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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ENACTMENT OF H.R. 4574/S. 57, "FILIPINO AMERICAN VETERANS EQUITY ACT OF 2007" OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDES FEDERAL VETERANS BENEFITS AND SERVICES TO THE WORLD WAR II FILIPINO AMERICAN VETERANS AND THE FILIPINO 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 Armed Forces joining the military assault against the Japanese  
5 Forces in defense of America's democracy; and

6  
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 United States Armed Forces in its campaign to  
12 liberate the Philippines; and

13  
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 ninety days on active  
17 duty military service during World War II, making them eligible  
18 for Federal veterans benefits and services; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton on October 17, 1996,  
21 President George W. Bush on July 26, 2001, and the United States  
22 Congress by H.R. 622/S. 387 on September 13, 2006, recognized  
23 and proclaimed the vital role that the Filipino wartime soldiers  
24 played in assisting the United States Armed Forces defeat the  
25 invading Japanese forces in defense of freedom; and

26  
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,

31  
32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,



1 that the Legislature urges the United States Congress and the  
 2 United States President George W. Bush to enact H.R. 4574/S. 57  
 3 "Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007" or similar legislation  
 4 that provides Federal Veterans Benefits and services to Filipino  
 5 World War II Veterans; and

6  
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 8 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
 9 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
 10 the United States House of Representatives, and each member of  
 11 Hawaii's delegation to Congress.

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