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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING ALL BRANCHES OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY OPERATING IN HAWAII TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES IN THEIR POLICIES TO REDUCE, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE USE OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

1           WHEREAS, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances  
2 (PFAS) are persistent, toxic substances that can contaminate  
3 drinking water, bioaccumulate in fish and wildlife, and have  
4 multiple adverse health effects on humans; and  
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6           WHEREAS, peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that  
7 exposure to harmful levels of PFAS found in water, soil, air,  
8 food, and fabricated materials can lead to numerous negative  
9 health effects, which include decreased fertility, elevated  
10 blood pressure in pregnant women, developmental effects or  
11 delays in children, low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone  
12 variations, and behavioral changes; and  
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14           WHEREAS, PFAS also increase the risk of some cancers,  
15 including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers; reduce the  
16 immune system's ability to fight infections, including reduced  
17 vaccine response; and interfere with the body's natural  
18 hormones, which can increase cholesterol levels and the risk of  
19 obesity; and  
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21           WHEREAS, PFAS are often called "forever chemicals" since  
22 they do not naturally break down in the environment and can  
23 continue to pollute the environment for thousands of years; and  
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25           WHEREAS, some of the highest concentrations of PFAS in the  
26 country have been found at and around military bases, in large  
27 part because of the military's longtime reliance on the  
28 firefighting foam known as aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a  
29 product containing PFAS; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, as far back as the 1970s, studies conducted by the  
3 United States Department of Defense showed that AFFF contains  
4 PFAS and is toxic; and

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6 WHEREAS, over ten reports have been published since then by  
7 different military organizations recognizing the danger of AFFF,  
8 and by the 1980s, animal studies conducted by the United States  
9 Air Force revealed that PFAS could pose environmental and health  
10 risks; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, on March 14, 2023, the United States Environmental  
13 Protection Agency proposed a maximum contaminant limit of four  
14 parts per trillion for perfluorooctanoic acid and  
15 perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and a hazard index of 1.0 for  
16 mixtures of perfluorononanoic acid, hexafluoropropylene oxide  
17 dimer acid, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid, and perfluorobutane  
18 sulfonic acid; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, in November 2022, at least one thousand one  
21 hundred gallons of toxic PFAS-containing AFFF concentrate  
22 spilled at Red Hill, where another firefighting foam spill had  
23 already occurred in September 2020; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, in 2022, the Hawaii Army National Guard and  
26 National Guard Bureau released findings from a site inspection  
27 at the Waiawa facility showing PFAS exceedance levels in  
28 groundwater samplings; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, the Army National Guard is now verifying whether  
31 drinking water wells on downgradient properties have been  
32 affected; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, PFAS contamination can endanger the groundwater  
35 and drinking water supply of thousands of Hawaii residents; and

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37 WHEREAS, various PFAS have been detected in soil and  
38 groundwater samples across the State that in some samples show  
39 levels that may pose a public health concern; and

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41 WHEREAS, PFAS-free alternatives for AFFF are widely  
42 available on the market today, and thirty-five PFAS-free and



1 environmentally preferred products from eleven manufacturers  
2 have already met GreenScreen Certified Standards, which is a  
3 globally recognized tool for chemical hazard assessment created  
4 by the nonprofit organizations Center for Environmental Health  
5 and Clean Production Action; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act  
8 authorized the phase-out of the military's use of PFAS-based  
9 AFFF beginning in 2024 and banned military training exercises  
10 with PFAS-based AFFF and the use of PFAS in Meals Ready-to-Eat  
11 food packaging; now, therefore,  
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
14 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
15 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that all branches of the  
16 United States military operating in Hawaii are urged to  
17 implement changes in their policies to reduce, to the extent  
18 possible, the use of products containing PFAS; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is  
21 requested to immediately discontinue the use of AFFF in any  
22 event that is not deemed an emergency and to properly dispose of  
23 all personal protective equipment potentially contaminated with  
24 PFAS in accordance with United States Environmental Protection  
25 Agency guidelines; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is  
28 requested to share all information relating to past or present  
29 PFAS releases to the environment or significant human or  
30 environmental exposures of PFAS-containing materials, including  
31 AFFF, in a proactive, timely, and transparent manner; provided  
32 that the information shared with state, county, and federal  
33 agencies and the public includes but is not limited to:  
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- 35 (1) Details and timing of the release;  
36  
37 (2) Trade name, ingredients, and amount of product  
38 released; and  
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40 (3) Any control measures instituted, sampling data, and  
41 plans for remediation; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is  
2 requested to expand and hasten its evaluation of possible PFAS-  
3 contaminated sites utilizing the Comprehensive Environmental  
4 Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process, including but  
5 not limited to expanded and expedited site investigations,  
6 environmental sampling, and contamination characterization and  
7 remediation of PFAS-contaminated sites; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
11 Secretary of Defense, Commander of the United States Indo-  
12 Pacific Command, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, Director of  
13 Health, the head of each county's respective department of  
14 environmental management, and the head of each county's  
15 respective board or department of water supply.

