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# SENATE 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



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

31  
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,  
13 that the Department of Health is requested to establish a PFAS  
14 Testing Grant Program in collaboration with the University of  
15 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 Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation,  
6 the Governor, Director of Health, and President of the  
7 University of Hawaii System.

