

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
HEALTH
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Monday, March 21, 2022
1:30 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1954, HOUSE DRAFT 2
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO FUND A GRANT TO THE
BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS, FUTURE
PLANNING, AND GROUND WATER REMEDIATION**

House Bill 1954, House Draft 2, proposes to make an emergency appropriation from the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i to fund a grant-in-aid to the Honolulu board of water supply for emergency operations, future planning, and remediation resulting from the contamination of the southern Oahu basal aquifer and require the Honolulu board of water supply to make reports to the legislature on all expenditures, remediation efforts, and testing quality prior to the regular sessions of 2023, 2024, and 2025. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following amendments.**

The November 2021 Navy Red Hill fuel release and resulting contamination caused an unprecedented threat to the Moanalua and possibly Waimalu aquifer systems. The Honolulu Board of Water Supply has implemented immediate risk management activities to prevent the contamination of its nearby water sources by shutting off the Hālawā Shaft, Hālawā Wells, and 'Aiea Wells for an indefinite time period. The Honolulu Board of Water Supply will be challenged to meet its customers' increased water demand during the upcoming dry season with nearly 14 million gallons per day of sources suddenly becoming unavailable. The Department believes that along with emergency operations, planning and remediation, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply must also increase its public outreach and education water conservation campaigns to aggressively

curtail customer demands. The Department believes that there is opportunity for reducing Honolulu Board of Water Supply's per capita demand in the Honolulu service area, which is estimated to be approximately 150 gallons per person per day.

While the current bill language may allow for the Honolulu Board of Water Supply to use grant funding for outreach, education and conservation activities, the Department respectfully offers amendments clarifying this by modifying SECTION 3 of the bill as follows, new text is underlined:

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 as a grant-in-aid to the city and county of Honolulu board of water supply for emergency operations, future planning[7] including outreach, education, and water conservation activities, and remediation resulting from the contamination of the southern Oahu basal aquifer.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:02:01 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neal Fujii	Testifying for DLNR-CWRM	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com



March 21, 2022

RICK BLANGIARDI, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair
KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair
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MAX J. SWORD
NA'ALEHU ANTHONY

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DAWN B. SZEWCZYK, P.E., Ex-Officio

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

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

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Inouye and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1954, HD2: Making an Emergency Appropriation to Fund a Grant to the Board of Water Supply for Emergency Operations, Future Planning, and Ground Water Remediation

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Bill (HB) 1954, House Draft (HD) 2.

This bill would make an emergency appropriation from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to fund a grant-in-aid to the BWS for emergency operations, future planning, and remediation resulting from the contamination of Oahu's sole-source groundwater aquifer.

The release of fuel from the Red Hill facility has already caused the BWS to incur costs and take responsive actions to address the potential impacts to Oahu's drinking water. It has also forced the BWS to shut off its Halawa Shaft, Halawa and Aiea wells reducing its capacity to provide water service to metropolitan Honolulu, and the Aiea-Halawa areas. This measure will help offset some of the costs already incurred and to support future water resource protection measures.

The BWS appreciates the legislature's leadership expressed in HB1954, HD2 and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

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

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 3:37:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strongly support HB1954 HD2 and our own Mr. Ernie Lau!!

I support ANY money being put forth for this catastrophe. It is a worst case scenario waiting to happen.

Does anyone want the Department of Health to test your water and fine Tph-d, f, or O.? I presume the answer is "hell no!" Does anyone think that there is an ENVIRONMENTAL ACCEPTABLE LEVEL (EAL)? No! TThe Island of Oahu needs to understand that there should be ZERO, the number has to be ZERO. Check youar own water quality reports! Did you see petroleum in your water? Well, let me tell you that the current EAL is 500. For this disaster. the DOH lowered it to 200 then increaed to 211 as an incident specific limit. This is a detection level. Wake up, if you smell fuel in your water or are seeing a sheen, IT'S TOO LATE, you have already been drinking it, cooking with it, bathing in it, watering your lawn in it, watering your pets...!

Sorry for the rant..

We cannot afford to be in a reactive state. To be proactive, the State must address the immediate danger to the island's aquifer.

If there is a leak in the tunnel, it becomes a fire hazard. The facility is already having issues with the fire suppression system. Remember the drain that no one knew about!!

Although no one has been talking much about the pipes that run underground in close proximity to the fuel lines. These pipes are also an immediate risk. Were the pipes flushed? Do they still contain fuel? Does anyone know? Regardless of if the tanks are out of service, there is still fuel in the tanks.

Another leak is a strong possibility. A ruptured pipe is a strong possibility. If a PVC pipe getting struck caused the pipe to rupture, then we can assume that PVC pipes are in use.

Leaks will occur due to the elements, deterioration, or low quality material, even poor workanship. The problem is "no predictability."

However there is a big difference between a water leak and a fuel leak into a water source. As I have said in previous testimony, I do not care where the \$\$ comes from but it needs to get to BWS sooner rather than later!

The protection of the aquifer is of utmost importance. The purpose for the appropriation is for emergency operations, future planning, and remediation resulting from the contamination of the southern Oahu basal aquifer. The aquifer IS CONTAMINATED. We have yet to hear, HOW MUCH?

We are all part of Oahu's water system and we are looking to the Legislature to put some urgency to the appropriation for all of Oahu!

Lets move forward and give the BWS as much support as they need. Currently they are one agency the public trusts to put urgency into this mess!

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND WATER AND LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1954, H.D. 2

March 21, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO FUND A GRANT TO THE BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS, FUTURE PLANNING, AND GROUND WATER REMEDIATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 1954, H.D. 2, makes an unspecified general fund appropriation in FY 22 to fund a grant to the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) to be used for emergency operations, future planning, and remediation and requires BWS to submit reports to the Legislature on the expenditure of the funds, remediation efforts, and testing quality.

B&F notes that pursuant to Section 9 of Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, no appropriation bill, except bills recommended by the Governor for immediate passage, or to cover the expenses of the Legislature, shall be passed on final reading until the supplemental appropriations bill has been transmitted to the Governor. It is unclear if H.B. No. 1954, H.D. 2, is recommended by the Governor for immediate passage because the bill is not included in the Governor's Package or is designated by the Governor for immediate passage.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 7:09:51 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai women's caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Give the BWS the resources to do what needs to be done to protect Oahu's aquifer. And then get the military to go to its very deep pockets to reimburse. It's a shameful history the Military has leaving toxic messes almost everywhere it goes and expects others to clean up after them



To: The Senate Committee on Health (HTH)
and
The Senate Committee on Water and Land (WTL)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022, 1:30pm

In strong support of HB1954 HD2

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Baker, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the HTH and WTL committees,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of HB1954 HD2** which makes an emergency appropriation from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to fund a grant-in-aid to the Honolulu board of water supply (BWS) for emergency operations, future planning, and remediation resulting from the contamination of the southern Oahu basal aquifer.

The 2021 fuel leak at the United States Navy's Red Hill fuel storage facility on Oahu and subsequent groundwater contamination is an ongoing environmental and health crisis. Despite the Navy's agreement to drain the fuel storage tanks, the immediate threat of groundwater and aquifer contamination remains. Hawaii's drinking water supply was already at risk due to the effects of climate change. All the more reason to ensure we take great care in protecting our aquifer from fuel contamination, or any other source of pollution, keeping it safe for current and future generations.

The Navy has shamefully been pushing back against the draining and removal of these jet fuel tanks that sit a mere 100 feet above Oahu's sole source aquifer, as if it was acceptable to put the importance of our health and well-being up for debate. If it wasn't for the swift actions taken by the BWS and shutting down the Halawa shaft, a worse-case scenario could have occurred with contaminated water spreading throughout the entire system.

Given that the climate crisis already threatens our drinking water, we must make it a priority to protect our precious aquifer. We all have complete trust and confidence in the BWS to take on these immense responsibilities noted in HB1954 HD2, but they will need additional resources to properly address the tasks that go beyond their normal capacity.

Bottomline, it is critical that funds are provided to the BWS to ensure they have the capacity to do what is needed to perform emergency operations, future planning, and remediation resulting from the Navy's contamination of the Southern Oahu Basal Aquifer.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this very important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 10:19:24 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for considering. I am in full support. O'ahu's water is in peril and this will help. Please vote yes.

However, I must object to the cop out of using defective effective dates. They are often the kiss of death. 2060 is lmost 40 years in the future. Many of us will be dead then, or everyone will because of the Navy contaminating our water supply. You must go back to the original bill where it says effective upon approval.

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 9:05:18 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT.

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 10:01:52 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy K. Tang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1954 HD2. O'ahu's groundwater contamination is an ongoing environmental health crisis. Despite the Navy's agreement to drain the fuel storage tanks, the immediate threat of groundwater and aquifer contamination, remains!

Hawaii's drinking water supply was already at risk, due to the effects of climate change and agricultural/ pharmaceutical companies contaminating our water supply. We must protect our aquifers from fuel contamination or any other source of pollution, keeping it safe for current and future generations.

The Board of Water Supply needs funds for emergency operations, future planning and remediation resulting from contamination. The people have trust and confidence in BWS to take on these immense responsibilities noted in HB1954 HD2, but they will need additional resources to properly address the tasks that go beyond their normal capacity.

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 10:30:26 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The intention is good, but the Navy--not Hawaii taxpayers--should be responsible for these expenses, including a proper water treatment plant.

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 10:41:23 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear HTH and WTL committees,

Despite the recent information that the 20 enormous fuel tanks at Red Hill will be shut down and emptied, the U.S. Navy is not fully committed to protecting Hawaii's precious drinking water. We know that dismantling this aging facility (nearly 80 years old) will be fraught with danger of additional contamination.

We know we can trust Board of Water Supply's Chief Engineer, Ernie Lau, to work methodically and capably to keep Oahu's water supply safe. He and his team have been at the forefront of this issue for years and should be at the forefront of the clean-up.

Please pass HB1954 HD2 to supply the emergency funds needed by our local agencies who WILL see to it that Oahu's water supply remains pristine. Future generations of Hawaii are counting on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas and Ronald Yasuda

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 12:13:50 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly support this bill because Hawaii's drinking water supply was already at risk due to the effects of climate change. All the more reason to ensure we take great care in protecting our aquifer from fuel contamination, or any other source of pollution, keeping it safe for current and future generations.

Funds need to be provided to the BWS to ensure they have the capacity to do what is needed to perform emergency operations, future planning, and remediation resulting from the Navy's contamination of the Southern Oahu Basal Aquifer. We must ensure the protection of Oahu's sole-source aquifer from fuel contamination, or any other source of pollution, keeping it safe for current and future generations.

Mahalo

Noel Bobilin

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 1:43:35 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1954 HD2 is an important measure that must be SUPPORTED. The Red Hill contamination was a shameful reflection on how Hawaii treats its environmental and health issues. This crisis imperils our groundwater and aquifer contamination is the result. We must make it a priority to protect our precious aquifer. Please SUPPORT because funding is needed to provide the BWS what is needed to ensure they have the capacity to perform emergency operations, future planning, and remediation resulting from the Navy's contamination of the Southern Oahu Basal Aquifer. We must ensure the protection of Oahu's sole-source aquifer from fuel contamination, or any other source of pollution, keeping it safe for current and future generations.

Mahalo for your SUPPORT of this measure.

Tadia Rice

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 3:28:50 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Racquel Segato-Figueroa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am a Hawai'i resident deeply concerned about the protecting and preserving our water sources. It must be a top priority to protect our aquifers, which are already threatened by climate change. BWS will need additional resources to properly address the tasks noted in HB1954 HD2 that go beyond their normal capacity. More funding is needed for emergency operations, future planning, and remediation resulting from the Navy's contamination of the Southern Oahu Basal Aquifer. We must ensure the protection of Oahu's sole-source aquifer from fuel contamination, or any other source of pollution, keeping it safe for current and future generations. Mahalo!

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 8:16:40 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Christopher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Given that the climate crisis already threatens our drinking water, we must make it a priority to protect our precious aquifer. We all have complete trust and confidence in the BWS to take on these immense responsibilities noted in HB1954 HD2, but they will need additional resources to properly address the tasks that go beyond their normal capacity.

Funds need to be provided to the BWS to ensure they have the capacity to do what is needed to perform emergency operations, future planning, and remediation resulting from the Navy's contamination of the Southern Oahu Basal Aquifer. We must ensure the protection of Oahu's sole-source aquifer from fuel contamination, or any other source of pollution, keeping it safe for current and future generations

Ryan Christopher

Honokaa HI

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 8:50:54 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noreen Dougherty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1954 HD2. The State of Hawaii should lead by example and provide safe drinking water and clean up environmental spills while assuring residents that precautions will be taken to avoid future spills.

Thank you.

Noreen Dougherty

Kapaa, Hawaii

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:57:31 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha HTH/WTL Chairs, Vice Chairs & Committee,

I belong to 350HI and assist them with commenting on legislation each year. I agree with them on HB1954 and support the bill. Given that the climate crisis already threatens our drinking water, we must make it a priority to protect our precious aquifer. We all have complete trust and confidence in the BWS to take on these immense responsibilities noted in HB1954 HD2, but they will need additional resources to properly address the tasks that go beyond their normal capacity.

-- Funds need to be provided to the BWS to ensure they have the capacity to do what is needed to perform emergency operations, future planning, and remediation resulting from the Navy's contamination of the Southern Oahu Basal Aquifer. We must ensure the protection of Oahu's sole-source aquifer from fuel contamination, or any other source of pollution, keeping it safe for current and future generations.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:04:36 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Funds need to be provided to the BWS to ensure they have the resources to perform any necessary emergency operations and remediation resulting from the Navy's contamination of the Southern Oahu Basal Aquifer. We must ensure the protection of Oahu's sole-source aquifer from fuel contamination or any other source of pollution, keeping it safe for current and future generations. The effects of climate change already threaten Oahu's water supply, making protective measures all the more urgent.

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:23:31 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1954 HD2.

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 1:05:48 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Reilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Keohkalole and Inouye, Vice Chairs Baker and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of HB1954 HD2

The Board of Water Supply has been at the forefront in condemnation of the Red Hill disaster and they must have the funds to complete the remediation that is beyond their normal capacity.

Thank you for your consideration, Ron Reilly

Volcano Village, Hawaii 96785

LATE

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 3:53:06 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chairs and Members,

Given that the climate crisis already threatens our drinking water, we must make it a priority to protect our precious aquifer. We all have complete trust and confidence in the BWS to take on these immense responsibilities noted in HB1954 HD2, but they will need additional resources to properly address the tasks that go beyond their normal capacity.

-- Funds need to be provided to the BWS to ensure they have the capacity to do what is needed to perform emergency operations, future planning, and remediation resulting from the Navy's contamination of the Southern Oahu Basal Aquifer. We must ensure the protection of Oahu's sole-source aquifer from fuel contamination, or any other source of pollution, keeping it safe for current and future generations.

Please act now for the future,

Diane Ware, 99-7815 Kapoha Pl, Volcano Hi 96785

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 8:04:33 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill!

HB-1954-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 8:10:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

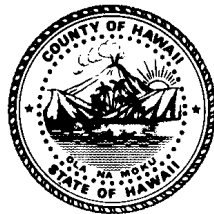
LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara DiGrazia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do what's right for our water and our island home! Thank you!

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy. Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

LATE

March 21, 2022
TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB1954 HD2, RELATING TO MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO
FUND A GRANT TO THE BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY FOR EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS, FUTURE PLANNING, AND GROUND WATER REMEDIATION.
Committee on Health
Committee on Water and Land
Monday, March 21, 2022 at 1:30pm

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

I support HB1954 HD2 which makes an emergency appropriation to fund a grant to the Board of Water Supply for emergency operations, future planning, and ground water remediation. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds and require the Honolulu board of water supply to submit reports to the legislature on the expenditure of the funds, remediation efforts, and testing quality prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2023, 2024, and 2025.

The 2021 fuel leak at the U.S. Navy's Red Hill fuel storage facility and subsequent groundwater contamination is an ongoing environmental and health crisis. Despite the Navy's agreement to drain the fuel storage tanks, the immediate threat of groundwater and aquifer contamination remains. Public health and the quality of Hawai'i's drinking water, our 'āina, our streams, ground waters, nearshore marine areas, and the ocean are being harmed by water pollution from leaking underground storage tanks.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Health, and the Committee on Water and Land to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council