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## Negotiations favored for DeRussy land

City Councilman George Akahane yesterday said city and federal officials should "go to the negotiating table" to determine the fate of Fort DeRussy.

The White House previously proposed selling the entire 72-acre property to the highest bidder to help balance the federal budget. City officials objected.

Earlier this week, Sen. Daniel Inouye proposed that the city allow the White House to sell half of the mauka portion of Fort DeRussy — for possible resort development — in exchange for the city gaining control of the other mauka half. The 26 acres makai of Kalia Road would remain under Army control — for the Hale Koa Hotel, the Army museum and open beach space.

City officials greeted Inouye's proposal with mixed feelings.

Akahane suggested that the council and Mayor Eileen Anderson, instead, might want to purchase Fort DeRussy "over a period of several years."

Whatever course the city takes, he said, agreement between Anderson and the council will be essential.

And, he said, Inouye has opened the door for face-to-face negotiations between the

city and federal officials.

Akahane said the way to settle the DeRussy flap — and satisfy all concerned — is to "sit down and work things out."

Council Chairwoman Patsy Mink plans to meet with Anderson to discuss Inouye's proposal.

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