
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
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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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2 WHEREAS, as far back as the 1970s, studies conducted by the
3 United States Department of Defense showed that AFFF contains
4 PFAS and is toxic; and

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6 WHEREAS, over ten reports have been published since then by
7 different military organizations recognizing the danger of AFFF,
8 and by the 1980s, animal studies conducted by the United States
9 Air Force revealed that PFAS could pose environmental and health
10 risks; and

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12 WHEREAS, on June 15, 2022, the United States Environmental
13 Protection Agency issued interim updated drinking water health
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

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

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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

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

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

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

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39 WHEREAS, PFAS-free alternatives for AFFF are widely
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



1 globally recognized tool for chemical hazard assessment created
2 by the nonprofit organizations Center for Environmental Health
3 and Clean Production Action; and

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

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

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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
23 Agency guidelines; and

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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
28 environmental exposures of PFAS-containing materials, including
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:

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33 (1) Details and timing of the release;
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35 (2) Trade name, ingredients, and amount of product
36 released; and
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38 (3) Any control measures instituted, sampling data, and
39 plans for remediation; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States military is
42 requested to expand and hasten its evaluation of possible PFAS-



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

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
9 Secretary of Defense, Commander of the United States Indo-
10 Pacific Command, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, Director of
11 Health, the head of each counties' respective Department of
12 Environmental Management, and the head of each counties'
13 respective Board or Department of Water Supply.

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OFFERED BY:

Madame K. Naha

Ma

David Carnas

J. A.

Bird Kolyashi

Elle Wadman

Luana Hunt

Pekala

[Signature]

Barbara Ann

[Signature]

Hakalua

Ky a. Ah

Kristi Pak

Jan Johnson

Kindelchingue

[Signature]



H.C.R. NO. 103
Trish LaChica

Tom U

Patricia

Nice E Low

Jeanne

Janet

A

Lee Lee

DL Hlt

Michelle

CC

Jerry Anant

ZNC

Heg

Mark Hlt

Franktaguon

Gary Fisher

RL Hlt

Jeff



John Egan
Anthony
NMB

Debra A. Malott

Chen Todd

S. J.

John M. [Signature]

Henry Penrose

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