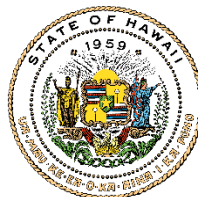


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, February 9, 2023
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1511
RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES**

House Bill 1511 proposes to appropriate funds as a grant-in-aid to the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) to: (1) site and install monitoring wells to collect important data; and (2) design and construct an exploratory well to meet future potable water requirements for the metropolitan area on O'ahu. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following amendment.**

The shut-down of BWS's Hālawā Shaft and various other sources has required a shift in their pumpage to other aquifers outside of the Waimalu Aquifer System Area. The Red Hill monitoring wells drilled by the Navy are primarily for determining the extent of existing fuel releases and to provide sentinel wells for protection of vulnerable production wells. More wells will help to better assess migration of any current contaminants and/or future spills or releases towards BWS's Hālawā Shaft.

Additionally, the shut-down of various BWS sources necessitated a shift in pumpage from the Waimalu Aquifer System Area to other aquifers, primarily the Honolulu Aquifer Sector, which is already overtaxed. With the years-long duration of the shut-down of Hālawā Shaft and the Hālawā and 'Aiea wells, BWS has lost approximately 13.5 million gallons per day of production capacity. Therefore, it is imperative that BWS find new sources to augment their already stressed network of production wells.

For these reasons, the Department supports the appropriation of funds for the City and County of Honolulu's BWS to drill monitor wells to better assess the risk to Hālawā Shaft in the effort to get it back online, as well as the drilling of an exploratory well to build system resiliency by adding a new source, with the following amendments to section 1 (1) of House Bill 1511 (grey highlight):

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds as a grant-in-aid to the city and county of Honolulu board of water supply to:

(1) Site and install monitoring wells, after consultation with the department of health and the commission on water resource management, to collect and share important data needed to understand the condition of the groundwater aquifer underneath and surrounding the Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility and its implications to Oahu's drinking water supply; and

(2) Design and construct an exploratory well to meet future potable water requirements for the metropolitan area on Oahu.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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



February 9, 2023

RICK BLANGIARDI, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair
KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair
MAX J. SWORD
NA'ALEHU ANTHONY
JONATHAN KANESHIRO

DAWN B. SZEWCZYK, P.E., Ex-Officio
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio

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

ERWIN M. KAWATA
Deputy Manager

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ichiyama and Members:

Subject: House Bill 1511: Relating to Water Resources

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Bill (HB) 1511.

This measure proposes to appropriate grant-in-aid to the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) to fund the planning, design, and construction of 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.

This bill is 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 aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) releases that pose an imminent threat to public health and the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1511.

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 Linda Ichiyama, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Water & Land

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2023, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 420 & Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Water & Land:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 1511. This measure appropriates funds as a grant-in-aid to the city and county of Honolulu board of water supply to plan, design, and construct 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 Hawaii’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 Hawaii’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 seven monitoring wells and an exploratory well is 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 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

HB-1511

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:26:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of HB 1511 to provide grant-in-aid funds to the city and county of Honolulu Board of Water Supply to building monitoring wells and an exploratory well.

This would be the highlight of this legislative session to move this health and safety initiative forward as soon as possible.

HB-1511

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:14:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support, but maybe include more exploratory wells and a provision that reimbursement be sought from US Dept. of Defense.