

LATE TESTIMONY
CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065

ROMY M. CACHOLA
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February 18, 2010

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
and Members
Committee of Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs
State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 427
Honolulu, HI 96813

**SUBJECT: HR 30 AND HCR 71: URGING CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF S. 1337, THE FILIPINO
VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT OF 2009, OR SIMILAR
LEGISLATION, TO EXPEDITE FAMILY REUNIFICATION FOR CERTAIN
FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.**

Dear Chair McKelvey and Committee Members:

I am testifying in strong support of HR30 and HCR 71.

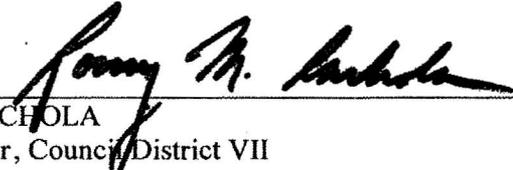
Please note that there is another measure, which is S. 2757. This measure benefits not only Filipino-American dependents of World War II veterans, but also dependents of veterans of other world conflicts. For your information, the City Council approved Resolution 10-8, which was introduced by Councilmember Romy M. Cachola and approved by the City Council's Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs on January 13, 2010.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Cabrereros".

BENJAMIN CABREROS
Legislative Aide

Approved by 
ROMY M. CACHOLA
Councilmember, Council District VII



RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT S. 2757, THE MILITARY FAMILIES ACT.

WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers bravely fought side-by-side with American troops to restore liberty and democracy to their homeland by volunteering as spies, serving as guerrillas in the jungles, and fighting in American units during World War II; and

WHEREAS, although members and veterans of the U.S. armed forces, including Filipino veterans of World War II, may be eligible for citizenship under special provisions of law as a result of their service, some of the children and other immediate family members of members of the U.S. armed forces do not have U.S. permanent resident status and may have difficulty achieving such status under current law; and

WHEREAS, S. 2757, known as the Military Families Act, introduced and pending in Congress, proposes to confer residency benefits for family members of certain persons who served in the armed forces of the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, S.2757 would authorize the adjustment of residency status for family members of certain persons who served in the armed forces of the U.S., including Filipino veterans of World War II and persons who served in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the council has previously approved Resolutions 07-44, CD1 and 08-113, urging the President and the Congress to support and pass federal legislation that would confer certain benefits on Filipino veterans of World War II; and

WHEREAS, the council finds that the passage of S. 2757 will provide the benefit of permanent U.S. residency to the children of Filipino veterans of World War II who served in the U.S. armed forces and were naturalized; and

WHEREAS, the council further finds that passage of S. 2757 will provide the benefit of permanent U.S. residency to immediate family members of persons who served honorably in the armed forces of the U.S. during the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the United States Congress to support and pass S. 2757, the Military Families Act, authorizing the adjustment of U.S. residency status for family members of certain persons who served in the armed forces of the U.S.; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's delegation to the Congress of the United States.

INTRODUCED BY:

Fony M. Lachuk
Natasha
David
Jody
John
Ann K.

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JAN 7 2010
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 10-8

Introduced: 1/7/10 By: ROMY CACHOLA

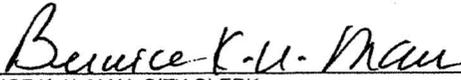
Committee: EXECUTIVE MATTERS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT S. 2757, THE MILITARY
FAMILIES ACT.

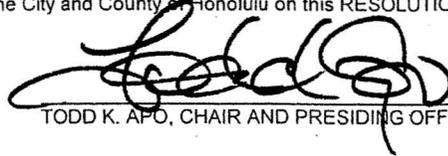
Links: RES10-8
CR-15

EXECUTIVE MATTERS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS	01/13/10	CR-15 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION.							
COUNCIL	1/27/10	CR-15 AND RESOLUTION 10-8 WERE ADOPTED.							
ANDERSON	Y	APO	Y	CACHOLA	Y	DELA CRUZ	Y	DJOU	Y
GARCIA	Y	KOBAYASHI	Y	OKINO	Y	TAM	Y		

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



BERNICE K. N. MAU, CITY CLERK



TODD K. APO, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER



**WW II Fil-Am Veterans
AND LADIES AUXILIARY
HAWAII CHAPTER**

94-1121 Eleo Street Waipahu Hawaii 96797
Home (808) 671-4999 Fax (808) 848-7311
Reg. No. 933595-D-2

LATE TESTIMONY



TESTIMONY SUPPORTING THE ENACTMENT OF HR 30/HCR 71 BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 25TH LEGISLATURE, STATE OF HAWAII 2010 URGING CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF S. 1337, THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT OF 2009, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION, TO EXPEDITE FAMILY REUNIFICATION FOR CERTAIN FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.

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- ART A. CALEDA
- Cultive Vice President
- RON C. TABANIAG
- Pres. for Administration
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- Pres. for Operation
- ELINO G. MERCADO
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- JACK LAMUG
- ODORA E. SOLIVA
- UIS LASTIMOSA
- ARCELO MIGUEL
- ICELO GREGORIO
- INTO PORLUCAS
- ENIGILDO TESORO
- Peace Officers
- MINO D. LACTAEN
- MINGO R. DULAY
- ENCIO RUBIANES
- AN C. CORRALES
- FAEL C. ORDONA
- LIX G. SAGUCIO
- IRON A. GARCIA
- EBIO RAGONDIN
- ING HON WONG
- GUSTIN AGNO
- JOSE ORTEGA
- DELARIO TULIAO
- USTINO GARCIA
- Advisers
- PE "JUN" ABINSAY, JR.
- AVID A. PENDELTON
- NIC MUSICO
- ALEX SONSON, ESQ.
- INA M. SHAW, ESQ.
- MUND LEE, ESQ.

The Honorable House Committee on Economic, REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS: Rep. Angus L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair, Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair and Distinguished Committee Members.

Good Morning! Aloha! My name is Dominador B Garcia, Chaplain of the WWII Filipino American Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary, Hawaii Chapter.

Since President Art A Caleda has a very important appointment that he can't come, I am here to testify of the intent of HR 30/ HCR 71 that provides expeditious Family Reunification for certain Filipino Veterans of WW II by exempting their children from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas.

In laying my views, I speak as Representative of the WWII Filipino American Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary, who are all legally permanent residents as United States citizens.

These veterans I represent are the USAFFE drafted Philippine Commonwealth Army into the United States Armed Forces of the Far East since July 26 1941 to June 30 1946 called and ordered by President Roosevelt, volunteered under the Command of General Douglas MacArthur to fight alongside American soldiers during World War II; the GUERRILLAS-resistance units serving with the United States Armed Forces, some led by U.S. Officers who refused to surrender and relentlessly harassed the Japanese Imperial Army unmindful of the indescribable hardships of trying to survive in the jungle and mountains, with not only the Japanese as enemies but natural dangers, diseases and starvation as well. They fought on until General Douglas MacArthur made good on his promise to return in 1945. While in the thick of the fight against the forces of Japan, buying precious time for the U.S. to strike a counterblow, a very appreciative Congress enacted in 1944, what is known as the GI Bill of Rights thus paving the way for President Roosevelt to fulfill his promise to us Filipinos of a just reward for our sacrifices. The Filipino soldiers, like all non-Americans who were serving in the U.S. Armed Forces were entitled, under the GI Bill, to full veterans' benefits to include U.S. Citizen naturalization.

Victory finally came in September 1945. The guns fell silent. Those who survived shed their uniforms and turned in their arms and most of them went back to civilian life. But before the official end of that great conflict, 50,000 Filipinos were recruited by the US Army and were inducted into the New Phil. Scouts. The Old Scouts organized in 1901, who made a name for themselves in Bataan, were integrated into the regular U.S. Army and the New Scouts were made as occupation troops in Japan, its territories and possessions which came under United States control; that the NEW PHILIPPINE SCOUTS SERVED into the Army of the United States since Oct 6 1945 to April 9 1949 on occupational duty in Okinawa, Japan, Guam, and the Philippines.



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When the HR1287 of Rep. Hirono and S671 of Senator Akaka, both with co-authors and supporters, are passed by both House and Senate are passed by the House of Representatives and Senate, These Filipino American veterans of WWII qualify to receive immigrant visas ready for their respective children travel and reunite with their veteran-parents, who waited very long for needed care and loving service.

May our Lord God bless you all with his Wisdom to have this bill clears your committee and have it be passed. Mahalo!

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Waipahu, HI 96797


DOMINADOR B. GARCIA

Home Line: (808) 677-7551



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It was a suddenly ungrateful U.S. Congress introduced a rider to the GI Bill of Rights, the now infamous Rescissions Act of 1946, unceremoniously taking away from the Filipino veterans and members of the New Philippine Scouts, all benefits, rights, and privileges granted under the GI Bill, and declaring the wartime services of these veterans as "not active service in the U.S. military".

The Rescission Act of 1946 specifically targeted only the Filipinos because all other aliens (Europeans and Asians from 66 nations) who served in the United States Armed Forces in World War II were not affected. Thus began in 1946 the 64-year uphill struggle of the Filipino WWII veterans for recognition of their wartime services in the United States Army.

In 1946, there were about 250,000 Filipino WWII veterans. On July 2009 the U.S. Veterans Affairs there remains 18,000 Filipino WW-II veterans for their sacrifices and contributions made in defense of United States of America.

These remaining 8,000 legally permanent residents as U.S. citizens want further recognition of their US honorable military service fully actively adjusted now in their eighty threes old, disabled and low income life that meet the requirements of eligibility to receive full federal benefits and services by exempting thier children from numerical limitations on immigrant visas unto family reunification because we were all serving layally active U.S. military service during world war two and were naturalized U.S. citizens pursuant to Sec. 405 Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1990 and our children have after college livelihood degrees while united with us in America, God helping.

Most of us now advanced in age, sick and frail and living in abject poverty but we share one thing in common: We all willingly laid our lives on the line for United States of America in World War-II! Thank you for your efforts to correct the historic wrong committed against us. Thank you for not waiting until all of us Filipino WWII veterans are gone before taking action on our pleas. One who died at dawn of Sunday February 14 at Hawaii Medical Center West is Veteran Petronilo Y. Sales, who just received his one-time benefit Friday Feb 12 2010, signed his check and encashed for his family at Waipahu Hall. There are only a few of us veterans and those too weak are awaiting heavenward. Helping us now on this issue of family reunification would not really entail a big expense for Uncle Sam because our number has been severely depleted. Any appropriations you may now consider to assist us in our twilight years would diminish on a year-to-year basis as our number continues to dissipate.

I thank so much The Hawaii State Legislature for having blessed with Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Representative Neil Abercrombie and Representative Mazie K. Hirono, Hawaii Congressional Delegation, who said as I quote: "...For the members of the Hawaii Congressional Delegation, it has always been a simple matter of honor, and of restoring America's good name in the eyes of the Filipinos. It took close to 20 years to pass a series of laws, culminating with a provision in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) to establish the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund which will provide a one-time benefit payment to eligible Filipino WWII veterans."