
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERAN BURIAL GRANTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a Filipino veteran
2 of the New Filipino Scouts who enlisted between October 6, 1945,
3 and June 30, 1947, who died after June 30, 1994, and who was, at
4 the time of the veteran's death, a United States citizen and a
5 resident of the State of Hawaii, is entitled to receive a burial
6 grant from the office of veterans' services to pay for the cost
7 of:

8 (1) Providing funeral and burial services for the deceased
9 veteran; and

10 (2) Transporting the remains of the deceased veteran to
11 the Philippines.

12 To qualify for this burial grant, however, the Filipino
13 veteran's survivor or an interested party must produce an
14 itemized paid invoice showing the specific services rendered on
15 behalf of the deceased veteran. Because of the tremendous costs
16 required to procure funeral and burial services, as well as
17 transportation to the Philippines, some World War II Filipino
18 veterans, including the families and friends of these veterans,



1 cannot afford to pay for these activities in advance.
2 Consequently, some World War II Filipino veterans will not be
3 able to qualify for these burial grants from the office of
4 veterans' services because they cannot pay upfront costs
5 associated with funeral, burial, and transportation services in
6 order to be reimbursed at a later time. Because of these
7 financial constraints, the bodies of some deceased veterans
8 could not be properly buried until the deceased veteran's
9 survivor or interested parties raised the necessary funds to pay
10 the mortuary for funeral and other related services.

11 The legislature further finds under the Veterans Benefits
12 and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-419),
13 many of the Filipino World War II veterans previously eligible
14 to participate in the state office of veterans' services program
15 regarding transportation of remains to the Philippines are now
16 eligible to be interred in state and federal veterans'
17 cemeteries. Therefore, in fairness to other veterans' survivors
18 who are not offered reimbursement for such transportation needs,
19 the payments made under this Act are properly limited to only
20 those veterans of the New Filipino Scouts who are not eligible
21 for interment in state and federal veterans cemeteries under the
22 Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000.



1 This Act requires the office of veterans' services to
2 provide an alternative to the procedures currently specified in
3 the rules of the office of veterans' services, which only apply
4 in situations where a deceased Filipino veteran's survivor or an
5 interested party has already paid for services rendered on
6 behalf of the deceased veteran, or in situations where the
7 deceased veteran may have purchased a pre-paid funeral and
8 burial plan.

9 The purpose of this Act, through the veterans' burial grant
10 program, is to pay directly to a mortuary or crematory the cost
11 of:

12 (1) Providing funeral and burial services at the request
13 of a qualifying deceased Filipino veteran's survivor
14 or an interested party; and

15 (2) Transporting the veteran's remains to the Philippines,
16 upon the submission of a contract for services on behalf of the
17 deceased veteran and an itemized unpaid invoice. The amount
18 paid for funeral and burial services and transportation costs
19 shall not exceed \$2,500 per person.

20 SECTION 2. Chapter 363, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
22 and to read as follows:



1 "§363- Disbursement of World War II Filipino veterans

2 burial grant funds. (a) At the request of a deceased World War
3 II Filipino veteran's survivor or an interested party, the
4 office of veterans' services shall receive, review, and, as
5 appropriate, approve requests for payments for:

6 (1) Providing funeral and burial services for a New
7 Filipino Scout who died after June 30, 1994; and

8 (2) Transporting the remains of a New Filipino Scout to
9 the Philippines.

10 (b) The office of veterans' services shall establish the
11 amount of burial grant funds that may be disbursed on behalf of
12 a New Filipino Scout; provided that the amount shall not exceed
13 \$2,500 per person.

14 (c) The office of veterans' services shall not expend more
15 than the amount appropriated for the fiscal year to provide
16 burial grants for deceased World War II Filipino veterans.

17 (d) Specific eligibility criteria, application and appeal
18 procedures, service choices, and invoicing arrangements shall be
19 established by the office of veterans' services.

20 (e) Payment shall be authorized by the office of veterans'
21 services upon the submission of an invoice reflecting services



1 that have been satisfactorily performed on behalf of a deceased
2 New Filipino Scout.

3 (f) As used in this section, "New Filipino Scout" means a
4 Filipino veteran who enlisted in the New Filipino Scouts between
5 October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, and who, at the time of the
6 veteran's death, was a United States citizen and a resident of
7 Hawaii."

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the
11 sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for
12 fiscal year 2008-2009 for burial grant funds for deceased
13 Filipino veterans.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
15 of defense, office of veterans' services for the purposes of
16 this Act.

17 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
19 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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Alex M. Sison INTRODUCED BY: Michael J. Mayagay
John M. Agno Manahan John B. Berg
HB LRB 07-0564.doc
Amr J. R. Karaman
Cindy Evans

H.B. NO. 831

Joseph
John M. Moore
RANDY D. SMITH III
~~[Signature]~~
Rick T. R. Cabanilla
Ku

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Report Title:

Filipino Veterans; Burial

Description:

Requires the office of veterans' services, at the request of a survivor or interested party of a deceased Filipino veteran who joined the New Filipino Scouts between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, to make payment directly to a mortuary or crematory for funeral and burial services, and to transport the veteran's remains to the Philippines upon submission of an unpaid invoice. Appropriates moneys.

