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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING CONGRESS AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF "ATOMIC VETERANS" THE VETERANS INVOLVED IN THE CLEANUP OF THE UNITED STATES NUCLEAR TEST SITE ON LOJWA ISLAND FROM 1977 TO 1980 MAKING THEM ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

1        WHEREAS, from 1977 through 1980, members of the United  
2 States Armed Forces participated in a radiation cleanup of the  
3 United States nuclear test site in the Marshall Islands; and  
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5        WHEREAS, service members involved in the Enewetak Atoll  
6 Atomic Debris Cleanup moved radioactive fallout and debris from  
7 the surface of the islands of Enewetak Atoll to a 370-foot  
8 diameter concrete containment structure on Runit Island and also  
9 created a number of artificial reefs in the lagoon; and  
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11       WHEREAS, following the radiation cleanup, the Marshallese  
12 inhabitants returned to their homeland and the service members  
13 were presented with Humanitarian Medals by the United States  
14 government in recognition of their efforts; and  
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16       WHEREAS, while having served their country, these surviving  
17 and decorated veterans now suffer from health problems related  
18 to radiation exposure, but are not eligible for certain  
19 compensation and health care benefits from the United States  
20 government; and  
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22       WHEREAS, Congress has not created any presumptions for  
23 veterans or civilians based on residual contamination from  
24 nuclear tests at Enewetak Atoll; and  
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26       WHEREAS, while it is the position of the United States  
27 Department of Justice that medical funds be made available to  
28 those who participated in radiation-risk activities during



1 active service, Congress has not included cleanup veterans in  
2 the definition of "Atomic Veteran", an omission that has denied  
3 these decorated veterans from receiving certain compensation and  
4 health care benefits from the federal government; and  
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6 WHEREAS, these cleanup veterans are not included in the  
7 definition of an "Atomic Veteran", which is defined as a veteran  
8 who, as part of his or her military service, participated in an  
9 above-ground nuclear test from 1945-1962, or served in the  
10 United States military occupation forces in or around Hiroshima  
11 or Nagasaki before 1946; or was held as a prisoner of war in or  
12 near Hiroshima or Nagasaki and was subjected to certain  
13 conditions; and  
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15 WHEREAS, these cleanup veterans, specifically those  
16 veterans who participated in radiation-risk activities during  
17 active service and were housed at Lojwa Island in the northern  
18 half of the Enewetak Atoll, should be included in the United  
19 States Department of Veterans Affairs' definition of an "Atomic  
20 Veteran" making them eligible for benefits; now, therefore,  
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
23 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
24 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that Congress and the  
25 United States Department of Veterans Affairs are urged to  
26 include within the definition of "Atomic Veteran" the veterans  
27 involved in the cleanup of the United States nuclear test site  
28 on Lojwa Island from 1977 to 1980 making them eligible to  
29 receive compensation and health care benefits from the United  
30 States government; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
34 United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,  
35 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Secretary  
36 of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and  
37 Hawaii's Congressional delegation.  
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OFFERED BY: 

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