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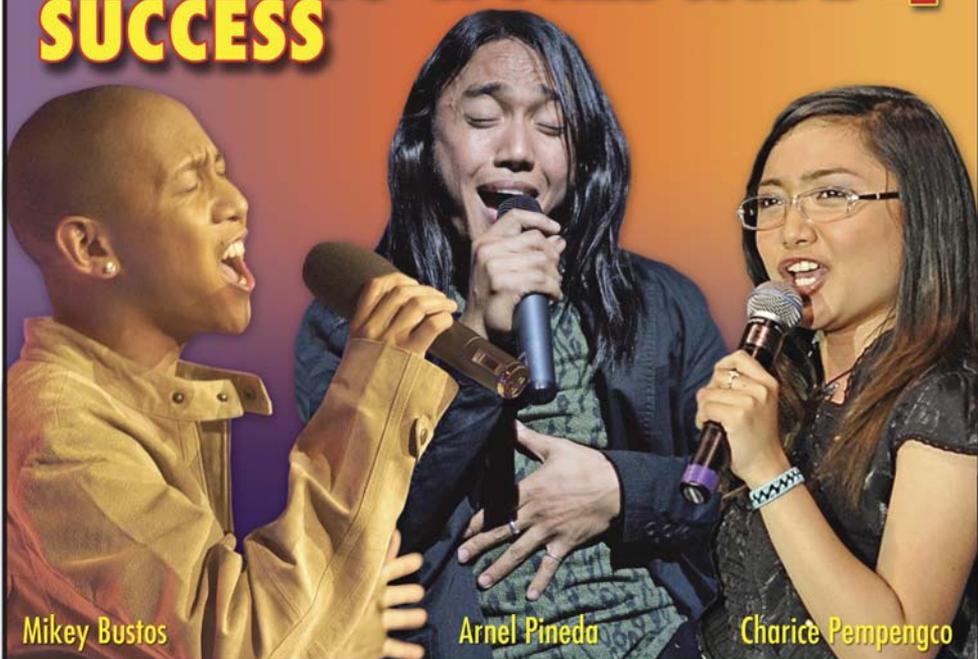
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ MARCH 14, 2009 ◆

FILIPINO SINGERS ENJOYING WORLDWIDE SUCCESS

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Mikey Bustos

Arnel Pineda

Charice Pempengco



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EDITORIAL

One More Thing Filipinos Do Well

Filipinos have long excelled in sports such as boxing and billiards. With the recent successes of several Filipino vocalists, singing can be officially added to that short list.

One of the first Filipino singing sensations in recent memory was Lea Salonga, who several years ago, landed the lead role in the hit musical "Miss Saigon." More recently, Manila-born Pinoy rocker Arnel Pineda made headlines in the American world when he signed on as lead singer of the popular rock band Journey.

No doubt the rising popularity of talent shows like American Idol and its spinoffs enabled many to showcase their talents. Even local girls Jasmine Trias and Camille Velasco owe their big breaks to American Idol, as does child singing sensation Charice Pempengco who was discovered last year in a talent show in Korea called "Star King."

While the Philippines may lag behind the U.S. in technology and other areas, we are light years ahead of perhaps any nation on earth when it comes to talent shows. Many Filipinos began singing in front of audiences at an early age, particularly at family parties, school reunions and town fiestas where singing and singing contests were often the main attraction.

A nation obsessed with singing, the Philippines will continue to take great pride in the next singing star who is discovered. And that's a good thing.

Abercrombie Announcement Heats Up 2010 Elections

A decision last week by U.S. Rep. Neil Abercrombie to run for governor in 2010 touched off lively discussion and various "musical chair" scenarios among political pundits and observers.

Abercrombie is the first major Democrat to enter a major race for next year's election. His early announcement may achieve its intended effect of clearing the field of opponents and forcing on-the-fence candidates to decide earlier than they had expected to—candidates like Mayor Mufi Hannemann and State Senate president Colleen Hanabusa who are also both eyeing the governor's seat.

At the moment, it's a race between the liberal Abercrombie and the conservative Duke Aiona who announced his bid for Washington Place over a year ago. Abercrombie, who turns 72 next year, is an early favorite against the much younger lieutenant governor—having name recognition and an established track record locally and in D.C. where he has nearly two decades of experience and connections with President Obama and other key Democrats.

As the pieces fall into place, the Democrats will emerge to field a deep bench for the 2010 season. It includes the likes of Hannemann, Hanabusa, former U.S. Rep. Ed Case, former State House majority floor leader Kirk Caldwell and Rep. Brian Schatz. Republicans have...well, City councilmember Charles Djou who is eyeing Abercrombie's seat.

Expect the Democrats in 2010 to borrow Obama's campaign slogan of change, but such a theme is questionable, given their dominance of isle politics since statehood. Republicans say Aiona better represents change and a break from one-party rule.

In the topsy-turvy world of politics where anything can and has happened—one thing is for certain—2010 will be a fun year to watch.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Welcome to another issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! Can you believe that we're already halfway through March? Before you know it, April will be here, which usually means for most of us, spring break, tax time and Easter.



Is it just us or does it seem that every few months or so, we hear news of yet another Filipino singer making headlines somewhere in the world? Filipinos indeed love to sing and have been doing so at a very early age. In fact, Westerners and others who visit the Philippines come away impressed with the number of talented singers and bands. We explore this in greater detail in our cover story beginning on page 4. Contributing writers Caroline Julian and Rowena Ballesteros co-investigated this trend. We hope you will enjoy reading their story.

Several top Filipino entertainers will be performing in Hawaii this month and in April. In our previous issue, we reported a limited five-weekend engagement featuring Jasmine Trias and the Society of Seven Las Vegas from March 6-April 4 at the Outrigger. Also, three of the nation's funniest Filipino comedians will be in town for the Fil-Am Comedy Jam V, set for April 11 at the Dole Cannery Ballroom in Iwilei. If you are in need of a seriously good laugh, you may want to find out more on page 8. Last but not least, Journey and its Filipino lead singer Arnel Pineda will be performing in concert March 24-28 on Oahu and the Big Island. While not yet a household name, Pineda has sparked renewed interest in the band with his sensational vocals. Tickets are on sale and going fast, so grab them while they're still available.

Our condolences go out to the family of the late Ted Mina, who recently passed away. Mina was a former State representative and tireless community volunteer who did much to help Filipinos and others, particularly in Kailhi Valley. The Filipino community mourns his passing. A brief article on Mina's life is on page 8.

In closing, please take time to read these and other articles of interest in this issue, including our regular columns like Family Corner, Legal Notes and Legislative Connection. As always, thank you for supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! Until next time...

Aloha and Mabuhay!

Charlene A. Montesines-Sonido

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LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION



By Senator Will Espero

Here's to Your Health



prove access to care for underserved populations is SB 933, which permits the issuance of a community service license to practice dentistry to those dentists who are employed by the Department of Health, a federally qualified health center, a Native Hawaiian health systems center, or a post-secondary dental auxiliary training program. The dentists must be licensed in another state, passed their board examinations within the last five years, and practiced at least half-time over the three years prior.

Remote Dispensing Pharmacy - SB 585

It's not just access to physician and dental services that's difficult in rural areas, it's also being able to get the prescriptions needed. This is particularly the case for residents of the neighbor islands and its remote areas where there are no pharmacies. SB 585 sets out the requirements for remote dispensing pharmacies to ensure the safety and integrity of the dispensing of medications, and includes patient eligibility for obtaining medication and geographic restrictions for opening sites.

Dialysis Centers - SB 1178

The earthquake blackout of October 2006 and the lightning

blackout of Christmas 2008 were an inconvenience to many, but to those dependent on medical support equipment, it was a matter of life and death. SB 1178 requires the Department of Health (DOH) to review emergency plans and develop guidelines of all dialysis centers in Hawaii to ensure the safety of dialysis patients in the event of a public emergency. The bill also requires the DOH to post on its website a list of all dialysis centers that have backup emergency generators with the capacity to sustain dialysis treatments and maintain their water treatment centers. An estimated 620 new cases of end-stage renal disease are diagnosed in Hawaii each year.

Along the lines of health Athletic Trainers - SB 1129

Getting fit? Personal train-

ers abound, but how is the public to know that the individual has the proper education to be able to advise clients given their particular health conditions in relation to a proposed fitness regimen? SB 1129 adds a new state law, requiring registration of athletic trainers. Certification requires the trainer to be properly qualified to prevent athletic injuries; recognize, evaluate, and assess athletic injuries and conditions; provide immediate care of athletic injuries, including common emergency medical situations; and rehabilitate and precondition athletic injuries, among others.

And Others of Interest

Bamboo - SB 1645

My colleague Senator Kalani English has long championed the adoption of traditional Hawaiian architecture, showing how the materials and design provide protection and ventilation while blending in with the native surroundings. SB 1645, part of the Hawaiian legislators' package, aims to have bamboo become an accepted construction material under the state building code.

Hawaii Made Products - SB 1223

If it says "made in Hawaii," how much of it actually was "made in Hawaii"? The advertising tool has long been an issue of controversy. Local manufacturers and producers of goods here want to ensure truth-in-advertising and stop misrepresentation. SB 1223 would prohibit items from being advertised as "made in Hawaii" unless the product derives at least 51% of its wholesale value from manufacture, assembly, fabrication, or production within Hawaii. The bill also convenes a working group to identify issues relating to the Hawaii-made products law and to propose workable solutions and enforcement measures.

Liquor Liability - SB 300

SB 300 requires liquor licenses to carry liability insurance as a condition of acquiring and renewing a license.

All of these bills have crossed over to the House.

SENATOR ESPERO is Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs. He is also a member of the Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection; Health; and Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs. He can be reached by phone at 586-6360, fax at 586-6361, or e-mail at senespero@capitol.hawaii.gov.

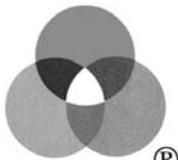
Access to medical care is a long standing problem in the country. Thankfully, the Obama Administration has set its sail to tackle the deficiencies in the current health care system. The Hawaii Legislature is considering several bills to help improve access as well. These are a few.

Telemedicine - SB 1676

With consumers now comfortable with the internet, HMSA recently debuted its "telephone doctor" program. SB 1676, introduced as a Senate Majority package bill, supports making medical care available through the telephone and internet. The bill clarifies that telemedicine is within the scope of a doctor's practice and supports the expansion of new technology for this purpose. Telehealth is expected to result in increased access to care by residents of rural and underserved areas, increased receipt of timely care, a decrease in inappropriate emergency room use, and lower health care costs.

Temporary Licensing of Dentists - SB 933

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FILIPINO SINGERS WORLDWIDE HIT BIG TIME

By Caroline Julian and Rowena Ballesteros

E all it fate, determination or luck. But for fast-rising Canadian recording artist Mikey Bustos, it's simply a dream come true. Born and raised in Toronto, Bustos is finally living his dream. He recently released his first album, "Memoirs of a Superhero." And has performed as the opening act to Christina Aguilera and The Pussycat Dolls.

"I knew in my bones that singing was my passion," says Bustos, whose parents are from the Philippines. His father is from Pampanga and his mother from Cagayan Valley.

At age 5, he would don a white tuxedo with a pink cummerbund and perform at weddings and family parties.

"It was more of a 'funny-cute thing' than art. But in my 5 year-old heart I was singing like a star," he says.

Bustos' first taste of fame and showbiz came courtesy of Canadian Idol, the equivalent to the U.S. version of American Idol.

"Walking in the malls was the craziest," he says. "Being mobbed by fans and seeing my face on newspa-

pers, television commercials, billboards and plastered on the sides of buses was simply unreal."

Bustos made it all the way to the top 10, finishing as the eighth finalist.

"I truly see it as a win and not a loss," he says. "The most important lesson I learned was that nothing is impossible. Dreams can come true so long as you believe and work towards what you want."

The whirlwind continued after Canadian Idol. He and the top 11 finalists from Canadian Idol 2003 signed with the record label BMG Canada and together released a compilation album which hit gold status.

"It made me the first Filipino on a gold-selling album in Canadian music history," he says.

Bustos next worked on his first full-length solo album which he describes as "a pop album about the power of the mind to shaping an extraordinary life."

The album recently hit store shelves in Canada.

Unknown No More

Bustos is one of a growing number of Filipino singers worldwide whose vocal talents are being discovered. Another one of them is Manila-born Arnel Pineda, lead vocalist for the popular rock band Journey.

Pineda began singing at age 5. He enjoyed a successful musical career in Asia that spanned 25 years. His big break came courtesy of YouTube, a website where users can upload, view and share video clips. In late 2007, Journey guitarist Neal Schon stumbled upon a clip of Pineda and asked him to audition.

Pineda debuted with his new band at a live performance in Chile in February 2008. The band's energetic performance, along with Pineda's unbelievably strong vocals, kept 15,000 screaming fans on their feet during the "Festival Vina Del Mar" concert.

Journey received the La Gaviota De Plata ("the Gull of Silver") Maximum Award—the top award from festival organizers. Pineda himself won two awards in a competition amongst vocalists on the second day of the festival.

Elvie Gabriel, a huge Journey fan, describes Pineda's style and voice as "very soothing."

"I've followed Journey since the early Eighties and have been a fan since then," she says. "But when Arnel Pineda joined the band, I completely fell in love with them all over again."

She and other Journey fans will get a chance to see Pineda in concert on March 25, 26 and 28 at the Blaisdell Concert Hall and on the Big Island. Upon hearing news of Journey's concert, Gabriel was stoked.

"It's about time that they came to Hawaii," she says. "I always flew to the mainland for their concerts."

When not on tour, Pineda returns to Quezon City in the Philippines to be with his wife and children. He has a cousin

named Ramone Pineda who resides in Hawaii.

Teen Sensation

Another upcoming singer is Charmaine Pempengco, better known as "Charice."

She began competing at age 4 in various singing contests in the Philippines. By the time she was 7, she was a veteran of some 80 different competitions.

In 2005, she joined ABS-CBN's "Little Big Stars," a show similar to American Idol, in which she finished third overall.

Like Arnel Pineda, Charice's singing career received a mega boost from YouTube. Not long after a fan posted one of her performances online, she received a call from talk show host Ellen DeGeneres to perform on her show. Oprah Winfrey extended a similar invitation.

Requests for performances and public appearances in the U.S. and the Philippines kept coming. She sang a duet with



Mikey Bustos



Arnel Pineda



Charice Pempengco



Journey's Arnel Pineda belting a song.

Celine Dion at Madison Square Garden, participated in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade and made a special appearance on Good Morning America. Just recently, Charice performed for the president's sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng at the

COVER STORY



Lead singer Arnel Pineda (center) with his band Journey

Pearl Presidential Inaugural Gala at the Mandarin Hotel in Washington, D.C.

At a benefit concert in May 2008 in Las Vegas, she received a standing ovation from an audience of over 10,000 at the Mandalay Bay Hotel.

An excerpt from a Las Vegas newspaper stated that the evening "truly belonged to doe-eyed 16-year-old Filipino belter Charice, whose voice is like a jetliner taking off from her sternum."

Charice is currently in Los Angeles, where she is working on her international debut album with 15-time Grammy award winner David Foster who is taking on the task of being her producer. The album is slated for release this summer.

More Singing Sensations

Not many outside of the United Kingdom have heard of Madonna Decena, who last year reached the semi-finals of the judges' auditions for "Britain's Got Talent," a television show produced by American Idol judge Simon Cowell.

The 33-year-old from Que-

zon City 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 competing. She migrated to Britain six months earlier 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 earned 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 significant to Filipinos. Being 100 percent Filipina, she epitomizes the millions of overseas Filipino workers who endure separation from their families in hopes of a better future.

An Early Start

Singing comes naturally for many Filipinos. Most began singing at an early age, usually at family parties where much of the entertainment is focused on singing.

Those who don't sing or dance at these family gatherings risk being ostracized, says

online blogger Gerry Cacandinin.

"You are a total loser if you have no talent to show," says Cacandinin.

In addition are the yearly town fiestas. While celebrated differently from town to town, nearly all fiestas have a singing contest. Winners go on to represent the town in a province-wide contest where they hope to be discovered by talent scouts who will then help them launch careers as recording artists and entertainers.

The Singing Filipinos

"It's a fact that we Filipinos love to sing," says Waipahu resident Ofelia Lagat. "Singing is one of our favorite

pastimes." She notes that singers like Regine Velasquez and Sharon Cuneta are among the Philippines' top stars.

When feeling the urge to sing, many turn to the popular "Magic Sing" microphone which can be found in most Filipino homes. The device is used during birthdays, holi-

days and just about every occasion, providing hours of fun and enjoyment. Some use the mic to practice and improve their voices.

"We enjoy having singing contests and seeing who gets the highest score," Lagat says. "It's fun and really livens up any occasion."

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Madonna Decena

zoned City 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 competing. She migrated to Britain six months earlier in

MAYOR'S COLUMN



By Mayor Mufi Hannemann

Stimulus Package Is Helping Honolulu and Filipino Veterans

can Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The package also includes \$198 million to help compensate Filipino veterans who fought under the U.S. flag during World War II.

These veterans have waited far too long for the recognition they deserve, and I applaud Senator Dan Inouye for including the veterans in this important legislation.

I have always supported efforts to provide benefits that so many Filipino veterans earned with their blood, sweat and tears during one of the most tragic periods of our world's history. These veterans fought alongside their American allies and made the same incredible sacrifices, yet were unjustly denied the compensation they were due.

The legislation provides for lump-sum payments of \$15,000 for Filipino veterans who have become U.S. citizens and \$9,000 for non-U.S. citizens. Some believe that is too little, too late, and I don't blame them. But efforts to compensate the veterans fairly have been stalled for more than 60 years, while so many passed away. An estimated 18,000 are still alive



Filipino World War II veterans

and eligible, and the compensation that is now available will be a great help to many of them in their twilight years. Their bravery and sacrifices will never be forgotten.

I'm very grateful for the support and encouragement I've received from Oahu's Filipino community over the years, and for the interest so many of you have expressed in our city and its future. We are all facing challenges because of the sour economy, but we will solve these problems by working together and remaining focused on our goals.

The three new members of my Cabinet who are of Filipino ancestry are helping make sure

the city's finances are managed prudently and effectively, without sacrificing the services that so many people depend on to keep our city safe and beautiful. These three—Jeffrey Cudiamat, Director of the Department of Facilities Maintenance; Manny Lanuevo, Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental Services; and Sandra Săgisi, Deputy Director of the Department of Customer Services—are doing a commendable job,

along with continuing Cabinet members Baybee Hufana-Ablan, Joyce Mina Oliveira and all the other members of our team.

In recognition of the economic situation, every one of my appointed Cabinet members joined me in taking voluntary pay cuts of five percent. This includes about 50 people, and we all feel that it is very important to lead by example. These sacrifices are just one of our team's contributions to the "stone soup" we must make together to help sustain our community during these tough times. If everyone contributes a little something to the soup, we can enjoy a nourishing meal together and set aside the stone we began with.

On a final note, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the family of former state Representative Ted Mina, my longtime friend and supporter. We will all miss him dearly.

The federal stimulus package is already paying off in ways that will keep people in Honolulu working and create more jobs in the future, while also helping to address a historic injustice against Filipino veterans.

The package will provide nearly \$41 million for city transportation projects, including 60-foot articulated hybrid buses, improvements to the Middle Street Intermodal Transit Facility, construction of a new transit facility in Wahiawa and improvements to a facility in Pearl City, and reinforcement of streets beside various bus stops. We also expect to receive about \$3 million for anti-crime projects, and additional money for other initiatives as details are worked out in Washington.

In total, Hawaii should receive about \$700 million from the package, called the Ameri-



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GOVERNOR'S COLUMN

Hawaii Regional Robotics Competition



By Gov. Linda Lingle

ber team has received tremendous financial and mentoring support from neighboring universities, the government and the private sector.

In a humorous nod toward their country of origin, the students have nicknamed their robot "Larry Labuyo" after a wild breed of chicken native to the Philippines. Having them travel to Hawai'i for this competition is a wonderful opportunity for our students to connect with their international counterparts, compare robot-building strategies and build long-lasting friendships.

Twenty-four FIRST teams from O'ahu and neighbor island high schools will be competing in this year's Hawai'i regional using the robots they have built over a six-week period. I hope

you will join me at Stan Sheriff stadium to cheer on these students and their remarkable achievements. Known as the "varsity sport of the mind," robotics has the same competitive fervor that makes basketball and football matches so much fun to watch, but instead of a basket or touchdown, it rewards students for exercising teamwork and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills. Find details on the upcoming FIRST competition — which is free and open to the public — at robotics.hawaii.gov

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is one of six robotics programs in which students in Hawai'i at the elementary, middle and high school levels are participating. The number of

teams in these programs at our public, private and charter schools has snowballed from 95 last year to 300 today. Much of this growth can be attributed to strong community support. The more students and teachers see their counterparts at other schools succeed in robotics competitions, the more they want to become involved.

Increasing robotics education and other hands-on learning opportunities that inspire teamwork and problem-solving is key to achieving the goals of my Administration's Hawai'i Innovation Initiative. By ensuring that our workforce has the skills and knowledge to succeed in a competitive global market, we can build a sustainable economy based on innovation and less on land development.

There are several ways in which local residents and businesses can participate in robotics education, including as mentors, sponsors, or enthusiastic fans who give these students the recognition they deserve.

This legislative session, my Administration has submitted a STEM tax credit bill that provides additional incentives for individuals and businesses to support programs like FIRST in our public schools. You can learn more about this bill and the other bills in my Administration's legislative package at hawaii.gov/initiatives. In addition, please feel free to send my office your ideas and concerns at gov.lingle@hawaii.gov.

On March 26-28, 2009, high school teams from Hawai'i, the mainland U.S., the Philippines and Mexico will compete in the second annual FIRST in Hawai'i Regional Robotics Competition at the Stan Sheriff Center at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

We are very excited to have a team of juniors from Philippine Science High School in Quezon City on the roster this year. The 32-mem-

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Veterans on Oahu Offered Entrepreneurial Assistance

The SBA Hawaii District Office will conduct a free "Community Express Day" consultation to discuss financing for veteran and military small business owners on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at Pearl Harbor Fleet & Family Center. Private, 30 minute consultations will be offered by the experienced staff of the Hawaii Small Business Development Center, SBA, and a small business lender.

SBA's Community Express

Loan Program provides loans from \$5,000 up to \$25,000 to qualified small businesses with good credit, a basic business plan, and a business banking account. Veterans may qualify for a larger loan amount with additional requirements. Loan proceeds can be used for most business purposes including working capital.

Advance registration is highly recommended. Please call (808) 541-2990 ext 203 or register online at www.sba.gov/hi.

Leeward Community College International Festival Explores Global

PEARL CITY, HAWAII — Leeward Community College presents the 16th Annual International Education Festival on March 9-14, 2009 on the Pearl City campus. The Festival, based on the theme of "Global Sustainability," is expanding to a six-day schedule and features a free drawing for a round trip ticket to the Philippines.

The Festival includes five days of lectures, demonstrations and presentations on "Global Sustainability" and a culminating day of international cultural activities, food children's games and entertainment.

The week's activities culminate with International Festi-

val Day on Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the College's Eucalyptus and Tuthill Courtyards. The day features a variety of international foods, music, and dance, along with cultural demonstrations, displays and interactive children's games.

The International Festival is free and open to the public. The event is a joint effort of Leeward Community College and the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council, with support from Hawaiian Airlines, PacificTel and Wireless, and UNITE HERE Local 5.

For more information, call Raymond Longfong, 455-0614 or Judy Kappenberg, 455-0284.

Exams For Philippine Foreign Service Officers Announced

The Board of Foreign Service Examinations of the Philippines will conduct Part I of the Foreign Service Officer (FSO) exams on May 10, 2009.

The exam will be administered at Philippine embassies in Washington, DC, Vienna and

Dubai. Parts II and III of the five-part exam will be held at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila from July 18-24, 2009.

Filipino citizens who are interested in taking the FSO exam must submit an application to the Philippine embassy in Washington, DC by March 20, 2009.

A Foreign Service Officer formulates and implements foreign policies of the Philippines; promotes Philippine culture, trade, tourism and other Philippine interests abroad; assists and protects rights of Filipinos abroad; national forums; and assists in maintaining diplomatic relations with other countries.

More information on the FSO exam is available online at www.dfa.gov.ph.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Top Filipino Comedians Return for Fil-Am Comedy Jam V



Rex Navarette



Joey Guila



Ron Josol

The nation's funniest Filipino comedians will be performing in Hawaii on April 10-11, 2009 for the Fifth Annual Fil-Am Comedy Jam, which is presented by Two Flip Productions.

Comedians Rex Navarette, Joey Guila and Kaleo Pilanca will be performing at Maui's Iao Theatre on Friday, April 10. The evening will be hosted by

local boy Lanai from radio station 98.5 FM.

On Saturday, April 11, Navarette, Guila and Canada's Ron Josol—along with Lanai—will perform at the Dole Ballrooms in Iwilei. Navarette, Guila and Josol are considered among the most successful Filipino comedians and have performed in some of the nation's top clubs.

Navarette is the premier Fil-

Am comedian who has performed at sold-out shows nationwide and in the Philippines. Guila has also set the bar quite high for Filipino comics, having won the western division of the First Asian-American National Stand Up Competition as well as the regional Kings of Comedy in 2003.

Josol is an up-and-coming comedian from Canada who has

performed in such shows as the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, International Comedy Fest 2&8 and the LOL Comedy Festival in Hollywood, California.

Both shows start at 8 pm and are for adults 18 and above. Tickets are \$20 pre-sale online at: www.islandtix.com. More ticket information is available by calling 216-5718 or 306-3460.

Filipino Community Leader Passes Away

By Carlota Ader



Ted Mina

Ted Mina, a long-time leader in the Filipino community, passed away recently at age 74.

The son of immigrant plantation workers, Mina was a tireless community volunteer who pushed for the well-being of not only Filipinos, but also everyone in the community, particularly those in Kalihi Valley where he lived with his wife.

Mina served as a two-term member in the State House Representatives beginning in 1976, where he represented Kalihi.

After leaving office, he continued his involvement in politics with the Democratic Party as district chairman for the party's Kalihi Valley precinct. He also worked as an aide for former Rep. Ben Cabreros in 2002 and later campaigned for Mufi Hannemann's mayoral campaign in 2004.

"He will be remembered for his integrity and for being a good community leader," says Kalihi resident Ted Saribay who has known Mina since 1978. "He was a very loving and caring person who inspired me to be more persistent. I consider him my mentor."

He is survived by his wife Geri, daughters Joyce Oliveira and Desiree Calistro and son Timothy Casabar.

A burial service is scheduled for March 27, 2009 at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa on School Street, with the burial to follow at Hawaiian Memorial Park in Kaneohe.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Honolulu Festival to Include Philippines Booth

The 15th Annual Honolulu Festival, scheduled for March 13-15, 2009, will feature a touch from the Philippines this year.

As part of the festivities, the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu will have a booth which will be on display at the Hawaii Convention Center, from March 14-15, 2009 from 10 am to 5 pm. The Filipino community is invited to drop by and visit the display.

The Philippine booth is entitled "CAL-ABRAZON" which is the acronym for the five provinces south of Manila—Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon. The booth will be decorated with Pahiyas and other Philippine crafts.

"Pahiyas" is derived from the local Filipino word "Payas," which means to decorate. The Pahiyas Festival is a colorful feast in honor of San Isidro Labrador, the patron saints of farmers, as a thanksgiving for a

bountiful harvest. The province of Quezon hosts this festival on the 15th of May.

Products and services from the CAL-ABRAZON region will be on display and for sale, including just and pina embroideries, buntal hats and weaving demonstrations, native delicacies and Pahiyas decors.

The Honolulu Festival is Hawaii's premier event that promotes cultural understanding, economic cooperation and ethnic harmony between the people of Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific region. The three-day celebration will feature live musical and cultural performances, as well as impressive art exhibits from groups in Asia and the Pacific.

Events will be conveniently located at the Hawaii Convention Center, Ala Moana Shopping Center, Waikiki Shopping Plaza and Waikiki Beach Walk, concluding with a Grand Parade along Kalakaua Avenue through the heart of Waikiki on the final evening.

BIBAK Hawaii Inducts Officers



BIBAK Hawaii's 2009-2010 Officers

Nearly 100 people gathered for the induction ceremony for BIBAK Hawaii's 2009-2010 officers and youth officers, held recently at the Hale Moku Community Center near Pearl Harbor.

Inducting officer Paul Raymond Cortes from the Philippine Consulate General also delivered the inspirational message of the evening.

The ambiance was festive with Valentine's decorations, catered food by Lani's Restaurant and pan-Cordillera contemporary and traditional attire worn by old and young alike.

The officers for 2009-2010 are Hugo Prill Sr., president; Rusty Meana, vice president; Grace Prill, recording secretary; Bernadette Manuel, assistant recording secretary; Juana Eslava and Gertrude Longao, corresponding secretaries; Aurie Sonson, treasurer; Joven Banayat, assistant treasurer; Lita Cagdan, auditor; Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand, PRO; Virgil J. Mayor Apostol, assistant PRO; and Sixto Cagdan and Jeffrey Sanchez, Sergeants-at-Arms. Advisers are Roland Baon, Daniel Carling, Angel Galas, Elizabeth Galas and Simeona Geston.

For the first time in BIBAK Hawaii's history, children and youth officers were also inducted. They include: MarieLynn Pasiw-en, president; Isaiah Luczak, vice-president; Paula Penular, secretary; Kahrie Mattos, treasurer; and Johnson Pasiw-en, Sergeant-at-Arms. Advisers are Riena Pawid and Andrea Pawid.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to immediate past officers (2008-

2009 officers) Hugo Prill Sr., Albert Paradeza, Grace Prill, Lilia Mina, Louisa Quintero, Gertrude Longao, Aurie Sonson, Lita Cagdan, Simeona Geston, Sixto Cagdan, Keevin Sacyo, Mario Dekdecken, Juana Eslava, Angel Galas, Lita Mina, Linda Pasiw-en and Elizabeth Galas.

The evening's highlight was a dance and skit numbers by the youth and women, which were possible with the guidance of Lita Cagdan. There were also various cultural offerings including an Ugayayam chant by Angel Galas, BIBAK Hymn led by Vicky Bacayan, Salidumay led by Simeona Geston, as well as gong playing and dancing by Hugo Prill Sr., Keevin Sacyo, Kenneth Bacayan, Roland Baon, Wayland Quintero, Virgil J. Mayor Apostol, Albert Paradeza, Samuel Sonson, Jeffrey Sanchez, Daniel Carling, Ester Palacsá, Desiree Seguritan, Abigail Bacayan-Kopf and others.

Consul Paul Raymond Cortes and wife Yasmin Balajadia-Cortes joined the Bontoc Takik Dancing with on-the-spot instructions from Keevin Sacyo and Abigail Bacayan-Kopf.

BIBAK Hawaii was founded in 1979 by U.S. Navy and local families in Hawaii. The objectives of the club are mutual support among members and perpetuation of the Igorot culture and traditions. BIBAK Hawaii members will be participating in the Honolulu Festival Parade on March 15, 2009 along Kalakaua Avenue. Past and current members are encouraged to participate and sign-up via email at: bibakhawaii@gmail.com.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

GMA Signs Baselines Bill into Law, Triggers China Protest

By Paolo Romero / Thurs. March 12, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - President Arroyo has signed the law defining Philippine territory, sparking protests from China over control of strategic South China Sea islands, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

"We are sending the message to the whole world that we are affirming our national sovereignty... our national interest as an independent country," Ermita said.

China, which also claims sovereignty over Scarborough Shoal, "strongly opposed" the signing of Republic Act 9522 known as the Philippine Baseline Act, which defines Philippine territorial waters and maintains the country's claim over the disputed Spratly Islands (Kalayaan Island Group or KIG) in the South China Sea and Scarborough Shoal.

Vietnam, which also has long-running claims in the Spratlys, also opposed the move.

In a statement, the Chinese embassy in Manila said the inclusion of the Huangyan Island and some islands and reefs of Nansha Islands in the Baseline Act as Philippine territory is "illegal, invalid" and totally unacceptable to the Chinese government.

"The Chinese embassy hereby expresses strong opposition and solemn protest and reiterates that Huangyan Island and Nansha Islands have always

been part of Chinese territory and that the People's Republic of China has indisputable sovereignty over these islands and their adjacent waters," the embassy said.

Ermita said Mrs. Arroyo signed the bill on Tuesday without fanfare as the law was just a "technical and clinical adjustment" on the country's baselines to comply with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that was adopted by the world body in 1982 and ratified by the Philippines in 1992.

The UN has asked the Philippines and other countries that signed the UNCLOS to submit the dimensions of their continental shelf by May 13. The convention, which came into force in 1994, defines the maritime limits of signatories.

Henry Bensurto, secretary-general of the Commission on Maritime and Ocean Affairs, said the Philippines passed the law not to reiterate its claims over the Spratlys and Scarborough Shoal but to define the baseline used to determine its extended continental shelf.

He and Ermita downplayed the Chinese embassy's fresh protest, saying the protests were expected and can be handled by the mechanisms in the Code of Conduct entered into by members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China to peacefully resolve claims over the disputed islands.

"We should negotiate through peaceful means our



claims because there are six claimants... but there's agreement in the Code of Conduct on how to settle claims so we don't resort to any force to settle (the dispute). We want to highlight that," Ermita said.

"We're mindful that we claim these islands... we're also mindful of the definition of national interest that we're not isolated and we interact with other nations. We have factored in that we are part of a community. We took into account the various agreements, including the Code of Conduct that was pushed by the Philippines," Bensurto said.

"We're hopeful other countries will understand that when we passed this law for the purpose of complying with UNCLOS, we were mindful of the ASEAN Declaration on the Code of Conduct."

Under the new law, the KIG and Scarborough Shoal, which is just over a hundred nautical miles from Zambales, are not part of the territorial baselines but part of the country's territory as a "regime of islands."

Ermita said the new law amended two previous laws that were enacted prior to UNCLOS.

when they accompanied Ambassador Liu Jianchao, former spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to Malacañang yesterday for the presentation of his credentials.

After Congress passed the legislation last month, Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Wang Guangya summoned a Philippine embassy official in Beijing and said Manila's claims over the two regions "were illegal and invalid," China's official Xinhua news agency said.

It cited Wang as saying the Philippines should take into consideration bilateral relations as well as peace and stability in the South China Sea.

Vietnam also urged the Philippines to refrain from taking action that might complicate the dispute.

The Spratlys, which are rich in oil, gas and fish, consist of about 100 barren islets, reefs and atolls dotting the world's busiest shipping lanes in the South China Sea.

Vietnam, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei each claim all or part of the low-lying islands. - With AP (www.philstar.com)

Caught by surprise

Sources said Chinese diplomats were unaware that the bill was already signed into law

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By Grace F. Fong, Ed.D.

Got a 5-Year-Old?

falls in the school's geographic area. Once parents know which school their child should attend, they will need to take several documents to the school to register their child. These include:

- Health records (Form 14)—children must have a physical examination, written documentation of required immunizations, and tuberculosis clearance to enter school on the first day.
- Birth certificate—an original or certified copy is required to verify the child's age.
- Legal documents—if there were changes to the child's name, custody arrangement, or guardianship, the legal documents that verify the changes are needed.
- Proof of current local address—a document such as an electric, telephone, or cable bill, or a housing or rental agreement that shows the address of the child's home.

Having all of the necessary documents at the time of registration is essential. Since children need a physical exam and must be up-to-date on all necessary immunizations before registering, early planning helps

parents avoid the last minute rush at the doctor's office or any delays in starting school. For more information about registering children for kindergarten, call your nearest elementary school, or check the Department of Education website at <http://doe.k12.hi.us/parents/>.

Why register early?

Families are encouraged to register their children early—February through June—rather than waiting until just before school starts. According to Mary Ann Nemoto, Project Administrator of the UH Center on the Family's Learning to Grow Project, early registration provides families with access to important resources they can use to begin their child's formal education on a positive note, and it helps the schools as well.

When families register their child early, schools are able to inform them about transition/orientation programs for children who will be entering kindergarten or junior kindergarten. These programs provide an opportunity for children and their families to get acquainted with their new school and help them ease into the school experience by addressing any apprehensions children or parents may have about "going to kindergarten." They provide parents with a chance to meet with teachers and other school staff to discuss expectations, school routines, and ways parents can support their children's learning. Many schools also provide families with home learning packets that give sug-



Schools Benefit Too

Just as a child needs preparation to be ready for school, schools need to prepare for their students. When parents register their children well before the start of the school year, schools are able to anticipate an accurate count of incoming students. They can then hire a sufficient number of qualified kindergarten teachers, reducing the likelihood of having over-crowded classrooms.

At the start of the school year, teachers

usually spend a lot of time with their kindergarteners developing routines, clarifying expectations in the classroom, and building relationships with and among students. They also spend time assessing the unique developmental and educational needs of the children in their class so that they can provide appropriate instruction. When a child misses this critical orientation period because he has entered kindergarten after the school year has started, everyone in the class is affected as the teacher takes time to integrate the new student into the class. Registering early helps schools to create the most effective learning environment for all children and to have the right number of teachers from the first day of school.

If you have a 5-year-old, take the time now to register your child for kindergarten. Or, if you know someone who has a 5-year-old, remind them to register their child.

- Talk with your child about going to school, reassuring her that it is okay to go to school; talk about her feelings about going to school.
- Practice separating—spending time apart—especially if she has little or no experience being apart from you; reassure her that you will return.
- Practice school-day routines, e.g., going to bed early, getting up at a specific time, and having breakfast.
- Encourage your child to do things independently, e.g., toileting, putting away toys, or pouring her own cereal into a bowl.

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GRACE FONG is a professor in Family Resources in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

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LEGAL NOTES

H-1B Restriction Under Stimulus Bill



By Reuben S. Seguritan

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, otherwise known as the "Economic Stimulus Bill."

While the bill seeks to stimulate the struggling U.S. economy by providing bail out funds and tax cuts to important yet beleaguered industries, it also seeks to limit or restrict the hiring of H-1B workers by certain companies.

The companies affected

are those that receive funding under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (also known as TARP Bill, P.L. 110-343) or receive secured short-term loans through the Federal Reserve.

Under the bill, any covered company will not be allowed to petition foreign workers under the H-1B program unless they comply with certain labor condition application attestations. These attestations are:

First, that prior to filing the H-1B petition, the company must have taken good faith efforts to recruit U.S. workers for the position, offering a wage of at least as high as that required by law and further, that the position has been offered to any U.S. worker who is equally or better qualified for the job.

Second, that the company has not laid off and will not lay

off any U.S. worker in a position equivalent to the H-1B position within the period beginning 90 days prior to filing and up to 90 days after its filing.

This section of the bill, introduced by Senators Sander (I-Vermont) and Grassley (R-Iowa), has drawn critical comments among employers, recruiters, professional workers, immigration lawyers and interest groups because of the adverse effects it will have on the hiring of highly skilled H-1B workers considered vital in strengthening the U.S. economy.

Charles Kuck, president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association said that while "the stimulus bill looks helpful," it is "counterproductive when it restricts the financial industry's access to top-flight talent who can help

create jobs for U.S. workers."

Given the upcoming start of the filing for H-1B petitions on April 1, 2009 for FY 2010, this new development is a cause of concern for petitioning employers and their prospective H-1B beneficiary-workers.

Yearly, Congress allots 65,000 H-1B visas for skilled workers and professionals in specialty occupations to be able to work temporarily in the U.S. For the past several years, despite the U.S. economic debacle, the H-1B allocation has been oversubscribed and used up indicating a continuing clamor to hire skilled foreign workers for companies to remain competitive.

While the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Department of Labor (DOL) have yet to issue their implementing

regulations and guidance on this new law, it appears that those who already have an H-1B status but seek an extension of their H-1B are not covered by this restriction since they are not new hires.

Also, those who were already previously hired by the employer under a different immigration status such as F-1, TN or L-1B but are only applying for a change of status may be considered exempt. On the other hand, those seeking change of employers under H-1B may be covered by the restriction.

This H-1B restriction will expire on February 16, 2011.

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Durano: RP Tourism Defies Global Crisis

By Paolo Romero /
Thurs., March 12, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - Philippine tourism is defying the global crisis as jobs mount in various industry sectors, especially for a wide range of highly skilled professionals and other personnel.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said the industry's manpower needs could easily run to tens of thousands based on the number of newly completed tourism projects, those to be operational within 2009 to 2010, and those in the pipeline.

Durano said 1,700 rooms are scheduled to open in Manila this year. "And these do not include the 2,000 others that will open in many areas of the archipelago during the year, all part of the P550-billion expansion

projects of various investors involving some 7,000 new hotel and resort rooms," he said.

This development could be gleaned from the growing number of tourism businesses and related enterprises joining the Trabaho sa Turismo (TST) Fair 2009 on March 13-14 at the SM City Cebu, "indicating the sustained viability and competitiveness of our tourism industry even during crisis and the continued rise in the number of jobs required to serve our domestic and foreign tourists," he added.

Durano said the 4th TST indicates the Department of Tourism's "successful efforts in finding and developing new and emerging inbound markets, attracting foreign investors in

various areas of tourism, encouraging domestic investments in tourism facilities, promoting joint ventures, and sustaining government-funded infrastructure projects that boost tourism, all generating employment and livelihood for our people and serving as economic growth engine in both

good and bad times."

Durano cited the consistent 10.6 percent average increase in foreign visitor arrivals since 2004 when he assumed his post as tourism secretary.

He said the Filipino people, particularly the unemployed and those considering a career shift, could help the tourism in-

dustry by joining the TST fair in Cebu, or its Manila leg on May 22-23 at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City, and pre-registering online at www.jobssdb.com.ph.

JobsDB.com members can use their existing log-in ID and password to pre-register for the event. Other applicants may create an online resumé or attach a word document file of their resumé. (www.philstar.com)

15-inch Butanding Rescued in Sorsogon

MANILA, Philippines - A 15-inch whale shark, locally known as butanding, has been found in Sorsogon.

Conservation group World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines (WWF-Philippines) reported yesterday that the rescue of what could be the smallest whale shark in the country, and perhaps in the world, might lead to answers to the mystery of where the sea creatures breed.

According to the WWF, the baby whale shark was caught last

Friday in a barangay of Pilar town, adjacent to Donsol in Sorsogon and was allegedly about to be sold.

A team consisting of the tourism officer, agricultural officer, BIO, and Aca quickly plan to rescue the small whale shark, which WWF-Philippines christened the "Million Dollar Baby" for its significance and rarity.

They found the whale shark with a rope around its tail tied to a stick stuck into the sand.

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MAINLAND NEWS

Fil-Am MMA Fighter to Make PPV Debut

Entering the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) without a loss, Filipino-American Mark Muñoz will make his first live pay-per-view fight on March 7, 2009 at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio.

Muñoz, a wrestler/Jiu Jitsu fighter with a 5-0 record, will face 7-2 Ohio native

boxer/wrestler Matt Hamill in the ring. At age 31, Muñoz stands 6 feet tall and weighs 205 lbs.

In his last fight with World Extreme Cage Fighting, Muñoz defeated Ricardo Barros via TKO in 2 minutes and 26 seconds. Muñoz has been recognized by NW Asian Weekly as 1 of the top 12

Asian-Pacific Islander athletes to watch in 2009. His nickname is "the Philippine Wrecking Machine."

Mixed martial arts (MMA) has gained in popularity over the past decade. Fight nights attract 100 million viewers worldwide, exceeding viewership of the Superbowl. In this full contact combat

sport, fighters are allowed to use multiple styles of fighting including Muay Thai, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Japanese Shoot Wrestling, Freestyle or Greco-Roman Wrestling, Sambo and Judo.

MMA fighters wield a combination of striking, grappling and submission holds to beat their opponent. (U.S. Asian Wire)



Mark Muñoz

GLOBAL NEWS

Chiz Bats for Entry of More Filipino Health Professionals, Non-skilled Workers in Australia

Sen. Chiz Escudero has asked Australian government officials to allow the entry of more Filipino health professionals as well as non-skilled workers who may have been displaced in other countries.

"We talked about the possibility of a government-to-government arrangement on labor migration at various levels," he said in a statement before returning to Manila on Wednesday. The senator was in Australia from March 8 to 11 on the invitation of the Australian government.

Escudero's visit was highlighted by his first meeting with

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd whom he said agreed that Australia and the Philippines should play "more active roles in the region."

During their meeting, the senator said he discussed labor, trade and migration issues with Rudd as well as the current state of relations between Australia and the Philippines.

The Australian embassy in Manila revealed that in the last two years there has been a substantial increase in the number of skilled Filipino workers migrating



Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero with Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd

to Australia, and that in 2008 the increase was estimated to be 136% higher than the previous year, outpacing family migration

to Australia for the first time.

"There is a strong demand for doctors, nurses, midwives and pharmacists in Australia. It could very well take the slack in other countries," Escudero said.

During his four-day stay, the senator also took up trade issues with Australian Minister of Trade MP Simon Crean.

Two-way trade between both countries from 2007-08 reached \$2 billion, with the Philippines exporting electrical machinery, telecom equipment and fruits and importing dairy products and minerals. Only last

week, the Australian government allowed the entry of Philippine bananas subject to certain conditions.

At present, there are about 130,000 Filipinos living and/or working in Australia, and based on the latest figures the Philippines is the fifth biggest source of migrants.

In another meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Stephen Smith, the two exchanged views on how Australia can further improve relations with the Philippines and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"We have agreed that there is a lot of room for heightening and increasing the levels of cooperation in pursuit of our common and shared interests," Escudero added.

Pinay Selected to Host New Dutch TV Show

The Netherlands—Philippine-born law school graduate Cecilia Aquino has been chosen to co-host the newly-launched West International channel of TV West, a local Dutch television station.

West International is a

weekly, half hour long English language television program aimed at expats and internationally-oriented people who are living and working in The Hague and surrounding areas. The show offers viewers plenty of information on how to make the most out of life in the

Netherlands. Holland has a very big international community, especially in The Hague, which has about 40,000 expats.

After receiving her law degree in the U.S., Aquino moved to Holland in 2007 to work for a well-known international organization headquartered in The Hague, known as the legal capital of the world.

Aquino said she was asked to audition for the role while at a pub last summer. She agreed, hoping to sharpen her interview skills.

"I didn't think they would ever call me back," she says. "Two months later, they called me and said, 'You're fantastic.' I couldn't believe I was picked from among the many other international applicants."

Despite being new to the television industry, TV West executives say Aquino is a rising star.

"We were looking for the best people for the show and it happened to be someone from the Philippines and sexy," says Gerard Milo, CEO of Omnitv TV. "I think she's won-



Cecilia Aquino

derful and does a great job. She's very natural."

West International is broadcasted via cable and digital television all over the Netherlands.



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FEBRUARY TO AUGUST— Overseas Absentee Voting Registration for Filipino citizens who wish to vote in the presidential elections in May 2010. Registrants may come to the Consulate in person with their Philippine passports to accomplish the appli-

cation form.
APRIL 6TH, 4pm, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl — *“Araw ng Kagitingan”* (Day of Valor)
JUNE 12, 8:30am, at the con-

sulate grounds — *“Araw ng Kalayaan”* (Independence Day) and another activity at 6:30 pm.

JULY 10-14TH — Ambassadors and Consul Generals Tour to the Philippines, a special package tour for the public.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROJECT / SATURDAY
March 14 and June 13, 2009
9:30 am - 1:30 pm • Likehike Highway & Kalihi Street • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828

UH ILOKANO LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE PROGRAM AND THE TIMPUYOG STUDENT ORGANIZATION'S ILOKANO DRAMA AND SONG / SATURDAY

April 11, 2009 • 9:30am - 1:30pm • UHM Art Auditorium • Free admission. Call Dr. Aurelio Agcaoil at 956-8405 or Julius Soria at 956-2226

1ST ANNUAL FILIPINO FILM FESTIVAL

April 10-18, 2009 • Doris Duke Theatre • For more information, contact 532-8700 or go online at www.honoluluacademy.org

PAMPANGA CIRCLE OF HAWAII EASTER POTLUCK / SUNDAY

April 12, 2009 • Doris Duke Theatre • 11 am to 4 pm • A-Frame Cavana Marina, Pearl Harbor • For more information please call 683-3131

OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) GOLF TOURNAMENT / SATURDAY

April 15, 2009 • Kapolei Golf Course • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828 for more information

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DIVINE WORD COLLEGE OF LAOAG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII (DWICLAAAH), 1ST INT'L GRAND REUNION
May 2, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii • For more information call Jesse Pascual at 225-3388 or Fe Velasco at 2227436; Amado Yoro 699-9814

TIMPUYOG AND ILOKANO BA SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET / FRIDAY

May 8, 2009 • Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki Ballroom • For tickets and more information, call Dr. Aurelio Agcaoil at 956-8405 or Julius Soria at 956-2226

FILIPINO FIESTA, PARADE AND SANTACRUZAN / SATURDAY
May 9, 2009 • All day starting at 8 am. • For inquiries, call Fil-Corn Center at 680-0451

GOLDEN JUBILEE MISS OAHU FILIPINA PAGEANT / SATURDAY

June 13, 2009 • Pacific Beach Hotel • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828

OFCC GOLDEN PRESIDENT'S BALL / FRIDAY

June 26, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel, Tapa Ballroom • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828

OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) ANNUAL CONVENTION / SATURDAY

June 27, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828 for more details

FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII INSTALLATION BANQUET / SATURDAY

July 11, 2009 • 6 pm • Hilton Hawaiian Village • Call Rose Mendoza at 371-3902 or Bennett Evangelista at 398-5988

BATAAN CATALINA 79TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION / SATURDAY

July 25, 2009 • For more information, send email at juncolme@yahoo.com

VISAYAN CENTENNIAL EVENTS

"BISDAD" LIVE BAND CONCERT / SATURDAY
March 28, 2009 • Ani at Binhi Filipino Community Center, Kahului, Maui

VISAYAN CENTENNIAL FIESTA
May 2009 • Lanai

VISAYAN CENTENNIAL TOUR
May 15 - June 3, 2009 • (Iloilo, Cebu and Davao) Philippines

VISAYAN CENTENNIAL AWARDS GALA / SUNDAY
July 19, 2009 • 6 pm. • Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki

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