

A note from the Bishop on a resolution entitled “Protection of water (Ola i ka Wai - Water is Life) and urge the Office of Government affairs to advocate on protection of indigenous water and other natural resource rights” adopted by Diocesan Convention:

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i (October 21, 2023) adopted a resolution entitled “Protection of water (Ola i ka Wai - Water is Life) and urge the Office of Government affairs to advocate on protection of indigenous water and other natural resource rights.” It was adopted after admendment with no opposition.

This resolution’s intent was to have the General Convention meeting in June 2024 to act by instructing the Office of Government Relations of the Episcopal Church to advocate and lobby on behalf of the Episcopal Church on issues of natural resources like water, land, and air, in particular, those on the lands of native and indigenous peoples. This was in respose to the requests for the Office’s inability to engage the issues around the Red Hill storage tanks because there was no mandate from General Convention on the presenting issues. An amendment was added to explicitly mention the Red Hill facilities.

There is no explicit call for the Diocese, congregations or individual Episcopalians to do anything. The final resolved is a “mind of the Convention” resolution that offers the collective opinion of the Convention and, therefore, the Diocese on defueling and the permanent shut down of Red Hill facilities.

To learn more and to become engaged as an Episcopalian with issues like Red Hill please join the work of the [ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & CREATION CARE TASK FORCE](#). You may contact the Task Forces Co-Convener, [Jen Latham](#). Your participation in this important ministry is most welcome!

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Bishop Bob

-----

**RESOLUTION FOR “Protection of water (Ola i ka Wai - Water is Life) and urge the Office of Government affairs to advocate on protection of indigenous water and other natural resource rights” adopted as amended at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that this the 55th Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i supports our Diocesan Deputation in submitting a resolution to the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church that decries the actions of governments, businesses and other organizations that cause harm to the natural environment and that pollute natural resources like water, land, and air, in particular, those on the lands of native and indigenous peoples, that urges all dioceses to engage in advocacy of the natural environment, and that instructs the Office of Government Relations to advocate for the protection of these natural resources, especially those on the lands of native and indigenous peoples,

And be it further resolved that this the 55th annual meeting of the convention of the diocese of Hawai'i, supports the defueling and permanent shut down of Red Hill.