
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 World War II
2 Filipino veteran who died after June 30, 1994, and who was, at
3 the time of the veteran's death, a United States citizen and a
4 resident of the State of Hawaii, is entitled to receive a burial
5 grant from the state office of veterans' services to pay for the
6 cost of:

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

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

11 To qualify for this burial grant, however, the World War II
12 Filipino veteran's survivor or an interested party must produce
13 an itemized paid invoice showing the specific services rendered
14 on behalf of the deceased veteran. Because of the tremendous
15 costs required to procure funeral and burial services, as well
16 as the cost of transportation to the Philippines, some World War
17 II Filipino veterans, including the families and friends of
18 these veterans, cannot afford to pay for these activities in



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

10 The legislature further finds that under the Veterans
11 Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law
12 106-419), many World War II Filipino veterans previously
13 eligible to participate in the state office of veterans'
14 services program regarding transportation of remains to the
15 Philippines are now eligible to be interred in state and federal
16 veterans' cemeteries. Therefore, in fairness to other veterans'
17 survivors, the payments made under this Act are properly limited
18 to only those World War II Filipino veterans who are not
19 eligible for interment in state and federal veterans cemeteries
20 under the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of
21 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 World War II Filipino veteran's
5 survivor or an interested party has already paid for services
6 rendered on behalf of the deceased veteran, or in situations
7 where the deceased veteran may have purchased a pre-paid funeral
8 and 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 World War II Filipino
14 veteran's survivor 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 \$2,000 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 shall receive, review, and, as appropriate, approve
5 requests for payments to:

6 (1) Provide funeral and burial services for a World War II
7 Filipino veteran who died after June 30, 1994; and

8 (2) Transport the remains of that World War II Filipino
9 veteran to the Philippines.

10 (b) The office shall establish the amount of burial grant
11 funds that may be disbursed on behalf of a World War II Filipino
12 veteran; provided that the amount shall not exceed \$2,000 per
13 person.

14 (c) The office shall not expend more than the amount
15 appropriated for the fiscal year to provide burial grants for
16 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.

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



1 that have been satisfactorily performed on behalf of a deceased
2 World War II Filipino veteran.

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

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$20,000 or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for burial
11 grant funds for deceased World War II Filipino veterans.

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

15 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

H.B. NO. 831
H.D. 2
S.D. 1
C.D. 1

Report Title:

Filipino Veterans; Burial

Description:

Requires the office of veterans' services, at the request of a survivor or interested party of a deceased World War II Filipino veteran, 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 itemized unpaid invoice. Appropriates moneys. (HB831 CD1)

