
SENATE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, a recently released Department of the Army report
2 disclosed that following World War II, the Army blatantly and
3 without regard or concern for the people and natural resources
4 of Hawaii, disposed of tons of chemical weapons that it had
5 stockpiled in Hawaii by dumping the munitions in the ocean; and
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7 WHEREAS, in 1944, somewhere off Pearl Harbor, 4,220 tons of
8 hydrogen cyanide were dumped in various loose containers in
9 waters approximately one thousand feet deep; and
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11 WHEREAS, also in 1944, the military dumped 16,000 one
12 hundred pound mustard bombs at an unspecified location "about
13 five miles off of Oahu"; and
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15 WHEREAS, the following year, the Army dumped 7 tons of one
16 thousand pound hydrogen cyanide bombs, 461 tons of one thousand
17 pound cyanogen chloride bombs, 28 tons of five hundred pound
18 cyanogen chloride bombs, 800 tons of one hundred and fourteen
19 pound mustard bombs, 510 tons of 4.2 inch mustard mortar shells,
20 1,817 tons of one-ton mustard containers, and 300 tons of one-
21 ton lewisite containers; and
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23 WHEREAS, there are reports of other munitions dumping
24 grounds off of Waianae, Fort Weaver, and Barbers Point; and
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26 WHEREAS, despite Army regulations requiring minimum ocean
27 depths of six thousand feet for chemical weapons and three
28 thousand feet for conventional weapons, military munitions are
29 reported to be found in waters as shallow as fifteen feet; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Army claims that if the containers fail, most
32 of the chemical would break down into nontoxic compounds;
33 however, the blister agent lewisite would leave elevated levels
34 of arsenic in the sea floor sediment and in ocean waters; and



1 WHEREAS, the total extent, location, and tonnage of all
2 munitions dumped in Hawaii waters by the military is unknown;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, the danger to the health, welfare, and safety of
6 the people, ocean flora and fauna, and marine waters of the
7 State is enormous and could have potentially devastating impacts
8 on the people, natural resources, and economy of this State;
9 now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
13 that the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation are urged
14 to press for legislation requiring the United States Department
15 of Defense to:

- 16 (1) Locate all munitions dump sites in state waters;
- 17 (2) Survey all located munitions dump sites;
- 18 (3) Research into the long-term threats to public and
19 environmental health that the munitions dump sites
20 pose;
- 21 (4) Monitor each munitions dump site;
- 22 (5) Determine remedial action to remove the munitions or,
23 at least, minimize the threat the munitions pose to
24 public and environmental health;
- 25 (6) Determine the estimated costs for the remedial action;
26 and
- 27 (7) Establish a proposed schedule for undertaking the
28 remedial action; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
39 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
40 United States House of Representatives, the United States
41 Secretary of Defense, each member of Hawaii's congressional
42 delegation, and the Governor.
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