

Pacific Islanders adopt Tenorio's resolution vs. France

APIL members protest nuclear testing

TEN US territories and other islanders have adopted a resolution introduced by CNMI's Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio protesting France's nuclear testing in the Mururoa Atoll.

Adopted in a recent Association of Pacific Island Legislatures conference, the parliamentarians of the different island groups called on French President Jaques Chirac to stop the testing of nuclear arms in the French Polynesia.

In the resolution, Resolution No. 14GA-HE-03, the delegates expressed their "outrage and dismay" over the resumption of the testing of nuclear weapons in the atoll, located a few hundred miles south of Hawaii and Marshalls, two of the members of APIL.

According to the resolution, the testing contravenes with international consensus on nuclear arms testing that threaten the lives of the Pacific islanders.

It also claimed that nuclear detonations "have undoubtedly damaged the bedrock of Mururoa Atoll increasing the danger with each new detonation of toxic levels of radioactive pollution that will escape into the environment."

In addition, nuclear testing, the resolution said, endangers

the foundation of food chain in the oceans, threatens the lands and waters with radioactive contamination while making the islanders virtual guinea pigs of these lethal weapons.

The same resolution added that France's testing until the last possible moment before the signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is an "outright defiance of the standards of civilized conduct and national responsibility and an act of the most cynical indifference and deepest hypocrisy."

As peoples of the Pacific Islanders, they said they "deplore the French government's decision to continue its nuclear testing on Mururoa and stand incredulous of the raw arrogance of neighboring Pacific islands, doing beneath the atoll of Mururoa what France would fear to do beneath its own soil."

They also expressed their call to Chirac to "heed the voice of the people of the Pacific who are weary of being your guinea pigs and stop the testing of nuclear devices in the Pacific once and for all."

According to APIL, the French government has conducted 130 of its 187 nuclear tests on Mururoa.

Says delegates:

ConCon 'strengthens' gov't ethical standards

(CONCON)—Delegates to the Third Constitutional Convention put teeth in the ethical standards required of public officials in all three branches of the Commonwealth government and all local governments.

Article 17, as amended by the Convention, mandates that the executive branch, the judicial branch of the Commonwealth government, and all three local governments provide appropriate regulations to ensure that the constitutionally required ethical standards are met.

Taxpayer lawsuits under Article 10 are available for enforcement of these constitutional standards if government agencies do not issue proper standards and regulations for their employees, and if public funds are expended by government employees in violation of these basic constitutional standards.

An advisory commission on the judiciary, established under Article 4, may recommend that the governor remove, suspend, or otherwise sanction a judge for violation of these requirements.

"It is very difficult for a constitution to provide detailed rules for all kinds of government positions," explained Felix R. Nogis, chairman of the committee on executive branch and local government, which pushed the new provisions through the Convention. "For that reason, we

adopted an innovative approach of setting basic constitutional standards and then requiring each branch to put together the necessary laws or regulations to make sure that government employees, both high and low, comply with the constitutional standards."

The three constitutional standards cover all important aspects of government service. Under Article 17, government employees must respect the rights of all persons, must avoid the appearance of impropriety, and must not use their government position for private gain or advantage.

The constitutional requirements reach all government officers and employees, including the Legislature and all its employees, the mayors and all their employees, and every office or agency of government including all autonomous agencies.

"The delegates were particularly concerned about reaching local government officials and autonomous agencies," Nogis said, "to ensure that all government funds are protected from improper uses and to require high standards that could be enforced."

The constitutional requirement that government employees "respect the rights of all persons" mean that each government employee has a personal responsibility, from the time they take the oath of office, to ensure that nothing done as an official act has the effect of unlawful discrimination or limiting established personal rights.

"This is an essential of government service," Nogis said. "Each government agency must assure through its regulations that its employees know the rights that

persons in the Commonwealth have, and respect those rights in their government work."

The constitutional requirement that government employees "avoid the appearance of impropriety" means that activities calling into question the integrity of the government must be avoided even if the particular activity is not specifically illegal.

"The Courts have had rules about appearance of impropriety," said post-convention chairman Herman T. Guerrero, "and the delegates thought it was important to extend this concept to the other branches of government. It is essential to good government that our people not think the government is corrupt. Appearance of impropriety can lead to a harmful impression."

Each branch of government will have to define the appearance of impropriety concept within its own context and be sure that this Constitutional standard is met.

The constitutional requirement that government employees not use their government positions for private gain or advantage is a basic concept that has been in the Constitution since the first convention in 1976. The amendments extend these constitutional mandates to local government officials and employees, the Washington representative, and every other autonomous agency.



Nogis



Guerrero

Ice: What does it do?

ICE is an extreme pure form of methamphetamine. Information gathered in Honolulu has revealed that various forms of ice are being used.

*The most common is the translucent or clear rock crystal. This form is water based and burns quickly, leaving a milky white residue on the inside of the pipe bowl.

*There have also been reports of a yellowish crystal meth being available on the street. This form is oil-based. It burns longer and leaves a blackish or brownish residue in the pipe bowl.

Other street names for the drug include crystal, crystal meth, glass, shabu, meth, ice cream, and batu.

Unlike the cocaine and crack epidemics, the ice storm is moving from west to east in the United States. A report in USA