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# 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 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.

