

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

February 11, 2022

Dear Acting Director Young,

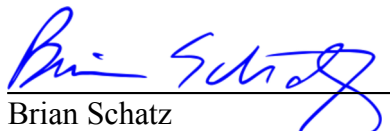
As you know, the man-made disaster caused by water contamination from the Department of Navy's Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility continues. Red Hill's tanks, 100 feet above an aquifer that provides 20 percent of Oahu's drinking water and serves Hawai'i's largest city, continue to threaten public health.


To address the crisis, Governor Ige has issued an emergency order directing the Department of Defense (DoD) to defuel the facility and remediate the contamination. Implementation of the order will require federal resources, which we are committed to providing. As you know, the February 2022 Continuing Resolution clarifies that it is federal policy to implement the State's order by providing a down payment to do so. We will also continue to work with you to fund the remaining costs that the Administration has estimated for fiscal year (FY) 2022. However, we ask for your support and leadership to ensure that the federal government continues to address the crisis that it has created.

Specifically, we ask that you commit to include the budgetary requirements necessary to implement the State's order in FY 2023 in the next President's Budget Request. Inclusion of these expenses in the budget request will give Congress the starting point it needs to fund this requirement. It is also an important statement of Administration policy. The people of Hawai'i need to hear from the Administration too that it is the federal government's policy to address this crisis.

The federal government's budget reflects its priorities. Including the resources required to address this federally created crisis sends a clear message that the safety of the people of Hawai'i and protecting the environment are top priorities of the Administration. We appreciate your counsel on this issue thus far and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

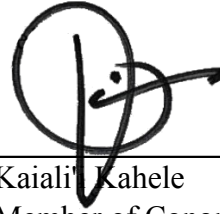
  
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator

  
Ed Case  
Member of Congress

*Mazie K. Hirono*

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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Kaiulani Kahele  
Member of Congress