

HEADQUARTERS  
HAWAI'I ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
91-1227 ENTERPRISE AVENUE  
KAPOLEI, HAWAI'I 96707-2150

TESTIMONY IN **COMMENT** ON  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 103, HD 1

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

COLONEL TYSON Y. TAHARA  
CHIEF OF STAFF, HAWAI'I ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

APRIL 14, 2023

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

I am Colonel Tyson Tahara, Chief of Staff of the Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) in the State Department of Defense.

The HIARNG provides written testimony **COMMENTS** on HCR 103, HD1.

The HIARNG places great value on the people and the natural environment of our island State. This resolution sets expectations for proper stewardship of our islands and their limited natural resources related to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Recent controversies brought to the media spotlight and concerning military management of the environment and natural resources in Hawai'i and across the Nation have made the HIARNG more attentive to our own impacts here.

PFAS have been used in widespread commercial applications since the 1940s because of their resistance to heat, water, oil, and time. The durability that made PFAS so useful in consumer products also made PFAS useful in a large range of military applications. Aqueous film-forming solution (AFFF) is a PFAS category that performs exceptionally well at putting out fires, and the HIARNG continues using AFFF for this lifesaving purpose in the fire suppression systems of our aviation facilities as mandated by the Department of the Army.

The HIARNG has used only water for training our firefighting team for over a decade, and recently reviewed the use of AFFF during the initial training on their firetruck. The HIARNG has been proactive in reaching out to the community along with Federal and State agencies to identify and mitigate any potential impacts from our previous use of AFFF. The HIARNG looks forward to divesting our remaining AFFF once the Department of the Army selects a replacement solution for fighting fires.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony to **Comment** on HCR103, HD1 urging the military in Hawai'i to become better stewards of our island home. Should the Committee desire, the HIARNG would gladly provide a briefing on our historical and current use of AFFF as well as our actions to mitigate the impacts of our use.

The HIARNG values the intent expressed in this measure.

Colonel Tyson Tahara; [tyson.y.tahara.mil@army.mil](mailto:tyson.y.tahara.mil@army.mil); 808-672-1456



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR0103-HD1**

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.

SEANTOR GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: 4/14/2023

Room Number: 225

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will not significantly impact the priorities identified in the  
2 Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department)  
3 appropriations and personnel priorities.  
4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports this resolution in its efforts to  
5 decrease the burden of PFAS contamination in Hawaii. The Department also appreciates efforts  
6 to improve transparency and the sharing of information related to environmental contamination.  
7 Further understanding of historical releases of PFAS and known PFAS evaluations will help the  
8 Department in its efforts to decrease PFAS exposure to humans and the environment and will  
9 promote a healthier Hawaii.  
10  
11  
12  
13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



Environmental Caucus of  
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Glen Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Brendon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Re: **HCR 103 HD 1 – URGING THE TO MILITARY REDUCE THEIR USE  
OF PFAS**

Hearing: Friday, April 14, 2023, 3:01 p.m., Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Waikai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its 7,500 members strongly support HCR 103 HD 1. This measure, among other things, requests the United States military to expand and hasten its evaluation of possible PFAS contaminated sites utilizing the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process, including but not limited to expanded and expedited site investigations, environmental sampling, and contamination characterization and remediation of PEAS-contaminated sites.

PFAS is a carcinogenic toxin that goes beyond our deepest understanding of what is safe drinking water. The EPA has set an interim maximum contaminate level (MCL) at 4 parts per TRILLION because this is the lowest amount measurable by qualified laboratories, not because of scientific evidence that show that 4 parts per TRILLION is in fact a safe amount of PFAS to consume. There is no safe amount!

PFAS is known to cause CANCER, IMMUNE DISRUPTION, FERTILITY PROBLEMS, among many other illnesses, complications, and birth defects.

PFAS has been detected in Kunia, Waipio, Honolulu and Kahului airports, and eight Hawaii military sites, including the Navy's Pearl Harbor drinking water.

This poison goes beyond the general public's comprehension as it has been used in everyday products for nearly a century and yet we are only now learning about it thanks to Red Hill. It has been used since the 1940's in many consumer products: Teflon pans, Scotchguard, food packaging, raincoats, furniture, cosmetics, clothing, and dental floss, in addition to the AFFF with PFAS used at firefighting training areas at airports and military installations. The resent spill of AFFF with PFAS concentrate at Adit 6 at the Red Hill Facility released 1,300 gallons in November 29, 2022. This is an unconscionable amount where 4 parts per TRILLION is the maximum contaminant level of PFAS for safe drinking water. As a visual, this MCL amount is equivalent to 4 drops of food



March 28, 2023

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coloring in 18 million gallons of water or put in another way, 4 drops in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools, each holding 660,000 gallons of water.

We clearly need to urge the U.S. Military to prepare and plan for the reduction of its use of PFAS, its clean-up and remediation, and plans for risk-prevention, including water filtration. This known carcinogen passes through our life cycle by the water we drink, air that we breathe, fish and wildlife we consume, wastewater we cause, and reclaimed wastewater and biosolids used on the agricultural produce we eat. Furthermore, PFAS bioaccumulates as it is known as “Forever Chemicals.” It will not biodegrade for 700-1000 years. It can pass from mother to fetus through her bloodstream and from mother to child through breastmilk. Its multigenerational and bioaccumulative properties compound the toxicity of the PFAS in the human body.

It is important that the United States military expand and hasten its evaluation of possible PFAS contaminated sites utilizing the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process, including but not limited to expanded and expedited site investigations, environmental sampling, and contamination characterization and remediation of PEAS-contaminated sites for the health and safety of people of Hawaii’s lives and the environment, including our drinking water aquifer and wells. Please pass these measures.

Mahalo nui loa,

/s/ Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick  
Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus  
Democratic Party of Hawaii



**TESTIMONY ON HCR 103, HD1  
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.**

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Friday, April 14, 2023 at 3:01 P.M.  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **supports** HCR 103, HD1.

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The 2020 National Defense Authorization Act took significant steps to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination throughout the U.S., including communities in or near military bases and for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to accelerate the pace of actions already under consideration in the agency's PFAS Action Plan.

All military branches in Hawaii have and continue to take serious accelerated action to safely and completely exceed the most stringent standards for PFAS.

While the Department of Defense (DOD) has extremely high safety standard for putting out fires quickly which limits the commercially available PFAS-free foam options for use by military installations in Hawaii, we ask the Committee's consideration to support the accelerated development so that all firefights in Hawaii – federal, state, local, and private – keep public spaces safe.



MAC respectfully requests the following amendments by adding:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii calls the US Congress and the Department of Defense to review its extremely high safety standard for putting our fires and accelerate development of PFAS-free firefighting options to remove PFA/AFFF from installations in Hawaii ahead of NDAA and DOD mandated timelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for the resolution with amendments.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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April 11, 2023

TO: Chair Wakai and Members of the PSM Committee

RE: HCR 103 HD 1 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.

Support for a hearing on April 14

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in 1947 by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support this resolution as science and research have shown that PFAS are highly toxic carcinogenic forever chemicals that bioaccumulate in the soil, water, and food that we consume causing a systemic threat to our health and the environment for many generations to come. PFAS does not breakdown and deteriorate for 700-1000 years and studies have shown that many Americans already suffer from PFAS contamination in our bloodstream. We must immediately ban its use. We hope this resolution will persuade the military to end its use of PFAFs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President



To: The Honorable Chair Glenn Wakai, the Honorable Vice Chair Brandon Elefante  
, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and  
Military Affairs

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

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**Re: Hearing HCR103 HD1 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  
PERFLUORALKYL AND POLYFLUORALKYL SUBSTANCES**

Hearing: Friday April 14, 2023, 3:01 p.m., room 225

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Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Public  
Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

**Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS HCR103 HD1!**

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists,  
educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working  
since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. HIROC is deeply concerned  
about PFAS "forever chemicals" in the marine environment.

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Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are persistent, toxic substances. **PFAS are often called "forever chemicals" because they do not naturally break down in the environment and can continue to pollute the environment for thousands of years. PFAS can contaminate drinking water and bioaccumulate in fish and wildlife. PFAS can have multiple adverse health effects on animal and human populations including kidney, prostate and testicular cancers, reproductive and developmental harm, behavioral changes, thyroid and hormone disruption, obesity, impaired immune function, increased cholesterol and blood pressure levels, and vital organ damage.**

**Some of the highest concentration levels of PFAS in the country have been found at and around military bases, largely because of the use of firefighting foam known as aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) that is toxic and contains PFAS. There are PFAS-free alternatives to AFFFs.**

As an island state, when forever chemicals are brought in and used in the State, they never leave. Instead, they can make their way into residents' bodies and the State's wastewater, landfills, and eventually groundwater and the drinking water supply. **PFAS can contaminate the groundwater and drinking water supply of thousands of Hawaii residents.** Hawai'i can no longer afford to use toxic substances that contaminate the State's finite resources and risk residents' health.

This Concurrent Resolution would urge the U.S. military to reduce, to the extent possible, the use of products containing PFAS, with certain exceptions, and to immediately discontinue the use of AFFF except in an emergency, properly dispose of any contaminated personal protective equipment, and disclose transparently all information relating to past PFAS releases. **This is an important measure to protect human health and the environment in Hawai'i.**

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this Concurrent Resolution to encourage the military to reduce the presence of PFAS "forever chemicals" in Hawai'i. Please pass this Concurrent Resolution! Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

**HCR-103-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 8:50:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/14/2023 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I appreciate the intent of this resolution, ‘requesting’ is too polite. 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” is insufficient to address this crisis. Oahu is already suffering from the contamination of these forever-chemicals due to the Navy’s criminal negligence at Red Hill. Hawaii cannot afford to further risk contamination of our finite resources and risk the health of our communities. Our State lawmakers and Congressional Delegation need to *demand* these measures listed in this resolution, “urging” is not enough.

**HCR-103-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 6:00:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/14/2023 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a good common sense bill. Please support it. Mahalo.

**HCR-103-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/14/2023 3:24:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/14/2023 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support