

SCR 174

SR 109

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
and
HEALTH
and**

PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

**Thursday, April 2, 2015
2:45 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 174/SENATE RESOLUTION 109
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY, HONOLULU BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY, AND NAVY TO
EXPEDITIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE
LEGISLATURE BY THE RED HILL FUEL STORAGE FACILITY TASK FORCE.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 174/Senate Resolution 109 requests the Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, Honolulu Board of Supply, and Navy to expeditiously implement the recommendations of the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility Task Force. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources offers the following comments.**

Our underground aquifers are the major source of drinking water for the people of Hawaii. We have a public trust obligation to protect and preserve the quality and sustainability of this valuable resource for current and future generations.

Underground storage tanks are a potential major threat to the public trust water resources of the State. It is critical that all owners and operators of underground storage tanks regularly monitor for leaks using approved methods, maintain adequate records, and meet corrosion protection, spill, and overflow requirements as required by the Department of Health. These systems are prone to leak over time, as evidenced by the recent case regarding the Red Hill fuel storage tanks.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department notes that a representative from the Department's Commission on Water Resource Management participated on the Red Hill Task Force that was led by the Department of Health. The Department defers to the Department of Health regarding implementation of the expanded task force work outlined in this bill, the appropriate mechanisms to bring all fuel storage tanks and systems into a uniform compliance standard, and the technical details and implementation of measures outlined in this resolution.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of Intent S.C.R. 174

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, HONOLULU BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY, AND NAVY TO EXPEDITIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE BY THE RED HILL FUEL STORAGE FACILITY TASK FORCE

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SENATOR WILL ESPERO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: **April 2, 2015**
Time: **2:45 P.M.**

Room Number: **225**

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports the intent of SCR 174 / SR 109 which requests the
3 Department of Health (DOH), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Honolulu Board of
4 Water Supply and U.S. Navy to expeditiously implement the recommendations of the Red Hill Fuel
5 Storage Facility Task Force. Some of the key recommendations included the installation of additional
6 groundwater monitoring wells, increased monitoring and sampling activities, and encouraging the U.S.
7 Navy, EPA and the DOH to finalize a negotiated agreement to protect the ground water resource around
8 the facility. However, it goes even further by urging the Navy to install double-lining at the Red Hill
9 tanks.

10 The Department is committed to taking measures required to prevent the future releases from all
11 underground storage tanks. In an effort to address the challenges presented at Red Hill, the U.S. Navy,
12 Defense Logistics Agency, the EPA and the Department are completing the ongoing negotiations that are
13 designed to produce an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). The AOC is intended to establish a
14 process to make well-researched, well-planned and cost-effective improvements to protect the
15 groundwater resources beneath the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility by using the best available
16 technology.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

18

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



April 2, 2015

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

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

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environment

and

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
and Members
Committee on Health

and

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
415 South Beretania Sreet
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs and Members:

Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution 174 and Senate Resolution 109:
Requesting the Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency,
Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and Navy to Expediently Implement
the Recommendations Submitted to the Legislature by the Red Hill Fuel
Storage Facility Task Force

We support Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 174 and Senate Resolution (SR) 109. These resolutions urge the Navy to install secondary containment also known as double-lining of the Red Hill tanks. It also urges to install additional groundwater monitor wells, increase the Red Hill monitoring and sampling activities and finalize the negotiated agreement, also known as the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC), between the Department of Health (DOH), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Navy.

These measures are necessary steps to clean up the petroleum contaminants already being found in the groundwater underneath the Red Hill tanks and reduce the risks to pristine wells in the area. We request editing the number of tanks specified in the first paragraph of both resolutions from two to twenty as all twenty of the Red Hill tanks are located one hundred feet above the groundwater aquifer.

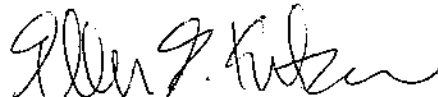
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair and Members
The Honorable Josh Green, Chair and Members
The Honorable Will Espero, Chair and Members
April 2, 2015
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The continued presence of petroleum contaminants under Red Hill indicates existing tank management approaches are not keeping pace with reducing petroleum detections in the groundwater. Additional protective measures and tank integrity improvements are therefore needed to reinforce the facility, control petroleum detections in the monitor wells and ensure the groundwater is safeguarded from the 187 million gallons of fuel sitting one hundred feet above a State designated drinking water aquifer. Installing and testing additional groundwater monitor wells is also needed to identify if the existing petroleum contamination under the Red Hill tanks has migrated beyond the property boundaries and the direction it is headed to ensure measures are taken to protect wells that currently show no signs of petroleum presence.

The Red Hill fuel tanks are field-constructed tanks (FCTs) that according to EPA are very large and pose a substantial threat to human health and the environment (Federal Register, Vol. 76, No. 223, p. 71732). Fortifying containment of the fuel in the twenty tanks and clean-up of the existing petroleum contamination in the groundwater under Red Hill needs to move forward without delay to ensure our groundwater aquifer is protected, preserved and will remain sustainable for Oahu's residents now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT; COMMITTEE ON HEALTH; AND COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 174

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, HONOLULU BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY, AND NAVY TO EXPEDITIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE BY THE RED HILL FUEL STORAGE FACILITY TASK FORCE

Thursday, April 22, 2015 at 2:45 PM, Conference Room 225

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair; Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair;

Senator Josh Green, Chair; Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Senator Will Espero, Chair; Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am Aaron Poentis, the Navy Region Hawaii environmental program director. My comments are on behalf of the Navy as to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 174. We support the intention of this resolution and would be happy to continue to work with the State Department of Health to add additional information to an updated report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016 to address the topics mentioned in this resolution.

The topics mentioned in this resolution, such as protection of drinking water resources, additional groundwater monitoring wells, keeping the public informed, secondary containment and sampling frequency are all being addressed in the negotiated Administrative Order on Consent among the regulatory agencies, the State Department of Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency. We will be working closely with the State Department of Health as well as Region IX of the United States Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to that Order so that the Director of Health will be very much engaged in and exercising oversight responsibility of the proposed work at the Red Hill Facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.