

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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



February 17, 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 Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environment

and

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
and Members
Committee on Health
The Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Dear Chairs and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 1168: Relating to Underground Storage

We strongly support Senate Bill 1168. This bill will insure our environment and underground sources of drinking water are protected from the impacts of leaking underground petroleum fuel tank systems through the application of standardized rules, requirements and best practices that uniformly applies to all systems regardless of size and construction type.

Existing Hawaii state regulations needs to require presently unregulated field-constructed underground storage tanks (USTs) to meet the same requirements that must be met by all other owners of underground tanks. This bill addresses this imbalance and will significantly improve the condition of the groundwater underneath the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Facility which is already exposed to leaks and contaminated with petroleum fuel contaminants. Red Hill is the state's largest field-constructed UST and the groundwater underneath the facility comes from the same groundwater aquifer that is currently used as a major source of drinking water to the residents of Oahu and the Navy. The need to preserve and protect groundwater quality and quantity now and into the future outweighs continuance of operating unregulated field-constructed USTs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

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