CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 14-110

RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO TAKE IMMEDIATE AND DECISIVE ACTIONS TO MITIGATE POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS TO GROUNDWATER RESOURCES FROM LEAKS OR SPILLS AT THE UNITED STATES NAVY'S RED HILL UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY.

WHEREAS, the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility (Red Hill facility), located near Pearl Harbor, and operated by the United States Navy was built to support war efforts in the Pacific during World War II and continues to serve the United States military today; and

WHEREAS, the Red Hill facility contains 20 vertical storage tanks able to store approximately 250,000,000 gallons of fuel; and

WHEREAS, according to the State Department of Health, the Navy has reported up to 1,200,000 gallons of fuel inadvertently released into the groundwater and soil beneath the facility since its construction; and

WHEREAS, in January 2014, fuel operators at Red Hill determined that fuel from Tank 5 leaked 27,000 gallons of JP-8 aviation fuel and notified federal, state and county agencies, including the Board of Water Supply (BWS), which temporarily shut down five potentially affected water wells; and

WHEREAS, according to the Manager and Chief Engineer of the BWS, the fuel storage facility sits only about 100-feet above the aquifer that serves as an important drinking water resource to both the BWS and the Navy and serves the water needs of residents in the area with the potentially affected wells making up approximately 11% of the water pumped daily into the BWS's system for the island of Oahu; and

WHEREAS, while the Manager and Chief Engineer described the recent fuel leak as an item of great concern to the BWS, he stated that the BWS had not found any contaminants in BWS wells as of April 23, 2014, and that the water BWS supplies to customers would continue to be monitored with increased frequency; and

WHEREAS, the Navy has monitoring wells located to the South of the Red Hill facility, but has no such monitoring wells to the West or North of the facility, which is the direction of the spillage plume, and has not yet committed to adding any new monitoring wells; and

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WHEREAS, any future fuel tank leaks hold the potential for catastrophic impacts upon the underlying aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the BWS is also working with the State Department of Health and the Navy to review and analyze past and current records and studies on the Red Hill facility; and

WHEREAS, the regulations for underground storage facilities, including the Red Hill facility, are determined at the federal level and the United States Environmental Protection Agency has delegated primacy to the State Department of Health in administering these regulations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the State Department of Health is urged to take immediate and decisive actions to mitigate potential adverse impacts to groundwater resources from leaks or spills at the United States Navy's Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Navy is urged to work with federal, state and county agencies on this issue and to commit resources to implement any and all actions, including additional monitoring wells, that are needed in order to mitigate potential adverse impacts to groundwater resources for the island of Oahu; and

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the State Director of Health, the Commander of the United States Pacific Command, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAY 13 2014

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 14-110

Introduced: 05/13/14 By: BREENE HARIMOTO Committee PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO TAKE IMMEDIATE AND DECISIVE ACTIONS TO MITIGATE POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS TO GROUNDWATER RESOURCES FROM LEAKS OR SPILLS AT THE UNITED STATES NAVY'S RED HILL UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

05/21/14	PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY	CR-162 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION.
06/04/14	COUNCIL	CR-162 AND RESOLUTION 14-110 WERE ADOPTED. 9 AYES: ANDERSON, CHANG, FUKUNAGA, HARIMOTO, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MARTIN, MENOR, PINE.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.

For BERNICE K. N. MAU, CITY CLERK

ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER