

(1) PFAS doesn't break down, (2) 95% of Americans have already been exposed to PFAS, and (3) climate change could make the PFAS crisis even worse.

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The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its 7,500 members strongly support the phase out and elimination of PFAS in household products, packaging, and firefighting foam, and consumables. We need to develop a program to phase out the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Hawaii.

PFAS is a carcinogenic toxin that goes beyond our deepest understanding of what is safe drinking water. The EPA has set an interim maximum contaminate level (MCL) at 4 parts per TRILLION because this is the lowest amount measurable by qualified laboratories, not because of scientific evidence that show that 4 parts per TRILLION is in fact a safe amount of PFAS to consume.

There is no safe amount! PFAS is known to cause CANCER, IMMUNE DISRUPTION and FERTILITY PROBLEMS.

PFAS has been detected in Kunia, Waipio, Honolulu and Kahului airports, and eight Hawaii military sites, including the Navy's Pearl Harbor drinking water.

This poison goes beyond the general public's comprehension as it has been used in everyday products for nearly a century and yet we are only now learning about it thanks to Red Hill. It has been used since the 1940's in many consumer products: Teflon pans, Scotchguard, food packaging, raincoats, furniture, cosmetics, clothing, and dental floss, in addition to the AFFF with PFAS used at firefighting training areas at airports and military installations.

The recent spill of AFFF with PFAS concentrate at Adit 6 at the Red Hill Facility released 1,300 gallons in November 29, 2022. This is an unconscionable amount where 4 parts per TRILLION is the maximum contaminant level of PFAS for safe drinking water. As a visual, this MCL (maximum contaminate level) amount is equivalent to 4 drops of food coloring in 18 million gallons of water or put in another way, 4 drops in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools, each holding 660,000 gallons of water.

We clearly need to work together to set goals, prepare and plan for the PFAS phase-out, its clean-up and remediation, and plans for risk-prevention, including filtration. This known carcinogen passes through our life cycle by the water we drink, the air that we breathe, the fish and wildlife we consume, wastewater we cause, and reclaimed wastewater and biosolids used on the agricultural produce we eat.

Furthermore, PFAS bioaccumulates as it is known as “Forever Chemicals.” It will not biodegrade for 700-1000 years. It can pass from mother to fetus through her bloodstream and from mother to child through breastmilk. Its multigenerational and bioaccumulative properties compound the toxicity of the PFAS in the human body.

We need a plan for PFAS phase-out and ban, its clean-up, remediation, and risk-prevention including water-filtration.

PFAS is utilized in the manufacture of food packaging which releases greenhouse gases. The use of PFAS in food packaging, causes the release of chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22 or R22) in connection with the manufacture of PFAS for use in food packaging. HCFC-22 is an ozone depleting substance with a [global-warming potential](#) estimated at more than 1,800 times that of carbon dioxide. HCFC-22 has been [phased out](#) in the

United States as of January 1, 2020, it can no longer be produced, imported or used.

However, because HCFC-22 is produced as an intermediate (a substance formed as part of a larger chemical reaction but that is then consumed in later stages of the production process) during the manufacture of PFAS, it is not subject to these use prohibitions. As such, facilities that are manufacturing these PFAS compounds are releasing significant amounts of HCFC-22 into the environment (notwithstanding being classified as "intermediates") in contravention of these prohibitions.