

**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.

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
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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

HR-190

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 1:40:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

TESTIMONY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR200 / HR190 URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REASSESS PRIOR CERCLA DETERMINATIONS AND CLOSURE DECISIONS IN LIGHT OF EVOLVING SCIENCE ON PFAS

**PBS Chair Della Au Belatti, PBS Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto
WAL Chair Mark J. Hashem, WAL Vice Chair Dee Morikawa
House Committees on Public Safety (PBS) and Water & Land (WAL)
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Time: 1:00 AM
Place: Conference Room 411 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chairs Belatti and Hashem, Vice Chairs Iwamoto and Morikawa, and Members of the Committees:

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.

Why Reassessment Is Necessary

As the resolution recognizes, scientific understanding of PFAS has advanced significantly since many DoD CERCLA determinations were made. PFAS are now known to be: (1) persistent in the environment; (2) bioaccumulative; (3) mobile in groundwater; and (4) associated with adverse health effects even at extremely low concentrations.

Federal agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), have recently designated several PFAS compounds as hazardous substances, triggering new reporting, cleanup, and liability requirements. These developments materially change the scientific and regulatory landscape that informed earlier DoD closure decisions. A reassessment is therefore both reasonable and necessary to ensure that past determinations remain protective of human health and the environment.

Hawai'i Has Unique Vulnerabilities

Hawai'i's aquifers, coastal ecosystems, and drinking-water systems are uniquely vulnerable to PFAS contamination due to: (1) reliance on limited groundwater sources; (2) porous volcanic geology that facilitates contaminant migration; (3) proximity of military installations to drinking-water wells; and (4) the State's dependence on clean water for public health, agriculture, and cultural practices. Given these conditions, outdated or incomplete CERCLA determinations pose heightened risks to communities across the islands.

Federal Action Has Outpaced Prior DoD Assessments

Since many DoD site assessments were completed, federal agencies have: (1) strengthened PFAS toxicity values; (2) lowered health-advisory levels; (3) expanded monitoring requirements; (4) designated additional PFAS as hazardous substances; and (5) advanced national PFAS cleanup and reporting rules. These changes directly affect whether prior DoD determinations remain adequate. HCR200 / HR190 appropriately urges the DoD to revisit those decisions using current science and regulatory standards.

Reassessment Supports Transparency and Public Trust

A renewed CERCLA review would: (1) provide updated information to affected communities; (2) ensure that closure decisions reflect current federal standards; (3) clarify whether additional investigation or remediation is warranted; (4) strengthen coordination between federal and state agencies; and (5) reinforce public confidence in the integrity of environmental oversight. This is especially important in Hawai'i, where communities have long sought clarity regarding PFAS contamination at and around military installations.

Conclusion

HCR200 / HR190 is a timely and necessary measure that supports public health, environmental protection, and federal-state coordination. By urging the Department of Defense to reassess prior CERCLA determinations considering evolving PFAS science and recent federal hazardous-substance designations, the resolution promotes transparency, accountability, and the long-term safety of Hawai'i's communities and natural resources. The Environmental Caucus respectfully urges the Committees to pass HCR200 / HR190.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Alan Burdick, Co-Chair, burdick808@gmail.com

Mike Ewall, Co-Chair, mike@energyjustice.net

Melodie Aduja, Co-Chair *Emerita*, Legislativepriorities@gmail.com

HR-190

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 4:04:17 PM

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

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

Comments:

HOUSE RESOLUTION HR190

STRONGLY SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING:

1. The seriousness of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of synthetic chemicals characterized by environmental persistence, resistance to degradation, and mobility in water, and have been associated with adverse human health and ecological effects in scientific literature.

- **Reason:** Prevent harm to society

2. Current United States Department of Defense PFAS investigations in Hawaii have largely centered on aqueous film-forming foam-related areas (Fire fighting foam) of potential interest, which may not fully account for the broader range of PFAS-containing materials.

- **Reason:** A full accounting of a broader range of PFAS- containing material is a public health risk.

3. Knowing that certain areas of potential interest have been closed following limited investigation, warrants continuous serious investigations into future detections of PFAS-containing materials.

- **Reason:** Ensure a safe and healthy environment.

4. Future Site inspections and PFAS investigative reports at military installations frequently MUST disclose results for PFAS compounds, the full suite of forty analytes that can be detected under Environmental Protection Agency Method 1633A.

- **Reason:** Solutions require a complete knowledge set using appropriate methods of determination.

5. Recognizing evolving scientific understanding of PFAS persistence, mobility, and exposure pathways, justifies reassessment of prior investigative determinations.

- **Reason:** To prevent future harm

6. Expand PFAS investigations at all military installations, sub-installations, training areas, medical facilities, industrial sites, and former operating locations within the State.

- **Reason:** To start gaining back trust.

7. Evaluate all reasonably foreseeable PFAS-containing materials, operational uses, waste streams, industrial activities, medical applications, and disposal practices.

- **Reason:** To prevent future harm and contamination.

8. Conduct comprehensive sampling of all relevant environmental sources and to evaluate potential migration beyond installation boundaries.

- **Reason:** Proactive vs reactive protects us.

HR-190

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