

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee?

**I think the FTAC is a vehicle for collaboration between stakeholders who have a vested interest in the fate of the Red Hill underground storage tanks and remediation of the damage the leaking fuel has caused. These stakeholders are the military, the state, and most importantly, the people of Hawaii.**

2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Fuel Tank

Advisory Committee?

**The public members of the FTAC provide community input into this collaboration.**

3. Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities as a member of the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the board.

**As a physician I frequently gather evidence, evaluate alternatives, present options to the patient in a concise manner and we arrive at a shared decision or plan of action. These are things the Navy should be doing with the people of Hawaii and I expect them to. I am also familiar with scientific terms and know how to research those with which I am not familiar.**

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

Commented [RF1]:

Commented [RF2R1]:

Commented [RF3R1]:

Commented [RF4R1]:

**Help the Navy understand that public input and approval are vital to the success of their mission. “Local” people do have valid concerns and sometimes good ideas, so it would be more productive if the Navy worked with the local people instead of against them or in spite of them.**

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will **augment** the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee.

**I am logical, I persevere, and I have no patience for liars. Data needs to support the conclusions offered. I will keep asking questions until issues are clarified. I will point out inconsistencies and vagaries.**

6. Name a previous experience you’ve had that will be beneficial as a member.

**I have been a FTAC public member since 2019. I have closely followed the Red Hill issue since the 2014 spill from Tank 5, so I am very familiar with the history of events and people involved.**

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

**I do not have any conflicts of interest as I do not own a gas station and am not employed by the federal government. Should a conflict arise, I will disclose it and seek clarification whether I may continue on the committee.**

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
KA 'OIHANA WAI  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96843  
Phone: (808) 748-5000 • [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com)

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER  
MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

ERWIN KAWATA  
DEPUTY MANAGER  
HOPE MANAKIA



NĀ'ĀLEHU ANTHONY, Chair  
JONATHAN KANESHIRO, Vice Chair  
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EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio  
GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., Ex-Officio

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
And Members  
Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Members:

Subject: GM 522: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, MELANIE LAU, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

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The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports Governor's Message (GM) 522, Melanie Lau, M.D., for consideration and confirmation to the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (FTAC).

Dr. Melanie Lau has once before served as a public appointee member on the FTAC. Dr. Lau has been invaluable to the FTAC and has actively served studying issues related to leaks of field-constructed underground fuel storage tanks at the U.S. Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. Initially, Dr. Lau attended the FTAC meeting as a concerned citizen and later as a community member representing the Moanalua Valley Community Association. Dr. Lau is well qualified to serve on the FTAC and understands the role of the advisory committee as outlined in Hawaii Revised Statutes 342L-62.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of GM 522.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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February 26, 2025

## Testimony in Support of GM522 – FUEL TANK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**To:** Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

**From:** Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

**Date:** February 28, 2025

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

**Subject:** Support for GM522 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, MELANIE LAU, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of GM522, which nominates Dr. Melanie Lau for a position on the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2028.

### Key Points:

- **Expertise and Experience:** Dr. Melanie Lau brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in environmental science and policy. Her extensive background in environmental protection and her work on various projects make her an invaluable asset to the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee.
- **Commitment to Environmental Protection:** Dr. Lau has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to protecting Hawaii's natural resources. Her work in areas such as groundwater protection, contamination prevention, and sustainable practices has significantly contributed to the preservation and sustainability of our environment.
- **Community Engagement:** Dr. Lau is known for her active engagement with the community. She has worked closely with local organizations, government agencies, and residents to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable practices.
- **Leadership and Vision:** Dr. Lau's leadership skills and visionary approach will greatly benefit the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee. Her ability to think strategically and implement effective solutions will help advance Hawaii's environmental goals.

### **Arguments in Support:**

- **Expertise and Experience:** Dr. Melanie Lau's extensive background in environmental science and policy makes her uniquely qualified for this position. She has a proven track record of success in projects related to groundwater protection and contamination prevention, demonstrating her ability to effectively address complex environmental issues.
- **Commitment to Environmental Protection:** Dr. Lau's dedication to environmental protection is evident in her work. She has consistently advocated for policies and practices that prioritize the health and sustainability of Hawaii's natural resources. Her efforts have resulted in positive outcomes for our environment and communities.
- **Community Engagement:** Dr. Lau's strong connections with the community make her an ideal candidate for this position. She has a deep understanding of the environmental concerns and priorities of Hawaii's residents, and she actively collaborates with various stakeholders to develop and implement solutions that benefit everyone.
- **Leadership and Vision:** Dr. Lau's leadership and vision are essential for the success of the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee. Her ability to inspire and motivate others, combined with her strategic thinking and problem-solving skills, will help drive positive change and achieve Hawaii's environmental objectives.

In conclusion, we believe that Dr. Melanie Lau is an exceptional candidate for the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee. Her expertise, commitment, community engagement, and leadership make her the ideal choice to help advance Hawaii's environmental goals. We respectfully request that the Committee support GM522 and confirm Dr. Melanie Lau's nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

**GM-522**

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:28:16 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilima DeCosta	Testifying for Red Hill CRI	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

27 February 2025

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino, Members of the Health and Human Services Committee  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
435 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM522 - Appointment of Melanie Lau, M.D  
to Fuel Tank Advisory Committee

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

The undersigned members of the Red Hill Community Representation Initiative support Governor Josh Green's nomination of Dr. Melanie Lau to the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee.

CRI members were selected as part of a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting on September 16, 2023. Community participants elected the following members to four categories: 1) Impacted Residents, 2) O'ahu Residents, 3) Community-Based Organizations, and 4) Native Hawaiian Interests.

The CRI was added to the 2023 Red Hill Administrative Consent Order in response to public comments received, and gives 10 (ten) people representing the people of O'ahu an opportunity to work directly with Navy, DLA, and EPA on matters related to defueling, closure, and drinking water safety at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

The Red Hill CRI believes that maintaining positive public engagement around environmental issues - with both paid and unpaid (volunteer) persons - will help to guide our community and cultural best practices.

Mahalo for passing this nomination on to Governor Green for his signature.

Respectfully Submitted,

Red Hill Community Representation Initiative



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

February 28, 2025

1:00 PM

Conference Room 225

**In SUPPORT of GM522:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, MELANIE LAU, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

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Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** GM522, which would confirm Dr. Melanie Lau to a second term of service on the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (FTAC).

Since her original appointment to the FTAC, Dr. Lau has exemplified the diligence, critical inquiry, and community-based perspective that remain absolutely critical to discussions regarding our water security, and the existential threat posed by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and its long history of leaks. Unfortunately, only a few other members of the FTAC were willing or able to follow the example set by Dr. Lau, and as a result, the threat of the Red Hill Fuel Facility was not widely acted upon until the underlying aquifer was contaminated, and thousands of residents poisoned by jet fuel and other toxic contaminants in their drinking water.

With O'ahu facing a water crisis of indeterminate length due to the ongoing contamination of our sole source aquifer; the additional threat of up to 2 million gallons of unaccounted-for fuel, as well as PFAS and other contaminants, that have been released from the facility; and with thousands of families still seeking accountability for the health and other impacts they have suffered; Dr. Lau's institutional memory, expertise, and community insight will be ever more essential to the FTAC's work.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge the Committee to recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to the nomination of Dr. Lau.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



**GM-522**

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:38:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice K T Shiira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support the nominee Dr Melanie Lau as the community representative for Fuel Tank Advisory Committee

**GM-522**

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:01:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrice Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the confirmation of Dr. Melanie Lau for a second term as the community representative for the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee. Dr. Lau's participation is crucial as she asks important questions on the community's behalf.

**GM-522**

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:57:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and **I am writing in strong support of GM522, confirming Dr. Melanie Lau** as a community representative on the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (FTAC). As a Kanaka Maoli and a lineal descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom, as well as a Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Commission Member and a board member of the Hawai‘i Workers Center, I am deeply invested in the protection of our land, water, and people from the ongoing threats posed by the Red Hill fuel facility.

Dr. Lau has proven to be an essential voice of reason and critique on the FTAC, alongside Ernie and Ashley. Her continued objective perspective and critical lens are crucial to ensuring that the committee does not blindly accept the assertions of Navy and government officials but instead holds them accountable to the well-being of our communities. Her leadership and commitment to truth and justice in this space provide a necessary counterbalance to the dominant narratives that often attempt to minimize or dismiss community concerns.

**For these reasons, I urge the committee to confirm Dr. Lau’s appointment.**

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Commission Member

Board Member, Hawai‘i Workers Center

Kanaka Maoli/Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

**GM-522**

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:24:22 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support for Dr. Melanie Lau for the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee. Dr. Lau has been a tireless supporter and advocate for clean water for all of us in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Cynthia J. Goto, M.D.

**GM-522**

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 11:14:07 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Reese Liggett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha HHS Advisory Committee

My name is William Reese Liggett and I **strongly support** Dr. Melanie Lau's committee hearing for her confirmation to the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (her second term) as the community representative.

Her reappointment is crucial for protecting our vital groundwater resources. Our drinking water aquifers are irreplaceable sources of pure, precious wai that have sustained and must continue to sustain our communities and 'āina. Once contaminated, these water sources can be permanently damaged, putting public health and our environment at risk.

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls Hawai'i home.

I urge you confirm Dr. Melanie Lau's appointment to the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee as the community representative..

Sincerely, William reese Liggett

**GM-522**

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:50:43 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynda Nishihara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello

I would like to offer my support for Melanie Lau's reinstatement on the FTAC committee. She brings with her a keen mind and a logical point of view and would be an asset to this group.

Thank you very much

Lynda Nishihara

**GM-522**

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:43:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Nishihara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha HHS Committee,

I wholly support the confirmation of Melanie Lau to the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee for another term; she is an absolutely invaluable member and ally in protecting our precious wai. She is astute, sharp-witted, analytical, and takes no guff. Go Melanie! :)

Mahalo,

-Ashley Nishihara

**GM-522**

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:36:12 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2025 1:00:00 PM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dr. Melanie Lau has been an incredible asset to the FTAC forum as a representative for the people of Oahu. Her tenacity, professionalism, and candor when speaking with the Navy is vital to the continued holding of accountability, in particular, for the Red Hill Water Crisis. As an affected resident by the jet fuel contamination of my home's water, I appreciate her and highly recommend her continuing tenure on the FTAC.