
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that protection of the
2 environment and underground sources of drinking water is in the
3 best interest of public health and safety and a requirement
4 defined under section 7 of article XI of the Hawaii State
5 Constitution.

6 The Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility is a
7 field-constructed underground storage tank system on Oahu that
8 is owned and operated by the United States Department of the
9 Navy. The facility consists of twenty systems that sit
10 approximately one hundred feet above Oahu's sole-source
11 groundwater aquifer, with the southern Oahu basal aquifer as the
12 principal source of drinking water for the island.

13 Twenty systems, as well as pipelines and other
14 infrastructure, were constructed during the early 1940s and,
15 since then, multiple contaminant releases have occurred,
16 negatively impacting the environment and threatening public
17 health. The nature and extent of the reported release in



1 January 2014 of approximately twenty-seven thousand gallons of
2 fuel from one of the tanks into the rocks and groundwater
3 beneath the facility is still unknown. The May 2021 department
4 of health hearings officer's decision found that approximately
5 one thousand six hundred gallons of jet fuel from the supply
6 piping was released into the environment. According to the
7 department of health's Emergency Order Docket No. 22-UST-EA-01,
8 a release and recovery of approximately fourteen thousand
9 gallons of a fuel mixture occurred on November 20, 2021. The
10 fuel release flowed from the Red Hill facility to occupied
11 structures, including the homes of residents, through the water
12 pipelines. The release resulted in "a humanitarian and
13 environmental emergency and disaster."

14 It is estimated that between 644,000 and 1,940,000 gallons
15 of fuel have been released from the facility during its eighty
16 years of operation. The underground storage tanks have been
17 gravity defueled and are planned for closure, but remnant fuel
18 and sludge remain. Contaminants from the facility can migrate
19 to the west and northwest direction, reaching various well
20 sources managed by the board of water supply and landmarks.



1 Furthermore, the department of health's analysis on the
2 amount of fuel contaminants at different points in time and
3 different locations showed movement of the fuel through a total
4 petroleum hydrocarbon. The total petroleum hydrocarbon levels
5 in the Red Hill monitoring wells exceed existing environmental
6 action limits set by the department for gross contamination and
7 drinking water toxicity.

8 According to the November 8, 2024 Management Advisory:
9 Concerns with the Navy's Handling of Incidents Involving Aqueous
10 Film-Forming Foam at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Office
11 Report No. DODIG-2025-013, one thousand three hundred gallons of
12 aqueous film-forming foam concentrate that contains per- and
13 polyfluoroalkyl substances spilled from the facility on
14 November 29, 2022. The persistence of the substances in the
15 environment poses serious risks to the groundwater resources in
16 Oahu and undesirable health effects.

17 The legislature further finds that more information is
18 needed to inform and protect the people of Hawaii. Additional
19 wells that monitor the condition of the aquifer and trigger
20 alerts in the presence of an underground fuel plume and other
21 contaminants from the Red Hill facility must be installed.



1 Also, the furtherance of a monitoring grid between the facility
2 and water production wells, consisting of up to one hundred
3 twenty-two monitoring wells over sixty-one sites, is critical to
4 assess immediate and future risks and inform trend and
5 directional analyses necessary for remediation planning. Past
6 fuel releases from the facility could migrate to and impact
7 critical drinking water receptors. Without the data derived
8 from the monitoring grid, there can be no reliable predictions
9 of where contamination may migrate in the subsurface.

10 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the issuance of
11 general obligation bonds for the Honolulu board of water supply
12 to install up to six monitoring wells for the purpose of
13 collecting important data to understand the condition of the
14 groundwater aquifer underneath and surrounding the Red Hill
15 facility and its implications for the drinking water supply in
16 Oahu.

17 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
18 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
20 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2025-2026
21 for the purpose of a capital improvement project to plan,



1 design, and construct up to six groundwater aquifer monitoring
2 wells.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the board of
4 water supply of the city and county of Honolulu for the purposes
5 of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. The appropriation made for the capital
7 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
8 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
9 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
10 unencumbered as of June 30, 2028, shall lapse as of that date.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Water Resources; Monitoring Wells; BWS; GO Bonds; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to the Honolulu Board of Water Supply for the planning, design, and construction of up to six monitoring wells. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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