

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com



April 4, 2023

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The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
and Members

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and Members

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Subject: House Bill 1511, HD1, SD1: Relating to Water Resources

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Bill (HB) 1511, House Draft (HD) 1, Senate Draft (SD) 1.

This measure proposes to appropriate funds as a grant-in-aid to the BWS to plan, design, and construct seven monitoring wells and an exploratory well in response to the Red Hill fuel contamination crisis.

The monitoring wells will provide important information that will help characterize the nature and extent of the fuel contamination in the underground aquifer and impact on our existing well stations. The purpose of the exploratory well is to find new water supplies to replace the capacity loss from the shutdown of three BWS well stations due to the fuel contamination crisis. The BWS agrees to consult with the Department of Health and the Commission on Water Resource Management prior to siting and installing the proposed monitoring wells.

This bill is critically needed to address the most unprecedented contamination of Oahu's irreplaceable drinking water resources from Red Hill facility fuel and other hazardous materials such as 3% aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) concentrate releases that pose an imminent threat to public health and the environment. As stated in bill, the DOH analysis showed the fuel contamination could travel away from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility toward different geological locations and existing BWS wells. The AFFF concentrate release resulted in approximately 1,100 gallons, consisting of a blend of fluorocarbon-, hydrocarbon surfactants and various solvents and stabilizers, some identified as PFAS or "forever chemicals."

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and Members
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Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify in strong support of
HB 1511, HD 1, SD 1.

Very truly yours,



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





Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **HB 1511 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES**

Hearing: Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 1-:30 a.m., Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its 7,500 members stand in strong support of HB 1511 HD1 SD1. This measure would appropriate funds as a grant-in-aid to the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply to plan, design, and construct, after consultation with the Department of Health and the Commission on Water Resource Management, seven monitoring wells and an exploratory well.

The Hawaii State Constitution entitled WATER RESOURCES provides in Article XI, Section 7 that “the State has an obligation to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawai'i's water resources for the benefit of its people.

The legislature shall provide for a water resources agency which, as provided by law, shall set overall water conservation, quality and use policies; define beneficial and reasonable uses; protect ground and surface water resources, watersheds and natural stream environments; establish criteria for water use priorities while assuring appurtenant rights and existing correlative and riparian uses and establish procedures for regulating all uses of Hawai'i's water resources.”

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform plank on the environment provides that its members are to “protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment and achieve energy sustainability, advance measures to re-establish a healthy climate and environment for humans and fellow species, including actions to urgently address climate change, and work towards 100% renewable energy goals.

We believe that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment. We believe that the preservation of our natural environment and its ecological well-being is essential to ensuring a safe, healthy, bountiful life for future generations in Hawai'i. We support policies that create a more sustainable society. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of native ecosystems.

We believe in the resource management principles outlined in the Public Trust doctrine of [Article XI, Section 1 of] the Hawai'i State Constitution. . . .” [OUR PLATFORM | DPH \(hawaiidemocrats.org\)](https://www.hawaiidemocrats.org)

Appropriating funds as a grant-in-aid to the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply to plan, design, and construct, after consultation with the Department of Health and the Commission on Water Resource Management, seven monitoring wells and an exploratory well would be consistent with the state and counties' duties under Article XI, Section 7 on Water Resources; Article XI, Section 1 on the Public Trust Doctrine; and the DPH Platform environmental policy that all people have the right to live in



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a clean, healthy, and safe environment. Please support and pass this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

/s/ Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick,
Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i