
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY THE EFFECTS OF THE JANUARY 2014 FUEL TANK LEAK AT THE
RED HILL UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY.

1 WHEREAS, the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility is
2 located near Pearl Harbor and operated by the United States
3 Navy; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Red Hill facility was built between 1940 and
6 1943 to support war efforts in the Pacific during World War II;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, the Red Hill facility contains twenty cylindrical
10 tanks, each of which can hold up to 12,500,000 gallons of fuel,
11 and continues to provide secure fuel storage for ships and
12 aircraft of the United States Pacific Fleet and other military
13 services; and
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15 WHEREAS, in January of this year, fuel operators at Red
16 Hill discovered a discrepancy in the fuel level in one of the
17 tanks, specifically tank number five; and
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19 WHEREAS, upon further investigation, it was determined that
20 tank number five had leaked an estimated 27,000 gallons of JP-8
21 aviation fuel; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply temporarily
24 shut down four wells in the vicinity of the Red Hill facility as
25 a proactive and precautionary measure to ensure the continuous
26 safety of drinking water in the area; and
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28 WHEREAS, military documents filed with the State note
29 dozens of leaks dating back to 1949; and
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31 WHEREAS, studies indicate that past fuel releases have
32 already contaminated the groundwater and soil beneath the Red



1 Hill facility with petroleum hydrocarbons and also discuss the
2 risk of large releases of fuel to the groundwater aquifer and
3 the environment; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply's Halawa Shaft
6 is approximately 5,000 feet northwest of the Red Hill facility
7 and provides water to hundreds of thousands of people on Oahu;
8 and

9
10 WHEREAS, a nearby Navy well provides 24 percent of the
11 potable water to the Pearl Harbor water system; and

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13 WHEREAS, prevention will cost significantly less than the
14 cost to clean up large scale contamination to the groundwater
15 aquifer and the environment; and

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17 WHEREAS, it has been reported that the age of the facility
18 and the mission-critical requirements for its storage capacity
19 combine to present a significant future risk of a moderate to
20 large release of fuel to the underlying ground water; now,
21 therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health
26 is requested to convene a task force to study the effects of the
27 January 2014 fuel tank leak at the Red Hill Underground Fuel
28 Storage Facility; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
31 requested to serve as the Chairperson of the task force and to
32 invite interested parties to be members of the task force,
33 including:

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35 (1) One member representing the United States Navy;
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37 (2) One member representing the United States
38 Environmental Protection Agency;
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40 (3) One representative selected by the Speaker of the
41 House of Representatives and one senator selected by
42 the President of the Senate;



- 1 (4) One member representing the Department of Land and
2 Natural Resources;
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- 4 (5) One member representing the Honolulu Board of Water
5 Supply; and
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- 7 (6) Not less than two members from the community at large;
8 and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
11 consider:

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- 13 (1) The short- and long-term effects of the leak at the
14 Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility, including
15 effects relating to the health of residents, safe
16 drinking water, and the environment;
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- 18 (2) Response strategies to mitigate the effects of future
19 leaks at the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage
20 Facility;
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- 22 (3) Ways to improve communication between the United
23 States Navy, the State, and the public in the event of
24 future leaks at the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage
25 Facility; and
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- 27 (4) The implications of shutting down the Red Hill
28 Underground Fuel Storage Facility; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
31 requested to provide any necessary administrative, professional,
32 technical, and clerical support to the task force; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Navy is urged
35 to work with the Department of Health and the Honolulu Board of
36 Water Supply to remediate the contamination beneath the Red Hill
37 Facility to protect and prevent contamination of the groundwater
38 aquifer; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
41 requested to submit a report of the task force's findings and
42 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
43 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
44 Regular Session of 2015; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
3 the Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, the Commander
4 of the United States Pacific Command, the Environmental
5 Protection Agency's Pacific Islands Contact Office, the
6 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the
7 Manager and Chief Engineer of the Honolulu Board of Water
8 Supply.

