

MAR 01 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ENACTMENT OF H.R. 901/S. 4070, "FILIPINO FAMILY REUNIFICATION", 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 the members of the Philippine
3 Commonwealth Armed Forces and the Special Philippine Scouts into
4 the United States 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 United States Armed Forces in its campaign to
13 liberate the Philippines; and

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15 WHEREAS, many of the Filipino World War II veterans are now
16 at least seventy-nine years old or older, are of low-income, and
17 many have permanent disabilities, and received honorable
18 discharges from the military after serving more than ninety days
19 on active duty military service during World War II, making them
20 eligible to qualify for Veterans Administration benefits and
21 services; and

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23 WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton on October 17, 1996,
24 President George W. Bush on July 26, 2001, and the United States
25 Congress by H.R. 622/S. 307 on September 13, 2006, recognized
26 and proclaimed the vital role that the Filipino wartime soldiers
27 played in assisting the United States Armed Forces defeat the
28 invading Japanese forces in defense of freedom; and

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1 WHEREAS, by the Immigration Act of 1990, U.S. citizenship
 2 was awarded to each veteran but excluded the veterans'
 3 dependants, 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 the veteran, death benefits
 9 should be transferred to the beneficiary of record as indicated
 10 in the immigration petition and the beneficiary shall be
 11 exempted from the immigration law which attempts to nullify the
 12 immigration petition on the death of the veteran; now,
 13 therefore,

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 15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
 16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
 17 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature urges
 18 the United States Congress and the United States President
 19 George W. Bush to enact H.R. 901/S. 4070 "Filipino Family
 20 Reunification" or similar legislation that grants the priority
 21 issuance of visas to veterans' children with approved
 22 immigration petitions; and

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 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 26 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
 27 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and
 28 each member of Hawaii's delegation to Congress.

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