
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO
EXEMPT CHILDREN OF FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM
IMMIGRANT VISA LIMITS.

1 WHEREAS, between 1934 and Philippine independence in 1946,
2 the United States retained certain powers over the Philippines,
3 then a United States possession; and
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5 WHEREAS, these rights included the right to call into the
6 service of the United States military those forces organized by
7 the Commonwealth government; and
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9 WHEREAS, on July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt
10 issued Military Order No. 81, placing the Philippine
11 Commonwealth Armed Forces and the Special Philippine Scouts
12 under the United States Armed Forces command to join the
13 military assault against the Japanese forces in defense of
14 America's democracy; and
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16 WHEREAS, throughout 1941-1946, tens of thousands of
17 Filipino soldiers were held as prisoners, risking their lives
18 and the lives of their families while waging resistance against
19 the invading Japanese forces and boldly assisting the United
20 States Armed Forces in its campaign to liberate the Philippines;
21 and
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23 WHEREAS, Filipino wartime veterans, many of whom were
24 permanently disabled and honorably discharged from the military
25 after serving more than ninety days on active duty military
26 service during World War II, are eligible for federal veterans
27 benefits and services; and
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29 WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton on October 17, 1996,
30 President George W. Bush on July 26, 2001, and the United States
31 Congress by H.R. 622 and S. 387 on September 13, 2006,



1 recognized and proclaimed the vital role that the Filipino
2 wartime soldiers played in assisting the United States Armed
3 Forces in defeating the invading Japanese forces in defense of
4 freedom; and

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6 WHEREAS, through the Immigration Act of 1990, U.S.
7 citizenship was awarded to each veteran but excluded the
8 veterans' dependents, unfairly requiring that each veteran
9 submit an immigrant petition with supporting affidavits
10 requesting that the veterans' dependents be permitted to
11 reunited and live with the veteran; and

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13 WHEREAS, the wait for these adult children for immigration
14 petitions to be approved is approximately fourteen to fifteen
15 years; and

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17 WHEREAS, proposed federal legislation is now pending in
18 Congress, in the form of H.R. 1287 entitled "Filipino Veterans
19 Family Reunification Act," to exempt children of certain
20 Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on
21 immigrant visas; and

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23 WHEREAS, at present, married sons and daughters, including
24 those of Filipino World War II veterans, are annually allocated
25 no more than 23,400 visas worldwide and the same number is
26 allocated for unmarried sons and daughters; and

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28 WHEREAS, proposed federal legislation would exempt aliens
29 who are eligible for an immigrant visa under paragraph (1) or
30 (3) of section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
31 U.S.C. 1151(b)(1)) and who have a parent who was naturalized
32 pursuant to section 405 of the Immigration Act of 1990 (8 U.S.C.
33 1440 note); and

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35 WHEREAS, in other words, this proposed federal exemption
36 would be extended to married and unmarried sons and daughters of
37 Filipino veterans who became naturalized United States citizens
38 due to military service during World War II; now, therefore,

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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
42 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the United States
43 Congress is urged to enact legislation to exempt children of



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1 Filipino World War II veterans from immigrant visa limits and
2 grant them priority issuance of visas; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
6 United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Majority and
7 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and
8 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives,
9 and the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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