

MAR 06 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY THE EFFECTS OF THE JANUARY 2014 FUEL TANK LEAK AT THE
RED HILL UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY.

1 WHEREAS, the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility is
2 located near Pearl Harbor and operated by the United States
3 Navy; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Red Hill facility was built between 1940 and
6 1943 to support war efforts in the Pacific during World War II;
7 and
8

9 WHEREAS, the Red Hill facility contains twenty cylindrical
10 tanks, each of which can hold up to 12,500,000 gallons of fuel,
11 and continues to provide secure fuel storage for ships and
12 aircraft of the United States Pacific Fleet and other military
13 services; and
14

15 WHEREAS, in January of this year, fuel operators at Red
16 Hill discovered a discrepancy in the fuel level in one of the
17 tanks, specifically tank number five; and
18

19 WHEREAS, upon further investigation, it was determined that
20 tank number five had leaked an estimated 27,000 gallons of JP-8
21 aviation fuel; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply temporarily
24 shut down four wells in the vicinity of the Red Hill facility as
25 a proactive and precautionary measure to ensure the continuous
26 safety of drinking water in the area; and
27

28 WHEREAS, military documents filed with the State note
29 dozens of leaks dating back to 1949; and
30

31 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply's Halawa Shaft
32 is approximately five thousand feet northwest of the Red Hill



1 facility and provides water to hundreds of thousands of people
2 on Oahu; and

3
4 WHEREAS, a nearby Navy well provides twenty-four per cent
5 of the potable water to the Pearl Harbor water system; and

6
7 WHEREAS, it has been reported that the age of the facility
8 and the mission-critical requirements for its storage capacity
9 combine to present a significant future risk of a moderate to
10 large release of fuel to the underlying ground water; now,
11 therefore,

12
13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health
16 is requested to convene a task force to study the effects of the
17 January 2014 fuel tank leak at the Red Hill Underground Fuel
18 Storage Facility; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
21 requested to serve as the Chairperson of the task force and to
22 invite interested parties to be members of the task force,
23 including:

- 24
25 (1) One member representing the United States Navy;
26
27 (2) One member representing the United States
28 Environmental Protection Agency;
29
30 (3) One member representing the Department of Land and
31 Natural Resources;
32
33 (4) One member representing the Honolulu Board of Water
34 Supply;
35
36 (5) Not less than two members from the community at large;
37 and

38
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
40 consider:

- 41
42 (1) The short- and long-term effects of the leak at the
43 Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility, including



S.C.R. NO. 73

1 effects relating to the health of residents, safe
2 drinking water, and the environment;

3
4 (2) Response strategies to mitigate the effects of future
5 leaks at the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage
6 Facility; and
7

8 (3) Ways to improve communication between the United
9 States Navy, the State, and the public in the event of
10 future leaks at the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage
11 Facility; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
14 requested to provide any necessary administrative, professional,
15 technical, and clerical support to the task force; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
18 requested to submit a report of the task force's findings and
19 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
20 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
21 the Regular Session of 2015; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
25 the Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, the Commander
26 of the United States Pacific Command, the Environmental
27 Protection Agency's Pacific Islands Contact Office, the
28 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the
29 Manager and Chief Engineer of the Honolulu Board of Water
30 Supply.
31
32
33

OFFERED BY:

