
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL TO PROVIDE HEALTH SCREENING FOR DEPLETED URANIUM EXPOSURE TO MEMBERS AND VETERANS OF THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE 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, military use and disposal of depleted uranium
18 munitions have caused significant environmental impacts 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 18 other states are hearing legislation this
25 year to give all returning veterans the right to a best
26 practices health screening test for exposure to depleted
27 uranium; and



1 WHEREAS, reliable reports indicate widespread military non-
2 compliance with regulations, orders, and directives, for
3 example, "Medical Management of Unusual Depleted Uranium
4 Casualties," October 14, 1993; "Medical Management of Army
5 Personnel Exposed to Depleted Uranium," April 20, 2004; and
6 section 2-5 of Army Regulations 700-48, requiring prompt medical
7 care to all exposed individuals; and

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9 WHEREAS, in January 2006, The Honolulu Advertiser reported
10 the Army's confirmation of finding remnants of depleted uranium
11 munitions on Oahu; and

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

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Adjutant General is
20 requested to assist any member or veteran of the Hawaii National
21 Guard who returns or has returned to this state after service:

- 22
23 (1) In the Persian Gulf War, as defined in Title 38 United
24 States Code Section 101; or
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26 (2) In an area designated as a combat zone or qualified
27 hazardous duty area by the President of the United
28 States during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation
29 Iraqi Freedom, or recognized as such by the Internal
30 Revenue Service for purposes of exclusion from the
31 income tax;

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

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Adjutant General compile a
38 report on training received by members of the Hawaii National
39 Guard on exposure to depleted uranium; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Adjutant General is requested to
42 include in the report an assessment of the adequacy of training
43 of service members concerning potential exposure to depleted
44 uranium, the cost of pre-deployment training concerning



1 potential exposure, and recommended precautions to be taken
2 while under combat and non-combat conditions; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
5 Defense is requested to conduct an environmental assessment of
6 the scope and adequacy of depleted uranium storage and disposal
7 in Hawaii; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
10 Defense is requested to consult with and inform the Department
11 of Health on the environmental assessment; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General and the
14 United States Department of Defense is requested to report its
15 findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than 20
16 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature shall give
19 serious consideration to passing legislation during the Regular
20 Session of 2007 that will:
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22 (1) Ensure access to appropriate screening for all members
23 or veterans of the Hawaii National Guard who return or
24 have returned to this state after service:
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26 (A) In the Persian Gulf War, as defined in Title 38
27 United States Code Section 101; or
28

29 (B) In an area designated as a combat zone or
30 qualified hazardous duty area by the President of
31 the United States during Operation Enduring
32 Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or recognized
33 as such by the Internal Revenue Service for
34 purposes of exclusion from the income tax;
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36 (2) Establish a task force within the Office of Veterans'
37 Services to study the various aspects of depleted
38 uranium as it relates to veterans in the State of
39 Hawaii and develop a plan for outreach to and follow-
40 up of eligible veterans; and



- 1 (3) Structure the task force established under paragraph
- 2 (2) to consist of 14 members as follows:
- 3
- 4 (A) The Director of Veterans' Services or a designee;
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- 6 (B) The Director of Health or a designee;
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- 8 (C) Four members of the Legislature appointed by the
- 9 Governor as nominated, one each, by the majority
- 10 and the minority leaders of the Senate, and the
- 11 majority and minority leaders of the House of
- 12 Representatives;
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- 14 (D) Two members who are physicians or scientists with
- 15 knowledge of or experience in the detection or
- 16 health effects of exposure to depleted uranium or
- 17 other hazardous materials appointed by the
- 18 Governor as nominated, one each, by the President
- 19 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
- 20 Representatives;
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- 22 (E) Four members who are veterans with knowledge of
- 23 or experience with exposure to depleted uranium
- 24 or other hazardous materials appointed by the
- 25 Governor as nominated, one each, by the majority
- 26 and the minority leaders of the Senate and the
- 27 majority and the minority leaders of the House of
- 28 Representatives; and
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- 30 (F) Two members of the community with knowledge of or
- 31 interest in exposure to depleted uranium;

32 and

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 35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
 37 Secretary of Defense, Adjutant General, and Director of Health.
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