

**ACT 230**

**H.B. NO. 645**

**A Bill for an Act Relating to Veterans Rights and Benefits.**

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

**SECTION 1.** The purpose of this Act is to provide an alternative to the procedures currently specified in the rules of the office of veterans services to enable the office to provide grants to assist survivors of deceased World War II Filipino veteran or interested parties pay for funeral and burial expenses and costs to transport the veteran's remains to the Philippines.

**SECTION 2.**<sup>1</sup> The office of veterans services, at the request of a deceased veteran's survivor or an interested party, shall receive, review, and approve requests for payment to:

- (1) Provide funeral and burial services for a deceased World War II Filipino veteran; and
- (2) Transport the remains of a deceased World War II Filipino veteran to the Philippines.

(b) Within the amount authorized in this Act, the office shall establish the maximum amounts of burial grant funds that may be disbursed on behalf of a deceased World War II Filipino veteran.

(c) The office shall not expend more than the amount appropriated for the fiscal year to provide burial grants for deceased World War II Filipino veterans.

(d) Specific eligibility criteria, application and appeal procedures, service choices, and invoicing arrangements shall be established by the office.

(e) Payment shall be authorized by the office upon the submission of an invoice reflecting that the services will be satisfactorily performed on behalf of the deceased World War II Filipino veteran.

(f) For the purposes of this section, “World War II Filipino veteran” means any Filipino veteran, who is now a citizen of the United States, who served honorably in an active duty status in any of the armed services of the United States between September 1, 1939, and December 31, 1946.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$55,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2000-2001 for funeral and burial service expenses and costs of transporting deceased World War II Filipino veterans back to the Philippines.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of veterans affairs for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2000.

(Approved June 15, 2000.)

**Note**

- 1. No subsection (a).