RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

URGING ALL PARTIES TO WORK TOGETHER TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO PROTECT
HAWAII’S WATER, PEOPLE, AND CHILDREN

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Defense (“DoD”) has bulk fuel storage tanks operated by the Department of the Navy (“Navy”) located in Red Hill in the City and County of Honolulu, which sits directly above a groundwater aquifer.

WHEREAS, During the week of November 29, 2021, staff at seven State Department of Education (“DOE”) schools (Red Hill Elementary School; Nimitz Elementary School; Pearl Harbor Elementary School; Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School; Iroquois Point Elementary School; Hickam Elementary School; and Mokulele Elementary School) notified the state office that fuel-like odors were coming from potable water sources;

WHEREAS, The State Department of Health (“DOH”) instructed staff at the seven schools to stop using the schools’ potable water sources;

WHEREAS, DOH issued an emergency order dated December 6, 2021 ordering the Navy to, among other things, defuel the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii Board of Education (“Board”) strongly urges all parties to work together to find effective and expeditious solutions to the Red Hill water contamination issue in order to ensure and protect the availability of clean water for the children, schools, and residents on Oahu; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board strongly supports DOH’s emergency order to defuel the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks and the statements made by Hawaii’s congressional delegation, Governor David Ige, and Board of Water Supply (“BWS”); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board requests that the DOH, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), BWS, and DoD keep the DOE and the public informed about the status and timeline for resolution of the contamination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the DOE to keep the Board apprised of the situation and effects of the contamination on students and staff; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DoD reimburse the DOE for all state resources expended to protect and maintain the health, safety, and well-being of the students and staff in affected school areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Board Chairperson to transmit this resolution to the Hawaii’s congressional delegation, Governor David Ige, DOH, EPA, BWS, DoD, and DOE.

This resolution was proposed and approved by the Board at its March 3, 2022 General Business Meeting.

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Catherine Payne