

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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1696 HD1
RELATING TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: 3/13/2020 Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) is tasked with convening the
- 3 Fuel Tank Advisory Committee pursuant to Section 342L-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The
- 4 Department supports HB1696 HD1 to specify the frequency of these meetings to, “at least twice
- 5 a year.”
- 6 **Offered Amendments:** None
- 7 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
www.boardofwatersupply.com




March 13, 2020

KIRK CALDWELL, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair
KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair
KAY C. MATSUI
RAY C. SOON
MAX J. SWORD

ROSS S. SASAMURA, Ex-Officio
JADE T. BUTAY, Ex-Officio

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

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

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu,
Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Members
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker and Members:

Subject: House Bill 1696, House Draft 1: Relating to Underground Storage Tanks

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Bill (HB) 1696, House Draft (HD) 1.

This bill proposes amending Hawaii Revised Statutes, section 342L-62, to specify the fuel tank advisory committee meet at least twice a year to study issues related to leaks of field-construction underground fuel storage tanks.

We feel the change clarifies the committee's meeting frequency and provides greater opportunity for public participation and transparency of underground fuel storage tank issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1696, HD 1.

Very truly yours,

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



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER NAVY REGION HAWAII
850 TICONDEROGA ST STE 110
JBPHH HI 96860-5101

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH
Testimony on House Bill 1696 HD1, Relating to the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee.

Hearing Date and Time: March 13, 2020 09:20

Testimony on behalf of Navy Region Hawaii

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 1696 HD1.

This bill requires the State Fuel Tank Advisory Committee to meet biannually, at least six months apart. The Navy respectfully notes that the National Defense Authorization Act for FY20 requires the Navy to hold four public meetings per year. Currently, the Navy participates in Fuel Tank Advisory Committee meetings, the annual public meeting required by the Administrative Order on Consent, testimony before the State Legislature and Honolulu City Council, neighborhood board briefings, and other public appearances. The Navy also meets on a regular basis with regulators at the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Health. We are committed to continued transparency, engagement and communication with valued stakeholders and the community.

The Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency are committed to being good stewards of our land and our natural resources today and in the future. These islands are critical for the defense of our nation, and we are committed to the strategic importance of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony today.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, and
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Friday, March 13, 2020 at 9:20 A.M.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

RE: HB 1696 HD1, RELATING TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

Chairs Gabbard and Baker, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Chang and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **provides the following comments** on HB 1696 HD1, which requires the fuel tank advisory committee to meet at least twice year.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Additionally, the Hawaii Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 as part of the Chamber, and advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

In recognizing how critical the U.S. military presence is to Hawaii's economy, the Chamber underscores that the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is vital to military readiness as it supports all Hawaii-based military actions and a significant share of many more in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. The military's ability to remain "ready to respond" is essential for preserving the military's presence in the State and protecting a vital driver of our State's economy. Fuel at Red Hill is also available for civilian use during times of emergencies, such as a natural disaster. It can be utilized by shipping companies to move cargo between the islands, or even by commercial air carriers to move residents or visitors.

We would also like to note that in the recent FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act, that was passed by Congress and signed into law in December 2019, there is a provision that would require the Department of the Navy to hold quarterly events that are open to the public to provide information and updates on the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1696 HD1.

HB-1696-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 8:50:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2020 9:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1696HD1. This bill proposes amending Hawaii Revised Statutes to specify the fuel tank advisory committee meet at least twice a year to study issues related to leaks of field-construction underground fuel storage tanks. This change clarifies the committee's meeting frequency and provides greater opportunity for public participation and transparency of underground fuel storage tank issues. The public should have the opportunity to hear about any potential threats to our drinking water. Please pass HB1686HD1,

HB-1696-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/6/2020 7:08:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2020 9:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support with amendment. This measure is proactive in addressing issues related to leaks of field constructed underground fuel storage tanks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and similar facilities as listed in the bill. **An amendment that would require periodic publication of a summary of the results of any studies done would go along way to assuring neighboring communities that the Advisory Committee and other government officials take this issue seriously and are being proactive. It is also a method of accountability.**



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Friday, March 13, 2020

LATE

House Bill 1696, HD 1

Testifying in Support

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Baker, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Chang, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and Committee on Consumer Protection and Health:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in support of HB 1696, HD 1. This measure requires the fuel tank advisory committee to meet biannually, within a same calendar year at least six months apart. This advisory committee is tasked with (1) considering the short and long term effects of releases of the fuel tanks, including effects relating to the health of the residents, safe drinking water and the environment; (2) response strategies to mitigate the effects of leaks from fuel tanks; (3) methods to improve communication between the U.S. Navy, Air Force, and Army; the State; any local board of water supply; and the public in the event of a leak of any fuel tank; (4) groundwater test results in relation to the surrounding areas of fuel tank facilities, with a particular emphasis on the groundwater near the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility; (5) implications of shutting down any fuel tank facility; and (6) updates in progress to meeting the goals of the agreement between the state, the affected county, and the federal government.

In 2018, the O`ahu County Democrats, out of dire concern over the risk to the Moanalua-Waimalu Aquifer, our major drinking water source for Moanalua to Hawai'i Kai, affecting hundreds of thousands of residents, businesses and visitors of the Honolulu District, adopted the following resolution:

OC 2018-11. Urging the United States Navy to retro fit its twenty jet fuel tanks or relocate them to a location away from the aquifer

Whereas, A Navy analysis may underestimate the contamination potential of leaks from giant fuel tanks from Red Hill; and

Whereas, The Navy has 20 underground fuel storage tanks dating to World War II in Red Hill above Pearl Harbor; and

Whereas, The tanks sit on an aquifer that supplies a quarter of the water consumed in urban Honolulu; and

Whereas, More than 27,000 gallons of jet fuel leaked from one of the tanks in 2014; and

Whereas, The Navy's evaluation of the potential risks appears to be skewed toward concluding that millions of gallons of jet fuel could be released without damaging the groundwater; and

Whereas, The Navy cannot locate the leaked fuel or accurately assess the risk to our groundwater; and

Whereas, Instead, the Navy is providing models to produce its preferred outcomes; and

Whereas, The Navy and regulatory agencies are working on a 20-year-plan to reduce the risk of leaks and fuel contamination from the tanks; and

Whereas, The plan includes new tank designs and potentially storing the fuel someplace other than Red Hill; and therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the United States Navy to install double-walled tanks at Red Hill within five years or move the tanks if the Navy is unable to retrofit the twenty tanks into double-walled tanks within the time prescribed; and be it further

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature, and the U.S. Congress to mandate that the Navy retrofit the twenty Red Hill tanks to double-walled tanks within five years and or relocate the twenty tanks to a location where the risk of leakage into the aquifer and groundwater is greatly minimized; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Navy, members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Legislators who are members of the Democratic Party; the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; and Members of the City Council of the County of Honolulu; and the 2018 convention resolutions committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports the passage of this measure to require the fuel tank advisory committee to meet biannually, within a same calendar year at least six months apart so that a favorable resolution can be met wherein the people of the state of Hawai'i, particularly those residing, working, and visiting the county of Honolulu, can feel safe and risk-free of petroleum contamination in its major drinking water aquifer for generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Co-Chair, Green New Deal Committee

Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com