

Monday, March 4, 1991

PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS

# Fired exec sues Century Airline USA

By Amy Heard

Former Hemmeter Aviation executive Thomas P. Anusewicz is suing Century Airline U.S.A. Inc. and its executives, alleging breach of contract.

The suit names Kyoto Tsushinki Kensetsu Kogyo Inc., the Japan-based parent company of Century Aviation; Century Industries Inc.; Century Airline U.S.A. Inc.; Century Airline board chairman Masaya Uesugi; and Century Aviation director Louise M. "Lu Lu" Miyasato as defendants.

Century Airline acquired Hemmeter Aviation Inc. for \$10 million last summer.

The suit alleges the defendants failed to make good on a promise that Anusewicz would be employed for one year after they bought developer Christopher B. Hemmeter's luxury fixed-base operations at Honolulu International Airport and at Kauai, Maui and Big Island airports. The sale also included the Gander, Newfoundland, operation of sister company Hemmeter Aviation International.

Scott Leong, Anusewicz's attorney, said he hopes to get a ruling to maintain the action as a class-action suit to include other former employees in the class. He said an important aspect is the wrongful termination, out of which flow charges of emotional and mental distress.

In his suit, Anusewicz, executive vice president of Hemmeter Aviation before Century's purchase, says he played a key role in negotiations between Century and Hemmeter execu-

tives, and was promised a year's contract. The suit, filed in First Circuit Court on Feb. 19, alleges that after the sale agreement was signed, Anusewicz continued to work without a contract and was fired a month following the acquisition after he had repeatedly asked for a contract.

The suit charges the executives with fraud and defamation. It alleges they violated the state's Plant Closure Notification law, requiring that employees receive at least 45 days notice before a sale that will result in layoffs.

Both Anusewicz and Century representatives declined to comment on the suit.

Fixed-base operations are usually just "pit stops" where pilots can fuel planes and grab a snack. However, Hemmeter built his operation in 1985 at Honolulu International Airport's south ramp to "red carpet" standards.

Last fall, Century announced a \$2 million expansion plan.



## Lestro Jewelry

"We Specialize in 18k & 24k Gold Jewelry"

1025 Pensacola Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 (808) 526-3815