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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 WATER AND LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 505

January 28, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Room 411 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 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, the department 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, 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
House Committee on Water & Land
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

By

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

HB 505 – RELATING TO RED HILL

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee:

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

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.

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 of this measure.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | 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
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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
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 505
RELATING TO RED HILL

House Bill 505 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.

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

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MAYOR
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January 28, 2025

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
The Honorable Rachele F. Lamosao, Vice Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 411
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 505: Relating to Red Hill

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) is in strong support of House Bill (HB) 505. 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 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

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
The Honorable Rachele F. Lamosao, Vice Chair
and Members
January 28, 2025
Page 2

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.

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



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

JANUARY 28TH, 2025

HB 505, RELATING TO RED HILL

POSITION: SUPPORT

Coalition Earth **supports** HB 505, 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

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:19:17 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melinda Healani Sonoda-Pale	Ka Lahui Hawai'i	Support	In Person

Comments:

January 28, 2025

Before the House Committee on Land and Water

Regarding: House Bill 305

Relating to: Land Restoration

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

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i stands in strong support of HB505, a critical piece of legislation addressing the urgent and long-standing environmental crisis caused by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The contamination of our precious water resources by the U.S. Navy has gravely impacted the health, safety, and well-being of the people of O‘ahu, our ecosystem, and future generations. This bill represents an essential step forward in the healing and remediation process.

Ola i ka wai! As Kānaka Maoli, we hold a deep kuleana to protect our wai (water), which are not only life-giving but are integral to our cultural and spiritual practices.

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i fully supports the following key components of HB505:

- 1. Establishment of the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI): We commend the inclusion of state and local leaders in this initiative, fostering collaboration and accountability in addressing the complex challenges posed by Red Hill’s contamination.**
- 2. Creation of the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund: Ensuring financial resources for monitoring, remediation, education, and public outreach is vital to building trust and securing long-term sustainability.**
- 3. Commitment to Public Education and Transparency: The inclusion of a public-facing dashboard and educational programs will help rebuild public trust and ensure that the community is informed and engaged in the remediation process.**

We urge this committee pass HB505 without delay. The protection and restoration of our wai, a public trust resource, is not only a constitutional mandate but a moral imperative for the survival and well-being of all who call Hawai‘i home.

Mahalo nui loa for considering this testimony.

Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,

Healani Sonoda-Pale

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

January 28, 2025

9:00 AM

Conference Room 411

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

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Water & Land Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB505. 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 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 Committee to reflect upon the multiple missed opportunities that arose over the last ten years, that could have prevented our current water crisis – and to recognize 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, until this crisis began.**¹ Unless precautions are taken to ensure

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 administration did little to hold the Navy accountable to the AOC, which still remains largely

the political 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.

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.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully but strongly urges the Committee to **PASS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB505. 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

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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

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

16 The legislature further finds that on May 9, 2023, officials
17 from the State and city and county of Honolulu signed a unified
18 statement on Red Hill, recognizing the stewardship
19 responsibility to ensure that there is clean water on Oahu for
20 future generations. The Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative
21 (WAI), a working group, met regularly in 2023 since the signing
22 of the unified statement. The Red Hill WAI posed questions,
23 conducted research, listened to subject-matter experts, and
24 formulated recommended policies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

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

23 PART II

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

4 **"CHAPTER**

5 **RED HILL WATER ALLIANCE INITIATIVE; REMEDIATION AUTHORITY**

6 § -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless a
7 different meaning is plainly required by the context:

8 "Authority" means the Red Hill remediation authority.

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

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

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

22 § -2 **Red Hill remediation authority.** (a) There is
23 established the Red Hill remediation authority, which shall be a
24 body corporate and public instrumentality of the State for the

1 purpose of implementing this chapter; provided that section 26-
2 35 shall not apply to the authority. The authority shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 21 (1) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
22 resources, or the chairperson's designee;
- 23 (2) The chairperson of the Honolulu city council, or the
24 chairperson's designee;

1 (3) The mayor of the city and county of Honolulu, or the
2 mayor's designee; and

3 (4) The manager and chief engineer of the Honolulu board
4 of water supply, or the manager and chief engineer's
5 designee.

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

9 (1) For authority-related business, as approved by the
10 authority; and

11 (2) Necessary for the performance of their duties.

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

16 The executive director shall:

17 (1) Administer and implement, under the direction of the
18 board of directors, all rules and directives adopted
19 by the authority;

20 (2) Hire staff or contract with professional service
21 providers with relevant skills and expertise; and

22 (3) Be exempt from chapter 76.

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

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

4 (1) A representative of the United States Department of
5 Defense designated by the Department of Defense; and

6 (2) A representative of military families.

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

12 § -3 **Powers and duties.** Except as otherwise limited by
13 this chapter, the authority may:

14 (1) Make and execute contracts, leases, and all other
15 instruments necessary or convenient for the exercise
16 of its powers and functions under this chapter;

17 (2) Make and alter bylaws for its organization and internal
18 management;

19 (3) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 for the purposes of
20 this chapter;

21 (4) Conduct meetings in accordance with chapter 92 for the
22 purposes of this chapter;

- 1 (5) Appoint officers, agents, and employees who may be
2 exempt from chapter 76, prescribe their duties and
3 qualifications, and fix their salaries;
- 4 (6) Engage the services of consultants on a contractual
5 basis for rendering professional and technical
6 assistance and advice;
- 7 (7) Procure insurance against any loss in connection with
8 its property and other assets and operations in
9 amounts and from insurers as it deems desirable;
- 10 (8) Contract for, accept, hold, or expend gifts or grants
11 in any form from any public agency or from any other
12 source;
- 13 (9) Adopt rules governing the procurement and purchase of
14 goods, services, and construction, not subject to the
15 requirements of chapter 103D;
- 16 (10) Enter into cooperative agreements, easements,
17 subleases, or other contracts, as necessary, with any
18 state agency, county agency, or private landowner;
- 19 (11) Contract for executive and administrative employee
20 services;
- 21 (12) Call upon the attorney general for legal services or
22 employ its own counsel in conformity with section 28-
23 8.3;

1 (13) Accept donations, grants, bequests, and devises of
2 money, property, services, or other things of value
3 that may be received from the United States or any
4 agency thereof, any governmental agency, or any public
5 or private institution, person, firm, or corporation,
6 to be held, used, or applied for any or all of the
7 purposes specified in this chapter;

8 (14) Establish and maintain a website that includes a
9 mission statement and access to related actions,
10 plans, reports, studies, policies, and results; and

11 (15) Do any and all things necessary to carry out its
12 purposes and exercise the powers granted in this
13 chapter.

14 § -4 **Red Hill remediation special fund.** (a) There is
15 established in the state treasury the Red Hill remediation
16 special fund into which shall be deposited the following moneys:

17 (1) Appropriations by the legislature to the special fund;

18 (2) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies,
19 including the United States government, and private
20 persons; and

21 (3) All interest earned on or accrued to moneys deposited
22 in the special fund.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB505, RELATING TO RED HILL

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND JANUARY 28, 2025

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Water & Land Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB505, RELATING TO RED HILL. Pursuant to the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Party supports policies increasing water supply, government-run water authorities, improved water testing, ending harmful practices, and appointing qualified water stewards.

Recognizing the critical need to address the contamination issues at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports this measure. The facility, with its twenty steel-lined underground storage tanks, poses a significant threat to the sole-source groundwater aquifer that supplies drinking water to approximately 400,000 residents of Oahu. The contamination incident on November 20, 2021, which affected 93,000 individuals and led to over 6,000 seeking medical attention, underscores the urgency of this matter. The Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) has diligently worked to formulate policies and recommendations to remediate the contamination and ensure the safety of Oahu's water supply. This bill proposes the establishment of a WAI Policy Coordinator and a Red Hill Remediation Special Fund, which are essential steps towards implementing the necessary remediation efforts and safeguarding the health and well-being of current and future generations.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in support of HB505, RELATING TO RED HILL. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:28:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilima DeCosta	Hui Malama Pono Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB505, which would establish a paid position for a state coordinator to oversee the Red Hill defueling operations being conducted by the Navy, and to provide feedback to Hawai'i leaders.

Local leaders need to be empowered to protect our wai and our 'aina, against any one or any entities that may be negligent in their actions.

A recent example of why a state coordinator is necessary is the Department of Health's fine to a water supplier, which was much more stringent and impactful than the slap on the wrist the EPA gave the Navy for breaching the 2023 ACO requiring public engagement.

Since we know that the current Trump administration is working to undo EPA regulations and protections, I urge local leaders to do as much as we can to protect state's rights, our wai, our kai and our 'aina.

Ultimately, protecting the natural elements and the people is the true meaning of 'Ua Mau Ke Ea 'o Ka 'Aina I Ka Pono'.

Mahalo for passing HB505 out of committee and aiding our leaders to better protect our communities.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:13:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacelyn Auna	Mala Hanai Pua LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of HB505 to have a policy coordinator in place to bring balance and fairness over the WAI Red Hill Remediation Special fund.



House Committee on Water and Land

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: HB505

January 28th, 2025 at 9:00am; Conference Room 411

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and members of the committee,

HAPA is testifying in strong support of HB505 which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives. Creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund.

Much of the fuel and contaminants released from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility remains in the environment, trapped within the complex geological formations beneath and near the tanks.

Much is still unknown about what contaminants persist in the aquifer. The creation of a WAI Policy Coordinator would create a critical role to keep the public informed on the safety of the water and the status of remediation efforts.

Given the utter failure thus far of the U.S. Navy to safeguard O'ahu's largest aquifer, it is critical that resources are dedicated to conduct research, educate the public and evaluate the efforts to remediate the contamination.

Please support HB505.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick,
Executive Director



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

January 27, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB505: Relating to the WAI Initiative

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

We, Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, are testifying on behalf of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii in strong support of HB505, which aims to address environmental and water contamination issues stemming from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. This bill establishes a WAI (Water Alliance Initiative) Policy Coordinator position within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to lead efforts in monitoring, researching, and addressing the facility's environmental impact. Additionally, it creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund to support these efforts.

Key Points of Support:

1. **Environmental Protection:** HB505 will ensure that the environmental impact of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is thoroughly monitored and addressed. This is crucial for protecting Oahu's primary drinking water aquifer and the health of our ecosystems.
2. **Public Health:** By addressing the contamination issues at Red Hill, this bill will help safeguard the health and well-being of Hawaii's residents. Clean and safe drinking water is essential for public health, and this bill takes significant steps to ensure its protection.
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** The establishment of a public-facing dashboard of test results and a 36-month public education program will promote transparency and keep the community informed about the progress of remediation efforts. This will build public trust and ensure accountability.
4. **Funding and Resources:** The creation of the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund will provide the necessary resources to support monitoring, research, public outreach, and evaluation efforts related to the contamination. This fund will help ensure that the remediation efforts are adequately funded and sustained.

In conclusion, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HB505 and urges the committee to pass this important legislation. By addressing the environmental and water contamination issues at Red Hill, we can ensure a healthier and more sustainable future for Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this critical bill.

Sincerely,

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

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:41:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Likolehua Cabanting	The Queens Court	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting Testimony for H.B. No. 505

Relating to Red Hill

This testimony supports H.B. No. 505, which establishes crucial mechanisms for addressing the ongoing environmental and public health crisis stemming from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

The Red Hill crisis demands immediate and sustained action. The contamination of Oahu's primary water source underscores the urgent need for coordinated efforts to:

- **Ensure safe drinking water for all residents:** The health and well-being of our community must be prioritized.
- **Hold accountable those responsible:** This includes investigating the root causes of the contamination and pursuing all available avenues for remediation and compensation.
- **Prevent future disasters:** Implementing robust safeguards to protect our vital water resources is paramount.

H.B. No. 505 provides critical tools to address these challenges:

- **The Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative Policy Coordinator:** This position will play a vital role in coordinating the efforts of various agencies and stakeholders, ensuring a unified and effective response to the crisis.
- **The Red Hill Remediation Special Fund (RHRSF):** While the Department of Budget and Finance raises valid concerns regarding self-sustainability, the RHRSF is essential to:
 - **Secure dedicated funding:** This will ensure that adequate resources are available for remediation efforts, long-term monitoring, and community support programs.
 - **Leverage diverse funding sources:** The bill allows for a variety of funding mechanisms, including legislative appropriations, grants, and donations, maximizing the available resources.
- **Enhanced data sharing:** Requiring agencies to provide data to the Policy Coordinator will facilitate informed decision-making, improve transparency, and streamline the response effort.

Addressing the Department of Budget and Finance's Concerns:

- **Self-sustainability:**
 - While self-sustainability is an important consideration, the initial focus should be on securing the necessary funding to address the immediate and long-term impacts of the Red Hill crisis.
 - The RHRSF can be structured to explore innovative funding mechanisms, such as potential contributions from responsible parties, to enhance its long-term financial viability.
 - Regular assessments of the fund's financial status and adjustments to funding strategies can be incorporated to ensure its effectiveness.

H.B. No. 505 represents a crucial step towards a comprehensive and coordinated response to the Red Hill crisis. By establishing the WAI Policy Coordinator, creating the RHRSF, and enhancing data sharing, this bill will empower our community to protect our water resources, ensure public health, and prevent future environmental disasters.

We ask the legislature to pass H.B. No. 505.

The Queens Court

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:04:25 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please SUPPORT HB505 in protection of our water. We need transparency and accountability from the Navy. (I cant believe we need a BILL to protect our drinking water but here we are.)

E mālama i ka wai!

Malia Lum-Kawaihoa Marquez

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:26:14 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Allen-Queener	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need this bill to protect our water! Please!

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:37:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill! We need to protect our water and make i safe for everyone!

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 4:09:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

The disaster at Red Hill has negatively impacted a significant portion of our Hawaii community. From polluted water to economic hardships, we are still feeling the impacts of this event. We are also faced with an unprecedented and complex challenge to address and remediate this crisis. I STRONGLY SUPPORT this proposed coordinator and special fund.

I strongly urge the Committee to SUPPORT this proposal!

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 8:27:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT HB505

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:31:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vickie Levinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE support HB505 for the protection of our water! We need transparency and accountability from the Navy. We, and our children, deserve clean drinking water.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 3:51:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiea Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This situation is a on going generational trauma and significant desecration to our 'āina. If we don't address this in everyway possible we simply won't be able to exist and survive in Hawai'i, but especially O'ahu in this case.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 11:42:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Committee members

I strongly support HB505 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

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:04:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Our WAI is THE most important resource on an island in the most isolated land mass worldwide which the NAVY contaminated. Yes, hold the NAVY, D.O.D., and the Federal Government in charge of the full costs associated with these decades of mismanagement, pollution, and poisoning of 93,000 people and the entire ecosystem of Hawai'i Nei, from Mauka to Makai.

I support this bill HB 505.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:26:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Hiʻilani Okimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lily Okimura, resident of Honolulu, HI. I am writing in strong support of HB 505, which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator for the coordination of Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) activities and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund.

The contamination of O‘ahu’s sole-source aquifer by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility has had catastrophic impacts on the health, safety, and well-being of our community. The November 2021 fuel spill at Red Hill, which released up to 19,000 gallons of fuel and directly affected over 93,000 residents, serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need to address this issue. Thousands sought medical attention, and many were displaced from their homes due to the contamination of drinking water. With over 1.9 million gallons of fuel constituents potentially still in the ground from decades of spills, the risks to Oahu’s drinking water, ecosystems, and public health are severe and ongoing.

HB 505 reflects a critical step in upholding the State’s public trust responsibilities to preserve and protect water resources as enshrined in the Hawai‘i State Constitution. By establishing the WAI Policy Coordinator and a dedicated special fund, this measure provides a proactive framework to ensure transparent and effective remediation of the Red Hill contamination.

Specifically, I support the following aspects of the bill:

1. WAI Policy Coordinator Role:

- Coordinating efforts between state, county, and federal agencies is essential to the successful implementation of the recommendations made in the Red Hill WAI’s November 2023 report.
- Developing public-facing dashboards and educational initiatives will help rebuild public trust and ensure transparency.

2. Red Hill Remediation Special Fund:

- The establishment of this fund will ensure that state and county efforts to monitor, research, and address contamination have dedicated resources.
- While the federal government bears ultimate responsibility for remediation costs, the State must take the lead in safeguarding our water resources and ensuring federal accountability.

3. Commitment to Future Generations:

- HB 505 aligns with the principles of mālama ‘āina (care for the land) and recognizes the long-term stewardship needed to restore and protect Oahu’s aquifer for future generations.

There is no room for delay in addressing the ongoing threats posed by the contamination at Red Hill. This bill demonstrates the State’s commitment to proactive action, transparency, and accountability in addressing one of the most significant environmental and public health crises in Hawai‘i’s history.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this critical measure. I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB 505 to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to protect O‘ahu’s water and the health of its residents.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:43:50 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Espiritu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for this bill is essential to the health and wellbeing of our aquifer. It is critical to remediate 80 years of contamination due to fuel and chemical releases at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:07:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anya Hubbard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family had to move because of the oil spill at Red Hill. Why let this happen to more families?

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:08:24 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Clean water is essential for life to flourish, and it's clear to me, my family, and my community that the military industrial complex is a bad steward and unqualified to remain in control of freshwater systems everywhere. i support the wai bill in honor of those now and those to come. E ola mau, ola i ka wai!

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:19:12 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Hart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an O‘ahu Kama‘aina and an Aiea/Foster Village resident, I support this bill to establish a policy coordinator for the WAI group and the creation of a special remediation fund for the continued resolution of the Red Hill fuel storage situation. These are necessary measures to ensure a transparent and robust system of addressing, cleaning and future-proofing the lessons learned from the Red Hill Fuel spills. I want to thank the members of the Committee on Water and Land for hearing this bill and I hope they would do well by their constituents to ensure that important bills like this one get their due diligence during this legislative session. Ola I Ka Wai, water is life.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Alana Hart, Aiea

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:22:07 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimmer Horsen (Bighorse)	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

January 28, 2025

Before the House Committee on Land and Water

Regarding: House Bill 505

Relating to: Land Restoration

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

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i stands in strong support of HB505, a critical piece of legislation addressing the urgent and long-standing environmental crisis caused by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The contamination of our precious water resources by the U.S. Navy has gravely impacted the health, safety, and well-being of the people of O‘ahu, our ecosystem, and future generations. This bill represents an essential step forward in the healing and remediation process.

Ola i ka wai! As Kānaka Maoli, we hold a deep kuleana to protect our wai (water), which are not only life-giving but are integral to our cultural and spiritual practices.

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i fully supports the following key components of HB505:

Establishment of the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI): We commend the inclusion of state and local leaders in this initiative, fostering collaboration and accountability in addressing the complex challenges posed by Red Hill’s contamination.

Creation of the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund: Ensuring financial resources for monitoring, remediation, education, and public outreach is vital to building trust and securing long-term sustainability.

Commitment to Public Education and Transparency: The inclusion of a public-facing dashboard and educational programs will help rebuild public trust and ensure that the community is informed and engaged in the remediation process.

We urge this committee pass HB505 without delay. The protection and restoration of our wai, a public trust resource, is not only a constitutional mandate but a moral imperative for the survival and well-being of all who call Hawai‘i home.

Mahalo nui loa for considering this testimony.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:54:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Owens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Water & Land Committee,

My name is Madison Owens, and I am testifying in **strong support, with amendments, of House Bill 505, Relating to Red Hill.**

HB505 is a critical step in addressing the ongoing crises caused by the U.S. Navy’s fuel contamination at Red Hill. Establishing a governmental entity, as proposed in this measure, is necessary to track and hold the Navy accountable for its misuse and abuse of lands, especially given the decades-long timeline required for full remediation.

However, substantial amendments are necessary to ensure the Red Hill WAI achieves true accountability and avoids repeating the political failures that led to this crisis:

- The WAI Policy Coordinator should report to a multi-member board rather than a single appointee of the Governor.
- The oversight body for the WAI Policy Coordinator must not be dominated by Governor-appointed members.
- The Remediation Authority Special Fund should include provisions to support non-governmental education and organizing initiatives, essential for empowering communities and ensuring long-term accountability, which will extend far beyond the tenure of current leadership.

I respectfully and strongly urge the Committee to pass HB505 with these amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

With gratitude,

Madison Owens

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:18:28 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB505
RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WAI POLICY COORDINATOR AND
RED HILL REMEDIATION FUND**

Date: January 27th 2025

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB505, which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator to lead coordination efforts for Red Hill WAI initiatives and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund.

The contamination at Red Hill has posed an ongoing threat to Hawaii’s water resources, public health, and environmental well-being. The establishment of a dedicated WAI Policy Coordinator is an essential step toward ensuring a unified and efficient response to this crisis. By designating a central authority to oversee these efforts, this bill helps facilitate accountability, improve communication across agencies, and enhance transparency for affected communities.

Moreover, the creation of the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund demonstrates a forward-thinking commitment to providing the necessary resources to address contamination and its long-term impacts. This fund will ensure that remediation efforts are adequately supported and sustained over time, safeguarding Hawaii’s water resources for current and future generations.

Water is life, and we must prioritize protecting and preserving our most precious natural resource. HB505 takes crucial steps in that direction and reflects a proactive response to the challenges posed by Red Hill.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to pass HB505. Mahalo for your time, attention, and dedication to ensuring the health and safety of Hawaii’s people and environment.

Respectfully,
Kaulilinoe Kama

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:14:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'uiki Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing to express my support for HB505 relating to Red Hill. Over the past couple years I have witnessed the mismanagement of Red Hill from the Navy resulting in the contamination of our aquifer. Red Hill is in need of a kanaka who is qualified to oversee our wai and ensure that it doesn't get contaminated again. I know people who are still living with contaminated water and are forced to shower and get water from my house multiple times a week. Citizens should not have to live with contaminated water. It has already been 3 years since the last contamination, however people are still currently living with the effects, and so a Red Hill WAI coordinator and remediation fund is necessary. Once again, I am expressing my strong support for HB505 relating to a Red Hill WAI coordinator and a remediation fund. Mahalo for taking the time to read this testimony

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:16:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:28:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Damiana Espiritu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB505

Ola i ka WAI!

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:30:14 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimipono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in support of:

House Bill 505: Relating to Red Hill

Submitted by:

Ka'imipono Inofinada

1913 Ahuula St.

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819

Addressed to Committee of Water And Lands (WAL),

Aloha nui to the Committee of Water And Lands (WAL),

My name is Ka'imipono Inofinada and I was born and raised in Kalihi, O'ahu. I am currently a senior from Hālau Kū Māna Public Charter School and I have written this testimony in full support of House Bill 505 in referral to the Red Hill fuel tanks. As a Native Hawaiian, myself and my 'ohana have been greatly affected by the leaking of the Red Hill fuel tanks into our aquifer. Because of this incident, we had to resort to filtering our water and storing bottled waters in fear of our tap water being contaminated by jet fuel. This same water, which we use to water our plants to feed our family, used in cooking, and given to pets and our younger siblings and nieces, has been ultimately contaminated. The leaking of the Red Hill fuel tanks is something that should have never happened at all, especially considering the impact it had on the community as a whole, regardless if you are Native Hawaiian, Caucasian, Filipino, or any other ethnicity that lives in Hawai'i. Due to the leaking, I believe that our faith and trust in the government and U.S. military has greatly faltered and lost after this incident. It is thought that the government and U.S.

military are designed and made to protect and defend its residents and territories from enemy advances, and to not have any failures that could potentially harm us. However, this has happened time and time again, now including Red Hill. As it was unfortunate that such tanks had to be designed above one of the many island aquifers due to World War II and the Attack of Pearl Harbor, the thought of possibly draining and maintaining the tanks up to code should have already been considered and done in the time of 84 years. It is obvious that the U.S. military is at fault for the leaking of the Red Hill fuel tanks, and it is best that a Wai Policy Coordinator be put into play for the betterment of the community of Hawai'i, especially for us Native Hawaiians. It is disgraceful for our lands to continuously be ruined by the U.S. military time and time again, and it is time for change and the turning of the system that is long overdue.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of my testimony towards the support of House Bill 505.

Me ke aloha, Ka'imipono Inofinada

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:38:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassandra Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB505.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:53:19 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Iaea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support this bill to address the ongoing contamination from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. Currently I am a senior at Hālau Kū Māna, and as the youth of Hawai'i I recognize how heavy the spills at redhill has affected the environment. The 2021 fuel spill that affected nearly 100,000 residents and contaminated Oahu's sole-source aquifer is a stark reminder of the risks posed by this facility. The bill's provisions for a Red Hill remediation special fund, coordination through the WAI policy coordinator, and transparent public information are critical steps toward addressing this environmental threat.

The establishment of a dedicated fund ensures targeted resources for contamination monitoring, research, and public outreach. Importantly, the federal government's responsibility for aquifer remediation is clearly outlined, making them accountable for cleaning up the damage they caused.

The bill's focus on public education, regular updates through a test results dashboard, and cooperation across state, county, and federal agencies is essential for restoring public trust and ensuring the long-term health of our water resources.

The Red Hill contamination is a threat to our community's health, and swift, coordinated action is needed. I urge the committee to pass this bill and take decisive action to protect Oahu's water and future generations.

Me ke aloha,
Ka'iulani Iaea

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:54:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Ing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am in support of HB505 because the Navy has contaminated the water at Red Hill for too many years and has proven incapable of properly caring for this kuleana.

Mahalo!

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:02:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

<p>Aloha, I am in support of HB505 because the Navy has not taken good care of the water at Red Hill. It is better for everyone on the Island of Oahu that we leave one of our most important resources in the care of people who will care for it. </p>

<p>Mahalo. </p>

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:04:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pukaninui Hussey-Mendes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members, I am writing to express my strong support for HB505 relating to Red Hill. This bill could be very helpful to Hawaiians and our water. A wai coordinator is very much needed for our community, and so is a remediation fund. People are still living with the results of the contamination of the water, and it is time that something is done about it. Once again, I strongly support HB505. Mahalo for your consideration

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:32:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemary Bearden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB505. Water is life, so this bill is necessary to ensure that O‘ahu has a livable future.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:43:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members, please support HB505. The damage done by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility over the last 80 decades has lasting impacts on the environment and people. We must do everything we can to remedy the damage done, reduce harm going forward, and preserve our most important resource. I trust that you will do the right thing to ensure that O’ahu has a livable future. Mahalo.

Kristen Young
Honolulu resident

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:51:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado is in Support of HB505.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:11:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Nawilis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and all other WAL committee members,

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 505 to ensure the safety and quality of the most precious resource we have and need -- water. We need the policies and action items listed on this bill to remediate the tragedy that was the Red Hill fuel leak, impact of which are still felt today as BWS is preemptively shutting down more and more wells to maintain water quality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cindy Nawilis

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:38:25 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Borges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kylie and I am a diasporic Kanaka currently residing in San Jose, CA. I am writing to express my *strong support for HB505*, a critical piece of legislation that seeks to address the ongoing contamination issues at the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. This bill represents an essential step forward in safeguarding the health and safety of O’ahu residents, protecting Hawai’i’s natural resources, and holding the US Navy accountable for its role in this preventable crisis.

As you know, the 2021 Red Hill fuel leak exposed thousands of O’ahu residents to contaminated water and placed the island’s water supply at grave risk. While the Hawai’i Department of Health ordered the US Navy to decommission and safely remove the fuel stored at Red Hill, the lack of timely action and ongoing resistance from the Navy have left 100 million gallons of fuel in the facility—fuel that continues to threaten the island’s natural aquifer and the water supply for half a million residents. The consequences of further inaction are unthinkable.

HB505 is a comprehensive and thoughtful solution that will:

- **Formalize the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI)** group, bringing together state and local government stakeholders who have already been working on this issue.
- **Assign authority to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)** to serve as the lead agency, ensuring clear oversight and accountability.
- **Establish a new "WAI Policy Coordinator" position** to serve as the primary point of contact and oversee the initiative.
- **Create a designated fund** for monitoring, research, and public education related to the Red Hill cleanup, while reaffirming that the federal government and US Navy are ultimately responsible for funding the cleanup.
- **Mandate cooperation, communication, and transparency** among state and local agencies, as well as the WAI coordinator.
- **Require annual public progress reports** to keep the legislature and residents informed about the cleanup.

This bill is not only about addressing the immediate crisis but also about ensuring long-term accountability, transparency, and collaboration. By formalizing the efforts of the WAI group and

establishing clear leadership and funding mechanisms, HB505 provides a robust framework to protect Hawai'i's water resources and the health of its people.

As someone with deep ties to O'ahu, I am profoundly concerned about the potential for a full-blown water supply crisis if the Red Hill contamination is not addressed promptly and effectively. Families, businesses, and entire communities depend on the state's ability to act decisively in the face of this environmental and public health emergency. HB505 is an essential step in the right direction, and ***I urge you to vote yes on HB505.***

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

Kylie

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:46:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riley Bond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Riley Bond and I strongly support HB 505, which addresses the critical remediation needed at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. I believe it is essential that we hold the responsible parties accountable for the contamination that threatens our water supply and public trust.

The release of fuel into the aquifer in 2021 is a clear reminder of the vulnerability of our environment and the necessity of proactive action. This bill's focus on remediation, public education, and maintaining transparency is vital to restoring and protecting the health of our water sources, which are fundamental to the well-being of our people, especially Native Hawaiians, whose relationship with the land and water is sacred.

I urge the legislature to take swift action in support of this bill to safeguard our future generations.

Mahalo,

Riley Bond

Lahaina, Maui

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:24:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of hb505.

The US government has not been forthcoming in its effort to mitigate the harm it has caused to not only our Local residents but military personnel as well with the Red Hill spill. The contamination of our water supply is not something which can be easily remedied. Water is a finite resource for Kanaka Maoli and it is our belief it is life! Therefore the mitigation needs to become an urgency and top priority. In doing this, I support hb505.

carol lee kamekona

kahului, maui

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:23:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ola I ka wai! I support this bill and the efforts of our community-led organizations to repair the damage done to our water supply because of military mismanagement at Red Hill.

Mahalo,

Stacey Alapai, Makawao, Maui

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:28:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strongly Support!

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:13:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB505

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:33:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Ngo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, my name is Margaret and I live in Queens, NY. I am writing to express my *strong support for HB505*, a critical piece of legislation that seeks to address the ongoing contamination issues at the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. This bill represents an essential step forward in safeguarding the health and safety of O'ahu residents, protecting Hawai'i's natural resources, and holding the US Navy accountable for its role in this preventable crisis.

As you know, the 2021 Red Hill fuel leak exposed thousands of O'ahu residents to contaminated water and placed the island's water supply at grave risk. While the Hawai'i Department of Health ordered the US Navy to decommission and safely remove the fuel stored at Red Hill, the lack of timely action and ongoing resistance from the Navy have left 100 million gallons of fuel in the facility—fuel that continues to threaten the island's natural aquifer and the water supply for half a million residents. The consequences of further inaction are unthinkable.

HB505 is a comprehensive and thoughtful solution that will:

- **Formalize the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI)** group, bringing together state and local government stakeholders who have already been working on this issue.
- **Assign authority to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)** to serve as the lead agency, ensuring clear oversight and accountability.
- **Establish a new "WAI Policy Coordinator" position** to serve as the primary point of contact and oversee the initiative.
- **Create a designated fund** for monitoring, research, and public education related to the Red Hill cleanup, while reaffirming that the federal government and US Navy are ultimately responsible for funding the cleanup.
- **Mandate cooperation, communication, and transparency** among state and local agencies, as well as the WAI coordinator.
- **Require annual public progress reports** to keep the legislature and residents informed about the cleanup.

This bill is not only about addressing the immediate crisis but also about ensuring long-term accountability, transparency, and collaboration. By formalizing the efforts of the WAI group and establishing clear leadership and funding mechanisms, HB505 provides a robust framework to protect Hawai'i's water resources and the health of its people.

As someone with deep ties to O'ahu, I am profoundly concerned about the potential for a full-blown water supply crisis if the Red Hill contamination is not addressed promptly and effectively. Families, businesses, and entire communities depend on the state's ability to act decisively in the face of this environmental and public health emergency. HB505 is an essential step in the right direction, and I urge you to vote yes on HB505.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your continued service to the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Margaret Ngo

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:47:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Ramiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support house bill 505. Water is life and we must put the protection of our water resources above all else. The Navy's mismanagement of the Red Hill fuel tanks, since it's inception, has shown that our state must step in and demand the remediation of the years and years of fuel leaks, spills and cover ups. Your support of this bill is a vital step into protecting our clean, fresh water source for all of O'ahu. Do what is right, the time is now to preserve and protect our precious watershed systems.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:31:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:59:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 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 and also married to an active duty military service member, I am faced with a task to dutifully balance my emotions and actions around my love for my ‘āina, or land, and my military livelihood. 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. My kuleana is also to my ‘ohana to support and defend my husband in his pursuit of his love and service for his country. That is why this pain cuts so deep into my soul. When my husband took an oath to serve his country, what he also did was place us, his ‘ohana in the care and safety of the U.S. Military Armed Services. As a Hawaiian, I understood this reciprocity of kuleana. Now, this Hawaiian, military family is faced with betrayal at the hands of those who pledged to protect us from harm. On Sunday November 28, 2021, our family fell ill to fuel contaminated water by 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 the military comply with the orders set forth by the Governor of Hawaii. 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

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:14:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in STRONG support of **HB505**.

Mahalo.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:30:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Breanne Fong, and I support the WAI Bill HB505 and the remediation of what is 8 decades of fuel spills from the US Navy Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. This bill would not only allow the necessary oversight through a WAI policy coordinator but also generate funds specifically for remediation efforts so that the wai, 'āina, and community can be restored.

Water is an essential source for life and is at the center of our health and well-being, as well as the health and well-being of the environment. We must ensure the protection of the wai so that the health and well-being of our 'āina, community, and keiki can thrive for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration, and **I urge you to pass HB505.**

Mahalo,

Breanne Fong

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:09:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Anne Dahilig	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am grateful for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB505. Establishing a WAI policy coordinator and a Red Hill Remediation Special Fund is essential to rehabilitating affected areas, ensuring public health and safety, and bringing justice to the thousands negatively impacted by the fuel spillage.

Mahalo,

Kelly Dahilig

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:13:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Medeiros	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou 'O Alfred Keaka Hiona Medeiros ko'u inoa no Wai'anae mai au...mahalo nui for taking our testimony and this bill HB505 goes hand in hand with HB305, as this is the very reason...we should be DeMilitarizing Hawai'i. We'll be coming up to 4yrs since the neglectful disregard of our water and safety happened at Kapūkakī(Red Hill) as the U.S. Navy poisoned our water and main aquifer of O'ahu. Til this day, they've still done nothing to do better or have taken any serious accountability for their actions. They talk a good game, but just like a bad car salesman...they know how to sell you lemons, but the lemons are lies and false hope. Because the reality of it all, is that the U.S. Navy and the military in general, have been bad stewards of this land and continue to cause harm as they've been since they've been here. Have we not learned from Kaho'olawe? Have we not witnessed the continued ignorance of how they operate? They lack the care, so why should we care? It's time for us to hold them accountable and put together measures that'll force them to do what is right and once they're done...we deport all the U.S. Military and its oppressive system from Hawai'i. Water is life and they've lacked the care or compassion for our lives and the life of our Hawai'i. I fully support HB505 as it's time for the government to lay the hand down and enforce something that holds power against the Hewa that is the U.S. Navy and the United States Military. They should've been removed from Hawai'i for their crimes years ago and if we don't do something now, they'll continue to do as they wish and not be held accountable for their actions...AUWE! Enough is enough, please do what's right for the people and listen to Hawai'i...as we've all got a kuleana to do better. Mahalo

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:43:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Toma Shiira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Suppose HB505

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:57:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmela Resuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that creates the Wai Initiative to remediate the decades of damage done on Red Hill.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:13:09 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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 testifying in strong support of Hawai'i House Bill 505, which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator to oversee and coordinate the Red Hill WAI initiatives and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. This bill represents a critical step in addressing the ongoing crisis stemming from the contamination of the aquifer by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and ensuring a sustainable and community-centered approach to water remediation and protection in Hawai'i.

It is our collective kuleana to uphold values of mālama 'āina and ensure that our actions today protect and sustain the resources necessary for future generations. HB 505 is a necessary and urgent step forward in safeguarding Hawai'i's water and public health. I urge this committee to pass HB 505 and demonstrate a firm commitment to addressing the Red Hill crisis with the coordination, funding, and transparency that Hawai'i deserves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,
Areerat Worawongwasu.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:24:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronnie N Inagaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written testimony in support of H.B. No. 505, including ****comments only****,

To: Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Chair, Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee

From: Ronnie Inagaki

Date: January 28, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of H.B. No. 505 – Relating to the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility

Here is a ****written testimony in support**** of H.B. No. 505, including ****comments only****, highlighting areas where the bill can be strengthened for improved outcomes:

Dear Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 505, which seeks to address the critical environmental and public health challenges posed by the contamination of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. I/We strongly ****support**** the intent of this legislation to protect Oahu’s vital water resources and ensure the long-term health and safety of Hawaii’s residents.

While I/we firmly support H.B. No. 505, I/we respectfully offer the following ****comments and recommendations**** to strengthen the bill and ensure its success in achieving its objectives:

****1. Federal Accountability and Funding****

H.B. No. 505 rightly emphasizes the need for the federal government to bear the costs of aquifer remediation. However, I/we recommend including specific mechanisms in the bill to ensure federal accountability and timely funding. Without legally binding agreements or clear timelines for federal contributions, the State of Hawaii risks bearing undue financial burdens or experiencing delays in remediation efforts.

****2. Long-Term Monitoring and Funding****

The contamination of Oahu's groundwater and surrounding ecosystems is a long-term challenge that will require decades of monitoring and management. While the establishment of the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund is an important step, the bill does not sufficiently address how long-term efforts will be sustainably financed. I/we recommend including provisions to ensure that the fund has robust and secure funding mechanisms beyond the initial phases of remediation.

Additionally, the bill should outline how long-term monitoring of water quality and ecosystem health will be conducted and financed to ensure the continued safety of the aquifer and surrounding environments.

****3. Public Engagement and Transparency****

The inclusion of a public-facing dashboard and a 36-month public information and education program is commendable and necessary for rebuilding public trust. However, I/we recommend extending the duration of the public education program beyond 36 months, given the complexity and potential duration of remediation efforts.

Furthermore, the bill should include provisions to ensure that technical reports and test results are communicated to the public in a clear and accessible manner, with simplified summaries to ensure broad understanding.

****4. Clarity of Goals and Definitions****

H.B. No. 505 contains terms such as "negligible risk" to current and future water sources, which are not clearly defined. I/we recommend providing specific definitions and measurable targets for terms like "negligible risk" to ensure transparency and alignment of expectations among stakeholders.

Additionally, the bill should clarify whether the ultimate goal of remediation is to fully restore the aquifer to pre-contamination conditions or to achieve a lesser standard of safety.

****5. Interagency Coordination and Oversight****

The bill mandates cooperation from state and county agencies but does not specify enforcement mechanisms or consequences if agencies fail to meet the 30-day deadline for providing information. I/we recommend adding provisions to address potential delays or noncompliance to ensure efficient implementation.

Additionally, while the WAI Policy Coordinator is tasked with significant responsibilities, the bill does not include provisions for independent oversight. Establishing an independent oversight body or periodic external evaluations could enhance accountability and transparency in the implementation of WAI recommendations.

****6. Ecosystem-Wide Considerations****

While the focus of the bill is on the aquifer and wells, contamination from the Red Hill facility also poses risks to interconnected ecosystems, such as streams, nearshore waters, and marine environments. I/we recommend broadening the scope of the bill to include measures for monitoring and protecting these ecosystems, which are critical to Hawaii's environmental and economic health.

****7. Timeline for Implementation****

The effective date of July 1, 2025, may delay immediate action on critical remediation efforts. Given the urgency of the Red Hill contamination crisis, I/we urge the Legislature to consider accelerating the timeline for implementation to address these pressing issues without delay.

****Conclusion****

H.B. No. 505 is a critical step forward in addressing the environmental and public health challenges caused by the contamination at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. I/we commend the Legislature for its commitment to protecting Oahu's water resources and ensuring a safe and sustainable future for Hawaii's residents.

By addressing the concerns and recommendations outlined above, the bill can be further strengthened to ensure its success in achieving its goals. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation, and I/we urge the Committee to pass H.B. No. 505 with the suggested amendments.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Inagaki

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:31:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Colón	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Andrea Colón-Aldeguer, supports HB505.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:39:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rabbia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB505. The entirely preventable devastation of Red Hill needs to be brought under control and the people impacted to get justice. Having a WAI Policy Coordinator will ensure that there is oversight in efforts to restore clean water to Red Hill, and having the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund will provide the capital needed to carry those efforts out. Unfortunately, we don't know the lasting impacts this man-made disaster will have, so it is imperative that we create the correct role and appoint the correct people to handle this mess right now and in the future.

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:01:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seyna M	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB505

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:47:28 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
melissa tomlinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

Ola I Ka Wai!! It's high time for the address this bill will provide. For far too long protecting O'ahu's water has not been as precedent of a priority for the life it provides. I firmly believe the Navy should be held accountable for all the harm that has been caused by their actions there over decades. I know I'm submitting close to the deadline and am not using a lot of fancy words/declarations etc. my beloved Kitty passed away yesterday and so this is all I can muster. Still, the level of importance and significance of this bill can not be understated. Please support HB505. I pray we get to see the results of its implementation.

sincerely,

melissa tomlinson

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:50:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a community member from Pearl City and I support HB 505. I believe that it is the Navy and the Governments responsibility to restore and protect our water systems for future generations. This is not a recent issue either, this contamination has been an issue for decades and needs to stop now.

Clean up and do what is pono.

Na,

Leo Nahe Smith

HB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:49:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avalon Pardea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Avalon Pardea and I am in support of HB505.

Please do what is right for the health of our wai and our community.

Mahalo,
Avalon Pardea