
HOUSE 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
4

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
12

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
29

30 WHEREAS, reliable reports indicate widespread military non-
31 compliance with regulations, orders, and directives, for
32 example, Medical Management of Unusual Depleted Uranium



1 Casualties, October 14, 1993; Medical Management of Army
2 Personnel Exposed to Depleted Uranium, April 20, 2004; and
3 section 2-5 of Army Regulations 700-48, requiring prompt medical
4 care to all exposed individuals; and
5

6 WHEREAS, in January 2006, The Honolulu Advertiser reported
7 the Army's confirmation of finding remnants of depleted uranium
8 munitions on Oahu; and
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10 WHEREAS, there is a public health need to ensure the safe
11 storage, disposal, and clean-up of munitions and other products
12 containing depleted uranium; now, therefore,
13

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

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

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

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

34 to obtain a health screening test for exposure to
35 depleted uranium that uses methods capable of
36 detecting low levels of depleted uranium; and
37

38 (2) Conduct an environmental assessment of the scope and
39 adequacy of depleted uranium storage and disposal in
40 Hawaii and compile a report on training received by
41 members of the armed forces on exposure to depleted
42 uranium; and



1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General is
3 requested to submit an assessment of the adequacy of training of
4 Hawaii national guard and active duty service members in Hawaii
5 concerning potential exposure to depleted uranium, the cost of
6 pre-deployment training concerning potential exposure, and
7 recommended precautions to be taken while under combat and non-
8 combat conditions; and
9

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

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and the state
16 Department of Defense are urged to develop policies that will:
17

18 (1) Ensure ongoing access to appropriate screening for all
19 members of the Hawaii National Guard or other veterans
20 who return or have returned to this State after
21 service:
22

23 (A) In the Persian Gulf War, as defined in title 38
24 United States Code section 101; or
25

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

33 (2) Establish a task force within the Office of Veterans'
34 Services to study the various aspects of depleted
35 uranium as it relates to veterans in the State of
36 Hawaii and develop a plan for outreach to and follow-
37 up with eligible veterans; and
38

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

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
32 report findings and recommendations to the Legislature not later
33 than twenty days before the commencing of the Regular Session of
34 2008; and

35
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
37 issue a formal request to the United States Department Defense
38 to provide a report on the scope of testing and use of depleted
39 uranium and the adequacy of storage, transportation, and
40 disposal of depleted uranium in Hawaii; and
41



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Resolution be transmitted to United States Secretary of Defense,
 3 the Governor, the Adjutant General, Director of Health, the
 4 Director of Veterans' Services, the President of the Senate, and
 5 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
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OFFERED BY:

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