



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 H.B. 2165, H.D. 2, S.D. 1
RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH**

SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: March 30, 2016
Time: 9:00am

Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** As originally drafted, approximately \$300,000 in general funds for staff,
2 and \$800,000 for contracts and services procurement. The Department supports a minimum of
3 3.0 FTE as described in the Governor's Supplemental Budget Request.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports the intent of H.B. 2165, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. The
5 safety of Oahu's drinking water supply is a priority for the Department and additional resources
6 are required to assure compliance with the Administrative Order of Consent (AOC) over the next
7 22 years. A minimum of 3.0 FTE is needed and was requested through the Governor's
8 Supplemental Budget Request for an Engineer, a Geologist and an Environmental Health
9 Specialist. The Department also concurs with the proposed allocation of funds to contract with
10 consultants who have expertise in hydrology, geology and underground storage tanks.

11 It should be emphasized that over the next two years, the U.S. Navy and U.S. Defense
12 Logistics Agency will develop improved tank inspection, repair and maintenance procedures,
13 and identify new release detection systems and tank upgrade alternatives. Once a tank upgrade
14 alternative is approved, the Navy will have until September 28, 2037 to upgrade all tanks they
15 intend to use.

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

17

March 30, 2016

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members
Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 211
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2165, HD 2, SD 1: Relating to Public Health

We strongly support House Bill 2165, HD 2, SD 1. This bill will help protect our drinking water by providing the Department of Health (DOH) with resources to hire employees and consultants to monitor the Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) compliance with the Red Hill Fuel Facility Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). It also requires DOH to seek reimbursement for these costs from the Navy and DLA and submit an annual report on AOC progress to the Legislature.

The AOC agreement was created to ensure the long-term protection of groundwater in the area of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. However the timetable under the AOC, as the Bill's preamble correctly states, does not explicitly provide specific due dates by which all leaks to the fuel tanks shall be repaired. Instead, the AOC establishes deadlines that are relative to other unspecified deadlines for approvals and meetings and gives the Navy 22-27 years to fix the facility. This unspecified timeframe is not in the best interest of public health.

The Board of Water Supply is very concerned about the threats of leaking underground fuel tank releases on Oahu's irreplaceable groundwater aquifer. Studies of the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility indicate past fuel releases have already contaminated the groundwater and soil underneath the Facility with petroleum hydrocarbons. Providing the state with resources to ensure the AOC provisions are implemented immediately and report AOC progress are all in the best interest of our state to save our most precious resource – the groundwater aquifer – now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.

Very truly yours,

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