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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO GRANT VETERANS BENEFITS TO FILIPINO VETERANS WHO FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR II BUT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED THE BENEFITS TO WHICH THEY WERE ENTITLED.

1           WHEREAS, during World War II, the Philippines was a United  
2 States commonwealth; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers volunteered their services after  
5 being promised full veterans benefits to volunteer to fight for  
6 the United States against the potential threat of Japan; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, thousands of Filipino men and women risked their  
9 lives against the invading Japanese forces and assisted our  
10 nation in its efforts to liberate the Philippines; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers fought bravely beside American  
13 troops to restore liberty and democracy to their homeland; and

14  
15           WHEREAS, exhibiting great courage at the battles of  
16 Corregidor and Bataan, Filipino soldiers contributed to the  
17 Allied victory that ended World War II; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, in 1941, by executive order, Filipinos who  
20 volunteered for the Philippine Commonwealth Army and Philippine  
21 Scouts were made eligible for full United States veterans  
22 benefits for their active service during the war; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, in 1946, by congressional act and upon the  
25 independence of the Philippines, these same Filipino veterans  
26 were denied eligibility for United States veterans benefits,  
27 such as health care, disability pensions, and burial expenses;  
28 and



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1 WHEREAS, over the years, Congress has considered  
 2 legislation to restore the benefits denied to Filipino veterans;  
 3 and

4  
 5 WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009  
 6 included a provision that called for the release of funding for  
 7 lump sum payments to Filipino veterans in lieu of pensions; and

8  
 9 WHEREAS, restoring benefits denied to Filipino veterans and  
 10 fulfilling and expediting any claims that are still pending  
 11 honors those Filipino veterans who served our nation so  
 12 courageously; now, therefore,

13  
 14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 15 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 16 Session of 2014, that the President of the United States and the  
 17 United States Congress are urged to grant veterans benefits to  
 18 Filipino veterans who fought in World War II but were  
 19 subsequently denied the benefits to which they were entitled;  
 20 and

21  
 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that providing these benefits does  
 23 not correct the injustice and discrimination done over 60 years  
 24 ago, but is a small step in making reparations; and

25  
 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 27 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
 28 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of  
 29 the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's  
 30 Congressional delegation, Secretary of the United States  
 31 Department of Veterans Affairs, Director of the Hawaii Office of  
 32 Veterans Services, President of the Republic of the Philippines,  
 33 and Philippine Consul General in Hawaii.

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 35  
 36

OFFERED BY: *[Signature]*  
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