

# Resolution

No. 22-5

URGING THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO  
PERMANENTLY REMOVE AND RELOCATE THE  
BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY  
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS LOCATED  
AT KAPŪKAKĪ (RED HILL, O‘AHU)

WHEREAS, Kapūkakī, known today as Red Hill, is home to the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility on the Island of O‘ahu; and

WHEREAS, the Red Hill Facility, which is operated by the United States Department of the Navy, has a capacity of 250 million gallons of fuel and is located only 100 feet above a sole-source aquifer from which the Honolulu Board of Water Supply provides drinking water to residents from Moanalua to Hawai‘i Kai; and

WHEREAS, numerous fuel-release incidents have occurred at the Red Hill Facility, including in November 2021, when 14,000 gallons of a fuel-water mixture were released from a fire-suppression drain line; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the leak, residents in multiple military housing communities served by wells near the Red Hill Facility were advised not to use their tap water for drinking, cooking, or oral hygiene amid widespread reports of adverse health reactions; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2021, the Navy confirmed that their Red Hill well was contaminated with petroleum believed to have migrated into residents’ tap water; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2021, the State Department of Health issued an Emergency Order mandating the Navy to immediately suspend operations at the Red Hill Facility and, within 30 days, submit a work plan and implementation schedule prepared by a third party to defuel storage tanks at Kapūkakī; and

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2021, the Honolulu City Council adopted Resolution 21-276, entitled “URGING THE PERMANENT REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF THE U.S. NAVY RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS;” and

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WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, Department of Health hearings officer David Day issued a proposed order that the Navy comply with the Emergency Order; and

WHEREAS, a Quantitative Risk and Vulnerability Assessment conducted for the Red Hill Facility in 2018 stated that undetected chronic fuel releases from the tanks were expected to total nearly six thousand gallons per year and that there was an unacceptably high risk of sudden, large fuel releases in the future; and

WHEREAS, the County of Maui has been an advocate for clean water and recognizes its importance to Hawaiian culture, community well-being, the natural environment, and future prosperity of our islands; and

WHEREAS, the Countywide Policy Plan notes the two highest priorities of Maui County are to protect the natural environment and preserve local cultures and traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Council enacted the following legislation in line with these core themes:

- Resolution 19-98, joining the County Climate Coalition and affirming the County of Maui's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement;
- Resolution 20-94, establishing the Mālama Maui County Pledge, asking tourists to promise to respect the islands' people, culture, and environment;
- Resolution 21-125, urging the Mayor to continue focused collaboration with the Council on improving the County's wastewater system to benefit Maui County's marine life and coastal reef system, while protecting residents' life and the County's fiscal well-being, following the decision rendered in County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund;
- Ordinance 5307 (2021), prohibiting the sale, use, or distribution of non-mineral sunscreens to protect coral reefs, marine life, and coastal infrastructure, beaches, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the County of Maui acknowledges the interdependence, solidarity, and shared values—as well as shared natural resources—among the people of all Hawaiian Islands; and

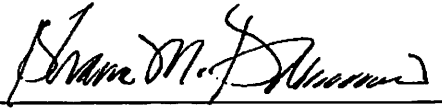
WHEREAS, given the large number of historic leaks at the Red Hill Facility, the potential for future catastrophic fuel releases, and the Navy's apparent inability to ensure the safety of the sole-source aquifer located beneath underground storage tanks, decisive and permanent actions need to be taken to protect Hawai'i's water resources from the danger posed by the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the United States Navy to permanently remove and relocate the Bulk Fuel Storage Facility underground storage tanks located at Kapūkākā (Red Hill, O'ahu);
2. That it urges the U.S. Congress to enact legislation directing the Navy to develop and implement a plan to decommission the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and relocate the Facility's underground storage tanks and to appropriate the necessary funds for the Navy to implement the plan; and
3. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Joe Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Charles E. "Chuck" Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate; the Honorable Brian E. Schatz, U.S. Senator; the Honorable Mazie K. Hirono, U.S. Senator; the Honorable Ed Case, United States Representative; Kaiali'i Kahele, United States Representative; the Honorable Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Carlos Del Toro, Secretary, U.S. Navy; Michael S. Regan, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawai'i; Elizabeth A. Char, M.D., Director, Hawai'i State Department of Health; Ernest Y. W. Lau, P.E., Manager and Chief Engineer, Honolulu Board of Water Supply; the Honorable Rick Blangiardi, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.

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INTRODUCED BY:



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