

HAWAII

# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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◆ WEEKLY ◆ MAY 24, 2008 ◆

MONEY REMITTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES

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## EDITORIAL

## The Good and Bad of Money Remittances

**S**ending money back home to relatives is not a new phenomenon. For centuries, immigrants typically shared their earnings with family members back home. With today's technology, it is easier than ever to wire money to your loved ones.

In the Philippines, remittances have become a way of life, particularly for the one million plus overseas contract workers who remit billions of dollars every year. For 2007, remittances to the Philippines has been estimated at \$17 billion or nearly 14 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product.

At first blush, remittances seem like an honorable practice, since one is helping his or her family with basic needs and expenses. However, studies have shown that those with a dependable income stream from remittances tend to become more free-spending, especially on non-essential items. Worse yet, recipients become less and less motivated to support themselves.

This decreased drive to succeed also happens on a much larger scale. Why should the Philippine government place importance on funding public improvement projects when domestic households are enjoying an increase in their standard of living? An unfortunate consequence of money remittances is that government corruption becomes less costly for households to bear.

A hidden cost of remittances is a growing tear in the Philippines' fabric of society, as mothers and fathers spend years at a time away from children and spouses. An entire generation of Filipino children is being raised without the presence of one or in some cases both parents. Early evidence shows that long-term absences of fathers and mothers disrupt the well-being of families, particularly the children.

While remittances help in the short run, in the long term it appears to do more harm than good. Experts have called for the establishment of creative, more responsible means to channel remittances, such as capital improvement projects that provide a longer term boost for entire communities. This is a good start, which needs more thought and fine tuning.

Until then, Filipino OCWs will continue to remit their hard-earned money and live with the consequences. With conditions being the way they are now in the Philippines, who can blame them?

## Congratulations to Our Graduates

**I**t's that time again for Hawaii's students when several years of school work culminate in a final rush of laughter, tears, handshakes, hugs and leis all mashed together in an event we have come to know as graduation. During this rite of passage, many experience feelings of nostalgia, excitement and uncertainty at what the future holds.

For many Filipino families, graduation is a time for both elation and relief, especially for those hard-working parents who have been sacrificing for many years to pay for their children's schooling. Although life can take many unpredictable turns, they know that chances for a brighter future and a better life for their children are much better with a good education and a diploma.

If you are a high school or college graduate, never forget who you are, where you came from and the many sacrifices that were made for you. Honor your parents and family by doing the very best you can in your chosen field.

But for the moment, go ahead, graduates—celebrate your accomplishments, for you've earned them! We salute and wish you Godspeed in all of your endeavors. May your dreams take you to the highest of your hopes and to the most special places your heart has ever known.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**T**hank you for picking up and reading this latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. It is a pleasure to keep our readers updated and informed with the very latest news locally and from the Philippines.



The ending of the school year usually means two things—less traffic for commuters driving into town and graduation. In the coming weeks, many of you will be buying leis and balloons and attending commencement exercises and parties for the graduate(s) in your life. In the midst of your celebrations, please know 'when to say when' particularly when it comes to alcoholic consumption. Any injury or loss of life arising from a DUI incident would be tragic during this very happy time for many families.

You may notice a certain theme of sorts as you read through this issue—a theme of sacrifice. This is evident in our cover story on remittances to the Philippines. Contributing writer Clem Bautista examines the positive and negative consequences that arise from many Filipinos' habit of sending money to relatives back home. Regardless, we cannot ignore the sacrifices of nearly 1 million Filipinos who have taken higher-paying jobs overseas for the sake of a better life for their families that they left behind. As you can read in a related story on page 11, the ranks of OCWs will continue to climb.

In another story about sacrifice, on page 13 we have a brief story on Madonna Decena, a singing sensation from Quezon City who recently moved to England in search of a better life. However, she was forced to leave behind her two children in the Philippines while she works to earn enough money to send for them. Her big break came when she was invited to compete in a popular UK talent show. Madonna's touching story and jaw-dropping singing abilities impressed both the judges and the audience. The finals will be held in late May. We wish her all the very best!

Lastly, on page 9, we have a feature on local swimming sensation Christel Simms. The 17-year-old from Ewa Beach is training hard for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, where she will represent the Philippines. Her story undoubtedly involves much sacrifice and many hours of daily practice. We hope you will be inspired by her story.

We have other columns in this issue that we hope that you will enjoy reading. In closing, thank you once again for your continued support and congratulations to all graduates. Until next issue, aloha and *mabuhay!*

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# REMITTANCES TO THE PHILIPPINES— BOTH BLESSING AND A CURSE?

By Clement Bautista

**O** t seems so simple. Find a job overseas, work hard, send money home. For centuries Filipinos have been traveling abroad for work, education and adventure. This quest to test and experience the unknown in order to return hard-earned remittances home has never been easy – not for the overseas worker or for the family members left behind.

## DEIA VU

A hundred years ago when *Hawayanos*—sakadas returning from Hawaii—finished their contracts, they brought with them household goods, stories of a distant land and, most of all, money. They were bak-nang—a rich man. Rich enough to invest in land and a sturdy house. But all was not rosy.

Even though the new wealth was rarely sufficient, it was enough to distort local prices. As demand increased, so did prices. Not only did many *Hawayanos* eventually run out

of money and were forced to return to Hawaii's plantations, so were many others in the homeland who were turned out from their own homes by the *Hawayanos*.

In "Sakada: Filipino Adaptation in Hawaii" by Ruben Alcantara, one Filipino who was forced to leave for Hawaii remarked:

"A *Hawayano* bought the land we rented... [We] had to move out because the *Hawayano* now had the right to the land and decided to farm it himself. A few families were like us—they lost the land or the right to cultivate it because a *Hawayano* had purchased or mortgaged it."

## Overseas Filipino Workers

According to statistics from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) deployed in 2005 was 988,615—a seemingly staggering number that would still increase in 2006 to 1,062,567.



The two most favored destinations for these OFWs were the Middle East—40 percent (in 2005) and 43 percent (in 2006)—and other Asian countries—26 percent (in 2005) and 21 percent (in 2007). Remittances sent home and recorded during these years were \$10.7 billion (2005) and \$12.8 billion (2006). The World Bank estimates remittances sent to the Philippines in 2007 totaled \$17 billion. Overall, these figures consistently represent 10-14 percent of the Philippines GDP (gross domestic product).

While remittance is often associated with OFWs, reported

remittance amounts do not reveal the whole picture of money transfers to the Philippines. Official figures tend to include all monies transferred through official venues that are regulated by the government, including transfers through PNB, RCBC, Western Union and other banks and service providers.

According to Philippine Consul Paul Cortes, "All money transfers are included and do not distinguish between remittances from overseas workers or immigrants."

Moreover, included in these figures are significant proceeds from overseas investments by Philippine-based corporations and families. For a variety of reasons, there is support for the contention that wealthy Philippine families gain more benefits from remittances than poorer families. On the other hand, not counted in these official figures is money transferred through informal methods—like *padala* or *pao-it*—which may be one-fifth of all funds ultimately being transferred.

Beneath these global figures, on a more personal level, remittances also represent a "glue" or sometimes, shackle that keeps family obligations functioning. The longer a migrant Filipino works abroad—perhaps deciding to settle in a new land and forming a new family—a different set of commitments come into conflict with prior obligations. Yet one is still obligated. The expat continually hears, "*Sika met ti nagasa!*" (You're the lucky one).

This sentimental and altruistic basis for continuing to send remittances can be unduly taken advantage of. For example, Dr. Belinda Aquino, director of the

UH Center for Philippine Studies, points to the role of the Philippine government in continuing to foster and promote a climate of giving: "As long as Filipinos send remittances regularly, the less it [the government] has to worry about providing enough opportunities for Filipinos there to land good jobs so they don't have to depend on relatives in the U.S."

## Government Corruption and the "Hostage of Money"

The role of governments in developing countries benefiting from large amounts of remittances has been brought into question by many researchers. In a cross sectional survey of 111 countries investigating the relationships between governance and the amount of remittances a country receives, researchers found a "negative and robust impact of remittances on the quality of governance in countries that receive these flows."

Yasser Abdi in "Remittances and Institutions: Are Remittances a Curse?" makes an observation that resonates with many Filipinos abroad looking back to the homeland:

"...the presence of remittances expands the revenue base, and... the government finds it less costly in this situation to appropriate resources for its own purposes [i.e., the provision of public services].... In other words, access to remittance income makes government corruption less costly for domestic households to bear, and consequently such corruption is likely to increase."

In other words, if certain social welfare or infrastructure needs are addressed by private

## COVER STORY



funds through remittances, local government institutions find it less necessary to fund these projects and needs through public funds. In these cases, public funds (collected through taxes and other fees) can be used for "self-interest" purposes within the government.

The study concludes with the cautionary note that while remittances increase the welfare of receiving households, this increase in household welfare is reduced by corruption, suggesting that policy measures designed to facilitate remittance flows should be conditioned on governmental accountability. In the presence of corrupt practices in government, remittances can adversely affect growth.

Another questionable practice associated with money transfers is the practice referred to as "the hostage of money." Dr. Aquino describes this practice as one where banks may keep money deposited in one country frozen in limbo for several weeks before it can be withdrawn from an associated account in the Philippines. Sometimes, the total amount deposited is not even available for the receiver to withdraw.

During this period in limbo, Dr. Aquino says, "the bank profits from interest accrued and investments made during the transaction."

#### How Are Remittances Spent?

In spite of these many issues surrounding the economics and institutional practices regarding remittances, the money received by individual households remains an essential part of survival in a growing market economy. Still, sometimes there

is a fear—followed by disappointment—that remittances are not being spent on necessary items and are too often spent on conspicuous consumption.

Sam Valeriano, an employee with the UH Medical School, sometimes questions how the remittances he sends home are spent.

"When I last visited some of my relatives in the Philippines, they had a nice digital camera and other expensive electronic equipment—all better than what I had bought for myself," he said.

In a study done by Audrey Tabuga on international remittances and household expenditures, Tabuga did, in fact, find that remittances are often spent on conspicuous consumption of consumer goods.

However, Tabuga also found that households receiving remittances spend a larger share of their budgets on education, housing, medical care and durable goods than households not receiving remittances.

Remittance-receiving households also spend relatively less on food consumed at home and more on food eaten outside the house. On a refreshing positive note, remittance-receiving households spend relatively less on both tobacco and alcohol than non-receiving households.

#### Social Costs

It is a truism that "nothing is free" and that all benefits come with some cost. The benefits of receiving remittances from overseas workers are no exception.

For a long time, Filipino men, either heads of house-

holds or sons, were the main sources of overseas workers. In recent years this has changed; an increasing proportion of OFWs are women. The demand for labor or professions associated with women has increased throughout the industrialized world. Thus, the person usually thought of as the stabilizing figure and transmitter of cultural values in a family has now become an appealing supplier of remittance revenue.

While the absence of a male figure in the family has often been discussed, the long-term effects of generations of absentee women from a household has yet to be fully fathomed. Moreover, when a spouse is gone for long periods of time, the temptation to find substitute companionship increases for both the spouse who left and the one who stayed. Family disruption is, realistically, a costly benefit for the privilege of receiving remittances.

#### A Blessing and A Curse

As in so many facets of family relations, remittances between family members are both a curse and blessing. On one level—the family level—evidence shows that remittances do help with essential costs, although not necessarily to the extent that the sender hopes. While there never seems to be enough funds, there is also never enough assurance to the sender that the funds are being or even can be optimally spent.

On a broader level—the community level—local and national policies and behavior have not capitalized on the remittance phenomena to benefit the community for long-term benefits. Some countries encourage remittance receivers to invest monies in social and entrepreneurial projects by subsidizing these projects. Philippine financial institutions should also be encouraged to assist remittance receivers to create more local opportunities for appropriate utilization of labor and skills.

Only by further development of local economies and social welfare institutions will communities minimize the adverse effects of having sent away generations of able bodied men and women to do what, in effect, they should be doing at home.

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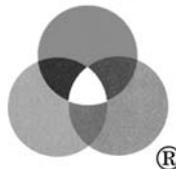


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## LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION



By Senator Will Espero

# 2008 Legislative Accomplishments (Part II)

## Environment

A conservation incentive tax credit is now available to landowners who donate the fee simple interest of land to the State for conservation or preservation, or who voluntarily invest management of land under a legal instrument for these purposes. SB 2198, Land Conservation.

Clotheslines will be allowed on privately-owned single-family homes or townhouses, to help consumers save energy and save on electric bills. SB 2933, Household Energy Demand.

Electronic device makers are required to collect and recycle those devices. A TV manufacturers working group is

created to develop a TV recycling plan. SB 2843, Electronic Device Recycling.

Landfills on all islands are approached or have already reached maximum capacity, and the NIMBY factor makes it difficult for the counties to find alternative landfills. Public schools are among the largest institutional sources of food waste. A three-year pilot project in schools to recycle food waste to reduce the amount sent to landfills is created. SB 871, Food Waste Recycling.

## Education

About 1600 new teachers are hired each year, but one-third leave teaching after three years, and nearly half will leave within five years. The primary reported reason for leaving is dissatisfaction with an overall lack of professional support. Funding professional development efforts is an attempt to counteract the trend. Focus in this area has been shown to help hard-to-fill schools nurture their own future teachers, better pre-

pare teacher candidates to teach, have a positive affect on achievement in Gr. Pre-K to 12, and improve teacher retention. SB 3252, Teacher Recruitment and Retention.

To be consistent with negotiated labor union contracts over the last several years, provisions relating to the probationary period for first-time teachers, vice-principals, and principals that contradict contract terms are now repealed. SB 2449, DOE Employees; Probationary Period.

Young families are moving into newer subdivisions, and older residential areas are seeing a decline in school enrollment. The School Facilities Alignment Commission will set criteria for selecting and recommending which schools will be consolidated or closed. HB 2972, School Facilities; Facilities Alignment Commission.

## Government Operations

Hawaii lags behind other states in electronic tax filings, with an overall 15% rate, compared to a 30% rate elsewhere. Electronic filings save tons of paper, improve the speed of processing, reduce the labor costs associated with processing, improve taxpayer services, reduce operating costs, and increase collections without undue burdens to taxpayers. HB 1412, establishes the integrated tax services and management special fund to improve the system. Department of Taxation.

State tax refunds will be

available for electronic deposit for those who have requested an electronic refund at the federal level. SB 2838, Taxation.

The Harbors Modernization Group is created to develop the statewide harbors modernization plan, with the assistance of the Aloha Tower Development Corporation. The Department of Transportation is authorized to issue revenue bonds to finance harbor improvements. SB 3227, Harbors; Modernization Plan.

Prime or subcontractors who misrepresent information will be sanctioned, including disqualification of the offered proposal and a one year suspension for procurement awards. SB 2867, Procurement; False Information; Sanctions.

Contractors found to have falsified records or delaying or interfering with an investigation under wage and hour laws will be suspended. SB 3087, Public Works; Falsification of Records; Suspension.

## Health Care and Human Services

The state will try to attract physicians and dentists to practice in rural areas by providing student loan repayment and stipend programs. HB 2519, Hawaii Health Corps Program Working Group.

The Director of Health is authorized to establish a statewide organ donor registry with a centralized database and automated system that allows individuals to register as organ donors 24/7, in coordination with the department of transportation, county motor

vehicle agencies, attorneys, and organ donation awareness programs. HB 2366, Organ Donor Registry.

The factors that family courts must review in determining the "best interests" of a child when determining custody or visitation, are set out. SB 2054, Family Court; Custody.

SB 2730 establishes preference for placing children who need child protective services. SB 2730, Child Protection Act.

## Labor

Funds from the unemployment trust fund are appropriated to the Hawaii and Maui County Workforce Investment Boards to improve employer outreach and services, expand the labor pool and build up workforce skills. SB 2876, Employment Security.

These bills now await the Governor's signature for approval, approval without her signature, or veto.

## And the Nominees Are...

The Senate, on its constitutional "advise and consent" duty, reviews the Governor nominees to fill vacancies on Boards and Commissions that are established by our state constitution, statutes, or executive orders. The expertise and experience of these volunteers provides oversight and guidance within their subject area. Nominee's qualifications are presented to the Senate in Governor's Messages. Subject matter committees hold hearings to garner public input, then recommend to the full Senate whether or not a nomination should be confirmed. Nominees may be asked questions such as "Why do you wish to be a member of the Board?," "How do you perceive the roles and responsibilities as a member of the Board?," "Why do you believe you are qualified for the position?," "What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?," "How would you benefit the Board?" If you are interested in serving on one of the over 150 Boards or Commissions, go to the [hawaii.gov/gov/team/board-commissions](http://hawaii.gov/gov/team/board-commissions), to see what vacancies there are and to submit your application.

This is a partial list. To read all the bills passed, you can go to this website, [www.state.hi.us/lrb/reports/bill.html](http://www.state.hi.us/lrb/reports/bill.html) and choose option (1) Bills passed (2) 2008.

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## IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tippon

## Pretending to Be Married, Though Single – to Hide the Shame

name. Sure he will, if the illegitimate parents execute an "Affidavit of Acknowledgment" on the back of the Certificate of Live Birth.

### Request for Evidence

A travel agency prepared petitions for a petitioner's 5 illegitimate children. They obviously did not bother to read the children's Certificate of Live Birth containing an entry that was not true, namely a particular date and place of marriage of the child's parents. USCIS sent petitioner a Request for Evidence (RFE) asking for the marriage certificate of the child's petitioning father and the child's mother. The petitioner could not comply because he was never married. The petitions were denied. He was advised by the travel agency to appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals. He did. But BIA dismissed the appeal because there was no basis for it since he did not submit the marriage certificate. He wasted money for the filing fees and the preparer's fees.

In another petition prepared by the same travel agency, the petitioner told them that the child was illegitimate and that the statement in the child's Certificate of live Birth contained a false entry in the line "Date and Place of Marriage of Parents." The travel agent told him not to worry about it. They filed the petition. USCIS sent him an RFE to submit the marriage certificate of the child's father and mother. He could not.

### Relief Available

If these folks had come to us before filing their petitions we would have told them to read the Certificate of Live Birth to be sure everything is correct. If the line "Date and Place of Marriage of Parents" contains a particular date and place which is not true because the parents were never married, the petitioner should hire a lawyer in the Philippines to file a petition in the Regional Trial Court for correction of an error in the birth certificate. (If you

do not know of an honest and competent lawyer in the Philippines, contact me and I will refer you to one).

The petitioner should also obtain from the Civil Registrar a "Certificate of No Marriage" (CENOMAR) of the petitioner and the child's mother. It should be attached to the Petition for correction of error. The parents should execute affidavits stating that they have never been married to each other.

The Petitioner should ask for an order directing the Civil Registrar to correct the Certificate of Live Birth by striking out the false statement in the line "Date and Place of Marriage of Parents" and writing in its stead "Not Married". The Decision should be registered with the Civil Registrar.

Then the father can file a petition for his illegitimate child. He should attach a copy of the Decision and the corrected Certificate of Live Birth.

For additional information on how to petition for an ille-

gitimate child, read our article "10 COMMANDMENTS ON HOW TO BRING YOUR ILLEGITIMATE CHILD TO AMERICA" at [www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com](http://www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com).

**Editor's Note:** (ATTY. TIPON has won all deportation cases he handled and obtained approval of all visa petitions he filed. He is from Laog City. He has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service," an 8-volume practice and procedure guide for immigration officers and lawyers. He specializes in immigration and criminal defense. Office at 905 Unni St. corner N. King, Suite 207, Honolulu, HI 96819. Tel. (808) 847-1601. Fax (808) 847-1624. E-Mail: [filamlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:filamlaw@yahoo.com). Website: [www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com](http://www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com). Listen to the most interesting and humorous radio program on Hawaii radio KNDI 1270 every Friday 7:30-8:00 AM. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice for any specific person or situation. Neither the writer nor publisher warrant the completeness or accuracy of the information provided herein at the time of publication.)

**P**retending to be married, though single -- to hide the shame

When people pretend to be married, even though they are single, by telling the Civil Registrar that they are married when reporting the birth of their love child, are there immigration consequences?

A Certificate of Live Birth indicating, on the line "DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE OF PARENTS," a particular date and place of marriage of the parents, although they are not married, is a misrepresentation.

Most of the folks who do this give the excuse that it was to hide the shame of begetting an illegitimate child. Others say that the Civil Registrar will not register the birth of an illegitimate child carrying the father's

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### Sacred Hearts Academy Student Wins National Essay Competition



Youth Grand Prize Awardee Michelle Galvez

Michelle Galvez, a junior at Sacred Hearts Academy, received the Youth Grand Prize award from the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organization (AAPCHO) in its 20th Anniversary National Essay Contest.

Galvez won two roundtrip tickets to Washington, DC, including lodging, \$1,000 in cash and special recognition at AAPCHO's 20th Anniversary gala. She met with AAPCHO officials and read her winning essay on health and wellness in the Asian American-Pacific Islander community.

"It was exciting to be standing in a room full of well known physicians and health executives," Galvez said. "It was definitely an honor to share my story and to be a part of this growing organization, along with its health directors and representatives."

Galvez is a member of Sacred Hearts' math team, President of Club Med, and a member of the Pacific Asian Affairs Council and Liturgical Corporation. She maintains a 3.86 GPA and is a

member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society.

This summer, Galvez will be participating in John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth's Summer Program. She has spent previous summers volunteering at Sacred Hearts, the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association and the Kalihipalana Health Center's pediatrics department. She also volunteers as an acolyte at her church.

In her free time, Galvez enjoys playing the piano, tennis, hula and singing in her school choir. She was chosen to as a member of the Hawaii all State Honor Choir, performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City and participated in Piano Mania at the Blasdell Concert Hall.

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# SOCIETY



Dr. Sorbella Guillermo rendering a beautiful song during the Bayanhan Clinic Without Walls Installation party



Baybee Hufana-Abian and Venus Viloria at the Fiesta at Kapiolani Park



Carme & Jay-R Langcay with Shali Pagulayan during a recent party in Nimitz



Edgar Mortiz, Wowowee Director, Willie Revillame with our society page coordinator Carlotta Ader



The UST Titans Fraternity members (Drs. Edward Alquero, Richard Kua, Ray Romero, Charlie Sonido, Gavino Virazons, together with two visiting fraternity medical student members Kevin Porcainzula and Cesar Palana) got together recently at a party in Kaneohe



Drs. Carolina Davide, Josephine Waila and Benilda Luz-Llena during a recent installation party



Dr. Nicanor Joaquin awarded a plaque to Dr. Elizabeth Abinsay during a recognition party of the Bayanhan Clinic Without Walls in Waipahu



Dr. Flora Medina with sister, Marilen Ruiz, who visited Hawaii from the Philippines

Jordan Segundo and Angelie Callo during Wowowee's Press Conference in Waikiki



Drs. Leah and Michael McMann during a PMAH function

Peggy Laurel and Imelda Joaquin got together at a recent party



Dr. Rosalo Paeste, Ms. Shirley Robinson and Wayne Oshiro during a PMAH function



Dr. Ross Simafranca with wife Michelle at a Waipahu party



Former Hawaii residents JR Garduque and Leilani Valdez were in town to visit relatives and friends

## FEATURE

# EWA BEACH TEEN REPRESENTS THE PHILIPPINES IN BEIJING 2008



By Caroline Julian



FIAM swimmer Christel Simms

**C**ompeting in the Olympic Games for most young athletes is far and distant, almost unattainable. But for Ewa Beach's Christel Simms, the Olympic gold medal will be within reach.

While most teens will be enjoying the fun in the sun and the surf this summer, 17-year-old Christel will be competing in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China, as a representative of the Philippines.

"It's always been my dream to go to the Olympics. I thought it would be cool to represent them too," said Christel, who will be swimming in the 100-meter freestyle event.

"I have my eye on the gold. The gold is tough to get, but I'm still young. I'm definitely there to learn. I'm going to do my best and we'll see what happens," she added.

Along with competing, Christel will also swim her way into the history books. She will be the first female to represent the Philippines in Beijing in the sport of swimming. She joins four male swimmers, also from the U.S., who are also on the team.

Christel will also be the seventh female representative in the entire history of the Philippines to compete in the Olympics, since the country first participated in the Paris 1924 games.

"I'm so proud of her. That was her ultimate dream. And all of her hard work has paid off," said her mom, Jocelyn who is a native of Cavite, Philippines.

Christel thought about swimming under the U.S. flag, but the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association gave her a chance to compete in this year's games.

"I feel great representing the Philippines and my roots and because I have family there," said Christel, who is seven-eighths Filipino and one-eighth Scottish.

She's been dreaming about someday competing against the best of the best from all over the

world since she began swimming at the age of nine.

Christel first made an impression in the pool as a member of the Barbers Point Swim Team.

"I love swimming. I enjoy the practices. As I got better at it, I got to love it more. I thought I should just stick with swimming," said the Punahou School junior.

"I love racing, competitions and competing against fast swimmers."

And she's proven to be quite an accomplished swimmer, garnering medals at state, national and international competitions.

Her long list of awards include being a three-time medalist at the Junior National Championships, a nine-time medalist at the Western Zone Long Course Championship, a four-time medalist at the Speedo Western Regional Sectional Championships and a four-time recipient of Governor Lingle's Award for Most Outstanding Female Swimmer of the Year.

She's also a national Olympic Trial Qualifier for the U.S.A., and a 10-time state champion. And she's also broken 54 individual state records (short course yards/meters, long course meters).

Her family here in Oahu and in the Philippines are proud of what Christel has accomplished and has supported her quest for the gold medal.

When she was 13, her fam-

Indianapolis.

"From there they had an approval process and I got on their team," she said with a smile.

"At the waiting process I didn't know what was going to happen. And I was training for

the U.S. Olympic trials. But when I finally found out (about representing the Philippines), my whole focus was the Olympics."

Christel received confirmation from the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association in February of this year.

"I couldn't believe it at first, I was shocked, super surprised and very excited!"

Along with practicing up to 24 hours a week, she's also been busy learning *Lupang Hinirang*, the Philippine national anthem.

"She's on the third line," her mother said humorously.

Along with her mother, her father, Charles, have been there for her every step of the way.

"We said, 'Go ahead we support you, whatever you

want.' She practices everyday, there needs to be a reason why she's there," said Jocelyn.

Jocelyn also gives credit to others who have helped her daughter, including the Hawaii Swim Club, which Christel is a member of.

"The Hawaii Swim Club does a lot of fundraising. Hawaii Swim Club does a lot and need to be recognized," Jocelyn added.

And, of course, Christel's coach Scott Sherwood has played an integral part in her accomplishments.

"He kicks my butt in practice, he's supportive in training, and pushes me during practice...not only in the pool, but in weight-lifting, on the treadmill, and during dry land exercises. He pushes me to improve and get better," Christel said of her coach. "He's been coaching Christel since she was 9.

In July, Christel heads to the Philippines where she will prepare for the biggest competition of her life.

But she is also looking ahead, to life beyond Beijing.

"After the Olympics, I'll go back to Philippines for a celebration and go back to school. I'll try and enjoy my senior year," she said.

And the world won't see the last of Christel after the 2008 Olympics.

"And I gotta keep training for the next competition—the South East Asian Games, in Asia."

"I definitely look forward to representing the U.S. (in the Olympics someday), but for now it's the Philippines."

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Olympic-bound Christel Simms in deep training.



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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# City & County of Honolulu Hosts Second Annual Agriculture Event

“**A**g in the City: Grown on Oahu”—an event designed to promote agricultural awareness—was held last Thursday at the Fasi Civic Center Grounds.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann, the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, and the Oahu Resource Conservation & Development (ORC&D) co-sponsored the educational event, which showcased Oahu's diverse agricultural industry and highlighted the many partnerships that the agriculture community has developed to help build a sustainable future for Hawaii.

“The City is committed to strengthening the agriculture industry on Oahu,” said Mayor Hannemann. “Agriculture continues to be vital to our island's future, and it's important for all of us to truly understand all the good work that so many people are doing to make agriculture successful.”

The event included a brief program with remarks by Mayor Hannemann; Dean Okimoto, president of the Hawaii

Farm Bureau Federation and owner of Nalo Farms; and Larry Yamamoto, Director of the Pacific Islands Area, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Mayor also presented a check for an agricultural grant to ORC&D.

To further promote local agriculture and a healthy lifestyle, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development sponsored a Farmers' Market featuring locally grown produce and agriculture products. Proceeds were donated to a local charity.

Other organizations that participated in the event include: Farm Service Agency, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, Oahu Invasive Species Committee, USDA Rural Development, Vetter Systems Hawaii, Aloun Farms, Hawaii Aquaculture Association, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Leadership Foundation of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Herbaceous, Hawaii Beekeepers Association, Marine Agrifuture, Ho Farm and Kahuku Brand.

## PHILIPPINE REAL ESTATE FEATURE

# Senta: High Powered City Living

**A**yala Land, the Philippines' premier and most trusted real estate developer, has announced its latest project—a 39 story residential tower in Legazpi Village called Senta.

Senta will rise a few steps from the global retail experience offered by Greenbelt. It is within walking distance from Makati central business district's top commercial and corporate offices. Senta's prime location guarantees close proximity to the very best the Philippines has to offer.

Future residents can enjoy easy walks along quaint, tree-lined streets to their favorite neighborhood pubs, spas and salons—their very own quaint village life at the heart of Makati.

They can also expect state-of-the-art amenities that cater to a variety of leisure interests and relaxation needs. Three swimming pools await at the podium level of the condominium: a lap pool ideal for an invigorating swim before or after work; a children's pool; and finally, a lounge pool with heated jacuzzis and an outdoor theater.

Other amenities include a fitness gym, a children's playground and deck areas with unobstructed views of the horizon for scenic relaxation.

The roof deck will house facilities that follow the principles of green roof technology fitting for urban high rollers—a putting green that will provide a private, intimate venue for golf aficionados; an expansive rock garden that exudes a Zen like ambience; and a vast



multi-purpose garden to cater to a variety of gatherings from the most intimate dinner party with friends to elaborate corporate parties.

All of these amenities, plus Senta's hotel-like concierge services, are expected to complement the urban achievers' need for an empowered living—one that brings pleasure and high-powered city living right at their fingertips.

For inquiries into Senta's multi-sensory living experience, please call toll free 1877-at Ayala (2829252) or visit [www.atAyala.com](http://www.atAyala.com).

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## 200,000 Jobs Abroad Await Pinoys

by Mayen Jaymalin

Over 200,000 overseas jobs are awaiting Filipino tourism workers in various countries within the next two years, the Department of Tourism (DOT) said yesterday.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said tourism workers are now highly in demand overseas and Filipinos have a greater chance of being hired than their foreign counterparts.

"I was informed that over 200,000 jobs are available for tourism workers in Singapore and Macau alone so let's facilitate this employment for our

workers," he said. "Foreign hotel and resort owners prefer to hire Filipino workers because hospitality is so natural for us, they do not need to train us on how to smile like other nationalities."

Durano said Filipinos could easily adapt to foreign culture, which gives them an advantage.

The DOT will invite foreign companies to next year's "Trabaho sa Turismo" fair, he added.

Durano said at least 15,000 local jobs for tourism workers are up for grabs in the "Trabaho sa Turismo" fair at the SMX Convention Center.

"Tourism is really one of

the biggest job generators, not only in the country but worldwide at this time," he said.

Durano said the "Trabaho sa Turismo" fair has been successful in helping the tourism industry to fill vacancies and choose qualified workers for the past three years.

"This jobs fair also ensures Filipino jobseekers permanent and high paying employment and prevents them from falling victim to false hiring from non-existent job offers," he said.

Durano said the DOT is now working with various universities and schools nationwide to ensure that graduates of tourism and other related courses are trained in the ap-



A job fair in Manila

propriate skills.

"We want to ensure that our graduates are ready for hiring and need no training by the hotels and resorts that would employ them," he said.

Tourism students are now being trained on different languages and various technical and vocational skills that are

now essential for working in hotels and tourism-related establishments, Durano said.

Based on DOT data, the local tourism industry generated a total of 3.78 million direct employment in the past four years as foreign arrivals increased to three million.

(www.philstar.com)

## Canada to Hire More Pinoy Workers

by Mayen Jaymalin

POEA chief Rosalinda Baldoz said a group of Canadian employers, who arrived in the country yesterday, expressed their intention to hire more Filipino workers.

"A large number of employers with similar large number of job vacancies from the Canadian province of Saskatchewan are now in a week-long recruitment mission here," Baldoz disclosed.

But Baldoz stressed that the recruitment will be through licensed recruitment agencies and no placement fees shall be charged the prospective OFWs.

"The Canadian employers, mostly from the cities of Regina and Saskatoon will personally interview the applicants pre-selected by the licensed recruitment agencies," Baldoz added.

For the past years, Baldoz said, employers from Saskatchewan have been conducting recruitment missions

here and hiring Filipino welders, butchers, food handlers and other skilled workers.

Baldoz noted that employers from Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba have also signified intention to hire more Filipino workers.

Minister Rob Norris will discuss with the Philippine government a possible agreement to address the increasing demand for foreign workers in their country, Baldoz said. (www.philstar.com)

"There are flexibilities so we are going to evaluate our options," he said.

He said Mrs. Arroyo did not ask for anything and it was Samak who opened the subject of rice. The President, Yap said, thanked Samak for his offer.

The Philippine application for a sovereign guarantee on private Thai rice commitments was not discussed.

He said the commitment was not as firm as that of Vietnam that immediately committed 1.5 million metric tons of rice when the Philippines sought its help.

"But every time we would tender, Thailand would participate," he said. "But today, the difference is that he said that he comes with the hand of friendship and in the spirit of ASEAN brotherhood."

The government said it has contracted for 1.7 million tons of rice to fill a 10 percent domestic production gap this year, and that it wants to buy an additional 675,000 tons as buffer stocks for the last quarter of the year.

Samak is scheduled to visit the International Rice Research Institute today. (www.philstar.com)

## Thailand Commits to Sell More Rice to RP

by Paolo Romero

Thailand committed last night to supply the rice needs of the Philippines as the government intensified efforts to boost its buffer stocks amid fears of a prolonged global food crisis.

Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej gave the commitment to President Arroyo during their closed-door talks in Malacang that began at 5:30 p.m. and lasted nearly two hours.

Thailand is the world's biggest rice exporter and the Philippines is the biggest rice importer. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said that when the leaders of biggest rice importer and exporter meet, "what happens is cooperation."

"There is a commitment to the Philippines in terms of rice sales in case we need it," Yap told reporters after emerging from the meeting.

He said Samak assured Mrs.

Arroyo that Thailand is willing to supply rice "as much as we need."

"Thai Prime Minister Samak said on the basis of your need, we are willing to assist you," he said.

He however said the volume of rice commitment or the price involved was not discussed.

Samak, he said, assured Mrs. Arroyo that the Thai government was "open to anything" in supplying rice to the Philippines, including through government to government procurement or through the usual private rice exports through tenders.

He said the Thai Prime Minister pointed out that a new harvest would be coming in the next few months and that the Philippines can either buy a portion of that yield or tap new crops.

Yap said the government is still deciding whether to source Thai rice from private firms or from the government.

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Nene Says First Family Must Still Explain Growing Wealth

by Aurea Galica

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. insisted yesterday President Arroyo and the members of her family should explain in detail how their net worth increased significantly in 2007 despite lack of business ventures.

But Pimentel and Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. said aside from the Arroyo family, all public officials, including those in the judiciary must be ready to justify the statements of assets, liabilities and net worth that they declared for the sake of transparency.

Pimentel said the justices were not declaring any SALN for security purposes.

"Many of us use a purchasing price of that asset as the basis of stating the value of the assets in the SALN. Now sometimes the assets appreciate, it is within the realm of the possible that Gloria (Arroyo) thought of revising the basis of her SALN by using the current assets of the properties that might have appreciated in value that's why (her SALN) increased," Pimentel said.

"That's one way of explaining it although it would be difficult. That certainly needs a lot

of explaining," he added.

Pimentel said many were surprised with the still considerable wealth of the President's brother-in-law, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo.

"Sabi nga nila and the people there in his (Ignacio Arroyo's) district, the sources of my information, hirap daw at that time magbayad ng renta. But some people are indeed lucky," Pimentel said.

Ignacio owned up to the Jose Pidal accounts that Sen. Panfilo Lacson said belonged to First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and could be part of the First Family's unexplained wealth.

Pimentel conceded, however, that indeed the President and her family were not the only ones who declared doubtful net worth.

"Everyone has to explain what the basis of his SALN is. Nobody is saying that therefore you criticize the President, you don't criticize the others. Everyone in public office is fair game.

"And that is why I do not like the way SALN of the members of the Supreme Court are not subjected to public scrutiny, why is that so? They said they might be kidnapped or something. That's their belief," Pimentel said.

For his part, Villar said he had nothing to explain on his SALN as it was self-explanatory.

He maintained that his wealth was a product of his hard work and perseverance in business.

Villar said public officials from the President down to the councilor must be able to face the people and say their wealth was acquired through legal means.

The President's net worth grew by P11 million in 2007, while her congressman-sons Juan Miguel and Dato also registered more wealth. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## MAINLAND NEWS

## San Francisco Rediscovered Cebu

Filipino-Americans living in San Francisco applauded the launch of "Cebu: Pride of Place"—a new coffee table book that celebrates the province's natural beauty, its people and the many things that make Cebu one of the most distinctive islands in the Philippine archipelago.

The book launch was held at the Philippine Center Building in Downtown San Francisco. A similar launch is being planned for only one other U.S. city—New York.

Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia was the evening's keynote speaker. The two-term governor is credited with

spearheading the incredible transformation of the province. She is currently in the U.S. to help launch the book and also has scheduled visits to Washington, D.C. and San Diego.

Released in December 2007 with an initial print run of 2,500 copies, "Cebu: Pride of Place" found instant success in local and international circles and has been nominated for book awards both in the U.S. and the Philippines.

The San Francisco launch attracted a cross-section of the Filipino American community, including many Cebuanos who have made the Bay Area their new home. ([www.philfortune.com](http://www.philfortune.com))

## Filipino-American Named Valedictorian at Laney College

When several hundred students at Laney College receive their diplomas at their graduation ceremony this weekend, perhaps no one will be smiling as much as valedictorian Sara Fe Banzuela Klimek.

The best and brightest of her class, Klimek earned three Associate Degrees in Liberal Arts, Science and Language Arts and maintained a 4.0 GPA.

She has come a long way since arriving to the U.S. from the Philippines in 2002. Klimek previously earned a Bachelors Degree in Communication Arts from Ateneo de Davao University in the

Philippines and enjoyed a successful career in public service, including positions in the Office of the President of the Philippines and with the Asian Development Bank.

In 2003, she enrolled at Laney College in hopes of obtaining a degree in Public Administration. However, she later realized her calling in life was to serve the community as a health professional and changed her academic focus to nursing.

Currently, Klimek volunteers at Children's Hospital in Oakland and serves as a teacher's assistant in microbiology and Spanish tutor at Laney. She plans to obtain her



Sara Fe Banzuela Klimek

nursing degree and would like to one day teach in the nursing field.

"Laney College is a wonderful place," she says, "The teachers are not only experts in their field but really care for the students."

## Recapturing Unused Family, Employment Visas

The American Justice Center (AJJC) and other civil rights groups will be keeping a close eye on H.R. 5882, a bill that would recapture employment-based immigrant visas lost to bureaucratic delays and to prevent losses of family- and employment-based immigrant visas in the future.

The bill, jointly introduced by Reps. Zoe Lofgren (D-California) and Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wisconsin), could greatly impact the Asian American community. According to the AJJC, immigrants from Asia coming to join their families in the U.S. face some of the worst backlogs in the world. An esti-

mated 4 million family-based immigrants are currently waiting in line. About 1.5 million family members of these family-based immigrants are family members of Asian Americans.

If enacted, H.R. 5882 would accomplish the following:

- Recapture immigrant visas that were available to family and employment categories, but were unused due to administrative delays. The recapture would extend from October 1, 1991 through September 30, 2007. No new immigrant visas are made available; only those that were unused are reclaimed.
- Ensure that future wastage

does not occur by rolling forward any unused immigrant visas available to family and employment categories in a given year to the next year.

- Retain unused visas in a given category (family or employment) within that category. Under current law, unused family immigrant visas roll forward to the employment category and vice versa.

As Congress prepares to hold hearings on immigration-related issues, experts on immigration reform will discuss H.R. 5882, other challenges and solutions to the backlog and our broken immigration system and what is at stake for Asian Americans.

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## LEGAL NOTES

## Nursing Shortage Relief



By Reuben S. Seguritan

**A** bill intended to lift the retrogression of visa numbers for Registered Nurses (RNs) and Physical Therapists (PTs) was introduced on April 29 in the House of Representatives.

Rep. Robert Wexler, Democrat from Florida, and Rep. James Sensenbrenner, Republican from Wisconsin, sponsored the bill (HR 5924) which is also known as the Emergency Nursing Supply Relief Act.

The measure which is long overdue would alleviate the

current shortage of RNs and PTs.

Under the proposed law, 20,000 visa numbers will be given to PTs and RNs every year through September 30, 2011. Immediate family members will be allowed to immigrate without being subject to the quota limitation.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will be required to review and act on the immigrant visa petition (I-140) within 30 days from filing. The I-140 petition is the first step in the green card process.

After the approval of the I-140 petition, the file will be transferred to the National Visa Center (NVC) which would then request the submission of the biographic data of the alien and other documents. The last step is the immigration inter-

view to be conducted at a U.S. embassy.

If the alien is in the U.S., he/she may file an adjustment of status application.

A fee of \$1,500.00 for each nurse who uses the visa shall be charged to the employer except when the employer was affected by the Katrina disaster or is located in a Health Professional Shortage Area.

The fees collected will fund a grant program to attract more students and faculty members in the U.S.

Immigrant visa applicants will be required to attest that they do not owe their countries of residence or origin any financial obligation.

Another provision of the bill will allow physicians or other health care workers and their dependents to reside in a

candidate country and still be considered as physically present and residing in the U.S. for the purpose of establishing their residency requirements for naturalization.

Immigrant advocates are hopeful that the bill will be passed because of its bipartisan support. Rep. James Sensenbrenner, they note, has been known to be lukewarm to, if not against comprehensive immigration reform but he agreed to push for the passage of the bill.

There have been several bills introduced in the past two years to increase the visa numbers for nurses but they all failed to pass.

The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 which sought to exempt RNs from visa quota through September 30, 2017 was passed in

the Senate in 2006 but failed to become a law.

The Rural Nursing Promotion Act (S. 640) which exempts RNs from the quota through September 30, 2017, which was introduced by Senator Norm Coleman on February 15, 2007, is still in the Judiciary Committee.

Senator Hutchison of Texas and Senator Schumer of New York proposed in March 2007 and in August 2007 the recapture of unused visa numbers but they did not get enough support. In October 2007 when they reintroduced the proposal, the Senate passed it but failed to get the approval of the House.

**Editor's Note:** REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his website at [www.seguritan.com](http://www.seguritan.com)

## GLOBAL NEWS

## Pinoy Engineer Lauded For 'Super Oman' Comics

**M**anuel Perito, an overseas Filipino worker in Dubai, was recognized for his creativity and named the winner of the prestigious Ideas Arabia 2008 Award.

A risk engineer for Oman Insurance Company, Perito's winning entry was the technical-info comics he dubbed "Super Oman"—an Arab superhero who advises people on



safety and risk management.

"Super Oman was created to educate and instill loss con-

trol and safety information to our clients in a graphical and illustrative form," Perito said in a letter to members of the Philippine Society of Safety Professionals (PSSP).

Perito, 37, said judges singled out the "Super Oman" comic book for its innovativeness and creativeness.

A civil engineer graduate of the Technological Institute of the Philippines-Manila, Perito grew up reading comic books and occasionally dubbed as a comic writer and illustrator in his younger years. ([www.philfortune.com](http://www.philfortune.com))

## Filipina Plays Role of Pink Power Ranger

**R**hoda Montemayor is doing the Philippines proud as the Pink Power Ranger in the international hit TV action series for kids.

The London-born Filipina actress can be seen in the current season of Power Rangers: Operation Overdrive, in which she portrays Rose Ortiz, the Pink Power Ranger.

Rhoda, a multi-talented and diverse actress whose versatility landed her roles on both stage and screen, from musical theatre ("A Chorus Line" and "West Side Story") to feature films ("Finding Neverland").

Rhoda currently resides in London. Her ethnic origin is Filipino, though her enigmatic looks have led her to play a wide variety of roles from



Rhoda Montemayor

Latino, Native American, Mixed Race to Asian.

She trained professionally at Laine Theatre Arts and at The Actors Temple, where she honed her skills as an actress/dancer/singer, and where she was also fortunate enough to acquire martial arts skills through various productions she has worked on over the years. (*Good News Filipinas*)

## Pinay is Crowd Favorite in UK Talent Search

**M**adonna Decena, a Filipino performing artist in the United Kingdom, has reached the semi-finals of the judges' auditions for "Britain's Got Talent," a television show produced by American Idol judge Simon Cowell with the same format as its U.S. counterpart "America's Got Talent."

The 33 year-old from Quezon City lived up to her billing as she wowed the judges and audience with her powerful performance and heart-felt story.

Trembling and a little unsure of herself, Madonna walked onto the stage and told everyone her

reason for being there. Six months ago, she migrated to Britain in hopes of creating a better life for herself and two young daughters. She was forced to leave them behind with their grandparents until she raises enough money to send for them.

Her rendition of Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" brought a collective lump to the auditorium's throat and a standing ovation.

Her performance even impressed the usually stoic Cowell.

"I absolutely loved it," he said.

Decena's accomplishment is



Madonna Decena

significant to Filipinos. Being 100 percent Filipina, she epitomizes the millions of overseas Filipino workers who sacrifice separation from their families in hopes of a better future.

"Win or lose, I hope I'll be able to inspire a lot of Filipinos, especially our Overseas Filipino Workers all over the world who are sacrificing, and working hard for their loved ones to have better lives," she said.

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# Ti Maikapat A Pulo A Konbension Ti Gumil Filipinas

sid ti konbension a sagana ti Cagayan a dimi nakapanan idi sabali met ti kinaisangangayan iti Caoyan, Isabela.

Saan a maativil ti plataporma da Apo Presidente Baldovino Valdez ken kakaduna. Malaksid pay tin a-ananay a panangandagay dagiti agturtagur ken itutulong ti Apo Mayorda Representante ken dadduma pay nga immay met nagsarita ken nangdayaw met ti saldet dagiti Manurat iti Isabela ken amin a timalalanan.

Adda amin dagiti malalaki a tuodan ti GF. Da Juan S.P. Hidalgo Jr., Precy Bermudez, Fer-

nando Sanchez, Guillermo, Djuna Alcantara, Dionisio Bulong ken dadduma pay. Da Arcel Tabag, Ely Madarang ken dagiti agdaddo ken saan a dimmaray a mangtontontont met ti ubbong a namnamaenda a pangrunyawan weno rang-ayanda iti pangasurat. Limakami a taga Hawaii. Ni Mrs. GH 2008 Perilita Sadorra, Rita Marie Sagucio-Mrs. Freedom GH 2008 Ken Mr. & Mrs. Bayani.

Ngem sakbayan kayat mi nga ipakilap kadagiti dipay nakapanan iti Isabela ti kinapanayag daytoy a disso iti amianan a parte ti Filipinas. Impagarupmi idi a nakaal-allaw a lugar ngem saan ta kas iti isungadmi iti siudad ti Laoag ken Vigan, napintas natalingengen a disso ti panagriganami iti siudad ti Caoyan, Isabela. Natalna ken manakigayem dagiti tattao, isu a nagtaltalgedammi iti kaadami saday. No pag-shoppingan, awan dumana iti Quiapo.

## Iti Konbension

Iti Francisco Dy Coliseum ti nakangayan ti konbension. Nupay manarimaan ti rekonstruksion ti patakder marikna ti tali-naay ken talged a kasapulan dagiti manurat. Kalpasan ti registration iti Abril 18 linuoktan ni presidente ti GH ti panagsaritana nga agyaman kadagiti amin a dimmar-ay manipud kadagiti nadumaduma a disso. Adu a Manurat ken sangasangali ti dimteng.

Iti umuna a rabii isu ti panakapadayaw dagiti reyna a nagpaoy iti Hawaii ti Mrs. GH 2008 Perilita Tapeç Sadorra ken Mrs. Freedom Rita Marie Sagucio. Binalangatan ida ti nangbigayan ken Apo Mayor ti Caoyan ken ti mismo a presidente ti gunglo.

Iti maikadua nga aldaw Abril 19, nagsasaruno a nagsarita dagiti bangola a Manurat a naukudi a mangalodi itoy a konbension. Da Edilberto Angco, Precy Bermudes, Fernando Sanchez, Hidalgo kadagiti nadumaduma a sanga ti literatura ken wagas a panagsurat. Adu dagiti naibat a saludos ken sungbat manipud kadagiti mangad-adal. Sigurdag nga adu manen ti napurodag dagiti mangtontontont ni nabaga a bunga ti panagsuratn kadagiti timalalanan.

Nagsarita ni Hidalgo maipapan ti panagilibro. Ket iti damo a gundaway kadagiti amin a konbension adda itoy maudi a parte ti programa a

mapagsasaritaan maipanggep iti drama a daytoy iti nainaganan a mangidatag. Saantayo a napakaammuan a daytoy ti mangdasar ti panagsuratn iti drama, ngem indasartayo ti padastayo iti panagsuratn iti drama. Nasungbatn dagiti saludos ket nainayan pay ti wagas ti panagiturong iti entablado.

Maragsakan kami ta madlawdansa a saan laeng a daniw weno sarita ti nagserbi a maadla no di pay ket drama. Kunami a dita ngamin ti mabalini a pangidasaran iti arte tradision, kultura ken wagas a pangtaginayan iti kinalokano. Adda nagsaludsod, "Ania kano ti nangiturong kaniak nga agsurat iti drama?". Apay nga isu ti surraturat? Dagitoy ti sungbatayo. Umona, mayasa kadagiti gantand ti GH ti mangpenpen kadagiti gapuhanan dagiti kamkapen. Adu a dolyar ti kasapulatan ti panagilibro. Maikadua, ti Drama isu ti mangipakita dagiti wagas, panagkawkwages, panagsasarita ni Ilokano kangrunaman mayas met a sanga ti literatura a mataginayan ken aramiden. Dagiti sarita no mabasan nalpasen. No dagiti drama mabalay pay a dublihan nga ipabay manen ket makalinglingay met kadagiti agbuay. Mailadawan a saan laeng nga iti imajinasion.

## Ti Miss Gumil Filipinas

Napiti met ti Miss GF babaen ti kinapintas. Panagkawkwages ken kinalatelo nga agsungbat ti saludos. Kapintasan ti kawes ken panagitiugnay.

## Maikaito Nga Aldaw

Ni Mayor Tabag ti nangisaganan a panagaldaw ket isu met ti nakaituloyan ti programa ti panakatiyawat dagiti award kadagiti nangabak kadagiti pasalay a naiyawat itoy a tawen panakatiyawat ti sertifiko of attendance. Naiyawat met dadduma pay a pamdayawan. Ti Leona Florentino Award ken Pedro Bucaneng ken Francisco Ponce iti GO. Sakbay daytoy naiilabas ti tour dagiti delegado kadagiti naisangangayan a disso iti Isabela. Nakitami ti napintas a Water World. Awan dumana ti kinadalimnaw daytoy



Mrs. GH 2008, Perilita Tapeç-Sadorra and Mrs. Freedom, Rita Marie Sagucio crowned at Caoyan, Isabela Philippines in April 18, 2008.

a pangangan ken dagiti agserberbi. Nalabasami ti Magat Dam ken ti kinapintas ti buya ti Isabela.

## Iti Ilocos

Nagtaruskami iti Paoy a lugar ti reyna ti GH. Managsangali dagiti taga Suba, Paoy a kakabagian ti reyna. Kangrunayan pay Abril 21 idi napan kami nag-courtsey kaladagiti opisyaltes iti iila a Paoy. Naragsak ni Apo Mayor Bonifacio Clemente ken kakaduna nga opisyaltes iti iila a Paoy.

Naaramid ti panakapadayaw manen dagiti reyna ti GH iti Suba, Paoy a lugar ni Mrs. Perilita Tapeç Sadorra. Naragsak a panag piesta daytoy a lugar a nagsarabog kadagiti taga Hawaii. Ubbing, balbalasang ken nataengan nakipagparte iti programa. Adda met da Apo Mayor Clemente ken kokonsehalena. Isuda ti pangpangayad manen ti panakabalangal dagiti reyna.

## Dadduma Pay A Napasir Ti GH Tour Iti Filipinas

Saan a malabasan ti reyna a sarungkarant ti dati a pannaakam dagiti Manurat isu da Dr. & Dra. Godofredo Reyes. Nupay nakapsuten ti bagina, naisem pay laeng a nangmatmat kadagiti reyna iti Hawaii. Dida kano malipatan dagiti amin a reyna ti Gumil Hawaii a tinawan a sumarsarungar iti Suso Beach.

Sinarungkarantay ti Grupo ni Dr. Thomas Villafuerte ti Gumil Ilocos Sur iti iila a San Juan.

Di met nalipatan ti grupo ti dimmagas iti Bannawag iti panagsabulida iti Hawaii. Nakita da ken naalamonada met dagiti agtartrabaho iti Bannawag da editor Rambaud, Ariel Tabag kasta met ni Johnny. Naalamo mi met da Mr. & Mrs. Bragado a nangikagumaan met ti makipagkita ti grupo.

Agginga iti sumaruno a biaje!

**N**abalagian ti nanggay a konbension ti GF a nangay iti Francisco Dy Coliseum idiy Caoyan, Isabela. "Gumil Pasanteng" Parangenan Ti Tema.

Kas kadagiti tinawan a konbension ti GF, saan a maudi daytoy a panagitipon. Naatendaranmi amin a konbension ti GF malak-



**F**act: Kids who read succeeded. With this in mind, parents are invited to sign up their children for the 2008 Hawaii State Public Library System Children's Summer Reading Program.

Most libraries statewide will conduct this free, 5-week program from June 9 to July 12, 2008. Eligible participants are infants to children who will be in grade 6 this Fall.

The program encourages children to "catch the reading bug" by visiting the library once a week or read at least one book per week. Participants will receive free reading incentives, while supplies last. Also, five children will be selected

to win \$50 bookstore gift cards.

"Catch the Reading Bug" will highlight books and stories about insects, bugs and creepy crawly creatures.

The program is funded via a grant from the Friends of the Library of Hawaii and the National Football League. Other corporate sponsors include McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii, UH-Manoa Outreach College, First Insurance Co. Hawaii and Diamond Bakery.

To register for this reading program, visit any public library. For more details, please call your local library or visit [www.libraryshawaii.org](http://www.libraryshawaii.org).



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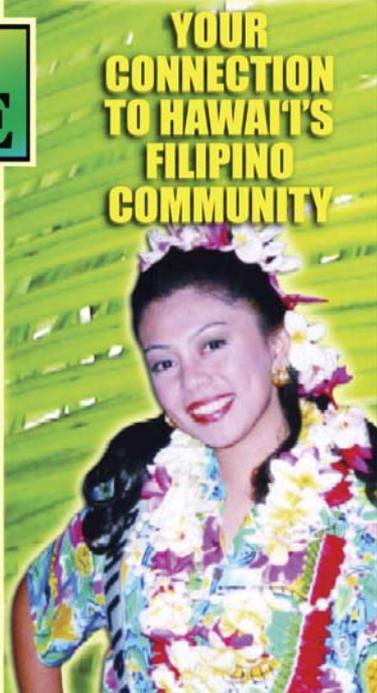
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