

HCR66

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
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LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
and
HEALTH,
and
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, April 22, 2015
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 66
REQUESTING AN EMPHASIS ON COLLABORATION, OPENNESS, AND
STRENGTHENING OF THE LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE
AND THE UNITED STATES NAVY IN ADDRESSING AND RESOLVING ISSUES
RELATING TO THE LEAKAGE OF FUEL FROM THE NAVY'S RED HILL
UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY**

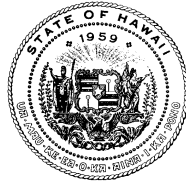
House Concurrent Resolution 66 requests an emphasis on collaboration, openness, and strengthening of the long-term relationship between the State and the United States Navy in addressing and resolving issues relating to the leakage of fuel from the Navy's Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this measure but defers to the Department of Health on its implementation and offers the following comments.**

Our underground aquifers are the major source of drinking water for the people of Hawaii. We have a public trust obligation to protect and preserve the quality and sustainability of this valuable resource for current and future generations.

Underground storage tanks are a potential major threat to the public trust water resources of the State. It is critical that all owners and operators of underground storage tanks regularly monitor for leaks using approved methods, maintain adequate records, and meet corrosion protection, spill, and

overflow requirements as required by the Department of Health. These systems are prone to leak over time, as evidenced by the recent case regarding the Red Hill fuel storage tanks.

The Department notes that a representative from the Department's Commission on Water Resource Management participated on the Red Hill Task Force that was led by the Department of Health.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of H.C.R. 66
REQUESTING AN EMPHASIS ON COLLABORATION, OPENNESS, AND
STRENGTHENING OF THE LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE
AND UNITED STATES NAVY IN ADDRESSING AND RESOLVING ISSUES
RELATING TO THE LEAKAGE OF FUEL FROM THE NAVY'S RED HILL
UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SENATOR WILL ESPERO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: **April 22, 2015**
Time: **1:15 pm**

Room Number: **414**

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports HCR 66 which requests the Director of
- 3 Health to develop and implement a course of action that emphasizes collaboration, openness, and
- 4 strengthening of the long-term relationship between the State and the United States Navy in
- 5 addressing and resolving the issues relating to the leakage of fuel from the Red Hill underground
- 6 fuel storage facility.
- 7 The Department is committed to taking measures required to prevent the future releases from all
- 8 underground storage tanks. In an effort to address the challenges presented at Red Hill, the U.S.
- 9 Navy, Defense Logistics Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the
- 10 Department are committed to completing the ongoing negotiations that are designed to produce
- 11 an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). The AOC is intended to establish a process to
- 12 make well-researched, well-planned and cost-effective improvements to protect the groundwater
- 13 resources beneath the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. At this time, we believe that this
- 14 collaborative, enforceable approach provides a preferred way to address the environmental
- 15 concerns posed by this facility.
- 16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
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April 22, 2015

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
and Members
Committee on Health

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 414
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs and Members:

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 66: Requesting an Emphasis on
Collaboration, Openness and Strengthening of the Long Term
Relationship Between the State and United States Navy in Addressing
and Resolving Issues Relating to the Leakage of Fuel from the Navy's
Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility

We support House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 66.

Oahu's groundwater aquifers are natural resources held in trust for the benefit of the people under the Hawaii State Constitution, Section 1 of Article XI. Section 7 of this Article further states "the State has an obligation to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit of its people." Our groundwater's protection from contamination is therefore for the benefit of the people and essential to public health and safety through its ability to sustainably deliver safe drinking water. Studies documenting the presence of petroleum contaminants in the groundwater under Red Hill, its location one hundred feet above the aquifer, steel tanks wearing from corrosion, their mounting age and the risks of a large catastrophic fuel release describes a situation that threatens our groundwater and urgently requires fortifying the twenty tanks and clean-up of the existing petroleum contamination to protect our aquifer from irreparable degradation and loss for the benefit of the people.

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair and Members
The Honorable Josh Green, Chair and Members
The Honorable Will Espero, Chair and Members
April 22, 2015
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We support this resolution's request for collaboration between the State and the United States Navy and recommend it also include the aggressive pursuit and implementation of the solutions needed to protect our groundwater. As a stakeholder, we do not contest the military importance of Red Hill. However, if the facility continues operating then the tanks should be fortified and the existing contamination mitigated. Cooperation and aggressive progress to correct the existing situation will ensure we honor the public trust to safeguard and preserve our groundwater for Oahu's residents now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernest Y. W. Lau".

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