
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A PER- AND
POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES TESTING GRANT PROGRAM IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a
2 group of synthetic organofluorine chemical compounds that have
3 multiple fluorine atoms attached to an alkyl chain that are
4 increasingly becoming understood to pose serious toxicity to
5 humans and other organisms in the environment; and

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7 WHEREAS, in 2021, the Organization for Economic Co-
8 operation and Development (OECD) identified at least 4,730
9 distinct PFAS chemicals; and

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11 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection
12 Agency's toxicity database lists 14,735 unique PFAS, while
13 PubChem, an open database of chemical molecules, lists more than
14 6,000,000 that fit under the 2021 revised definition of PFAS by
15 the OECD; and

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17 WHEREAS, PFAS include perfluorosulfonic acids, such as
18 perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), and the perfluorocarboxylic
19 acids like perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); and

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21 WHEREAS, many PFAS chemicals were used in the mid-20th
22 century in products and on materials due to their enhanced
23 water-resistant and oil-resistant properties, like Teflon or
24 aqueous film forming foam, before the environmental impact and
25 toxicity to human and mammalian life had been studied; and

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27 WHEREAS, PFOS, PFOA, and other PFAS chemicals are commonly
28 described as persistent organic pollutants or "forever
29 chemicals" because they remain in the environment for long
30 periods of time; and

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1 WHEREAS, residues of these "forever chemicals" have been
2 detected in humans and wildlife, prompting concern about impacts
3 on health; and

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5 WHEREAS, according to the National Academies of Sciences,
6 Engineering, and Medicine, PFAS exposure is linked to an
7 increased risk of dyslipidemia (abnormally high cholesterol),
8 suboptimal antibody response, reduced infant and fetal growth,
9 and higher rates of kidney cancer; and

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11 WHEREAS, health concerns related to PFAS have resulted in
12 numerous lawsuits, where PFAS producers such as 3M, Chemours,
13 DuPont, and Corteva have reached billion-dollar agreements
14 leading to the use of PFAS being regulated in several parts of
15 the world, with some plans to phase them out entirely from
16 products; and

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18 WHEREAS, chemical corporations that produce PFAS generate
19 approximately \$4,000,000,000 in annual profits from the
20 production of these chemicals in the United States, but they
21 impose monumental costs on taxpayers and the health of the
22 planet's human and animal populations; and

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24 WHEREAS, of these costs, the most expensive are remediation
25 efforts to fight PFAS soil and water contamination, followed by
26 the healthcare costs to treat cancer, thyroid disease, kidney
27 dysfunction, birth defects, and other major medical conditions
28 that have been linked to even low levels of exposure to PFAS,
29 and followed by the costs of monitoring of PFAS pollution in
30 human and other life forms; and

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32 WHEREAS, the International Chemical Secretariat has
33 estimated that the societal cost of PFAS exceeds
34 \$17,500,000,000,000 annually; and

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36 WHEREAS, PFAS have been frequently documented in marine
37 species that are commonly consumed by humans, posing potential
38 health risks, and studies on the bioaccumulation in certain
39 species are important to determine daily tolerable limits for
40 human consumption, and where those limits may be exceeded
41 causing potential health risks; and
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1 WHEREAS, the State may face economic and food source
2 consequences due to potential future advisories, fishing limits,
3 or closures for certain species due to their PFAS content; and
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5 WHEREAS, as of August 2023, twenty-five states have
6 established enforceable drinking water standards related to
7 PFAS, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency is
8 conducting a study from 2023 to 2025 to collect data on PFAS and
9 potentially develop additional regulations; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
14 Health is requested to establish a PFAS Testing Grant Program in
15 collaboration with the University of Hawaii; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PFAS Testing Grant Program
18 is requested to be designed to provide funding to assist local
19 communities, businesses, and residents throughout the State in
20 obtaining testing services and biological sampling for PFAS
21 detection; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and
24 University of Hawaii are requested to seek funding for the PFAS
25 Testing Grant Program from the United States Congress, through
26 communication with the Hawaii congressional delegation; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
29 requested to also seek other federal or grant funding for the
30 establishment of the PFAS Testing Grant Program; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PFAS Testing Grant Program
33 is requested to be developed based on criteria that reflect the
34 best practices and most recent scientific evidence relating to
35 the preservation of safe food sources and natural environments;
36 and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
39 requested to adopt rules to carry out the purposes of
40 establishing the PFAS Testing Grant Program and to ensure that
41 all grants provided under the Program adhere to standards that



1 promote fairness, transparency, and compliance with applicable
2 laws; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional
6 delegation, the Governor, Director of Health, and President of
7 the University of Hawaii System.

