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## HOUSE 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

10  
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

19  
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

25  
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

4  
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

11  
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

25  
26 WHEREAS, the International Chemical Secretariat has  
27 estimated that PFAS cost approximately \$17,500,000,000,000  
28 annually; and

29  
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

36  
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,

4  
5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
6 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
7 Session of 2024, that the Department of Health is requested to  
8 establish a PFAS Testing Grant Program in collaboration with the  
9 University of 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

26  
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

33  
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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39  
40 OFFERED BY:



MAR - 8 2024

