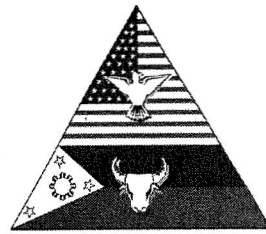




WW II Fil-Am Veterans

HAWAII CHAPTER

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF **HCR 298 & HR270** THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT. HUS - March 30, 2007 - 8:30 a.m. CR 329

To: Rep. John Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair and members of HUS

Chair Mizuno and distinguished members of the HUS committee. My name is Art Caleda, President of the W.W.II Fil-Am Veterans, Hawaii Chapter with almost one thousand five hundred veterans including veterans on the outer islands. On behalf of all the Filipino Veterans of WWII, we wish to testify in support of **HCR298 -& HR270** urging the United States president and senators and congress members to support the passage of legislation to expedite immigrant visas for family reunification of certain Filipino veterans of World War II.

Our own Hawaii Congressional delegation had introduced the FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT related to expediting visa approvals for the sons and daughters of certain Filipino veterans of World War II seeking justice and fairness for WWII Filipino Veterans. The Immigration Act of 1990 provided for U.S. citizenship to each veteran but excluded the veterans' dependants, unfairly requiring that each veteran submit an immigrant petition with supporting affidavits requesting that the veterans' dependents be permitted to live with the veteran.

We respectfully request the support of this distinguished body to help correct and rectify the injustice to WWII Filipino Veterans who fought and died shoulder-to-shoulder with their other American counterparts denying them their U.S. citizenship and just veteran benefits and rights. In fact, the Filipino veterans were bayoneted, gutted and murdered by the Japanese and these atrocities on Filipinos have got to stop, Chair Mizuno.

After all, U.S. President William Clinton proclaimed several years ago that what mistakes made by the U.S. in regards to the WWII Filipino Veterans must be corrected by America. Here is a chance for our beloved state to show support and gratitude for the sacrifices made by our very own WWII Filipino Veterans who risked their lives and liberty to keep and preserve democracy and our American way of life.

On October 20, 1996, former President William Clinton and on July 26, 2001, President George W. Bush issued their respective presidential proclamations recognizing and honoring the vital role of the WWII Filipino Veterans in fighting side by side with their American counterparts to turn back the attacking enemy thus defending liberty and preserving democracy and U.S. freedom and way of life.

Finally, in 2009 President Obama signed H.R.1 that recognized of our military World War II service as Active service, since we fought side by side with our American comrades in arms in the Philippines, and would be eligible to receive benefits and rights provided by the U. S. Congress but our U.S. citizenship was not restored to all of us. Our children are not even allowed to visit us on our death bed or to gather our bodies for burial.

These benefits are the same provided to the 116,000 Allied Soldiers from 66 Allied countries who were like the Filipino soldiers drafted and inducted under the same set of rules and who participated in the war efforts to help win the war. How can we recognize and supported some of the WWII Filipino veterans who were active participants of the war, when we do not recognized and supported two third of the 200,000 Filipino soldiers that compose 70% of General Mac Arthur strong joint Armed Forces. The one-third strength that were killed, disabled or maimed were recognized and supported and were given by the US Veterans Administration.

In short it took a Filipino veteran to be disabled, maimed or killed before his service were recognized and be entitled to the benefits under the GI bill for rights and other benefits provided by the U.S. Veterans Administration. Those veterans who survived the Holocaust of war and continued the "fight" with limbs intact are now considered to have rendered service in the U.S. armed force for purposed of any U.S. law granting veterans' rights and privileges. We appeal again before this honorable committee to please review the disparity, the injustice, and help us see our children before we die. Time is no longer on our side as many of us passed away. We hope and pray that the passing of this resolution will assist in rectifying this grave injustice and reunification with our families. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Late



**WW II Fil-Am Veterans
AND LADIES AUXILIARY
HAWAII CHAPTER**

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*HR 270 HCR 298
PM 239 8:30 am*

T E S T I M O N Y

IN SUPPORT OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 25TH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII, REGULAR SESSION OF 2009 AND THE SENATE CONCURRING, TO FACILITATE FAMILY REUNIFICATION OF THE WWII FILIPINO-AMERICAN VETERANS.

The Honorable Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Distinguished Committee Members:

Aloha! I am Dominador B Garcia, Chaplain of WW-II Filipino-American Veterans New Philippine Scouts, United States Army and Ladies Auxiliary, Hi Chapter.

I have the pleasure to testify of the intent of the House Concurrent Resolution, 2009 Regular Session, the Senate Concurring, "Family Reunification Act of the WW-II Filipino-American Veterans", that grants priority issuance of visas their children.

I speak as Representative of the WW-II Filipino-American Veterans, the New Philippine Scouts, United States Army, and Ladies Auxiliary, Hawaii Chapter, whose members are all United States citizens and legally permanent residing in the United States of America.

Based on their Army Separation Qualification Record, these veterans that I represent are known as the PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH ARMY called into the service of the USAFFE since July 26 1941 to June 30 1946; the GUERRILLAS, who are soldiers as jungle fighters in USAFFE's resistance units serving with the United States Forces since April 20, 1942 to June 30 1946; and the NEW PHILIPPINE SCOUTS, who served with United States Army since Oct. 6 1945 to April 7, 1949 on occupation duty at the U.S. Strategic Bases: in Okinawa, Guam and the Philippines.

All of the Wartime Filipin-American veterans want substantial RECOGNITION of their honorable United States Military Services during the World War II by exempting their children from numerical limitations on immigrant visas in order for these said veterans get reunited with their children.

We, wartime veterans obtaining Filipino Family Reunification benefit surely come out supportive in confiding the House of Representatives, 25th Legislature of the State of Hawaii, the Senate Concurring to respectfully urge the United States President and the United States Congress to support the passage of of a federal law 1287 to expedite family reunification for the said above mentioned wartime veterans.

In the Name of the Giver of Eternal Life, May God Almighty bless you His divine wisdom to have this bill clears your committee and get it passed.

Mahalo! Thank you vey much.

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WWII FiI-Am Veterans - 1-

Hawaii Chapter

HUS - March 30 2009

Testimony - Sijigori of HCR-298 +
HRC70

To: Rep. John Hironaka, Chair
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice-Chair +
Members of HUS

My name is Adelgado G. Juanas
a member of the WWII FiI-Am Veterans +
John A. Allay, Hawaii Chapter.
Sirs:

Thank you for giving today this
rare opportunity to come out over
common sentiments which we have
been harboring for several years. In
behalf of fellow veterans and ladies
we thank our good Pres. Barack Obama
for giving the living veterans the
\$15,000 they need and also all the
people who supported this bill. But,
we are not yet fully satisfied, we
still have the doubt that our children
will be joining us soon in America.
As per observation many good veterans
are going away joining the caravan
gang to see Bush after no return.
And my husband is one of them who passed
away 3 years ago. So we are strongly
supporting the passage of HCR 298.

+ H R - 270 which will expedite the
issuance of Special Immigrant Visas
to our children so they can come soon
and join us in our beautiful year.

2

TESTIMONY

By: Adelaida G. Juanatas
1615 Ohu St., Hon., HI, 96819
Consultant, Ladies Auxiliary
Hawaii Chapter

Members of the State Legislature of Hawaii, under the dynamic leadership of our very intelligent Gov. Linda Lingle, coupled by the supportive efforts of our equally brilliant Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona, officers and members of the WW II Fil-Am Vets of Hawaii Chapter, friends, visitors, I bid you all a very pleasant good morning.

Sirs, may I take this rare opportunity to voice out to you our common sentiments which we have been harboring for 9 years or more. Since our arrival here on American soil, it has been our obsession that the Equity Act be approved by the US Congress and the President of US, so we may enjoy the benefits derived from it. But sad to say, many of us are joining our Creator to the Great Beyond while waiting for the approval of the said bill. Others are physically and mentally disabled as they are now confined in hospitals and nursing homes. Actually, we now feel that we are hoping against hope. To quote Dr. Jose Rizal, our national hero when he said, "I die without seeing the dawn break.", that's how we feel right now.

Sirs, as an alternative, we request your honors to pass a legislation granting ~~special Immigrant Visas to our children so they can join us in our twilight years.~~

Del This proposal your honors, will not oblige the US Government to spend for their coming as they will have to come on their own. Furthermore, they can help in the development of the country in social, political, educational, and economic development. I say this because most of them are college graduates and others have technical skills.

Your honors, we hope and pray that our request will find a soft spot in your hearts. In return, we won't forget you and you have our full support in any endeavors you have.

Thank you. Good luck, good health, and God bless you all.

By: Adelaida G. Juanatas