The Surf Club Has a Proposal for The Breakers

Friendly consideration should be given to the proposal of the Surf club to operate The Breakers.

The Surf club is an active, growing, useful organization. Based at Waikiki, it serves the whole community, just as does the Outrigger club. The latter, of course, has spacious quarters of its own.

* * *

Mixing a couple of quick metaphors, The Breakers has been both a headache and a white elephant to the city parks and recreation board. The board, having a bit unwillingly inherited recreation pavilion and grounds from the U. S. navy, hasn't quite known what to do with it.

Two plans worked out for the board (at some expense to the taxpayers) didn't get beyond the stage of consulting the city attorney's office about legality. The city attorney's office promptly, and properly, ruled them out.

* * *

And recently the board has been talking about demolishing the whole structure and starting anew on something—nobody seems to know just what.

From the beginning of its thinking about the future of The Breakers, the park board has made a fundamental error. That is, that a lot of money—anywhere from $75,000 to $100,000—must be spent to put the pavilion in condition for public use.

We have never believed this was so. Neither did the Junior Chamber of Commerce when it suggested taking over The Breakers as a community center. The Junior Chamber, which has to make the money it spends, figured the rehabilitation could be done for some $26,000.

* * *

If the Surf club's proposal is legal—that is, if the parks board has the authority to lease or rent the premises or otherwise to turn over its operation to the club, why not do it?

Anybody can tear down a building on the assumption that it's useless.

It calls for ingenuity and perseverance and faith to take a discarded structure of this sort and turn it into a serviceable community center. And those qualities are needed particularly in a time of strained public finances such as now.

If the Surf club knows how it can be done, give the plan a trial!