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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RED HILL TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO THE RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY, WATER CONTAMINATION AND REMEDIATION, AND ALL RELATED IMPACTS.

1 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives finds that the State  
2 of Hawaii faces an emergency that requires immediate and  
3 decisive action; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, on November 28, 2021, users of the Navy's Joint  
6 Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam water system complained of a fuel odor  
7 coming from their water, as well as an oily sheen on their  
8 water; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, numerous residents reported their families and  
11 pets experienced health issues after consuming the water,  
12 including rashes, mouth sores, stomach aches, vomiting, burning  
13 eyes, sore throats, headaches, and nausea; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, on November 29, 2021, the Department of Health  
16 issued an advisory to all users on the Navy's water system to  
17 avoid using the tap water for drinking, cooking, or oral hygiene  
18 and also advised that users who detect a fuel odor from their  
19 water should avoid using the water for drinking, cooking,  
20 bathing, dishwashing, laundry, or oral hygiene; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, as a direct result of the water contamination,  
23 over three thousand residents were required to move out of their  
24 homes and several businesses were shut down or were forced to  
25 limit their operations; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, several Hawaii public schools and child  
28 development centers on the Navy water system were also impacted  
29 by the water contamination, forced to close off sinks and water  
30 fountains and use only bottled water for handwashing,  
31 dishwashing, and drinking purposes; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water  
3 Supply, to protect its drinking water system, has shut down  
4 multiple water sources, including the Halawa Shaft, which  
5 supplies approximately twenty percent of water to urban  
6 Honolulu; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, these incidences are the latest in a history of at  
9 least seventy leaks and spills, whereby at least an estimated  
10 one hundred eighty thousand gallons of fuel are unaccounted for,  
11 with an unknown percentage of fuel and contaminants in the  
12 aquifer, including twenty-seven thousand gallons of jet fuel  
13 spilled in 2014; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the suspected source of the water contamination  
16 was from a November 20, 2021, release of approximately fourteen  
17 thousand gallons of a mixture of water and fuel from a crack in  
18 a fire suppression drain line at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage  
19 Facility; and the United States Navy has identified JP-5, or jet  
20 fuel, in the Red Hill Shaft, one of the drinking water sources  
21 for the Navy water system; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, as of December 3, 2021, the Department of Health  
24 received nearly five hundred complaints, mostly from residents  
25 or customers served by the Navy water system, complaining of  
26 fuel or chemical smells from the drinking water; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, on December 6, 2021, this body sent a letter to  
29 Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III and Secretary of the  
30 Navy Carlos Del Toro, to request that the Navy prepare a plan to  
31 decommission the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and store  
32 the fuel in an alternate location; and to request a detailed  
33 plan for a water treatment facility to address potential  
34 contamination as a result of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage  
35 Facility; and  
36

37 WHEREAS, also on December 6, 2021, the Department of Health  
38 issued an emergency order requiring the United States Navy to  
39 immediately suspend operations at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage  
40 Facility, as it represents "an imminent peril to human health  
41 and safety or the environment" and to take measures to treat  
42 contaminated drinking water at the Red Hill Shaft and to safely



1 remove all fuel from the twenty underground storage tanks at Red  
2 Hill; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the emergency order also stated that, given the  
5 number of incidences that have occurred at Red Hill over the  
6 past year, and in view of the current drinking water  
7 contamination, the United States Navy has not demonstrated and  
8 cannot ensure that immediate and appropriate response actions  
9 are available or will be available should another fuel release  
10 occur in the future; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, on January 3, 2022, the Department of Health  
13 issued its Final Decision, Order, Findings of Fact, and  
14 Conclusions of Law, upholding the December 6, 2021, emergency  
15 order; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, this body agrees with and fully supports the  
18 December 6, 2021, emergency order and the January 3, 2022, final  
19 decision by the Department of Health; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, the continued operation of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel  
22 Storage Facility, consisting of twenty field-constructed  
23 underground storage tanks, pipelines, and related  
24 infrastructure, is an unacceptable threat to Oahu's groundwater  
25 aquifer; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency  
28 designated Oahu's groundwater aquifer source as one of nine  
29 sole-source aquifers and determined that this is the principal  
30 source of drinking water for Oahu and if contaminated, would  
31 create a significant hazard to public health; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water  
34 Supply is exercising all due caution and will not reopen its  
35 Aiea and Halawa shafts until it can confirm that its systems  
36 will not be negatively impacted by contaminants migrating from  
37 Red Hill; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, the permanent loss of water supply from the Aiea  
40 and Halawa shafts could lead to water restrictions or shortages  
41 and have a cascading effect on construction, schools, public  
42 health and safety; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, on December 21, 2021, the Speaker of the House of  
3 Representatives, established the House Interim Committee on Red  
4 Hill and appointed the following members:

- 5  
6 (1) Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Co-Chair;  
7  
8 (2) Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Co-Chair;  
9  
10 (3) Representative Sonny Ganaden;  
11  
12 (4) Representative Linda Ichiyama;  
13  
14 (5) Representative Aaron Ling Johanson;  
15  
16 (6) Representative Lauren Matsumoto;  
17  
18 (7) Representative Takashi Ohno; and  
19  
20 (8) Representative David A. Tarnas; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, the purpose of the House Interim Committee was to  
23 recommend legislative proposals for the 2022 Regular Session  
24 that focus on the containment, treatment, and prevention of  
25 water quality matters related to Red Hill; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, on December 29, 2021, the House Interim Committee  
28 on Red Hill conducted a joint informational briefing with the  
29 Senate to receive updates from the Navy regarding the water  
30 contamination and remediation; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, the House Interim Committee on Red Hill also  
33 discussed legislation for 2022 and, among other items,  
34 recommended continuation of the committee during the 2022  
35 Regular Session to address emerging issues regarding Red Hill;  
36 and  
37

38 WHEREAS, on June 30, 2022, the United States Indo-Pacific  
39 Command announced the establishment of the Joint Task Force Red  
40 Hill to ensure the safe and expeditious defueling of the Red  
41 Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in close coordination with the  
42 State; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, on November 1, 2022, the United States Navy  
3 submitted its Red Hill Tank Closure Plan to the Department of  
4 Health, taking the next steps to defuel and close the Red Hill  
5 Bulk Fuel Storage Facility; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, on November 29, 2022, the Department of Health was  
8 notified of a release of approximately one thousand one hundred  
9 gallons of aqueous film forming foam above Adit 6 at the Red  
10 Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, which could be devastating to  
11 the Oahu's aquifers; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to formulate a coordinated  
14 state and local policy, including but not limited to regulatory  
15 functions for the remediation of the facility, surrounding area,  
16 and the aquifer, to ensure the restoration and stewardship of  
17 clean drinking water for future generations; now, therefore,  
18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
21 Session of 2023, that there is established the House Special  
22 Committee on Red Hill to address issues related to the Red Hill  
23 Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, water contamination and remediation,  
24 and all related impacts; and  
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee consist  
27 of the following members:  
28

- 29 (1) Representative Linda Ichiyama, Co-Chair;  
30  
31 (2) Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Co-Chair;  
32  
33 (3) Representative Micah P.K. Aiu;  
34  
35 (4) Representative Della Au Belatti;  
36  
37 (5) Representative Sonny Ganaden;  
38  
39 (6) Representative Mark J. Hashem; and  
40  
41 (7) Representative Kanani Souza; and  
42



# H.R. NO. 9

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee may  
 2 conduct informational briefings on issues related to Red Hill  
 3 and take any other actions as the committee deems appropriate;  
 4 and

5  
 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee meet and  
 7 report on a regular basis to the House of Representatives.  
 8  
 9  
 10

OFFERED BY:

Inde Lehman

David Lujan

AC

Sold

Paula Rios

Theresa Lujan

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Nicole E. Lujan

and [unclear]

[unclear]

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Miriam K. Parker

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Elle Cochran

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[unclear]



Walter A. Belmont

Admiral

John M. [unclear]

[unclear]

Jerry Amato

[unclear]

Jack [unclear]

De Helt

NAB

[unclear]

Mark H.

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H.R. NO. 9

SS  
Gregory Takayama

JAN 30 2023

