

JAN 24 2007

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the chemical and  
2 radiological toxicity of depleted uranium has been a reported  
3 cause of kidney dysfunction, lung damage, neurological  
4 disorders, liver infection, and high miscarriage rates among  
5 military personnel. These health problems have been reported  
6 from military personnel who have served in designated combat  
7 zones where depleted uranium munitions and armor have been used,  
8 including the 1991 Gulf War and during the three years since the  
9 2003 invasion of Iraq.

10           The legislature further finds that the military use and  
11 disposal of depleted uranium munitions are capable of having a  
12 significant environmental impact, and depleted uranium has been  
13 found in contaminated ground surfaces that lead to food and  
14 ground water contamination.

15           The purpose of this Act is to provide access for all  
16 returning veterans to a health screening test for exposure to  
17 depleted uranium and to take steps to evaluate the scope and



1 adequacy of storage and disposal of depleted uranium munitions  
2 on Oahu where they have been used for military training.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 121, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§121- Screening for exposure to depleted uranium. The  
7 adjutant general shall ensure access to appropriate screening  
8 involving sensitive methods capable of detecting depleted  
9 uranium at low levels for all members of the Hawaii national  
10 guard who return or have returned to this State after service:

11 (1) In the Persian Gulf War, as defined in Title 38 United  
12 States Code section 101; or

13 (2) In an area designated as a combat zone or qualified  
14 hazardous duty area by the President of the United  
15 States during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation  
16 Iraqi Freedom; or recognized as such by the Internal  
17 Revenue Service for purposes of exclusion from income  
18 tax."

19 SECTION 3. (a) There is created a task force on depleted  
20 uranium exposure, to be placed within the office of veterans'  
21 services.

- 1           (b) The task force shall consist of fourteen members as  
2 follows:
- 3           (1) The director of veterans' services or a designee who  
4           shall serve as the chairperson of the task force;
- 5           (2) The director of health or a designee;
- 6           (3) Four members of the legislature appointed by the  
7           governor as nominated, one each, by the majority and  
8           minority leaders of the senate, and the majority and  
9           minority leaders of the house of representatives;
- 10          (4) Two members who are physicians or scientists with  
11          knowledge of or experience in the detection of health  
12          effects from exposure to depleted uranium or other  
13          hazardous materials, to be appointed by the governor  
14          as nominated, one each, by the president of the senate  
15          and the speaker of the house of representatives;
- 16          (5) Four members who are veterans with knowledge of or  
17          experience with exposure to depleted uranium or other  
18          hazardous materials, to be appointed by the governor  
19          as nominated, one each by the majority and minority  
20          leaders of the senate, and the majority and minority  
21          leaders of the house of representatives; and



1           (6) Two members of the community at large with knowledge,  
2           experience, or interest in health effects resulting  
3           from exposure to depleted uranium, to be appointed by  
4           the governor as nominated by the director of veterans'  
5           services.

6           (c) The task force shall study the effects of depleted  
7           uranium as it relates to veterans in the State and develop a  
8           plan for outreach and follow up for veterans who have been  
9           exposed to depleted uranium and who have developed adverse  
10          health effects due to their exposure.

11          (d) The task force shall report its findings and  
12          recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days  
13          prior to the convening of the regular session of 2008.

14          (e) The task force shall cease to operate on January 1,  
15          2008.

16          SECTION 4. (a) The department of health shall conduct an  
17          environmental impact study of the scope and adequacy of depleted  
18          uranium storage and disposal in Hawaii and compile a report on  
19          training received by members of the armed forces on exposure to  
20          depleted uranium. Based on the reports, the department of  
21          health shall make recommendations for the removal and clean-up  
22          of depleted uranium in Hawaii.



1 (b) The department shall report its findings and  
2 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days  
3 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2008.

4 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so much  
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for the  
7 purposes of conducting an environmental impact study of the  
8 scope and adequacy of depleted uranium storage and disposal in  
9 Hawaii and compiling a report on training received by members of  
10 the armed forces on exposure to depleted uranium.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
12 health for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

15

INTRODUCED BY: J. Kalani English

Scott

Greg L. Hoan

Will Espero  
Clarence K. Beschta

Jim



**Report Title:**

Depleted Uranium; Health Effects; Environmental Impact

**Description:**

Provides access for all returning veterans to a health screening test for exposure to depleted uranium. Establishes a task force to study the health effects of depleted uranium exposure.

Requires an environmental impact study on storage and disposal of depleted uranium munitions on Oahu.

