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| TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE |
| RE: HB 2274, HD1- RELATING TO UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE  TANKS |
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| THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 |
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| OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT |
| HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION |

Chair Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 2274, HD1**, relating to underground fuel storage tanks. This bill prohibits the issuance of future large capacity underground fuel storage tanks mauka of the applicable underground injection control line. Prohibits the operation of and renewal of permits for large capacity underground fuel storage tank permits located mauka of the applicable underground injection control line.

Delegates to the Hawaii State Teachers Association’s annual state convention back in 2008 adopted the following policy statement: The Hawaii State Teachers Association believes that every school’s drinking water should meet Environmental Protection Agency requirements for clean drinking water. HSTA further believes that school water should be tested every six months and irregularities should be reported immediately. **More recently, the HSTA Board of Directors unanimously called for the closure and emptying of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility**.

Despite the community coming out in force to support these schools with water donations and school personnel working together to mitigate the impact on students, it has not been easy dealing with this crisis on top of the issues related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Below is what one Central district teacher earlier this month had to say about everything going on:

“We are more impacted by the tainted water. I am only able to have students wash their hands twice a day with the bulk water they gave us with a pump. I am spending a lot of time outside pumping the water out of the bulk bottle, or using the individual water bottles to wash their hands. I don't feel comfortable using the spray hand sanitizer we were given to clean their hands. (It doesn't take off food particles, or other dirt and grime from their hands.) They did give some wipes for their hands, but those will be gone soon. I was washing their hands often, but not anymore. The custodians do not clean our desks. So I use the sanitizing wipes to wipe them down daily. Lots of prep time spent to clean the room. We are still not able to use the AC. We are required to keep windows open. Lots of dirt comes in all day. I also get some stray preschoolers come in the back door. The noise is ridiculous. (Airplanes, lawn mowers, other students at recess.) I don't understand how they think we are supposed to get these students up to grade level with all the distractions.”

HSTA held a virtual forum on Monday, January 24th, and we hope legislators and other members of the community were able to tune in and listen to speakers from the Board of Water Supply and the Sierra Club of Hawaii followed by educators at impacted schools who told their stories of the impacts that they and their students are experiencing. You can find more information at the link below: <https://www.hsta.org/news/recent-stories/hsta-board-of-directors-unanimously-supports-closure-of-red-hill-fuel-storage-facility/>

To provide safe water not only our keiki, teachers, public schools, but also to everyone who lives in Hawaiʻi, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** **this bill. Water is life.**