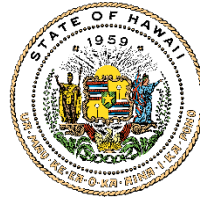


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
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
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Monday, March 20, 2023
3:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1511, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES**

House Bill 1511, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds as a grant-in-aid to the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) to: (1) site and install monitoring wells to collect important data; and (2) design and construct an exploratory well to meet future potable water requirements for the metropolitan area on O'ahu. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided its passage does not replace or adversely impacts the priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request, and offers the following amendment.**

The shut-down of BWS's Hālawa Shaft and various other sources has required a shift in their pumpage to other aquifers outside of the Waimalu Aquifer System Area. The Red Hill monitoring wells drilled by the Navy are primarily for determining the extent of existing fuel releases and to provide sentinel wells for protection of vulnerable production wells. More wells will help to better assess migration of any current contaminants and/or future spills or releases towards BWS's Hālawa Shaft.

Additionally, the shut-down of various BWS sources necessitated a shift in pumpage from the Waimalu Aquifer System Area to other aquifers, primarily the Honolulu Aquifer Sector, which is already overtaxed. With the years-long duration of the shut-down of Hālawa Shaft and the Hālawa and 'Aiea wells, BWS has lost approximately 13.5 million gallons per day of production capacity.

Therefore, it is imperative that BWS find new sources to augment their already stressed network of production wells.

For these reasons, the Department supports the appropriation of funds for the City and County of Honolulu's BWS to drill monitor wells to better assess the risk to Hālawā Shaft in the effort to get it back online, as well as the drilling of an exploratory well to build system resiliency by adding a new source, with the following amendments to SECTION 1 (1) of House Bill 1511, House Draft 1 (grey highlight):

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds as a grant-in-aid to the city and county of Honolulu board of water supply to:

- (1) Site and install monitoring wells, after consultation with the department of health and the commission on water resource management, to collect and share important data needed to understand the condition of the groundwater aquifer underneath and surrounding the Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility and its implications to Oahu's drinking water supply; and
- (2) Design and construct an exploratory well to meet future potable water requirements for the metropolitan area on Oahu.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure with the proposed amendment.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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



March 20, 2023

RICK BLANGIARDI, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair
KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair
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JONATHAN KANESHIRO

DAWN B. SZEWCZYK, P.E., Ex-Officio
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio

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

ERWIN M. KAWATA
Deputy Manager

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Public Safety and
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
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 Wakai, Chair Inouye and Members:

Subject: House Bill 1511, HD1: Relating to Water Resources

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Bill (HB) 1511, House Draft (HD) 1.

This measure proposes to appropriate grant-in-aid to the BWS to fund the planning, design, and construction of seven monitoring wells and an exploratory well in response to the Red Hill fuel contamination crisis.

The monitoring wells will provide important information that will help characterize the nature and extent of the fuel contamination in the underground aquifer and impact on our existing well stations. The purpose of the exploratory well is to find new water supplies to replace the capacity loss from the shutdown of three BWS well stations due to the fuel contamination crisis.

This bill is needed to address the most unprecedented contamination of Oahu's irreplaceable drinking water resources from Red Hill facility fuel and other hazardous materials such as aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) releases that pose an imminent threat to public health and the environment.

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members
March 20, 2023
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1511, HD 1.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Y. W. Lau', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

A small, handwritten mark or signature in blue ink, possibly initials, located below the typed name.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND AND PUBLIC SAFETY, & INTERGOVERNMENTAL &
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Monday, March 20, 2023 — 3:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1511 HD1, Relating to Water Resources.

Dear Chair Inouye, Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports HB 1511 HD1, which appropriates funds as a grant-in-aid to the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply to plan, design, and construct seven monitoring wells and an exploratory well.

Ulupono supports the State's efforts to ensure a safe, reliable water resource for our local communities. This bill seeks to provide important resources to the Honolulu Board of Water Supply to install seven monitoring wells near the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility to collect data on groundwater aquifer conditions. With the recent events around the Red Hill fuel contamination, there is more need to protect our freshwater resources than ever before. That aquifer affects all of O'ahu's residents and, due to its importance to tourism and tax revenues as well, ultimately affects all of Hawai'i's residents. Furthermore, without safe, reliable drinking water resources, building more housing to address the housing crisis will also not be possible. Honolulu Board of Water Supply needs and deserves State support in fulfilling its critical mission.

We appreciate the Legislature's attention to our State's water security by providing resources to safeguard our freshwater resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Water and Land

Re: **HB 1511 HD1 – RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES**

Hearing: Monday, March 20, 2023, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chairs Wakai and Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, and Committee on Water and Land:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its 7,500 members stand in strong support of HB 1511 HD1. This measure would appropriate funds as a grant-in-aid to the city and county of Honolulu board of water supply to plan, design, and construct seven monitoring wells and an exploratory well.

The Hawaii State Constitution entitled WATER RESOURCES provides in Article XI, Section 7 that “the State has an obligation to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawaii’s water resources for the benefit of its people.

The legislature shall provide for a water resources agency which, as provided by law, shall set overall water conservation, quality and use policies; define beneficial and reasonable uses; protect ground and surface water resources, watersheds and natural stream environments; establish criteria for water use priorities while assuring appurtenant rights and existing correlative and riparian uses and establish procedures for regulating all uses of Hawaii’s water resources.”

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform plank on the environment provides that its members are to “protect and preserve Hawai'i’s environment and achieve energy sustainability, advance measures to re-establish a healthy climate and environment for humans and fellow species, including actions to urgently address climate change, and work towards 100% renewable energy goals.

We believe that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment. We believe that the preservation of our natural environment and its ecological well-being is essential to ensuring a safe, healthy, bountiful life for future generations in Hawai'i. We support policies that create a more sustainable society. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of native ecosystems.

We believe in the resource management principles outlined in the Public Trust doctrine of [Article XI, Section 1 of] the Hawai'i State Constitution. . . .” [OUR PLATFORM | DPH \(hawaiidemocrats.org\)](https://www.democrats.org/our-platform)



March 20, 2023

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Appropriating funds as a grant-in-aid to the city and county of Honolulu board of water supply to plan, design, and construct seven monitoring wells and an exploratory well would be consistent with the state and counties' duties under Article XI, Section 7 on Water Resources; Article XI, Section 1 on the Public Trust Doctrine; and the DPH Platform environmental policy that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment. Please support and pass this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

/s/ Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick,
Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

March 20, 2023 3:00 PM Conference Room 225

SUPPORTING HB1511 HD1: Relating to Water Resources

Aloha Chairs Wakai and Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB1511 HD1, which would mitigate the risk of the catastrophic contamination of Honolulu's municipal water system, and help provide notice to private well owners, farmers, gardeners, and riparian tenants of the potential contamination of their water sources.

The economic, environmental, cultural, and social impacts that would result from the unexpected contamination of Honolulu's municipal water system, as well as the private wells, farms, streams, and springs in the region surrounding Kapūkakī, would vastly exceed the financial investment proposed by this measure. Our current inability to determine whether and where new water sources can be safely developed may also impact our islands' economic foundations, which rely upon access to clean and abundant water. Accordingly, the monitoring wells that would be developed under this measure represent a much needed, highly worthwhile, and time-critical investment necessary to avoid or mitigate the harshest consequences of the contamination of our once exceedingly pure sole source aquifer.

Should this measure be passed into law, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i commits to continue working to secure compensation from the entity responsible for our water contamination crisis, for all of the harms that have been inflicted on our island and people.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** HB1511 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB1511

This is one of the most important bills to pass. Protecting Oahu's water quality should be on the top of the list for appropriations. Clean, safe water is a right for all citizens on Oahu.

Clearly understanding the geological concerns of a contaminated aquifer would alarm you. Monitoring wells will allow the Board of Water Supply to collect data on any contaminants in our water.

In December 2021, sampling results from ADIT3 of the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility included FII, AKA Antifreeze or DiEGME. This was never disclosed by the Navy, to the best of my knowledge. Was it public knowledge? Did you know? The Navy still hasn't disclosed!

As the fuel leaked from November 20, 2021, due to the solubility of DiEGME, it flowed in front of the fuel, hence the acute symptoms immediately after drinking the water until November 28, 2021 when the Red Hill shaft was taken off line.

Children, pets, pregnant women getting a shot of antifreeze with a fuel back.

This is a fuel system icing inhibitor soluble in aircraft turbine engine fuel. This inhibitor is primarily composed of diethylene glycol monomethyl ether and is commonly referred to as DiEGME.

The inhibitor is intended for use as an anti-icing agent to be added to military aircraft turbine engine fuels. The requirements defining the product covered by this specification are needed for the unique operating environment of military aircraft and are not identical to similar commercial specifications. Products defined by commercial specifications with the same chemical name are only acceptable for use in military equipment if they meet all of the requirements of this specification.