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## RESOLUTION

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URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXPEDITE PAYMENT OF WAR BENEFITS TO FILIPINO VETERANS WHO FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR II BUT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED THEIR ENTITLED BENEFITS.

WHEREAS, during World War II, the Philippines was a United States commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, 250,000 Filipino soldiers volunteered their services after being promised full veterans benefits to volunteer to fight for the United States against the potential threat of Japan; and

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

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

WHEREAS, on April 9, 1942, the United States surrendered Luzon in the Philippines, leading to the Bataan Death March where thousands of American and Filipino prisoners of war died as they traveled to Japanese prisoner of war camps, and in May of 1942, the United States retreated completely from the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 1945, Japan surrendered the Philippines to the United States; and

WHEREAS, in February 1946, Congress enacted the Rescission Act, denying World War II Filipino veterans rights to veterans benefits such as healthcare, disability pensions, and burial expenses; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Congress has considered legislation to restore the benefits denied to Filipino veterans to fulfill the broken promises made by the United States government; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 years later, in 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and a provision included this economic stimulus bill finally called for the release of \$198,000,000 for lump sum payments to Filipino veterans in lieu of pensions; and



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WHEREAS, although today only about 11,000 veterans now in their 80s and 90s are still alive to collect these payments, some Filipino veterans are still waiting for the promised checks; and

WHEREAS, in Hawaii there are approximately 400 Filipino veterans qualified for payments under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 of whom approximately 15 percent have not yet received their checks, and approximately 20 percent have claims that are still pending; and

WHEREAS, the council has previously approved Resolutions 07-44, CD1, 08-113, 10-8, and 10-46 urging the President and the Congress to support and pass federal legislation that would confer certain benefits on Filipino veterans of World War II and their families; and

WHEREAS, the council believes it is necessary to correct the injustice to those Filipino veterans who served our nation, many of whom have died waiting for what was promised to them; now, therefore,

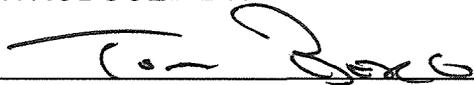
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the United States Congress and the President to expedite the processing of all claims for payment and the distribution of payments to Filipino veterans under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; and



**RESOLUTION**

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's delegation to the Congress of the United States.

INTRODUCED BY:

  
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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**JUL 22 2011**

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Honolulu, Hawaii

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Councilmembers