



REGION 9

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Community Organizations

Subject: Community Oversight Letter on 2024 Amendment to 2023 EPA, Navy, and DLA Red Hill Administrative Consent Order

Dear Community Organizations:

Thank you for your December 11, 2024 letter regarding Amendment 1 to the 2023 Administrative Consent Order ("Consent Order"). We appreciate your input and the broad range of work you do to advocate for the people and resources of Hawai'i.

The Community Representation Initiative ("CRI") was created in response to comments on the Consent Order to facilitate communication with a consistent and focused group of individuals to talk through any challenges and provide input on Consent Order decisions in a productive setting. The goals of the meetings are to provide information and advance environmental solutions associated with Navy and DLA work conducted on defueling and closure of Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, and drinking water compliance at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The ground rules established under the Amendment 1 provide for improved community engagement to increase responsiveness and provide relevant information to not only the CRI, but to the broader public. The 2023 ACO did not include structure or guidance to support productive community engagement, which resulted in ineffective meetings.

After the CRI elected members declined to participate in mediation, EPA moved forward with renegotiating the Consent Order and ground rules directly with the Navy and DLA in order to re-establish these engagements. As part of the amended Order, an EPA-provided facilitator will run the meetings and the agenda must be limited to topics covered by the ACO. All members will have the opportunity to provide input for quarterly meeting agendas. Under the new ground rules, Navy and DLA will participate in the meetings on a quarterly basis to provide answers to the public related to work under the 2023 Consent Order. If the CRI participants do not follow the ground rules, the Navy and DLA will not be required to attend the quarterly CRI meeting.

Amendment 1 also provides a broader approach to community engagement, which will allow for continued engagement with the CRI as well as additional engagement with diverse

audiences through additional engagement requirements. Under the amended Order the Navy and DLA will also submit an annual Community Engagement Plan by January 15 each year to EPA for review and approval.

Amendment 1 to the Consent Order did not require EPA, Navy, or DLA to seek public comment. EPA responded directly to CRI members in the attached December 12, 2024 letter regarding this issue.

Thank you again for your input on the Consent Order and all the work you do on behalf of the people and island of Oahu.

Sincerely,

/S/
Karnig Ohannesian
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Environment and Mission Readiness)
Department of the Navy

/S/
Bradley Bunn
Vice Director
Defense Logistics Agency

/S/
Amy C. Miller-Bowen, Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Enclosure: Dec 12th EPA Letter Denying CRI Request on Amendment 1 to the 2023 ACO.

cc: Brian Schatz, United States Senate
Mazie Hirono, United States Senate
Ed Case, U.S. House of Representatives
Jill Tokuda, U.S. House of Representative
Dr. Kenneth Fink, Hawai'i Department of Health

Community Organizations (distributed via Wayne Tanaka, wayne.tanaka@sierraclub.org):

350Hawaii
ACLU Hawai'i
Af3irm Hawai'i
Aloha 'Āina Legal Group
Aloha Tree Alliance
'Aha Pūnana Leo
'Ahahui O Hawai'i Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
Church of the Crossroads
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Country Talk Story
Earthjustice Mid-Pacific Office
Environmental Justice Club at UH Mānoa
Greenpeace Hawai'i
Green Party Hawai'i
Hale Mua o Kūali'i
Hanalei Watershed Hui
Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development
Hawai'i Community Lending
Hawai'i Land Trust
Hawai'i's Thousand Friends
Ho'ōla Hou iā Kalauao
Hui Ho'omalua o ka 'Āina
Indigenous Field Guide
Ka Lāhui Hawai'i
Ka Lei Maile Ali'i
Kamāwaelualani
Kanaka Climbers
Ke Ea Hawai'i
Kia'i Report
Kōkua Kalihi Valley
Korea Peace Now! Hawai'i Chapter
Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo
Life of the Land

Mālama Makua
Mana Maoli
Medical Legal Partnership for Children
Mutual Aid Ka Lāhui
Nā Kia'i
Nā Kia'i o Wai Hā
Our Revolution Hawai'i
Papa Ola Lōkahi
Pō'ai ke Aloha 'Āina
Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana
Protect Our Aquifer
Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui
Shimanchu Wai Protectors
Sierra Club of Hawai'i
Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter
Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i
Unite Here! Local 5
Veterans for Peace Chapter 113 - Hawai'i
Wai'anae Moku Kūpuna Council
Water Protector Legal Collective
Wisdom Circles Oceania
Women Cross DMZ
World Can't Wait