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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO  
ENACT THE FILIPINO AMERICAN VETERANS EQUITY ACT OF 2007, OR  
SIMILAR LEGISLATION PROVIDING VETERANS BENEFITS TO FILIPINO  
VETERANS WHO SERVED OUR NATION IN WORLD WAR II.

1           WHEREAS, President Roosevelt called over 200,000 Filipino  
2 soldiers into service in the United States Armed Forces in the  
3 Far East (USAFFE) on July 26, 1941, in anticipation of war with  
4 Japan; and

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6           WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor  
7 and several hours later, on December 8th, bombed the United  
8 States military bases in the Philippines; and

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

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14          WHEREAS, on April 9, 1942, the United States retreated from  
15 the Philippines, and during the Bataan Death March, thousands of  
16 American and Filipino prisoners of war died as they traveled to  
17 Japanese P.O.W. camps; and

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19          WHEREAS, on September 2, 1945, Japan surrendered the  
20 Philippines to America; and

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22          WHEREAS, in February of 1946, Congress enacted the 1946  
23 Recission Act, which denied World War II Filipino veterans  
24 rights to veterans benefits equal to those enjoyed by other  
25 veterans; and

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27          WHEREAS, before the Recission Act became law, officials of  
28 the federal Department of Veterans Affairs considered that  
29 Filipino military service met the statutory definition of a  
30 United States veteran, and that World War II Filipino veterans



1 were entitled to veterans benefits that include healthcare,  
2 disability pensions, and burial expenses; and  
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4 WHEREAS, although citizenship was granted to Filipino  
5 veterans by Congress in October of 1990, these World War II  
6 veterans are still denied equal treatment and status as American  
7 veterans by the Recission Act; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the World War II Filipino veterans that survive,  
10 are now in their 70s and 80s, and many are permanently disabled  
11 and would, except for the Recission Act, be eligible for full  
12 federal veterans benefits and services; and  
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14 WHEREAS, correction of this injustice to the Filipino  
15 veterans who served our nation courageously in the fight for  
16 freedom and democracy during World War II is long overdue; now,  
17 therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
21 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the President of  
22 the United States and United States Congress are urged to enact  
23 the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007, or similar legislation  
24 that provides World War II Filipino veterans with full federal  
25 veterans benefits; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
29 United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,  
30 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each  
31 member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation.  
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