

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
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RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, April 1, 2025  
10:01 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 505 HOUSE DRAFT 1 SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO RED HILL

House Bill 505 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1 proposes to establish a Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) policy coordinator and other positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to support the Red Hill WAI, and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure and provides comments.**

As stewards of Honolulu's sole source groundwater aquifer and Hawai'i's ecosystems, the Department recognizes the WAI's important role in ensuring that post-defueling remediation efforts restore the mauka to makai health of the aquifer. Our precious aquifer not only provides drinking water to hundreds of thousands of Honolulu residents but is also critical for the environment under the stewardship of the Department.

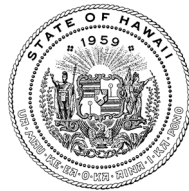
The Department supports the establishment and use of the Red Hill Special Remediation Fund for monitoring, applied research, public outreach and education, and evaluation.

The Department notes that following the 2024 Session, three full-time positions to support the WAI were funded within the Department's Office of the Chairperson:

- Policy Coordinator
- Outreach Coordinator
- Administrative Support Specialist

The Department completed its reorganization within the Office of the Chairperson and established the positions in late 2024. The Department completed recruitment for the Administrative Support Specialist position, with an expected start date of April 1, 2025. We are in the process of completing recruitment for the other two positions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
*Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā*  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
**TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
**DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
**ON**  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 505, H.D. 1, S.D. 1**

**April 1, 2025**  
**10:01 a.m.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

**RELATING TO RED HILL**

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 505, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, adds a new chapter that:

1) establishes the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Policy Coordinator within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to coordinate WAI initiatives; 2) creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund (RHRSF) that would generate revenues through legislative appropriations, gifts, donations, grants, and interest to address contamination resulting from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility; 3) requires State and county agencies to provide all information and data requested by the WAI Policy Coordinator within 30 calendar days; and 4) specifies annual reporting requirements.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund, which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and

charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 505, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed RHRSF would be self-sustaining as there does not appear to be any significant, recurring source of revenues to support the fund.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 10:01 a.m.

By

Vassilis L. Syrmos. Vice President for Research and Innovation  
University of Hawai'i System

HB 505 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO RED HILL

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 505 HD1 SD1, which seeks to establish a Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (Red Hill WAI) policy coordinator in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and creates a Red Hill remediation special fund.

While the imminent threat of future leaks has been minimized through the defueling of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, years of clean up, monitoring, research and policy making will be needed for remediation of the aquifer and the surrounding ecosystem. This will require proper coordination between DLNR, the Department of Health, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, U.S. Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, UH, community organizations, and other state, federal and county agencies.

The Red Hill WAI coordinator and related positions are critical to this effort and the remediation special fund will enable this group to fund necessary efforts in monitoring, research, remediation, public outreach and education, and evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 505 HD1 SD1.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 505 HD1 SD1  
RELATING TO RED HILL**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 1, 2025

10:01 AM

Conference Room 211

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the Committee:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB505 HD1 SD1**, which establishes the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Policy Coordinator and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). This measure is an important step to ensure continued coordination of State and County efforts to monitor and oversee remediation and mitigation of jet fuel leaks into O'ahu's primary aquifer from the now-drained Navy fuel tanks at Kapūkākāī (Red Hill).

**OHA has a vested interest in the stewardship and restoration of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources, particularly water. Since time immemorial, water in Hawai'i has been considered a public trust resource to be managed and administered for the benefit of present and future generations.** Traditional Hawaiian laws and land use practices revolved around the sharing and beneficial management of water as a community good necessary to meet a range of social and ecological needs. Water is also the physical embodiment of the god Kāne, and integral to a range of traditional cultural and spiritual practices. Indeed, "Ola i ka wai" (Water is life). Without clean water, life in Hawai'i is not possible.

**The creation of the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund will enable sustained water quality monitoring and public transparency regarding ongoing cleanup efforts.** While the federal government should bear the full cost of remediation, this fund ensures that state-led efforts to protect public health are adequately funded, an important safeguard given the federal government's documented history of neglect at Red Hill. HB 505 HD1 SD1 also mandates cooperation between state and county agencies, ensuring shared access to all relevant data within a timely manner, and a common forum to focus government advocacy efforts in one place. Ideally, this will enable greater transparency and public access to decisionmakers as it was the community that raised the alarm over the ongoing leaks occurring at Kapūkākāī for years prior to the 2021 crisis that precipitated the defueling of the Navy's tanks and current remediation efforts.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. OHA urges the Committee to **PASS HB 505 HD1 SD1** to enhance efforts to protect Hawai'i's water resources for future generations.

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

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96843  
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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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LANCE WILHELM  
KĒHAULANI PU'U  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio  
GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., Ex-Officio

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii'i State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 505, HD1, SD1: Relating to Red Hill

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) is in strong support of House Bill (HB) 505, House Draft (HD) 1, Senate Draft (SD) 1. The purpose of the bill is to create a new chapter in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to establish within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to serve as the State's policy lead through the position of the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) policy coordinator and to place the coordinator in the office of the DLNR chairperson.

It is important that we look at establishing government structures that can help to oversee remediation in the long term as this effort can extend well into the future. This bill also establishes a special fund for the monitoring, researching, conducting public outreach and education, and evaluation. The special fund is to be administered by the WAI coordinator and be able to receive federal funds, appropriations by the Legislature, or gifts, donations, grants from public agencies, and private persons.

The WAI policy coordinator proposed in HB 505, HD1, SD1, is required to facilitate implementation and monitoring and interface with federal entities on WAI initiatives outlined in the WAI's November 2023 report, which includes remediation of the contamination resulting from the Red Hill Fuel Facility. Here the duties of the coordinator will serve to provide a framework that gives the officials from the State and City and County of Honolulu a clear understanding of the WAI Initiatives, its mission, expectations, objectives, and reporting requirements.

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
and Members  
April 1, 2025  
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support HB 505, HD1, SD1.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernest Y. W. Lau", is positioned above the printed name.

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





# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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March 28, 2025

## **Testimony in Support of HB505 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO RED HILL**

**To:** Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

**Date:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 **Time:** 10:01 a.m.

**Place:** Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

**From:** Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports HB505 HD1 SD1, which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund.

- **Critical Leadership:**

- The WAI Policy Coordinator will ensure cohesive and effective coordination of Red Hill remediation efforts.
- This role is essential for aligning initiatives across agencies, stakeholders, and communities.

- **Dedicated Funding:**

- The Red Hill Remediation Special Fund provides a reliable financial resource for addressing contamination and restoring affected areas.
- This fund ensures that remediation efforts are sustained and not hindered by budgetary constraints.

- **Safeguarding Public Health:**

- The bill addresses the urgent need to protect Hawai'i's drinking water supply from contamination.
- It prioritizes the health and safety of residents, including military families and local communities.

- **Environmental Stewardship:**
  - HB505 HD1 SD1 reflects Hawai‘i’s commitment to preserving its natural resources for future generations.
  - It aligns with the state’s broader goals of environmental sustainability and resilience.
- **Community Trust and Transparency:**
  - Establishing a dedicated coordinator and fund demonstrates accountability and transparency in addressing the Red Hill crisis.
  - It rebuilds trust with the community by showing a clear commitment to resolving this issue.

We urge the Committee to pass this measure to ensure the safety and sustainability of Hawai‘i’s water resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this important legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i



## **SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**APRIL 1, 2025**

**HB 505, HD1, SD1, RELATING TO RED HILL**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Coalition Earth **supports** HB 505, HD1, SD1, which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund.

Ola i ka wai. Water is life.

The United States Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility consists of 20 steel-lined underground storage tanks that were built from 1940 to 1943, each of which can store 12.5 million gallons of fuel. In total, the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility can store up to 250 million gallons of fuel. The tanks are located only about 100 feet above the United States Environmental Protection Agency's designated sole-source groundwater aquifer that provides drinking water to approximately 4,000 residents of the island of O'ahu.

Over the past eighty years, numerous spills have occurred at Red Hill. Most dramatically, on November 20, 2021, about 93,000 individuals served by the Navy's potable water system for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam were directly affected when the Navy's Red Hill shaft was contaminated by the release of up to 19,000 gallons of fuel, including JP-5 jet fuel, older fuels stored at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, and any additives used. Over 6,000 individuals sought medical attention, and 1,000 were forced to leave their homes due to the contamination. Much of the fuel released from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility remains in the environment, trapped within the complex geological formations that surround the tanks. Notably, this leak also caused the restriction and diversion of Honolulu's water sources to cover losses from contaminated fuel, temporarily endangering the ability of the state and the county to perform vital public services, such as increasing the supply of affordable housing.

Subsequently, On May 9, 2023, officials from the state and City and County of Honolulu signed a unified statement on Red Hill, recognizing the stewardship responsibility to ensure that there is clean water on Oahu for future generations. The Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI), a working group, met regularly in 2023 after the signing of the unified statement, posing questions, conducting research, listening to subject-matter experts, and formulating policy recommendations to address the Red Hill contamination and prevent future leaks. The working group strived to preserve and protect public trust resources, including water resources that are essential for life to flourish in our island home.

Members of the Red Hill WAI working group focused on the remediation needs after the defueling of the tanks and removal of residual fuel and contaminants from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The working group expressed ongoing concerns about fuel contaminants already in the ground, as well as the residual supply of fuel plume in local aquifers because of the spill that occurred on November 20, 2021. The group found that there may be as many as 1,940,000 gallons of fuel constituents in the ground that have leaked over eight decades.

Accordingly, the group believes that remediation is necessary for the future well-being of the aquifer to contain the risk to current and future water sources, including the Halawa Shaft, Halawa wells, and Aiea wells; the water distribution system; and local ecosystems. For the sake of the public trust and future generations of Hawai'i's people, we must adopt the recommendations of the Red Hill WAI working group, coordinate an ongoing multiagency response to the crisis, and empower remediation efforts to proceed with haste.

Sincerely,

*Kris Coffield*

Kris Coffield, Chairperson, Board of Directors

*Coalition Earth is a nongovernmental organization that works to preserve the well-being of people and our planet. We champion policies that advance climate resilience, clean energy, public health, and economic fairness for working families. **Contact us at [info@coalitionearth.org](mailto:info@coalitionearth.org).***

**HB-505-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:33:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Testifying for Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

Aloha Kākou, Keepers of Our Wahi Pana,

As Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM of the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands and Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party ([www.ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.ohanaunityparty.com)), I summon the spirit of Kāne—guardian of life-giving waters—to anoint H.B. No. 505, "Relating to Red Hill." This bill births a Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Policy Coordinator and a Remediation Special Fund, weaving a lei of restoration for Oahu's aquifer, poisoned by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. With royal decree, I call you to enact this sacred measure, mending the wounds of our 'āina and wai.

- A Legacy of Poison: For eighty years, Red Hill's twenty tanks—each a 12.5-million-gallon titan—have loomed 100 feet above our sole-source aquifer, serving 400,000 souls (EPA data). The November 2021 spill unleashed 19,000 gallons of JP-5 jet fuel, sickening 6,000 and displacing 1,000 (DOH 2022). Up to 1.94 million gallons of fuel lurk in the earth (WAI 2023), a silent serpent threatening Halawa Shaft and beyond.
- The WAI's Vision Unveiled: Born of the 2023 unified statement, the Red Hill WAI—uniting governor, legislators, and kama'āina leaders—crafted a November 2023 report, a hō'ailona of total stewardship. H.B. No. 505 heeds its call, birthing a Policy Coordinator to wield the mana of coordination across state, county, and federal realms, ensuring no drop of wai is forsaken.
- A Guardian's Kuleana: The WAI Policy Coordinator (Section -2) will monitor ecosystems, unveil science's secrets, and helm a 36-month education odyssey—restoring trust shattered when 93,000 drank tainted water (Navy 2021). A public dashboard will shine light on test results, as 2023's 30% distrust in water safety (UH poll) demands transparency.
- A Treasury of Healing: The Red Hill Remediation Special Fund (Section -3), fed by legislative mana, grants, and aloha, will fuel monitoring, research, and outreach. While the feds must bear aquifer cleansing costs—estimated at \$1.5 billion (EPA 2024

projection)—this fund empowers local action, echoing California’s \$100 million spill cleanup fund (2023 data).

- Unity in Action: Mandating state and county data within 30 days (Section -4) binds us as one ‘ohana, while annual reports from 2025 (Section -5) chart our path. In 2023, Red Hill’s plume grew 10% (USGS), a ticking pulse we must still with haste.
- A Temporal Misstep: The bill’s July 1, 3000, effective date is a scribe’s mirage, defying its urgent intent. I beseech you to align it with July 1, 2025, unleashing this magic now—for every day delayed risks our wai, our lifeblood, as 2024 tests show lingering benzene at 5 ppb near Aiea wells (DOH).
- A Promise to Posterity: This Act fulfills our public trust under Article XI, Section 1 of our Constitution, shielding springs, streams, and nearshore waters—home to 1,200 native species (DLNR 2023). It’s a vow to keiki yet unborn, echoing the WAI’s cry: “negligible risk” is our sacred benchmark.

H.B. No. 505 is a mo‘olelo of redemption, forging a Policy Coordinator and Special Fund to heal Red Hill’s scars. I urge you to set its dawn at July 1, 2025, and pass it with the fury of Nāmaka’s waves. Let us purge the fuel’s curse, restoring our aquifer’s purity so our people drink not of sorrow, but of aloha everlasting.

Mahalo for Your Hae Hawai‘i Duty,

With Royal Resolve and Unity,  
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire  
HRM, Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands  
Chairman, Ohana Unity Party  
[www.ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.ohanaunityparty.com)

**TO:** Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

**FROM:** Ronnie Inagaki

**HEARING DATE:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 @ 10:01AM

**RE:** **H.B. 505, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO RED HILL**

**POSITION:** STRONG SUPPORT With Concerns

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**Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong **support** of **HB505 SD1**, which aims to address the critical environmental and public health crisis caused by the contamination of Oahu’s sole-source aquifer by the U.S. Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The establishment of a **Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Policy Coordinator** and the creation of a **Red Hill Remediation Special Fund** are significant steps toward protecting Oahu’s vital water resources and ensuring a transparent, coordinated response to the contamination.

However, alongside my support, I respectfully raise concerns and highlight the need to strengthen the bill by clearly addressing federal responsibility and other key issues to ensure its success.

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### **Support for HB505 SD1**

The contamination caused by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility has had devastating consequences for Oahu. The November 2021 fuel spill, which released up to 19,000 gallons of jet fuel and other contaminants, directly affected 93,000 individuals, with over 6,000 seeking medical attention and 1,000 displaced from their homes. This crisis not only threatens public health but also poses long-term risks to the environment, as an estimated 1.94 million gallons of leaked fuel constituents remain trapped in the ground and aquifer after decades of spills.

HB505 SD1 represents a proactive response by the State of Hawaii to address this crisis. By creating the WAI Policy Coordinator position and the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund, the bill establishes a framework for coordinated action, public transparency, and funding

for remediation efforts. These measures are essential to protecting Oahu's water resources and rebuilding public trust.

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## **Concerns and Recommendations**

While **HB505 SD1** is a critical step forward, I urge the committee to consider the following concerns and recommendations to strengthen the bill:

### **1. Federal Responsibility Must Be Explicitly Addressed**

#### **Concern:**

The contamination caused by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is a direct result of the federal government's actions, specifically those of the U.S. Navy, which owns and operates the facility. While the bill acknowledges that "the cost of remediation of the aquifer shall be borne by the federal government," this statement is brief and lacks enforceable mechanisms to hold the federal government accountable for funding and implementing remediation efforts.

#### **Recommendation:**

- Strengthen language in the bill to clearly outline the federal government's primary responsibility for the contamination and its financial obligation to fund all necessary remediation efforts.
- Include provisions for the State of Hawaii to actively engage with federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to secure funding and ensure compliance with remediation requirements.
- Require the WAI Policy Coordinator to report on the status of federal cooperation and funding as part of the annual report to the Legislature.

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### **2. Placeholder Effective Date (July 1, 3000)**

#### **Concern:**

The placeholder effective date creates ambiguity about when the provisions of the bill will take effect. This undermines the urgency of addressing the contamination and could delay critical remediation efforts.

#### **Recommendation:**

Amend the bill to establish an immediate or near-term effective date, such as July 1, 2025,



to ensure that the WAI Policy Coordinator position and the Remediation Special Fund are operational as soon as possible.

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### **3. Funding and Sustainability of the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund**

**Concern:**

The special fund relies on legislative appropriations, donations, and grants, which may be inconsistent or insufficient to address the scale and complexity of the contamination. Additionally, while the bill states that the federal government will bear the cost of aquifer remediation, it does not provide a clear mechanism for securing these funds.

**Recommendation:**

- Establish a clear plan to secure federal funding, such as requiring the State to file claims or requests for reimbursement with the federal government.
  - Ensure the special fund has adequate and sustained funding by exploring additional revenue sources, such as state or local fees tied to entities benefitting from the aquifer.
- 

### **4. Scope of Responsibilities for the WAI Policy Coordinator**

**Concern:**

The WAI Policy Coordinator is tasked with a wide range of responsibilities, including interfacing with federal entities, monitoring ecosystem health, managing a public-facing dashboard, and implementing a 36-month public education program. These extensive duties may overwhelm a single position without adequate staffing and resources.

**Recommendation:**

- Define the qualifications and expertise required for the WAI Policy Coordinator to ensure they are equipped to handle the role's responsibilities.
  - Provide additional staffing and resources to support the coordinator's work, particularly for tasks such as ecosystem monitoring and public engagement.
- 

### **5. Lack of Specificity in Remediation Plans**

**Concern:**

The bill does not include specific plans or timelines for remediation. For example, it does

not outline how the estimated 1.94 million gallons of leaked fuel constituents will be removed or mitigated.

**Recommendation:**

- Include a requirement for the WAI Policy Coordinator to develop a comprehensive remediation plan with clear timelines, measurable goals, and specific technologies or strategies to address the contamination.
  - Require periodic updates to the Legislature and the public on the progress of remediation efforts.
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## **6. Public Trust and Transparency**

**Concern:**

Restoring public trust is a key goal of HB505 SD1, but the 36-month public education program may not be sufficient to address ongoing community concerns. Additionally, the bill does not provide details on how the public-facing dashboard will be funded, developed, or maintained.

**Recommendation:**

- Extend the public education program to align with the anticipated timeline for remediation.
  - Ensure funding and resources are allocated for the development and maintenance of the public-facing dashboard, which should include detailed information on water quality, contamination levels, and remediation progress.
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## **7. Coordination Challenges Among Agencies**

**Concern:**

The bill requires state and county agencies to provide information to the WAI Policy Coordinator within 30 days of a request, which may be difficult for agencies with limited resources or complex data systems.

**Recommendation:**

- Allow flexibility in the timeline for data-sharing requests, particularly for large or complex requests.

- Establish clear protocols for interagency collaboration to ensure timely and efficient communication.

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## **Conclusion**

HB505 SD1 is a crucial step toward addressing the environmental and public health crisis caused by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. By establishing a coordinated policy framework and a dedicated remediation fund, the bill lays the groundwork for protecting Oahu's water resources and restoring public trust. However, it is essential to address the concerns outlined above—particularly the need for stronger language on federal responsibility and sustainable funding mechanisms—to ensure the bill's success.

I urge the committee to pass **HB505 SD1** with amendments to address these concerns. The people of Hawaii deserve clean, safe water, and this bill is a critical part of achieving that goal.

**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.**

Me ka ha'a,  
Ronnie Inagaki

**HB-505-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 9:13:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am very glad to see this bill continue to advance through the legislative process. This bill will be crucial to redressing the wrongs seen during the Red Hill crisis. Let's keep pushing this bill across the finish line! I urge the Committee to SUPPORT this bill!

**HB-505-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 9:24:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I strongly support HB505 HD1 SD1 that would establish a WAI Policy Coordinator for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives and create the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. Our water security is already at risk because of global heating. Add in the Navy's criminal negligence at Red Hill, and it is clear we must do more to protect our precious wai from further harm.

This measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility. It is critical we ensure that steps are taken for the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

Please pass this very important measure.

**HB-505-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 10:14:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mai Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I am in support of HB 505 HD1 SD1 to Establish a WAI Policy Coordinator for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives. As a Native Hawaiian, born and raised in Kalihi, O‘ahu, I understand my kuleana, or responsibility, to my culture and my ku‘u one hānau, my sands of my birthplace. My kuleana is to mālama ka ‘āina, to care for the land as it takes care of me and my ‘ohana. On Sunday November 28, 2021, our family fell ill to fuel contaminated water by Red Hill while living on Navy run military housing. The lack of transparency, communication, and help for us and many other military families fell short and on deaf ears to those in military leadership. This, however, was not a new threat. I am asking as a military spouse, as a Native Hawaiian whose very life essence is sourced through this land, and as a person who depends on fresh, clean water that you address decades of contamination by cleaning up the 1.94 million gallons of leaded fuel. I am asking for transparency and action to establish leadership for community centered solutions, public education, and progress reporting. I am asking that the wrongs be made right, for what is pono and just. I echo Ernie Lau, chief engineer of the Board of Water Supply who stated the words printed on every Board of Water Supply truck: There is no substitute for pure water. We need to act now before it is too late and more families and communities are hurt. E ola i ka wai. Water is Life. E Ola!

Me ke aloha pumehana, Mai Hall