

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843




March 23, 2015

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair
and Members
Committee on Veterans, Military, and
International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair and Members:

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 66: Requesting an Emphasis on Collaboration, Openness and the 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

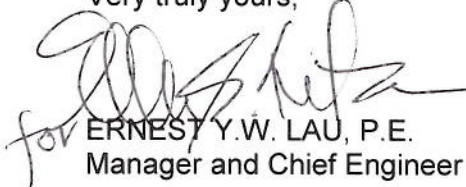
We support House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 66 which requests the Director of Health to develop and implement a course of action emphasizing collaboration, openness, and strengthening of the long-term relationship between the State and the United States Navy to address and resolve the issues relating 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 address and resolve the issues relating to the leakage of fuel from 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 there should be improvements invested and cooperation among all parties to resolve the issues relating to the leak to ensure we honor the public trust to protect and preserve our groundwater for Oahu's residents now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,


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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
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LAND
STATE PARKS

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

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

**Before the House Committee on
VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Monday, March 23, 2015
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**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 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. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports 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 overfill 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.

The Department also notes related Senate Bill 1168, Regular Session of 2015, proposes to direct the Department of Health to adopt rules requiring all field-constructed storage tanks and tank systems currently exempt under Chapter 11-281, Hawaii Administrative Rules, to meet all the requirements that must be met by all other owners and operators of underground storage tanks and tank systems. Accordingly, the Department defers to the Department of Health regarding implementation of the expanded task force work outlined in this bill, the appropriate mechanisms to bring all fuel storage tanks and systems into a uniform compliance standard, and the technical details and implementation of measures outlined in this resolution.