

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 24, 2010  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 23, 2010  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 25**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Block, Brownley, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Hagman, Hernandez, Hill, Jones, Knight, Lieu, Ma, Monning, Salas, Torrico, Tran, and Yamada Yamada, Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Blumenfeld, Bradford, Buchanan, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De Leon, DeVore, Emmerson, Fuentes, Fuller, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Harkey, Hayashi, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Mendoza, Miller, Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Ruskin, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, and Torres)**

(Coauthors: Senators Cedillo, Ducheny, Liu, and Yee)

August 27, 2009

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 25—Relative to Filipino World War II veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 25, as amended, Furutani. Filipino veterans: family reunification.

This measure would have the Legislature join the Congress of the United States in further acknowledging the service of Filipino World War II veterans in the Armed Forces of the United States by recognizing that these veterans should be reunited with their children during their

golden years, and would request that the President and the Congress of the United States pass S. 1337 and H.R. 2412, which would exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas, thus allowing for family reunification.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Filipinos honorably served in the Armed Forces  
2 of the United States and aided the United States during World War  
3 II; and

4 WHEREAS, On April 9, 1942, after surrendering in the Battle  
5 of Bataan, 75,000 Filipino and United States prisoners of war force  
6 marched a treacherous 60 miles in the Bataan Death March; and

7 WHEREAS, Some soldiers did not surrender and created  
8 anti-Japanese guerilla units that were comprised of United States  
9 and Filipino officers who continued to fight underground to help  
10 the United States in their war victory; and

11 WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation that discriminated  
12 against Filipino World War II veterans by denying them veterans  
13 benefits. Filipino World War II veterans are the only group of  
14 veterans negatively impacted by this legislation; and

15 WHEREAS, The Supplemental Surplus Appropriations  
16 Rescission Act of 1946 denied the service of Filipino veterans in  
17 the Armed Forces of the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of  
19 2009 authorized payments to Filipino World War II veterans,  
20 thereby finally recognizing their service in the Armed Forces of  
21 the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, The Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1990  
23 offered Filipino World War II veterans who had not been  
24 naturalized pursuant to the Nationality Act of 1940 the opportunity  
25 to obtain United States citizenship, however, those veterans were  
26 still not eligible for most of the benefits provided by the United  
27 States Department of Veterans Affairs; and

28 WHEREAS, Many Filipino World War II veterans filed for visa  
29 petitions for their children shortly after passage of the Immigration  
30 and Naturalization Act of 1990, however, our current immigration  
31 structure limits the chance for these families to reunite; and

32 WHEREAS, Many Filipino World War II veterans are now in  
33 their 80s and 90s and they continue to wait for their children, who

1 languish on the visa waiting list, to join them; now, therefore, be  
2 it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
4 *California, jointly,* That veterans of the United States Armed Forces  
5 should not be separated from their children; and be it further

6 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California joins  
7 the Congress of the United States in further acknowledging the  
8 service of Filipino World War II veterans in the Armed Forces of  
9 the United States by recognizing that these veterans should be  
10 reunited with their children during their golden years; and be it  
11 further

12 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
13 respectfully requests the President and the Congress of the United  
14 States to pass S. 1337 authored by Senator Akaka and H.R. 2412  
15 authored by Congresswoman Hirono, which would exempt the  
16 children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the  
17 numerical limitations on immigrant visas, thus allowing for family  
18 reunification; and be it further

19 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
20 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
21 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority  
22 Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from  
23 California in the Congress of the United States.

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