

MAR 04 2021

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# 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.

1           WHEREAS, Kunia Field Station was constructed on the island  
2 of Oahu during World War II to serve as an underground bomb-  
3 proof aircraft assembly plant; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, since its construction, the field station has  
6 served as a command center for the United States Navy, an  
7 operations center for Kunia Regional Security, and currently  
8 serves as an operations center for the National Security Agency;  
9 and

10  
11           WHEREAS, Kunia Field Station is located under former  
12 pineapple fields near Wheeler Army Airfield and Schofield  
13 Barracks and was exposed to pesticides, herbicides, fumigants,  
14 smoke, and other toxins and carcinogens while pineapple  
15 agriculture was active, from approximately 1940 to 2008; and

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17           WHEREAS, a chemical spill in 1977 and a flood in 1991  
18 further exposed the area and its drinking water to toxic  
19 substances, including the soil fumigant ethylene dibromide  
20 (EDB), identified as a probable human carcinogen; and

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22           WHEREAS, a report issued by the Environmental Protection  
23 Agency in 1992 found multiple contaminants in ground water and  
24 soil at the Kunia Field Station site, including EDB; and

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26           WHEREAS, A report by the Navy and the National Security  
27 Agency in 2000 indicated the presence of arsenic and lead in the  
28 field station's air intake system, in addition to moderate to  
29 high levels of fungal contamination due to air ventilation  
30 problems and high moisture levels; and

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# S.C.R. NO. 47

1           WHEREAS, many veterans who were stationed at Kunia Field  
2 Station have developed cancer, neurological conditions,  
3 dementia, and other chronic illnesses; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the official position of the Department of  
6 Veterans Affairs is that veterans stationed at Kunia Field  
7 Station were not exposed to toxic substances, making it  
8 difficult for these veterans to receive medical care and long-  
9 term services; and  
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11           WHEREAS, Kunia Field Station veterans and their advocates  
12 argue that they have been denied access to the government  
13 records needed to conclusively link their illnesses to toxic  
14 exposure; now, therefore,  
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16           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
19 Veterans Affairs is urged to recognize a presumptive service  
20 connection for chronically ill veterans who were stationed at  
21 Kunia Field and to provide medical care and long-term services  
22 regardless of the veterans' ability to conclusively link their  
23 conditions to toxic exposure; and  
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25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of  
27 Veterans Affairs, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Army,  
28 Secretary of the Air Force, Kunia Veterans Advocacy, and  
29 Congressional Delegation of the State of Hawaii.  
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32 OFFERED BY: 

