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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES  
CONGRESS TO GRANT FULL VETERANS BENEFITS TO FILIPINO  
VETERANS WHO FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR II BUT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY  
DENIED THE BENEFITS TO WHICH THEY WERE ENTITLED.

1           WHEREAS, prior to World War II, the Philippines was a  
2 United States commonwealth; and

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4           WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers earned full veterans benefits  
5 when they joined the Philippine Commonwealth Army to prepare  
6 against the potential threat of Japanese aggression; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, thousands of Filipino men and women risked their  
9 lives against the invading and occupying Japanese forces and  
10 assisted our nation in its efforts to liberate the Philippines;  
11 and

12  
13           WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers and guerrillas fought bravely  
14 beside American troops to restore liberty and democracy to their  
15 homeland; and

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17           WHEREAS, exhibiting great courage in the battles of  
18 Corregidor and Bataan, and in the eventual liberation of the  
19 Philippines, Filipino soldiers and guerrillas contributed to the  
20 Allied victory that ended World War II; and

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22           WHEREAS, Filipinos who served in the Philippine  
23 Commonwealth Army were made eligible for full United States  
24 veterans benefits for their active duty service; and

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26           WHEREAS, in 1946, by congressional act and upon the  
27 granting of full independence to the Philippines, these same  
28 Filipino veterans were denied eligibility for United States



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1 veterans benefits, including health care, disability pensions,  
2 and burial expenses; and  
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4 WHEREAS, over the years, Congress has considered  
5 legislation to restore the benefits denied to Filipino veterans;  
6 and  
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8 WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009  
9 included a provision that called for the release of funding for  
10 a one-time, lump sum payment to eligible Filipino veterans in  
11 lieu of a pension; and  
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13 WHEREAS, restoring benefits denied to Filipino veterans and  
14 fulfilling and expediting any pending claims would honor those  
15 Filipino veterans who served with our armed forces so  
16 courageously; now, therefore,  
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
19 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
20 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the President of the United  
21 States and the United States Congress are urged to grant full  
22 veterans benefits to Filipino veterans who fought in World War  
23 II but were subsequently denied the benefits to which they were  
24 entitled; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests that full  
27 veterans benefits apply to the veterans groups commonly referred  
28 to as the "Old" Philippine Scouts, the Philippine Commonwealth  
29 Army, the Recognized Guerrilla Forces, the "New" Philippine  
30 Scouts, and the United States Armed Forces in the Far East under  
31 General MacArthur (USAFFE); and  
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that spouses and children of these  
34 veterans would qualify for the same Dependency and Indemnity  
35 Compensation that spouses and children of United States veterans  
36 receive; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that providing these benefits would  
39 not correct the injustice and discrimination that occurred more  
40 than sixty years ago, but would represent a small step toward  
41 making reparations; and  
42



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
 3 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,  
 4 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
 5 Hawaii's congressional delegation, the United States Secretary  
 6 of Veterans Affairs, the Director of the Hawaii Office of  
 7 Veterans' Services, the President of the Republic of the  
 8 Philippines, and the Philippine Consul General in Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

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