

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND UNITED STATES NAVY TO PROMPTLY DEFUEL AND PERMANENTLY DECOMMISSION THE RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY AND TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR FINANCIAL HARM CAUSED BY THE RED HILL FUEL LEAKS.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Armed Forces have a long history
2 of causing environmental harm in Hawaii, including harm to the
3 State's water through fuel leaks and spills associated with the
4 Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility; and

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6 WHEREAS, since 1943, the Red Hill facility has recorded at
7 least seventy-six fuel "releases," or spills caused by equipment
8 leaks or human error; and

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10 WHEREAS, at least two hundred thousand gallons of fuel from
11 these recorded leaks and spills have been released from the Red
12 Hill facility into the underlying lava rocks and water table;
13 and

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15 WHEREAS, in 2014, approximately twenty-seven thousand
16 gallons of fuel were released, causing groundwater and soil
17 monitoring systems around the Red Hill facility to consistently
18 register the presence of diesel fuel; and

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20 WHEREAS, in November 2021, more than three thousand three
21 hundred gallons of fuel from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage
22 Facility leaked into the drinking water that services military
23 housing and schools on the island of Oahu, causing widespread
24 illnesses, displacing thousands of military families, and
25 forcing affected schools to close or to operate without usable
26 tap water; and

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28 WHEREAS, although the United States Department of Defense
29 agreed to defuel the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, the
30 Secretary of Defense has the authority to unilaterally decide
31 whether defueling will adversely affect military operations and
32 when defueling will begin; and

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1 WHEREAS, a risk analysis conducted by the United States
2 Navy concluded that there is an eighty percent probability of
3 further fuel leaks occurring at the Red Hill facility in the
4 next five years, suggesting that delays in defueling continue to
5 put Hawaii's water at risk; now, therefore,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
9 that the Secretary of Defense and United States Navy are
10 requested to:

- 11
- 12 (1) Promptly defuel and permanently decommission the
13 entire Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, according
14 to defueling plan and closure plan guidelines
15 established by the Department of Health;
 - 16
17 (2) Fully reimburse the State and Honolulu Board of Water
18 Supply for any costs associated with the monitoring
19 and remediation of the contaminated aquifer, according
20 to a plan to be approved by the Department of Health;
21 and
 - 22
23 (3) Monetarily compensate affected schools for any costs
24 associated with the water crisis created by fuel leaks
25 and spills at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility;
26 and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Defense, United
30 States Navy Pacific Fleet Commander, Director of Health, and
31 Chair of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply.

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34 OFFERED BY:

Kurt Favelle

