

www.thefilipinochronicle.com

HAWAII



FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 ◆

FILIPINO VOLUNTEERS FIGHT MEDICARE FRAUD

COVER STORY PAGE

4



HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

DR. JORGE CAMARA TO RECEIVE 2012 RIZAL AWARD

7



LEGAL NOTES

ABANDONMENT OF LPR STATUS DUE TO TRIPS ABROAD

13



MAINLAND NOTES

PINOY COCONUT DRINK NAMED AMERICA'S HEALTHIEST BEVERAGE

14



HAPPY LABOR DAY!

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

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

EDITORIALS

Winning the Fight Against Medicare Fraud

Medicare and Medicaid pay out some \$750 billion each year to more than 1.5 million doctors, hospitals and medical suppliers. By many estimates, about \$65 billion a year is lost to fraud. Common types of fraud include identity theft, providing medical equipment that is not needed and exaggerating or fabricating services provided to clients in order to gain payment. Medicare fraud has grown into such a big problem because the system is easy to manipulate and has very little oversight as to whether or not those services are actually being provided. Historically, less than 3 percent of claims are reviewed before Medicare pays them. For years, the government has been playing a losing game of “pay and chase”—or as the FBI puts it, trying to recoup losses after scammers have cashed in.

To stem the tide, federal officials created the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) in 1997. These “fraud squads” look for scams in the federal Medicare program. In a 15-year span, the SMP program has grown to 54 nationwide with nearly 5,700 volunteers. More recently, the controversial Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) included \$350 million spread over 10 years to fight fraud. It includes stiffer penalties to those found guilty and increases scrutiny over the programs receiving funds. Federal health law and other legislation have also directed the federal government to start using software and other new technologies that help find discrepancies and fraud in health care claims.

It seems progress is being made. In the last fiscal year alone, the government recouped more than \$4 billion through restitution and fines—but spent millions of dollars doing so, as critics have been quick to point out. However, investing in fighting fraud is turning out to be money well spent.

The reality is that fighting fraud should be everyone’s responsibility and concern. Roughly 47 million Americans are enrolled in Medicare and that number is expected to top 80 million by 2030 as baby boomers continue to retire. Our nation is already overburdened in paying for rising health care costs, yet con artists continue to siphon billions of taxpayer dollars from Medicare. Government can no longer afford to tolerate rampant fraud and neither should you.

What to Do with Waikiki Natatorium

On the latest twist of the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium saga, Gov. Neil Abercrombie has proposed converting the long-neglected facility into a beach volleyball arena. Such a venue would serve as a new visitor attraction that would boost the fast-growing sport of beach volleyball as well as the University of Hawaii’s fledgling beach volleyball program.

But as with other public works projects, the big issue is cost. Rather than fully restoring the natatorium which would have cost upwards of \$60 million, a City task force in 2009 recommended that its crumbling bleachers and saltwater swimming pool be demolished, its arches moved inland and the beach restored. Converting the facility into a beach volleyball arena would require a new EIS, more public hearings and input from Friends of the Natatorium, Kaimana Beach Coalition, Oahu Veterans Council and other organizations with vested interests in the fate of the natatorium. There are also concerns that filling in the pool with sand for beach volleyball would require a complete re-engineering because the walls are not designed for that type of load bearing.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

A

loha! We trust that the new school year has gotten off to a good start for you and your family. Many of you are looking forward to Labor Day, which is right around the corner. For you hardworking parents and others who are gainfully employed, we hope that you will take time off to enjoy a much-deserved day of rest with your family. Hawaii’s job market is still very tight, so let’s count our blessings and be thankful for our jobs.

Earlier this week, the State Supreme Court rejected a complaint filed by City Council candidate Martin Han who challenged the results of the August 11 Primary Election. Please turn to page 8 for more details on the court’s ruling. In other election-related news, the Honolulu City Council approved a special election for the District 6 seat formerly held by Tulsi Gabbard, who has since resigned to focus on her race in the upcoming General Election. As of press time, 11 candidates have filed to run for Gabbard’s seat. Turn to page 6 for more on the candidates and other election information.

Our cover story for this issue, which was written by State Sen. Glenn Wakai, takes a closer look at Medicare fraud and the efforts of local Filipino volunteers with Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Hawaii to help seniors from becoming victims. According to SMP Hawaii, health care fraud is the number one scam that targets seniors. The group is looking for more volunteers in the fight against Medicare fraud and encourages anyone who observes, is aware of, or receives a complaint from any source alleging fraud to report it by calling 586-7281. Neighbor island residents are urged to call toll free at 1-800-296-9422. We hope you will find Glenn’s story “Filipinos Fight Medicare Abuse Throughout the State” informative and useful.

In other news, we would like to congratulate Dr. Jorge Camara, who has been chosen to receive the 2012 Rizal Award for Peace and Social Justice. Dr. Camara truly exemplifies the life, values and teachings of Rizal—the national hero of the Philippines. For more on Dr. Camara, please read our news feature on page 7. The award will be presented by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter on Sunday, September 2, 2012 at the Dr. Jose Rizal Award Gala at the Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom. The event also includes a one-day conference on the theme “Rizal’s Legacy and Its Implications to Nation Building.” The keynote address will be given by Dr. Belinda A. Aquino, professor emeritus and former director of the UH Center for Philippine Studies. Please see page 5 for more details.

There are other news and tidbits in this issue that I have not mentioned but hope that you will take time to read. Thank you for your continued support of the Chronicle. As always, please feel free to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have ideas, concerns or questions regarding Hawaii’s vibrant Filipino community.

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

The natatorium was built in 1927 to honor Hawaii’s men and women who fought in World War I. World-class athletes like legendary Hawaii surfer Duke Kahanamoku swam in the natatorium’s pool in its early years. But after decades of neglect, it was closed to the public in 1979 due to health and safety concerns. The state currently owns the facility, which is managed by the City via executive order. However, officials are moving towards rescinding the executive order and returning control of the facility back to the State.

A nearly-completed EIS that was required before the facility could be torn down has been put on hold while officials mull over who will be in control. The cost of the current EIS is \$1.3 million. The natatorium is reminiscent of the rail project, which is also on hold in the wake of a recent State Supreme Court ruling. If there is a lesson to be learned from the rail project, it’s that “haste makes waste.” With familiar warning signs ahead, let’s hope that government dots the i’s and cross the t’s before forging ahead on this contentious natatorium project.



HAWAII
**FILIPINO
CHRONICLE**

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

Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors
**Dennis Galolo
Edwin Quinabo**

Creative Designer
Junggoi Peralta

Design Consultant
Randall Shiroma

Photography
Tim Llana

Administrative Assistant
Shalimar Pagulayan

Columnists
**Carlota Ader
Carlo Cadiz, M.D.
Sen. Will Espero
Grace F. Fong, Ed.D
Ruth Elynia Mabanglo, Ph.D.
J.P. Orias
Pacita Saludes
Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.
Charlie Sonido, M.D.
Emmanuel S. Tapon, Esq.
Felino S. Tubera
Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.**

Contributing Writers
**Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.
Clement Bautista
Teresita Bernales, Ed.D
Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D.
Linda Dela Cruz
Fiedes Doctor
Danny De Gracia, II, MA
Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand
Amelia Jacang, M.D.
Caroline Julian
Maita Milallos
Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D.
Glenn Wakai
Amado Yoro**

Philippine Correspondent
Greg Garcia

Big Island Distributor
**Grace Larson
Ditas Udani**

Maui Distributor
Cecile Piroso

Molokai Distributor
Maria Watanabe

Advertising/Marketing Director
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives
**Carlota Ader
J.P. Orias**

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. It is mailed directly to subscribers and distributed at various outlets around Oahu and the neighbor islands. Editorial and advertising deadlines are three weeks prior to publication date. Subscriptions are available at \$75 per year for Oahu and the neighbor islands, continental U.S. \$80, foreign country \$90. Copyright 2006-2012. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone (808) 678-8930 Facsimile (808) 678-1829. E-mail filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Website: www.thefilipinochronicle.com. Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

www.thefilipinochronicle.com
www.efilipinochronicle.com

OPINION

Final Sendoff

SKETCHES By Ana Marie Pamintuan

That was a touching final sendoff to Jesse Robredo yesterday. It would have been better if his accomplishments were widely recognized while he was still alive, but such is our society: stingy with praise for the living, and profuse for the dead.

Robredo did his Cabinet job below the radar. He did not deliver instant gratification. His accomplishments were not controversial or headline-grabbing. His reforms were not sexy enough for extensive press coverage.

But headhunting for the next secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will be tough. The successor of Robredo will be among the most closely scrutinized officials in the Cabinet. I don't know which will prove harder: Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno living up to expectations that she will be the antithesis of her disgraced predecessor, or Robredo's successor trying to become his clone and sustaining his reforms.

Robredo's work in his two years as DILG chief has been recognized by the World Bank. The WB cited the award of a "seal of good housekeeping" to local government units that meet certain criteria for good governance, including compliance with a full disclosure policy on programs, procurements and expenditures. The seal entitles LGUs to additional funding from the national government under the Performance Challenge Fund.

But more work was needed in the "interior" aspect of Robredo's job. Perhaps Robredo moved slower here because it actually wasn't his turf: P-Noy has his buddy, DILG Undersecretary Rico Puno, in charge of peace and order, including multibillion-peso deals for the procurement of weapons, ammunition, vehicles and equipment.

So far there has been no scandal involving overpriced police helicopters and European junkets for police generals and their wives under

P-Noy's watch.

But much remains to be done in curbing criminality, especially those against property. Jueteng and other illegal numbers games still flourish, abetting corruption, with the blessings of local government and police officials. P-Noy recently received poor marks from businessmen in curbing smuggling — a task belonging to the Bureau of Customs, but perpetrated in certain parts of the country with the blessings of local government executives.

Perhaps if fate didn't claim Robredo early, he could have made a dent in the fight against those problems.

The task will now fall on his successor. Among the possibilities floated so far are "Little President" Paquito Ochoa, currently the DILG officer-in-charge, and Cavite Rep. Joseph Abaya, a former close-in aide of Corazon Aquino.

As the selection of Sereno showed, it's hard to second-guess P-Noy. The only safe assumption is that the President cannot afford to pick someone with less than sterling credentials to fill Robredo's shoes.

* * *

For those who are asking — "Who are we mourning for, and why?" — Robredo's citation from the Ramon Magsaysay Awards in 2000 (the 2012 awards are slated this Friday) might help:

"It is sad but true. Democratic government is not necessarily good government. Too often, elections yield power to the few, not the many. Injustices linger beneath the rhetoric of equality. Corruption and incompetence go on and on. Voters, alas, do not always choose wisely. And yet, in Asia and the world at large, much is at risk when democracy founders, because democracy is the hope of so many.

"Jesse Manalastas Robredo entered Philippine politics at a time when hope was high. As mayor of Naga City from 1988 to 1998 he demonstrated that democratic government can also be good government.

"In the wake of his country's People Power Revolution

in 1986, Jesse Robredo responded to President Corazon Aquino's call to public service. He abandoned his executive position at San Miguel Corporation to head the Bicol River Basin Development Program in Naga, his hometown. In 1988, he stood for election as mayor and won by a slim margin. He was 29.

"Once the queen city of the Bicol region, Naga in 1989 was a dispirited provincial town of 120,000 souls. Traffic clogged its tawdry business district and vice syndicates operated at will. City services were fitful at best. Meanwhile, thousands of squatters filled Naga's vacant lands, despite the dearth of jobs in the city's stagnant economy. Indeed, Naga's revenues were so low that it had been downgraded officially from a first-class to a third-class city.

"Robredo began with a strike against patronage. He introduced a merit-based system of hiring and promotion and reorganized city employees on the basis of aptitude and competence. He then moved against local vice lords, ridding Naga of gambling and smut. Next, he relocated the bus and jeepney terminals outside the city center, ending gridlock and spurring new enterprises at the city's edge. In partnership with business, he revitalized Naga's economy. Public revenues rose and by 1990 Naga was a first-class city again. Robredo's constituents took heart and reelected him.

"Spurning bodyguards, Robredo moved freely among the people. By enlisting the support and active assistance of Naga's NGOs and citizens, he improved public services dramatically. He established day-care centers in each of Naga's 27 districts and added five new high schools. He built a public hospital for low-income citizens. He set up a dependable 24-hour emergency service. He constructed a network of farm-to-market roads and provided clean and reliable water systems in Naga's rural communities. He launched programs for youth, farmers, laborers, women, the elderly, and the handicapped — drawing thousands into civic action in the process. No civic deed was

too small, he told the people, including the simple act of reporting a broken street lamp. He sometimes swept the streets himself.

"Consistently, Robredo prioritized the needs of the poor. Through his Kaantabay sa Kauswagan (Partners in Development) program, over 4,500 once-homeless families moved to home-lots of their own. They became part of Naga's revival. So did a revitalized city government. Applying techniques from business, Robredo raised performance, productivity, and morale among city employees. As a culture of excellence overtook the culture of mediocrity at City Hall, Naga's businesses doubled and local revenues rose by 573 percent.

"Reelected without opposi-

tion in 1995, Robredo urged the Naga City Council to enact a unique Empowerment Ordinance. This created a People's Council to institutionalize the participation of NGOs and people's organizations in all future municipal deliberations. When obliged by law to step down after his third term, the popular Robredo made no effort to entrench his family. His advice to would-be leaders? "You have to have credibility."

"In electing Jesse Robredo to receive the 2000 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service, the board of trustees recognizes his giving credence to the promise of democracy by demonstrating that effective city management is compatible with yielding power to the people."

(www.philstar.com)

LETTERS

CAYETANO OR CALDWELL?

Former Governor Benjamin Cayetano, who opposes rail and is pushing the BRT, and former City Managing Director Kirk Caldwell, who supports rail, are both running for mayor of Honolulu.

Caldwell has the support and backing of labor unions, big business and U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye. These are the people who have been running things and manipulating political candidates.

Cayetano's major concern is the big cost for rail. He says that the BRT can be built for about \$1 billion, while rail transit will likely cost \$7 billion. Taxpayers are already paying for increases in real property taxes, bus fares, vehicle weight taxes and others.

I used to think that Cayetano was arrogant, blatant and sarcastic. But I am completely wrong. I find him to be genuine, humble and articulate. He will be a good mayor. He has a proven record as a former governor and 28 years as a public servant.

Jimmy Jay Dean Encarnacion
Pearl City

Auto Rates Just Got Lower

Stop by State Farm® agent's office,
or call me today to find out how much you can save.
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7.



Dennis M. Sumimoto LTCP, Agent
94-229 Waipahu Depot St.
Waipahu, HI 96797
Bus: 808-677-0098
Fax: 808-677-7923
www.dennisumimoto.com

"Nakakapagsalita Po Kami ng Tagalog"



StateFarm

COVER STORY

Filipinos Fight Medicare Abuse Throughout the State

By Glenn Wakai

Elia Lagoc and Concepcion Geil have brought their Medicare bills to the Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs. Volunteer Basilia Asuncion sits behind a desk, examines their paperwork and counsels the pair on what are proper and improper Medicare benefits.

Asuncion, a former hotel kitchen employee, is on the front line in America's fight against Medicare fraud. It's a huge problem for the federal government, which will spend nearly \$3 trillion on health care this year. Lagoc and Geil may not realize that having someone like Asuncion to review their records could very well prevent them from becoming victims of fraud.

"We instruct them on how to list what kind of sickness they have and when they went to see the doctor," says Asuncion, who is originally from Ilocos Norte. The 79-year old mother of four speaks Ilokano to many seniors on the Garden Isle. "It is important to help the senior understand, especially Filipinos. They get a bill and we help them."

Medicare is a federally funded health insurance program offered to those over 65 receiving benefits from Social Security and covers 80 percent of ex-

penses after a deductible. Improper payments by Medicare and Medicaid programs were estimated at \$64.8 billion last year, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). To put that in perspective, government wide fraud in 2011 is estimated at \$115 billion, which means Medicare/Medicaid abuse accounts for more than half of all improper payments.

This year, it's predicted that Medicare will lose another \$80 billion due to fraud, waste and abuse. Statistics from the National Council on Aging show that 20 percent of the population in the U.S. is over the age of 60 and that 1 in 13 older persons will be abused, neglected or financially exploited. Compounding the is the fact that only 1 in 44 elder financial abuse cases is ever reported.

Fraud Affects Generations

Ignoring these staggering

numbers will lead to higher medical insurance premiums for all Americans and the deterioration of this country's health care system. To fight back, the Feds created the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) in 1997. In 15 years it has grown to encompass 54 SMP projects across the nation, with 5,671 active volunteers.

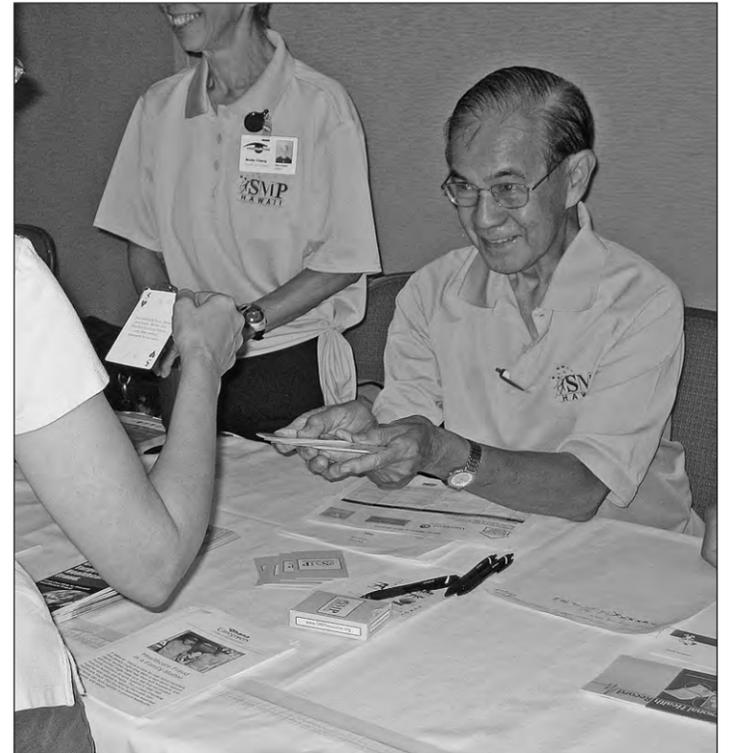
One of them is Tony Garcia of Kalihi. The former Army officer spends 12 hours a month meeting with seniors, doing presentations and sharing information. Garcia sees his role as vital to future generations.

"Through volunteering, I get fulfillment and it's also a form of therapy. It feels good when the person you help benefits from that. I feel it's a part of the Aloha spirit to help the elderly and veterans," he says.

Garcia constantly encourages seniors to keep a journal when visiting a doctor, then compare descriptions on their Medicare summary.

The majority of Medicare waste falls into one of these three areas:

1. Consumer fraud—A senior requests a doctor to do a procedure not covered by Medicare. For example a facelift, which is purely cosmetic. They can get a doctor to "fix" the numbers for the inappropriate treatment and then bill Medicare.
2. Billing mistakes—Accounting puts in the wrong codes or Medicare identity numbers.
3. Durable medical equipment—Many of these items (oxygen tanks, wheelchairs, bed, walker, etc.) are rented by a senior



Volunteer Tony Garcia

from a supplier. When the senior no longer needs the items or passes away, Medicare needs to be notified so payments cease.

Senior Medicare Patrol

Adele Ching is Hawaii's coordinator of the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), which is under the State Executive Office on Aging. She says, "Our main focus is education to empower seniors to take action to be aware - protect, detect, and report. Senior citizens are our best front line defense against these losses. Yet, they often don't have the information and expertise needed to recognize and accurately report cases of error, fraud and abuse."

Ching believes there is less fraud here than on the mainland. However, the schemes are getting more sophisticated and it's difficult to gauge how much fraud is going unreported in Hawaii. The huge sums of money flowing through the healthcare system is now capturing the attention of career criminals. Ching says there is a growing dark side of Medicare fraud, fueled by identity theft.

"Medicare numbers are being stolen and being used to bill Medicare," she says. "The scary development is organized crime getting involved in Medicare fraud. They have people who buy Medicare numbers. They might approach

someone who is working in a healthcare setting who has access to patients' information. So they will buy Medicare numbers and provide those numbers to someone who may have set up a storefront as a fake durable medical supplier. Then they use all these numbers to bill Medicare."

Denied Claims

Although fraud isn't evident in a senior's personal bank account, those who are complacent may find themselves in dire straits. Not paying attention to Medicare statements could lead to an individual having his or her own medical care denied, or being stuck with someone else's co-payment invoice.

Ching cautions, "Maybe somebody who used your Medicare number or used up all of your hospital days benefits, so when you go to the hospital your claim is denied and you have to pay out of pocket. Or your once a year mammogram might have been used by someone who used your number, so when you go, the claim is going to be denied."

There are signs that the work of SMP volunteers is having positive impacts. Federal investigators recovered a record \$4.1 billion in health care fraud money last year, a reflection of an increased focus on this omi-

(continued on page 5)



**BALIKBAYAN BOXES
LBC HARI NG PADALA**

GRACE LARSON
BIG ISLAND AGENT of LBC

211 MAKANI CIRCLE
HILO, HI 96720
808- 640-1540
808-960-6006
Fax: 1-866-663-1453
raven_reuboni@yahoo.com

www.lbcexpress.com

**PARALEGAL SERVICES
IMMIGRATION SERVICES
INTERPRETING SERVICES**
(Tagalog, Visayan & Ilonggo)

GRACE MANIPOL-LARSON
Paralegal / Interpreter

www.allparalegalservices.com

COVER STORY

(from page 4, FILIPINOS..)

nous battle. In 2008, \$2.14 billion was recovered.

Those put behind bars is also up 75 percent. The number of individuals charged with fraud increased from 821 in 2008 to 1,430 in Fiscal Year 2011. The statistic that validates this preventative approach is the cost savings for taxpayers. A Department of Health and Human Services inspector general report showed that between 2009 and 2011, taxpayers saved \$7.20 for every dollar spent on fighting fraud.

Volunteers Needed

Ching is on a mission to make an even larger impact particularly in Hawaii's Filipino community.

"We are trying to recruit bilingual, Filipino- and English-speaking volunteers into the SMP program. Language barriers make people vulnerable to scams. We want SMP volunteers who can speak directly to Ilokanos in their language and be able to help them correct billing errors," she says.



Adele Ching speaks to the SMP training participants

Volunteers undergo three days of training to become certified. For more information you can call Laurie Paleka at 586-7319 or email her at laur.paleka@doh.hawaii.gov.

There are 60 volunteers across the state in the SMP program. They receive regular updates on changes in the law and billing procedures. These civic-minded individuals enjoy the satisfaction of helping to save a well-intentioned government program.

"To them, they are living Medicare. For some of them, Medicare is their only source of medical coverage, so it's really vital to them," says Ching.

beneficiaries in America, and that number is expected to rise to 80 million by 2030, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Asuncion is heading into her 13th year as a volunteer and is undaunted by those taking advantage of the system. She was the union steward at the Westin Kauai Hotel and often had to advocate on behalf of her colleagues.

"I was always interested in helping people. When I stopped working, I couldn't stay at home and I wanted to go out. I heard about this program and I

volunteered," she says.

Last month, Asuncion was with dozens of others in a ballroom near the airport. The room was filled with green shirts and silver hair. Tony Garcia was about to claim his award at a seniors recognition luncheon. Before heading to the stage, the 80-year old leans over, grins, and says he will continue defending Medicare "as long as I am alive."

GLENN WAKAI is a State Senator (Kalihi-Salt Lake-Foster Village) and is a former veteran TV reporter.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Conference on Rizal Scheduled for Sept. 2

A one-day conference on the theme "Rizal's Legacy and Its Implications to Nation Building" will be held on Saturday, September 2, 2012 from 8:30 am to 4:15 pm at the Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom II.

The conference is part of the 4th U.S. Regional Assembly of the Order of the Knights of Rizal scheduled on September 1 to 3, 2012 at the Ala Moana Hotel.

The keynote address of the one-day conference will be given by Dr. Belinda A. Aquino, professor emerita and former director of the UH Center for Philippine Studies. She will talk on the topic "Rizal's Vision - Building a Filipino Nation."

The morning session, which will be emceed by Deputy Consul General Paul Cortes, will include the following speakers—Dr. Patricio Abinales, professor at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, who will talk on "The Importance of the Fili in Rizal's Political Thought." He will be followed by



Keynote speaker Dr. Belinda Aquino

UH-Manoa professor Dr. Aurelio Agcaoili, who will discuss "Rizal and the Virtues of Diversity and Multiculturalism."

The afternoon session will be emceed by Dr. Jun Colmenares, with the following speakers and panelists—Dr. Raymund Liongson, professor at UH Leeward Community College, and Clement Bautista, director of the UH Office of Multicultural Student Services, who will look into "Rizal's Critical Consciousness and Nation Building;" Dr. Lilia Santiago, UH professor, who will discuss

"Rizal and the Role of Women in Nation Building," with a reaction from Dr. Vina Lanzona, director of the UH Center for Philippine Studies; and Jeffrey Acido, student member of the UH Board of Regents, and Riz Donna Almagro, executive assistant at the Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Center, who will share their thoughts on "Rizal and the Role of the Youth in Nation Building."

Members of the Order of the Knights of Rizal from Hawaii, the U.S. mainland, Canada and the Philippines will be attending the conference. Sir Reghis Romero from the Philippines, who is the Supreme Commander of the Order, as well as Sir Eddie Limon, U.S. Regional Commander, will also grace the biennial occasion.

The registration fee for the one-day conference is \$60 and will include breakfast, lunch, snacks and a conference bag. For questions, call Jun Colmenares at 510-734-4491 or Raymund Liongson at 381-4315.

FBI'S TASK FORCE ON SENIORS TOP TEN SCAMS

1. Health Care/Medicare/ Health Insurance Fraud
2. Counterfeit Prescription Drugs
3. Funeral & Cemetery Scams
4. Fraudulent Anti-Aging Products
5. Telemarketing
6. Internet Fraud
7. Investment Schemes
8. Homeowner/ Reverse Mortgage Scams
9. Sweepstakes & Lottery Scams
10. The Grandparent Scam

TIPS FOR AVOIDING MEDICARE SCAMS

- Misuse of Medicare dollars is one of the largest scams involving seniors. Common schemes include billing for services never delivered and selling unneeded devices or services to beneficiaries.
- To prevent Medicare scams:
 - Protect your Medicare number as you do your credit card numbers and do not allow anyone else to use it.
 - Be wary of salespeople trying to sell you something they claim will be paid for by Medicare.
 - Review your Medicare statements to be sure you have in fact received the services billed.
 - Report suspicious activities to the Senior Medical Patrol at 586-7319



DO YOU HAVE LEGAL PROBLEMS?

CRIMINAL DEFENSE
REAL ESTATE ISSUES
WILLS & TRUSTS



FOR HELP CALL OR EMAIL
FRANKLIN DON PACARRO JR.
808-535-8400
DPACARRO@PACLAWTEAM.COM

CLAY CHAPMAN IWAMURA PULICE & NERVELL

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Vacant City Council Seat Draws 10 Candidates

To date, a total of 11 candidates have filed nomination papers for the Honolulu City Council's District 6 seat which was vacated by congressional candidate Tulsi Gabbard.

The most notable names include Jon Yoshimura, who served on the Council from

1994-2002, and veteran State Sen. Carol Fukunaga, who lost her Primary Election race to opponent Brian Taniguchi and former State Rep. Sam Aiona.

The City Council authorized a special election on August 22 for Gabbard's seat following her resignation. Gabbard left in order to focus



on her race for Congress. Fellow councilmembers held a brief ceremony to thank Councilmember Gabbard for

her service and representing well the residents of Council District VI.

The special election to replace Gabbard will be held during the General Election on November 6, 2012 and is estimated to save taxpayers about \$150,000. It will be a winner-take-all election.

The deadline for candidates to file for the vacant Council District VI seat is Friday, August 31, 2012 at 4:30 pm.

The City Clerk says there are more than 52,000 registered voters in Council District VI. The deadline to register to vote for the General Election is Monday, October 8, 2012.

What's Open, Closed for Labor Day

All federal, state and county offices will be closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of Labor Day, a federal holiday. Please also keep in mind the availability of the following government services:

- Emergency ambulance, fire,

lifeguard and police services will be available.

- Municipal golf courses, the zoo and botanical gardens will be open.

- Regular refuse collections will be made and landfills/transfer stations will be open.

- TheBus will operate on a Sunday schedule. For route and schedule information, go online to www.thebus.org or call 848-5555.

- The People's Open Markets will not be held.

- Neal Blaisdell Box office will be closed.

- Satellite City Halls and Driver License Offices will be closed.

- Traffic lanes will not be coned.

- On-street parking will be free, except for meters on Kalakaua Avenue along Kapiolani Park.

- All state public libraries will also be closed. For information, visit www.librarieshawaii.org or call your local library.

- All post offices will be closed.

- Banks will be closed.

Hawaii Pacific Federal Promotes Guira as Assistant VP of Operations

Hawaii Pacific Federal Credit Union has promoted Janel Guira as Assistant Vice President of Operations. She has built a 26-year career in the banking business in Hawaii.

"Janel's critical management role grows each year as our customers become more electronic, more mobile," says Hawaii Pacific Federal's President Mark Yamane. "She is responsible for making sure our customers get the new products and services they want as smoothly as possible."

Guira joined Hawaii Pacific



Federal in 2003 after working for several banks, including American Savings Bank and Bank of America.

"I understand how critical it is for Hawaii Pacific Federal

Credit Union to be responsive to our members and provide them with the latest technologies that make things easier, more convenient and safer," she says. "I enjoy what I do here."

Guira is a graduate of Aiea

High School and was a DECA Student at Honolulu Federal Savings while still in high school. DECA is an international non-profit organization that arranges for students to be placed in businesses, while still in school, in order to further their career goals.

Hawaii Pacific Federal is a full-service financial institution

offering exceptional products and services with distinct, personalized customer service. Established in Hawaii in 1941, Hawaii Pacific Federal specializes in assisting the hundreds of businesses within Ala Moana Center and the Kapiolani vicinity. For more information, call 955-5933 or visit www.hawaiipacific.org.

Deferred Action Policy Workshop Held August 29

Several community groups hosted a free informational workshop on August 29, 2012 which discussed the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) new Deferred Action policy which is designed to allow undocumented youth who did not intentionally violate immigration law to continue to live and work in the U.S.

The workshop was held at the First United Methodist Church and hosted by Faith Action for Community Equity, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Hawaii Chapter of American Immigration Lawyers Association, Hawaii Alliance for Local Immigrant Voices Empowered, UNITE HERE Local 5, and Hawaii Peace and Justice.

What the new policy means is that children who were brought into the U.S. illegally and who have grown up in America did not set out to break any immigration laws.

Since they are not responsible for what happened when they were young, it is unreasonable to punish them. The DHS has decided that it is unnecessary to deport eligible immigrants if they meet certain guidelines.

In order to receive this benefit, applicants must file for Deferred Action along with an application for employment authorization. If approved, they will be able to work in the U.S. legally.

To be eligible for Deferred Action, applicants must:

- Have entered the U.S. when they were younger than 16 years of age;
- Have been in the U.S. for five years prior to June 15, 2012 (brief trips outside of the U.S. for humanitarian reasons won't impact this requirement);
- Be older than age 15;
- Not be older than 30 years of age;
- Have either graduated from a high school or equivalent, enrolled in school or are a veteran of the U.S. military;

- Submit to a background check and have a clean record without felonies, misdemeanors or any evidence of being a threat to the country.

Applicants are required to provide documentation when filing for Deferred Action. To demonstrate that they came to the U.S. before the age of 16, have lived in the U.S. for five years and have been in the U.S. as of June 15th, 2012, applicants will need financial, medical, school, employment and/or military records.

To show that they are in school, have graduated, are in the military or were honorably discharged, applicants will need a diploma, GED certificate, report card, high school transcript, report of separation form, military personnel record or military health record.

For more details on President Barack Obama's Deferred Action policy, please go online and visit <http://www.immigrationdirect.com/deferred-action-DACA/>.

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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

SPECIALIZING IN:

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

WAIPAHU MEDICAL CENTER

94-307 Farrington Highway, Suite B7a
Waipahu, HI 96797
808-678-0622

KAHALA OFFICE BUILDING

4211 Waiālae Avenue, Suite 106
Kahala, HI 96816
808-732-0550

NEWS FEATURE

Dr. Jorge Camara to Receive 2012 Rizal Award

by Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D. and Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D.



Dr. Jorge Camara, internationally-known Filipino ophthalmologist, is this year's recipient of the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award for Peace and Social Justice.

The award is given annually by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter to honor Dr. Rizal and is awarded to a person who exemplifies the life, values and teachings of the national hero of the Philippines. Dr. Rizal was a polymath and genius who excelled in many fields. He is famous for his literary works, keen scientific mind, devotion to an educated citizenry, vision of an ideal community, and most of all, for his intellectual leadership and struggle for freedom and equality. For his nationalism and love of country, Dr. Rizal paid the ultimate price in front of a firing squad on December 30, 1896 in present-day Luneta in Manila.

The Rizal Award is open to all nationalities residing in Hawaii, male and female. The candidate must be nominated by at least three reputable civic, academic, professional or community organizations, and must submit a fully-documented nomination form detailing his or her accomplishments, the impact of said achievements on the community and society, and how such achievements promote and nurture the ideals and teachings of Dr. Rizal.

In addition, the nominee must demonstrate exceptional leadership, extraordinary service and committed advocacy in the promotion of social change through peaceful means, political ideals, intercultural and international understanding, and democratic principles.

A Brief Profile

Dr. Camara was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He comes from a long line of prominent medical doctors in the Philippines, particularly his father, Dr. Augusto Camara, a *summa cum laude* graduate from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine. Jorge is also a graduate of the UP College of Med-

icine, Class of 1976 and was class valedictorian. He did his internship at the University of Texas at Houston and his residency in ophthalmology at Baylor University College of Medicine, where he also obtained a fellowship in ophthalmic reconstructive surgery, before settling in Hawaii with his wife Binky, who is also a medical doctor and a graduate of the UP College of Medicine.

According to Dr. Belinda Aquino, the first recipient of the Dr. Jose Rizal Award in 2011, "I can think of no better recipient of the 2012 Dr. Jose Rizal Award for Peace than Dr. Jorge Camara who has had a truly legendary career in medicine and other fields that Dr. Rizal himself would have been so proud of."

There are many striking parallels in the lives of Drs. Jose Rizal and Jorge Camara. Rizal was an ophthalmologist; so is Jorge. In this regard, they are both dedicated men of science. Rizal was an artist, a poet, novelist, linguist, journalist, educator, social scientist and many others shaped by traditions of the Renaissance and universality. Dr. Camara of the modern era is also a Renaissance figure—a "classical pianist extraordinaire," as he is often described in professional circles. He is a patron of the arts and a concert pianist, and most of all, a medical doctor who has integrated music with medicine in a very creative way. He plays live classical music on the piano for his patients before and after ophthalmic procedures in his operating room at Surgicare.

To quote him: "Music has tremendous healing properties that we as physicians can harness to help our patients as they heal." He has made history by playing the piano live in an operating room. The music in his first CD for his patients included a repertoire from *Nocturne in Eb* by Chopin to *Moonlight Sonata* by Beethoven. Jorge has been featured in various international media organizations like CNN for his exemplary achievements.

The relaxing music in the CD was shown in a scientific study to lower blood pressure and heart and breathing rate of about 115 patients about to undergo eye surgery. Jorge has just recorded his second CD entitled *Vital Signs*.

As a scientist and researcher, Dr. Camara has made contribu-

tions to the field of medicine by discovering ophthalmological conditions and their treatment. Among them are projects discovering *Involitional Lateral Entropion in Asians*, new techniques of *pterygium* surgery and a new diagnostic test for blocked tear ducts. He also developed a successful operation for the correction of blocked tear ducts using a laser and was the first to perform YAG laser capsulotomy in Hawaii, bringing the technology to Hawaii and training Hawaii's ophthalmologists to perform the procedure.

He is a clinical faculty at the University of Hawaii-Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine and was responsible for the development of ophthalmological services for the Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) and the establishment of a fellowship training program for ophthalmologists from the Philippines, training 27 ophthalmologists from Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Baguio, Pangasinan, Pampanga, L a s P i ñ a s, Manila, Makati, Cebu, Davao, Cotabato and Cagayan de Oro.

He has held various leadership positions, having been president of the Hawaii Ophthalmological Society, the AMM, the Association of Philippine Ophthalmologists in America, and the Philippine Medical Association. As a classical pianist, he has performed in various fundraising programs for the AMM.

Among his many awards and citations of recognition as a distinguished ophthalmologist are: the Hawaii Medical Association's *Physician of the Year Award*, the American Academy of Ophthalmology's *Humanitarian*

Award, Maryknoll School's *No-blesse Oblige Award*, the Philippine *Presidential Award*, the UP *Centennial Award* and various State of Hawaii gubernatorial and legislative commendations. This year, Dr. Camara again garnered a top award in Hawaii as *Best Doctor* published by the *Honolulu Magazine*, based on peer review, which makes this a very prestigious professional award.

Jorge is also a humanitarian who has undertaken various medical missions to the Philippines and other countries as part of the Aloha Medical Mission group. He has also helped in various concerts and programs intended to raise funds for the Mission. The Dr. Jose Rizal Award is the latest in a long list of accolades and honors recognizing him for excellence in his profession.

"I have dedicated my life to the precept that 'To whom much is given, much is expected' and to serving my community with excellence and dedication," says Dr. Camara. "I have been privileged, at this stage of my career, to have been recognized for my contributions to ophthalmology, to the Philippines through my training of 27 ophthalmologists from our

country, for my humanitarian work with the Aloha Medical Mission that has treated over a quarter of a million people from all over the world and for teaching countless medical students and colleagues from all over the world."

The award will be presented on Sunday, September 2, 2012 at the Dr. Jose Rizal Award Gala at the Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom. The award gala is part of the 4th U.S.A. Regional Assembly and Conference of the Order of the Knights of Rizal being held on September 1-3, 2012 at the same venue.

In addition to the presentation of the Dr. Jose Rizal Award and the recipient's acceptance speech, the evening gala will feature guest speaker Undersecretary Mary Grace Ampil-Tirona, a University of the Philippines and East-West Center alumna, who is the executive director of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas. A short skit on "The Trial of Dr. Jose Rizal" will be presented by the Knights of Rizal-New Jersey Chapter.

Entertainment will be provided by Kristian Lei and Paul Cortes. Dinner starts at 7 pm. Tickets are \$60 per person. For further information, please contact Jun Colmenares at 510-734-4491 or Raymund Liongson at 381-4315.

Personal Injury Asbestos Mesothelioma

We can help you get justice.



Loreto M. Vilorio, Paralegal



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

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

GARY GALIHER
GALIHER DEROBERTIS ONO
ATTORNEYS AT LAW / LAW CORPORATIONS

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

SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

Answers to Common Social Security Questions

Q: What can I do to protect myself against identity theft?

A: First, don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet. Keep it at home with your other important papers. Second, avoid giving out your Social Security number. While many banks, schools, doctors, landlords and others will request your number, it is your decision whether to provide it. Ask if there is some other way to identify you in their records.

To report identity theft, fraud or misuse of your Social Security number, the Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, recommends that you:

- Place a fraud alert on your credit file by contacting one of the following companies: Equifax(1-800-525-6285); Trans Union (1-800-680-7289); or Experian (1-888-397-3742). The company you contact is required to contact the other two, which will then place alerts on your reports.
- Review your credit report for inquiries from companies you have not contacted, accounts you did not open and debts on your accounts you cannot explain.
- Close any accounts you believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
- File a report with your local

police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.

- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-438-4338 (TTY 1-866-653-4261).

Q: It's hurricane season. If there is a big storm in my area, will I still be able to do business with Social Security?

A: During an emergency, keep in mind two things. First, you can conduct most of your business with Social Security online at www.socialsecurity.gov where you'll find a wealth of information and online services. For example, you can apply online for Social Security benefits or for Medicare and then check on the status of your application. If you're already receiving Social Security benefits, you can go online to change your address, phone number or your direct deposit information, get a replacement Medicare card or request a proof of income letter. You even can get your Social Security Statement online. You also can find out if your local office is open by going online to www.socialsecurity.gov/emergency. That site lists any office closings and delays.

Second, make sure you receive your benefits through direct deposit. While the mail can be disrupted during severe weather, direct deposit payments arrive in your account on time, all the time. Go to [\[socialsecurity.gov/deposit\]\(http://socialsecurity.gov/deposit\) to sign up or for more information.](http://www.so-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

Q: I'm retired and the only income I have is from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Are my IRA withdrawals considered "earnings"? Could they reduce my monthly Social Security benefits?

A: No. We count only the wages you earn from a job or your net profit if you're self-employed. Non-work income such as annuities, investment income, interest, capital gains and other government benefits are not counted and will not affect your Social Security benefits. Most pensions will not affect your benefits either. However, your benefit may be affected by a government pension from work on which you did not pay Social Security tax. For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: How do I earn coverage for Social Security?

A: You earn Social Security credits, sometimes referred to as quarters of coverage, when you work and pay Social Security taxes. The credits are based on the amount of your earnings. In 2012, you receive one credit for each \$1,130 of earnings, up to the maximum of four credits per

year. Each year, the amount of earnings needed for a credit goes up slightly as average earnings levels increase. Generally, a person needs 40 credits to be eligible for retirement benefits.

There are special rules for the self-employed. Read more about self-employment and Social Security in our online publication "If You Are Self Employed" at <http://socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10022.html>.

To learn the amount required for Social Security credits for prior years, see "Quarter of Coverage" at www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/COLA/QC.htm.

Q: I was turned down for Supplemental Security Income (SSI); can I appeal the decision?

A: If you disagree with a decision made on your claim, you can appeal it. The steps you can take are explained in "Your Right To Question A Decision Made On Your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Claim," available online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11008.html. Also, you have the right to have a representative, such as an attorney, help you. More information is in "Your Right To Representation," at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/110075.html. Read these and other publications online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Q: What is the difference between a disability application and a disability report? Do I have to complete both?

A: A disability application is a claim for benefits. To receive Social Security disability or Supplemental Security Income benefits, you must file a disability application. A disability report provides information about your current physical or mental condition. We need this to process your disability application. In all, to establish a claim, you need to submit a disability application, a disability report and an authorization to release medical records. You can learn more and apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability.

Q: I am applying for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs. Can state agencies help with my Medicare costs?

A: When you file your application for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs, you also can start your application process for the Medicare Savings Programs—state programs that provide help with other Medicare costs. When you apply for Extra Help, Social Security will send information to your state unless you tell us not to on the application. Your state will contact you to help you apply for a Medicare Savings Program.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii Supreme Court Tosses Out Election Complaint

The Hawaii State Supreme Court has rejected a complaint filed by City Council candidate Martin Han who challenged the results of the August 11 Primary Election.

Han received 3,469 (28 percent) votes, compared to opponent Joey Manahan's 7,122 (58 percent) votes in the race for Honolulu City Council District 7. Lillian Hong finished a distant third with 1,784 (14 percent) votes.

In his complaint, Han alleged that Manahan violated the law by displaying campaign posters and signs within 200 feet from two polling places on the day of the Primary. He also complained of the "unusually high amount of absentee ballots" which he said "may indicate voter fraud."

Han also named current

councilmember Romy Cachola in the complaint, who, like Manahan, received a significant number of absentee votes. Han raised allegations of voter intimidation on the part of both candidates.

The five justices in their ruling wrote that "an election contest cannot be based upon mere belief or indefinite information" and that Han failed to present "actual information of mistakes or error sufficient to change the results of the election."

As such, the court ruled that the unusually high amount of absentee ballots and campaign signs within the prohibited 200-foot perimeter at two polling places do not demonstrate that the results of the primary election would have changed, nor were enough to sway the outcome.

Han was disappointed by the ruling but said that the issue about how politics is conducted was at least brought into the spotlight.

Manahan is eager to put the issue behind him and is looking forward to representing District 7 as a member of the City Council.

"The Supreme Court's decision to throw out Han's complaint speaks for itself," Manahan says. "We ran a clean campaign and worked hard—plain and simple."

In the wake of the court's ruling, Cachola called for unity in the Filipino community.

"I am extremely glad that this political distraction that divided our community is over. The Hawaii Supreme Court made the right decision based on facts and the law. The people have spoken and we should move on," Cachola says.

IMPORTS GIFT SHOP & MINI-MART

82 Ala Malama Street
Kaunakakai Hawaii 96748
PHONE NO: 553-5734

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Baskets, Lauhala Mats | • Quilts & Notions |
| • Books, Notecards | • Refreshments |
| • Fine & Fashion Jewelry | • Seashells |
| • Groceries | • Shoes & Accessories |
| • Handbags, Hats | • Sport & Dress Clothing |
| • Hawaiiana | • Surfing Line |
| • Jewelry Repair, Resetting & Resizing | • Surfwear & Surfboards |
| • Molokai Arts, Crafts, Supplies | • Sundries |
| • Philippine Products Dried & Frozen | • T-shirts, Sweatshirts |



ONE STOP
SHOPPING!

OPEN 7 DAYS
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

TRAVEL & TOURISM

5 Free Things for Tourists to Do in Sydney

from www.philstar.com

SYDNEY (AP) — Ahh, Sydney. The stunning sand and surf. The weird and wonderful wildlife. The positively eye-popping prices.

With Sydney consistently ranked among the most expensive cities in the world, and the Australian dollar at near-record highs, overseas tourists on a budget might find themselves sweating even more than usual under the blistering Aussie sun. But no worries, cash-strapped travelers: There are plenty of fabulous things to do in Sydney for free.

Waterside Hikes

From the turquoise waves lapping the coastline to the sparkling harbor, much of Sydney's beauty comes from the glittering water surrounding it. Drink in the views with a hike along the city's waterside pathways. The 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) cliff-top coastal walk between Bondi and Coogee beaches passes parks, sandy coves and an eerily beautiful cemetery overlooking the ocean. Every November, the popular Sculpture by the Sea exhibition

features large art installations placed along the path and beaches, providing a free seaside art show.

One of the best harbor hikes is the 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) Spit to Manly track (yes, we know it sounds funny. Just trust us.) Start at Spit Bridge, reachable by city bus, and follow the path through lush rainforest, powdery beaches, and up rocky outcrops offering panoramic views of the harbor. Stop in one of the quiet coves for a swim, and watch for the tiny fairy penguins that live here. The hike takes three to four hours and ends in the beachside suburb of Manly.

Beaches

Sydney's beaches are world-famous for a reason. The golden sand is soft, the jewel-toned water is generally warm, and surfers can almost always find a good break somewhere. Bondi is the best-known beach, attracting surfers, sunbathers and more than a few local eccentrics (people-watching here is highly entertaining). Just heed the lifeguards' warnings, or you may find yourself featured on the popular Aussie reality show "Bondi Rescue" alongside other hapless swimmers caught in rips, stung by



In this Dec. 25, 2008 file photo, people gather on Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia. Bondi is the best-known Sydney beach, attracting surfers, sunbathers and more than a few local eccentrics (people-watching here is highly entertaining). (AP Photo/Rick Rycroft)

jellyfish or bonked in the head by surfboards. South of Bondi is the smaller, more laid-back Bronte. Like many Sydney beaches, it features a saltwater pool for wave-wary swimmers. To the north are the surfing beaches of Dee Why, Curl Curl and the pine tree-lined Manly. A short walk from Manly is Shelly Beach, a calm bay perfect for kids and snorkelers. Bonus: Because of its west-facing position, Shelly offers a sunset view, despite Sydney's east coast location.

Harbour Bridge

While it may be tempting to join the parade of jumpsuit-clad tourists climbing the Harbour Bridge, the sky-high prices (between \$200 and \$300 — per

person) could send you plummeting back to reality. The good news: You can still enjoy the bridge's breathtaking views of the city skyline, Opera House and harbor for free. A walkway along the bridge allows pedestrians to wander between the north and south sides of the city in about 30 minutes. If you're determined to climb higher, you can scale one of the bridge's concrete-and-granite pylons for a mere \$15. You'll get a nearly identical view as the Bridge-Climb patrons and will actually have money left over for dinner at one of the city's lovely harborside restaurants.

Royal Botanic Gardens

This 75-acre sanctuary fringing Sydney harbor features

lush tropical greenery and rainbows of flowers, ponds and water fountains, exotic birds and creepy-cute flying foxes — also known as fruit bats. Free guided walks are offered every morning at 10:30, departing from the information counter at Palm Grove Centre in the heart of the gardens. At the edge of the gardens is a peninsula known as Mrs. Macquarie's Point, which offers the quintessential view of the Opera House with the Harbour Bridge behind it.

Art Gallery of New South Wales and National Maritime Museum

If you need a break from the sun, head indoors to these museums, both of which offer free admission. Next to the Royal Botanic Gardens is the Art Gallery of New South Wales, which features a collection of Australian, Asian and European art and free guided tours. The National Maritime Museum is located at Darling Harbour, a stretch of waterfront restaurants, bars and shops. Afterward, take a stroll along the promenade, which always features a few street performers. There are frequent fireworks displays throughout the year, and nearly every Saturday night in the Australian summer.

FOOD & LEISURE

Dark and Leafy Suddenly Hip and Trendy

from www.philstar.com

NEW YORK (AP) - Not so long ago, the admonishment to "Eat your greens!" generally focused on lettuce, maybe spinach. And that's about as adventurous as it got.

Today, it's hard to flip through food magazines or watch television shows without seeing someone sauteing chard, roasting kale, wilting mustard greens or swooning over watercress. You even can get collards and kale washed, chopped and bagged at big box stores and niche grocers like Trader Joe's.

It's a change for the better, says New York Times' food and

opinion columnist Mark Bittman. And it's happening because more people are listening to messages about what is good for them to eat.

"That is a big change. All the talk about these things has had some kind of impact and that's a great thing," he says. "They're being sold because there's noise being made about them and there's noise because they're good things for us to be eating," he says. "And some people are listening."

Greens were one of Bittman's early obsessions as a gardener. Today, they still feature prominently in his recipes and in his overall approach to food. In fact, he just reissued his 1995 book, "Leafy Greens" (Wiley, 2012).



In this image taken on July 24, 2012, New York Times' food and opinion columnist Mark Bittman's Spinach Gnocchi is shown in Concord, N.H. Bittman has just reissued his 1995 book, "Leafy Greens" (Wiley Paperback, April 2012). (AP Photo/Matthew Mead)

Several years ago, Bittman began including more plants and fewer animal products in his diet. The result? He dropped more than 30 pounds, published the responsible eating manifesto "Food Matters," and began writing about food policy and its impact on our health. Today, his fresh, unfussy recipes share

space with columns that advocate a healthful, environmentally friendly plant-heavy diet.

Most Americans fall somewhere on a spectrum that runs from pure vegans who eschew all animal products to folks who live Morgan Spurlock's famous 30-day fast-food only diet.

"For better personal and planetary health, the idea is for all of us to move away from the Morgan Spurlock end toward the vegan end," says Bittman, whose next book, "VB6: Eat Vegan Before 6:00" (due out March 2013), encourages people to eat vegan for the first two meals of the day. "I don't think that means we have to become vegans. But I do think we need to move toward eating a greater portion of plants."

But Bittman thinks real change needs to come at the political rather than personal level. He urges the revamping of the government subsidies that supports commodity crops, a system many say artificially lowers the cost of many of the unhealthiest processed foods. He also favors regulations that discourage eating junk food, such as New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's proposal to ban from city restaurants sodas and sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces.

"In 50 years, I won't be alive, but people who are will say, 'Ha, ha! Remember when you could buy soda for a dollar anywhere you wanted?'" he says. "That's not going to be the case." - Michelle Kayal, AP



kwhetv 14
OCEANIC CABLE,
CHANNEL 11

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

For a Christian TV Station.

Broadcasting experience preferred but not required.

EEO Employer.

Send resume to: dkanyuck@lesea.com

BROADCAST ENGINEER

For a Christian TV Station.

Minimum 3 yrs experience in TV broadcasting.

EEO Employer.

Send resume to: mkemmerling@lesea.com

**LOCAL AND NATIONAL
 INSPIRATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

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

SPORTS

Hawaii TV Bowling
 HPU Basketball & Volleyball

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION

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

**BOOK'EM DANO
 HAWAII 50**

**MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
 7 PM
 THE BEST OF HAWAII
 TV CLASSICS**

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Sereno Vows Independence

by **Edu Punay**
 Monday, August 27, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Newly appointed Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno has vowed independence from the present administration.

"Everyone can be assured of independence of the Chief Justice," she told reporters covering the Supreme Court (SC) in a brief interview yesterday.

Sereno took her oath before President Aquino last Saturday, replacing Renato Corona who was removed from office last May 29 by the Senate impeachment court.

Certain quarters have expressed concern over her appointment, citing her earlier opinions perceived to be favorable to Aquino.

Farmers of Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) have expressed apprehension that the SC ruling on the land distribution might be reversed under her watch.

"Sereno's appointment is a trample on the judiciary system. We all know whose interest she will serve and follow. Certainly it would not be the interest of the Hacienda Luisita farm workers nor the broad masses," the Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) and the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita said in a statement yesterday.

UMA secretary-general Rodel Mesa said they could only appeal for vigilance: "We call upon the farm workers' support networks not to be deceived by Mr. Aquino's SC gender-sensitive hullabaloo. The CJ post is not about male or female stewardship of the Supreme Court, it is all about competency and independence. Regardless of gender she or he must also be equipped with moral aptitude to bestow a just conviction favoring the people's interest."

Kabataan party-list Rep. Raymond



Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno

Palatino shared this fear and said that the appointment would make the SC an "Aquino court."

Malacañang dismissed the allegations that Aquino had appointed Sereno to protect the interests of his family in HLI as "false" and "speculation."

"I suggest to all the people who are commenting on this, perhaps we can go back to her decisions. There has been misinformation that she voted a certain way," deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said.

Malacañang also declined to comment on reports that Sereno scored lowest in the psychological exam. "It's unconfirmed. That's not an official statement or not an official release from the JBC so we will not comment anymore," Valte said.

New CJ to finish 18-year term

Sereno admitted that she intends to finish her term amid calls to limit the term of the chief justice.

"I assure my countrymen that I will keep my oath of office faithfully to the end of my term. That is something that they can rely on," she vowed.

During her oral interview last July 27, the Judicial and Bar Council questioned her age that will give her 20 years in the SC.

At 52, she will be SC chief for 18 years, which means she will outlast the next two presidents to be elected after Aquino.

Sereno will be the second longest serving chief justice, after pre-war CJ Cayetano Arellano, who served for 18 years and 10 months.

She is also the second youngest chief magistrate after Manuel Moran, who was appointed at 51. (www.philstar.com)

Appoint Head of Migrant Workers Office, Noy Urged

by **Dennis Carcamo**
 Wednesday, August 29, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - A migrant workers' rights group on Wednesday called on President Benigno Aquino III to immediately appoint an official to head the Migrant Workers Affairs.

Migrante-Middle East said the position in the Office of Migrant Workers Affairs has been vacant since President Aquino appointed Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr., then head of the OMWA, as permanent representative to the World Trade Organization in February.

"We urge PNoy to immediately appoint a person...who could deliver honest-to-goodness public service and have a big heart or genuine concern for OFWs," the group said.

Migrante also urged Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario to submit a list of nominees to be considered by the President.

The group said the OMWA performs vital functions for the provision and over-all coordination of all legal assistance services to Filipino migrant workers as well as overseas Filipinos in distress. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

P-Noy: Wake Up the Hero in You

by Aurea Calica
Tuesday, August 28, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Every Filipino should “wake up the hero in him” and “heed the call of duty” as the late Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo did, President Aquino said yesterday as he led the National Heroes Day rites.

“In times of trials, the cry for each and everyone of us is: wake up the hero in you and heed the call of duty. Big or small, you can contribute something and in the name of the country and fellowmen, you need to do what you can,” Aquino said at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

He called Robredo, who is set to be buried today in Naga City, a “hero who kept a simple life, who focused on the welfare of others before himself, and whose principles prevailed over transactionalism.”

As mayor of Naga City, Robredo was known for his innovative programs and for empowering his constituents.

He was in the process of promoting good governance at the local level as secretary of the



President Noynoy Aquino addressing the crowd on National heroes Day

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) when he died in a plane crash on Aug. 18.

“Your good example will give birth to more heroes,” the President said.

He said heroism “runs in the blood” of Filipinos, hence they should continue fighting for great causes for their and the next generation.

The President also paid homage to unsung and modern-day heroes, stressing that true heroes are measured by their principles and not by medals, wealth or position.

He said many Filipinos be-

came witness to the heroism of their countrymen at the height of typhoon “Gener” and during the heavy flooding in Luzon triggered by monsoon rains.

“Thousands responded to help those devastated by the calamity. They did not even know the names of those they helped. They risked their lives to show concern for others in need,” Aquino said.

He said the widespread display of heroism during disasters showed that bayanihan (community spirit) among Filipinos is still alive.

“A just society will give meaning to the sacrifices of our heroes; this is what we want to achieve in following the straight and righteous path of governance, and our legacy to future generations. Let us all fight for this,” he said.

National Heroes Day specifically commemorates the Cry of Pugad Lawin, the first open declaration of war by Filipino revolutionaries led by Andres Bonifacio against the Spanish colonial rulers in 1896. It is celebrated every last Monday of August as provided for under Republic Act 9492 and reinforced through Proclamation

295 signed by Aquino in December 2011.

Before his speech, the President led the flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City.

Also in attendance during the ceremonies were Taguig City Mayor Laarni Cayetano, National Historical Commission chair Maria Serena Diokno, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Energy Secretary Rene Almendras, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chairman Francis Tolentino, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Malabon City Mayor Antolin Oreta III, Armed Forces chief-of-staff Gen. Jessie Dellosa, and members of the diplomatic corps led by Ppal Nuncio Archbishop Giuseppe Pinto.

Veterans of World War II also attended the event.

School discussion

Meanwhile, Education Secretary Armin Luistro has instructed regional directors to disseminate a module developed by DepEd Region V covering Naga City on the life and achievements of Robredo.

“It is important for our students to understand why the whole nation is mourning the loss of Sec. Jesse. There is much to learn about his life, his principles, his commitment to public service and his dedication to the common good,” Luistro said.

Two modules have been set for distribution to schools – one

for Araling Panlipunan and another one for Values Education.

The module for Araling Panlipunan includes topics on good governance and public service.

To demonstrate the importance of the family as an institution and its role in building better community relationships, the module for Values Education will highlight Robredo’s example as a family man.

“If our students recognize honest and dedicated public servants as the norm rather than the exception, this will help accelerate the process of social transformation, then Sec. Jesse would not have died in vain,” Luistro said.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, for his part, said the assassination of former Sen. Ninoy Aquino on Aug. 21, 1983 was a turning point in the life of Robredo.

Abad said Robredo was living a quiet and comfortable life as a corporate executive until Ninoy’s martyrdom.

“The turning point in Robredo’s life happened on Aug 21, 1983, the assassination of Ninoy. He (Robredo) left a quiet and comfortable private sector life and decided to devote his time to the uncertain field of public service and politics,” said Abad in an interview with ANC.

Ninoy’s assassination triggered almost daily street protests that eventually led to the EDSA People Power uprising in February 1986. (www.philstar.com)

Papa Had a Big Heart,' Says Jesse's Daughter

by Cecille Suerte Felipe
Tuesday, August 28, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Despite showering his wife and daughters with so much love, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo still had enough left for the people he served.

“Papa loved us so much but I know that he still has a space in his heart for all of you,” said Janine Patricia Robredo, the DILG chief’s middle daughter, speaking in public for the first time.

The Piper Seneca plane carrying Robredo, his aide-de-camp Senior Inspector June Paulo Abrasado, pilot Jessup Bahinting and co-pilot Kshitiz Chand crashed last Aug. 18 in Masbate Bay. Abrasado survived the accident. Robredo’s remains were recovered on Aug. 21 and the bodies of the pilots were found days later.

During the necrological serv-



ice in Naga City last Sunday, Tricia confessed that before she delivered her eulogy, she asked her dad to tickle her if he sees that she was about to cry because she doesn’t want to be seen crying in public.

True enough, Tricia managed to hold back her tears during her eulogy and even made her mom, sisters and the crowd at the Naga City Hall laugh with some of her revelations.

“He really loved Mama. I remember one time, during his birthday celebration at the City Hall, they urged him to sing and he dedicated the song ‘Please Release Me’ to Mama just to make her laugh and smile,” Tricia

shared.

“Jillian, my youngest sister, always wanted to be a star and a few hours after we learned that Papa passed away, she asked Mama, ‘Ma, how old was Kris when Ninoy died?’ she thought maybe she could also be like Kris Aquino when she grows up,” Tricia revealed, which elicited laughter from the crowd.

Jillian was seen giggling and tried to hide her face behind the shoulder of her sister Aika.

If her father were alive, Tricia said that they would have teased him, “Grabe ka Papa, yung mukha mo nasa T-shirt na ng mga tao... Siguro kinikilig na si Pogi (You’re too much, Pa, your face is already on people’s t-shirts. Pogi must be thrilled). He is watching us from heaven.” Pogi was one of Robredo’s nicknames.

Tricia also made a promise before her dad’s flag-draped casket that she, her Ate Aika and Jillian will make sure that they will choose a guy as handsome and as

(continued on page 12)





McMANN EYE
INSTITUTE

Michael A. McMann, M.D.

BOARD CERTIFIED FELLOWSHIP-TRAINED EYE SURGEON

Same Day Appointments Available

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

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

677-2733

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Noy Cabinet Hails Jesse's 'Tsinelas Leadership'

by Aurea Calica
Monday, August 27, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Members of the Cabinet spent their last time with the late Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo at Malacañang the way he would have wanted it – in a casual way with a lot of singing – and by citing his “tsinelas (slippers) leadership” that meant being one with the masses.

On Saturday night during the Cabinet’s necrological service for Robredo, Energy Secretary Rene Almendras said the “Impossible Dream” that they sang was one of the late secretary’s favorite songs.

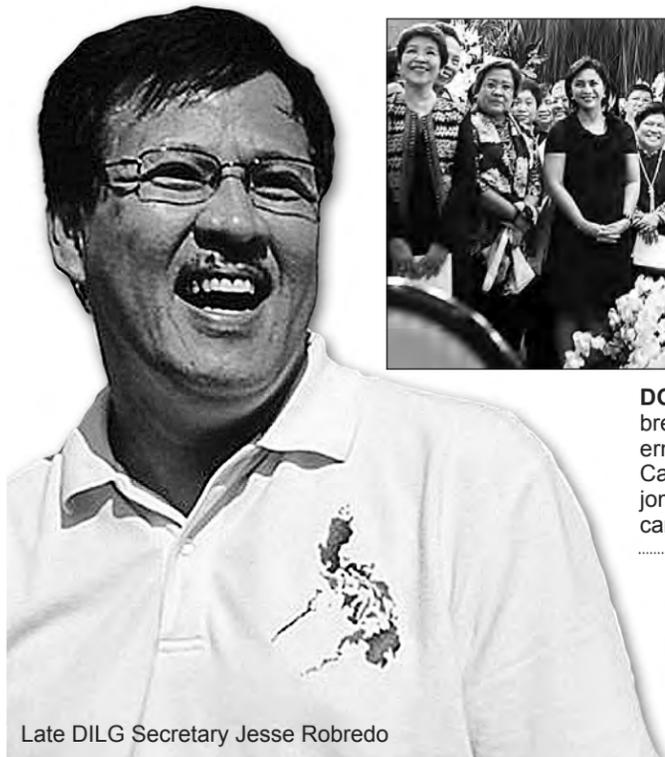
They also belted out “My Way,” replacing the last line with “Jesse’s Way.”

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima also led the official family in singing “Betcha By Golly Wow” – the theme song of Robredo and his lawyer-wife, Maria Leonor.

Almendras said behind every great man was an even “greater woman” and that Robredo probably turned out to be the good man that he was because of his wife.

Robredo’s wife and children were seen bursting into laughter while members of the Cabinet sang, sometimes out of tune. They did finish the songs though, while laughing at themselves, too. Those who had solo performances were Almendras, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma, and De Lima.

Vice President Jejomar Binay, a potential successor of Robredo, also joined the other



Late DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo

Cabinet members in singing the “Impossible Dream” during the memorial service.

It seems that Robredo helped ease political rivalries temporarily as Binay and Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas – his rival during the last vice presidential race – sang in one number.

Binay and Roxas, however, were not beside each other while they were singing Robredo’s favorite song.

Before the number, Binay even joked that the people in the wake might leave once the Cabinet members start belting the Matt Monroe hit.

Almendras then quoted Binay and jokingly ordered the Presidential Security Group to ensure that no one would leave the Kalayaan Hall during their performance.

Pure

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said he admired the “purity” of Robredo’s character, supporting him even in making tough decisions on erring per-



DON'T CRY FOR JESSE: Maria Leonor Robredo, widow of the late Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo, poses with Cabinet members, including Vice President Jejomar Binay, during a memorial service at Malacañang’s Kalayaan Hall Saturday night.

sonnel.

Paje said one of the times he heard Robredo laugh out loud was during a singing session with the Cabinet members. He said the late secretary showed him the exit when President Aquino was starting to call people to sing in a gathering.

Almendras and Roxas, who spoke during the Liberal Party’s memorial service ahead of the Cabinet’s turn, described Robredo as a hands-on leader accessible to everyone.

Almendras said just like slippers that were the common people’s footwear, Robredo showed deep empathy with the people he served.

“‘Tsinelas’ leadership is about working on the basics, no frills, no kaarteahan, something as uncomplicated and casual as the tsinelas but with a very, very clear vision. That was Secretary Jesse Robredo,” Almendras said, hoping that this would start a new trend among public servants.

The energy chief said Robredo liked wearing slippers,

which he preferred because these were comfortable and the right footwear for flooded areas being light unlike rubber boots.

Almendras said, “When you go to a flooded area you will see the quality of leadership by the situation of the flooded people.”

“We talked and said some leaders are only for picture taking; some leaders are true leaders, willing to serve the people. And you will see them very clearly,” he said, adding in jest that Robredo actually pronounced it as “sinelas.”

“The real topic I want to share with you tonight is Secretary Jesse’s brand of ‘tsinelas’ leadership. I have come to define tsinelas leadership as the pragmatic and more demonstrative version of servant leadership that Secretary Jess always talked about,” Almendras said.

“I will tell you, I will explain to you four features of

(from page 11, ‘PAPA...’)

good as their father was.

She vowed along with her sisters to take care of their mother and the legacy their dad left behind.

“Sec, Mayor, Pogi, Boss, Bright Boy, Papa, our promise to continue what you started will not just end on Facebook, Twitter or TV. Ako na po ang bahala kay (I’ll take care of) Mama – Senator Len. Joke!”

As thousands of people expressed their love and admiration for their father, Tricia noted so much had been said about how good her father was as a mayor, DILG secretary, friend, brother, son and father.

“Have you ever wondered why he was so good? If you ask me, my answer is he was good because he knows how to love.

‘tsinelas’ leadership, Jesse Robredo version. ‘Tsinelas’ leadership is about the willingness to brave the floods; the willingness to go where you normally do not go; to the most remote areas just to be with the most disadvantaged people. We all know Secretary Jesse rarely said ‘no.’ That’s why he was one of the most well-traveled Cabinet members. He went to many places where some of us could not go to,” Almendras said.

Almendras, Roxas and Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said the brand of leadership set by Robredo would be a tough act to follow and somehow set the standard for the kind of leaders that the country should have.

“He was so unassuming, so unaffected. He was more concerned with being true to himself. He was the first on the ground to clear the mud after a flood, he was at the forefront when a fire would raze a community. He would demonstrate frugality and proper responsibility in public spending,” Roxas said.

During LP’s tribute to Robredo, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said their assessment of the late secretary was that “he not only had a terrific vision and drive but also tremendous patience.”

“He will talk to you smiling and that is really one of his great assets,” Belmonte said. (www.philstar.com)

He loved his job and he loved the people.”

However, despite being calm and composed, Tricia still couldn’t hide the pain she was feeling. “Papa, maybe you were ready to die but we are not ready to lose you.”

“Although I don’t understand why you had to leave so soon, I’m still grateful to have been loved and raised by you,” she added.

After the necrological service at the Naga City Hall, Robredo’s remains were brought to the Basilica Minore de Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia in Naga City, for the last day of the wake. Robredo had been a devotee of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, locally known as “Ina,” since he was 16 years old. (www.philstar.com)

**Call Rey-Cel Travel
For The Lowest Fare
To Manila. (808) 871-6251**



**Listen To KPMW
The WILD 105.5 FM
(808) 871-6251**

Request call (808) 871-6933

Energetic young individual who can speak Ilocano and Tagalog (bilingual) to be a disk jockey of a radio station. Computer literate, radio experience, or will train. Fax resume to 808-871-5670.



LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Abandonment of LPR Status Due to Trips Abroad

The process of becoming a permanent resident of the United States is often a long and costly journey. Perhaps because they are relieved to finally get their green card and long to travel or handle personal affairs abroad, some new lawful permanent residents (LPR) believe that they can just go in and out of the U.S. as long as they make it a point to reside here for at least a few months each year.

A recent decision of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals should serve as a warning for green card holders. In *Lateef v. Holder*, the Court found that the LPR had abandoned her LPR status for spending the majority of her time as an LPR in her native country.

Immigration authorities found that out of 116 months that Lateef had been an LPR, she spent only 35% or 40 months in the U.S. and 65% or 76 months abroad. She had no employment history or properties in the U.S. and her only ties were her parents and brothers.

Lateef's seven trips abroad were of various durations. She went back to her native country shortly after becoming an LPR in order to finish her medical studies and for this purpose obtained a re-entry permit. The court found this trip to be temporary because it ended upon her graduation, but not so with her subsequent trips between 1995 and 2001. She married her husband during one visit. On another, she took an exam and became pregnant. She made visits to see her husband and to attend to her daughter who was not only missing her but was also developing behavioral problems, and she also helped plan

her brother's wedding.

In November 1999 she returned to her home country because of her daughter's continuing behavioral problems. In November 2000, her husband and children were granted immigrant visas. She remained abroad for another three months to attend weddings.

Lateef and her family attempted to enter the U.S. in February 2001 but a few months later they were placed under removal proceedings. Lateef's abandonment of status was imputed to her daughter and served as basis to revoke the immigrant visas of her husband and her child. They were ordered removed by the immigration judge.

The law allows an LPR to temporarily leave the U.S. and maintain her LPR status if she has not abandoned her LPR status or if she has not been away from the U.S. for more than 180 days. A protracted trip abroad must have been caused by reasons beyond her control and for which she was

not responsible in order for her to remain admissible.

In determining whether Lateef's trips abroad were temporary, the appellate court looked into whether the trip was for a "relatively short period fixed by some early event" or ended "upon the occurrence of an event that has a reasonable possibility of occurring within a relatively short period of time".

The Court said that Lateef remained abroad for one year and three months without any definite plans of returning to the U.S. It noted that although Lateef said that she wanted to return to the U.S. as soon as possible, she only did so three months after her family obtained immigrant visas. The Court found that this last trip showed that Lateef abandoned her LPR status because it was over 180 days and was not caused by reasons beyond her control.

Lateef was found to have abandoned her LPR status even though the record showed that she took steps to be licensed as a

doctor in the U.S., applied for medical residency positions, and applied for citizenship. Note that she also tried to bring her own family here as immigrants and that her main reason for her last stay abroad was her daughter's continuing behavioral problems.

This case is a reminder that abandonment of status is a serious matter that could affect not just the LPR but also any minor children and those whom the LPR petitioned for. A green card holder must not embark on extended trips abroad without a strategy to preserve LPR status in case issues arise. It must be remembered that having a green card is a privilege that grants an alien benefits and obligations, but it is also a privilege in the sense that it can be taken away.

REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

PHILIPPINE NEWS

China's Hu Seeks Meet with Noy

by Aurea Calica
Thursday, August 30, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - China is seeking a bilateral meeting with the Philippines on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' summit in Vladivostok, Russia next month amid the two countries' dispute over areas in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Laura del Rosario, in a press briefing at Malacañang yesterday, said the meeting between Chinese President Hu Jintao and President Aquino had not yet been confirmed, with both delegations still to finalize their schedules.

The APEC summit is set on Sept. 8 and 9. The President and his delegation will leave on Sept. 7.

Del Rosario said the Philippines wanted to focus on boosting economic partnerships with China during the planned meeting, and not the West Philippine Sea dispute that has caused deep diplomatic fissures.

"We just hope... that whatever political issues we have, we can just separate it from economic issues and trade issues," she said.

Tensions between the Philippines and China escalated dramati-

cally in April when vessels from both countries engaged in a standoff over Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

"I'm sure it (West Philippine Sea issue) will be raised by the other side... The Philippines will not raise it. We will not say we are here to meet due to this - no, no. The other side may, might raise the issue. So what I see here is that most probably the President will just explain our position and then what we're trying to do to resolve it. And we'll say, we'll again reiterate, the need to maintain the economic relations," Del Rosario said.

"It's useless to discuss the problem in a high-pitched voice," she added. Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda, meanwhile, said "it would be good for the two heads of state to speak to each other and it would be in the best interest of both heads of state to discuss issues of mutual concern."

"We have been discussing this matter through the Secretary of Foreign Affairs or through the Chinese Foreign Minister. Very recently, Secretary (Albert) Del Rosario met with the Chinese foreign minister. Certainly it would be good for both heads of state to speak to each other directly," Lacierda said.

Other bilateral meetings

Del Rosario said eight other leaders have requested bilateral meetings with the President. They are from Chile, Hong Kong, Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore.

"He will have about three to four hours for bilateral meetings and each meeting would take about 30 to 40 minutes, so we will have to prioritize," Del Rosario said, adding that the President is expected to say yes to China.

Del Rosario said a meeting with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who will represent President Barack Obama, has not been

finalized. Obama will not attend the APEC summit because of the upcoming US elections.

She said Foreign Secretary Del Rosario will also hold bilateral talks with Hong Kong chief executive Leung Chun-ying.

She said economic relations would be at the forefront of the bilateral meetings and if the West Philippine Sea issue would be raised, the President could explain "what we're doing about it, what we're doing to even deescalate (tensions)."

"I'm sure even Japan will welcome that... Now, they're the target of all these conflicting claims. I mean it looks like the latest news that we had," she said.

Del Rosario said they are still working on the issues to be dis-

cussed with Japan and the other countries. Aquino's delegation in the APEC summit includes Foreign Secretary Del Rosario, Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo and Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

Del Rosario said the Philippines would be "working to sustain economic growth through a commitment to free and open trade, investment liberalization and facilitation and economic reform."

She said APEC leaders would discuss ways to "promote trade, investment liberalization, closer integration, food security, cooperation in the field of prevention, mitigation of natural disasters, and diversification and improvement of transportation and logistics chains." (www.philstar.com)

Build A Rock® Solid Future

LIFE • AUTO • ANNUITIES

Tel. 808-935-1948
Ditas Guillermo Udani
Premier Agent
The Prudential Insurance Company
of America
CA State Lic#OD90884
www.fredits.udani@prudential.com



"I'll help you build your financial future on a strong foundation."

Prudential Financial
Growing and Protecting Your Wealth

Insurance and annuities issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark NJ and its affiliates.
"Availability varies by carrier by carrier and state."

0153198-00002-00 Exp. 12/2/10



BAHAGHARI
By Ruth Mabanglo, Ph.D.

Kuwentong Tibetan: Biyaya Ng Isang Ama

kabayo.

Nalungkot ang mga kapitbahay ng magsasaka. Isa-isa silang nagtungo sa bahay nito at nakiramay. "Kaka, nalulungkot ako sa pagkawala ng kabayo mo," anang isang kapitbahay.

"Oo nga, nakikiramay kami sa pagkawala ng kabayo, alam naming mahal na mahal mo ang kabayo," dagdag ng isa pa.

Ngumiti lamang ang magsasaka at nagsabi, "Tignan natin."

Inakala ng mga kausap na nang-uuyam ang magsasaka at dahil Nagdaan ang ilang panahon. Nagbalik na sa dati ang buhay ng nayon. Isang araw, di kaginsa-ginsang bumalik ang kabayong nawala. Nang bumalik ito may dala pang ilang kabayong sumama sa kanyang pagbabalik sa bahay ng magsasaka. Samakatwid, dumami pa ang alagang kabayo ng magsasaka.

"A, akalain mo bang malaking suwerte ang nangyari kay Kaka!" Siyang-siya ang mga kapitbahay.

Muling nagdaan ang masasayang araw. Nagkaroon ng malaking kasayahan sa nayon at naisipan ng mga lalaking

mangaso para makapaghanda sa kanilang pagtitipon. Sumama ang anak na lalaki ng magsasaka. Sa kasawiang-palad, nagkaroon ng sakuna at isa sa mga nadisgrasya ang binatang anak ng magsasaka. Sa aksidenteng iyon, naputulan siya ng kamay.

Muling nagdagsaan ang mga kapitbahay sa bahay ng magsasaka. "Kaka, ikinalulungkot namin ang nangyari sa anak mo!" maluha-luhang sabi ng isang ginang.

"Oo nga, masyado iyong disgrasyang iyon, wala na tuloy ang isang kamay si Intoy!" sahod ng isang sumama sa pangangaso.

Nakangiti lamang ang magsasaka.

"Pero makakaraos ka rin, Kaka..." anang isa pa.

"Tignan natin, may kani-kaniyang tinanguan tayo sa buhay," malumanay na sagot ng magsasaka.

Muling nagdaan ang ilang panahon. Isang araw, gumising ang nayon sa ragasa ng mga kabayo. Dumating ang mga kawal ng hari at nagpapasabi na kailangang kunin ang lahat ng mga lalaking matipuno at may kakayahan para sumama sa digmaan. Kailangang ipagtanggol

nila ang Tibet.

Walang nagawa ang iba't ibang pamilya ng nayon. Ang utos ng hari'y hindi mababali. Nang lumabas na ang mga kabataang lalaki at ang matitipuno't may kakayahang lumaban, siniyasat silang lahat ng mga kawal ng hari. Nakitang putol ang isang kamay ni Intoy kaya hindi siya napasama sa mga

nalikom na magdirigma.

Samakatwid, naiwan si Intoy at inalagaan na lamang ang kanyang ama hanggang marat-ing nito ang panahon ng katan-daan.

Naging maligayang-mali-gaya ang matanda sapagkat sa anu't anuman, nakapiling niya ang kanyang kabayo at anak sa matagal na panahon.

ARAL: Sa kuwentong Buddhist na ito, nalaman natin na naging napakahusay ng pagtanggap ng magsasaka sa kanyang kapalaran. Kahit sa harap ng trahedya, walang siyang sinising sinuman at sa halip, nanalig siyang hindi ang masama ang nangyari. Sa totoo, ang masamang pangyayari, gaya ng pagkawala ng kabayo at ng pagkaputol ng kamay ng kanyang anak ay oportunidad lamang para magkaroon ng lalong mabuting gantimpagal o kapalaran ang magsasaka. Ito ang dapat mangyari sa ating pagdanas ng mga pag-subok. Magkaroon ng mabuting atiyud sapagkat laging may gantimpala ang paghihintay at pananalig.

MAINLAND NEWS



Pinoy Coconut Drink Named America's Healthiest Beverage

An organic coconut water drink named by Health magazine as "America's Healthiest Beverage" is proudly made in the Philippines.

O.N.E. organic coconut water is manufactured in the Philippines but is sold in export markets such as the U.S.

The product was praised as an example of how the Philippines' coconut product exports can be packaged in an attractive way for foreign export markets. O.N.E. organic coconut water is made with coconuts from the Philippines and packaged in shiny blue Tetra Pak cartons. The stylish but eco-friendly Tetra Pak packaging allows the coconut water to remain fresh and can be stored for months without refrigeration.

According to its website, the coconut water drink is a product of O.N.E. One Natural Experi-

ence, an all-natural beverage company founded by Brazilian businessman Rodrigo Veloso. He launched the company in Los Angeles and introduced O.N.E. organic coconut water at Whole Food Markets in 2006. The drink quickly became the number one alternative beverage sold in the supermarket chain's outlets in southern California.

The website said Health magazine even named the drink as "America's Healthiest Beverage" for providing enhanced hydration, essential nutrition and all five essential electrolytes (calcium, potassium, magnesium, phosphorous and sodium).

A dozen 11-oz O.N.E. coconut drinks is being sold for \$21 on Amazon.com. Coconut products are one of the Philippines' top exports. (*Good News Pilipinas*)

philstar.com
The Filipino Global Community

*shines even brighter
for the Filipino Global
Community*



Join us as we journey into a new home!



Log on to www.philstar.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB / SATURDAY • September 1, 2012, • Maria Clara Ball, Ala Moana Hotel • 7:00 p.m. • For details, contact Angie Borromeo @ 673-5455

4TH USA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE, ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL • September 1-3, 2012 • Hibiscus Room, Ala Moana Hotel • Delegates are expected to come from the mainland US, Canada, Europe, Philippines, and Hawaii

2ND DR. JOSE P. RIZAL AWARD / SUNDAY • September 2, 2012, • Hibiscus Room, Ala Moana Hotel • For more

information, call Raymund Liongson at 381-4315 or Jun Colmenares, 510-734-4491.

CANDONIANS OF HAWAII, INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS / FRIDAY • September 7, 2012, • Pacific Beach Hotel • 6:30 p.m. • Contact: Dr. Ignacio Torres, 375-6995

PAMPANGA CIRCLE OF HAWAII, 48TH ANNIVERSARY & INDUCTION OF OFFICERS / SATURDAY • October 13, 2012, • Hale Koa Hotel • 6:30 p.m. • Contact: Petronila Foster, 722-8605

GLOBAL NEWS

98 Saudi OFWs Win Labor Case, Get Unpaid Salaries

MANILA, Philippines - A labor court in Saudi Arabia has ruled in favor of the 98 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), who filed a labor case against their employer last year for non-payment of their wages and their end-of-service benefits (ESBs).

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz, quoting a report from Philippine Labor Attaché to Riyadh Albert Valenciano, said 64 of the OFWs are already awaiting repatriation pending release of their exit visas.

"At last, after a long and arduous wait, these OFWs will already enjoy what they worked hard for so long. Also, what is more important is that they will be coming home soon to their families," said Baldoz, who had ordered Administrator Hans Leo Caccad of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to facilitate the release of airplane tickets for the affected OFWs.

In his report, Valenciano said 90 of the 98 OFWs received last March the payments for their unpaid wages amounting to Saudi Riyal 500,402,000 or P5.6 million, while 24 received their monetary claims representing their ESBs on April 1, 2012 amounting to

SR111,220, or P1.25 million. "To date, the OFWs have received a total of SR1,090,785 (P12,281,729) from the company," Valenciano said.

It can be recalled that the 98 OFWs filed a case against their employer on September 11, 2011 on account of their unpaid salaries and end-of-service benefits.

To speed up the resolution of the case and to show the Saudi government's earnestness in dealing with the problem, the Saudi government created an inter-agency committee which was tasked to deal with the problem. The committee consisted of members from Saudi Arabia's Governor's Office and Ministries of Labor and Interior.

The inter-agency committee, after several hearings, found Al Swayeh Company liable for the claims filed by the workers and, on February 28, it started releasing the money claims of the Filipino workers at the Saudi Labor Court in Riyadh.

"We are grateful to the Saudi government for its effort to resolve this problem," said Baldoz.

Al Swayeh Company, which is engaged in construction, experienced labor problems in 2007 when it suffered financial losses because of poor

management. It employed more than 2,000 workers of different nationalities, such as Bangladeshis, Nepalese, Indian, Pakistani, Egyptians, and Filipinos.

Valenciano belied reports that the Philippine Embassy and the POLO have not been taking care of the OFWs, saying that 21 of the OFWs underwent medical checkup in July, with the POLO paying for the professional fee of the attending doctor and providing the disadvantaged workers with prescribed medicines.

"Despite the very strict rules in the Kingdom, we are doing the best we can to immediately repatriate the OFWs and to ensure that they will not come home empty handed," he said, adding that the welfare officer have been visiting the workers in their housing units and providing them food, in cooperation with the social welfare attaché.

"For the 64 workers, we have already requested the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to coordinate with the workers' recruitment agencies to provide tickets for their deployed workers, and the Overseas Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to advance the cost of plane tickets for those OFWs whose agencies have closed or whose licenses have been suspended or cancelled," explained Valenciano. (www.philstar.com)

Last Pinoy Helper of Ghadafy Returns Home

MANILA, Philippines - Almost a year after the ouster and death of Libyan leader Moammar Ghadafy, the last Filipina helper in his household staff finally returned home.

Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said yesterday Raquel Collantes is now back home. "Collantes is the last of the four Ghadafy household service workers who we searched for to be rescued at the height of the 2011 Libyan uprising," she said.

Labor attaché to Tripoli Nasser Mustaffa reported that he had personally accompanied Collantes to the Tripoli International Airport on Aug.



DOLE Sec. Rosalinda Baldoz

19 to facilitate her repatriation. Two of Collantes' Filipina companions in the Ghadafy household, Diane Jill Rivera and Mary Ann Ducos Almario, were successful rescued and repatriated in September last

year. The third Ghadafy household domestic worker, Zenaida Labuguen, returned home after staying at the Filipino Workers' Resource Center for over a month.

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) requested the embassy to extend the validity of Collantes' passport.

"At first, we encountered difficulty in convincing Libyan immigration authorities to give her an exit visa due to her employer's status," the POLO reported. "In the end, they gave her an exit visa after we complied with some requirements." (www.philstar.com)

CLASSIFIED ADS

AL PHILLIPS THE CLEANER
P/T, F/T Costumer Service/Alterations
Training, High Pay with benefits
Call: 284-7878

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

C. KEN'S CLEANERS HAWAII INC.

LOOKING FOR DRY CLEANING PERSON
Preferred male with experience but not required.

CALL: (808) 381-3404 or 423-0685
Look for Cathy.

We make it easier for your loved ones.

MILILANI
MEMORIAL PARK & MORTUARY

677-5631 • www.mililanimemorial.com

LEEWARD OAHU REHAB SERVICES

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

(808)671-5928
VILMA D. FUENTES
Registered Physical Therapist



BIG NEW MLM NANO TECH

Dead Sea Mineral PRODUCTS

\$25,000 WEEK POT'L
+ MAC PRO
+ CARS
+ HOUSE

800-423-7166

LEEWARD OAHU PHARMACY

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

94-837 WAIPAHU ST., 2ND FLOOR WAIPAHU, HI 96797 • PHONE (808) 677-9611
M, TU, TH, FRI 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. CARLOTA FAJARDO--Manager
WED, SAT 8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON MILTON CHANG--Pharmacist

Book Your Party Now! **CALL NOW! 692-9880**

200-300 Capacity
Prices starting at **\$11.95 per person**

ALL YOU CAN EAT!
Crab Legs & Mayonnaise Shrimp Dinner Buffet

Ho Ho Chinese Cuisine
590 FARRINGTON HWY KAPOLEI MARKETPLACE

PHILIPPINE NEWS

FILIPINOS GATHER IN MAKATI CITY FOR GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER

Over 700 church, civic, business and government leaders gathered on August 21, 2012 at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City for the Global Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace in the Scarborough Shoal.

Hosted by Loida Nicolas Lewis, chair of the US Pinoy for Good Governance (USPGG), the event drew attendees from various evangelical, charismatic and Roman Catholic churches. Several speakers from different organizations addressed the audience and gave testimonies that focused on faith in God and the destiny of the Philippines.

In a show of support, Aaron Alfred Lee, a concert pianist from Malaysia, gave a delightful performance of "Kundiman" and other Filipino classics. Emcee Dr. Robert Eustaquio led everyone in a moment of silence for the late Sen. Ninoy Aquino,



USPGG Chair Loida Nicolas-Lewis (center) hosted the Global Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace in the Scarborough Shoal at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City

who was assassinated 29 years ago on that day.

The program included a brief video on the Scarborough Shoal dispute, followed by a parade of the flags of ASEAN nations. A moving rendition of "Heal our Land" ensued, together with a reading from Psalm 27 to heed God's call to humble oneself before Him.

Speeches were delivered by Ptr. Ching Nicolas, co-senior pastor of Grain, New Wine & Oil Ministries and sister-in-law

of Ms. Lewis; Vonz Santos of USPGG and Reps. Riza Hontiveros and Roilo Golez. Ms. Lewis then gave the audience "The Truth of the Matter" and explained why she chose to stand up against China's bullying in the Spratlys and the Scarborough Shoal. She challenged the people to continue praying and fasting for a just and peaceful solution and encouraged leaders to sign the Global Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace in Scarborough Shoal Manifesto.



Next, Sen. Peter Alan Cayetano shared his insights, stating the need for this type of civic action in order to keep the world's eyes focused on China and how Beijing interacts with its neighbors in the South China Sea. He was followed by Atty. Hoi Trinh of the Vietnamese Overseas Initiative for Conscience Empowerment, who gave a fresh Vietnamese perspective on the issue. Trinh said that he was inspired by the Filipinos' faith and prayerful response to China's unacceptable "Nine-Dash Line."

To close the event, Bishops

Rex Resurreccion, Chito Sanchez and Jovy Gallaraga led the audience to pray for strength and protection for Philippine territories and boundaries in the sea, the enhancement and readiness of the Philippine Navy, the protection of the Philippines' natural resources from foreign and local abuse and for China to come to an agreement to maintain peace with all ASEAN nations concerned with recent events in the South China Sea, Vietnam's Eastern Sea and West Philippine Sea. (Photos courtesy of www.uspgg.org)

Don't Be a Target!

Join the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP Hawaii)

Of the top 10 scams that target seniors, healthcare fraud is #1

- PROTECT** your Medicare number
- DETECT** Medicare billing errors
- REPORT** Medicare fraud & abuse

Ask SMP Hawaii to speak to your group or participate in your senior/health fair. Become an SMP Hawaii volunteer.

Call **SMP Hawaii** at **(808) 586-7319** or **1-800-296-9422**, toll free.

THE SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL IS A PROGRAM OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION ON AGING. SMP HAWAII IS BASED IN THE STATE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING. THIS AD WAS PAID FOR BY A GRANT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING.

