
HOUSE 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

13
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

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



1 by the nonprofit organizations Center for Environmental Health
2 and Clean Production Action; and
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4 WHEREAS, the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act
5 authorized the phase-out of the military's use of PFAS-based
6 AFFF beginning in 2024 and banned military training exercises
7 with PFAS-based AFFF and the use of PFAS in Meals Ready-to-Eat
8 food packaging; now, therefore,
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
12 Session of 2023, that all branches of the United States military
13 operating in Hawaii are urged to implement changes in their
14 policies to reduce, to the extent possible, the use of products
15 containing PFAS; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is
18 requested to immediately discontinue the use of AFFF in any
19 event that is not deemed an emergency and to properly dispose of
20 all personal protective equipment potentially contaminated with
21 PFAS in accordance with United States Environmental Protection
22 Agency guidelines; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is
25 requested to share all information relating to past or present
26 PFAS releases to the environment or significant human or
27 environmental exposures of PFAS-containing materials, including
28 AFFF, in a proactive, timely, and transparent manner; provided
29 that the information shared with state, county, and federal
30 agencies and the public includes but is not limited to:
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- 32 (1) Details and timing of the release;
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34 (2) Trade name, ingredients, and amount of product
35 released; and
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37 (3) Any control measures instituted, sampling data, and
38 plans for remediation; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is
41 requested to expand and hasten its evaluation of possible PFAS-
42 contaminated sites utilizing the Comprehensive Environmental



1 Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process, including but
 2 not limited to expanded and expedited site investigations,
 3 environmental sampling, and contamination characterization and
 4 remediation of PFAS-contaminated sites; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 7 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
 8 Defense, Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command,
 9 Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, Director of Health, the head
 10 of each counties' respective Department of Environmental
 11 Management, and the head of each counties' respective Board or
 12 Department of Water Supply.
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