

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

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96843
Phone: (808) 748-5000 • boardofwatersupply.com

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER
MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

ERWIN KAWATA
DEPUTY MANAGER
HOPE MANAKIA



LANCE WILHELM, Chair
JONATHAN KANESHIRO, Vice Chair
NĀ'ĀLEHU ANTHONY
JEFFREY LAUPOLA
DARIAN CHUN
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio
GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., Ex-Officio

September 9, 2026

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 26-193 – Urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawai'i State Department of Health to require the United States Department of the Navy to Increase the Frequency, Chemical Scope, and Geographic Extent of Groundwater Testing for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Petroleum Chemicals in the Immediate Vicinity of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and Surrounding Areas

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS), strongly supports Resolution No. 26-193, urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) to require the United States Department of the Navy (Navy) to increase the frequency, chemical scope, and geographic extent of groundwater testing for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and petroleum chemicals in the immediate vicinity of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and surrounding areas.

PFAS are a group of nearly 15,000 synthetic chemicals, highly persistent in the environment due to its water solubility and molecular structures, also known as "forever chemicals." They have been used since the 1940s to make products resistant to water, grease, and heat. PFAS do not break down easily in the environment and can accumulate in the human body, causing cancer, liver diseases, compromised immune systems, and other illnesses.

The Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) has incurred numerous known and unknown fuel and hazardous chemical releases into the environment over its 80 years

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
September 9, 2026
Page 2

of operation, including 27,000 gallons of jet fuel on January 13, 2014, 14,000 gallons of a water-jet fuel 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 concentrate that contained PFAS on November 29, 2022.

Although the RHBFSF was defueled in 2024 and is in the process of being decommissioned for permanent closure, the type, volume, and location of past releases and impact to the environment remain unknown.

As detailed in a letter dated June 16, 2026, to Mr. Mike Martucci, Acting Administrator of the EPA, and Dr. Kenneth S. Fink, of the DOH, the recent widespread and similar PFAS detections in BWS wells and Navy wells raise questions that require more consistent testing and investigation to better understand and characterize the extent of PFAS in the underground drinking water aquifer.

There is no substitute for clean and safe drinking water.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony on Resolution No. 26-193.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Y.W. Lau', is positioned above the printed name.

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