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



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WHEREAS, as of August 2023, twenty-five states have established enforceable drinking water standards related to PFAS, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency is conducting a study from 2023 to 2025 to collect data on PFAS and potentially develop additional regulations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is requested to establish a PFAS Testing Grant Program in collaboration with the University of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PFAS Testing Grant Program is designed to provide funding to assist local communities, businesses, and residents throughout the State in obtaining testing services and biological sampling for PFAS detection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and University of Hawaii are requested to seek funding for the PFAS Testing Grant Program from the United States Congress, through communication with the Hawaii congressional delegation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PFAS Testing Grant Program is requested to be developed based on criteria that reflect the best practices and most recent scientific evidence relating to the preservation of safe food sources and natural environments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to adopt rules to carry out the purposes of establishing the PFAS Testing Grant Program and to ensure that all grants provided under the Program adhere to standards that promote fairness, transparency, and compliance with applicable laws; and

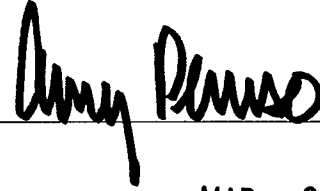
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director



# H.C.R. NO. 207

1 of Health, President of the University of Hawaii System, and  
2 Hawaii's congressional delegation.  
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OFFERED BY:



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