

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REPORT CURRENT
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 STATISTICS IN ORDER TO HELP
PROTECT THE MILITARY AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THE
GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ARE LOCATED.

1 WHEREAS, the State hosts numerous military installations
2 for the United States Indo-Pacific Command including United
3 States Coast Guard Station Maui, which is among the most active
4 military installations operated by the United States Coast
5 Guard; and

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7 WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, United States Defense Secretary
8 Mark Esper ordered all commanders of the Department of Defense
9 (DoD) installations worldwide to cease publicly releasing new
10 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) statistical information; and

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12 WHEREAS, at the time of the March 31, 2020, order, the
13 number of infected personnel at these installations, which
14 include all military bases, was already one thousand cases; and

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16 WHEREAS, although Secretary Esper intended that the order
17 protect the operational security at DoD global installations,
18 the responsibility to the neighboring communities has been
19 neglected, since members of the military and their dependents
20 actively engage with the communities at shopping areas,
21 restaurants, and other public gathering places; and

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23 WHEREAS, although Chief Pentagon Spokesman Jonathan Hoffman
24 stated that Defense Department leaders worried that adversaries
25 could exploit COVID-19 information, especially if the data
26 showed the outbreak impacted U.S. nuclear forces or other
27 critical units, concern for the local communities neighboring
28 the military installations was not expressed, thus suggesting
29 that the health and safety of said communities was not in
30 jeopardy; and

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32 WHEREAS, on Oahu, the numbers of infections as of August
33 2020 had begun to surge, yet the military population's



1 statistics remained unreported but may have been in excess of
2 one hundred; and

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4 WHEREAS, per the DoD Defense Manpower Data Center, the
5 total active military population in the State is 36,620, and the
6 Reserve Forces number 9,402, which does not include the families
7 of the military personnel living on-base, nor does it provide
8 disaggregated data for native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
9 populations subject to COVID-19 infections; and

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11 WHEREAS, although the DoD has released near-daily COVID-19
12 statistics on its website, the statistics are delayed and not
13 disaggregated by base or even by State; and

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15 WHEREAS, as of August 2020, the DoD reported on its website
16 the cumulative total cases (military, civilian DoD workers,
17 dependents, and military contractors) was 43,634 with 1,056
18 hospitalizations, 22,235 recoveries, and seventy-two deaths; and

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20 WHEREAS, although the DoD's website lists numerous
21 memoranda indicating procedures to control the COVID-19 spread,
22 it is unclear what protocols are set to protect the neighboring
23 communities adjacent to the military installations in which
24 military personnel and their dependents traverse; and

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26 WHEREAS, whenever the aforesaid personnel and their
27 dependents encounter the local neighboring communities, the
28 communities are exposed to communicable sicknesses in their
29 interactions; and

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31 WHEREAS, even after the order to installation commanders to
32 censor disaggregated COVID-19 information, and notwithstanding
33 the many DoD memos calling for preventative methods with respect
34 to trainings, meeting, or other work-related gathering
35 behaviors, several Hawaii news sources, as well as the
36 Department of Land and Natural Resources reported two large
37 gatherings each with more than two hundred participants located
38 off military bases (at Mokuleia, Kaena Point, and Waimea Bay) by
39 military personnel and their families during the Memorial Day
40 weekend; and

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1 WHEREAS, not only were the gatherings in excess of the
 2 ten-person allowance rule established by the State and City and
 3 County of Honolulu, but also at that time, beaches were closed
 4 for any gatherings, and yet the two hundred plus participants
 5 disregarded the beach closures; and

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 7 WHEREAS, breaking State and county restrictions on
 8 gathering could be interpreted as a belief that military
 9 personnel who report to the DoD and the federal government are
 10 exempt from State and county laws; and

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 12 WHEREAS, potentially unclear DoD COVID-19 protocols of
 13 quarantine could contribute to super spreading the virus; now,
 14 therefore,

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 16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
 17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
 18 that this body urges the United States DoD to report current
 19 COVID-19 statistics (disaggregated by individual geographic
 20 installations and specific data to identify native Hawaiian and
 21 Pacific Islander military and DoD populations affected by COVID-
 22 19) in order to help protect the military communities and
 23 especially the local communities in which the government and
 24 military installations are located; and

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 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DoD reports this
 27 information to the Department of Health, and the Department of
 28 Health make this information public; and

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 30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
 32 Defense, Governor, Director of Health, Chairperson of the Board
 33 of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chairperson of
 34 the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs,
 35 Chairperson of the State House committee on Judiciary and
 36 Hawaiian Affairs, and Mayor of each of the Counties.

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OFFERED BY:


