BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com

February 23, 2022

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Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
 and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

Subject   Council Bill 48, CD2 – Relating to Underground Storage Tanks

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports Bill 48, CD2, relating to underground storage tanks. This bill provides the City and County of Honolulu (City) with the power to issue, modify, suspend, or revoke any permit to operate underground storage tanks that pose a threat to Oahu's principal source of drinking water.

The Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu Article II, §2-102 speaks to promoting the "stewardship of natural resources for present and future generations." This bill provides a tool for oversight and inspection of large USTs that have a capacity to store more than 100,000 gallons of any regulated substance. Such a need exists with the large field-constructed underground storage fuel tanks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (Red Hill). This bill provides the City with the ability to access and monitor USTs or a tank system to ensure human health, the environment and groundwater quality and quantity now and into the future is protected.

The recent petroleum contamination from the Red Hill drinking water well and the health threat it posed to the military residents is an example of what could happen to Oahu's community at large.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Bill 48, CD2.

Very truly yours,

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

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