

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

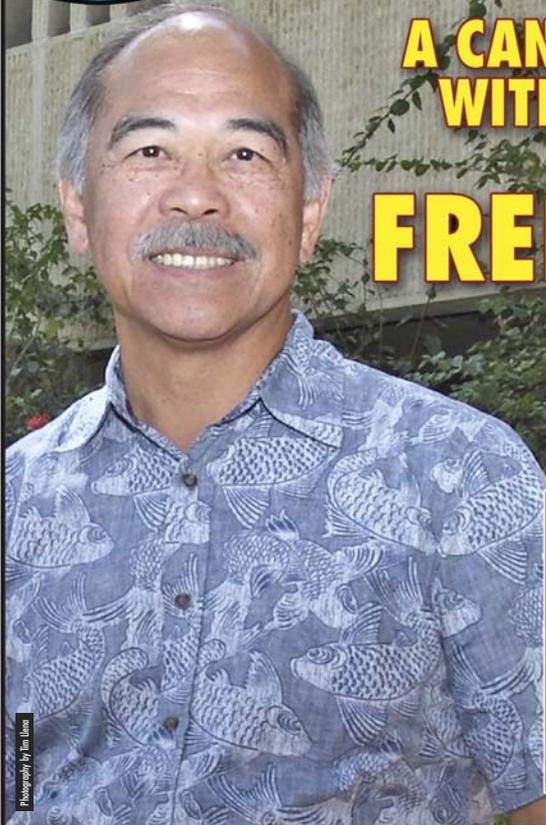
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ AUGUST 6, 2011 ◆

A CANDID INTERVIEW WITH HAWAII STATE TAX DIRECTOR FRED PABLO

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Photograph by Tim Ito



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EDITORIAL

State Tax Director Ready for Challenges

Eight months ago, Fred Pablo assumed his new position as the state's new tax director. Not much was known initially about the former budget director from Maui county who served under Mayor Charmaine Tavares from 2007-2010.

Those from Maui, however, know and appreciate his efforts in keeping Maui county fiscally sound. As budget director, he provided outstanding oversight and management of both revenue and expenditure concerns during those years of economic difficulty. According to recent forecasts, Maui has not only weathered the storm, but is expecting a budget surplus for the next fiscal year. Those "in the know" say it did not happen overnight or by accident, but rather through a careful and timely reaction to financial conditions.

After serving in the army, Pablo began working for the IRS on a career that took him from Honolulu to Washington D.C. and around the world, where he was involved in many aspects of taxation from taxpayer service and collections, to auditing and appeals and to dealing with issues in international taxation. Pablo's experience in the federal and international arena is complemented with involvement in tax matters at the State and at the County levels.

Pablo also holds a reputation for working well with administrators and the legislative branch—as well as an ability to communicate complex issues to the community. Coupled with four decades of tax experience and fiscal expertise, it's readily apparent why Maui's loss has been a tremendous gain for the Abercrombie administration.

His priorities as tax director are simplifying the tax system, modernizing the department and fostering community outreach initiatives—simple yet effective goals for a no-nonsense director like Pablo who brings a blue-collar work ethic along with impressive credentials and a good track record.

As perhaps Gov. Abercrombie's most highly-appointed and visible appointee of Filipino ancestry, the Filipino community should be extremely proud of Pablo. His is the classic local success story—the son of immigrant plantation workers who grew up in Palama and advanced himself through a solid education, determination and hard work. We wish him all the very best and are confident that he is more than up for any and all challenges that may come his way as State Tax director.

City Departmental Merger Makes Good Sense

A consultant hired by the City recently released a report on a proposal to merge the Honolulu Fire Department with the Emergency Services Department (ESD). In a detailed 222-page report, Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) determined that such a merger is not only feasible, but would improve the delivery of emergency services to both residents and visitors in a cost effective and efficient manner. Doing so would also eliminate duplication of services. In fact, ESCI estimates that in the next five years, the proposed merger, if approved, could save taxpayers a total of \$10 million.

Such mergers or "reorgs" are nothing new at the City. The last major departmental reorg occurred in 1998 when then-Mayor Jeremy Harris eliminated several departments and centralized City services. The two biggest and most controversial moves included merging the Department of Planning and Permitting (formerly Department of Land Utilization) with the Department of Planning, and merging the Budget Department into the Department of Budget and Fiscal Services (formerly the Department of Land Utilization).

Critics said the massive reorg created more inefficiencies

FROM THE PUBLISHER

You've probably heard the old saying "Nothing lasts forever." Well, for morning commuters, the smooth-flowing morning traffic of the past few months will soon come to grinding halt as school resumes for tens of thousands of students. On the bright side, it was good while it lasted!

For this issue, we have highlighted two Filipinos who have risen to the top of their respective fields. The first is Fred Pablo—the State's Tax director who was tapped by Gov. Neil Abercrombie to join his administration. And for good reason. Pablo brings a wealth of tax and management experience to the table that can only serve to benefit the entire state. Please read more about him in a candid interview on page 4. Mahalo to our contributing writer Caroline Julian for an interesting and informative exclusive interview!

The second is Leticia Colmenares, an associate professor of chemistry at Windward Community College who recently received an award for excellence in teaching. While there are many such awards for educators, hers is significant in that she is rarely among college faculty—a Filipina in the field of chemistry. More on Colmenares is available on page 9. She and Pablo are excellent examples and role models for our youth to follow. We encourage young Filipinos to set their goals high and be the best at whatever they choose to do in life. If Pablo and Colmenares can achieve their dreams, surely you can also!

Speaking of dreams, one young Filipina made her dream come true. Topaz Fernandez was crowned 2011 Miss Hawaii Filipina in a recent pageant sponsored by the United Filipino Council of Hawaii. Good things are in store for this Kauai girl who aspires for a career in broadcast journalism. Congratulations to Topaz and fellow contestants Leovani Mabiog and Shelby Bantilan. Good luck to all three young women!

In closing, there are other columns of interest in this issue that we hope you will enjoy reading—columns like "Legislative Connection" (page 3), "Immigration Guide" (page 7), "Food and Leisure" (page 8), "Family Corner" (page 12) and "Legal Notes" (page 13). Thank you once again for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. As always, we invite our readers to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii's dynamic and vibrant Filipino community.

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

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than anticipated, while others noticed definite improvements. A few years later in 2006, the City's Charter Commission voted down a proposal to undo Harris' reorg, citing the cost and time involved to reconfiguring the departments.

In the proposed merger with HFD and ESD, which includes ambulance and ocean safety/lifeguard personnel, the potential \$10 million in savings should be music in the ears of both the administration and members of the City Council. Both sides went through a particularly difficult process for the City's Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

There are obstacles to overcome, namely collective bargaining agreements with the United Public Workers and Hawaii Government Employees Association. Both unions may have their own economic incentives to resist the merger. To alleviate the concerns of the incumbent workforce, the consultant recommends implementing the merger over time and in a phased-in approach based on demonstrated efficiencies and organizational commitment.

The proposal deserves serious thought—particularly with the City so strapped for cash. We encourage the administration to carefully evaluate the consultant's report and consider its recommendations.

LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation



By Senator Will Espero

You may be one of those wondering why there is all the fuss about the November APEC meeting in Honolulu. Here's the bottom line – it's the bottom line. Improving the conditions and processes for making business flow and increase within the Asian-Pacific Rim region is the basic purpose of APEC. Stakeholders and government officials discuss, negotiate, and formulate policies to reduce the time, cost, and uncertainty of moving goods and services throughout the Asia-Pacific region. By fostering economic stability and prosperity, APEC's members seek to raise living standards and educational levels for its citizens.

Small and medium-sized companies constitute 90% of businesses throughout the region and employ more than half the

workforce for most APEC members. The sheer collective size means that collaborating to make trade and investment easier across borders can stimulate healthier, more vibrant economies. Small and medium-sized companies, however, aren't large enough to have staff whose job descriptions focus solely on taking care of cross-boundary matters or be able to produce 18-21 variants of the same product to be able to sell it in different countries.

Trade ministers for APEC members work on facilitating global production chains and expanding international markets and including small and medium sized businesses in these efforts. The costs of international trade, lack of access to reliable information on government regulations and tariffs, and protecting intellectual property are some of the hindrances to doing business across borders.

Another challenge is product standards that vary from country to country. To ease the burden on production and expand transnational trade, APEC ministers are trying to establish

common standards. Differing standards is a real barrier for small and medium-sized companies that cannot afford to make several variants of a product to satisfy nation-specific requirements. Aligning standards to maintain quality while remaining business-friendly is an extensive balancing act. Government officials working in this area must ensure good regulatory practices that protect public health and welfare while reducing technical barriers to trade. The standards must address a wide range of products – food and toy safety, commercial green building standards, and medical devices, for example.

Companies need clear, consistent, and easy to understand information on trade regulations and the tariffs that must be paid. To help on this point, APEC created a website for up-to-date information for each of its members.

The APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) clears another hurdle for international trade. Being able to negotiate and conduct transactions face to face is often crucial for success, even in

this day of internet communications. This pre-cleared, multiple-entry travel document for visa-free business travel within the region resembles a credit card and is valid for three years. The ABTC enables businessmen to travel without visas for short stays up to 60 – 90 days. Cardholders also enjoy expedited border crossing in member economies by being fast-tracked through immigration lanes. Nearly 90,000 cardholders enjoy the ability to hop on a plane at a moment's notice and travel clear across the Asian-Pacific region to conduct business.

An important APEC reform is reducing the costs of business transactions. The APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan reduced these by 6% across the region between 2002-2006, with a goal of cutting an additional 5% in expenses for 2007-2010.

About APEC

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is an economic bloc that strives to facilitate free trade and economic collaboration. Headquartered in Singapore, APEC is much like the European Union and the North American Free Trade Area. Forty-four per cent of world trade occurs within the Asia-Pacific rim, and 40% of the world's population lives in this region. Its 21 member economies account for 54% of the world's GDP, which is more than twice that of Europe (21%).

APEC is comprised of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, U.S., and Vietnam.

At the second summit held in 1994 in Bogor, Indonesia, APEC leaders set a goal of establishing regional free trade by 2010 for industrialized nations and 2020 for developing nations.

To meet these Bogor goals, APEC worked on economic and technical cooperation, facilitating business, and liberalizing trade and investment.

Honolulu is the fortunate host site of the 23rd annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) this November 12-20 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Selected by President Barack Obama, this is the second time the United States has hosted the meeting. President Bill Clinton chose Blake Island, Washington for the inaugural 1993 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. As one of the world's most ethnically diverse Asia-Pacific communities, as well as the home state of President Obama, Hawaii is an ideal location for this large meeting of world leaders. The November 2011 APEC meeting in Waikiki, then, is an exciting and crucial event toward continuing efforts to enhance trade and investment in our part of the globe.

SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

Social Security Benefits to Be Paid on Time

By Jane Yamamoto-Burigsay

Social Security payments for August 3, 2011 were made on time and as scheduled, according to Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security. Payments for August 10, 17, and 24 will also be made as scheduled.

"I'm happy to announce that there will be no delay in the payment of August Social Security benefits which should be a relief to those who were concerned about their benefits," Astrue says. "I'm pleased the president and Congress were able to come together in a bipartisan fashion to avoid an interruption in payments."



Astrue urges those who receive paper checks from Social Security to consider signing up for direct deposit, which is a secure and convenient way to receive Social Security payments. The deadline for all current beneficiaries to switch to electronic payments is March 1, 2013.

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The Tax Man Cometh: Up-Close-and-Personal with State Tax Director Fred Pablo

By Caroline Julian

Frederick Pablo has been busy working to implement his goals for the Hawaii State Department of Taxation ever since he took over the helm. As the new State Director of Taxation, he has a vision that he is excited to turn into a reality.

His goals include making the department more efficient and effective in its tax collection. Gov. Neil Abercrombie nominated Pablo to be part of his administration earlier this year and was confirmed by the State Senate in February.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Pablo traces his roots back to the Philippines. His father came to Hawaii from Pangasinan to work in the sugarcane fields. His maternal grandfather, who was from La Union, also came to Hawaii to work in the sugar industry. With the close connections to his heritage, the value of a good education was imparted in him.

"My parents instilled in me the importance of an education and of giving back to the community," Pablo said in his testimony during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

A graduate of St. Louis High School in Kaimuki, Pablo earned Bachelor's and Master's in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. He holds a Certificate of Public Accounting (CPA) license in the State of Hawaii and has accumulated approximately 40 years of experience in taxation and finance.

After obtaining his MBA and CPA license, Pablo's ambition to pursue a career in taxation took him to Washington, D.C., around the globe and back here at home. He has served

with the Internal Revenue Service; the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, Germany as Deputy Tax Attaché; and with the U.S. Embassy in Rome and Paris as Tax Attaché.

He has served as District Tax Manager for the County of Maui. And before becoming the State's tax director, he most recently served as Budget Director for the County of Maui.

Below is a candid Q&A that the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle recently conducted with Pablo.

HFC: *Why did you apply for the Director of Taxation position?*

Pablo: After reading Governor Abercrombie's comprehensive plan for a New Day in Hawaii, I was eager to join the Abercrombie-Schatz administration as I share their vision and would like to contribute to building a strong and sustainable economy, and working effectively with Hawaii's residents.

I have comprehensive experience in tax administration—working and/or managing the many programs for providing taxpayer services, tax collections, audits, tax advisories, appeal hearings, and international tax treaties. I gained this experience by working at all levels of government including the County of Maui, State of Hawaii and with the Federal government at the IRS in Hon-



Hawaii State Department of Taxation Director Frederick "Fred" Pablo

Photography by Tim Ueno

olulu and in Washington D.C., as well as at U.S. embassies in Europe and in Asia which included resolving international taxation issues with foreign governments.

HFC: *Do you plan any reforms for the tax department? How will it change/improve the department?*

Pablo: As head of office at the County, State and Federal levels, my approach has always been to be proactive, that is, to identify and to resolve issues before they develop, spread and have negative results.

Considering that Hawaii's population has grown 40 percent over the past three decades and has more than doubled since Hawaii became a State, we need to prepare tax administration to serve our growing and future needs. Our vision at the Department of Taxation will be to most efficiently and most effectively collect the tax revenue that is needed for maintaining and improving the State of Hawaii's programs and services to Hawaii's residents.

We will accomplish this through a modernization program that includes reviewing processes and identifying where improvements can be made and whenever possible using the latest technology. These improve-

ments will allow the Department to better serve residents and businesses in Hawaii, now and in the future.

HFC: *What are your goals for the Department?*

Pablo: After three months review of operations, I presented a strategic plan to managers and staff of my vision to improve our customer service to the people of Hawaii. I refer to it as the three "P's."

First of all, we will serve the People of Hawaii by facilitating their voluntary compliance with tax filing and paying requirements. We will review all aspects of improving communication through the redesign of tax forms, publications, education and assistance. Where there is an area of tax non-compliance, we will determine the underlying reasons and take a proactive approach in arriving at a long-term solution to improve compliance. Improving communication is a continuing process. We have already scheduled tax workshops to explain the tax law changes to tax practitioners and will be expanding outreach sessions for business associations and the general public.

Second, we will focus on improving Processes at the De-

partment of Taxation. We are now exploring technology for handling payments and allowing electronic registration as well as tax clearances for businesses. We are meeting with practitioners and business associations to jointly discuss the successful expansion of electronic filing and electronic payment. We have formed a Modernization Task Force in the Department which is reviewing and identifying improvements and technologies that can be developed and implemented for each work unit.

Third, we will foster quality-driven Productivity. Our managers are updating operating manuals and training material that will allow each employee to develop to his or her full potential in meeting tax administration needs now and in the future. We also are looking to access better resources including equipment, databases, management information reports and research material that will enhance productivity. Expanding our partnerships with Federal and State agencies will also improve tax administration.

There is a fourth "P" in our strategic plans for managers and it deals with tax Policy. The Department's management team will be closely working with the

(continued on page 5)

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, O & A...)

Governor's office and other departments to develop a sustainable long-term tax policy for the State.

HFC: Are there any policies that you will keep at the Department of Taxation?

Pablo: We will continue the stated mission of the Department of Taxation which is to administer the tax laws for the State of Hawaii in a consistent, uniform, and fair manner. We will provide guidance on complex tax issues and recurring tax inquiries through letter rulings, tax announcements and tax information releases. A cornerstone of tax compliance is that the public trusts that tax laws are being upheld in a fair and consistent manner; hence, we will seek prosecution of those who intentionally fail to file a tax return or fail to make tax payment to the State. We will open a "fraud hotline" where anyone may provide information about those who are not filing or are underreporting their tax liabilities.

HFC: How will the policies you plan to implement benefit/impact taxing residents? How will they benefit/impact businesses?

Pablo: Our goals of facilitating the tax filing requirements, improving processes and increasing productivity will all contribute to more efficiently and effectively collecting State tax revenues which are needed to provide the State's services and programs requested by its



Photography by Tim Ueno

residents and businesses. An expanded electronic filing and tax payment system will greatly improve tax administration. It will be simpler for individuals and provide permanent tax records for businesses.

Our review of processes to identify improvements has already had positive results. Last year, there were many and frequent complaints about delays of up to eight weeks in the State's depositing of checks for tax payments. The inquiries and complaints were directed to the incoming tax administration and legislators, and appeared in the daily newspaper and a business magazine. When we took office, we conducted a review of the processing for incoming documents and beginning in April, we now have revised procedures that assure the timely processing of tax payments. The feedback from taxpayers has been positive.

HFC: The IRS is dealing with a growing number of taxpayer identity thefts. Are there steps being taken to protect

Hawaii's taxpayers from ID theft?

Pablo: The State has strict confidentiality laws to protect taxpayer information and our employees take this matter very seriously. The Department also has been monitoring use of fraudulent tax returns being submitted with stolen taxpayer identification.

HFC: Are tax collections to the government expected to grow for the next couple years?

Pablo: In my experience, most taxpayers want to comply with their obligation to pay their share of taxes. They realize that taxes are necessary to pay for government services needed by our society such as roads, environmental protection and schools. I believe that by increasing efficiency in our processing tax system, making it easier to understand the tax laws and improving our ability to collect taxes that are still owed to the State will generate additional revenue. As the economy expands, these efficiencies also will facilitate the ability of new businesses to pay their taxes.

HFC: What are the chances that the State will return the 10 percent it withholds from the City for collecting the 1/2 percent increase in the GET? Do you think it's fair for the State to do that? What are your thoughts on that?

Pablo: My understanding is that the percentage withheld for the State's administrative cost to collect the general excise tax for the City had been agreed to by prior administrations of the City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii. I have no personal knowledge of the issues discussed that resulted in this agreement.

HFC: There was a recent program by the State to grant amnesty to taxpayers who under-reported their income taxes. How did that go? How much did the state get from that? Will that be offered again?

Pablo: At this time, we are not planning on offering another amnesty program. The last amnesty program—launched in 2009—resulted in \$14 million dollars. I want to emphasize that there are many programs available to individuals and businesses who are delinquent in filing tax returns or in making tax payments. Anyone who needs assistance should immediately contact us because the interest and penalties are accruing and increasing the obligation. We can assist them, for example, in arranging payment plans, offers in compromise, adjustments of

penalties and/or interest.

HFC: The governor recently signed Senate Bill 754 (General Excise and Use Taxes; Temporary Suspension; Exemption for Certain Person and Gross Amounts) and Senate Bill 1186 (Transient Accommodations Tax; Minimum Daily Tax; Time Share Rate; County Distribution) into law. Please explain how each of these bills would help the State close its budget deficit and how will they impact the public and visitors?

Pablo: Gov. Abercrombie did not support any hike in the general excise tax to cover a budget deficit of over \$800 million dollars. Through the legislative process, the State House and Senate agreed to cover much of that deficit by removing exemptions from the general excise and use tax (SB 754). The Legislature also agreed to increase the fees paid by visitors in order to increase revenue from other segments of the economy.

HFC: Are there any other bills that the governor recently signed that will impact residents? If so, please explain.

Pablo: Two bills affecting the Tax Department, related to taxpayers involved in cash-based businesses and the other allowing for the subpoena of tax records, were adopted. These bills will enable the Department to make sure everyone pays their fair share of taxes.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Libraries to Host Emergency Preparedness Workshops

The American Red Cross-Hawaii State Chapter and Kanu Hawaii will present free "Get Ready" emergency preparedness workshops at four Oahu public libraries from August 11 - September 18, 2011.

The workshops will provide important information for residents during hurricane season, which runs now through November 30. They will be held at the following public libraries:

- Wahiawa—August 11 at 6 pm (622-6345)



- Aiea—August 27 at 11 am (483-7333)
- Mililani—September 10 at 2 pm (627-7470)
- Pearl City—September 18 at 1 pm (453-6566)

Workshops will provide attendees with information such as

when and where to evacuate, how to make an emergency plan for your family, how to stay informed in the event of a hurricane or tsunami watch and what are the best resources available from city, state and federal government agencies. Organizers will also be giving away one emergency kit item per workshop as a door prize.

Workshops are suitable for ages 12 and older. Please contact the hosting library two weeks in advance if a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations are needed.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Topaz Fernandez Crowned 2011 Miss Hawaii Filipina

By Maita Mitallos

The United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH) and the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) held the 2011 Miss Hawaii Filipina Scholarship Pageant last July 30, 2011 at the Empress Restaurant in Downtown Honolulu.

Three beautiful ladies who are the queens of their respective island councils—Topaz Fernandez, Miss Kauai Filipina; Leonevi Mabiog, Miss Oahu Filipina; and Miss Shelby Bantilan, Miss Maui Filipina—vied for the crown that was attended by some 380 guests.

In a highly-suspenseful evening marked by dance and song numbers and an animated crowd of supporters, Fernandez was crowned the 2011 Miss Hawaii Filipina by outgoing title holder Margaret Pascual. Mabiog and Bantilan were proclaimed second runner-up and third runner-up, respectively.

In her remarks, UFCH president Lyne Gutierrez described the relevance of the beauty contest.

"The pageant is designed to nurture our youth with rich cultural heritage and to foster involvement with the community through service projects," she says. "Not only their talents, beauty, intellect and charm they possess but their courage to step forward to represent their communities as well. They also serve as role models for their generation."

The evening's theme was "One Filipina" or how the modern day Filipina contributes to the overall well-being of her community and the world. The candidates were judged based on pre-pageant interview (30 per-

cent); swimsuit competition (25 percent); talent (20 percent); termo speech and question-and-answer session (25 percent).

In her termo speech, Fernandez claimed "One Filipina" is a celebration of all Filipinas and their contribution to society since the first wave of Filipino migration to Hawaii to present times. She referred to Dr. Brenda Aquino of the University of Hawaii-Manoa and other Filipinas who have made a difference in their respective fields. These Filipinas, according to Fernandez, have been "instrumental in passing on Filipino culture and values to the succeeding generation of Filipinos."

Fernandez is from Kauai High School and has held positions as a member of the Senior Class Council and the 2011 graduation committee of her school. She is also a member of various organizations such as Kauai Youth Leadership of the Kauai Rotary Organization, Hale Kapuna, Salvation Army, American Cancer Society and Kali Association of America Association.

Fernandez aspires for a career as a broadcast journalist and sees her participation in the pageant as following her childhood dream.

"I wanted to achieve this dream and hope that it will open doors for me to accomplish my other goals in life," she says. "I want to inspire people and become a successful role model in enhancing the image of what makes the Filipino culture unique."

Fernandez was also named the best in the termo design and swimsuit competitions. Her awards included a \$10,000 scholarship from the Argosy University of Hawaii, a round-trip ticket to the Philippines and



Miss Hawaii Filipina 2011 Topaz Fernandez (center) with first-runner up Leonevi Mabiog (left) and second-runner up Shelby Bantilan

a \$2,000 cash allowance.

Mabiog was named Miss Congeniality and received awards for the talent and termo speech competitions. She also received special awards for most tickets sold and most ads solicited.

Bantilan was named Miss Photogenic and was awarded the best in pre-pageant interview. Mabiog and Bantilan each received \$6,000 and \$4,000 scholarships, respectively from the Argosy University.

The roster of judges for the pageant were Laurie Bachran, international director of Better Health Unlimited; Brent Anbe, film industry development specialist; Lyla Berg, former Hawaii State Representative; Dr. Jorge Camara, past president of the Hawaii Ophthalmological Society; Geraldine Rojas, marketing manager of Kahala Hotel and Resort; and Albert Bediones, financial advisor with Merrill Lynch. The termo judges included Elsie Fernandez, fashion technology lecturer at Honolulu Community College; Dr. Arnold Villafuerte, program director at the Hawaii State Department of Health; and Cecilia Villafuerte, mortgage consultant. Tabulators were Jake Manegdeg, William Cudal and Ben Cabrerios.

Also present during the event were Ron Menor, former

association; Nancy Walsh, President of Philippine Nurses of Hawaii; Liza Trinidad, Fiesta Filipina Chair 2011; Emerita Etrata, President of the Santanguanians Association of Hawaii; and Dr. Aquino of UH-Manoa.

The Miss Hawaii Filipina Scholarship Pageant is a long-time project of the UFCH. It has assisted young women of Hawaii for the past 52 years in their search for knowledge through their scholarships.

The evening's event was made possible by major sponsors such as the Renato & Maria A.F. Etrata Foundation, Home and Community Services of Hawaii, Preferred Home and Community Based Services and Everlasting Travel Services. Leo Rojas Gozar produced and directed the pageant.



Battleship Missouri Memorial to Mark 66th Anniversary of the End of WW II

The Battleship Missouri Memorial will commemorate the 66th anniversary of the formal end of history's most destructive war with a ceremony entitled "The End of the War in the Pacific," on September 2, 2011 from 8 am to 9 am.

The ceremony will be held on the USS Missouri's forward main deck, near the site where Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Douglas MacArthur and representatives from 10 nations assembled to accept Japan's formal and unconditional surrender on September 2, 1945. At that time, the USS Missouri was anchored in Tokyo Bay.

Suggested attire is aloha for civilians and summer whites or service equivalent for military personnel. In the shadow of the Mighty Mo's main guns, the ceremony will feature guest speakers, patriotic music, performances of a rifle salute and Echo Taps from atop the turret and superstructure. There will also be opportunities for guests to tour the ship's decks.

Speakers will include Dr. E. Bruce Heilman, World War II veteran and chancellor of the University of Richmond.

The event is free and open to the public. There will be roundtrip shuttle bus from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center beginning at 7 am.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel
Samonte Tipon

Drug Use Immigration Waiver – Obtainable with Expert Assistance

showing they took drugs is inexplicable. Perhaps they were tricked by the consul. But in other cases the doctor examining them simply asked the question without any trickery. One intending immigrant explained “Nabigla ako” (I was taken by surprise).

Waiver requirements

INA Section 212(h), which has been in the books for many years, provides a waiver of inadmissibility for violation of INA Section 212(a)(2)(a)(i)(II) relating to admitting to committing acts in violation of any law or regulation of the United States, or of a foreign country, relating to controlled substance. We are writing a book on immigration waivers.

The threshold requirements are that the alien is only eligible to apply for a waiver if the controlled substance violation involved (1) a single offense, (2) involving simple possession, (3) of 30 grams or less, of (4) marijuana.

If the alien does not meet these requirements, the alien is ineligible. The waiver does not apply, if, for example, there is more than one offense, or if it involves drug trafficking, or the quantity of the drug is more than 30 grams, or the drug is not marijuana but cocaine or methamphetamine.

Three methods of qualifying

There are three methods of qualifying for a waiver.

- (A) (1) the activities occurred more than 15 years before the date of the application for an immigrant visa;
- (2) the alien's admission to the U.S. is not contrary to the national welfare, safety, or security of the U.S.; and
- (3) the alien has been rehabilitated; OR
- (B) (1) the alien has a U.S. citizen (USC) or lawful permanent resident (LPR) child, spouse, or parent; and
- (2) the alien's inadmissibility would result in extreme hardship to the USC or LPR qualifying relative; OR
- (C) the alien qualifies for classification as a battered spouse or child of a USC or LPR.

Discretion of Attorney General

Even if the alien meets any of the three methods of qualifying, the alien must still convince the Attorney General (or his delegate) to exercise favorable discretion in granting the waiver. The AG will balance the positive and negative factors. No court has jurisdiction to review any decision to grant or deny a waiver.

Forms and Fees

The waiver application must be submitted on Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility. You can obtain a copy of the form with detailed instructions and the amount of the fee from the USCIS or the U.S. Embassy. The form must be accompanied by supporting documents to establish eligibility for a waiver. The alien will be fingerprinted.

Tip

Obtaining a waiver requires

expert assistance. It is not for do-it-yourselfers or immigration herbalarios.

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. Office: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel: (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270 AM, dial every Thursday from 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.itlko.com.)

An immigration consultant told this story about a Filipino who was being interviewed by a consular officer in Manila. “Everything looks okay,” remarked the officer, as he closed the folder. “By the way, have you ever tried drugs? You must have heard about a former U.S. President who tried it but did not inhale.” “I’ve tried it too, but I inhaled,” replied the intending immigrant. The officer then said: “Just wait in the lobby.” Minutes later, the Filipino was handed a piece of paper stating “We are unable to issue you an immigrant visa because you have been found ineligible under the following section of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended: 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) You have admitted to committing acts in violation of any law or regulation of the U.S., or of a foreign country, relating to controlled substance.”

Many intending immigrants have admitted taking drugs and have been refused visas. Why they admitted taking drugs even when there was no evidence

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Aquino Downplays Worries Over Strong Peso

from www.philstar.com
Wednesday, August 3, 2011

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) -- President Aquino said today that the peso value of 41 to 43 pesos to 1 US dollar is a “tolerable” range.

“It’s still within the window of things we believe are tolerable,” he said, when asked whether he was concerned about the appreciation of the peso against the greenback following concerns over the US debt crisis.

The peso is trading at 42.070 to the dollar as of

Wednesday afternoon.

“What will be done to ensure that we maintain it to X level? If we favor exporters, normally importers and anything we consume in this country has an import component. So the bulk of the population would be benefited from an improving peso situation,” he said.

The president added that a strong peso has a “positive effect especially on petroleum” products.

But Mr. Aquino said what worries his economic managers is the “inflationary pull of hot money,” as investors might shun the US and put their portfolio investments in emerging

economies like the Philippines.

In a separate interview, Bank of the Philippine Islands President and Chief Executive Officer Aurelio Montinola III said two things are evident at this point: one concerns the likelihood for continued low interest rates in the US and by extension low interest rates in the Philippines as well, and continued weakness in the US dollar.

These developments could complicate monetary and fiscal management practices and objectives down the line, which is why he urged for caution among policy planners. (www.philstar.com)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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Healthy is the New Cool

A TASTE OF LIFE by Heny Sison

I recall meeting Angelo Songco many years ago when he invited me to visit Pampanga to cover Butchie's Recipes of La Moderna, and Sta Rita's Duman Festival, which I featured in the Christmas episode of my show. I called him and shared my personal story that my family regularly passed by La Moderna in the '70s when we went home to Bataan. We would buy pan de sal and their already famous sans rival. If I am not mistaken, I think my parents' wedding cake was even made by La Moderna.

We had a blast in Santa Rita

and learned a lot about duman, a special variety of rice that he called "the green gold of Pampanga" because it was priced at a couple thousand pesos



Bestseller: Sugarleaf's Turkey Waldorf sandwich is gluten-free and has Bifidus, a probiotic that helps digestion.

per kilo! Of course, that trip to the Philippines' culinary capital was chockful of sumptuous foods like asado Sta. Rita, tender beef Calitiran, bringhe, crab adobo and lots more that left me and my staff so full and happy.

Over the past couple of years, I would contact Angelo if I needed a resource person about the food of Pampanga. He has helped me find interesting information or point me to small establishments that serve the best food. The common denominator of all our excursions would be that the food, though tasty, was not necessarily the healthiest option around.

So it was a major surprise when I received an invitation from Angelo this year to the ribbon cutting of Sugarleaf, a

"healthy-eats resto store" in Greenhills. Was this the same Angelo that fed us heaps of steamed shrimp and crab with bagoong? What happened to Butchie's, which showcased the artisan-baked products of his grandparents' La Moderna Bakery in Guagua? I remember munching on the piping-hot breads straight from their pugon in Guagua and the artisan biscuits that bring memories to our parents and grandparents. I was still eating the pan de coco and he would pass me a piece of turrones de casoy or masa poldira.

Foods That Nourish

I learned that he and new partners decided to realign the food offerings of Butchie's to a more healthy selection early this year. It was more appropriate considering its market and location in the Health Cube Building, which has tenants like a physical therapy clinic, dialysis center, and doctor's and dentist's offices. He partnered with Gina Yambot and put up Sugarleaf selling organic produce, and a menu using these as a highlight. Since then, they have merged their company with Goody Kefir, a business set up by young entrepreneur couple Roman Lorenzo and Jeren Cabral, which makes a probiotic drink that has countless health claims, from colon cleansing to cancer prevention. I was pleased that they still chose to retain La Moderna products even if it uses refined sugar, because it still has a heritage that cannot be discounted. Angelo says that people still look for the

bakery's products and Allie's peanuts. But they had to make the painful decision of taking chicharon off their shelves.

I found their tagline inspiring: "Foods that nourish." I know that not all calories are created equal. There's junk food that gives nothing but carbohydrates and empty calories with a lot of artificial ingredients. And there are foods full of quality nutrients that are not necessarily high in calories but provide energy and sustenance. This is one of the pillars of Sugarleaf's menu and product line.

Healthy Is The New Cool

Sugarleaf is actually the English name for Stevia, which I am familiar with as a natural sweetener. Sugar connotes sweet, happy thoughts while Leaf embodies the organic aspect of the store. Business is good; they even have regular clients who anticipate and reserve their favorite gulay. They have seen a growth in their market from mostly older people who are already experiencing health issues to a younger set — parents feeding their young kids and infants organic products. This is attributed to the fact that they were able to find a balance between healthy and yummy. "You can make the healthiest foods you can but if nobody will eat it, then that defeats the mission of our store." Sugarleaf's best-selling items include its Turkey Waldorf Sandwich, which is gluten-free and has Bifidus, a probiotic that helps digestion. Their baker makes breads with the specifications that no enhancers and conditioners are used.

Kids love the Goody Kefir wraps and smoothies, which is a perfect example of how a not-so-kid-friendly sour ingredient is successfully combined with other ingredients to make great-tasting food and drinks. They even make kefir ice cream and



Sugarleaf's Berries and Greens salad



Rocking rolls: The organic chicken Goody Wrap

cheesecakes!

Desserts scare some people because of its high sugar and fat content. I am sometimes guilty of going overboard on butter and white sugar, but Sugarleaf has managed to create guilt-free (or less guilty?) desserts using natural sugar substitutes. They make cookies, sans rival, pecan pie, and cheesecakes using coconut sugar, which is a low-glycemic alternative to white sugar, making it more suitable for diabetics. I missed out on their "Sweet and Healthy" talk due to my busy schedule, but was assured by Angelo that there will be repeats.

Healthy really is the new cool! In this day and age when younger and younger people are getting sick — high blood pressure, obesity, and diabetes — it is a breath of fresh air to find a restaurant that serves food that actually promotes good health. And an additional bonus for us vain folk — it keeps you young with its antioxidants, makes you lose weight with its high-fiber content, and energizes with quality nutrition.

Super Foods, Goody Kefir

I have heard of super foods before but have a difficult time

looking for it and figuring out how to use it in my pastries. Again, Sugarleaf, which tries to be a one-stop shop for organic, natural and healthy food items, has come to the rescue and made these hard-to-find items available under one roof: colon-cleansing chia seeds (they have organic whole seeds and cold-milled ground chia), anti-oxidizing acai (pronounced ah-say-ee) and hormone-balancing maca. They also carry indigenous Philippine super foods such as spirulina — which will be the next big thing in health — avocado, raw cacao and WCO products. Aside from selling these in their mini-mart, they also use it extensively in their menu, from main courses to drinks and desserts. The non-dairy banana split ice cream was to die for — not too sweet with the pleasant crunch of raw cacao nibs.

As for kefir, it has started to grow on me. I usually have to combine it with fruit, as Angelo suggested, but now I can drink it on its own or with my muesli or granola. It goes well with any kind of fresh or frozen fruit. I have yet to try using it in my pastries but for now, am content with Sugarleaf's creations. (www.philstar.com)

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FEATURE

Chem Professor Wins Teaching Award

by Dennis Galolo

Leticia Colmenares, Ph.D. and Associate Professor of Chemistry, recently won the 2011 Francis Davis Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The award recognizes her dedication to teaching excellence as a teacher, and attention to undergraduate students. It's the second such award she's received. In 2003, she received the Board of Regents Excellence in Teaching Award.

"I feel honored and it makes me feel I'm being rewarded for putting in a lot of effort into my teaching," she says.

Colmenares has been described as a "master teacher who is extraordinarily committed to helping students learn chemistry." She applies her skills and talents in teaching chemistry at many levels—to undergraduate non-majors, to students requiring chemistry prior to entering science profes-

sions and to the community through chemistry forums.

Her students appreciate the extra effort she puts into helping them understand difficult material and connect chemistry in everyday life. She is not only an expert in using a variety of teaching tools, she moves with ease from one to the other and engages students in problem-solving.

Colmenares also coordinates peer tutoring for students as well as the Community Forum in Chemistry since 2006. The forum enhances learning in chemistry for both students and the community and serves as a bridge between the classroom and the real world.

One student who returned to school after a long absence and who is now a Ph.D. candidate at the UH Cancer Center remarked, "Coming back to school after 20 years, I was apprehensive about taking chemistry. I quickly found that Dr. Colmenares' teaching style, one that is both challenging and supporting, enabled me to develop both the study skills



Leticia Colmenares, Ph.D.
Photo by Peter Tolly Oyon

and confidence to tackle the subject."

For Colmenares, it's all in a day's work.

"My greatest joy in teaching is when my students pass and move on to achieve greater things, like graduating from college and getting a job, finishing a graduate program, or becoming a contributing member of the community," she says.

A Love For Teaching

Colmenares graduated from high school in Isabela, Basilan City, the Philippines but did not

know what profession to study. She credits her older sister for pointing her in the right direction.

"She suggested that I major in chemistry partly because no one in the family went into science and partly because we had a good chemistry department in the college," she says. "After taking my first college chemistry course, I found it was challenging and enjoyable."

She eventually earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Mindanao State University and was recruited to be a teacher at the tender age of 21.

"I was hooked to teaching ever since," she says.

Colmenares later earned a master's degree in chemistry from the University of the Philippines in Quezon City and her Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii-Manoa.

Higher Learning

Colmenares has taught at Windward Community College since 1999 and has noticed an

appalling lack of Filipino faculty members. She herself—a Filipina chemistry professor at an institute of higher education—is a rarity. In fact, her students do a double take when they find out she is a Filipino.

"They seem shocked, especially the Filipino students," she says. "It's as if they never expected to find a Filipino professor in chemistry in their life. But after the initial shock, they seem warm and happy about it."

Colmenares wants to continue as a role model for women and minorities who dream of a career in the sciences. If she were a bit younger, she'd aim to be a college administrator. But for now, she wants to continue teaching until retirement and to see more Filipino faculty members join the ranks.

"There is a need for more college professors of Filipino ancestry," she says. "At Windward (Community College), I think there are only two of us who are of Filipino ancestry. We also need more Filipino school or college administrators."

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Respond to Crisis Situations
- Official**by Evelyn Macairan
Wednesday, August 3, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - An official of the Philippine National Police (PNP) said the police still lack equipment to respond to crisis situations similar to the bloody hostage-taking incident at the Rizal Park in Manila where eight Hong Kong tourists and the hostage taker were killed on Aug. 23, 2010.

Director Leocadio Santiago, chief of the PNP-Directorate for Operation, said members of the PNP Crisis Action Force (CAF) need special equipment to effectively respond to emergencies like hostage-taking.

"On air assault for instance, CAF members need entry equipment and firearms for a close-encounter response," Santiago said.

He said the insertion equipment for troops are necessary to secure an enclosed area.

The PNP Directorate for Operations is the unit supervising the five days of "unscripted" crisis situation exercises being assessed by anti-terrorist experts from the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.

Santiago, the chief of the National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO) at the time of the hostage-taking crisis, said the second day of the crisis situation exercises showed that CAF members lack better boats and flotation devices to properly respond when the crisis takes place at sea.

CAF members had sea-based exercises at the Aseana Coastal area in Parañaque City yesterday.

The team conducted air-based exercises on the first day of the program that was held at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport complex in Pasay City.

Some 184 CAF members from the

Special Action Force and the Maritime Group would conduct exercises on a land-based crisis in today's program to be held at police station 7 in Cubao, Quezon City.

Santiago said the last two days of the program would be held at the Subic Bay Free Port in Zambales, where land, water and air crisis simulations would be conducted.

PNP chief Director General Raul Bacalzo ordered Santiago to plan and implement an evaluation of the police unit intended as the primary responder in highly sensitive crisis situations.

After the five-day exercises, Santiago said he would submit to the PNP chief the assessment of the team, including its weakness and strengths, to allow the PNP leadership to address properly them.

The current exercises are part of the police development program to improve operations following the bungled rescue attempt during the Rizal Park hostage crisis.

Hostage-taker Rolando Mendoza, who was dismissed from the police force for extortion, commandeered a Hong Thai Travel tourist bus in Intramuros, Manila and held hostage the Hong Kong tourists and four Filipino guides for several hours in front of the Quirino Grandstand at the Rizal Park.

The suspect, armed with an M16 rifle and a pistol, had released several hostages before the police special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team assaulted the bus, resulting in the death of the hostage taker and eight tourists.

Police hostage negotiators said Rolando turned violent due to frustrations after failing to get his demand to be reinstated to the police force.

Mendoza started shooting the hostages when he saw through the television on board the bus the live footage of his brother Gregorio being arrested.

Gregorio was accosted for inciting his brother rather than helping with negotiations. (www.philstar.com)

**Customs to Tighten Rules on
Entry of Imported Books**by Iris Gonzales
Wednesday, August 3, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - The Bureau of Customs (BOC) will tighten the rules on the importation of books.

Through Memorandum Order No. 25-2011, Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez said importers should apply with the Department of Finance (DOF) for duty-free and tax-free importation of books and indicate in their application the

legal basis for their request for exemption from taxes.

Covered by the order are educational, scientific and cultural materials under the Florence Agreement.

Importation of books by non-stock and non-profit educational institutions is also covered by the new guidelines.

The BOC said that applicants for importation under the Florence Agreement should first secure a certification from the

(continued on page 11)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Koko: A Rare Gentleman's Act, But Long Overdue

by Perseus Echeminada
Thursday, August 4, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - It was a rare gentleman's act that should have been done four years ago.

This was how senatorial candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III and his father and namesake former senator Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. described yesterday the resignation of Juan Miguel Zubiri from the Senate.

The younger Pimentel said Zubiri's resignation was seldom seen in Philippine politics.

"I admire Zubiri for his rare gentleman's act," he said.

Nene Pimentel said Zubiri could have resigned much earlier, before the controversy over his mandate was put into question.

"It should have been done four years ago. I thank all the people who trusted Koko Pimentel. I don't want to add more burden and headache on Zubiri, but the truth has finally come out. This is what Koko fought for," the elder Pimentel said.

Koko, on the other hand, said the resignation of Zubiri would set into motion his electoral protest against the senator.

"This is a very seldom development. We will file a motion in the SET (Senate Electoral Tribunal) to hasten the resolution of my protest. My reading, as a lawyer, the resignation of someone who has been protested will hasten the resolution of election protests," he said.

The younger Pimentel stressed there is nothing wrong in his election protest against Zubiri.

"He (Zubiri) still has an ele-

ment of a gentleman because he resigned. The protest is not wrong. At least, the fight is now fair," he said.

Pimentel disputed the claim of Zubiri that there is no legal basis in his electoral protest.

He said the SET has already completed the revision of contested votes.

Pimentel said his father, also his lawyer, had already set into motion the petition to immediately proclaim him as the 12th winning senator in the 2007 elections.

Pimentel said Zubiri had resigned from the Senate because he saw "himself as... unlawfully occupying the contested position."

He stressed his protest against Zubiri is a political and legal question that needs to be resolved because it involves a senatorial term of office from June 30, 2007 to June 30, 2013.

"Roughly four years had already been consumed in interminable legal squabbling in the SET," Pimentel said.

Pimentel also urged the SET to take into account the recent revelations of former Mindanao regional governor Zaldy Ampatuan and former election official Lintang Bedol that some 195,000 votes were credited to Zubiri in a supposed election fraud scheme in Maguindanao during the 2007 elections.

"The fakery that characterized the 2007 elections in Maguindanao that credited 195,000 fake votes to Zubiri and which in turn led to his fake proclamation as a senator had already been proven by evidence duly presented to the Tribunal," Pimentel said.

Zubiri maintained he did not



Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

cheat his way into the Senate.

'Highest form of moral courage'

Before he made the speech announcing his resignation, Zubiri informed a handful of colleagues a couple of weeks ago of his plan to resign.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said Zubiri met with him to inform him about his plan to quit.

Enrile told Zubiri that the resignation of a member of the Senate was unprecedented and he would have to study its legal implications.

In an impromptu message during yesterday's session, Enrile commended Zubiri for his courage and for choosing to defend his honor instead of asserting his power as a senator.

Enrile said it was a rare occasion to witness the resignation of a



Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri

member of the Senate.

"It is the highest form of moral courage to uphold one's honor and die for it if necessary. To show that there is something more valuable than power, perquisites, wealth and life itself, if it becomes necessary to lay down your life to uphold the dignity of yourself as a man and the dignity of your family," Enrile told Zubiri, standing in rapt attention facing the podium.

"I'm sad that we're going to lose you but I'm sure that what you did today in this chamber,

what you showed us in this chamber today, what you showed the Filipino people, will be remembered and your detractors will be chastised and that you shall come back here again to be with the members of this Senate," Enrile said.

Enrile said he would not immediately act on Zubiri's resignation and take the issue up with members of the Senate.

He said Zubiri's resignation was unprecedented and "historical" considering it was voluntary.

"We cannot stop you for what you did because it's a matter of honor and as head of this chamber, I will tell you I will study your resignation and make a decision in due time. I will consult the members of the chamber about it," he told Zubiri.

Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. said he tried to dissuade Zubiri from pushing through with his plan to resign, to wait until the final decision of the SET.

(continued on page 12)

(from page 10, CUSTOMS...)

UNESCO Office in the Philippines.

"The Florence Agreement, signed in 1952 in Florence, Italy by 17 countries, waived tariffs on books and other printed materials in order to facilitate the free flow of educational, scientific and cultural materials," the BOC said in a statement yesterday.

"The Philippines became a signatory to the Florence Agreement on Aug. 7, 1979," it added.

The BOC also said that imported books, newspapers, magazines, or bulletins which have regular circulation for sale and subscription and have fixed

prices are exempt from the value-added tax (VAT).

Importers, however, are still required to apply for exemption with the DOF for easier VAT assessment.

Imported books and materials not covered by the regulation are levied the corresponding Customs duties.

For instance, dictionaries and encyclopedias, maps and hydrographic or similar charts as well as plans and drawings for architectural, engineering, industrial, commercial, topographical or similar purposes are subject to five percent taxes, according to Customs guidelines. (www.philstar.com)

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FAMILY CORNER



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

Ready For Each Day



Many children are back in school or will be heading back to school soon. The

start of each new school year is an exciting time, but it can also be a time of anxiety and adjustments. It often requires an adjustment to new routines and expectations for the child, parents, and care providers.

Your child depends on you to help her be ready for the many new experiences and challenges each school day will bring. Providing her with a consistent daily routine can give your child the stability and predictability she will need to succeed each day at school. The following are some simple things you can do to help her.

Your child needs plenty of rest to support her growth and attentiveness. You can help by:

- making sure she has at least 8 hours of sleep each night
- having a set bedtime routine such as bathing, brushing teeth, and
- reading a book together at the same time every night, including weekends.

She needs healthy meals and snacks to support her growth and learning. You can help by:

- providing your child with a nutritious breakfast each morning either at home or through the school's breakfast program, if available,
- offering healthy choices with meals when possible,

for example, ask, "Would you like an apple or banana with your cereal?"

- making sure your child has lunch each day, e.g., provide home lunch, money to buy lunch, or make arrangements for free/reduced-cost lunch.

For her health and safety, your child needs good hygiene practices. You can help by:

- making sure she bathes daily and washes her hair regularly.
- supervising her as she brushes her teeth after every meal or at least twice a day.
- reminding her to wash her hands frequently, and especially after using the bathroom and before and after meals/snacks.

She needs to get to school and be picked up on time each day for consistency and reassurance. You can help by:

- checking that your child's school bag is packed and ready the night before school.
- having a set time for her to wake up, dress, eat breakfast, and leave home each morning.
- arranging after-school care and pick up for your child having an alternate plan in case of emergencies, and letting her know what this plan is.

Your child needs opportunities to engage in creative, quiet work to encourage imagination

and fine motor (small muscle) skill development. You can help by:

- offering lots of crayons, markers, paints, blunt child-sized scissors, and sheets of paper for her to use to scribble, write, cut, trace shapes, draw, and paste.
- providing materials such as puzzles, play-dough, large beads (or cereal) to string-together, to help build your child's small muscles.
- doing activities together such as making a book or collage.

She needs time to be physically active for exercise, to burn off energy, and strengthen gross motor (large muscle) skills. You can help by:

- offering opportunities to play inside or outside in a safe environment—to run, jump, skip, dance, climb, or pedal.
- playing active games with your child.
- encouraging her to play with other children.

To help her focus and concentrate, your child needs a quiet place and time to do homework. You can help by:

- providing a quiet, well-lit workspace, turning off the TV, and limiting other distractions.
- designating a specific time each day for doing homework and keeping to the schedule consistently, e.g., before dinner.
- checking to see that your child's homework is done and ready to be turned in to the teacher.

Your child needs shared family time to strengthen bonds and to build a sense of belonging. You can help by:

- sharing at least one meal a day together and encouraging everyone at the meal to share about their day.
- reading with your child at least 10 minutes each day and discussing what you read, even when she can read on her own.

- going on outings together whether to shop or to borrow books from the library.

She needs regular medical and dental care for good health. You can help by:

- informing her school of your child's special health needs and/or medications.
- scheduling regular appointments with her health care provider and dentist.
- making sure she is up-to-date on all required immunizations.

Your child needs opportunities to complete activities independently. You can help by:

- letting your child be responsible for taking dishes to the kitchen sink after eating.
- making it easier for her to do a task by herself, e.g., put milk from a jug into a smaller pitcher so she can pour her own drink.
- have her put dirty clothes in a designated laundry basket and put away her clothes after they have been washed.

These things that you do each day for your child and with her go a long way in providing her with the physical and emotional support and skill-building opportunities she needs to be ready for each day of school.

GRACE FONG is the Interim Director of the Center on the Family, and SYLVIA YUEN is the Interim Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

PHILIPPINE NEWS (cont.) (from page 11, KOKO...)

Senate President Pro-Tempong Jinggoy Estrada also said he tried to discourage Zubiri from resigning.

"I said you have to fight it out if you really did nothing. You really have to fight it out. But we have to respect his decision," Estrada said.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said that he was surprised with Zubiri's decision to quit. He said Zubiri could have fought it out until the end.

Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, for his part, lamented the loss of a fellow native of Bukidnon, whom he described as a very hardworking member of the Senate.

Zubiri's former colleagues

at the House of Representatives said the resignation "demonstrates a sense of delicadeza (propriety) that other mature public servants lack."

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said Zubiri could even make a strong political comeback after his resignation.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. said Zubiri showed strength of character.

"The true test of character is not the drive by which one acquires power but the grade by which one relinquishes it," he said.

Zubiri served for three terms or nine years as Bukidnon congressman before running for the

Senate.

Malacañang said they respect Zubiri's decision to resign.

"We respect the decision of Mr. Zubiri to relinquish his post in the Senate. It represents a way forward to start healing the wounds of the past. We thank him for the service he has given our countrymen," presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said.

Lacierda urged the resigned senator to demonstrate his willingness to restore dignity to the electoral process.

"Any contribution he makes can be vital in restoring the people's mandate and in giving the Filipinos the meaningful elec-

(continued on page 13)

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LEGAL NOTES

Waiving Inadmissibility for Nonimmigrants



By Reuben S. Seguritan

An alien may be barred from reentering the U.S. if he or she had been unlawfully present, committed a misrepresentation on a visa application, or has a criminal conviction.

One way to overcome these and other grounds of inadmissibility is the general waiver found under section 212(d)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

This type of waiver is available to nonimmigrants or those seeking to enter the U.S. for a temporary period. Examples are visitors for business or pleasure,

students, H-1B workers and other temporary workers.

Unlike most waivers for immigrant visa applications, the 212(d)(3) waiver may be used for many inadmissibility grounds, including health reasons, drug offenses, public charge grounds, immigration violations, and even certain types of involvement in terrorist activities.

This waiver is not available to those who are inadmissible due to terrorism or national security-related grounds or foreign policy grounds. It may also be denied to K-visa applicants who are ineligible for an immigrant visa waiver, and those who are not qualified for admission under the category applied for. For example, an applicant for a visitor (B1/B2) visa may not use

this waiver to overcome a negative finding of immigrant intent.

An application for this waiver may be made at a U.S. consulate at the same time that the visa application is submitted. If applied for at the consulate, there is no separate fee for the waiver. The consular officer reviews the waiver application and forwards it to the Admissibility Review Officer of the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) if the waiver is granted. In case of a denial by the ARO, the applicant may request an advisory opinion from the Department of State.

An alien may also apply for the waiver at the port of entry by presenting the CBP officer with a Form I-192 (Application for Advance Permission to Enter as Nonimmigrant) and the

filing fee.

Consular officers have wide discretion when recommending the grant of this type of waiver. The criteria to be followed were laid down in the leading case of *Matter of Hranka*, decided by the Board of Immigration Appeals in 1978. Under the *Hranka* standard, three factors must be balanced: the risk of harm in admitting the applicant, the seriousness of the acts that caused the inadmissibility, and the importance of the applicant's reason for seeking entry.

The Foreign Affairs Manual instructs consular officers to consider the following factors, which mirror those in *Hranka*: the recency and seriousness of the activity or condition causing the ineligibility, the reasons for the proposed travel to the United States, and the positive or nega-

tive effect, if any, of the planned travel on the public interests of the United States.

Consular officers are reminded in the FAM that they may recommend waivers for any legitimate purpose such as family visit, medical treatment, business conferences, tourism and other purposes. The applicant need not have a qualifying family relationship nor show humanitarian or exceptional circumstances.

The 212(d)(3) waiver, while it could be the broadest type of waiver available, remains discretionary. Aliens interested in applying for this waiver in conjunction with their nonimmigrant visa application must ensure that their waiver packet meets the standard of eligibility.

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 (cont.) (from page 12, KOKO...)

toral reforms they rightfully deserve," Lacierda added.

Vice President Jejomar Binay said Zubiri deserved higher respect with his decision to resign from the Senate.

"I have the highest respect for Miguel Zubiri and his reason for resigning from the Senate. His resignation helps reinforce the people's faith in our leaders and shows that decency is very much alive in our political institutions. I hope he will continue his advocacies, particularly for the environment, as a private citizen," Binay said.



Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile hugs Sen. Juan Miguel 'Mig' Zubiri after he tendered his resignation during today's plenary session. Zubiri allegedly benefitted from the 2007 election fraud. (www.senate.gov.ph)

put closure to questions on his victory in the 2007 polls.

"Sen. Zubiri's resignation does not automatically mean the assumption of Koko Pimentel to the vacancy, although it can speed up the process. SET has yet to annul Zubiri's proclamation by declaring Pimentel as the rightful winner," she explained.

De Lima admitted she has yet to be convinced by Zubiri's motive in resigning, calling it a "surprising development" and a "pleasant surprise for the cause of truth and electoral justice."

De Lima also questioned why Enrile decided not to immediately accept the resignation when it was supposed to be irrevocable as expressed by Zubiri himself.

On the other hand, lawyer

Howard Calleja said Zubiri's resignation vindicated the statements made by his client Ampatuan.

Calleja said Zubiri's decision to resign from the Senate only showed Ampatuan was telling the truth behind the fraud in the 2007 elections.

Alaminos City Mayor Hernani Braganza says he sympathizes with Zubiri's predicament, but admires his courage to resign as senator.

"What a loss. He did very well as a senator in the positions he held and the legislation he fought for," he said.

Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) chair Henrietta de Villa said the resignation of Zubiri would boost the joint investigation on the electoral fraud in 2004 and

2007.

"It is a very good development for the investigation... I welcome what he had done," De Villa said.

She said it was "very unusual that someone (in power) will resign."

"But without implying agenda, the act of resigning itself is laudable," De Villa said.

An official of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said Zubiri's resignation had put his family above his political ambi-

tion.

CBCP-National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace executive secretary Fr. Edu Gariguez said Zubiri's decision to leave the Senate came at a time when his winning the 12th slot in the 2007 elections was being questioned.

"This decision to resign in the face of election controversies even without admitting fault... We welcome this gesture of putting the interest of his family over his political ambition," Gariguez said. (www.phstar.com)

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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MAINLAND NEWS

Calif. Death, 76 Illnesses Linked to Ground Turkey

from www.philstar.com
Wednesday, August 3, 2011

WASHINGTON (AP) - The government is scrambling to find the source of a salmonella outbreak likely linked to ground turkey that has killed one person and sickened dozens more.

Finding the source of an outbreak hasn't been easy; the government has been chasing the illnesses for months. The Agriculture Department, which oversees meat safety, said it is still investigating who produced the meat, and the department hasn't initiated a recall.

California state health officials said Tuesday that the one death was in Sacramento County. Seventy-six people in 26 states have been made sick from the same strain of the disease.

The illnesses date back to

March, and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday that cultures of ground turkey from four retail locations between March 7 and June 17 showed contamination with the same strain of salmonella, though those samples were not specifically linked to the illnesses.

Though the government would not comment, a spokesman for the Minnesota-based meat company Cargill said Tuesday that it had been contacted by the Agriculture Department as part of the investigation.

A spokesman for another large, Minnesota-based producer of ground turkey, Hormel, said Tuesday that the company had not been contacted by USDA about the current investigation.

The silence so far from government officials may be attributed to USDA rules that make it harder



Raw ground turkey

to investigate and recall salmonella-tainted poultry. Because salmonella is common in poultry, it is not illegal for meat to be tainted with the pathogen. Officials must directly link the salmonella illnesses with a certain producer or establishment, which is difficult to do because people don't always remember what they ate or where they bought it.

In this case, it appears that officials haven't been able to prove the link between the samples of

salmonella they found — even though they are the same strain — and the 77 people who were sickened. The Food Safety and Inspection Service sent out an alert about the illnesses late last week telling consumers to properly cook their turkey, which can decrease the chances of salmonella poisoning. But the department has not given consumers any further warnings about the source of the tainted meat.

Art Caplan, a bioethicist at the University of Pennsylvania, said the government's handling of the outbreak raises ethical questions about why the public wasn't warned sooner.

"You've got to protect the public health. That's their first and primary value — not industry, not any other goal. They have to warn as quickly as they think there's reasonable evidence for concern," Ca-

plan said.

CDC spokeswoman Lola Russell said Tuesday it can take three to four weeks to confirm a single case. Identifying an outbreak can take considerably longer than that when cases of foodborne illness occur sporadically, in several states, as has happened in the current outbreak, she said.

The CDC estimates that 50 million Americans each year get sick from food poisoning, including about 3,000 who die. Salmonella causes most of these cases and federal health officials say they've made virtually no progress against it.

The most common symptoms of salmonella are diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever within eight hours to 72 hours of eating a contaminated product. It can be life-threatening to some with weakened immune systems. (www.philstar.com)

UAE Naval Officer's Lawyer Seeks to Discredit Pinay in US Case

from AP
Wednesday, August 3, 2011

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island - A defense attorney for a United Arab Emirates naval officer accused of keeping an unpaid servant in his Rhode Island

home sought on Monday to portray her as a liar who left her former master a thank you note when she fled the home last year only to file a lawsuit months later seeking \$200,000.

Col. Arif Mohamed Saeed

Mohamed Al-Ali's former servant testified for the second time during his trial in US District Court in Providence.

Al-Ali's lawyer asked the servant, Elizabeth Cabitla Ballesteros, about leaving Al-Ali and his fam-

ily a note thanking them for "everything" and for bringing her to the United States when she secretly left their large East Greenwich home last October.

"You didn't ask them for \$200,000 in that letter, did you?" Corrente asked during his cross-examination.

Ballesteros responded that she complained Al-Ali was not paying her what she was owed.

She said she didn't seek out a lawyer but authorized a civil suit to be filed months later against Al-Ali on her behalf.

"I complained regarding my salary because they hadn't been paying me," Ballesteros, who is from the Philippines, said through an interpreter.

The civil litigation is on hold in federal court.

Corrente also asked Ballesteros why she never contacted the police after leaving Al-Ali's home.

She said she didn't know how to contact authorities and thought she was returning to the Philippines.

"What you did do is hire an attorney who wrote a letter to the colonel demanding he pay you \$200,000," said Corrente, who also asked Ballesteros whether she knows what it means to tell the truth.

Ballesteros said that the night before she left for the United States last July with Al-Ali's family, she was forced to sign a document affirming she was paid 12 monthly payments of \$1,600. She said she never saw the money.

She also acknowledged she didn't read the contract she and Al-Ali signed for her employment in Rhode Island.

"I didn't read it," she said. "I was not allowed by my master to read it."



Ballesteros said she quickly deteriorated physically after arriving at Al-Ali's Rhode Island home, where she worked long hours cleaning, preparing meals for the family of seven, washing two cars daily and doing all the laundry and ironing.

She also said Al-Ali had her remove cobwebs from the front of the house when they moved in and the residence was much larger than he initially had indicated.

The judge threw out Ballesteros' first testimony because of problems with the translation. A new interpreter was retained to help her.

Once Ballesteros finished testifying Monday, prosecutors rested their case and Corrente asked the judge to acquit Al-Ali.

Corrente said the government has not proved Al-Ali misrepresented the job Ballesteros was hired for or lied to agents by providing them with a document indicating he had paid her.

Prosecutors oppose the motion. The judge is expected to make a decision on Tuesday.

Ballesteros began working for Al-Ali at his home in the UAE in 2007. She said he paid her less than half of what was promised in a contract, but she continued to work for him. (www.philstar.com)

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SAN NICOLAS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII, 16TH ANNUAL AWARD OF MERIT AND INDUCTION OF OFFICERS & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BALL / SATURDAY

August 13, 2011 • Pacific Beach Hotel • Contact: Heidi Luarca - 637-7769

FILIPINO NURSES ORGANIZATION OF HI'S 38TH ANNUAL NURSING EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION & BANQUET / SATURDAY

August 13, 2011, 6pm • Tapa Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village • Contact: Nancy

Walsch, 778-3832

CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS, 24TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONVENTION & GALA / SATURDAY

August 13, 2011 • Maui Beach Hotel, Maui • For details, call Jun Colmenares @ 510-734-4491

43RD ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED VISAYAN COMMUNITY OF HAWAII / SATURDAY

August 20, 2011 • Club House @ 94-833 Awanei St., Waipahu • Contact: George Carpenter, 554-0495

LOCOS SURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII, DINNER AWARDS AND FUNDRAISING / SATURDAY

August 27, 2011 • Coral Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village • Contact: Danny Villaruz @ 778-0233 or Maria Etrata @ 392-2962

ANNAK TI BATAK INTERNATIONAL QUEEN OF QUEENS CORONATION BALL / SUNDAY

September 18, 2011, 6pm • Pacific Beach Hotel • Contact: Dolores Ortal - 422-1667

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September 24, 2011, 6pm • Hibiscus Room, Ala Moana Hotel • Call Gliceria Agraan @ 676-1567 or 671-7774

GLOBAL NEWS

4 Pinay Maids Wage Legal Battle for Permanent HK Residency

by Carina Roncesvalles
Wednesday, August 3, 2011

HONG KONG - At least four Filipino domestic workers who have been working here for more than 20 years have waged a legal battle for the Hong Kong government to grant them permanent residency.

The High Court is scheduled to hear one of the three petitions on Aug. 22, which was filed by Evangelina Vallejos, a domestic worker here since 1986.

The two other petitioners are Irene Domingo and her husband Daniel, who worked here as domestic workers from 1982 to 2007 and from 1985 to 2007, respectively. Two of their three children who were born here are already permanent residents.

Josephine Gutierrez, who had been working here as a domestic worker since 1991, also filed a similar petition.

The Court is set to hear the petition of the Domingos on Oct. 18 and of Gutierrez on Oct. 26.

In their petitions filed at the Court of First Instance last December, the Filipinos asked the Court to declare them as permanent residents of this city under the Basic Law.

The Basic Law, the city's mini-constitution, states that permanent residents include non-Chinese nationals who have "ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than seven years and have taken Hong Kong as their place of permanent residence."

The Filipino domestic workers also asked the court to declare as unconstitutional the Immigration Ordinance that refuses permanent residency rights to domestic helpers.

Under the ordinance, "a person shall not be treated as ordinary resident in Hong Kong while employed as a domestic helper."

The Filipinos also asked the court to declare that the Immigration Ordinance contravenes the Bill of Rights Ordinance that provides rights without distinction of race.

The Filipinos' claims for right of abode have elicited widespread interest and even scare tactics among local residents.

The Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB), the city's biggest pro-government party, estimated that 500,000 new residents could settle in Hong Kong if the judicial review favors the domestic helpers.

The estimate was based on the assumption that each eligible domestic helper would bring his or her spouse and two children to the city.

Data from the immigration department here showed that there are 138,933 Filipino domestic workers who are earning at least HK\$23,740 (P20,130). The figure accounts for 47.5 percent of the total foreign domestic helpers (FDH) population of 292,473 as of June. It is estimated that at least one-third of the total FDH population have worked here for more than seven years.

The Philippine consulate reported that there are 12,452 Filipino permanent residents in the former British colony, while there are around 5,000 holders of work permits and dependent visas as of last year.

DAB claimed that the unemployment rate could rise to 10 percent from 3.5 percent if domestic helpers would get residency status that would eventually allow them to apply for jobs as local minimum wage earners.

Foreign domestic helpers are excluded from the initial hourly minimum wage rate of \$28 (P150) implemented last May.

Legislator Paul Tse earlier feared that a rush of domestic helpers with permanent residency would gravely affect the city's welfare resources. (www.phlistar.com)

Gadhafi Official Urges Pinoy Workers to Return to Libya

from AP
Wednesday, August 3, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - A visiting Libyan official urged Filipino workers Monday to return to Libya, saying its capital was peaceful and violence was confined to rebel-controlled areas.

Foreign affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said the Philippines is maintaining its policy of not deploying workers there.

NATO air strikes have hit Tripoli and other targets in the five-month operation to enforce a no-fly zone and protect civilians, but there is a semblance of normalcy in the capital as shops remain open and residents go about normal daily routines.

Abdullahi Lahweej, Libya's under-secretary for expatriates, immigrants and refugee affairs, met with Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario and assured him of the safety of Filipinos in Libya.

About 14,000 Filipinos were evacuated from the country in March, shortly after the rebellion began in mid-February. Those who remain are mostly medical workers.

The United States and about a dozen other countries recognize the rebels as Libya's legitimate government. The Philippines is among nations that still recognize the long-standing regime of Moammar Gadhafi.

"We continue to recognize the Libyan government as manifested by the presence of our embassy in Tripoli,

which continues to serve over 2,000 of our overseas Filipino workers who remain in Libya," del Rosario said.

About 10 percent of the Philippines' population of 94 million people work abroad. They send home billions of dollars that boost the economy, and the government considers their welfare a top priority.

Lahweej told a news conference his government is taking care of Filipinos who have remained there "and we are now calling those who left to get back to Libya."

The frontlines of the fighting are miles beyond Libya's capital, but air strikes rattle the city almost daily. The government alleges the air strikes have caused many civilian deaths, but there is little evidence of it. (www.phlistar.com)

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- FREE HD with PREFERRED CHOICE™ package***
- Bundles with internet are available too!

¹Price includes PinoyDirect and PREFERRED CHOICE packages. ²PREFERRED CHOICE package along with an international 4-line service required. ³All offers require 3-year agreement. ⁴Free HD requires 80¢/line/mo. ⁵Offers end 10/31/11. Credit card required. See MSRP. New approved customers only. Offer requires \$75.00 handling & delivery fee may apply.

New customers, call and join DIRECTV today! **1.888.913.7772**



****BILL CREDIT/PROGRAMMING OFFER: IF BY THE END OF PROMOTIONAL PRICE PERIODS CUSTOMER DOES NOT CONTACT DIRECTV TO CHANGE SERVICE THEN ALL SERVICES WILL AUTOMATICALLY CONTINUE AT THE THEN-PREVALING RATES.** Price MSRP. \$2.99/mo. and Cinema for 3 months, a value of \$70. **LIMIT ONE PREFERRED CHOICE PREFERRED CHOICE** (includes package services and more). **PREFERRED CHOICE \$39/mo.** Price includes 3 HD channels for 12 months after rebate, plus an additional 30 with extra rebate and content to email alerts. Upon DIRECTV system activation, customer will receive rebate redemption instructions. **Included in customer's first DIRECTV bill:** a separate mailing, or, in the state of New York, from rebate and must comply with the terms of the instructions. In order to receive \$20 monthly credits, customer must submit rebate online valid email address required and consent to email alerts prior to rebate redemption. **Follow-up:** up to 10 weeks after receipt of rebate redemption notice by phone. Rebate redemption period for services based on redemption date. ****FREE HD OFFER:** available across to HD channel associated with your programming package. To be eligible for Free HD you must activate and maintain DIRECTV HD service in place on any qualifying international service bundle, which also includes the PREFERRED CHOICE programming package and enrollment in a 3-yr. HD Pay. Also requires activation of HD Receiver and activation of HD Accounts. Account must be in "good standing" as determined by DIRECTV in its sole discretion to be eligible for all offers. In certain markets, programming (during the very ****3-YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT: EARLY CANCELLATION WILL RESULT IN A FEE OF \$150 PER RESENDER MONTH.** Not available. **Business-to-business:** all your DIRECTV programming package. **2011 service:** required. **2012 pay:** \$200/line. **2013 service:** required. **2014 pay:** \$200/line. **2015 service:** required. **2016 pay:** \$200/line. **2017 service:** required. **2018 pay:** \$200/line. **2019 service:** required. **2020 pay:** \$200/line. **2021 service:** required. **2022 pay:** \$200/line. **2023 service:** required. **2024 pay:** \$200/line. **2025 service:** required. **2026 pay:** \$200/line. **2027 service:** required. **2028 pay:** \$200/line. **2029 service:** required. **2030 pay:** \$200/line. **2031 service:** required. **2032 pay:** \$200/line. **2033 service:** required. **2034 pay:** \$200/line. **2035 service:** required. **2036 pay:** \$200/line. **2037 service:** required. **2038 pay:** \$200/line. **2039 service:** 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