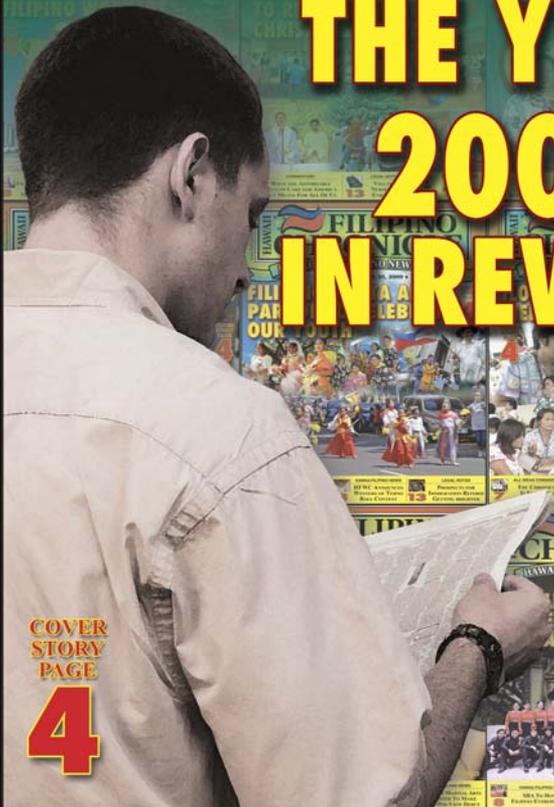


HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

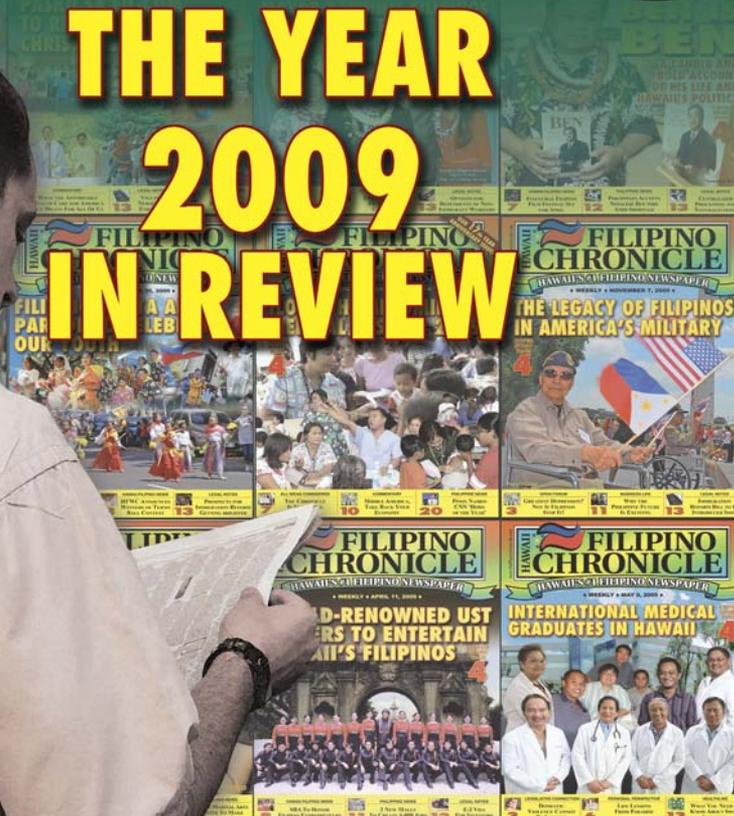
◆ WEEKLY ◆ JANUARY 9, 2009 ◆

THE YEAR 2009 IN REVIEW



COVER
STORY
PAGE

4



11

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

**FAMILY, FRIENDS
REMEMBER CHRIS
PABLO**



13

LEGAL NOTES

**NEW IMMIGRATION
BILL FAVORABLE
TO FILIPINOS**



15

GLOBAL NEWS

**FILIPINO NAMED TO
WWF INTERNATIONAL
BOARD**

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE
94-356 WAIPAHU DEPOT RD., 2ND FLR.
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 9661

EDITORIAL

Best Wishes for a Successful 2010

January 1, 2010 marked yet another milestone in our lives. A new year has begun and with it comes a time for hope, renewal of spirit and belief that 2010 will be much better than 2009. Many of us have resolved to exercise more. Eat less. Save money. Get a better job. Quit smoking. Or get organized.

If making resolutions is your cup of tea, consider adding to your list an activity that will allow you to safely disconnect from the pressures of life and a hectic schedule. You see, 2010 is bound to bring several highly-stressful and unresolved issues from the previous year—issues such as the bad economy, high unemployment, on-going wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, health care reform and public worker furloughs. Hence the importance of taking a few moments every now and then to step back from the daily grind.

Perhaps the best advice we can offer for the New Year is to live in the present and embrace the “here and now” as much as possible. Enjoy being around your loved ones and take pleasure in those little things that can often escape us when our attention is demanded elsewhere. Time is precious and given the nature of our schedules and responsibilities, being able to spend that time with loved ones this coming year is priceless.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of living in the “here and now,” cherishing our loved ones and creating a happy and memorable experiences for 2010. Make quality time with family your highest priority and take more time to enjoy their company.

Is It Time to Legalize Gambling in Hawaii?

2010 could very well be the year of living dangerously for Hawaii’s residents, if the State Legislature doesn’t come up with ways to meet a projected \$1.2 billion budget shortfall. With the economy still in shambles, lawmakers need to explore every possible funding source, including legalized gambling.

As with the contentious mass transit project, legalized gambling has been debated *ad nauseum* with both sides presenting plausible arguments for and against it. Opponents cite the social costs of legalized gambling, particularly on Hawaii’s poor, elderly and least educated residents whom studies show tend to suffer most from gambling’s ill-effects.

Other alternatives to balance the budget would require raising the excise tax (which the governor opposes), cutting state programs, laying off workers or raiding special funds. Any or a combination of these proposals are bound to impact the poor, elderly and least-educated residents, who incidentally, are already suffering from the bad economy.

Even if approved, gambling won’t occur overnight. It should take two years or even longer to draft the rules to govern the industry. It is during this two-year window that safeguards should be put in place to address social concerns. Hopefully the economy will improve after two years, which would justify the rationale to start small and limit gaming to casinos aboard cruise ships outside of Hawaiian waters and in select hotels for visitors. Gaming should not be a feature attraction for our visitors, but an option should they desire to try their luck. And to prevent gaming from breeding problem gamblers or changing our islanders’ personality, it should be highly-regulated. Another built-in safeguard would be to allow the State to shut down gaming after an arbitrary period, say 10 years, which would be enough time to

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Happy New Year to our faithful readers and welcome to the first issue of 2010! Many of you rang in the New Year in traditional local style—with fireworks, family, food and fun. We trust that all of you enjoyed a very happy and safe celebration.



Here at the Chronicle, it has become customary to begin the first issue of the New Year with a review of the top stories that impacted Hawaii’s Filipino community. Looking back at the events of the past 12 months not only allows us to relive our successes but also provides valuable lessons from any mistakes we have committed. The top story of 2009 was undoubtedly the overwhelming response by the Filipino community to a call for help for typhoon victims in the Philippines. Like a flood, generous donations of cash, clothing and other items poured in from many individuals as well as from various Filipino community and social groups. Thank you for your generosity! This proves once again that by uniting together as a community, we Filipinos can accomplish great things. We hope you will enjoy reading about the Top 12 news events of 2009 beginning on page 4.

Over the past few years, many non-profit groups have folded or drastically cut programs due to dwindling support. If your non-profit organization is in need of funds, you may want to consider applying for a grant from the Hawaii Filipino Heritage Fund, which is administered by the Hawaii Community Foundation. Last year, grants were awarded to three very deserving Filipino non-profit groups. If interested, please keep in mind that the deadline to submit applications is March 31, 2010. Qualifications and other information are available on page 6.

Lastly, we wish to send our condolences to the family of Chris Pablo, who passed away last December 2009. Described as a cancer warrior, Chris was perhaps the most prominent spokesman in Hawaii for cancer patients and survivors. The Chronicle interviewed him years ago when he was first diagnosed with the disease. He was upbeat and determined to beat the odds even back then and continued to remain positive even to his last days. A celebration of his life was held last Friday at St. Andrew’s Cathedral. We hope you will take time to read more about this remarkable individual in a brief article on page 11.

In closing, thank you once again for supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. It has truly been a pleasure to serve all of our readers over the past year. We will always strive to serve the community and to provide you with timely and useful news.

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

gauge its true effects.

If there was ever a time for our elected officials to dip their toes into the gambling pond, it is now. Gaming should not be looked at as the magic pill that solves our budget woes, but rather as a new and viable source of revenue for a state struggling with a massive budget deficit. Many won’t like it, but something drastic has to be done to right the State’s economic ship.

ROY M. YOSHINO

A LAW CORPORATION

Auto Accidents, Personal Injury
Workers' Compensation,
Wrongful Death



Over 25 Years of Experience

CALL (808) 735-2331

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

Publisher & Executive Editor
Charlie Y. Sonido, M.D.

Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors
Dennis Galolo
Edwin Quinabo

Creative Designer
Junggo Peralta

Design Consultant
Randall Shirota

Photographer
Tim Llena

Administrative Assistant
Shalimar Pagulayan

Columnists
Carlota Ader
Carlo Catiz, M.D.
Sen. Will Espero
Grace F. Fong, Ed.D
Mayor Mufi Hannemann
Gregory Linda Lingle
Ruth Elnya Mabanglo, Ph.D.
J.P. Orias
Paquita Saludes
Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.
Charlie Sonido, M.D.
Emmanuel S. Tipon, Esq.
Fellya S. Tubera
Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

Contributing Writers
Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.
Clement Bautista
Teresita Bernales, Ph.D
Linda Dela Cruz
Fleides Doctor
Gregory Bren Garcia
Danny De Gracia, II, MA
Amelia Jacang, M.D.
Caroline Julian
Rosemarie Mendoza
Paul Metwin Palalay, M.D.
Glenn Wakai

Philippine Correspondent
Gull Franco

Big Island Distributor
Elmer Acasio
Ditas Udani

Maui Distributor
Cecile Piroso

Molokai Distributor
Maria Watanabe

Advertising/Marketing Director
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives
Carlota Ader
J.P. Orias

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. It is mailed directly to subscribers and distributed at various outlets around Oahu and the neighbor islands. Editorial and advertising deadlines are three weeks prior to publication date. Subscriptions are available at \$75 per year for Oahu and the neighbor islands, continental U.S. \$80, foreign country \$90. Copyright 2008. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone (808) 678-9030 Facsimile (808) 678-1829. E-mail: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Website: www.thefilipinochronicle.com. Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

MAYOR'S COLUMN

Best Wishes to All in the New Year



By Mayor Mufi Hannemann



appy New Year and *Manigong Bagong Taon!* This is one of my favorite times of the year, a time to enjoy the companionship of loved ones, to bask in the cheer and goodwill of the holidays, and to put aside our problems so we can greet the new year with renewed hope and optimism.

I hope everyone has been having a wonderful holiday season. We celebrate in many ways in Hawaii, our customs and traditions reflecting the diversity of our island people. We also celebrate the successful journeys that people have made, from distant lands, to come to this special place to live in peace and brotherhood.

For all people, whatever our origins or beliefs, this time of the year gives us a moment to reflect on our many blessings, to continue to pledge our respect for the dignity of all people, and to offer a prayer that peace and goodwill will prevail in this world—as it does among us in Hawaii.

For many of our neighbors, the holidays this year are a time of recently felt separation as their loved ones serve our nation in places far from these island shores. To them, I offer my prayers that peace and joy will someday prevail in their trou-

bled lands, and that their sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, will return safely to their families.

President Barack Obama's recent announcement that Honolulu will host the 2011 APEC summit was a wonderful early Christmas gift to all of us, and I'm very pleased that the president chose to enjoy Christmas here with his family and several close friends. I made it a point to greet him at the airport to let him know how much we welcome him.

To honor our nation's first Hawaii-born president, I have proposed to name after him the popular park that's commonly referred to as "Magic Island." This park's official—but seldom used—name is 'Aina Moana. Changing it to President Barack Obama Beach Park at Magic Island would honor our president and make official the park's popular name. Other U.S. cities have already named schools and parks after our president, so why shouldn't his home town name a special place after him?

In other news, we recently launched a new application system for determining eligibility for TheHandi-Van, the City's paratransit service for people with disabilities who are unable to independently use TheBus.

The new, more personalized system involves an In-Person Assessment of all applicants, whether new to TheHandi-Van service or renewing eligibility, at no cost. This eligibility assessment replaced the previously required written application and Certification of

Eligibility from applicants' health care or disability service providers. However, applicants will have the option of submitting such information for consideration as part of their Assessment, which is provided free of charge. For more information, please call the Department of Transportation Services Paratransit staff at 768-8300.

This promises to be a big year for public transportation, and we should finally break ground on the rail transit system we have needed for so long. We recently reached a risk management agreement with 12 of the major private sector labor unions that guarantees no work slowdowns or stoppages during construction of the project.

The Rapid Transit Stabilization Agreement (RTSA), which my Managing Director Kirk Caldwell and our City staff worked very hard to achieve, was signed by the participating labor unions protects the City against strikes, lockouts and similar job disruptions, while ensuring that the project's contractors will hire both union and non-union workers at comparable pay and standardized work hours, days and conditions.

This monumental agreement ensures there will be local jobs from the project to stimulate the local economy. The RTSA will prevent any labor disputes that would disrupt the rail project during these fragile economic times, jeopardizing jobs and the livelihoods of workers and increasing the cost and schedule of the project.



Mayor Hannemann signed the Rapid Transit Stabilization Agreement with 12 unions

The importance of this labor agreement goes beyond ensuring local jobs. By preventing any potential work stoppages, it helps to keep the project on time and on budget, which benefits taxpayers.

Train service for the first leg of the transit route is scheduled to begin in 2012, with full service along the entire 20-mile route from East Kapolei to Ala Moana in 2019.

The City and Kiewit Pacific Company recently signed the construction contract for the first phase, from East Kapolei to Pearl Highlands near Leeward Community College. The con-

tract to design and build elevated guideway for the first 6.5-mile portion of the rail route came in \$90 million lower than initially anticipated because of the economic slowdown.

The train stations along the rail route are to be constructed in separate future contracts. Separate contracts are scheduled to be awarded next year for the train storage and maintenance facility in Waipahu, and for the manufacturing and shipment of the core systems that includes the train vehicles.

It won't be long now! Let's all keep working together to make rail transit a success.

visit our websites @

www.thefilipinochronicle.com

and

www.efilipinochronicle.com

and enjoy the e-copy of the hawaii-filipino chronicle!

PICTORIAL NEWS



PHILIPPINE CONSULATE HOSTED PHILIPPINE AIRLINES' CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR HAWAII TRAVEL AGENTS The Philippine Airlines Hawaii Office hosted a special Christmas Party last December 17, 2009 for travel agents, with Consul General Leoncio R. Cardenas, as Special Guest. Ms. Mary Ann Cabrerros, PAL Manager, expressed her appreciation to the Hawaiian Association of Filipino Travel Agents (HAFTA) as PAL's steadfast partner in 2009 even as Hawaii tourism posted its worst figures since 1970. Shown in photo are Mary Ann Cabrerros, Val Saban, Letty Saban, Diplomat Travel, Edith Guño, Everlasting Travel, Rose Galanto, Aloha Travel and President of HAFTA, Maggie Domingo, Director, HAFTA, May Severo and other PAL personnel.

LEEWARD OAHU PHARMACY

A FULL SERVICE PHARMACY
Call us for your prescriptions and refills. Always low prices with good service. Come in and meet us.

We are located on the Second Floor of
Dr. CHARLIE SONIDO'S Medical Clinic

**94-837 WAIPAHU ST., 2ND FLOOR
WAIPAHU, HI 96797 • PHONE (808) 677-9611**

**M, TU, TH, FRI 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
WED. SAT 8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON**

**CARLOTA FAJARDO--Manager
MILTON CHANG--Pharmacist**

The Year 2009 in Review

By HFC Staff

The start of a new year is traditionally a time for self-reflection. Some make impossible-to-keep New Year resolutions, while others take a more pensive approach and reflect on accomplishments over the past year.

For many Filipinos, 2009 began with the dawn of the new Obama administration and renewed hope for a brighter future. As the year progressed, news headlines were dominated by the economic recession. Other stories grabbed the nation's attention, in particular the death of pop megastar Michael Jackson and fears of a swine flu epidemic.

Locally, the top news was no doubt "Furlough Fridays"—a cost-cutting measure agreed to by Gov. Lingle and public labor unions that shortens the public school year by 17 days. Other local stories also impacted the Filipino community in 2009. The following are the top 12 as reported by the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle:

12. Pasko! at the Fil-Com Center

This event is quickly becoming a favorite community event and is perhaps 2009

only to the Filipino Fiesta & Parade in terms of involvement and bringing together the entire Filipino community. What's great about Pasko! is that you don't have to travel to the Philippines to enjoy a traditional Filipino Christmas. Instead, you can enjoy uniquely Filipino Christmas traditions all under one roof—traditions such as Panunulayan (re-enactment of the Christmas story); Simbang Gabi (morning mass); Noche Buena (the Christmas Eve meal); Namamasko (Tagalog for "caroling"); and many others.

Kudos to the Fil-Com Center and a host of Filipino community organizations for organizing this spectacular event!

11. New Philippine Consul General Assumes Post

Last July, Leoncio R. Cardenas assumed his new post as Consul General of the Philip-

pines to Hawaii. He replaced Ariel Y. Abadilla, who was assigned as the Philippines' first ever ambassador to the Republic of Ireland.

Cardenas is a well-respected and experienced senior diplomat of the Philippine Foreign Service. He and the Consulate staff have continued to offer passport issuance and renewal, absentee ballots for domestic elections, visas and other necessary documents related to work, study or travel in the Philippines. Under Cardenas' watch, the Consulate has been more involved in social and civic events involving the Filipino community. To help bridge the gap between local and immigrant Filipinos, he has encouraged both sides to join more community-related activities.

Cardenas is a good fit for Hawaii. His previous experience here in 1984 puts him ahead of the game. Being from



Ilocos Norte, he has an automatic connection with Hawaii's vibrant Ilocano community. And with his passion for the arts, particularly in music, Cardenas has supported community events that promote Filipino culture and tradition.

10. Ilocos Surian Medical Mission

In mid-December, several dozen physicians, nurses, medical professionals and volunteers left Hawaii for the 2009 Ilocos Homecoming Medical Mission. Held every two years, the ISAH mission is intended to meet the medical needs of poor patients in the Philippines. The 2009 mission treated an estimated 15,000 patients in seven towns across three provinces, including those affected by recent natural calamities.

The ISAH mission is unique in that organizers have incorporated holistic healing and a myriad of non-medical events, including singing and talent contests and scholarship exams all meant to raise the spirits of families in Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte and neighboring areas and provide them with a very memorable 2009 Christmas.

9. Filipino Community Celebrates Annual Fiesta

Thousands attended the annual Filipino Fiesta—Oahu's signature Filipino Celebration—which is now in its 17th year. The Fiesta is a fun-filled,

day-long event that celebrates all things Filipino—from food, music, folk dances and crafts. The Fiesta featured three exciting events: the morning parade from Fort DeRussy to Kapiolani Park, the Fiesta at Kapiolani Park, and the evening Santacruz. Organizers estimate that over 30,000 people were in attendance, despite the down economy.

The goal of the Fiesta is to celebrate and share the rich Filipino culture with other ethnic groups. Attendees feel an overwhelming sense of unity and community—no Tagalog, Visayan or Ilocano—just Filipino.

8. Filipino Chamber of Commerce Trade Mission

The Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii's (FCCH) 21st Annual Trade Mission was held from November 6-21 and brought together hundreds of investors, business people and public officials from Hawaii and the Philippines. Accompanying FCCH members were Mayor Hanemann and cabinet members, City Councilmembers Nestor Garcia and Romy Cachola.

This year's trade mission focused on Hawaii real estate investments and international banking and finance, as well as Philippine outsourcing opportunities; the development of new markets especially in the areas of architecture, engineering, and environmental consulting; and the identification of



"HELPING AMERICA, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME"

We Are Legal Referral Service Marketing Company, Experienced Attorneys Nationwide

Are you struggling to pay your mortgage?

Are you falling behind on your bills?

Do you want to lower your mortgage payment without refinancing?

CALL TODAY TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY
FOR OUR LOAN MODIFICATION AND OR DEBT RESOLUTION

LOAN MODIFICATION

(100% Money-back Guarantee)

DEBT RESOLUTION

(Zero upfront fees and no back fees)



MARISSA MULL

www.marissamull.com

BUSINESS: (808) 842-9932 or
CELL (808) 372-5702

OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 10 AM - 6 PM
SATURDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

LOCATED AT:
(ABOVE LOULEN'S RESTAURANT, NEXT TO JESSIE'S BAKERY)
**1125 N. KING ST., SUITE 301
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817**

COVER STORY

products and services that can be exported to Hawaii. The mission also strengthened Honolulu's sister-city relationships with Baguio, Cebu, Laoag, Manila and Vigan.

7. Mayor Hannemann Appoints Filipinos to Cabinet Positions

After a General Election in which he was criticized by an opponent for a lack of Filipino appointees to his cabinet, Mayor Hannemann announced that he would add three pinoy to his administration. They included Manny Lanuevo, Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental Services (ENV); Jeffrey Cudiamat, Director of Department of Facilities Maintenance (DFM); and Sandra Sagis, Deputy Director of the Department of Customer Services (CSD).

All three were eminently qualified for their positions in City government, particularly Cudiamat, a well-respected engineer who is now the top man at DFM. Lanuevo is no slouch either and is a seasoned engineer in his own right. Then there is the immensely talented Moser, who has earned her stripes as a news reporter and is a perfect fit at the CSD, where she is second-in-command.

The Filipino community was pleased with the appointments of qualified Filipinos to upper level management positions in government for the sake of bolstering ethnic pride and ensuring that Filipinos have a voice in key decision-making.

6. Farewell to Corky and Cory

Last February, political cartoonist Corky Trinidad passed away at age 69 due to complications from pancreatic cancer. The Manila-born cartoonist developed a knack for skewering politicians in his caricatures. Among his favorite targets early in his career was former Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, which got him into hot water. He fled the Philippines and moved to Hawaii, where he joined the Honolulu Star Bulletin in 1969. During his 40 year career, Corky's cartoons, which were humorous and mixed with a touch of genius, won many fans throughout Hawaii and the world.

A few months later, Hawaii's Filipinos mourned the passing of another icon—this time it was former Philippine



2009's Bests: World's pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao and CNN Hero of the Year Efren Peñaflorida

president Corazon "Cory" Aquino. Nearly 100 people attended a requiem mass at the Philippine Consulate to honor her memory. Aquino, 76, died after a year-long battle with colon cancer. She will be forever remembered as the courageous housewife who did the unthinkable—topple a corrupt and ruthless dictator and inspire non-violent resistance against authoritarian rule.

5. The Visayan Centennial

2009 marked the 100th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Visayan immigrants to Hawaii. The Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO) celebrated the occasion with various activities statewide for the entire year, including the Visayan Century Awards Gala in July at the Hale Koa Hotel and at COVO's 22nd Annual Statewide Convention in August on the Big Island.

Visayans comprise between 10-15 percent of Hawaii's Filipinos. They have over the years made their mark in Hawaii's history, particularly in politics with former Gov. Ben Cayetano, entertainment with TV personality Emme Tomim-bang and actress Tia Carrere and sports with former boxing champ Ben Villalón—to name just a few.

4. Cayetano Releases New Autobiography

Benjamin J. Cayetano, America's first ever Filipino governor, provided a rare glimpse into his private life and times with his 560-page autobiography entitled "Ben: A Memoir, From Street Kid To Governor."

The book chronicles Cayetano's background, rise to the top, as well as his personal triumphs and struggles. He fought many battles during his combined 28 years in office. He championed numerous causes, won as many friends as he did enemies, but never backed away from controversial issues or difficult decisions. His ac-

complishments, which broke barriers and opened doors for people of all races to achieve their dreams, have inspired Filipinos everywhere.

3. Hawaii's Filipinos Cast Votes For CNN "Hero of the Year"

In a heart-warming story, Efren Peñaflorida, Jr. was named Cable News Network's (CNN) "Hero of the Year" for his efforts to champion the cause of impoverished children in the Philippines and to inspire them to become dynamic and proactive members of society. For the past 12 years, he and volunteers from the Dynamic Teen Company have taught basic reading, writing, math

and naflorida received an additional \$25,000 for ranking among the top 10 finalists.

2. Filipino veterans receive long-awaited benefits

After a decades-long struggle, Filipino veterans of World War II were finally granted U.S. military benefits, thanks to a \$198 million provision in the stimulus bill approved by both houses of Congress and President Barack Obama. The provision authorized one-time payments of \$15,000 to Filipino veterans who are U.S. citizens and \$9,000 for non-citizens, including those in the Philippines.

The promised benefits were bittersweet for Filipino Vets whose numbers continue to dwindle with each passing day. The consensus among veterans' supporters was that it was better for the remaining veterans to at least see some benefits rather than to pass on

with nothing at all. For many of the veterans, particularly those in poor health and living in the Philippines, the one time payment certainly helped to defray medical expenses.

1. Aloha from Hawaii to Typhoon Victims

Filipinos may bicker and grumble amongst each other about the pettiest of details but when push comes to shove, the community has rallied time and again to help its own. This was never more evident when the call went out for assistance for typhoon victims.

A host of fundraisers were held by various organizations including the Fil-Com Center, the Philippine Consulate, University of Hawaii students and others. Broadway sensation Lea Salonga got involved and promised to donate a portion of the proceeds from her November concert to victims.

Not to be outdone, the Chronicle got into the giving spirit and partnered with a phone card distributor to provide 3,000 free phone cards to low-income families in Hawaii who could not afford to call relatives affected by the typhoons.

Personal Injury
Asbestos Mesothelioma
We can help you get justice.



Loreto M. Vitoria, Paralegal

- Auto Accidents
- Industrial Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Help you get to medical appts.
- Home and hospital visits
- Help with insurance forms
- Help you with legal forms
- Help with car and towing

If you've been seriously injured in an auto or industrial accident, please call Loreto M. Vitoria at our Waipahu office. He has over 19 years experience working with attorneys to help injury victims understand their rights and insurance procedures. We speak fluent Tagalog and Ilocano at our Waipahu office and treat every client like family. There is no charge for an initial consultation and no fee if there's no recovery.

GARY GALIHER
 GALIHER DE ROBERTIS ONO
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW / LAW CORPORATIONS

Call 24 hours Office: 676-5665 Cell: 227-2333

LEGAL MATTERS

The Worst Christmas (and Birthday) Gift



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon



What do you do with a gift that you don't like and told the potential giver that you don't want it?

The gang of 60 woke up early on Christmas eve to cook this turkey so that they could please their leader and let him fly to sunny Hawai'i for his Christmas vacation. His route to the Marine Corps base where he played golf was lined with protesters complaining about Obama care, abortion, Afghanistan, blah blah blah. What a far cry from his enthusiastic reception a year ago before he took the oath as president. There were no protesters then. Just happy campers wanting to shake his hand.

Did the Senators have to rush approval of the Obama care bill on Christmas eve? Couldn't they have waited until after the New Year? Oh, they were giving me a birthday gift, too? That's the unkindest cut of all.

Who among them has read

this 2,000 page bill word for word? Is the one who says "yes" willing to swear on a stack of Bibles? Careful, the Carolina congressman might shout: "You lie."

Why will I not call the Senators "honorable"? They are lucky they are not called like how they call them in the Philippines: "Senathugs". As Al Neuharth, USA Today founder and a fellow Gannett (I used to work for Gannett newspapers in Rochester, NY), headlined: "Health care deals may make you sick."

He said: "If the Senate version of the health care bill becomes law, some of the political bargains made may make you feel sick. . . Senators from several states carved out special deals for folks back home. Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., got the most goodies because his was the critical last of 60 votes needed for Democrats to avoid a Republican filibuster."

Here are the sordid details: "Nelson coerced the Senate leadership and the White house into agreeing that in his state, the federal government will pay for all new Medicaid enrollees forever." In other states, federal and state governments pay for it, from our taxes, naturally. "Senators from Connecticut, Louisiana and Vermont also

maneuvered substantial homestate deals." Not in Hawai'i. Our Senators were for Obamacare from the beginning. So they could not make a deal in exchange for their votes. In the cowboy days, they called it "horse trading." But they had no horse to trade. Just their votes.

Mr. Neuharth warns: "If President Obama permits these Chicago-style politics to continue, he may lose the whole health care deal or public acceptance of it."

Criminalizing health care

The Senators brag that their bill will extend "new coverage" to more than 30 million. A Democratic aide on Capitol Hill said that the bill "simply makes people criminals if they don't buy expensive insurance from the private corporations that helped create the health care crisis in the first place."

Where are the doctors and nurses who will take care of this 30 million? The Senators did not provide for their immigration.

Mortgaging our children's future

Most of the beneficiaries, like the illegal aliens, won't have the money to pay for Obamacare. You and I and our children and grandchildren will have to shell out more money

for taxes.

If you are a good father of a family and want to cover all possible illnesses that you and your family might suffer from, which logically will cost more than the garden variety health policy, the government will tax you saying it is an "expensive" policy.

Seniors drop dead

Medicare coverage will be cut. Okay, "trimmed". They say that there is a lot of waste and fraud. But why kill grandpa and grandma? Just stop waste and fraud. The Senior Advantage program will be eliminated, except in one state where their senator made a deal. Under this program, a senior pays a premium to a health care provider in exchange for services beyond Medicare. They say that the government is giving something to the health care providers who provide Senior Advantage. Really? So take away your doggone contribution, but let me keep my Senior Advantage. I will work much harder so I can make up for the contribution you claim you are giving.

Serenity Prayer

As I write this, I am looking at the embroidery that my beloved fashioned containing the Serenity Prayer attributed

to Reinhold Niebuhr:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change those things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference."

For me, I will take W.W. Bartley's Mother Goose rhyme:

"For every ailment under the sun
There is a remedy,
or there is none;
If there be one,
try to find it;
If there be none,
never mind it."

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He is based in Hawaii where he specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filam-law@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. He is from Laoag City, Misamis Oriental, Mindanao. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed." an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Listen to the most interesting and humorous Hawaii radio program on KN2I AM 1270 every Tuesday and Friday at 7:00 AM. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness at the time of publication.)

RAIL TRANSIT UPDATE

City Moving Closer to Start of Honolulu Rail Transit Project

The City and County of Honolulu continues to move closer to groundbreaking of the Honolulu Rail Transit Project once work is given the go-ahead by state and federal officials.

With the project's final environmental impact statement scheduled for release early this year, groundbreaking will begin once the governor accepts the document and the Federal Transit Administration gives its approval.

City managing director Kirk Caldwell said construction of rail transit will be the biggest economic stimulus project once underway this year.

"Once work begins, we'll immediately be investing \$330 million in our economy in 2010 alone and creating 4,000 construction jobs by the



end of the year," said city managing director Kirk Caldwell. "This project will pump up our economy during this recession, generating tax revenues that will benefit the entire state and fund essential government services."

In preparation for construction, the city in November also signed a historic Rapid Transit Stabilization Agreement with 12 private sector labor unions to help ensure the Honolulu Rail Transit Project is completed on

time and on budget, while ensuring local jobs for local people.

This agreement between the city and 12 unions minimizes potential labor risks over the life of this \$5.4 billion project. It guarantees against strikes, lockouts, and other job disruptions that would jeopardize jobs and the livelihood of workers and their families. It also provides comparable pay and standardized work hours, days, and conditions, whether a worker is union or non-union.

Caldwell, who helped negotiate the agreement with the labor unions, said all parties involved in the construction of future rail segments, including the selected contractors, must be signatories to this agreement.

"The agreement ensures the majority of the 4,000-plus construction jobs being di-

rectly created by rail transit will go to workers living and raising their families in Hawaii," Caldwell said.

"Local workers will spend their hard-earned wages at home and that will boost the economy even more."

TIRED OF PAYING HIGH COSTS FOR YOUR COMPUTER MAINTENANCE?

NOW, YOU CAN AVAIL OF LOWER COSTS AND FEES FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

CALL US AT 636-4071
PLEASE LET US HELP YOU
IN THIS TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES!



DENTAL



VISION



HEARING

The Medicare you deserve

At 'Ohana we think you deserve more. That's why we offer plans with dental, vision and hearing benefits. It's health care coverage that makes a whole lot of sense. With our 'Ohana Value (HMO-POS) Plan, you'll also enjoy other great things like a choice of great doctors.

There's still time to get a new Medicare plan!
SO CALL NOW to meet with your
neighborhood rep or to join us for a
Medicare Advantage event in your area.

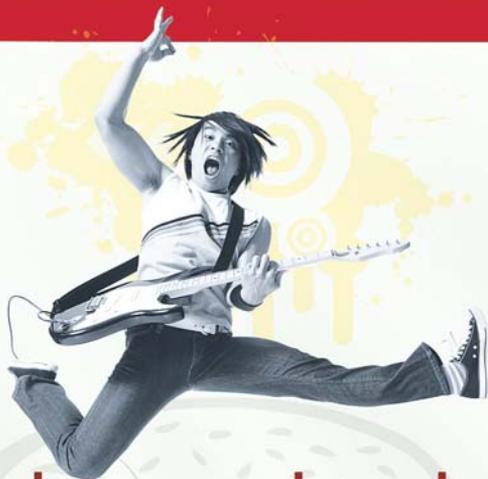


Call now to find out
how to get your
Gift Tote Bag at no cost!

1-877-214-2352
TTY: 1-877-247-6272
24 hours a day. Seven days a week.
E-mail us at Aloha@ohanahealthplan.com
www.MyOhanaGift.com



'Ohana Health Plan, a plan offered by WellCare Health Insurance of Arizona, Inc. WellCare is a health plan with a Medicare contract. Benefits and limitations may vary by plan and by county. The benefit information provided herein is a brief summary, but not a comprehensive description of available benefits. Additional information about benefits is available to assist you in making a decision about your coverage. This is an advertisement; for more information contact the plan. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. A sales representative will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call 1-877-214-2352 (TTY: 1-877-247-6272). There is no obligation. A variety of Medicare Advantage plans may be discussed. Limit one per person. Please contact 'Ohana for details.



“May bagong areglo sa classic na paborito ko.”



new **mac**
SNACK WRAP™

Ang sarap ng classic McDonald's® Big Mac® ko, nasa awesome **NEW** Mac Snack Wrap na – 100% beef, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles and onions, all rolled up in a handy wrap. Ayos! Kahit saan, kahit kailan, may Big Mac moment ako with my Mac Snack Wrap. Kaya tuloy lang ang tugtugan. Rock on!

\$1.49*



i'm lovin' it®

*Prices and participation may vary.

WE WISH EVERYONE A
BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR!

kwhetv 14

OCEANIC CABLE,
CHANNEL 11

• **FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT.**
• **INSPIRATIONAL.**
• **COMMUNITY ISSUES.**

**LOCAL AND NATIONAL
INSPIRATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

- SUPERIOR LIVING
 - Pacific Revival Center
- CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
 - Wayne Cordero
- VOICE OF ZION
 - Lyons Welch
- TAP IN, NOT OUT
 - Jay Amina
- WORD OF LIFE
 - Art Sepulveda

SPORTS

Hawaii TV Bowling
HPU Basketball & Volleyball

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION

Go For It • Real Life 101 • NASA •
Ultimate Choice • Zone

BOOK'EM DANO

HAWAII 50

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
7 PM
THE BEST OF HAWAII
TV CLASSICS

For advertising, call

Tel: 538-1414 (office) • 772-3374 (cell)
or email: dwhitelaw@lesea.com

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

**Local Radio Program to Highlight
Filipino Writings**

“Aloha Shorts,” a locally-produced radio program of writings from Bamboo Ridge Press, will pay tribute to various Filipino writers at a live taping scheduled for January 10, 2010 at 6:45 pm in Hawaii Public Radio’s Atherton Studio.

Special guest musicians will be the University of Hawaii Filipino Rondalla, comprised of Bernard Ellorin, a Ph.D. student in music on the *bandurya*; Stuart Nago, Kapiolani Community College faculty member on the guitar; and Ricardo D. Trimillos, professor at UH’s ethnomusicology Asian Studies Program on the *okatina*.

The featured reading from the latest Bamboo Ridge Press publication “In the Company of Strangers” by Michelle Cruz Skinner is an excerpt from her short story “Beautiful,” performed by Donalyn Dela Cruz, former news reporter and current public affairs director for Bishop Museum.

Other Filipino writers honored at this Aloha Shorts taping include the following:

- Eileen Tabios, “The Autobiography of Commodities: Installment No. 9: Filipina Brides” and “Force Majeure.” The latter will be read by Stephanie Kong.
- Jennifer Santos Madriaga, “My Grandfather, the New American.”
- Noel Abubo Mateo, “Accent Reduction” (read by Cheyne Gallarde) and



Donalyn Dela Cruz

“Beautiful Ilocano.”

- Normie Salvador, “Waipahu One Morning” (read by Cheyne Gallarde).
- Kenneth Zamora Damacion, “The Islands.”
- Darlene M. Javar, “Drinking Games” (read by Stephanie Kong).

Admission to “Aloha Shorts” tapings is free but seating is extremely limited and reservations must be made by calling HPR at 955-8821.

The shows are broadcasted Tuesdays at 6:30 pm on Hawaii Public Radio’s KIPO 89.3 FM. Please visit www.bambooridge.com or www.hawaiipublicradio.org for more information. To hear recordings of past shows or to subscribe to podcasts, go to <http://feeds2.feedburner.com/AlohaShorts>.

Growing Up Filipino, Part II

Philippine American Literary House has recently released *Growing Up Filipino II: More Stories for Young Adults* which targets Filipino and Filipino American readers.

The book is a collection of short stories and is the second volume of the “Growing Up Filipino” series in which various Filipino American writers explore the universal challenges of adolescence from the unique perspectives of teens in the Philippines and in the U.S.

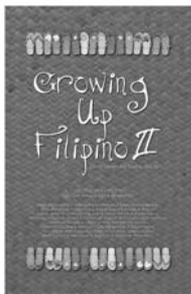
Growing Up Filipino II: More Stories for Young Adults collects 27 stories by Filipino and Filipino American writers who explore the universal challenges and experiences of Filipino teens after the historic events of 9/11. Despite the modern demands on them, Filipino youth continue to deal with the universal concerns of growing up, including family, friends, love, home, budding sexuality and leaving home. The stories are written by well known as well as emerging writers.

The contributors are: Dean Francis Alfar, Katrina Ramos Atienza, Maria Victoria Beltran, M.G. Bertulfo, Cecilia Manguerra Brainard, Amalia B. Bueno,

Max Gutierrez, Leslieann Hobayan, Jaime An Lim, Paulino Lim Jr., Rebecca Mabanglo-Mayor, Dolores de Manuel, Rashaan Alexis Menses, Veronica Montes, Charlson Ong, Marily Ysip Orosa, Kanna Claudine D. Peña, Oscar Peñaranda, Edgar Poma, Tony Robles, Brian Ascalon Roley, Jonathan Jimena Siason, Aileen Suzara, Geronimo G. Tagatac, Marianne Villanueva.

The book is edited by Cecilia Manguerra Brainard, author and editor of over a dozen books, including *When the Rainbow Goddess Wept*, *Magdalena and Acapulco at Sunset* and *Other Stories*. She edited *Growing Up Filipino: Stories for Young Adults*, Fiction by Filipinos in America, and *Contemporary Fiction by Filipinos in America*. She co-edited four other books and wrote *Fundamentals of Creative Writing* (2009) for classroom use. Her third short story collection, *Vigan and Other Stories*, is forthcoming. Ms. Brainard teaches at UCLA-Extension’s Writers Program.

Growing Up Filipino II: More Stories for Young Adults is available online from Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.



HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Family, Friends Remember Pablo

Hundreds bid a fond farewell to Chris Pablo, a role model and advocate for people with cancer, during a celebration of his life at St. Andrew's Cathedral on January 8, 2010.

Pablo passed away on December 9, 2009 at age 59. Despite a 14-year battle with cancer, he maintained a positive outlook and was actively involved with numerous community and business organizations.

He joined the law firm of Goodstill Anderson Quinn & Stifel in 2007, where he focused on government relations

and health policy. Prior to that, Pablo worked as director of public affairs for Kaiser Permanente for 15 years.

A graduate of St. Louis School, he attended Santa Clara University and earned degrees in accounting, law and later a CPA designation. He worked as a special assistant to U.S. Sen. Dan Inouye and was later appointed director of government affairs for the Hawaii Medical Services Association.

Pablo was a frequent visitor at the State Legislature where he worked tirelessly as an

advocate for patient rights

and helped to develop legislation to promote organ and anatomical gift donation. Colleagues remember him as a gifted speaker who rarely missed opportunities to promote improvements in health care, patient care and bone marrow registration.

Pablo served as past Chairman of the Board of the Cancer

Society in Hawaii, volunteered with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, was a member of the Steering Committee of the Hawaii Department of Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition and co-chaired the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Cancer Care in Hawaii.

According to childhood friend Audy Kimura, one of Pablo's last requests was for his family and friends to stay connected and in touch even after he was gone.



Chris Pablo

"One of his greatest joys was bringing people together," Kimura says.

For all of his accomplishments and community service, Pablo will be most remembered for the compassion he showed towards fellow cancer patients and their families.

"Chris could never say 'no' to any cancer patient or their family," says his wife Sandy. "Whether he knew them or not, he was there for them immediately. He drove himself so hard to help anyone in need."

Pablo is survived by his wife Sandy, sons Chris "Kawehi" Enderton, Nathan and Zachary, brother Michael, mother Rufina Pablo and a grandson.

Dizon to Chair 2010 Ko Olina Taste at Kapolei

The Rotary Club of Kapolei has named new member Dion Dizon as chairman of the 2010 Ko Olina Taste at Kapolei.

She succeeds Sonya Mendez, who stepped down in November after two years of overseeing the popular culinary event that attracts 1,500 people annually and has raised more than a \$1 million in the past 10 years for educational charity, including career training programs designed to create a job-ready workforce for future employers.

As chairwoman of the Ko Olina Taste at Kapolei, Dizon will be responsible for planning, organizing and coordinating this year's event. A key feature of the event is dozens of tasting tents

where attendees can sample food from more than 20 restaurants at the Ko Olina Resort and Marina.

A professional events coordinator, Dizon was inducted in November 2009 as a member of the Rotary Club of Kapolei.

"We have great confidence in Dion's ability to steer our club's largest fundraiser in a desirable direction," said Marietta Bustamante, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Kapolei. "Her leadership skills and commitment are evident to all who meet her. Also, her talent and personal qualities, as well as her experience and knowledge of event planning will allow for



Dion Dizon

a seamless transition and her vision will set the stage for a strong future."

As an events coordinator, Dizon has organized several wellness events, training seminars, and educational workshops for small businesses. She is also an on-site coordinator for Moloka'i Ka Hula Piko, an annual native Hawaiian festival on Moloka'i produced by Halau Hula o Kukuuaokala.

For more details on the Ko Olina Taste at Kapolei, please visit the Rotary Club of Kapolei's website at www.kapoleirotary.com.

poses and camera clicks by these two parols, the two seemed to be the most photographed parols of 2009 Pasko! Whether they rushed or took time to create the parols, the 16 parol artists/craftspeople surely had some satisfaction in bringing out their special skills and artistry.

Like the resulting parols, the various 2009 Pasko! @FilCom activities ensured that there was something for everyone. Veteran community leaders worked hand-in-hand with emerging leaders: Seasoned Pasko! goers mingled and chatted with first-time attendees; Certain *Filipiniana* activities brought feelings of nostalgia: *bibingka* and *lubi-lubi* making and tasting demonstrations, *kadang-kadang* and *pabtin* games, "Mano Po, Lolo at



Lola" activity, *bahay kubo* building facade, and *sorbets* selling, and many more; The bands, choirs and their carols made expatriates miss distant family members and friends more or brought relief to their longing for *Pinas*; Philippine heritage were rediscovered and expressed in children's coloring and cutting of Christmas cards, paper jeepneys, or mini-parols; The diversity of *Filipiniana* ethnic attires added to the festive

ambiance; Pasko attendees expressed appreciation whether the offering was an energetic *Kolintang* music or a mellow *aklung* music, Thai-oriented plate lunch or Filipino *merienda* munchies, hugs from friends or handshakes from political candidates, and a spiritual Catholic mass or the more worldly business of awarding free Hawaiian Airlines round-trip tickets to the Philippines.

Photos: www.filcom.org

PHILIPPINE NEWS



Delivery Boy Gets P111-million Lotto Win

By Perseus Echeminada / Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010

the five-digit combination, while 14,193 won the four-digit combination.

MANILA, Philippines - A 37-year-old delivery boy from Parañaque City became an instant multimillionaire after winning the P111,242,358 Super Lotto jackpot draw last Dec. 29, an official of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said yesterday.

The lucky player is the fifth to win over P100 million since January last year. The other winners include a 43-year-old taxi driver who won P150 million in September.

Larry Cedro, PCSO spokesman, said the lucky winner bought the ticket with the winning combination 15-27-17-37-18-11 at the Randy Alejandro Franco outlet in Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City.

The driver was accompanied by his wife and three children when he claimed the prize last Tuesday.

"The lucky winner claimed his prize Monday. He was accompanied by a lawyer and a media man," Cedro said, adding the player bought four sets of tickets with number combinations picked from his birthday, his girlfriend's birthday and her house number.

He said he intends to put P100 million in the bank and the remaining amount will be used to purchase properties, pay debts, help relatives and to donate to charity.

"The winner intends to donate P1 million to charity and deposit the money in the bank," Cedro said.

The driver bought three number combinations worth P60, which represent significant events in the lives of his family, such as birthdays and wedding anniversary.

Aside from the lone jackpot winner, 78 other players picked

Last Tuesday's winner is the 169th winner of the Super lotto game since it was launched in 2000.

The Super Lotto generated the biggest lotto jackpot - P340 million - last February, which was shared by two lucky winners from Pasig City and Caloocan City. (www.philstar.com)

FAMILY CORNER



By Grace Fong, Ed.D. and Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

Read in the New Year!

As you “ring in the new year,” consider making or reaffirming a resolution to “read in the new year”—to read every day with your children and read more yourself. Reading is one of the most valuable skills children can learn. Reading helps to develop curiosity, imagination, and thinking skills, while providing opportunities for children to develop stronger language skills and vocabulary. Most importantly, reading aloud with children is one of the most effective ways parents can help them develop early reading skills, a lifelong love of reading, and a close bond with you.

Start reading to your child from the time he is born! When you cuddle and read aloud to your baby, it helps him learn to trust you and feel secure. This bond is an important foundation that allows him to learn and grow. Reading to your baby will help him connect words and sounds he hears with what he experiences, and learn through his senses—seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching as he begins to examine characteristics of the world around him.

When reading to babies, re-

member that their attention spans differ greatly; young babies can pay attention for only a few seconds! Read books with bright, colorful pictures and talk about and point to each picture. Hold your infant while you show him the pictures and talk about them. For example, “This dolphin is big. This myna bird is small.” As your child gets older, encourage him to participate. Let your baby touch the books and point to the pictures. Ask questions like “What does the dog say?” Then follow up with a simple answer: “The dog says ‘Bow wow.’”

When reading to a toddler, name an object in a picture and ask your child to point to it: “I see the blue ocean. Where is the blue ocean?” Point to each picture and ask your child who or what it is. “Is this a banana?” Describe the objects or make up simple stories about them. Before you turn the page, ask him what he thinks is on the next page. Although he may not be able to answer yet, questions will encourage him to think about what might happen next in the story. When he is able to, let him turn the pages. This will help your toddler to use and strengthen small muscles in his hands and fingers and to develop eye-hand coordination.

Don’t worry if your child likes to read the same books all the time. He learns by seeing and hearing things over and over. Reading to your toddlers helps him learn to interact with others and increases his observation, listening and understanding skills, and attention span. It also helps him begin to recognize math concepts like numbers, sizes, shapes, and sequences.

Preschool-aged children are still developing many reading-related skills. You can help your child develop these skills by encouraging him talk about the pictures or help you tell the story as you read a variety of books including stories, rhymes, poetry, and nonfiction.

Talk with your child and ask questions about the stories you read, for example: “How do you think ___ (the character) feels?” or, at the end of the story: “What was your favorite part?” Make stories “come alive” for your child as you read by changing the tone of your voice to match the mood of the story. For example, you can use a loud voice when there is a lot of action or a quiet voice when something sad or scary is happening. Keep books where he can reach them to look at when he wants to. Involve your preschool-aged or older child in creating books of his own. Let him draw (or cut and paste) pictures on sheets of

paper and tell you about each picture. Write his words on each page. Encourage him to “read” his book to you; the story may change each time, but that’s okay.

You can encourage your child’s love of reading by reading yourself. As your child watches you read books and magazines, he sees that you value learning and that reading is enjoyable. Your child will want to imitate these behaviors. Make reading time fun and enjoyable! The time spent reading together builds strong emotional bonds between the reader and the child. Helping your child to become a reader is a gift that both you and your child will benefit from for years to come.

MAKING YOUR OWN SPECIAL BOOKS

TO FURTHER INCREASE YOUR CHILD’S INTEREST

in reading as well as encouraging his imagination and creativity, make your own special books with him. Cut out pictures from old magazines of common objects your child likes and glue onto cardboard or sheets of paper. You could also use photos of an outing such as a trip to the beach or Grandma’s house, photos of your child and other family members, or even old greeting cards. If you prefer, draw simple pictures of things you think your child will like. Don’t worry about how well you draw. Your books can also have different themes such as animals, flowers, or things with wheels. Staple or punch holes on one side of the pages and tie them together to make a book. Print the names of each picture and look at the book together.

You can also make a peek-a-boo book. Cut some big pictures from old magazines – the bigger the picture, the better. Get a composition notebook and cut a page into several horizontal strips. First, ask your child not to peek and then put a picture behind the strips. Turn over one strip at a time to reveal a part of the picture. Ask him to guess what the picture is before you lift up the last strip. Making these types of books are not only fun but will also help your child start to recognize that objects exist even though they cannot be seen.



SAFETY ALERT!

Scissors and glue should be used by adults and kept out of reach of young children. Infants and toddlers are too young to know how to use these materials safely. When your child gets older (three to four years old), let him practice cutting with blunt, child-sized scissors.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Surge in OFW Inflows a Sure Sign of Investor Confidence, says GMA

By Paolo Romero /
Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - President Arroyo said yesterday the continuing increase in record remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) is an indication that the Philippines is a good place to invest.

In her remarks at the launching of the “saba” banana farming and virtual poultry program in Davao City, Mrs. Arroyo said when her administration started in 2001, remittances amounted

to about \$8 billion sent home by eight million OFWs.

She said the current trend appears to be that OFWs are not just sending money to support families back home but also to engage in businesses or invest in some ventures.

“The numbers haven’t really changed much because in the deployment, there are returns,” Mrs. Arroyo said. “But although the numbers have not changed much, the amount has doubled to \$17 billion today, and one of the reasons for that is that they are not spending own money for the subsistence

of their families, they’re sending home money in investment.”

She noted that from Canada alone, the remittances from OFWs increased 26 percent last year “because the Philippines is a safer haven for investment.”

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has predicted that remittances would grow at least six percent this year.

Economists have attributed the growth in the local real estate and construction industry to such remittances. (www.philstar.com)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.
**BOARD CERTIFIED
FELLOWSHIP-
TRAINED
EYE SURGEON**

**Same Day
Appointments
Available**

Hawaii Medical Center West • St. Francis Med. Plaza West
91-2139 Fl. Weaver Rd. # 202 • Ewa Beach

677-2733

**FREE Parking / Next to The Bus Stop
Staff speaks TAGALOG & ILOCANO**



- COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE
- CATARACT SURGERY
- GLAUCOMA
- DIABETIC EYE CARE
- PTERYGIUM
- MACULAR DEGENERATION
- LASIK VISION CORRECTION
- ADVANCED CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION
- SUNGLASSES, EYEGLASSES & CONTACT LENSES

LEGAL NOTES

New Immigration Bill Favorable to Filipinos



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Filipinos will be among those who will specifically benefit from the comprehensive immigration reform bill that was introduced in the House last December 15.

The bill will reduce the existing visa backlogs in the family and employment-based visa categories and will exempt nurses and physical therapists and the sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans from the annual numerical limitations.

Filipinos have the longest wait time for family-based visa numbers. The January 2010 Visa Bulletin shows their waiting time as follows:

- (1) Unmarried sons and daughters of citizens – 16 years.
- (2) Spouses and children of permanent residents – 4 years; unmarried sons and daughters of permanent residents – 11 years
- (3) Married sons and daughters (21 years or over) of citizens – 18 years
- (4) Brothers and sisters of citizens – 22 years.

Under the bill, unused family and employment visas from 1992 to 2008 will be re-

captured and all future unused visa numbers will be rolled over to the next fiscal year. These recaptured visas would add hundreds of thousands to the visa pool and as a result, some preference categories will probably become current while the others will have a considerable reduction in their visa number wait.

In addition, spouses and children of lawful permanent residents who are now classified under the second preference will be upgraded to the immediate relative classification, thus exempting them from the annual cap.

The percentage limit of visas issued for each country will be increased from the current seven (7%) percent of the worldwide total.

Other provisions favor stepchildren and children of fiancés of U.S. citizens.

The fiancé's child will be protected from aging out of eligibility to adjust to conditional resident states as his eligibility for immigration benefits will be based on his age at the time the U.S. citizen files a petition for the fiancé or spouse.

The bill will also ensure that immediate relatives of the deceased petitioner will be allowed to pursue their immigration petition even after the petitioner's death.

The bill also recognizes the contribution of Filipino World War II veterans by exempting their sons and daughters from the annual visa cap. This is of vital importance

since these veterans are aging and time is of the essence when it comes to their dream of family reunification.

Finally, nurses and physical therapists will be able to immigrate immediately as the bill will exempt them from the numerical limitations. Most nurses and physical therapists are recruited from the Philippines to ease the shortage of health professionals. But because they are classified under the employment-based third (3rd) preference category, they have to wait for up to seven (7) years for their visa numbers.

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

Ampatuan Jr. Pleads Not Guilty to Slays

By Cecilia Suerte Felipe / Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., the primary suspect in the massacre of 57 people in Maguindanao last year, pleaded not guilty yesterday to multiple counts of murder.

Ampatuan Jr., represented by lawyer Sigfrid Fortun as defense counsel, entered the plea of not guilty during the trial presided by Quezon City regional trial court Branch 221 Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes at the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters at Camp Crame.

"Not guilty," Fortun told the court when asked to enter a plea as Ampatuan Jr., dressed in a pink and white striped polo shirt, stood beside him.

"The accused was arraigned and entered a plea of not guilty for 41 counts of murder," Solis-Reyes later announced before a jam-packed court.

Solis-Reyes adjourned the hearing until Jan. 13 after the prosecution asked to present over a dozen witnesses to block Ampatuan's application for bail.

Before the arraignment, Fortun asked the court for an interpreter, saying his client wanted the charges to be read in the Maguindanao dialect.

Solis-Reyes told Fortun to confer with Ampatuan Jr., who later gestured that he would pre-

fer the charges were read to him in English.

More than 30 heavily armed escorts from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) took Ampatuan to the Police Non-Commission Office (PNCO) in Camp Crame.

The PNCO had been converted into a special court as ordered by the Supreme Court for security reasons.

The court barred live news coverage of the hearing as anti-riot police and fire trucks stood by at the Camp Crame's three main gates.

Ampatuan Jr. was accused of leading 100 of his men in stopping a convoy carrying supporters of a political rival and journalists in Maguindanao on Nov. 23.

The victims were systematically murdered and buried in shallow pits or dumped in grasslands near a remote highway in Ampatuan town.

Those killed in the worst political murders included pregnant women and about 30 journalists.

Ampatuan Jr. pleaded not guilty to 41 counts of murder yesterday, but is expected to be charged with 57 counts when the death certificates of the other victims are finally processed by the police and the NBI.

The murder complaints involving 16 other massacre victims are still pending before the Department of Justice (DOJ).

After the arraignment, Solis-Reyes directed Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon to proceed with the presentation of witnesses on the motion for bail filed by the defense.

Fadullon presented Ricardo Diaz, chief of the NBI's Anti-Terrorism Division as the first witness against the petition for bail of Ampatuan Jr.

Fortun then questioned the relevance of Diaz's testimony to the case but Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, who was interviewed after the hearing, maintained Diaz's statement is relevant considering that he led NBI agents in gathering statements of witnesses in the crime.

Fadullon informed the court that the prosecution intended to present a total of 12 witnesses to support their opposition against the petition for bail.

Fortun tried to block Fadullon's presentation of witnesses to support the accused's petition for bail by asking a conduct of preliminary conference.

Solis-Reyes, however, ruled that the prosecution could present their witnesses.

She asked Fadullon to limit the number of witnesses to be presented against the petition for bail to expedite the trial.

'A good start'

Malacañang said the smooth start of the trial yesterday augurs

well for the search for justice for the victims.

"It certainly has been a good start," presidential economic spokesman Gary Olivar said.

"It's been orderly so far and the judge has appeared to be in control of the proceedings which is the way it should be in proceedings like this," he said.

Relatives of the victims said they hoped for a swift trial, but were also prepared for a drawn out legal battle.

"I believe we will get a speedy trial," said Myrna Reblando, whose husband Alejandro was among the journalists slain.

Police Officer 1 Elivar Cablitias, whose wife Maritess was

among the 30 journalists slain, said other relatives of the victims became furious over the not-guilty plea by Ampatuan Jr.

"Where is his conscience? He is more than an animal. He should go to hell," Cablitias said.

Cablitias, vice chairman of the newly formed "The Heirs of the 11/23 Maguindanao Heroes," said the relatives of the victims are now apprehensive over the status of the case.

"We do hope that swift justice will be served for the victims and for us. We are so worried that this could lead to a white-wash, considering the power and influence of the Ampatuans," Cablitias said. (www.philstar.com)

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



Board-certified ophthalmologist
 U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer,
 Philippines
 San Marcelino, Zambales
 1988 to 1990
 Tagalog and Ilokano spoken

SPECIALIZING IN:

- CATARACT AND LASER SURGERY
- COMPLETE EYE CARE
- EYEGASSES AND CONTACT LENSES
- CATARACT •GLAUCOMA •PTERYGIUM SURGERY

Call (808) 678-0622 for appointments
 94-307 Farrington Highway, Suite B7a
 Waipahu, HI 96797

PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

Ernesto Pasion: Filipino Auditor iti Kauai



BY
By Amado I. Yoro

Saanen a maudi ni Filipino no iti liderato ken pagsaanan ti gobierno ni pagsasaritaan. Pinaneknekanen dagiti napalabas nga eleksion ti kalibre ken kabaalan ni Filipino. Uray iti agdama, adda dagiti kadaanan iti saad iti gobierno ken politika.

Itay la nabii, nadutokan ni Ernesto Pasion iti daytoy kaburuan nga opisina iti auditor iti Kauai.

Babaen iti email, impakaammona itoy nagsurat nga isu ti umuna nga agtaguag iti kina-auditor iti Kauai County. Toy puesto a kina-auditor ket resulta ti eleksion 2008 babaen iti amendamiento ti city charterda iti nasursurok pay dua nga apagkatlo ti nagbotos iti WEN [15.921] ket 5,210 iti SAAN.

Iti nayon ti impormasiona, daytoy baro nga opisina ket agserbi iti sakup ti lehislatibo, nalabalabes pay ngem iti opisina ti County Clerk. Kayatna a sawen iti hurisdiksion ti County

council, saan ket iti opisina ti mayor, wenna sanga chekutibo.

Daytoy nga opisina ti mangkrita ti pannakaipakat ken pannakaipagna iti nasuyad a pannakausar dagiti nalatang a pondo ti ili, agraman payen dagiti programa ken operasyon ti ania a departamento ken ahensia ti turay iti Kauai.

Sakbay daytoy a puesto, aktibo ni Ernice iti gobierno ken politika iti Kauai.

Nagpaay a katulongan a County Clerk a mangasikaso iti pannakaipatray iti eleksion iti Kauai. Sakupen ti trabahona ti mangted ti sebisio kadagiti kameng ti Konseho ti Kauai County a pakairamanan iti research and analysis projects.

Nibaknang ken natenneb iti padas iti pribada a sektor a pakairamanan iti Financial Management, Financial Reporting, Analysis, Budgeting, Planning, Business Operations, Asset Management, Staff Development and Supervision, and Policy & Controls. Napigsa ti personalidadna pakairamanan iti enthusiasm, strong work ethic, having sense of urgency and sensitivity to the needs of customers, vendors, financial services' users and staff. Extensive travel in the United States, Canada, Europe and Japan provides a broad business and cultural perspective.

Nasalun-at ken naimula kenkuana ti pateg ti adal kadagiti naglasatanna ken nagun-odanna iti tay-ak ti edukasion, panarawidwid, ken panagnegosio wenna/ken panangipatray iti negosio.

Kas kadagitoy:

Education:

M.B.A [General Management] Roosevelt University 1969-1973, Chicago, Illinois;
General Studies, Northwestern University, 1970-1971, Chicago, Illinois;
BS Commerce, St. William's College, 1959-1963. Army ROTC, St. William's College, 1959-1963

Awards:

U.S. Small Business Administration Minority Champion - 2008;
Distinguished Service Award - Finance - Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce - 2006

Professional and Business Associations

Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce - Presidente ken kameng 2001;
Institute of Management Accountants - kameng manipud idi 1969;
Association of AMBA Executives - kameng manipud

idi 1973;

County of Kauai Salary Commission, May 1995 aging-gana December 1996;
Society of Human Managers - Kauai - Member 1995;
Job service Employers Council, Kauai - treasurer, 1994

Local Activities and Membership

Kauai Filipino Centennial Committee, Auditor, 2006;
Holy Cross - Sacred Heart Filipino Catholic Club, Kalaheo, HI, President, 2000-2004;
Holy Cross Parish Lector, Finance Committee, member, 1999;
Holy Cross Parish Pastoral Council, Member, 2000-2004;
Sacred Heart Church, Waimea, HI, Lector & Choir Member 1993

Executive Director

- Led a group to establish a quality childcare program on Kauai, which formally opened on October 4, 1993. The Center was sold to Kauai Economic Opportunity (KEO) for their Head Start Program.
December 1968 to September 1991: PASLODE CORPORATION, a subsidiary of Illinois Tool Works (ITW),

Vernon Hills, Illinois

DADDUMA A MAGPAYANNA ITI SIBIKO KEN TRABAHO

Sept. '79 to Sept. '86
- Director of Finance, Paslode & Truswal Corp.
Nov. '75 to Sept. '79
- Divisional Controller, Paslode Corporation
June '74 to Nov. '75
- Accounting Supervisor, Paslode Corporation
May '72 to June '74
- Cost Accounting Supervisor, Signode Corp.
Dec. '68 to May '72
- Jr. & Sr. Cost Accountant, Paslode Corp.
Oct. '63 to Apr. '67
- Cost & General Accountant, Ysmael Steel, Phil.

Maysa kadagiti pinadayawan ti Divine Word College of Laoag College Alumni Assn of Hawaii a kas Outstanding Alumni 2009 iti 1st International Grand Reunion a naangay idi Mayo 2, 2009 iti Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel, Government and Politics category.

Nagsapata ni Pasion iti opisina ni Fifth Circuit Judge Kathleen Watanabe idi Setiembre 16, 2009. Aktibo ni Pasion iti Kauai Filipino Community. Agindeng iti Kalaheo, Kauai agraman ti pamiliana.

MAINLAND NEWS

Pacquiao, Mayweather Sides Mum After Mediation Hearing

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Representatives for Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. wrapped up a lengthy mediation session Tuesday night with no word on any progress on the drug-testing issues endangering the boxers' prospective March 13 bout.

Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum and Mayweather's promotional team all said they had been told to make no public comments after their meeting in Santa Monica. The mediation finished nearly nine hours after it began in front of Daniel Weinstein, a retired federal judge.

Arum's Top Rank and Mayweather's representatives at Golden Boy Promotions agreed to the mediation in an effort to resolve their dispute over the methods and frequency of drug

testing for the bout, which will be held at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas if a compromise is reached.

Mayweather has demanded random blood testing as well. Pacquiao has balked at unlimited blood testing, instead proposing two blood tests before the fight and another immediately afterward.

Pacquiao also complicated the negotiations by filing a lawsuit last week alleging Mayweather and most of his camp's key players defamed him by falsely accusing him of using performance-enhancing drugs.

Boxing's two most prominent promotional companies have appeared before Weinstein in the past, including a session in 2007 in which they resolved the promotional rights to Pacquiao, who had deals with both companies at one point. (www.philstar.com)

philstar.com
The Filipino Global Community

shines even brighter
for the Filipino Global
Community



Join us as we journey into a new home!



Log on to www.philstar.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEW THRIFT STORE KALIHI

Large Collection Of Military Camouflage Clothing, Shirts \$7.99 Pants \$10.99 Quantity Discounts Available. 1327 N. School St., near Houghtaling

NEED EXPERIENCED BABYSITTER

for toddler in my Ewa Beach home M-Th. Call 554-7444.

FREE UNLIMITED INTERNATIONAL CALLING

Send money globally using cell phone. <http://hugeprelaunch.com/5680578>

This Space Produces Result

Call 678-8930 or Email filipinochronicle@gmail.com for more details.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

2010 FILIPINO FIESTA'S "LAKBAY KULTURA" / SATURDAY

May 8, 2010 • Kapiolani Park • 8 am - 5 pm • For more information and reservations (parade, booth and food vendors), please call the FilCom Center at 680-0451

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII INSTALLATION 2010 / SATURDAY

January 23, 2010 • Royal Hawaiian Hotel • 6 pm • For more information, contact Dr. May Ablan at 677-1160

MOBILE DJ, BAND, PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEO KARAOKE, HULA, SOUNDS AVAILABLE

Call 808-382-9495

I NEED HELP

Elder care/domestic, in exchange for room in my Ewa home. Must be reliable /female. Please contact Lynn at 271-0885

WANTED YARDMAN

Looking for a yardman to work at my Nuuanu home. Exchange for a free room including utilities. Call 531-7377

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS WANTED

Experience preferred. Please submit writing samples or published works and resume to hfc@hawaii.rr.com

Photos create lifetime memories... preserve and cherish those memorable moments through

HFC'S SOCIETY PAGE



CALL US FOR DETAILS
808-678-8930
www.efilipinochronicle.com
www.thefilipinochronicle.com

GLOBAL NEWS

Filipino Pastry Chef in Russia Creates Masterpiece

Roman Felizmenio, a Filipino pastry chef working for the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Moscow, created a replica of St. Basil's Cathedral for the Christmas season that has the entire country buzzing.

The edible gingerbread replica is the featured centerpiece in the hotel's lobby. It has drawn raves from guests, including reporters from CNN cable news network.

Chef Felizmenio and his team of bakers began working on the 6.5 foot tall structure in early September. He spent two to three hours each day baking and sculpting the pieces. The result is an astoundingly detailed replica of the 16th century cathedral, complete with a big tower in the center and eight smaller, onion-domed towers surrounding it, all richly decorated with royal icing.

St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow with its colorful domes is considered an architectural

icon. Ivan the Terrible commissioned the cathedral's construction to commemorate his 1552 military conquest of the city of Kazan, east of Moscow, which was the stronghold of the Tatars, a Turkic ethnic group.

Chef Felizmenio has also created a limited number of smaller cathedrals to sell. Prices start at 50,000 rubles or \$1,600. A native of Bicol, he has worked at Ritz Carlton for two years. He and his Russian wife have a six-month old boy. (DFA)

Filipino Named to WWF International Board

Former Philippine energy secretary Vincent Perez Jr. was recently appointed to the International Board of Trustees of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). He is the first Filipino member of the influential board.

The WWF is the world's leading nature and animal conservation organization and is active in over 100 countries. The WWF International Board is responsible for the global conduct, administration and representation of WWF. The board also represents WWF's diverse cul-

tures and initiatives.

Currently, Perez is the chairman of the WWF-Philippines and the CEO of renewable power company Alternergy Partners. He served as energy secretary from 2001-2005 under the Arroyo administration. Perez obtained his MBA from the University of Pennsylvania in 1983 and a Bachelor's degree in Business Economics from the University of the Philippines. He was a 2005 World Fellow at Yale University, where he lectured an MBA class on renewable power in emerging countries.

Observers say Perez's appointment will benefit the Coral

Triangle—a 2.3 million square mile region that covers the Philippines and five other countries in the Indo-Pacific. The area contains 75 percent of all known coral species, more than half of the world's reefs, 40 percent of the world's coral reef fish species, and six of the world's seven species of marine turtle.

"The Coral Triangle sustains over 120 million people in six countries, including the Philippines," says Lory Tan, WWF-Philippines vice chairman. "His appointment will bring added importance for the global preservation of the Coral Triangle." (Good News Pilipinas)

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Mabuhay Cafe

Serving Hawaii Since 1963

Homestyle Filipino Cooking

Phone: 545-1956

1049 River St., Honolulu, HI 96817
Fil & Jean Lumauag, Owners

LEEWARD OAHU REHAB SERVICES

- Work and No-Fault Related Injuries
- Reconditioning
- Orthopedic Evaluation and Rehabilitation
- Neck Pain
- Back Pain

(808)671-5928

VILMA D. FUENTES
Registered Physical Therapist



LEEWARD OAHU PHARMACY



A FULL SERVICE PHARMACY

Call us for your prescriptions and refills. Always low prices with good service. Come in and meet us. We are located on the Second Floor of Dr. CHARLIE SONTIDO'S Medical Clinic

94-857 WAIPAHU ST., 2ND FLOOR
WAIPAHU, HI 96797 • PHONE (808) 677-9611
M, TU, TH, FRI 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. CARLOTA FAJARDO - Manager
WED, SAT 8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON MILTON CHANG - Pharmacist

RENTAL

OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE

CONVENIENT LOCATION IN WAIPAHU

ESTIMATED 110, 300 AND 1,000 SQ. FT

READY TO MOVE IN
AFFORDABLE RENT

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CALL SHALL AT

678-8930 OR 284-4185

new
Dollar  Menu
at breakfast

Sa wakas, breakfast I can really warm up to.



\$1 lang

araw-araw

premium roast coffee
sausage **McMuffin**[®]
sausage **biscuit**
sausage **burrito**
hash browns

Ang sarap ng gising sa umaga lalo na with New McDonald's[®] Dollar Menu at Breakfast. Pili na sa limang hot and delicious favorites like a Premium Roast Coffee and a warm Sausage McMuffin – \$1 lang. Araw-araw! Kaya't pag almusal, you know where to find me.



i'm lovin' it[®]