



Environmental Justice Task Force

July 19, 2022

COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Item D. 1

Aloha Chair Case and members of the Commission on Water Resource Management,

We thank the Commission on Water Resource Management for this opportunity to submit testimony on this dire matter involving our only source of drinking water, our aquifer, and the constant threat to it, sitting only 100 feet below the 80 year old decrepit, decaying and leaking Red Hill Jet Fuel Tanks and its associated miles of likewise decaying pipelines.

The Environmental Justice Task Force of Faith Action for Community Equity is in favor of modifications to the three NAVFAC Hawai'i Water Use Permits by adding the following additional terms:

- 1) Navy must provide comprehensive and quantified accounting of all water usage by the Navy water system, and these numbers to be provided on a monthly basis to the Commission on Water Resource Management and to the public starting August 2022.
- 2) By September 2022, Navy must find use for the 5 million of gallons of what they contend is "essentially drinkable water" being pumped from Red Hill shaft every day and dumped into Halawa stream. Also, Navy will create a monthly report, delivered to the Commission on Water Resource Management and to the public, describing such use, location(s) of use, and accounting for such usage.
- 3) Testing of the water, by an independent lab, in Halawa stream at the point that the water noted in item #2 is released into the stream.
- 4) The Navy's "senior Navy flag officer who is the full-time leader of the Joint Task Force Red Hill" will hold and facilitate a monthly public briefing, starting in August 2022, where members of the public can ask questions and receive answer from this Navy flag officer¹
- 5) Resubmittal of Navy's Defueling Plan with an expedited timeline to ensure defueling by the National Defense Authorization Act stipulated 12/31/2023 deadline.²

¹ Senior Navy flag officer as noted in the "Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, Oahu, Hawaii Defueling Plan June 30, 2022," page 18

²HR 7900, [BILLS-117hr7900rh.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#), page 157

CWRM Meeting: July 19, 2022

To: Commission On Water Resource Management
From: Rebekah Garrison, Hawai'i Peace and Justice

Re: Agenda Item D-1 Red Hill Informational Briefing

Good afternoon Chair Case and members of the Water Commission,

My name is Rebekah Garrison and I am a community organizer with Hawai'i Peace and Justice and a member of the O'ahu Water Protectors and the Shut Down Red Hill Coalition. On Wednesday, June 29th, Captain Gordie Meyer invited a group of community organizers and activists from the O'ahu Water Protectors, Ka'ohewai, and affected family members to join what he called the "last public tour" of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility "Facility". What we saw, heard, and smelled that day was nothing short of continued settler colonial and militarized violence within that sacred mountain and waters. Indeed, the U.S. military in general, and U.S. Navy specifically, has a long history of poor stewardship at Kapūkaki, now widely known as Red Hill. But, this violence is beyond poor stewardship of land and water. This violence is abusive to us all.

Proving that the U.S. military does not protect us nor make us feel more secure, we all felt the painful reality of walking into the gaping, open wound of Kapūkaki. Wednesday, June 29th, was the day before the U.S. Navy slyly released their defueling plan and long awaited January report, and the weekend ahead of America's so-called Independence Day. With full confidence, I can say that Captain Meyer is not to be trusted. He is a liar—a shining emblem of why the January report states the leadership at the Facility embodies a "culture of disregarding procedures, poor training and supervision, ineffective command, a lack of ownership over operational safety, a lack of timely, accurate and thorough reporting, and a flawed investigation into the May spill" etc. Please allow me to explain.

While standing within the entrails of Kapūkaki—the exact spot where the release of 21,000 gallons of fuel happened—I asked Captain Meyer to explain what the release looked like so we could more accurately visualize what was happening there that day. Captain Meyer looked all of us in the eyes, including family members poisoned by this release, and told us it was but a mere trickle down a cart path, nothing more than an inch high. So, imagine our dismay when the very next day we woke to footage of what many are calling a "fuelocalypse" not a leak. It is infuriating. It is maddening. It is utterly disrespectful the ways in which Captain Gordie Meyer and the U.S. Navy and U.S. military so callously and arrogantly disregard the health and well being of Hawai'i and its people, particularly the Kanaka Maoli community. The contempt the U.S. military holds for all who call O'ahu home is mindblowing for many of us just coming to settler consciousness, but nothing new for Native communities.

As a Commission of mostly non-Kanaka settlers, I implore you to do all in your power to distance yourselves from following the lead of the military's corruption. Settler communities will have to forge a new path of kuleana. The military is not our leader. They are completely unethical and lack moral fortitude. We will have to be our own leaders as we forge ahead with more thoughtful understandings of how to haole differently.

Please do what is right and cut the U.S. military from the public trust. They have overstayed their welcome and continue to cause harm to us all. The U.S. military should have a completely revised set of policies and regulations with respect to water usage throughout the archipelago.

Please find a link to Christina Jedra's article "Red Hill Investigations: The Navy Failed To Prevent And Respond To Fuel Contamination" (June 30, 2022) here:

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/06/red-hill-investigations-the-navy-failed-to-prevent-and-respond-to-fuel-contamination/>

Please find a link to footage of the 21,000 gallon fuel release at Kapūkaki here:

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/video/2022/07/06/dramatic-video-shows-fuel-rapidly-spilling-out-navys-red-hill-facility/>

Sincerely,

Rebekah Garrison
Hawai'i Peace and Justice

From: [ann Wright](#)
To: [Hyatt, RaeAnn P;](#) [DLNR.CW.DLNR.CWRM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for July 19, 2022 meeting of CWRM from Colonel Ann Wright
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 1:48:55 AM

Aloha RaeAnn, I would like the following written testimony to be give to the members of CWRM and I would like to do live testimony.

Thank you.

Ann Wright

[REDACTED] Honolulu, HI 96826

808-[REDACTED]

I couldn't get the document with my testimony to attach for some reason, so I am putting it here.

Commission on Water Resources Management Meeting on July 19, 2022
Honolulu, Hawaii

I wish to provide written testimony for the July 19, 2022 Commission on Water Resources Management meeting segment on Red Hill, agenda item D-1.

I served 29 years in the U.S. Army/Army Reserves and retired as a Colonel. I have lived in Honolulu for 23 years. I was also a U.S. diplomat for 16 years and served in U.S. embassies in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia, Afghanistan and Mongolia.

As a retired U.S. military officer, I am saddened and sickened to say that that the lack of trust we the public have in the Navy increases each week with each new revelation of Navy untruthfulness and hiding of information about the Red Hill jet fuel tanks leaks and spills.

The Civil Beat publication of the video of the November 2021 massive jet fuel gusher that spewed fuel for 34 hours is the latest untruth that has come to light. After seven months of telling the State of Hawaii, the public and affected military and civilian families that there was no video of the massive leak, lo and behold there was a video—the one taken by the person whose cart busted the PVC pipe and created the latest spill ...and who turned his personal video immediately over to his Navy superiors-seven months ago.

One other aspect of the flood of jet fuel into the Red Hill water well that has not received much attention is that there was no solid door to prevent jet fuel from going down the well. As our Oahu Water Protectors say on their June 30 trip into the Red Hill complex, the door down to the well had a one-foot open space at the bottom that allowed the jet fuel leak to flow down the tunnel and directly into the well.

I hope you on CWRM will let the Navy know strongly of the public's distrust of them and of the continuing negative health conditions suffered by affected military and civilian family members from ongoing problems related to jet fuel contaminated water. Please look at the entries into the Facebook of JBPHH Water Contamination Support for continuing medical issues families are enduring.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/311603564169307>

During our 10-day encampment from July 1-10, 2022 organized by the Ka'ohewai, an environmental collective (<https://www.facebook.com/kaohewai>) at the entrance to Pacific Fleet Headquarters at Halawa gate, several newly arrived military families visited the encampment to receive donated water said that were not briefed on the water contamination before their assignment to Hawai'i and their families are already being affected by residual jet fuel in their homes.

The encampment was next to Halawa stream. Each day we were reminded of the continuing over use of 1 million gallons per day by the Navy [and the \\$5,000 per day fine](#). Has the Navy paid its fine for continued overuse of water as the civilian community is warned to lessen its use of water.

I hope you will ask the Navy why it didn't use the manpower of the 25,000 military personnel who arrived on 38 ships, 170 aircraft and 4 submarines in Honolulu as a part of Rim of the Pacific RIMPAC to help create some type of containment facility for the water that has been "cleaned" through the massive Granular Activated Carbon filters rather than sending it down Halawa stream into Pearl Harbor and the ocean. Since we are in a water crisis, the Navy must help us preserve water that can be used for other purposes instead of flushing it into the ocean.

Finally, please demand that the Navy get out much sooner than 2+ years the remaining 104 million gallons of jet fuel in the Red Hill tanks only 100 feet above our aquifer. While the investigation reports confirm that very poor maintenance has been done on the "national security" treasure over the years, there are faster and less expensive ways to defuel the tanks without having to repair 3+miles of pipes down to Pearl Harbor.

Please see the article ["Emptying the Navy's Red Hill Jet Fuel Tanks in Honolulu Should Take 27 Days—Not Two Years,"](#) for ideas.

Thank you.

Ann Wright

Hawaii Peace and Justice

Veterans For Peace, Chapter 113-Hawai'i

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Ann Wright
Dissent: Voices of Conscience
www.voicesofconscience.com

From: [Gina Hara](#)
To: [Hyatt, RaeAnn P](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: !ATTENTION-Red Hill Items
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 12:57:43 PM

Testimony for 7/19/22

To: CWRM

Thank you for your dedicated for your hard work.

My family has lived in lower Halawa for 50 years. PFOA / PFAS is now in our water near Halawa Park. This is the forever chemical from Dark Waters, the movie. Board of Water says it is still safe, but it is detected from the Halawa Wells. There are 2854 location in the US and two territories are contaminated (SEE EWG Map).

- 1) Tph-d Environmental Action Levels are still not returned to Board of Water standards of 100ppb because 160 ppb is when you can smell and taste jet fuel. Please ask the Department of Health if this is going to change soon, because the media continues to use 400ppb – this was raised in 2016 after the Red Hill Test Wells spiked at 1600 ppb after the 2014 spill
- 2) Instead of being reactionary to over pumping – is there a way for Hawaii to directly monitor the water usage with our own people – so that it is not after the fact. Also, get rid of monetary fines as slaps on the wrist. Please make accountability measures that tie the water access with being within the limits as chlorides had already appeared as reported two meetings ago. Over pumping needs immediate compliance so you need direct control over the water, and give the Military the warnings. Please be strict. Don't allow ANY over pumpage, and make sure you can get it back. Meeting with them is a waste of time and resources. As you can see how long we have been meeting to shut down Red Hill even before 2014.
- 3) Please force the Military to make up for the lost over-pumping amount and make it up by less usages in the future to put back the water. Do not teach the military that it is OK to destroy the pure Halawa Shaft and get endless supply. If over pumping is continued, please make sure you can cut the water off via permits or physically cut it off. In order to control the water, Hawaii should be directly physically at the location at the same time.
- 4) Please look into the fluoride that is added I not the military water and circulating into our environment. This is a halide, and accumulates, it does not evaporate. It takes over the Iodine space in metabolic functions.
- 5) Please CWRM and DOH (Kathleen Ho) consult with professionals and communities OTHER THAN the Navy or Military with respect to Halawa water re-use.
- 6) Please CWRM and DOH (Kathleen Ho) make sure other petroleum experts like American Petroleum Institute or Airport professionals that handle fuel to look into alternative defueling for example with siphons like emptying a pool – for example closer to the source. Maybe ask NASA, MIT, CALTECH and other airport or seaport related fuel engineers.
- 7) PFOA and PFAS is now in Halawa Wells (this is new) and Hexvalent 6 (Erin Brokovitch chemical)
- 8) If it takes 6+ years to get close to defueling, there may be more leaks and the legacy fuel was possibly coming out in Moanalua Well area (what happened to this?) It alarmed Mr. Ernie Lau Board of Water.

Why are the Monitor Wells being applied for from the Navy not integrated with Hawaii people. Just like the May 6, 2021 video spill was not shared to the public. There will be a leak again. Please see Santa Cruz when their Aquifer is damaged – and they don't have use of it anymore.

Thank you,

Gina Hara, Halawa Valley Resident

On Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 8:06 PM Hyatt, RaeAnn P <raeann.p.hyatt@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Aloha~

note: this item is not listed to be heard at 2PM and

Below is the Zoom meeting info and passcode to participate in providing oral testimony for Item D-1 for the Water Commission meeting on July 19, 2022.

To ensure you are admitted into the meeting timely, please ensure your Zoom ID is identifiable as you.

You will be admitted into the meeting at the start of the submittal item; please mute and camera off until called upon.

If you are also viewing the meeting on YouTube, please be sure to mute your YouTube to avoid audio feedback.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87183322205?pwd=eXhtcGNrSIZpMXFrNi9TOU5Gd1plUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 8332 2205

Passcode: 221535

We request the meeting passcode is not shared as it is only given to those participating in the meeting who have followed protocol.

In consideration of all testifiers, please *summarize your testimony within (3) minutes*.

Mahalo,

Rae Ann Hyatt

Private Secretary to Deputy M. Kaleo Manuel

DLNR-Commission on Water Resource Mgmt.

1151 Punchbowl Street, Suite 227

Honolulu, HI 96813

Web: dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrm

Tel: 808.587.0214

Fax: 808.587.0219

From: Gina Hara [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 3:36 PM
To: Hyatt, RaeAnn P <raeann.p.hyatt@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: !ATTENTION-Red Hill Items

Dear RaeAnn,

I would like to request to testify in person at CWRM tomorrow (I think it is at 2pm for Red Hill)?

I will try to submit written testimony tonight to this email if that is OK.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Gina Hara, Halawa Valley 808-941-2154

On Mon, Jun 13, 2022 at 8:55 PM Hyatt, RaeAnn P <raeann.p.hyatt@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Aloha~

Below is the Zoom meeting info and passcode to participate in providing oral testimony

for Item-C- for the Water Commission meeting on June 14, 2022.

To ensure you are admitted into the meeting timely, please ensure your Zoom ID is identifiable as you.

You will be admitted into the meeting at the start of the submittal item; please mute and camera off until called upon.

If you are also viewing the meeting on YouTube, please be sure to mute your YouTube to avoid audio feedback.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84942646634?
pwd=QTh6Qk1aUWJDajNqY2FQSIRpR2NyQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84942646634?pwd=QTh6Qk1aUWJDajNqY2FQSIRpR2NyQT09)

Meeting ID: 849 4264 6634

Passcode: 193104

We request the meeting passcode is not shared as it is only given to those participating in the meeting who have followed protocol.

In consideration of all testifiers, please summarize your testimony within (3) minutes.

Mahalo,

Rae Ann Hyatt

Private Secretary to Deputy M. Kaleo Manuel DLNR-Commission on Water Resource
Mgmt.

1151 Punchbowl Street, Suite 227

Honolulu, HI 96813

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From: Gina Hara [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 6:46 PM
To: Hyatt, RaeAnn P <raeann.p.hyatt@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: !ATTENTION-Red Hill Items - at 2PM

Hi RaeAnn,

Yes may I please request to testify tomorrow.

This is the interview of Vincent Peters (worked in Red Hill many years) who can speak to how much water percolates down when it rains over Red Hill pipes. While I have not been physically to the site, you can see there is no rain cover over the dirt above Red Hill. This is what the community has been bringing up for years as it is mainly the top part of the tanks that are rusted.

<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZTdw1EMbG/?k=1>

Thank you,

Gina Hara

Halawa Valley

On Mon, Jun 13, 2022 at 3:30 PM Hyatt, RaeAnn P <raeann.p.hyatt@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Let me know if you are requesting to testify

Mahalo,

Rae Ann Hyatt

Private Secretary to Deputy M. Kaleo Manuel

DLNR-Commission on Water Resource Mgmt.

[1151 Punchbowl Street, Suite 227](#)

[Honolulu, HI 96813](#)

Web: dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrn

Tel: 808.587.0214

Fax: 808.587.0219

From: Gina Hara [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 12:36 PM
To: Hyatt, RaeAnn P <raeann.p.hyatt@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: !ATTENTION-Red Hill Items - at 2PM

Hi Rae Ann,

May I confirm what time are the Red Hill items going to be heard tomorrow 6/14/2022 on the Agenda?

I need to request to take off work tomorrow.

Thank you,

Gina Hara

On Tue, May 17, 2022 at 11:48 AM Hyatt, RaeAnn P <raeann.p.hyatt@hawaii.gov> wrote:

Apologies, as it was agendized, we will stick to the 2PM start time for Red Hill items

Mahalo,

Rae Ann Hyatt

Private Secretary to Deputy M. Kaleo Manuel

DLNR-Commission on Water Resource Mgmt.

[1151 Punchbowl Street, Suite 227](#)

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Tel: 808.587.0214

Fax: 808.587.0219

From: Hyatt, RaeAnn P

Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 11:19 AM

Subject: !ATTENTION-Red Hill Items - Likely to be heard before 2PM

Importance: High

Attention: _Please view our CWRM YouTube as Red Hill items likely to be heard before 2PM

Mahalo,

Rae Ann Hyatt

Private Secretary to Deputy M. Kaleo Manuel

DLNR-Commission on Water Resource Mgmt.

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