Executive Correspondence
DCN 8410

DANIEL K. INOUYE
HAWAII

APPROPRIATIONS
Subcommittee on Defense—Ranking Member

COMMERCE
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine—Ranking Member

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
SUITE 722, HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–1102
(202) 224–3934
FAX (202) 224–6747

PRINCE KUHIO FEDERAL BUILDING
ROOM 7–212, 300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD
HONOLULU, HI 96850–4975
(808) 541–2542
FAX (808) 541–2549

101 AUPUNI STREET, NO. 205
HILO, HI 96720
(808) 935–0844
FAX (808) 961–5163

August 24, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 29 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Closure and Realignment
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3909

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Having involved myself in the proceeding of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, I am personally aware of the heavy schedule you are called to maintain. I am also aware of the requirement for you to read tons of documents and memos. However, I hope you will find time for this intrusion.

In my work as the Senior Member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I have been constantly impressed with the work done by the scientific community at Fort Monmouth in New Jersey. Therefore, I was surprised that this facility was one being recommended for closure by the Department of Defense. As you are well aware, this closure would require the movement of over 5000 civilian employees (mostly scientists, engineers, and trained/certified Defense acquisition officials) to Aberdeen, Maryland.

If such a move could be realistically carried out, my concerns would not be too heavy. However, I have been advised that surveys indicate that 85% of those employees would not move to Aberdeen. Either they would stay in the vicinity for work or follow another career route. If that is the case, we would lose many thousands of precious talent needed by DOD.

I am also told that the cost factors set forth in DOD recommendations is off target by many millions of dollars and by many years.

I sincerely hope your BRAC Commission staff will once again study the problems associated with the closure of Fort Monmouth.

Respectfully Yours,

DANIEL K. INOUYE
United States Senator

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