
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT H.R. 1287 AND S. 671 RELATING TO FILIPINO FAMILY REUNIFICATION, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION, TO PROVIDE PRIORITY ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO FILIPINO VETERANS' CHILDREN WITH APPROVED IMMIGRATION PETITIONS.

1 WHEREAS, on July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt
2 issued Military Order No. 81, placing the Philippine
3 Commonwealth Armed Forces and the Special Philippine Scouts
4 under the United States Armed Forces command to join the
5 military assault against the Japanese forces in defense of
6 America's democracy; and
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8 WHEREAS, throughout 1941-1946, tens of thousands of
9 Filipino soldiers were held as prisoners, risking their lives
10 and the lives of their families while maintaining underground
11 battles against the invading Japanese forces and boldly
12 assisting the United States Armed Forces in its campaign to
13 liberate the Philippines; and
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15 WHEREAS, Filipino wartime veterans, many of whom were
16 permanently disabled and honorably discharged from the military
17 after serving more than ninety days on active duty military
18 service during World War II, are eligible for federal veterans
19 benefits and services; and
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21 WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton on October 17, 1996,
22 President George W. Bush on July 26, 2001, and the United States
23 Congress by H.R. 622 and S. 387 on September 13, 2006,
24 recognized and proclaimed the vital role that the Filipino
25 wartime soldiers played in assisting the United States Armed
26 Forces in defeating the invading Japanese forces in defense of
27 freedom; and
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29 WHEREAS, through the Immigration Act of 1990, U.S.
30 citizenship was awarded to each veteran but excluded the
31 veterans' dependents, unfairly requiring that each veteran
32 submit an immigrant petition with supporting affidavits



WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that upon the death of the veteran, death benefits should be transferred to the beneficiary of record, as indicated in the immigration petition, and the beneficiary should be exempted from the immigration law which attempts to nullify the immigration petition upon the death of the veteran; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, that the United States Congress and United States President George W. Bush are respectfully requested and urged to enact H.R. 1287 and S. 671 relating to Filipino family reunification, or similar legislation, to grant priority issuance of visas to Filipino veterans' children with approved immigration petitions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY:

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