

**KIM COCO IWAMOTO, ESQ.**

PO Box 235191  
Honolulu, HI 96823  
[kimcoco@kimcoco.com](mailto:kimcoco@kimcoco.com)

Fuel Tank Advisory Committee  
Thursday, November 1, 2018, 9:00 – 11:00 am  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

**PUBLIC COMMENT: The 1977 Geneva Convention Requires the Immediate  
Decommissioning of the Red Hill Fuel Tanks**

Dear Advisory Committee:

Many of your Committee Members are already familiar with the military strategy commonly known as “Scorched Earth.” The general goal is to destroy anything that might be useful to the enemy. This strategy has been used since the earliest recorded wars; it focused on destroying food supplies and poisoning wells.

“Scorched Earth” was widely used during World War II. The Nazi’s implemented this policy across Europe during their retreat at the end of the war: entire cities were razed.

According to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Inventory of Records before 1948: “After the Pearl Harbor attack, the engineers planned for “scorched earth” destruction of military **and civilian** buildings in case of enemy invasion.” The Inventory includes Scorched Earth policies, plans and correspondence relating to the “Demolishing or incapacitating equipment, facilities, **utilities**, and material on Oahu under military necessity.” And it specifically cites “destruction of gasoline.”

To recap: Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. The installation of the Red Hill Fuel Tanks was completed in 1943 — the same year most of the “Scorched Earth” policies and plans were written. The 20 fuel tanks were positioned 100 feet directly above Oahu’s main aquifer supplying water to the most densely populated civilian areas and military base.

Fast forward to the U.S. use of “Scorched Earth” tactics during the Vietnam War. The U.S. used Agent Orange, Agent Blue and flame throwers to literally scorch the earth — and civilians.

The scale of environmental and humanitarian destruction got so out of hand that the 1977 Geneva Convention finally banned the use of this military tactic to destroy the food and water supply of civilian populations.

Despite this 1977 Geneva Convention ban, the US Navy continues to weaponize Red Hill and keep it on the ready to destroy this important aquifer.

Because fuel goes bad over time, the tanks need to be constantly depleted. Every time the Navy refills a fuel tank, they are basically reloading the weapon.

I urge this committee to advise the US Navy to comply with the Geneva Convention, completely abandon the 1943 "Scorched Earth" plans, immediately de-weaponize Red Hill and remove the rip cord that will destroy our water supply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.