

# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ OCTOBER 1, 2011 ◆

## GOING GREEN A FILIPINA LEADS THE CHARGE FOR CLEAN ENERGY

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*Estrella Arellano Seese,  
Acting State Administrator  
of DBEDT's Energy Office*

Photo by Tim Llera



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## EDITORIAL

## Going Green Makes Sense for Hawaii

**T**he phrase "going green" is used everywhere these days—in the news, politics, technology and even fashion. When you "go green," you live your life in a way that is friendly to the environment and sustainable for the earth.

If there was ever a place where "going green" makes sense, it would be here in paradise. Hawaii is an energy-hungry state but we have no oil, natural gas, hydroelectric dams or nuclear plants. However, the Aloha State does have an abundance of clean-energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, powerful tides and waves and cold ocean depths. We can substantially cut our reliance on imported oil if we fully utilize these sources. As we have seen recently, a steep rise in the price of oil dramatically affects the lives of many island residents.

The state has set an ambitious goal of achieving 70 percent clean energy by the year 2030. It has made strides towards that goal by expanding economic activity, entrepreneurship, and public/private participation. Most recently, the State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism's (DBEDT) Energy Office hosted the 3rd annual Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit and Expo which was attended by nearly 1,200 delegates from 12 countries. This year's theme, "Moving Toward a Clean and Secure Energy Future," supported the framework for critical topics such as alternative fuels, smart grid, energy efficiency and policy and economic development.

At the forefront of the State's effort is a Filipina—Estrella Seese, acting energy program administrator who organized the summit. The mission of DBEDT's Energy Office is to act as the catalyst for creating efficiency measures, renewable energy resources, transportation initiatives, and progressive policies that lead to green jobs and investments in Hawaii's economy. It's a tall order, but one that is sorely needed.

Hawaii imports as much as \$4 billion of oil a year, which places us at the mercy of outside economies. Our dependence on oil also weakens the local economy and places our economic security at risk. Simply stated, our current way of meeting our energy needs is not sustainable. If Seese and the Energy Office can make inroads, they will save energy and dollars through energy efficiency measures, contribute to protecting our environment and move Hawaii towards a clean energy future.

## Tread Carefully With Security Cameras

**T**he City will be installing 34 security cameras at select locations on Oahu for the upcoming 2011 APEC conference. HPD requested the use of the cameras for a interim period for security and law enforcement purposes to ensure the safety of attendees and the public and the security of meeting venues. Scheduled for November 7-13, APEC will be attended by leaders from 21 countries, including the U.S.

HPD insists that the cameras are not meant to discourage peaceful public protests at the conference and the cameras will only start recording in the event of major disturbances. After APEC, all but six of the cameras will be turned over to the city's Department of Transportation Services and repurposed as traffic monitoring cameras.

Privacy concerns and fears that the cameras might impose on people's civil liberties were raised during a recent meeting of the City Council's Safety, Economic Development and Government Affairs Committee. Unfortunately, there is a dark side to video surveillance—the potential for corruption and that cameras in public places will be used for ill rather than for good. However, we are of the view that law enforcement is comprised of mostly decent people and in this case, the police must be given the benefit of the doubt, despite fears that "Big Brother" is watching.

In the end, committee members deemed that the safety of APEC participants and local residents supersedes any privacy concerns and

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**O**ctober is usually associated with Halloween but for local pinoy's, it's a time to celebrate Filipino-American History Month! Filipinos have lived in the U.S. for over 400 years and have made significant contributions in science, business, healthcare sports, entertainment and other fields. To celebrate this special month, the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii is co-sponsoring a host of family activities which kicks off on October 1st with musical entertainment and the Philippine Komiks Exhibit at the Hawaii State Library. Please call 956-0867 for more details on this and other free events throughout October.



This jam-packed issue contains our special Clean Energy Supplement. We are surrounded by the deep blue Pacific Ocean and oftentimes marvel at the beauty of a colorful rainbow. But lately, the buzzword has been "green" as in being more environmentally-conscious. When you embrace a greener lifestyle, you improve your overall health, save money and improve your overall quality of life. In keeping with the theme of our supplement, this issue's cover story introduces us to Estrella Seese of the State's Energy Office. As acting Energy Program Administrator, she is essentially the State's point person when it comes to facilitating the growth of the state's clean energy industry. Ms. Seese tells more in "Achieving Hawaii's Energy Independence" on page 8 of the supplement. We encourage you to read more about this fascinating Filipina beginning on page 4, along with other articles like "Ten Reasons Why Nuclear Energy is Necessary for Another 50 Years" (page 13) and "Simple Ways to Conserve Energy at Home" (page 16).

Speaking of fascinating jazz aficionados are in for a special treat as Charmaine Clamor will be performing in a series of concerts at UH-Hilo. The Zambales native has taken the jazz world by storm with his sultry voice and unique blend of jazz and Filipino music, which she has coined "jazzipino." Ms. Clamor, who recently released her fourth album, has received rave reviews from music critics with the International Review of Music, Los Angeles Times, New York Times and Jazz Times. More about the Queen of Jazzipino is available on page 6. A concert on Oahu is in the works, so stay tuned!

In closing, thank you for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. As always, we invite our readers to contact us at: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto: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!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

## LETTERS

### UNCOVERING THE TRUTH ABOUT PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR

*In October, the celebration of Filipino-American History Month will be held with events to address the political, historical and cultural experience here and on the mainland.*

*One of the most important issues that has never been openly discussed is the Philippine-American War.*

*According to "The Forbidden Book: The Philippine-American War," the history of the war was hidden from the public. The controversial book remains as one of the few accurate sources of the war. Historians, educators, the media and particularly the U.S. administration played a role in removing the war from both Americans' and Filipinos' consciousness.*

*As we enter the 21st century, we must take the responsibility to uncover the real truth of our historical oppression.*

**Mel Domingo**  
Honolulu

approved a resolution authorizing the use of the cameras. The full Council must still vote on the resolution, but we agree with this measure and give it our full support, especially when considering the tremendous positive exposure the APEC conference will provide for Hawaii. Protecting civil rights should be zealously guarded and a priority for everyone but it should not come at the expense of public safety during an important event like the APEC conference. Safety alone is a compelling enough reason.

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## OPEN FORUM

# Small Business is Big in Rural America

By John Crabtree, Center for Rural Affairs

**A**merica faces stern economic challenges. Rural America's entrepreneurs can help find the solutions to those challenges but they need support from Washington and they deserve it just as much as big business.

Large business' reluctance to add workers during times of recession makes small businesses and self-employment

even more important. During the 2000-2003 recession, microenterprise employment grew by nine percent nationally, while larger firms were still shedding jobs.

The day before President Obama presented his jobs bill to the nation, U.S. Reps. Wally Herger (R-CA) and Ron Kind (D-WI) introduced the Rural Microbusiness Investment Credit Act, which would help entrepreneurs start new busi-

nesses and expand existing enterprises by providing a 35 percent tax credit on up to \$30,000 of new investment.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and critical to our way of life in rural Wisconsin," says Rep. Kind. "We must provide the support they need not only to keep their doors open but for new startups to get up and running. This bill will not only provide our small businesses much needed investments to hire and

grow, bringing new jobs to our communities, but also help entrepreneurs get the capital they need to get off the ground and start contributing to local economies."

Owner-operated businesses with up to five employees would be eligible if located in a rural area with significant population loss, low average incomes, high poverty or high unemployment. Beginning farmers and ranchers would also be eligible.

Qualifying businesses could receive refunds from prior years if not making enough in the current year to owe taxes, which is critical during tough times or starting when most are lucky to break even. A refund of prior years' taxes is an investment incentive that works in good years and bad, for new or established businesses.

This tax credit is exactly what rural America needs. It would create jobs and genuine economic opportunity for the little guys who have long been the backbone of the rural economy.

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# U.S. Constitution Essay Contest Open to Hawaii Students

**H**awaii high school students and their teachers are invited to participate in the Bill of Rights Institute's sixth annual "Being an American Essay Contest."

The contest explores the founding principles outlined in the U.S. Constitution and is sponsored by the History Channel. The Bill of Rights Institute is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit educational organization devoted to educating young people about the Constitution and its founding principles.

"This contest gives students the opportunity to think about the founding principles communicated in our Constitution," says Dr. Jason Ross from the Bill of Rights Institute. "This contest is vital to helping



students see their founding principles as a meaningful part of the American experiment of self-government."

Specifically, students are asked to share their thoughts on the Constitution by answering the following essay question: "How does the Constitution establish and maintain a culture of liberty?"

The top three student win-

ners from five geographical regions nationwide will be awarded cash prizes of \$1,000 (first place), \$500 (second) and \$250 (third). Teacher sponsors

for each student winner will also receive a cash prize of \$100.

According to Libby O'Connell from the History Channel, the contest encourages students to "think critically and truly makes the past relevant in their lives today."

To be eligible, students must be in grades 9-12, be U.S. citizens or legal residents and attend either public, private, religious, or charter schools, home-schooled, or participate in a GED or correspondence school program but are no

older than 19 years of age.

Essays are to be limited to 1,000 words and will be judged on adherence to essay question, originality, organization, writing style and depth of analysis. The deadline to submit essays is December 15, 2011 at 11:59 pm Pacific Standard Time. Winners will be announced in February 2012.

For more information on contest guidelines, please go online and visit: [www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/Contest](http://www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/Contest).

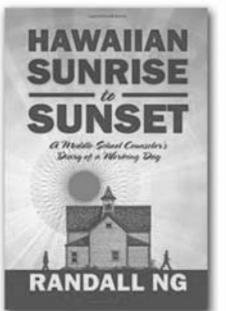
Randall Ng, Author of the book "HAWAIIAN SUNRISE TO SUNSET: A MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S DIARY OF A WORKING DAY," will hold a book signing ceremony (12 noon-1p.m) in conjunction with the Iolani H.S. Orchestra fundraiser (12 noon-8p.m) on Saturday, October 8 at the Barnes & Noble Ala Moana bookstore.

This book is an eye-opener for the reader who will get an inside look as to what a counselor did to make a difference in the lives of his kids.

**INSPIRING, SOBERING, SHOCKING, FASCINATING,** Randall Ng, retired counselor from Kalakaua Middle School, describes his experiences working above and beyond the normal routine of a school counselor who gives the reader an insight as to what "tough love" looks like in working with students that run the gamut from at risk to the gifted.

When purchasing book online or at the Barnes & Noble Ala Moana bookstore, please mention

**BOOKFAIR ID 10559615** at checkout as a percentage of the net sales will be contributed to the Iolani School Orchestra 5 group.



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**State Farm**

# Estrella Seese and Hawaii's Energy Ambition—Right Person, Right Time

By Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

**E**strella Arellano Seese joined the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) after a career in corporate America. As Acting State Administrator of DBEDT's Energy Office, she plays a leadership role in reducing Hawaii's dependence on foreign oil for electricity and transportation in the islands.

With confidence and groundedness, she raised the bar of leadership for Filipinas in the workplace several notches higher.

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle caught up with her before the Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit and Expo that was hosted by DBEDT from September 13-15, 2011. The interview began with the discovery that her current job is a second career and her way of giving back to the islands that she loves.

A google search for "Estrella Seese" results in a brief bio-data that clean energy event attendees have become familiar with. She graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of

Santo Tomas, Asia's oldest existing university, and was an East-West Center grant awardee and a Ford Foundation Fellow. She earned her master's degree in economics from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Before DBEDT, she was with the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) as director of pricing, and was responsible for the development, administration and implementation of the electric rates and tariffs for HECO as well as for Maui County and the Big Island.

## Hawaii's 2030 Goal and the State Energy Office

When queried what her friends and neighbors ask her

about her job scope, Seese says:

"We talk a lot about technology and our office is a driving force in Hawaii's energy transformation but we do not build or develop technology. We enable industries and facilitate use through policies and programs. The State's DBEDT director is by statute the State's Energy Resource Coordinator. The functions and duties of that position are mandated by law. Our division provides the technical and analytical support for that function and part of that is developing policy."

The task of her State Energy office can be illustrated by the purpose of a \$750,000 grant award that DBEDT recently won from the U.S. Department of Energy and announced at the Summit.

"We are looking at reducing non-technology barriers to integrating more renewables," Seese says. "Right now, the biggest issue to achieving the RPS of 40 percent is the grid (that accepts energy into the electricity system). The island grid is small, so the higher the penetration of renewable energy in the system, the more you see this intermittent generation of supply. The \$750,000 grant will fund some of the studies to see what we can do or what tools we can use to establish reliability standards that will govern the interconnection of renewables in the system."

Leaving more technicalities for future talk-story, the Chronicle wondered how real Hawaii's clean energy transformation is.

"It is for real," Seese says. "The State is leading the nation in terms of solar watts per capita. We have over 25 percent of households with solar water heaters. We have an aggressive mandate to have solar water heaters for all new residential construction. So we are really



Estrella Arellano Seese | Photo by Tim Llano

driving the low-hanging fruit—that solar water heating is the most common effective technology that you can install in your home. With installation of photovoltaic on roofs, net energy metering jumped to 4,000. The number almost doubled between 2008 to 2011.

"Our office got a big chunk of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) money—over \$37 million, that I am managing and that we are floating into real programs—energy efficiency programs. For instance, we have the solar heating program for homes. We have the transportation fuel transformation where we are giving rebates for electric vehicles as well as installation of charging stations."

## Personal Beginnings

"I was just lucky," Seese answers in response to questions about twists and turns in her life's journey. She was always a go-getter.

"My parents always believed in me especially my father. I was papa's girl," she says. Seese hails from Quezon City, where her father worked as a lawyer in government and her mother as a teacher.

She responded to an advertisement in the newspaper for a position at the East-West Center.

At the time, she was teaching economics at University of Santo Tomas' Department of Commerce. While boarding at the Center's Hale Manoa, she met the resident assistant who later became her husband.

Her first job was with a small consulting firm in Downtown Honolulu that gave her a chance to see America's corporate landscape. She then moved on and applied for a position as corporate planning analyst at HECO.

"I was just lucky and got the job," she says.

Filipinos had started working in Hawaii. Back then, it was rare to see Filipinos in executive positions and white-collar jobs. The only other Filipina she knew was Julia Cabatu, host of HECO's cooking television show.

"In 1978, one hardly saw a Filipina walking on the streets of Downtown Honolulu," she says.

Seese retired early and planned to retire to the mainland, where both of her children were. But two months into retirement, DBEDT tapped her and she returned to work as an energy economist focusing on the Gas Cap law. She worked as a consultant, then as an energy analyst.

(continued on page 5)

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## COVER STORY

(from page 4, ESTRELLA...)

"I tell my family that I look at this second job as my way of giving back to the community," she says. "I came as a young student and I just really love Hawaii. I have been in the energy business for 30 some years. My entire career with the utility was doing the rates and the rates were only going one way...up! I thought this was my time to give back to the community. I am enjoying it. I am growing with the job and I hope the job is growing with me."

**BEGINNING LUCK**

Seese's advice for other Filipinos is simple—"Follow your dreams. Believe in yourself. Work hard."

"I'm an economist by education," Seese responded when asked about her policy-oriented job. "I have a very strong background in statistics. I think that is what got me into this. As a corporate planning analyst, I was doing forecasting and econometric modeling for HECO."

Preparation also means on-the-job learning and honing one's expertise.

"HECO trained and developed its staff to be a true expert of specific things," she says. "When I was doing rates, I took basic electricity courses. I interfaced with engineers as well as with accountants. I'm continuing to learn on the job, even up to now."

For Seese, becoming smarter includes facing unknowns in a smart way.

"Energy is not an exact sci-

ence. Energy is very dynamic. Sometimes, it's intimidating not to have the facts," Seese says. "I spend time on my computer (googling for intelligent information). I also have within reach energy leaders in the State and beyond. I collaborate and bounce my ideas with them."

Results and relationships are equally important.

"I think my work ethics suit corporate America. I work hard. I deliver. I think those are not foreign to Filipinos. Perhaps the most challenging parts are managing relationships and priorities. Filipinos are very social. I think that plays out in our ability to get along with others."

Seese says that being a supervisor, manager or leader among peers requires more.

"You have to know and be very comfortable with yourself. You have to trust others. When you are secure with yourself, you can trust others," she says. "You have to partner with everybody. I give credit to where credit is due. One thing that I am lucky about in this current position is that I really have a good staff. I really treasure them."

Facing a dynamic energy world requires still more.

"You have to respect others' opinions," Seese says. "You encourage people to be creative. There is no such thing as dumb ideas. The most important thing, and I do this very consciously, is to support your people. I stand by them."

Along with Seese's cerebral strength is an optimistic attitude



Seese with clean energy stakeholders at the recently-concluded Asian Pacific Clean Energy Summit and Expo in Honolulu

and spirituality.

"I just love life. I love my work. I love the people I am working with. I love my family," she admitted. "I'm also very religious. I am a eucharistic minister at the St. John Vianney Church and serve at the 10 a.m. mass every Sunday."

**Practical Sustainability**

The other side of Seese offers practical and simple ways of supporting Hawaii's clean energy goal.

"I like to read," Seese says when asked what she does to relax. "I believe in recycling so

I buy used books from the libraries." Her library of choice is Kailua Library where there is a plentiful supply of cheap, recycled books. She thinks everyone should read the

book, "Broken Trust: Green, Mismanagement and Political Manipulation at America's Largest Charitable Trust."

"Solar dryer," she laughs as she identifies a traditional Filipino way of hanging laundry out for drying. She "solar-dries" everything except towels and linen. Clothes drying is a big chunk of one's energy usage and so she recommends solar drying to everyone.

"Also, as much as I like to bake, I also learned to bake in those small toaster-ovens," she added. She also microwaves a lot in order to save energy.

"I also recommend solar water heaters to everyone, not just Filipino households," she says. "Water heating is 30 percent of the electricity consumption of households."

**Final Thoughts**

"Filipinos should be proud of their heritage," Seese says. "I think education continues to be our pathway to becoming active participants in our community. My education definitely helped to get me where I am today. I would like to give back to Filipinos in this area (some day)."

And finally an answer to our question on whether consumers will ever see lower (utility) rates.

"Well, that's what we are hoping for... or at least stabilize it," Seese says. "The volatility of energy prices that we experience because of our high dependence on imported oil is something we cannot control. But if we are sourcing our energy locally, we can look forward to more stable rates in the long run. Also, renewables are from nature and are free. So what we hope we will be paying for in the future is the infrastructure only."

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**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**

## City to Hold Two More Community Transit Meetings

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) will hold two final town hall meetings in early October regarding the Honolulu Rail Transit Project. Meetings will be held at the following locations:

- Tuesday, October 4, at Castle High School's cafeteria.
- Wednesday, October 5, at the Blaisdell Center's Maui Room.

Both meetings will run from 6 pm to 8 pm. Attendees will be given updated information and allowed to view informational displays about the rail project, as well as to ask questions of HART representatives. Town hall meetings have already been held at Kapolei

Hale for West Oahu residents, Kalani High School for East Oahu residents and Highlands Intermediate for Central and Leeward Oahu residents.

The \$5.3 billion rail transit project is a 20-mile elevated rail system connecting East Kapolei with Ala Moana Center. It includes 21 stations in Waipahu, Pearl City, Aiea, Kailihi, Chinatown, Downtown Honolulu and Kakaako. There will also be rail stations at or near activity centers such as UH-West Oahu, Leeward Community College, Pearlridge, Aloha Stadium and Honolulu International Airport.

More information on the town hall meetings are available online at: [www.honolulutransit.org](http://www.honolulutransit.org) or by calling the project's hotline at 566-2299.

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Filipina Jazz Queen to Perform at UH-Hilo

By Fiedes Doctor

Known as the "Queen of Jazzpino," recording artist Charmaine Clamor will perform on October 13-14, 2011 at the University of Hawaii-Hilo as part of Filipino American History Month and in conjunction with the UH-Hilo Filipino Advisory Committee.

Fans and new audiences will be serenaded with jazz music, of course, and the *harana* and *kundiman*, with a background of *rondalla* and percussion instruments.

"I am really looking forward to meeting my *kababayan* in Hilo. This is the reason why we created this—to connect with them," Clamor says.

Her style is called "Jazzpino"—a fusion of American jazz and Filipino serenade music, including indigenous instruments. This powerful blend of soul and swing was introduced in her second album "Flippin' Out" in 2007, which brought her critical acclaim, international recognition and eventually the title "Queen of Jazzpino."

Here's what the critics have said about Clamor and her music:

- "The perfect bridge of two cultures..." - NPR's Week-end Edition.
- "A gifted vocalist..." - The New York Times.
- "One of the most important and original new jazz singers of the decade..." - The Los Angeles Times.
- "The sensibilities of an old world balladeer and a contemporary singer..." - Huffington Post.

"When I started singing jazzpino, Filipinos in the audience were proud of it," she says. "Non-Filipinos were curious because the sound was new to their ears. Then they started liking it."

Crowd favorites are "Dahil Sa Yo," "Maalala Mo Kaya" and "My Funny Brown Pinay," even if half the audience can't understand the lyrics. It's the passion in her voice that touches them, which has been described as "warm and sultry" by Davis Enterprise, as "a sumptuously elegant blend of silk and satin trimmed with gutsy self-possession" by *Jazz Times*, and as "fire and sincerity" by Andy Bey.

Clamor started as a singing three-year-old to unwitting passengers at the back of the bus in her Zambales hometown in the Philippines. Singing was never something serious to pursue, despite growing up in musical tandem with her mother—she on the piano while mother sang the *kundiman* and English classics.

"I never thought that I would have a life in music," says Clamor, who immigrated to the U.S. as a teenager. "As immigrants, we are not expected to pursue the arts."

She ended up earning a Master's degree in physical therapy and making a career out of it, while moonlighting as a karaoke hostess and later as a member of Crescendo, a vocal jazz harmony quintet.

After 10 years of juggling two different occupations, Clamor found herself at a crossroads. Knowing that a career in the arts was unstable and unpredictable, she reluctantly gave up her physical therapy career and gave music her full attention.



Charmaine Clamor

In 2005, Clamor made her solo recording debut with "Searching for the Soul" (FreeHam Records) where her "bedroom eyes voice" was positively compared to vocalists legends Nina Simone, Julie London and Cassandra Wilson. Other albums followed such as "Flippin' Out," "My Harana: A Filipino Serenade" (2008), and "Something Good" (2010). She is currently working on a fifth album.

"My Funny Brown Pinay" (in *Flippin' Out*) stands out as close to Clamor's heart because she arranged the lyrics herself to the tune of Rodgers and Hart's "My Funny Valentine." She was inspired to send a strong message to Filipinas to be proud of their skin color and physical features, having undergone through personal experience that internal confidence is life-changing and powerful.

"It's very empowering when you feel beautiful inside," says Clamor, who as a teenager bleached her skin with papaya soap because she didn't like her dark skin. "It reflects on your relationships and the way you respond to life experiences. When I came here, people started appreciating my looks and complimenting me about my skin color. That conditioned me to see that my color is good and I started to see myself differently."

Her encouragement to follow Filipinos, especially women: "Live each day to the

fullest and find out what is unique about you. Embrace it and use it for your art or as an inspiration or guide on how you would live your life. And the key to long lasting happiness is living a life of service to others."

Clamor is actively involved in environmental causes, specifically clean water issues. She has a column "Green is Gorgeous" in the Asian Journal and also serves as a board member in the Sierra Club's Water Committee.

Her new song "Flow: A Simple Drink of Water" (from "Something Good") donates 80 percent of the proceeds to Philippine Water Runs, a series

of benefit runs in major cities in the Philippines that started on September 15, 2011 and will end in March 2012. Other issues Clamor is interested in include energy conservation, composting, recycling and the re-use of plastic bags.

Tickets for her concert may be purchased at the UH-Hilo Performing Arts Center Box Office or by calling (808) 974-7310. Tickets are also available online at: [artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu](http://artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu).

A possible show on Oahu is being negotiated. For updates, check Clamor's website at [www.charmaineclamor.com](http://www.charmaineclamor.com).



Ghost and monsters and other scary stories will be told at Anak, a free children's celebration at the Children's Discovery Center on Sunday, October 16, from 10 am - 2 pm

## Children's Discovery Center to Host Filipino Kids Day

A day-long event featuring Filipino food, dance, music, games, arts and crafts, and story telling will be held at the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center on October 16, 2011 from 10 am to 2 pm.

"Anak" (which means child) is a Filipino children's celebration for the entire family. Admission is free for the Anak celebration, while entry to the regular Children's Discovery Center Hall will be discounted to \$6.50 just for October 16.

Currently in its third year, "Anak" will include a series of folk tales from the Philippines, enacted by recent graduates of a story-telling workshop held by University of Hawaii-Manoa professor, poet and playwright Ruth Mabanglo. In addition,

Maya Sotero-Ng, sister of President Barack Obama, will read from her new children's book "Ladder to the Moon."

To watch attendees' appetites, "Tastes of the Philippines" will be offered with a food demonstration of banana *lumpia* and *paliwaw*. Children's books and other books from the Philippines will be available for sale.

Children are asked to come in Filipino dress for a costume contest complete with prizes. Those who don't have costumes, and even those that do, can make masks under the direction of the Filipino Historical Society of Hawaii.

"Anak" is sponsored by Friends of the Filipino Association of University Women. For more details on this event, please call Loretta Yajima at 524-5437.

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## IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel  
Samonte Tipon

## Single But Married Fraud – Does Annulment Cure It?

U.S. citizen or LPR. In many cases, they go back to their native country and re-marry their spouse and then petition for such spouse. They then use the new or second marriage certificate in petitioning for the spouse. In some cases, the fraud is discovered, and they are placed in deportation proceedings. The fraud may also be discovered when the fraudster applies for naturalization.

Trinidad, a Filipina, was petitioned by her LPR father as an unmarried daughter, although she was already married to Oscar in a civil ceremony in the Philippines. When she got her green card, she went back to the Philippines and re-married Oscar in a religious ceremony. She returned to the U.S. and petitioned Oscar which was approved, despite the fact that she submitted evidence of the civil and religious ceremonies. Oscar never immigrated.

She then applied for naturalization. That's when her pre-immigration civil marriage was

discovered. She was placed in deportation proceedings for willfully misrepresenting a material fact (her marital status) in procuring a visa. She rushed to the Philippines and obtained an annulment of the civil marriage.

### Annulment decree declares marriage void ab initio

In her deportation hearing, she claimed that the annulment decree declared the civil marriage to be void ab initio (from the beginning) and that the annulment meant that under Philippine law the civil marriage is deemed never to have occurred at all. Therefore, she claimed the annulment of the civil marriage related back to that marriage, thereby negating the marriage's very existence.

The IJ rejected her contention, holding that the circumstances of the case dictated that annulment should not be given retroactive effect. The IJ reasoned that the "relation back" doctrine should be ap-

plied only where to do so would bring about a more just result. The IJ ordered her deported.

The U of appeals affirmed, holding that she had been charged with procuring an immigrant visa by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact. The court said that the focus should be on her state of mind at the time of applying for a visa. The fact that the law of the place where the annulment was granted deemed annulled marriages void ab initio is not controlling. Retroactive effect should be given to an annulment when to do so would be compatible with the purpose and intent of the immigration law. In this context, this principle prevents retroactive effect when it would sanction a willful misrepresentation made at the time of application for the visa. The court stressed the need to avoid manipulation of the immigration priorities through changes in marital status not undertaken in good faith. In this case, the court concluded, given the alien's misrepresentations, justice would be better served by not relating the

annulment decree back for immigration purposes.

**COMMENT:** There are a number of immigration law provisions providing for a waiver or cancellation of removal for visa fraud by pretending to be single although married. They are discussed in a book I am writing on waivers and cancellation of removal. We have successfully invoked these statutes in obtaining relief for immigrants who committed the same fraud. We did not tell the immigrant to go back home and have the marriage annulled. Why were not these waiver and cancellation of removal provisions invoked and pursued with vigor in Trinidad's case?

(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: jti-anlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, andwww.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDD at 1270 AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.iluko.com.)

**T**here is a Filipino lawyer who during his courting days usually claimed that he was married, although he was single. In fact he would even pretend that he had a girl friend, to boot. His theory was that if a girl really cares about you, she would not care whether you are married or a celibate like a priest. On the other hand, there are also men, lacking in self confidence, who pretend to be single, even though married, in the belief that women would not want to be courted by married men.

In the immigration world, a significant number of intending immigrants pretend to be single, even though married, in order to obtain immigration benefits as a single son or daughter of a

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# CLEAN ENERGY

Supplement

OCTOBER 1, 2011



## Achieving Hawaii's Energy Independence

**By Estrella A. Seese**

*Acting Energy Program Administrator, State Energy Office*

**H**awaii is the most oil-dependent state in the nation with over 95% of its energy supplied by imported fossil fuel. This high dependence on imported fuels makes Hawaii's economy highly vulnerable to fluctuations in the price of oil often caused by factors that are beyond Hawaii's control. Every year, more than \$4 billion leaves our state to pay for

imported oil, monies that could be used to grow Hawaii's economy, create jobs, increase income, and generate tax revenues. Our electricity and gas bills are the highest in the country. Energy cost affects businesses and consumers, and all sectors of our economy. This is not sustainable. Reducing our need for imported oil and increasing our energy independence is imperative for Hawaii's future.

The Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI), launched in 2008 as a partnership between Hawaii and the U.S. Department of Energy, provided a framework for reducing Hawaii's dependence on imported fossil fuels by at least 70 percent by 2030. Specifically, 40 percent of Hawaii's energy must be generated by renewable resources including solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower and biofuels and 30 percent through energy efficiency measures.

Everyone in Hawaii can help reach our 70% goal by saving energy at home and at work. Energy efficiency is the easiest way to decrease our

*(continued on page 9)*

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## CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLEMENT

### ACHIEVING... (from page 8)

dependence on oil. There are many simple actions we can all take to save energy. There are cash rebates and tax incentives to put in solar water heating, which can typically cut residential electricity consumption by at least 30%. We also have very generous tax credits for installing photovoltaic systems (PV) in homes and businesses, and we have a well established Net Energy Metering Program that makes PVs very cost-effective. More rebates are available for energy-saving lights, energy efficient appliances, and other energy efficiency equipment offered through Hawaii Energy ([www.hawaiienergy.com](http://www.hawaiienergy.com)).

Hawaii is blessed with abundant renewable energy resources such as the sun, wind, and waves. However, there are some issues, like financing and community concerns, that we need to carefully address in order to harness these resources for the benefit of all of Hawaii. Our role at the Energy Office of the State Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) is to facilitate and

encourage the development and deployment of renewables through innovative policies, facilitation of siting and permitting of renewable energy projects, and as the repository of energy information. We also promote and enable increase energy efficiency savings to the maximum extent possible.

During the past two years, we were fortunate to receive \$37.1 million in federal stimulus funding under the 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), which we invested in energy efficiency rebate programs across the state, electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, energy efficiency improvements to state buildings, and research and development to address barriers to renewable energy adoption. For instance, with the ARRA monies we provided rebates to replace over 4,300 old refrigerators across the state with new Energy Star refrigerators saving approximately 42.8 million kilowatt-hours throughout the estimated 12-years useful life. This is enough to power about 6,000 homes. In addition, we provided rebates to over 1,975

homes to install solar water heaters, generating approximately 61.2 million kilowatt-hours savings over the estimated 15-years useful life. This is enough to power another 8,500 homes. Furthermore, more than 400 low-income and Hawaiian Homestead residences received energy-saving CFL lighting retrofits. We also provided grants for electric vehicle chargers and education programs to facilitate the adoption of EVs. Hawaii has been chosen by several companies like Mitsubishi and NISSAN as launch sites for their EVs. To help with financing, we set up a loan loss reserve program to help lower loan costs for homes and businesses who want to install solar water heaters and other energy-saving equipment.

The state government, as the second largest user of energy, has implemented the Lead by Example program to reduce state facilities' energy consumption through energy efficiency measures, performance contracting, and purchase power agreements with third-party renewable energy developers. Since 2007, the state

facilities' electricity consumption has decreased by 59 million kWh, enough to power 8,200 households for a year. Last year alone, our state offices saved \$20 million on their electric bill, a 12% savings to tax payers. Recently, Hawaii placed in the top five for exceptional state-led energy efficiency programs recognized by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE).

On the policy side we continue to work on facilitating some major initiatives to help Hawaii's transformation to clean energy. The amount and speed of deploying renewable energy is very much dependent on our ability to reduce or remove the physical and institutional barriers to allowing more renewable generation while safeguarding the stability and reliability of our island electric systems.

We are pleased to announce that we are on target towards our goal. Last year we surpassed our interim renewable portfolio standards goal of 10% by 2010, and achieved slightly over 20%. We are recognized nationally and internationally as an ideal test bed for

renewable energy development and some of our most innovative clean tech companies are already exporting their technology and expertise. We are number one in the nation in the number of solar water heaters with one out of every four homes in Hawaii having solar water heaters. We are second in the nation in PV penetration per capita (solar watt per capita) and third in the growth of green jobs. More than 60 renewable projects are currently being proposed throughout the state, ranging from biofuel farms to additional wind, geothermal, PV and waste-to-energy facilities.

There are many hurdles to overcome to transform Hawaii to a clean energy economy in a generation. We will need all available resources to reach our 70% clean energy goal. It's in everyone's best interest to contribute towards Hawaii's goal. If we can all do our part to conserve energy and support the development of more locally produced clean renewable energy, then together we can ensure and secure Hawaii's energy future for future generations.

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## CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLEMENT

## HAWAII MOVING TOWARD CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

By Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, Senate Committee on Energy &amp; Environment

**W**ant to hear a sad statistic? Each year we send \$3-6 billion dollars overseas to buy over 40 million barrels of oil to light up our homes, drive our cars, and keep our jets fueled to bring in tourists. This is absolutely absurd given the fact that Hawai'i has so many renewable natural

resources built in. We have abundant sunshine, great wind, powerful ocean currents, underground pools of magma on the Big Island and Maui, and fantastic growing conditions for biofuels. Yet, we're more dependent on fossil fuels than any other state in the nation. This is unacceptable!

I took over as Chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee in 2009.

Since assuming this post, I've made it my mission to get Hawai'i to kick its addiction to imported fossil fuel by exploring every avenue for energy efficiency and utilization of renewable energy resources.

Many of you may know that our state launched the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) in 2008 with the goal of having 70% of our energy needs met through energy efficiency and renewable energy by 2030. This is a lofty goal, but it's attainable if government, our utilities, the private sector, and each of us in the community continue to focus on making Hawai'i a leader in cutting edge clean energy technology.

One of the highlights of my job is visiting with homeowners and businesses that have put photovoltaic (PV) panels and solar water heaters on their rooftops to lower energy costs. It's true that the upfront costs can sometimes discourage people from making these very important in-



Senator Mike Gabbard (center) helped install a photovoltaic solar panel on the roof of a home in Hickam Air Force Base on July 15th. The 4MW photovoltaic solar system will supply power to 2,000 homes in that community. | Photo by Hickam Communities

vestments. However, you should know that both homeowners and businesses in our state can take advantage of tax credits and rebates to make both PV and solar water heaters more affordable.

One bright spot from this past legislation session was Act 204. This new law directs the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to investigate an on-bill financing program for residential electric utility customers to finance energy efficiency or renewable energy systems and pay for them through their regular monthly electric bills. The PUC is currently doing the study and may implement on-bill financing in the coming years.

SunRun and SolarCity have also entered the Hawai'i market recently. These companies actually lease PV systems to homeowners at a fixed monthly cost. This arrangement was made possible by legislation I authored in 2011 which became Act 9.

Our state ranks first in the nation in PV capacity installed per capita. But we've got a long way to go, because out of the 267,000 single family homes in the state, only 5,000 currently have PV. At the Legislature, we've worked to make sure that we've kept incentives in place

during our economic downturn. The state Renewable Energy Income Tax Credit provides up to 35% of the actual cost with the following caps:

- \$5,000 per PV system for a single family house
- \$350 per unit per system for multi-family residential
- \$500,000 per system for commercial system

Folks are also eligible for federal tax credits that cover 30% of the cost. However, this one is set to expire at the end of 2016.

We also rank first in the nation in solar water heaters per capita. To date, there are close to 100,000 residential systems installed. We were also the first state in the nation to pass a law in 2008, which mandates that all new single family homes have solar water heaters. Our tax credit for solar water heaters is up to 35% with the following caps:

- \$2,250 per system for single-family house
- \$350 per unit per system for multi-family residential
- \$250,000 per system for commercial property

Please bear in mind that you can also qualify for a federal tax credit. (continued on page 15)



Solar water heater | Photo by gnomits

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CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLEMENT

# 3rd Annual Asia-Pacific Clean Energy Summit and Expo

**KAKALATAK**  
By Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

**O**n the last day of the 2011 Asia-Pacific Clean Energy Summit, Mayor Jason Hu of Taichung (Taiwan) received a standing ovation for reciting statistics of achievement that spelled "HOPE!" Sandwiching wit and humor between statistical data, he masterfully convinced the hundreds of Summit participants that Taichung made significant strides in managing waste, greening urban spaces, lengthening bikepaths, increasing public transport ridership, multiplying public participation in cultural events, and more. His city is using its new status as an eco-city to bring in business and investments. His keynote message was all about what his city achieved in ten years and how it plans to move forward. Signaling that it is the city of the

future, Taichung is seeking the right to host the 2017 East Asian Games. To win, it is offering something competitors are not offering, and that is, a vow to reduce the 10-day event's carbon footprint from 3,700 tons of carbon dioxide by 3,000 tons.

"How do you do it?" I asked after his speech. "I have a smart and educated community," he said, "You have to work on making everyone understand what it is that you are doing."

There is no way around smartness when dealing with clean energy and sustainability. Hawaii's goal of 70% clean energy by 2030 - 40% from renewables and 30% from efficiency - is a statement that distills the extreme complexity of harnessing renewable energy from different sources, integrating and storing the generated energy, distributing and converting for consumer use, and improving overall efficiency.

On one end, the four Hawaii mayors and their sister cities had reassuring information. They talked of



ground-level and commercial products like solar installation, green buildings, and electric vehicles. They also reported that commercial production of energy from geothermal and waste is generating supply that replaces imported oil.

On another end, the 2011 Defense Energy Challenge offered possibilities for the more distant future. The US Military signaled that they were looking for good ideas from everywhere; The National University of Singapore was selected to present a cooling technology solution that has a promising Defense application. The future can dramatically be different, California

Energy and Power presented its vertical axis wind turbines, the looks of which are nowhere like the wind turbines as we know them today.

In between the two ends were hard-hitting Summit sessions about challenges and opportunities involving innovation, funding, policies, regulations, markets, communication, environment, and others. The 2011 Summit organized its program to let its participants huddle around five areas - efficiency and sustainability, renewable energy, infrastructure, policy and economic development, and military. In a session on funding disruptive innova-

tion, attendees learned that venture-capitalists like products that are ready for commercialization. Participants who were just developing ideas need federal government financing. The State of Hawaii recognized that it did not have a lot of money. Instead, Senator Roslyn Baker of Maui talked about policies designed to spur the growth of environmentally- and socially-responsible businesses.

In a session of entrepreneurs, technology leaders were asked to share their secrets; Darren Kimura of Sopogy explained that doing business in Hawaii means dealing with both policy and business, a model that requires new thinking; Heidi Kuehnle of Kuehnle AgroSystems shared the exciting future of energy from algae, business viability from integrating different renewable sources, and the need for human resource expertise in helping workers change from researchers to commercial producers; Bob King of Pacific BioDiesel talked about stabiliz-

(continued on page 15)

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## CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLEMENT

# Geothermal Energy Binds Big Island and Ormoc as Sister Cities

By Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

**H**awaii Convention Center, Honolulu—A new sister-city relationship was born because of a shared interest in geothermal energy, a renewable energy that the Philippines wants to be the world's number one producer of.

The County of Hawaii and Philippines' Ormoc City, represented by their respective mayors, recently signed a sister-city agreement. The agreement was one of four sister-city agreements included in a September 14 signing ceremony luncheon of the inaugural Hawaii Sister-Cities Summit. The three other sister cities were Honolulu and Chengdu (China), Kauai and Iwaki (Japan), and Maui and Goyang (South Korea). The eight cities and/or counties share a common interest in cleaner energy solutions for their respective communities. The sister-city relationship agreements are internationally accepted standards upon which closer economic, business, and cultural exchanges between two foreign cities are promoted.

Hawaii County Mayor, Billy Kenoi, cited similarities of

the two places—in population, economic needs, and growing pains. "One thing intriguing and exciting is that the County of Hawaii produces 30 megawatts of geothermal power annually and leads the State in geothermal production," he said. "My friends from Ormoc City have the privilege and honor of producing 770 megawatts of geothermal energy. I believe they hold the key for the future of Hawaii county and the State of Hawaii in maximizing geothermal production while still preserving the culture, the environment, the community, and the quality of life for residents."

Ormoc Mayor, Eric Codilla, expressed appreciation for the invitation to be a sister city. He says that he once had the impression that invitation to become a sister city was reserved for big cities only. "We will try to finish with a sustainable agreement not only in geothermal," he responded, "but also in governance as well as culture and anything else."

The Energy Development Corporation led by its manager, JoseMaria Hernandez assisted Mayor Codilla in showcasing the geothermal operations that is spurring economic growth in Ormoc City. A video presenta-



Ormoc City Mayor Eric Codilla delivers his speech at the September 14 Sister Cities Signing Ceremony Luncheon at the recent Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit and Expo in Honolulu. | Photo Credit: usgs.gov

tion revealed an operation that is massive—e.g. large interconnecting distribution pipes dwarfing the surrounding forest trees and vegetation. It also revealed a corporate operation that did more than geothermal production—e.g. The company distributed school supplies to children, improved community health facilities and training of health workers, introduced livelihood opportunities to adults, and preserved forest biodiversity.

Geothermal means heat (thermal) from the earth (geo) and can be and already is accessed by at least 78 countries for electricity, spas, space heating, greenhouse and agriculture drying, cooling and snowmelt, industrial and others. Geothermal resources range from shallow ground to hot water and rock several miles below the earth's surface, and even farther down. It is a thermal energy that is clean (emits little or no greenhouse gases) and can be and already is accessed by drilling water or steam wells. Hawaii and the Philippines are both situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire—an arc stretching from New Zealand, East Asia, Alaska, and North and South America that has 75% of the earth's volcanoes and an acknowledged hotspot for geothermal resources.

At a separate panel discussion hosted by the Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit and Expo, Geothermal Association

of the Philippines trustee Fernando Penaroyo stated that the Philippines wants to overtake the United States as the number one producer of geothermal electricity.

According to International Geothermal Association 2010 data, the top countries in installed capacity are: US (3,086 Megawatts or MW); Philippines (1,904); Indonesia (1,197); Mexico (958); Italy (810.5); New Zealand (628); Iceland (575); Japan (536); Iran (250); and El Salvador (204).

Based on Penaroyo's presentation, the current capacity of the Philippines comes from Tongonan, Leyte Province (722 MW or megawatts), Mt. Makiling-Banahaw, Laguna-Quezon Provinces (458 MW), Tiwi, Albay Province (289 MW), Palinpinon, Negros Occidental Province (192 MW), Bacon-Manito, Albay/Sorsogon Province (151.5MW), and Mt. Apo, North Cotabato/Davao Provinces (108 MW), and Northern Negros, Negros Occidental (49 MW).

Future production may come from areas that are currently in pre-production stage or feasibility assessment stage.

The areas are: Kalinga (60MW); Bontoc-Sadanga, Mountain Province (80 MW); Buguias-Tinoc, Benguet/Iligao (60 MW); Daklan, Benguet (60 MW); Acupan, Benguet (20 MW); Natib,

Bataan (40MW); Maibrara, Laguna (20MW); Mabini, Batangas (20 MW); Montelago, Oriental Mindoro (40 MW); Biliran, Biliran (20 MW); Mt. Cabalian, Southern Leyte (80MW); Sta. Lucia-Iwahig, Palawan (1 MW); Mainit, Surigao del Norte (30 MW); Amacan, Compostela Valley in Davao Region (20 MW); Mt. Labo, Camarines Sur (65 MW); Isarog, Camarines Sur (70 MW); and Mt. Bulusan, Sorsogon (40 MW).

Geothermal energy is replacing imported oil without a doubt; The Big Island derives 20% of its current electricity needs from geothermal energy recovered by the Puna Geothermal Venture, a part of the publicly-listed Ormat Technologies Inc; The Philippines derives 27% of electricity from the various geothermal plants owned by Energy Development Corporation and Chevron Geothermal Philippines Holdings Inc. However, geothermal has a long way to go. It needs investors, technology research and development, clearer and more transparent regulatory policies, education, and stakeholders' buy-in. Michael Kaleikini of Puna Geothermal Venture, talked about creating a position whose sole task is communication with stakeholders; Penaroyo believed that there are better solutions now to some stakeholders' concerns—e.g. clearer laws with respect to indigenous rights, and vertical drilling technologies that are less intrusive on surface environments.; Kasumi Yasukawa of the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology of Japan explained that after the March 2011 earthquake, the Japanese government is finally revisiting geothermal energy again after decades of favoring nuclear energy.

For the Philippines, at least, one looming issue is the implementation of Philippine Renewable Energy Act of 2008 and the entry of 100% foreign-owned corporation in the geothermal industry.



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## CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLEMENT

## TEN REASONS WHY NUCLEAR ENERGY IS NECESSARY FOR ANOTHER 50 YEARS

By Panos D. Prevedouros

**E**nergy is the fundamental element to a nation's prosperity. This realization is more critical for developing economies.

I summarize below ten key reasons why nuclear energy is necessary for cities and regions that anticipate growth in one million people increments. Many areas worldwide fit this growth profile including several in the Philippines.

- 1) World population was 3 Billion in 1960, 6 Billion in 1999 and expected to be 9 Billion in 2046. Population growth and improving standard of living globally demand increasing amounts of energy. Energy production must roughly double in the next 30 years to accommodate demand.
- 2) Fossil fuels are being depleted, are not renewable and carbon taxes or pollution limits incentivize low carbon power production alternatives, one of which is nuclear.
- 3) The post WWII rapid growth of 1st world countries was facilitated in large part by electric power plants of various types and sizes.

Many of them are past 50 years of age and need replacement.

- 4) China alone is growing very fast and a major bottleneck of its growth may become the supply of electric power. Mopeds are electric in its large cities and BYD and CODA are selling full-featured electric vehicles. China is one of a few nations with no apparent hesitation for the deployment of nuclear energy.
- 5) Uranium as a fuel has advantages: It is relatively abundant, it does not cost much, not a lot of it is needed to fuel nuclear reactors, and supply comes from stable countries such as Australia and Canada. It is only mildly radioactive and its alpha radiation does not penetrate the skin. Uranium metal is commonly handled with gloves as a sufficient precaution.
- 6) Large nuclear power plants provide vast amounts of power, typically over 1 GW which is 1,000 megawatts. One 1.5 GW plant can cover the needs of a 1st world city of about one million population. Its impact on land and other earth resources is very small compared to many other clean energy sources such as hydro-



An explosion ripped through Unit 3 of the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station in northeastern Japan and destroyed the roof of a reactor building. Photo credit: <http://photos.state.gov/libraries/hogspot.com>

- 7) Familiarity: By 2010 there were 440 nuclear power plants in 31 countries supplying about 15% of the world electric power. Also, there are hundreds of naval vessels with compact nuclear reactors. This count does not include the Bataan nuclear power plant in Luzon, Philippines which was constructed at a cost of over \$2 Billion but was never fueled and put into operation.
- 8) Earth is on an unsustainable energy trajectory and the development of a disruptive and affordable new energy is essential for the billions of peoples on the planet and particularly in fast growing China, India, Indonesia and Nigeria. Add the U.S. (~500 million) and the Philippines (~200 million) to those four and their combined population projection for 2100 reaches 4 Billion!

voltaic and wind.

- 9) Normal safety: Current nuclear plant designs have many more safety features than the 1950s-era power plants that exhibited critical problems in Pennsylvania, Russia and Japan. Here is an example of a late 1980s nuclear reactor that shut down recently because it auto-detected some equipment failure ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/04/22/us-nuclear-reactor-shuts-down-georgia\\_n\\_852515.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/04/22/us-nuclear-reactor-shuts-down-georgia_n_852515.html)).
- 10) Catastrophe scenario: The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant failure is a great example of resilience. Whereas nature's force and infrastructure failures in the 9 R earthquake on March 11, 2011 (Tōhoku earthquake) claimed over 30,000 lives, this major nuclear power plant accident had no fatalities. The plant designed with 1950s technology and

built for an 8 R earthquake actually withstood an earthquake that was 10 times stronger. Flood water from the powerful tsunami jumped over the 25 ft. protective sea-walls and drowned the external diesel generators used to circulate water and cool the reactors. Because of the surrounding catastrophe, nobody was able to fix this external power system. After the 8-hour backup batteries ran out, cooling stopped and partial meltdown commenced. TEPCO Power Company is "making every effort to enable evacuees to return to their homes and for all citizens to be able to secure a sound life."

Without adequate and affordable power community well-being cannot be supported. Power fundamentally affects our basic needs such as water distribution, sanitation, food production and transportation. Until a feasible and affordable breakthrough is achieved in the energy field, nuclear energy is a major option for large populations because of its cost per MW, safety and near zero carbon emissions.

PANOS D. PREVEDOUROS is professor of Civil Engineering, University of Hawaii at Manoa ([pdp@hawaii.edu](mailto:pdp@hawaii.edu))

## SUPPORT FOR A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE STARTS WITH ALL OF US

Special to the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle  
By Peter Rosegg, HECO Communication Specialist

**W**e have a problem. In Hawaii, like many places around the world, we depend too much on oil. Almost all our energy for air, ground and sea transportation AND electricity comes from oil. In other places, oil is used mostly for transportation while primarily other fuels -- coal, natural gas, hydro or nuclear power -- produce electricity.

All the oil (plus a little coal) we use must be shipped in over very long distances, mainly from Asia and the Middle East. Among major fuels, the cost of oil is the most unstable and we have no control over these prices.

Further, climate change poses a serious threat. For an island state where we live near shorelines, the potential impact if sea levels rise or storms get worse could be devastating.

But there are solutions. We

can become less dependent on oil. It starts with all of us as individuals.

First, look around our homes and businesses to find ways to use less electricity and use it wisely. Try simple changes such as installing compact fluorescent bulbs and using power strips to turn off electronic equipment when not in use. Adjust the water heater or the air conditioner to a comfortable setting that will save energy and money.

When it's time to replace appliances such as refrigerators, dish washers, clothes washers and dryers, or electronics such as televisions and DVD players,

(continued on page 15)

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CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLEMENT

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GREEN JOBS

By Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

The Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative and the quest for 70% clean energy by 2030 have exponentially increased the interest in “green jobs” in the islands. In April of this year, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations’ Hawaii Green Jobs Initiative was presented to the public as a workforce development initiative that intends to support Hawaii’s 2030 Clean Energy Goal. Preliminary green labor market information was explained to the public at job fairs, clean energy day events, media, and other forums.

The five things to know about green jobs are:

**#1 Green job have no one universal definition.** Statisticians and analysts have to start somewhere to begin to understand a job phenomenon. Hawaii’s first baseline survey of green jobs in Hawaii used a working definition that met U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) guidelines. Many other States adopted the same guidelines. When employers were asked to tell the DLIR whether they had green jobs and workers, they were asked to define “green job” as one that’s

- directly engaged in:
  - G-generation of clean, renewable, and sustainable energy;
  - R-reduction of pollution and waste;
  - E- Energy efficiency (reduce the amount of energy used to produce a unit of output);
  - E-ducation, training, and support green workforce development; and/or
  - N-natural, Sustainable, Environmentally-Friendly Production.

For purposes of estimating the number of green jobs, support staff are included as “green” when a business is 100% green (one or more of the above). When a job containing green responsibilities is performed on a part-time basis, it is considered “green” when the responsibility occurs on a recurring basis. If an economic activity is known to be environmentally harmful, then any job associated directly would not be classified as green.

(Source: Volume 1-Hawaii Green Workforce: A Baseline Assessment, 8-9).

**#2 Green jobs are not work that has to do with farming and gardening only.** Green jobs are found in different industries. Many attendees of a recent

JobQuest associated green jobs with farming and “aina” only. The December 2010 baseline survey of private sector employers shows that the construction industry had the most green jobs followed by retail & wholesale trade industry. This excludes a category called “Others” which actually had the most green jobs. Chart 1 offers a projection of where the green jobs will be based on the December 2010 baseline survey.

(Source: Volume 2- Hawaii Green Workforce: Beyond the Baseline- Hawaii Green Jobs Outlook, 5)

**#3 Not all green jobs are new jobs.** The biggest misconception about green jobs is the idea that all green jobs are new jobs. Only two of the top 20 green occupations in the construction industry could be classified as green, new, and emerging occupations. Most are classified as “green increased demand occupations” which means that there are old jobs that will increase in number on account of green activities.

Occupation	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Aggregates									
Apprentices, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	278	6,482	495	331	707	382	919	434	1,129
Construction and Maintenance	3,300	29,843	4,296	3,950	6,825	4,874	8,280	5,296	9,450
Manufacturing	347	13,488	398	366	443	378	487	386	529
Transportation, Warehousing, and Logistics									
Retail and Wholesale Trade	309	26,311	401	412	420	442	426	462	425
Health Care and Social Assistance									
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate Services	98	27,476	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	183	98,886	202	192	225	204	249	216	272
Accommodation and Food Services	174	98,870	276	204	384	236	496	267	611
Other	4,864	128,058	5,717	5,271	6,617	5,680	7,506	6,050	8,347
Total Private Industry	11,145	483,534	14,348	12,198	16,933	13,948	19,883	14,353	22,746

Chart 1. Twenty-Five New and Emerging Green Occupations Identified by O’NET Source: www.greenjobshawaii.org

Others are classified as “green enhanced skills occupations” and this means that there are old jobs whose skills and knowledge have been altered. Designs, processes, and materials result in a significant change to the work and worker requirements of an existing jobs.

“Solar Installers” are listed as green, new and emerging occupations. “Construction carpenters” are listed as green, increased demand type and “Architects” are listed as “green enhanced skills occupations.” (Source: Volume 3- Hawaii Green Workforce: Beyond the Baseline- Training Gap Assessment, 50-51)

**#4 Green jobs are not only for those who can study engineering and technology.** The national database of occupations called O’NET offered profiles of 25 new and emerging occupations. Not all the emerging jobs were engineering or technician jobs. It is true though that these emerging jobs require training beyond high school. Interested individuals must know that good

standardized training may not always be readily available. All future work will not be green jobs but every workplace will expect employees to have “sustainability” skills and abilities such as ability to reduce and recycle paper, buy more energy efficient equipment, use-solutions to communicate, and others. (Source: Hawaii Green Workforce: Green Occupational Profiles)

**#5 Green jobs can only get better and clearer.** Green jobs are like information technology (IT) jobs in the 1990s when the internet and world wide web exploded. Then, the accounting of IT jobs was problematic. Accounting for green jobs will go through some growing pains, too. Shortly the website, www.hiwi.org, will be presenting a summary report called, “Projected Green Jobs.” Meanwhile, two recently launched portals, greenjobshawaii.org and seshahawaii.org have information about green jobs (job ads) and green training.

Hawaii’s Green Workforce Will Become Greener

As the State of Hawaii focuses on the goal set forth by the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) of reducing its dependency on imported oil from 95 percent to being 70 percent reliant on renewable energy by 2030, the “greening” of Hawaii’s workforce plays a major role in the achievement of this objective. According to a green jobs survey conducted by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations’ Research and Statistics office in 2010, the long term outlook for the green workforce in Hawaii remains very optimistic. The number of green jobs is anticipated to expand from 11,145 to 14,353 or possibly go as high as 21,766 by 2018. This means that growth is expected to reach at least 18 percent and could more than double over the next seven years. Only some of the findings from the 2010 Hawaii Green Jobs Survey are presented in this analysis. For more detailed information regarding the survey, refer to the publication titled “Hawaii’s

Green Workforce – Beyond the Baseline” on the HIWI website at www.hiwi.org.

Results from the survey indicate that growth in Hawaii’s green jobs sector will vastly outpace the total overall growth rate of nearly all private jobs statewide. Annually, green jobs are projected to expand by at least 3.5 percent through 2018 and could rise by as much as 13 percent, compared to 0.7 percent for the state as a whole. Green workers in nearly all private industry sectors, with the exception of finance, insurance, and real estate, will experience growth well above their respective industry averages. Even industries that are forecasted to decline over the long term such as the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry group as well as the manufacturing industry will see a rise in the creation of green jobs from 2010 to 2018.

Industry	Green Jobs Employment				Long Term Projections			
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	278	1,120	383	485	613	650	687	724
Construction and Maintenance	3,300	9,450	11,145	12,198	13,948	15,700	17,452	19,204
Manufacturing	347	509	671	833	995	1,157	1,319	1,481
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	369	420	471	522	573	624	675	726
Retail & Wholesale Trade	401	5,188	5,816	6,444	7,072	7,700	8,328	8,956
Health Care & Social Assistance Services**	183	272	361	450	539	628	717	806
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate Services	98	272	361	450	539	628	717	806
Education and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	183	272	361	450	539	628	717	806
Accommodation and Food Services	174	263	352	441	530	619	708	797
Other Services	4,864	8,347	9,236	10,125	11,014	11,903	12,792	13,681
Total Private Industry	11,145	22,746	24,233	25,720	27,207	28,694	30,181	31,668

\*The number of green jobs is greater than zero but less than one.  
\*\*Long Term Projections include government.

Engineering Technologists

- Energy Auditors
- Energy Engineers
- Fuel Cell Engineers
- Fuel Cell Technicians
- Geospatial Information Scientists and Technologists
- Thermodynamics Technologists
- Geothermal Production Managers
- Geothermal Technicians
- Manufacturing Engineering Technologists
- Manufacturing Engineers
- Manufacturing Production Technicians
- Photonics Engineers
- Precision Agriculture Technicians

Recycling and Remediation Workers

- Regulatory Affairs Managers
- Regulatory Affairs Specialists
- Remote Sensing Scientists and Technologists
- Robotics Engineers
- Solar Panel Installers
- Supply Chain Managers
- Validation Engineers
- Weatherization Installers and Technicians
- Wind Energy Engineers
- Wind Energy Operations Managers
- Wind Energy Project Managers
- Wind Turbine Technicians

Note: O’NET or Occupational Information Network is the primary source of occupational information. See onecenter.org. This list should not be interpreted as green jobs that are currently available in Hawaii.

## CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLEMENT

### 3RD ANNUAL... (from page 11)

ing supply and trying different biofuel sources including sunflower.

Handouts from sessions I missed show that more complexity looms ahead; Ocean cables to interconnect the different islands are not new but Request for proposals to get contractors working on the project have to be carefully crafted; Construction of facilities like a BioFuel Plant will require over 100 permits and counting; Solar energy supply is not stable and mathematical formulas, guiding policy and regulations are among the most complex ones that have ever been presented to a non-

technical audience.

Finally, Ben Taub of the Global Cleantech Cluster Association lists a few more trends with low impact on green businesses until 2015- shortage of skilled workers will become more severe; sustainability is widely integrated; production of biodegradable synthetic materials; true behavioral change of society; "carbon-free" power sector industrialized countries; and others.

We know that clean energy is "pono" and there is no turning back to oil dependency. The Summit simply reminded that being "pono" has to be accompanied by lots of smartness!

### HAWAII... (from page 10)

eral tax credit of up to 30% and a \$750 rebate from Hawai'i Energy, which is the entity that manages the public benefit fee you pay each month on your HECO bill.

I'm one of the lucky ones who purchased an all-electric Nissan Leaf in April of this year. I can't tell you how great it is not having to worry about the high cost of gas. Our state also allows electric vehicles to be exempt from HOV/Zipper lane regulations and not have to pay state and county parking meters. Here are some of the policies in place to make an



Nissan Leaf electric car

electric car affordable for you.

- \$7,500 federal tax credit for the purchase of an electric car (doesn't expire until car manufacturers sell 200,000 of their electrical vehicles)
- \$4,500 state tax credit for purchase of electric car

(have to apply by Jan. 2012)

- \$1,000 federal tax credit for electric charging station
- \$500 state tax credit for electric charging station

As you can see, there are some great programs that can help you make the switch to reduce your electricity bill and leave the gas pump behind. We, as elected officials, can talk until we're in blue in the face about how great these programs are, but it's going to take you buying in to make Hawai'i a world leader in clean energy.

### SUPPORT... (from page 13)

look for the ENERGY STAR® label which signifies a rigorous energy efficiency standard. Hawaii Energy ([www.hawaiienergy.com](http://www.hawaiienergy.com)) can offer advice and rebates for Hawaii residents and businesses.

Hawaiian Electric also offers free guides for our customers. Power to Save and 101 Ways to Save lists handy tips to help save energy around our homes; Ways to Save at Work features easy-to-follow workplace tips we all can use; and Power to Save for Small Business can help employers and employees boost energy conservation. More information is available at [www.heco.com](http://www.heco.com).

Maybe you're already conserving energy at home and at work. What more can you do to support a clean energy future

for Hawaii? You can learn about Hawaii's clean energy initiatives and new developments in technology taking shape both in Hawaii and around the world that will allow us to sustainably harness our natural resources.

Hawaiian Electric launched a Hawai'i's Energy Future ([www.hawaiienergyfuture.com](http://www.hawaiienergyfuture.com)) campaign several years ago to help consumers understand the changing face of the energy industry and share what the company has been doing to move towards a clean energy future for Hawaii. The site offers information on biofuels, biomass, solar, wind, geothermal, waste-to-energy, ocean/wave energy, smart grid and electric vehicles, and features the latest developments in Hawaii. Website visitors are encouraged to ask questions

through a comment link.

Hawaii has a lot of decisions to make and actions to take for our clean energy future. It won't be fast or easy. There will be questions, debates, even arguments. Will we accept more renewable energy projects on Oahu, including more wind and solar, even when we can see it around us? Will the Big Island and maybe Maui get more geothermal energy, tapping the heat of the earth for power? Can we boost agriculture in Hawaii, growing more of our own energy crops on lands now vacant on all islands? Can we move renew-

able energy and fuel from the Neighbor Islands (which have a lot of renewable resources) to Oahu where the demand for electricity is greatest? Will we pay for the investment needed to make these islands better for our children and grandchildren?

You can step up and get involved in the public discussion. Go to a meeting; write to the newspaper; ask politicians about it when they come to the door asking for your vote. Achieving Hawai'i's clean energy future is a journey. We all have a part in that journey.

### CLEAN ENERGY FAIR

October is Energy Aware-

ness Month and in celebration, Hawaiian Electric Company will present the "Clean Energy Fair" on Saturday, October 15, 2011, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pearlridge Center, Uptown Center Court. This free family fun event features interactive displays on clean energy topics; energy games and prizes; live entertainment by Mad Science of Hawaii, Na Hoku Hanohano Award-winning recording artist Hoku Zuttermister, and Kapolei High School's Polynesian Club. For more information, call 543-7511 or visit [www.heco.com](http://www.heco.com).

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## CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLEMENT

# Simple Ways to Conserve Energy at Home

by Gregory Bren Garcia

**I**n the past, wanton use of energy was associated with industrial might, ingenuity, and the triumph of the human spirit over nature. But just around four decades ago, people began to realize the terrible effects of unrestricted anthropogenic activities, including humanity's insatiable appetite for energy. Whereas before, people labored under the delusion that they are separate from nature, today they understand that they, too, are but a part of the proverbial circle of life. At present, there is still much debate about just how much the human civilization's demand for energy affects our planet's climate. In fact, there are people who choose to go against what mainstream scientific literature says about the greenhouse gases' role in climate change. But what these people still fail to appreciate is the fact that conventional energy sources nevertheless cause pollution, and more importantly, they are finite. Climate change or no climate change, we still have to deal with the social, economic, and environmental costs of pollution, and we also still have to sort out how we are going to cope with the inevitable depletion of our fossil fuel reserves.

According to data from The World Factbook, the U.S. remains as the world's largest consumer of oil, burning around 18.7 million oil barrels per day. The U.S. consumes way more oil than the world's second largest consumer, China, which uses 8.2 million oil barrels per day. Furthermore, the U.S. trumps even the entire European Union, which consumes just 13.7 million oil barrels a day.

In terms of electricity usage, Americans use a total of 3.74 billion megawatt hours of electricity per year, second only to China's consumption of 4.19 billion megawatt hours per year. Do note, however, that China's population is more than four times the population of the United States.

According to the World Resources Institute, the U.S. also

has one of the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in the world. In a list of 186 countries, the U.S. ranks seventh, with the average American producing 23.5 tonnes of greenhouse gases every year.

While individuals may not have the political power to change this big picture, there are still ways to help one's society conserve energy, mitigate the effects of pollution, and prevent the scenario of a future global energy crisis. And it all begins at home. Enumerated below are some of the things you can do to minimize your energy consumption and save some dollars at the same time.

## Eliminate vampire power

A study conducted by scientists from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California revealed that in 1998 home devices left on standby mode accounted for about 5 percent of U.S. residential electricity consumption, totaling about \$3 billion in annual energy costs. This is why it is important to eliminate what is known as vampire power or phantom load—electricity coming devices that are either switched off or running in standby mode.

Walk around your home and locate electronic devices that are left plugged into sockets even when they are not in use—common examples are computers, television sets, and mobile phone chargers. Make sure to unplug these devices.

## Laundry and dishwashing tips

Take note that it takes just the same amount of electricity to wash a full load of clothes and to wash just half a load. Thus, it would be wise to do your laundry only when you already have a full load of used clothes to wash.

Furthermore, you should wash your clothes at lower temperatures. It is estimated that heating accounts for about 90 percent of the energy used in laundry. According to a 2008 news report from the BBC, washing at 30°C (86°F) instead of 60°C (140°F) saves enough

carbon gases to fill 4 million double-decker buses. So just imagine the amount of energy you will save if you wash not just with warm water, but with cold water. Remember this golden rule in running home appliances: when you use more heat, you use more energy.

In view of this, it also makes sense to use the clothes dryer less frequently. If you live in a warm, sunny place, why not use a spin dryer (which does not use heat) and hang your washed clothes on a clothesline to dry instead? Another option is to buy a folding clothes dryer on which you can hang your clothes dry inside a warm room.

The same rules are applicable to dishwashing. Making sure that your dishwasher is carrying a full load before you run it not only helps you save water, it also helps you save energy. Try not using the heat-dry feature of the machine, and just use the air-dry option. According to the Consumer Energy Center in California, air-drying can cut your dishwasher energy use anywhere from 15 percent to 50 percent.

## Heating and cooling your home

Make sure not to overheat or overcool your home. According to Treehugger.com, lowering your thermostat by just 2°F during winter saves about 6 percent of heating-related carbon gas emissions. That is equivalent to saving 420 pounds of carbon gas emissions every year for a typical American home.

In Hawaii, the Department of Energy suggests a thermostat setting of 78°F for homes that are occupied. For much colder places, homeowners may set their thermostat at 68°F in daytime, and 55°F at night during winter. Consider installing separate thermostats so you can control the temperature settings in different areas of your house. Also consider using programmable thermostats for added convenience and savings. Programming your home heating and cooling can help you save more than \$100 every year.

If your home is located in a dry climate environment, you might want to try a whole-house evaporative cooler (a swamp cooler) instead of an air conditioning unit. Swamp coolers use

75 percent less energy compared to equivalent air conditioning units.

When buying cooling or heating units, seek help from qualified technicians who can ensure that you are choosing properly sized products for your home. Units that are too large will cost more to operate and to maintain over time. Furthermore, make sure to replace air filters if necessary. Remember that energy is wasted every time you run a dirty air conditioner or a dirty hot air furnace. Such units also release an additional 175 pounds of carbon gas emissions every year.

## Lighting your home

People with a modicum of good sense should know by now that turning lights off when they are not in use saves energy. If you make a conscious effort to look around your house, you might be surprised at how many lights are running unnecessarily.

You should also install only lighting fixtures that use Light Emitting Diodes (LED) technology. Not so long ago, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) were touted as the best alternative to incandescent light bulbs. However, LED lights soon became the ideal option because they are more energy efficient, they last longer, and they don't contain toxic mercury, which is found in CFLs.

LEDs use less wattage per unit of light generated (lumens), which help reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. LED lights consume just 6 to 8 watts, compared to CFLs, which use between 13 to 15 watts, and to incandescent light bulbs, which use about 60 watts of energy. The average lifespan of an LED bulb is 50,000 hours; compare this to 8,000 hours for CFLs and just 1,200 hours for incandescent bulbs. Just make sure that you clean your LED lighting fixtures regularly to optimize their usage.

Furthermore, consider re-designing parts of your home to accommodate more natural lighting during daytime. You can also apply simple changes, like repainting your walls with light-colored paint to optimize lighting, or planting trees out on your yard to provide shade in areas of your house where heat and light-

ing is not much needed.

## Worthy investments

When buying new electronic equipment for your home, check for labels like the Energy Star logo. Energy Star labels ensure that you are buying energy efficient products, which generally use between 20 and 30 percent less energy.

Likewise, when renovating your home, consider investing in items that will help make your home more energy efficient. For instance, if a typical American home had proper insulation installed on its walls and ceilings, its occupants would save as much as 30 percent in home heating bills, and reduce carbon gas emissions by as much as 2,000 pounds every year.

Other examples of energy-efficient devices are solar panels, solar water heaters, high efficiency water heaters, and heat pumps.

Did you know that in addition to the energy savings you will get, available rebates, state tax credits, and federal tax credits can help you cut your water heating costs by as much as 90 percent when you install a solar water heater at home? According to the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, a typical Hawaii resident uses about 49 percent of his or her home's hot water in the bathroom. So the savings really mean a lot, especially for people who love taking baths!

You can check out programs offered by organizations like Hawaii Energy to learn more about how you can save energy and money through energy solutions like those mentioned above.

## Make life simple

Conserving energy at home is often a matter of being practical and adopting a more spartan way of life. For example, why drive when you can walk or ride a bike instead? Such choices will not only help you save on gas money, they will also help you get some exercise as well. It is also a more personal way of getting around your neighborhood.

Remember that change begins with the individual. So start making a difference by conserving energy at home today.

## LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

## Appeals Court Rules in Favor of Aged-Out Alien

Court for resolution.

Khalid v. Holder was about a child from Pakistan who entered the U.S. as a visitor. Khalid's U.S. citizen aunt filed an F4 petition for her sister, Khalid's mother. Khalid was 11 years old when the petition was filed. By the time his mother's priority date became current, he was already 22 years old. Thus, when he applied for adjustment of status, Khalid was no longer a "child" so his application was denied.

After becoming a lawful permanent resident, Khalid's mother filed a second preference petition for him. Pursuant to the automatic conversion clause of the CSPA, she asked that the petition be given the June 1996 priority date. However, the USCIS assigned the petition a priority date of November 2007, which was expected to be current by 2015. Khalid also filed for adjustment under Section 245(i) on the basis of his aunt's petition but the USCIS also de-

nied this application.

The government then placed Khalid under removal proceedings. Khalid argued that he could retain the June 2006 priority date. If that date were used, he would be eligible for a visa and need not leave the United States. Both the immigration judge and Board of Immigration Appeals disagreed with Khalid, prompting him to appeal to the 5th Circuit.

The provision at issue is Section 1153(h)(3), which says that if an alien's age is 21 years or older the petition is automatically converted to the appropriate category and the alien retains the original priority date issued upon receipt of the original petition.

If the interpretation in Khalid is ultimately upheld, thousands of families, especially those coming from oversubscribed countries such as the Philippines, would be reunited faster.

Allowing priority date retention to F3 and F4 derivatives

would significantly cut down visa waiting time. For example, say Mr. A, a national of the Philippines, was issued an immigrant visa on the basis of an F3 petition filed in 1992 by his U.S. citizen mother. Mr. A's daughter, the derivative beneficiary in the original petition, was unable to immigrate because at the time that a visa number became available to her father, she was already 25 years old. Even after applying the proper CSPA formula, she was still over 21 years of age.

Mr. A then files an F2B petition for his daughter, which is the appropriate category for a petition filed by an LPR parent for an unmarried child 21 years of age or older.

If an F2B petition is filed today, it will take about 10 years before a visa becomes available to the beneficiary. Following the court's interpretation in Khalid, the petition for the daughter can be given the priority date of the petition filed by her grandmother. With a 1992 priority date, the daughter will be able to

adjust her status immediately.

This was the understanding of many immigration lawyers and even the BIA in an unpublished case. That was until 2009 when the BIA came out with a restrictive interpretation of the automatic conversion clause and denied F3 and F4 derivative beneficiaries the benefit of the provision.

The BIA reasoned that the CSPA was not meant to address delays in waiting for a visa and that the Congress could not have intended beneficiaries in new F2B petitions to cut in front of the waiting line.

The 5th Circuit criticized the BIA's reading as contrary to the plain language of the law. The court found that the statute, read as a whole, clearly intended the automatic conversion clause to benefit all derivative beneficiaries.

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).

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Celebrating Filipino-American History Month

To commemorate Filipino-American History Month, the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii is co-sponsoring several events at the State Library. The following events are free and open to the public:

- October 1: Opening reception at the State Library Courtyard, 1 pm to 3 pm. Philippine Consul General Paul Cortes will deliver opening remarks and introduce "Philippine Komiks" exhibit by Clem Bautista. Entertainment to be provided by the Silangan Singers and the Tekniqlingz Dance Crew.
- October 1-31: Photo Exhibit entitled Philippine Komiks: Creating and Reflecting Filipino Sensibilities will be on display at the State Library Reading Room. The exhibit examines how Filipinos express themselves and explores the formal constructs of komiks and how they communicate

through their structural features.

- October 8: Genealogy by Bryan Quisquirin at the State Library Reading Room, 1 pm to 3 pm. There will be a genealogy presentation and opportunity to trace your family roots.
- October 16: Anak (Children's Day) at the Children's Discovery Center, 10 am to 2 pm. There will be crafts, games, story-telling and music by Yorong Rondalla.
- October 22: Film and panel discussion on "The Life of Dr. Jose Rizal" at the State Library Reading Room, from 1 pm to 3 pm. Panelists Raymond Liongson, Serafin Colmenares and Ruth Mabanglo will discuss the life of the Philippines' national hero. The moderator will be Vina Lanzona.

Co-sponsors of the events include Friends of the Library of Hawaii, the UH-Manoa Of-

fice of Multi-Cultural Student Services and the Filipino Community Center. Please call 956-0867 for more details on these events.

### Traditional Philippine Costumes on Display

At the UH-Hilo campus, an opening reception will be held for "Colors of the Rainbow: An Exhibit of Traditional Costumes of the Philippines" on October 7, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Edwin Mookini Library.

The exhibit featuring costumes by designer Iris Viacrusis is a celebration of the Philippines, through weaving and traditional garments from its diverse island cultures. Born in the Philippines, Viacrusis has lived in Northern California and Paris where he studied fashion, before settling in Hawaii. He is a talented designer who was involved with theatrical costuming in Los Angeles and interior design in Dallas.

The exhibit will also include some arts and crafts such as woven baskets, jewelry and accessories and photos from different regions of the Philippines. Viacrusis' designs will

also be on display at the Lyman House Museum. His previous exhibits were held at the Waioala Center, UH-Manoa's Hamilton Library and Bishop Museum. "Colors of the Rainbow" is free and will run from October 7 to November 25, 2011.



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## MAINLAND NEWS

## US Sen. Inouye Vows Continued Support for Pinoys

by AJPress

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011

WASHINGTON, DC — President Benigno S. Aquino III called on US Senator Daniel Inouye during his visit to the United States capital on the second leg of his four-day working visit to the US on September 21.

The Chief Executive, who was joined by Cabinet members led by Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario, Transportation and Communications Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo, Budget and Management Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad, Social Welfare and Development Secretary

Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, and Presidential Communications and Strategic Planning Office Secretary Ramon Carandang, as well as Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. met with Senator Inouye at the Senate President Pro Tempore's Office at the US Capitol.

The President took the time to personally thank the US Senator, who is also Senate President Pro-Tempore and Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, for all the help extended to the Filipino people.

"The purpose of the whole trip is to personally thank you for so many things. Thanks to you, we've had a very productive trip," the President told Inouye.



President Benigno S. Aquino III with Senate President Pro Tempore Daniel Inouye (third from left) Ambassador Jose Cuisia (extreme left) and Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, (extreme right) | Photo courtesy of the Office of Senator Daniel K. Inouye

In response, Senator Inouye vowed to continue supporting President Aquino's administration and the Filipino people.

Senator Inouye is known for his distinguished record as a legislative leader and as a World War II combat veteran with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, who earned the nation's

highest award for military valor, the Medal of Honor.

Senator Inouye has sponsored and supported numerous bills to champion Philippine-American friendship in the United States Congress. He had a vital role in the historic enactment into law of the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation

provision of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Senator Inouye recently re-introduced the Save Our Industries Act (S. 1244) on June 23, 2011, a bill that will allow the export to the United States of Philippine apparel made of US fabrics. This legislation aims to increase jobs and exports income for both countries.

During Senator Inouye's most recent visit to the Philippines in April 2011, President Aquino conferred on him the highest Philippine Presidential honor, the Order of Sikatuna, for fostering, developing and strengthening relations between the Philippines and the United States. (www.asianjournal.com)

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## PAL Reduces Flights Due to Workers' Strike

from www.philstar.com  
Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011

MANILA (Xinhua) -- Flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) reduced its schedule of flights after striking workers damaged ground equipment and held protest rallies.

PAL announced Wednesday that it is operating 18 regular in-

ternational flights and 18 domestic flights, most of which will depart from its hub in Terminal 2 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). Some flights were transferred to NAIA Terminal 3.

"Despite our best efforts to restore normalcy at NAIA Terminal 2, the union still persists in hampering our airport operations and preventing the delivery of

service to our passengers," PAL officials said in a statement.

The domestic flights which operated mid-week are selected regular services to Davao, Cebu, Kalibo and Dumaguete.

PAL will mount replacement flights in four specific flights canceled Tuesday from Manila to Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Bacolod and Cebu, and back.

the airline to deploy two U.S.-bound flights, three regional and two domestic flights. But PAL had to cancel 64 domestic and 40 international flights due to manpower shortage.

PAL expects to return to normal operations within a month after its designated service providers -- Sky Logistics, Sky Kitchen and SPI Global -- formally take over the airline's ground-handling, catering and call-center reservations functions. (www.philstar.com)

## 'Pedring' Leaves 35 Dead, 45 Missing

from www.philstar.com  
Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - As Typhoon "Pedring" leaves the Philippines, more people turn up dead rising from 21 to 35 and 45 more people have been reported missing.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that the last three confirmed fatalities last night were two-year-old Mercedita Bartolome and Honorado Guevarra, 70, both residents of Bulacan; and Jose Buno, 45, a resident of Cabangan, Zambales. The three latest fatalities died from drowning.

The NDRRMC said that majority of victims' cause of death were drowning and being hit by fallen trees. The most number of fatalities was recorded in Central Luzon, with 12 people confirmed dead.

Meanwhile, the agency reported that it has been receiving more reports of missing persons since last night. From yesterday's 33 missing individuals, the number has risen to 45.

Based on its latest report, four people, including a 17-month-old baby, went missing after being buried by a "trashslide" in Olongapo City and Zambales.

Search and retrieval operations are being conducted for the missing persons.

The NDRRMC said that a total of 103,852 families or nearly 500,000 people were affected by the "Pedring" during its onslaught last Monday in eight regions in Luzon. It said that only 39, 579 families or 184,446 persons are displaced.

Meanwhile, the agency said that 456 people remain stranded in the ports of Pasacao, Mamburao, Batangas and Aparri. (www.philstar.com)

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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October 16, 2011, 10am-2pm ♦ ♦  
For more details, please contact  
Loretta Yajima at 524-5437

### ILOCOS NORTE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOC. CLASS 1970, 151 INTERNATIONAL GRAND REUNION / SATURDAY

October 22, 2011, 6pm ♦ Hilton  
Waikiki Beach Hotel ♦ 2500 Kuhio  
Avenue ♦ For details call Dr. Ablan ♦  
221-6197

### DINNER RECEPTION FOR PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT NOYNOY AQUINO /

### SUNDAY

November 13, 2011, 6pm ♦ Hilton  
Hawaiian Village. Attire will be Filipiniana  
or formal ♦ For more details  
please call 398-5988 or 383-7986

### PMAR OHANA MEDICAL MISSION TO DAVAO, PHILIPPINES

December 12-16, 2011 ♦ For more  
info, contact Arnold Villafuerte ♦  
220-2988

### ILOCOS SURIAN HOMECOMING MIS- SION

December 18-22, 2011 ♦ For details,  
contact Danny Villaruz ♦ 778-0233

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# China Insists on Bilateral Talks on Spratlys

by Pia Leo-Brago  
Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011

**M**ANILA, Philippines - China is firm on directly negotiating with each claimant country in resolving disputes over potentially oil-rich islands in the West Philippine Sea and South China Sea, according to China's foreign ministry.

"We believe that the most effective way to resolve the dispute is direct negotiation with countries concerned, about which the Philippines and other countries have made explicit pledges in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea," foreign ministry spokesperson Hong Lei recently said. "We hope relevant parties do more that is conducive to regional peace and stability."

Hong said China has indisputable sovereignty over the islands and the surrounding waters, based on historical and jurisprudential evidence.

"Guided by the national strategy of peaceful development and the policy of good neighborliness and bearing in mind the overall interests of regional peace and stability, China is committed to a peaceful resolution of the South China Sea dispute through bilateral negotiation and friendly consultation with relevant countries on the basis of historical facts and international law," Hong said.

"The South China Sea issue is, in essence, a dispute between China and other neighboring countries of the South China Sea on islands sovereignty and maritime demarcation."

The Philippines earlier asked fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to declare the disputed areas as a Zone of Peace, Freedom, Friendship and Cooperation (ZoPPFF/C).

The ASEAN foreign ministers, in a meeting in Bali in July 2011, tasked senior officials - with the assistance of maritime legal experts - to seriously study the Philippine proposal.

In a meeting last week, ASEAN maritime legal experts affirmed the

regional bloc's commitment to a peaceful and rules-based approach to resolving the disputes in the West Philippine Sea. It was also agreed during the meeting that the ZoPPFF/C may be factored in the implementation of the ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC).

"For the DOC to be effective, an actionable framework for joint cooperation in the West Philippine Sea, such as ZoPPFF/C, is considered as an imperative," said Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario.

"ZoPPFF/C clearly defines the next steps to be taken by ASEAN and other countries concerned to finally shed light and move forward on the West Philippine Sea issue," he said.

### 'Harmonious neighborhood'

Although accused of bullying its smaller neighbors, China is "striving to build a harmonious neighborhood of common prosperity" in the region, its top diplomat in the Philippines said.

"Indeed, our countries are natural friends. Our peoples and cultures are intertwined by blood and history. The success of President Aquino's visit to China opened up broader vista for a China-Philippines relationship of strategic cooperation," Ambassador Liu Jianchao said in a speech at the National Day Reception in celebration of the 62nd founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel on Monday.

"With what we have achieved, we shall continue to make stronger the foundation of our friendship, build long-standing partnership on various areas of mutual concern, rise above and beyond the narrow confines of national interests and create a regional environment of peace and stability," Liu said.

The Philippines and China signed a five-year trade and development cooperation during Aquino's visit recently. The two countries agreed to raise the total two-way trade to \$60 billion by 2016. China had also assured Aquino of its support for the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) pro-

gram of his administration.

"As an English proverb goes, 'All is well with him who has a great neighborhood.' China does cherish it as a wealth to have the Philippines as one of its wonderful neighbors. By fostering friendship between our two countries and two peoples, centuries of peace and prosperity would follow," Liu said.

"The painstaking struggles have made it all the more well-known to each and every Chinese that peace and development are what really count for a country to exist and prosper," he said.

In the past 32 years, he said China's gross domestic product has grown at an average of 9.9 percent while total volume of imports topped \$6.8 trillion during the past decade. China has created more than 14 million jobs for other countries and regions in the world, he added.

"When the world economy encountered recession and quite a number of developed countries faced economic problems, China, with other emerging economies, managed to maintain economic stability, generated economic growth and contributed to the global financial security and economic recovery," he said.

According to World Bank statistics, China contributed over 50 percent and 25 percent of global growth in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

From January to July this year, China-ASEAN trade volume registered a growth of 25.5 percent.

(www.philstar.com)

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