

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2690
RELATING TO WATER**

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: February 6, 2024

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) supports SB3338. This bill
3 establishes a policy lead and coordinator for Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) initiatives
4 and additional support positions in the Department of Land and Natural Resources, establishes
5 the Red Hill remediation special fund, and appropriates monies for the new positions and to the
6 special fund. The Department requests that language from the bill preamble be repeated as
7 statutory language to clarify the role of the WAI policy coordinator.

8 **Offered Amendments:** On page 6, line 2, “the State’s policy lead” should be replaced with “the
9 State’s policy lead on Red Hill WAI initiatives”.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committees on
WATER AND LAND
And
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
9:05 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2690
RELATING TO WATER

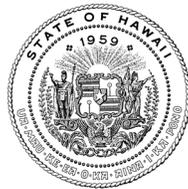
House Bill 2690 proposes to establish a Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) policy coordinator and other positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for implementation of the Red Hill WAI Working Group's Report of November 2023, and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure.**

As stewards of Honolulu's sole source groundwater aquifer and Hawai'i's ecosystems, the Department recognizes the WAI's important role in ensuring that post-defueling remediation efforts restore the mauka to makai health of the aquifer. Our precious aquifer not only provides drinking water to hundreds of thousands of Honolulu residents but is also critical for the environment under the stewardship of the Department.

While the Department appreciates the intent of this bill to create the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund, the Department recommends an amendment to this bill clarifying that the cost of the actual remediation of the aquifer (i.e. pumping and treating water) should be borne by the U.S. Navy. The Department supports the use of the fund for monitoring, applied research, public outreach and education, and evaluation.

The Department further supports the creation of the three full-time positions within the Office of the Chairperson for the WAI policy coordination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND
AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2690

February 6, 2024

9:05 a.m.

Room 325 and Videoconference

RELATING TO WATER

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 2690: 1) establishes the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) policy coordinator and two other exempt positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to coordinate Red Hill WAI initiatives; 2) creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund (RHRSF) that would generate revenues through legislative appropriations, gifts, donations, grants, and interest for remediation efforts; and 3) appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for FY 25 for the positions and monitoring of the Red Hill Bulk Storage Facility area. No special funds are appropriated in the bill.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges

made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 2690, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed RHRSF would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water & Land
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 9:05 a.m.

By

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2690 – RELATING TO WATER

Chairs Ichiyama and Lowen, Vice Chairs Poepoe and Cochran, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 2690 which seeks to establish a Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (Red Hill WAI) policy coordinator in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and creates a Red Hill remediation special fund.

While the imminent threat of future leaks has been minimized through the defueling of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, years of clean up, monitoring, research and policy making will be needed for remediation of the aquifer and the surrounding ecosystem. This will require proper coordination between DLNR, the Department of Health, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, U.S. Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, UH, community organizations, and other state, federal and county agencies.

The Red Hill WAI coordinator and related positions are critical to this effort and the remediation special fund will enable this group to fund necessary efforts in monitoring, research, remediation, public outreach and education, and evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
KA 'OIHANA WAI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI
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ERWIN KAWATA
DEPUTY MANAGER
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NĀ'ĀLEHU ANTHONY, Chair
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JONATHAN KANESHIRO
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio
GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., Ex-Officio

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2690: Relating to Water

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) is in strong support of House Bill (HB) 2690. The purpose of the bill is to create a new chapter in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to establish within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to serve as the State's policy lead through the position of the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) policy coordinator and to place the coordinator in the office of the DLNR chairperson. The WAI coordinator shall facilitate implementation, monitoring and interface with federal entities on WAI initiatives outlined in the WAI's November 2023 report among other responsibilities.

It is important that we look at establishing government structures that can help to oversee remediation in the long term as this effort can extend well into the future. This bill also establishes a special fund to be administered by the WAI coordinator and be able to receive federal funds.

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair
and Members
February 6, 2024
Page 2

Concurrently, another bill proposes to establish a Red Hill Remediation Authority board of directors that appoints the DLNR chairperson, or the chairperson's designee, and others, as a member of the board.

The proposed Red Hill Remediation Authority board of directors establishes an executive director to administer and implement, under the direction of the board of directors, all rules and directives adopted by the board to facilitate and oversee the remediation of contamination resulting from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

The WAI policy coordinator proposed in House Bill 2690 is required to facilitate implementation and monitoring and interface with federal entities on WAI initiatives outlined in the WAI's November 2023 report, which includes remediation of the contamination resulting from the Red Hill Fuel Facility. Here the duties of the coordinator will serve to provide a framework that gives the Red Hill Remediation Authority board of directors a clear understanding of the WAI Initiatives, its mission, expectations, objectives, and reporting requirements. We recommend the Red Hill remediation authority as the corporate body and public instrumentality of the State, once established, be the policy lead, for addressing the contamination resulting from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support HB 2690.

Very truly yours,



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

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 9:17:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Stringer	Wellspring Covenant Church	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify!
with Aloha,

Rev. Stringer, Wellspring Covenant Church

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come
kupuna4moopuna@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

TIME: 9:05 AM

PLACE: Room 415

HB 2690 – RELATING TO WATER

HB 2691 – RELATING TO THE RED HILL REMEDIATION AUTHORITY

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Aloha,

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act beneficiary kūpuna farmers from Pana'ewa, Hawai'i, **submit the following testimony in SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS, HB 2690 and HB 2691.**

We appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, these measures must be amended by:**

1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report's goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill

crisis;

2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report's vision; and

3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military's political influence over Hawai'i's executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our 'āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our 'āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Please **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above. Mahalo nui.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 6, 2024

9:05 AM

Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS of:
HB2690: RELATING TO WATER
HB2691: RELATING TO THE RED HILL REMEDIATION AUTHORITY

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691. The Sierra Club appreciates and supports the intent to institutionalize the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative's (WAI's) commitment to fully remediate our 'āina and wai; however, **the lessons of the last decade demand much greater safeguards against political interference by the U.S. military and its benefactors that will otherwise frustrate these measures' goals.**

The Sierra Club commends the Red Hill WAI for its members' explicit commitment to ensuring the full remediation of our 'āina and wai from the release of up to 2 million gallons of fuel and other toxic substances from the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Underground Storage Facility. The Sierra Club also appreciates that the establishment of a governmental entity or entities, as proposed by these measures, may be necessary to track and hold the Navy accountable for cleaning up its contamination of our island, particularly in light of the reality that it will take decades for full remediation to be achieved.

However, because of this lengthy remediation timeline – which will extend well beyond the tenure and even potential lifetimes of the Red Hill WAI's members – substantial amendments to these measures will be necessary to avoid the same political pitfalls that have led to the contamination of our aquifer and the poisoning of thousands of O'ahu residents. **The Sierra Club urges the members of the Committees to reflect upon the multiple missed opportunities that arose over the last ten years, that could have prevented our current water crisis – and to recognize that the U.S. military's political influence and willingness to deceive local and national elected officials as well as the general public contributed to our government's failure to protect our island and our people, until this crisis began.**¹ Unless precautions are taken to ensure

¹ For example, the responses of multiple administrations illustrate the unwillingness or inability of local political leaders to hold the Navy accountable, almost certainly due to the military's influence. After the reported release of 27,000 gallons of fuel from the Red Hill facility in 2014, Governor Abercrombie's administration negotiated a largely toothless "Administrative Order on



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

the political insulation of any government entity tasked with implementing the Red Hill WAI's goals over the ensuing decades, such an entity will be unable to achieve these objectives, and will fail to hold the U.S. Navy accountable to its responsibility to fully clean up its mess.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly urges the Committees to include the following amendments to these measures:

First, the WAI Policy Coordinator and their staff, as proposed under HB2690, should be placed under the Remediation Authority, described in HB2691. Placing the WAI Policy Coordinator under the Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, as proposed under HB2690, will only subject them to the influence of the Office of the Governor, which the last decade has demonstrated is highly vulnerable to the U.S. military's political influence. **It is absolutely critical to have the Policy Coordinator and staff answer to a multi-member board, rather than a political appointee of the Governor.** Combining these two entities will also better ensure consistency and coordination in their work.

Second, the Remediation Authority should not be dominated by appointees of the Governor. As currently proposed, 5 out of 9 voting members of the Authority will be selected by the Governor, who again is highly vulnerable to the military's political influence. **A majority of voting Remediation Authority members should be selected by independent organizations that represent the Hawai'i community, which was and will continue to be a driving force for true accountability to our island, our people, and our future.** Such organizations could include organizations such as: the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i.

Third, the Remediation Authority should be staffed by those with skills and expertise relevant to achieving the Red Hill WAI's goals, to enable it to objectively analyze and

Consent" (AOC) that surrendered ultimate decisionmaking authority over the Navy's response to the federal government in Washington D.C. Over the next six years, Governor Ige's administration did little to hold the Navy accountable to the AOC, which still remains largely unfulfilled – frustrating our current efforts to track and contain the contamination plume in our aquifer. Governor Ige's administration further failed to uphold state law and require the U.S. Navy to apply for an underground storage tank permit, until the Sierra Club of Hawai'i sued the Department of Health twice, in 2017 and 2019. Governor Ige also failed to call for the shutdown of the Red Hill Facility even after the catastrophic 2021 release, citing his belief that the military "is a vibrant part in our economy." Current Governor Green has also repeatedly made false claims regarding the status of the Facility's defueling, praising the efforts of the U.S. Navy even as O'ahu continues to struggle with the loss of our major drinking water shaft and while hundreds of individuals, including children, continue to report ongoing medical issues and financial instability.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

respond to politically-driven and potentially biased actions and responses by the U.S. Navy. This could include experts in environmental remediation, public relations, federal funding pathways, and community organizing.

Finally, the Remediation Authority special fund should include provisions to support non-governmental education and organizing efforts as an essential ingredient in achieving true accountability.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully but strongly urges the Committees to **PASS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and/or HB2691. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:41:25 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

www.WeAreOne.cc



TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND and ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FEBRUARY 6, 2024

HB 2690, RELATING TO WATER

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports** HB 2690, relating to water. In 2022, delegates to the Democratic Party of Hawaii's State Convention adopted resolution 2022-11, demanding that the Red Hill fuel tanks and piping infrastructure be expeditiously decommissioned and that new monitoring and exploratory wells be immediately developed.

Ola i ka wai. Water is life.

The United States Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility consists of 20 steel-lined underground storage tanks that were built from 1940 to 1943, each of which can store 12.5 million gallons of fuel. In total, the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility can store up to 250 million gallons of fuel. The tanks are located only about 100 feet above the United States Environmental Protection Agency's designated sole-source groundwater aquifer that provides drinking water to approximately 4,000 residents of the island of O'ahu.

Over the past eighty years, numerous spills have occurred at Red Hill. Most dramatically, on November 20, 2021, about 93,000 individuals served by the Navy's potable water system for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam were directly affected when the Navy's Red Hill shaft was contaminated by the release of up to

19,000 gallons of fuel, including JP-5 jet fuel, older fuels stored at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, and any additives used. Over 6,000 individuals sought medical attention, and 1,000 were forced to leave their homes due to the contamination. Much of the fuel released from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility remains in the environment, trapped within the complex geological formations that surround the tanks. Notably, this leak also caused the restriction and diversion of Honolulu's water sources to cover losses from contaminated fuel, temporarily endangering the ability of the state and the county to perform vital public services, such as increasing the supply of affordable housing.

Subsequently, On May 9, 2023, officials from the state and City and County of Honolulu signed a unified statement on Red Hill, recognizing the stewardship responsibility to ensure that there is clean water on Oahu for future generations. The Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI), a working group, met regularly in 2023 after the signing of the unified statement, posing questions, conducting research, listening to subject-matter experts, and formulating policy recommendations to address the Red Hill contamination and prevent future leaks. The working group strived to preserve and protect public trust resources, including water resources that are essential for life to flourish in our island home.

Members of the Red Hill WAI working group focused on the remediation needs after the defueling of the tanks and removal of residual fuel and contaminants from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The working group expressed ongoing concerns about fuel contaminants already in the ground, as well as the residual supply of fuel plume in local aquifers because of the spill that occurred on November 20, 2021. The group found that there may be as many as 1,940,000 gallons of fuel constituents in the ground that have leaked or spilled over eight decades. Accordingly, the group believes that remediation is necessary for the future well-being of the aquifer to contain the risk to current and future water sources, including the Halawa Shaft, Halawa wells, and Aiea wells; the water distribution system; and local ecosystems. For the sake of the public trust and future generations of Hawai'i's people, we must adopt the recommendations of the Red Hill WAI working group and empower their important work to continue.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kris Coffield

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Abby Simmons

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Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: House Committee on Water & Land
Hon. Linda Ichiyama, Chair Hon. Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Hon. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Hon. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Hon. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

Re: HB 2690 RELATING TO WATER
HB 2691 RELATING TO THE RED HILL REMEDIATION AUTHORITY

Hearing: Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 9:05 a.m., Room 325 & videoconference

Position: Supports with Amendments

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committees:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) supports HB 2690 and HB 2691 with amendments. HB 2690 establishes a WAI policy coordinator and other positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives. It creates the Red Hill remediation special fund and appropriates funds. HB 2691 establishes the Red Hill remediation authority. It creates the Red Hill remediation special fund.

The PLATFORM OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I as adopted at the 2022 State Convention on May 28, 2022, states as follows:

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment and achieve energy sustainability. Advance measures to re-establish a healthy climate and environment for humans and fellow species, including actions to urgently address climate change. Work towards 100% renewable clean energy goals.

We believe that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment. We believe that the preservation of our natural environment and its ecological well-being is essential to ensuring a safe, healthy, bountiful life for future generations in Hawai'i. We support policies that create a more sustainable society. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of native ecosystems. [Emphasis added.]

We believe in the resource management principles outlined in the Public Trust doctrine of the Hawai‘i State Constitution. We support policy that incorporates indigenous resource-management practices and technologies such as the Ahupua‘a System in modern urban planning and development to create an ecologically sustainable balance between the needs of the people and the rights of nature. [Emphasis added.]

We believe that a key part of a sustainable and self-sufficient future for Hawai‘i lies in achieving energy independence through a transition to clean renewable energy sources. We support policies that eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels and other dirty energy sources. We support policies that expand access to public transportation and encourage transit-oriented development and walkable communities.

Based on the DPH Platform, the Environmental Caucus appreciates that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. However, we strongly urge you to amend these measures by:

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. The proposed creation of two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai in the first place. It will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, thus failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability that these measures seek.

Any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party, and/or other appropriate entities, should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, we urge you to **PASS** these measures with the **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Melodie Aduja legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Alan B. Burdick burdick808@gmail.com

Co-Chairs,
Environmental Caucus of the
Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:14:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pete Doktor	Veterans for Peace, Hawai`i Ch. 113	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha `Āina e Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 (and HB2691).

As you know the concerns of many community members in the Moanalua area, so we really appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, we strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek; my personal experience as a US Army soldier (medic) informs and confirms this.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo piha for your to commitment to public health and safety, and protecting our true wealth and **genuine security**, our waiwai.



House Committee on Water & Land /

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2690 w/ amendments

Tuesday, February 6th, 2024 9:05 a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

HAPA supports HB2690 with amendments. We appreciate that HB2690 reflects a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. However, we strongly urge you to amend these measures by:

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report's goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report's vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military's political influence over Hawai'i's executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our 'āina and wai. As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek. Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our 'āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.



Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to PASS these measures with the critical AMENDMENTS listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the word 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-2690

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:03:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The combined total amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024—2025 to be exceeded

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 8:05:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walter Chun	Community Representation Initiative established by the EPA Admin Consent Order for Red Hill	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB 2690 in general; however, the administration and controls for the monitoring of Red Hill and resources must include more public and private involvement. Trust can only be built with truth and transparency.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 8:03:09 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2960 and HB2961.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 8:38:11 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arnold Kotler	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Arnold Kotler, Kihei, Maui

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 9:09:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:42:34 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Diane Ware 99-7815 Kapoha Volcano 96785

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:37:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Costa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:42:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Vee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalomai for supporting any means necessary to keep Hawai'i safe from the military's political influence over Hawai'i's executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our 'āina and wai Auwe.!!! **It takes years and years maybe decades to fully remediate the contamination from Red Hill, failing to do so will surely allow the Navy to push its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Any remediation entity should be governed by a "Pono" board where the all or most of its members have a vested interest in the integrity of our 'āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, and othe Hawaiian environmental groups should be allowed to designate members of this board.

I respectfully and strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo a nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:52:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 4:23:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of this measure.

- U'ilani Naipo

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 8:06:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please amend this bill so our land, water, and people can be healed in the present time, and protected in future times.

1-Create one single entity to implement the goals of the Red Hill WAI Report, so everyone knows the buck stops here.

2-Staff the entity with people who know about public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, and community organizing, so they can hold the Navy's feet to the fire.

3-Have a board supervising the entity, with members chosen by the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, and other appropriate entities.

Mahalo,

Cory Harden

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:13:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

I stand in support **WITH AMENDMENTS** for HB2690 and HB2691.

It is critical we ensure that steps are taken for the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. HB2690 and HB2691 is a good start in this effort. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures with the following recommendations:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

I strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Chair Linda Ichiyama
Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe

House Committee on Water & Land

Chair Nicole Lowen
Vice Chair Elle Cochran

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
9:05 AM

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS OF HB2690 RELATING TO
WATER**

Aloha Chair(s) Ichiyama & Lowen, Vice Chair(s) Poepoe & Cochran, Member(s) of the House Committee on Water & Land and Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Jun Shin, and I am a concerned water drinker. I am testifying as an individual in **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** of **HB2690**, Relating to Water.

I sincerely appreciate that the legislature is working to put dedicated funding and personnel to pursue the remediation of the contaminated land and our waters, poisoned by the United States Navy. However I strongly support these following amendments to these measures:

- 1) The state needs a single entity that needs to come together to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report's goals, including through continuous public education and actual engagement. Creating two separate entities (**WAI Policy Coordinator and the Red Hill Remediation Authority**) with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to inaction, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis.
- 2) The state needs to make sure that this entity has staff with the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report's vision.
- 3) The state must maintain the independence of this entity from the military's political influence over Hawai'i's executive and legislative branch. This influence unfortunately led to the government's inaction that contributed to the poisoning of people as well as the land and the water. It will take a long time to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel

Storage Facility, and we are going to need an entity willing to fight hard, long, and smart to hold the Navy accountable. Any remediation entity formed this legislative session should be governed by a board where at least a majority of its members are from independent organizations that have a track record and vested interest in protecting and fighting for our land, our water, and our people.

Please **PASS** House Bill 2690 out of your committee with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above. We need a just recovery from the Red Hill crisis.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:20:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle K Kajihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities with expertise in military environmental restoration, such as the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, Hawai‘i Peace and Justice, EarthJustice, Life of the Land, and Mālama Mākua, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:23:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madolin Wells	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

These measures show continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility - great! **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only **risks jurisdictional confusion** and could **lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving**, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;

2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the **requisite relevant expertise** (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully **hold the Navy accountable** and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and

3) **Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai’i’s executive and legislative branches**, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai’i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai’i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui loa.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:46:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please make sure costs are reimbursed by the Navy

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 3:03:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Gorman-Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I greatly acknowledge and appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our ‘aina and wai waters so negligently contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the crucial **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Gorman-Chang

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 3:29:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aree Worawongwasu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

Aree Worawongwasu, Ph.D. student, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 5:43:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Simic	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:

1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;

2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and

3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.

Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our 'āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to PASS these measures with the critical AMENDMENTS listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:15:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS HB2690 and HB2691.**

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai.

As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.

Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai.

For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:16:28 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Water & Land and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday February 6, 2024, 9:05am

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, CR 325 & Videoconference

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong supports HB2690 Relating to Water

Dear Chairs Rep. Linda Ichiyama and Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chairs Rep Mahina Poepoe and Rep. Elle Cochran and members of the Committee on Water & Land and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

I, Judith Ann Armstrong, support HB2690 Relating to Water and HB2691 relating to The Red Hill Remediation Authority with amendments.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

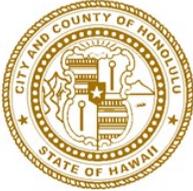
- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report's goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report's vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military's political influence over Hawai'i's executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our 'āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our 'āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2690 and HB2691.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

530 S. KING ST. STE. 202, HONOLULU, HI 96813

TOMMY WATERS
CHAIR & PRESIDING OFFICER
LUNA HO'OMALU
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT IV
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5004
FAX: (808) 768-1220
EMAIL: tommy.waters@honolulu.gov

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama
and Members of the House Water and Land Committee
Hawaii State House
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ichiyama and Committee Members:

Subject House Bill 2690 – RELATING TO WATER

I wish to submit my **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB2690.

Having participated in the Red Hill WAI Group I was able to witness firsthand the incredible work that went into developing these measures which seek to chart a path forward following the contamination at Red Hill. We must acknowledge that the fight to ensure the full remediation of the aquifers impacted by this contamination will be long. Taking these steps now to establish a long-term plan as well as the necessary framework to execute that plan, is critical.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the State House, Senate, Department of Land and Natural Resources, as of course the Board of Water Supply who actively participated in this group and the crafting of these measures. You have all shown incredible leadership through these challenges and I am grateful to have the opportunity to stand with you.

I thank the committee for its positive consideration of this measure.

E ola i ka wai,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Waters".

Tommy Waters
Honolulu City Council, Chair

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:18:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

- 1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;
- 2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and
- 3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

Dyson Chee

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:28:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

I'm writing in SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:

1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;

2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and

3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek. Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to PASS these measures with the critical AMENDMENTS listed above.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:57:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Dew	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. **However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:**

1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report's goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;

2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report's vision; and

3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military's political influence over Hawai'i's executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our 'āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our 'āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge you to **PASS** these measures with the critical **AMENDMENTS** listed above.

Mahalo nui,

Sierra Dew

February 5, 2024

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

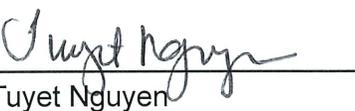
Re: Support of HB2690/SB3338

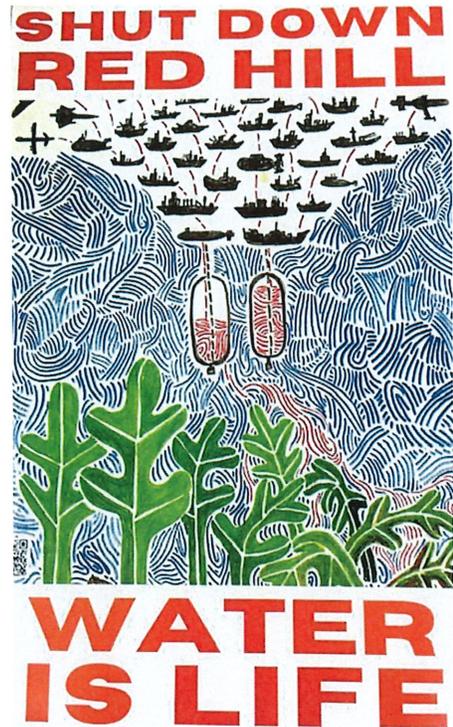
We support the Honolulu Board of Water Supply and Sierra Club's recommendations for these House/Senate Bills. Further, Ernest Lau and Wayne Tanaka need to be supported by the State Government because they are the experts on this Red Hill Water crisis. Unfortunately, the US Navy have proven to not be trust worthy for this water safety and Honolulu's environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Marshall Hung


Tuyet Nguyen



HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:56:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

*Mahalo for the opportunity to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2690 and HB2691.*

I appreciate that these measures reflect a continued commitment to pursue the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

However, I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:

1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report’s goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;

2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report’s vision; and

*3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military’s political influence over Hawai‘i’s executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our ‘āina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our ‘āina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai‘i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, and/or other appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.*

HB-2690

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:13:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrice Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Vice Chair Cochran,

I SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS HB2690 and HB2691.

The WAI is a positive first step to ensure there is clean water for generations to come, however, to guarantee our water and aquifer will be safe requires the implementation of a fair, clean and honest system that supports the community's right to a basic, useable resource, our wai.

As elected officials you must be accountable to the community and your full support of the following amendments will show your care for Hawaii's 'aina, wai and people. Anything short of these amendments will lead many voters to believe that protecting the Navy's presence in Hawaii is of utmost importance and the people are secondary.

I strongly urge you to amend these measures by:

1) Creating a single entity to work on the implementation of the Red Hill WAI Report's goals, including through continuous public education and engagement. Creating two separate entities with overlapping roles only risks jurisdictional confusion and could lead to finger-pointing rather than problem-solving, as we have seen in other instances including throughout the Red Hill crisis;

2) Appropriately staffing this entity with individuals who have the requisite relevant expertise (in public relations, grant writing, remediation technology, community organizing, etc.) to meaningfully hold the Navy accountable and realize the WAI Report's vision; and

3) Ensuring that this entity is adequately insulated from the military's political influence over Hawai'i's executive and legislative branches, which led to the governmental inaction that contributed to the poisoning of our 'aina and wai. **As it will take decades to fully remediate the contamination from the Red Hill facility, failing to do so will inevitably allow the Navy to exert its influence to excuse its inactions and ultimately evade the accountability these measures seek.** Accordingly, any remediation entity should be governed by a board where the majority of its members are appointed by appropriately independent organizations with a vested interest in the integrity of our 'aina and wai. For example, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, and/or other

appropriate entities, could and should be allowed to designate members of this board.