
SENATE 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

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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

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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

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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

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

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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

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33 WHEREAS, the Army claims that if the containers fail, most
34 of the chemical would break down into nontoxic compounds;



1 however, the blister agent lewisite would leave elevated levels
2 of arsenic in the sea floor sediment and in ocean waters; and

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4 WHEREAS, the total extent, location, and tonnage of all
5 munitions dumped in Hawaii waters by the military is unknown;
6 and

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

13
14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
16 that the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation are urged
17 to press for legislation requiring the United States Department
18 of Defense to locate and remove chemical and conventional
19 munitions dumped at sea following World War II; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that
22 the federal legislation require, at minimum, that the United
23 States Department of Defense immediately engage in the
24 following:

- 25
26 (1) Locate all munitions dump sites in state waters;
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28 (2) Survey all located munitions dump sites;
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30 (3) Research into the long-term threats to public and
31 environmental health that the munitions dump sites
32 pose;
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34 (4) Monitor each munitions dump site;
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36 (5) Determine remedial action to remove the munitions or,
37 at least, minimize the threat the munitions pose to
38 public and environmental health;
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40 (6) Determine the estimated costs for the remedial action;
41 and
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43 (7) Establish a proposed schedule for undertaking the
44 remedial action; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Secretary of Defense, each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation, and the Governor.

OFFERED BY: Will Egan

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