
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT OF 2007.

1 WHEREAS, in January 2007, Senator Daniel K. Inouye
2 introduced a bill in the United States Senate, and United States
3 Representative Filner, on behalf of Representatives Neil
4 Abercrombie and Mazie Hirono, along with other members,
5 introduced a bill in the United States House of Representatives,
6 known as the "Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007"; and
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8 WHEREAS, the bill would amend title 38 of the United States
9 Code to deem certain active service members in the organized
10 military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the
11 Philippines and the Philippine Scouts in World War II to be
12 eligible for benefits under programs administered by the
13 Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and
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15 WHEREAS, in recognition of the courage and loyalty of the
16 Filipino troops who fought along side America's Armed Forces in
17 the Philippines during World War II, the bill would make health
18 benefits available to more of these qualified Filipino veterans;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, the Hawaii community, particularly the Hawaii-
22 Filipino community, cared for and earnestly supported the
23 Filipino veterans of World War II since their arrival in 1992,
24 triggering an awareness in the community that Filipino veterans
25 should be recognized for their selfless service to this nation;
26 and should receive veterans' benefits; and
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28 WHEREAS, there are less than 70,000 Filipino veterans still
29 alive and that the number of veterans is rapidly declining due
30 to their age, as many of them are now in their 80s; and



1 WHEREAS, despite continuing initiatives and support by the
2 local Filipino community, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the
3 Hawaii State Legislature, and the Governor, the quest for
4 Filipino veterans' benefits has remained illusive; now,
5 therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
9 House of Representatives concurring, that the President of the
10 United States and the United States Congress are urged to
11 support the passage of the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007;
12 and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
16 United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
17 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, members
18 of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, and President of the
19 Filipino-American Veterans, Hawaii Chapter.

