
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ENACTMENT OF THE FILIPINO AMERICAN VETERANS EQUITY ACT OF 2007, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDES FEDERAL VETERANS BENEFITS AND SERVICES TO FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS.

1 WHEREAS, in the Military Order of July 27, 1941, President
2 Franklin D. Roosevelt drafted the Philippine Commonwealth Armed
3 Forces and the Special Philippine Scouts into the United States
4 (U.S.) Armed Forces joining the military assault against the
5 Japanese Forces in defense of America's democracy; and
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7 WHEREAS, throughout 1941-1946, tens of thousands of
8 Filipino soldiers were held prisoner, risking their lives and
9 the lives of their families, while maintaining underground
10 battles against the invading Japanese forces and boldly
11 assisting the U.S. Armed Forces in its campaign to liberate the
12 Philippines; and
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14 WHEREAS, many of the Filipino wartime veterans are now
15 permanently disabled, yet many received honorable discharges
16 from the military after serving more than 90 days on active duty
17 military service during World War II, making them eligible for
18 federal veterans benefits and services; and
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20 WHEREAS, President Bill Clinton on October 17, 1996,
21 President George W. Bush on July 26, 2001, and the U.S. Congress
22 on September 13, 2006, recognized and proclaimed the vital role
23 that the Filipino wartime soldiers played in assisting the U.S.
24 Armed Forces to defeat the invading Japanese forces in defense
25 of freedom; and
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27 WHEREAS, it is long overdue to correct this injustice and
28 provide war-time veterans benefits and services to the Filipino
29 wartime veterans for their valiant service during World War II;
30 now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature urges
4 the U.S. Congress and President of the United States to pass and
5 enact the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007, or similar
6 legislation that provides federal veterans benefits and services
7 to Filipino World War II veterans; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
11 United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
12 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each
13 member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation.

