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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO COVER THE COSTS OF TRANSPORTING THE REMAINS  
OF FILIPINO-AMERICAN VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II TO THE  
PHILIPPINES AND FOR FUNERAL AND BURIAL SERVICES IN THE  
PHILIPPINES.

1           WHEREAS, during World War II, the Philippines was a  
2 Commonwealth of the United States, and, for four years, nearly  
3 100,000 soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought  
4 alongside the United States and Allied forces to defend and  
5 reclaim the Philippine Islands from foreign aggression; and  
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7           WHEREAS, these valiant Filipino soldiers fought, suffered,  
8 and died in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II,  
9 defending beleaguered Bataan and Corregidor, and thousands of  
10 them became prisoners of war, enduring the infamous Bataan Death  
11 March and years of captivity; and  
12

13           WHEREAS, the sacrifices of these Filipino soldiers played a  
14 vital role in the Allied victory in the Pacific as their  
15 numerous guerrilla actions provided United States forces with  
16 time to build and prepare for the Allied counterattack; and  
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18           WHEREAS, these Filipino soldiers fought side-by-side with  
19 United States forces to secure their island nation as the  
20 strategic base from which the final effort by Allied forces to  
21 bring an end to World War II was launched; and  
22

23           WHEREAS, the United States promised these Filipino soldiers  
24 pay and benefits for their military service under the United  
25 States Armed Forces and for their oath of allegiance to the  
26 Constitution of the United States; however, soon after the war  
27 ended, legislation was passed that wrongfully took away the  
28 benefits and recognition they had earned; and  
29



1           WHEREAS, because these World War II veterans had suffered a  
2 great wrong, and recognizing that for those with family in the  
3 Philippines, the return of their remains to the Philippines is a  
4 profound and fervent wish, the Legislature in 2003 enacted a law  
5 requiring the Office of Veterans' Services to pay up to \$2,500  
6 for the transport of their remains to the Philippines and  
7 funeral and burial services in the Philippines; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, funding, however, has not been provided to fulfill  
10 this statutory requirement; and  
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12           WHEREAS, in the early 2000s, the United States also enacted  
13 legislation requiring the Veterans Administration to pay the  
14 full cost of burial benefits to the survivors of these World War  
15 II veterans; however, this legislation failed to address  
16 coverage of the costs of transport to and services in the  
17 Philippines; and  
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19           WHEREAS, though many years have transpired since World War  
20 II, the words of United States President Harry S. Truman, in  
21 1946, remain the honest truth: "I consider it a moral  
22 obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of  
23 Philippine Army veterans."; and  
24

25           WHEREAS, for the small number of World War II Filipino-  
26 American veterans who are still living, this moral obligation of  
27 the United States should extend to fulfilling their wish for a  
28 resting place in the Philippines among their loved ones, for  
29 this is an entitlement that they have clearly sacrificed for and  
30 earned; now, therefore,  
31

32           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
33 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
34 Session of 2015, that Congress is urged to cover the costs of  
35 transporting the remains of eligible Filipino-American veterans  
36 of World War II to the Philippines and funeral and burial  
37 services in the Philippines; and  
38

39           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
40 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
41 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, President



# H.R. NO. 115

1 of the United States Senate, Hawaii's Congressional delegation,  
2 and the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services.  
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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 13 2015

