
HOUSE 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
29 strengthen the State's strong ties to the Philippines; now,
30 therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 3 of 2012, that this body urges the Congress of the United States
 4 to propose and support the inclusion of the Philippines in the
 5 VISIT USA Act; and

6
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 8 Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader, United States
 9 Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of
 10 Representatives; the members of Hawaii's congressional
 11 delegation; the Secretary of Homeland Security; the Director of
 12 the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; and the
 13 Governor.

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OFFERED BY:

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