
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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4 WHEREAS, in 1941, 250,000 Filipino soldiers volunteered
5 their services after being promised full veterans benefits to
6 volunteer to fight for the United States against the potential
7 threat of Japan; and

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9 WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor
10 and on December 8, 1941, bombed the United States military bases
11 in the Philippines; and

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13 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Filipino men and women risked
14 their lives against the invading Japanese forces and assisted
15 our nation in its efforts to liberate the Philippines; and

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17 WHEREAS, on April 9, 1942, the United States surrendered
18 Luzon in the Philippines, leading to the Bataan Death March
19 where thousands of American and Filipino prisoners of war died
20 as they traveled to Japanese prisoner of war camps, and in May
21 of 1942, the United States retreated completely from the
22 Philippines; and

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24 WHEREAS, on September 2, 1945, Japan surrendered the
25 Philippines to the United States; and

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27 WHEREAS, in February 1946, Congress enacted the Rescission
28 Act, denying World War II Filipino veterans rights to veterans
29 benefits such as healthcare, disability pensions, and burial
30 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, and a
9 provision tucked inside this stimulus bill finally called for
10 the release of \$198,000,000 for lump sum payments to Filipino
11 veterans in lieu of pensions; and
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13 WHEREAS, although today only about 11,000 veterans now in
14 their 80s and 90s are still alive to collect these payments,
15 some Filipino veterans are still waiting for the promised
16 checks; and
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18 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, there are approximately 400 Filipino
19 veterans qualified for payments under the American Recovery and
20 Reinvestment Act of 2009, approximately 15 percent are still
21 waiting for their checks, and approximately 20 percent have
22 claims that are still pending; and
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24 WHEREAS, according to United States Senator Daniel Inouye,
25 it is "a matter of honor" to correct this injustice to those
26 Filipino veterans who served our nation so courageously, so many
27 of whom have died waiting for what was promised to them; now,
28 therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
32 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the President of the United
33 States and United States Congress are urged to expedite the
34 processing of all claims for payment, and the distribution of
35 checks to Filipino veterans under the American Recovery and
36 Reinvestment Act of 2009, which are already long overdue; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that even payment of these claims
39 does not correct the injustice and discrimination done 60 years
40 ago but is a small step in making reparations; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes
43 those Filipino veterans who reside in Hawaii and fought in World
44 War II are an aging population, and strongly urge the expediency
45 of war benefits payments; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Veterans Services
2 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
3 20 days prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session
4 detailing progress made with respect to the purpose of this
5 concurrent resolution; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
9 United States, President pro tempore of the United States
10 Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
11 each member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation; the Secretary
12 of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; Director of
13 the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services; Executive Director of
14 the Office of Community Services; President of the Philippines;
15 Philippine Consul General in Hawaii; Philippine Ambassador to
16 the United States; Chair of the Hawaii Legislative Filipino
17 Caucus; Chair of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action; President
18 of the Filipino American Citizens League; President of the
19 Filipino Coalition for Solidarity; Chair of the National
20 Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII;
21 President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council; and President
22 of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii.

