
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that protection of the
2 environment and underground sources of drinking water is in the
3 best interest of public health and safety and a requirement
4 defined under section 7 of article XI of the Constitution of the
5 State of Hawaii.

6 The Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility is a field-
7 constructed underground storage tank system on Oahu that is
8 owned and operated by the United States Department of the Navy
9 and located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Pearl Harbor.
10 The Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility consists of twenty
11 underground storage tanks that are located one hundred feet
12 above Oahu's sole-source groundwater aquifer - the southern Oahu
13 basal aquifer - which is the principal source of drinking water
14 for the island. Twenty underground storage tanks, as well as
15 pipelines and other infrastructure, were constructed during the
16 early 1940s, and since then, multiple fuel releases have



1 occurred, impacting the environment and threatening public
2 health.

3 The legislature further finds that the location of the
4 twenty-seven thousand gallons of fuel released from tank No. 5
5 in January 2014 into the rocks and groundwater beneath the Red
6 Hill bulk fuel storage facility is still unknown. In May 2021,
7 the Hawaii department of health found that approximately one
8 thousand six hundred gallons of jet fuel from supply piping was
9 released into the environment. Additionally, on
10 November 20, 2021, a reported fuel release and recovery of
11 approximately fourteen thousand gallons of a mixture of fuel and
12 water occurred. This fuel release flowed from the Red Hill bulk
13 fuel storage facility to occupied structures, including the
14 homes of residents in military housing through their water
15 pipelines. The department of health conducted an analysis on
16 the amount of fuel contaminants at different points in time and
17 different locations that showed the fuel contamination could
18 travel away from the Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility toward
19 different geological locations and existing city and county of
20 Honolulu board of water supply wells. The total petroleum
21 hydrocarbon in the Navy's Red Hill monitoring well 2 and other



1 monitoring wells exceeded existing department of health
2 environmental action limits for gross contamination and drinking
3 water toxicity. Furthermore, the lack of data collected by the
4 Navy's sparse monitoring well network makes it inadequate to
5 evaluate the possibility that fuel releases from the Red Hill
6 bulk fuel storage facility could migrate to and impact critical
7 drinking water receptors like the city and county of Honolulu
8 board of water supply's Halawa shaft and Aiea and Halawa wells.

9 The legislature also finds that on November 29, 2022, a
10 reported one thousand one hundred-gallon spill of
11 polyfluorinated alkyl substance containing aqueous film forming
12 foam at the Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility occurred. The
13 persistence of polyfluorinated alkyl substance in the
14 environment poses undesirable health effects and a serious risk
15 to Oahu's drinking water aquifer.

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

- 19 (1) Site and install monitoring wells to collect important
20 data needed to understand the condition of the
21 groundwater aquifer underneath and surrounding the Red



1 Hill bulk fuel storage facility and its implications
2 to Oahu's drinking water supply; and
3 (2) Design and construct an exploratory well to meet
4 future potable water requirements for the metropolitan
5 area on Oahu.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 as a
9 grant-in-aid and the same sum or so much thereof as may be
10 necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to the city and county of
11 Honolulu board of water supply to plan, design, and construct
12 seven monitoring wells and an exploratory well on Oahu.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the city and
14 county of Honolulu board of water supply for the purposes of
15 this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

17

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 25 2023



H.B. NO. 1511

Report Title:

City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply; Drinking Water; Construction; Wells; Appropriation

Description:

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.

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