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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ENACTMENT OF THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY  
REUNIFICATION ACT OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT GRANTS THE  
PRIORITY ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO VETERANS' CHILDREN WITH  
APPROVED IMMIGRATION PETITIONS.

1           WHEREAS, in the Military Order of July 26, 1941, President  
2 Franklin D. Roosevelt drafted members of the Philippine  
3 Commonwealth Armed Forces and Special Philippine Scouts into the  
4 United States (U.S.) Armed Forces, joining the military assault  
5 against the invading enemies to defend the Philippines to  
6 preserve democracy; and  
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8           WHEREAS, throughout the 1941-1946 war, tens of thousands of  
9 Filipino soldiers were held prisoner, risking their lives and  
10 the lives of their families, while maintaining underground  
11 battles against the invading Japanese forces and boldly  
12 assisting the U.S. Armed Forces in its campaign to liberate the  
13 Philippines; and  
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15           WHEREAS, many of the Filipino World War II veterans are now  
16 at least 79 years old, are of low-income, have permanent  
17 disabilities, and received honorable discharges from the  
18 military after serving more than 90 days of active duty military  
19 service during World War II, making them eligible to qualify for  
20 Veterans Administration benefits and services; and  
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22           WHEREAS, President Bill Clinton, on October 17, 1996,  
23 President George W. Bush, on July 26, 2001, and the U.S.  
24 Congress, on September 13, 2006, recognized and proclaimed the  
25 vital role that the Filipino wartime soldiers played in  
26 assisting the U.S. Armed Forces defeat the invading Japanese  
27 forces in defense of freedom; and



1           WHEREAS, the Immigration Act of 1990, awarded U.S.  
2 citizenship to each veteran but excluded the veterans'  
3 dependents, unfairly requiring that each veteran submit an  
4 immigrant petition with supporting affidavits requesting that  
5 the veterans' dependents be permitted to live with the veteran;  
6 and  
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8           WHEREAS, upon the death of a veteran, death benefits should  
9 be transferred to the beneficiary of record as indicated in the  
10 immigration petition and the beneficiary should be exempted from  
11 the immigration law which attempts to nullify the immigration  
12 petition upon death of the veteran; now, therefore,  
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14           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
16 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature urges  
17 the President of the United States and the United States  
18 Congress to enact the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act  
19 or similar legislation that grants the priority issuance of  
20 visas to veterans' children with approved immigration petitions;  
21 and  
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23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
25 United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,  
26 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each  
27 member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation.

