

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the House Committee on
HEALTH**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2015
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**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.

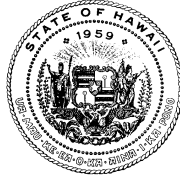
The Department notes that a representative from the Department's Commission on Water Resource Management participated on the Red Hill Task Force that was led by the Department of Health.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



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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

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: **April 8, 2015**
Time: **10:00 A.M.**

Room Number: **329**

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.

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BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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HONOLULU, HI 96843




April 8, 2015

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

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

The Honorable Della Au Belatti
and Members
Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Belatti 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 which requests an emphasis on collaboration, openness, and strengthening of the long-term relationship between the State and the United States Navy to resolve the issues relating to the leakage of fuel from the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility and to submit a report of the findings to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016.

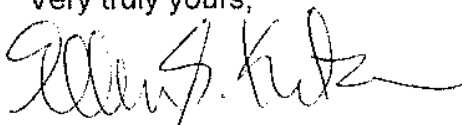
The need to resolve the issues relating to the fuel leak at the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility is paramount. Collaboration and open access to information and data is vital to reaching this objective through a complete understanding and knowledge of Red Hill in order to identify the long term measures needed to protect our groundwater. Studies and monitor well test results already show fuel releases at Red Hill have contaminated the groundwater and soil underneath the facility with petroleum hydrocarbons. Other studies and examinations find the steel tanks wearing from corrosion, concerns with the facility's mounting age and discuss the risks of a large catastrophic fuel release. These findings can mean losing a major source of drinking water if the study and mitigation necessary to protect the entire aquifer is not identified.

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 among all parties to achieve this objective is vital to ensure we honor the public trust to safeguard and preserve our groundwater for Oahu's residents now and into the future.

The Honorable Della Au Belatti
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



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