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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

8  
9 WHEREAS, during World War II, the Philippines was a United  
10 States commonwealth; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, in 1941, 250,000 Filipino soldiers volunteered  
13 their services after being promised full veterans benefits to  
14 volunteer to fight for the United States against the potential  
15 threat of Japan; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor  
18 and on December 8, bombed the United States military bases in  
19 the Philippines; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Filipino men and women risked  
22 their lives against the invading Japanese forces and assisted  
23 our nation in its efforts to liberate the Philippines; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, on April 9, 1942, the United States retreated from  
26 the Philippines, and during the Bataan Death March, thousands of  
27 American and Filipino prisoners of war died as they traveled to  
28 Japanese prisoners of war camps; and

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30 WHEREAS, on September 2, 1945, Japan surrendered the  
31 Philippines to America; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, in February 1946, Congress enacted the Rescission  
34 Act, denying World War II Filipino veterans rights to veterans  
35 benefits like healthcare, disability pensions, and burial  
36 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  
6

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  
12

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  
17

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  
22

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,  
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
30 of 2011, 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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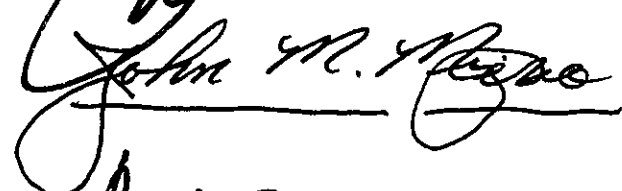
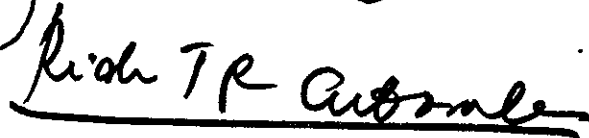
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
42 United States, President pro tempore of the United States  
43 Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representative,  
44 each member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the Director



# H.C.R. NO. 253

1 of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the  
2 Director of the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services, the  
3 President of the Philippines, and the Chair of the Hawaii  
4 Legislative Filipino Caucus.  
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OFFERED BY:

MAR 16 2011

