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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT INTO LAW OF  
S. 1315, THE VETERANS BENEFITS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007, IN  
SUPPORT OF FILIPINO VETERANS.

1           WHEREAS, on July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
2 issued Military Order No. 81, placing the Philippine  
3 Commonwealth Armed Forces and the Special Philippine Scouts  
4 under the United States Armed Forces command to join the  
5 military assault against the Japanese forces in defense of  
6 America's democracy; and  
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8           WHEREAS, throughout 1941-1946, tens of thousands of  
9 Filipino soldiers were held as prisoners, risking their lives  
10 and 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, Filipino wartime veterans, many of whom were  
16 permanently disabled and honorably discharged from the military  
17 after serving more than ninety days on active duty military  
18 service during World War II are eligible for federal veterans  
19 benefits and services; and  
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21           WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton on October 17, 1996,  
22 President George W. Bush on July 26, 2001, and the United States  
23 Congress by H.R. 622/S. 387 on September 13, 2006, recognized  
24 and proclaimed the vital role that the Filipino wartime soldiers  
25 played in assisting the United States Armed Forces to defeat the  
26 invading Japanese forces in defense of freedom; and  
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28           WHEREAS, despite these formal acknowledgements of Filipino  
29 and Filipino American veterans' contributions to the cause of  
30 the United States during World War II, they have not received  
31 full veterans benefits and services from the federal government,  
32 a long standing moral injustice that needs to be corrected; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, Senator Daniel Akaka, Chairman of the Senate  
3 Committee on Veterans Affairs has introduced S. 1315, the  
4 Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007, which would provide  
5 the long-promised benefits to the remaining approximately  
6 eighteen thousand Filipino veterans now in their eighties and  
7 nineties; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007 that  
10 was passed out of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs would  
11 award \$3,600 per year to each individual veteran, or \$4,500 per  
12 year to each married veteran; and  
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14 WHEREAS, in the face of opposition from senators who claim  
15 that the Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007 "takes money  
16 from American veterans and sends it to the Philippines to create  
17 a special pension for noncitizen, nonresident Filipino  
18 veterans"; now, therefore,  
19

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature  
23 strongly supports the passage and enactment into law of S. 1315,  
24 the Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of Hawaii's  
27 congressional delegation are urged to support the passage and  
28 enactment into law of S. 1315, the Veterans Benefits Enhancement  
29 Act of 2007; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
33 United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Majority and  
34 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and  
35 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives,  
36 and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.  
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OFFERED BY: Clarence W. Nishihara  
Will Grew