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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERAN BURIAL GRANTS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a World War II  
2 Filipino veteran who died after June 30, 1994, and who was, at  
3 the time of the veteran's death, a United States citizen and a  
4 resident of the State of Hawaii, is entitled to receive a burial  
5 grant from the state office of veterans' services to pay for the  
6 cost of:

- 7           (1) Providing funeral and burial services for the deceased  
8           veteran; and  
9           (2) Transporting the remains of the deceased veteran to  
10           the Philippines.

11           To qualify for this burial grant, however, the World War II  
12 Filipino veteran's survivor or an interested party must produce  
13 an itemized paid invoice showing the specific services rendered  
14 on behalf of the deceased veteran. Because of the tremendous  
15 costs required to procure funeral and burial services, as well  
16 as the cost of transportation to the Philippines, some World War  
17 II Filipino veterans, including the families and friends of  
18 these veterans, cannot afford to pay for these activities in



1 advance. Consequently, some World War II Filipino veterans will  
2 not be able to qualify for burial grants from the office of  
3 veterans' services because they cannot pay upfront costs  
4 associated with funeral, burial, and transportation services to  
5 be reimbursed at a later time. Because of these financial  
6 constraints, the bodies of some deceased veterans could not be  
7 properly buried until the deceased veteran's survivor or  
8 interested parties raised the necessary funds to pay the  
9 mortuary for funeral and other related services.

10 The legislature further finds that under the Veterans  
11 Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law  
12 106-419), many World War II Filipino veterans previously  
13 eligible to participate in the state office of veterans'  
14 services program regarding transportation of remains to the  
15 Philippines are now eligible to be interred in state and federal  
16 veterans' cemeteries. The payments made under this Act shall  
17 not be limited to only those World War II Filipino veterans who  
18 are not eligible for interment in state and federal veterans  
19 cemeteries under the Veterans Benefits and Health Care  
20 Improvement Act of 2000.



1 The purpose of this Act, through the veterans' burial grant  
2 program, is to pay directly to a mortuary or crematory the cost  
3 of:

4 (1) Providing funeral and burial services at the request  
5 of a qualifying deceased World War II Filipino  
6 veteran's survivor or an interested party; and

7 (2) Transporting the veteran's remains to the Philippines,  
8 upon the submission of a contract for services on behalf of the  
9 deceased veteran and an itemized unpaid invoice. The amount  
10 paid for funeral and burial services and transportation costs  
11 shall not exceed \$2,000 per person.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for burial  
15 grant funds for deceased World War II Filipino veterans.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
17 of defense, office of veterans' services for the purposes of  
18 this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.  
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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Filipino veterans; Burial

**Description:**

Provides for the burial of Filipino veterans.

