
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE HAWAII NATIONAL
GUARD PROVIDE MEMBERS AND VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES
HEALTH SCREENING FOR DEPLETED URANIUM EXPOSURE.

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, including
30 Medical Management of Unusual Depleted Uranium Casualties, dated
31 October 14, 1993; Medical Management of Army Personnel Exposed
32 to Depleted Uranium, dated April 20, 2004; and section 2-5 of
33 Army Regulations 700-48, requiring prompt medical care for all
34 exposed individuals; and
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1 WHEREAS, in January 2006, the Honolulu Advertiser reported
2 the Army's confirmation of finding remnants of depleted uranium
3 munitions on Oahu; and
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5 WHEREAS, there is a public health need to ensure the safe
6 storage, disposal, and clean-up of munitions and other products
7 containing depleted uranium; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
11 that the Department of Veterans Affairs is requested to assist
12 any member of the armed forces or veteran of the armed services
13 who returns or has returned to this State after service in an
14 area designated as a combat zone by the President of the United
15 States, and the dependants of any member or veteran, to obtain a
16 health screening test for exposure to depleted uranium that uses
17 methods capable of detecting low levels of depleted uranium; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Adjutant General of the
20 Hawaii National Guard coordinate with the United States
21 Department of Defense in Hawaii to:
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23 (1) Conduct an assessment of the scope and adequacy of
24 depleted uranium storage and disposal in Hawaii and
25 report on the training received by members of the
26 Armed Forces involving potential exposure to depleted
27 uranium; and
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29 (2) Report on the adequacy of training of Hawaii National
30 Guard members concerning potential exposure to
31 depleted uranium and the cost of pre-deployment
32 training about potential exposure and recommended
33 precautions while under combat and non-combat
34 conditions; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General of the
37 Hawaii National Guard is requested to:
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39 (1) Assist any member of the Hawaii National Guard who
40 returns or has returned to this State after service in
41 an area designated as a combat zone by the President
42 of the United States, and any member's dependents, to
43 obtain a health screening test for exposure to



1 depleted uranium that uses methods capable of
2 detecting low levels of depleted uranium; and

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4 (2) Ensure that quality health treatment is available for
5 all members or veterans of the Hawaii National Guard
6 and their dependents who may have been exposed to
7 depleted uranium; and

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

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

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18 (1) Ensure access to appropriate screening and quality
19 health care for all veterans in the State of Hawaii;
20 and

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22 (2) Establish a task force within the State of Hawaii's
23 Office of Veterans' Services to: (a) Study the various
24 aspects of depleted uranium as it relates to veterans
25 in the State of Hawaii; (b) Develop a plan for
26 outreach to and follow-up of eligible veterans; and
27 (c) Investigate and report on potential funding
28 sources to support the continued provision of health
29 care testing and treatment; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
33 Defense, the Adjutant General of the Hawaii National Guard, and
34 the State Director of Health.

