

of Hawaii relative to Filipino World War II Veterans and their families; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 97

Whereas, in recognition of the courage and loyalty of the Filipino troops who fought alongside our armed forces in the Philippines during World War II, the United States Congress enacted legislation in 1990 that provided a waiver from certain immigration and naturalization requirements for those Filipino veterans; and

Whereas, as a result of that legislation, many of those Filipino veterans have become proud citizens and residents of this country; and

Whereas, because the 1990 legislation did not go far enough in extending those immigration and naturalization benefits to the children of those veterans, the result has been years long separations between the veterans and their children remaining in the Philippines awaiting the issuance of immigrant visas; and

Whereas, on November 21, 2003, H.R. 3587 was introduced in the United States House of Representatives to amend the Immigration and Naturalization Act to give priority in the issuance of immigration visas to the sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans who are or were naturalized citizens of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Twenty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2004, the House of Representatives concurring, That the President of the United States and the United States Congress are urged to support the passage of H.R. 3587 into law; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

POM-473. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii relative to benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 258

Whereas, on December 8, 1941, thousands of Filipino men and women responded to President Roosevelt's call for help to preserve peace and democracy in the Philippines; and

Whereas, during the dark days of World War II, nearly 100,000 soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army provided a ray of hope in the Pacific as they fought alongside United States and Allied forces for four long years to defend and reclaim the Philippine Islands from Japanese aggression; and

Whereas, thousands more Filipinos joined U.S. Armed Forces immediately after the war and served in occupational duty throughout the Pacific Theater; and

Whereas, valiant Filipino soldiers fought, died, and suffered in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II, defending beleaguered Bataan and Corregidor, and thousands of Filipino prisoners of war endured the infamous Bataan Death March and years of captivity; and

Whereas, their many guerrilla actions slowed the Japanese takeover of the Western Pacific region and allowed U.S. forces the time to build and prepare for the allied counterattack on Japan; and

Whereas, Filipino troops fought side-by-side with U.S. forces to secure their island nation as the strategic base from which the final effort to defeat Japan was launched; and

Whereas, President William J. Clinton proclaimed October 20, 1996, as a day honoring

the Filipino Veterans of World War II, recalling the courage, sacrifice, and loyalty of Filipino veterans of World War II in defense of democracy and liberty; and

Whereas, for decades after their heroic service under the command of their leaders and General Douglas MacArthur, these men and women of Filipino-American national heritage were denied the benefits and privileges provided to their American compatriots who fought side-by-side with them; and

Whereas, the Rescission Act of 1946 withdrew the U.S. veteran's status of Filipino World War II soldiers, thereby denying them the benefits and compensation received by their American counterparts and soldiers of more than sixty-six other U.S. allied countries, who were similarly inducted into the U.S. military; and

Whereas, the Rescission Act discriminated against Filipinos, making them the only national group singled out for denial of full U.S. veterans status and benefits; and

Whereas, the passage of S. 68, now pending in the United States Senate, would extend full and equitable benefits, particularly health benefits, to Filipino veterans, considering their advanced age and poor health; and

Whereas, S. 68 proposes to amend Title 38 of the United States Code, to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II and for the surviving spouses of those veterans; and

Whereas, S. 68 would increase the rate of payment of compensation benefits to certain Filipino veterans, designated in Title 38 United States Code section 107(b) and referred to as New Philippine Scouts, who reside in the United States and are United States citizens or lawful permanent resident aliens; and

Whereas, S. 68 would further increase the rate of payment of dependency and indemnity compensation of surviving spouses of certain Filipino veterans; and

Whereas, S. 68 would further make eligible for full disability pensions certain Filipino veterans who reside in the United States and are United States citizens or lawful permanent resident aliens; and

Whereas, S. 68 would further mandate the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide hospital and nursing home care and medical services for service-connected disabilities for any Filipino World War II veteran who resides in the United States and is a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident alien; and

Whereas, S. 68 would further require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish care and services to all Filipino World War II veterans for service-connected disabilities and nonservice-connected disabilities residing in the Republic of the Philippines on an outpatient basis at the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2004, the Senate concurring, That the United States Congress is respectfully urged to support the passage of S. 68 to improve benefits for certain Filipino veterans of World War II; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Hawaii Congressional delegation, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Report to accompany S. 2559, an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-284).

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

H.R. 1572. To designate the United States courthouse located at 100 North Palafox Street in Pensacola, Florida, as the "Winston E. Arnou United States Courthouse".

S. 2385. A bill to designate the United States courthouse at South Federal Place in Santa Fe, New Mexico, as the "Santiago E. Campos United States Courthouse".

S. 2398. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 324 Twenty-Fifth Street in Ogden, Utah, as the James V. Hansen Federal Building.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Paul V. Hester.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Henry A. Obering III.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. John A. Bradley.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kohler.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. John F. Regni.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Michael W. Wooley.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Charles B. Green.

Air Force nominations beginning Col. Melissa A. Rank and ending Col. Thomas W. Travis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on February 23, 2004.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Richard A. Cody.

Army nomination of George W. Casey, Jr.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Carl A. Strock.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Colby M. Broadwater III.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Russel L. Honore.

Army nomination of Col. Gale S. Pollock.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. George W. Weightman.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. William E. Ingram, Jr.

Army nomination of Colonel James G. Champion.

Army nomination of Col. Frank R. Carlini.

Army nomination of Col. Carla G. Hawley-Bowland.

Army nomination of Col. Douglas A. Pritt.

Army nomination of Col. Thomas T. Galkowski.

Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. Henry P. Osman.

Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. James T. Conway.

Marine Corps nomination of Maj. Gen. John F. Sattler.

Marine Corps nominations beginning Brig. Gen. Robert C.

Dickerson, Jr. and ending Brig. Gen. Richard F. Natonski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on March 11, 2004.