

**SR-217**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:04:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/22/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Agriculture & Environment Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members and supporters statewide, we stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SR217/SCR135 requesting the legislature to convene a working group with representation from all levels of government to develop a program to phase out the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the state.

PFAS contamination in Hawaii is becoming a growing issue of concern. PFAS has been detected in Kunia, Waipio, Honolulu and Kahului airports, and eight Hawaii military sites, including the Navy's Pearl Harbor drinking water. At the Waiawa Gulch Training Site and Unit Training and Equipment Site on Oahu, the level reported for PFOA is 2,850 times over the EPA threshold, and the level for PFOS is 13,550 times over the limit.

On June 15, 2022, the EPA issued interim updated drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS that replace the 70 ppt combined advisory the EPA issued in 2016. The level for PFOA was set at .004 ppt and .02 ppt for PFOS. The updated advisory levels, which are based on new science, indicate that some negative health effects may occur with concentrations of PFOA or PFOS in water that are near zero.

Research has shown potential health impacts of PFOA/PFOS exposure include low infant birth weight, decreased fertility, elevated cholesterol, abnormal thyroid hormone levels, liver inflammation, weakening of the immune system, and testicular and kidney cancer.

Therefore it is essential that the State minimize exposure to PFAS in locations where PFAS may be concentrated, including military bases, airports, landfills, and wastewater systems, it is critical to the health and safety of the residents of Hawaii that the focus be expanded to gradually phase out the use of PFAS in all areas the State.

From these facts it is clear that we need a Working Group to set goals, prepare and plan for the PFAS phase-out, its clean-up and remediation, and plans for risk-prevention and filtration.

Finally we offer an amendment that the PFAS Working Group include representatives from a community organization whose mission statement or purpose is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the environment be included on this working group. This would allow for an important perspective to this critical issue to be included at the table.

Please pass SR217/SCR135 to increase the protection of the health and safety of the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Dave Mulinix, Cofounder & Hawaii State Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



Environmental Caucus of  
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: **SCR 135 and SR 217 – WORKING GROUP TO PHASE OUT PFAS**  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its 7,500 members strongly support SCR 135 and SR 217. These measures request the Legislature to convene a working group to develop a program to phase out the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the State.

PFAS is a carcinogenic toxin that goes beyond our deepest understanding of what is safe drinking water. The EPA has set an interim maximum contaminate level (MCL) at 4 parts per TRILLION because this is the lowest amount measurable by qualified laboratories, not because of scientific evidence that show that 4 parts per TRILLION is in fact a safe amount of PFAS to consume. There is no safe amount!

PFAS is known to cause **CANCER, IMMUNE DISRUPTION and FERTILITY PROBLEMS.**

PFAS has been detected in Kunia, Waipio, Honolulu and Kahului airports, and eight Hawaii military sites, including the Navy's Pearl Harbor drinking water.

This poison goes beyond the general public's comprehension as it has been used in everyday products for nearly a century and yet we are only now learning about it thanks to Red Hill. It has been used since the 1940's in many consumer products: Teflon pans, Scotchguard, food packaging, raincoats, furniture, cosmetics, clothing, and dental floss, in addition to the AFFF with PFAS used at firefighting training areas at airports and military installations. The resent spill of AFFF with PFAS concentrate at Adit 6 at the Red Hill Facility released 1,300 gallons in November 29, 2022. This is an unconscionable amount where 4 parts per TRILLION is the maximum contaminant level of PFAS for safe drinking water. As a visual, this MCL amount is equivalent to 4 drops of food coloring in 18 million gallons of water or put in another way, 4 drops in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools, each holding 660,000 gallons of water.



March 22, 2023

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We clearly need a Working Group to set goals, prepare and plan for the PFAS phase-out, its clean-up and remediation, and plans for risk-prevention, including filtration. This known carcinogen passes through our life cycle by the water we drink, air that we breathe, fish and wildlife we consume, wastewater we cause, and reclaimed wastewater and biosolids used on the agricultural produce we eat. Furthermore, PFAS bioaccumulates as it is known as “Forever Chemicals.” It will not biodegrade for 700-1000 years. It can pass from mother to fetus through her bloodstream and from mother to child through breastmilk. Its multigenerational and bioaccumulative properties compound the toxicity of the PFAS in the human body.

It is important and necessary that this Committee adopt and pass SCR135 and SR217. These Resolutions call the Legislature to convene a working group to develop a program to phase out the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the State and to report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature 20-days prior to the convening of the 2024 Regular Session; and its final report submitted 20-days prior to the convening of the 2025 Regular Session.

This proposed PFAS working group should also include planning for PFAS clean-up, remediation, and risk-prevention including water-filtration.

Mahalo nui loa,

/s/ Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick  
Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus  
Democratic Party of Hawaii

**SR-217**

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 2:48:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/22/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this Bill,

Mahalo,

**SR-217**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 1:16:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/22/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support

**SR-217**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:47:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/22/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SR217/SCR135 requesting the legislature convene a working group with representation from all levels of government to develop a program to phase out the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (pfas) in the state.

I agree that in addition to the State's efforts to minimize exposure to PFAS in locations where PFAS may be concentrated, including military bases, airports, landfills, and wastewater systems, it is critical to the health and safety of the residents of Hawaii that the focus be expanded to gradually phase out the use of PFAS **in all areas the State**.

I respectfully offer an amendment to this resolution. Currently the PFAS Working Group representation is stated to be from all levels of government, including but not limited to the Department of Health, Department of Budget and Finance, Hawaii State Energy Office, and each of the counties. However, there are important voices missing from this working group, specifically missing are voices from the community. Therefore, I suggest that at the least a representative from a community organization whose mission statement or purpose is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the environment be included on this working group. This would allow for an important perspective to this critical issue to be included at the table.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of this amendment.

**SR-217**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:56:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/22/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in SUPPORT of SR217. The AFFF leak at Red Hill is simply a catalyst opening people's eyes to a problem much older and a threat that will continue even with Red Hill defueled. There must be a coordinated effort at all levels of government to get PFAS under control.

Mahalo,  
Dylan Ramos  
96816



**SR-217**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 11:17:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/22/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The urgency behind studying 'forever chemicals' needs little elaboration. This measure would convene an applied study into the practical aspects of PFAS release across the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,  
DP Armstrong

**SR-217**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 11:20:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/22/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danielle Espiritu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the creation of a working group to create goals, and to plan and prepare for PFAS phase out, remediation, filtration, and any and all other adjustments needed to keep our communities safe.

PFAS is a major threat, not just to us today, but to future generations.

**SR-217**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:48:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/22/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely remove these toxic, killing chemicals.



March 22, 2023

**COMMENTS TO SCR 135 / SR 217  
REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP WITH REPRESENTATION FROM ALL  
LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO PHASE OUT THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL  
AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) IN THE STATE.**

Senate Committee on Agricultural and Environment  
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair  
Wednesday, March 22, 1:30 pm VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Conference Room 224 State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and members of the Committee,

Island Energy Services, LLC ("IES") would like to offer the following comments on SCR 135/SR 217. IES operates petroleum storage and distribution facilities on Oahu, Hawaii Is., Kauai and Maui. To ensure the safety of our employees, first responders and the general public, it is imperative that effective fire suppression chemicals and equipment be available for use if needed.

Act 152 signed into law in June 2022. It will prohibit as of July 1, 2024 the manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of class B firefighting foams that contain PFAS, unless the use is necessary for effective suppression of a petroleum fire. Further restrictions without an adequate substitute would compromise IES's ability to conduct safe and effective fire suppression should it be needed.

IES respectfully requests that a local petroleum distribution and logistics company be included as a member of the PFAS Working Group proposed by SCR 135/SR 217.

Albert D.K. Chee, Jr.  
Vice President  
Island Energy Services, LLC

**SR-217**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 2:31:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/22/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dennis Barger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE GIVE YOUR FULL SUPPORT TO SR217, I DO!

REV. D F BARGER

**SR-217**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 2:35:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/22/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Martha Randolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice chairs, and committee members,

The NY Times ran an artical today expressing the even more urgent concerns about climate change and the environment. Too many governments and organizetions simply will not find a way to cooperate for political reasons.

In our state the government beurocracy has so many different departments addressing polution and environmental destruction that they also end up arguing who is responsible to stop instances of such.

These forever poisons have already been dumped into our environment. We need to aggressively prevent more of that. Do not let this opportunity go by to find a way to work efficiently together to prevent this or repair the damage. Do not wait untill we get the news of how many people or communities have been poisoned forever and are doomed to die of cancer soon, to take necessary actions

Cut through the red tape

Martha E Randolph SCC Representative for the

Environmental Caucus of the DPH

**Chair Mike Gabbard**

**Vice Chair Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III**

**Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023**

**1:30 PM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR135/SR217 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP WITH REPRESENTATION FROM ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO PHASE OUT THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) IN THE STATE**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a recent graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, a member of the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission, and a water drink. I am testifying as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SCR135/SR217**, Requesting the Legislature to Convene a Working Group With Representation From All Levels of Government to Develop a Program to Phase Out the Use of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the State.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), exposure to a certain level of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl chemicals can decrease fertility, reduce the body’s immune system, increase risk of some forms of cancer (prostate, kidney, and testicular), etc<sup>1</sup>. As addressed in the resolution, aqueous film forming foams, which contain those very same PFAS chemicals, leaked from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. While not somehow illegal, groundwater samples exceed EPA interim health advisory levels.

Concerningly enough, PFAS has also recently been found in samples from the Waipio Heights Wells Pumping Station<sup>2</sup>. We still have a lot to learn about these chemicals. While I would generally be skeptical of studies, I think there needs to be education around this issue for both decision makers and we in the general public, as PFAS has been used in everyday products for nearly a century and yet we are only now learning about it thanks to Red Hill. **A working group addressing an issue that is an extension of the Red Hill water crisis, and might even make the crisis significantly worse must include representation from those who have already been personally hurt by the Red Hill water crisis and groups that have been actively advocating and educating around it like the O‘ahu Water Protectors or Sierra Club of Hawai‘i.** A working group can work on public education, while preparing and planning for the phasing out of PFAS, as well as clean-up and remediation, and plans for risk-prevention and filtration.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfs>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.civilbeat.org/beat/forever-chemicals-found-in-waipio-wells-bws-says/>

Please **PASS** **Senate Concurrent Resolution 135/Senate Resolution 217** out of your committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,  
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12  
Cell: 808-255-6663  
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com



**SR-217**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 7:56:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/22/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ken Takeya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel it is time to not only involve the public but it is critical government listens and collaborates with the public to work out a reasonable solution. There is new technology that is being used to help neutralize PFAS so this too should be a consideration that needs to be taken into account since there might be someone in the private sector that might be willing to come forward and do the research. Navy has already shattered the public's trust so why not let the public participate in the solution.