

MAR 01 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ENACTMENT OF H.R. 901/S. 4070, "FILIPINO FAMILY REUNIFICATION", 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 the members of the Philippine
3 Commonwealth Armed Forces and the Special Philippine Scouts into
4 the United States 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 United States Armed Forces in its campaign to
13 liberate the Philippines; and
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15 WHEREAS, many of the Filipino World War II veterans are now
16 at least seventy-nine years old or older, are of low-income, and
17 many have permanent disabilities, and received honorable
18 discharges from the military after serving more than ninety days
19 on active duty military service during World War II, making them
20 eligible to qualify for Veterans Administration benefits and
21 services; and
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23 WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton on October 17, 1996,
24 President George W. Bush on July 26, 2001, and the United States
25 Congress by H.R. 622/S. 307 on September 13, 2006, recognized
26 and proclaimed the vital role that the Filipino wartime soldiers
27 played in assisting the United States Armed Forces defeat the
28 invading Japanese forces in defense of freedom; and
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30 WHEREAS, by the Immigration Act of 1990, U.S. citizenship
31 was awarded to each veteran but excluded the veterans'
32 dependants, unfairly requiring that each veteran submit an
33 immigrant petition with supporting affidavits requesting that



1 the veterans' dependents be permitted to live with the veteran;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, upon the death of the veteran, death benefits
5 should be transferred to the beneficiary of record as indicated
6 in the immigration petition and the beneficiary shall be
7 exempted from the immigration law which attempts to nullify the
8 immigration petition on the death of the veteran; now,
9 therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
13 that the Legislature urges the United States Congress and the
14 United States President George W. Bush to enact H.R. 901/S. 4070
15 "Filipino Family Reunification" or similar legislation that
16 grants the priority issuance of visas to veterans' children with
17 approved immigration petitions; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
21 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
22 the United States House of Representatives, and each member of
23 Hawaii's delegation to Congress.
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