This panel will give an overview and update, and discuss next steps related to two current important water issues in Hawai‘i. The first is the water crises and contamination of O‘ahu’s major water source from the Navy’s fuel storage tanks originally built over 75-years ago at Kapūkaki (commonly known as Red Hill). The second is the recent decision in Carmichael v. Board of Land & Natural Resources, in which the Hawai‘i Supreme Court determined that the renewal of one-year revocable water permits, originally issued in 2000, which took water from East Maui streams needed to grow kalo and other traditional foods, must follow the review requirements of the Hawai‘i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA).

Wayne Chung Tanaka is the Chapter Director for the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i. Wayne has committed his adult life to protecting Hawai‘i’s diverse environment and the unique culture that grows along with it. Wayne graduated from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 2009, and served for a decade in the Public Policy Program at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. His passion for native ecosystems and community-based resource management also led him to serve on the board of the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and on the founding board of Kua‘aina Ulu ‘Auamo. He has also authored and co-authored book chapters and essays on Konohiki Fishing Rights, Papahānaumokuākea, Nearshore Fisheries Management, Indigenous Food Sovereignty, and the Intersection of Race & Politics in Hawai‘i, among other topics. Wayne grew up on O‘ahu, exploring the tide pools of Wawai‘ala, the streams of Kāne‘ohe and He‘eia, and the ridgelines of the Ko‘olau mountain range. He enjoys fishing and cooking what he catches.

David Kauila Kopper is the Litigation Director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC). He graduated from the William S. Richardson School of Law and joined NHLC as a staff attorney in 2010. Kauila has led impact litigation intended to effect social change, including the recent Carmichael v. BLNR case, and multiple lawsuits aimed to protect traditional and customary practices on Mauna Kea. He represents clients in various matters relating to Native Hawaiian rights law including water rights, historic property and burial site preservation, government leases and programs, and land title and historical native land claims. He has substantial experience before all of Hawai‘i’s courts and various administrative bodies. Kauila is also an accomplished classically-trained musician with over 20 years of professional experience.

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022
Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Cost: Free

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1-Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Credit will be awarded for attending this panel. If you are seeking CLE credit, please be sure to include your Bar Number on the Registration Form.