
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD TO PROVIDE MEMBERS AND VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES HEALTH SCREENING FOR DEPLETED URANIUM EXPOSURE 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
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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
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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
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17 WHEREAS, the significant environmental impact from military
18 use and disposal of depleted uranium munitions has been found in
19 contaminated ground surfaces, which over time will lead to food
20 and ground water contamination; and
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22 WHEREAS, Connecticut and Louisiana have recently passed
23 legislation, and eighteen other states are hearing legislation
24 this session, to give all returning veterans the right to a best
25 practices health screening test for exposure to depleted
26 uranium; and
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28 WHEREAS, reliable reports indicate widespread military non-
29 compliance with regulations, orders, and directives, e.g.,
30 Medical Management of Unusual Depleted Uranium Casualties,
31 10/14/93; Medical Management of Army Personnel Exposed to
32 Depleted Uranium, 4/20/04; and section 2-5 of Army Regulations



1 700-48, requiring prompt medical care to all exposed
2 individuals; and

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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

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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,

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

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17 (1) Assist any member of the armed forces or veteran of
18 the armed services who returns or has returned to this
19 State after service in an area designated as a combat
20 zone by the President of the United States to obtain a
21 health screening test for exposure to depleted uranium
22 which uses methods capable of detecting low levels of
23 depleted uranium; and

24
25 (2) Conduct an environmental assessment of the scope and
26 adequacy of depleted uranium storage and disposal in
27 Hawaii and a report on training received by members of
28 the Armed Forces on exposure to depleted uranium; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General's report
31 shall include an assessment of the adequacy of training of
32 service members concerning potential exposure to depleted
33 uranium and the cost of pre-deployment training about potential
34 exposure and recommended precautions while under combat and non-
35 combat conditions; and

36
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General consult
38 with and inform the Department of Health in the environmental
39 assessment; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General of the
42 State Department of Defense is requested to report findings and
43 recommendations to the Legislature twenty days before the
44 convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and



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 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth Legislature
 3 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, shall give
 4 serious consideration to passing legislation that will:

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 6 (1) Ensure access to appropriate screening for all
 7 returning veterans in the State of Hawaii; and
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 9 (2) Establish a task force within the Office of Veterans'
 10 Services to study the various aspects of depleted
 11 uranium as it relates to veterans in the State of
 12 Hawaii and develop a plan for outreach to and follow-
 13 up of eligible veterans.
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 16 Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General and the
 17 Director of Health.
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