



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee Agriculture and Environment
Monday, February 10, 2020 at 2:15 p.m.

by

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SB 2774 – RELATING TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) understands and shares the concerns of the community surrounding the continued operation of the U.S. Navy's underground fuel storage tanks located at Red Hill. Although, UH respects and shares the community's concerns, it feels that the proposed legislation to shut down operations in 2028, before tangible scientific and technical recommendations can be made, is a short-term action on a situation that requires a more careful long-term, scientific-based strategy. The University of Hawai'i opposes SB 2774.

Currently, University of Hawai'i is working with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) and UH faculty serve as consultants to the State of Hawai'i Department of Health on the corrosion and groundwater issues facing the Red Hill fuel storage facility. The University of Hawai'i functions as an independent technical agent to both organizations.

The University of Hawai'i and NAVFAC have also formed a strategic partnership to look into current and future technologies in the areas of corrosion prevention, surface coatings and groundwater monitoring to address these concerns. The UH researchers involved have the technical expertise to monitor, inspect, repair and to develop future technology involving double-wall containment. Many of the faculty involved in this partnership are long-time residents of the potentially affected communities and/or O'ahu, and also share a vested interest in preserving the safety of the aquifer.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.