

***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN
CIVIC CLUBS***

A RESOLUTION

15 - 10

**REQUESTING THE U.S. NAVY TO EXPEDITE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS
TO THE RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY AND SAFEGUARD OAHU'S
DRINKING WATER**

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians consider freshwater, or wai, sacred to the Gods Kāne and Lono;
and

WHEREAS, wai has been integral to a vibrant Hawaiian community from ancient times to the
present; and

WHEREAS, vital to their survival, Hawaiians have always protected the wai for their sustenance
and in order to produce the bounty of foods and forests products important to them; and

WHEREAS, the United States Navy has operated its Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in the
Pu'uloa area of O'ahu since the 1940's; and

WHEREAS, the facility includes 20 large field-constructed underground fuel storage tanks, each
holding at least 12.5 million gallons of jet fuel; and

WHEREAS, these tanks are located in the area under which lies the Pearl Harbor aquifer, the
largest fresh water resource on the island of O'ahu; and

WHEREAS, concern has been raised that fuel leakage from the tanks could contaminate the
fresh water supply that supports the island from Maunaloa to Mākuā; and

WHEREAS, although initial testing has not yet found significant contamination in water samples
drawn from wells in the immediate vicinity, concerns remain about continuing leakage and
threats to the groundwater aquifer; and

WHEREAS, according to documents formerly classified by the Department of Defense, these
storage tanks have been leaking fuel for much of the past 50 years; and

WHEREAS, in January 2014, fuel was found leaking from Tank No. 5, an amount estimated in
excess of 27,000 gallons of fuel; and

WHEREAS, despite Navy denials, a former administrator for the State Department of Health (DOH) says the remaining active tanks continue to leak until today; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has signed an Administrative Order of Consent (AOC), with the State DOH, the Defense Logistics Agency, and the U.S. Navy, identifying corrective actions to be taken at the Red Hill storage facility; and

WHEREAS, this draft AOC would allow the Navy additional time to pursue best-practice technologies for addressing the leakage problem; and

WHEREAS, the EPA, Department of Health and U.S. Navy held an informational meeting earlier this year to receive comments from the public about the AOC; and

WHEREAS, overwhelmingly, the response to the reports of leaking fuel tanks at Red Hill has alarmed the community with concerns about potential risks to the fresh water supply; and

WHEREAS, most comments requested that the tanks be repaired or relocated expeditiously and without delay to minimize any further harm to the aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the EPA, DOH and U.S. Navy have taken these comments into consideration and are contemplating what changes, if any, can be made to the AOC; and

WHEREAS, it is uncertain when a formal response from the EPA, DOH and U.S. Navy will be announced to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 56TH annual convention at Lahaina, Maui this 14th day of November 2015, that we request the U.S. Navy to expedite corrective actions to the Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility and safeguard Oahu's drinking water; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Navy is hereby requested to take all actions necessary to relocate these fuel tanks to sites that do not lie over groundwater resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Navy is hereby urged to immediately remediate the release of fuel from the Red Hill bulk storage facility which has occurred over the past 60 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the DOH and the State Commission on Water Resource Management are hereby asked to uphold their kuleana (responsibilities) to protect the safety and quality of our island's fresh water resources by ensuring that all underground storage facilities, including those of the U.S. military, are regularly inspected and that all fuel resources are accounted for to ensure prompt leak detection and repair; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawaii, State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs, The Office of Hawaiian Affairs Chair of the Board of Trustees, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Commander Navy Region Hawai'i, the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency, the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the State Department of Health, the Chair of the Commission on Water Resource Management and Mayor Kirk Caldwell.



The undersigned hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on the 14th day of November 2015, at the 56th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Lahaina, Maui.


Annelie C. Amaral, President