
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY TO EXTEND THE RENEWAL PERIOD FOR SECRETARIAL DESIGNEE HEALTH CARE AUTHORIZATIONS RELATED TO THE RED HILL WATER CONTAMINATION CRISIS AND TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS.

1 WHEREAS, the contamination of a significant portion of
2 Oahu's drinking water supply from the release of fuel from the
3 Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in November 2021, created
4 significant health concerns for military families, civilian
5 residents, and United States Department of Defense personnel
6 living in military housing and surrounding communities; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Red Hill water contamination crisis resulted
9 in numerous reports of health symptoms among affected residents,
10 including headaches, nausea, respiratory irritation, skin
11 conditions, and other medical issues associated with potential
12 fuel exposure; and
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14 WHEREAS, protecting the health and well-being of
15 servicemembers and their families is essential to maintaining
16 military readiness and ensuring that those who serve the nation
17 are supported by a strong and reliable system of medical care;
18 and
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20 WHEREAS, the federal government owes a duty of care to
21 servicemembers, military families, and civilian personnel who
22 were exposed to contaminated drinking water while residing in
23 military housing; and
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25 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense, through
26 the Defense Health Agency, authorized expanded access to
27 civilian medical providers through Secretarial Designee letters



1 administered under TRICARE to ensure that affected individuals
2 could receive timely medical care; and

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4 WHEREAS, these Secretarial Designee authorizations
5 currently require periodic renewal, which may create uncertainty
6 and barriers for patients and health care providers seeking
7 continuity of care; and

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9 WHEREAS, many affected individuals continue to experience
10 ongoing health concerns and require long-term monitoring,
11 evaluation, and treatment related to potential fuel exposure;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, many servicemembers and military families affected
15 by the Red Hill water contamination crisis have since relocated
16 to military installations across the United States; and

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18 WHEREAS, in many areas of the continental United States,
19 there are limited or no military treatment facilities nearby,
20 making it more difficult for affected individuals to access
21 military health services; and

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23 WHEREAS, reliance on civilian medical providers is often
24 necessary in these regions; however, some affected individuals
25 have reported challenges with referrals, coverage, and
26 reimbursement for care related to the Red Hill fuel exposure;
27 and

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29 WHEREAS, improved coordination between military treatment
30 facilities and civilian providers, including the use of "warm
31 handoff" referral practices and coordinated patient transitions,
32 would help ensure continuity of care and better health outcomes
33 for affected individuals; and

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35 WHEREAS, establishing reimbursement or voucher programs for
36 medical services related to the Red Hill fuel exposure could
37 help ensure equitable access to health care for affected
38 individuals, regardless of their geographic location and whether
39 a military treatment facility is available nearby; now,
40 therefore,

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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 3 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the United States
 4 Department of Defense and Defense Health Agency are urged to
 5 extend the renewal period for Secretarial Designee health care
 6 authorizations related to the Red Hill water contamination
 7 crisis to a two-year renewal cycle to promote stability and
 8 continuity of care for affected individuals; and

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 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
 11 Defense is urged to improve access to health care for
 12 individuals affected by the Red Hill water contamination crisis
 13 by:

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 15 (1) Expanding access to civilian medical providers under
 16 TRICARE;
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 18 (2) Implementing coordinated referral practices, including
 19 "warm handoffs", between military treatment facilities
 20 and civilian providers to improve care coordination
 21 and patient transitions;
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 23 (3) Promoting continuity of care and long-term medical
 24 monitoring for individuals affected by Red Hill fuel
 25 exposure; and
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 27 (4) Exploring or establishing reimbursement or voucher
 28 programs to assist individuals who incur out-of-pocket
 29 costs for medical services related to Red Hill fuel
 30 exposure, particularly for those residing in areas
 31 without military treatment facilities nearby; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 35 United States, United States Secretary of Defense, Director of
 36 the Defense Health Agency, and Hawaii's Congressional
 37 delegation.
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OFFERED BY:



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