



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs, and Culture and  
the Arts**

**House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection**

**S.C.R. 73, 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**

**Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Health**

**April 16, 2014  
9:30 am**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department supports SCR 73 provided that its passage does not  
2 replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony for Senate  
5 Concurrent Resolution No. 73, requesting the Director of Health to convene a task force to study the  
6 effects of the January 2014 fuel tank leak at the Red Hill underground fuel storage facility.

7 The Department has engaged and will continue to engage with the U.S. Navy, U.S.  
8 Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Service, Board of Water Supply, and the  
9 Department of Land and Natural Resources to discuss the impact of the releases from the Red Hill  
10 underground storage tanks.

11 The Department supports SCR 73 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact  
12 priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

# BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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



April 16, 2014

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E. *ek*  
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Veterans, Military, and  
International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts

and

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 312  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs and Members:

Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution 73 (SCR 73) 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

The Board of Water Supply, City and County of Honolulu (BWS), strongly supports SCR 73 to convene a task force on the Red Hill Underground Fuel Facility (Facility). The BWS has serious concerns about the numerous past fuel releases from the Facility and its impact on an irreplaceable groundwater aquifer that we all depend on for our potable water supply.

Studies indicate past fuel releases have already contaminated the groundwater and soil beneath the Facility with petroleum hydrocarbons. These studies also discuss the risk of large releases of fuel to the groundwater aquifer, the environment, and the community we serve. These findings point to a situation that warrants remediating the contamination beneath the Facility now to protect the aquifer, and reinforcing the Facility to safeguard the environment and our community from the risks of a large fuel release. Mitigating the situation now is prevention that will cost significantly less than the cost to clean up large scale contamination to the aquifer and environment after it occurs.

The importance of the Facility to the Navy equals the importance of the groundwater aquifer and our environment to the people of Oahu. We support every effort to address the situation at the Facility today to save our most precious resource – the groundwater aquifer – now and into the future.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on SCR 73.

Very truly yours,

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

**From:** Calen D. Baker

**Submitted on:** April 14, 2014

**Submitted to:** The Senate Twenty Seventh Legislature, 2014

**Subject:** Testimony in support of SCR73, Relating to, 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, on April 16, 2014 9:30am in front of EEP/VMI in Conference Room #423.

Dear Chairs and Members:

I Support Senate Concurrent Resolution 73, as it is of my opinion that studies of the effects should be conducted in regard to the harmful properties of JP-8 Aviation fuel. In a study done in 2000 by

Harris, D. T., Sakiestewa, D. D., Robledo, R. F., Scott Young, R. R., & Witten, M. M. (2000). Effects of short-term JP-8 jet fuel exposure on cell-mediated immunity. *Toxicology & Industrial Health, 16*(2), 78-84.

It is said that short term exposure to the JP-8 Aviation Fuel causes immunotoxicological effects and other various health related issues. For this reason, much more research should be done on the short term and long term health effects caused by the Red Hill fuel leak. The close proximity of the water supply to the Red Hill site, as well as ground water contamination is cause for concern. This water is not only given to our troops but it is also distributed to the surrounding communities. The need for this resolution to pass is inexplicably oblivious. Further, I support the process of finding solutions to avoid future leaks and improved communication between the navy and state. I give my full support to SCR 73 in hope that these issues will be taken care of and that a more proactive role will be maintained to avoid this situation in the future. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Calen D. Baker