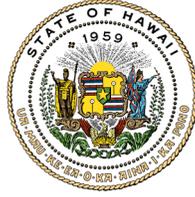


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
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 Committee on
WATER AND LAND
AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
1:01 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & 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.**

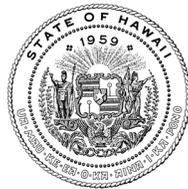
As stewards of Honolulu's sole source groundwater aquifer and Hawai'i's ecosystems, the Department recognizes the WAI's important role in ensuring that post-defueling remediation efforts restore the mauka to makai health of the aquifer. Our precious aquifer not only provides drinking water to hundreds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

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

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
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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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND
AND AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 505, H.D. 1

March 19, 2025
1:01 p.m.
Room 229 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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 1:01 p.m.

By

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

HB 505 HD1 – RELATING TO RED HILL

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in support of 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.

This important measure 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 in support.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 505 HD1
RELATING TO RED HILL
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

March 19, 2025

2:00 PM

Conference Room 229

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards and members of the Committees:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB505_HD1, which establishes the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Policy Coordinator and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). This measure is an important step to ensure continued coordination of State and County efforts to monitor and oversee remediation and mitigation of jet fuel leaks into O’ahu’s primary aquifer from the now-drained Navy fuel tanks at Kapūkakāi (Red Hill).

OHA has a vested interest in the stewardship and restoration of Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources, particularly water. Since time immemorial, water in Hawai‘i has been considered a public trust resource to be managed and administered for the benefit of present and future generations. Traditional Hawaiian laws and land use practices revolved around the sharing and beneficial management of water as a community good necessary to meet a range of social and ecological needs. Water is also the physical embodiment of the god Kāne, and integral to a range of traditional cultural and spiritual practices. Indeed, “Ola i ka wai” (Water is life). Without clean water, life in Hawai‘i is not possible.

The creation of the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund will enable sustained water quality monitoring and public transparency regarding ongoing cleanup efforts. While the federal government should bear the full cost of remediation, this fund ensures that state-led efforts to protect public health are adequately funded, an important safeguard given the federal government’s documented history of neglect at Red Hill. HB 505_HD1 also mandates cooperation between state and county agencies, ensuring shared access to all relevant data within a timely manner, and a common forum to focus government advocacy efforts in one place. Ideally, this will enable greater transparency and public access to decisionmakers as it was the community that raised the alarm over the ongoing leaks occurring at Kapūkakāi for years prior to the 2021 crisis that precipitated the defueling of the Navy’s tanks and current remediation efforts.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. OHA urges the Committee to **PASS HB 505 HD1** to enhance efforts to protect Hawai‘i’s water resources for future generations.

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

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96843
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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

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii'i State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii'i State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard 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 Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
March 19, 2025
Page 2

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.

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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 10:48:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Mahalo to the Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB505 HD1, which would establish a Red Hill WAI Policy Coordinator.

As an elected member of the Red Hill CRI, established by the EPA, I see how important it is to have an individual who is paid to act as a coordinator to interface with the federal, state and county agencies, as well as legislative leaders, as it relates to the clean up of Red Hill.

Native Hawaiians have long seen water as a valuable resource that is to be protected and shared equally. Enabling the public to be better represented by a person who is compensated to engage with various entities - instead of relying primarily on unpaid volunteers - would go a long way toward restoring the public's confidence in the process.

As we all submit our testimony, the Navy - with conditional and covert approval by the Department of Health - is preparing to reopen their tainted water wells and potentially expose connected water aquifers to irreversible contamination.

Reopening of the tainted Navy wells should be front page news and there should be a paid person - a WAI coordinator who is independent from the Navy and the state - to ensure the public's concerns are fully heard before tainted water wells are reopened.

Mahalo for placing a priority on protecting our water sources, as well as enabling productive public engagement and input around our most precious resource - water; please pass HB505 HD1 on for a full floor vote. Mahalo



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 19, 2025

1:01 PM

Conference Room 229

In **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** of HB505 HD1: RELATING TO RED HILL

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB505 HD1. The Sierra Club appreciates and supports the intent to institutionalize the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative's (WAI's) commitment to fully remediate our 'āina and wai; however, **the lessons of the last decade demand much greater safeguards against political interference by the U.S. military and its benefactors that will otherwise frustrate this measure's goals.**

The Sierra Club commends the Red Hill WAI for its members' explicit commitment to ensuring the full remediation of our 'āina and wai from the release of up to 2 million gallons of fuel and other toxic substances from the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Underground Storage Facility. The Sierra Club also appreciates that the establishment of a governmental entity, as proposed by this measure, may be necessary to track and hold the Navy accountable for cleaning up its contamination of our island, particularly in light of the reality that it will take decades or longer for full remediation to be achieved.

However, because of this lengthy remediation timeline – which will extend well beyond the tenure and even potential lifetimes of the Red Hill WAI's members – substantial amendments to this measure will be necessary to avoid the same political pitfalls that have led to the contamination of our aquifer and the poisoning of thousands of O'ahu residents. **The Sierra Club urges the members of the Committees to reflect upon the multiple missed opportunities that arose over the last ten years, that could have prevented our current water crisis – and to remember that the U.S. military's political influence and willingness to deceive local and national elected officials as well as the general public contributed to our government's failure to protect our island and our people.**¹ Unless precautions are taken to ensure the political

¹ For example, the responses of multiple administrations illustrate the unwillingness or inability of local political leaders to hold the Navy accountable, almost certainly due to the military's influence. After the reported release of 27,000 gallons of fuel from the Red Hill facility in 2014, Governor Abercrombie's administration negotiated a largely toothless "Administrative Order on Consent" (AOC) that surrendered ultimate decisionmaking authority over the Navy's response to the federal government in Washington D.C. Over the next six years, Governor Ige's

insulation of any government entity tasked with implementing the Red Hill WAI's goals over the ensuing decades, such an entity will be unable to achieve these objectives, and will fail to hold the U.S. Navy accountable to its responsibility to fully clean up its mess.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly urges the Committees to include the following amendments to this measure:

First, the WAI Policy Coordinator should be placed under a multi-member body, such as the Remediation Authority described in HB2691 from last session. Placing the WAI Policy Coordinator under the Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, as proposed under this measure, will only subject them to the influence of the Office of the Governor, which the last decade has demonstrated is highly vulnerable to the U.S. military's political influence. **It is absolutely critical to have the WAI Policy Coordinator answer to a multi-member board, rather than a single political appointee of the Governor.**

Second, and for similar reasons, any such body overseeing the WAI Policy Coordinator should not be dominated by appointees of the Governor. **A majority of voting members overseeing the WAI Policy Coordinator should be selected by independent organizations that represent the Hawai'i community, which was and will continue to be a driving force for true accountability for our island, our people, and our future.** Such organizations could include: the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i.

Third, the WAI Policy Coordinator should be supported by staff with skills and expertise relevant to achieving the Red Hill WAI's goals, to enable it to objectively analyze and respond to politically-driven and potentially biased actions and responses by the U.S. Navy. This could include experts in environmental remediation, public relations, federal funding pathways, and community organizing.

Finally, the Remediation Authority special fund should include provisions to support non-governmental education and organizing efforts as an essential ingredient in achieving true accountability.

administration did little to hold the Navy accountable to the AOC, which still remains largely unfulfilled – frustrating our current efforts to track and contain the contamination plume in our aquifer. Governor Ige's administration further failed to uphold state law and require the U.S. Navy to apply for an underground storage tank permit, until the Sierra Club of Hawai'i sued the Department of Health twice, in 2017 and 2019. Governor Ige also failed to call for the shutdown of the Red Hill Facility even after the catastrophic 2021 release, citing his belief that the military "is a vibrant part in our economy." Current Governor Green has also repeatedly made false claims regarding the status of the Facility's defueling, praising the efforts of the U.S. Navy even as O'ahu continues to struggle with the loss of our major drinking water shaft and while hundreds of individuals, including children, continue to report ongoing medical issues and financial instability.

A proposed SD1 draft of this measure is attached, which would incorporate the critical amendments described above.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully but strongly urges the Committees to **PASS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB505 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RED HILL

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

PART I

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the United States Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility consists of twenty steel-lined underground storage tanks that were built from 1940 to 1943. Each tank can store 12.5 million gallons of fuel; in total, the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility can store up to two hundred fifty million gallons. The tanks are located only about one hundred feet above the United States Environmental Protection Agency's designated sole-source groundwater aquifer that provides drinking water to approximately four hundred thousand residents of the island of Oahu. Over the past eighty years, numerous spills have occurred at Red Hill. Specifically, on November 20, 2021, about ninety-three thousand 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 nineteen thousand

gallons of fuel, including JP-5 jet fuel, older fuels stored at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, and any additives used. Over six thousand individuals sought medical attention, and one thousand were forced to leave their homes due to the contamination. One year later, on November 29, 2022, approximately 1,300 gallons of aqueous fire-fighting foam concentrate containing per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, or "forever chemicals," was unintentionally released from the facility; little is known regarding the success of the Navy's ad-hoc clean up efforts, although storm conditions suggest that these "forever chemicals" may have spread across the landscape and into the ground. Much of the fuel and other toxic chemicals released from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility remains in the environment, trapped within the complex geological formations beneath and near the tanks.

The legislature further finds that 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 since the signing of the unified statement. The Red Hill WAI posed questions, conducted research, listened to subject-matter experts, and formulated recommended policies.

The legislature also finds that the Red Hill WAI's approach of total stewardship responsibility required a stance of extending beyond statutory roles, specific responsibilities, tenure in those roles, and even personal lifetimes. Its inquiry included the pursuit of critical questions for which there may currently be no answers. Thus, the pursuit of those answers is part of the ongoing work.

The legislature notes that besides its regulatory functions under federal and state environmental laws, the State also has unique public trust responsibilities set forth in the Hawaii State Constitution, which establishes an affirmative duty of the State to preserve and protect public trust resources, including water resources.

The legislature additionally finds that the focus of the Red Hill WAI's inquiry is the remediation needs after the defueling of the tanks and removal of residual fuel and contaminants from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. In particular, the Red Hill WAI is concerned with the unknowns posed by fuel and other contaminants, including per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances already in the ground, as well as the residuals of the fuel plume in the aquifer as a result of the spill that occurred on November 20, 2021. In fact, there may be as many as 1,940,000 gallons of fuel constituents in the ground that have leaked or spilled over eight decades. Pursuant

to a proactive approach, the Red Hill WAI seeks to describe the remediation it believes necessary for the future well-being of the aquifer in which there is a negligible risk to current and future water sources, including the Halawa Shaft, Halawa wells, and Aiea wells; the water distribution system; and the ecosystem, including springs, streams, and nearshore waters.

After much diligent work, the Red Hill WAI issued a public report in November 2023 that set forth its findings and recommendations. Some of the recommendations can only be addressed by the federal government, while other recommendations can be undertaken by the State and city and county of Honolulu. Moreover, the legislature finds that there must be no delay in adopting the recommendations of the Red Hill WAI, especially those that can be implemented at the state and county levels.

The legislature recognizes that the latest 2021 release, which has plunged O`ahu into a crisis that may take years to recover from, is in many ways the result of the political influence and active deception by the U.S. Navy and its representatives over the past ten years, since the accidental release of 27,000 gallons of fuel was reported in January 2014. Despite the clear warning of this prior release, multiple administrations, persuaded by the Navy's false assurances, failed to take actions that may have avoided our current water

crisis. Remarkably, the Navy asserted on February 8, 2021 that “the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Facility is not only well maintained and carefully operated, but also uses the best available technology to inspect and maintain the fuel tanks. These safety factors meet and exceed industry and regulatory standards.” As evidenced by whistleblower accounts and a later engineering assessment, this statement was patently false, as over 200 repairs were revealed to be needed simply to safely defuel the Red Hill facility. The legislature therefore acknowledges that strong protective mechanisms are necessary to minimize the potential for political influence and deception that could frustrate efforts to hold the Navy and federal government accountable for the full remediation of our aquifer and environment over the ensuing decades.

Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

- (1) Establish the Red Hill remediation authority, to include representatives selected by independent governmental and non-governmental entities;
- (2) Provide the authority with staff with relevant skills and expertise to pursue the full remediation of our environment; and
- (3) Create the Red Hill remediation special fund.

PART II

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"CHAPTER

RED HILL WATER ALLIANCE INITIATIVE; REMEDIATION AUTHORITY

§ -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context:

"Authority" means the Red Hill remediation authority.

"Board of directors" means the board of directors of the Red Hill remediation authority.

"Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative" means the group of individuals composed of the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, president of the senate, chairperson of the board of land and natural resources and commission on water resource management, president of the University of Hawaii, mayor of the city and county of Honolulu, chairperson of the Honolulu city council, and manager and chief engineer of the Honolulu board of water supply that issued a public report in November 2023 concerning the remediation of Red Hill following the defueling of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

"Special fund" means the Red Hill remediation special fund.

§ -2 **Red Hill remediation authority.** (a) There is established the Red Hill remediation authority, which shall be a body corporate and public instrumentality of the State for the

purpose of implementing this chapter; provided that section 26-35 shall not apply to the authority. The authority shall:

- (1) Facilitate and oversee the remediation of contamination resulting from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and on other WAI initiatives outlined in the WAI's November 2023 report;
- (2) Interface with federal entities;
- (3) Periodically and regularly review:
 - (A) The health status of the ecosystem; and
 - (B) The state of science and opportunities for remediation and rehabilitation;
- (4) Develop and maintain a public-facing test results dashboard describing the significance of results from the State and city and county of Honolulu, as part of a broader public education program; and
- (5) Coordinate the implementation of a public information, education, and engagement program to describe, inform, and educate the general public and institutions on the post-defueling remediation phases for Red Hill to restore public trust, secure public support, foster community-based advocacy around remediation efforts, and address health and environmental concerns; and
- (6) Engage in direct implementation, as appropriate.

(b) The authority shall be administratively attached to the department of land and natural resources and governed by a board of directors. All initial members of the authority who are to be appointed shall be appointed no later than January 1, 2025.

(c) The board of directors shall consist of nine voting members, who shall serve staggered four-year terms. The board of directors shall select among its members a chairperson of the board, to facilitate the convening of meetings and the implementation of the board of director's responsibilities and powers.

(d) Five voting members of the board of directors shall be appointed by the following organizations:

- (1) The Honolulu board of water supply;
- (2) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- (3) The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs;
- (4) The director of the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Hawai'i; and
- (5) The Sierra Club of Hawai'i.

(e) Four voting members of the board of directors shall represent the following government entities:

- (1) The chairperson of the board of land and natural resources, or the chairperson's designee;

- (2) The chairperson of the Honolulu city council, or the chairperson's designee;
- (3) The mayor of the city and county of Honolulu, or the mayor's designee; and
- (4) The manager and chief engineer of the Honolulu board of water supply, or the manager and chief engineer's designee.

(f) The members of the board of directors shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses:

- (1) For authority-related business, as approved by the authority; and
- (2) Necessary for the performance of their duties.

(g) The five community members identified in subsection (d) and the four ex officio members identified in subsection (e) shall appoint an executive director, who shall serve at the pleasure of the board of directors.

The executive director shall:

- (1) Administer and implement, under the direction of the board of directors, all rules and directives adopted by the authority;
- (2) Hire staff or contract with professional service providers with relevant skills and expertise; and
- (3) Be exempt from chapter 76.

The salary of the executive director shall be subject to section 26-53.

(h) The board of directors shall invite the following to serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the board of directors:

- (1) A representative of the United States Department of Defense designated by the Department of Defense; and
- (2) A representative of military families.

(i) In addition to the members listed in subsections (d), (e), and (h), the board of directors may request the nonvoting participation or input of members of the public; subject-matter experts; county, state, or federal officials; and other individuals, as necessary.

§ -3 Powers and duties. Except as otherwise limited by this chapter, the authority may:

- (1) Make and execute contracts, leases, and all other instruments necessary or convenient for the exercise of its powers and functions under this chapter;
- (2) Make and alter bylaws for its organization and internal management;
- (3) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 for the purposes of this chapter;
- (4) Conduct meetings in accordance with chapter 92 for the purposes of this chapter;

- (5) Appoint officers, agents, and employees who may be exempt from chapter 76, prescribe their duties and qualifications, and fix their salaries;
- (6) Engage the services of consultants on a contractual basis for rendering professional and technical assistance and advice;
- (7) Procure insurance against any loss in connection with its property and other assets and operations in amounts and from insurers as it deems desirable;
- (8) Contract for, accept, hold, or expend gifts or grants in any form from any public agency or from any other source;
- (9) Adopt rules governing the procurement and purchase of goods, services, and construction, not subject to the requirements of chapter 103D;
- (10) Enter into cooperative agreements, easements, subleases, or other contracts, as necessary, with any state agency, county agency, or private landowner;
- (11) Contract for executive and administrative employee services;
- (12) Call upon the attorney general for legal services or employ its own counsel in conformity with section 28-8.3;

- (13) Accept donations, grants, bequests, and devises of money, property, services, or other things of value that may be received from the United States or any agency thereof, any governmental agency, or any public or private institution, person, firm, or corporation, to be held, used, or applied for any or all of the purposes specified in this chapter;
- (14) Establish and maintain a website that includes a mission statement and access to related actions, plans, reports, studies, policies, and results; and
- (15) Do any and all things necessary to carry out its purposes and exercise the powers granted in this chapter.

§ -4 **Red Hill remediation special fund.** (a) There is established in the state treasury the Red Hill remediation special fund into which shall be deposited the following moneys:

- (1) Appropriations by the legislature to the special fund;
- (2) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies, including the United States government, and private persons; and
- (3) All interest earned on or accrued to moneys deposited in the special fund.

(b) The special fund shall be administered by the authority.

(c) The moneys in the special fund shall be used solely for the remediation of contamination resulting from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, including monitoring, applied research, remediation, public outreach and education and engagement, and evaluation.

§ -5 **Cooperation by state and county agencies.** All state and county agencies shall provide all information and data requested by the authority within thirty calendar days; provided that the authority may, in its discretion, set a longer deadline.

§ -6 **Report.** The authority shall submit a report of its activities and expenditures to the legislature, governor, and mayor and city council of the city and county of Honolulu no later than December 1 of each year, beginning in 2026."

PART III

SECTION 3. The following positions, which shall be exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are established under the authority for the purposes of Red Hill WAI policy coordination and implementation:

- (1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) executive director;
- (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) community and government outreach coordinator;
- (3) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) administrative assistant;

- (4) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) environmental remediation specialist;
- (5) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) community organizer; and
- (6) One half-time equivalent (0.5 FTE) grantwriter.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the positions identified in section 3 of this Act.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the authority for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for ecosystem monitoring of the area surrounding the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility by the authority.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the authority for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 13, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB505 HD1 RELATING TO RED HILL

To: Chairs Lorraine R. Inouye and Mike Gabbard, Vice Chairs Brandon J.C. Elefante and Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, and Members of the Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture and Environment

From: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 1:01 p.m., Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HB505 HD1, which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator to oversee Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) efforts and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund.

Key Arguments in Support of HB505 HD1:

- The Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility has posed significant environmental and public health risks, and while defueling efforts have mitigated immediate threats, the long-term remediation of the aquifer and surrounding ecosystem remains a critical priority.
- Establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator will ensure streamlined communication and collaboration among state, county, and federal agencies, as well as community organizations, to address these challenges comprehensively.
- The creation of the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund will provide essential financial support for monitoring, research, public outreach, and other remediation activities.
- HB505 HD1 provides the necessary framework to safeguard Hawaii's water resources and ensure the health and safety of our communities for generations to come.

We urge the Committees to pass HB505 HD1 to address the ongoing environmental and public health challenges posed by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick
Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawaii



**SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND
and AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

MARCH 19, 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.

Sincerely,

Kris Coffield

Kris Coffield, Chairperson, Board of Directors

*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: 3/18/2025 10:18:10 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melinda Healani Sonoda-Pale	Testifying for Ka Lahui Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
AND THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Time: 1:01 PM

Location: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

IN SUPPORT OF HB505 HD1

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is **Healani Sonoda-Pale**, and I submit this testimony on behalf of **Ka Lāhui Hawai'i**, a Native Hawaiian organization dedicated to protecting the lands, waters, and rights of the **Indigenous people of Hawai'i**. We **strongly support HB505 HD1**, which establishes a **Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Policy Coordinator** and creates the **Red Hill Remediation Special Fund** to address the **devastating environmental and public health impacts** caused by the U.S. military's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

For **over 80 years**, the Red Hill facility has been an existential threat to our **wai (water), 'āina (land), and kanaka (people)**. The **November 2021 fuel spill**, which poisoned the water of thousands of O'ahu residents, was not an isolated incident—it was the latest in a **long history of leaks and contamination**. The U.S. Navy's negligence and refusal to take full responsibility have **compromised our island's primary drinking water source**, placing generations of residents at risk.

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i supports **HB505 HD1** because:

1. **Water is a public trust, not a military commodity** – The Hawai'i State Constitution affirms the government's responsibility to **preserve and protect our water resources** for the benefit of all. This bill ensures that a **designated state coordinator** will oversee and advocate for the protection and restoration of our aquifer.
2. **The people of Hawai'i deserve transparency and accountability** – For too long, our communities have been kept in the dark about the true **extent of contamination** and the

risks we face. This bill mandates **ongoing monitoring, public reporting, and education** so that residents can make informed decisions about their health and future.

3. **The federal government must be held accountable for cleanup** – While this bill establishes a **Red Hill Remediation Special Fund**, it is imperative that **the U.S. military—not the people of Hawai‘i—bear the financial burden of fully restoring our water supply**. The **State of Hawai‘i must continue to demand full accountability and action** from the federal government.
4. **This is a step toward long-term environmental justice** – The people of Hawai‘i have long suffered the consequences of **military occupation and environmental destruction**. HB505 HD1 ensures that the Red Hill crisis is not just about defueling tanks—it is about **ensuring that our aquifer, our drinking water, and our ecosystems are restored for future generations**.

We urge this committee to **pass HB505 HD1 without delay**. Water is life—**Ola i ka wai**—and protecting it is a kuleana that we must uphold for our keiki and their keiki to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Healani Sonoda-Pale

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 12:41:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Toma Shiira	Testifying for Shimanchu Wai Protectors	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support HB505

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:02:31 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB505 as it is TIME for the Navy to be held fully accountable for the numerous leaks and spills contaminating our sole water source from FOUR YEARS AGO and beyond. Enough. Full responsibility and full payment for complete remediation to clean our WAI, our most precious resource on an island.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:02:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha

I SUPPORT this bill which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives. Creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. This is our wai and we need as much support and working together as possible.

C.Burghardt

Kou, Oahu

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:01:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 3:24:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

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: 3/16/2025 8:27:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 1:28:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

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.

LATE

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 1:47:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marc-Anthony Gamboa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The US Navy has exploited the land and caused long-term damage to our precious Wai. We need to do everything in our power to hold them accountable. This accountability implies the Navy being responsible for cleaning up the damage they have caused. The fuel leaks contaminated Hawaii's drinking water source and the land. We don't have an Aina if we don't have clean drinking water.

Over 400 thousand lives are at risk from the Navy's negligence. We cannot delay the cleanup and remediation of our water. Any further delays could mean permanent damage to our water. Whereas Flint's water crisis was a privatization of water sources that lead to contamination and permanent health damage to thousands, Hawaii's story shares similarities, with the Navy taking the place of evil private companies in Hawaii's story of water contamination. Hold the Navy accountable now to protect Hawaii's water! Hundreds of thousands of lives depend on this vote.

Thank you,

Marc

LATE

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 5:51:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT!

LATE

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 5:51:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante & Richards, and members of the Committees on Water and Land & Agriculture and Environment,

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.

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

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 6:07:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aree Worawongwasu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of HB 505, which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator to oversee Red Hill remediation efforts and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund.

The catastrophic fuel leaks from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility have irreversibly harmed O‘ahu’s water supply, endangering the health, safety, and sovereignty of Hawai‘i’s people.

HB 505 takes necessary steps toward ensuring accountability, transparency, and coordination in the cleanup and remediation of the Red Hill crisis. By establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator and a dedicated special fund, this bill will help ensure that resources are effectively allocated, interagency collaboration is strengthened, and remediation efforts remain a priority beyond the military’s shifting timelines and commitments.

I urge the legislature to pass HB 505 and take a firm stance in demanding long-term solutions that protect the people, land, and waters of Hawai‘i.

Me ke aloha,

Aree Worawongwasu, PhD Student, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 8:16:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Haider	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill to protect our water and hold the Navy accountable for their neglectful actions. This island has limited resources and poisoning our residents and ecosystem for years while dodging accountability is an absolute disgrace. Pass this bill.

LATE

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 10:15:48 PM
Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

Please support HB505. We cannot afford any more delays from the military. It's time to clean up our 'āina!!! Everyone needs clean water. EVERYONE!!! Hold the military accountable and mālama our 'āina.

Mahalo

Malia Marquez

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB505 RELATING TO RED HILL.

Aloha Senators,

I write today in strong support of HB 505, which Creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund, by which the healing of Kāpūkākāī can genuinely begin.

The US Navy must be held accountable for full cleanup.

Mahalo nui loa,

Laulani

Laulani Teale, MPH
O'ahu



LATE

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:13:30 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lia-Tui Sarong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in support of HB505 which establishes within the DNLR the Red Hill WAI coordinator position and a special fund. This role is an important step to controlling the Red Hill fuel leaks into O‘ahu aquifers and our oceans, and ensuring its funding and effectiveness. I look forward to transparency of data on State and County levels from this newfound position which ensures that the government position is adequately serving its people and fulfilling its responsibility towards its people.

I ali‘i no ke ali‘i i ke kānaka. A chief is a chief because of the people who serve them. (Pukui #1150).

Ola i ka wai. Water is life.

Mahalo a me aloha.

LATE

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:05:05 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie STAR Mansfield	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB505. Its necessary and important to hold the military responsible for cleaning up the HUGE mess they have made. This pollution of our communities water has affected many generations already, and we need the military to be held accountable and clean it up so it doesn't continue to affect generations moving forward. I expect the military to deflect, because they are really good and not taking responsibility for ANYTHING. The military poisoned their own people. It's expected that the military doesn't care about our land, our local community or our water. What was only slightly surprising is that the military doesn't even care about their own people. It's time for the military to be held accountable and provide appropriate funds for clean up. They need to show up and work like they care to fix their blantant disregard for our community and their own people. I am one of the 400,000 humans that continue to be at risk because of the US military's disregard for safety, efficiency and recklessness. We cannot afford delay in getting the appropriate funds to clean this up. As a Registered Nurse, and just a regular common sense human in the community, I recognize the impact that safe drinking water has on us and our future generations. The health, well being and our life force is at risk if this is not mediated. Please pass HB 505 and restore what has been damaged.

With Justice,

Star Mansfield RN BSN

LATE

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:56:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaua Kama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB505

RELATING TO RED HILL – WAI POLICY COORDINATOR AND REMEDIATION FUND

Submitted to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Date: March 19th 2025

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

My name is Kaulilinoe Kama, and I am writing in strong support of HB505, which proposes the establishment of a WAI (Water and Infrastructure) Policy Coordinator and the creation of the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. This bill represents a critical step forward in protecting Hawai‘i’s most precious resource—our water—and in ensuring long-term accountability and coordination in addressing the ongoing impacts of the Red Hill fuel storage facility.

The fuel leaks at Red Hill have caused widespread alarm among communities, environmental advocates, and public health experts. The contamination of O‘ahu's drinking water aquifer has had devastating consequences for families, ecosystems, and trust in government oversight. While emergency responses and initial remediation efforts have been underway, a centralized, coordinated approach is urgently needed to ensure long-term success and to prevent future crises.

HB505 accomplishes this by:

Establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator within the Office of the Governor, ensuring high-level leadership and cross-agency coordination on all matters related to Red Hill remediation and water infrastructure resilience.

Creating the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund to provide dedicated financial resources for cleanup, restoration, monitoring, and community engagement efforts—ensuring that funding is not delayed or diverted due to competing priorities.

This bill demonstrates a thoughtful and strategic approach that combines scientific oversight, government coordination, and community accountability. By centralizing coordination and securing funding, HB505 will help restore public trust, ensure environmental justice, and protect future generations.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB505 and continue to stand with the people of Hawai‘i in safeguarding our natural resources and public health.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

E.Kaulilinoe Kama

LATE

HB-505-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 9:38:03 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

support