

# SCR 73

Measure Title: 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.

Report Title: DOH; Task Force; Red Hill; Fuel Leak



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

**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**

**March 27, 2014  
2:45 pm**

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 US Navy, US Environmental  
8 Protection Agency, US Geological Service, Board of Water Supply, and the Department of Land and  
9 Natural Resources to discuss the impact of the releases from the Red Hill underground storage tanks.

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

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

13

## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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



March 27, 2014

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Energy and Environment

and

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Health  
The Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225  
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 on the Red Hill Underground Fuel 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

**SCR73**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for ENE/HTH on Mar 27, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strongly Support.

**SCR73**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for ENE/HTH on Mar 27, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No