

# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ MARCH 28, 2009 ◆

## PIONEERING VISAYAN FAMILIES IN HAWAII

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Marcelino Yorong (L) and Julian Yorong (R), sons of Jose Yorong, one of the first Visayans in Hawaii

Photography by TIM LLENA



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## EDITORIAL

## Celebrating the Visayan Century

**O**n July 20, 1909, the SS Korea steamed into Hawaiian waters, carrying another boatload of laborers from the Philippines to work on the sugarcane plantations. What made this voyage different from the others was that the ship carried members of the Magpióng and Yoróng families—the first Visayans to Hawaii.

Visayans comprise between 10-15 percent of Hawaii's Filipino population. Nevertheless, they have over the years made their mark in Hawaii's rich history, particularly in politics with former Gov. Ben Cayetano, entertainment with TV personality Emme Tomimbang and actress Tia Carrere and sports with former boxing champ Ben Villaflor—to name a few.

In light of the Visayan Centennial, we commend the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO), the umbrella group for 20 Visayan organizations, for their efforts to work closely with the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH) during the Filipino Centennial in 2006. The rift that split apart the community during the 1980s is well-documented, but fortunately, time has slowly healed wounds.

As an ethnic group, we need to remain united. Filipinos groups—Visayan, Tagalog and Ilocano—need to put aside their differences and instead work together on issues facing the Filipino community in Hawaii. Much more can be done if we coordinate activities, pool resources, discuss common concerns, and present a single united voice.

## Hawaii State Senate Made Wise Choice

**B**y a vote of 18-6, state senators rejected a move to recall the controversial gay marriage bill from committee for a full vote on the Senate floor. The bill would have given homosexual couples the same rights, benefits and protections under state law as married couples.

However, the Senate's decision was more a vote to not overstep the boundaries of Senate protocol. Had the vote been a simple up or down on the controversial measure, the result would have been much, much closer. Ultimately, the Senate made the right choice on two fronts. First, approving the bill for a full floor vote would have set a dangerous precedent for future controversial bills that were given hearings but ultimately ended up stalled in committee. The process in the Senate ensures fair and orderly proceedings and prevents chaos from ensuing.

Secondly, the bill would have violated freedom of religion—a basic right that this very country was founded upon. How so? Because gay marriage would be deemed a civil right. Currently, it is unconstitutional for clergy to refuse to wed couples based on race. However, under this bill, which grants civil rights to gay couples, clergy would be forced to marry them if requested to do so. Churches and private Christian schools would be forced to hire openly gay faculty and staff or face civil rights lawsuits.

While the Senate's decision effectively kills the bill for this legislative session, proponents of the bill will be back next year. There are no easy answers to this highly contentious issue, but for the time being, the majority has spoken.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**W**

elcome to another edition of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! If you're a parent, your children are probably on Spring Break. For the rest of us, Spring Break means...less traffic! Much to everyone's relief, the morning and afternoon commutes are noticeably lighter and will be for the next two weeks, now that most public and private schools are not in session.

For the past month, many eyes have been riveted on the State Legislature, as senators wrangled over the highly-controversial same sex marriage bill. Just last week, the Senate voted 18-6 to reject the bill. The six senators who voted in favor of pulling the stalled bill out of committee for a full Senate vote were Rosalyn Baker, Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Carol Fukunaga, Gary Hooser, Les Ihara and Michelle Kidani. It remains to be seen what the fall-out will be for most of these six senators, particularly Hooser, who led the efforts to recall the bill and will be running for Lieutenant Governor in 2010. With the contentious issue settled for the time being, lawmakers can now focus on the state's economy as well as other pressing matters.

As many of you already know, 2009 marks the 100th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Visayan immigrants to Hawaii. Many Visayan community groups are celebrating with various activities statewide for the entire year—much like the Filipino Centennial in 2006. In conjunction with the Visayan Centennial, our cover story for this issue is on the Magpióng and Yoróng families—two of the first Visayan families who traveled to Hawaii from the Philippines as plantation workers. Contributing writer Rowena Ballesteros interviewed the descendants of these two families, who spoke about adjusting to life in Hawaii and their early struggles.

We have other stories in this issue that are bound to interest you, including a proposal by Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz for online voting in the next election (see page 3), a robotics competition featuring local and international teams (page 6), a special patriotic dinner honoring Fil-Am veterans (page 8) and several others.

In closing, we hope some of you were able to see the rock band Journey in concert. The band is still popular among the 30- and 40-something age group. But thanks to new lead singer Arnel Pineda, the band has gained legions of admiring Filipinos, who have taken great pride in their countryman's success. Many who attended the concerts came away impressed with Pineda's vocals and say he is the real deal.

As always, thank you for supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! Until next time...  
Aloha, *Mabuhay* and rock on!

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

## LETTERS

### Trouble Brewing For Philippine Collection at UH Library?

*The backbone to Asian Studies teaching and research at UH-Manoa includes Hamilton Library's locally and internationally-valued Asia Collection. The Philippines collection is part of this resource. UH administrators should be the first to demonstrate its appreciation of this asset.*

*Yet, a current authoritative proposal to disperse the responsibilities of professional librarians on the Asia Collection staff (including the Philippines specialist) threatens to undermine the value of this asset for teaching and research across the Manoa campus.*

*Why would UH administrators hesitate to be the first to promote the value of the Asia Collection in Hamilton Library?*

Vincent K. Pollard, Ph.D.  
Honolulu

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Publisher & Managing Editor  
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Associate Editors  
Dennis Galolo  
Edwin Quinabo

Creative Designer  
Junggol Peralta

Design Consultant  
Randall Shiroma

Photographer  
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Michelle Alarcon, Esq.  
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Sen. Will Espero  
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Contributing Writers  
Calvin Alonzo, O.D.  
Rowena Ballesteros  
Clement Bautista  
Linda Dela Cruz  
Constante A. Domingo  
Danny De Gracia  
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Advertising/Marketing Director  
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives  
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## LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION



By Senator Will Espero

## Public Safety Measures Alive at the Legislature

**T**he big attention given to civil unions and the state budget overshadows the many other matters that are moving forward at the State Capitol. As Chair of the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee, I have overseen several worthwhile Senate initiatives that have crossed over to the House for their consideration.

SB619 would restore voting rights to convicted persons. While the original version would give all felons the right to vote, the Judiciary Committee amended the bill to restore voting rights only to those inmates whose sentences were two years or less. Maine and Vermont allow inmate voting, and based on their experience, it is likely that if this bill became law, the majority of in-

mates would not vote if given the opportunity, similar to the rate of voting in the general population.

For the inmates who choose to vote, however, I see this as their chance to begin their transition to re-entering society one day. Inmates cannot help their children, parents, spouses, or friends due to their loss of freedom and punishment behind bars, but absentee voting can give them one way to feel that they are contributing. There is no additional cost and no harm to the state or our residents. With over 96% of inmates expected to be released one day and the majority of inmates serving 10 years or less, helping to rehabilitate prisoners is important for our society since the offenders one day be released to walking on our streets, live in our neighborhoods, and work amongst us.

SB1148 mandates written re-entry plans for all felons so that inmates will understand

what programs they must complete or services they must utilize to rehabilitate or better themselves. This would include but not be limited to drug treatment, anger management, education, vocational training, and the like. Locking up prisoners and forgetting about them until they are released only leaves them very likely to commit more crimes after they get out. Re-entry plans are valuable tools for the Department of Public Safety and will benefit us all.

A non-paid re-entry commission would also be created in SB1148 to monitor and review the re-entry programs and services of our state. With our limited resources, it is important to establish performance indicators and make certain the programs we fund are working. Programs and services that don't meet expectations should be eliminated or refined.

SB 546 establishes a GPS electronic monitoring pilot pro-

gram as an alternative to incarceration. I believe an offender should spend time in prison because being in prison shows a person what it means to lose their freedom and be locked up and away from loved ones and friends. However, many prison staff agree with me that possibly 10% to 20% of inmates – roughly 600 to 1200 -- do not need to be imprisoned. At the current imprisonment cost of over \$50,000 per offender per year, the State would save millions if technology and community-based monitoring and services were implemented for this select, small proportion of non-violent offenders.

For victims' rights, I introduced SB230, aimed at those offenders who have mental health issues. The bill amends the crime victims' bill of rights to include notice or waiver of notice as to an offender's unfit-ness to stand trial, transfer to the state hospital or other psychiatric facility, or regaining fit-

ness to proceed, and requires the Department of Health to provide a victim with notice of an offender's unauthorized absences.

Finally, the issue of gun ownership: SB 358 would prohibit the state from taking guns away from owners who are lawfully permitted to own or carry a gun during a natural disaster or emergency. If you recall Hurricane Katrina, authorities wanted to confiscate all firearms for the sake of safety and security in the face of the lawlessness and chaos that were rampant in some areas soon after this natural disaster. This measure would make certain that law-abiding citizens with permits would be able to protect their loved ones, property, and neighborhoods in the event of a catastrophic event in Hawaii.

All of these bills have crossed over to the House for their consideration.

*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.*

## OPINION

## Could Online Voting Increase Voter Turn Out?

By Donovan Dela Cruz  
Council Member

**A** son of Hawai'i, Barack Obama, won the presidential race on November 4, 2008. Given this fact, it was hard to believe that voter turnout on Oahu, was 65.9 percent, lower than the 2004 presidential election when President George W. Bush was re-elected. How can that be?

In 2008, voter registration in Hawaii shattered the previous record; a Hawaii born candidate was running for the presidency, the rail issue was to be decided and there was a hotly contested mayoral race. All signs pointed to a huge turnout, but Hawaii ranked the lowest among all 50 states.

Maybe, we thought the presidential election was in the bag. Maybe, we think our votes do not matter. Maybe, we just enjoyed the holiday. Whatever the reason, the reality is that we all need to vote to ensure the integrity of the democratic



process. The only way to do this is by public participation.

I have introduced Resolution 09-47 which requests the City Clerk's office to explore implementing online voting for upcoming elections. This would make voting more convenient for those who cannot make it to the polls. It would also save taxpayers a substantial amount of money since we would need fewer paper ballots and fewer polling stations. Voting would not be exclusively online. It would not be fair to those who do not own a computer or have access to the internet. This program will be used to supple-

ment, not replace, current voting procedures.

I am very concerned with security and ensuring that every vote is genuine. I feel that since many institutions, such as banks, credit cards and brokerages are able to offer online services, we can develop a system secure enough to put any doubts to rest.

From 2000 to 2008, North America alone has seen internet usage jump 130.9 percent, according to Internet World Stats, an online website that tracks internet use worldwide. We are seeing a tremendous opportunity to tap a resource that would

allow for better representation when Election Day comes around.

Giving the voting public more options will, hopefully, increase the turnout. Many people feel their vote does not matter

or they have lost enough faith in government to not care about these elections. However, voting is the foundation of what defines America. It is how we continue to ensure that America stays a democracy.



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# A Closer Look at Hawaii's Early Visayan Pioneers

By Rowena Ballesteros

**V**isayans (also spelled Bisayans) are an ethno-linguistic group in the Philippine islands that reside in the Visayas region in the Philippines, namely Cebu, Leyte, Biliran, Samar, Bohol, Negros, Guimaras, Romblon, Panay and Siquijor. Records show they have even migrated to the Luzon and Mindanao areas.

The first sakadas, or Filipino contract plantation workers, were brought to the U.S. in 1906 by the Hawaii Sugar Planters Association (HSPA). The first group included 15 Ilokanos, who were followed by 150 more the following year. The first group of sakadas were sent to the Kahuku plantation while others were sent to Waialua, Ewa and Waipahu which are all on Oahu and some were even sent to the neighbor islands Kauai and the Big Island.

In 1909, the first Visayans left the Philippines and were brought to Hawaii due to a labor shortage that was triggered by striking Japanese workers. Among the recruits were members of the Yorong and Magpiong families whose descendants still reside in the islands today.

## The Magpiong Family

Nancy Magpiong's family

was among Hawaii's first Visayans. Her grandfather Vicente Magpiong and her mother were the first among their family to reach Hawaiian soil.

Vicente Magpiong was a recruiter, she says, who traveled back and forth from the Philippines to the U.S. to bring in more sakadas. He was known not only for being one of the first Visayans in Hawaii, but for bringing a very important necessity—the malunggay or moranggay plant which is also known as the horse radish tree. Malunggay is a common plant found in most Filipino families' backyard. It is grown not only in the Philippines but also in Thailand and throughout much of the Far East.

It was in 1955 when Nancy Magpiong, who was 19 at the time, boarded the S.S. Korea along with her uncle Liberato Magpiong and his wife.

"At first I felt lonesome because I was away from my family," she says. She was among the last of her family to arrive to Hawaii but was reassured after being reunited with relatives already in Hawaii. Magpiong then petitioned her two younger brothers.

Even though she left the Philippines for Hawaii, one thing she did not leave behind were memories of her childhood. Growing up in the midst of WWII, she can still clearly remember many disturbing images.

"I hope that no one ever experiences the trials and tribulations that I've been through," she says. "The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941 and then invaded the Philippines. They completely took over the place and were so powerful."

She says that the Filipino people were practically brainwashed from everything they



Jose Yorong and wife during their 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration. Jose Yorong is one of the pioneering Visayans in Hawaii.

knew to learn Japanese customs and styles.

"The Japanese took over the school system and only the fortunate kids were able to attend class," Magpiong says. She, her sister and several friends were among the few who were educated by the Japanese. They learned how to read and write in katakana as well as speak a little Japanese.

Meanwhile, the killings worsened as the days passed.

"After they killed you, they would chop up your bones and disperse them throughout the land," she says.

Her sister saved both their lives because she persuaded the Japanese that she worked for them.

"My sister was able to communicate with the Japanese in their dialect which I know saved us from being chopped bones," she says.

Now, Magpiong has placed those memories to the back of her mind and has prospered in her new life in Hawaii. The retired dietary service worker is married to Gurney Ward and has three adult children—52 year-old Roy (San Diego), 51-year-old Dan (Oahu) and 42-year-old Margaret Ann (Washington).

The Yorong family arrived to the islands because of Jose D. Yorong who had applied as a rice farmer in the U.S. His application was deferred because too many single Filipino workers were returning to the Philippines. However, his application was deferred because too many single Filipino workers were returning home to the Philippines. As such, recruiters began hiring only married workers. Fortunately, a female friend informed Jose of the change and told him that if he would bring her to Hawaii, she would marry him. Jose agreed and the couple was married on the boat by the captain.

"Like everyone else, my family came to the U.S. for a better life," says Julian Yorong, Jose's son Julian. Coming to the U.S. from the Philippines meant tremendous changes for him and his siblings Petronilo (now deceased), Pedro (deceased), Josephina (deceased), Lorenzo (Las Vegas), Stanley (Big Island) and Marcelino.

Julian Yorong remembers growing up in Hawaii during World War II and one day hearing the loud sound of a bullet at his family home in Aiea.

"It was scary because at one point, my sister could have been hit," Julian says. "Life was very difficult back then."

A retired marine machinist mechanic, Julian told sto-

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## The Yorong Family

It was a different perspective for the other Visayan family that arrived to the states, the Yorong family.



## COVER STORY



Shown here is Nancy Magpiong, the granddaughter of Vicente Magpiong, who was one of the first family members to reach Hawaii.

ries while growing up with his siblings in Hawaii.

"My brother Lorenzo was the favorite in the family," said Julian. When Lorenzo asked for a bike, he would receive it without his parents' hesitation. But if Julian asked for a bike, he was told to work hard and save up money, which ultimately ended up being taken away from him.

Julian and Marcelino, the only two brothers still in Hawaii, also recall their hardships growing up. During the Depression Era, they would travel to far places to gather wood, water, bread and other necessities.

"I also remember when we would go to the local grocery stores and take the scraps of fruit wrappers they threw out,"

Julian says. They would use the hard paper material as their toilet tissue paper.

"Back in the days, there was a great abundance of food that we caught," added Marcelino. Behind their home in Aiea, in a river which passes by what now stands as Cutter Ford and the Waimalu Shopping Plaza, they caught crab, shrimp and fish.

"After catching the crabs, I remember going to Waimanalo and selling them for a dollar each," Julian says.

Marcelino, 77, resides in Aiea. He joined the Air Force after high school and worked for the Department of Defense at Hickam Air Force Base. He retired after 35 years.

Marcelino is married to Julia Yorong, 80, a retired Hawaiian Airlines worker. Together they have three adult children—53-year-old Brendlynn (Big Island), 52-year-old Anita (Oahu) and 50-year-old Marcel (Oahu.)

Julian along with his late wife Patricia Caparida have 7 children: Patrick (deceased), Roxane (deceased), Julianne, Julian Jr., Darryl, Arieta and Jonic. Nowadays the retired Hawaii Kai resident spends most of his time as a musician performing at various Filipino

events or special occasions.

The Julians were also a recipient of the first Lapu-Lapu Award as one of the pioneering families of Visayan ancestry to Hawaii. The award recognizes and honors Filipinos of Visayan ancestry who have distinguished them-

selves in their fields of endeavor or who have contributed to the growth and success of Visayan organizations in Hawaii. As recipients of this distinguished award, they serve as role models and inspirational examples for the next generation.

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Julian (standing) and Marcelino Yorong

Photography by TIM LLENA

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Hawaii's Plantation Villages Names 2009 Board of Directors

Jeffrey Higa, Executive Director for Hawaii's Plantation Village, recently announced the 2009 Board of Directors for the Friends of Waipahu Cultural Garden Park dba Hawaii's Plantation Village (HPV).

Members of the Board of Directors Executive Committee include: Faith Evans (1st vice president); Deanna Espinas (1st vice president); Loretta Pang (2nd VP); Richard Oshiro (3rd VP); Robert Castro (secretary); Glenn Ifuku (treasurer); and Richard Hirata (past-president).

The Board of Directors in-

clude: Jason Chang, Shirley Colon, Tricia Evans, Pam Funai, Toni Lee, Domingo Los Banos, Melvin Makii, Dave Mueller, Steven Pang, Amy Sakuma, Shari Tamashiro, Jeffrey Ventura, Yoshiko Yamauchi and Stephen Yuen.

HPV has experienced a challenging 2009, along with the rest of Hawaii's tourism industry. A decrease in the number of Japanese visitors has resulted in staff reductions. Despite its struggles, the village remains open for self-guided and docent-led tours.

Evans and the board will be

brainstorming ways to increase membership and encourage visits from military and kamaaina families to offset some of the loss in revenue.

Hawaii's Plantation Village opened its doors in 1992 with a mission to ensure that the sacrifices and contributions of Hawaii's sugar plantation workers are preserved and acknowledged as the cornerstone of Hawaii's successful multi-ethnic society.

Tours can be arranged by calling 677-0110 or going online at: [www.hawaiiplantationvillage.org](http://www.hawaiiplantationvillage.org).

# Visiting Professor to Lecture at UH

Dr. Victor Paz from the University of the Philippines-Diliman will deliver a lecture entitled "History and the History of Archaeology in the Philippines" on April 3, 2009 at the University of Hawaii-Manoa.

Paz is the director of UP-Diliman's Archaeological Studies Program. He received his Ph.D. in archaeology from Cambridge University in the UK. His lecture will present a period of archaeology within the framework of Philippine history to better understand the study of early human life in the Philippines.



The lecture begins at 12 noon in Moore Hall Room 319. It is part of the Spring 2009 Philippine Studies Colloquium Series and co-sponsored by the UH Center for Philippine Studies and the UH Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

# Public Invited to Film Festival at UH-Manoa

The University of Hawaii-Manoa's Filipino & Philippine Literature Program will host the Lino Brocka Film Festival on April 20-22, 2009 at Spalding Auditorium.

Lino Brocka (1939-1991) is a critically acclaimed director best known for films like *Tubog sa Ginto*, *Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang*, *Maynila, sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag*, *Orapronobis*, and *Jaguar*. In 1985, he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, the

highest award of its kind in Asia. In 1997, he was posthumously named National Artist for Film by Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos. His film *Jaguar* was nominated for the Palme d'Or at the 1984 Cannes Film Festival.

The film festival aims to reintroduce Brocka as a Filipino artist and his vision of Philippine society to a new generation of students and to the community. It will highlight Brocka's contributions and artistry as a director in portraying various aspects of the Filipino experience.

As part of the festival, Dr. Nerissa S. Balce-Cortes, Assistant Professor of Asian American Literature from State University of New York at Stony Brook, will deliver a lecture entitled "The Artist in a Time of Dictatorship: Lino Brocka and His Films" on April 21, 12 noon-1:15 pm at MSB 114.

The following films will be shown: *Maynila sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag* (Manila: In the Claws of Light) and *Insang* on April 20; *Ina, Kapatid, Anak* (Mother, Sister, Daughter) and *Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang* (Weighed but



Direk Lino Brocka

Found Wanting) on April 21; and *Cain at Abel* and *Tatlo, Dalawa, Isa* (Three, Two, One) on April 22. Film showings are at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

- April 20**  
3 pm *Maynila sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag*  
5 pm Reception  
6 pm *Insang*
- April 21**  
12 nn Lecture by Dr. Nerissa Balce  
3 pm *Ina, Kapatid, Anak*  
6 pm *Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang*
- April 22**  
3 pm *Cain at Abel*  
6 pm *Tatlo, Dalawa, Isa*

For inquiries, please contact Dr. Elynia Mabanglo at [mabanglo@hawaii.edu](mailto:mabanglo@hawaii.edu) or at 956-5978.

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Tagalog and Ilokano spoken

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# Team Philippines Competes in Hawaii Robotics Contest

A team from Philippine Science High School was among 34 teams from Hawaii, the mainland and Mexico that competed in the FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition of Science and Technology) in Hawaii Regional Robotics Competition, held at the University of Hawaii-Manoa Stan Sheriff Center from March 26-28, 2009.

The Philippines team, which was the sole entry from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), dubbed their robot "Larry Labuyo" which has a special meaning for members.

"We picked the Filipino word 'Lagablab' which means 'flame' and 'Labuyo,' which refers to a wild native rooster," says Ester Ogena, director of the Philippines Science Educa-



Larry Labuyo

tion Institute. "It not only identifies us as Filipinos but gives impact to the name and purpose of our participation."

Larry Labuyo stands 4-feet tall and looks more like a household appliance on wheels. It is equipped with keen eyesight to "see" its environment and opponents, along with advanced software that allows it to move autonomously.

The teams engaged in a game called Lunacy, which

simulates conditions on the moon. Their robots used a special wheel capable of rolling over a nearly frictionless material called regolith. The objective of the game is to place as many moon rocks into their opponents' trailer within an two minute time frame.

Officials from the Philippine Consulate General said that the performance of Team Philippines was on par with teams from the international community. The winner was bestowed the Chairman's Award—the highest honor given in the regional and final competitions—and will compete in the FIRST Championship April 15-18 in Atlanta.

FIRST is a U.S.-based organization founded by inventor Dean Kamen in 1989 aimed at inspiring young people's interest in science and technology.

## IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel  
Samonte Tipon

# Fiancee vs. Wife, Which Is Better?

you do not know what "consummation" is, like many Filipinos, it is the first act of sexual intercourse after the marriage ceremony.

4. The parties do not have to establish that they cohabited for any length of time before the visa interview.
5. When the fiancée arrives in the U.S., the petitioner does not have to marry her immediately. He has 90 days to make up his mind. Thus he has 89 days to what one was described as "test drive" her. During their 89 days of cohabitation, the parties can really learn much about each other, and find out their likes and dislikes. There are a number of instances where the petitioner found that the fiancée failed the "test drive" and sent her back to her home country.
6. If the consul refuses to issue a fiancée visa, the petitioner can marry the fiancée. Of course, there is no guarantee that the consul will issue a visa to the wife who was previously denied a fiancée visa. The parties must overcome the grounds for the fiancée visa denial.

## Advantages of Petitioning for Wife

1. The wife does not have to apply for adjustment of status.
2. The wife can work immediately upon arrival. To this argument, I say: Sin verguenza. Shame on you.



Did you petition for a wife so you can have somebody work for you? Do you expect your wife to work 8 hours a day, travel 2 hours a day in heavy traffic from your home to her job and back, cook breakfast before leaving for work, cook dinner upon arriving from work, wash the dishes, and engage in passionate love making before going to sleep?

If that was your only motive, then your marriage is not bona fide in the same manner that the marriage is not bona fide if the woman married you solely for immigration purposes. As posited by the U.S. Supreme Court, "The common understanding of a marriage . . . is that the two parties have un-

dertaken to establish a life together and assume certain duties and obligations." *Lutwak v. United States*, 344 U.S. 604, 73 S.Ct. 481, 97 L.Ed. 593 (1953).

It is inhuman to impose a heavier burden on your wife and make her fulfill duties and obligations that you yourself are unwilling or incapable of fulfilling.

You should be able to support your wife without making her go to work. That is why the immigration law requires you to submit an affidavit of support whereby you agree to support your wife. If you do not even earn enough to file an affidavit of support and need a co-sponsor to file a joint affidavit of support, you should be ashamed of yourself. You should not even think of marrying.

Making your wife work can be perilous to your marriage, especially if your wife is attractive. An 80 something Ilocano married a 40 something very attractive Ilocana. When they visited the office after the woman arrived, I asked the woman where she planned to work. She replied that she would only be working at home. When I asked why, the husband replied: A young man might see her. I do not want to be "torotot" (Ilo-

cano for "cuckolded").

A young couple was applying for adjustment of status. The young man expressed concern that his beautiful mestiza wife might not be present at the interview. Why? I asked. "She is dating her boss at the restaurant," he tearfully replied. He admitted that he and his wife had not had sex for some time, but they had sex to work, they had lots of sex.

(ATTY. TIPON has won all deportation cases he handled and obtained approval of all visa petitions he filed. He is from Laoag City. He has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service," an 8-volume practice and procedure guide for immigration officers and lawyers. He specializes in immigration and criminal defense. Office at 905 Uni St. corner N. King, Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96819. Tel. (808) 847 1601. Fax (808) 847 1624. E-Mail: jilamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com. Listen to the most interesting and humorous radio program on Hawaii radio KNDI 1270 every Friday 7:30-8:00 AM. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice for any specific person or situation. Neither the writer nor publisher warrant the completeness or accuracy of the information provided herein at the time of publication.)

**A** San Francisco Bay Area man called saying that he has been reading my immigration columns and found them funny and interesting. He asked if it was better to go home and marry his girl friend and then petition for her as a wife or petition for her as a fiancée.

I thought you were reading my columns. I told him. Did you not read that it is better to petition for a fiancée than to petition for a wife? Yes, but I wanted to hear it directly from you, he replied.

## Advantages of Petitioning for Fiancee

1. It is faster because it is a nonimmigrant visa. The background check is not as extensive as it is for a wife.
2. There is less documentation required. The parties do not have to submit joint documents to show that there is a bona fide marriage, such as joint income tax returns, joint bank accounts, joint mortgage documents, joint rental agreements, etc.
3. The parties do not have to establish that the relationship was consummated. If

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Waipahu Intermediate Students to Compete in National Conference

Students from Waipahu Intermediate were among those who attended the Hawaii SkillsUSA Annual Conference & Competition, which was held at Sheraton Waikiki from March 12-13, 2009.

Waipahu Intermediate fielded five teams in the two-day event. One team entered the General Technology competition, two teams entered the Career Technology Challenge, and for the first time ever, two teams entered the Video Production Competition.

Kriztel Agpoon and Sharmaine Tiburcio comprised team four, while Jenalyn Ramos partnered with Marianne Joy Leano for team five. Both teams were the only middle schoolers in the video production competition. Their task was to create a 60-

second video that would inform and persuade students and adults to join a Career Technology Student Organization (CTSO). Teams were given six hours to film, edit and transfer their finished video to a laptop computer that was connected to a projector where it could be shown to the judges.

The teams from Waipahu Intermediate overcame several challenges during the competition and presented their respective videos to the panel of judges. Their scores were based on presentation, video quality, editing and other criteria. The following day at the awards banquet, Ramos and Leano were announced as first place winners in the video production competition. Tiburcio and Kriztel Agpoon placed fourth.

"We were very surprised

and honored to be Waipahu Intermediate's first ever team to win this competition," Ramos says. "We were blessed to have something like this happen. Our teamwork, hard work, training and perseverance paid off."

Two weeks later, advisor Renee Blue informed Ramos and Leano that they had qualified for the SkillsUSA National Competition in Kansas City from June 19-27, 2009. Their entry marks the first time that middle school students from Hawaii will be competing in the national event.

"We are glad and proud to have the opportunity to represent Waipahu Intermediate School, Waipahu as a community and the State of the Hawaii," Ramos says.

The students thanked advisor Ms. Blue, Edgar Ugale,



(Left to Right): Waipahu Intermediate students Sharmaine Tiburcio, Kriztel Agpoon, Jenalyn Ramos and Marianne Joy Leano competed in the Hawaii SkillsUSA video production competition. Ramos and Leano will represent Hawaii in the SkillsUSA National Competition in Kansas City.

Sparky Rodriguez, Zoe Tanaka and Chasity 'Aloha' Davis for helping them to prepare for the competition.

"Without their motivational words, love, and support, we wouldn't have come this far," Ramos says.

The school is asking the community's assistance in defraying travel costs for the competition. If you would like to help, please contact advisor

Renee Blue at: Renee.Blue@WAIPA/HIDOE @notes.k12.hi.us.

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. It has 13,000 school chapters in 54 states and territorial associations.

## Federal Grant to Help State DOE Track Student Performance

State educators will receive a federal grant totaling over \$927,000 to develop a statewide data system to track the individual performances of students over time with the goal of improving their achievements in the classroom.

The grant will enable the state Department of Education's Office of Information and Telecommunications Services to produce detailed data and analyses for decision-making and to meet requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001." The grant will fund development of the system software, provide necessary technology, address needs in staff resources and deploy training and support for users of the data system.

"The ultimate goal of this grant is to improve the academic achievement of our students," says U.S. Rep. Neil



Abercrombie. "The grant will enable state educators to improve their ability to capture and analyze test scores and other data over time and to track student performance from year to year."

The State DOE currently uses cross-sectional data, which provides snapshots of data at one point in time, to make critical decisions. However, a national movement in education is

relying more heavily on the measurement of educational achievement through the use of longitudinal data, which analyzes data over periods of time.

Proposed reforms to the No Child Left Behind Act also call for a greater emphasis on longitudinal data to show that student achievement is progressing over time, instead of meeting set benchmarks.

## Annual Patriots Celebration to Honor Fil-Am Vets

The Hawaii Foodbank will salute Hawaii's World War II Filipino-American veterans at the 14th Annual Patriots Celebration. The event is scheduled for July 2, 2009 at 6 pm at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom.

Veteran groups to be honored include the 1st and 2nd Filipino Infantry Regiments, Philippine Scouts, Guerillas and POWs.

Funds raised by the gala dinner will benefit Hawaii Foodbank's programs that feed the state's hungry. Guests are encouraged to wear red, white and blue to demonstrate their patriotic spirit.

Table prices (all tables seat 10) are the following:

- \$10,000 per Medal of Honor table



- \$5,000 per Silver Star table
- \$2,500 per Bronze Star table

Individual seats are \$200 per person. Sponsorship of honorees is also available. To inquire about sponsorships or advance reservations, contact Tiffany at (808) 836-3600 ext. 244; events@hawaiiifoodbank.org; or visit www.hawaiiifoodbank.org.

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## Consulate to Hold Day of Valor Ceremony

The Consul General of the Philippines in Honolulu is inviting the public to attend the Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor) ceremony to honor the bravery and sacrifices of Fil-Am veterans. The event is scheduled for April 6, 2009 at 4

pm at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Special guest will be Gilbert C. Teodoro, Jr., the Philippines' Secretary of National Defense.

The Day of Valor is a national holiday in the Philippines which commemorates the fall of Bataan during World War II and the tens of thousands of Filipino

and American prisoners-of-war who died during the infamous Death March. Many were executed by their Japanese captors or left to die.

Please RSVP before April 2 by contacting the Consulate at 595-6316 ext. 223 or 242 or via email at: Honolulupc@hawaii.rr.com.



# SOCIETY PAGE



▲ The recent PMAH Inaugural Ball guests representing the community-Contractor Lito Alcantra and other guests



▲ Pharmaceutical representatives Craig Sunada, Ken Thomas and Georgina flanked by Wayne Oshiro and Dr. Cora Hobbs-Oshiro



▲ Dr. Cielo Guillermo, main entertainer of the PMAH Inaugural Ball



▲ Punahou High School Chess Team placed 2nd in the recent Hawaii State Interscholastic Chess Championships held last March 14 at the Windward Community College. Shown here (l to r) are Max Tave, John Henry Iucker, Charles Dean Sonido, (President of Punahou Chess Club), Michael and Mark Flores



▲ Gentlemen wearing "Barong" - Satoru Izutsu, PhD., Bishop Larry Silva, and Jerris Hedges, MD, UH-JABSOM Dean



▲ Councilman Dr. Duke Bainum dropped by to greet PMAH president Dr. Celia Ona



▲ Drs. Dan and May Ablan, Dory Villafuerte, Drs. Avery Go, Arnold Villafuerte and Renato de los Santos



▲ Dr. Wendell Foo, JP Orias, Mrs. Susan Foo and Dr. Fernando V. Ona at the PMAH inauguration



▲ Rico and Erlinda Ferrer spending quality time together in Waikiki



▲ Congratulations to Sandra Sagisi-Moser (seated far right) newly appointed to the Mayor's Administration staff



▲ Happy 30th birthday for Glory Jane Ader (center) for Keck College of Medicine, University of Southern California (USC) (joined here by her classmates)



▲ La Salle Filipiniana Dance Co. performed at the Hawaii Convention Center during the Honolulu Festival recently



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**PHILIPPINE NEWS****PNPA Topnotcher: Public Service Knows No Gender**

**C**AMP CASTAÑEDA, Silang, Cavite, Philippines — "Public service knows no gender," this year's topnotcher at the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) said in her valedictory speech.

Inspector Roan Marie Bascugin graduated valedictorian of the 304-strong, male-dominated class of PNPA-Kaisang Bisig and will join the Philippine National Police (PNP), which is also a male-dominated organization.

"All men and women in service to the people are driven by the same passion to lead by serving others. Giving ourselves in our profession knows no bounds. Whatever burden we may be in, we are bound by the same oath."

Bascugin also thanked President Arroyo, who was the guest of honor and speaker at the graduation ceremony here, "for being a good model and inspiration."

"You are the epitome of a strong-willed woman in the service of the people. The traits you have manifested in leading the nation inspired me to aim for greater heights," said Bascugin.

The valedictorian, one of the 266 PNPA graduates to join the PNP, said "achieving this coveted plum proves that through hard work and perseverance, women are also capable of doing and achieving things that men have done before."

Addressing the President, Bascugin said, "I also understand that what you



Class valedictorian Roan Marie Bascugin stands at attention during the 30th commencement exercises at the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite yesterday. *Hanny Marcelo*

want is to have good, efficient and effective leaders and I am proud to say that in front of you are 304 adept and virtuous leaders. With more training and schooling, we shall work our way up towards the realization of our shared vision — peace."

In an earlier interview, Bascugin, daughter of Superintendent Rustico Bascugin, currently assigned to the Police Community Relations Group at Camp Crame, said she would be assigned to Central Luzon Police Regional Office (Region 3).

Meanwhile, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the DILG and the PNP have been trying to discipline members of the police force. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

**International Labor Organization: 90 Million New Jobs needed**

**M**ANILA, Philippines — Nearly 90 million jobs are needed to absorb the new entrants in the labor market and cut short the ongoing global financial and job crisis, the International Labor Organization (ILO) reported yesterday.

In a report titled the "Financial and Economic Crisis: A Decent Work Response," the ILO said close to 90 million new jobs are needed up to 2010 to avoid a prolonged jobs gap.

ILO Director-General Juan Somavia said governments also need to implement a "global jobs pact" to prevent the severe job crisis that could lead to a massive increase in unemployment and poverty.

"If stimulus efforts are delayed, the jobs crisis will be prolonged and employment may only start to recover by 2011," Somavia said.

In earlier financial crises, Somavia said the labor market recovered only 4 to 5 years after the economic recovery.

At this time, Somavia said, the international coordination to tackle the crisis is weak.

A study by the ILO among 32 member countries showed that stimulus plans stand

on average at 1.7 percent.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) earlier called for stimulus plans in the order of 2 percent of GDP (gross domestic product) in response to the crisis.

The ILO survey also found that the stimulus packages lean heavily toward financial bailouts and tax cuts instead of job creation and social protection and noted that on average, fiscal stimulus packages for the real economy are five times smaller than financial bailout packages.

"Only half of the countries examined have announced labor market initiatives and among those, the resources allocated to these measures are relatively limited," said Raymond Torres, Director of the ILO's Institute of Labor Studies.

The report also said that infrastructure programs do not adequately take into account the need to reinforce the existing capacity of businesses and skills supply — so that part of the infrastructure spending may result in higher prices, rather than higher production and jobs; some tax cuts will end in higher savings rather than higher demand, output and jobs; and little is done to help youth and other vulnerable groups. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# DPWH Executives in World Bank Mess Face Raps - Ombudsman

By Michael Punongbayan/  
Thursday, March 26, 2009

**M**ANILA, Philippines — Former secretary Florante Soriquez and 16 other officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) are facing charges of violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and other offenses after the Office of the Ombudsman found documentary evidence linking them to alleged anomalous bid-tings for World Bank-funded road projects.

Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni told The STAR the anti-graft agency and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will jointly probe alleged collusion between private contractors and government officials in the supposed anomaly.

The investigation of their Field Investigation Office (FIO) covers only the first phase of the fact-finding process since the Office of the Ombudsman does not have jurisdiction over private contractors, he added.

Jalandoni said First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was implicated in the alleged bid-rigging in a World Bank report based on alleged interviews with unnamed witnesses.

Mr. Arroyo can only be probed based on the testimonies of private contractors in the Senate hearings since the witnesses were never named, and the report was confidential, he added.

Jalandoni said their FIO tried to make use of the copies of the testimonies sent to them by the Senate by asking the World Bank to authenticate them.

However, the World Bank refused their request, he added.

The joint probe with the NBI will have to again call on the witnesses and have them testify on Mr. Arroyo's supposed involvement in the anomaly, as well as other government officials mentioned in the Senate hearings, he said.

Jalandoni said Soriquez, now a DPWH undersecretary, leads the list of officials who are being charged for grave misconduct, dishonesty, conduct prejudicial to the interest of the service, and neglect of duty based on provisions of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees before the Office of the Ombudsman's Preliminary Investigation and Administrative Adjudication and Monitoring Office.

Soriquez, as acting DPWH secretary when the biddings were held, should have rejected all bids that went beyond the approved budget for the contract, he added.

The strongest evidence against the respondents are documented bidding records that show supposed irregularities or anomalies in the process, he said.

Jalandoni said the World Bank rejected all three winning bidders due to findings that the detailed analysis of the original bids themselves reveal clear patterns of collusions among the bidders, and that in all three occasions, the lowest bids are some 15 percent higher than the estimate cost, which is indica-

tive of alleged bid-rigging.

Graft investigators found sufficient documentary evidence to show that a violation of the Procurement Law has been committed, he added.

All 17 DPWH officials are being charged for approving bids that went beyond the approved budget of the \$150-million National Road Improvement and Management Project-Phase 1, Jalandoni said.

Charged with Soriquez were Undersecretary Manuel Bonoan as chairman of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for Visayas and Mindanao projects; BAC Assistant Secretaries Bashir D. Rasuman, Salvador Pleyto, Juanito Abergas as BAC members; Mocamad M. Raki-in Sr., as Vice Chairman for the Mindanao area; and Rafael C. Yabut as Vice Chairman for Operations for Area III.

The anti-graft agency's investigators also found sufficient grounds to charge BAC members Emerson L. Benitez, who is also a Project Manager III and head of the BAC-Technical Working Group; Balamie P. Mamante, project director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development-Project Management Office (IBRD-PMO); Lope S. Adriano, the project director of the IBRD-PMO; lawyer Joel I. Jacob, officer-in-charge (OIC) of the legal service; Camilo G. Foronda, OIC of the Comptroller and Financial Management Services; Director Walter R. Ocampo of the Bureau of Construction; and Florencio I. Aricheta, a representative of the National Contractors Associa-



Assistant Ombudsman  
Mark Jalandoni

tion of the Philippines and the Philippine Construction Association.

Part of the World Bank-funded project covers the rehabilitation of the Maribatag-Barobo/Tagbina-Hinatuan section of the Surigao-Davao Coastal Road Contract Package, according to Jalandoni.

A bidding was held on Nov. 20, 2002 wherein the BAC recommended the awarding of the project to China Geo Engineering Corporation which had a bid that was 15.59 percent higher than the approved budget for the contract (ABC) worth P967,012,362.15.

The second part of the NRIMP-1 covers the rehabilitation of the Kabankalan-Basay/ San Enrique-Vallehermoso Road Hinoban-Basay/La Castellana-Canlaon Section Contract Package or CW-RU-1.6, which was later split into two projects as CW-RU-1.6A and CW-RU-1.6B.

For CW-RU-1.6A, a bidding was held on Aug. 8, 2006 wherein the BAC recommended that the project be awarded to the China Road and Bridge Corporation which had a bid that was 13.38 percent higher than the ABC of P642,396,537.65, according to graft investigators.

For CW-RU-1.6B, a bidding was also held wherein the BAC recommended that the project be awarded to China Wuyi Co. Ltd., which again had a bid that was 16.85 percent higher than the ABC worth P640,574,987.79.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez was not present during yesterday's presentation of the initial findings on the World Bank case as she was allegedly out attending to other matters. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## NPA Still RP's Biggest Threat

### - Army Chief

By James Mananghaya /  
Thursday, March 26, 2009

**M**ANILA, Philippines — Forty years running and the communist New People's Army (NPA) remains the country's biggest security threat, Army Chief Lt. Gen. Victor Brabado said.

"But we are confident that we are slowly able to reduce the strength of the firearms and membership (of the NPA) and we are optimistic that we can really bring them down to an insignificant level by the end of 2010," he said.



Brabado stressed the military would meet its target to downgrade the NPA to an inconsequential level by the 2010 deadline set by President Arroyo.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) earlier announced that military operations against the NPA during the past year had produced significant results in downgrading the rebel group's firepower and influence.

"Most significant is the re-

duction of the number of guerrilla fronts because at the start of the year they have 87," AFP spokesman Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said.

At the end of 2008, Torres said the NPA was left with 62 guerrilla fronts.

"So we can say now that we are hitting the communist terrorist movement simultaneously in their political and military components," Torres said.

He said that for the past year, the military reduced the NPA's manpower strength by nine percent from 5,760 to 5,239 at the end of last year. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Puno Defends PNP Probe of Estrada, Binay

By Cecile Suerte Felipe/  
Friday, March 27, 2009



charges against Estrada.

Verzosa said the gun, which Binay claimed to be a replica, has been impounded by the Central Visayas Police Office in Cebu for further investigation.

Puno said the main issue is if the gun is "a functioning 50-caliber machine gun, we have to... confiscate it."

"But if it is not, they should have painted it to make it clear that it is just a toy. The point there is it is not something we can trivialize," he said.

Binay asked why the PNP

had to form a task force just to investigate him and Estrada for gun-toting when the jeep had always been parked in front of the Carmen, Cebu police station.

San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito said the PNP is persecuting his father. "The Arroyo (administration) is acting like a criminal syndicate using the PNP and the (military) as its hitmen," he said.

Ejercito said Estrada remains a strong contender for the opposition in the 2010 presidential polls. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## Hatton Scoffs at Pacman's Money Shot

By Abac Cordero/  
Friday, March 27, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - Ricky Hatton, still heavy at 154 pounds with just over 30 days before the fight, laughed off claims made by Manny Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, that the British champ has a weak chin.

"Keep talking," said Hatton before bursting into laughter, as reported by ABS-CBN which has a man, bureau chief Danny Buenafe, in London trying to get and deliver the latest from the Hatton camp.

A few days ago, Roach said Pacquiao would go for the Hatton's chin and hope to put their May 2 showdown in Las Vegas to an early end.

"We're going for his chin. That's the money shot," said Roach.

But Hatton doesn't think it's going to happen.

"I'm a lot better. I'm taking shots moving the head, jabbing. I think the tape they've been watching, they've been watching the old Ricky Hatton. So they have to work," said Hatton.

The 30-year-old British is the reigning IBO light-welterweight champion, and Pacquiao will try to take it away from him, and emerge as one of the very few fighters to win five titles in different weight classes.

Hatton's trainer, Floyd Mayweather Sr., has some word war going on against Roach. He's not at it, when Hatton opened the doors to his Manchester training camp to the media Wednesday.

"I think that Ricky has better skills. Ricky will be backing the Pacman up against the ropes or in the corner, he'll (Pacquiao) be having a lot of problems right there," he said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## Chinese Chemist's Safehouse Raided in Makati

By Michael Punongbayan/  
Thursday, March 26, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - Anti-narcotics agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and operatives of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) raided another house in Makati City Tuesday night where chemicals used in making shabu were again found.

A Chinese national who is allegedly a top illegal drug maker for a criminal gang has been arrested, the country's anti-drug chief said Tuesday.

Police arrested Cai Xihe on Friday in a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory in Cainta town east of Manila, said Dionisio Santiago, head of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Santiago said Cai was among seven Chinese drug makers who have been arrested in

separate raids in Manila, suburban Quezon City and Cainta since last week. Police dismantled four clandestine drug laboratories and seized at least \$4.2 million worth of methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as shabu, he said.

He said Cai was a member of a Chinese triad, a mafia-like criminal gang. "We have dealt another crippling blow to the operations of drug-trafficking syndicates operating in the country with the arrest of Cai Xihe, a Chinese triad master chemist," Santiago said. He said Cai is wanted by the China National Narcotics Control Commission, which has demanded his deportation.

"They are afraid of being deported because they face the

death penalty in China," he said of the Chinese traffickers. The Philippines has abolished the death penalty.

The country's illegal drugs trade is worth an estimated \$6.3 billion to \$8.4 billion yearly, Santiago said earlier this year.

Last month, a US State Department report said the Philippines continues to face an "immense" drug problem despite efforts to disrupt major trafficking syndicates and dismantle clandestine labs.

Corruption among law enforcers and officials and vast stretches of unpatrolled coastline make the country an attractive narcotics source and transshipment point.

As of press time, other details of the operation remained



Chief PDEA Dionisio Santiago

sketchy in light of PDEA's claim that it was not the lead operating unit that conducted the raid.

The Chinese national is said to be holding a ranking position in the triad as based on a tattoo on his right hand's middle finger and how he is also wanted by the China National Narcotics Control Commission. - With AP ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))



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## LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

# H-1B Filing Reminders

a labor condition application (LCA) from the U.S. Department of Labor must be obtained first.

The LCA certifies that the employer will pay the prospective employee the actual wage given to similarly employed individuals or the prevailing wage, whichever is higher; that the working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers will not be adversely affected; and that there is no strike or lock-out at the worksite or the occupation for which the foreign worker is sought to be hired. There are additional attestations required by the stimulus bill.

If the employer has to file the LCA before April 1, he/she has to make sure that the employment start date on the LCA will be six months from its fil-

ing. The employment start date on the I-129 form petition for H-1B will however be October 1, 2009, which is six months from April 1. The expiration date for employment indicated on both the LCA and the I-129 should jibe and not be more than three (3) years from the start date indicated on the LCA.

The documentation for the petition must show that the alien-worker is qualified for the specialty occupation and the particular job offered by showing that he/she has earned the appropriate academic degree in the field of work or a combination of education and experience equivalent to that degree.

If the degree has not yet been conferred but the beneficiary can show that he/she has completed all the requirements

and thus "earned" the degree, a statement or documentation by the authorized school official/s may be presented. Only authorized school officials qualified to give this information may provide this statement.

An employer cannot file multiple petitions for the same H-1B worker. This will result in the denial and forfeiture of the filing fees. However, related employers (principal and subsidiary or affiliate) may file different petitions for the same worker for different positions as long as the petitions are based on a legitimate business need, and they can prove that the worker is qualified for these positions.

F-1 students whose status will expire before October 1, which is the start of the 2010 fiscal year, will be allowed to re-

main in the U.S. pending the adjudication of the H-1B petition and change of status request.

The documents must be accompanied by proper filing fees including the base fee of \$320.00, ACWIA fee of \$750 or \$1,500 (as applicable), fraud fee of \$500.00 and optional premium processing fee of \$1,000. The USCIS prefers separate checks. Incorrect fees may result in denial of the petition.

A request for premium processing will not increase an applicant's chance to be included in the quota. But it will make the notification of his/her selection faster.

*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)*

## MAINLAND NEWS

## New York Times Awards Fil-Am Teachers

Two Filipino-American teachers were recently honored as the New York Times 2009 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Teacher of the Year Awardees.

The two are Rosemarie E. Parreno, an ESL continuing education teacher at Hostos Community College, and Nestor Villamil Tebio, an instructor and program manager at Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens.

Now in its third year, the ESOL Awards Program recognizes instructors who have con-

sistently gone above and beyond the call of duty to help students learn English and to develop the skills needed to succeed in their new lives in the U.S.

Parreno arrived in the U.S. in 1986 as an exchange teacher scholar at Northern Illinois University. She was an ESL teacher/supervisor for five years at the International Catholic Migration Commission, a U.S.-funded organization for refugees bound for America. She started teaching ESOL from her love of culture and languages.

In New York City, she has spent the past 22 years teaching

ESL courses in various adult education programs. Overall, Parreno's teaching career has spanned 40 years. While she has received seven previous awards for excellence in teaching, the New York Times award is the most prestigious.

Tebio started his English-language career in the Philippines at the International Catholic Migration Commission. He earned his Master's degree in management at the University of the Philippines. He also took life skills training at

Columbia University and paralegal training at the Center for Immigrant Rights. The courses paid off when he started integrating them into his ESL curriculum.

His says that his students at the Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens are his "inspiration and sunshine of my life in this part of the world." (*Good News Pilipinas*)

## Pacquiao Named 2008 Fighter of the Year

The awards keep piling up for Manny Pacquiao. Last week, he was named the 2008 Fighter of the Year by the Boxing Writers Association of America (BWAA).

The BWAA has been bestowing honors upon the sport's best athletes, trainers and other participants since the 1930s. Pacquiao last won the award in 2006. His cornerman, Freddie Roach, was voted trainer of the year—the third time he has won the award.

The southpaw from General Santos City is considered by many as the best fighter pound-for-pound in the world. Pacquiao won three times in

three different weight classes in 2008. He began in March by winning his rematch against Juan Manuel Marquez. Pacquiao moved up to lightweight in June and stopped champion David Diaz in nine rounds. Then Pacquiao moved up to welterweight to thoroughly defeat Oscar De La Hoya in December.

Pacquiao will be honored along with other recipients at the 84th Boxing Writers Association of America's annual awards dinner, scheduled for June 12, 2009.

Next up for Pacquiao is a May 2, 2009 bout against British fighter Ricky Hatton. (*Good News Pilipinas*)

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## PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

## DAYASADAS



ni Pacita Saludes

**T**inawen a selebraran ti Gumil Hawaii ti anibersariona. Pebrero 28, 2009 ti kultural festival ti maikatallapulo ket walo a pangagawenno GH. Sabali a wagas. Sabali a disso ti Pagoda Hotel International Ballroom ti nangiyawatannan ti Mrs. Perlita Tapec Sadorra ti koronana a Mrs. GH 2008 a kaduana da Rita Sagucio, Mrs. Bagel Bacigang Vangie Somera iti reyna 2009 ti Mrs. Gloria Raquedan, reyna ti 2009 Mrs. GH a kaduana da Melita Basconillo, Mrs. Daniv ken Mrs. Emma dela Cruz, Mrs. Nobela.

Ni Cirivilina Longboy presidente ti OFCC ti kadua ni Perlita a nangisaad ti korona ni Mrs. GH 2009. Da Lynn Gutierrez ken Consul Paul Cortez ti nangisaad ti korona ni Melita Basconillo. Napusek ti International Ballroom. Nabuya dita ti nadumaduma a salsala manipud kadagitit sumasala ti komonidat. Kasta met dagiti makumanta a nangiparang ti Kultura ni Ilokano.

Addan nasukok a tallogasut ti babbalasang ken natangannan ti nangitultulog ken nangpanagayot ti biag ti GH manipud idi naorganisar idi Enero 1971. Isuda ti nangted tulong a nangi-

# Tallopuolo ket Walon Ti Tawenmo Iha! Adda met laengen Naaramidan?

tungpal ti gandatna nga agililbro kadagitit gapuanan dagiti manurat. Mataginayon ti tradision ken kultura babaan kadagitit Drama a maisurat ken maiyakto iti entablado babaan ti kabaellan dagiti tignay dagiti dramatista. Tallo pulo ken liman a drama ti naipabuyan ti Gumil Hawaii a nakaray-awan dagiti nagbuya.

Ni Dr. Ariel Agcaoil ti nangisurat ti drama a naipabuya idtoy a pang-anibersario ti GH. Napauluan ti RUK-AT ken isu met laeng iti director. Nagake-man dagiti uma-akto ti GH.

Makapnek ti rikna ti pangakanta da Lydia Abaho ken Julie Dosco. Naganayag ken naurnos ti pangasasurano ti programa babaan ti natarabit a nangiwannan (Master of Ceremonies) ni Mr. Julius Soria.

Naiyawat met ti plake a manayon a pamadayaw iti nangirugi kadagitit amin nga araramiden ti Gumil Hawaii (organizer idi Enero 16, 1971). Inrugi ni Pacita Cabulera Saludes mayas kadagitit organisasion ti Gumil Filipinas idi 1968 isay Baguio City a nagsapataanda nga immuna nga opisyalen ti Gumil a nagsapata isay Malacanang.

Naggappu ti pamadayaw iti GH babaan ken Presidente Brigido Daproza ken Dr. Ariel Agcaoil iti UH. Inyawat da Dr. Belinda Aquino, Cirivilina Longboy ken Lilia Santiago.

Indatag met ti advisor Pacita Cabulera Saludes dagiti gapuanan ti GH iti pangagayna a kas



Aw-awaten ni Mrs. Pacita Saludes ti plake a pamadayaw ti pangorganisasion ti Gumil Hawaii a masalelebraran ken mailultuloy agingna ita 38 a napalabas a tawen. Manipud kada Dr. Belinda Aquino, Cirivilina Longboy ken Presidente ti Gumil Hawaii

Pangulo iti GH tallopuolo ket lima a tawen (35 years). Libro a naglaon iti napasasamak iti ummona a dekada, maikadua a dekada, maikatlo a dekada ken ti libro a naglaon dagiti sinuratna ti Author a naipabuyan ti GH a pinauluan ti author ti "Gapu ta patpatgenka". Inyaawatna kenni Consul Paul Cortez para iti Libreria ti Philip-

pine Consulate iti Honolulu.

Impananama ti organizer nga ad-adu pay a bunga (dagiti libro ti aramiden dagiti Gumilians iti Hawaii).

Kalikagulm ti organizer ti ad-adu pay a bunga nga intalag dagiti Mannurat ti GH ken kasta met ti Annak Ti Kailokuan Iti Amerika nga ibagbagnosna. Masapul a makita ken ipakita ti

agadma ken masakbayan. Gapuanan ti pluma ti rumbeng nga ipakita dagiti sumusurat ta isu ti nakaisangratnana.

Urayen dagiti sumarsaruno a maipadama a maibunga ti GH babaan ti lunggalong dagiti sumaruno ken agadma a mangur-unos ti Gumil Hawaii. "Kunaen a ti lua ti pluma ti makaigawid kadagitit aramid ken pampanunot dagiti manurat a mataginayon para iti masakbayan".

Gumil Hawaii natangig ken naragsak ta adu ti naringnaga a rikna, pampanunot ken kabaellan tapno surotenda ti tugot na babaan kadagitit iysuatda a kas sayagitit ti nasneban nga isip a kayatna na met nga ipakita a namamsnek dagiti busel a mangdayas ti law-ang dagiti "kumukur-it" (manunurat). Ipakita dagiti maaramiden. Dagita ti tawid a maibati para masakbayan.

Good Luck Gumilians! Manipud iti Dumadayasadas.

## GLOBAL NEWS

## Filipino Seamen Boost Japan's Maritime Industry

**F**ilipino seamen are world-class and over 70 percent of Japanese maritime operations are now manned by Filipinos, according to an executive of a world leading company that manufactures and distributes construction and mining equipment, utilities and industrial machinery.

"Japanese maritime shipping operations now rely on Filipino sailors for about 70 percent of their crewmembers," says Toshitaka Hagiwara, senior advisor of Komatsu Ltd., who spoke at the recent 28th joint meeting of the Japan-Philippines

Economic Cooperation Committee (JPECC).

Komatsu, Ltd. has done business in the Philippines for several decades.

Hagiwara says nearly all major Japanese shipping companies have opened maritime crew training facilities in the Philippines in hopes of hiring highly qualified Filipino sailors. As evidence of Japan's trust and confidence in Filipino seamen, many have been promoted to officers, chief engineers and other management level positions.

Filipino seamen comprise a major segment of the overseas

Filipino workers (OFWs) sector and have consistently been a major source of dollar remittances that have for years boosted the Philippines economy.

According to Doris Magsaysay-Ho, president and chief executive officer of Magsaysay Maritime Corporation, there are over 28,000 Filipinos currently working on Japanese ships who remitted over more than 3 billion dollars last year.

Over 200,000 Filipinos currently live in Japan, which has widely opened its doors to Filipino nurses and caregivers. (Good News Philippines)



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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

**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 Agcaoli 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](http://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 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

**DIVINE WORD COLLEGE OF LAOAG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII (DWCLCAAH), 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 Yo 699-9814

**TIMPUYOG AND ILOKANO BASH SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET / FRIDAY**

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

**FILIPINO FIESTA, PARADE AND SANCATRUZAN / SATURDAY**

May 9, 2009 • All day starting at 8 am. • For inquiries, call Fil-Com Center at 680-0451

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROJECT / SATURDAY**

June 13, 2009 • 9:30 am - 1:30 pm • Likelike Highway & Kalihii Street • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828

**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](mailto:juncolme@yahoo.com)

**VISAYAN CENTENNIAL EVENTS**

**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

**COVO STATEWIDE CONVENTION AND CENTENNIAL GALA**

August 2009 • Kona Big Island

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