

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FLOOR DRAFT:**

**RESOLUTION 21-276**

**URGING THE PERMANENT REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF THE U.S. NAVY  
RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS**

**The PROPOSED FD1 makes the following amendments:**

- A. Amends the title and the first BE IT RESOLVED clause to also call for the "immediate defueling of the tanks."
- B. Amends the BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED clause to add President Joseph Biden and the Chair of the State Commission on Water Resource Management as recipients of copies of the resolution.
- C. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.



# CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 21-276, FD1

## RESOLUTION

URGING THE IMMEDIATE DEFUELING, PERMANENT REMOVAL, AND  
RELOCATION OF THE U.S. NAVY RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY  
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS.

WHEREAS, O'ahu's groundwater must be preserved in as close to pristine condition as possible to accommodate the drinking water needs of O'ahu's residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, contaminants infiltrating into groundwater and spreading through the aquifers create uncertainty regarding the supply of available drinking water, and the difficulty and high cost of cleaning up contaminated aquifers may lead to the shutting down of wells and the permanent reduction of drinking water supply; and

WHEREAS, the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility ("Facility"), which is operated by the U.S. Department of the Navy ("Navy"), stores up to 187 million gallons of fuel per day, has a total capacity of 250 million gallons, and is located only 100 feet above a sole-source aquifer drinkable water resource from which the Board of Water Supply provides drinking water to residents from Moanalua to Hawai'i Kai; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of Health ("DOH") has stated that the storage of fuel 100 feet above a drinking water resource is inherently dangerous; and

WHEREAS, numerous fuel release incidents at the Facility have been documented over the years, including the release of approximately 27,000 gallons of jet fuel in January 2014, the releases of undetermined amounts of a regulated substance in March 2020 and June 2020, the release of approximately 1,000 gallons of fuel on May 6, 2021, and the release of approximately 14,000 gallons of a fuel-water mixture on November 24, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a Quantitative Risk and Vulnerability Assessment conducted for the Facility in 2018 indicated that undetected chronic fuel releases from the tanks are expected to be 5,803 gallons per year and that there is an unacceptably high risk of sudden, large fuel releases in the future; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-102, Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended ("Charter"), provides that "[a]ll city powers shall be used to serve and advance the general welfare, safety and aspirations of its inhabitants in a sustainable manner and promote stewardship of natural resources for present and future generations"; and



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WHEREAS, Charter Section 7-105 (j) authorizes the Board of Water Supply to prescribe and enforce rules and regulations having the force and effect of law, including rules and regulations addressing the prevention of waste and pollution of water; and

WHEREAS, the City Council ("Council") has adopted the following resolutions addressing the Facility's potential threat to O'ahu's drinking water supply:

- Resolution 14-110, adopted on June 4, 2014, Urging the State Department of Health to Take Immediate and Decisive Actions to Mitigate Potential Adverse Impacts to Groundwater Resources from Leaks or Spills at the United States Navy's Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility;
- Resolution 15-84, CD1, FD1, adopted on April 22, 2015, Requesting the Board of Water Supply, State Department of Health, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and United States Navy to Expediently Implement Recommendations of the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility Task Force;
- Resolution 15-162, CD1, FD1, adopted on July 8, 2015, Urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawai'i State Department of Health to Require the Immediate Implementation of Corrective Actions as Part of the Administrative Order on Consent in the Matter of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility;
- Resolution 18-266, CD1, adopted on March 8, 2019, Urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawai'i State Department of Health to Reject the Approval of a Single Wall Tank Upgrade Alternative Option for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and to Reject the Conclusions Presented in the Groundwater Protection and Evaluation Considerations for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Report Dated July 27, 2018; and
- Resolution 19-270, CD1, adopted on November 6, 2019, Reaffirming the Council's Position, as Set Forth in Resolution 18-266, CD1, Adopted on March 8, 2019, Relating to the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Upgrade Alternative Options; and



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WHEREAS, in November 2021, shortly after 14,000 gallons of a fuel-water mixture were released from a Facility fire suppression system drain line, residents in multiple military housing communities served by wells proximate to the Facility were advised not to use their tap water for drinking, cooking, or oral hygiene due to widespread reports of adverse health reactions, and on December 2, 2021, the Navy confirmed that the Navy's Red Hill well was contaminated with petroleum that was believed to have migrated into users' tap water; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2021, the DOH issued an Emergency Order (Docket No. 21-UST-EA-02) ordering the Navy to, among other things, immediately suspend operations at the Facility and within 30 days submit a work plan and implementation schedule prepared by a third party to defuel the bulk fuel storage tanks at Red Hill; and

WHEREAS, media reports indicate that the Navy intends to contest the foregoing Emergency Order; and

WHEREAS, in view of the large number of historic leaks at the Facility, the potential for future catastrophic fuel releases, and the Navy's apparent inability to ensure the safety of the sole source aquifer located beneath the Facility's underground storage tanks, the Council finds that decisive and permanent actions need to be taken to protect O'ahu's drinking water from the clear and present danger posed by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the immediate defueling, permanent removal, and relocation of the U.S. Navy Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility underground storage tanks from their current location, and the establishment of other fuel storage facilities at an area where they would pose no threat to O'ahu's drinking water; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Navy is urged to fully comply with the DOH Emergency Order (Docket No. 21-UST-EA-02) issued on December 6, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Congress is urged to enact legislation directing the Navy to develop and implement a plan to decommission the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and relocate the Facility's underground storage tanks, and to appropriate the necessary funds for the Navy to implement the plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Water Supply is urged to develop a water source protection program, having the force and effect of law, to protect O'ahu's precious drinking water supply from pollution; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to President Joseph Biden, the Secretary of the U.S. Navy, the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the members of Hawai'i's Congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the Director of the Hawai'i State Department of Health, the Manager and Chief Engineer of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Chair of the State Commission on Water Resource Management, the President of the Hawai'i Senate, and the Speaker of the Hawai'i House of Representatives.

INTRODUCED BY:

Esther Kia'aina

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

December 9, 2021

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers