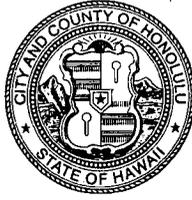


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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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BRAC Commission



JUL 19 2005

Received

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR

July 14, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Defense Base Closure and
Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Ste. 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

Even before Japan's attack on Hawaii, Pearl Harbor was America's Gibraltar of the Pacific, a strategic port for our armed forces and a cornerstone of our nation's defense. Pearl Harbor's importance has not diminished since.

At a time when the United States is actively bolstering its forces to meet challenges in Asia and Southeast Asia, it is vitally important that the U.S. Navy have the capability to repair and maintain all classes of ships, including aircraft carriers, at a secure, efficient shipyard on American soil in the heart of the Pacific. The Department of Defense, U.S. Navy, and frontline commanders all agree that Pearl offers the rare combination of readiness, efficiency, and quality of life that make it an essential, and welcome, homeport for the Pacific Fleet. In addition, the shipyard services ships of our allies in the region, an advantage that should not be overlooked as we seek to expand our military partnerships.

If the Navy decides to assign another carrier group to the Pacific, Pearl Harbor's capabilities can only gain in strategic value. The shipyard's forward presence will give the military an accessible outpost sufficiently distant from regional hotspots for safety, yet offer the full repair and maintenance services otherwise available only at West Coast facilities 2,500 miles farther away.

The people of the City and County of Honolulu recognize the vital role Pearl Harbor plays in our nation's security, and we are eager to have it continue to enjoy this prominence for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mufi Hannemann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mufi Hannemann
Mayor