

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

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April 8, 2026

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The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members
House Committee on Public Safety
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 411
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
and Members
House Committee on Water & Land
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 411
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Belatti, Chair Hashem, and Members:

SUBJECT: HCR 200 / HR 190: Urging the United States Department of Defense to Reassess Prior Determinations and Closure Decisions Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, And Liability Act in Light of Evolving Scientific Understanding of Per- And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Recent Federal Hazardous Substance Designations

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 200 and House Resolution (HR) 190, which urges the United States Navy (Navy) to reassess prior determinations and closure decisions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, And Liability Act (CERCLA) pertaining to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other hazardous substances.

PFAS are a group of nearly 15,000 synthetics chemicals, highly persistent in the environment, also known as "forever chemicals", used since the 1940s to make products resistant to water, grease, and heat. They do not break down easily in the environment and accumulate in the human body, causing cancer, liver diseases, compromised immune systems, and other illnesses.

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In August 2023, a Report on Critical PFAS Substance Uses was published by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment. The report identified over a dozen of critical PFAS uses within military installations, including but not limited to aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) for firefighting, weapons, energetic slurry processing, advanced metal working, casting, and fabrication processes used in production of metal parts, and advanced turbine engine oils, greases, fluids, and lubricants common throughout the United States civil transportation, industrial, and space sectors. However, in many CERCLA PFAS preliminary assessments conducted, decisions of no further actions needed were concluded solely based on no "AFFF" uses in initial document searches.

Previously closed CERCLA investigations of PFAS at all United States military installations shall be reopened and reassessed based on processes and materials listed in the August 2023 report. This is critical in the restoration of our environment and natural resources, so that our next generation may have a future and the opportunity to experience life without concerns of potential health effects from their environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HCR 200 / HR 190.

Very truly yours,



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



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

TESTIMONY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR200 / HR190 URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REASSESS PRIOR DETERMINATIONS AND CLOSURE DECISIONS UNDER CERCLA IN LIGHT OF EVOLVING SCIENCE ON PFAS AND RECENT FEDERAL HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE DESIGNATIONS

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP)

Chair Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair Amy Perruso, and Members of the Committee

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports HCR200/HR190, which urges the United States Department of Defense (DoD) to reassess prior determinations and closure decisions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) in light of evolving scientific understanding of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and recent federal hazardous substance designations.

As the resolution outlines, PFAS are persistent, mobile, and resistant to degradation, with well-documented human health and ecological impacts (). Military installations across Hawai'i have historically used, stored, or disposed of PFAS-containing materials in connection with aqueous film-forming foam, industrial operations, aviation systems, maintenance activities, waste streams, and other treated equipment (capitol.hawaii.gov). These pathways extend far beyond AFFF alone.

The Environmental Caucus is particularly concerned that many DoD PFAS investigations in Hawai'i have been limited in scope, focusing narrowly on AFFF-related areas of potential interest while excluding other operational uses, waste handling practices, and disposal pathways that may have contributed to contamination (). In several cases, areas of potential interest were closed after limited investigation, without comprehensive sampling of groundwater, surface water, soil, sediment, stormwater systems, wastewater pathways, or potential off-base migration ().

This is especially concerning given that the Environmental Protection Agency's Method 1633A can detect forty PFAS analytes, yet DoD site inspection reports often disclose results for only a subset of those compounds (). With the federal government now designating certain PFAS as hazardous substances under CERCLA, prior determinations and closures must be revisited to ensure they reflect current science and regulatory requirements.

The State of Hawai'i is also entering a period of critical decision-making regarding military leases of state-owned lands. As the resolution notes, informed lease determinations require full transparency regarding contamination, monitoring status, investigative scope, and long-term remediation obligations (). Without comprehensive PFAS reassessment, the State cannot adequately protect its constitutional duties to safeguard water resources and public health.

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus strongly supports the resolution's call for the Department of Defense to:

1. Reassess prior CERCLA determinations and closure decisions;
2. Initiate or supplement additional preliminary assessments and site inspections;
3. Expand PFAS investigations across all military installations, sub-installations, training areas, medical facilities, industrial sites, and former operating locations;
4. Evaluate all reasonably foreseeable PFAS-containing materials and operational uses;
5. Conduct comprehensive sampling across all relevant environmental media; and
6. Publicly disclose complete analytical results, including the full suite of PFAS analytes measured under EPA Method 1633A or successor methods.

These actions are essential to ensuring that Hawai'i's water, environment, and communities receive the full protections intended under CERCLA.

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus respectfully urges the Committee to pass HCR200/HR190.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick, Co-chair burdick808@gmail.com
Mike Ewall, Co-chair mike@energyjustice.net
Melodie Aduja, Co-chair emerita.legislativepriorities@gmail.com
Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HCR-200

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 6:19:56 PM

Testimony for PBS on 4/8/2026 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONGLY SUPPORT

200 HCR URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REASSESS PRIOR DETERMINATIONS AND CLOSURE DECISIONS UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT IN LIGHT OF EVOLVING SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING OF PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES AND RECENT FEDERAL HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE DESIGNATIONS.

HCR-200

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 10:38:48 PM

Testimony for PBS on 4/8/2026 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HCR 200. The Department of Defense should absolutely reassess its prior determinations and decisions concerning environmental response, compensation and liability in light of evolving scientific understanding of per-and polufluoroalkyl substances and recent federal hazardous substance designations.

Thank you.

Beth Anderson

Kailua, Hawaii