



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 10:15 a.m.

By

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i System

HB 505 HD1 – RELATING TO RED HILL

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 505 HD1.

While the imminent threat of future leaks has been minimized through the defueling of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, years of clean up, monitoring, research and policy making will be needed for remediation of the aquifer and the surrounding ecosystem. This will require proper coordination between DLNR, the Department of Health, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, U.S. Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, UH, community organizations, and other state, federal and county agencies.

HB 505 HD1 seeks to establish a Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (Red Hill WAI) policy coordinator in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and creates a Red Hill remediation special fund. The Red Hill WAI coordinator and related positions are critical to this effort and the remediation special fund will enable this group to fund necessary efforts in monitoring, research, remediation, public outreach and education, and evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 13, 2025
10:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 505 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO RED HILL

House Bill 505 House Draft 1 proposes to establish a Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) policy coordinator and other positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to support the Red Hill WAI, and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure and provides comments.**

As stewards of Honolulu's sole source groundwater aquifer and Hawai'i's ecosystems, the Department recognizes the WAI's important role in ensuring that post-defueling remediation efforts restore the mauka to makai health of the aquifer. Our precious aquifer not only provides drinking water to hundreds of thousands of Honolulu residents but is also critical for the environment under the stewardship of the Department.

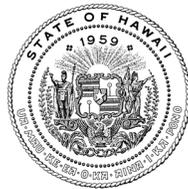
The Department supports the establishment and use of the Red Hill Special Remediation Fund for monitoring, applied research, public outreach and education, and evaluation.

The Department notes that following the 2024 Session, three full-time positions to support the WAI were funded within the Department's Office of the Chairperson:

- Policy Coordinator
- Outreach Coordinator
- Administrative Support Specialist

The Department completed its reorganization within the Office of the Chairperson and established the positions in late 2024. Currently, the Department is interviewing applicants for all three positions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 505, H.D. 1

February 13, 2025
10:15 a.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference

RELATING TO RED HILL

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 505, H.D. 1, adds a new chapter that: 1) establishes the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Policy Coordinator within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to coordinate WAI initiatives; 2) creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund (RHRSF) that would generate revenues through legislative appropriations, gifts, donations, grants, and interest to address contamination resulting from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility; 3) requires State and county agencies to provide all information and data requested by the WAI Policy Coordinator within 30 calendar days; and 4) specifies annual reporting requirements.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund, which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and

charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 505, H.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed RHRSF would be self-sustaining as there does not appear to be any significant, recurring source of revenues to support the fund.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96843
Phone: (808) 748-5000 • www.boardofwatersupply.com

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MAYOR
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ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER
MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

ERWIN KAWATA
DEPUTY MANAGER
HOPE MANAKIA



NĀ'ĀLEHU ANTHONY, Chair
JONATHAN KANESHIRO, Vice Chair
BRYAN P. ANDAYA
LANCE WILHELM
KĒHAULANI PU'U
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio
GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., Ex-Officio

February 13, 2025

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

Dear Chair Lowen and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 505, HD1: Relating to Red Hill

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) is in strong support of House Bill (HB) 505, House Draft (HD) 1. The purpose of the bill is to create a new chapter in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to establish within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to serve as the State's policy lead through the position of the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) policy coordinator and to place the coordinator in the office of the DLNR chairperson. The WAI coordinator shall facilitate implementation, monitoring and interface with federal entities on WAI initiatives outlined in the WAI's November 2023 report among other responsibilities.

It is important that we look at establishing government structures that can help to oversee remediation in the long term as this effort can extend well into the future. This bill also establishes a special fund to be administered by the WAI coordinator and be able to receive federal funds, appropriations by the Legislature, or gifts, donations, grants from public agencies, and private persons.

The WAI policy coordinator proposed in HB 505, HD1, is required to facilitate implementation and monitoring and interface with federal entities on WAI initiatives outlined in the WAI's November 2023 report, which includes remediation of the contamination resulting from the Red Hill Fuel Facility. Here the duties of the coordinator will serve to provide a framework that gives the officials from the State and City and County of Honolulu a clear understanding of the WAI Initiatives, its mission, expectations, objectives, and reporting requirements.

The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair
and Members
February 13, 2025
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support HB 505, HD1.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernest Y. W. Lau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "L".

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

A small, dark handwritten mark or flourish located at the bottom right of the signature block.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:28:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Janice K T Shiira | Shimanchu Wai Protector | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We support HB505 HD1

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:22:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Ilima DeCosta | Hui Malama Pono Hawai'i | Support | In Person |

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support HB505, which seeks to establish a WAI Coordinator to oversee the remediation efforts at Red Hill, Kapukaki.

There is no substitute for safe water.

According to a recent OIG report, the inspectors cited 38 instances where the Navy leadership failed to protect the people of Oahu, by their negligence in operating their fuel storage facilities.

That the Navy had opportunities to prevent further contamination and yet failed to take the most minimal steps to ensure that their fuel supply was safely managed, leaves many of us water users to lose trust in the Navy.

Water users on Oahu - including renters, visitors and those who are institutionalized, who can't demand that their pipes be tested or cleaned - deserve a clean and safe water supply.

Since it is clear that the Navy cannot be trusted to properly supervise their operations, it is imperative that local regulators provide additional oversight. A WAI Coordinator would be a welcome liaison between the state and federal agencies, and supports the mission of community engagement.

As an elected member of the Red Hill CRI, I believe we were asked to facilitate public engagement. Based upon this public engagement, our big "ask" this session is that our legislative leaders support HB505 and the creation of the WAI Coordinator position. Mahalo



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 10, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB505 HD1: Relating to Red Hill WAI Initiatives

To: Chair Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair Amy A. Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025, 10:15 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 325 & via Videoconference

Subject: Support for HB505 HD1 - Relating to Red Hill WAI Initiatives

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports HB505 HD1, which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. This bill is a significant step towards ensuring the safety and sustainability of our water resources.

Key Points:

1. Establishment of WAI Policy Coordinator:

- a. HB505 HD1 establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator to oversee and coordinate Red Hill WAI initiatives.
- b. This role is crucial for ensuring effective implementation and monitoring of initiatives aimed at protecting our water resources.

2. Creation of the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund:

- a. The bill creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund to support remediation efforts and ensure the long-term safety of our water supply.
- b. Appropriating funds for this purpose is essential for addressing any potential risks and mitigating environmental impacts.

Arguments in Support:

1. Protection of Water Resources:

- a. The WAI Policy Coordinator will play a key role in safeguarding our water resources by coordinating efforts to address any contamination or risks associated with the Red Hill facility.
- b. Ensuring the safety of our water supply is paramount for the health and well-being of our communities.

2. Transparency and Accountability:

- a. The establishment of a dedicated policy coordinator and special fund promotes transparency and accountability in addressing Red Hill-related issues.
- b. It ensures that remediation efforts are well-coordinated and that resources are allocated effectively.

3. Environmental Stewardship:

- a. By focusing on remediation and protection of water resources, HB505 HD1 aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.
- b. It demonstrates our dedication to preserving Hawaii's natural resources for future generations.

4. Community Health and Safety:

- a. Protecting our water supply is essential for the health and safety of our residents.
- b. The initiatives supported by this bill will help prevent potential health risks and ensure a safe environment for all.

In conclusion, we urge the Committee to favorably consider HB505 HD1 and support its passage. This bill represents a significant step towards ensuring the safety and sustainability of our water resources and protecting the health and well-being of our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick
Co-chairs Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Date: February 10, 2025

From: Rev. Amy Chieko Wake, Acts of Repentance Task Force Chair, Hawai'i District United Methodist Church

Bill HB 505: In support

We are in strong support of HB 505, which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. The measures included in HB 505 align with the values of the United Methodist Church regarding social and environmental justice.

"Be fair-minded and just. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed." Jeremiah 22:3

On April 29, 2024, the United Methodist Church General Conference approved a formal apology for the part played by our denomination in the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893. Specifically, Rev Harcourt W. Peck, who became a pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Honolulu, was one of the riflemen and aide to the commander of the illegal overthrow.

This official apology is not an ending, but a beginning. The next step is to continue to build relationships with Hawaiians and listen to them so they can guide us on how to make this apology meaningful beyond words into action, advocacy and ally-ship. One such relevant and timely opportunity to advocate with kānaka maoli on issues of water safety and protecting this precious resource for generations to come.

"In the past, God didn't judge people for what they didn't know. But now he commands all people everywhere to turn away from their sins." Acts 17:30

We cannot change the past, but we can change the present and inform the future. We are not the people we were 65 years ago; we have more knowledge and more understanding, and realize there is a difference between "dominion" over the land meaning stewardship and creation care verses and "domination" interpreted as extractive and exploitive actions against the 'aina. The United Methodist Book of Discipline, our governing document, ¶160 states, "All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings."

Mahalo for reading our testimony.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

HB 505, HD1, RELATING TO RED HILL

POSITION: SUPPORT

Coalition Earth **supports** HB 505, HD1, which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund.

Ola i ka wai. Water is life.

The United States Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility consists of 20 steel-lined underground storage tanks that were built from 1940 to 1943, each of which can store 12.5 million gallons of fuel. In total, the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility can store up to 250 million gallons of fuel. The tanks are located only about 100 feet above the United States Environmental Protection Agency's designated sole-source groundwater aquifer that provides drinking water to approximately 4,000 residents of the island of O'ahu.

Over the past eighty years, numerous spills have occurred at Red Hill. Most dramatically, on November 20, 2021, about 93,000 individuals served by the Navy's potable water system for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam were directly affected when the Navy's Red Hill shaft was contaminated by the release of up to 19,000 gallons of fuel, including JP-5 jet fuel, older fuels stored at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, and any additives used. Over 6,000 individuals sought medical attention, and 1,000 were forced to leave their homes due to the contamination. Much of the fuel released from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility remains in the environment, trapped within the complex geological formations that surround the tanks. Notably, this leak also caused the restriction and diversion of Honolulu's water sources to cover losses from contaminated fuel, temporarily endangering the ability of the state and the county to perform vital public services, such as increasing the supply of affordable housing.

Subsequently, On May 9, 2023, officials from the state and City and County of Honolulu signed a unified statement on Red Hill, recognizing the stewardship responsibility to ensure that there is clean water on Oahu for future generations. The Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI), a working group, met regularly in 2023 after the signing of the unified statement, posing questions, conducting research, listening to subject-matter experts, and formulating policy recommendations to address the Red Hill contamination and prevent future leaks. The working group strived to preserve and protect public trust resources, including water resources that are essential for life to flourish in our island home.

Members of the Red Hill WAI working group focused on the remediation needs after the defueling of the tanks and removal of residual fuel and contaminants from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The working group expressed ongoing concerns about fuel contaminants already in the ground, as well as the residual supply of fuel plume in local aquifers because of the spill that occurred on November 20, 2021. The group found that there may be as many as 1,940,000 gallons of fuel constituents in the ground that have leaked over eight decades.

Accordingly, the group believes that remediation is necessary for the future well-being of the aquifer to contain the risk to current and future water sources, including the Halawa Shaft, Halawa wells, and Aiea wells; the water distribution system; and local ecosystems. For the sake of the public trust and future generations of Hawai'i's people, we must adopt the recommendations of the Red Hill WAI working group, coordinate an ongoing multiagency response to the crisis, and empower remediation efforts to proceed with haste.

Coalition Earth is a nongovernmental organization that works to preserve the well-being of people and our planet. We champion policies that advance climate resilience, clean energy, public health, and economic fairness for working families. Contact us at info@coalitionearth.org.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:53:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacob Wiencek | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am glad to see this bill continue to move swiftly through the legislative process. I believe this provides appropriate solutions to address the Red Hill Crisis. Keep up the positive momentum!

I urge this Committee to PASS this bill!

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:15:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Malia Marquez | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

Please support HB 505. This process is long overdo and the clean up process should have been taken cared of long ago. With this bill, it will create a much needed WAI policy coordinator for Red Hill initiatives and create a much needed Red Hill remediation special fund. Please support HB505.

Mahalo,

Malia Marquez

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:33:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Patricia Greene | Arrested MAUNAKEA KUPUNA | Comments | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

SHUTDOWN RED HILL NOW 

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 12:15:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Kimmer Nahonu Horsen Bighorse | Individual | Support | In Person |

Comments:

Please support House Bill 505 aka the WAI Bill.

Key Points for HB505:

Defending Sacred Water: Protects Oahu's sole-source aquifer, the lifeblood of our community, from further contamination and harm.

Accountability for Generations: Ensures that the Navy and government fulfill their responsibility to restore and protect our water for future generations.

Healing the Land: Addresses decades of contamination by cleaning up 1.94 million gallons of leaked fuel, safeguarding ecosystems and public health.

Transparency and Action: Establishes leadership for community-centered solutions, public education, and transparent progress reporting.

Empowering Our Future: Creates resources to monitor and rehabilitate water systems, prioritizing the health of our people and the environment.

United Stewardship: Calls for federal, state, and community collaboration to honor and protect water as a sacred trust and prevent future disasters.

#ShutDownRedHillForever #OlaikaWai #WaterisLife #WAIBill #HB505

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:35:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sarah Bariantos | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I Strongly Support, House Bill 505 is a critical step in protecting Oahu’s sole source aquifer from further contamination and ensuring clean water for future generations. By establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator and creating the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund, this bill holds the Navy and government accountable for restoring and safeguarding our water supply.

For decades, Red Hill has been a source of contamination, with 1.94 million gallons of leaked fuel threatening our drinking water, ecosystems, and public health. This bill takes action by funding cleanup efforts, strengthening water monitoring, and providing resources to rehabilitate damaged water systems.

Water is life, and we must act now to prevent further harm. House Bill 505 ensures that those responsible fulfill their duty to restore and protect our most vital resource for generations to come. Changes to heal our land needs to happen now. I strongly support this bill and urge its swift passage.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:31:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Juvana Soliven | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We need clean water. The work needs to start now.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:14:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Valerie Clack | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support this bill as it defends sacred waters by protecting Oahu's sole-source aquifer from further contamination. It also builds accountability for generations and ensures the United States fulfill their responsibility to restore our water for future generations. This bill takes steps to heal the land and clean up 1.94 million gallons of leaked fuel, thereby safeguarding related ecosystems including public health. This bill empowers our future by creating resources to monitor and rehabilitate water systems to the benefit of Hawai'i people and environment. This bill is a call to united stewardship through federal, state, and community collaboration to honor and protect our sacred water while preventing future disasters.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:13:26 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Regina Gregory | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

support

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:02:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Noel Shaw | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Investments that truly protect our water and follow through on the work of getting it done are crucial to our ability to making Oahu a viable place to live. Follow through and reinstitutionalize the care of our water being a vital part of what it means to lead here in Hawaii.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 3:29:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jenny chang | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Oahu needs clean water, that is non negotiable. We must hold Red Hill accountable, and we need to protect public health. If you go against this bill, you are going against the people of Hawaii

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:12:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Dianne Deauna | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in FULL SUPPORT of HB505 HD1. I ask that the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection pass this measure and uphold the following principles:

1. Clean water is non-negotiable

The 2021 Red Hill fuel spill contaminated Oahu's primary drinking water source, affecting 93,000+ residents and forcing over 1,000 people to evacuate their homes. The damage is ongoing, and we must act NOW.

2. Red Hill's toxic legacy must end

With millions of gallons of fuel leaked over 80 years, contamination remains in the groundwater. This bill prioritizes remediation and long-term solutions to prevent future disasters

3. Protect Public Health

Over 6,000 people sought medical attention due to the fuel leak's toxic effects. This bill ensures monitoring, research, and public outreach to safeguard our communities

4. Hold polluters accountable

The bill creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund to ensure clean-up efforts continue, while pushing the federal government to take full responsibility for remediation costs.

5. Transparency & Action

This bill establishes a Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative to monitor, report, and engage with the public, ensuring accountability and science-driven solutions

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:56:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| kalena Charlene Holani | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill for Hawaii's future fresh water source for Hawaii's livelihood.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:38:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nathan Brown | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee. I strongly support this bill to establish a WAI Policy Coordinator and create the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. The Red Hill crisis has highlighted the urgent need for dedicated leadership and resources to address the contamination of our water resources and protect public health. By appointing a coordinator and establishing a fund, this bill ensures a coordinated, proactive approach to remediation and safeguards our aquifers for future generations. This is a critical step toward accountability and restoring trust in our water systems. Mahalo for your commitment to protecting Hawai‘i’s most vital resource.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:36:58 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jamie Simic | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Defending Sacred Water: Protects Oahu's sole-source aquifer, the lifeblood of our community, from further contamination and harm.

Accountability for Generations: Ensures that the Navy and government fulfill their responsibility to restore and protect our water for future generations

Healing the Land: Addresses decades of contamination by cleaning up 1.94 million gallons of leaked fuel, safeguarding ecosystems and public health,

Transparency and Action: Establishes leadership for community-centered solutions, public education, and transparent progress reporting,

Empowering Our Future: Creates resources to monitor and rehabilitate water systems, prioritizing the health of our people and the environment.

United Stewardship: Calls for federal, state, and community collaboration to honor and protect water as a sacred trust and prevent future disasters

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:43:02 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sierra Dew | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong support of HB 505.**

As an O'ahu resident that has been following the catastrophe of Red Hill I know it will take years of dedicated effort, a **Wai Coordinator**, and a **Remediation Fund** to address the devastating impact of **eight decades of the Navy's Red Hill fuel spills** on Hawai'i's waters and land. As a mother and someone who cares deeply for our future generations **O'ahu urgently needs this measure** to ensure that cleanup and remediation efforts move forward effectively and sustainably.

HB 505 is critical to protecting our island's water, environment, and future generations. I urge you to pass this bill and support the long-term restoration of our natural resources.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sierra Dew

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:00:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jennifer Noelani Ahia | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB505 for the following reasons:

HB505:

Defending Sacred Water: Protects Oahu's sole-source aquifer, the lifeblood of our community, from further contamination and harm.

Accountability for Generations: Ensures that the Navy and government fulfill their responsibility to restore and protect our water for future generations.

Healing the Land: Addresses decades of contamination by cleaning up 1.94 million gallons of leaked fuel, safeguarding ecosystems and public health.

Transparency and Action: Establishes leadership for community-centered solutions, public education, and transparent progress reporting.

Empowering Our Future: Creates resources to monitor and rehabilitate water systems, prioritizing the health of our people and the environment.

United Stewardship: Calls for federal, state, and community collaboration to honor and protect water as a sacred trust and prevent future disasters.

Me ke aloha,

Noelani Ahia

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:55:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mai Hall | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in support of HB 505 to Establish a WAI Policy Coordinator for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives. As a Native Hawaiian, born and raised in Kalihi, O‘ahu, I understand my kuleana, or responsibility, to my culture and my ku‘u one hānau, my sands of my birthplace. My kuleana is to mālama ka ‘āina, to care for the land as it takes care of me and my ‘ohana. On Sunday November 28, 2021, our family fell ill to fuel contaminated water by Red Hill while living on Navy run military housing. The lack of transparency, communication, and help for us and many other military families fell short and on deaf ears to those in military leadership. This, however, was not a new threat. I am asking as a military spouse, as a Native Hawaiian whose very life essence is sourced through this land, and as a person who depends on fresh, clean water that you address decades of contamination by cleaning up the 1.94 million gallons of leaded fuel. I am asking for transparency and action to establish leadership for community centered solutions, public education, and progress reporting. I am asking that the wrongs be made right, for what is pono and just. I echo Ernie Lau, chief engineer of the Board of Water Supply who stated the words printed on every Board of Water Supply truck: There is no substitute for pure water. We need to act now before it is too late and more families and communities are hurt. E ola i ka wai. Water is Life. E Ola!

Me ke aloha pumehana, Mai Hall

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:11:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Shaun Skinner Wolfe | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill for the following reasons:

Defending Sacred Water: Protects Oahu's sole-source aquifer, the lifeblood of our community, from further contamination and harm.

Accountability for Generations: Ensures that the Navy and government fulfill their responsibility to restore and protect our water for future generations.

Healing the Land: Addresses decades of contamination by cleaning up 1.94 million gallons of leaked fuel, safeguarding ecosystems and public health.

Transparency and Action: Establishes leadership for community-centered solutions, public education, and transparent progress reporting.

Empowering Our Future: Creates resources to monitor and rehabilitate water systems, prioritizing the health of our people and the environment.

United Stewardship: Calls for federal, state, and community collaboration to honor and protect water as a sacred trust and prevent future disasters.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:30:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kiana Otsuka | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kiana Otsuka and I am an O‘ahu resident writing in support of HB 505 HD 1.

This bill will allow clean up and remediation to take place.

Mahalo,

Kiana Otsuka

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:40:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ann V Saffery | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha All,

I support HB505 HD1

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:06:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sherry Pollack | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB505 HD1 that would establish a WAI Policy Coordinator for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives and create the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. Our water security is already at risk because of global heating. Add in the Navy's criminal negligence at Red Hill, and it is clear we must do more to protect our precious wai from further harm. This measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility. It is critical we ensure that steps are taken for the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. Please pass this very important measure.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 10:21:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| KEALA FUNG | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I humbly ask that you SUPPORT HB505 aka the Wai Bill. We need to protect Oahu's aquifer which is not just the lifeblood for our community but the lifeblood of the land itself. and we need to protect it from further harm.

We need to ensure that the Navy and government be held accountable for their actions AND inactions, and follow through and fulfill their responsibility to restore and protect our waters for present and future generations. This includes decades of contamination of our water sources.

We need to establish leadership for community-centered solutions, public education, and transparent progress reporting. We also need resources to monitor and rehabilitate and restore our water systems, and prioritize the health of the land and the health of us people here.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Keala Fung, Honolulu HI

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 12:48:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Rosalie Luo | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments: Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee, My name is Rosalie Luo and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB505, which establishes a Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Policy Coordinator and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund to coordinate remediation efforts following the catastrophic contamination caused by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring long-term stewardship and protection of O‘ahu’s sole-source aquifer, which serves nearly 400,000 residents. The November 2021 fuel spill at Red Hill, where up to 19,000 gallons of fuel, including JP-5 jet fuel, contaminated the Navy’s potable water system, left over 6,000 individuals seeking medical attention and forced 1,000 residents to evacuate their homes. Much of the fuel remains trapped within the complex geological formations beneath the facility, posing ongoing risks to public health and the environment. Given that as much as 1.94 million gallons of fuel constituents may have leaked into the ground over the past eight decades, a comprehensive and well-coordinated remediation strategy is essential. HB505 provides the framework for such coordination and transparency by: Establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to lead efforts across state, county, and federal agencies. Developing a public-facing test results dashboard for transparency and real-time updates on remediation efforts, helping to restore public trust. Implementing a 36-month public information and education campaign to inform and engage the community on the progress and phases of remediation. Creating the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund to support monitoring, applied research, public education, and environmental evaluation, ensuring a well-resourced and sustainable response to the ongoing crisis. The WAI Policy Coordinator will play a critical role in bringing together multiple agencies and stakeholders to ensure that remediation is science-based, transparent, and timely. Coordination with federal entities, such as the U.S. Navy and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is essential to hold responsible parties accountable while safeguarding public health and water resources. Transparency and public participation are at the core of this bill. The test results dashboard and public outreach program will empower residents with timely and accurate information about remediation efforts, fostering greater public understanding and engagement. This is vital for rebuilding the trust that was lost in the wake of the Red Hill disaster. Moreover, HB505 aligns with the State’s constitutional duty under Article XI, Sections 1 and 7 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution to protect and preserve water resources as part of the public trust. The contamination at Red Hill is a stark reminder of the ongoing threats to Hawai‘i’s water supply, and this bill provides the proactive measures necessary to ensure future generations have access to clean, safe water. I respectfully urge you to PASS HB505 to protect O‘ahu’s aquifer, promote transparency, and secure the long-term remediation efforts needed to restore our water and environment. Mahalo for your consideration and leadership on this critical issue. Sincerely, Rosalie Luo