H.C.R. NO. 103

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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.

1 WHEREAS, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances
2 (PFAS) are persistent, toxic substances that can contaminate
3 drinking water, bioaccumulate in fish and wildlife, and have
4 multiple adverse health effects on humans; and
5

6 WHEREAS, peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that 7 exposure to harmful levels of PFAS found in water, soil, air, 8 food, and fabricated materials can lead to numerous negative 9 health effects, which include decreased fertility, elevated 10 blood pressure in pregnant women, developmental effects or 11 delays in children, low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone 12 variations, and behavioral changes; and

14 WHEREAS, PFAS also increase the risk of some cancers, 15 including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers; reduce the 16 immune system's ability to fight infections, including reduced 17 vaccine response; and interfere with the body's natural 18 hormones, which can increase cholesterol levels and the risk of 19 obesity; and

21 WHEREAS, PFAS are often called "forever chemicals" since 22 they do not naturally break down in the environment and can 23 continue to pollute the environment for thousands of years; and 24

WHEREAS, some of the highest concentrations of PFAS in the country have been found at and around military bases, in large part because of the military's longtime reliance on the firefighting foam known as aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a product containing PFAS; and

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1 2 WHEREAS, as far back as the 1970s, studies conducted by the United States Department of Defense showed that AFFF contains 3 4 PFAS and is toxic; and 5 WHEREAS, over ten reports have been published since then by 6 7 different military organizations recognizing the danger of AFFF, and by the 1980s, animal studies conducted by the United States 8 Air Force revealed that PFAS could pose environmental and health 9 10 risks; and 11 12 WHEREAS, on June 15, 2022, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued interim updated drinking water health 13 14 advisories for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and 15 perfluorooctanoic acid while it develops a formal drinking water 16 maximum contaminant limit for these PFAS; and 17 18 WHEREAS, in November 2022, at least one thousand one hundred gallons of toxic PFAS-containing AFFF concentrate 19 spilled at Red Hill, where another firefighting foam spill had 20 21 already occurred in September 2020; and 22 23 WHEREAS, in 2022, the Hawaii Army National Guard and 24 National Guard Bureau released findings from a site inspection 25 at the Waiawa facility showing PFAS exceedance levels in 26 groundwater samplings; and 27 28 WHEREAS, the Army National Guard is now verifying whether 29 drinking water wells on downgradient properties have been 30 affected; and 31 32 WHEREAS, PFAS contamination can endanger the groundwater and drinking water supply of thousands of Hawaii residents; and 33 34 WHEREAS, various PFAS have been detected in soil and 35 36 groundwater samples across the State that in some samples show 37 levels that may pose a public health concern; and 38 WHEREAS, PFAS-free alternatives for AFFF are widely 39 40 available on the market today, and thirty-five PFAS-free and 41 environmentally preferred products from eleven manufacturers 42 have already met GreenScreen Certified Standards, which is a

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1 globally recognized tool for chemical hazard assessment created 2 by the nonprofit organizations Center for Environmental Health and Clean Production Action; and 3 4 5 WHEREAS, the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act 6 authorized the phase-out of the military's use of PFAS-based AFFF beginning in 2024 and banned military training exercises 7 8 with PFAS-based AFFF and the use of PFAS in Meals Ready-to-Eat 9 food packaging; now, therefore, 10 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 12 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that all branches of the 13 14 United States military operating in Hawaii are urged to implement changes in their policies to reduce, to the extent 15 16 possible, the use of products containing PFAS; and 17 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is 19 requested to immediately discontinue the use of AFFF in any 20 event that is not deemed an emergency and to properly dispose of 21 all personal protective equipment potentially contaminated with 22 PFAS in accordance with United States Environmental Protection Agency guidelines; and 23 24 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is 26 requested to share all information relating to past or present 27 PFAS releases to the environment or significant human or environmental exposures of PFAS-containing materials, including 28 29 AFFF, in a proactive, timely, and transparent manner; provided 30 that the information shared with state, county, and federal 31 agencies and the public includes but is not limited to: 32 33 (1)Details and timing of the release; 34 Trade name, ingredients, and amount of product 35 (2)released; and 36 37 38 (3) Any control measures instituted, sampling data, and 39 plans for remediation; and 40 41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is requested to expand and hasten its evaluation of possible PFAS-42

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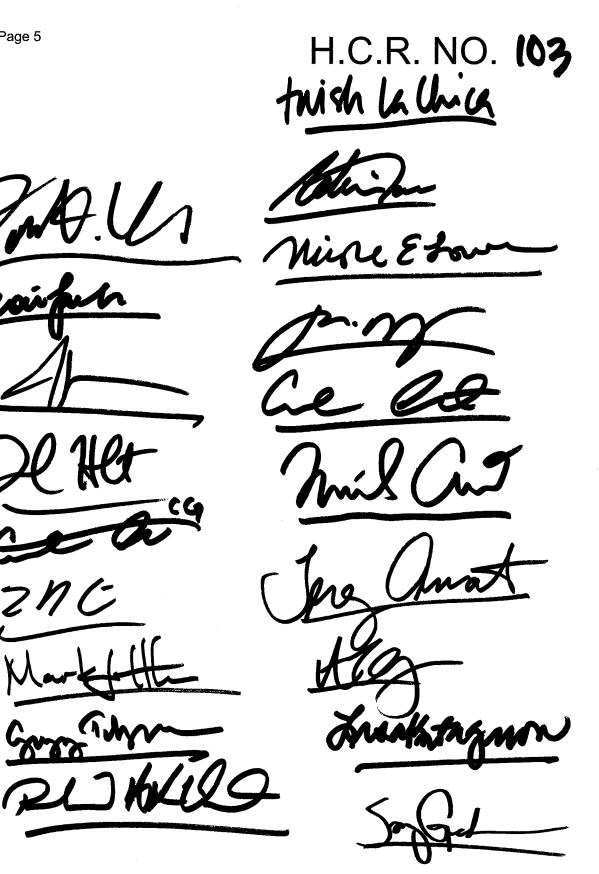
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1 contaminated sites utilizing the Comprehensive Environmental 2 Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process, including but 3 not limited to expanded and expedited site investigations, 4 environmental sampling, and contamination characterization and 5 remediation of PFAS-contaminated sites; and 6

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
Secretary of Defense, Commander of the United States IndoPacific Command, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, Director of
Health, the head of each counties' respective Department of
Environmental Management, and the head of each counties'
respective Board or Department of Water Supply.

Benne Bann 16 OFFERED BY: Madrie K. Mr. 2023-2076 HCR HMSO-2

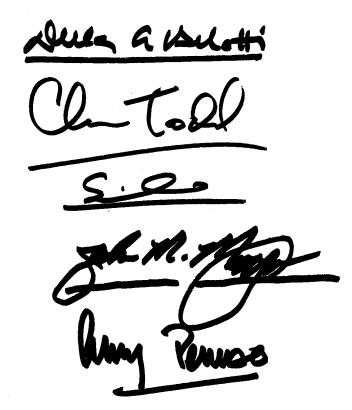




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