
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND CONGRESS TO
SUPPORT AND PASS THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION
ACT OF 2013.

1 WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers fought bravely beside American
2 troops to restore liberty and democracy to their homeland by
3 volunteering as spies, serving as guerrillas in the jungles, and
4 fighting in American units during World War II; and
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6 WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers exhibited great courage at the
7 battles of Corregidor and Bataan, and their bravery and self-
8 sacrifice contributed to the Allied victory that ended World War
9 II; and
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11 WHEREAS, in 1941, by executive order, Filipinos who
12 volunteered for the Philippine Commonwealth Army and Philippine
13 Scouts were made eligible for full United States veterans'
14 benefits for their active service during the War; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 1946, by congressional act and upon the
17 independence of the Philippines, these same Filipino veterans
18 were denied eligibility for United States veterans' benefits;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, almost 50 years later, the 1990 Immigration Act
22 gave Filipino World War II veterans the option to pursue United
23 States citizenship; and
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25 WHEREAS, since this change in immigration law, thousands of
26 Filipino veterans immigrated to the United States; and
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28 WHEREAS, many of these Filipino veterans have been
29 separated from their children and families in the Philippines
30 who are awaiting the day when their visas are granted and their
31 families can be reunited in the United States; and



1 WHEREAS, there is a limit on how many Filipinos can
2 immigrate to the United States each year, and there is currently
3 a visa application backlog of more than ten years; and
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5 WHEREAS, many of the Filipino veterans currently in the
6 United States are very elderly and in poor health, have no
7 family to care for them, and face the very real possibility of
8 passing away without ever seeing their children again; and
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10 WHEREAS, according to United States Representative Colleen
11 Hanabusa, only 6,000 of the original 250,000 veterans are still
12 alive; and
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14 WHEREAS, both United States Senator Mazie Hirono and
15 Representative Colleen Hanabusa have introduced legislation
16 cited as the "Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act of
17 2013" for consideration in their respective congressional
18 chambers; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act of
21 2013 amends the Immigration and Nationality Act by exempting the
22 children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the
23 numerical limitations on immigration visas to facilitate
24 reunification of Filipino veterans with their families; now,
25 therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
29 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the President and
30 all members of Congress are urged to support and pass the
31 Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act of 2013 to exempt the
32 children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from
33 numerical limitations on immigrant visas; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
37 United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
38 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the
39 members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.
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[Handwritten signatures and text]
OFFERED BY:
[Handwritten names: Ryan T.R. Geronzi, Tom Bunn, Guyer Tahn, etc.]



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