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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL TO PROVIDE HEALTH SCREENING FOR DEPLETED URANIUM EXPOSURE TO MEMBERS AND VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND TO REPORT ON THE SCOPE AND ADEQUACY OF DEPLETED URANIUM STORAGE AND DISPOSAL IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has released several  
2 reports and scientific studies concerning the health risks from  
3 exposure to depleted uranium; and

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5 WHEREAS, the chemical and radiological toxicity of depleted  
6 uranium has been a reported cause of kidney dysfunction, damage  
7 to lung cells that increases the possibility of lung cancer,  
8 neurological disorders, liver infection, and high miscarriage  
9 rates among military personnel who have returned from a  
10 designated combat zone where depleted uranium munitions have  
11 been used; and

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13 WHEREAS, these munitions and armor have been used  
14 extensively in the 1991 Gulf War and during the three years  
15 since the 2003 invasion of Iraq; and

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17 WHEREAS, the military use and disposal of depleted uranium  
18 munitions have caused significant environmental impact and  
19 depleted uranium has been found in contaminated ground surfaces  
20 that, over time, will lead to food and ground water  
21 contamination; and

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23 WHEREAS, Connecticut and Louisiana have recently passed  
24 legislation and eighteen other states are hearing legislation  
25 this year to give all returning veterans the right to a best  
26 practices health screening test for exposure to depleted  
27 uranium; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, reliable reports indicate widespread military non-  
30 compliance with regulations, orders, and directives, for  
31 example, Medical Management of Unusual Depleted Uranium



1 Casualties, October 14, 1993; Medical Management of Army  
2 Personnel Exposed to Depleted Uranium, April 20, 2004; and  
3 section 2-5 of Army Regulations 700-48, requiring prompt medical  
4 care to all exposed individuals; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, in January 2006, The Honolulu Advertiser reported  
7 the Army's confirmation of finding remnants of depleted uranium  
8 munitions on Oahu; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, there is a public health need to ensure the safe  
11 storage, disposal, and clean-up of munitions and other products  
12 containing depleted uranium; now, therefore,

13  
14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
15 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
16 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Adjutant General is  
17 requested to:

18  
19 (1) Assist any member or veteran of the Hawaii National  
20 Guard who returns or has returned to this State after  
21 service:

22  
23 (A) In the Persian Gulf War, as defined in title 38  
24 United States Code section 101; or

25  
26 (B) In an area designated as a combat zone or  
27 qualified hazardous duty area by the President of  
28 the United States during Operation Enduring  
29 Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom; or recognized  
30 as such by the Internal Revenue Service for  
31 purposes of exclusion from the income tax;

32  
33 to obtain a health screening test for exposure to  
34 depleted uranium that uses methods capable of  
35 detecting low levels of depleted uranium; and

36  
37 (2) Conduct an environmental assessment of the scope and  
38 adequacy of depleted uranium storage and disposal in  
39 Hawaii and compile a report on training received by  
40 members of the Armed Forces on exposure to depleted  
41 uranium; and

42  
43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Adjutant General is requested to  
44 include in the report an assessment of the adequacy of training



1 of service members concerning potential exposure to depleted  
2 uranium, the cost of pre-deployment training concerning  
3 potential exposure, and recommended precautions to be taken  
4 while under combat and non-combat conditions; and

5  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General is  
7 requested to consult with and inform the Department of Health on  
8 the environmental assessment; and

9  
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Adjutant General is requested to  
11 report findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later  
12 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
13 of 2007; and

14  
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature shall give  
16 serious consideration to passing legislation during the Regular  
17 Session of 2007 that will:

18  
19 (1) Ensure access to appropriate screening for all members  
20 or veterans of the Hawaii National Guard who return or  
21 have returned to this State after service:

22  
23 (A) In the Persian Gulf War, as defined in title 38  
24 United States Code section 101; or

25  
26 (B) In an area designated as a combat zone or  
27 qualified hazardous duty area by the President of  
28 the United States during Operation Enduring  
29 Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom; or recognized  
30 as such by the Internal Revenue Service for  
31 purposes of exclusion from the income tax;

32  
33 (2) Establish a task force within the Office of Veterans'  
34 Services to study the various aspects of depleted  
35 uranium as it relates to veterans in the State of  
36 Hawaii and develop a plan for outreach to and follow-  
37 up of eligible veterans; and

38  
39 (3) Structure the task force established under paragraph  
40 (2) to consist of fourteen members as follows:

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42 (A) The Director of Veterans' Services or a designee;

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44 (B) The Director of Health or a designee;



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(C) Four members of the Legislature appointed by the Governor as nominated, one each, by the majority and the minority leaders of the Senate, and the majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives;

(D) Two members who are physicians or scientists with knowledge of or experience in the detection or health effects of exposure to depleted uranium or other hazardous materials appointed by the Governor as nominated, one each, by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(E) Four members who are veterans with knowledge of or experience with exposure to depleted uranium or other hazardous materials appointed by the Governor as nominated, one each, by the majority and the minority leaders of the Senate and the majority and the minority leaders of the House of Representatives; and

(F) Two members of the community with knowledge of or interest in exposure to depleted uranium; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General and the Director of Health.

OFFERED BY: *Maile L.*

*Das K. Sam*  
*Blair*  
*Wanni*  
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