

SCR 84

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RESTORE THE
PRESUMPTION OF A SERVICE CONNECTION FOR AGENT ORANGE
EXPOSURE TO UNITED STATES VETERANS WHO SERVED IN THE WATERS
DEFINED BY THE COMBAT ZONE AND IN THE AIRSPACE OVER THE
COMBAT ZONE IN VIETNAM.

Date: March 21, 2014

To: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

From: Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Chair, Advisory Board to Office of Veterans' Services

Subject: Support for SCR84

As the Chair, Advisory Board to the Office of Veterans' Services, which represents over 170,000 Hawaii veterans, we fully support Senate Concurrent Resolution 84.

It is important to urge Congress to restore service for Agent Orange exposure to U.S. veterans who served in the Vietnam combat zone between 1962 and 1971. I know of Navy, Army, and Air Force veterans who have suffered the consequences of being exposed to Agent Orange. They all deserve to receive the necessary veteran benefits for their exposure to this toxic agent.

Please pass the resolution in the honor of all service members who honorably serviced their country.

Thank you for letting me express the Board's view on this resolution.



Headquarters: Department of State of Hawaii
438 Hobron Lane, Suite 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

March 20, 2014

**Testimony in Support of SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 84
Urging the United States Congress to Restore the Presumption of a Service Connection for Agent
Orange Exposure to U.S. Veterans Who Served in the Waters Defined by the Combat Zone and in
the Airspace Over the Combat Zone of Vietnam Before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hearing On Monday, March 24, 2014, 1:35 P.M. In Conference Room 224**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) represents 3,800 members in 20 Posts located throughout the State of Hawaii. VFW is a federally chartered national association of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have served the United States of America in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

S.C.R. 84 Urges the United States Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States veterans who served in the waters defined by the combat zone and in the airspace over the combat zone in Vietnam.

In the 113th Congress, 1st Session, Rep. Christopher Gibson [R-NY-19] introduced H.R. 543: Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013 on February 6, 2013. This resolution was referred to the U.S. House Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. This resolution has neither passed the U.S. House nor the U.S. Senate since it was introduced.

In its bi-annual report released December 3, 2013, the Institute of Medicine (IOM), part of the National Institutes of Health, repeats and refers back to the findings of the three previous key reports that indicate:

- The individuals who served offshore Vietnam should not be exempted from receipt of VA benefits for Agent Orange-related disabilities, as there is no medical or scientific evidence to deny those veterans the benefits that other service members from the Vietnam War receive on a regular basis;
- There were several viable pathways for exposure of the crews on the ships of the Seventh Fleet who served offshore Vietnam;
- There is no evidence that Agent Orange/Dioxin did not poison the veterans in question and there is overwhelming evidence indicating a high probability that it did;
- No single group of veterans that served anywhere in Southeast Asia should be removed from the benefits for presumptive exposure to the deadly herbicides used in the broader geographical area throughout the Vietnam War.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.C.R. 84.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:23 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR84 on Mar 24, 2014 13:35PM

SCR84

Submitted on: 3/20/2014

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2014 13:35PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dept of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: In support of this resolution. As a Vietnam veteran who has served three tours, I have personally observed US Naval ships off the coast of Hanoi and Haiphong protecting our Allied personnel. They were close enough to absorb the chemical Agent Orange which many of our sailors are suffering the after effects of this deadly toxin. They are being denied medical compensation because the current VA ruling is that personnel must be physically on "land" in Vietnam to sustain this deadly chemical. The VA should also recognize these sailors who sustained this deadly toxin.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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The Uniformed Service Member's Voice in Government
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES
Hawaii Chapter (HI-1)

February 11, 2014

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 84
URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RESTORE THE
PRESUMPTION OF A SERVICE CONNECTION FOR AGENT ORANGE
EXPOSURE TO UNITED STATES VETERANS WHO SERVED IN THE
WATERS DEFINED BY THE COMBAT ZONE AND IN THE AIRSPACE OVER
THE COMBAT ZONE IN VIETNAM.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

HEARING ON MONDAY, MARCH 24¹²TH, AT 1:35 PM
IN CONFERENCE ROOM 2224

Aloha Chair Espero and Vice Chair Baker: Thank you for providing this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 84 (SCR 84). The National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) is well known as "The Service Member's Voice in Government" on Capitol. In the great State of Hawaii, NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) serves at the will and pleasure of our nation's largest per-capita uniformed service personnel and veterans community.

NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) members are extremely grateful for this thoughtful effort, calling on members of our Congressional Delegation to introduce/support legislation that will restore the presumed Agent Orange exposure service connection, for our veterans who served their country selflessly, in Vietnam War combat zone' waters and airspace.

With SCR 84, Hawaii, once again proudly expresses its steadfast support for our veteran/military personnel community. These summarily forgotten Vietnam warriors sincerely appreciate your concern for their welfare, now that they are at an advancing age, when the numerous officially recognized symptoms of Agent Orange related disease and illness are taking their toll on them.

Our Chapter members, their affected comrades-in-arms and families very respectfully encourage you to pass SCR 84, as written.

At your service,

D Egge

Dennis Egge; Chapter President



1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818
Naushawaii1@yahoo.com; 808-382-5833

Testimony

Carswell J. Ross, Jr. M.A., Chief Master Sergeant, USAF Ret.
94-1020 Puana Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

Monday, March 24, 2014 @ 1:35 p.m.

Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 84, URGING THE UNITED STATE CONGRESS TO RESTORE THE PRESUMPTION OF A SERVICE CONNECTION FOR AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE TO UNITED STATES VETERANS WHO SERVED IN THE WATERS DEFINED BY THE COMBAT ZONE AND THE AIRSPACE OVER THE COMBAT ZONE IN VIETNAM

Good Afternoon Chair Will Espero and Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

I **support** HCR 84 which request the United State Congress to restore service connection for veterans who served in Vietnam and its water or airspace. Foremost these individuals were sent to Vietnam as members of the United States military. Any disease that is attributable to their exposure to Agent Orange should be treated and recognized by the government that sent these military members to fight in this conflict.

Additionally, I ask that Hawaii veterans who were also exposed to Agent Orange during its experimental and deliberate usages in Hawaii also be covered by granting service connection to those who develop medically recognized diseases that are presumed under Department of Veterans Affairs regulations.

Following is a listing of recognized releases of Agent Orange in Hawaii with period they were actively used.

Hawaii

Location: Hilo, HI

Dates: 12/1966

Project Description: Field tests of defoliants were designed to evaluate such variables as rates, volume of application, season, and vegetation. Data from aerial application tests at several CONUS and OCONUS locations are provided in tables. There were Fort Detrick personnel there.

Agents: Orange

DoD Involvement: Yes

Location: State Forest area, 3500 ft. elevation on slope of Mauna Loa, near Hilo, HI

Dates: 12/2/1966, 12/4/1966, 1/12/1967

Project Description: The purpose of this project was to evaluate iso-octylester of picloram (TORDON) in mixtures with ORANGE, as a candidate defoliant agent, using ORANGE as standard. There were personnel from Fort Detrick there.

Agents: Orange, M-3140, TORDON ester, 2,4-D ester, 2,4,5-T ester

DoD Involvement: Undetermined

Location: Kauai, HI

Dates: 1967

Project Description: Field tests of defoliant agents were designed to evaluate such variables as rates, volume of application, season, and vegetation. Data from aerial application tests at several CONUS and OCONUS locations are provided in tables.

Agents: Orange

DoD Involvement: Yes

Location: Kauai Branch Station near Kapaa, Kawai, HI

Dates: 6/1967, 10/1967, 12/1967, 2/1968

Project Description: During the period of 12/1966 - 10/1967, a comprehensive short-term evaluation was conducted by personnel from Fort Detrick's Plant Science Lab in coordination with contract research on formulations by chemical industry and field tests by USDA and U of HI.

Agents: Blue, diquat, paraquat, Orange, PCP, Picloram, White, HCA, 2,4,5T, Endothall

DoD Involvement: Yes

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Dates: 12/1966

Project Description: Field tests of defoliant agents were designed to evaluate such variables as rates, volume of application, season, and vegetation. Data from aerial application tests at several CONUS and OCONUS locations are provided in tables. There were Fort Detrick personnel there.

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Project Description: During the period of 12/1966 - 10/1967, a comprehensive short-term evaluation was conducted by personnel from Fort Detrick's Plant Science Lab in coordination with contract research on formulations by chemical industry and field tests by USDA and U of HI.

Agents: Blue,diquat,paraquat, Orange, PCP, Picloram, White, HCA, 2,4,5T, Endothall
DoD Involvement: Yes

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support** of this Senate Concurrent Resolution.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:25 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: keith.ribbentrop@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR84 on Mar 24, 2014 13:35PM

SCR84

Submitted on: 3/20/2014

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2014 13:35PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith T. Ribbentrop	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure. Ships take water from the ocean for potable use - things drinking and bathing. Potentially 10 million gallons of the toxic Agent Orange, as well as pink, and white ran-off and subsequently entered the South China Sea; where these Blue Water sailors got their potable water from. Blue Water sailors have realized the same presumptive illnesses at the same ratio as their Brown Water counter parts.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: Clay Park <CPark@papaolalokahi.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 2:06 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: SCR 84

Honorable Senator Espero,

I feel that all Veterans who served on land and on the waters of Vietnam have one way or another were expose to agent orange. I totally support SCR 84.

William C. S. Park
Veterans Program Director
Papa Ola Lokahi

From: outlook_cf6aa7467e5ab719@outlook.com on behalf of Robert garza <garzar001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 5:54 PM
To: PSMTestimony

My Name is Roberto L. Garza Jr.,
I would like all of you too support bill SCR 84
This bill is not a hand out, but something we as Veterans earned.
A lot of us are dying and are sick with diseases that are on the list
for agent orange.
All , we get from the VA is you didn't have boots on ground but we
the sickness. please help us get are benefits back.

Thank you,
Roberto L. Garza, Blue Water Navy (69-70)

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Hardy Spoehr [mailto:hspoehr7@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2014 6:43 AM
To: PSMTestimony; cpark@papaolalokahi.org
Subject: Testimony - SCR84

Aloha

My name is Hardy Spoehr, private citizen but for many years executive director of Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board(POL). POL has a wonderful veterans program directed by Mr. Clay Park addressing the ability of veterans to access their health benefits through the US Department of Veterans Affairs. I have personally seen the effects of agent orange on friends who served in Vietnam and Mr. Park has assisted many who have a similar story. I would hope that the Senate passes this resolution unanimously. Our Nation needs to honor those who gave their most precious gift...their health and wellbeing- for the benefits we all enjoy as citizens. To not do so, in my view, is a travesty and a disgrace. Thank you for this opportunity to provide supportive testimony on this important matter. Hardy Spoehr