

JAN 21 2020

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND CONGRESS TO  
REINSTATE THE FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS PAROLE  
PROGRAM.

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

10  
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

15  
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 passage of the 1990 Immigration Act,  
26 thousands of Filipino veterans immigrated to the United States;  
27 and

28  
29           WHEREAS, many of these Filipino veterans had been separated  
30 from their children and families in the Philippines who are  
31 awaiting the day when their visas are granted and their families  
32 can be reunited in the United States; and



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 2 WHEREAS, many of the Filipino veterans in the United States  
 3 are very elderly and in poor health, and have no family to care  
 4 for them; and

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 6 WHEREAS, on June 8, 2016, the Filipino World War II  
 7 Veterans Parole (FWVP) program was implemented to reunite aging  
 8 Filipino World War II veterans with their children and families;  
 9 and

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 11 WHEREAS, under the FWVP program, Filipino veterans whose  
 12 service has been recognized by the United States Department of  
 13 Defense, or their surviving spouses, may apply to bring children  
 14 and certain family members to the United States; and

15  
 16 WHEREAS, under the FWVP program, families, some of who have  
 17 been waiting for decades, can be together in the United States  
 18 while they wait for a green card; and


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 20 WHEREAS, in April 2017, United States Senator Mazie Hirono  
 21 encouraged the Trump administration to continue the FWVP  
 22 program; and




23  
 24 WHEREAS, in August 2019, the Trump administration announced  
 25 that it was terminating the FWVP program; now, therefore,

26  
 27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
 28 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of  
 29 Representatives concurring, that the President of the United  
 30 States and all members of Congress are urged to reinstate the  
 31 FWVP program; and

32  
 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
 35 United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate;  
 36 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and  
 37 members of the Hawaii congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: 

   Clarence K. Quastner

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DKL  
Bill Swine  
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