

More Airport Funds Are Held

Maybe we want joint use on

Saipan?!

The Federal Aviation Agency has refused to give Guam a half-million dollar grant because the airport has no joint use agreement with the Navy here, Rep. A. B. Won Pat said yesterday.

Without the joint-use agreement, FAA officials said that the agency cannot allocate funds for improvements of military-owned and operated airports unless the local authorities can enter into a long-term lease to share the airport facilities.

FAA requires by law that an airport be at least 50 per cent locally operated.

Earlier this year, an accumulated grant of \$1.3 million in federal grants for local air terminal improvements was returned to the U.S.

treasury and reallocated to another area for the same reason. The money was to be used to modernize and improve the runways here.

The joint-use agreement is part of the controversial Sella Bay agreement that now lies in the Legislature for either approval or rejection. The agreement has run the full gamut of legal circles with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco overturning a local District Court decision and making the agreement subject to the pleasure of the Legislature. Sen. Paul Bordallo, a Democrat, was the plaintiff in the case against the Governor of Guam, who had signed an agreement with the Navy giving them the Sella Bay area for an ammunition pier.