EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-04

(Relating to the Release of Fuel Oil at the City and County of Honolulu's H-POWER Waste-to-Energy Facility)

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of Health, Hazard Evaluation & Emergency Response ("HEER") Office responds to and enforces laws relating to the releases of hazardous substances to the environment, including releases of oil in any form, such as petroleum, fuel oil, and crude oil; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2026, an employee of Reworld, the operator of the City and County of Honolulu's H-POWER waste-to-energy facility, reported a leak of No. 2 fuel oil released from an underground pipeline and Reworld submitted a formal notice of a potential release to the HEER Office the next day; and

WHEREAS, in May 2026, Reworld communicated to the HEER Office that an estimated 6,500 gallons of fuel had leaked; and

WHEREAS, in July 2026, Reworld informed the HEER Office that the leak had likely started in late January, 2026 and was potentially upwards of 400,000 gallons; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Health and Deputy Director of Environmental Health were not informed of the leak until November 17, 2026, and the Governor was not notified until November 18, 2026; and

WHEREAS, upon being informed of the leak, the Office of the Governor reconvened the State's water committee, headed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, to bring together the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health, the Department of the Attorney General, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services to oversee response and remediation; and

WHEREAS, timely communication between the Department of Health and the Office of the Governor is essential to protecting public and environmental health; and

WHEREAS, the public must be informed of threats to our ʻāina; and

WHEREAS, the foundations of public and environmental health are public trust and transparency; and

WHEREAS, I have determined that a formal review is necessary to: (1) discover the cause and magnitude of the spill, (2) evaluate the adequacy of the response by Reworld, the City and County of Honolulu, and the Department of Health, (3) determine when relevant officials learned of the leak, what notification or escalation requirements applied, and whether such requirements were followed, and (4) make recommendations to ensure that future releases of oil are handled in a manner that provides maximum protection to the public and environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSH GREEN, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai'i, pursuant to my executive authority under the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby declare and order the following:

1. Upon notification of the release of oil of any volume, the HEER Office shall immediately notify the Deputy Director of Environmental Health, the Director of Health, and the Governor. The Director of Health shall ensure that information regarding such release is immediately posted on its public website. The Director of Health shall establish an internal notification and escalation protocol necessary to effectuate this requirement.
2. The HEER Office shall immediately prepare a report on the need for any additional monitoring wells in response to the H-POWER fuel leak.

3. There shall be created a formal review committee to: (1) discover the cause and magnitude of the spill, (2) evaluate the adequacy of the response by Reworld, the City and County of Honolulu, and the Department of Health, (3) determine when relevant officials learned of the leak, what notification or escalation requirements applied, and whether such requirements were followed, and (4) make recommendations to ensure that future releases of oil are handled in a manner that provides maximum protection to the public and environment. The formal review committee shall be chaired by the Director of Transportation and shall include representatives of the Department of the Attorney General, Department of Health, and Department of Human Resources Development. The committee shall transmit to the Governor a preliminary report within 30 days of the effective date of this Executive Order, and shall transmit to the Governor a final report within 60 days of the effective date of this Executive Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Executive Order shall remain in force unless modified or rescinded by a subsequent Executive Order.

DONE at the State Capitol, Honolulu,
State of Hawai'i, this ____ day of
November, 2026



JOSH GREEN, M.D.,
Governor of Hawai'i