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**CONGRESSMAN ED CASE
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII**

ISLANDS OF HAWAII, MAUI, KAHŌ'OLAWĒ, LANĀ'I,
MOLOKA'I, O'AHU (WINDWARD, NORTH SHORE,
CENTRAL, LEEWARD), KAUĀ'I AND NI'HAU,
AND NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

June 14, 2005



RECEIVED

061 72005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3909

Dear Chairman Principi:

I have enclosed a number of pieces of correspondence that I have received from my constituents regarding the Department of Defense's recommendations to your Commission.

I ask that you review and give the utmost attention to my constituents' concerns. Thank you.

With aloha,

Ed Case

ED CASE
United States Congressman
Hawaii, Second District

Enclosures

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REGULATORY REFORM
AND OVERSIGHT

RURAL ENTERPRISES, AGRICULTURE
AND TECHNOLOGY

Dear Congressman Ed Case,

I am writing to you in hopes that through your office and your association with Congressman Neil Abercrombie and Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka, you can get congress to rethink the plan to close DFAS Pacific, Ford Island.

By now I'm sure that you are aware of the BRAC announcement. As a member of congress you are aware that DFAS Pacific, Ford Island has been targeted for closure. This is going to have a devastating impact on 200 plus civilian employees who will be forced to relocate away from their families, retire, or leave government service. Of this total there are a number of veterans employed at DFAS Pacific, including myself.

Based on the presentations about BRAC thus far, the plan sounds as if it has not had the level of thought dedicated to its implementation and impact, as we are being led to believe. I visited your web site and read the civil service reform document detailing the need to retool DoD, and the options available to those of us unable to retire or do not wish leave, our home, Hawaii. Although I agree that there is a need to deal with this problem of size, I feel we are included in an unrealistic and massive closure that will hurt the military, rather than help.

Senator Akaka, in a May 13th release, indicated having knowledge of only one base closing, and realignments at Pearl and Hickam. He never mentions the impact on Defense Finance and Accounting civilians on Ford Island. I was unable to find a statement from Senator Inouye. Congressman Abercrombie sees losses at Hickam and gains at Pearl, but never mentions the 200 plus DoD civilian losses at Ford Island, a part of Pearl. I hope that you can see why I am concerned about the information being provided to you, the public, and us. I served my country in war we would all rather forget, so I'm not afraid of BRAC, just concerned about the way that it's being managed. I wish that you could see and hear the fear form my coworkers; because they need some words of comfort form our representatives.

DFAS Pacific services all four branches of the military. The decision to close the doors will seriously diminish the services ability to achieve it's objective of protecting America. We are strategically a very necessary facility, and serve a vital function to the military in the success of its mission.

As a strong supporter of you, Neil, and our senators, I urge you to place this issue on the front of your list of concerns about Hawaii, and its citizens before this plan makes its way through congress and to the resident. I plan to contact our other representatives and make them aware BRAC's impending impact on some additional Hawaii citizens at DFAS.

I would love to hear your real thoughts on my concerns.

Thank you, in advance, and I will be watching to see the results of your efforts.

Dear Honorable Congressman Case:

I am asking for your assistance or perhaps intervention in the following issue.

The Human Resources Service Center (HRSC), Pacific, whose office is Hawaii's Navy personnel office to service all of the Navy and Marine civilian employees (including the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard) located in Hawaii, Japan, Okinawa and Guam was identified as part of the BRAC recommendation.

With the military forces building in the Pacific, it is critical for the HRSC Pacific to remain up and running to assist the civilian employees who are located here and overseas, especially the ones who are recalled into active duty.

The HRSC Pacific is especially essential to our civilian employees who are located overseas in Japan, Okinawa and Guam. With the targeted shut down of the HRSC Pacific and realignment of work to the HRSC Northwest (Silverdale, WA) and HRSC Southwest (San Diego, CA) the time difference alone will make it almost impossible for our serviced employees to obtain the services as they are currently getting.

The HRSC Pacific is also critical to support our "local" employees, supervisors and managers. Can you imagine a shipyard worker having to deal with someone in the mainland?

The employees of the HRSC Pacific will be adversely impacted if closed. The employees are specialized in their fields and there are no other processing personnel offices in Hawaii. Where are these employees going to go? We all call Hawaii our home and could never leave our families here to move to Silverdale or San Diego.

Whatever assistance you can provide to keep the HRSC Pacific open will be greatly appreciated.

Sir:

I am writing to you because we received message from our Headquarter that Defense Finance Accounting Service Pacific at Ford Island Hawaii is included on the BRAC list. There are over 200 employees on this command that will be losing jobs. It will be devastating to me and most family if this will happen.

Dear Congressman Case,

I am concerned about the closing of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Pacific located on Ford Island, Hawaii due to BRAC. Will Congressman Case try to prevent this? What will happen to it's employees? With it's strategic location and time differentials to the remaining DFAS locations, I would think it would be crucial to keep it open to service their customers. I would appreciate a prompt response.

Thank you.

Dear Congressman Ed Case:

I don't know if the base closure's is Rumsfeld idea, but to close the Hawaii's bases is a very stupid idea, because of what happen on 12/7/41 and even 9/11. And bases near the West and East Coast should be open also, maybe close the bases in the States near the mid-west and mid-east. Because the bases on Our Coast and Hawaii is insurance against any attacks. And I believe its time to bring home all Troops already, let Iraqi's stand on their own two feet!!

Mahalo.

I just found out that my office, the Human Resources Service Center, Pacific, is on the BRAC list just released on Friday, May 13, 2005. Needless to say I'm still in shock over the news. Especially since we were in the detailed report only and not on the state listing showing the BRAC changes. So from first review, without reading the 398 page report, I deduced that my job was safe!

I am very concerned about this as it will have a major impact on my livelihood and that of my family. I still have children in school and a mortgage to pay. Reducing my family to a one person earning capacity in this high cost living state will have major life changing effects on how we live and survive. If my office is closed, I may consider moving to the Mainland while my husband and children remain here on Oahu in order to continue my employment. My skills are fairly specialized and opportunities here on Oahu are extremely limited. But if I need to sacrifice for a little while so my family can survive then I may have to go that route.

Further, the customers I service will be affected by time zone differences between here and the West Coast, not to mention our Western Pacific overseas customers in places such as Japan, Guam and Okinawa. I've worked on the West Coast servicing locations in Hawaii before and the servicing provided is very definitely affected by that philosophy, "out of sight, out of mind". Servicing timeframes given the proposed changes are expected to be problematic due to untimeliness of service.

I'd really like to work here on Oahu in my job until I'm eligible to retire, approx. 5 years from now. What can be done to save my job here in Hawaii, be able to provide for my family and still provide quality servicing to the activities I service?

23 May 2005

115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1102

5104 Prince Kūniū Fed. Bldg.
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Representative Ed Case:

I read recently that the Department of Defense intends to close the Groton, CT submarine base. I am hoping that based on this recent announcement you can make a crucial decision about the USS Buffalo submarine that could save our military millions of dollars.

Over the past few months, there has been much talk of changing the home port of the USS Buffalo from Pearl Harbor to Guam. I understand the rationale of relocating the USS Buffalo was so that it could replace the USS San Francisco in Guam, as it is now being repaired for damages incurred in its recent collision. I have been told that a vote will soon take place in Congress, approving or disapproving the move of the USS Buffalo. As you know, such a move would cause the military, and therefore taxpayers, immense amounts of money.

It seems that because the submarines in Groton, CT may have to relocate to a new station anyway, it would be more cost effective to reject the move of the USS Buffalo and send one of the twenty-one attack submarines from Groton in its place. Significant amounts of money would be saved, since the military would only be paying for twenty-one submarines to relocate, instead of twenty-two.

Furthermore, by sending a Groton submarine to Guam, the military would be saving money by not having to build new facilities to maintain a newly arrived submarine in Virginia or Georgia. Guam already has the capacity to admit a new boat, as they have recently lost one. Other sub bases may not be able to endure the introduction of a fleet of new fast attack boats and will likely have to build new facilities. Base housing may also have to be built, as I have read that Groton, CT currently maintains housing and support facilities for numerous active duty and civilian workers and their families.

The recent news that North Korea may have several weapons of mass destruction is the most important reason I feel a Groton submarine should be moved to Guam, instead of the USS Buffalo. Currently, the United States houses more submarines on the East Coast than on the West Coast. It is essential that we begin to demonstrate our military strength in the Eastern Pacific. Beginning to move submarines from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific is a powerful response to North Korea's continued threatening behavior.

I understand the main intent of base closings is to save the government money. Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has claimed the proposed base closings would save the military \$5 billion annually. It seems counterproductive to simultaneously attempt to save our country money by relocating our nation's submarines, and then unnecessarily spend additional money to move another submarine across the Pacific Ocean.

I have read in the news that the President has until September to make a decision regarding the base closings. I suggest the vote deciding the fate of the USS Buffalo be rejected or postponed until a decision is made about Submarine Base New London.

My spouse is currently active duty in the military, and to avoid any possible backlash to him or his career resulting from my writing this letter, I would like to remain anonymous. I hope you understand and can take action to efficiently use US tax dollars.

Thank You.

Dear Honorable Ed Case:

Help save our Hawaii activity from the 2005 Base Closure. I know the dust hasn't settled yet but wanted you to be aware of our dire situation. I work at the Human Resources Service Center Pacific, (UIC 69198 under AAUSN), and us 60+ civilians work hard every day insuring that all the Navy civil service employees in Hawaii and the Pacific have their personnel actions and records taken care of. We support our biggest customer the Pearl Harbor Shipyard making sure they have the right people, at the right time, with the right skills. We also support the Commander PACFLT, MCB Hawaii, and all Navy in Guam, Japan, Singapore, etc.

We are located in government space right on Kam Hwy (a block outside the Makalapa gate in an old historic bldg (use to be a fire station)). We do have a training center in Waipahu that is in leased space that costs approx. 300K per year AND that is already scheduled to move to government space in 2007. They already toured the PSD building directly across the street from our office to see how they can configure the space for training. This closure will certainly not save DOD in lease costs.

If DOD has an arbitrary number of U.S. personnel processing centers they want to maintain (such as 10) then it should apply to CONUS centers only. The service center in London is not affected and I feel that it makes sense for Hawaii to be excluded also due to our geographic proximity to our major customers and the time zone issues with being able to work with Japan and Guam during our normal workday.

The BRAC plan calls for our work to be sent to HRSC SW in San Diego and HRSC NW in Silverdale, WA. Most of the employees in my office can't afford to relocate since most are part of 2 person working families and our spouses would then have to give up their jobs (not to mention those of us that live with and care for our disabled parents). As you know, moving from Hawaii is not an option for most people born and raised on Oahu. The added costs of having staff work shift-work in SW and NW in order to support the Pacific just furthers the argument of any cost savings.

I encourage you to think about this situation and anything that is in your power to do to help us.

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