

MAR 01 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ENACTMENT OF H.R. 4574/S. 57, "FILIPINO AMERICAN
VETERANS EQUITY ACT OF 2007" OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT
PROVIDES FEDERAL VETERANS BENEFITS AND SERVICES TO THE
WORLD WAR II FILIPINO AMERICAN VETERANS AND THE FILIPINO
VETERANS.

1 WHEREAS, in the Military Order of July 27, 1941, President
2 Franklin D. Roosevelt drafted the Philippine Commonwealth Armed
3 Forces and the Special Philippine Scouts into the United States
4 Armed Forces joining the military assault against the Japanese
5 Forces in defense of America's democracy; and
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7 WHEREAS, throughout 1941-1946, tens of thousands of
8 Filipino soldiers were held prisoner, risking their lives and
9 the lives of their families, while maintaining underground
10 battles against the invading Japanese forces and boldly
11 assisting the United States Armed Forces in its campaign to
12 liberate the Philippines; and
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14 WHEREAS, many of the Filipino wartime veterans are now
15 permanently disabled, yet many received honorable discharges
16 from the military after serving more than ninety days on active
17 duty military service during World War II, making them eligible
18 for Federal veterans benefits and services; and
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20 WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton on October 17, 1996,
21 President George W. Bush on July 26, 2001, and the United States
22 Congress by H.R. 622/S. 387 on September 13, 2006, recognized
23 and proclaimed the vital role that the Filipino wartime soldiers
24 played in assisting the United States Armed Forces defeat the
25 invading Japanese forces in defense of freedom; and
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27 WHEREAS, it is long overdue to correct this injustice and
28 provide war-time veterans benefits and services to the Filipino
29 wartime veterans for their valiant service during World War II;
30 now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
4 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature urges
5 the United States Congress and the United States President
6 George W. Bush to enact H.R. 4574/S. 57 "Filipino Veterans
7 Equity Act of 2007" or similar legislation that provides Federal
8 Veterans Benefits and services to Filipino World War II
9 Veterans; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
13 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
14 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and
15 each member of Hawaii's delegation to Congress.
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OFFERED BY:


