

JAN 24 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the chemical and
2 radiological toxicity of depleted uranium has been a reported
3 cause of kidney dysfunction, lung damage, neurological
4 disorders, liver infection, and high miscarriage rates among
5 military personnel. These health problems have been reported
6 from military personnel who have served in designated combat
7 zones where depleted uranium munitions and armor have been used,
8 including the 1991 Gulf War and during the three years since the
9 2003 invasion of Iraq.

10 The legislature further finds that the military use and
11 disposal of depleted uranium munitions are capable of having a
12 significant environmental impact, and depleted uranium has been
13 found in contaminated ground surfaces that lead to food and
14 ground water contamination.

15 The purpose of this Act is to provide access for all
16 returning veterans to a best practices health screening test for
17 exposure to depleted uranium and to take steps to evaluate the
18 scope and adequacy of storage and disposal of depleted uranium



1 munitions on Oahu where they have been used for military
2 training.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 121, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§121- Screening for exposure to depleted uranium. The
7 adjutant general shall ensure access to appropriate screening
8 for all members of the Hawaii national guard who return or have
9 returned to this State after service:

- 10 (1) In the Persian Gulf War, as defined in Title 38 United
11 States Code section 101; or
12 (2) In an area designated as a combat zone or qualified
13 hazardous duty area by the President of the United
14 States during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation
15 Iraqi Freedom; or recognized as such by the Internal
16 Revenue Service for purposes of exclusion from income
17 tax."

18 SECTION 3. (a) There is created a task force on depleted
19 uranium exposure, to be placed within the office of veterans'
20 services.

21 (b) The task force shall consist of fourteen members as
22 follows:



- 1 (1) The director of veterans' services or a designee who
2 shall serve as the chairperson of the task force;
- 3 (2) The director of health or a designee;
- 4 (3) Four members of the legislature appointed by the
5 governor as nominated, one each, by the majority and
6 minority leaders of the senate, and the majority and
7 minority leaders of the house of representatives;
- 8 (4) Two members who are physicians or scientists with
9 knowledge of or experience in the detection of health
10 effects from exposure to depleted uranium or other
11 hazardous materials, to be appointed by the governor
12 as nominated, one each, by the president of the senate
13 and the speaker of the house of representatives;
- 14 (5) Four members who are veterans with knowledge of or
15 experience with exposure to depleted uranium or other
16 hazardous materials, to be appointed by the governor
17 as nominated, one each by the majority and minority
18 leaders of the senate, and the majority and minority
19 leaders of the house of representatives; and
- 20 (6) Two members of the community at large with knowledge,
21 experience, or interest in health effects resulting
22 from exposure to depleted uranium, to be appointed by



1 the governor as nominated by the director of veterans'
2 services.

3 (c) The task force shall study the effects of depleted
4 uranium as it relates to veterans in the State and develop a
5 plan for outreach and follow up for veterans who have been
6 exposed to depleted uranium and who have developed adverse
7 health effects due to their exposure.

8 (d) The task force shall report its findings and
9 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days
10 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2008.

11 (e) The task force shall cease to operate on January 1,
12 2008.

13 SECTION 4. (a) The department of health shall conduct an
14 environmental assessment of the scope and adequacy of depleted
15 uranium storage and disposal in Hawaii and compile a report on
16 training received by members of the armed forces on exposure to
17 depleted uranium.

18 (b) The department shall report its findings and
19 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days
20 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2008.

21 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for the
 2 purposes of conducting an environmental assessment of the scope
 3 and adequacy of depleted uranium storage and disposal in Hawaii
 4 and compiling a report on training received by members of the
 5 armed forces on exposure to depleted uranium.

6 SECTION 6. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
 7 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Depleted Uranium; Health Effects; Environmental Impact

Description:

Provides access for all returning veterans to a health screening test for exposure to depleted uranium. Establishes a task force to study the health effects of depleted uranium exposure. Requires an environmental impact study on storage and disposal of depleted uranium munitions on Oahu.

