

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com




January 17, 2022

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The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
Prince Kuhio Federal Building, Room 7-212
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

The Honorable Ed Case
U.S. House of Representatives
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1910
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Mazie Hirono
United States Senate
Prince Kuhio Federal Building, Room 3-106
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele
U.S. House of Representatives
99 Aupuni Street, Suite 118
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Senator Schatz, Senator Hirono, Congressman Case, and Congressman Kahele:

SUBJECT: Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Remediation Costs Continue for BWS

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) appreciates our Hawai'i Congressional Delegation support and concerns regarding the ongoing water contamination crisis stemming from the U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (Red Hill Facility) fuel release. The fuel release into the Red Hill Shaft is an unfortunate scenario of the catastrophe waiting to happen to the community at large.

As a result of the fuel release, the BWS immediately shut down one of its largest water sources on Oahu, Halawa Shaft, along with its Halawa Well and Aiea Well as a precaution to protect our irreplaceable ground water resources from imminent peril posed by the Red Hill fuel tanks.

On January 11, 2022, the U.S. House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness met to address the Red Hill Facility crisis, national security interests, human health, safety costs and environmental concerns. The Subcommittee on Readiness inquired about the running costs this fuel release has caused thus far and the Navy's response is that it has already incurred approximately \$250+ million in expenses.

The BWS has also incurred costs and expects these costs will continue to protect O'ahu's drinking water from fuel releases from the Red Hill Facility. The BWS is planning to add several monitoring wells surrounding the Red Hill Facility to prepare for that possibility. These mitigating efforts take resources, staff time and aggressive effort from the regular day-to-day operations and maintenance of the BWS water system.

In addition, it is unknown when the water sources that have currently been shut down can be restored. The BWS is actively exploring options to develop new or alternative sources of water to replace the water supply that has been lost and installing extensive water treatment facilities to place these sources back on-line.

The Honorable Brian Schatz
The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono
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The Honorable Kaiiali' i Kahele
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The BWS is a self-sufficient agency that does not receive government funding. O'ahu's water payers should not have to pay for these mitigation costs and we urge your support to appropriate a reserve of funds from the 2023 Defense budget for the civilian community.

The BWS urges our Congressional Delegation to provide the necessary robust federal aid that will help the BWS mitigate the ongoing crisis of fuel migration and contamination into its water system; and to protect and keep its water safe, dependable and affordable for our island's community.

Very truly yours,



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

cc: Governor David Y. Ige
Lt. Governor Josh Green
Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi
House Speaker Scott K. Saiki
City and County of Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi
City Council Chair Tommy Waters
BWS Board Chair Bryan P. Andaya