



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jarrett Keohokalole Statement on Red Hill Accountability:

Calls Out Federal Government for Scapegoating Civilian Employees, Not Holding Military Commanders Responsible

HONOLULU — In response to news that federal prosecutors have charged two low-level civilian employees over the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility disaster, State Senator and Congressional candidate Jarrett Keohokalole released the following statement:

“It’s hard to look at this action by the Federal Government and not immediately think ‘scapegoats.’ For years, environmental advocates, including Board of Water Supply Chief Engineer Ernie Lau, called the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility a “ticking time bomb.” To see years of investigations and promises of accountability culminate in criminal charges against two low-level civilian employees is very frustrating.

To date, no high-level military commander has received more than a reprimand for their role in the Red Hill disaster. In fact, most of the military commanders who should take accountability for this disaster have been promoted or allowed to retire with full benefits. Three of the admirals who reprimanded were already retired.”

Keohokalole has consistently called for meaningful federal action and complete transparency on Red Hill, emphasizing the need for urgent solutions to protect O’ahu’s water and restore public trust.

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About Jarrett for Congress:

Jarrett Keohokalole is a lifelong Hawai‘i resident, current State Senator, and champion for working families. Jarrett has built his career fighting to lower living costs for local people, make government more transparent, and bring new energy to public service. In the Hawai‘i Senate, he has led efforts to stabilize the housing and insurance markets, expand access to healthcare, and increase government accountability. His campaign for Congress is about urgent, community-first leadership; showing up, speaking truth, and delivering results for Hawai‘i’s families. Learn more at jarrettforcongress.com and follow the campaign on social media @JarrettForCongress.