
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 Filipino veteran
2 of the New Filipino Scouts who enlisted between October 6, 1945,
3 and June 30, 1947, who died after June 30, 1994, and who was, at
4 the time of the veteran's death, a United States citizen and a
5 resident of the State of Hawaii, is entitled to receive a burial
6 grant from the state office of veterans' services to pay for the
7 cost of:

8 (1) Providing funeral and burial services for the deceased
9 veteran; and

10 (2) Transporting the remains of the deceased veteran to
11 the Philippines.

12 To qualify for this burial grant, however, the Filipino
13 veteran's survivor or an interested party must produce an
14 itemized paid invoice showing the specific services rendered on
15 behalf of the deceased veteran. Because of the tremendous costs
16 required to procure funeral and burial services, as well as the
17 cost of transportation to the Philippines, some World War II
18 Filipino veterans, including the families and friends of these



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

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



1 veterans cemeteries under the Veterans Benefits and Health Care
2 Improvement Act of 2000.

3 This Act requires the office of veterans' services to
4 provide an alternative to the procedures currently specified in
5 the rules of the office of veterans' services, which only apply
6 in situations where a deceased Filipino veteran's survivor or an
7 interested party has already paid for services rendered on
8 behalf of the deceased veteran, or in situations where the
9 deceased veteran may have purchased a pre-paid funeral and
10 burial plan.

11 The purpose of this Act, through the veterans' burial grant
12 program, is to pay directly to a mortuary or crematory the cost
13 of:

14 (1) Providing funeral and burial services at the request
15 of a qualifying deceased Filipino veteran's survivor
16 or an interested party; and

17 (2) Transporting the veteran's remains to the Philippines,
18 upon the submission of a contract for services on behalf of the
19 deceased veteran and an itemized unpaid invoice. The amount
20 paid for funeral and burial services and transportation costs
21 shall not exceed \$ per person.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 363, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 **"§363- Disbursement of World War II Filipino veterans**
5 **burial grant funds.** (a) At the request of a deceased World War
6 II New Filipino Scout's survivor or an interested party, the
7 office of veterans' services shall receive, review, and, as
8 appropriate, approve requests for payments for:

9 (1) Providing funeral and burial services for a New
10 Filipino Scout who died after June 30, 1994; and

11 (2) Transporting the remains of a New Filipino Scout to
12 the Philippines.

13 (b) The office of veterans' services shall establish the
14 amount of burial grant funds that may be disbursed on behalf of
15 a New Filipino Scout; provided that the amount shall not exceed
16 \$ _____ per person.

17 (c) The office of veterans' services shall not expend more
18 than the amount appropriated for the fiscal year to provide
19 burial grants for deceased New Filipino Scouts.

20 (d) Specific eligibility criteria, application and appeal
21 procedures, service choices, and invoicing arrangements shall be
22 established by the office of veterans' services.



1 (e) Payment shall be authorized by the office of veterans'
2 services upon the submission of an itemized unpaid invoice
3 reflecting services that have been satisfactorily performed on
4 behalf of a deceased New Filipino Scout.

5 (f) As used in this section, "New Filipino Scout" means a
6 Filipino veteran who enlisted in the New Filipino Scouts between
7 October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, and who, at the time of the
8 veteran's death, was a United States citizen and a resident of
9 the State of Hawaii."

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the
13 sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for
14 fiscal year 2008-2009 for burial grant funds for deceased
15 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 4. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020;
21 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

Filipino Veterans; Burial

Description:

Requires the office of veterans' services, at the request of a survivor or interested party of a deceased Filipino veteran who joined the New Filipino Scouts between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, to make payment directly to a mortuary or crematory for funeral and burial services, and to transport the veteran's remains to the Philippines upon submission of an itemized unpaid invoice. Appropriates moneys. (HB831 HD2)

