



BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hawaii State Legislature
February 8, 2017

Senate Bill 1259
Relating to Underground Storage Tanks

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Reviere, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the
Committees:

The Ka Lāhui Hawaii Political Action Committee (KPAC) strongly supports S.B. 1259 requiring Red Hill and other large-scale, antiquated field-constructed fuel tanks in Hawai‘i to comply with federal requirements for standard tanks.

Freshwater is Hawai‘i’s most precious resource and it must be protected in the highest regard. The tanks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility put our water quality at risk and threaten our public health sitting 100 feet above O‘ahu’s primary aquifer that supplies drinking water to over 600,000 residents from Hālawā to Hawai‘i Kai.

Over the decades of US military occupation of Kanaka Maoli (aka Native Hawaiian) lands in the Hawaiian archipelago, the US military has done more damage to our environment, cultural, historic, native religious and natural resources than any other group, corporation or industry. The lives of the Kanaka Maoli are intrinsically tied to both the land and water. The fresh clams of Pu‘uloa (aka Pearl Harbor) are long gone replaced by military toxic waste, once a homestead for ranchers - the island of Kaho‘olawe is now uninhabitable and its water table broken due to decades of being used as military, and the Kanaka Maoli sacred sites on lands occupied by the US military are continually in danger of destruction.

Now with recent leaking of the Red Hill military fuel tanks, the livelihoods of O‘ahu residents including Kanaka Maoli are put in in danger. The State of Hawai‘i must the do what it can protect our environment, cultural, historic, native religious and natural resources from continued destruction by the US military. The one resource that cannot be replaced is water.

Take action now please and pass this bill as a first step reigning in the US military abuses to Hawai‘i.

Pū‘ali kalo i ka wai ‘ole. Taro, for lack of water, grows misshapen.

Respectfully submitted,

Healani Sonoda-Pale
Member, KPAC