

HAWAII



FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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◆ JULY 7, 2012 ◆

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CANDIDATES FOR U.S. SENATE

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EDITORIALS

A Look at the Race for U.S. Senate

The significance of U.S. Senate race in Hawaii cannot be understated since the winner is expected to represent the Aloha state for the next generation, given that Congress has no term limits. Hawaii is rarely relevant in national politics with its measly four electoral votes, but with control of the U.S. Senate at stake, many eyes have been watching this particular race.

Three heavyweights in local politics are slugging it out for the right to replace the venerable Daniel Akaka—Ed Case, Mazie Hirono and former governor Linda Lingle. All three are veteran politicians with name recognition and years of experience. For local Democrats, they must decide which of the two—Case or Hirono—could best defeat Lingle. The consensus is that Hirono has the best chance, given her sizeable campaign war chest and that she best espouses the party's core values of tolerance and compassion. On the other hand, leading Democrats still remember Case's criticism of the establishment and conflicts with party leaders, so their uneasiness with him is understandable. Case did score points, however, when he ceded the Democratic primary for the 1st Congressional District in 2010 to Colleen Hanabusa, who later went on to defeat Republican opponent Charles Djou in a special election. Case is, for all intents and purposes, a moderate, maverick Democrat with conservative tendencies when it comes to fiscal matters and foreign policy. For the moment, at least, many signs point to a Hirono victory in the Primary.

Having no viable Republican opponent, Lingle should handily win her party's primary. She beat Hirono twice before in 2002 and 2006, but can the former two-term governor do so again? For Lingle to best Hirono in the General Election, she will have to convince enough voters that she is a moderate Republican who is willing to work with the president on the economy, education and other issues. Let's face it, Obama's approval rating may have dipped with voters on the national level, but not here where he is still quite popular. With Obama's shadow looming large, Lingle must also convince voters that the races for president and Hawaii's senate are separate and distinct. With three evenly matched candidates in a closely contested race, anything can happen especially in politics. We'll take a wait-and-see approach and may the best candidate win.

Obamacare: Good or Bad?

The Supreme Court has upheld the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare. The sharply divided court ruled 5-4 to pass President Obama's signature healthcare reform measure, with conservative justice John Roberts surprising many by voting in favor.

Obamacare basically requires most Americans to obtain insurance by the year 2014 or pay a financial penalty amounting to as much as 2.5 percent of their income. Opinions on whether Obamacare helps or hurts Americans depends on whom you ask. Democrats, obviously, have hailed the ruling as a victory. They say that many people who could not afford coverage will now receive affordable medical attention. Liberals predict that health care should improve as drugs and health care become more accessible and that those who fall into the "donut hole" of Medicare will now be able to afford it due to discounts at the pharmacy.

For Obama, the ruling is a big win particularly in an election year. With the legitimacy of the Supreme Court on his side, he will certainly tout Obamacare's benefits while on the campaign trail. Republicans, on the other hand, see it as yet another tax that harms small businesses and as an unconstitutional infringement upon

FROM THE PUBLISHER

I'd like to thank and welcome you for reading this latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. We hope you enjoyed a safe and Happy Fourth of July. A glance at the calendar shows that we have reached the midpoint of 2012. For those of you on summer vacation, enjoy it while you can because a new school year is just around the corner.



With the August 11 Primary also around the corner, we're continuing our coverage of the 2012 election with in-depth interviews of the three leading candidates for the U.S. Senate—Ed Case, Mazie Hirono and Linda Lingle. With the retirement of Daniel Akaka, who has served since 1990, Hawaii has a real U.S. Senate race for the first time in decades. As you may already know, anything can and has happened in the world of politics. Not only is Hawaii's race for the U.S. Senate too close to call, it should be fun to watch. We once again encourage you to familiarize yourself with these candidates and their respective stances on crucial issues by reading our question-and-answer session beginning on page 4.

In line with our election coverage, Dr. Belinda Aquino has submitted an article on the importance of citizenship for Filipinos in Hawaii. She raises a good point in that for all of Filipinos' large numbers in Hawaii, it doesn't mean much in terms of Filipinos becoming a real political power unless they first become U.S. citizens and register to vote. Fortunately, there are yearly workshops that are free and open to those who are eligible for citizenship. She encourages eligible Filipinos to apply as soon as possible, since fees can increase each year. If this applies to you, please read more of Dr. Aquino's article on page 8.

In other news of interest for Filipinos, the U.S. Supreme Court recently struck down key parts of Arizona's tough law on illegal immigrants but left standing a controversial provision requiring police to check the immigration status of people they detain and suspect to be in the country illegally. Detractors say the measure fosters racial profiling. The court's ruling could impact the November elections, particularly if minority groups show up in force at the polls. We have more coverage on this key ruling beginning with "Immigration Guide" on page 7 and "Legal Notes" on page 13.

In closing, we'd like to thank our readers for their faithful and continued support of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Please feel free to contact us at: filiplinochronicle@gmail.com if you have story suggestions, concerns or questions regarding Hawaii's vibrant Filipino community. We would love to hear from you.

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

states' rights. They also say that Obamacare's cuts to Medicaid and unpredictability does not bode well for the nation's future. Many observers also expect the Tea Party to re-energize itself and for conservatives to rally behind Mitt Romney. In the hours following the court's ruling, donations began pouring into Romney's campaign. Republicans are moving forward with a repeal vote as early as next week but in all likelihood, their chances are slim, with a Romney victory in November seemingly to be their best bet.

You may support or oppose Obamacare but the reality is that it will affect nearly everyone. The truth is, the effects of this act are hard to predict even for the experts. As the saying goes, the devil is in the details. Few would argue that America's health care system is sick and needs resuscitation. Whether Obamacare does the job or not remains to be seen.

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OPINION

Temperatures Rising in the Shoal

TELLTALE SIGNS
By Rodel Rodis

Occupying the full top of the front page of the Philippine Daily Inquirer on June 19 was a color photo of one

Chinese soldier raising the red flag of China and another holding a survey rod on the Scarborough Shoal. The news article that accompanied the photo ("China ships stay in Panatag Shoal") reported that "Beijing had not expressed any intention of withdrawing its service ships from Scarborough Shoal."

The day before, Pres. Benigno S. Aquino III had announced that the two Philippine Navy vessels stationed in the Shoal - in a stand-off with 92 Chinese vessels there since April 10 - were being recalled back to port "consistent with our agreement with the Chinese government on the withdrawal of all vessels from the shoal's lagoon to defuse tensions" in the area."

After the Philippine ships left, China's ships stayed and occupied the Shoal as the Inquirer front page photo appeared to confirm.

The Philippines had been snookered by China once again as occurred in 1994 when Philippine Navy ships left the Panganiban Reef - otherwise known as Mischief Reef - because of a typhoon, only to return after the monsoon to find China's Navy occupying the reef - only 87 miles from Palawan and almost 600 miles from China. China has since constructed a concrete fortress on Mischief Reef.

After the Inquirer published its news online, an emergency national telephone conference was called by members of US Pinoys for Good Governance - the group that sponsored the May 11 global protests against China's intrusion in the Scarborough Shoal - to discuss the implications of this new escalation of the conflict.

What the group members feared had materialized, China had occupied the Shoal.

In the course of the two

hour long telephone conference, frantic calls were made to Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) officials to verify whether China had actually seized control of the Shoal. But no verification was obtained before the conference call meeting ended so another conference call was set for the next night if the Chinese occupation of the Shoal was confirmed.

The next day, Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin warned that if China did not withdraw its ships from the Shoal, then he would order the return of Philippine Navy ships.

The return of the Philippine Navy raised the spectre of an incident in 1988 when Vietnamese navy sailors sought to restore the flag of Vietnam on Johnson Reef in the Paracel Islands off Vietnam. When the Chinese flag was removed, the Chinese Navy fired on the unarmed Vietnamese sailors and massacred 77 of them. Video footage of the massacre was filmed by the Chinese Navy and broadcast in China to show the resolve of the mighty Chinese People's Liberation Navy.

Could this bloody Vietnam scenario be repeated in the Scarborough Shoal?

Not according to Max Boot. In his June 24, 2012 article which appeared in the Wall Street Journal entitled "China Starts to Claim the Seas" where Boot asserts that "in fact China is the classic bully with a glass jaw."

Boot cites the example of the tiny Pacific Island of Palau with a population of just 20,000.. "In late March, at virtually the same time that the Scarborough Shoal standoff was beginning," Boot writes, "a Chinese fishing vessel illegally entered Palau's waters. When the poachers ignored repeated demands that they leave an area designated as a shark sanctuary, police from Palau's Fish and Wildlife Division opened fire, trying to sink the offending vessel."

"The result: one fisherman dead and 25 captured. A couple of weeks later, under the terms of a deal with China, the poachers were fined \$1,000 each and

flown back home. The Chinese must have been furious, but their diplomat on the scene had nothing to say except "it is a good outcome."

As speculation mounted about whether China would react as it did in Vietnam in 1988 or as it did in Palau in April of 2012, news came from DFA official that the photo used on the front page of the Inquirer was a 10 year old photo that was posted on the China Embassy website. China has not physically occupied the Shoal and planted its flag there, at least not yet.

On June 22, members of the US Pinoys for Good Governance joined members of the US Vietnamese community in mounting a demonstration in front of the United Nations building in New York to protest China's "creeping invasion" of the Philippines and Vietnam. Leaders of the two communities announced that they were launching a nationwide boycott of China-made products.

According to Eric Lachica, "if even one million, out of the four million Filipinos in the US, stop buying Chinese products or goods, we will create a huge financial penalty on China."

While an economic boycott of China directed at Walmart stores was being launched in the US, the Philippine Daily Inquirer reported on June 25 that "a Chinese vessel last week rammed a Philippine fishing boat north of the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), killing a Filipino fisherman and leaving four others missing."

The article reported that the ramming of the Philippine boat causing the death of Bolinao fisherman Christopher Carbonel "may have been the first casualty in the dispute between China and the Philippines over Scarborough Shoal." Two days earlier, the state-owned China News Agency (CNA) reported on Saturday that a Chinese official had ordered navy ships to target "Filipino vessels that hang around" Scarborough Shoal "and don't leave."

"The order of Rear Adm. Yin Zhuo, director of the Peo-

ple's Liberation Army Navy's (PLAN) Information Expert Committee, came as an answer to President Benigno Aquino's statement on Wednesday that he would order Philippine vessels back to the shoal if air surveillance found China still had vessels there."

The CNA reported Yin as saying Chinese naval troops should board and search Philippine government ships and private fishing vessels. In doing so, Yin said, Chinese troops "must try to maintain restraint, not force, not hurt people" when going after Philippine ships found in waters near Scarborough Shoal.

But he affirmed to Communist Party People's Daily that China's Navy would not hesitate to use deadly force against its enemies.

The following day, the Philippine Coast Guard announced that a Hong Kong-registered commercial ship, the Peach Mountain, was most likely the vessel that rammed a Philippine fishing boat in the West Philippine Sea on June 20, killing a Filipino fisherman and leaving four others missing.

But was it an accident?

Not according to Ted Laguatan. "The collision was not accidental," he wrote. "It is a big wide ocean out there and for small boats, it's practically impossible to have collisions. Also, if it was accidental, the

Chinese would have attempted to save the Filipino fisherman. This was intentional to provoke the Philippines and see what kind of capability and resolve the Philippines has in holding on to its territories and see also how America will react."

"Malacanang and DFA will naturally say it was accidental because of the implications involved if they tell the people it's intentional. It means a direct confrontation with China which of course will blatantly just confirm our military weakness and incapability to defend," Ted wrote.

Blogger Perry Diaz from Sacramento, California summed up the tense situation in the Shoal: "Without warships and warplanes, the Philippines is at the mercy of China who is claiming the entire South China Sea (West Philippine Sea), East China Sea, and Yellow Sea as an extension of her continental shelf. If nobody challenges her wholesale claim to these three contiguous bodies of water that extend from the southern tip of Japan all the way to Indonesia, China could choke the shipping lanes in the region; thus preventing vessels from other countries from passing through her "territorial waters."

(Send comments to Rodel50@gmail.com or mail them to the Law Offices of Rodel Rodis at 2429 Ocean Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94127 or call 415.334.7800)



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COVER STORY

Case, Hirono and Lingle Contend for U.S. Senate Seat

By HFC Staff

The 2012 elections will determine our state's true colors. Will it be a "Blue Hawaii" or will the color be red—as in Republican red? A good indication of where Hawaii stands politically will be the outcome of the race for U.S. Senate where candidates Ed Case, Mazie Hirono and Linda Lingle are squaring off in an effort to replace the retiring Daniel Akaka.

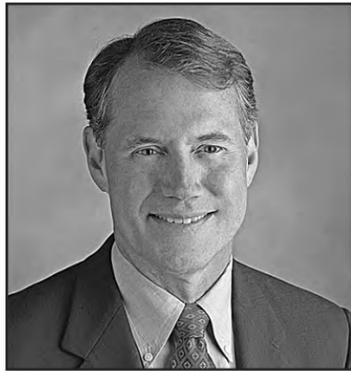
All three candidates have extensive experience. Case was U.S. Rep. for Hawaii's 2nd District from 2003-2006 and a state rep from 1994-2002; Hirono was U.S. Rep. for Hawaii's 2nd District from 2007-2012, lieutenant governor from 1995-2002 and a state rep from 1981-1995; and Lingle was Hawaii governor from 2002-2010, Maui mayor from 1991-1999 and a Maui county councilmember from 1981-1991.

The winner of the Democratic Primary will face Lingle in the General. A recent survey of the Hawaii Senate Democratic primary conducted for Hirono's campaign showed Hirono leading Case 53 percent to 38 percent, with roughly 10 percent undecided. Hirono has the backing of the Democratic establishment and has outraised Case. Hirono's opposition to raising the eligibility age for Social Security and doing away with a cap on wages subject to Social Security deductions has drawn the support of seniors and those nearing retirement age. Case has been a lone

ranger of sorts and an outspoken critic of the powers that be in the Democratic Party. He appeals mainly to younger, more independent-minded voters. Lingle's focus on creating jobs and economic growth has attracted support from small businesses.

To familiarize our readers with all the three candidates, the Chronicle sent a list of questions to their respective campaigns. All three spoke candidly about their backgrounds, priorities if elected and plans to improve Hawaii. The following responses were edited for space and clarity.

ED CASE



Q: Why have you decided to run

for Congress?

A: This is a once-in-a-generation election for Hawaii because any state's choice of a new U.S. senator is critical and because our next senator must take over in time for Sen. Inouye. This is a crucial election because Washington is not working for all Americans and we need senators committed to fixing it. I am committed to providing strong, effective leadership for Hawaii and country over the next generation.

Q: What makes you the best-qualified candidate to represent Hawaii?

A: I have proven throughout my career in government and business that I can and will provide strong, effective leadership that's honest, inclusive, preserves our values and makes fair decisions. My four-generations-deep roots on the neighbor islands and Oahu, together with my 172 community meetings and my grassroots campaign, provide me with the best knowledge of all of Hawaii's communities and needs including the Fil-Am community. My 30 years of working in Hawaii business and managing both of my businesses gives me the knowledge and experience to deliver economic growth and job creation for Hawaii.

Q: What are the major issues currently facing Hawaii on the national level?

A: The major issues facing Hawaii are the same issues facing our country. First, to grow our economy and create good jobs. Second, to balance our country's budget and run our national finances the same way we do for our families and businesses so that we leave our government to our children in better shape. Third, to preserve our so-

cial safety net, especially Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid which have literally saved millions of lives and lifted many out of poverty and destitution. Fourth, to improve education and make it available to all so that all have the opportunity to pursue the American dream. Fifth, to provide affordable health care to all Americans. Last and most important, to fix Washington so that it is again working for all Americans.

Q: If elected, what will be your priorities?

A: My priorities will focus directly on tackling the major issues outlined above. For the economy, we must strongly support tourism by making it easy for visitors from Asia to visit Hawaii rather than elsewhere, while also supporting other key industries like health care and education. But it all starts with fixing Washington and there my priorities are to overcome the stagnation and gridlock and work with my 99 fellow senators. Back home, my priority will be to continue to talk story with and outreach to all communities and citizens of Hawaii and to help you with your own needs, like speeding the immigration of friends and relatives and securing veterans and retirement benefits.

Q: What is your stance on protecting/preserving Medicare and Social Security?

A: I am absolutely committed to the protection and preservation of Social Security and Medicare. I want them to continue to help Americans with their disability, medical and retirement needs. On their present course, they won't be there for the future generations because there are fewer people working and paying benefits now for more people who are living longer and receiving benefits. If we make adjustments now on both the revenue and the benefits side, without affecting those now receiving or in line to receive benefits, we can strengthen these programs so that they are there for our children.

Q: What should be done to improve the nation's healthcare system?

A: Improving our nation's health care system so that it assures available, affordable, quality health care for every American will take years of strong, effective leadership. First, we need to fully implement the Affordable Care Act which will make basic care available to tens of millions of Americans who don't have it today. Second, we need to strengthen Medicare by assuring that Medicare providers are receiving fair reimbursements and not overwhelmed by paperwork. We also need to strengthen community health centers and other provider alternatives especially in the more rural parts of Hawaii that are far from medical centers in Honolulu. The list is long, but with strong, effective leadership we can get there.

Q: What is your stance on immigration reform? What is your suggestion to fix the system? Would you support legislation to allow some illegal residents to stay in the U.S. if they were on a path to citizenship?

A: First, I believe deeply in immigration as a bedrock foundation of our country. Illegal immigration has no place in maintaining our immigrant tradition because it encourages further illegal immigration and causes a distrust of legal channels, where some applicants have waited patiently for over a decade to become legal citizens. First up on immigration reform must be to stop illegal immigration into our country and to increase penalties on those who employ illegal immigrants. Every current illegal immigrant must leave. But I believe that, with an estimated 10-20 million such immigrants in our country, it is not only not possible, but in some cases there are compelling reasons to provide them and their children with some conditions, whether it be returning to their home country for some period or paying back taxes or otherwise. Whatever is offered must be part of a larger reform package that enhances legal immigration and restricts illegal immigration. I could not support any path without that.

Q: Addressing the \$15 trillion national debt will require sacri-

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, Ed Case...)

from everyone. What specific examples of federal spending or tax provisions would you support eliminating or reducing?

A: On the revenue/tax side, I voted against the original Bush tax cuts for high income earners because they were unfair, unaffordable and unnecessary, and I would expire those tax cuts as scheduled for the end of this year. I also would reform our tax code to eliminate special tax breaks to industries like the oil industry and other special interests. On the expense side, rather than pick and choose individual programs for reduction or elimination, we need a big-picture review of all federal spending to determine in a coordinated way our updated priorities for the next generation and what we no longer need and can no longer afford. With parts of our budget consuming great portions of our revenue, such as national defense at about 20 percent, it's inescapable that balancing our budget will require some reductions in budget growth there.

Q: Do you have a plan to balance the nation's budget?

A: Balancing our country's budget is one of our absolute top three challenges (along with fixing Washington and growing our economy) because everything depends on it, as we're seeing now with countries in Europe that are suffering because they denied their budget declines until they went into crisis. My plan continues my focus on our country's budget during my earlier service when I was a member of the U. S. House Budget Committee and is explained in detail on my website at www.edcase.com. It combines both revenue enhancements and spending stabilizations. We can't just cut or tax our way to prosperity, but we can make careful and balanced choices to secure a prosperous future.

Q: What will you do to prevent fraud and waste in government and make sure that taxpayer money is spent wisely?

A: First, by fully exercising my responsibility and duty as senator, through personal inquiries and committee investigation, to act as a check and balance on our executive branch, which spends the vast majority of our money. Second, by

strengthening the funding, staffing and overall capability of various parts of the federal government charged with investigating and rooting out waste, fraud and abuse, such as the Inspectors General and the Government Accounting Office.

Q: Does character and morality matter in politics?

A: Absolutely. In our democracy and system of government, where your U.S. Senator is asked and is responsible for representing Hawaii and all citizens of our country in making decisions that affect the very lives of all, the relationship of senator and his constituents must be first and always be one of mutual trust. That trust must be built on the values and character of your senator, because if those aren't there, the rest doesn't follow.

Q: Any last words for our readers?

A: The last generation was a momentous one of achievement and advancement for Fil-Ams. I represented more Fil-Ams in my congressional district than any other congressman in our country. We worked together on issues such as justice for World War II veterans and fair immigration laws. I was privileged to celebrate in your 2006 Centennial and honored to receive the United Filipino Council of Hawaii's Ating Kaibigan Progress Award. Your next U. S. Senator will need to work closely with you on the challenges discussed above and others such as the strengthening of the bond between our country and the Philippines. I want and would be honored to be your senator. Please get to know me more on my website at www.edcase.com, email me at edcase@edcase.com or call me at (808) 596-4920. I humbly ask for your vote. *Maraming Salamat Po!*

MAZIE HIRONO



Q: Why have you decided to run for Congress?

A: My mother showed me that one person can make a difference. My immigrant background and experiences, such as working in a low-income community over a summer and protesting the Vietnam war as a college student led me to public service as a way to give back to my community and state.

My mother and my friend and continuing inspiration, Patsy T. Mink, taught me to never give up and to always keep fighting for what is right. That fighting spirit is why I am running for this seat. If elected, I would be the first Asian-American woman to serve as a U.S. senator.

Q: What makes you the best-qualified candidate to represent Hawaii?

A: I'm proud of my record in the U.S. House of Representatives. As Hawaii's lieutenant governor, I've served as a doer, not a talker. It's a work ethic that I learned from my mother. I have a strong record and vision for jobs, energy, education and other issues that are critical for building a stronger economy and creating opportunities for people. We may be dependent on imports for food and energy, but we are not a dependent people. We have everything we need to build a stronger, more sustainable

Hawaii. All we need is collaborative leadership and that's exactly what I'll provide in the U.S. Senate.

Q: What are the major issues currently facing Hawaii on the national level?

A: In these tough economic times, Hawaii faces critical issues of job creation, building a sustainable future and protecting Social Security and Medicare.

Q: If elected, what will be your priorities?

A: I will spend every day fighting to create jobs and expand opportunities for the people of Hawaii and middle class families. This means diversifying our tourism industry as well as building a sustainable future through investments in education, job training and clean energy. I will honor values of upholding commitments to our kupuna by fighting against proposed cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

Q: What is your stance on protecting/preserving Medicare and Social Security?

A: We must protect Social Security and Medicare. Our next senator must be someone who is committed to Social Security and Medicare. We need a sena-

tor who follows in the tradition of Senators Inouye and Akaka. Multiple times in 2011 alone, during debates on the federal budget, Republicans tried to dismantle Medicare. They have repeatedly tried in the past to privatize Social Security. Thankfully, Democrats in the Senate stopped them. In the U.S. Senate, that will continue to be my solemn commitment to you.

Q: What should be done to improve the nation's healthcare system?

A: I believe that health care is a right, not a privilege. I am proud of Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care law and fought to exempt it from the national law. I supported President Obama's health care reform legislation but there is still work to be done. Thanks to this important legislation, more than 2,550 young adults in Hawaii have retained health care coverage through their parents' plans. If elected, I will stand against efforts to repeal health care reform.

Q: What is your stance on immigration reform? What is your suggestion to fix the system? Would you support legislation to allow some illegal residents to stay in the U.S. if they were

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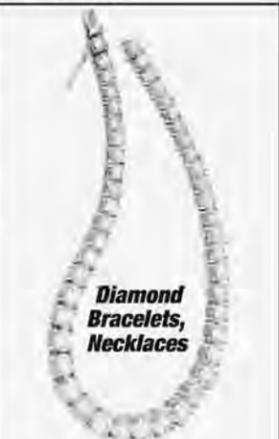
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OPEN FORUM

Rail Will Benefit Filipinos

By Jack Legal

(This article is in response to an Op-Ed published in the June 30, 2012 issue of the HI Filipino Chronicle.)

Rail construction is finally underway after more than 20 years of talking about rail transit and hundreds of public hearings.

When completed, commuters from Kapolei, Ewa Beach and Waipahu will finally have an alternative to sitting in traffic.

Rail will mean more time to spend with your family and less time cursing at the congestion. Thousands of jobs will be created in construction, engineering, retail and restaurants. This means a better quality of life for our families and a future for our children.

Key milestones have been reached over the past several years. In 2008, voters said “yes” to rail on a ballot initiative. In 2010, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved the Final Environmental Impact Statement, which was formally

accepted by Gov. Neil Abercrombie later that year. In 2011, the FTA issued a Record of Decision indicating that rail has met the requirements of its environmental review and that the City is allowed to begin construction on the project.

Stopping now would mean all that work, energy and money will have been wasted. Let’s do the math. Of the \$5.2 billion cost for the project, \$1.5 billion will be covered by the federal government and the remaining \$3.7 billion will be from the half percent general excise tax.

The rail will be fully operational by 2019 and the GE tax will end in 2022. This means that rail will be fully paid for by the time it is completed. Contrary to what you hear, the rail project will not mortgage your children’s future. Of the \$3.7 billion in local funding, approximately \$2 billion has been obligated in rail contracts. If we stop now, we lose the \$2 billion and the \$1.5 billion from the federal government will go to another city.



Honolulu will lose out on about \$3.5 billion with nothing to show for it.

Rail opponents like Danny de Gracia II, who wrote an article in a recent edition of the Filipino Chronicle, want us to stop the project and throw money down the drain. Why? Mr. de Gracia wants to stop rail, citing the global “geo-political turmoil.” What is he talking about? Does he mean we should not improve our quality of life in Honolulu because people in the Middle East happen to protest their autocratic dictators? That’s a stretch! I do not see the connection nor understand his logic.

Mr. de Gracia says killing rail will help the national economy.

He thinks people in Hawaii should “think about more than just themselves but all of their fellow Americans.” Again, I don’t understand his rationale. So it’s okay for New York, Chicago, Washington, Atlanta, Miami, Denver, Seattle, Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Phoenix to have rail. But it’s selfish of Honolulu—the 13th largest city and with the worst traffic congestion in the nation—to build a rail transit system?

What’s most disconcerting about Mr. de Gracia’s article is his injection of racism into the rail debate and implying that Filipinos are racists. That is absurd! Grassroots organizations like Filipinos for Rail exist because rail transit will benefit Filipinos more than any other ethnic group in Hawaii. We live in communities along the rail route from Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Waipahu and Kalihi. We are the ones who sit in traffic everyday and will save the most time when rail is built. We are the ones whose quality of life will be vastly improved with rail.

Just because a group bears the word “Filipino” in its name

does not make its members racists. If it were true, you would have to dissolve organizations such as the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Filipino Jaycees, United Filipino Council, the Filipino Community Center, the National Federation of Filipino American Associations and hundreds more across Hawaii and the mainland.

Rail will benefit Filipinos and everyone in Hawaii, whether you live on the West side or the East side. If you use rail, it will mean less time getting to work and school. Even if you do not use rail, you still benefit with 40,000 less cars on the road. Rail will help our economy, environment, mobility and most of all, our quality of life—today and for generations to come.

(JACK LEGAL is a community leader and member of Filipinos for Rail—a coalition of Filipino community leaders committed to making rail a reality. The non-partisan group highlights rail’s benefits and counters misinformation. Seven of the 12 communities directly served by the rail route have large Filipino populations.)

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Democrats Hail Supreme Court Ruling on Constitutionality of Obamacare

Dante Carpenter, chair of Hawaii’s Democratic Party, says the recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on the constitutionality of Obamacare was the right thing to do for people in Hawaii and middle class families nationwide.

“The court upheld the individual mandate along with all the reforms that ensure Americans, not their insurance companies, have control over their health care,” Carpenter says. “The law is already helping millions of Americans and will help millions more in the years to come.”

He urged Congress to move on from the political battles over health reform and get to work on the economy.

“Congress passed the law, the president signed it and the Court ruled that it’s constitutional. The important thing now is to fully implement the law so that we can cut costs and ensure all Americans get the care they need,” he says.

Because of Obamacare, insurance



companies can no longer deny children coverage due to pre-existing conditions like cancer or asthma. More than 3 million young adults will be able to stay on their parents’ health care plans until age 26 and more than 5 million people will receive discounts on their prescription drugs while in the Medicare ‘doughnut hole,’ saving an average of more than \$600 a year on their prescription drugs.

Obamacare will also save middle class families up to \$2,300 a year on top of its largest health care tax cut in history, worth an average of \$4,800 to about 19 million middle class Americans.

IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Supreme Court Upholds Arizona's Law on Police Stop and Verify Immigration Status

Even President Obama's Latina Supreme Court Justice appointee Sonia Sotomayor and Clinton appointee Justice Ruth Ginsburg voted with the Supreme Court majority to uphold Arizona's law requiring officers who stop, detain, or arrest a person to verify the person's immigration status. The Obama administration had sued Arizona to stop it from enforcing its law, S.B. 1070, §2(B) contending that the federal government has the exclusive power to enact laws affecting immigration (preemption doctrine), although many believe that the reason was politics – pandering to Latino voters.

Can you imagine the federal government preventing a state from enacting and enforcing a law that helps the federal government enforce immigration laws? Only in America and under an Obama "imperial presidency." Justice Antonin Scalia denounced the Obama administration, saying that what we have is "A Federal Government that does not want to enforce the immigration laws as written, and leaves the States' borders unpro-

tected against immigrants whom those laws would exclude." He asked "Are the sovereign States at the mercy of the Federal Executive's refusal to enforce the Nation's immigration laws?" Scalia said that "As a sovereign, Arizona has the inherent power to exclude persons from its territory, subject only to those limitations expressed in the Constitution or constitutionally imposed by Congress." He pointed out that "Arizona has moved to protect its sovereignty—not in contradiction of federal law, but in complete compliance with it." Justice Scalia took a dig at Obama's "amnesty" saying: "Thousands of Arizona's estimated 400,000 illegal immigrants—including not just children but men and women under 30—are now assured immunity from enforcement, and will be able to compete openly with Arizona citizens for employment."

The Supreme Court said that it was improper for the lower federal courts to enjoin the enforcement of §2(B) without some showing that its enforcement in fact conflicts with federal immigration law and its objectives. The status checks do not interfere with the federal immigration scheme, but on the other hand consultation between

federal and state officials is an important feature of the immigration system. In fact, Congress has encouraged the sharing of information about possible immigration violations. The federal scheme thus leaves room for a policy requiring state officials to contact ICE as a routine matter.

Other provisions struck down

However, the Supreme Court struck down as having been preempted by federal law the provisions of the Arizona statute which –

— makes failure to comply with federal alien-registration requirements a state misdemeanor. §3.

— makes it a misdemeanor for an unauthorized alien to seek or engage in work. §5(C).

— authorizes state and local officers to arrest without a warrant a person that the officer has probable cause to believe has committed any public offense that makes the person re-

m o v a b l e from the United States. *Arizona v. United States*, No. 11-182, 06/25/12.

Comments on Decision

President

Obama said that he was "pleased" with the decision striking down the three provisions. He did not comment on the provision that was upheld. He urged Congress to act on comprehensive immigration reform because a patchwork of state laws was not the solution.

Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney said that he believes "each state has the duty – and the right – to secure our borders and preserve the rule of law, particularly when the federal government has failed to meet its responsibilities." He charged that Obama had "failed to lead" on the immigration issue as a result of which the states had tried to fill the vacuum.

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer hailed the decision as "a victory for the rule of law."

OBSERVATION: Why can't the police simply give a copy of the arrest record of every

arrestee with a foreign birthplace to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and let DHS do the immigration status verification? In that way the arrestee does not have to be detained by the arresting officer while waiting for the verification. It appears that this is being done already in some states.

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

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

City Introduces New Smartphone Apps

If you're interested in avoiding traffic snarls, providing feedback regarding tsunami sirens or finding the statue of Israel Kamakawiwoole, the City's Department of Information Technology (DIT) has "apps for that."

DIT has partnered with software developers to put key information in the hands of smartphone and computer users. The new applications include:

- RouteView: <http://routeview.honolulu.gov/> Gives drivers the opportunity to avoid traffic jams by viewing traffic cameras along their route, before they get into their vehicle.
- Adopt-A-Siren: <http://sirens.honolulu.gov/> Allows users to adopt a tsunami siren in their neighborhood. They will take responsibility for the

siren by checking to ensure its functionality and report on the status of the siren to the City. The application also allows users to name their siren and receive an email notification alerting them when the siren will be tested.

- MOCA Public Art Finder: <http://art.honolulu.gov/> Gives users the location of public art on display at City sites based on the GPS location of your phone or computer.

"We are using mobile applications to provide useful information for the public and make them aware of what is happening around them in a timely manner," says Honolulu mayor Peter Carlisle.

The new applications are available on the City's <http://can-do.honolulu.gov/> transparency website that also includes DaBus, Honolulu 311 and Tsunami Evacuation Zone applications.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE NAME OF JEHOVAH GOD, AMEN.

I, Windyceslau D. Lorenzo also know as Kamehameha VI, through grace and ordination, and Pursuant to the following to wit:

- A. The Great Mahele (land division) of 1848; and,
- B. Treaty of Friendship 1849 between the United States of America, then President Zachary Taylor, and the Kingdom and Islands of Hawaii, then King Kamehameha III; and,
- C. Affidavit of lineal Bloodline to Kamehameha Paiea, 1994; and,
- D. The Allodial Deed from Kamehameha to Kamehameha, recorded in the Hawaii State Bureau of Conveyance # 98-126382, 1998; and,
- E. The Determination of Heirs of Kamehameha Paiea (Ka Na'i Aupuni - The Conqueror), probate # 8-1-0351; and,
- F. The Notice of Lien of the Hawaiian Islands recorded in the Bureau of Conveyance Doc. # A-4520086.

Whereas, all as stated above, are filed and recorded in the Land Court of Hawaii, case # 09-0300, as Heir/Successor owner of the Allodium, to all Land(s), Water(s), Air Space, Metallic and Mineral rights, etc., in Archipelago of the Hawaiian Islands, Gives:

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, THAT: All land title deeds/leases throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago, are now being perfected by Kamehameha VI, which involves and including to wit:

- 1) All Fort Lands; and,
- 2) Hawaiian Government Lands; and,
- 3) Crown Lands; and,
- 4) Chiefly (Ali'i Nui's) Lands; and,
- 5) Na Ali'i and the people, etc., as formalized according to the Great Mahele.

The Private Office of Kamehameha VI, has appointed his private staff and Chief Land Commissioners, will be accepting all land title/leases applications to be perfected and cleared to all in the Hawaiian Islands.

THEREFORE, all contacts will be directed to the Official Offices of Kamehameha VI throughout the Hawaiian Islands, and until all Private Chief Land Commissioners are appointed for the Islands of Molokai, and Lana'i, all are directed to the Island of Maui # 808-344-2279, # 808-264-3209, # 808-281-6781 and those on the Islands of Kauai and Niihau, and the Big Island of Hawaii, will be directed to the Island of Oahu # 808-699-0179 and 808-230-1675.

Becoming a Citizen —A Right and a Responsibility

By Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

We in the Filipino community are fond of saying that as of the 2010 U.S. Census, we have become the largest ethnic group in Hawaii. At more than 275,000 Filipinos and part-Filipinos in the count, we have become the state's fastest growing and biggest minority group. And indeed, there is reason to be proud of this fact.

While this is indeed a fact, we need to reflect more on what it means in the larger scheme of things. The most common observation I have heard bandied about is that Filipinos have become a power bloc as manifested by the growing interest that candidates for public office have shown in reaching out to the community in an obvious play for votes, especially during election years like this.

In years past, the metaphor was a "sleeping giant" in referring to the Filipino community. No one uses that anymore because in a sense, the community has awakened to a new sense of purpose and vitality.

Filipinos as American Citizens

What we must remember is that numbers alone, no matter how large, are insufficient to create real centers of power, which is essentially a political concept. I'm referring to power as the ability on the part of groups in society to influence the outcome of public decision-making and the growth of institutions in a particular setting. Power is not only an attribute of individual leadership. It is a collective enterprise galvanized by a broad consensus of vision and action toward desired goals.

It is in this context that the notion of citizenship plays a key role in the shaping of a powerful or influential community largely through the instrument of electoral politics. Because we live in a democratic society, electoral processes such as voting, campaigns, debates, and other types of intellectual engagements become the major mechanisms for the acquisition and retention of

political power.

Citizenship in turn should not be seen as simply a legal piece of paper for identification purposes. It is a broad concept that encompasses a number of rights and responsibilities that are necessary for the proper and productive functioning of any given society. It should be taken seriously and exercised to the fullest measure of what should be done both as an individual with personal needs and as a member of a larger community, which requires a different set of obligations and responsibilities.

Unfortunately, while we grow bigger every decade in the Filipino community, we are confronted with a problem with three components. First, we don't know how many Filipino residents in the state are citizens or have become U.S. citizens among those who are eligible to become citizens. Second, among those who are citizens, how many are registered voters? Third, among registered voters, how many actually turn out to vote in elections?

It is extremely difficult to ascertain or even remotely come close to the exact figures corresponding to the above categories for reasons that I will be unable to explain here in full. It will need a major comprehensive and expensive effort to launch a project of this nature. We can only hope that as Filipinos with permanent visas arrive in the state, they will apply in greater numbers to become U.S. citizens. And once they have become citizens, they should endeavor to register as voters, and to actually vote when elections come around. It seems simple but hard to do.

My sense is that we are not yet at the stage where the Filipino community can turn out massive numbers for citizenship, registration and voting purposes. Consequently, we are still not in a position to claim that we have become a real political power in the state. We have to accelerate the processes mentioned above to get to that stage of real empowerment.

Citizenship Workshop

Fortunately, every year there



is a Citizenship Workshop (CW) conducted jointly by the Office of the Governor, through the Office of Community Services in the State Department of Human Services and the Office of U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, which is open to those who are eligible to become citizens. The 2011 CW was held at the Filipino Community Center, which was well-attended by prospective applicants for naturalization. Several volunteer lawyers and professionals assisted with various aspects of the workshop. The 2012 session was held on May 26 at the State Capitol and the 2013 one is being planned for the FilCom Center.

The workshop is free and participants will not be charged for services or advice they receive from volunteers. However, they will be responsible for filing fees to process their application for naturalization and other papers needed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) once they are ready to file their applications. The current naturalization fee is \$680, which includes \$85 for biometric information (not required when the applicant is 75 years or older). The fee is non-refundable if the applicant withdraws or the naturalization application is denied.

It is in the best interest of prospective applicants to apply as soon as they become eligible because the fee increases considerably after some time, which is a disincentive to apply for citizenship. During the last CW in May, a Filipino resident from Kalihi Valley tearfully explained that he has failed the literacy test in English because he does not speak English. There are plenty of eligible applicants who have been permanent residents for several years but are either fearful of being unable to pass the test or simply do not care to

apply. In some cases, some of these long-time permanent residents are deported to their country of origin once they run afoul of federal laws.

The Naturalization Process

To summarize, applicants must:

- Be 18 years old at the time of filing (Form N-400)
- Be a lawful permanent resident or green card holder
- Have continuous permanent residence in the U.S. for at least 5 years or 3 years in some cases, like being married to a U.S. citizen
- Show that you have been present in the U.S. for 30 months or 18 if married to a U.S. citizen
- Show that you have lived for at least 3 months in the USCIS district where you reside legally

Complete requirements are listed in "A Guide to Naturalization" which is available online at: www.uscis.gov/natzguide or by calling 1-800-375-5283.

An inescapable requirement for naturalization is the ability to read, write and speak English, as well as a basic knowledge of U.S. history and civics (government). It's always heartbreaking to hear sob stories of applicants who fail the interview phase after three or four times because they are not literate in English. They think of the hard-earned money they've lost in filing their application papers, which discourages them from applying again. But there are exceptions that are explained in the Workshop, such as a physical or mental impairment that makes applicants unable to fulfill the literacy requirements.

Every workshop participant is given a packet of reference materials which bilingual volun-

teers can explain. It contains, among others, a copy of the American constitution, a list of adult education classes and their contact information, instructions for filing fees, photograph and passport requirements, timeline of events and necessary forms. The Workshop has representatives and volunteers from the USCIS, the US State Department Passport Agency, and the Offices of Community Services and U.S. Rep. Hanabusa to assist applicants.

Rights and responsibilities

For many people, citizenship is taken for granted because they do not associate this basic concept with the ability to exercise an individual right. According to Kamaile Brown of the Department of Human Services, who was a resource person in the May 26 workshop, becoming a citizen makes it possible to access the benefits and services, say, from the federal government, that you are entitled to. It gives you a legal standing and the right to receive these benefits, which you might not be entitled to if you were just on permanent resident alien status.

It's worth repeating here that there have been many cases in the past when non-citizens have been deported for running afoul of the law. Some are given the option to be deported rather than to spend time in prison in a U.S. facility.

But it's not enough to think of citizenship only in terms of rights. It's equally important to fulfill the responsibilities and obligations that are inherent in the concept. Being a citizen is essentially a collective responsibility as well to keep society in a harmonious and productive state. If people only thought of their individual rights and entitlements without regard to others, the community in which they live would be a chaotic and dysfunctional one. Thus, citizenship is both an individual and group endeavor. It's like a coin with two sides to it: one would not be meaningful without the other. The world will be a much better place to live if people fully understood and exercised their rights within the larger context of collective goals and responsibilities.

(continued on page 9)

SOCIETY PAGE

**PMAH Memorial Weekend
Aulani Disney Resort & Spa
Ko Olina, Oahu, Hawaii**



FEATURE (from page 8, BECOMING...)



Congresswoman Hanabusa's 2012 Citizenship Workshop

Conclusion

The Citizenship Workshop is a major benefit to those who need it most - those who have not become citizens even after so many years of having lived in the U.S. as permanent residents. If you think you have understood and met all the requirements to become a citizen, all you do is to attend the Workshop for the final instructions towards citizenship status.

If you feel that you have certain issues or problems that you need to resolve before applying, there's plenty of help available. Rose Churma, president of the FilCom Center is working with Calleen J. Ching, staff attorney of the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center (HIJC) at the Legal Aid

Society, which helps immigrants become naturalized citizens. Their number is (808) 536-8826. Attorney Ching is preparing a curriculum for a possible four-week "citizenship class," which is expected to start next August. There will be volunteer mentors for the various aspects of citizenship from her office, as well as from other groups who are knowledgeable on the topics. There will be linguistic assistance for those who are not native speakers of English.

Churma is optimistic that the citizenship training that potential applicants will undergo at the FilCom Center will accelerate the process by which applicants, who are mostly Filipinos, can fully understand and

appreciate the meaning of citizenship in their lives. The Center offers services, such as bilingual assistance and guidance through the process, which may not be available elsewhere. As soon as the curriculum is finalized, flyers announcing the details will be distributed. Inquiries may be directed to the Center at (808) 680-0451.

These citizenship classes will not replace the Citizenship Workshop, which is being sponsored every year by the Office of Community Services and the Congressional Office of U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa. Ideally, prospective applicants who need a lot of information and assistance with the various naturalization requirements should attend the citizenship classes first, so by the time they go to the Citizenship Workshop, which usually happens on a Saturday morning, they will be more or less ready with their final papers. In the 2011 Workshop, there were some "walk-in" participants who could not be attended to because they did not call in first that they were attending the workshop or much time was needed to deal

with their individual cases and there were not enough volunteer attorneys.

There will be flyers announcing the venue and date of the 2013 Citizenship Workshop, which will most likely be held at the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu.

(DR. BELINDA AQUINO is currently Professor Emeritus at the School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she was Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies, and Director of the Center for Philippine Studies before retiring.)



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COVER STORY

(from page 6, Mazie Hirono...)

on a path to citizenship?

A: I support comprehensive immigration reform. We are a nation of immigrants. It is not a pragmatic proposition to round up and send back the 11 million individuals who are illegally here. In particular, we must recognize the special situation of the young people who were brought to the U.S. by their parents when they were minors. I am a strong supporter of the Dream Act, which provides a path to lawful status for young, undocumented immigrants who are enrolled in college or have earned a high school diploma.

At the same time, we need to ensure that family reunification remains a pillar of our national immigration policy. Asian-Americans face the longest family immigration backlogs in the world, often requiring decade-long waits. I want to ensure that those currently waiting in line to immigrate legally are placed ahead of those entering some form of a legalization program.

I am committed to those who serve our country. In the U.S. House, I sponsored the Filipino Veterans of World War II Family Reunification Act, a common-sense solution to exempt children of Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas so families can stay together.

Q: Addressing the \$15 trillion national debt will require sacrifices from everyone. What specific examples of federal spending or tax provisions would you support eliminating or reducing?

A: We must take a balanced approach when it comes to reducing our national debt and deficit crisis. We are not going to cut our way out of this economic slump. We must grow our economy by creating jobs and investing in education, infrastructure and a clean economy.

It is critical that the wealthiest among us pay their fair share and corporations are held accountable for contributing back to our revenue stream. This means letting the Bush tax cuts for the rich expire and eliminating tax breaks for big oil companies that continue to make record profits as gas prices soar in Hawaii and across the country. At the same time, we need to strengthen Social Security and Medicare and preserve benefits for our veterans.

We must examine potential areas of government waste, fraud and abuse. I have identified five such areas which would yield approximately \$2.87 trillion over 10 years—ending wars in the Middle East (\$1.4 trillion); ending the Bush tax cuts (\$830 billion); cutting Medicare waste (\$600 billion); ending oil company tax breaks (\$41 billion); and improving oil and gas management (\$1.75 billion).

Q: Do you have a plan to balance the nation's budget?

A: We are in the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. We will not re-

cover overnight. It will take a balanced approach of public and private partnerships and a combination of budget cutting and smart investments to create jobs and get our economy moving again. With private corporations holding on to billions they're not investing, it's clear that the trickle down approach does not work and we can't just simply cut our way our way to a stronger economy.

Q: What will you do to prevent fraud and waste in government and make sure that taxpayer money is spent wisely?

A: In just the first six months of 2012, my office was able to cut the red tape and recover \$1 million for Hawaii residents. As I mentioned earlier, there are areas where we can reign in spending over the next 10 years. Allowing the Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent of the wealthiest taxpayers to sunset will generate \$830 billion; ending the wars in the Middle East will save \$1.4 trillion; cutting Medicare waste, fraud and abuse will save \$600 billion; and ending tax breaks for Big oil could recoup \$41 billion.

Q: Does character and morality matter in politics?

A: Absolutely. Gridlock in Washington is a result of too many people putting politics and posturing ahead of progress and problem-solving. It was ingrained in me from an early age to be a doer, not a talker. In Hawaii, our spirit of ohana leads us to put the greater good ahead of any one person's narrow self-interests.

In Congress, I've worked hard to exemplify that spirit and instill it in my colleagues. It's not enough to merely talk about "working across the aisle"—you actually have to cross it, build relationships with the opposite party and get things done. In the U.S. Senate, I won't just talk about bi-partisanship. My Republican and Democratic colleagues will know that my door and my mind are always open for cooperation and collaboration in the name of progress and problem-solving.

Q: Any last words for our readers?

A: The stakes in this campaign could not be higher. Republicans need just four seats to win the Senate majority. They have their sights set on winning Hawaii. Hawaii deserves a senator who will consistently put our local values ahead of national politics.

The differences between me, my Democratic primary opponent and the likely Republican nominee are stark. I am committed to Hawaii's ideals of equal opportunity and fair play. Though the economic challenges we face are great, we cannot balance the budget on the backs of our seniors, women or veterans. I am committed to strengthening Social Security. I oppose raising the retirement age. I am also the only candidate who stood stead-

(continued on page 11)

COVER STORY

(from page 10, Mazie Hirono...)

fast against the Iraq war. My opponent opposes President Obama's job plan and I will take every opportunity to work with our president to get our families working again.

LINDA LINGLE



Q: Why have you decided to run for Congress?

A: Gridlock in Washington, D.C. has stifled good ideas and thwarted efforts to regain our national momentum. As a former councilmember, mayor and governor who worked across party lines with respect and civility, my passion is to return common-sense bipartisanship to Congress.

Q: What makes you the best-qualified candidate to represent Hawaii?

A: This election is about working with others in a bipartisan and standing for people over party. By always putting people before politics, I could make good things happen for the people Hawaii.

Q: What are the major issues currently facing Hawaii on the national level?

A: The major issues are job creation, the economy, national defense, Asia-Pacific relations, Social Security and Medicare. Today, small businesses struggle with a complex and onerous tax burden and heavily regulated marketplace. I will work

to lessen those burdens. Additionally, a significant portion of Hawaii's businesses is tied to tourism. It is vital to ease international travel restrictions to help tourism-related firms.

Furthermore, we must provide meaningful tax and regulatory relief for small businesses. Federal regulations and government red tape stifle economic growth. According to the Small Business Administration, the cost of complying with federal regulations falls disproportionately on small businesses. My solution is to require that any new federal rule or regulation be accompanied by an objective jobs impact statement that would quantify the negative effect on jobs.

As senator, I will advocate for the preservation of America's security forces to ensure stability and deterrence from armed aggression in the Asia-Pacific region. As senator, I will also focus on expanding our nation's economic and trade relations through more effective relationships with governments of the region.

Q: If elected, what will be your priorities?

A: My top priority will be to encourage private sector job creation, increase our nation's competitiveness and re-establish a vibrant national economy. Second, I will focus on putting America's fiscal house in order. We must get the deficit under control and bring down the nation's debt. Third, I will work to address long-term structural problems facing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Fourth, I will advocate for the preservation of America's security forces.

Q: What is your stance on protecting/preserving Medicare

and Social Security?

A: Social Security and Medicare need immediate reform. To maintain Social Security over the long-term, I will honor the promises made to current beneficiaries, adjust the age of retirement to receive full benefits to reflect data that shows Americans living longer, develop a national consensus on adjustments to benefits paid to future retirees and determine where the cut-off age will be to apply the new benefit levels, protect the Social Security Trust Fund to ensure that the treasury bonds are placed at the head of the line for payments when the Trust Fund needs cash, and focus on improving the economy so that young people can start to improve their financial security before they retire.

To sustain Medicare, I would advocate that seniors and the disabled currently covered by Medicare continue to receive the healthcare they have been promised, set reimbursement rates at a level that encourages doctors to treat Medicare patients by covering a fair proportion of the doctor's costs and expand audits of Medicare claims to discourage waste and fraud.

Q: What should be done to improve the nation's healthcare system?

A: Proponents and opponents of the current federal healthcare law have trivialized the discussion surrounding healthcare by asking, "Are you for or against the law?" This overly simplistic, election-year question diverts attention from the real issue at hand—providing affordable, quality healthcare to as many citizens as possible.

I don't like that the Patient

Protection and Affordable Care Act's (PPACA) costs are disproportionately imposed on small and medium-sized businesses, which in turn hurts economic recovery. And I don't like that the law fails to address the need for medical liability (lawsuit) reform. I have serious reservations about the PPACA as passed because it allows the federal government to force Hawaii and all other states into a one-size-fits-all program that is financially unsustainable.

It is time to look at the availability of health insurance policies across state lines, thereby increasing competition and giving Americans a wider set of health insurance options. Any future healthcare law

should support an expanded use of Health Savings Accounts that allow citizens to set aside pre-tax dollars for their future healthcare needs. We should also explore a health insurance premium payment program for those with high medical costs to allow them to obtain medical insurance coverage. Additionally, options to purchase catastrophic healthcare coverage and high deductible healthcare plans should be available for those who prefer this form of coverage.

As we address rising healthcare costs, we need to focus on medical liability (lawsuit) reform. A failure to address

(continued on page 15)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Spain's Queen Sofia Visits P-Noy

by Delon Porcalla
Wednesday, July 4, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Queen Sofia of Spain, who is in the country for a five-day visit in connection with the week-long celebration of Philippines-Spain Friendship Day, paid a courtesy call on President Aquino in Malacañang Monday night.

The queen received a warm welcome from the President and several members of the Cabinet.

She signed the Palace Guest Book, where visiting heads of state affix their signatures. Queen Sofia had a private meeting with Aquino, who later hosted a dinner in her honor at

the Rizal Hall.

June 30 is celebrated as Philippines-Spain Friendship Day.

The queen will be going to Legaspi City today to witness the unveiling of the statue of Jose Maria Peñaranda, the first governor of Albay, at the Peñaranda Park.

Queen Sofia will also visit the Camalig Evacuation Center for Natural Disasters in Camalig town, the maternity ward at the Emergency Center and the Annex Building of the Josefina Belmonte Duran Memorial District Hospital.

The two centers were funded by the Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional



Queen Sofia and P-Noy

para el Desarrollo (AECID) or the Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation.

The queen will unveil the commemorative marker of the Climate Change Academy at the Bicol University also in Legaspi City.

She will have lunch with

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda and mayors of several towns in Albay province at Hotel Oriental.

Queen Sofia will be going to Zamboanga City tomorrow to check on housing project sites in Kalambuan, Katilingban and Kalinaw, also funded by AECID and managed by Spanish non-government organization Manos Unidas and local NGO Zabida under Fr. Angelo Clavo.

Zamboanga Mayor Celso Lobregat will host lunch for the queen after the unveiling of the commemorative marker at Fort Pilar Museum.

She will also visit Don Pablo Memorial High School, a pilot school for the reintroduction of the teaching of the Span-

ish language in the Philippines. The queen's itinerary in Manila includes a visit to the National Library, National Museum and the University of Santo Tomas.

Some 3,500 Spanish residents in the country will have an opportunity to meet Queen Sofia at a reception that the Spanish embassy will host for her.

Queen Sofia arrived in Manila Monday along with Alberto Virella Gomes, Spain's Assistant Secretary for Development Cooperation for Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe, and 13 other Spanish government officials.

She and her delegation will leave on July 6 on a Thai Airways International flight for Bangkok. (www.philstar.com)

Miss World Bet Asks Pinoy Netizens for Text Votes

by Charmie Joy Pagulong
Wednesday, July 4, 2012

The 24-year-old Moroccan-Filipina, who bested 24 other candidates last June 24, will represent the country in the Miss World 2012 competition on Aug. 18 in Inner Mongolia, China.

Rehman made the appeal during the Philippines' first Social Media Day celebration last June 30 in Makati City.

Meanwhile, over 400 Filipino netizens converged in Ayala Triangle to mark the first ever meet up of Filipino Twitterati, bloggers, advocates and social media users.

Social Media Day is an annual gathering for social media enthusiasts spearheaded by US-based technology website Mashable.

In the Philippines, Tweet-UpManila hosted the event.

During the social media get-together, three social media ad-

vocates shared their insight of how social media had helped them in their campaigns for a cause and how it made a positive impact on the lives of people.

TV host Daphne Oseña articulated how social media were used as a tool to help victims of disasters, especially during the onslaught of "Ondoy" and "Sendong" through citizen journalism.

Gang Badoy, founder of the volunteer group RockEd Philippines, discussed how social media promote various advocacies, noting that "one accom-



Queenierich Rehman

plishment of this day is that it makes the cyber and real worlds fuse and merge."

TV-5 senior manager for Social Media Marketing Carlo Ople said that what makes the

Philippines the "social media capital" is the way Filipinos use social media.

He cited the story of Alfred Salmos, an overseas Filipino worker who was electrocuted in Saudi Arabia and sought financial help so that he could return home. His story spread over Facebook and was featured on various news programs that helped him gather enough money through donations for passage back to the country.

Ros Juan, one of the organizers, added that the event also launched Project 140, which

aims to support 140 deserving scholars from the poorest provinces of the country.

Social Media Day was also staged in Quezon City, Cebu, Iligan, Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro City and Davao City.

Acknowledged as the social networking capital of the world, the Philippines continues to prove its overwhelming growth in social media with over 27 million Facebook users, and ranking eighth with the most number of accounts on Twitter worldwide, according to a recent study by research firm Semio-cast. (www.philstar.com)

Metro Manila Needs New Water Sources - ADB

by Ted Torres
Wednesday, July 4, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Metro Manila should develop new water sources and depend less on Angat Dam for water supply, the Asian Development Bank

(ADB) has said.

In a study entitled "Good Practice in Urban Water Management," the ADB noted that for a country prone to earthquakes, damage to Angat dam or a long dry spell would undermine Metro Manila's water

supply.

It added that depletion of the underground water aquifer due to excessive groundwater extraction makes deep wells harmful to the environment. "The critical challenge is to develop new sources of water," ADB said.

The proposed Liban Dam project in Tanay and a water pumping station in Muntinlupa City are intended to improve water supply in Metro Manila.

The ADB study also cited conflicting regulatory setup in water management, particularly the existence of the "two-of?ce MWSS (Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System)."

Two water concessionaires - Manila Water Co. and Maynilad Water Corp. - are under MWSS's regulatory control.

The study noted that there appeared to be two offices regulating the two water concessionaires.

"The corporate of?ce in charge of recording and documenting the assets as per government accounting and auditing rules should be a smaller entity limited to ministerial functions. The role of the corporate of?ce, however, can be more pronounced as evident in the Laiban Dam case, where it tried to take a direct hand in contracting for new supply of water that the utilities claim is their responsibility. The mixed signals sent to the private sector are not desirable from a governance point of view," the ADB report explained.

The report also warned of the fast-rising cost of water. (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Ruling on Arizona Law Underscores Need for Immigration Reform

The U.S. Supreme Court has issued its decision on the controversial Arizona immigration law, SB 1070, which was challenged by the Obama administration on federal preemption grounds. Since the ruling allowed one key provision of the law to stand, the need for comprehensive immigration reform is more pressing than ever.

The three provisions of SB1070 that were invalidated by the Court are: Section 3 which makes it a crime to fail to register under a federal law; Section 5(C) which makes it a crime for an undocumented immigrant to perform or apply for work; and Section 6 which authorizes the police to arrest a person based on probable cause that he or she has committed an offense which makes him/her removable.

In striking down these pro-

visions, the Court said that federal law trumped state law when it comes to immigration. The administration chose not to attack the law on racial profiling or equal protection grounds.

The Court upheld Section 2(B), the “show me your papers” provision. It authorizes state police to determine the immigration status of a person who is stopped, detained or arrested. This allows local police to check the immigration status of anyone they suspect to be in the country illegally.

Supporters of SB1070 find this sufficient to declare victory but it must be remembered that the Court made a clear warning in the decision. Although Section 2(B) could not be challenged as written and prevented from going into effect, there may be other preemption and constitutional challenges to the law as interpreted and applied after it becomes effective. The Court also cautioned that detaining individuals for the sole purpose of verifying their immigration status would raise constitutional concerns.

This constitutional challenge is expected by many to follow. The problem with the “papers please” portion of SB1070 is it encourages racial profiling and discrimination. There is a fear that state police, in implementing the law, will base their actions on what people look like or what language they speak. That would be unlawful under federal laws prohibiting racial and ethnic discrimination.

All eyes are not only on Arizona but on other states as well. Five other states have enacted SB1070-type laws and in twenty-four states legislation has been proposed that include at least one of the four controversial provisions. By allowing Section 2(B) to stand, the Court has left the door open for states to pass their own, albeit limited, legislation.

Whatever path the ruling may be said to have paved way for is actually narrow and tricky given the Court’s caveat. Nonetheless, SB1070 and similar laws will be, if they are not already, implemented. Unfortu-

nately, there must first be an actual case of racial profiling before the invidious discriminatory intent of the law merits discussion by the Court. It could be a U.S. citizen who is suspected of being an illegal alien.

Or it could be a DREAMer who already applied for deferred action. It remains to be seen how the new federal directive to grant deferred action to those who came to the U.S. at a young age would be applied in light of Section 2(B). The DREAMer could have been detained by Arizona police a little too long because Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) could not give a definite answer as to his status, maybe because his application is still pending or simply because ICE could not find his application.

Although federal immigra-

tion agents have been instructed to use their prosecutorial discretion in determining which individuals to remove from this country, state police can legally make a status check on anyone they suspect as having no lawful status and detain them while doing so.

These examples highlight the need for a comprehensive immigration system. Throwing in a patchwork of state laws into the intricate maze of federal immigration laws makes for a minefield. At the losing end are the individuals with whom, though they may have “crossed oceans and deserts”, we all share a common destiny.

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

MAINLAND NEWS

Pinoy Fishermen Honored at Marker Unveiling in Louisiana

by Pia Lee-Brago
Sunday, July 1, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - A group of Filipino fishermen who built shelters on stilts atop some oyster reefs at the mouth of Barataria Bay in Southern Louisiana in the United States and named the village after the Philippines’ capital were honored with the unveiling of the historical marker for “The Manila Village.”

The event held last June 16 was attended by around 400 people, including about 50 direct descendants of the original group of Filipinos who established the Manila Village in the late 1800s.

As part of the Independence Day celebration and the Bicentennial of Louisiana, Consul General Leo Herrera-Lim par-

ticipated in the unveiling of the historical marker in Louisiana.

To date, there are over 10,200 Filipinos in Louisiana, residing mainly in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Alexandria, Lafayette and Lake Charles.

The event was organized by the Philippine-Louisiana Historical Society, led by its president Robert Romero and vice president Carmelo Astilla.

Mayor Tim Kerner of the town of Jean Lafitte, who is married to a Filipina, actively participated in the ceremonies.

William de la Cruz, grandson of the founder of the Manila Village, also participated in the unveiling ceremonies with his family.

In his opening remarks, Lim said: “Today marks a high point in shared histories between the Filipinos and the peo-

ple of Louisiana. ‘Manila Village’ no longer remains just as memories for the descendants of the first Filipino settlers in Louisiana. We have put a marker for shared aspirations for the future. Indeed, this is such a great tribute to our community and our heritage to see the project finally come to fruition.” (www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Julio Kwarto Naindaklan Nga Aldaw A Di Malipatan Ti America Ken Filipinas

PHILIPPINE FRIENDSHIP DAY?”

Adu a selebrasion ti mais-agana iti JULIO 4 a panglagip ti nasion kadagiti nabukel a rusat a panglagip ken panangitulyo kadagiti nabalitukan a wagas a pangselebrar ti WAYAWAYA.

Adu ti mangipatang ti panaglanti dagiti puspuso, panangirugi kadagiti napateg a rusat ta mainanama a di bumorong a maipada ti nairugi a wayawayaya, a malagip a kanayon.

Annak dagiti Ilokano iti America

Julio 4, 1986 met ti panakabangon ti ANNAK TI KAILOKUAN ITI AMERICA kakaisuna a manglaglagip ken mangtagtaginayon ti langa wenno wagas, kultura ken pagsasao ni ILOKANO iti AMERICA saan met kuma a mailupitlupit lattan ni ILOKANO. Addaan iti bukod a pagasasao a kas kadagiti sabali a nasasyon ket nasken met a maikkan ti wayawayaya a mangaramat ken magitandodo kadagiti pakaitibnokanna.

Dayta ti gapuna a madakdakamat mi ti Literatura

Ilokano ket mailaglagip met kadagiti WARNAKAN. Adda met kadagiti FILIPINO Seksion. Iluko ken Tagalog seksion a National Language ti Pilipinas. Maararamat met dagitoy a pagsasao kadagiti radio kas pangitan-ay ti kina FILIPINO. Ti di mailemmeng ad-adu pay dagiti Ilokano kadagiti kaaduan a Filipino ditoy Hawaii ITI imbagna ad-adu met dagiti Ilokano a makaawat ken makasao ti Tagalog ti National Language of the Philippines. Iti kasta saan a maimameg ti nailian a kinatao. Agbiagtayo koma a SIWAWAYAWAYA a mangtimon ti bukodtayo a panaglangoy kadagiti bukodtayo a law-ang, bukod a panangisayangkat kadagiti bukod a kapampanunotan a mangitakdar iti nasaysayaat a paglugaran iti lasud ti paggargarawan a law-ang. ALDAW TI WAYAWAYA NAPATEG UNAY.

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Dayta ti rason no apay nga adda ILOKANIANA VARIETY SHOW nga inrusattayo iti tallo a dekadang iti napalabas. O’LELO Channel 53 a mangi-

parang ti KINAILOKANO babaen kadagiti wagas ken pagsasao. Itan-ok ti kina Ilokano ket saantayo nga ibain ti pagsasao nga ILUKO ta nagaputayo ngarud iti Ilokos. Ket kas ILOKANO, ditay kuma ibain ti kinatao tayo. “LET US BE PROUD WE ARE

ILOKANO”. Agtignay ta yo a siwayawayaya, ILOKANOS ARE BRAVE AND INDUSTRIOUS TYPE, ILOKANO A NATURED KEN NADAYAW. SIASINO TI MABAIN NGA ILOKANO? ILOKANOAK MANANG, MANONG, TATA, NANA!”

WAYAWAYA TI PANUNOT

No awanka, kawaw ti lubong
Napigsa ti pakinakem ngem mapakapsut
Ti kaawanmo napigsa a gaud
Mangkeddeng ti gasat kalikagum nga agbiag
Ken mangitukit ti ad-adu a bukkel masakbayan

Dinak husgaan kadagiti balikasko
Ngem paneknekam dagiti makita a maaramidan
No ikur-it dagiti pampanunoten
Mariknak a kawaw awanan kolor ken kaipapananna
Dagiti nalimed a kapampanunotan

Kayatmi nga iburay tapno natibtibker
A mangsuba ti saem a maipastrek a
Pannakairarem ken mangpunas ti tapoktapok
A dana ti di masneban a pannakaiyaleng-aleng

Tapno mapunas dagiti karenken
Nga isem gubuy dagiti di mabilang a
Pannubok agsasallupang a dumteng
Mangipaneknek tibker ti pakinakem
Rikna ken bagi a natenneb ti panawen

Dagiti nasamay a palagip no taliawen
Dagiti rangtay a mamatugmok panunot
Ti nagbaetan bumtak a lawag inggat sumipngat
Ket maawananakon puersa, saankon a mabael
Dgiti nainget nga ikikita a mamagtingnay

GLOBAL NEWS

41 Pinoy Saudi Cleaners Protest Employer

MANILA, Philippines - A migrant workers' rights group on Wednesday said that 41 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Saudi Arabia are protesting against their employer for alleged underpayment of their salaries and overpriced placement fees.

Migrante-Middle East said that the 41 Filipino male cleaners were hired by the Al-Zahran Operations and Maintenance based in Dammam.

The Filipinos were deployed by the company's Manila-based agent, Al-Ahram International Human Resources Group, Inc. There are 855 OFWs working on

that establishment, Migrante said.

In their complaint letters to Migrante, OFWs said they have yet to get their Iqama or residence card since working for the company for three months.

The OFWS also alleged that their salaries have been downgraded from 800 Saudi rial to 600 rial, and they were forced to sign another contract written in Arabic upon their arrival to the job site.

They are also complaining against their overcharging of their placement fees. The workers claim that their recruitment agency asked them to pay P14,000 and some of them paid P18,000 without a receipt issued to them. (www.philstar.com)

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GLOBAL NEWS

Phil Bars OFW Deployment to 15 Countries

by Mayen Jaymalin
Wednesday, July 4, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines will no longer deploy overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to 15 countries considered as unsafe.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) chief Hans Cacdac said the POEA governing board has approved a resolution restricting deployment to 15 countries found not compliant with the requirements of the amended Migrant Workers Act starting July 15.

These countries are Afghanistan, Chad, Cuba, North Korea, Eritrea, Haiti, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, Niger, Palestine, Somalia, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

Cacdac said a copy of the resolution had been published in a national newspaper.

The government imposed a deployment ban in Afghanistan and Lebanon several years ago due to hostilities there.

Cacdac said a total deployment ban remains in effect in Iraq, except in Kurdistan, while the government is undertaking a review.

He said POEA is also awaiting the assessment and recommendation of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on the Vatican and Monaco.

“Our post in Monaco and the Vatican have something to look into, but it has nothing to do with the two countries being unsafe, that is why the deployment continues,” Cacdac said.

He said the country deploys very few OFWs to Monaco and the Vatican.

Upon the recommendation of the DFA, the POEA has allowed deployment to 184 out of 203 countries hiring OFWs. (www.philstar.com)

COVER STORY (from page 11, LINDA LINGLE...)

this issue means the current “defensive” medicine that leads to expensive over-testing will continue to drive up healthcare costs. If elected, I would pursue medical liability reform legislation at the national level.

Across the country, public and private sector employers are sponsoring wellness programs to improve the health and well-being of employees. We need to encourage these types of programs by updating health insurance and premiums to incentivize and reward healthy behaviors.

Q: What is your stance on immigration reform? What is your suggestion to fix the system? Would you support legislation to allow some illegal residents to stay in the U.S. if they were on a path to citizenship?

A: America needs comprehensive immigration reform that includes family reunification, a guest worker program for agricultural workers, graduating college students who desire to stay in America and businesspersons wanting to invest in America.

We should have a national discussion about designing a pathway to citizenship that does not disadvantage those who have followed the rules and waited to immigrate legally to America.

Q: Addressing the \$15 trillion national debt will require sacrifices from everyone. What specific exam-

ples of federal spending or tax provisions would you support eliminating or reducing?

A: We have a tax system that unfair. Our tax code contains more than 14,000 pages. We cannot expect average Americans and small businesses to understand and navigate this onerous law. Tax reform is essential because Americans have lost confidence in the way government treats individuals and businesses. The solution is to bring down the tax rate to something more reasonable and close tax loopholes that allow some to pay less than others. We should retain the most important deductions such as those for mortgage interest and charitable contributions. Through these reforms, we will actually collect more revenue with a much broader tax base with everyone paying a fair rate.

Q: Do you have a plan to balance the nation's budget?

A: Our national debt has exceeded \$15 trillion for the first time in our history. This fiscal failure is due to a lack of leadership. It is time for Congress and the administration to re-assert their roles in order to resolve this deficit crisis.

There are sensible proposals already available to cut federal spending, raise additional revenues and grow our economy. These include the proposals offered by the Bipartisan Policy Center, on which I serve

as a founding member of the Governors’ Advisory Council. The Center’s proposals mirror the proposals from the Bowles-Simpson National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform convened by President Obama.

Q: What will you do to prevent fraud and waste in government and make sure that taxpayer money is spent wisely?

A: We must ensure that every dollar the federal government spends is not wasted. If elected, I will collaborate with senators from both sides of the aisle to rein in wasteful federal spending and ensure that we maintain funding for federal programs which Hawaii relies upon. I would focus on measures that help federal departments and agencies prevent, detect and recover improper or fraudulent procurements and payments.

Q: Does character and morality matter in politics?

Yes, character matters. I not only bring my experience as a proven leader, I will be an independent voice that puts Hawaii’s “people first” in evaluating any piece of legislation. You have my commitment that I will always put the people of Hawaii before any political party. No matter who proposes an idea, law, rule or regulation—if it’s good for Hawaii and our people, then I’ll be for it. If

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it's not in our interest, then I'll be against it.

Q: Any last words for our readers?
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