

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A PER- AND
POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES TESTING GRANT PROGRAM IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a
2 group of synthetic organofluorine chemical compounds that have
3 multiple fluorine atoms attached to an alkyl chain that are
4 increasingly becoming understood to pose serious toxicity to
5 humans and other organisms in the environment; and

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7 WHEREAS, in 2021, the Organization for Economic Co-
8 operation and Development (OECD) identified at least 4,730
9 distinct PFAS chemicals; and

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11 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection
12 Agency's toxicity database lists 14,735 unique PFAS, while
13 PubChem lists more than 6,000,000 that fit under the 2021
14 revised definition of PFAS by the OECD; and

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16 WHEREAS, PFAS include perfluorosulfonic acids, such as
17 perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), and the perfluorocarboxylic
18 acids like perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); and

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20 WHEREAS, many PFAS chemicals were used in the mid-20th
21 century in products and on materials due to their enhanced
22 water-resistant and oil-resistant properties, like Teflon or
23 aqueous film forming foam, before the environmental impact and
24 toxicity to human and mammalian life had been studied; and

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26 WHEREAS, PFOS, PFOA, and other PFAS chemicals are commonly
27 described as persistent organic pollutants or "forever
28 chemicals" because they remain in the environment for long
29 periods of time; and

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31 WHEREAS, residues have been detected in humans and
32 wildlife, prompting concern about impacts on health; and

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34 WHEREAS, according to the National Academies of Sciences,
35 Engineering, and Medicine, PFAS exposure is linked to an



1 increased risk of dyslipidemia (abnormally high cholesterol),
2 suboptimal antibody response, reduced infant and fetal growth,
3 and higher rates of kidney cancer; and
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5 WHEREAS, health concerns related to PFAS have resulted in
6 numerous lawsuits, where PFAS producers such as 3M, Chemours,
7 DuPont, and Corteva have reached billion-dollar agreements
8 leading to the use of PFAS being regulated in several parts of
9 the world, with some plans to phase them out entirely from
10 products; and
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12 WHEREAS, chemical corporations that produce PFAS generate
13 approximately \$4,000,000,000 in annual profits from the
14 production of these chemicals in the United States, but they
15 impose monumental costs on taxpayers and the health of the
16 planet's human and animal populations; and
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18 WHEREAS, of these costs, the most expensive are remediation
19 efforts to fight PFAS soil and water contamination, followed by
20 the healthcare costs to treat cancer, thyroid disease, kidney
21 dysfunction, birth defects, and other major medical conditions
22 that have been linked to even low levels of exposure to PFAS,
23 and followed by the costs of monitoring of PFAS pollution in
24 human and other life forms; and
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26 WHEREAS, the International Chemical Secretariat has
27 estimated that PFAS cost approximately \$17,500,000,000,000
28 annually; and
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30 WHEREAS, PFAS have been frequently documented in marine
31 species that are commonly consumed by humans, posing potential
32 health risks, and studies on the bioaccumulation in certain
33 species are important to determine daily tolerable limits for
34 human consumption, and where those limits may be exceeded
35 causing potential health risks; and
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37 WHEREAS, the State may face economic and food source
38 consequences due to potential future advisories, fishing limits,
39 or closures for certain species due to their PFAS content; and
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41 WHEREAS, as of August 2023, twenty-five states have
42 established enforceable drinking water standards related to



1 PFAS, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency is
2 conducting a study from 2023 to 2025 to collect data on PFAS and
3 potentially develop additional regulations; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
7 that the Department of Health is requested to establish a PFAS
8 Testing Grant Program in collaboration with the University of
9 Hawaii; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PFAS Testing Grant Program
12 is designed to provide funding to assist local communities,
13 businesses, and residents throughout the State in obtaining
14 testing services and biological sampling for PFAS detection; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and
17 University of Hawaii are requested to seek funding for the PFAS
18 Testing Grant Program from the United States Congress, through
19 communication with the Hawaii congressional delegation; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PFAS Testing Grant Program
22 is requested to be developed based on criteria that reflect the
23 best practices and most recent scientific evidence relating to
24 the preservation of safe food sources and natural environments;
25 and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
28 requested to adopt rules to carry out the purposes of
29 establishing the PFAS Testing Grant Program and to ensure that
30 all grants provided under the Program adhere to standards that
31 promote fairness, transparency, and compliance with applicable
32 laws; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
36 President of the University of Hawaii System, and Hawaii's
37 congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

