

TESTIMONY
OF
DAVID W. RAE
VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
THE ESTATE OF JAMES CAMPBELL

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

O N

H.R. 2866, "THE JAMES CAMPBELL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANSION ACT OF 2005"

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005

Good afternoon Chairman Gilchrest, Ranking Member Pallone, and Members of the Subcommittee. My name is Dave Rae, and I am the Vice President of Public Affairs for the Estate of James Campbell. Thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to present testimony regarding H.R. 2866, the "James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2005", sponsored by Representatives Abercrombie and Case.

The Estate of James Campbell supports this legislation and the proposed wildlife refuge expansion in Oahu, Hawaii. The bill will enhance the preservation of wildlife and endangered species in Hawaii, help develop and maintain flood controls to protect human life and livelihood, and improve the existing wildlife refuge by establishing a single, contiguous parcel of land.

I. OVERVIEW

Let me begin by providing a brief overview of the history of the Estate of James Campbell and the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge.

James Campbell was born in Ireland in 1826 as the eighth of 12 children. At the age of 13, he left his homeland to seek fortune in the New World by stowing away on a lumber ship. In 1850, James Campbell boarded a whaling ship, which brought him to Lahaina, Maui. At age 24, he decided to make Hawaii his permanent home and continued to acquire and manage properties until his death in 1900.

The Estate of James Campbell was founded in 1900 as a private trust, and currently owns property not only in Hawaii, but also in 15 mainland states. For more than a century, the Estate has continued James Campbell's legacy of wise stewardship of land and preservation of natural resources. The Estate is the sole landowner of the property within the Kahuku coastal plain of Hawaii that is the subject of H.R. 2866.

The existing James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1976 and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on land previously owned by the Estate. It is comprised of two parcels on the northeastern tip of Oahu. The additional lands proposed for acquisition in this bill would merge these existing, noncontiguous federal parcels into one contiguous refuge, thus restoring historical habitat and forming the largest managed freshwater wetland on Oahu.

II. BENEFITS OF The REFUGE EXPANSION

A. Wildlife conservation and endangered species protection . The existing refuge and proposed expansion areas serve as a bastion for as many as 25 different types of North American water birds, ducks, and geese – not to mention a natural habitat for four endangered species of birds – Hawaiian stilts, coots, moorhens, and ducks. At least one species of damselfly, several native plants found only in Hawaii, and endangered monk seals make this undisturbed environment their home. The expansion of the refuge to include the coastal dunes, coastal strand, and wetlands along the two miles

of shoreline frontage would protect this rare, pristine habitat for wildlife and endangered species.

B. Value added by unifying the existing refuge into a contiguous whole. Over the past 200 years, we have lost more than half the wetlands in the U.S. Of the nation's wetlands remaining, a mere 5 percent are precious coastal wetlands, a fragile fringe of habitats along our shorelines. Currently, the refuge is segmented into two noncontiguous parcels of land. The proposed expansion would thus preserve one of the few remaining wild coastlines of its kind in the U.S.

C. Flood control . Heavy floods occur frequently in this area, devastating residents, private property and public services in the adjacent town of Kahuku. Bordering the wildlife refuge are schools, businesses, houses, and access roads to a hospital. Because of the location and natural function of this historical floodplain, the land acquisition would serve as a crucial component of flood control. Permanent preservation of these wetlands – with their sizeable storage capacity for rainwater – would thus provide an important public safety function.

III. CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, we appreciate your continued commitment to the preservation of our natural resources. On behalf of the Estate of James Campbell, I thank you once again for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation, and look forward to responding to any questions you might have.

KAHUKU SHRIMP CO., INC.

56-1069 Kam. Hwy • Kahuku, HI 96731
P.O. Box 279 • Kahuku, HI 96731

TEL: (808) 293-0157
FAX: (808) 293-0060

December 2, 2005

The Honorable James M. Inhofe, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

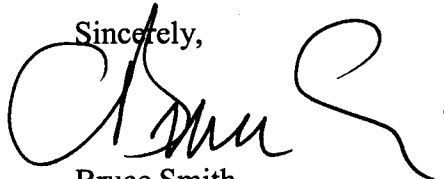
The Honorable Richard W. Pombo, Chair
House Committee on Resources
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

Dear Senator Inhofe and Representative Pombo and Committee Members:

My name is Bruce Smith, owner of Kahuku Shrimp Company located in Kahuku, Hawaii on lands that are part of the proposed expansion of the existing James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge. I strongly support H.R. 2866. USFWS's success in purchasing subject lands through the passage of H.R. 2866 will enable me to accept USFWS's option to extend my lease to 2023 and ensure my future in aquaculture.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce Smith
Owner

jo:01040600\K10002

cc: Senator Daniel Inouye
Senator Daniel Akaka
Representative Neil Abercrombie
Representative Ed Case

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December 2, 2005

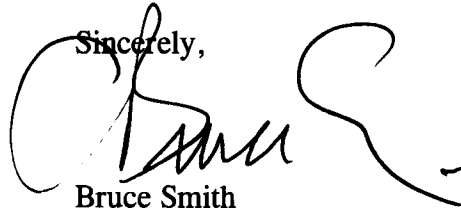
Mr. Jerry Leinecke
United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5-231
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Mr. Leinecke:

Thank you and members of staff from Region 1 - Pacific Region, Portland, Oregon for explaining my future options should USFWS be successful in purchasing lands that I currently lease from Campbell Estate.

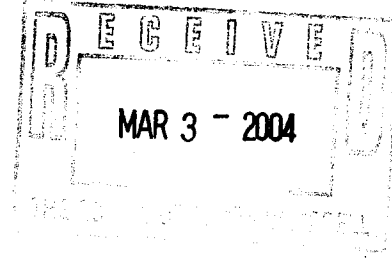
I'm in favor of the option to extend my lease to year 2023. I look forward to this occurrence and working with USFWS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Smith', with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Bruce Smith
Owner

jo:01040600\K10119



March 1, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

We are interested in the offer made to extend the lease for Romy's Kahuku Prawns & Fish, Inc for another 20⁺ years with the US Fish & Wild Life Service. We are ready to negotiate the terms & conditions at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 365-5605.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Romulo F.D. Aguinaldo". The signature is stylized and overlaps with the printed name below it.

Romulo F.D. Aguinaldo
President



United States Department of the Interior

COPY

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Hawaiian and Pacific Islands
National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Box 50167

Honolulu, Hawaii 96850
Telephone: (808) 792-9540 Fax: (808) 792-9585

August 6, 2004

Mr. Romulo F.D. Aguinaldo, President
Romy's Kahuku Prawn and Fish, Inc.
P.O. Box 400
Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

Dear ^{Romy}Mr. Aguinaldo;

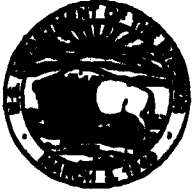
I understand that you have inquired of Mr. Lloyd Haraguchi, representing The Estate of James Campbell (Estate), if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is agreeable to offer you an option that will provide for an extension of your current lease with The Estate, to the year 2023. We are pleased to offer you this option. You will not be required to make the final choice of this option until the Service actually acquires the Campbell property, which is anticipated within the next two years. Until that time you will remain under the terms and conditions of your lease with The Estate.

We will also be agreeable to discuss with you, at any time prior to the acquisition, with the approval of The Estate, suggestions and plans you may have for improving your business operation during the current lease period. We would be very interested to go over these ideas with you early in the planning process as the improvements would most likely be operable into the extended option period. An early review of your plans and suggestions would be appreciated so we might assist you in minimizing future conflicts with the endangered native Hawaiian waterbird populations and habitat.

I look forward to working with you as we near completion of this project. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 808-792-9540 or you may contact Refuge Manager Sylvia Pelizza in Haleiwa at 808-637-6330. Attached is a copy of my letter to you of March 09, 2004 that also conveys our offer to extend your current lease to 2023.

Sincerely yours, -

Jerry F. Leinecke
Jerry F. Leinecke
Project Leader



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Hawaiian and Pacific Islands
National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850
Telephone: (808) 792-9540 Fax: (808) 792-9585

March 09, 2004

Mr. Romulo F. D. Aguinaldo, President
Romy's Kahuku Prawn & Fish, Inc.
56-571 Kamehameha Hwy.
Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

Dear Romy,

Thank you for your letter of March 1, 2004 in which you indicate your interest in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) offer to extend the lease you currently have with The Estate of James Campbell (Estate) to the year 2023. You will not be required to make the final choice of this option until the Service actually acquires the Campbell property which is anticipated within the next two years. Until that time you will remain under the terms and conditions of your lease with The Estate.

Prior to the completion of the acquisition process involving Campbell property we will be pleased to meet with you and discuss the terms, conditions, modifications and other items of mutual interest pertaining to the lease extension. I look forward to working with you as we near completion of this project. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 808-792-9540 or you may contact Refuge Manager Sylvia Pelizza in Haleiwa at 808-637-6330.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jerry F. Leincke", is written over the typed name.

Jerry F. Leincke
Project Leader



United States Department of the Interior

COPY

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Hawaiian and Pacific Islands
National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Box 50167

Honolulu, Hawaii 96850
Telephone: (808) 792-9540 Fax: (808) 792-9585

August 6, 2004

Mrs. Carol Anamizu
Anamizu Farms
P.O. Box 609
Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

Dear *Carol* Mrs. Anamizu;

I understand that you have inquired of Mr. Lloyd Haraguchi, representing The Estate of James Campbell (Estate), if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is agreeable to offer you an option that will provide for an extension of your current lease with The Estate, to the year 2023. We are pleased to offer you this option. You will not be required to make the final choice of this option until the Service actually acquires the Campbell property, which is anticipated within the next two years. Until that time you will remain under the terms and conditions of your lease with The Estate.

We will also be agreeable to discuss with you, at any time prior to the acquisition, with the approval of the Estate, suggestions and plans you may have for improving your business operation during the current lease period. We would be very interested to go over these ideas with you early in the planning process as the improvements would most likely be operable into the extended option period. An early review of your plans and suggestions would be appreciated so we might assist you in minimizing future conflicts with the endangered native Hawaiian waterbird populations and habitat.

I look forward to working with you as we near completion of this project. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 808-792-9540 or you may contact Refuge Manager Sylvia Pelizza in Haleiwa at 808-637-6330.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry F. Leinecke
Jerry F. Leinecke
Project Leader



United States Department of the Interior

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Hawaiian and Pacific Islands
National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Box 50167

Honolulu, Hawaii 96850
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COPY

August 10, 2004

Mr. John Wen Ho, President
Ming Dynasty Fish Co.
P.O. Box 745
Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

Dear Mr. Ho;

I have received your letter of March 16, 2004 in which you expressed your interest in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) offer to provide an option that will allow for an extension of Ming Dynasty Fish Co.'s current lease with The Estate of James Campbell (The Estate), to the year 2023. In reviewing my files, I find that I did not respond to your letter. Please accept my apology for not responding.

We are pleased to offer you the option to extend your lease beyond the expiration of The Estate's lease. You will not be required to make the final choice of this option until the Service actually acquires the Campbell property, which is anticipated within the next two years. Until that time you will remain under the terms and conditions of your lease with The Estate.

We will also be agreeable to discuss with you, at any time prior to the acquisition, with the approval of The Estate, suggestions and plans you may have for improving your business operation during the current lease period. We would be very interested to go over these ideas with you early in the planning process as the improvements would most likely be operable into the extended option period. An early review of your plans and suggestions would be appreciated so we might assist you in minimizing future conflicts with the endangered native Hawaiian waterbird populations and habitat.

I look forward to working with you as we near completion of this project. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 808-792-9540 or you may contact Refuge Manager Sylvia Pelizza in Haleiwa at 808-637-6330.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jerry F. Leinecke".
Jerry F. Leinecke
Project Leader