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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT AND SENATORS AND CONGRESS MEMBERS TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO EXPEDITE IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION OF CERTAIN FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.

1           WHEREAS, on December 8, 1941, thousands of Filipino men and  
2 women responded to President Roosevelt's call for help to  
3 preserve peace, democracy and freedom for America and the World;  
4 and

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6           WHEREAS, at that time, the Philippines were part of the  
7 Commonwealth of the United States of America and its citizens  
8 were nationals of the United States of America just like Hawaii  
9 was and American Samoa is today; and

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11           WHEREAS, during the dark days of World War II, nearly  
12 100,000 soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army provided a  
13 ray of hope in the Pacific as they fought alongside United  
14 States and Allied forces for four long years to defend and  
15 reclaim the Philippine Islands from Japanese aggression; and

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17           WHEREAS, thousands more Filipinos joined U.S. Armed Forces  
18 immediately after the war and served in occupational duty  
19 throughout the Pacific Theater; and

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21           WHEREAS, valiant Filipino soldiers fought, died, and  
22 suffered in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II,  
23 defending beleaguered Bataan and Corregidor, and thousands of  
24 Filipino prisoners of war endured the infamous Bataan Death  
25 March and years of captivity; and

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27           WHEREAS, their many guerrilla actions slowed the Japanese  
28 takeover of the Western Pacific region and allowed U.S. forces  
29 the time to build and prepare for the allied counterattack on  
30 Japan; and



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2 WHEREAS, Filipino troops fought side-by-side with U.S.  
3 forces to secure their islands as the strategic base from which  
4 the final effort to defeat Japan was launched; and  
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6 WHEREAS, President William J. Clinton proclaimed  
7 October 20, 1996, as a day honoring the Filipino Veterans of  
8 World War II, recalling the courage, sacrifice, and loyalty of  
9 Filipino veterans of World War II in defense of democracy and  
10 liberty; and  
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12 WHEREAS, for decades after their heroic service under the  
13 command of their leaders and General Douglas MacArthur, these  
14 men and women of Filipino-American national heritage were denied  
15 the benefits and privileges provided to their American  
16 compatriots who fought side-by-side with them; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the Rescission Act of 1946 withdrew the U.S.  
19 veteran's status of Filipino World War II soldiers, thereby  
20 denying them the benefits and compensation received by their  
21 American counterparts and soldiers of more than sixty-six other  
22 U.S. allied countries, who were similarly inducted into the U.S.  
23 military; and  
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25 WHEREAS, the Rescission Act discriminated against  
26 Filipinos, making them the only national group singled out for  
27 denial of full U.S. veterans status and benefits, including  
28 rights of immigration and naturalization; and  
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30 WHEREAS, in recognition of the courage and loyalty of the  
31 Filipino troops who fought along side our armed forces in the  
32 Philippines during World War II, the United States Congress  
33 enacted legislation in 1990 that provided a waiver from certain  
34 immigration and naturalization requirements for those Filipino  
35 veterans; and  
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37 WHEREAS, as a result of that legislation, many of those  
38 Filipino veterans have become proud citizens and residents of  
39 this country; and  
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41 WHEREAS, because the 1990 legislation did not go far enough  
42 in extending those immigration and naturalization benefits to  
43 the children of those veterans, the result has been years long



1 separations between the veterans and their children remaining in  
2 the Philippines awaiting the issuance of immigrant visas; and  
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4 WHEREAS, on February 16, 2007, Senator Daniel Akaka, along  
5 with Senator Daniel Inouye and other members, introduced S. 671,  
6 the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, in the United  
7 States Senate, to amend the Immigration and Naturalization Act  
8 to exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans  
9 from the numerical limitation on immigrant visas; and  
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11 WHEREAS, Rep. Mazie Hirono, Rep. Neil Abercrombie and other  
12 members have expressed an interest or intent to introduce or co-  
13 sponsor a House companion bill to S. 671 to facilitate family  
14 reunification of certain Filipino Veterans of WWII; and  
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16 WHEREAS, H.R. 1 the stimulus bill set the historical record  
17 straight by declaring that the Filipino Veterans' service during  
18 WWII is hereby recognized as active U.S. military service; now,  
19 therefore,  
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
22 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
23 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the United States  
24 President, the United States Senate, the United States House of  
25 Representatives are respectfully urged to support the passage of  
26 a federal law 1287 to expedite family reunification for certain  
27 Filipino veterans of World War II; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
31 United States, the Chair of the Judiciary Committee and the  
32 President of the United States Senate, the Chair of the  
33 Judiciary Committee and the Speaker of the United States House  
34 of Representatives, Hawaii's Congressional delegation and the  
35 Director of the Bureau of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration  
36 Services.  
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OFFERED BY: *Fida Abdulla*

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