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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO  
EXEMPT CHILDREN OF FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM  
IMMIGRANT VISA LIMITS.

1           WHEREAS, between 1934 and Philippine independence in 1946,  
2 the United States retained certain powers over the Philippines,  
3 then a United States possession; and  
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5           WHEREAS, these rights included the right to call into the  
6 service of the United States military those forces organized by  
7 the Commonwealth government; and  
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9           WHEREAS, on July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
10 issued Military Order No. 81, placing the Philippine  
11 Commonwealth Armed Forces and the Special Philippine Scouts  
12 under the United States Armed Forces command to join the  
13 military assault against the Japanese forces in defense of  
14 America's democracy; and  
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16           WHEREAS, throughout 1941-1946, tens of thousands of  
17 Filipino soldiers were held as prisoners, risking their lives  
18 and the lives of their families while waging resistance against  
19 the invading Japanese forces and boldly assisting the United  
20 States Armed Forces in its campaign to liberate the Philippines;  
21 and  
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23           WHEREAS, Filipino wartime veterans, many of whom were  
24 permanently disabled and honorably discharged from the military  
25 after serving more than ninety days on active duty military  
26 service during World War II, are eligible for federal veterans  
27 benefits and services; and  
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29           WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton on October 17, 1996,  
30 President George W. Bush on July 26, 2001, and the United States  
31 Congress by H.R. 622 and S. 387 on September 13, 2006,  
32 recognized and proclaimed the vital role that the Filipino  
33 wartime soldiers played in assisting the United States Armed



1 Forces in defeating the invading Japanese forces in defense of  
2 freedom; and

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4 WHEREAS, through the Immigration Act of 1990, U.S.  
5 citizenship was awarded to each veteran but excluded the  
6 veterans' dependents, unfairly requiring that each veteran  
7 submit an immigrant petition with supporting affidavits  
8 requesting that the veterans' dependents be permitted to  
9 reunited and live with the veteran; and

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11 WHEREAS, the wait for these adult children for immigration  
12 petitions to be approved is approximately fourteen to fifteen  
13 years; and

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15 WHEREAS, proposed federal legislation is now pending in  
16 Congress, in the form of H.R. 1287 entitled "Filipino Veterans  
17 Family Reunification Act," to exempt children of certain  
18 Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on  
19 immigrant visas; and

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21 WHEREAS, at present, married sons and daughters, including  
22 those of Filipino World War II veterans, are annually allocated  
23 no more than 23,400 visas worldwide and the same number is  
24 allocated for unmarried sons and daughters; and

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26 WHEREAS, proposed federal legislation would exempt aliens  
27 who are eligible for an immigrant visa under paragraph (1) or  
28 (3) of section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
29 U.S.C. 1151(b)(1)) and who have a parent who was naturalized  
30 pursuant to section 405 of the Immigration Act of 1990 (8 U.S.C.  
31 1440 note); and

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33 WHEREAS, in other words, this proposed federal exemption  
34 would be extended to married and unmarried sons and daughters of  
35 Filipino veterans who became naturalized United States citizens  
36 due to military service during World War II; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
39 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
40 Session of 2008, that the United States Congress is urged to  
41 enact legislation to exempt children of Filipino World War II  
42 veterans from immigrant visa limits and grant them priority  
43 issuance of visas; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
 3 the Secretary of Defense, the Majority and Minority Leaders of  
 4 the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the  
 5 United States House of Representatives, and the members of  
 6 Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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