



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JOSHUA BOOTH GREEN M.D.

June 4th, 2007

TO THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR LINDA LINGLE:

Dear Governor,

As Chair of the House Health Committee and as the author of HB 1452 (which stalled in committee this April due to limited state resources to properly fund the initiative), which called for testing for Depleted Uranium at or near all of our military bases in Hawaii, I was very pleased to hear the military's recently announced plans to do such testing themselves. I commend them for initiating such a necessary project.

There are a lot of questions and concerns about the reliability of testing for depleted uranium when conducted solely by the military - which leads me to the point of this letter.

Though I do not personally share all of the concerns that the environmentalist/activist community has expressed to me, I have become concerned as the public is frantically buying Geiger counters to do their own monitoring. This will doubtlessly lead to errors in reporting and the data won't have the scientific rigor necessary for an issue this important.

In order to allay the community concerns which I have alluded to, and to reassure the people about the reliability of the military's tests for Depleted Uranium in Hawaii, I would like to formally request that our own Hawaii Department of Health work WITH the military on their Depleted Uranium testing project.

To truly gain the public's trust and confidence, I am also requesting that the Department of Health pick their own Dr. Lorrin Pang to be involved in this work. Dr. Pang, as you may know is a retired Lt. Colonel of the Medical Corp who did similar work as the former Chief for the Army's Preventive Medical Service at Tripler Medical Center. Dr. Pang is presently serving Hawaii as the District Health Officer of Maui County. You may have even appointed him.

He seems to be the right person for this collaboration.

It is my opinion that if Dr. Pang is involved with the Depleted Uranium testing project, the public will have increased confidence in the results, whatever they turn out to be.

Nothing in this letter should be construed as personal mistrust on my part, of the military's scientific team, for this project. I am simply responding to many, many letters and calls from constituents statewide, who would like this to be a collaborative effort.

I do not know if the Military will allow or want the state DOH to be involved as I have requested, but I do think it would be appropriate and sensible.

Sincerely,

Josh

cc:

Chiyome Fukino, Director of Health - Calvin Say, Speaker of the House - Colleen Hanabusa, Senate President - Lorrin Pang, Maui DOH - Pete Hoffman, Council Chair, Big Island - appropriate military leaders in Hawaii - Sierra Club President

Representative Joshua Booth Green M.D.

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