
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERAN BURIAL GRANTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a Filipino veteran
2 of the New Filipino Scouts who enlisted between October 6, 1945,
3 and June 30, 1947, who died after June 30, 2004, and who was, at
4 the time of the veteran's death, a United States citizen and a
5 resident of the State of Hawaii, is presently entitled to
6 receive a burial grant from the office of veterans' services to
7 pay for the cost of:

8 (1) Funeral and burial services for the deceased veteran;
9 and

10 (2) Transporting the remains of the deceased veteran to
11 the Philippines.

12 To qualify for this burial grant, however, the Filipino
13 veteran's survivor or an interested party must produce an
14 itemized paid invoice showing the specific services were
15 rendered. However, because of the tremendous upfront costs
16 associated with funeral and burial services as well as
17 transportation to the Philippines, some World War II Filipino
18 veterans, and their families and friends, cannot afford to pay



1 for these activities in advance. Consequently, they will not be
2 able to qualify for these burial grants from the office of
3 veterans' services.

4 This Act requires the office of veterans' services to
5 provide an alternative to the procedures currently specified in
6 the rules of the office of veterans' services, which only apply
7 in situations where a deceased Filipino veteran's survivor or an
8 interested party has already paid for services rendered on
9 behalf of the deceased veteran, or in situations where the
10 deceased veteran may have purchased a pre-paid funeral and
11 burial plan.

12 The purpose of this Act is to provide payment of up to
13 \$2,500 per veteran, under the veterans' burial grant program, to
14 a mortuary or crematory directly for:

15 (1) Providing funeral and burial services at the request
16 of a qualifying deceased Filipino veteran's survivor
17 or an interested party; and

18 (2) Transporting the veteran's remains to the Philippines,
19 upon the submission of a contract for services.

20 SECTION 2. Chapter 363, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
22 and to read as follows:



1 "§363- Disbursement of World War II Filipino veterans

2 burial grant funds. (a) At the request of a deceased Filipino
3 veteran's survivor or an interested party, the office shall
4 receive, review, and, as appropriate, approve requests for
5 payments for:

6 (1) Providing funeral and burial services for a New
7 Filipino Scout who died after June 30, 2004; and

8 (2) Transporting the remains of a New Filipino Scout to
9 the Philippines.

10 (b) The office shall establish the amount of burial grant
11 funds that may be disbursed on behalf of a New Filipino Scout;
12 provided that the amount shall not exceed \$2,500 per person.

13 (c) The office shall not expend more than the amount
14 appropriated for the fiscal year to provide burial grants for
15 deceased World War II Filipino veterans.

16 (d) The office shall establish specific eligibility
17 criteria, application and appeal procedures, service choices,
18 and invoicing arrangements.

19 (e) The office shall authorize payment upon the submission
20 of a paid and itemized invoice or invoices reflecting funeral
21 and burial services and transportation of remains; provided that



1 these services were performed satisfactorily on behalf of a New
2 Filipino Scout.

3 (f) As used in this section, "New Filipino Scout" means a
4 Filipino veteran who served during World War II, enlisted in the
5 New Filipino Scouts between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947,
6 and who, at the time of the veteran's death, was a United States
7 citizen and a resident of Hawaii."

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
12 2010-2011 for burial grant funds for deceased Filipino veterans.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
14 of defense, office of veterans' services for the purposes of
15 this Act.

16 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
18 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2009.



Report Title:

Veterans Cemetery; Filipino Veterans

Description:

Requires Office of Veterans' Services make burial grant payments directly to a mortuary for its services and for transportation to the Philippines of the remains of a deceased veteran who joined the New Filipino Scouts between 10/06/1945 and 06/30/1947 and died after 06/30/2004. Appropriates funds. (HB556 HD1)

