
SENATE 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
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1 WHEREAS, on Oahu, the numbers of infections as of August
2 2020 had begun to surge, yet the military population's
3 statistics remained unreported but may have been in excess of
4 one hundred; and

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6 WHEREAS, per the DoD Defense Manpower Data Center, the
7 total active military population in the State is 36,620, and the
8 Reserve Forces number 9,402, which does not include the families
9 of the military personnel living on-base, nor does it provide
10 disaggregated data for native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
11 populations subject to COVID-19 infections; and

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13 WHEREAS, although the DoD has released near-daily COVID-19
14 statistics on its website, the statistics are delayed and not
15 disaggregated by base or even by State; and

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17 WHEREAS, as of August 2020, the DoD reported on its website
18 the cumulative total cases (military, civilian DoD workers,
19 dependents, and military contractors) was 43,634 with 1,056
20 hospitalizations, 22,235 recoveries, and seventy-two deaths; and

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

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28 WHEREAS, whenever the aforesaid personnel and their
29 dependents encounter the local neighboring communities, the
30 communities are exposed to communicable sicknesses in their
31 interactions; and

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33 WHEREAS, even after the order to installation commanders to
34 censor disaggregated COVID-19 information, and notwithstanding
35 the many DoD memos calling for preventative methods with respect
36 to trainings, meeting, or other work-related gathering
37 behaviors, several Hawaii news sources, as well as the
38 Department of Land and Natural Resources reported two large
39 gatherings each with more than two hundred participants located
40 off military bases (at Mokuleia, Kaena Point, and Waimea Bay) by
41 military personnel and their families during the Memorial Day
42 weekend; and



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

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

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

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

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 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DoD reports this
 28 information to the Department of Health, and the Department of
 29 Health make this information public; and

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

