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# 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 these burial grants from the office  
3 of 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 who are not offered reimbursement for such  
18 transportation needs, the payments made under this Act are  
19 properly limited to only those World War II Filipino veterans  
20 who are not eligible for interment in state and federal veterans  
21 cemeteries under the Veterans Benefits and Health Care  
22 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 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 \$ 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 World War  
7           II Filipino veteran who died after June 30, 1994; and  
8           (2) Transporting the remains of a World War II Filipino  
9           veteran to 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 World War II Filipino veteran; provided that the amount shall  
13 not exceed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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 itemized unpaid invoice



1 reflecting services that have been satisfactorily performed on  
2 behalf of a deceased 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 \$ or so  
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and  
11 the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary  
12 for fiscal year 2008-2009 for burial grant funds for deceased  
13 World War II 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 on July 1, 2020;  
19 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**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. (SD1)

