

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2021

Statement initiated by The Reverend Jennifer Latham and The Reverend Brianna Lloyd

SHUT DOWN RED HILL FUEL STORAGE FACILITY NOW!

As people of faith we are called to care for the most vulnerable among us. We write out of concern for those who have fallen ill due to consumption of contaminated water from the Red Hill shaft, Halawa Tunnel.

The water in the aquifer below Red Hill Fuel Facility, one of the most pristine sources of water in Hawai`i, is now in danger of being damaged forever. Ola I Ka Wai — “water is life.” Clean water is essential for our survival and health, and the survival of the `Āina.

We join the Hawai`i Department of Health, Board of Water Supply, the City Council, Mayor Blangiardi, Governor Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono, Representatives Kamehale and Case in calling for the Navy to permanently close Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

The Navy has failed to operate this facility safely and responsibly, falling short of its own values of “Honor, Courage, and Commitment.” The recent leak in the Halawa Tunnel is a warning. What will happen if there is another leak? Will the community trust the Navy to protect us?

We call for action from the Navy as a responsible protector of our military families and O`ahu citizens who depend on the safety of the aquifer beneath the 80 year-old Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Brianna Lloyd, The Lutheran Church of Honolulu, ELCA

The Rev. Jennifer Latham, The Church of the Holy Nativity, TECH

The Rev. Dr. Ha`aheo Guanson, Cathedral of St. Andrew, TECH, Interfaith Representative

Cecilia H. Fordham, Interfaith Lay Leader, Educator, TECH

The Rev. Keith Wolter, Pastor, Mililani Lutheran, ELCA

The Rev. Jazzy Bostock, Maluhia Lutheran, ELCA, St. John the Baptist, TECH

Bishop Robert L. Fitzpatrick, The Episcopal Church of Hawai`i

Bishop Randolph Sykes, Inclusive Orthodox Church Honolulu, Interfaith Leader