

MAR 14 2006

S.C.R. NO. 63

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SUPPORT LEGISLATION  
REQUIRING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO LOCATE  
AND REMOVE CHEMICAL AND CONVENTIONAL MUNITIONS DUMPED AT  
SEA FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II.

1           WHEREAS, in a recently released Department of the Army  
2 report it was disclosed that, following World War II, the Army  
3 blatantly and without any regard or concern for the people and  
4 natural resources of Hawaii, disposed of tons of chemical  
5 weapons that it had stockpiled in Hawaii by dumping the  
6 munitions in the ocean; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, in 1944, somewhere off Pearl Harbor 4,220 tons of  
9 hydrogen cyanide were dumped in various loose containers in  
10 waters approximately one thousand feet deep; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, also in 1944, the military dumped 16,000 one  
13 hundred pound mustard bombs at an unspecified location "about  
14 five miles off of Oahu"; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, the next year, in 1945, the Army dumped seven tons  
17 of one thousand pound hydrogen cyanide bombs, four hundred  
18 sixty-one tons of one thousand pound cyanogen chloride bombs,  
19 twenty-eight tons of five hundred pound cyanogen chloride bombs,  
20 eight hundred tons of one hundred fourteen pound mustard bombs,  
21 five hundred ten tons of 4.2 inch mustard mortar shells, 1,817  
22 tons of one-ton mustard containers, and three hundred tons of  
23 one-ton lewisite containers; and

24  
25           WHEREAS, there are reports of other munitions dumping  
26 grounds off of Waianae, Fort Weaver, and Barbers Point; and

27  
28           WHEREAS, despite Army regulations requiring minimum ocean  
29 depths of six thousand feet for chemical weapons and three  
30 thousand feet for conventional weapons, military munitions are  
31 reported to be found in waters as shallow as fifteen feet; and  
32



1           WHEREAS, the Army claims that if the containers fail, most  
2 of the chemical would break down into nontoxic compounds;  
3 however, the blister agent lewisite would leave elevated levels  
4 of arsenic in the sea floor sediment and in ocean waters; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the total extent, location, and tonnage of all  
7 munitions dumped in Hawaii waters by the military is unknown;  
8 and  
9

10           WHEREAS, the danger to the health, welfare, and safety to  
11 the people, ocean flora and fauna, and marine waters of the  
12 State is enormous and could have potentially devastating impacts  
13 to the people, natural resources, and economy of this State;  
14 now, therefore,  
15

16           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the  
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the members of  
19 Hawaii's congressional delegation are urged to press for  
20 legislation requiring the United States Department of Defense to  
21 locate and remove chemical and conventional munitions dumped at  
22 sea following World War II; and  
23

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
25 the federal legislation require, at minimum, that the United  
26 States Department of Defense immediately engage in the  
27 following:  
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- 29           (1) Locate all munitions dump sites in state waters;
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- 31           (2) Survey all located munitions dump sites;
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- 33           (3) Research into the long-term threats to public and  
34 environmental health that the munitions dump sites  
35 pose;
- 36
- 37           (4) Monitor each munitions dump site;
- 38
- 39           (5) Determine remedial action to remove the munitions or,  
40 at least, minimize the threat the munitions pose to  
41 public and environmental health;
- 42
- 43           (6) Determine the estimated costs for the remedial action;  
44 and



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 2 (7) Establish a proposed schedule for undertaking the  
 3 remedial action; and  
 4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
 7 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the  
 8 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the  
 9 United States Secretary of Defense, each member of Hawaii's  
 10 congressional delegation, and the Governor.  
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 12  
 13

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