



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2626, H.D.1
RELATING TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

REPRESENTATIVE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: March 1, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports H.B. 2626, H.D.1. This measure prohibits
3 the permitting of new underground storage tanks (USTs) within one hundred yards of the
4 shoreline. For those USTs that are currently in use, the measure has been amended to allow the
5 continued use of USTs within one hundred yards of the shoreline.

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

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Par Hawaii

LATE

March 1, 2016

**TESTIMONY SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 2626, HOUSE DRAFT 1,
RELATING TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS**

House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee,

Good afternoon and thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 2626, House Draft 1, Relating to Underground Storage Tanks. My name is Lance Tanaka, director of government and public affairs for Par Hawaii. Par Hawaii, Inc., formerly Mid Pac Petroleum, and Par Hawaii Refining, LLC, formerly Hawaii Independent Energy, are subsidiaries of Texas-based Par Pacific Holdings, Inc., formerly known as Par Petroleum Corporation.

Par Hawaii supports HB 2626, HD 1, which prohibits the permitting of new underground storage tanks within one hundred yards of the shoreline, and allows permit holders for existing underground storage tanks located within one hundred yards of the shoreline to renew their permits.

We believe HB 2626, HD 1 strikes a balance in banning new underground storage tanks within one hundred yards of the shoreline while allowing permit holders of existing tanks to renew their permits, and thereby enabling repair and maintenance work to continue.

Thank you for allowing Par Hawaii the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2626, HD 1.

Lance N. Tanaka
Director, Government & Public Affairs
Par Hawaii



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Tuesday March 1, 2016 2PM Room 325

In Support HB2626 Relating to Underground Storage Tanks

Aloha Chairman Rep. Rhoads, and Members of the JUD Committees:

On behalf of our 12,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly supports HB2626 to protect freshwater and nearshore ocean resources from underground storage tanks exposed to saltwater.

This bill limits the risks posed by saltwater intrusion to underground storage tanks by directing that no new tanks be built within 100 yards of the shoreline, and that all existing tanks within 100-yards of the shoreline be relocated by 2030. This is a prudent, long-term approach to reducing the harm of erosion on underground storage tanks caused by exposure to saltwater.

Saltwater Intrusion is a Risk

California policymakers have already identified saltwater intrusion from sea level as an actionable concern. In its 4th Climate Change Assessment, the California Natural Resources Agency identified saltwater intrusion as a risk to coastal resources, fresh water, transportation, and energy. Their "Safeguarding California Plan" directs policymakers to use planning, siting, and other similar tools to reduce saltwater erosion risks to underground storage tanks in coastal areas.

Hawai'i faces many of the same risks from climate change as California. It is prudent for our policymakers to use a long planning horizon to make similar choices to safeguard our own resources.

Federal law does not address saltwater erosion

It is true that underground storage tanks are highly regulated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. These regulations, however, do not directly address the issue of saltwater intrusion. These regulations also do not prevent the states from taking more protective actions to minimize foreseeable risks.

This is an important step towards improving Hawai'i's readiness in the face of climate change. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Martha Townsend
Director