

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Tuesday, April 5, 2022
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 6/HOUSE RESOLUTION 2
REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO PREPARE A PLAN TO
DECOMMISSION THE RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY, STORE ITS
FUEL IN A MANNER COMPLIANT WITH STATE LAW, ESTABLISH A NEW
WATER TREATMENT FACILITY, PAY FOR ALL COSTS TO THE STATE, AND
COMPLY WITH ALL FUTURE REMEDIATION EFFORTS**

House Concurrent Resolution 6/House Resolution 2 requests the United States Navy to prepare a plan to decommission the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, store its fuel in a manner compliant with state law, establish a new water treatment facility, pay for all costs to the state, and comply with all future remediation efforts **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures and offers comments.**

The Department and its Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) stands united alongside Hawai'i's Congressional delegation, the Hawai'i Department of Health, and the Honolulu Board of Water Supply calling on the Navy to immediately suspend operations at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and fully comply with the Department of Health's Emergency Order to begin the process of planning and executing the safe removal of fuel that continues to pose a threat to O'ahu's drinking water. The preparation of a plan is essential to meeting these goals and objectives.

The United States Department of Defense commitment to shut down the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and remove all fuel is encouraging. It is imperative that a comprehensive plan is prepared to accomplish such a monumental task and the plan should include the specific tasks included in these measures.

The Department suggests that a certified copy of the Concurrent Resolution/Resolution also be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

HCR-6

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 9:27:32 AM

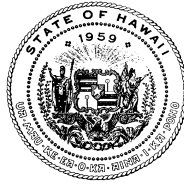
Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Imata	DLNR-CWRM	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR6
REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO PREPARE A PLAN TO
DECOMMISSION THE RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY, STORE ITS
FUEL IN A MANNER COMPLIANT WITH STATE LAW, ESTABLISH A NEW
WATER TREATMENT FACILITY, PAY FOR ALL COSTS TO THE STATE, AND
COMPLY WITH ALL FUTURE REMEDIATION EFFORTS

REPRESENTATIVE AARON LING JOHANSON, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Hearing Date: 4/5/2022

Room Number: 329/Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) appreciates the agreement of
- 3 the Legislature with the Department's Emergency Order and its efforts to remediate the issue and
- 4 hold the Navy accountable.
- 5 **Offered Amendments:** None.
- 6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai
Legislative Testimony

HCR 6/HR 2

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO PREPARE A PLAN TO DECOMMISSION THE RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY, STORE ITS FUEL IN A MANNER COMPLIANT WITH STATE LAW, ESTABLISH A NEW WATER TREATMENT FACILITY, PAY FOR ALL COSTS TO THE STATE, AND COMPLY WITH ALL FUTURE REMEDIATION EFFORTS.

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘omalua Mea Kemu a me ka ‘Oihana Kālepa
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

‘Apelila 05, 2022

2:00 p.m.

Lumi 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HCR 6 and its companion HR2, which requests that the United States Navy to prepare a plan to decommission the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, store its fuel in a manner compliant with the law, establish a new water treatment facility, pay for all costs to the State, and comply with all future remediation efforts.

The Navy’s failure to timely address this major, ongoing environmental issue at Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility threatens our most precious and life-giving resource, wai. It is OHA’s policy to advocate for appropriate, responsible and just land and water stewardship practices and values throughout Hawai‘i, empowering OHA and community to carry the shared responsibility of protecting and ensuring the proper management of our natural and cultural resources. 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 management practices revolved around the sharing and beneficial use of water as a community good to be respected and administered to meet a number of social and ecological needs. It is a fundamental truth that wai gives life ma ka honua nei and we uphold the principle of water as a public trust. **Today, our state constitution and water code reflect this traditional understanding of water, as a fundamental resource that cannot be reduced to ownership, and that must be used and managed to fulfill specific public trust purposes and further the public interest. It is with this kuleana in mind that OHA offers its support to HCR 6 and HR 2.**

The tanks at Red Hill, the area known traditionally as Kapūkakī, have been a long-standing threat to our wai (water). Over the years, more than 180,000 gallons of fuel have leaked from the tanks and tests show they are corroding underground. A mere 100 feet

below the leaking fuel tanks is the Southern O‘ahu Basal Aquifer – the *primary* source of drinking water for O‘ahu. This aquifer alone provides drinking water for over 400,000 Hawai‘i residents and visitors from Hālawā to Hawai‘i Kai. The Navy’s failure to address this major, ongoing environmental issue has already drastically impacted a number of families who live in military housing. The wellbeing of all Hawai‘i residents who depend on the Southern O‘ahu aquifer are also severely jeopardized by the Navy’s egregious negligence. The threat to Hawai‘i’s precious water resources has only been exacerbated by the military’s lack of response, we have not seen the expedient and focused dedication needed to safely relocate this fuel away from our groundwater aquifer. Both State and County officials and the majority of Hawai‘i’s residents have united in our demand to protect our islands’ most precious resource. Currently, the BWS has stated that Hawai‘i’s residents must use less water to off set their efforts to control the contamination the Navy has wrought on our ‘aina. However, the kuleana (responsibility) for this crisis lays at the feet of the US Department of Defense. They must follow through and this resolution has put forth with clarity the steps needed to fulfill their kuleana and act honorably in their duty to the people of Hawai‘i.

Please PASS HCR6 and HR2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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



April 5, 2022

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
and Members
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 430
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson and Members:

Subject: HCR 6, HR 2: Requesting the United States Navy to Prepare a Plan to Decommission the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, Store its Fuel in a Manner Compliant with State Law, Establish a New Water Treatment Facility, Pay for all Costs to the State, and Comply with All Future Remediation Efforts.

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 6 and House Resolution (HR) 2.

These resolutions request the United States Navy to prepare a plan to decommission the Red Hill fuel facility, establish a water treatment facility and pay for all remediation costs to the State.

The BWS has shut down its Halawa Shaft, Halawa Wells and Aiea Wells due to fuel releases from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility that has contaminated the groundwater aquifer where these BWS wells and the Navy's water supply well obtains its water. Contamination of the Navy's water supply well, Red Hill Shaft, has caused a water contamination crisis at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam unlike any experienced in Hawaii's history. The shutdown of the affected BWS wells poses of the possibility of mandatory water conservation and other measures during the hot summer months in the event the maximum use of available BWS wells is unable to compensate for the loss of Halawa Shaft, Halawa Wells and Aiea Wells.

A recent contested case hearing and Navy incidences of fuel releases reveal the facility has reached its useful life, the chances of further leaks are real, and the Navy is unable to safely operate the facility without releases. Defueling of the Red Hill tanks is imperative to prevent the risk of further releases into our irreplaceable aquifer and environment. These resolutions are calling for the protection and elimination of any

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
and Members
April 5, 2022
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further damage by fuel releases into our sole-source drinking water aquifer and environment now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HCR6 and HR2.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernest Y. W. Lau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "L".

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



2022
Board of
Directors

April 04, 2022

Elizabeth Reilly
President

Hawaii House of Representatives
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Meeting on April 05, 2022 at 2 p.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Allen Tateishi
Vice President

Dianne Gleib
Secretary

RE: **Strong support for HCR6/HR2**

Marian Grey
Treasurer

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and CPC Committee Members,

Dean Takebayashi
Director

As you can glean from our name, Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is deeply concerned with the continuous threat posed by the Red Hill fuel tanks to our shared aquifer. This is why we **strongly support HCR6/HR2.**

Gary Weller
Director

It is of utmost importance that we pass this Bill as part of a series of measures at all levels of government to address the Red Hill water crisis and prevent others like it.

Kendrick Chang
Community Outreach
Coordinator

The events of the past few months – let alone the 70+ years since the first *documented* leak at Red Hill – have opened our eyes to the ever-clearer threat to our precious water resources.

Dylan Ramos
Communications &
Operations

What does it say about our situation when the poisoning of nearly 100,000 people's water isn't even close to the worst case scenario? Every second that we don't do anything brings us closer to certain catastrophic failure. This is not hyperbole, it is what the Navy's own studies have indicated. So, while we welcome the announcement that Red Hill will be shut down, we support measures such as this to see that process through to the end.

Website

www.hawaiikaihui.org
www.kaiwicoast.org

Thank you for hearing this Resolution and passing it on for House approval. While it may not be a cure-all, this and other efforts on the County and Federal level will be critical for ensuring a livable future for all living things on this island, and hopefully set a worldwide precedent.

Like us on Facebook
Livable Hawaii Kai Hui
Aloha Aina O Kamilo Nui
Ka Iwi Coast

Mahalo,

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community organization serving East Honolulu since 2004. We strive to promote sensible growth, respect for cultural & natural resources, and upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan.

Elizabeth Reilly
Founder/President

Dylan Ramos
Communications & Operations



To: The House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 2pm

In support of HCR6/HR2 with amendments

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitigawa, and Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports HCR6/HR2 with amendments**. HCR6/HR2 requests the Navy prepare a plan to decommission the red hill bulk fuel storage facility, store its fuel in a manner compliant with state law, establish a new water treatment facility, pay for all costs to the state, and comply with all future remediation efforts. However, we respectfully submit that this resolution does not go far enough and suggest an amendment to call for an immediate and permanent defueling of the Red Hill jet fuel storage tanks and closing of the facility to ensure the protection of our precious sole-source aquifer.

Hawaii's drinking water supply is already at risk due to the effects of climate change. All the more reason to ensure we take great care in protecting our aquifer from fuel contamination, or any other source of pollution, keeping it safe for current and future generations. With recent tragic events, we have had a glimpse into what it means to lack access to safe, fresh drinking water as we have witnessed the tragic suffering of families who are users of the Navy's Red Hill drinking water well and who are now struggling with a water contamination crisis.

Every day the jet fuel remains 100 feet above our sole source aquifer we are risking catastrophe. Our water is precious and we all have a duty to protect our islands' source of life for present and future generations. It's passed time to remove the threat of something far worse happening to our water supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important resolution.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org