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## HOUSE 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,  
26

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, that the President and all members of Congress  
30 are urged to support and pass the Filipino Veterans Family  
31 Reunification Act of 2013 to exempt the children of certain  
32 Filipino World War II veterans from numerical limitations on  
33 immigrant visas; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
36 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
37 Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the  
38 United States House of Representatives, and the members of  
39 Hawaii's Congressional delegation.  
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*[Handwritten signatures: Tom Barr, Karl Rhoads, Jerry A. ...]*  
OFFERED BY:  
*[Handwritten signatures: Riden, ...]*  
MAR 13 2013  
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