
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES TO TAKE SOIL, AIR, AND WATER SAMPLES WITHIN 500 METERS OF ALL MILITARY BASES IN HAWAII TO ASSESS FOR DEPLETED URANIUM, AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE MONTHS, AND ANNUALLY REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.

1 WHEREAS, depleted uranium is what is left over when most of
2 the highly radioactive types (isotopes) of uranium are removed
3 for use as nuclear fuel or nuclear weapons; and

4
5 WHEREAS, depleted uranium is a heavy metal used in armor-
6 piercing munitions and in enhanced armor protection for some
7 Abrams tanks that is also slightly radioactive and has chemical
8 toxicity properties that, in high doses, can cause adverse
9 health effects; and

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11 WHEREAS, a common misconception is that radiation is
12 depleted uranium's primary hazard but depleted uranium that
13 remains outside the body cannot harm you; and

14
15 WHEREAS, taken into the body via metal fragments or dust-
16 like particles, depleted uranium may pose a long-term health
17 hazard to a person if the amount is large; and

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19 WHEREAS, the amount which remains in the body depends on a
20 number of factors, including the amount inhaled or ingested, the
21 particle size, and the ability of the particles to dissolve in
22 body fluids; and

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24 WHEREAS, some researchers suspect exposure to depleted
25 uranium might have caused chronic fatigue and other symptoms in
26 veterans of the first Gulf War, but there is no conclusive
27 evidence it has; and



1 WHEREAS, depleted uranium was recovered at Schofield
 2 Barracks' range complex during clearing efforts to prepare for
 3 the expansion of additional training space and the construction
 4 of a rifle and pistol range for a new Stryker brigade combat
 5 team; and

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 7 WHEREAS, 15 tail assemblies from spotting rounds made of D-
 8 38 uranium alloy were recovered in August 2006 by Zapata
 9 Engineering, a contractor hired by the military to clear the
 10 Schofield Barracks' range impact area of unexploded ordnance and
 11 scrap metal; and

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 13 WHEREAS, the potential harm that could come about due to
 14 the presence of depleted uranium in the soil, air, and water is
 15 of great concern to the Legislature in terms of the health and
 16 safety of the people of Hawaii; now, therefore,

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 18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 19 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 20 Session of 2007, that the United States Armed Forces are
 21 requested to take soil, air, and water samples within 500 meters
 22 of all military bases in Hawaii to assess for depleted uranium,
 23 at least once every three months, and annually report to the
 24 Legislature; and

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 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 27 Resolution be transmitted to the Commander, U.S. Army Pacific;
 28 Commander, U.S. Marine Corps, Pacific; Commander, U.S. Pacific
 29 Fleet; Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; Commander, U.S. Pacific
 30 Air Forces; Hawaii Congressional Delegation; State Adjutant
 31 General; and the Director of Health.

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