
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ADJUTANT GENERAL TO TAKE A VARIETY OF ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE EXPOSURE OF MEMBERS OF THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD AND VETERANS TO DEPLETED URANIUM.

1 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has released several
2 reports and scientific studies concerning the health risks from
3 exposure to depleted uranium; and
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5 WHEREAS, the chemical and radiological toxicity of depleted
6 uranium has been a reported cause of kidney dysfunction, damage
7 to lung cells that increases the possibility of lung cancer,
8 neurological disorders, liver infection, birth defects, high
9 miscarriage rates, and other harms among military personnel who
10 have returned from a designated combat zone where depleted
11 uranium munitions have been used; and
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13 WHEREAS, these munitions and armor have been used
14 extensively in the 1991 Gulf War, during the six years since the
15 start of the war in Afghanistan, and during the four years since
16 the 2003 invasion of Iraq; and
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18 WHEREAS, the military use and disposal of depleted uranium
19 munitions have caused significant environmental impact and
20 depleted uranium has been found in contaminated ground surfaces
21 that, over time, will lead to food and ground water
22 contamination; and
23

24 WHEREAS, Connecticut, New York, California, and Louisiana
25 have recently passed legislation and several other states are
26 hearing legislation this year to give all returning veterans the
27 right to a best practices health screening test for exposure to
28 depleted uranium; and
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1 WHEREAS, reliable reports indicate widespread military non-
2 compliance with regulations, orders, and directives, for
3 example, Medical Management of Unusual Depleted Uranium
4 Casualties, October 14, 1993; Medical Management of Army
5 Personnel Exposed to Depleted Uranium, April 20, 2004; and
6 section 2-5 of Army Regulations 700-48, requiring prompt medical
7 care to all exposed individuals; and
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9 WHEREAS, in January 2006, The Honolulu Advertiser reported
10 the Army's confirmation of finding remnants of depleted uranium
11 munitions on Oahu; and
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13 WHEREAS, there is a public health need to ensure the safe
14 storage, disposal, and clean-up of munitions and other products
15 containing depleted uranium; now, therefore,
16

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
19 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is
20 requested to mobilize personnel and resources from any and all
21 agencies in the executive branch of government to:
22

23 (1) Assist any member of the Hawaii National Guard or
24 veteran who returns or has returned to this State
25 after service:
26

27 (A) In the Persian Gulf War, as defined in title 38
28 United States Code section 101; or
29

30 (B) In an area designated as a combat zone or
31 qualified hazardous duty area by the President of
32 the United States during Operation Enduring
33 Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom; or recognized
34 as such by the Internal Revenue Service for
35 purposes of exclusion from the income tax;
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37 to obtain a health screening test for exposure to
38 depleted uranium that uses methods capable of
39 detecting low levels of depleted uranium; and
40

41 (2) Conduct an environmental assessment of the scope and
42 adequacy of depleted uranium storage and disposal in



1 Hawaii and compile a report on training received by
2 members of the armed forces on exposure to depleted
3 uranium; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General is
6 requested to submit an assessment of the adequacy of training of
7 Hawaii national guard and active duty service members in Hawaii
8 concerning potential exposure to depleted uranium, the cost of
9 pre-deployment training concerning potential exposure, and
10 recommended precautions to be taken while under combat and non-
11 combat conditions; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General is
14 requested to report findings and recommendations to the
15 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
16 the Regular Session of 2008; and
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and the state
19 Department of Defense are urged to develop policies that will:
20

21 (1) Ensure ongoing access to appropriate screening for all
22 members of the Hawaii National Guard or other veterans
23 who return or have returned to this State after
24 service;
25

26 (A) In the Persian Gulf War, as defined in title 38
27 United States Code section 101; or
28

29 (B) In an area designated as a combat zone or
30 qualified hazardous duty area by the President of
31 the United States during Operation Enduring
32 Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom; or recognized
33 as such by the Internal Revenue Service for
34 purposes of exclusion from the income tax;
35

36 (2) Establish a task force within the Office of Veterans'
37 Services to study the various aspects of depleted
38 uranium as it relates to veterans in the State of
39 Hawaii and develop a plan for outreach to and follow-
40 up with eligible veterans; and
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- 1 (3) Structure the task force established under paragraph
- 2 (2) to consist of fourteen members as follows:
- 3
- 4 (A) The Director of the Office of Veterans' Services
- 5 or a designee;
- 6
- 7 (B) The Director of Health or a designee;
- 8
- 9 (C) Four members of the Legislature appointed by the
- 10 Governor as nominated, one each, by the majority
- 11 and the minority leaders of the Senate, and the
- 12 majority and minority leaders of the House of
- 13 Representatives;
- 14
- 15 (D) Two members who are physicians or scientists with
- 16 knowledge of or experience in the detection or
- 17 health effects of exposure to depleted uranium or
- 18 other hazardous materials appointed by the
- 19 Governor as nominated, one each, by the President
- 20 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
- 21 Representatives;
- 22
- 23 (E) Four members who are veterans with knowledge of
- 24 or experience with exposure to depleted uranium
- 25 or other hazardous materials appointed by the
- 26 Governor as nominated, one each, by the majority
- 27 and the minority leaders of the Senate and the
- 28 majority and the minority leaders of the House of
- 29 Representatives; and
- 30
- 31 (F) Two members of the community with knowledge of or
- 32 interest in exposure to depleted uranium; and
- 33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to

35 report findings and recommendations to the Legislature not later

36 than twenty days before the commencing of the Regular Session of

37 2008; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to

40 issue a formal request to the United States Department Defense

41 to provide a report on the scope of testing and use of depleted



1 uranium and the adequacy of storage, transportation, and
2 disposal of depleted uranium in Hawaii; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to United States Secretary
6 of Defense, the Governor, the Adjutant General, Director of
7 Health, the Director of Veterans' Services, the President of the
8 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
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