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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT AND  
INCLUDE THE PHILIPPINES IN THE VISA IMPROVEMENTS TO  
STIMULATE INTERNATIONAL TOURISM TO THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA ACT.

1           WHEREAS, tourism is Hawaii's largest industry and a vital  
2 part of Hawaii's economy, providing revenue to the State and an  
3 abundance of tourism-related job opportunities; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Pacific region is an area that has the  
6 potential to bring new visitors to Hawaii and the rest of the  
7 United States because of emerging markets in Asia and other  
8 areas in the Pacific Rim; and  
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10           WHEREAS, according to the 2010 United States Census, there  
11 are 197,497 Filipino Americans representing 14.5 percent of  
12 Hawaii's population; and  
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14           WHEREAS, in 2011, more than 9,000 Filipinos travelled to  
15 Hawaii; and  
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17           WHEREAS, reforming the visa process is a cost-effective way  
18 to make it easier for more international business and  
19 recreational visitors to travel to Hawaii and the rest of the  
20 United States; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the Visa Improvements to Stimulate International  
23 Tourism to the United States of America Act (VISIT USA Act)  
24 would establish a five-year multiple entry visa for specified  
25 countries, but does not include the Philippines; and  
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27           WHEREAS, including the Philippines in the VISIT USA Act  
28 would not only boost Hawaii's tourism industry, but also



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1 strengthen the State's strong ties to the Philippines; now,  
2 therefore,  
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
6 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature urges the  
7 Congress of the United States to propose and support the  
8 inclusion of the Philippines in the VISIT USA Act; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader,  
12 United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of  
13 Representatives; the members of Hawaii's congressional  
14 delegation; the Secretary of Homeland Security; the Director of  
15 the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; and the  
16 Governor.  
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