



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER
NAVY REGION HAWAII
850 TICONDEROGA ST, STE 110
JBP HH HI 96860-5101

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
Testimony on Resolution 19-270, Reaffirming the Council's position, as set forth in Resolution 18-266, CD1, adopted on March 8, 2019, relating to the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Upgrade Alternative Options.

Hearing Date and Time: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Testimony on behalf of Navy Region Hawaii by CAPT Marc Delao,
Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Pine, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Proposed Resolution 19-270. This Resolution expresses the City Council's support for secondary containment or, if secondary containment is determined to be infeasible, relocation of the fuel tanks away from the aquifer. The City Council's support for secondary containment or, if secondary containment is determined to be infeasible, relocation of the fuel tanks away from the aquifer appears to be consistent with the Navy's Tank Upgrade Alternatives and Release Detection Decision Document.

The Navy is listening to our Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) partners, as well as the public, and driving improvements to Red Hill to help protect our nation, Hawaii, and our drinking water. Consistent with the proposed Resolution, the Navy is proposing secondary containment for Red Hill by the 2045 timeframe. If secondary containment cannot be achieved by the 2045 timeframe, the Navy will defuel the Red Hill Facility. While the proposed Resolution and our understanding of the way ahead both include secondary containment, we believe the proposed Resolution could be misinterpreted as implying that single wall constructed tanks are the Navy's final solution. In fact, the Navy is pursuing technologies that will provide secondary containment of the fuel. Although this technology does not currently exist to allow a fiscally-responsible approach, the Navy is committed to finding a solution for secondary containment. We appreciate the committee's interest in protecting the water supply by affording secondary containment, and that is our objective as well.

To this point, the Navy/DLA propose that the City Council amend its proposed resolution as follows:

The Council of the City and County of Honolulu supports the portion of the Navy's Tank Upgrade Alternatives and Release Detection Decision Document, dated September 9, 2019, that reflects the Navy's commitment to finding a solution, through the Administrative Order on Consent process, for secondary containment or removal of fuel in the 2045 time frame.

The Navy fully recognizes and respects the Council's and the public's concern in protecting the fresh water aquifer at Red Hill. We not only share that concern, but work every day to ensure this important facility is monitored and operated to protect against any release of fuel. The Navy is working in partnership with the EPA and DOH in an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with the shared goals of protecting our national security, our environment and our drinking water.

The AOC highlights our partnership. Signed in 2015, the partnership between the EPA, DOH, the Navy and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) is working. This partnership facilitates open and transparent conversation among all stakeholders. AOC documents are available to the public at the EPA and DOH websites. The latest document online is the Tank Upgrade Alternatives and Release Detection Decision Document.

The AOC is designed to ensure the safety of Oahu's water supply. "This agreement will ensure the safety of Oahu's drinking water supply, while allowing the Red Hill tanks to remain in use as a resource for our national defense," Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's former Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest, said in a joint EPA-DOH press release announcing the AOC signing. "EPA and the Department of Health will remain vigilant during this long-term effort to protect the public health and Hawaii's precious aquifers." "In order to address the challenges presented at Red Hill, the U.S. Navy, DLA, EPA and DOH have developed this AOC as a framework basis to deal with this complex challenge," Keith Kawaoka, DOH's Deputy Director of Environmental Health, said in the same release. "The AOC establishes the process to make well-researched, well-planned and cost-effective improvements to protect the groundwater resources beneath and surrounding the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility."

This partnership has led to implementation of significant improvements at the Red Hill Facility, such as increased monitoring, enhanced release detection and other technological advances, and an expanded understanding of key environmental conditions. Even more improvements are in the works. All AOC partners are committed to clean drinking water. For example, a lab tests water samples quarterly using EPA-approved procedures. Annually, a sample is sent to an EPA-certified lab to corroborate test results and ensure the water is safe.

Additionally, the Navy will determine the feasibility for potential construction of a water treatment plant or equivalent engineering controls and, by no later than 2022, will evaluate the cost and construction schedule.

The Department of Defense is making a substantial investment to protect the environment. The DoD has spent \$162 million in just the last five years to modernize the Red Hill Facility to ensure the military and Hawaii National Guard have access to critical fuel while also keeping our drinking water safe. Over the next five years, the Navy and DLA anticipate spending another quarter of a billion dollars for added improvements.

Hawaii's best and brightest are helping. Navy engineering experts have already approached the University of Hawaii College of Engineering and Applied Research Lab to assist with a wide range of technical solutions. The Navy will also continue to leverage the larger universe of

technical expertise from academia, industry, and government to collaborate on development of advanced improvements.

The Navy/DLA are working today to improve the facility in order to protect the environment and our drinking water. The frequency of tank tightness testing is now done twice as often as the State requires. The inventory of monitoring wells has increased from eight to 15, and eight more are planned by the end of 2021, which will bring the total number of monitoring wells to 23. Recent field data has been incorporated into a new groundwater model that has improved our understanding of the aquifer. The AOC partners are working with Honolulu Board of Water Supply and U.S. Geological Survey to further understand groundwater flow. Improvements to the Tank Clean, Inspect and Repair (or CIR) program have been made through implementation of EPA/DOH-approved procedures. Higher standards for CIR procedures approved by the EPA and DOH in 2017 have been adopted. Experiments are being conducted to identify and test a coating material to provide additional protection. A pilot study will test continuous soil vapor monitoring as a viable method for helping to detect fuel releases in real time. Risk is being reduced by decommissioning smaller nozzles (piping between the bottom of each tank and the first isolation valve) that cannot be inspected and repaired by personnel during each CIR project. All of these improvements add multiple layers of protection.

Red Hill is also a vital fuel source for Hawaii during disasters and emergencies. Red Hill can supply fuel to the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, Honolulu Harbor, Hawaiian Electric, and responding ships and aircraft. Hawaii's isolation makes us dependent on shipping and air transport. The fuel from Red Hill helps ensure those transit lanes are secure.

Red Hill protects Hawaii and Our Nation's Security. During World War II, Admiral Chester Nimitz said the war would have lasted two more years had the strategic fuel reserves on Oahu been destroyed in the Pearl Harbor attack. Today, Red Hill is more vital than ever. Our adversaries have become increasingly aggressive and Red Hill provides the Defense Department ready access to fuel for needed mission readiness of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

The shared goals of EPA, State of Hawaii, DLA and the Navy are to protect our national security, our environment and our drinking water.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony today.