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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES  
CONGRESS TO EXPEDITE PAYMENT OF WAR BENEFITS TO FILIPINO  
VETERANS WHO FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR II BUT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY  
DENIED THEIR ENTITLED BENEFITS.

1           WHEREAS, during World War II, the Philippines was a United  
2 States commonwealth; and

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4           WHEREAS, in 1941, 250,000 Filipino soldiers volunteered  
5 their services after being promised full veterans benefits to  
6 volunteer to fight for the United States against the potential  
7 threat of Japan; and

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9           WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor  
10 and on December 8, bombed the United States military bases in  
11 the Philippines; and

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13           WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Filipino men and women risked  
14 their lives against the invading Japanese forces and assisted  
15 our nation in its efforts to liberate the Philippines; and

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17           WHEREAS, on April 9, 1942, the United States retreated from  
18 the Philippines, and during the Bataan Death March, thousands of  
19 American and Filipino prisoners of war died as they traveled to  
20 Japanese prisoners of war camps; and

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22           WHEREAS, on September 2, 1945, Japan surrendered the  
23 Philippines to America; and

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25           WHEREAS, in February 1946, Congress enacted the Recission  
26 Act, denying World War II Filipino veterans rights to veterans  
27 benefits like healthcare, disability pensions, and burial  
28 expenses; and



1           WHEREAS, over the years, Congress has considered  
2 legislation to restore the benefits denied to Filipino veterans  
3 and even received encouraging words from Presidents George W.  
4 Bush and Bill Clinton to fulfill the broken promises made by the  
5 United States government; and

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7           WHEREAS, more than 60 years later, in 2009, President Obama  
8 signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and a  
9 provision tucked inside this stimulus bill finally called for  
10 releasing \$198,000,000 for lump sum payments to Filipino  
11 veterans in lieu of pensions; and

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13           WHEREAS, one year later, although today only about 11,000  
14 veterans now in their 80s and 90s are still alive to collect  
15 these payments, some Filipino veterans are still waiting for the  
16 promised checks; and

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18           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, there are about 400 Filipino veterans  
19 qualified for payments under ARRA, and about 15 percent are  
20 still waiting for their checks and about 20 percent have claims  
21 that are still pending; and

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23           WHEREAS, according to Senator Daniel Inouye, it is "a  
24 matter of honor" to correct this injustice to Filipino veterans  
25 who served our nation so courageously, so many of whom have died  
26 waiting for what was promised them; now, therefore,

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28           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
30 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the President of the United  
31 States and United States Congress are urged to expedite the  
32 processing of all claims for payment, and the distribution of  
33 checks to Filipino veterans under ARRA, which are already long  
34 overdue; and

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36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that even payment of these claims  
37 does not correct the injustice and discrimination done 60 years  
38 ago but is a small step in making reparations; and

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40           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the



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1 United States, President pro tempore of the United States  
2 Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representative,  
3 each member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the Director  
4 of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the  
5 Director of the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services, and the  
6 President of the Philippines.

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OFFERED BY:



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