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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REPORT CURRENT  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 STATISTICS IN ORDER TO HELP  
PROTECT THE MILITARY AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THE  
GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ARE LOCATED.

1           WHEREAS, the State hosts numerous military installations  
2 for the United States Indo-Pacific Command including United  
3 States Coast Guard Station Maui, which is among the most active  
4 military installations operated by the United States Coast  
5 Guard; and

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7           WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, United States Defense Secretary  
8 Mark Esper ordered all commanders of the Department of Defense  
9 (DoD) installations worldwide to cease publicly releasing new  
10 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) statistical information; and

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12           WHEREAS, at the time of the March 31, 2020, order, the  
13 number of infected personnel at these installations, which  
14 include all military bases, was already one thousand cases; and

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16           WHEREAS, although Secretary Esper intended that the order  
17 protect the operational security at DoD global installations,  
18 the responsibility to the neighboring communities has been  
19 neglected, since members of the military and their dependents  
20 actively engage with the communities at shopping areas,  
21 restaurants, and other public gathering places; and

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23           WHEREAS, although Chief Pentagon Spokesman Jonathan Hoffman  
24 stated that Defense Department leaders worried that adversaries  
25 could exploit COVID-19 information, especially if the data  
26 showed the outbreak impacted U.S. nuclear forces or other  
27 critical units, concern for the local communities neighboring  
28 the military installations was not expressed, thus suggesting  
29 that the health and safety of said communities was not in  
30 jeopardy; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, on Oahu, the numbers of infections as of August  
3 2020 had begun to surge, yet the military population's  
4 statistics remained unreported but may have been in excess of  
5 one hundred; and  
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7 WHEREAS, per the DoD Defense Manpower Data Center, the  
8 total active military population in the State is 36,620, and the  
9 Reserve Forces number 9,402, which does not include the families  
10 of the military personnel living on-base, nor does it provide  
11 disaggregated data for native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander  
12 populations subject to COVID-19 infections; and  
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14 WHEREAS, although the DoD has released near-daily COVID-19  
15 statistics on its website, the statistics are delayed and not  
16 disaggregated by base or even by State; and  
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18 WHEREAS, as of August 2020, the DoD reported on its website  
19 the cumulative total cases (military, civilian DoD workers,  
20 dependents, and military contractors) was 43,634 with 1,056  
21 hospitalizations, 22,235 recoveries, and seventy-two deaths; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, although the DoD's website lists numerous  
24 memoranda indicating procedures to control the COVID-19 spread,  
25 it is unclear what protocols are set to protect the neighboring  
26 communities adjacent to the military installations in which  
27 military personnel and their dependents traverse; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, whenever the aforesaid personnel and their  
30 dependents encounter the local neighboring communities, the  
31 communities are exposed to communicable sicknesses in their  
32 interactions; and  
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34 WHEREAS, even after the order to installation commanders to  
35 censor disaggregated COVID-19 information, and notwithstanding  
36 the many DoD memos calling for preventative methods with respect  
37 to trainings, meeting, or other work-related gathering  
38 behaviors, several Hawaii news sources, as well as the  
39 Department of Land and Natural Resources reported two large  
40 gatherings each with more than two hundred participants located  
41 off military bases (at Mokuleia, Kaena Point, and Waimea Bay) by



1 military personnel and their families during the Memorial Day  
2 weekend; and

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4 WHEREAS, not only were the gatherings in excess of the  
5 ten-person allowance rule established by the State and City and  
6 County of Honolulu, but also at that time, beaches were closed  
7 for any gatherings, and yet the two hundred plus participants  
8 disregarded the beach closures; and

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10 WHEREAS, breaking state and county restrictions on  
11 gathering could be interpreted as a belief that military  
12 personnel who report to the DoD and the federal government are  
13 exempt from State and county laws; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, potentially unclear DoD COVID-19 protocols of  
16 quarantine could contribute to super spreading the virus; now,  
17 therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that this body urges the  
22 United States DoD is urged to report current COVID-19 statistics  
23 (disaggregated by individual geographic installations and  
24 specific data to identify native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander  
25 military and DoD populations affected by COVID-19) in order to  
26 help protect the military communities and especially the local  
27 communities in which the government and military installations  
28 are located; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DoD reports this  
31 information to the Department of Health, and the Department of  
32 Health make this information public; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
36 Secretary of Defense, Governor, Director of Health, Chairperson  
37 of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and  
38 Mayors of each of the Counties.

