
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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2
3 URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED
4 STATES CONGRESS TO EXPEDITE PAYMENT OF WAR BENEFITS TO
5 FILIPINO VETERANS WHO FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR II BUT WERE
6 SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED THEIR ENTITLED BENEFITS.
7

8 WHEREAS, during World War II, the Philippines was a United
9 States commonwealth; and
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11 WHEREAS, in 1941, 250,000 Filipino soldiers volunteered
12 their services after being promised full veterans benefits to
13 volunteer to fight for the United States against the potential
14 threat of Japan; and
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16 WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor
17 and on December 8, bombed the United States military bases in
18 the Philippines; and
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20 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Filipino men and women risked
21 their lives against the invading Japanese forces and assisted
22 our nation in its efforts to liberate the Philippines; and
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24 WHEREAS, on April 9, 1942, the United States retreated from
25 the Philippines, and during the Bataan Death March, thousands of
26 American and Filipino prisoners of war died as they traveled to
27 Japanese prisoners of war camps; and
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29 WHEREAS, on September 2, 1945, Japan surrendered the
30 Philippines to America; and
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32 WHEREAS, in February 1946, Congress enacted the Rescission
33 Act, denying World War II Filipino veterans rights to veterans
34 benefits like healthcare, disability pensions, and burial
35 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
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
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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
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 2010, that the President of the United States and United
31 States Congress are urged to expedite the processing of all
32 claims for payment, and the distribution of checks to Filipino
33 veterans under ARRA, which are already long overdue; and
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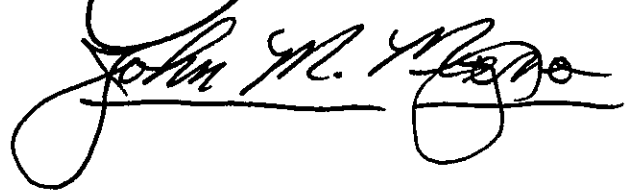
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that even payment of these claims
36 does not correct the injustice and discrimination done 60 years
37 ago but is a small step in making reparations; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
41 President pro tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of



1 the United States House of Representatives, each member of
2 Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the Director of the United
3 States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Director of the
4 Hawaii Office of Veterans Services, the President of the
5 Philippines, and the Chair of the Hawaii Legislature's Filipino
6 Caucus.
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OFFERED BY:



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