BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

RESOLUTION NO. 860, 2015

NO MORE FUEL CONTAMINATION OF O'AHU'S GROUNDWATER AQUIFERS

WHEREAS, O'ahu's drinking water aquifer is a high quality pristine water resource held in trust and to be protected for the benefit of the people pursuant to Article XI, Sections 1 and 7 of the Hawai'i State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2014, the United States Navy reported a 27,000 gallon leak of jet fuel from its Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Red Hill facility contains twenty steel lined concrete tanks built between 1940 and 1943, each able to hold 12.5 million gallons of fuel; and

WHEREAS, several Navy studies document fuel leaks dating back to 1947, the tanks' steel lining are wearing from corrosion; the groundwater underneath the tanks is contaminated with fuel chemicals; and risks of large catastrophic fuel releases; and

WHEREAS, the bottom of the Red Hill tanks are 100-feet above a sole source aquifer designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in 1987 as a major source of drinking water for O'ahu residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, pure water is our greatest need. For the sake of our keiki o ka 'āina, O'ahu's groundwater resources should be preserved, kept pristine and protected now and into the future; and

WHEREAS, this high quality groundwater is a public trust resource that should not be degraded by any more fuel contamination from the Red Hill Facility. Regardless of whether fuel contamination migrates in groundwater or not, fuel is not indigenous to the environment and should not be there in the first place; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Members of the Board of Water Supply, City and County of Honolulu, that the groundwater should be restored by the Navy to its original pristine condition by cleaning up the fuel contamination that exists there now and preventing future leaks regardless of amount; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board supports the department in taking the measures necessary to protect, defend and safeguard the groundwater; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Members of this Board will not accept any more fuel contamination of O'ahu's groundwater aquifers.

ADOPTED:

DUANE R. MIYASHIRO
Chair

Honolulu, Hawaii
September 28, 2015