
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PLACE A MORATORIUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, DEPLOYMENT, AND USE OF LETHAL AUTONOMOUS ROBOTICS AND TO ENCOURAGE OTHER NATIONS TO DO THE SAME.

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 technology, on par with
7 the 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 has banned the use of lethal
14 force by fully autonomous weapons for ten years, with limited
15 exceptions; and
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17 WHEREAS, use of lethal autonomous robotics removes the
18 potential for loss of human life on the deploying side and could
19 result in a lower threshold for a country's decision to engage
20 in armed conflict; and
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22 WHEREAS, the use of lethal autonomous robotics places the
23 final decision to kill a human with a robot instead of a human
24 and is a potential violation of international treaties,
25 including the Hague Convention (IV), which requires every
26 combatant to be commanded by a person; and
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28 WHEREAS, it is unclear whether robots can meet the
29 requirements of international law, including the ability to
30 distinguish between civilians and combatants or assess whether



1 the likely harm to civilians during a military action would
2 exceed the military advantage gained by the conflict; and

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4 WHEREAS, accountability for deaths caused by lethal
5 autonomous robotics would be unclear, particularly in instances
6 of death of innocent civilians caused by lethal autonomous robot
7 malfunctions; and

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9 WHEREAS, nongovernmental organizations and human rights
10 groups have campaigned to ban fully autonomous weapons to
11 preempt deployment in the same way that blinding laser weapons
12 were banned; and

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14 WHEREAS, more than one hundred leading robotics experts and
15 artificial intelligence leaders are urging the United Nations to
16 take action to prevent the development of "killer robots"
17 through a letter to the organization which warns of "a third
18 revolution in warfare"; and

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20 WHEREAS, the letter states that lethal autonomous robotic
21 technology is a Pandora's box and time is of the essence; and

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23 WHEREAS, these leading robotics and artificial intelligence
24 experts are calling for a ban on the use of artificial
25 intelligence in managing weaponry because once developed, it
26 will permit armed conflict to be fought at a scale greater than
27 ever, and at timescales faster than humans can comprehend; and

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29 WHEREAS, the weapons can be used by despots and terrorists
30 against innocent populations and can be hacked to behave in
31 undesirable ways; and

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33 WHEREAS, experts are calling for the addition of lethal
34 autonomous weapons to the list of weapons that are banned under
35 the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons;
36 and

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38 WHEREAS, the Report of the Special Rapporteur on
39 extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions by Christof
40 Heyns to the United Nations General Assembly, recommends that
41 nations establish national moratoria on aspects of lethal



1 autonomous robotics and that a panel articulate an international
2 policy on the use of lethal autonomous robotics; now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
6 2019, that the United States government is urged to place a
7 moratorium on the development, production, deployment, and use
8 of lethal autonomous robotics and is urged to encourage other
9 nations to do the same until an internationally agreed upon
10 framework on the future of autonomous robotics has been
11 established; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States is urged to
14 advocate for the addition of lethal autonomous robotics and
15 similar weapons technology to the list of weapons banned under
16 the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons;
17 and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
21 Vice President of the United States in the Vice President's
22 capacity as presiding officer of the United States Senate,
23 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Minority
24 Leader of the United States House of Representatives, President
25 *Pro Tempore* of the United States Senate, Secretary of Defense,
26 Secretary of State, United States Ambassador to the United
27 Nations, and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:







