

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

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September 4, 2024

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 Resolution No. 24-216: Urging the U.S. Department of the Navy and the U.S. 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 Fuel Storage Facility

Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports Council Resolution No. 24-216 urging the U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) and Department of Defense (DOD) to immediately conduct weekly testing of its monitoring wells and drinking water wells for chemicals used, stored, or released from the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility (Red Hill).

Numerous fuel and hazardous chemical releases have occurred at the Red Hill fuel facility, including approximately 27,000 gallons of jet fuel in January 2014, approximately 14,000 gallons of a fuel-water mixture in November 2021 that contaminated the Navy's Red Hill Shaft water source, and the release of approximately 1,300 gallons of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) concentrate containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on November 29, 2022. Water samples collected from the aquifer underneath the Red Hill tanks show detections of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), and PFAS.

In response to the November 2021 incident, BWS shut down operations of its Hālawā Shaft, Hālawā Wells, and 'Aiea Wells and began weekly testing for TPH, PAH, and PFAS. Water samples collected in May and June 2024 from the BWS 'Aiea Wells showed the presence of PAH chemicals that appeared like a plume moving toward, and

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then away from, BWS 'Aiea Wells. PAH chemicals occur naturally in coal and products made from crude oil and are known to cause cancer and other health effects.

The Navy's monitoring well NMW24, located about one-half mile south of 'Aiea Wells, was also sampled in June 2024 and found to contain PAH chemicals. Groundwater samples collected from the Navy's monitoring wells located on the Red Hill property have also shown PAH, as well as TPH and PFAS detections.

Groundwater level data collected to date, including the Navy's preliminary groundwater model particle tracks, indicate the water in the aquifer is flowing in a westerly direction away from the Red Hill tanks. Weekly water testing of the Navy's existing monitoring wells and drinking water sources is therefore needed to obtain data that yields better resolution of the occurrences of PAH, TPH, and PFAS in the absence of more monitoring wells located to the west of Red Hill. The existing monthly sampling that the Navy is conducting is not detailed enough to understand contaminant presence in the aquifer nor understand the potential impacts to existing wells in the region, such as the BWS Hālawā Shaft, Hālawā Wells, 'Aiea Wells, and Ka'amilo Wells.

For clarification purposes, we recommend two amendments to the resolution, as follows:

- Page 1, second to last paragraph . . . in synthetic firefighting foams [~~that contain~~ such as AFFF,
- Page 2, third paragraph . . . Moanalua Valley located approximately 1,500 feet [~~west~~] east of the Red Hill Facility;

We therefore urge your support of this resolution to get the information needed to better protect and preserve our sole source aquifer. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



Ernest Y.W. Lau, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

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