

MAR 02 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT S.57 AND H.R.760, ENTITLED THE FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT OF 2007.

1 WHEREAS, on January 4, 2007, Senator Daniel K. Inouye
2 introduced S.57 in the United States Senate, which was referred
3 to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which was referred
4 to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

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6 WHEREAS, on January 31, 2007, United States Representative
7 Filner, on behalf of Representatives Neil Abercrombie and Mazie
8 Hirono, along with other members, introduced H.R.760 in the
9 United States House of Representatives, which was referred to
10 the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and

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12 WHEREAS, the short title of S.57 and H.R.760 is the
13 "Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007"; and

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15 WHEREAS, S.57 and H.R.760, would amend title 38, United
16 States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military
17 forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines
18 and the Philippine Scouts to have been on active service for
19 purposes of benefits under programs administered by the
20 Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

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22 WHEREAS, S.57 and H.R.760, in recognition of the courage
23 and loyalty of the Filipino troops who fought along side
24 America's Armed Forces in the Philippines during World War II
25 would in the final analysis, make health benefits available to
26 more of these qualified Filipino veterans; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Hawaii community, particularly the Hawaii-
29 Filipino community cared for and earnestly supported the
30 Filipino veterans of World War II since their arrival in 1992,
31 triggering an awareness in the community that Filipino veterans



1 should be recognized for their selfless service to this nation;
2 and should receive veterans' benefits; and
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4 WHEREAS, there are less than 70,000 Filipino veterans still
5 alive and that the number of veterans is rapidly declining due
6 to their age, as many of them are now in their eighties; and
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8 WHEREAS, despite continuing initiatives and support by the
9 local Filipino community, the Hawaii Congressional delegation,
10 the Hawaii State Legislature, and the Governor, the quest for
11 Filipino veterans' benefits has remained illusive; now,
12 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 President of the
17 United States and the United States Congress are urged to
18 support the passage of S.57 and H.R.760; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
22 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
23 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
24 members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, and the President
25 of the Filipino-American Veterans, Hawaii Chapter.
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