

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1322

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 30 2021**

RE: S.C.R. No. 47  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and  
Military Affairs, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 47 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RECOGNIZE A PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE  
CONNECTION FOR CHRONICALLY ILL VETERANS WHO WERE STATIONED AT  
KUNIA FIELD ON THE ISLAND OF OAHU,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the  
Department of Veterans Affairs to recognize a presumptive service  
connection for chronically ill veterans who were stationed at  
Kunia Field and to provide medical care and long-term services  
regardless of the veterans' ability to conclusively link their  
conditions to toxic exposure.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from six individuals.

Your Committee finds that Kunia Field Station was constructed  
on the island of Oahu during World War II to serve as an  
underground bomb-proof aircraft assembly plant. Kunia Field  
Station is located under former pineapple fields near Wheeler Army  
Airfield and Schofield Barracks and was exposed to pesticides,  
herbicides, fumigants, smoke, and other toxins and carcinogens  
while pineapple agriculture was active, from approximately 1940 to  
2008. A chemical spill in 1977 and a flood in 1991 further

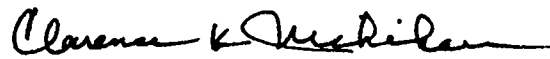


exposed the area and its drinking water to toxic substances, including the soil fumigant ethylene dibromide, identified as a probable human carcinogen. Many veterans who were stationed at Kunia Field Station have developed cancer, neurological conditions, dementia, and other chronic illnesses. However, the official position of the Department of Veterans Affairs is that veterans stationed at Kunia Field Station were not exposed to toxic substances, making it difficult for these veterans to receive medical care and long-term service. This measure urges the Department of Veteran Affairs to recognize that chronically ill veterans who were stationed at Kunia Field were exposed to toxins, which caused their illness, so that those veterans may receive medical care and long-term services.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 47, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 47, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military  
Affairs,




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CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs**  
**PSM**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SCR 47	PSM	3/23/2021		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C)	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani (VC)				/
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	/			
RIVIERE, Gil	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	4	—	—	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes