

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 24-216

RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, INCLUDING THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, TO IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENT WEEKLY TESTING OF ALL NAVY RED HILL MONITORING WELLS AND DRINKING WATER WELLS FOR ALL CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS STEMMING FROM PAST FUEL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS THAT WERE USED, STORED, OR RELEASED AT THE RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY.

WHEREAS, the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility ("Red Hill Facility"), which is operated by the U.S. Department of the Navy ("Navy"), consists of 20 field-constructed single-walled underground storage tanks, each of which have a 12.5 million gallon capacity, with a combined total storage capacity of up to 250 million gallons of fuel; and

WHEREAS, these storage tanks are located just 100 feet above O'ahu's sole-source aquifer, on which the people of O'ahu rely for drinking water; and

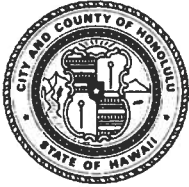
WHEREAS, throughout the Red Hill Facility's 80 years of operation, numerous fuel and hazardous chemical releases have been documented, including the release of:

- Approximately 27,000 gallons of jet fuel in January 2014;
- Undetermined amounts of a regulated substance in March 2020 and June 2020;
- Approximately 20,000 gallons of fuel on May 6, 2021;
- Approximately 14,000 gallons of a fuel-water mixture on November 24, 2021, which contaminated the Navy's Red Hill Shaft water source; and
- Approximately 1,300 gallons of aqueous film forming foam ("AFFF") concentrate containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS") on November 29, 2022; and

WHEREAS, PFAS are known as "forever chemicals" because they break down very slowly on a molecular level and thus persist in the environment; and

WHEREAS, despite being a persistent chemical, PFAS have been used in our island environment, for example, in synthetic firefighting foams that contain AFFF, and therefore present a hazard that threatens to contaminate our fragile water supply; and

WHEREAS, in December 2021, in response to the November 24, 2021 incident, the Board of Water Supply ("BWS") shut down operation of its Hālawā Shaft, Hālawā



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Wells, and 'Aiea Wells and began weekly testing for total petroleum hydrocarbons ("TPHs"), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons ("PAHs"), and PFAS at its five drinking well facilities closest to the Red Hill Facility; and

WHEREAS, PAHs are a class of chemicals that occur naturally in coal and petroleum products, such as crude oil or gasoline, and are known to cause cancer, respiratory issues, and other adverse health effects; and

WHEREAS, in May 2022, the BWS first detected PAHs at a monitor well in Moanalua Valley located approximately 1,500 feet west of the Red Hill Facility; and

WHEREAS, in May and June of 2024, the BWS subsequently detected PAHs in water samples collected from its closed 'Aiea Wells; and

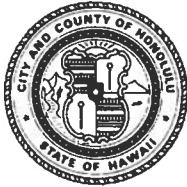
WHEREAS, in June 2024, the same types of PAHs detected at the BWS 'Aiea Wells were also detected at the Navy's monitoring well, NMW24, which could indicate that a contaminant plume may be migrating to the west of the Red Hill Facility; and

WHEREAS, more data and information are needed from the Navy to determine:

- How groundwater in the aquifer is flowing;
- What contaminants the groundwater is carrying; and
- Whether fuel contaminants have migrated further west beyond the Red Hill Facility; and

WHEREAS, based on preliminary groundwater particle track modeling conducted by the Navy; current understanding of groundwater flow directions in the Red Hill, Hālawā, and 'Aiea areas; and the presence of BWS wells located to the west of the Red Hill Facility, groundwater quality testing should be conducted more frequently to assess potential impacts to groundwater sources such as the BWS Hālawā Shaft, Hālawā Wells, 'Aiea Wells, and Ka'amilo Wells; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the United States Department of the Navy and the United States Department of Defense, including the Defense Logistics Agency, to immediately implement weekly testing of all Navy Red Hill monitoring wells and drinking water wells for all chemical contaminants stemming from past fuel and hazardous materials that were used, stored, or released at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such implementation actions should include, at a minimum:

- Weekly testing for TPHs, PAHs, and PFAS levels;
- Installation of additional monitoring wells to the west and northwest of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility;
- Submission of unredacted laboratory reports to the Board of Water Supply and the public; and
- Any other actions necessary to protect the public's safety and safeguard O'ahu's public drinking water supply; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the U.S. Secretary of Defense, U.S. Secretary of the Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, the Hawai'i Congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the President of the Hawai'i Senate, the Speaker of the Hawai'i House of Representatives, the Hawai'i State Director of Health, the Mayor, and the Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tammy Watson
Esther Ollivaria

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

AUG 28 2024

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:

U.S. Department of the Navy ("Navy"); U.S. Department of Defense ("DoD"); Board of Water Supply ("BWS"); Monitoring Wells; Drinking Water Wells; Weekly Testing; Chemical Contaminants; Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility

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