



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
COMMANDER NAVY REGION HAWAII  
850 TICONDEROGA ST STE 110  
JBPHH HI 96860-5101

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Testimony on House Bill 1696 HD1, Relating to the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee.

Hearing Date and Time: February 21, 2020 12:00

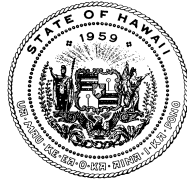
Testimony on behalf of Navy Region Hawaii

Aloha Chair Luke, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 1696 HD1. The Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency are committed to being good stewards of our land and our natural resources today and in the future. These islands are critical for the defense of our nation, and we are committed to the strategic importance of Hawaii.

This bill requires the State Fuel Tank Advisory Committee to meet biannually, at least six months apart. The Navy respectfully notes that the National Defense Authorization Act for FY20 requires the Navy to hold four public meetings per year. Currently, the Navy participates in Fuel Tank Advisory Committee meetings, the annual public meeting required by the Administrative Order on Consent, testimony before the State Legislature and Honolulu City Council, neighborhood board briefings, and other public appearances. The Navy also meets on a regular basis with regulators at the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Health. We are committed to continued transparency, engagement and communication with valued stakeholders and the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony today.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1696 HD1  
RELATING TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 2/21/2020

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) is tasked with convening the  
3 Fuel Tank Advisory Committee pursuant to Section 342L-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The  
4 Department supports HB1696 to specify the frequency of these meetings to, “at least twice a  
5 year.”

6 **Offered Amendments:** None

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96843  
www.boardofwatersupply.com



February 21, 2020

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.  
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer *ek*

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

Subject: House Bill 1696 HD1: Relating to Underground Storage Tanks

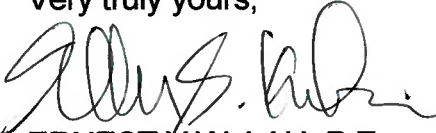
The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports HB 1696 HD1.

This bill proposes amending Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 342L-62, to specify the fuel tank advisory committee meet at least twice a year to study issues related to leaks of field-construction underground fuel storage tanks.

We feel the change clarifies the committee's meeting frequency and provides greater opportunity for public participation and transparency of underground fuel storage tank issues. Given the importance of this matter to our environment and drinking water resources we urge the measure take effect upon its approval instead of July 1, 2050 as proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

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



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 21, 2020 at 12:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol**

**RE: HB 1696 HD1, RELATING TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **provides the following comments** on HB 1696 HD1, which requires the fuel tank advisory committee to meet at least twice year.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Additionally, the Hawaii Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 as part of the Chamber, and advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

In recognizing how critical the U.S. military presence is to Hawaii's economy, the Chamber underscores that the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is vital to military readiness as it supports all Hawaii-based military actions and a significant share of many more in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. The military's ability to remain "ready to respond" is essential for preserving the military's presence in the State and protecting a vital driver of our State's economy. Fuel at Red Hill is also available for civilian use during times of emergencies, such as a natural disaster. It can be utilized by shipping companies to move cargo between the islands, or even by commercial air carriers to move residents or visitors.

We would also like to note that in the recent FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act, that was passed by Congress and signed into law in December 2019, there is a provision that would require the Department of the Navy to hold quarterly events that are open to the public to provide information and updates on the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1696 HD1.

February 21, 2020

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308



I strongly support HB 1696 HD 1.

It is necessary for the fuel tank advisory committee to meet at least two times a year. Meetings will enable the committee to study, confer, and plan on issues relating to this vital component of Oahu's water.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Paul Epstein  
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