

---

---

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING ERNEST "ERNIE" LAU AND HIS ROLE IN PROTECTING  
HAWAII'S WATER SUPPLY AND ESTABLISHING THE "ERNIE LAU WATER  
PROTECTOR POSTER CONTEST".

1           WHEREAS, Ernest "Ernie" Lau was born and raised in Hawaii,  
2 graduated from Waipahu High School and later the University of  
3 Hawaii at Manoa with bachelor's and master's degrees in  
4 engineering, and now resides in Manoa; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, Mr. Lau recalls wanting to be an engineer since  
7 high school; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, Mr. Lau first worked as a general contractor  
10 before working as an engineer for the Board of Water Supply of  
11 the City and County of Honolulu and serving as the chief  
12 engineer of the Department of Water of the County of Kauai,  
13 deputy director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources'  
14 State Commission on Water Resource Management, and administrator  
15 of the Public Works Division of the State Department of  
16 Accounting and General Services; and

17  
18           WHEREAS, since February 2012, Mr. Lau has served as the  
19 chief engineer and manager of Board of Water Supply of the City  
20 and County of Honolulu; and

21  
22           WHEREAS, Mr. Lau has been, and continues to be, a steadfast  
23 and relentless advocate for the protection of Hawaii's water  
24 supply from leaks and spills associated with the Red Hill fuel  
25 storage facility, which leaked twenty-seven thousand gallons of  
26 fuel in 2014 and spilled fourteen thousand gallons of fuel in  
27 November 2021; and

28  
29           WHEREAS, Mr. Lau has also exhibited leadership qualities  
30 while protecting Hawaii's water supply, including refusing to  
31 sign a non-disclosure agreement presented by the United States



1 Navy regarding information about the Red Hill fuel storage  
2 facility; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the public deeply appreciates Mr. Lau and the  
5 leadership qualities that Mr. Lau has displayed, as is evident  
6 in the numerous "I Love Ernie Lau - Protect Our Water" bumper  
7 stickers displayed on cars in the State; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, Mr. Lau has inspired people to join him in  
10 standing up for, and protecting, Hawaii's water supply; now,  
11 therefore,

12  
13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
14 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
15 of 2022, that the Legislature hereby expresses its deep  
16 gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Ernie Lau for his leadership;  
17 and

18  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature establishes the  
20 "Ernie Lau Water Protector Poster Contest" to perpetuate Mr.  
21 Lau's legacy of water protection by engaging elementary school  
22 students from all islands of Hawaii to take action to protect  
23 Hawaii's water; and

24  
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that students from grades  
26 kindergarten through fifth grade are encouraged to create  
27 posters on the topic of protecting Hawaii's water; and

28  
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the teachers of participating  
30 students are encouraged to submit these posters electronically  
31 to a designated email address by November 15, 2022; and

32  
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the panel for judging the  
34 student's posters include:

35  
36 (1) Two members of the Hawaii State House of  
37 Representatives or their designees;

38  
39 (2) Two members of the Hawaii State Senate or their  
40 designees;

41



1 (3) One employee of the Board of Water Supply of the City  
2 and County of Honolulu; and  
3

4 (4) Two employees of the Department of Education; and  
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the Hawaii State  
8 House of Representatives, President of the Hawaii State Senate,  
9 Superintendent of Education, and the Manager and Chief Engineer  
10 of the Board of Water Supply of the City and County of Honolulu.  
11  
12  
13

OFFERED BY:  \_\_\_\_\_

MAR 11 2022

