
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE DETONATION OF THE BRAVO HYDROGEN BOMB OVER BIKINI ATOLL, DECLARING MARCH 1ST AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, AND REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PROVIDE FOR THE FULL HEALTH NEEDS OF THE HYDROGEN BOMB TESTS SURVIVORS AND THEIR PROGENY, PAY APPROPRIATE PROPERTY DAMAGE CLAIMS, AND PROVIDE FOR THE COSTS OF CLEANING UP NUCLEAR SITES IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IN CONNECTION WITH HYDROGEN BOMB TESTING ON ATOLLS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

1 WHEREAS, at 6:45 a.m. on March 1, 1954, over Bikini Atoll,
2 the United States of America tested a hydrogen bomb device,
3 which is acknowledged to be the most powerful nuclear explosion
4 ever detonated; and

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6 WHEREAS, the "Bravo" H-Bomb inadvertently yielded 15
7 megatons instead of the five megatons expected by the scientists
8 working on the project - a yield one thousand times more
9 powerful than the bomb dropped on the city of Hiroshima; and

10
11 WHEREAS, including the Bravo H-Bomb, 67 nuclear tests were
12 conducted at Bikini Atoll and Enewetak Atoll between 1946 and
13 1958, exposing the people of the Republic of the Marshall
14 Islands to severe health problems and genetic anomalies due to
15 the tests, such as "jelly fish" babies and other anomalies in
16 the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of
17 survivors; and

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19 WHEREAS, Enewetak Atoll served as ground zero for 43 tests
20 eventually causing the exile of its people from their homeland
21 for 33 years; and

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23 WHEREAS, even after a massive cleanup program by the United
24 States, more than 57 percent of the land is not safe for human
25 habitation; and



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 2 WHEREAS, at the advice of the United States, the residents
 3 of Bikini Atoll were repatriated to their homeland in 1967 only
 4 to be evacuated seven years later when high levels of
 5 radionuclides were discovered in their bodies; and
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7 WHEREAS, the people of neighboring Rongelap and Utirik were
 8 also returned prematurely to their atolls and received
 9 additional exposure, causing many to believe that they were used
 10 to study the effects of radiation on human beings as evidenced
 11 in the Atomic Energy Commission's now infamous Project 4.1
 12 "Study of Response of Human Beings Exposed to Significant Beta
 13 and Gamma Radiation due to Fallout from High Yield Weapons"; and
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15 WHEREAS, in the Compact of Free Association (Compact), the
 16 United States "accepts the responsibility for compensation owing
 17 to the citizens of the Marshall Islands ... for loss or damage
 18 to property and person ... resulting from the nuclear testing
 19 program which the Government of the United States conducted in
 20 the Northern Marshall Islands between June 30, 1946 and
 21 August 18, 1958"; and
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23 WHEREAS, the pertinent provisions of the Compact were
 24 negotiated based on limited and misleading information provided
 25 by the United States Government to the representatives of the
 26 Republic of the Marshall Islands, a fact only recently exposed
 27 in material declassified by the United States and acknowledged
 28 by officials; and
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30 WHEREAS, the "changed circumstances" provisions of the
 31 Compact provide that, should it become manifestly clear that the
 32 agreement on nuclear matters is grossly inadequate to meet the
 33 technological and financial requirements anticipated during the
 34 negotiations, or if new information emerges that render those
 35 agreements insufficient for the purpose of concluding full and
 36 just compensation, the Congress of the United States would
 37 consider a petition on the issue; and
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39 WHEREAS, the Republic of the Marshall Islands submitted
 40 such a "Changed Circumstances" petition on September 11, 2000,
 41 based on recently declassified data; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Bush administration recently took a stand
2 against further compensation under the Changed Circumstances
3 petition; and

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5 WHEREAS, just compensation and continued funding for
6 promised medical and health programs for survivors of the atomic
7 tests now depend upon Congress' favorable consideration of this
8 petition; and

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10 WHEREAS, over the past 17 years, Hawaii has provided
11 medical, educational, and other supportive services to lawful
12 non-immigrants from the Republic of the Marshall Islands,
13 without receiving adequate reimbursement from the United States;
14 now, therefore,

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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the United States Congress
19 is respectfully requested to enact appropriate measures to
20 provide for the full health needs of the hydrogen bomb tests
21 survivors and their progeny, pay appropriate property damage
22 claims, and provide for the costs of cleaning up nuclear sites
23 in the Republic of the Marshall Islands in connection with
24 hydrogen bomb testing on atolls of the Republic of the Marshall
25 Islands; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature expresses deep
28 regret for the harm done to the people of the Republic of the
29 Marshall Islands and their homeland and hereby requests the
30 Governor to declare March 1st as a Day of Remembrance for the
31 survivors of the United States nuclear tests in the Republic of
32 the Marshall Islands; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
36 United States, President of the United States Senate, Speaker of
37 the United States House of Representatives, Chairperson of the
38 United States House of Representatives Committee on Resources,
39 Chairperson of the United States Senate Committee on Energy and
40 Natural Resources, United States Secretary of Energy, Governor
41 of Hawaii, members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation,
42 President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Speaker of
43 the Marshall Islands Nitijela, and Mayors of Bikini, Enewetak,



- 1 Rongelap, and Utrik, and to ERUB I (survivors in Majuro) and
- 2 ERUB II (survivors in Hawaii).

