

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP WITH REPRESENTATION FROM ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO PHASE OUT THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances
2 (PFAS) are a group of chemicals used to make fluoropolymer
3 coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and
4 water; and

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6 WHEREAS, according to the federal Centers for Disease
7 Control and Prevention, PFAS have been used for decades and can
8 be found in a variety of products, including clothing,
9 furniture, food packaging, heat-resistant non-stick cooking
10 surfaces, and the insulation of electrical wire, to make them
11 fire-retardant, stain-resistant, and water-repellent; and

12
13 WHEREAS, PFAS are known as "forever chemicals" that do not
14 break down in the environment, can move through soils and
15 contaminate drinking water sources, and can bioaccumulate in
16 fish and wildlife and move up the food chain; and

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18 WHEREAS, PFAS persist in the environment and exposure in
19 people can occur by consuming PFAS-contaminated water or food;
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, PFAS are ubiquitously detected in the general
23 population and most people in the United States have PFAS in
24 their blood, especially two types of PFAS known as
25 perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid
26 (PFOS); and

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28 WHEREAS, trace amounts of PFAS have been detected in
29 Honolulu's drinking water; and

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31 WHEREAS, studies of laboratory animals given large amounts
32 of PFAS indicate that some PFAS may impede growth and
33 development; negatively impact reproduction, thyroid function,



1 the immune system, fetal development, and the liver; and cause
2 cancer; and

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4 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency
5 (EPA) recently issued interim drinking water health advisory
6 levels for PFAS, identifying that a lifetime exposure of 0.0004
7 parts per trillion (ppt) of PFAS and 0.02 ppt of PFOS in
8 drinking water may cause adverse health effects; and

9
10 WHEREAS, PFAS are also used in aqueous film forming foams
11 (AFFF), a firefighting foam designed for flammable liquid fires,
12 used by fire departments, airports, and the military; and

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14 WHEREAS, numerous leakages from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel
15 Storage Facility (Red Hill Facility), managed by the United
16 State Department of Navy (Navy) and Defense Logistics Agency
17 (DLA) within the United States Department of Defense, contained
18 fire suppressant foams that used AFFF, including a leakage of
19 approximately one thousand three hundred gallons of AFFF on
20 November 29, 2022; and

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22 WHEREAS, according to the EPA and Hawaii Department of
23 Health, the final laboratory report submitted by the Navy and
24 DLA dated January 17, 2022, in response to the leakage of fuel
25 and other substances at the Red Hill Facility on May 6 and
26 November 20, 2021, indicated that groundwater samples collected
27 from a well within the facility on December 20 and 27, 2021,
28 included 2.76 ppt and 3.49 ppt of PFOA, and 6.72 ppt and 4.35
29 ppt of PFOS, on the two sampling dates respectively, which
30 significantly exceeds the EPA interim health advisory levels;
31 and

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33 WHEREAS, pursuant to the 2020 National Defense
34 Authorization Act, the Department of Defense is required to
35 phase out AFFF at all military installations by October 1, 2024;
36 and

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38 WHEREAS, the United States Air Force (Air Force), in
39 acknowledging that removal of AFFF fire suppression systems
40 reduces the risk of cancer and mission-related impacts on
41 drinking water, has shut down AFFF firefighting systems at
42 nearly all of its facilities that were equipped with AFFF; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Air Force is also shutting down AFFF fire-
3 suppression systems at all its hangars except four "mission
4 critical" facilities that support the presidential aircraft
5 fleet Air Force One and United States Marine Corps helicopters
6 and converting them to water-only sprinkler systems; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Air Force Innovation Lab at Tyndall Air Force
9 Base in Florida is researching alternatives for future fire
10 suppression systems and firefighting vehicles; and
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12 WHEREAS, the State's efforts to minimize exposure to PFAS
13 has been focused on locations where PFAS may be concentrated,
14 including military bases, airports, landfills, and wastewater
15 systems, however, it is critical to the health and safety of the
16 residents of Hawaii that the focus be expanded to gradually
17 phase out the use of PFAS in all areas the State; now,
18 therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
22 that a PFAS Working Group be formed with representation from all
23 levels of government, including but not limited to the
24 Department of Health, Department of Budget and Finance, Hawaii
25 State Energy Office, and each of the counties, to develop a
26 program to phase out the use of PFAS in the State; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PFAS Working Group is
29 requested to submit an initial report of its findings and
30 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
31 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
32 the Regular Session of 2024, and a final report no later than
33 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
34 2025; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
38 Director of Finance, Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State
39 Energy Office, Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the County
40 of Maui, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Mayor of the City and
41 County of Honolulu, Chair of Kauai County Council, Chair of the



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1 Maui County Council, Chair of the Hawaii County Council, and
2 Chair of the Honolulu City Council.

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OFFERED BY:



