



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR186 URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY TO EXTEND THE RENEWAL PERIOD FOR SECRETARIAL DESIGNEE HEALTH CARE AUTHORIZATIONS RELATED TO THE RED HILL WATER CONTAMINATION CRISIS AND TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS**

**Chair Glenn Wakai, Chair Carol Fukunaga  
Vice Chair Stanley Chang, Vice Chair Chris Lee  
Senate Committees on Energy, Infrastructure, and Government Operations (EIG)  
and Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)  
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026  
Time: 3:00 PM  
Place: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Wakai and Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chang, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committees:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports HCR186. This resolution urges the United States Department of Defense and the Defense Health Agency to extend the renewal period for Secretarial Designee health-care authorizations and to improve access to care for individuals affected by the Red Hill water contamination crisis.

Thousands of families were exposed to petroleum-contaminated drinking water following the Red Hill releases. Many continue to experience persistent symptoms, unresolved medical conditions, and uncertainty regarding long-term health impacts. Secretarial Designee status has been essential in ensuring that affected residents can obtain medical evaluations, specialty care, and follow-up services. However, the current renewal timelines are too short and create unnecessary administrative barriers for families still dealing with the consequences of exposure.

Extending the renewal period is a reasonable and necessary step to ensure continuity of care. It reduces the burden on affected families, prevents gaps in treatment, and acknowledges that the health effects of petroleum exposure may evolve over time. Improved access to care is also critical, as many residents have reported

delays in referrals, difficulty securing specialty appointments, and challenges navigating the military and civilian health-care systems.

HCR186 provides a responsible pathway for ensuring that the Department of Defense and the Defense Health Agency meet their obligations to the families impacted by the Red Hill contamination. Continued medical support is essential for community recovery, public trust, and long-term health monitoring.

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus respectfully urges the Committees to pass HCR186.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Alan Burdick, Co-Chair, [burdick808@gmail.com](mailto:burdick808@gmail.com)

Mike Ewall, Co-Chair, [mike@energyjustice.net](mailto:mike@energyjustice.net)

Melodie Aduja, Co-Chair *Emerita*, [Legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:Legislativepriorities@gmail.com)

**HCR-186**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 7:13:14 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/20/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Strongly Support including testimonies dated 3/27/26 from Board of Water Supply and Sierra Club.

186 HCR URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY TO EXTEND THE RENEWAL PERIOD FOR SECRETARIAL DESIGNEE HEALTH CARE AUTHORIZATIONS RELATED TO THE RED HILL WATER CONTAMINATION CRISIS AND TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS.

**HCR-186**

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 2:18:46 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/20/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

**HCR-186**

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 1:25:55 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/20/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Gorman-Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**HCR 186: SUPPORT**

Susan Gorman-Chang

Ewa Beach, HI

Aloha,

I am in full support of HCR 186 because it provides a much needed plan for coordination of healthcare for both military and civilian families and individuals whose health has been impacted by the Red Hill jet fuel disaster.

Notably HCR 186 calls for Secretarial Designation Letters which will not only help with the coordination of service members & families' healthcare in regards to the health impacts of Red Hill jet fuel disaster but also will expand access to civilian medical providers to ensure improved coordination between military treatment facilities and civilian providers. The civilian aspect of HCR 186 is important because, for example, Kapilina Beach Homes is home to thousands of non-military families who were impacted health wise because this area is on the Navy water line.

The health impacts are long term, and informed and coordinated healthcare is imperative for those harmed. The two year renewal cycle called for in this HCR is also needed to provide continuity. The reimbursement or voucher aspect of the HCR is also necessary because many impacted families have moved off island and/or to rural areas that do not have nearby military treatment facilities forcing families to drive several hours just to receive care and in some instances, overnight stays to get such care.

I am in full support of HCR 186 because its measures are important steps forward in closing the gaps in the continuity of quality medical care for those military and non-military alike who have been impacted, through no fault of their own, with severe health impacts after being exposed to jet fuel and its toxic components, in their household water they used to drink, cook and clean with, causing a variety of exposures that have tragic and life long implications to their health.

Chair and members of the committee, my name is Tilahni Hunkin and I am a Social Work and Public Health Student at UH Manoa. I am submitting a testimony on behalf of myself to support HCR 186. This House Concurrent Resolution aims to support those affected by the Red Hill contamination of water that happened back in 2021. Many people reported having headaches, nausea, and skin and respiratory issues which caused many to seek medical treatment, some who are still in need of ongoing medical monitoring. The main goal is to urge the U.S. Department of Defense to make it easier for these affected people to keep getting medical care and to improve how the care is getting delivered. Their goal is important because the authorizations they were given need to be renewed too frequently. With a more relaxed renewal time period, the people who were affected who are already going through stress medically, financially, and mentally, will have one less thing to worry about in their lives. As someone whose family is constantly worried about medical conditions and the coverage of medical care, I know a plan like this would help relieve stress and tension, not only in an individual's personal life, but within a community's life as well. This resolution offers a continuity of care in many aspects of the lives of those affected, which is something our society needs. For these reasons I have shared with you today, I respectfully urge your support of HCR 186. Thank you all for your time, your consideration, and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tilahni Hunkin

April 19th, 2026

To: Chairs Wakai and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Chang and Lee, and members of the Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs/Public Safety and Military Affairs Committees

Subject: **HCR 186**

Aloha,

I am writing in **strong support** of this measure. As residents of Hawai'i we must make it a point to ensure that all are not ailed by preventable contributors to disease. The Red Hill fuel site was, on the part of the Department of Defense, a grave mistake. This resolution pushes for the rights of our residents' health, and can ensure events like Red Hill never happen again.

Access to healthcare remains vital in mending the wounds caused by this incident. Chemical exposure is not just a one off event, it can cause a lifetime of chronic disease if mismanaged. The current Secretarial Designee authorization process utilizes periodic renewal; this system can leave families dealing with chronic/consistent medical issues disrupted or delayed, while waiting for authorization for treatment.

Extending this period to two years would provide greater stability for all of those afflicted. Easing the stream of access for those on the island, and those who've now been stationed elsewhere. An expansion of civilian provider access, in addition to this, is key in providing needed assessment and treatment to the specific needs of all affected. Through a passage of this resolution is a one step forward in ensuring the health and wellbeing of those needlessly affected by this event.

Ultimately, the federal government has a responsibility to protect its service members, their families, and the larger civilian population. An adherence to the wording of this resolution keeps true on that promise. I respectfully request you **support** this resolution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Logan Naranjo

**LATE**

Moira Flannery  
4/20/2026  
Bill: HCR186  
Committee: EIG PSM  
Position: Support

Hello Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a BSW student at UH Manoa, and I am writing in support of bill HCR186, urging the United States Department of Defense and the Defense Health Agency to extend the renewal period for Secretarial Designee health care authorizations related to the Red Hill water contamination crisis and to improve health care access for affected individuals.

The Red Hill fuel leak has had lasting and deeply concerning impacts on the health and well-being of military families, civilians, and surrounding communities. Exposure to contaminated water has been linked to a range of physical symptoms, including headaches, nausea, skin irritation, and potential long-term health complications. The current renewal process for Secretarial Designee health care authorizations can be stressful and create gaps in treatment. Extending the renewal period would help ensure people can continue getting the care they need without interruption, and would provide much-needed stability, continuity of care, and peace of mind for those impacted. HCR186 is an important step in supporting individuals and families impacted by this crisis. I respectfully urge you to pass this resolution.

Thank you,

Moira Flannery

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

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**LATE**

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ERWIN KAWATA  
DEPUTY MANAGER  
HOPE MANAKIA



April 20, 2026

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The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Fukunaga, Chair Wakai, and Members:

**SUBJECT: HCR 186: Urging the United States Department of Defense and Defense Health Agency to Extend the Renewal Period for Secretarial Designee Health Care Authorizations Related to the Red Hill Water Contamination Crisis and to Improve Health Care Access for Affected Individuals**

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 186, which urges the United States Department of Defense (DOD) and Defense Health Agency (DHA) to extend the renewal period for Secretarial Designee health care authorizations related to the Red Hill Water contamination crisis and to improve health care access for affected individuals.

In May and November 2021, jet fuel releases from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (Red Hill Facility) contaminated the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam drinking water system. The contamination event affected 93,000 US military families and civilians, causing acute respiratory, skin, gastro intestinal and mental health symptoms.

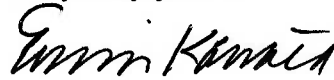
On March 19, 2026, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) released their report on Clinical Follow-up and Care for Those Impacted by the JP-5 Releases at Red Hill, stating that the May and November 2021 release event created a public health crisis with lasting impacts. One of the NASEM's

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai  
and Members  
April 20, 2026  
Page 2

recommendations was to ensure continued access and continued eligibility for care to individuals that were affected. The extension of the authorization would demonstrate commitment and accountability to the long-term care for individuals exposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HCR 186.

Very truly yours,



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