



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

December 23, 2021

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Hawaii State Senate
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Representative Ryan Yamane
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Follow up information on Navy's Water Distribution System activities

Aloha Senator Keohokalole and Representative Yamane,

As I reflect on our conversations and engagements over the past few weeks, I felt it important that I provide you with a regular drumbeat of information related to restoring Navy water distribution to our service members and families. I know that you have begun to see the daily updates from ADM Paparo on the subject, and my intent here is that this additional information helps to inform you in your leadership roles in the state legislature and as a possible framework for your conversations among state legislators.

As you know, the Navy is investigating recent fuel spills at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and the linkage to the jet fuel that leaked into the Red Hill Shaft well and the contaminated portions of the Navy's Water Distribution System. The Navy is responsible for this issue, we will investigate it thoroughly, we will take aggressive actions to correct the failures and the Navy will hold those at fault appropriately accountable. Looking forward, the Navy is committed to taking comprehensive measures to fix the Red Hill Shaft well, protect the aquifer, and put in place appropriate long term measures to prevent recurrence.

The water contamination at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam has required an intense and collaborative effort between the Navy, our other military service partners on island, the Hawaii Department of Health and Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the many local, state and federal legislators that have stepped in to provide assistance. This teamwork has produced a comprehensive water system recovery plan that is currently in execution.

I want to thank you for your patience, your partnership and your direct support. Your efforts have been instrumental in helping the Navy, our fellow Military Services, and federal agencies take care of affected personnel and their families, comply with environmental and regulatory requirements, and ensure the aquifer that supplies our drinking water remains clear of contaminants.

I assure you that providing safe drinking water to our families and neighbors in an environmentally sensitive manner is my top priority. Our joint team will not rest until our families and neighbors on the Navy water system have access to safe drinking water.

As you may have seen on the news, an interagency team with members of Navy Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), the Hawaii Department of Health (HI DoH), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in consultation with subject matter experts from the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps, has approved a plan that has gone into action this week to restore the Navy's drinking water system. This will start with a complete flushing of the drinking water system from source to faucet and will not be done until we have completed testing in every neighborhood to certify the drinking water meets both EPA and HI DoH safe drinking water standards.

The Plan includes flushing the Navy drinking water distribution mains in each neighborhood, After flushing has been completed in a particular neighborhood, to include flushing of the main distribution lines and within each home, a series of water samples will be drawn and analyzed at a DoH and EPA approved laboratory to certify that the water supply in that zone/community meets all EPA and HI DoH safe drinking water standards. At that point, the water will be declared safe for all uses.

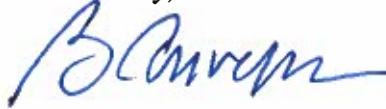
This recovery plan has been approved by the HI DoH, the EPA, the Navy, and the Army, in consultation with the Air Force and Marine Corps. It is engineered to restore safe drinking water and to ensure that the flushing does not harm the environment. We recognize how much these events have affected your lives and the lives of those who rely on the Navy's water system. We are fully committed to restoring the drinking water system as soon as possible. Nothing is more important than the health, safety and well-being of our people, their families, our neighbors, and the communities we call home.

Additional information regarding the Navy Drinking Water Recovery Plan, the schedule, and testing results is available at the Water Crisis website at <http://www.cpf.navy.mil/JPBPHH-Water-Updates/>. Please understand that the dates listed on this plan are estimates, and water sample results will determine the amount of time necessary to complete each zone.

Additional sources of information include the Crisis Call Center (808-449-1979, 808-448-3262/2557/2570/2583) and the JPBPHH Facebook page.

Thank you for your support, leaders, and for the privilege of living and working in this paradise we call Hawaii.

Sincerely,



B. L. CONVERSE
Deputy Commander

Copy to:
The Honorable Senator Ronald Kouchi
Senate President, Hawaii State Senate

The Honorable Representative Scott Saiki
Speaker, Hawaii House of Representatives

Major General Mark Hashimoto
U.S. Indo-Pacific Command