation grows, with more visitors planning to spend an extra day going through the museum instead of just a few hours as they do now, which will result in additional hotel nights being reserved, more restaurant meals, and more purchases being made. More employees will be hired by the museum, tour companies, and local businesses resulting in more money being spent locally and in the state as a whole.

It is important for the state to support phase two of the Pacific Aviation Museum which will without a doubt, one day be recognized as among the most important historical museums not only throughout the Pacific but throughout the world.

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Subject: FW: James Dunn Testimony in favor of Senate Bill 2303 Committee on Economic Development and Taxation Scheduled Feb 5, 2008 at 1:15 PM

Date: Friday, January 1, 1904 12:00 AM

From: Sen. Carol Fukunaga <senfukunaga@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Conversation: James Dunn Testimony in favor of Senate Bill 2303 Committee on Economic Development and Taxation Scheduled Feb 5, 2008 at 1:15 PM