
HOUSE 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, 1941, bombed the United States military bases
11 in 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 surrendered
18 Luzon in the Philippines, leading to the Bataan Death March
19 where thousands of American and Filipino prisoners of war died
20 as they traveled to Japanese prisoner of war camps, and in May
21 of 1942, the United States retreated completely from the
22 Philippines; and

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24 WHEREAS, on September 2, 1945, Japan surrendered the
25 Philippines to the United States; and

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27 WHEREAS, in February 1946, Congress enacted the Rescission
28 Act, denying World War II Filipino veterans rights to veterans
29 benefits such as healthcare, disability pensions, and burial
30 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, and a
9 provision tucked inside this stimulus bill finally called for
10 the release of \$198,000,000 for lump sum payments to Filipino
11 veterans in lieu of pensions; and

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

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18 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, there are approximately 400 Filipino
19 veterans qualified for payments under the American Recovery and
20 Reinvestment Act of 2009, approximately 15 percent are still
21 waiting for their checks, and approximately 20 percent have
22 claims that are still pending; and

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

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
32 of 2011, that the President of the United States and United
33 States Congress are urged to expedite the processing of all
34 claims for payment, and the distribution of checks to Filipino
35 veterans under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
36 2009, which are already long overdue; and

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



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes those
2 Filipino veterans who reside in Hawaii and fought in World War
3 II are an aging population, and strongly urge the expediency of
4 war benefits payments; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Veterans Services
7 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
8 20 days prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session
9 detailing progress made with respect to the purpose of this
10 Resolution; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
14 President pro tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of
15 the United States House of Representatives, each member of
16 Hawaii's Congressional Delegation; the Secretary of the United
17 States Department of Veterans Affairs; Director of the Hawaii
18 Office of Veterans Services; Executive Director of the Office of
19 Community Services; President of the Philippines; Philippine
20 Consul General in Hawaii; Philippine Ambassador to the United
21 States; Chair of the Hawaii Legislative Filipino Caucus; Chair
22 of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action; President of the
23 Filipino American Citizens League; President of the Filipino
24 Coalition for Solidarity; Chair of the National Federation of
25 Filipino American Associations Region XII; President of the Oahu
26 Filipino Community Council; and President of the United Filipino
27 Council of Hawaii.

