

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
KA 'OIHANA WAI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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February 11, 2025

The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lowen, Chair Hashem and Members:

Subject: House Bill 1367: Relating to Water Resources

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Bill (HB) 1367, which appropriates general obligation bonds to the BWS for planning, design, and construction of two monitoring wells.

The BWS has a suggested amendment on page 4, line 8 – 13, to read as follows:

“The purpose of this Act is to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the board of water supply to install ~~[two]~~ up to six monitoring wells for the purpose of collecting important data to understand the condition of the groundwater aquifer underneath and surrounding the Red Hill facility and its implications to the drinking water supply in Oahu.”

Releases of fuel and fire suppressant chemicals from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (Red Hill Facility) pose a threat to groundwater aquifer and drinking water sources in the area. State and county agency officials and elected leaders who signed the unified statement on the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Report (November 2023), emphasized this contamination must not be present in our water resources and

be fully remediated. A Red Hill working group was formed and after listening to subject matter experts (SME), it was the conclusion of the Red Hill WAI group and SMEs that between 644,000 and 1.94 million gallons of fuel leaked or spilled at the Red Hill Facility. This is a significant hazard to the environment.¹

It is the recommendation of the Red Hill WAI to establish a “sentinel” monitoring grid of shallow and deep wells to fully characterize the nature and extent of underground contamination – what contaminants are there, how it is moving in the underground aquifer and how it can be remediated. Siting the monitoring wells may depend on the geological features, accessibility, and compatibility with surface activity, etc. The Red Hill WAI believes there is a need for a comprehensive grid of up to 122 monitoring wells at various sites; the latter to be determined when site-level assessments are established.²

The BWS is doing its part in to protect O’ahu’s sole source aquifer and provide safe drinking water. The BWS shut down Halawa Shaft, and the Halawa and ‘Aiea wells to protect the main source of water – the aquifer. The Halawa Shaft formerly supplied most of the water to metropolitan Honolulu. Under Act 164, (2023, Session Laws of Hawaii) the State Legislature authorized the issuance of 10 million dollars in general obligation bonds for the BWS to install monitoring wells and an exploratory well to meet future potable water requirements for the metropolitan area on O’ahu for fiscal year 2023-2024. The legislature appropriated the funds to the City and County of Honolulu and graciously did not impose a match by county funds. Most of these funds have been awarded and encumbered for two monitoring wells and an exploratory well. The details are as follows:

- I. \$3,258,418 (State Funds & BWS Funds) \$: Exploratory Well –Job No. 24-001 Newtown 550' Exploratory Well. Contract Awarded.
- II. \$2,960,696 (State Funds): Monitoring Well – Job No. 24-002A Monitoring Well Site A. Contract Awarded.
- III. \$3,237,612 (State Funds): Monitoring Well – Job No. 24-002B Monitoring Well Site D. Contract Awarded.
- IV. Monitoring Well – Job No. 24-002C Monitoring Well Site S. Solicitation & Contract Award Pending

¹ Red Hill Water Alliance (WAI) Report, November 2023. Governor Josh Green, M.D., Rep. Scott Saiki, Speaker, State of House of Representative, Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Mayor Rick Blangiardi, et al.

² Ibid.

The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair
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and Members
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The BWS respectfully request your favorable support to continue the WAI goals and efforts needed to protect our sole source aquifer, remediate the environment, and provide safe, dependable and affordable water to the people of O'ahu.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1367.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernest Y. W. Lau", written in a cursive style.

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



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 11, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB1367: Relating to Water Resources

To: Chairs Lowen and Hashem, Vice Chairs Perruso and Lamosao, and Members of the House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land

From: Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Date: February 11, 2025, 9:15 a.m.

Re: HB1367: Relating to Water Resources

Position: Strong Support

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Hashem, Vice Chairs Perruso and Lamosao, and Members of the House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land,

We, Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, Co-chairs of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, strongly support HB1367, which aims to appropriate general obligation bonds to the Board of Water Supply for the planning, design, and construction of two monitoring wells. This bill is a crucial step towards ensuring the sustainable management of our water resources.

Key Points of HB1367:

1. **Appropriation of Bonds:** Allocates general obligation bonds to the Board of Water Supply for the development of two monitoring wells.
2. **Planning and Design:** Funds the planning and design phases necessary for the construction of the monitoring wells.
3. **Construction of Monitoring Wells:** Supports the construction of two monitoring wells to enhance water resource management.

Arguments in Support:

1. **Water Resource Management:** The construction of monitoring wells is essential for the effective management of Hawaii's water resources. These wells will provide critical data on groundwater levels, quality, and trends, enabling informed decision-making for sustainable water use.

2. **Environmental Protection:** Monitoring wells help protect our environment by providing early detection of potential contaminants and ensuring the health of our aquifers. This proactive approach is vital for maintaining the quality of our water supply.
3. **Public Health:** Access to clean and safe water is a fundamental public health necessity. By investing in monitoring wells, we can safeguard our water sources and ensure the well-being of our residents.
4. **Economic Benefits:** The planning, design, and construction of monitoring wells will create job opportunities and stimulate the local economy. Additionally, reliable water resource management supports various sectors, including agriculture, tourism, and industry.

In conclusion, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii urges the Committee to pass HB1367. This bill represents a significant and necessary step towards ensuring the sustainable management of our water resources. We believe that with the appropriation of bonds for the development of monitoring wells, Hawaii can lead the way in protecting our environment and ensuring the well-being of our residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

HB-1367

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 3:04:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/11/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition **SUPPORTS** authorizing the issuance of GO bonds for additional wells to monitor drinking water quality after pollution from the Red Hill spill.

HB-1367

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 6:39:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/11/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I SUPPORT HB 1367 which appropriates general obligation bonds to the Board of Water Supply for the planning, design, and construction of two monitoring wells. During this time when all of us on all the islands, especially Oahu are watching what happens with our aquifers. It is good that we have the BWS working to ensure that we are able to appropriate \$\$ for the bonds needed to monitor two wells.

Again, I SUPPORT

C. Burghardt

Kou, Oahu

HB-1367

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:02:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/11/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of HB 1367 which appropriates general obligation bonds to the Board of Water Supply (BWS) for the planning, design, and construction of two monitoring wells. This is a proactive action by the BWS to be prepared for a potential Red Hill crisis that may occur in another part of Oahu.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of HB 1367.

HB-1367

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:30:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/11/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Campbell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill no. HB1367

Water Resources; Monitoring Wells; BWS; GO Bonds; Appropriation (\$)

My name is Julia Campbell and I'm writing to the EEP/WAL committees to express my opinion on the HB1367 bill. I agree with this bill and believe its important that implementation of monitoring wells is put in place. These aquifers provide drinking water to a lot of people and those people deserve to know the quality of their water and the risks that may come with drinking it.

I thank the EEP/WAL committee for listening to this testimony.