

RES23-070
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 292

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jun 7, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 7

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: lynne matusow	Email: lynnehi@aol.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 4, 2023 @ 10:34 AM
Testimony: in full support. fyi, i do not trust the navy (aka SNAFU). they have acted horribly regarding red hill and all the leaks.		
Name: Glenn Wakai	Email: senwakai@capitol.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 05:15 PM
Name: Awapuhi Robinson	Email: awapuhirobinson@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 06:05 PM
Testimony: The continual safety of our drinking water should be prioritized to regain community support that we are not in any danger from continuous exposure. The lack of credibility from the navy is at an all time high.		
Name: ClarkJustin Domingo Duran	Email: clark.jduran0@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 07:21 PM
Testimony: Dear Honolulu City Council and United States Navy, I am writing to express my strong support for RES23-070, which calls for the immediate weekly testing of Red Hill monitoring wells and shafts for PFAS, as well as the providing of information needed by the Honolulu Board of Water Supply. Having learned about the detrimental effects of contaminations in sensitive groundwater reservoirs located beneath the fuel tanks, I strongly believe that implementing preventative measures is crucial to help the ecosystems and the well-being of those who rely on the affected water sources in Red Hill and the Area. While removing the fuel tanks and shutting down the facility may be hasty by some in the ongoing debate surrounding Red Hill, obtaining current and essential information will enable the state and city with collaboration with the U.S. Navy and Department of Defense to take appropriate actions. The people cannot simply wait for the government to address the issue without taking any action, no matter how big or small. The community has already expressed their urgent need for a resolution, and taking steps in the right direction is significant. Conducting regular testing of the wells and shafts will do so. E Malama 'oe I ka 'ina. As individuals who never had the right to govern over the Hawaiian Kingdom, it remains our responsibility to uphold ethical standards and honor the wisdom of our Kpuna and the Kanaka Maoli. The Hawaiian people have been largely underrepresented in our government, and supporting this resolution offers them hope that the government, which has previously caused harm, is now committed to amending past mistakes. Newer unforgivable acts have resulted in the degradation of the land that has fed and taken care of them. It is crucial to protect the land, which holds cultural significance for the Kanaka Maoli, ensuring that their culture and heritage are not erased. Taking these small steps will provide reassurance to the Kama'aina, Kanaka Maoli, and Kpuna, indicating the government is committed to keep the people and the land safe. The use of testing is a great way to uphold the standards of the people of Hawai'i and ensure that the government has not abandoned this important issue. By continuously developing solutions. To address the environmental problem. It is important to know that groundwater takes years to naturally cleanse itself. Additionally, Hawaii heavily relies on imports from the mainland, making self-sustainability challenging. Therefore, jeopardizing the already available resources will only increase the potential for future disasters.		

I trust that you take consideration for my testimony and support RES23-070.

Sincerely, Clark Duran

Name:
Cards Pintor

Email:
pintorcards@gmail.com

Zip:
96817

Representing:
Self

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Jun 6, 2023 @ 08:51 PM

Testimony:
I support this resolution.

Name:
Claire Tamamoto

Email:
Claire2164@gmail.com

Zip:
96701

Representing:
Self

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Jun 6, 2023 @ 09:13 PM

Name:
Kristine S

Email:
ks.235@yahoo.com

Zip:
96701

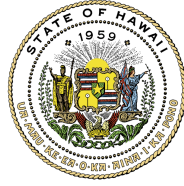
Representing:
Self

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Jun 6, 2023 @ 11:02 PM

Testimony:
Routine testing of tanks should be required until they no longer pose a threat to our vital water sources.

In other words, UNTIL THEY ARE EMPTIED/REMOVED the tanks should be monitored and the information should be available to the public and the residents.



SENATOR GLENN WAKAI
HAWAII STATE SENATE
Ka 'Aha Kenekoa

June 6, 2023

Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Honolulu City Council
City Council Chamber
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Waters and members of the Honolulu City Council,

It was an honor to stand next to you at the Capitol on May 9, as city and state leaders joined forces to hold the Navy accountable for poisoning our aquifer. I enthusiastically support City Council Resolution No. 23-70: URGING THE U.S. NAVY AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENT WEEKLY TESTING OF NAVY RED HILL MONITORING WELLS AND THE RED HILL SHAFT FOR PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (“PFAS”) AND RELEASE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE HONOLULU BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY IN ITS LETTER TO THE U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DATED JANUARY 10, 2023.

Over the years, the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility has been plagued with recurring mishaps. Most recently in November 2022, approximately 1,300 gallons of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) concentrate liquid was leaked from a fire suppression system at the facility into the environment, which caused the potential release of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) into our groundwater. As defined in the resolution, PFAS are known as “forever chemicals” since they break down very slowly. They can continue to pollute the environment for thousands of years, which threatens our well being and quality of life.

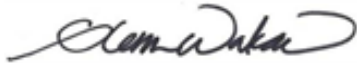
It is extremely disappointing to witness the Navy’s lack of urgency and willingness to respond to these catastrophic events, that they created. This was not a natural disaster; this was a military disaster. Calls for transparency, action, and accountability have been met with delays and half-truths.

In February 2023, I along with other members of the Hawaii State Senate sent a joint letter urging the EPA, Navy and DLA to revise its proposed consent order to include mitigation efforts in response to the recent releases of AFFF concentrate liquid containing PFAS. More recently, the Hawaii State Legislature passed [House Concurrent Resolution 103](#), which urges all branches of the United States Military operating in Hawaii to implement changes in their policies to reduce, the use of products containing PFAS.

Inaction will be detrimental to everyone's health. The Navy's practice of delaying testing and releasing data, puts Oahu's drinking water resources at risk. The Board of Water Supply needs this vital information to immediately address potential threats to our aquifer.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of City Council Resolution No. 23-70, which is an important step in holding the Navy accountable. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Wakai", written in a cursive style.

Senator Glenn Wakai

Kalihi-Salt Lake-Foster Village-Aiea-Pearl City

June 6, 2023

To: Chair Tommy Waters and Members of the City Council
Council Chamber, City Hall
530 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: Testimony on Resolution Number 23-070, CD1
Housing, Sustainability and Health

Hearings: 10:00 a. m., Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Chair Waters, honorable members of the City Council

Good Morning:

I would like to speak in favor of resolution 23-070, CD1 urging the U. S. Navy and the Department of Defense to implement weekly testing of the Navy Red Hill monitoring wells and the Red Hill Shaft for "PFAS". It goes without saying, there is a sincere concern that everything is not being done to prevent future leaks and to immediately address leaks that may occur in the future. Weekly monitoring will help to insure accountability. In the bigger picture, the responsibility of useable drinking water from all our wells and our ground water affects everyone in our island community. We should all be thinking of ways to have a greener impact on our aina, more green spaces and less concrete!

In conjunction with the testing, it is imperative that the information requested by the Honolulu BWS in their letter dated January 10, 2023 to the U. S. Secretary of Defense be release to the public. Although the Navy has made good progress in addressing the concerns of those effected by the Red Hill tank leaks and the decommissioning of the fuel tanks themselves, this information should be released to continue to build trust with full transparency. This is a volatile situation and there has been much dialogue to finding the best way forward. Full transparency is part of the democratic process and will hopefully lead to more community involvement in caring for our environment.

Each of you represent your constituents and together make decisions in the best interest of the City and County of Honolulu, all of O`ahu. Long range efforts must be made throughout the island to have drinkable water wells so that no one area or district bears the "burden" of our limited water resource. We must always be mindful to conserve water.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support of this resolution.

Claire J. Tamamoto
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'Aiea, Hawai'i 96701

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