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



1 WHEREAS, just compensation and continued funding for
2 promised medical and health programs for survivors of the atomic
3 tests now depend upon Congress' favorable consideration of this
4 petition; and

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

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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 United States Congress is respectfully
15 requested to enact appropriate measures to provide for the full
16 health needs of the hydrogen bomb tests survivors and their
17 progeny, pay appropriate property damage claims, and provide for
18 the costs of cleaning up nuclear sites in the Republic of the
19 Marshall Islands in connection with hydrogen bomb testing on
20 atolls of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

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

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
31 President of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United
32 States House of Representatives, Chairperson of the United
33 States House of Representatives Committee on Resources,
34 Chairperson of the United States Senate Committee on Energy and
35 Natural Resources, United States Secretary of Energy, Governor
36 of Hawaii, members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation,
37 President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Speaker of
38 the Marshall Islands Nitijela, and Mayors of Bikini, Enewetak,
39 Rongelap, and Utrik, and to ERUB I (survivors in Majuro) and
40 ERUB II (survivors in Hawaii).

