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# 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

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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

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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

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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

10  
11 WHEREAS, on March 14, 2023, the United States Environmental  
12 Protection Agency proposed a maximum contaminant limit of four  
13 parts per trillion for perfluorooctanoic acid and  
14 perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and a hazard index of 1.0 for  
15 mixtures of perfluorononanoic acid, hexafluoropropylene oxide  
16 dimer acid, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid, and perfluorobutane  
17 sulfonic acid; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, in November 2022, at least one thousand one  
20 hundred gallons of toxic PFAS-containing AFFF concentrate  
21 spilled at Red Hill, where another firefighting foam spill had  
22 already occurred in September 2020; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, in 2022, the Hawaii Army National Guard and  
25 National Guard Bureau released findings from a site inspection  
26 at the Waiawa facility showing PFAS exceedance levels in  
27 groundwater samplings; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, the Army National Guard is now verifying whether  
30 drinking water wells on downgradient properties have been  
31 affected; and

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33 WHEREAS, PFAS contamination can endanger the groundwater  
34 and drinking water supply of thousands of Hawaii residents; and

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36 WHEREAS, various PFAS have been detected in soil and  
37 groundwater samples across the State that in some samples show  
38 levels that may pose a public health concern; and

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40 WHEREAS, PFAS-free alternatives for AFFF are widely  
41 available on the market today, and thirty-five PFAS-free and  
42 environmentally preferred products from eleven manufacturers



1 have already met GreenScreen Certified Standards, which is a  
2 globally recognized tool for chemical hazard assessment created  
3 by the nonprofit organizations Center for Environmental Health  
4 and Clean Production Action; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act  
7 authorized the phase-out of the military's use of PFAS-based  
8 AFFF beginning in 2024 and banned military training exercises  
9 with PFAS-based AFFF and the use of PFAS in Meals Ready-to-Eat  
10 food packaging; now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
14 Session of 2023, that all branches of the United States military  
15 operating in Hawaii are urged to implement changes in their  
16 policies to reduce, to the extent possible, the use of products  
17 containing PFAS; and

18  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is  
20 requested to immediately discontinue the use of AFFF in any  
21 event that is not deemed an emergency and to properly dispose of  
22 all personal protective equipment potentially contaminated with  
23 PFAS in accordance with United States Environmental Protection  
24 Agency guidelines; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is  
27 requested to share all information relating to past or present  
28 PFAS releases to the environment or significant human or  
29 environmental exposures of PFAS-containing materials, including  
30 AFFF, in a proactive, timely, and transparent manner; provided  
31 that the information shared with state, county, and federal  
32 agencies and the public includes but is not limited to:

- 33  
34 (1) Details and timing of the release;  
35  
36 (2) Trade name, ingredients, and amount of product  
37 released; and  
38  
39 (3) Any control measures instituted, sampling data, and  
40 plans for remediation; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is  
2 requested to expand and hasten its evaluation of possible PFAS-  
3 contaminated sites utilizing the Comprehensive Environmental  
4 Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process, including but  
5 not limited to expanded and expedited site investigations,  
6 environmental sampling, and contamination characterization and  
7 remediation of PFAS-contaminated sites; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of  
11 Defense, Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command,  
12 Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, Director of Health, the head  
13 of each county's respective department of environmental  
14 management, and the head of each county's respective board or  
15 department of water supply.

