

MAR 08 2022

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

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EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE NAMING OF A UNITED STATES NAVY  
SURFACE COMBATANT SHIP AFTER FIREMAN SECOND CLASS AND  
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT TELESFORO TRINIDAD.

1 WHEREAS, United States Navy ships have traditionally been  
2 named by the Secretary of the Navy, under the direction of the  
3 President of the United States and in accordance with rules  
4 prescribed by Congress; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, multiple members of Congress, including  
7 Representative Ed Case of Hawaii and Representative Sara Jacobs  
8 of California, signed a letter authored by Jacobs and dated May  
9 26, 2021, to the Acting Secretary of the Navy in strong support  
10 of naming a Navy surface combatant ship after United States Navy  
11 Fireman Second Class Telesforo Trinidad, who received the  
12 Congressional Medal of Honor in 1915; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, the May 26, 2021, letter cited numerous reasons  
15 for the request, including the following:

16  
17 (1) The Medal of Honor highlights the importance of  
18 service and sacrifice for shipmates and country both  
19 in times of war and in day-to-day operations; and

20  
21 (2) Trinidad was awarded the Medal of Honor in accordance  
22 with General Order Number 142, which was signed by  
23 Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels on April 1,  
24 1915; and

25  
26 (3) Trinidad earned the Medal of Honor for showing  
27 extraordinary heroism in the line of duty in response  
28 to boiler explosions aboard the USS San Diego (ACR-6)  
29 that occurred when the ship was in the Gulf of  
30 California on January 21, 1915; more specifically,  
31 Trinidad brought two crewmembers to safety despite  
32 being physically injured by the explosions; and

33  
34 (4) One hundred and six years later, Trinidad continues to  
35 hold the distinction of being the only Asian American



## S.R. NO. 32

1 and only Filipino American in the United States Navy  
2 to have received a Medal of Honor; and  
3

4 (5) The naming of a Navy ship in honor of Trinidad would  
5 demonstrate the Navy's leadership and commitment to  
6 diversity, equality, and inclusion amid current racial  
7 tensions and unwarranted violence against Asian  
8 Americans and Pacific Islanders nationwide, and would  
9 also mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the  
10 establishment of diplomatic relations between the  
11 United States and the Republic of the Philippines and  
12 the seventieth anniversary of the Mutual Defense  
13 Treaty between the two countries; and  
14

15 (6) The naming of a Navy ship after Trinidad would also  
16 honor the faithful and loyal service, since 1901, of  
17 tens of thousands of Filipinos and Filipino Americans  
18 in the United States Navy; would result in the first-  
19 ever Navy ship bearing the name of an American  
20 national of Filipino descent; and would evidence the  
21 long-standing military and political alliance that has  
22 existed between the United States and the Philippines  
23 since 1898; now, therefore,  
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
27 that this body supports the naming of a United States Navy  
28 surface combatant ship after Fireman Second Class and  
29 Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Telesforo Trinidad; and  
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the United States  
33 Navy and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.  
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35  
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OFFERED BY:

*Kurt Faeella*

