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Honolulu, Hawaii
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Chairman Akaka and Distinguished Panel Members:

My name is Charles L. Clark. I am a resident of Kailua.

I am a U.S. Navy Veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict. I served in the Pacific and was one of the first Americans, not counting on-site Prisoners of War, to enter Nagasaki after the August 9, 1945 atomic bombing.

I am currently the President of Radiated Veterans of America, the only Internal Revenue Service recognized 501(c)(19) Veterans Service Organization representing statutory war veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during service to this nation.

The United States, by and large, has treated Radiated Veterans poorly. While laws have been passed, regulations created, and huge sums of money have been spent addressing ionizing radiation, precious few Veterans have been recognized, medically cared for, or compensated for their losses.

This is, I believe, because there has been little continuity in addressing

laws defining and addressing “Atomic Veterans”, being those potentially exposed to radiation during atmospheric, and a limited number of underground “tests”, and POWs and occupying troops at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Yet the Veterans Administration’s Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards, in 1993, noted 11 categories of Veterans, in addition to those statutorily listed as “Atomic Veterans” who could have been exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of their service.

Radiation is radiation, and the system, rather than treating all Radiated Veterans equally demonstrably discriminates between Veterans who have been exposed to ionizing radiation.

This is true even within the statutory “Atomic Veteran” classification where there is discrimination between those with so-called “presumptive” cancers and “non-presumptive” diseases recognized in the medical community as radiogenic in origin, for purposes of compensation.

The non-presumptive diseases require the Veteran, or his/her survivor to be subject to a Dose Reconstruction, admitted by government as “uncertain”, and expensive, before any compensation is awarded ... and much more often than not, the claim is denied.

Dose Reconstruction is flawed, yet it is kept alive by an unholy alliance between the Veterans’ Administration, the Defense Threat Reduction

Agency of the Department of Defense and its private contractor SAIC.

Even some members of the congressionally mandated Veterans Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction advocate that all “Atomic Veterans” be treated as a Special Cohort.

I strongly suggest this Special Cohort classification be adopted in law, and expanded to include all Veterans whose military duties put them at risk from ionizing radiation, including the 11 classifications recognized by the VA study group in 1993.

Further I strongly urge that the Dose Reconstruction program, which is fatally flawed, because the history of dose readings is itself flawed, be scrapped. Too much time, and too much precious capital, has been spent on this program.

The shortcomings of Dose Reconstruction, primarily based on theoretical statistics, and in too few instances actual recorded radiation readings, were recognized by the 2003 report issued by the National Research Council. The report was titled “A Review of the Dose Reconstruction Program of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency”.

Further I urge Congress to give more deference to the medical community and less to the physical scientists, in recognizing the human

damage caused by ionizing radiation, which impacts not only those subject to radiation, but even unto progeny affected by genetic changes that occurred when a Veteran was exposed.

Also, I urge Congress to merge the various programs directed at Veterans and Civilians such as “Downwinders”, Uranium Miners, and Defense Workers, so that the nation can properly address the scourge brought about by the uncontrolled introduction of atomic energy, and the human experiments conducted to satisfy curiosities.

As an Atomic Veteran, who was damaged by residual radiation following the bombing of Nagasaki (I have, for example, had 160 skin cancers removed from my face and neck, and have other maladies the medical community attributes to ionizing radiation) I can ask no less of Congress, our elected representatives, for fellow Veterans and all Humankind.

I understand your time to listen today is short, and that you have many issues before you. I will, however be glad to respond, either verbally, or to any questions you may have, either now, or as follow-up, in writing if necessary.

The Internet Web Site for Radiated Veterans of America is www.radvets.org. That site, which is continually updated, brings together, in much more detail, much of what I have brought forth today.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully Submitted

Charles L. Clark, president Radiated Veterans of America, Inc.