
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ENACTMENT OF THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY
REUNIFICATION ACT OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT GRANTS THE
PRIORITY ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO VETERANS' CHILDREN WITH
APPROVED IMMIGRATION PETITIONS.

1 WHEREAS, in the Military Order of July 26, 1941, President
2 Franklin D. Roosevelt drafted members of the Philippine
3 Commonwealth Armed Forces and Special Philippine Scouts into the
4 United States (U.S.) Armed Forces, joining the military assault
5 against the invading enemies to defend the Philippines to
6 preserve democracy; and
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8 WHEREAS, throughout the 1941-1946 war, tens of thousands of
9 Filipino soldiers were held prisoner, risking their lives and
10 the lives of their families, while maintaining underground
11 battles against the invading Japanese forces and boldly
12 assisting the U.S. Armed Forces in its campaign to liberate the
13 Philippines; and
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15 WHEREAS, many of the Filipino World War II veterans are now
16 at least 79 years old, are of low-income, have permanent
17 disabilities, and received honorable discharges from the
18 military after serving more than 90 days of active duty military
19 service during World War II, making them eligible to qualify for
20 Veterans Administration benefits and services; and
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22 WHEREAS, President Bill Clinton, on October 17, 1996,
23 President George W. Bush, on July 26, 2001, and the U.S.
24 Congress, on September 13, 2006, recognized and proclaimed the
25 vital role that the Filipino wartime soldiers played in
26 assisting the U.S. Armed Forces defeat the invading Japanese
27 forces in defense of freedom; and



1 WHEREAS, the Immigration Act of 1990, awarded U.S.
2 citizenship to each veteran but excluded the veterans'
3 dependents, unfairly requiring that each veteran submit an
4 immigrant petition with supporting affidavits requesting that
5 the veterans' dependents be permitted to live with the veteran;
6 and
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8 WHEREAS, upon the death of a veteran, death benefits should
9 be transferred to the beneficiary of record as indicated in the
10 immigration petition and the beneficiary should be exempted from
11 the immigration law which attempts to nullify the immigration
12 petition upon death of the veteran; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
16 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature urges
17 the President of the United States and the United States
18 Congress to enact the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act
19 or similar legislation that grants the priority issuance of
20 visas to veterans' children with approved immigration petitions;
21 and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
25 United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
26 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each
27 member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation.

