Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

RESOLUTION 81

Sponsored by:

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N.R. 81
NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
40TH CONSTITUTION REGULAR SESSION, 2019

Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpin Ke Ejukaan

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION Calling on Nitijela to adopt the Report from Columbia University titled “Radiation in Parts of Marshall Islands is higher than Chernobyl” that was conducted and published in 2019.

WHEREAS, In July 15 of 2019, three studies published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) by a Columbia research team, showed that the concentration of nuclear isotopes on some of the islands was well above legal exposure limit established in agreements between the U.S and Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

WHEREAS, sixty-seven nuclear tests were conducted on two atolls in the northern Marshall Islands between 1946 and 1958 namely Enewetak and Bikini Atolls, the first-ever hydrogen bomb test, with the code name Ivy Mike, was tested on Enewetak in 1951. The U.S. conducted its largest hydrogen bomb test on Bikini Atoll - the 1954 Castle Bravo bomb, which was more than 1,000 times more powerful than Little Boy, the uranium weapon that decimated Hiroshima, resulting in a contamination and hazardous for habitant; and

WHEREAS; the Islands of Runit and Enjebi in Enewetak Atoll, as well as on Bikini and Naen Islands of Rongelap Atoll, had high concentrations of certain radioactive isotopes in the soil. (These four islands had radioactive plutonium levels that were higher than those found in Fukushima and Chernobyl; and
WHEREAS, in 1954 at Bikin Atoll, "Castle Bravo" was 1,000 more powerful than either of the bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and

WHEREAS; in the late 1970s, in an effort to clean up the radioactive debris left by those explosions, 111,000 cubic yards of soil from the Bikini and Rongelap atolls and deposited it on Runit Island. Its resting place would be in a 350-foot wide crater that had been created; and

WHEREAS, Researchers found concentrations of plutonium-238 on Naen Island located in Rongelap atoll, raising the possibility that the island was used as unreported dumping ground. The Plutonium-238 is a radioisotope associated with nuclear waste and not generally with fallout; and

WHEREAS, Columbia University researchers report that levels of radioactive particles in soil in parts of the Marshall Islands exceed the recommended safe limit for humans and that "Castle Brave" detonation site has the highest levels in particular Naen Island located in Rongelap Atoll; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia University study suggests that, for now, people not return to Rongelap or Bikini atolls, where Naen and Bikini are located and to ensure safe relocation to Bikini Atolls, further environmental remediation appears to be necessary to avoid potentially harmful exposure to radiation; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, through their Nitijela in its 40th Constitutional Regular Session, to adopt, and the Nitijela hereby adopts the Report from Columbia University titled "Radiation in Parts of Marshall Islands is higher than Chernobyl".
NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
40TH CONSTITUTION REGULAR SESSION, 2019

RESOLUTION 81

SIGNATURES

DATE: 9/11/19  INTRODUCED BY KENNETH AKOR
Print Name
Signature

DATE: 9/11/19  INTRODUCED BY ELDON H. NATE
Print Name
Signature

DATE: ________  INTRODUCED BY ___________
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