



THE PEARL HARBOR LOCHS AND NAVAL STATION, OAHU.

AMERICA'S NEW HARBOR

Pearl Lochs Useful As a Naval Base.

THE PEARL HARBOR lochs, upon the shores of which the United States government has recently acquired some seven hundred acres for the purposes of establishing a naval base and station, comprise a natural lagoon and harbor of elliptical shape eight miles by four in area, connected with the sea by a deep river. They are situated at a road distance of eight miles from Honolulu, or six miles from harbor bar to harbor bar.

Of their utility for naval purposes, Captain U. S. G. White, civil engineer of the present naval station at Honolulu, says: "Nature seems to have had the use to which this land was to be put, in view when forming it. It is safe to say that no more suitable site for a large and important Naval station and base can be found anywhere else on the coast line of the United States."

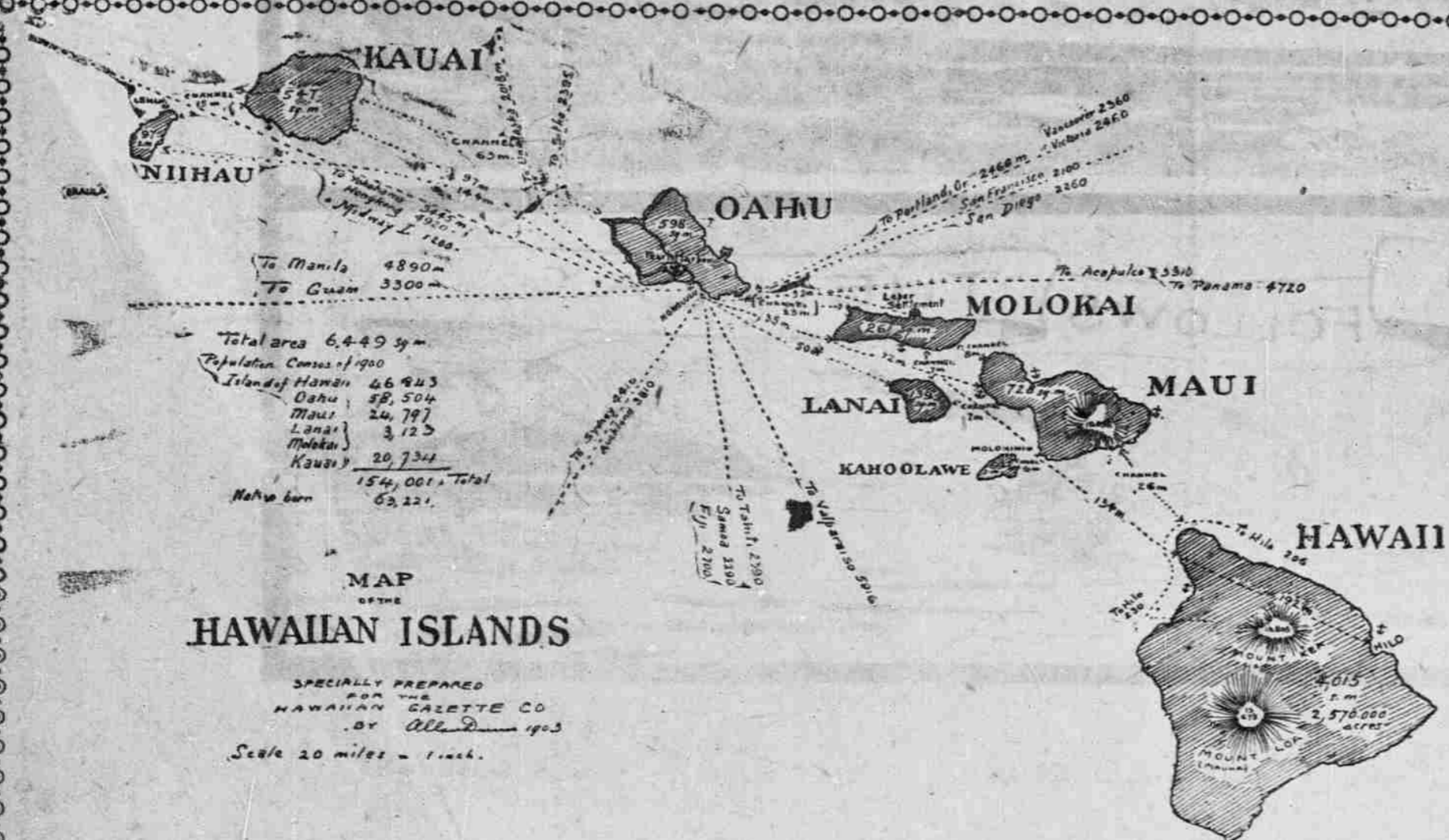
Soon after the annexation of Hawaii, the importance of the harbor in the establishment of a base for either offensive maneuvers, as well as a port of call and repair, was brought prominently before Congress. For sixty years Pearl Harbor has been recognized as a national factor by American statesmen and, possession gained, the carrying out

of long advocated plans was promptly urged.

Boards of survey and fortification visited the islands with the results that the entrance to the natural channel has been dredged to a depth navigable for all vessels, \$175,000 expended on the purchase of a reservation from a big sugar plantation, plans drawn for the establishment of dry docks, ordnance department, coaling depot, naval stores, hospital and station, and preliminary outlines of artillery fortification prepared. Estimates of the cost of these improvements have been submitted to the proper departments and the present Congress will consider the appropriation of the sums asked.

Two important steps already taken are the dredging of the bar and entrance and the purchase and possession of the land. Some further dredging of the natural channel, at present necessitating some sharp turns on the part of entering vessels, is needed to straighten the path of cruisers and battleships. This is not a formidable or prohibitively expensive undertaking, much of the obstruction being composed of sand and soft coral. These points and shoals have been marked with piles and the entrance buoyed.

The depth of water inside is all sufficient, ranging from 20 to 138 feet, while there is ample room for the navy, not only of the United States, but of all friendly or allied nations, to swing at cables' length.

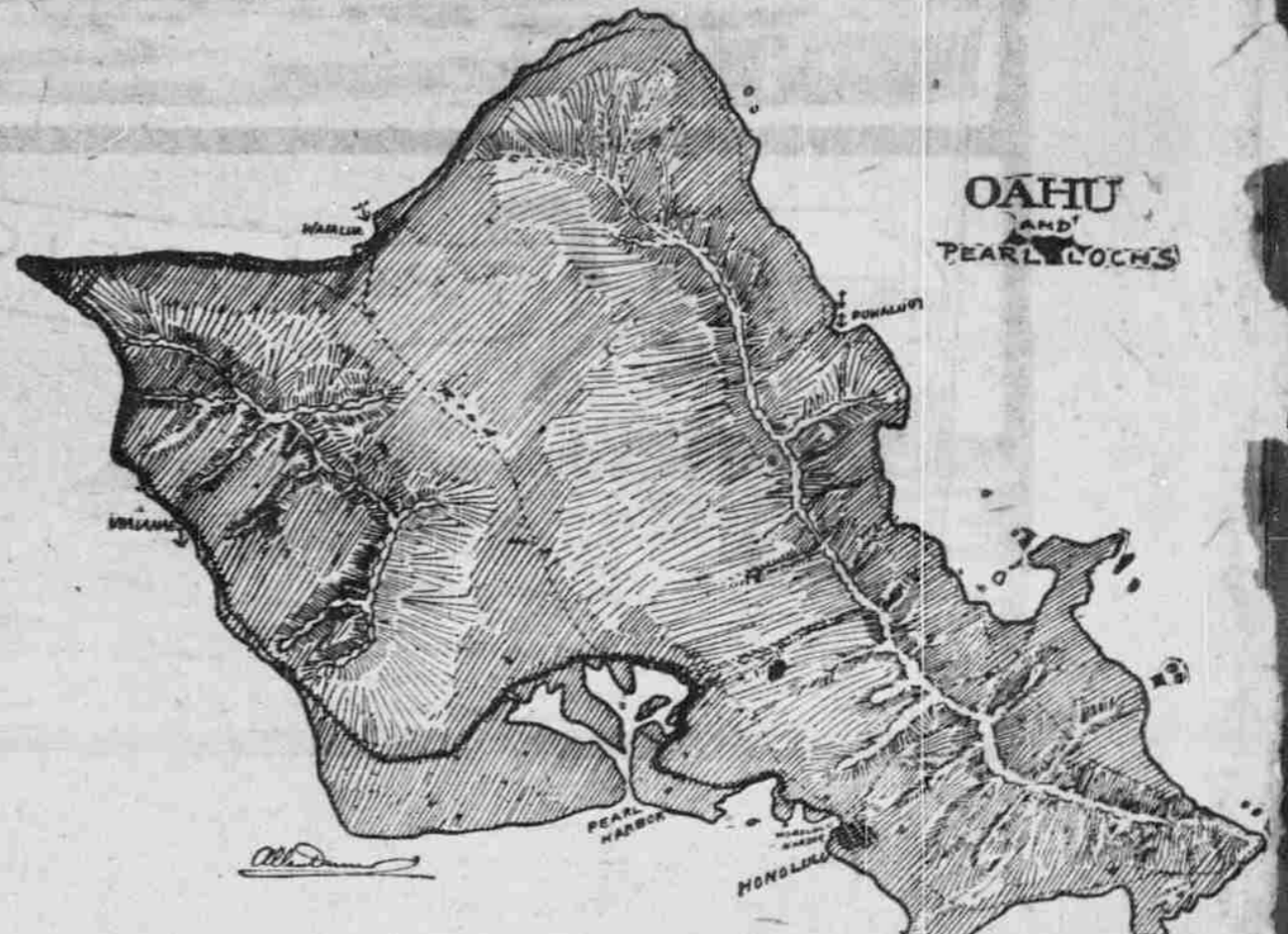


MAP OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR THE HAWAIIAN GAZETTE CO. BY ALBERT D. ...

Scale 20 miles = 1 inch.

THE CROSS ROADS OF THE PACIFIC.



HONOLULU AND PEARL HARBOR, ISLAND OF OAHU.