

FEB 27 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RECOGNIZE A
PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR CHRONICALLY ILL VETERANS
WHO WERE STATIONED AT KUNIA FIELD ON THE ISLAND OF OAHU.

1 WHEREAS, Kunia Field Station was constructed on the island
2 of Oahu during World War II to serve as an underground bomb-
3 proof aircraft assembly plant; and
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5 WHEREAS, since its construction, the field station has
6 served as a command center for the United States Navy, an
7 operations center for Kunia Regional Security, and currently
8 serves as an operations center for the National Security Agency;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, Kunia Field Station is located under former
12 pineapple fields near Wheeler Army Airfield and Schofield
13 Barracks and was exposed to pesticides, herbicides, fumigants,
14 smoke, and other toxins and carcinogens while pineapple
15 agriculture was active, from approximately 1940 to 2008; and
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17 WHEREAS, a chemical spill in 1977 and a flood in 1991
18 further exposed the area and its drinking water to toxic
19 substances, including the soil fumigant ethylene dibromide
20 (EDB), identified as a probable human carcinogen; and
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22 WHEREAS, a report issued by the Environmental Protection
23 Agency in 1992 found multiple contaminants in ground water and
24 soil at the Kunia Field Station site, including ethylene
25 dibromide; and
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27 WHEREAS, many veterans who were stationed at Kunia Field
28 Station have developed cancer, neurological conditions,
29 dementia, and other chronic illnesses; and
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31 WHEREAS, the official position of the Department of
32 Veterans Affairs is that veterans stationed at Kunia Field
33 Station were not exposed to toxic substances, making it
34 difficult for these veterans to receive medical care and long-
35 term services; and



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WHEREAS, Kunia Field Station veterans and their advocates argue that they have been denied access to the government records needed to conclusively link their illnesses to toxic exposure; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the Department of Veterans Affairs is urged to recognize a presumptive service connection for chronically ill veterans who were stationed at Kunia Field and to provide medical care and long-term services regardless of the veterans' ability to conclusively link their conditions to toxic exposure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Army, Secretary of the Air Force, Kunia Veterans Advocacy, and Congressional delegation of the State of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

