
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO RESTRICT THE USE OF
LETHAL AUTONOMOUS ROBOTICS.

1 WHEREAS, lethal autonomous robotics are robotic systems
2 that, once activated, can select and engage targets without
3 further intervention by a human operator; and
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5 WHEREAS, lethal autonomous robotics have been described as
6 the next major revolution in military affairs, on par with the
7 introduction of gunpowder or nuclear weapons; and
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9 WHEREAS, a United States Air Force assessment predicted
10 that by 2030, due to growing technology, humans will be the
11 weakest component in a wide array of systems and processes; and
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13 WHEREAS, the United States, Britain, Israel, and South
14 Korea use precursors to fully autonomous systems, although
15 little is known about Russian and Chinese technology; and
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17 WHEREAS, the United States has banned the use of lethal
18 force by fully autonomous weapons for up ten years, with limited
19 exceptions; and
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21 WHEREAS, for hundreds of years, armed conflict has always
22 been the option of last resort due to the potential loss of
23 human life; and
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25 WHEREAS, use of lethal autonomous robotics removes the
26 potential for loss of human life on the deploying side and could
27 result in a lower threshold for a county's decision to engage in
28 armed conflict; and
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30 WHEREAS, the use of lethal autonomous robotics places the
31 final decision to kill a human with a robot instead of a human
32 and is a potential violation of international treaties,



1 including the Hague Convention (IV), which requires every
2 combatant to be commanded by a person; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is unclear whether robots can meet the
5 requirements of international law, including the ability to
6 distinguish between civilians and combatants or assess whether
7 the likely harm to civilians during a military action would
8 exceed the military advantage gained by the conflict; and

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10 WHEREAS, accountability for deaths caused by lethal
11 autonomous robotics would be unclear, particularly in instances
12 of the death of innocent civilians caused by lethal autonomous
13 robot malfunctions; and

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15 WHEREAS, nongovernmental organizations and human rights
16 groups have campaigned to ban fully autonomous weapons to
17 preempt deployment in the same way as a ban on blinding laser
18 weapons; and

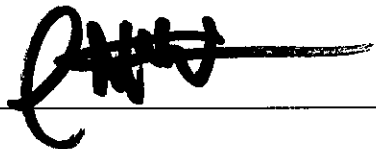
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20 WHEREAS, the Report of the Special Rapporteur on
21 extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions by Christof Heyns
22 to the United Nations General Assembly, recommends that nations
23 establish a national moratoria on aspects of lethal autonomous
24 robotics and that a panel articulate an international policy on
25 the use of lethal autonomous robotics; now, therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
29 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the United States
30 government is urged to place a moratorium on the development,
31 production, deployment, and use of lethal autonomous robotics
32 and is urged to encourage other nations to do the same until an
33 internationally agreed upon framework on the future of
34 autonomous robotics has been established; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
38 United States and the Secretary of Defense.

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OFFERED BY:



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