Kapūkakī, known today as Red Hill, is the ridge located between the ahupua’a of Hālawa and Moanalua. For 75 years, the U.S. Navy has been storing millions of gallons of fuel in underground tanks—100 feet above O’ahu’s primary drinking water supply. These aging fragile tanks store 225 million gallons of fuel and are a tremendous risk to our drinking water.

27,000 gallons of fuel was leaked from a single tank at Red Hill in 2014. The tanks have a leaky history—releasing over 200,000 gallons of fuel since construction. To date, the 2014 leak was the single biggest release of fuel. No leaked fuel has ever been located or cleaned up.

Prompted by the 2014 leak, the U.S. Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, Defense Logistics Agency, and Hawai‘i Department of Health entered a 20-year agreement to study, monitor, and consider improvements to the Red Hill facility.

400,000 residents from Hālawa to Hawai‘i Kai receive their water from the threatened aquifer.

Only 100 feet separate the tanks from O‘ahu’s biggest drinking water resource. The tanks themselves are 250 feet tall.

200,000 gallons of fuel as leaked from Red Hill into the environment since the facility was built. The fuel has not be cleaned up and the tanks have not been fixed. It cannot be guaranteed that the tanks do not leak again.

Tank condition: Worse than anticipated
The Navy recently conducted testing to understand how the tanks are aging over time. The preliminary findings are astonishing. The Navy predicted thinning from the original 0.25-inch steel would be between 0.187-0.135-inches. However, actual samples taken from the tank were as thin as 0.079-inches—less than a third of the original steel width.

No choice but to shut it down
The tanks at Red Hill were not meant to last forever. With thinning steel walls and no plan to update tank structure to ensure protection of our water, we are calling on the Navy to shut down the Red Hill facility and relocate the fuel away from the drinking water supply.

Proposed tank upgrade
Mandated by the 20-year agreement, the Navy studied six tank upgrade alternatives, ultimately choosing one to propose to the Environmental Protection Agency and Hawai‘i Department of Health.

The Navy’s preferred choice is to maintain the current tank system, leaving what exists of the original 0.25-inch liner and recoat only the bottom of the tanks with epoxy. In their own report the Navy states “this alternative is nearly identical to the efforts conducted to inspect and repair the Red Hill tanks over the last 13 years.” In other words, the Navy is choosing the least expensive, least protective option—to maintain status quo.

- How you can help -

Join us. Learn more, stay up to date, and sign our petition at bit.ly/SCH-redhill

Volunteer to help protect O‘ahu’s drinking water, email us to get more involved

Spread the word. Share this information with your community

WATER IS LIFE
SHUT IT DOWN
BIT.LY/SCH-REDHILL