

---

---

# HOUSE 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

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, 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

22  
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

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



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

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

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

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

19 (1) In the Persian Gulf War, as defined in Title 38 United  
20 States Code Section 101; or  
21

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

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

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of  
34 Defense is requested to conduct an environmental assessment of  
35 the scope and adequacy of depleted uranium storage and disposal  
36 in Hawaii and compile a report on training received by members  
37 of the Armed Forces on exposure to depleted uranium; and  
38

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the United States Department of  
40 Defense is requested to include in the report an assessment of  
41 the adequacy of training of service members concerning potential  
42 exposure to depleted uranium, the cost of pre-deployment  
43 training concerning potential exposure, and recommended



1 precautions to be taken while under combat and non-combat  
2 conditions; and

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of  
5 Defense is requested to consult with and inform the state  
6 Department of Health on the environmental assessment; and

7  
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the United States Department of  
9 Defense is requested to report its findings and recommendations  
10 to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening  
11 of the Regular Session 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 14 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



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

6  
7 (D) Two members who are physicians or scientists with  
8 knowledge of or experience in the detection or  
9 health effects of exposure to depleted uranium or  
10 other hazardous materials appointed by the  
11 Governor as nominated, one each, by the President  
12 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
13 Representatives;

14  
15 (E) Four members who are veterans with knowledge of  
16 or experience with exposure to depleted uranium  
17 or other hazardous materials appointed by the  
18 Governor as nominated, one each, by the majority  
19 and the minority leaders of the Senate and the  
20 majority and the minority leaders of the House of  
21 Representatives; and

22  
23 (F) Two members of the community with knowledge of or  
24 interest in exposure to depleted uranium;

25  
26 and

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of  
30 Defense, state Adjutant General, and state Director of Health.

