
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY TO CLEAN UP MUNITIONS AND
EXPLOSIVES OF CONCERN IN HAWAII UNDER THE MILITARY
MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, certain areas of the Hawaiian Islands were used
2 for military training exercises that resulted in large
3 quantities of munitions and explosives being deposited in the
4 ground; and

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6 WHEREAS, Congress established the Military Munitions
7 Response Program in 2001 under the Defense Environmental
8 Restoration Program to address munitions-related concerns,
9 including explosive safety, environmental and health hazards
10 from releases of unexploded ordnance, discarded military
11 munitions, and munitions found at locations other than
12 operational ranges on active bases, Base Realignment and Closure
13 installations, and Formerly Used Defense Sites properties; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Military Munitions Response Program provides a
16 focused program to address the challenges presented at sites
17 called munitions response sites; and

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19 WHEREAS, munitions responses are response actions,
20 including investigation, removal actions, and remedial actions,
21 that address safety, human health, or environmental risks
22 presented by munitions and explosives of concern; and

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24 WHEREAS, munitions and explosives of concern are specific
25 categories of military munitions that may pose unique explosives
26 safety risks, such as:

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28 (1) Unexploded ordnance, as defined in 10 U.S.C.
29 101(e) (5);
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1 (2) Discarded military munitions, as defined in 10 U.S.C.
2 2710(e)(2); or
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4 (3) Munitions constituents, such as TNT and
5 cyclotrimethylenetrinitramine (RDX), as defined in 10
6 U.S.C. 2710(e)(3), present in high enough
7 concentrations to pose an explosive hazard; and
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9 WHEREAS, wherever possible, the remedial action for
10 subsurface munitions and explosives of concern should be to
11 restore the land; and
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13 WHEREAS, this process involves identifying munitions and
14 explosives of concern and detonating them in a controlled
15 manner; and
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17 WHEREAS, land use controls, such as fencing to restrict
18 access to land, rather than restoration of the land, should only
19 be used when remedial action is not technically possible; and
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21 WHEREAS, Bellows Air Force Base sits largely on ceded lands
22 along the shoreline in the middle of Waimanalo; and
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24 WHEREAS, part of Bellows Air Force Base was previously used
25 as an urban warfare training facility and is contaminated and
26 unsuitable for use if the land is returned to the State; and
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28 WHEREAS, land use controls, such as fencing off the area,
29 instead of restoration were selected as the treatment plan for
30 the Bellows Air Force Base site; and
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32 WHEREAS, it is best for land formerly used for military
33 training purposes, including Bellows Air Force Base, to be
34 restored rather than merely fenced off, which deprives residents
35 of surrounding communities of the ability to enjoy and make
36 productive use of the land; now, therefore,
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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
40 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the United States military
41 is urged to clean up munitions and explosives of concern in
42 Hawaii under the Military Munitions Response Program; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, wherever possible throughout
2 Hawaii, the remedial action for subsurface munitions and
3 explosives of concern should be to restore the land, instead of
4 simply restricting access to the land; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
8 United States, United States Secretary of Defense, Commander of
9 the United States Indo-Pacific Command, members of the Hawaii
10 congressional delegation, and Governor.

