

# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

WEEKLY NOVEMBER 1, 2008

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A Service for the Filipino-American Community



## EDITORIAL

## Congratulations, Aloha Medical Mission!

**T**wenty-five years is a long time for anything, particularly the undertaking of regular humanitarian missions to underdeveloped nations throughout Asia and the Pacific Rim. These missions of mercy are strenuous, hazardous and not for the faint of heart. Yet despite the less-than-ideal conditions, groups of dedicated doctors, nurses and lay personnel keep going back year after year. Many first-time volunteers come back as changed individuals with a different outlook and renewed purpose in life.

The longevity of these missions can perhaps be attributed to the tremendous amount of personal fulfillment AMM volunteers receive. They will tell you that a price tag cannot be placed when seeing the smiling faces of patients and their genuine gratitude for a new lease on life. In return for their hard work, volunteers are also given the chance to practice medicine at its purest and most basic level—which is to help others without expecting anything in return.

We find that the words of Scottish theologian Henry Drummond are indeed true—the moments that truly stand out in our life are those times when we have done things for others. Thank you, AMM volunteers for your dedication in helping those in need. Your compassion and willingness to go the extra mile are a shining example for others to follow.

## Mayoral Candidates and Fixed Rail

**A**ll eyes will be on the Honolulu mayoral race come Tuesday. While recent polls show Mufi Hannemann pulling away from opponent Ann Kobayashi, others are saying that the outcome will be too close to call. The good councilwoman from Manoa has managed to close the gap, despite her campaign's late start and limited funds. To her credit, Kobayashi has hammered away at the fixed rail transit project, garnered the support of most anti-rail critics and introduced her EZ Way as a better alternative. Mass transit aside, those who may not agree with Hannemann's management style see her as a kinder, gentler alternative for mayor...and with better people skills.

On the other side, Hannemann has touted himself as an effective mayor, which is certainly true when compared to his predecessor. Hannemann has his chinks in the armor but his tenacious, my-way-or-the-highway style was just the type of leadership needed to kick-start the mass transit project and gain initial broad-based support. With rail facing its most serious challenge to date and with lingering memories of previous mass transit attempts that failed, it is precisely Hannemann's style of leadership that is needed to see this project through.

Closely tied to the mayoral race is the rail question on the November ballot, which voters will ultimately decide. We urge our readers to vote 'yes.' Honolulu simply cannot afford to kiss goodbye to up to \$1 billion in federal funds. If we let this opportunity slip away, in all likelihood, we will never see rail built on Oahu in our lifetime. Critics have repeatedly stated that the City cannot afford an expensive project like fixed rail, which already has a local funding mechanism in place and a commitment from key players in Washington, D.C. On the other hand, funding sources for the EZ Way remain in doubt. Furthermore, we have yet to hear a satisfactory explanation on how to mitigate the massive congestion expected from the resulting thousands of vehicles that exit from the EZ Way into the Downtown corridor. Until those questions are answered, we cannot support this alternative.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**W**elcome readers to another issue of Hawaii's leading Filipino newspaper! Can you feel the excitement? In just a few days, our country will have not only elected a new president, but here in Hawaii, voters will have chosen a new mayor, whether it will be Mufi Hannemann or Ann Kobayashi, and decided if rail transit is the way to go. No matter which candidates or issues you support, we truly hope that you exercised your rights as Americans and showed up at the polls to cast your vote.

In this issue, we are featuring two giants in the Filipino community—the Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) and the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH). To lead off this issue, Dennis Galolo wrote a cover story on AMM's milestone 25th Silver Anniversary. He researched the humble beginnings of AMM and its growth over the years, thanks to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers. To thank them, AMM held a special dinner/fundraiser at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Please read more on pages 4-5.

The second group, UFCH, also made headlines with the awarding of the 2008 Progress Awards and installed its new president and slate of officers. We thank out-going president Bryan Andaya for his service and wish new president Eddie Agas, Sr. all the very best. More on the UFCH and a list of the 2008 Progress Award recipients are available in our Hawaii Filipino News section on page 8.

Also in this issue, our newest contributing writer, Ashley Monfort, reviews a new DVD by model-actor-amateur chef Travis Kraft on how to cook Filipino dishes. Ms. Monfort is a former staff reporter of Ka Leo O Hawaii, the UH student newspaper. She currently works at KHNL Channel 8 as Producer/Assignment Desk. Welcome aboard Ashley!

In closing, I hope that you will enjoy reading these and the many other articles and columns in this issue. As always, thank you for your support. Until next time....

Aloha and Mabuhay!

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*



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## LETTERS

### Due to Historical Amnesia—Are Filipino-Americans still in "Bondage"?

After viewing the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition's "SINGGALOT (The Ties That Bind)—Filipinos in America, from Colonial Subjects to Citizens" at the Hawaii State Library, I had come away very distraught with some of the inaccuracies or misinformation in the exhibit's panel descriptions.

Regarding the Filipino-American War of 1899-1902 it states that the collateral damage of innocent Filipino victims (men, women children) in the insurrection against the imperialist U.S. was at 200,000.

However, according to documentation—it was 1.4 million Filipinos. (see: Francisco, Luzviminda- "The Philippines: The End of an Illusion; San Juan Jr., E. "On Genocide: The U.S. Record in the Philippines").

The exhibit panel did not mention that when indigenous Filipinos were put on for public display in the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair by the U.S. government, that after they died there, their brains were removed and sent to the Smithsonian for further study.

It betomes me that the U.S. Congress has decided in providing our Filipino World War II veterans after fighting alongside with the U.S. against the Japanese atrocities and occupation of the Philippines—a measly, one-time lumpsum of \$15,000 and to sign a "quit claim" absolving the U.S. from any future monetary claims.

(see: "Fil-Am Activists Slam One-Time Lumpsum Payment for Filipino WWII Vets", Bulatlat.com)

My question is: how do I and other knowledgeable Filipinos resolve and address these issues of genocide, humiliation and discrimination??

Are we Filipino suppose to go about our lives in denial and forget about these injustices??

What do we tell our children??

Mel Domingo  
Honolulu

## LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION



By Senator Will Espero

## Steamy Approach

night, and 30% of the power needed by day. Expanding geothermal would allow the Big Island to reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thereby increasing its energy security. The Big Island also uses hydropower (3%) and wind power (9%). If Hawaii County were to use modern technology to produce biodiesel from the biowaste it now sends to landfills, this could provide a locally available, lower cost source of electricity feedstock, which can further reduce the amount of oil it imports.

I'm looking to introduce legislation to increase the usage of geothermal power on the Big Island. As a framework for understanding the numbers involved, one megawatt equals 1000 kilowatts and is enough to provide electricity for about 1000 homes. HECO reports that Oahu's total need is 1200 MW. Let's look at what's being done elsewhere.

When Iceland's cars, public transportation, and fishing boats become fully operational on hydrogen, as they will soon, it will become the world's first completely energy-independent country in the world, using 100% renewable energy sources. Geothermal sources supply 89% of heat for buildings. Geothermal supplies 26% of the country's electricity,

with hydroelectric power supplying the remaining 74%. By phasing out fossil fuel and turning to renewable energy, Iceland will become a zero carbon economy, and become a model for tackling the problem of global warming.

In the 1960s, coal and oil powered Iceland. President Olafur Grimsson says Iceland's transition from 100% fossil fuel to 100% renewable energy within 40 years, is "proof that it is possible within the lifetime of one generation to transform the energy systems of our countries because I don't accept that we are so special that only we can do it." Five major geothermal power plants produce 630 MW, providing 26% of the country's energy. Two of those plants produce both electricity and hot water for heating purposes, while the other three produce only electricity.

President Grimsson, who has been president of Iceland since 1996, and was unopposed and re-elected to his fourth term as president this year, said:

Energy is the most fundamental question of the 21st Century, with all due respect to all the other problems. There is no challenge as fundamental as energy. How we meet that demand will have as we all know have a great impact on the climate and so on. So that is why we need to marshal every source of energy. We tend to forget that

*"We have formulated the vision and ambition to get rid of fossil fuel completely in a reasonably short time."*

*— President Olafur Grimsson of Iceland.*

*the world's first country using 100% renewable energy*

we are blessed with two fundamental long lasting sources of energy -- one is the fire inside the earth. We sit on it, we sleep on it, we walk on it, but we need to harness it. Geothermal: we learn about it in school and then we tend to forget about it. And the other is the sun above our head. These energy sources will last long after the oil has been exhausted. If we combine that with wind and wave power and other resources like bioenergy we will have the possibility of meeting the energy demands required to sustain a growing economy for every country in the world, not only in this century but the centuries to come.

Geothermal provides nearly 1/3 of the energy in the Philippines, which is the second largest producer of geothermal energy in the world, with an output of over 1,900 MW. The U.S., the world's largest producer of geothermal energy, in comparison, turns out 2,936 MW. That's amazing when you consider that the Philippines has less than one-third the population of the U.S. To get an idea of what this translates out to, one-fifth of the light bulbs in the Philippines are powered by geothermal energy.

California is the big leader in geothermal in the U.S. Though Nevada has more plants (45), Cal-

ifornia's 21 plants are the largest sources of geothermal energy in the country. Southern California Edison, the nation's leader in renewable energy, uses 906 MW of geothermal power in its portfolio mix.

New projects have long been permitted in Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, according to the Geothermal Energy Association, which could provide up to 3,368 MW of new electric power, bringing the U.S. geothermal total up to nearly 6,304 MW. The Geothermal Research Council reports that tens of thousands of acres of federal have been leased for geothermal exploration and/or drilling, with 80% in Nevada. Each year, 60 drill permits are issued for geothermal projects in Nevada. It takes 8-13 months to get a geothermal drill permit approved, but by comparison, only 30 days to get an oil well drill approved.

Even Google is in on it. Dan Reicher, Google's Director of Climate Change, said his company invested \$10 million as part of a plan to develop "enhanced geothermal systems" technology to generate energy, calling geothermal is "the sleeping giant of renewable energy."

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# Aloha Medical Mission Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By Dennis Galolo

**T**o mark its 25th Silver Anniversary, the Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) held a fundraiser/dinner at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on November 2, 2008. The gala event was also a means of thanking the many volunteers who have generously given of their time and resources over the years.

To date, the AMM has undertaken nearly 100 medical missions to countries throughout Asia and the Pacific, including the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Laos, Nepal, Indonesia, Burma and Micronesia.

AMM's impact has been nothing short of staggering—over 213,000 patients have received free medical treatment, including over 10,350 surgeries. The total monetary value of AMM's free health care is estimated at well over \$41 million.

AMM's current president is Dr. Antonio Tan. When he assumed leadership in 2006, he set out to accomplish several goals, including the establishment of an endowment fund.

The idea for an endowment

was discussed by AMM leadership for several years. Under Dr. Tan's leadership, the ball began rolling just this year. So far, AMM has received a total of \$150,000 in seed money. AMM's goal is to reach \$6 million, from which interest will be used to fund its missions and various activities—allowing the organization to exist in perpetuity.

For 2008, AMM has conducted six missions, including Laguna (twice), Batac, Davao City in the Philippines; Burma and Laos.

In 2007, AMM conducted eight overseas missions, including an historic trip aboard the Hawaiian voyaging canoe Hokule'a to Micronesia and the remote islands of Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei. There, volunteers treated nearly 1,500 patients, helped to establish a

local clinic and distributed about \$6,000 worth of antibiotics, vitamins and other medicines to residents.

They also furnished hundreds of medical textbooks as requested by Micronesian physicians. Also in 2007, AMM volunteers served the poor and needy on missions to the Philippines and Myanmar, and partnered with the U.S. Navy's USS Peleliu on a humanitarian mission to Southeast Asia.

Locally, AMM is looking to expand its Honolulu clinic by treating more patients and extending the clinic's hours.

Not many people know that AMM's clinic is the only one in the Hawaii that offers free medical and dental care for Hawaii's needy and uninsured residents.

## Raising Funds

In the past, AMM held several benefit concerts featuring the musical talents of its member physicians. Last year, the concert entitled "Four Doctors, a Patient and the Mayor" was held at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall. It was an evening of beautiful classical and jazz piano music performed by Honolulu doctors Jorge Camara, Reuben Guerrero, Timothy Lee and Elizabeth Ignacio, plus accomplished pianist Chris Cerna (the patient) and the singing talents of Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann.

Two years earlier in 2005, a similar concert entitled "Four Doctors, a Patient and an Idol" featured wildly-popular American Idol contestant Jasmine Trias. Ms. Trias captivated the sold-out audience with her charisma, voice and piano skills.

This year's fundraising event will be held at the Hilton's Tapa Ballroom. The honorary co-chairs are U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye and Allen Doane, chairman and CEO of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.

"For our Silver Anniversary,



Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) in Bacolod in 2004



First Aloha Medical Mission in Legaspi, Albay in 1983 consisting of 7 doctors. L to R: Dr. Danilo Lucila, Dr. Etty Bautista, Dr. Ramon Sy, Dr. Claude Caver, Dr. Ernesto Espaldon, Dr. Gary Burell. Not in photo is Dr. Guido Soriano

it is only fitting that we honor our past and current volunteers," says Dr. Tan. "We've been able to do all the things we've done because of their assistance. Without them, all of this would not have been possible."

Dr. Ramon Sy, former AMM president and one of its original founders, referred to these volunteers as the "backbone of the organization."

"I'm very happy, gratified and appreciative of all our volunteers who have made the AMM the premiere organization it is today," he says. "I'm also very grateful and proud of my colleagues who have joined and supported the missions."

## A Rich History

The very first AMM medical mission was held in 1983 when Dr. Sy and six other physicians visited the Bicol region in the Philippines, where they treated many patients for a period of 10 days.

Dr. Sy got the idea for a medical mission after hearing the inspiring medical missionary work in Micronesia by the late Filipino-American plastic surgeon Dr. Ernesto Espaldon and his wife, anesthesiologist Dr. Leticia Espaldon.

Upon returning home, the Hawaii-based Filipino doctors, moved by their experience and touched by the gratitude of patients they treated, established

AMM as a federally tax exempt non profit 501(c)(3) corporation. The rest, as they say, is history.

Through the years, Dr. Sy remained actively involved with AMM. He is surprised at how far the missions have come and the tremendous levels of participation.

"Originally, AMM was started as a pet project of the Philippine Medical Association," he says. "My expectations were to have just a few doctors going to the Philippines. I never thought so many others would be joining us. With more volunteers, we decided to extend the missions beyond the Philippines.

"Today, the organization is so big that we've been able to travel to over 15 countries, thanks to the help of over 1,000 volunteers."

In 2007, Dr. Sy was awarded the prestigious Jefferson Award for Public Service. The award honors people who have worked diligently to make their community and the world a better place.

Dr. Sy represented Hawaii in a special award ceremony in Washington, D.C. Past honorees of this distinct award include first ladies Barbara Bush and Rosalynn Carter; former secretary of state Colin Powell; entertainer Bob Hope; and Supreme Court Justice Sandra

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## COVER STORY



Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) volunteers shown with thyroid patient during the Laguna, Phils. mission

Day O'Connor.

Current AMM president Dr. Tan arrived in Hawaii in 1979, after completing residency training at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. He established a private practice in urology, which still keeps him very busy.

Since 1985, Dr. Tan has participated in a total of 11 missions. His role as president of late has been to coordinate medical missions. He typically travels to the mission site, surveys and evaluates the area and contacts local physicians and government officials.

### Doctors Training Doctors

AMM's Fellowship Training Program was founded in 1993 under the auspices of the University of Hawaii-Manoa School of Medicine and with financial support from the Consuelo Alger Foundation. Volunteer physician Jorge G. Camara noted a lack of training programs in the Philippines, China, and Vietnam in the field of ophthalmic reconstructive surgery. Consequently, patients with cancers and tumors of the eyelid and socket of the eye, or others with congenital deformities of the eyelids and sockets of the eye, or those that had traumatic injuries like fractures of the orbit the were left untreated.

Taking matters into his own hands, Dr. Camara founded the program to teach ophthalmologists from the Philippines specialized techniques in eye reconstructive surgery. Thus far, 24 ophthalmologists from various provinces of the Philippines have received this specialized training—provinces including Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, Baguio, Pampanga, Bulacan, Las Pinas, Manila, San Juan, Cebu, Davao, Comatabato and Cagayan de Oro.

As a result of Dr. Camara's efforts, ophthalmological services in the Philippines are now self-sufficient in this specialty

of ophthalmology. In fact, AMM-trained physicians in the Philippines have conducted several Aloha Medical Missions, without the need for U.S. ophthalmologists. This program assures that AMM's work continues in perpetuity, since the trained physicians can now do the surgery themselves and also pass on their knowledge to others.

In recognition of the tremendous value of this training program, the Philippine government bestowed upon Dr. Camara and the AMM a 2001 National Treasure Award. The current fellow is Dr. Sandra Worak, who is the 24th ophthalmological fellow to receive this specialized training. Upon the completion of her fellowship, she will teach at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City and will also help the needy people in the province of Pampanga.

### Mahalo AMM

An honorary certificate signed by all nine members of the City Council, along with proclamations from Gov. Linda Lingle and Mayor Mufi Hannemann, were on display at the fundraiser/dinner.

Many Filipinos, including legislators and other community leaders, are proud of AMM's accomplishments and contributions.

"The City Council sends its warmest mahalo and best wishes to the Aloha Medical Mission on its 25th Anniversary," says Councilmember Romy Cachola, who has joined his wife Dr. Erlinda Cachola on several missions to the Philippines.

"The Council also congratulates past Aloha Medical Mission's presidents, current president Dr. Antonio Tan and its many volunteers on a job well done. They are shining examples of how a love for humanity and a willingness to serve others can result in a better life for all."

## CHRONICLE PULSE

What is the most memorable event you experienced as a volunteer with Aloha Medical Mission?

By Carlota Ader & HFC Staff

**DR. DANILO ABLAN**—We were able to help a med tech who was badly burned in a laboratory accident. She was disfigured and depressed. But we brought her to Hawaii for plastic surgery and reconstructed her disfigurements with the help of Dr. Don Parsa, Dr. Baria and Dr. Pacpaco. She returned home, continued to work as a Med tech and eventually got married. Her entire family was grateful and is still thanking us even today.

**MARILOU ANCHETA, RN**—We worked hard to assist the doctors but it was also gratifying to see how successful the surgeries are. It was a pleasure to share what I could with the people and a great experience for me to be with them.

**DR. RODRIGO BRISTOL**—When we do major surgeries like a cholelctomy, it can be fatiguing. But we gain back a sense of satisfaction, especially when you see how happy and grateful the patients are. To me, it's a very rewarding experience despite the limited time there and the conditions we work under. The volunteers are happy to give something positive back to our hometowns and roots in the Philippines.

**DR. JORGE G. CAMARA**—My most memorable event was on my first Aloha Medical Mission 21 years ago to Palawan. I took care of a 21 year old man who had been blind from childhood. He had lost all hope of ever seeing again. I'll never forget the look of joy and amazement on his face the day after surgery when we took his eye patch off.

**LOLITA CHING, RN**—There are too many memorable events to mention! During one mission, the patients needed x-rays but could not afford them. So each of us contributed our share to pay for the x-rays. Giving with all of your heart and sharing little things like that made my day and gave me peace, joy and happiness.

**DR. AMELIA JACANG**—I experienced serving my town mates in Ilocos Norte. I was full-filled and happy that I was able to return to my home town, since I never practiced there before leaving for the U.S. I traveled all over the Philippines on the many missions, so it was nice to see the different places of my country. When I went on missions to other countries, I treated children with congenital problems. In the U.S., there are more treatment options for them to get better, but that was not the case in their country. It was frustrating for me that they could not be treated properly."

**DR. JOSE MADAMBA**—I remember the many happy faces of the people and their expressions of gratitude. It was unforgettable. The people were down to earth and full of respect and

hospitality for the services we rendered to them.

**RICHARD PECSON**—When I went to Bacolod as a volunteer, I saw the glaring differences between those who can afford medical treatment for their ailments and those who cannot. A case in point was a man whose thyroid had to be removed. However, he needed to take a medication after the operation which costs around \$50. But he had no money to buy the medication, so he decided to forego thyroid surgery. You are transformed when you see this situation. Compassion for their sufferings is what drives me in these missions.

**DR. RAMON SY**—During our 1989 medical mission, there was a coup d'etat in the Philippines. We were in Cebu where the medical mission was held and we were caught in the middle. No one was allowed to leave for Manila since Mactan airport in Cebu were captured by the rebels. Instead of staying for one week, we all ended staying up for two weeks. We were running out of money since most of us didn't anticipate staying in Cebu for more than a week. A touching moment happened when a local man came to the hotel and met with me. He said that he heard that we were running out of money, so he gave us all he had which was \$10. It was a touching moment. I hugged the old man and tears began to fill my eyes. We've met a lot of good people in places we've visited. We've helped them, but in return, they've also helped us.

**ELSA TALAVERA, RN**—My unforgettable experience was when I shared quality time with some children and their parents during one particularly hot afternoon. I bought the children two scoops of ice cream each. Just watching them giggle, laugh and say "maraming salamat po," many times gave me a wonderful feeling. I felt happy to share that moment with my kababayans, even if it was for a short time only.

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## IMMIGRATION UPDATE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

## Another Filipino Deported for Pretending to Be Single Though Married

ing a decision that he is inclined to grant the alien relief and asks the government lawyer if he will appeal. In all the cases we won, the government said no, except one where the government lawyer said she would appeal. The IJ was visibly irked, and then rendered orally an hour-long appeal-proof decision for our client. After we left the courtroom, we asked the government lawyer if she would still appeal, and to give the alien a break. A few days later she called and said that she would not appeal.

Filipinos are the most common perpetrators of the single but married fraud. These folks would have no immigration problem if they consulted an excellent immigration lawyer before being caught or at least before the deportation proceeding.

### 7 Possible Grounds for Relief

As we discussed in our article "Pretending to be single though married – what now, my love?" Philippine News, Dec. 26, 2007, there are at least 7 possible grounds for relief for an alien charged with pretending to be single, even though married, and obtained immigration benefits.

In Rolando's case, they invoked only one - fraud waiver under INA Section 237(a)(1)(H). "Waiver" is "forgiveness" and is discretionary with the IJ. To be granted this waiver, the alien must (1) be statutorily eligible, and (2) must

present positive factors or equities that outweigh the negative. Although the IJ found him removable, Rolando convinced the IJ that he met the qualifications for a waiver which he granted as a matter of discretion.

### Why Did BIA Reverse IJ?

The BIA usually does not reverse the IJ on discretionary matters, so why did it reverse in this case?

The BIA held that Rolando was not statutorily eligible for an INA Section 237(a)(1)(H) waiver. That statute provides that although an alien is inadmissible under 212(a)(6)(C)(i) for having obtained a visa or admission to the U.S. by fraud or misrepresentation, the Attorney General (IJ) may waive this ground of inadmissibility in his discretion if the alien "is the spouse, parent, son, or daughter of a citizen of the United States or of an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence."

Rolando claimed that he was the "son" of a U.S. citizen mother. Unfortunately, his mother died in 2005.

Rolando entered the U.S. in 1986.

Rolando insisted that even though his mother is already dead, he is still the son

of a U.S. citizen. The BIA refused to buy his argument, saying that to qualify for a waiver, the qualifying relative must be "living." The BIA reasoned that "the purpose of the fraud waiver is to unite aliens with their living United States citizen or lawful permanent resident family members. Because his mother is deceased, the respondent does not have a qualifying relative with whom to remain in the United States."

### Practice Tip

We know the requirements for an INA Section 237(a)(1)(H) waiver. We got one of our clients a qualifying relative before the hearing. Why did not Rolando get one? There are 7 possible grounds for relief for fraud. Why was only one invoked? There is a Court of Appeals case holding that an alien qualifies for immigration benefits even though the petitioning U.S. citizen spouse died after the petition was filed, reasoning that the

alien remained a spouse of a U.S. citizen. Why was not this case invoked? Can Rolando still be saved? Probably if you believe in "Change".

(ATTY. TIPON has won all deportation cases he handled and obtained approval of all visa petitions he filed. He is from Laogay 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 903 Uni St. corner N. King, Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96819. Tel. (808) 847 1601. Fax (808) 847 1624. E-Mail: filamlaw@yaaho.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.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.)

here they go again. Another Filipino was ordered deported for claiming that he was single when he entered the U.S. although he was married. His name is Rolando from Los Angeles. On Thursday, October 23, 2008, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) e-mailed me a copy of the decision. Matter of Federiso, 24 I&N Dec. 661 (BIA 2008).

I have never lost a deportation case, including a number of these pretending to be single cases. So I was interested in knowing why the lawyer lost. He is from Greater Los Angeles. It is a pity to see so many Filipinos being deported on this ground, like the Filipino doctor husband and wife from Pennsylvania, when there are at least 7 possible grounds for relief.

I was very surprised to learn that he won before the Immigration Judge (IJ) but the government appealed to the BIA and the alien lost. It is rare, if at all, for the government to appeal from a discretionary decision of an IJ. I maintain friendly relations with the government lawyers and every time we win, instead of gloating, we go over to the government lawyer's side and thank them for not appealing. The IJ usually announces before render-

(from page 6, Sexuality and...)

cyberspace and digital technology has actually helped in the preservation, conservation, documentation of ethnic identity. Peculiarity and idiosyncrasy is captured, thus, not only are ethnic identities become more distinct, they are also becoming more distinguished and respectable. There are even more exact sciences that determine progeny and more fascinating technology to preserve memory.

These are all good and Filipinos wherever they may be in the world should take advantage of these developments. I am partial to memory, because memory serves both as link to the past, and bridge to the future.

Memory is both resistance to subjection and weapon against cultural interlocking and encirclement. That is why I

treasure the memory of the three women who have taught me early in life, some very basic lessons on ethnicity and sexuality.

My Inang will always remind me to celebrate birth and to choose life and health and connection to community. She was my first teacher on the value of reproductive health. My Ninang Lourdes will always remind me to keep my feet on the ground, keep to my roots, to home and hearth, even as various other orientations foreign or local, fly overhead, and of course, Dolores Feria is the quintessential exile in ethnic country who chose freedom over servility.

I write of all these now as Filipinos roam the globe with memories of the homeland, and with their sexualities and ethnicities always expanding and contracting by choice and by necessity.

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# An American Cooks Filipino Cuisine

By Ashley Montfort

If you've never heard of Travis Kraft, you'll be pressing the rewind button within the first minute of watching his newest cooking video "Salo Salo" which means, "Let's eat together."

It's not just because he's six feet tall, has blue eyes and dark hair (that's what the pause button is for). It's because this full-blooded, American-born guy is speaking Tagalog.

"Nang problema?" he asks in his opening line.

Well, he doesn't have a problem tackling the Filipino language.

Kraft, who grew up in North Dakota, gives a step-by-step cooking lesson entirely in Tagalog on how to cook *dinuguan*, a Filipino



Travis Kraft showing on the Salo Salo cooking video his "dinuguan" dish

dish made from pork blood.

He prepares the meat, the onions and doesn't even hesitate to pour in the blood.

So how does a guy from the American Midwest end up making videos on how to prepare Filipino cuisine?

Kraft is actually a model/actor/director living in Hollywood, California. He was born in Iowa, raised in North Dakota, was a state-champion in wrestling and has a B.S. in Telecommunications and Film from Eastern Michigan University.

Kraft's cooking lessons first became a sensation on YouTube with his video on how to cook chicken *adobo*. Over 200,000 hits and thousands of comments later, he's become a celebrity among Fil-Ams and Filipinos alike. He's been interviewed in numerous articles and talk shows in Los Angeles and the Philippines on his cooking videos.

"Even now I get e-mails about it, which is surprising," Kraft says. "I thought it was a cute video. I never anticipated it would become a huge thing."

"He's very well liked by the Filipino community even though he's a plain old white guy," says Madley Katarungan, executive producer of "Salo Salo."

The cast and crew of the movie were mostly Filipino. Katarungan says the film is a humorous look at Filipino culture.

Kraft says he has always been fascinated with far Eastern cultures.

His adoptive mother is Filipino but it was a nine-month long stay in the Philippines for work as a model that got him hooked. He then taught himself Tagalog and immersed himself in the culture.

"The Philippines is a very interesting place you don't hear about in America," Kraft says. "It's a culture I'm very involved with. It's the friendliest place I've ever been."

Kraft says "Salo Salo" is his production company Pool Boy Film's latest tribute to Filipino culture.

"I'm very happy that people seem to enjoy American Adobo and Salo Salo," Kraft says. "I'm very grateful that Filipinos have taken me in."

Please go online and visit [www.poolboyfilms.com](http://www.poolboyfilms.com) and [www.traviskraft.com](http://www.traviskraft.com) for more details.

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### UFCH Installs New Officers, Presents 2008 Progress Awards

The United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH) celebrated its 49th Anniversary with an installation ceremony of its new officers and directors and also honored 15 recipients of the prestigious 2008 Progress Awards.

Over 300 guests from all over Hawaii attended the event, which was held October 31, 2008 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

UFCH serves as the um-

rella group for Filipino community councils on the Big Island, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Oahu and Molokai. In turn, the various community councils oversee approximately 350 unit organizations, whose objectives include community development, leadership, education, scholarships, outreach programs, social interaction, networking and empowerment.

Throughout the year, UFCH sponsors community develop-

ment and outreach projects, raises funds for educational scholarships and provides overseas disaster relief aid overseas. These and other activities help to solidify Filipinos' resolve in reaching a common goal of respecting ethnic pride, self-respect and dignity.

#### Leadership Change

Bryan Andaya's two-year term as UFCH president came to end as incoming president Eddie Agas, Sr. took over the leadership reins.

Andaya says he stressed the importance of Filipinos getting more politically-involved and to make their voices heard. Thanks to his encouragement, more UFCH members actively attended meetings convened by the State Legislature and testified on bills affecting the Filipino community.

One such measure was Act 259 (2006) relating to the employment classification of caregivers under the Medicaid Waiver program. UFCH actively lobbied in support of the bill, which has made it easier for caregivers, the vast majority of whom are Filipinos, to efficiently run their own businesses.

Born on the Big Island, Andaya is currently the vice president and Chief Operating Officer of L&L Franchise, Inc.

As he embarks on his new

term, president-elect Eddie Agas, Sr. is excited with the prospects.

"The strength and unity of the Filipino community can best be harnessed by joining hands and working together to help one another in solidarity," he says. "By working together and speaking with one unified voice, we can affect positive change and enhancement for our community."

One of Agas' immediate concerns as president is to begin preparations for UFCH's 50th Anniversary. His other priorities are to re-evaluate UFCH's by-laws to make them more adaptable to its current needs; establish a UFCH foundation for charitable purposes; form a Youth Task Force Committee to engage more Filipino youth, set-up a disaster relief fund for more immediate disbursement in the event of disasters and natural calamities; and to communicate regularly with members and other community organizations via quarterly newsletters.

For the long term, Agas envisions permanent offices for UFCH and is tinkering with the idea of establishing a building fund. Another pressing issue facing the Filipino community, he says, is that of domestic violence.

"As UFCH president, I plan to participate in projects that will educate Filipinos on domestic violence, inculcate family values and teach our children to appreciate our culture and heritage," he says.

#### 2008 Progress Awards

The highlight of the evening was the awarding of UFCH's Annual Progress Awards, which are given to outstanding Filipinos for excellence and accomplishments in their field of expertise, as well as for community service. The following are the 15 Progress Award recipients:

- Agriculture - Loretta Obra
- Education - Zhoynell Magaonay
- Entrepreneurship - Maria Lucy Pascual
- Government Service - Margarita Hopkins
- Health Care and Medicine - Bea Ramos Razon
- Humanitarian/Community Service - Adriano Vicente
- Law and Jurisprudence - Abelina Shaw
- Labor and Construction - Roger Rafanan
- Media and Communication - Mary Cordero
- Science and Technology - Erlinda Clamor
- Travel and Hospitality - Charmaine Bulosan
- Outstanding Youth - Fernando Corrales
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Don Alvarez
- Ating Kaibigan Award - Mufi Hanneman
- Juan Dionisio, Sr. Lifetime Achievement - Lito Asuncion

Congratulations and our best wishes to these outstanding individuals!

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Exec Summary, EIS For City's Rail Project Available Online

The executive summary and entire Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Honolulu's proposed rail transit system is now available online at [www.honolulutransit.org](http://www.honolulutransit.org).

City officials say that printed versions, transmittals to distribution centers and announcement of availability of the printed copies are expected to take about 2 weeks.

When published in the Federal Register and in the State Office of Environmental Quality Control Bulletin, the public will have 45 days to submit written comments to the Department of Transportation Services or provide oral comments during public hearings.

The DEIS examines the environmental, economic and community impacts and benefits of four future alternatives between Kapolei and UH-Manoa. Three potential routes for a rail transit line from Kapolei to Ala Moana Center are analyzed in comparison to the No Build Alternative.

"The DEIS greatly refines the work done previously in the Alternatives Analysis (AA) and brings the project details into sharper focus," says Mayor Mufi Hannemann. "For instance, the DEIS shows a greater reduction in future traffic congestion with a fixed guideway. It also brings new information, such as an updated financial plan and con-

struction costs that conclusively demonstrate rail transit as the most cost-effective and affordable solution."

The cost estimate in the DEIS when adjusted for inflation is \$3.9 billion. The increase is well within the contingency built into the cost estimate and the revenue forecast from the General Excise and Use Tax and Federal Transit Administration.

"Our cost estimate includes a nearly \$1 billion contingency to address these cost changes," Hannemann says. "We believe that the current economic slowdown may result in lower construction costs but I'm confident that we have the funds to build this project."

"I'm very pleased to say the information in the DEIS validates the Honolulu City Council's decision to move forward with rail transit and the benefits it can bring to our island."

Hannemann cited comments from Bank of Hawaii chief economist Paul Brewbaker who noted that the "original estimates were reasonable" and that the business cycle "tends to balance periods of slow growth and even decline in GET revenue with periods of more rapid revenue growth."

Earlier this month, an independent financial analysis by the Hawaii Business Roundtable concluded that there were no insurmountable

obstacles for the City to proceed with its rail transit project. HBR's support was soon followed by the endorsement of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

According to Hannemann, the City will not begin construction until a Record of Decision is received from the FTA, which is a precursor to receiving a Full Funding Grant Agreement.

## Transportation

According to the DEIS, traffic congestion would be reduced between 21 and 23 percent islandwide in the year 2030. With reduced congestion, travelers will save significant time whether traveling by rail, bus or car. For example, in 2030, morning rush hour commuters to Downtown from Kapolei would save an average of 30 minutes by using rail; from Ewa, morning commuters would save 25 minutes; from Waipahu, residents would save nearly 45 minutes, as would residents traveling from Mililani.

Ridership on the Salt Lake route remains the same as previous estimates. Approximately 90,000 daily rides are expected by the year 2030. Daily ridership on the Airport route rises to 95,000.

## Energy, Water and Air

The DEIS confirms that future energy consumption will be reduced with rail transit, as

will water contamination and air pollution.

## Construction Costs

Estimated construction costs for the eight-year fixed guideway construction period, in Fiscal Year 2008 dollars (FY2008), are as follows:

- Salt Lake route - \$3.9 billion.
  - Airport route - \$4.1 billion.
- In inflation adjusted, year of expenditure dollars, the construction estimate for the Salt Lake route is \$4.8 billion and \$4.9 billion for the airport route. Either route is affordable with identified funding sources.

## Operating and Maintenance costs

Annual operating and maintenance costs for each route in 2030 are similar to previous estimates. They range from \$63 million for the Salt Lake route to \$68 million for the Airport route to \$96 million for the combined route.

## Economy

The economic impact of building the fixed guideway is validated with an estimated 11,000 jobs created during the construction phase.

## Right-of-Way

Between 152 and 177 land parcels could be impacted with a partial acquisition for the fixed guideway's right-of-way. About 35 parcels would be full acquisitions, depending on the

route selected.

## Visual Impact

The project's potential visual effects include removing trees, altering Ewa-Koko Head and mauka-makai views, and introducing project components that are out of scale or character with their settings in several areas. Tree removal would be minimized.

## Noise

Substantially more noise analysis has been added to the DEIS, validating previous noise discussions. Noise levels of the proposed transit vehicles will be less than many vehicles already in traffic, such as dump trucks, city buses, trucks and other autos. Eighteen to 23 residential buildings would experience moderate noise impacts, depending on the route.

## Historic and Cultural Resources

The project team has identified known historic and cultural resources along the route in more detail than the AA. Seven resources are identified as possibly adversely affected.

## CONSTRUCTION EFFECTS

Groundbreaking is scheduled for late 2009 and building would begin in East Kapolei in 2010. Temporary and limited construction effects are identified, as is the need for construction mitigation plans specific to each community.

## THE ISABELANEO OF HAWAII ASSOCIATION'S INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BANQUET BALL



The Isabelaneos of Hawaii Association held their Installation of Officers and Banquet Ball last October 3, 2008 at the Pacific Beach Hotel in Waikiki. The newly elected officers are the following: Pres. Tina Bagasani, 1st VP- Chita Recaido, 2nd VP- Gina Sales, Sec. - Remy Bonilla, Treas.-Relyn Bonilla, Auditor- Andrea Baptista, P.R.O's are: Beth Callangan, Flor Antonio, Crescencia Borromeo and Ma. Cora Razon. Sgt.-At-Arms are: Lolita Reyes, Nitahyn Andres and Elpidio Curameng. Advisors are: Romy Agustin, Rolando Callangan, Mona Ilar and Laurentino Lacar. Legal counsel and installation officer was Atty. Anthony Aguinaldo, Consul Lourdes Tabamu from the Philippines was the keynote speaker. Carlota Hufana-Ader of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle was the emcee.

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Economic Slowdown Dampens Pinoy Nurses' Desire to Seek Employment in US

By **Mayen Jaymalin /**  
Friday, October 31 2008



The prevailing economic slump in the US seems to have slightly dampened the desire of many Filipino nurses to seek employment in America, as evidenced by the slight decline in the number of Filipino nurses taking the US licensure examination in the first nine months of the year.

Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) secretary general Ernesto Herrera said a total of 15,079 Filipinos took the licensure tests for nurses, lower than the 15,083 who took the examination over the same period last year.

Based on the number of actual examinees, Herrera said the Philippines remains the US's primary source of foreign nurses.

In the nine-month period, 2,474 Indians also took the exams, along with 1,306 South Koreans, 676 Cubans and 520 Canadians.

Herrera said that for the year 2007, a record 21,499 Fil-

ipinos took the NCLEX for the first time, not including the repeaters.

This was up 6,328 or 42 percent compared to the 15,171 Filipino nurses who took the NCLEX for the first time in 2006.

The TUCP, meanwhile, urged the government to increase the entry-level monthly pay of government staff nurses to P15,093 under the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002.

Herrera said many government nurses are receiving only P6,000 a month.

Herrera also called for stricter implementation of standards and the closing down of substandard nursing schools to ensure that the country would produce sufficient and qualified nurses.

He said that of the 132,187 graduates who took the Philippine nursing licensure tests in December 2007 and in June this year, only 56,689 or less than 43 percent passed.

Despite the prevailing global economic slump, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) expressed

confidence that the US will continue to hire Filipino nurses.

Aside from the US, the Labor department reported that jobs also await Filipino nurses in various countries in Europe and Middle East.

Labor Secretary Mariano Roque said Kuwait has already expressed its intention to hire 2,000 Filipino nurses until next year.

Roque also announced the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Jordan stays.

Roque said the government has no plans to lift the ban on deployment of Filipino workers to Jordan as well as other countries with peace and order problems.

Last January, the Philippine government restricted the deployment of overseas Filipino workers to Jordan due to rising cases of abuse of Filipino workers there.

Then Labor Secretary Arturo Brion ordered a partial deployment ban to Jordan following reports of the increasing number of distressed Filipino workers in the country.

Roque said the Philippines is unlikely to lift the ban until

the government of Jordan could ensure the welfare of Filipino workers.

Roque also noted that the government is not inclined to lift the ban on Iraq and Nigeria.

Although the government is promoting overseas employment at this time of global financial slump, Roque stressed that the government's top priority is still the welfare and protection of Filipino workers.

The government of United Arab Emirates (UAE), meanwhile, said there is no freeze in the hiring of skilled Filipino workers despite the prevailing global economic crunch.

UAE Labor Minister Saqr Ghobash said his country has not been seriously affected by the economic meltdown and they are still in need of skilled Filipino workers.

Ghobash also assured workers of better employment conditions, including equal pay and welfare protection for highly skilled Filipinos workers.

The UAE and the Philippines have agreed to implement in the next two years a pilot project dubbed "Temporary Contractual Employment Cycle." ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Bishops' Call for New Government Not a Security Threat – AFP

By James Mananghaya / Thursday, October 30 2008

**A**rmed Forces chief Gen. Alexander Yano does not consider the calls of Catholic bishops for a change in government and other issues like the return of former agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante and the scandal involving a retired police general caught with 105,000 euros in Russia as national security threats.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Yano said he would instead focus on the hunt for Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels that pillaged several barangays in Cotabato and Lanao del Norte provinces.

"As chief of staff, I would rather be focused on resolving matters concerning the military, particularly in our campaign against the lawless MILF groups in Mindanao, and the accomplishment of its mission—to preserve the integrity of the State and protect the Filipino people," he said.

However, Yano said the CBCP's call for a change in government is a "direct contraven-



Archbishop Angel Lagdameo

tion to the Constitution," which he has vowed to serve, protect and defend.

Yano said soldiers have been advised against involving themselves in matters that should be left to politicians.

"I have reminded our soldiers that we have a very important constitutional mandate, and our commanders were instructed to bring that guidance down the line," he said.

In Mindanao, military commanders vowed yesterday to stand behind the duly-constituted authority, saying they are too busy fighting the MILF and the New People's Army to answer the Catholic bishops' call

to change the government.

"We are solidly behind the duly constituted authority up to the commander-in-chief," spokesman Maj. Eugene Bataara Jr. quoted Lt. Gen. Nelson Allaga, Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command chief, as saying.

Maj. Gen. Reymundo Ferrer, Army commander in central Mindanao, said the CBCP's call to change the government clearly violates the Constitution and the military's sworn mandate to protect the government and the people.

## Run for president – Gonzalez

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez dared yesterday CBCP president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo to run for president if he wants to change the country's leadership.

"The best test would be for an archbishop to run for president," he said.

"A priest has become governor, why not an archbishop for president? They are doing plainly political statements."

Gonzalez said Lagdameo and the other four bishops crossed the line separating Church and State, and are not speaking for the entire CBCP.

"He (Lagdameo) is still not the CBCP. The voice of the

CBCP, for all we know, could have been different."

Gonzalez said that Lagdameo and the four bishops have made political statements that borders on sedition.

Meanwhile, the United Opposition (UNO) asked yesterday Catholic bishops to demand the resignation of President Arroyo due to massive corruption in government.

UNO spokesman Adel Tamano said the bishops should take a stand against Mrs. Arroyo if they really wanted change in the country.

"While we appreciate the condemnation of President Arroyo, mere condemnation of the Arroyo administration's corruption is not enough to effect the changes needed by our country," he said.

"As long as President Arroyo and her allies remain in power and the institutions that are supposed to address corruption and social injustice such as the Ombudsman and the Secretary of Justice are beholden to GMA, we can never properly address the cancer of corruption that Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo referred to," he said.

Tamano said poverty and corruption will remain unsolved if Mrs. Arroyo and her allies remained in power.

Bayombong, Nueva Viscaya, believes that Mrs. Arroyo is not corrupt.

"I don't think that the President is corrupt and I am not saying that because she is a friend of mine," Villena, who is in Rome, said.

"I don't think that she is involved in rampant corruption. I think the President is trying (her best). I appeal (to her) to continue to be strict on these matters and remove those who are corrupt."

Villena, who is a member of the CBCP's permanent council, said he believes that talks of removing Mrs. Arroyo is a political matter, not covered by the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Speaker Prospero Nograles and four lawmakers asked Catholic bishops yesterday to be careful in calling for a change in government, especially one involving extra-constitutional means.

"Bishops may be calling for something that is not legal, and they are asking for an extra-constitutional change," Nograles said.

Administration Reps. Rodolfo "Rodito" Albano III of Isabela and Marcelino Teodoro of Marikina criticized the CBCP for "promoting extra-constitutional means of change" to change the government.

## GMA defended

Bishop Ramon Villena of

(www.philstar.com)

# Renewed Fighting in South displaces 370,000

By John Unson / Thursday, October 30 2008

**C**AMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao – About 370,000 residents in South have been displaced by fighting between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, according to the Red Cross.

Most of the evacuees are from the Maguindanao towns of Mamasapano, Datu Piang and Datu Saudi, the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

Jean Daniel Tauxe, ICRC's Philippine delegation head, said their latest count listed 55,000 displaced persons in different relief sites in Datu Piang alone, up from 35,000 last September.

Tauxe said some poor families in Datu Piang are hosting dozens of evacuees in their homes.

The ICRC is now building sanitary facilities in evacuation centers and providing support to medical outfits serving evacuees.

Since Aug. 12, the ICRC had distributed food and essential household items to more than 120,000 evacuees.

Tauxe said the ICRC also has a poster campaign in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao to warn the public of the danger of unexploded ordnance.

Evacuees in Maguindanao and surrounding provinces are reluctant to return to their homes as the tour of the multinational force monitoring the ceasefire between the government and the MILF ends on Nov. 30.

Cotabato Auxiliary Bishop Monsignor Jose Colin Bagaforo said there is an immediate need for the government and the MILF to discuss whether to extend the term of the International Monitoring Team (IMT).

"The problem, however, is that the government already disbanded the GRP peace panel and the MILF also said recently that it has a plan to disband its peace panel too," he said. (www.philstar.com)

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## MAINLAND NEWS

## Solid Voting Block or Swing Vote: Asian Americans Could Decide Presidential Race

By Momar Visaya / AIP Press  
October 7 2008

**N**EW YORK - Asian American voters prefer Sen. Barack Obama, 41 percent to 24 percent nationally, over Sen. John McCain, according to a new national survey on Asian Americans released Monday, Oct. 6.

But that's not the entire story.

According to the study, a high portion, or 34 percent of those surveyed, remains undecided. For the researchers, this is a key finding and a development that could set the stage for Asian Americans to play a pivotal role in the outcome of the November election.

The numbers could make a difference especially in battleground states where there is a growing Asian American population. Among the general population, national polls conducted since the major party conventions show that undecided voters are approximately 8 percent of the electorate.

The study shows that Filipino American voters support Obama, 35 percent over McCain, 29 percent. 34 percent remains undecided.

Karthik Ramakrishnan, an associate professor of political science at UC Riverside, agreed that with such a high proportion of undecided voters, "Asian Americans are a critical source of potential votes for either candidate in the final weeks of the campaign."

This groundbreaking study, released at a Washington, DC, press conference last October 6, was conducted by researchers from four leading universities: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley); University of California, Riverside (UC Riverside); and University of Southern California (USC).

The multi-ethnic, multi-lingual survey of more than 4,000 Asian Americans likely to vote in the election was conducted from Aug. 18 to Sept. 26. It is the most comprehensive survey to date of the political views of Asian Americans, with interviews conducted in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

"Most national polls cannot report the preferences of these likely voters because they do not interview in multiple languages, and the number of interviews they conduct among Asian Americans is very small," said Janelle Wong, an associate professor of political science at USC.

By drawing on the knowledge of political scientists with expertise in survey research and ethnic politics, and with support from several foundations, the NAAS data provide insight about Asian Americans as a whole, the researchers say, as well as about their six largest ethnic subgroups: Asian Indians, Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans and Vietnamese.

## Details

Asian Americans make up a significant proportion of the total population in states such as Hawaii (56 percent), California (13 percent), New Jersey (8 percent), Washington (8 percent), and New York (7 percent).

The study also shows that more Asian Americans identify as Democrats than as Republicans by a wide margin of 32 percent to 14 percent and a significant proportion identify as Independents, 19 percent.

Of the Filipinos surveyed, 35 percent identified themselves as Democrats while 19 percent responded Republicans, 28 percent said they were non-partisan and 18 percent said they were Independent.

Among the communities surveyed, Asian Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Filipino have more Democrats than Republicans. Vietnamese Americans identify with the Republican Party over the Democratic Party by nearly a two-to-one ratio

## The Issues

About 80 percent of likely voters surveyed list the economy as one of the most important problems the nation faces, followed by the war in Iraq. On both issues, there are strongly divided opinions between Obama and McCain supporters.

Respondents also said that oil prices, job/unemployment and immigration are among the issues that they think are the most important problems facing the United States today.

Next to Latinos, Asian Americans are the fastest growing community on the US today. Currently, they comprise 5 percent of the population and, according to the researchers, will likely play a significant role in battleground states such as Virginia, Nevada and Washington, where they account for 5 percent or more of the population.

Even in states such as Colorado, Ohio and Florida, where they are less numerous, Asian Americans may provide the margin of victory, the researchers added.

## Home country politics

There are some media accounts and scholarly articles that suggest that Asian Americans are less likely to participate in American politics because of their focus on the politics of their home countries. The survey included questions on whether respondents send money to their countries of origin, whether they have been in contact with friends and family, and whether they have participated in the politics of that country.

"Most importantly, those who participate in the politics of their home countries are actually more likely to vote in the United States than those who do not (73 percent versus 67 percent). Thus, participation in home country politics is not a deterrent to participation in the United States," the report said. ([www.asianjournal.com](http://www.asianjournal.com))

LEGAL NOTES

# Immigrant Program for Non-Minister Religious Workers Set to Expire



By Reuben S. Seguritan

**O** individuals seeking to immigrate to the U.S. as non-minister special immigrant religious workers must adjust status or apply for and be admitted with an immigrant visa before October 1, 2008.

This deadline affects two categories of religious workers: religious professionals and non-professionals, including their accompanying or following to join spouses and children.

The sunset date does not affect religious workers who are ministers of a religious denomination.

Unless the deadline is further extended, the United States

Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will reject Forms I-360 and I-485 filed on or after October 1, 2008.

The House of Representatives passed a legislation on April 14, 2008 seeking to extend the deadline and the Senate is also looking into the matter. However, as of press time, Congress has not yet passed a legislation extending the deadline. Absent such legislation, processing of I-360s and I-485s for special immigrant non-minister religious workers will be held in abeyance beginning October 1, 2008.

Under immigration laws, there are three types of religious workers that can be classified as special immigrants under the EB-4 employment-based classification. While only 7.1% of the overall 140,000 visas are allo-

cated for the EB-4 classification worldwide, the visa availability for this category remains current for all countries.

The INA describes a religious worker as "a person who has for the past two years been a member of a religious denomination which has a bona fide nonprofit, religious organization in the United States; and who has been carrying on the vocation, professional work, or other work, continuously for the past two years; and seeks to enter the U.S. to work solely as: a minister of that denomination; or in a professional capacity in a religious vocation or occupation for that organization; or in a religious vocation or occupation for the organization or its nonprofit affiliate."

Only the latter two are affected by the October 1 deadline.

On September 19, 2009, the USCIS issued guidance for handling and processing non-minister special immigrant religious worker petitions.

For those with pending I-485 adjustment of status based on an underlying I-360, the USCIS will seek to expedite the adjudication of their cases. For those with approved I-360 petitions but waiting for their visas abroad, their cases would be promptly forwarded to the National Visa Centers so that they may receive their immigrant visas and enter the U.S. before October 1. The immigrant visa applications of their spouses and children who are following to join will also be expedited.

An I-360 petition may be filed by a qualified religious organization. The petition must be accompanied by proof of quali-

fication such as a letter from the authorized official of the religious organization attesting to the applicant's membership in the religious denomination. The letter must also explain in detail the person's religious work and all employment during the past two years for the religious organization and the proposed employment.

Evidence is also required establishing that the religious organization, and any affiliate which will employ the person, is a bona fide nonprofit religious organization in the U.S. and is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

*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)*

## ASK A DOCTOR

### Chlamydia



By Elena Alvarez, M.D.

*Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls*

symptoms do occur they usually appear 7-28 days after exposure. Women may experience vaginal discharge, burning sensation during urination, lower abdominal pain, nausea, fever, pain during sex and bleeding between periods. Men might have discharge from the penis, burning and itching around the opening of the penis or pain and swelling in the testicles. For those who suspect they might be infected there are laboratory tests to diagnose chlamydia. Some tests involve getting a sample from an infected site (cervix or penis) to be tested for the bacteria. A urine test can also tell if you have the bacteria. A Pap smear is not a test for Chlamydia.

**Can Chlamydia be cured?** Chlamydia can be treated and cured with antibiotics and all sexual partners must also receive treatment to avoid reinfection. Do not engage in any sexual activity until you and your partner have completed treatment and get re-tested 3-4 months after treatment to make sure that the infection has been cured especially if your sex partner was not treated or if you have a new sex partner. Infections detected after treatment more commonly occur because of reinfection rather than treatment failure.

Gonorrhea, another common form of STD caused by a bacterium called Neisseria gonorrhoeae that has symptoms very similar to Chlamydia and a person can be infected with both. Although treatment for gonorrhea is different, doctors

**What are the complications?** Untreated Chlamydia infection can cause serious problems in the reproductive organs. In women, infection of the cervix can spread to the uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries resulting in pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) which can lead to infertility, ectopic or tubal pregnancy or chronic pelvic pain from scar tissues. It can also cause inflammation of the urinary bladder. In men, untreated infections can lead to infection of the urethra and may cause pain and infertility. Chlamydia infection during pregnancy may lead to premature delivery and an infected mother can pass the infection to her baby during childbirth causing conjunctivitis, an infection of the eyes, which usually shows up within the first ten days of life, and pneumonia, which usually shows up within 3-6 weeks of birth. There are safe antibiotics to cure chlamydia during pregnancy.

often go ahead and treat for both infections.

**How do you find out if you have Chlamydia?** Have a check up with your doctor. The Hawaii Department of Health at Diamond Head Health Center STD & HIV Clinics (3627 Kilauea avenue, Room 305, Honolulu, Tel 733-9281) can do the test and provide free medicine for you and your partner. Everything is confidential and no information is given to anyone without your permission.

**Who should get tested?** Don't just hope that STD will go away – it won't! All sexually active females 25 years and younger should be tested once a year. Women older than 25 should consider testing if they have new or multiple sexual partners or have sex with someone who has other sex partners. Men who do not use condoms and have new or multiple sex partners or have sex with someone who has other sex partners should also be tested.

Ask a Doctor is for informational purposes only. Consult your personal physician for your specific needs.

**What is Chlamydia?** Chlamydia is not a flower. It is the most commonly reported sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a bacteria Chlamydia trachomatis and it affects both men and women. There are 200,000 new cases of chlamydia every year in America and Hawaii ranks among the Top Ten states in infection rate in the USA.

**How do you get Chlamydia?** It is transmitted through sexual contact with an infected person during vaginal, oral or anal sex. Infected persons often do not have any symptoms hence they can unknowingly transmit the disease to their sex partners. Those with multiple sex partners have a greater risk of getting infected.

**What are the symptoms?** 75% of infected women and at least half of infected men do not have any symptoms. If

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## PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

## BAHAGHARI



ni Elynia S. Mabanglo

**N**oong unang panahon, sinasabing hindi pag-aari ng tao ang apoy. Tatlong higanteng nakatira sa isang kuwebang nasa tuktok ng bundok ang mga may-ari nito. Halos imposibleng makuha ang apoy. Matatarik ang bundok, hindi madaling puntahan. Maraming sagabal sa patigid. Isa pa, maramot ang mga higante. Walang sinumang makalalapat sa apoy.

Ito raw ang panahong nakatira sa ang mga tao sa yungbento o kuweba. Hindi pa naiimbento o nagagawa ang bahay-kubo. Gumagawa lamang sila ng habong o munting bubong para panakip sa mainit na sikat ng araw. At kung umuulan, nasa mga yungbig sila o sa ilalim ng mga bato o puno para hindi mabasa. Sabihin pa, ito rin ang mga panahong hindi pa sila nagluluto ng pagkain, dahil hindi nila alam magsindi o gumawa ng apoy. Ito rin ang panahong nagtitis lamang sila sa lamig ng ulan o init ng araw.

Alam ng mga taong may apoy sa kuweba ng mga higante. Nakikita nila ang anag-ang ng liwanag kung gabi sa itaog ng bundok. Ngunit napakahig-

# Kuwentong Palawan: Magnanakaw ng Apoy

pit magbantay ng mga higante. Hindi nila iniwang walang tanod ang apoy. Hali-halili sila sa pagbantayan. Lagim may nakatokang isa na gising sa gabi habang natutulog ang dalawa. At sa araw naman, kung kailangang umalis para mangalag ng pagkain, lagim may isa ring maiiwang tagabantay.

Ano't hindi naman matindi ang paghahangod ng mga taong magkaroon ng apoy. Nagaganyak sila dahil nakikita nila ang liwanag na ibinibigay nito sa gabi. Ngunit hindi nila ito pinagmasaan kailanman. Liban nang dalawin sila ng taglamig.

Kakaiba ang taglamig na iyon. Matindi. Nanunoot sa laman ang simoy ng hangin. Gumawa ang matatanda ng sabin-saping dahong pambalabal ngunit hindi nito kayaang palisin ang ginaw. Ilang bata at matanda ang nagkasakit. Mayroon pang mga namatay. Kailangan nila ng pampainit.

May isang nakapagsabing ang apoy na nakikita nilang umaanag-ag sa kuwebang tinitirhan ng mga higante ay nagbibigay ng init. Pero imposibleng makuha ito. Napilitang tumawag ng pulong ang mga katalakihan ng pamayanan. Napag-usapan nilang ikamamatay nilang lahat ang labis na ginaw na dulot ng matinding taglamig. At kung lulusubin naman nila ang mga higante, mamamatay din sila.

Isang bagunatao (binatiyolo) ang naghandog ng tulong.



"Marami akong kaibigang hayop. Maari natin silang hingan ng tulong," anang binatiyolo. "At ano naman ang kayang gawin ng iyong mga alaga?" sabi ng isang mandirigma. "Kaylilit nila!"

Ang binatiyolo ay may alagang alamid (isang uri ng pusa na nanginginain ng mga buto sa kaphian), malmag (isang uri ng tarsier), palaka, binturong (isang uri pa rin ng pusa), at punalada (isang uri ng ibon). Hindi pinansin ng binatiyolo ang pagmamaliit ng mga mandirigma sa kanya. Kinusap niya ang kanyang mga alaga na pawang nangakong tutulong namang makakuha ng apoy mula sa kuweba ng mga higante.

Samakatwid, lumakad ang binatiyolo kasama ng kanyang mga alagang hayop. Inakyat nila ang matarik na bundok na kinalalagyan ng kuwebang tinitirhan ng mga higante. Nagkanya-kanyang tago ang lahat nang malapat na sila roon.

Pagdating sa kuweba, tuluy-tuloy pumasok ang alamid. Nanlaki ang mga mata ng higante pagkakita sa kanya. "Ano ang ginagawa mo rito?" sabi ng isa.

"Ginaw na ginaw ako at nanghihina," sabi ng alamid. "Maari ba akong mahiga sa tabi ng inyong apoy? Hindi ako magtatagal. Aalisin ko lang ang lamig sa akong katawan."

Nagkatinginan ang tatlong higante, pero naawa ang isa kaya pumayag kahit naghihinanala ang dalawa. Sa sandaling ito, tinambol ng binatiyolo ang kanyang dram na ginagamit sa pangangaso. Pagkalakas-lakas ang tunog nito kaya nagulat ang mga higante. Dali-dali silang lumabas sa kuweba para tingnan kung ano ang nangyayari.

Hustong paglabas ng mga

higante, kinagat ng alamid ang isang patpat na may liyab at saka kumaripas ng takbo. Nagdaan pa siya sa pagitan ng malalaking biyas ng isang higante. Napansin ng higante ang apoy kaya sumigaw, "Magnanakaw! Magnanakaw! Ninanakaw ang ating apoy!"

Dali-daling hinabol ng tatlong higante ang alamid. Habol ng takot at pagod ang alamid, pero biglang lumitaw ang binturong. Binitiwang ng alamid ang kagat na patpat at saka tumakbo. Kinuha naman ito ng binturong at saka umakyat sa puno. Galit na galit ang mga higante. Niyugyog nila ang puno para malaglag ang malapusan nilikha. Nahihilo na

ang binturong kaya ipinukol ang patpat sa malmag. Nasalo naman ito ng malmag kaya palukso-luksong nagpalapat-lipat sa iba't ibang puno. Nag-uulol sa paghahabol ang tatlong higante.

Dahil sa mabilis na paglukso-luksong malmag, napagod siya at ipinasang patpat sa naghihintay na punalada. Dahil napakabilis ng pangyayari, hindi agad nahagip ng tukang ng punalada ang patpat. Nadikit ang apoy sa kanyang dibdib kaya ngayon pula na ang balahibo sa dibdib ng punalada. Nalaglag ang patpat pero tamang-tama naman nasalo ng naghihintay na palaka. Gustong unahan ng isang higante ang palaka sa patpat ng apoy. Pero sa halip, natapano nito ang buntot ng palaka. Ito raw ang dahilan kung bakit ngayon wala nang buntot ng mga palaka.

Nakatakas ang palaka sa higante at nadala ang maikli nang patpat ng apoy sa binatiyolog naghihintay sa ibayo ng sapang kanyang tinawid. Maingat na binalot ng binatiyolo ng mga tuyong dahon ang patpat kaya nadagdagang ang ningas nito. Pagdating sa kanilang nayon, mas maraming tuyong dahon ang kanilang ibinunton sa apoy kaya unti-unting nadagdagang ang liyab nito. Nagkaroon ng sigang mga tao.

## MAGNANAKAW NG APOY

1. Ang apoy ay hindi lagim apoy. Maaring ito'y yaman, kaalaman. Katutubong katangian ng isang tao O bayan, Maaring katanyagan. May liyab na sariling Nagninnging sa dilim; Sunisilaw sa tanaw Pinag-iinit ang iyong kaibuturan. At, may gatong siyang Gumaganyak ng pagnanaasa Humihilo ng ambisyong Makasarilit liya.
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3. Ngunit ang apoy ay hindi lagim apoy. Maaring ito'y yaman, kaalaman. Katutubong katangian ng isang tao O bayan, At lalaging magkukubi Sa iba't ibang katwiran Ang magnanakaw Upang itago, sa sarili man, Lantay ng motibo ng pagtampalasan. Sasabihin niya: Siya ang may-ari ng apoy, Kanyang hininga at pangarap Sapul nang diwa'y mamulangat. At nagiging Katotohanan Ang kasinungalingan Sa imbing isip ng bawat magnanakaw.
4. Magnanakaw siya-- Hindi niya alam pero hindi niya alam Na hindi niya alam.



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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