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# 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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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28           WHEREAS, military documents filed with the State note  
29 dozens of leaks dating back to 1949; and  
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31           WHEREAS, studies indicate that past fuel releases have  
32 already contaminated the groundwater and soil beneath the Red



1 Hill facility with petroleum hydrocarbons and also discuss the  
2 risk of large releases of fuel to the groundwater aquifer and  
3 the environment; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply's Halawa Shaft  
6 is approximately 5,000 feet northwest of the Red Hill facility  
7 and provides water to hundreds of thousands of people on Oahu;  
8 and

9  
10 WHEREAS, a nearby Navy well provides 24 percent of the  
11 potable water to the Pearl Harbor water system; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, prevention will cost significantly less than the  
14 cost to clean up large scale contamination to the groundwater  
15 aquifer and the environment; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, it has been reported that the age of the facility  
18 and the mission-critical requirements for its storage capacity  
19 combine to present a significant future risk of a moderate to  
20 large release of fuel to the underlying ground water; now,  
21 therefore,

22  
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the  
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health  
26 is requested to convene a task force to study the effects of the  
27 January 2014 fuel tank leak at the Red Hill Underground Fuel  
28 Storage Facility; and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is  
31 requested to serve as the Chairperson of the task force and to  
32 invite interested parties to be members of the task force,  
33 including:

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- 35 (1) One member representing the United States Navy;
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- 37 (2) One member representing the United States
- 38 Environmental Protection Agency;
- 39
- 40 (3) One representative selected by the Speaker of the
- 41 House of Representatives and one senator selected by
- 42 the President of the Senate;



- 1 (4) One member representing the Department of Land and  
2 Natural Resources;  
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4 (5) One member representing the Honolulu Board of Water  
5 Supply; and  
6  
7 (6) Not less than two members from the community at large;  
8 and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
11 consider:

- 12  
13 (1) The short- and long-term effects of the leak at the  
14 Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility, including  
15 effects relating to the health of residents, safe  
16 drinking water, and the environment;  
17  
18 (2) Response strategies to mitigate the effects of future  
19 leaks at the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage  
20 Facility;  
21  
22 (3) Ways to improve communication between the United  
23 States Navy, the State, and the public in the event of  
24 future leaks at the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage  
25 Facility; and  
26  
27 (4) The implications of shutting down the Red Hill  
28 Underground Fuel Storage Facility; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
31 requested to provide any necessary administrative, professional,  
32 technical, and clerical support to the task force; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Navy is urged  
35 to work with the Department of Health and the Honolulu Board of  
36 Water Supply to remediate the contamination beneath the Red Hill  
37 Facility to protect and prevent contamination of the groundwater  
38 aquifer; and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is  
41 requested to submit a report of the task force's findings and  
42 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
43 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the  
44 Regular Session of 2015; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
3 the Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, the Commander  
4 of the United States Pacific Command, the Environmental  
5 Protection Agency's Pacific Islands Contact Office, the  
6 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the  
7 Manager and Chief Engineer of the Honolulu Board of Water  
8 Supply.

