

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
SANDWICH ISLAND BRANCH
1940

COMMERCIAL
CABLE ADDRESS
HONOLULU HAWAII

November 17, 1940

Mr. Richard F. Taitano
Director, Office of Territories
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Taitano:

Enclosed is a signed draft Resolution, dated November 10, 1940, of the Council of the Territory so as to create a legislative body, the Council of the Territory. This draft is based on the resolution of the Council of the Territory which was given alternative proposals to the Council of the Territory of the Council of the Territory. While not agreeing in every respect to the plan of the members of the Council, the Council of the Territory has adopted the draft as well as included in the draft proposed by the Council of the Territory.

The major departure from the Territorial system is the proposal for a bicameral system. My own view is that, other things being equal, a unicameral body would be less cumbersome. However, the districts in the past had bicameral legislatures and the practice of organizing and managing the two houses are not unknown here. Sensing that the Administration here and in Washington prefer a unicameral system, the Council adopted as their second choice a unicameral legislature with equal representation from each district. It is worthy of note that more than half of all the members of the Council of the Territory were members of the Council of the Territory.

The Council of the Territory has not yet developed a plan of actual legislation which enables them fully to elect representatives from each district. If great deal more legislative experience is required before we reach this point. The Council has voted that, regardless of any legislative grant to the proposed legislature, the High Commissioner retains to have (and exercise) authority to promulgate laws. The members of the Council of the Territory also it plain that at this time the Council of the Territory is in the position of the Administration.

If we are to have laws promulgated, then I think it is necessary to have an opportunity to have the Council of the Territory to have a plan with a bicameral system. The Council of the Territory has not yet reached the bicameral system are considered the plan to have the Council of the Territory to have a plan in the position of the Administration.

high daily rate. Provisions are made for the continuation of the work after each session for reporting to the next session.

Lastly, we have provided for an effective date of July 1, 1954, with elections scheduled for November 1954. This will permit the first Legislature to meet in March 1955. In the meantime it will be possible to mount an education program throughout the State and to begin the establishment of the Legislature, which is an essential step.

[Handwritten Signature]
H. J. [unclear]
[unclear]

Attachment

cc: Assistant Secretary John A. [unclear], Jr.
[unclear]