

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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



March 29, 2022

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 430
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco and Members:

SUBJECT: HCR 140, HR 140: Recognizing Ernest "Ernie" Lau and His Role in Protecting Hawaii's Water Supply and Establishing the "Ernie Lau Water Protector Poster Contest".

As Manager and Chief Engineer to the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS), I am humbled and honored to be recognized in House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 140 and House Resolution (HR) 140. My role as a public servant and BWS Manager and Chief Engineer is to ensure the BWS provides safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water now and into the future.

While I appreciate this honor, there are many more that also deserve to be recognized. Mr. Erwin Kawata, Program Administrator of the BWS Water Quality Division, who has stood for the past 8 years advocating for the protection of our precious wai. The Sierra Club and its then Executive Director, Ms. Marti Townsend who was an early advocate. Members of our community, the unsung heroes who for years who for years listened and heard our concerns about this danger to our wai. The kanaka maoli, who we have learned what our kuleana should be in protecting the `aina. There are many more heroes of this effort. The journey is not over yet. Together, we can ensure that our precious wai will be there for generations to come. Let us endeavor to leave this gift in better condition than we received it. Pure and free of contamination!

It is important for all levels of government leadership and the community-at-large to remain vigilant and steadfast to lead this effort with one voice to ensure the Navy will not delay, deflect, and defer the defueling of the Red Hill Facility and its permanent closure.

Ka Wai Ola – all life needs water.

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair
and Members
March 29, 2022
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 140, HR 140.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Y.W. Lau', written in a cursive style.

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

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come
kupuna4moopuna@gmail.com



HCR 140/ HR 140 - RECOGNIZING ERNEST "ERNIE" LAU AND HIS ROLE IN PROTECTING HAWAII'S WATER SUPPLY AND ESTABLISHING THE "ERNIE LAU WATER PROTECTOR POSTER CONTEST".

Committee on Water and Land 3/29/2022 @9:00a

SUPPORT

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, whose members include public and private school administrators, teachers, and support staff, are in **SUPPORT of HCR 140/HR 140** recognizing Ernest "Ernie" Lau and his role in protecting Hawai'i's water and establishing a water protector poster contest.

The "Ernie Lau Water Protector Poster Contest" is a wonderful way to perpetuate Mr. Lau's legacy of water protection by engaging elementary school students throughout Hawai'i to take action to protect Hawai'i's water.

"There is no substitute for pure water" repeatedly spoken by Ernie Lau has taken on personal meaning for everyone in Hawai'i, including our young elementary students. Giving those in grades K-5 an opportunity to creatively express themselves is both healing and responsible. This poster contest is in alignment with the Hawai'i Department of Education's "Nā Hopena A'o" framework: "working together with the broader community to develop the competencies that strengthen a sense of belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, total-well-being..."

We look forward to seeing these water protector posters on display in public places serving to educate, inspire, and continue Ernie Lau's legacy of water protection.

Mahalo,
Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
Pana'ewa, Hawai'i

Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono!



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair
Committee on Water & Land

Re: **HCR 140 HR 140 RECOGNIZING ERNEST “ERNIE” LAU AND HIS ROLE IN PROTECTING HAWAII’S WATER SUPPLY AND ESTABLISHING THE “ERNIE LAU WATER PROTECTOR POSTER CONTEST”**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 430 and via Videoconference

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the Committees on Water & Land:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HCR 140 and HR 140. These Resolutions would recognize Ernest “Ernie” Lau and his role in protecting Hawaii’s water supply and establishing the “Ernie Lau Water Protector Poster Contest.

Ernie Lau deserves the profound and heartfelt thanks of all of the residents of Oahu, and indeed the entire State of Hawaii, for his dedication and courage in standing up to the U.S. Navy, sometimes alone, to protect our water supply. We all owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Equally important is the diligent work of Erwin Kawata, water quality program administrator for the Board of Water Supply. He should also be recognized for his good work in protecting Hawaii’s water supply. Ernie Lau and Erwin Kawata oftentimes have worked as a team in their crusade to protect the Moanalua - Waimalua Aquafer.

This Resolution would recognize Ernest “Ernie” Lau and his role in protecting Hawaii’s water supply and establish the “Ernie Lau Water Protector Poster Contest.”

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alan B. Burdick

Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HR-140

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 8:27:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution to honor Ernie Lau by educating and inspiring keiki to protect Hawaii's precious water. Ernie Lau is a true hero and has won everyone's deep respect and gratitude for his steadfast efforts toward protecting our sole-source aquifer. I strongly urge that in addition to what is proposed in this resolution, that if we are to truly honor Mr. Lau that we ensure the **permanent defueling and closure of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility without further delay. Mahalo.**

HR-140

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 4:06:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident of Kaimuki and somebody who learned volumes about Red Hill thanks to Ernie Lau's tireless work, I strongly support this measure to honor him. Under ordinary circumstances, your average person would probably never know the name of the Board of Water Supply's chief engineer. The fact that so many do speaks to Mr. Lau's integral role in seeing through the decommissioning of Red Hill. In terms of this resolution, it would be nice to see an attempt at engaging more than just young students, but I appreciate the intent and hope to see the City also recognize its exemplary public servant in a meaningful way.

Mahalo,
Dylan Ramos