
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RED HILL TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO THE RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY, WATER CONTAMINATION AND REMEDIATION, AND ALL RELATED IMPACTS.

1 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives finds that the State
2 of Hawaii faces an emergency that requires immediate and
3 decisive action; and
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5 WHEREAS, on November 28, 2021, users of the Navy's Joint
6 Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam water system complained of a fuel odor
7 coming from their water, as well as an oily sheen on their
8 water; and
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10 WHEREAS, numerous residents reported their families and
11 pets experienced health issues after consuming the water,
12 including rashes, mouth sores, stomach aches, vomiting, burning
13 eyes, sore throats, headaches, and nausea; and
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15 WHEREAS, on November 29, 2021, the Department of Health
16 issued an advisory to all users on the Navy's water system to
17 avoid using the tap water for drinking, cooking, or oral hygiene
18 and also advised that users who detect a fuel odor from their
19 water should avoid using the water for drinking, cooking,
20 bathing, dishwashing, laundry, or oral hygiene; and
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22 WHEREAS, as a direct result of the water contamination,
23 over three thousand residents were required to move out of their
24 homes and several businesses were shut down or were forced to
25 limit their operations; and
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27 WHEREAS, several Hawaii public schools and child
28 development centers on the Navy water system were also impacted
29 by the water contamination, forced to close off sinks and water



1 fountains and use only bottled water for handwashing,
2 dishwashing, and drinking purposes; and

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4 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water
5 Supply, to protect its drinking water system, has shut down
6 multiple water sources, including the Halawa Shaft, which
7 supplies approximately twenty percent of water to urban
8 Honolulu; and

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10 WHEREAS, the suspected source of the water contamination
11 was from a November 20, 2021, release of approximately fourteen
12 thousand gallons of a mixture of water and fuel from a crack in
13 a fire suppression drain line at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage
14 Facility; and the United States Navy has identified JP-5, or jet
15 fuel, in the Red Hill Shaft, one of the drinking water sources
16 for the Navy water system; and

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18 WHEREAS, as of December 3, 2021, the Department of Health
19 received nearly five hundred complaints, mostly from residents
20 or customers served by the Navy water system, complaining of
21 fuel or chemical smells from the drinking water; and

22
23 WHEREAS, on December 6, 2021, this body sent a letter to
24 Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III and Secretary of the
25 Navy Carlos Del Toro, to request that the Navy prepare a plan to
26 decommission the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and store
27 the fuel in an alternate location; and to request a detailed
28 plan for a water treatment facility to address potential
29 contamination as a result of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage
30 Facility; and

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32 WHEREAS, also on December 6, 2021, the Department of Health
33 issued an emergency order requiring the United States Navy to
34 immediately suspend operations at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage
35 Facility, as it represents "an imminent peril to human health
36 and safety or the environment" and to take measures to treat
37 contaminated drinking water at the Red Hill Shaft and to safely
38 remove all fuel from the twenty underground storage tanks at Red
39 Hill; and



1 WHEREAS, the emergency order also stated that, given the
2 number of incidences that have occurred at Red Hill over the
3 past year, and in view of the current drinking water
4 contamination, the United States Navy has not demonstrated and
5 cannot ensure that immediate and appropriate response actions
6 are available or will be available should another fuel release
7 occur in the future; and

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9 WHEREAS, on January 3, 2022, the Department of Health
10 issued its Final Decision, Order, Findings of Fact, and
11 Conclusions of Law, upholding the December 6, 2021, emergency
12 order; and

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14 WHEREAS, this body agrees with and fully supports the
15 December 6, 2021, emergency order and the January 3, 2022, final
16 decision by the Department of Health; and

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18 WHEREAS, the continued operation of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel
19 Storage Facility, consisting of twenty field-constructed
20 underground storage tanks, pipelines, and related
21 infrastructure, is an unacceptable threat to Oahu's groundwater
22 aquifer; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency
25 designated Oahu's groundwater aquifer source as one of nine
26 sole-source aquifers and determined that this is the principal
27 source of drinking water for Oahu and if contaminated, would
28 create a significant hazard to public health; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water
31 Supply is exercising all due caution and will not reopen its
32 Aiea and Halawa shafts until it can confirm that its systems
33 will not be negatively impacted by contaminants migrating from
34 Red Hill; and

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36 WHEREAS, the permanent loss of water supply from the Aiea
37 and Halawa shafts could lead to water restrictions or shortages
38 and have a cascading effect on construction, schools, public
39 health and safety; and



1 WHEREAS, on December 21, 2021, the Speaker of the
2 House of Representatives, established the House Interim
3 Committee on Red Hill and appointed the following members:

- 4
5 (1) Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Co-Chair;
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7 (2) Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Co-Chair;
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9 (3) Representative Sonny Ganaden;
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11 (4) Representative Linda Ichiyama;
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13 (5) Representative Aaron Ling Johanson;
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15 (6) Representative Lauren Matsumoto;
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17 (7) Representative Takashi Ohno; and
18
19 (8) Representative David A. Tarnas; and
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21 WHEREAS, the purpose of the House Interim Committee was to
22 recommend legislative proposals for the 2022 Regular Session
23 that focus on the containment, treatment, and prevention of
24 water quality matters related to Red Hill; and
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26 WHEREAS, on December 29, 2021, the House Interim Committee
27 on Red Hill conducted a joint informational briefing with the
28 Senate to receive updates from the Navy regarding the water
29 contamination and remediation; and
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31 WHEREAS, the House Interim Committee on Red Hill also
32 discussed legislation for 2022 and, among other items,
33 recommended continuation of the committee during the 2022
34 Regular Session to address emerging issues regarding Red Hill;
35 now, therefore,
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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
39 of 2022, that there is established the House Special Committee
40 on Red Hill, to address issues related to the Red Hill Bulk Fuel



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1 Storage Facility, water contamination and remediation, and all
2 related impacts; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee shall
5 consist of the co-chairs and members of the House Interim
6 Committee on Red Hill; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee may
9 conduct informational briefings on issues related to Red Hill
10 and take any other actions as the committee deems appropriate;
11 and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee meet and
14 report on a regular basis to the House of Representatives.

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OFFERED BY:

Scott K. Brown

JAN 28 2022

