
HOUSE 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

4
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

12
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

16
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

22
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
32 Casualties, October 14, 1993; Medical Management of Army
33 Personnel Exposed to Depleted Uranium, April 20, 2004; and



1 section 2-5 of Army Regulations 700-48, requiring prompt medical
2 care to all exposed individuals; and
3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Adjutant General is requested to
41 include in the report an assessment of the adequacy of training
42 of service members concerning potential exposure to depleted
43 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
3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 (A) The Director of Veterans' Services or a designee;
41

42 (B) The Director of Health or a designee;
43



