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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO  
SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF S. 1337, THE FILIPINO VETERANS  
FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT OF 2009, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION,  
TO EXPEDITE FAMILY REUNIFICATION FOR 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  
4 world; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, at that time, the Philippines was a commonwealth  
7 associated with the United States and its citizens were  
8 nationals of the United States, similar to the status of  
9 Hawaii's residents prior to statehood and the current status of  
10 American Samoa's residents; and

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

17  
18           WHEREAS, thousands more Filipinos joined the United States  
19 Armed Forces immediately after the war and served in  
20 occupational duty throughout the Pacific theater; and

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

27  
28           WHEREAS, their many guerrilla actions slowed the Japanese  
29 takeover of the Western Pacific region and allowed United States



1 forces the time to build and prepare for the allied  
2 counterattack on Japanese forces; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, Filipino troops fought side by side with American  
5 forces to secure their islands as the strategic base from which  
6 the final effort to defeat Japan was launched; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, in February of 1946, Congress enacted the 1946  
9 Rescission Act, which denied World War II Filipino veterans  
10 rights to veterans benefits equal to those enjoyed by other  
11 veterans and soldiers of more than sixty-six other countries who  
12 were similarly inducted into the United States military; and  
13

14 WHEREAS the Rescission Act discriminated against Filipinos,  
15 making them the only national group singled out for denial of  
16 full United States veterans status and benefits, including  
17 rights of immigration and naturalization; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, decades later, in recognition of the courage and  
20 loyalty of the Filipino troops who fought alongside our armed  
21 forces in the Pacific during World War II, the United States  
22 Congress enacted legislation in 1990 that provided a waiver from  
23 certain immigration and naturalization requirements for these  
24 Filipino veterans; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, as a result of that legislation, many of those  
27 Filipino veterans have become proud citizens and residents of  
28 this country; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, despite the granting of citizenship, these World  
31 War II Filipino veterans are still denied equal treatment and  
32 status as American veterans by the Rescission Act; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, the 1990 legislation did not go far enough in  
35 extending those immigration and naturalization benefits to the  
36 children of those veterans, resulting in years of long  
37 separation between the veterans and their children remaining in  
38 the Philippines awaiting the issuance of immigrant visas; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, President William J. Clinton proclaimed October  
41 20, 1996, as a day honoring the Filipino Veterans of World War  
42 II, recalling the courage, sacrifice, and loyalty of Filipino  
43 veterans of World War II in defense of democracy and liberty;  
44 and



# H.C.R. NO. 11

1  
2           WHEREAS, on April 1, 2008, the Hawaii State Legislature  
3 adopted House Resolution No. 91 requesting Congress and the  
4 President of the United States to enact the Filipino Veterans  
5 Equity Act to provide veterans benefits to Filipino veterans who  
6 served our nation during World War II; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, on February 17, 2009, Senator Daniel Akaka, along  
9 with Senator Daniel Inouye and others, introduced S. 671, the  
10 Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, to amend the  
11 Immigration and Naturalization Act to exempt children of certain  
12 Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitation on  
13 immigrant visas; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, Representative Mazie Hirono, Representative Neil  
16 Abercrombie, and others have expressed an interest or intent to  
17 introduce or co-sponsor a House companion bill to S. 671 to  
18 facilitate family reunification of certain Filipino veterans of  
19 World War II; and  
20

21           WHEREAS, H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
22 of 2009, was signed into law, among many other things, to  
23 formally recognize and set the historical record straight by  
24 declaring the service of Filipino World War II veterans as  
25 active United States military service in the Armed Forces for  
26 purposes of this law; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, decades after their heroic service under the  
29 command of their leaders and General Douglas MacArthur, men and  
30 women of Filipino-American national heritage are still being  
31 denied the benefits and privileges provided to their American  
32 compatriots who fought side by side with them; and  
33

34           WHEREAS, the World War II Filipino veterans that survive,  
35 are now in their 70s and 80s, and many are permanently disabled  
36 and would, except for the Rescission Act, be eligible for full  
37 federal veterans benefits and services; and  
38

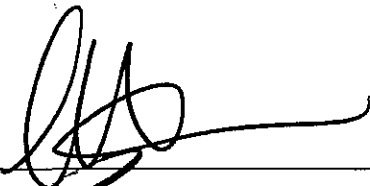
39           WHEREAS, correction of this injustice to the Filipino  
40 veterans who served our nation courageously in the fight for  
41 freedom and democracy during World War II is long overdue; now,  
42 therefore,  
43



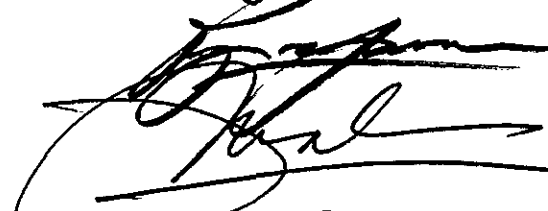
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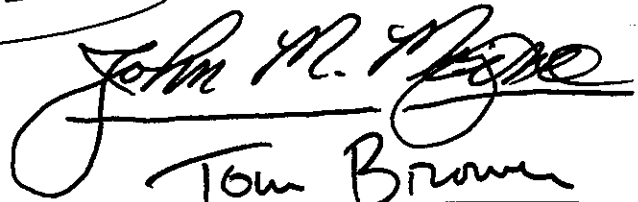
1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 2 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 3 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the President of the United  
 4 States and United States Congress are urged to support the  
 5 passage of S. 1337, The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification  
 6 Act of 2009, or similar legislation, to expedite family  
 7 reunification for certain Filipino veterans of World War II; and  
 8

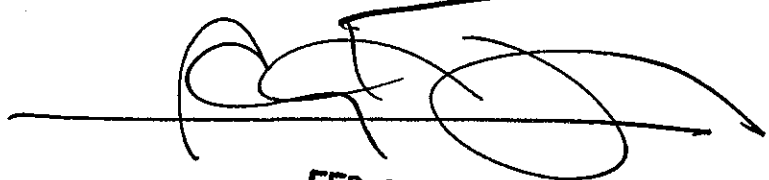
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
 11 United States, President of the Republic of the Philippines,  
 12 Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the  
 13 United States House of Representatives, Chair of the Committee  
 14 on the Judiciary of the United States Senate, Chair of the  
 15 Committee on the Judiciary of the United States House of  
 16 Representatives, Director of the Bureau of United States  
 17 Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Secretary of  
 18 Veterans Affairs, each member of Hawaii's congressional  
 19 delegation, the respective Chairs of the Senate Committee on  
 20 Human Services, the House Committee on Human Services, the  
 21 Senate Committee on Tourism, and the House Committee on Tourism,  
 22 Culture, and International Affairs of the Hawaii State  
 23 Legislature.  
 24  
 25  
 26

OFFERED BY: 





  
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 Tom Brown



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