

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2007

RE: S.B. No. 31

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2007  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 31 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VETERAN BURIAL GRANTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Office of Veterans' Services to provide an alternative to current procedures regarding funerals and transportation of remains for certain Filipino veterans of World War II.

Specifically, this measure provides that upon the request of an eligible Filipino veteran's survivor or an interested party, the Office of Veterans' Services shall provide funeral and burial services and transport remains to the Philippines; provided that the amount disbursed shall not exceed \$2,500 per person.

This measure also appropriates an unspecified amount of money for burial grant funds for deceased Filipino veterans.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the United Filipino Council of Hawaii; the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity; the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12; the Oahu Filipino Community Council; Nursing, Advocates and Mentors, Inc.; the Congress of Visayan Organizations; and the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training.

Comments were submitted by the Office of Veteran Affairs of the Department of Defense.



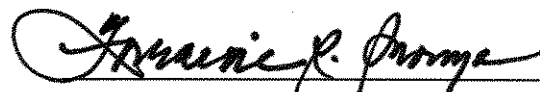
The measure would only apply in situations where a deceased Filipino veteran's survivor or an interested party has already paid for services rendered on behalf of the deceased veteran, or in situations where the deceased veteran may have purchased a pre-paid funeral and burial plan. During World War II, 142,000 Filipino forces joined the U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East, serving as an integral part of the U.S. Military. Since 1992, approximately, 3,000 of these World War II Filipino veterans are residents of the State of Hawaii. Approximately eighty per cent of these 3,000 World War II Filipino veterans presently reside on Oahu.

Your Committee finds that, under the program established pursuant to this measure, the Office of Veterans' Services should provide direct disbursement for funeral services and transportation of remains for eligible Filipino veterans, rather than require veterans' survivors and interested parties to pay out-of-pocket for these expenses and wait to be reimbursed.

The intent of this measure is to provide direct disbursement, up to \$2,500 per person, to eligible Filipino veterans' survivors and interested parties for the cost of funeral services and transportation of veteran's remains to the Philippines.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 31 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.


Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Intergovernmental  
and Military Affairs,

  
LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**  
**IGM**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 31</b>	Committee Referral: <b>Igm. WAM</b>	Date: <b>2/5/07</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)	\			
TSUTSUI, Shan S. (VC)	\			
HEMMINGS, Fred				\
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:             Original             Yellow             Pink File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes