

# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

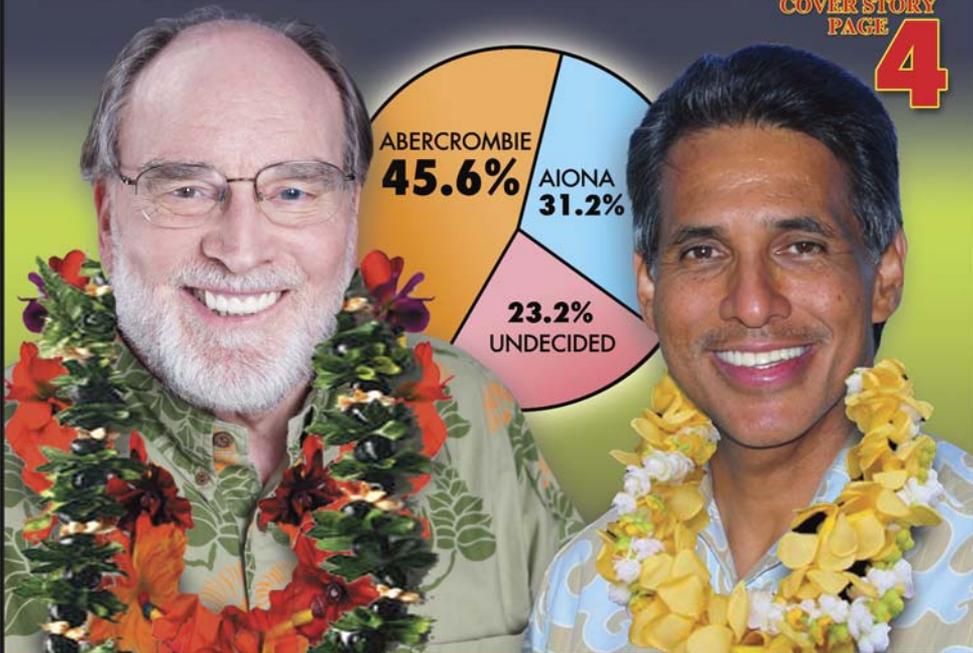
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ OCTOBER 23, 2010 ◆

## ABERCROMBIE LEADS AIONA IN FILIPINO ELECTION POLL

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## EDITORIAL

## Abercrombie, Djou Leading in HFC General Election Poll

# A

General Election poll of registered Filipino voters taken by the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle from October 18-22, 2010 shows Neil Abercrombie leading Duke Aiona 45.6 to 31.2 in the race for governor, with a sizeable 23.2 percent still undecided.

Abercrombie's double-digit lead over Aiona is not that surprising, given his long-standing friendship with the Filipino community, efforts to improve benefits for World War II Filipino veterans and support of labor unions. To his credit, however, Aiona has made in-roads among Filipino voters but unlike Abercrombie, hasn't been in office long enough to build key relationships in the Filipino community.

To make up ground, Aiona's best bet would be to woo Mufi Hannemann's supporters. But doing so may be more difficult now that the former mayor has publically endorsed Abercrombie at several political functions, the most recent being a Democratic Party rally at the Fil-Com Center last Saturday. Some undecided Filipinos, particularly Catholics, may vote for Aiona because of his opposition to same sex marriages. Last year, Governor Linda Lingle vetoed a bill that would have recognized civil unions. The Legislature is expected to introduce a similar bill in 2011, which Abercrombie has vowed to sign into law if elected governor. Aiona, however, has promised to back an amendment banning gay marriages. This issue plus the possibility of Aiona's running mate Lynn Finnegan being the next Filipino in line for governor after eight years could be crucial factors for undecided Filipino voters.

What is surprising in the HFC poll is Charles Djou's 44 percent to 31 percent lead over Colleen Hanabusa in the 1st Congressional race, with 25 percent undecided. With Ed Case not around to split the vote, it was expected to be a much closer race. Djou's popularity among Filipinos is all the more surprising, considering that prior to his congressional campaign, the former City councilmember who represented East Honolulu

had very little contact with the Filipino community. HFC's poll shows that although Hawaii's Filipinos tend to be Democrats, more of them have become independent voters of late. Djou's conservative approach to fiscal matters has also attracted the support of key business leaders and business owners in the Filipino community. Whether it is enough remains to be seen.

## Kudos to New Mayor for Championing Rail Project

# O

f all the items clamoring for his attention, perhaps none spoke louder to Peter Carlisle than the need to continue championing Oahu's \$5.3 billion fixed rail project. The new mayor wasted little time in showing his support for the project with a visit last week to Washington, D.C. with federal transportation officials. With some \$1.5 billion in federal funds committed for the project, it was crucial for Honolulu's top executive to demonstrate his commitment to rail and to assure officials that the project would not be derailed.

For the time being, the project is out of the mayor's hands. The governor has proceeded with an independent economic analysis, financial assessment and evaluation of the project. But an Abercrombie victory come November 2nd, according to rail supporters, would clear the way for acceptance of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and approval of the Programmatic Agreement (PA)—two key items needed for rail to move forward. On the other hand, rail supporters say that an Aiona victory could result in more reviews of the project and possible further delay. With

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

# A

loha! If there was ever a must-read issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, this week's edition is it! As with the Primary Election, the Chronicle once again conducted a telephone survey of registered Filipino voters. The HFC poll surveyed 125 registered Filipino voters from districts with higher concentrations of Filipinos. Veteran associate editor Edwin Quinaboo also once again sifted through the results and submitted the cover story which begins on page 4. We are confident that our latest General Election poll once again has a fairly good grasp of the Filipino voter and his or her preferences.

We could have stopped there, but we decided to go further and include a special, jam-packed 16-page General Election Voters Guide supplement. All you will ever need to know about the November 2nd General Election, including which candidates to vote for and their positions on key issues, is contained in the supplement. Two of the bigger and more hotly-contested races are the U.S. House of Representatives—1st District, pitting Republican incumbent Charles Djou against Democratic challenger Colleen Hanabusa, and the governor's race between Duke Aiona and Neil Abercrombie. On pages S10-S11, we have poignant articles written for Djou and Hanabusa respectively, along with exclusive interviews with both gubernatorial candidates beginning on pages S4-S5. There are also a handful of Filipino candidates vying for various seats in the General Election. We have included their names, backgrounds and priorities if elected beginning on page S9. Best of luck to these candidates and may the best men and women win.

We encourage you to take time and carefully read the various articles as well as the political advertisements in our special supplement. Be a smart voter this time around and familiarize yourself with the candidates! For important information on where to vote and how to vote absentee by mail, please read pages S13-S15 of the supplement.

Lastly, we once again encourage all of our readers to get out and vote on November 2nd! Your vote is crucial and will make a difference towards a brighter and better Hawaii.

Until next time... *aloha and mabuhay!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

the U.S. mired in an economic slump, Republican gubernatorial candidates nationwide have threatened to withdraw their support for rail projects, despite the promise of billions of dollars in federal support. One Republican governor, Chris Christie of New Jersey, canceled the state's rail tunnel project due to soaring cost estimates of \$5 billion in 2005 to more than \$9 billion in 2010.

It is therefore crucial for the Honolulu project's long-term success that the new mayor maintains public support for rail via public involvement, continual updates and transparency. It's worth noting that construction of the H-3 Freeway, which perhaps is the closest to the rail project in terms of dollars and scope, was plagued by delays and cost overruns. When the proverbial push-come-to-shove happens for rail, it will be public support that will help the project overcome whatever pitfalls lay ahead.

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## COVER STORY

# Abercrombie Leads Aiona Among Filipino Voters

By Edwin Quinabo

**I**f Filipino voters had their way, former Congressman Neil Abercrombie will be the seventh governor of the state of Hawaii.

Abercrombie leads Lt. Governor James "Duke" Aiona in a Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (HFC) poll 45.6 percent to 31.2 percent with less than two weeks before General Election day. Considering that 23.2 percent of registered Filipino voters are still undecided, the race could be even tighter should Aiona close the gap and raise his percentage to mirror most mainstream polls that have the two practically even.

As expected, Abercrombie is holding onto his Democrat base. Among registered Filipino voters who said Abercrombie is their candidate of choice, 70 percent of them identified themselves as Democrats (56 percent non-local/not born in Hawaii Democrats and 14 percent local-born Democrats). No self-identified Republicans said they would cross over this election to support Abercrombie; while 29.8 percent of Filipino independents (19.3 percent non-local independents and 10.5 local-born independents) plan to do so.

Where Aiona made major

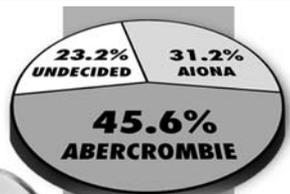
improvements in the HFC poll from his Primary Election numbers is his showing among independents: 53.9 percent self-identified independent Filipino voters (46.2 percent non-local independents and 7.7 percent local independents) have Aiona as their selection. That would have Aiona leading Abercrombie among Filipino independents by 24 percent. Adding to that, Aiona leads in the crossover category: the Democrat crossovers for Aiona is 7.7 percent (5.1 percent non-local and 2.6 percent local Democrats who plan to vote for Aiona), compared with Abercrombie's 0 percent crossover rate.

But across the board among Filipino voters, Abercrombie leads in all other categories: men, women and all age groups. Given the Democrat Party's stance on women's and senior issues, it's no surprise that Abercrombie's biggest advantage is among Filipino women 49.3 percent to Aiona's 26 percent; voters between the age of (56-65) - 59 percent Abercrombie to 18

percent Aiona; and voters (66 and over) - 40 percent Abercrombie to 25 percent Aiona.

Due to the voting tandem format of the General Election, the HFC poll did not survey the Lt. Governor's race. Aiona's running mate Lynn Berbano Finnegan, the only Filipino American candidate in this gubernatorial tandem race, could have swayed some Filipinos who consider race and qualification when voting. Whenever politics comes up in the Filipino community, a common question batted around is who would be the next Ben Cayetano. Although Finnegan's name hasn't come up often among would-be contenders prior to this race, should Aiona pull off a victory this election, Finnegan would be poised to be a serious gubernatorial candidate after eight years. But based on the HFC primary election poll this year, ethnicity was not high among voters' considerations for choosing a candidate.

**What's for the Taking? A Closer Look at the Overall Numbers**



Abercrombie tops Aiona in HFC poll in the race for Governor of Hawaii

Abercrombie and Aiona are actually fighting for approximately 191,835 voters or 50.9 percent of the state electorate this General Election. How so? More than likely, both Abercrombie and Aiona will keep their primary election base: 142,304 for Abercrombie; 42,520 for Aiona. That accounts for 184,824 votes. Now, take into consideration the last hotly contested governor's race in 2002, the combined votes of Linda Lingle and Mazie Hirono totaled 376,659 or 89.1 percent. If the projected voter turnout this General Election will closely mirror the 2002 showing, we can subtract the 376,659 from 184,824 (Abercrombie and Aiona's votes in the Primary) and arrive at 191,835. Of this remaining total, about 101,245 voters did not cast a ballot in the Primary 2010 and are expected to do so in this General Election; and the additional 90,590 Hanemann voters should be up for grabs.

Statistically, Aiona has the daunting task of garnering about 76 percent (at least 7 out of every 10 voters) of this 191,835 votes (primarily independents, Hanemann crossovers and undecided voters) to make up the difference from his opponent's primary base lead; while Abercrombie needs about 24 percent (at least 2 out of every 10) of 191,835 to come out ahead (+/- 4 percent). The odds are obviously stacked against Aiona. Based on the HFC poll, Aiona has at least showed great promise among

Filipino independents. The Filipino cross over votes are too insignificant. Considering the weak showing Hanemann had among Filipino voters, it's expected that cross over voting held to a very low number.

Ultimately, the outcome depends on voter turnout. For an Aiona victory, he would need most of his supporters who did not show up in the Primary to vote in the General Election, and that he converts the overwhelming majority of Hanemann voters to his party. Added to this optimal scenario for Aiona, there must be a low voter turnout among Democrats and a very high voter turnout among the GOP, party crossovers (Democrats switching to vote Republican), and converted independents.

Aiona's chances of winning over a considerable percentage of Hanemann voters is a high probability. It may not be the case among Filipino voters, but definitely for other groups, mainly Christians and local-born Polynesians.

Both Hanemann and Aiona are social conservatives; both are part-Polynesian; both are local; and both are perceived as pro "big business." Hanemann, who never had fit the "Democrat" suit to a tight fit, actually could be viewed as a moderate Republican in many other states where the GOP is actually a viable, party-alternative. Hanemann's corporate-minded and

(continued on page 5)

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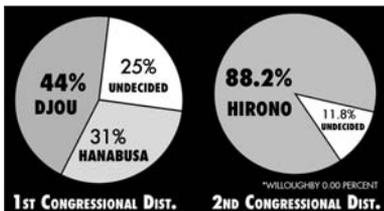
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## COVER STORY

(from page 4, Abercrombie ...)

socially-conservative supporters really have less ideological connection to the Democratic Party than they do to Hanemann, the politician. So it's not too far a stretch that they cross over in the General now that their candidate is no longer in the running. But the question is: "Will this gain be enough for Aiona?"



### Shedding Lingle's Unpopularity

One of the major advantages Abercrombie has is running against the Linda Lingle/Aiona record. The ailing economy, teachers' furlough, housing crisis and joblessness all work against the incumbent party's approval ratings. With the exception of the teachers' furlough, placing direct blame on the Lingle/Aiona administration is unfair to an extent given the influence that the private banking sector, globalism and federal policies have had on each of these problems, independent of state-level governance.

Added to that, Aiona as an Lt. Governor, had an even limited role in the administration given the nature of the LG's office. But how much differently would have Aiona handled this past four years if he were governor is questionable, considering the philosophical approach Republicans hail toward government in general, that "less is more"—a central theme Republicans still push as a better alternative to an active government. Yet in times of serious economic hardship, to many voters such carefree wisdom of less government intervention is perceived as irresponsible, insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of struggling citizens.

So Abercrombie's public relations campaign strategy of bringing in fresh and new leadership to the governor's office is a fair one in that Democrats have proven to be more hands-on in governing. Based on the history of Democrat leadership and past governors' handling of budgets during recessionary times, it's unlikely that a teachers' furlough would have been a cost-savings alternative in the past four years. But what voters would not want of any Democrat candidate is to regress to imprudent spending and high taxes that gave Lingle a shot at the helm in the first place.

With regard to small business, Republicans are still per-

ceived as the better option so Aiona gets the nod here. But Democrats have changed in their support of some sectors of small business and are gradually changing voters' perceptions especially in the areas of small business start-ups, high-tech and alternative energy. Where they need improvement is lifting more state regulations on small businesses, something Republicans articulate well.

Abercrombie and Democrats will keep with tradition and garner most union support. While union influence has slipped in recent years, perhaps deservingly due to some unions' stubborn resistance to freezing salary and benefits during recessionary times while the private sector made do with a lot less, there is still great value in workers' organizing for protecting their interests. As many workers have experienced recently in the private sector even among large corporations, laws have been circumvented by changing employees' full-time status to part-time (under 20 hours) to avoid paying benefits, all the while as these companies continue to post net gains. Such unfair practices in the private sector can easily go unchallenged without the presence of unions. In the long-term, this could damage entire communities with a majority workforce of mainly part-timers.

### Clash of Opposites

As in many other states in the country fronting complete ideological opposites, this year's Hawaii general election is no different. While moderate politics had been popular in past elections, the extreme events nationally—the unpopular wars in the Middle East, the deregulation fiasco of banks that led to our worse economic depression in decades, the groundbreaking move towards national healthcare, a heightened cultural/legal battle between civil rights groups/gays versus religious member-led organizations, im-

migration reform, and the election of the first Black-American president who also happens to be a "visionary"—have all made "moderate" politics almost impossible. The new, post 2008 election Sen. John McCain and President Barack Obama are dynamic examples of this trend; with Sarah Palin, off alone reinventing her own entire political spectrum.

Far left and right politics, whether or not politicians choose to admit to it or not, will be the compass from which voters will decide elections not just for this year, but for quite some time until these highly controversial, highly divisive issues in our nation become simply tune-up policies. At that point, moderate politics will make a come back. But for now, the political climate has moved Republicans further right and edgier with the birth of the Tea Party; and the heart of Democrats is characterized by progressive leadership in the party, less influenced by its Blue Dog conservative coalition.

It is from this classic setting of opposites that Hawaii voters find themselves choosing candidates. In every big race this year, Democrat and Republican candidates are really more progressive and conservative than they may be want to project.

### A Big Surprise for Djou

The HFC poll results in the 1st Congressional District race may have some people scratching their heads. Charles Djou leads Colleen Hanabusa 44 percent to 31 percent with 25 percent still undecided.

Similar to the Aiona trend, Djou has a sizable lead over Hanabusa in the independent category. Among independent Filipino voters, 37.6 percent said they will vote for Djou, compared to Hanabusa's 30 percent. The crossover factor bodes even better for Djou than Aiona. Among self-identified Democrats, 31.2 percent said they would crossover to vote for

Djou, while only 3 percent of Republicans support Hanabusa.

Djou leads in almost all age groups except the 18-29 category where Hanabusa holds a lead of 45.4 percent to 18 percent. He even posts higher favorability among women but not by a huge margin. Forty-two percent said Djou is their choice; while 39.7 percent of Filipino women support Hanabusa.

In this race, the voting public has the opportunity to choose among two very articulate, intelligent individuals with vastly differing positions on the issues. On one side, Hanabusa trumpets her alignment with President Obama and the visionary changes he has set to accomplish during his tenure. Her political

persuasion matches well with Hawaii's congressional team on issues from healthcare reform that provides access to every citizen to ending the Bush Tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans and continuing them for middle class families.

Djou, the newly-minted Republican congressman, expressed his opposition to the history-making healthcare bill passed earlier this year and runs on the GOP mantra of less government and less spending. Putting their stances on issues aside, both Djou and Hanabusa are having some difficulty connecting with voters in their campaigns. The most glaring campaign stumble is their claims

(continued on page 8)

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## OPEN FORUM

# Philippine Peso Skyrockets Against U.S. Dollar As Excessive Government Spending Continues

By Danny de Gracia, II and John Willoughby

**N**early every Hawaii Filipino knows that one of the chief reasons for coming to America is the fact that the US dollar (USD) buys more than the Philippine Peso (PHP). Filipinos routinely work in "hard currency" economies such as the United States so that they can send money back home to family in the Philippines which purchases more. This tradition however may be coming to an end as a result of the devaluation of the U.S. dollar which has resulted from excessive government spending and a loose monetary policy at the Federal Reserve which has been printing in overdrive; the peso has been appreciating rapidly against the U.S. dollar and is starting to buy more while America's money buys less.

In April 2004, one USD purchased 56 PHP. Today, one

USD purchases only 43.89 PHP, a -21.04% slide over the last six years. This rapid valuation of the peso is a warning of things to come. In fact, the USD dollar has been losing ground not just to the peso to nearly every currency. The reason for this is because basic Austrian economics tells us that when the money supply is increased, more money chasing after the same or diminished production results in lowered purchasing power. Because the USD is the world's reserve currency, the U.S. government has abused this by printing more money whenever it needs it for more spending. That season of excess is now coming to an end as numerous countries are dumping U.S. Treasuries in anticipation of America being unable to pay back its debt which is rapidly approaching a level which could be mathematically impossible to pay off.

At present, interest on the national debt accounts for \$600 billion new debt per year adding to the already whopping \$13.4 trillion which is expected to double by 2014. Sovereign default, or the inability of a government to pay off its debts is the inevitable destination of any country which prints money out of thin air and spends on fiscally unsustainable projects. If sovereign default occurs in America, the first thing that will happen is that the nations of the world will eject their holdings of dollars, resulting in hyperinflation of the dollar at home. A similar situation occurred in Zimbabwe in 2008 where devaluation of the currency resulted in three eggs being valued at \$100 billion Zimbabwean dollars (ZWL) and one USD purchased \$669 billion ZWL. The effect such hyperinflation has on the domestic population is an utter gutting of the economy and a total de-

struction of the people's quality of life. If the US Congress does not immediately cut spending and prioritize paying off the national debt, we will see a situation far worse than Zimbabwe here in Hawaii.

The unfortunate aspect of hyperinflation and currency devaluation is that almost never do governments take responsibility for it. In post-WWI Germany, the government claimed that rising prices, hyperinflation and the poor economy was the result of the Allies who were forcing Germany to pay war reparations when, in fact, Germany's government was abusing their central bank and printing money out of thin air. Today, here in Hawaii, elected officials tell us that we have to sever the dependency on fossil fuel and force everyone to go "green" because Middle Eastern cartels are controlling the oil supply and holding us hostage to buy gas at \$3.60+ a gallon -

when in fact, the truth is, gas is expensive in Hawaii not because of OPEC but because the US government has devalued the dollar through its spending spree and poor fiscal stewardship. (In fact, the Arab nations were in large part responsible for bailing out the USD and preventing its total collapse.)

We need to stop pointing the finger at others and start looking in the mirror when it comes to fixing the mistakes of this country. We simply cannot continue to support big government and not reap the consequences. Hawaii Filipinos were in large part responsible for bailing out the USD and preventing its total collapse.)

We need to stop pointing the finger at others and start looking in the mirror when it comes to fixing the mistakes of this country. We simply cannot continue to support big government and not reap the consequences. Hawaii Filipinos must pay attention and get actively involved in demanding that their government stop wasting their hard earned money and stop destroying the currency. If things continue as they are, Hawaii Filipinos may find their families in the Philippines sending money to America to bail them out - if we don't act now.

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### New Mayor Inaugurated to Office

**H**onolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle held an inauguration ceremony October 22, 2010 at the Mission Memorial Auditorium next to Honolulu Hale.

State Circuit Court Judge R. Mark Browning administered the oath of office, while Dan Chun, senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu, delivered the invocation.

The inauguration was held at the auditorium since the courtyard of Honolulu, where such ceremonies usually take place, was being used as an



Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle

early polling place for the November 2nd General Election.

The event marked the beginning of the Carlisle adminis-

tration.

"I am deeply honored to serve as the 13th elected mayor of the City and County of Honolulu," Carlisle said. "Let's begin this exciting journey together."

On-hand were a select list of local entertainers, including Jimmy Borges, who performed the national anthem, and Cathy Foy who sang "Hawaii Pono 'I." Hula Halau Olana presented a Hawaiian cultural performance and the Society of Seven (SOS) performed a special inaugural number.

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## IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon



onor thy father and thy mother." Ten Commandments.

Is claiming on your visa application that your petitioning parent is still alive although dead a way of honoring him/her? Or a way of getting yourself into major major trouble?

### People squealing on each other

Many aliens in their desire to come to the United States falsely claim that their petitioning parent is still alive although dead. They know or ought to know that the petitioning parent must be alive to obtain immigrant benefits as the child of a USC or LPR. A number have gotten away with this fraud, but others have not. A Filipino immigration officer who was ar-

resting another Filipino for this type of fraud said that someone tipped them off.

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 212(a)(6)(c)(i) [8 U.S.C.A. § 1182(a)(6)(c)(i)] provides: "Any alien who, by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact, seeks to procure (or has sought to procure or has procured) a visa, other documentation, or admission into the United States or other benefit provided under this chapter is inadmissible."

### Fraud waiver on alien abroad

A Filipino applying for a visa reportedly was asked by consular authorities to provide a picture of the elderly petitioner. The alien submitted a computerized picture showing the petitioner before a post office. Consular officials asked for the original of another picture with the petitioner holding

a current issue of a newspaper before another government building. The relatives were terrified and did not submit any picture. Months later they contacted an Ilocano attorney who advised them not to do that and instead seek humanitarian non revocation of the visa petition. The lawyer went to the Philippines, submitted the humanitarian non revocation package, and got their family member a visa.

Consular officials did not ask about the picture. If they had, the lawyer was ready to ask for a fraud waiver under INA § 212(i) [8 U.S.C.A. § 1182(i)] which provides: The Attorney General may waive the application of § 212(a)(6)(c)(i) in the case of an immigrant who is the spouse, son, or daughter of a USC or LPR if it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the refusal of admission to the U.S. of such im-

migrant alien would result in extreme hardship to the USC or LPR spouse or parent of such an alien.

### Fraud waiver on alien in U.S.

Three brothers who obtained visas 2 years after their petitioning mother's death were placed in deportation proceedings. Their lawyer argued that the arresting agent failed to comply with INS regulations and therefore their admission that they entered the U.S. after their mother's death was inadmissible in evidence. The court rejected the argument saying that they were not prejudiced. Why did they not lawyer invoke waiver or other relief?

INA § 237(a)(1)(H) [8 U.S.C.A. § 1227(a)(1)(H)] provides: The Attorney General may waive the application of § 212(a)(6)(c)(i) for any alien, subject to certain exceptions, who is the spouse, parent, son,

or daughter of a USC or LPR, and was in possession of an immigrant visa or equivalent document and was otherwise admissible to the United States. Other possible relief are cancellation of removal and/or adjustment of status. We have successfully invoked waiver and other relief in cases of aliens charged with fraud.

(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 practices in Hawaii, specializing in immigration law and criminal defense. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: jllamtag@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. He is from Laoag City and Magsajid, Ilocos Sur. 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 funny, witty, and useful radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270, AM dial every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. and on KRBC at 1060, AM dial every Thursday at 8 p.m. 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.)

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**COVER STORY (CONT.)***(from page 5, Abercrombie...)*

of being "independent." Both candidates are actually front and centered insiders within their respective parties. They are among the top leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties in the state. They influence how their party members will vote on the issues, and if there's any independence taking place, it's how their subordinate party members would vote against their wishes. As a new member of Congress, the likelihood of either one of them breaking from the established leadership in Washington is very unlikely.

In the case of Djou based on his short stint in Congress, he has shown marginal signs of independence. According to an Associated Press analysis of Djou's voting record, he has voted with the majority of GOP colleagues 89 percent of the time. Compare that with Democratic U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono who voted with her party 98 percent of the time. Relatively speaking, some independent-thinking is at work for Djou.

While Hanabusa has received endorsements from two of the most powerful Democrats in President Obama and Sen. Daniel Inouye, her less-than-stellar poll showings may be a result of her image. Personality rates high among other factors as reasons why voters choose a candidate. Presidential candidates Walter Mondale and Michael Dukakis are cases in point. Both were highly-qualified and articulated very popular, sound ideas on the issues, but they were perceived as dispassionate technocrats.

Hanabusa's image problem is a different one; she seems to lack the softness and warmth that Hawaii residents are accustomed to. Lately, it does seem that her campaign handlers have caught onto this image disconnect. Her newer commercials seem to bring out the more personable side of Hanabusa who actually just may be the friendly neighbor everybody loves, as well as the strong, smart politician fighting for Hawaii residents. Perhaps no one better demonstrated this than the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink, someone who many see glimpses of in Hanabusa from the start of her rise in local politics.

Lastly, the incumbent Djou enjoys the upper hand simply by virtue of already being in office. Some respondents in the HFC poll indicated that they would vote for the former Honolulu city councilmember because he is already "on the job."

**No Surprises Here**

In the 2nd Congressional race, incumbent Mazie Hirono is near-statistical perfection among registered Filipino voters. Close to 90 percent of poll respondents said they will vote for Hirono over GOP contender John Willoughby. The remaining 11 percent are undecided.

In this race, Hawaii voters are given a choice to select a candidate who is backed by the Republican Party's far right elements of the Tea Party. Voters will deter-

mine if the national emergence of the Tea Party and their minarchist (government should be as small as possible) viewpoint resonates locally. Former presidential candidate Sarah Palin, a former college student in Hawaii, has pushed her star power weight into this race by endorsing Willoughby, an airline pilot making his first run for political office. Contrary to Djou who has received considerable financial support from the National Republican Party, Willoughby's campaign chest lacks the backing to promote his agenda, mainly to slash taxes and reduce government spending. Should he be victorious, it would give new meaning to the word grassroots campaigning. Willoughby's zero success at establishing grassroots outreach in the Filipino community is reflected in the HFC poll. He received zero votes.

Hirono's re-election bid is closely associated with Hawaii's Democratic congressional team and their collective ability to direct huge sums of federal money to help Hawaii residents in healthcare, education, small business, construction, college student aid, unemployment benefits and jobs. How she has been distinguishing herself from her congressional colleagues in this year's campaign is her desire to help build alternative energy projects which makes perfect sense given Hawaii's natural resources.

The philosophical disadvantage at the federal level in particular for both Willoughby and Djou is justifying the acquisition of federal dollars to assist Hawaii residents with matters like jobs, education, transportation and healthcare; but at the same time, rallying for less government and spending that counter such efforts. To a large degree, the success barometer for Hawaii's congressional team is their ability to influence Congress to allot Hawaii its fair share of much needed federal aid.

In recessionary times, it's suspect to think that Hawaii voters would be willing to give this up especially when considering that it was during the GOP that a national deficit skyrocketed. Added to that, their deregulation policies triggered the current economic crisis. It's already conventional wisdom that high taxes certainly was not the force behind the tens of thousands of jobs and homes being lost beginning in Bush's second term. So the question now is how much trust can the voting public really extend this election to self-proclaimed fiscal conservatives who offer the same promise of less government and taxes that their predecessors did during the Bush years but failed to lead with fiscal responsibility.

**Defining Election**

This election is as what many major candidates have articulated in debates and campaign ads as a "defining" moment. This election will determine the heart and soul of Hawaii voters in matters of major policies perhaps in the next eight years.

*(continued on page 9)*

## LEGAL NOTES

# New USCIS Fees Are Unreasonably High



By Reuben S. Seguritan

projected fee revenue in 2008, 2009, and low revenue for this year.

Fees for 30 applications and petitions will increase while fees for 6 applications will be reduced. The fee for naturalization application will be unchanged.

The 6 applications and petitions that have reduced fees because of lower processing costs are Petition for Alien Finance (I-129F) which will be reduced from \$455 to \$340; Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status (I-539), \$300 to \$290; Application to Adjust Status from Temporary to Permanent Residents (I-698), \$1370 to \$1020; Application for Family Unity Benefits (I-817), \$440 to \$435; Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document (N-565), \$380 to \$345; and

Application for Travel Document (I-131) when filed for Refugee Travel Documents.

Among the applications and petitions affected by the fee increase are Petition for Alien Relative (I-130), from \$355 to \$420; Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker (I-140) from \$475 to \$580; Application for Employment Authorization (I-765), from \$340 to \$380; Application to Replace Green Card (I-90), from \$290 to \$365; Application to Adjust Status (I-485) from \$930 to \$985; Notice of Appeal or Motion (I-290B), from \$585 to \$630.

Three new fees will be imposed, namely, a \$165 fee for recovering USCIS costs of processing immigrant visas granted by the Department of State, a \$6230 fee for Application for Regional Center under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program

and a \$615 for Civil Surgeon Designation.

Considering that the USCIS fees increased by 66% only three years ago the new fees are clearly excessive. The increase will hurt families, lower-wage immigrants, and small businesses.

It should also be pointed out that the fee for citizenship applications was increased by about 70% to \$675 in 2007. This fee hike has been a serious obstacle to many immigrants who want to become citizens.

Immigrant advocates maintain that the fee increase is not justified as it will not improve the quality of immigration services. According to them, immigration services have deteriorated since the significant fee increase in 2007.

In opposing the fee hike, the American Immigration

Lawyers Association (AILA) said that "many of the government expenses being underwritten by these fees are unrelated to the services for which fees are being paid. These are matters of public benefit and should be funded by appropriations, not applicants."

AILA in its leadership blog also said that "these fee increases feel like a punch in the stomach... because they come at a time when the quality of decision-making and the ability to correct even the simplest errors or address basic problems with the USCIS are at an all-time low."

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)

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) announced on September 24 that fees for immigration petitions and applications will go up an average of 10% on November 23, 2010. Any petition or application postmarked on or after that date but which does not contain the new fee will be rejected as improperly filed.

The USCIS explained that the fee increase is necessary because it has experienced a reduction in federal funding appropriation and lower than

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Veterans Group to Celebrate 7th Anniversary

The United States Veterans Initiative-Hawaii (U.S. Vets) will mark its 7th Annual Anniversary with a special celebration in Kapolei from 4 pm to 10 pm on October 29, 2010. The evening includes live local music, dinner, a talent show, dancing and a silent auction. Donations of \$5 per person will be accepted at the door.

U.S. Vets provides a range of classes, workshops and programs at the Waianae Civic Center aimed at helping clients to become self-sufficient. The topics include anger management, computer training, effective parenting, domestic violence and



substance abuse treatment.

Founded in 1993 in California, U.S.VETS provides services to over 2,000 people each day in five states and the District of Columbia. U.S. VETS has become a recognized leader in the field of service delivery to vet-

erans and is the largest non-profit provider of veteran housing programs in the country.

The address of the U.S. Vets in Kapolei is 91-1039 Shangriela Street, Building 37. Please call 682-9000 for more details or to RSVP.

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## COVER STORY (CONT.)

(from page 8, Abercrombie...)

Traditionally local politics take center stage as governors and mayors have a greater impact in the daily lives of local residents. But the pressing, historical issues currently unfolding at the federal level make Hawaii's congressional representation equally crucial. For the Filipino community, it cannot be understated how important it is to be a part of this political process. The first and perhaps most meaningful step is to vote in this General Election.

The HFC poll was taken from October 18-22 among registered Filipino voters. A total of 125 people responded to the poll. For greater accuracy, a larger percentage of registered Filipino voters were sampled from districts with higher concentrations of Filipinos. The HFC poll used the American Research Group Inc.'s calculation which considers population and sampling size. The margin of error is plus or minus 8.75 percent.

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**BAHAGHARI**  
By Ruth Elynia Mabanglo, Ph.D.

**N**oong unang panahon, magulo pa ang mundo. Walang nakikita sa lupa kundi mga palanas na kapatagan, burol, maalikabok na paligid at manaka-nakang pag-ulan. Sa isang bahagi ng langit, nakatira ang mag-asawang bathala, sina Tungkung Langit at Alunsiina.

Masipag at mapagmahal si Tungkung Langit. Nais niyang isaayos ang lahat sa daigdig. Ibig niyang magkaroon ng mabuting patubigang makukuhanan ng mainom at magagamit sa pagtatanim. Ibig niyang gumawa ng mga pook na maaring tahanan ng tao. Gusto niya ng kaayusan.

Nagsabi siya kay Alunsiina. "Balak kong gumawa ng maayos na lupaing nakahilaw sa tubig," sabi niya sa asawa. "Malaking trabaho ito, ilang araw akong mawawala. Baka gusto mong tumulong."

## Kuwentong Bisaya: Saan Galing ang Buwan at mga Bituin

Hawak ni Alunsiina ang kanyang gintong payneta. Sinusuklay niya ang mahabang buhok. "Naku, malayong paglalakbay ang gagawin mo. Ayokong sumama. Alam mo namang hindi ako mahilig maglakbay."

Hinagkan ni Tungkung Langit si Alunsiina bilang pamamaalam. Matamlay siyang lumakad dahil talagang gusto niyang makasama ang asawa. Masaya naman si Alunsiina sa pagmamasaing ng sarili sa salamin. Lihim siyang natuwa dahil hindi siya pinilit ng asawa. Nakipaglaro siya sa mga ulap nang araw na iyon. Minasdan niya ang malamyang paglakad ng mga balumbon sa sikat ng araw. Nang mapagodo, natulog siya.

Kinabukasan, nanatili siya sa bahay. Muli, minasdan niya ang sarili sa salamin. Pagkatapos, sinukat-sukat niya ang kanyang mga alahas. Ang dami niyang singsing, hikaw, kuwintas, brasaleta at pakaw sa paa. May perlas, brylyante, gintong ibang-batang bato na may iba't ibang kulay. Nang itabi niya ang makikislap ng alahas,



nagsuklay siya ng buhok.

Makaraan ang ilang araw, nainip na siya. Wala pa si Tungkung Langit. Bakit kaya nakakatagal ang asawa nang hindi siya nakikita? Di kaya nakahanap ng mamahaling iba? Nagsimulang alihan ng selos si Alunsiina. Tinawag niya ang hangin.

"Pwedeng alamin mo kung nasaan na ang asawa ko? Pero huwag na huwag kang pakikita. Baka lang hindi naman siya talagang nagtatrabaho. Baka lumikha na siya ng ibang asawa!" sabi ni Alunsiina.

Nag-alala ang hangin. "Baka naman nasa panganib siya."

Nagsinungaling si Alunsiina. "Oo nga... kailangang malaman natin kung ayos ang lagay niya."

Mabigat ang loob na umalis si Hangin. Nahanap niya si

Tungkung Langit na minamandan ang mga bundok, batis at bukirin nilikha niya. Pagkatapos nakita ni Hangin muling bumuhay ng mga bato si Tungkung Langit. Isinalansan niya ang mga, buong tiyaga. Babalik na sana si Hangin pero pag-ikot niya umalimbukay ang alikabok kaya naramdaman siya ni Tungkung Langit.

"Nandiyan ka pala, Hangin, ano ang ginagawa mo rito?"

Hindi nakapagsinungaling si Hangin. "Nag-aalala si Alunsiina. Pinapunta ako rito dahil baka raw nasa panganib ka."

Kumunot ang noo ni Tungkung Langit. "Sinabi rin ba niyang magtago ka?"

Napilitang magsabi ng totoot si Hangin. Nagaliti si Tungkung Langit. "Tamad na'y selosa pa ang aking asawa. Bumalik ka sa kanya. Sabihin mong hindi niya naunawaan ang ginagawa ko kaya ayokong nang makita siya. Pagbalik ko sa bahay namin, kailangang nakaalis na siya!"

Ganoon na ang ginawa ni Hangin.

Makalipas ang ilang araw,

umuwi na ng bahay si Tungkung Langit. Hindi na niya dinatnan si Alunsiina. Malungkot ang bahay, walang buhay. Nanangila siya sa masuyong pagsalubong ng babae kung umuwi siya. Nais niyang malanghap ang bango ng kanyang buhok, ang matimyas ng tinig kung ito'y umaawit.

Upang mabawasan ang lungkot niya, nilikha niya ang mga halaman at bulaklak. Lumikha din siya ng mga isda para tumira sa dagat at batis. Gumawa siya ng mga hayop na lilibot sa lupa. Pagkatapos, kinuha niya ang payneta ni Alunsiina, inihagis niya ito sa langit at ito ang naging gasuklay na buwan. Kinuha rin niya ang mga kuwintas at hikaw na gawa sa brylyante. Gaya ng suklay, inihagis din niya ang mga ito sa mga ulap at ito ang naging mga bituin. Ang makislap na korona ni Alunsiina ang naging araw.

Umasa si Tungkung Langit na babalik ang asawa kapag nakita na nito ang mga mga kagandahang likha ng kanyang alahas. Pero hindi na bumalik si Alunsiina. Hanggang ngayon, nag-iisa si Tungkung Langit. Umiiyak si kapag hindi matatag ang pangungulilo; ito ang ulap. At kapag tinatawag niya ang pangalan ng kabiayak at isinisigaw ang kanyang paghihinagpis, ito ang dagundong ng kulog.

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# PAL Adopts New Security Program for Travelers to US

By Rudy Santos /  
Friday, October 15, 2010

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Airline passengers from the Philippines bound for the United States are now required to provide detailed personal information before taking their flight in compliance with the Secure Flight Program, a new security measure being implemented by the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Starting today (Oct. 15, 2010), US-bound passengers of Philippine Airlines (PAL) would be asked to give their complete name (as reflected in the passport), date of birth, gender, nationality, passport number, visa number and address at destination in the US.

The information will be taken from passengers who are booking for a flight or buying a ticket either by phone through PAL reservations, the PAL website, at any PAL ticket office

or any accredited travel agent.

The information shall be transmitted by PAL through its Departure Control System (DCS) for matching against the US DHS database. Results of the data matching would be reflected in the PAL DCS when a passenger checks in for the flight.

The Secure Flight Program requires specific data from passengers of all flights (including code share flights) by US-based and non-US-based carriers that fly to/from/within/over the US, including Guam and Saipan.

The program seeks to facilitate passenger handling by screening out those tagged as inhibited/prohibited from entering the US, starting at point of origin.

Passengers who would be misidentified for someone else in the database and eventually cleared to take their flight should submit a Redress Control Number (RCN) issued by the US DHS. Affected passengers

are advised to always give their RCN in subsequent bookings or ticket purchases to avoid any future mismatch and inconvenience.

According to the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website - "Secure Flight is a behind the scenes program that enhances the security of commercial air travel through the use of improved watch list matching. By collecting additional passenger data, it will improve the travel experience for all airline passengers, including those who have been misidentified in the past."

PAL is implementing the program starting Oct. 15 for flights beginning Nov. 1, 2010.

Passengers who may experience being unfairly delayed or prohibited from boarding the flight due to the new security program, should direct their complaints to the US DHS Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (DHS TRIP) by logging on to [www.dhs.gov/trip](http://www.dhs.gov/trip) or calling 001-866-289-9673 or 001-571-227-2900. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## GLOBAL NEWS

# Germany's Linde Group Sets RP Expansion

By Donabelle I. Gatlula/  
Friday, October 22, 2010

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Germany-based Linde Group, a leading global supplier of industrial, process and specialty gases, will expand aggressively in the Philippine market after acquiring two local gas companies four years ago.

Linde Philippines managing director Dennis Jordan told reporters that they are expecting to grow their revenues by 15 percent this year from P2.2 billion in 2009, anchored on an expansion program they have been carrying out since 2006.

To start its aggressive marketing strategy, Linde Philippines would be implementing the rebranding of Consolidated Industrial Gases Inc. (CIG) and Southern Industrial Gases Phils. (SIG) into the Linde brand.

Linde, with 48,000 employees,

has been operating in 100 countries all over the world. In the Philippines, it has distribution facilities and gas and gear sales centers that include five sites in Luzon and 18 sites in Visayas and Mindanao.

In line with its commitment to sustainable growth in its business and development in the local economy, Jordan said Linde Philippines has invested P3 billion since 2006. This includes a P1-billion state-of-the-art air separation facility in Cebu which was commissioned last April.

Jordan said they would likely invest the same amount in the future should there be a need to expand more to support the country's economic growth.

"Our investment figure will depend on how the economy will grow. If there would be a need to expand and invest more, we will certainly do

it," Jordan said.

After taking over the operations of CIGI and SGI over the past four years, Linde has captured about 40 percent of the country's P7-billion industrial gases and engineering gadgets market.

"Rebranding as Linde Philippines is a milestone for our business," Jordan said. "CIGI and SGI have a strong legacy and a history of innovation and excellence that we can build on as we continue to uphold the Linde brand of global excellence. Under our new Linde Philippines brand, we will continue to take the lead in safety, product quality, operational excellence and customer service. We will do our part to ensure environmental sustainability in our operations and will continue to contribute to the communities where we operate." ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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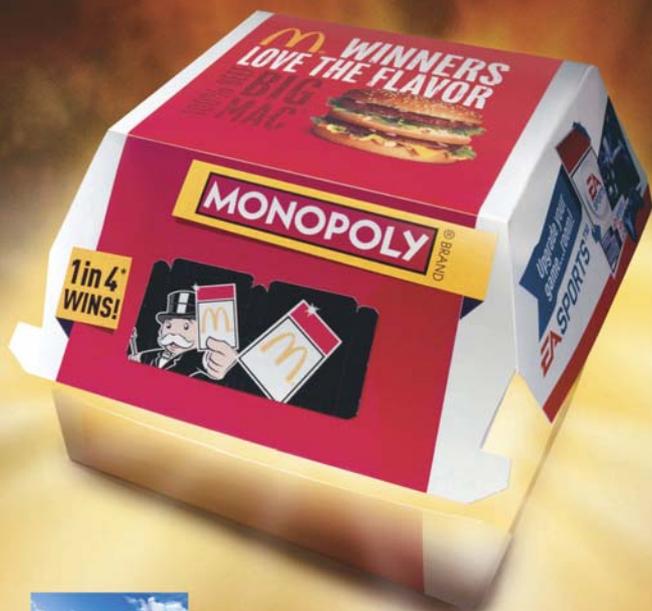
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\*Odds based on Game Pieces (each has 2 Game Stamps); mostly food prizes

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