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# 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 up to 1,500,000 gallons of fuel has  
15 been released from the facility during its eighty years of  
16 operation. The underground storage tanks have been gravity  
17 defueled and are planned for closure, but remnant fuel and  
18 sludge remain. Contaminants from the facility can migrate to  
19 the west and northwest directions, reaching various well sources  
20 managed by the Honolulu 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 in the  
5 Red Hill monitoring wells exceed existing environmental action  
6 limits set by the department of health for gross contamination  
7 and 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 (PFAS) spilled from the facility on  
14 November 29, 2022. The persistence of PFAS in the environment  
15 poses serious risks to the groundwater resources in Oahu and  
16 undesirable health effects.

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



1 sentinel monitoring grid between the facility and water  
2 production wells, consisting of up to one hundred twenty-two  
3 monitoring wells over sixty-one sites, is critical to assess  
4 immediate and future risks and to inform trend and directional  
5 analyses necessary for remediation planning. Past fuel releases  
6 from the Red Hill facility could migrate to and impact critical  
7 drinking water receptors. Without the data derived from the  
8 sentinel 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, including a sentinel  
13 monitoring grid, for the purpose of collecting important data to  
14 understand the condition of the groundwater aquifer underneath  
15 and surrounding the Red Hill facility and its implications and  
16 affect on the drinking water supply of Oahu.

17 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
18 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$20,000,000 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, including the establishment of a sentinel monitoring  
3 grid.

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

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

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on May 13, 2040.



**Report Title:**

Department of Budget and Finance; Water Resources; Monitoring Wells; Honolulu BWS; GO Bonds; Appropriation

**Description:**

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to the City and County of Honolulu for the planning, design, and construction of up to six monitoring wells, including a sentinel monitoring grid. Effective 5/13/2040. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

