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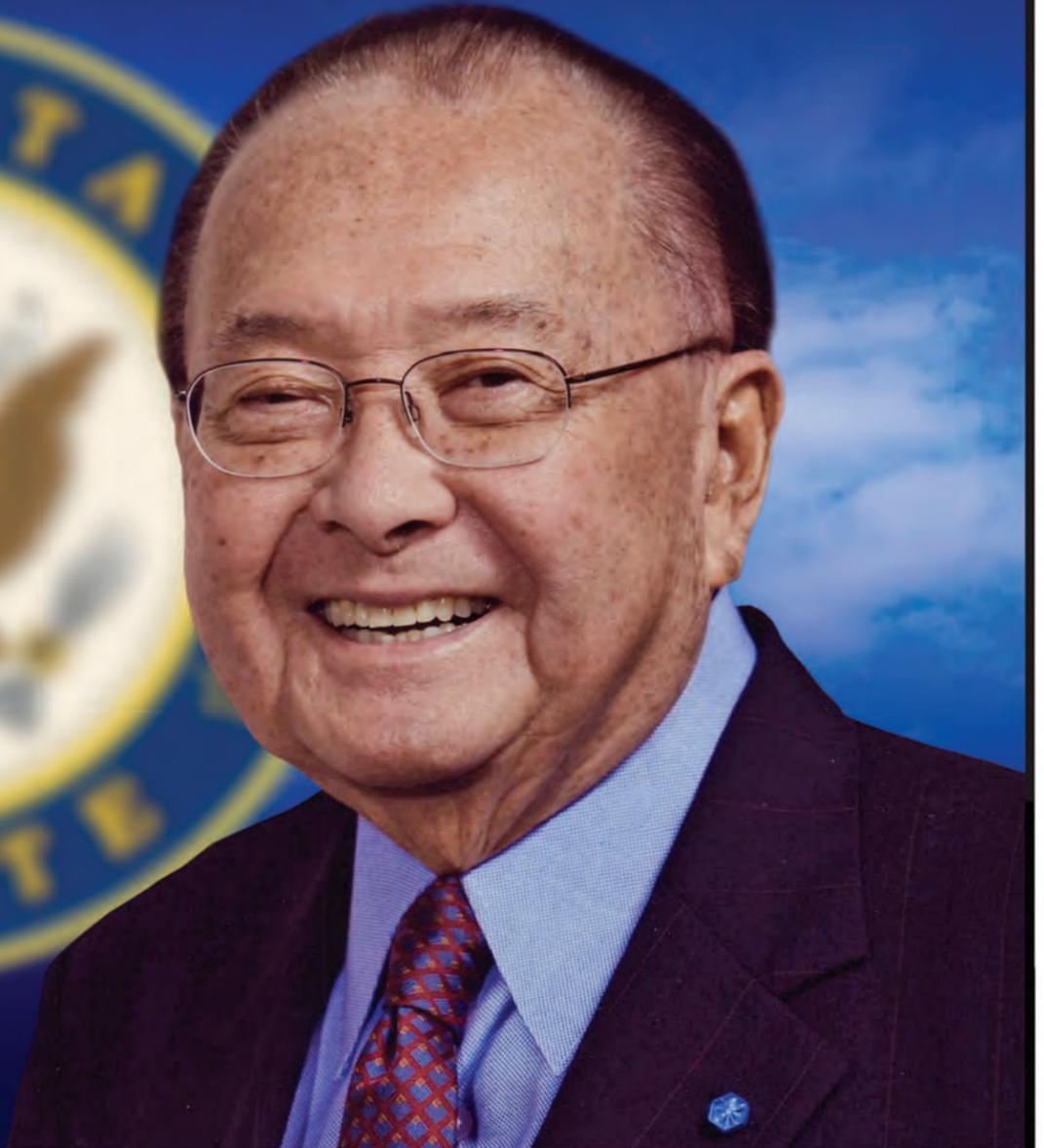
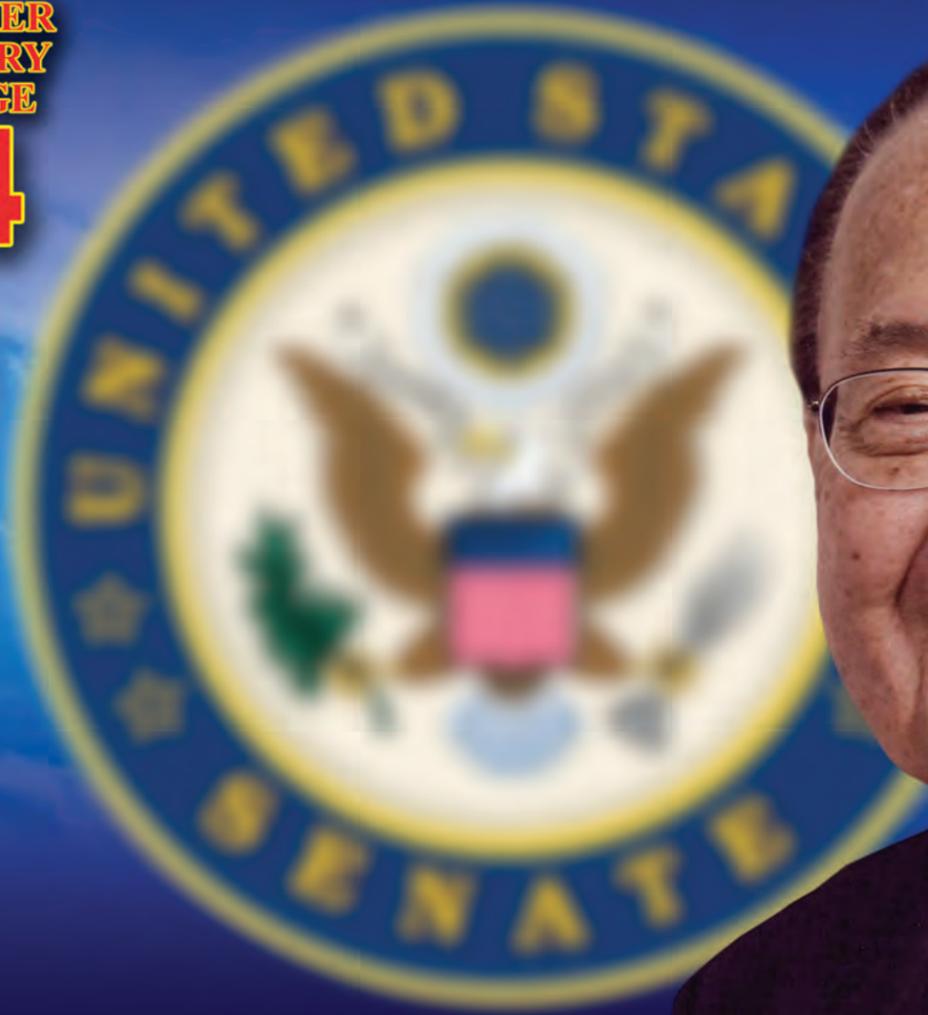
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ DECEMBER 29, 2012 ◆

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May You Have the Merriest Christmas and a Safe and Blessed New Year!!!

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## Merry Christmas to All

**G**hristmas 2012 should be a joyous occasion but our hearts go out to the families of those 20 elementary school children and 6 adults in Connecticut who lost their lives on December 14. Let's take comfort in knowing that these victims went home for Christmas...and to the everlasting joy of the angels. Pray also for those affected by the tragedy—that they may find comfort and hope during this very difficult time.

The tragedy in Connecticut is a reminder of how precious life is and that we should live each day to its fullest. In that light, we at the Chronicle are so very grateful for the many blessings we have received and that we have been able to continue our mission to provide Hawaii's Filipino community the very best reporting and news.

We are proud to be a member of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ)—the nation's most broad-based journalism organization, which is dedicated to the perpetuation of a free press and fostering excellence among journalists. As a full-fledged SPJ member, the Chronicle remains ever committed to the highest standards in news reporting.

In closing, we would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May you be gifted this festive season with wonderful moments that fill your heart with smiles and cheer. We look forward to a prosperous 2013!

### EDITORIALS

## Farewell, Senator Inouye

**H**awaii and the nation bid a fond adieu to the beloved Sen. Dan Inouye who passed away at age 88 after a lifetime of public service—nearly 53 years to be exact. At the time of his passing, Sen. Inouye was chair of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. His death saddened scores of colleagues and constituents alike, who described him as a dedicated public servant who served with integrity and compassion.

Inouye served in the U.S. Army during World War II and lost his right arm to a grenade blast and gunfire. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1959 and later to the Senate in 1962. Although a stalwart Democrat, he knew how to work across the aisle. Inouye may not have always agreed on issues but he was known for seeking polite ways to avoid direct confrontation. He had a particularly close working relationship with Republicans Bob Dole of Kansas and the late Ted Stevens from Alaska. Both men were veterans like Inouye who did not let party affiliation get in the way of working together for the

good of the nation and their home states.

As chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Inouye steered billions of dollars in federal funds to Hawaii for a myriad of projects and programs. He was also a true blue friend of the Filipino community—particularly for Filipino veterans, for whom Inouye worked tirelessly to secure long overdue benefits. The late senator also secured much needed funds for the construction of the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu and for its various programs, as well as funding for higher education initiatives and programs that benefited scores of Filipino students.

Hawaii has lost a public servant and a true ambassador of aloha. But for all of his accomplishments, you'd be hard-pressed to find a single building, highway, tunnel or bridge named in his honor. It's vintage Inouye—humble, gracious and unassuming, but ever ready to step up to the plate and bat when asked to.

Thank you, Sen. Inouye, for blessing our lives with your aloha and genuine love for people. You will be sorely missed by a grateful state and nation.

## 2013: The Beginning of A New Age

**I**f you're reading this, the end of the world did not occur on December 21, 2012, as some doomsayers predicted.

There was no massive geological polar shift, deadly solar flares that wiped out global communications and power grids, asteroid or lost planet Nibiru cataclysm that collided into Earth. Neither did a biblical rapture come upon us.

Here we are, alive and well, to usher in yet another year, 2013.

While most people didn't really believe that the end of the world would come in 2012, there is a lot to be said of humanity's anticipation for transformative change, a new way of living, spurred by a new economic engine and new global values.

### The Current Age of Information

After the Agricultural and Industrial revolutions, the world shifted to our current information-based age, largely built on advanced technology and the internet. What the information age has done is bring the world closer together. A global economy, for all its flaws and pluses, became a reality. It changed how we do business, expanding our customer base and labor market worldwide.

Current events are now almost instantaneous with satellite broadcasting by the second, from the news networks to our cell phones. News is so rapid today that it is technologically possible to watch events unfold live through live feeds, as what occurred during the recent Arab uprisings, or even Occupy protests.

Socially, the Information Age changed the way people meet. There are online dating services. It changed the way we live with some people actualizing a kind of "self-stardom." Through our social network pages, we constantly update what we are doing with pictures and videos, where we are, and what we're thinking through tweets. We have our own fan base of sorts.

As students, we approach research almost entirely through the internet. Information, its acquisition and dissemination, in fact is internet-based for practically everyone: businesses, marketers, government agencies, consumers, the media, and even politicians where social media greatly influences election outcomes.

### After The Information Age, What's Next?

Clearly our information-based economy, and social/cultural practices anchored by information-technology, ultimately will reach a threshold of inadequacy, just as the Agricultural Revolution suddenly could no longer support income-earning for the average, landless individual; or the Industrial Revolution's heavy toll on the environment, exploitation of workers, and massive inequality, could no longer be sustained.

Inadequacies of the Information Age are abundant. Two areas in particular stand out: the first being a lack of diverse job creation (too specialized around technology); and second, the dizzying speed of progress where only a marginal percentage of the population are skilled enough to keep pace and benefit from financially. The light speed of the Information Age makes multitudes of jobs, and to an extent entire industries, obsolete too quickly. Remember Borders? Or Kodak? Both companies ranked number one in their respective industries for decades.

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## OPINION

# Profiles of Christmas

CITIZEN Y By Yoly Villanueva-Ong

**G**hristmas has always been a season of ironies. Advent is supposed to be a sacred time of year, but it is also a most materialistic and hedonistic time. It is supposed to be a happy celebration with family, yet it also underscores aloneness and loneliness for some. It is a most joyful spell, the month most chosen for weddings. But it is also a dark period, when the number of suicides spikes up. Each one uses different coping mechanisms and behavior to deal with the challenge of Christmas.

**The Bots:** Organizing the gift list, shopping, wrapping, sending gifts, putting up the decor take up most of their energy and occupy most of their time. Christmas has become synonymous with four ber-months of commerce accompanied by early Yuletide carols. The first noel in September is the signal that the annual frenzy is about to begin. With robotic efficiency, they go into automatic mode and apply themselves to the tasks at hand.

**The Nostalgia-ns:** Traditions like Misa de Gallo, Midnight Mass, Noche Buena, bibingka and puto bungbong, the parol etc. have been modernized and made more convenient depending on the parish church you attend. What used to be dawn masses at 4 a.m. are now held at 5 a.m.; Midnight mass is at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Noche Buena is now just the late dinner after Christmas Mass. Pancakes are replacing bibingka. And many kids don't know what puto bungbong is. The Christmas parol is slowly being taken over by LED Christmas lanterns mostly from China. No wonder I heard a new Christmas carol being played at the mall with some plaintive lyrics begging that the Christmas he remembers in his youth, return.

**The Yule-bashers:** I've heard a few people dreading if not bashing Christmas. What they remember are the thick, jostling crowds at the mall, with an occasional pickpocket or two. Then there's the snarled traffic that provokes gnarled tempers, with a dash of road rage that even the sea-

son's goodwill cannot contain. For those who fly home, the airport is another nightmare of delayed flights, lost luggage and pilfered Christmas packages. Then there is the unwanted weight gain that comes with the endless rounds of partying and merrymaking. One officemate complained that for every pound gained, several hours of pounding the road are the consequence.

But for all the paradoxes of Christmas, it remains the most anticipated, most awaited and most beloved holiday of all. For all the inconvenience, most people still go out of their way to find the most appropriate gift for their loved ones. For all the yearning for the good-ol'-days, they still celebrate any way they can. For every grumble, there's apple crumble.

After all these musings, most people have come to realize that Christmas is what we make of it. Just like perceiving the glass to be half-empty or half-full, it is our personal choice.

**The Faith-full:** For the spiritually inclined, Christmas is a renewal of faith. Whatever religion is professed, whatever church they belong to — the centerpiece concept is that God sent His only beloved Son to save mankind. This is

the most significant, the only meaningful reason for the season. It is a time for gratefulness, contrition and resolution. Everything else is just background material.

**The Cheering Squads:** Every Christmas these teams bring happiness and high morale to those who could use a lift. They visit the children with cancer, the orphanages, the prisons, the terminal patients and the aged; People who no longer have families, or are incapable of celebrating Christmas. They convey the Christmas message by singing carols, bringing food and gifts and passing on good cheer. Most of all, they bring hope to those at the brink of despair.

**The Givers.** As God gave us His Son for a chance at redemption, the givers are the generous souls who share whatever they have with those who have less. Heartwarming stories of anonymous donors giving huge sums of monies and gifts to the victims in the calamity-devastated areas, best captures the true spirit of Christmas.

And so another Christmas comes and goes. Maybe this particular one stands out more because some thought that the end of the world last December 21 meant no more Christmases in the future. Some are relieved that calamities like Hurricane Sandy and Pablo spared them.

A few believe that global warming is the handwriting on the wall. The "cleansing" has begun and it's only a matter of time before the great reckoning. I think it's best to be prepared to go anytime.

No matter how one feels about Christmas, the one universal mindset is reflection. Contemplating how one has lived his life and thinking of how the years ahead should be spent is part and parcel of the season. The introspection could be as superficial and nearsighted as what to wear for the coming parties, or how to shed the pounds gained. Or it could be more profound, like assessing yourself, your relationships and career, and resolving to make life-changing decisions.

In my case, I got my first libel suit in four years of writing — the first court summons I have ever received in my life, from no less than Juan Ponce Enrile — who took offense at my recounting and annotating of his alleged historical misdeeds and inconsistencies. The fact that it was sent on December 18, to be answered on January 2 at Branch 118, Pasay Regional Trial Court, truly gives a new spin to Christmas.

So for 2013, there is much to look forward to. But today let us all have a Merry Christmas. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## EDITORIALS (from page 2, 2013: THE BEGINNING...)

So here we are at the cusp of 2013. Ready to do what we do all over again. But imagine for some stroke of miracle, the world as we know it, truly changed for the better.

Perhaps we can interpret the Maya's calendar marking 2012 as the dawning of a new age, with characteristics that are truly reflective of humanity's intrinsic good nature. Given how much more connected we are, maybe we can look forward to an Age of Unity, or even an Age of Peace, supported by an economy with entirely different goals, replacing to an extent individual advancement with one that fosters community wealth.

Or maybe wealth itself will take on a different meaning, one that emphasizes spiritualism and wisdom, in an Age of Enlightenment, a version dif-

ferent from the old one that gave us some of our greatest philosophers, scientists and religious figures.

2013 could be the start of something profoundly revolutionary. Mankind has undergone spikes in tremendous advancements. We are better off today in so many ways, and yet still balance on a tightrope, where below awaits us old dangers that continue to threaten our very existence such as war, mass poverty and ignorance.

Which direction we go from here can only be speculated. But there is great optimism for the future. We are more conscious, smarter and courageous. We just need to believe in unlimited possibilities for ourselves and each other. That journey begins this 2013. May we all have a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Relief Drive for Typhoon Victims



**T**he Filipino Community Center (FilCom) is spearheading a relief drive for victims of Typhoon Pablo in the Philippines.

"Kokua Philippines: Typhoon Pablo Relief Drive" will be held through January 27, 2013. A special collection

was taken at the recent *Pasko! sa FilCom* held on December 16, 2012.

As a result of Typhoon Pablo, which was the strongest ever to hit the Southern Philippines, over 900 people were killed, a thousand still missing and

hundreds of thousands displaced.

Checks should be made payable to the FilCom Center with "Typhoon Pablo" on the memo line. Please call 1-808-680-0451 or send an email to: [filcom@filcom.org](mailto:filcom@filcom.org) for more details.

## COVER STORY

# Daniel K. Inouye – The End of An Era

By Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

**T**here are no words to describe the man. He wasn't just the Man of the Hour, the Day, the Year. Not even of the Decade. He was a Man of and for All Seasons. He belongs to the Eternity of the Ages for which there is no time. Such was the essence of the Man.

And the space he created and shaped in the modern history of Hawaii is a priceless legacy no words can describe either. But perhaps the last paragraph of "Hawaii Pono" (1961) by Lawrence Fuchs captures the spirit of that era now long past and the centrality of one man who would bring a new dawn to Hawaii. It runs:

*Hawaii illustrates the nation's revolutionary message of equality, of opportunity for all, regardless of background, color, or religion. This is the promise of Hawaii, a promise for the entire nation, and, indeed, the world, that peoples of different races and creeds can live together, enriching each other, in harmony and democracy.*

Fuchs could have been pre-figuring the vision that one man would assiduously nurture into reality for the dawning of the newest state of the union in

1959—Hawaii. And the man, of course, was Daniel Ken Inouye.

For the next six decades following the wounds of World War II, which broke his body but not his spirit, Inouye plunged into a career that would continuously play out in the nation's highest arenas of power and influence. It almost seemed like destiny. He never blinked, never stopped, never looked back. There was only one singular goal he would dedicate his life to with full measure—the future of the New Hawaii.

At the time of his passing on December 17th, Inouye served nearly 53 years total in Congress. He served nearly 50 of those years in the U.S. Senate and was the second-longest serving senator next only to Robert Byrd, who did 51 years. Inouye became the long-running chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the most powerful body in the Senate. And as senate president *pro-tempore*, he was third in line of

presidential succession in the nation. Such an astounding and monumental record would be tough to beat and no one in the current Senate even comes close to it.

But power and all the grandiose things that come with the territory never got to his head. He was not spoiled nor corrupted in the least degree by it. There was no iota of arrogance to the man, no pretensions, no airs. Throughout his life and career in and out of the public's eye, which spanned nearly seven decades, Inouye remained the epitome of grace, dignity, humility, tolerance, patience, simplicity, credibility and respectability. He was the sort of guy you liked immediately when you met him. Such was the power of the man—a kind of quiet unspoken charisma.

## Humble Originals & Wartime Experience

The late senator was raised amid humble beginnings in the pre-World War II period, which writer Tom Brokaw has appropriately coined "the greatest generation." Born in 1924, his father Hyotaro was the son of an immigrant couple from a small village in Yokohama, Japan who migrated to Hawaii to work on the sugar plantations. His father worked as a file clerk for Theo H. Davies, Ltd. His mother Kame was born in Hawaii of immigrant parents as well, but she was orphaned early and raised by Hawaii families as a home-maker. Inouye had a strictly working class background.

The eldest of four siblings, the young Inouye, his two sisters and a brother grew up in a modest house on Queen Emma Street, which Inouye himself had written about as a teeming "Japanese ghetto." He went to



school sometimes in bare feet as he was saving his shoes for more important occasions. He graduated from McKinley High School, often referred to as "Tokyo High School." He dreamed one day of becoming a doctor—a surgeon to be precise.

The onset of World War II marked Inouye's first real challenge as a young teenager as the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor cast a shadow of suspicion and doubt on all citizens of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii. In time, this lingering suspicion would result in the internment of many of them in designated camps for security reasons.

At 17, Inouye signed up for service in the U.S. army and started out as a medical aide. He later enlisted for active service as soon as President Franklin D. Roosevelt allowed the enlistment of *Nisei* volunteers with the U.S. military in 1943. He was assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which would later become the most decorated unit in U.S. military history.

Inouye paid a heavy price for his wartime service. He was the leader of his platoon and in one fierce encounter with the enemy in San Terenzo, Italy, he was hit by enemy fire which blew his right arm off. The grenade he was holding was still intact in his severed hand. Wounded and all, he retrieved the grenade with his left hand and threw it in the path of advancing German soldiers. In

the process, he was struck again, this time in the stomach. And as he rolled down the hill to safety, he was shot again on the leg.

For his heroism, he was given a Distinguished Service Cross, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. In 2000, President Bill Clinton upgraded his various awards by bestowing upon him and 21 other Asian American veterans the highest reward—the Medal of Honor—50 years after the fact.

Inouye's several operations and recovery from his multiple wartime injuries took nearly two years. While recovering, he met two other veterans—Robert Dole and Philip Hart—who would later become his colleagues in the U.S. Senate. What was probably more painful to Inouye was the fact that his ambition of becoming a doctor had been quashed forever. What was he to do?

As with most former veterans at the time, he went to college under the G.I. Bill at the University of Hawaii where he met his future wife, Margaret Awamura, an English instructor at the university in 1949. He took some pre-law courses and in 1950, he finished his B.A. in political science. He and his wife moved to Washington, D.C. where he obtained his law degree from George Washington University. They returned to Hawaii in 1952 and his first job was as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the

(continued on page 5)

## Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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## COVER STORY

*(from page 4, DANIEL...)*

City and County of Honolulu. This marked the first chapter of his professional life in public service as a lawyer but greater things would come his way.

**Into Politics**

The 1950s were a watershed in Hawaii politics and society. It marked the tumultuous transition from the old to the new and changing Hawaii. The end of the war brought unprecedented changes for Hawaii, which was still a territory of the U.S. as it had been since the beginning of the 20th century. The old Hawaii was still in the grip of the Big Five oligarchy—Castle and Cooke, American Factors, Alexander & Baldwin, Theo H. Davies and C. Brewer. The Republican Party was in control. The political landscape was dominated by the sugar industry which was controlled by the Big Five. However, the plantation system was beginning to break down as strike after strike strengthened the ability of the working class to demand more wages and better working conditions. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) would spearhead the labor movement designed to break the stranglehold of elite interests on the economy. The feudal state of the territory had gone on for far too long. It was time for a new era, an era of equality and opportunity open to all.

Inouye's political consciousness and activism were sharpened by the need for social change in a territory that now consisted of a rapidly changing demographic milieu with the Japanese-Americans already comprising one-third of the population. Inouye offered his services to John Burns, the leader who galvanized the local population, particularly the Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA), to mobilize and democratize island politics by joining the Democratic Party.

In 1954, the Democrats under Burns' leadership took control of the Territorial Legislature from the Republicans. This pivotal event is now popularly known as the "1954 Democratic Revolution." In-

ouye was elected to the Territorial House of Representatives in 1954 along with the "Young Turks" emerging at this critical period—George Ariyoshi, Sakae Takahashi and other Nisei Democrats. Inouye would also be elected subsequently to the Territorial Senate.

The year 1959 was the islands' birth as the State of Hawaii—the 50th in the Union. Inouye became the first Japanese-American citizen to be elected to Congress, first as a representative and later as a senator in 1962. At age 38, Inouye was also one of the younger senators to ascend to that distinguished body. From then on, he would never lose another election, and he would have completed his ninth six-year term as a senator in 2016 had he lived a few more years.

**Rise to National Prominence**

The unassuming but brilliant upcoming politician from Hawaii would become a compelling figure in the U.S. Senate with his youthful idealism, ethnic background, military heroism and increasing mastery of Capitol Hill politics. Inouye became a strong voice for civil rights minority and women's issues, social equality, economic stability, national security and against escalating U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War in the 1960s.

His meteoric rise to national prominence peaked in the 1970s when he was picked by the Senate as member of a select committee that investigated the Watergate scandal, which led to the downfall of then President Richard Nixon. His calm but intense questioning of the Watergate burglary suspects, associated with Nixon's re-election committee, was crucial in putting a closure to the investigation, which led to the eventual resignation of Nixon, the first such case in the country's history.

Impressed by his compelling performance, the Senate again tapped Inouye in the 1980s to head up another select committee to look into the Iran-Contra scandal. This was a scheme devised by the Reagan administration to trade arms for the Iranian-held hostages and

to use the arms sales proceeds to help finance a "contra rebellion" against the Sandinista's leftist regime headed by Daniel Ortega. In this historic hearing, Inouye publicly lectured and rebuked Lt. Col. Oliver North for his arrogant statements justifying the use of force and foul means to achieve military goals. He reminded North that democracy in America meant a rule of law and not by men.

As a national leader of increasing prominence, Inouye was best known, even admired, as the "King of Pork" referring to his unusual ability to secure billions of dollars in federal funds for his native Hawaii's development. He cleverly mastered the art of "pork barrel politics," often inserting language in other spending bills for his programs and benefits intended for Hawaii. He thus made possible the "politics of stealth" securing exemptions from stringent federal law requirements so that monumental initiatives like the H-3 Freeway, the 1974 Health Care Act, the transfer of the USS Missouri to Pearl Harbor, and other mega-projects could move forward.

The scope of his concerns for Hawaii was legion and far-ranging in significance. Name it and he had already done it or would pursue it with intense vigor and determination. Education. Military. Defense. Health. Hawaiian affairs. Civil rights. Minority and women's rights. Science. Agriculture. Industry. Tourism. Travel management. Airports. Shipping. Environment. Energy. University of Hawaii. East-West Center. Disaster management. *Ad infinitum.*

He even secured precious federal funding to prevent the entry of brown-tree snakes to Hawaii from Guam, which was ridiculed. Some of his colleagues thought he was getting a bit frivolous and would call him an abuser of earmarks. He was even called racist names like the "Little Jap" but he would explain patiently why the earmark to prevent the snake infiltration from Guam was critical to protect Hawaii's environment.

Through all these, the unflappable Inouye remained

cool and unperturbed. He was the epitome of grace, dignity, tolerance, persistence, integrity, courage, commitment and service in its purest form. And like a beloved father figure, he mentored or assisted younger colleagues or those who came after him, like Senator Daniel Akaka and Representatives Patsy Mink, Neil Abercrombie, Mazie Hirono and Colleen Hanabusa.

He was also admired for his bipartisanship and loyalty to lifelong friends like the late U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska, a Republican. Locally, former Honolulu City Councilman John Henry Felix, also a Republican, highly admired the senator.

"We collaborated to establish the much-needed Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery," Felix recalls. "This is just one example of how Dan did not let party politics get in the way of accomplishing something important in Hawaii. He was always concerned with the greater good of the islands and our nation."

He was respected by friends and foes alike, and revered for his sense of justice and fairness, quiet demeanor, polite and courtly manner, and unswerving tenacity to fight for people's causes and secure support to see them through. Above all, he was loved for his singular devotion to duty and his legendary humanity.

**Community Center**

The late senator was a strong and committed supporter of the Filipino community, which had grown during his lifetime as the largest ethnic group in Hawaii's total population. He often spoke at Filipino gatherings of his continuous efforts to secure federal benefits for thousands of Filipino veterans who fought side-by-side with the U.S. armed forces in the Philippines during World War II. The veterans had been promised American citizenship and other benefits for their wartime services by the government. But after the war ended, this promise was rescinded in 1946 and the veterans had to engage in a lengthy battle in Congress to lobby for benefits due them.

Sen. Inouye never forgot his wartime colleagues. He was instrumental in sponsoring many of the veteran-related bills that would award long overdue benefits to the Filipino soldiers. Domingo Los Banos, a Filipino-American veteran who saw action in the Philippines, sat on a wheelchair at the State Capitol grounds during the funeral services on December 22 for the late senator, signing the memorial book in a very personal way. He thanked the senator for his efforts to secure benefits for him and his compatriots.

"It was because of the senator that we finally got monetary compensation for our

*(continued on page 6)***Supporting The Filipino**

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Filing Period Opens for 2013 Neighborhood Board Election

If you want to start making a difference in your community, a good place to start would be as a member of your local neighborhood board.

Prospective candidates who are interested in running for a seat on their neighborhood board are encouraged to apply online at: [www1.honolulu.gov/nco](http://www1.honolulu.gov/nco) or at: [www.2013NBElection.everyonecounts.com](http://www.2013NBElection.everyonecounts.com).

onecounts.com.

For those who do not have internet access, candidate registration forms are available at the Neighborhood Commission Office. Please call 768-3717 and request that a form be mailed to you.



Candidacy is open to all Oahu residents who will be at least 18 years old by February 22, 2013. The deadline to apply is February 22, 2013.

Mailed forms must be postmarked by the deadline date and received by March 1, 2013. Voting will be held from

April 24 through May 17, 2013.

Board members' term of office will be from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015. Neighborhood boards are elected every two years, in odd numbered years. The boards serve the community by communicating its needs and desires to government including the delivery of basic government

services, economic development and land use questions.

While they are advisory, board activities may include study and review of capital improvement projects and zoning concerns. They may also conduct educational programs on governmental decision making processes and establish community goals, objectives and priorities.

## Hawaii is Second Healthiest State in U.S.

The Trust for America's Health has ranked Hawaii as the second healthiest state in the nation behind Vermont. Hawaii moved ahead of two other states from last year's ranking of fourth.

Now in its 23rd year, the annual "America's Health Rankings" is the longest running comparative health index of states. Hawaii consistently ranks in the top five states

each year for overall health.

"This year's improved ranking is encouraging and reflects the efforts of Governor Abercrombie to improve the health of our state," says State Health Director Loretta Fuddy. "The state has taken many positive steps in the last year, but chronic disease and obesity are still major growing concerns, especially when it comes to our children. We must turn the tide on these is-

sues for our next generation."

While Hawaii has one of the lowest obesity rates in the nation, there are still roughly 234,000 obese adults in the state. Also noted were an improvement in infant mortality from 7.6 to 5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, and a decrease in preventable hospitalizations from 32.2 to 25.0 discharges per 1,000 Medicare enrollees.

The prevalence of diabetes in Hawaii is below the national median at 8.4 percent but the state's climbing rate reflects the troubling nationwide trend of increasing chronic disease. According to the report, roughly 90,000 adults in Hawaii are living with diabetes. Additional areas of concern for the state include the rate of health disparities among ethnicities and



rural areas. This includes higher rates of tobacco use and obesity among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

"Hawaii's positive ranking is encouraging but there are areas that will require continued attention as we work collaboratively with our partners in the healthcare industry and the federal govern-

ment toward the implementation of the Affordable Healthcare Act," says Beth Giesting, who was appointed by Gov. Abercrombie as Hawaii's Healthcare Transformation Coordinator.

America's Health Rankings include measures of behavior, community and environment, public and health policies, clinical care, and health outcomes to describe the health and wellness of each state compared to the other states. Updated each year since 1990, the rankings are sponsored by the United Health Foundation and conducted in partnership with the American Public Health Association and the Partnership for Prevention. The 2012 report is available at [www.americashealthrankings.org/rankings](http://www.americashealthrankings.org/rankings).

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### COVER STORY (from page 5, DANIEL ...)

services after a long struggle," Los Banos says.

Each veteran finally got \$15,000 if he was already a U.S. citizen and \$9,000 each for non-citizens. Many of those who haven't received their benefits are still waiting as their claims had been delayed or they are appealing because their claims had been rejected. Inouye's junior colleague, U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, continues to follow up on pending veterans bills in Congress.

The Filipino Community (FilCom) Center in Waipahu, the only one of its kind in the U.S. and outside of the Philippines, has also been the recipient of Inouye's congressional initiatives on behalf of minority groups in Hawaii. Rose

Churma, current president of the Center, says the FilCom received federal grants in the 1990s, which were much needed for its construction. Federal grants also funded the Banda Kawayan (a musical group including children performing with bamboo instruments), an archival digital library to house important documents and a Smart Seniors Program. The Center now offers a number of programs on a daily basis, thanks to Inouye who was also the first chairman of the Center's Board of Governors.

"We received these grants because of the senator's unwavering support, which we will miss deeply," Churma writes. "We are forever grateful for his

assistance and perhaps someday we will be able to memorialize his presence within the Center's walls."

Raymund Liongson, professor of Philippine Studies at Leeward Community College, likewise acknowledges with deep gratitude the federal grants that the senator worked hard to secure. Part of the federal grants was used to strengthen the "Sulong Aral" (academic initiative) of the Philippine Studies Program to enable students of Filipino ancestry to acquire a deeper grounding of their cultural heritage.

"The students will long remember this debt of gratitude to Sen. Inouye which has given

*(continued on page 15)*

## IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

## Fraud Waiver for Aliens Seeking Admission to U.S.

**T**here is hope for aliens who have been denied admission to the United States because they committed fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact in seeking to procure or had procured a visa, other documentation, or admission to the United States or other benefit provided by the immigration law. Such aliens may seek a waiver of inadmissibility pursuant to Section 212(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

Examples of such fraud are (1) making false statements or concealing material facts in an application for a visa, such as marital status, existence of children, criminal history, or other matters that would render the alien inadmissible if disclosed, (2) impersonating an alien who is the beneficiary of an approved visa petition, (3) falsely representing that a person is the alien's minor child and including such child as a derivative beneficiary, (4) falsely repre-

senting that the alien's illegitimate child is also the petitioning spouse's child, (5) using another person's green card to enter the United States, (6) using another person's U.S. passport to enter the U.S., (7) using a fake green card, (8) using a fake U.S. passport, (9) obtaining a fake U.S. birth certificate with the intent of procuring a U.S. passport.

The requirements for a waiver under Section 212(i) are: (1) the alien is the spouse, son, or daughter of a U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR), and (2) the refusal of admission to the alien would result in extreme hardship to the alien's spouse or parent (qualifying relative).

### Extreme Hardship

The most difficult requirement to hurdle is to establish that the refusal of admission to the alien would result in "extreme hardship" to a qualifying relative. The Board of Immigration Appeals stated in *Matter of Cervantes*, 22 I&N Dec. 560, Interim Decision 3380, March 11, 1999, that "extreme hardship is not a definable term of fixed or inflexible meaning, and the elements to establish extreme hardship are depend-

ent upon the facts and circumstances of each case." A court pointed out that extreme hardship is hardship that is "unusual or beyond that which would normally be expected" upon deportation. *Perez v. INS*, 96 F.3d 390 (9th Cir. 1996). "The common results of deportation are insufficient to prove extreme hardship." The uprooting of family and separation from friends does not necessarily amount to extreme hardship but rather represents the type of inconvenience and hardship experienced by the families of most aliens being deported. The Attorney General or his delegates have the authority to exercise discretion in granting a waiver. They have construed "extreme hardship" narrowly.

The factors deemed relevant in determining extreme hardship to a qualifying relative include, (1) the presence of lawful permanent resident or United States citizen family ties to this country; (2) the qualifying relative's family ties outside the United States; (3) the

conditions in the country or countries to which the qualifying relative would relocate and the extent of the qualifying relative's ties to such countries; (4) the financial impact of departure from this country; and, finally, (5) significant conditions of health, particularly when tied to an unavailability of suitable medical care in the country to which the qualifying relative would relocate.

### Form and Evidence

An alien seeking a waiver should fill up USCIS Form I-601 with supporting documentation to establish the qualifying relationship and the extreme hardship. The form should be submitted to the proper USCIS office indicated in the instructions together with the required fee.

**COMMENT:** A waiver of inadmissibility under Section 212(i) is similar to the waiver

of removability under Section 237(a)(1)(H) of the INA for aliens who succeeded in entering the United States and who committed fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact in seeking to procure or have procured a visa, other documentation, or admission to the United States or other benefit provided by the immigration law and who are thus removable. We have written an annotation on this subject that will soon be published.

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

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### Abercrombie Submits Budget to Legislature

Gov. Neil Abercrombie submitted his 2013-2015 fiscal biennium budget to the State Legislature. He is requesting \$11.7 billion in total funds for fiscal year 2014, and \$12.1 billion for fiscal year 2015.

The requests for general funds, approximately \$6.1 billion for fiscal year 2014 and \$6.3 billion for fiscal year 2015, include provisions that invest in Hawaii's keiki, prepare for the future in areas of technology and the islands' aging population, protect Hawaii's watersheds, develop renewable energy resources, and for the first time begin to seriously address the state's long-term liabilities associated with employee and retiree health benefits. The budget also restores the 5 percent reduction in state

employee wages, which was implemented following the worst recession in a generation.

"This balanced budget will build upon sound strategies that will continue to stimulate our local economy, while moving forward on IT transformation initiatives to better prepare Hawaii for an increasingly technological age," Gov. Abercrombie says. "We are also proposing significant investments in early education and health initiatives, as well as building an improved support system for our kupuna."

The Abercrombie administration is requesting continued funding of priority capital improvement projects (CIPs) to improve public infrastructure and

(continued on page 12)

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**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**

**Oahu Homeowners to Receive  
 2013 Real Property Assessments**

The City has processed real property assessment notices for 2013 and the total assessed valuation of all taxable real property on Oahu has increased from \$180 billion to \$184.4 billion, an overall increase of 2.3 percent.

Primary contributing factors for the overall increase included new developments, particularly residential subdivisions; condominiums; commercial and industrial projects; construction of new buildings and improvements to existing parcels; and increases in the values of residential and hotel resort properties.

The City mailed approximately 290,000 real property assessment notices for 2013 to property owners. The 2013 assessed valuations were set as of October 1, 2012, and are based on sales of similar properties in each neighborhood through June 30, 2012.

The assessment notice is not a tax bill, but a statement of what the City has determined to be the property's value for tax assessment purposes. The notice includes property assessment information including any exemption which the owner has been granted in accordance with City ordinance. The standard homeowner's exemption for an owner-occupied property is \$80,000 and increases to \$120,000 when the homeowner reaches age 65 or older.

The net taxable or net assessed value

is one of the two components used to calculate the real property taxes for next fiscal year of July 1, 2013 to June 20, 2014. The other component is the tax rate. The tax rate will be set by the City Council during June 2013, as it finalizes the budget for fiscal year 2014. The real property tax bill of an individual property is determined by multiplying the net assessed valuation by the appropriate tax rate and the application of any tax credits.

Property owners who have not received their 2013 assessment notice by December 31, 2012 or who wish to dispute their real property assessments are advised to contact the Real Property Assessment Division at 768-3799 or 768-3169. Appeals may be filed from December 15, 2012 to January 15, 2013.

More information is available at the Real Property Assessment Division's website

at [www.realpropertyhonolulu.com](http://www.realpropertyhonolulu.com) which offers online services to reduce paper and postage costs while providing more efficient service to the public. Property owners may now receive their real property assessment notices via email, pay property taxes electronically, and view tax information online. The website may also be utilized to submit a Change of Status form and to file online for home exemptions or real property tax appeals.

**Social Security Discontinues  
 Visits to Kona**

Budget cuts have forced Social Security administration officials to discontinue face-to-face visits with the public at the Community Center in Kona. The last visit was held November 28, 2012.

Samiah Omari, Social Security Hawaii district manager, says that most Social Security business does not require an in-person interview.

"Information and many services are available online at [\[rity.gov\]\(http://www.socialsecurity.gov\)," says Omari. "You can file for retirement or disability benefits online from the convenience of your home. It's easy and convenient."](http://www.socialsecu-</a></p>
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Social Security also has a toll-free telephone service with live agents Monday through Friday from 7 am to 7 pm and pre-recorded information by calling toll free 1-800-772-1213.

For Big Island residents who still wish to visit a Social Security Office, the nearest is in Hilo at 111 E. Puainako Street.

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## FEATURE

# Jojo Vasquez—Filipino Chef Leaving Mark in Local Dining Scene

by Dennis Galolo

**I**f the divine creator has taken pains to give us delicious and exquisite things

to eat, the least we can do is prepare them well and serve them with ceremony.”—Fernand Point, French restaurateur and father of modern French cuisine (1897-1955)

The above quote is perhaps what drives all chefs to become great culinary masters. And one of the fastest rising culinary stars on the local scene is Jojo Vasquez, who was recently named executive chef at the Plantation House Restaurant in Kapalua, Maui.

Vasquez was also selected by Star Chef, an esteemed online culinary magazine, as one of Hawaii's top up-and-coming chefs. More than 50 local chefs were considered through in-person tastings and interviews this past summer with an editorial team representing StarChefs.com. The team returned earlier this month to recognize the winners at a tasting gala and awards ceremony held at the Halekulani on December 4, 2012.

Chef Vasquez was 1 of 14 winning chefs from top restaurants who presented their dishes at the sold-out event which featured 16 dishes and pairings, plus two signature cocktails prepared by the islands' best and brightest culinary talents. Chef Vasquez wowed judges with his dishes of Australian Lamb Rack, Eggplant Purée and Chickpea Cake. Hungry attendees paid \$95 to \$125 for the walk-around tasting event, which donated a portion of ticket sales to the Culinary Institute of the Pacific at Kapiolani Community College.

## The Plantation House

Since opening in the Kapalua Resort area in 1991, the Plantation House Restaurant

has earned a reputation among Maui's best restaurants for serving innovative cuisine in a picturesque setting. Each evening, diners are treated to a stunning palette of colors via Maui's breathtaking sunsets.

“This restaurant, with all its beauty, is but a canvas to our imagination,” Vasquez says. “I am excited to be part of a team that will take its cuisine to the next level.”

The Plantation House Restaurant is located on the Plantation Golf Course, and is open for all day dining. It is also the home of the Hyundai Tournament of Champions, the PGA's first event of the year held in January.

As executive chef, Vasquez is in charge of everything from staff leadership to menu creations to financial management. He oversees the entire three-meal restaurant which also has private events.

Vasquez's approach to cuisine highlights local harvests, sophisticated cooking techniques and modern presentations that change according to season.

“A seasonal menu ensures that all the products are at their prime and flavors at their peak,” he says. “It's also my way of paying homage to island traditions by always utilizing the most abundant offerings from both the *‘aina* and the ocean.”

## The Early Years

Vasquez was born and raised in Chicago. His parents hail from Pangasinan in the Philippines—his father is from Mangaldan and mother from Binmaley. He was introduced to cooking at a young age via the family's Chinese-Filipino catering business, but he credits his dad for teaching him how to cook. One of the first dishes he learned to make was braised chicken with mushrooms, leeks and thyme.



*For young people who want to pursue a culinary career, Vasquez advises them to start by working for free in a professional kitchen.*

staff, he joined Morimoto to battle contestants during the last two seasons of Iron Chef America and traveled the world to assist at prestigious culinary events, including Aspen's Food & Wine Classic.

“It is truly an honor and humbling to be with someone so talented and dedicated to creating dining experiences for his guests,” Vasquez says. “He (Morimoto) is a global figure who has restaurants all over the world. I learned how to adapt his cuisine to make sure the local market is represented as well. I also learned that the guests coming into the restaurant are the true judges that matter most.”

Vasquez returned to Banyan Tree in 2010, bringing with him his refined approach to cooking, which included notes of molecular gastronomy from his tours of Spain and France, a love of pan-Asian flavors and his de-

sire to further refine Hawaiian cuisine. In late 2012, he joined The Plantation House as executive chef.

## Further Inspiration

Ever wondered how chefs come up with new dishes and recipes? For most chefs, it's about trial and error. Sometimes ingredients and dishes come very easily, while other times, it can take days or weeks to get the ingredients just right. Chefs are perfectionists who will experiment in the kitchen for as long as it takes to make sure the ingredients, spices and dishes are absolutely perfect.

As for inspiration, it varies from chef to chef. One chef may get great ideas while taking long walks, while others are receptive to people and ideas around them. At times, the pressure of working in a highly-stressful kitchen produces the best creativity.

For Chef Vasquez, basically anything can trigger inspiration for him.

“It doesn't even have to

(continued on page 12)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

# Just Around the Corner



By Senator Will Espero

**W**hile it's a busy time for shoppers, we here at the State Legislature are gearing up for the 2013 session. Two new senators and 11 new representatives are getting settled. The first task is organizing—deciding who the leadership will be, what subject matter committees there will be, and who will be the chair, vice-chair and members of those committees.

The Senate has completed this task. To see who the legislators are, visit [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov) and click on "legislators." To see who is on which committees, click on "committees." The next task is

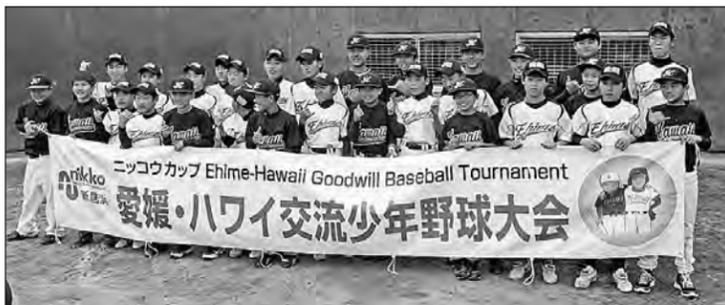
setting the schedule for the session—the period for introducing bills, deadlines for moving bills along, recess and adjournment.

I will again chair the Public Safety & Military Affairs Committee. I also sit on three committees—Transportation & International Affairs; Tourism & Government Operations; and Ways & Means.

**Please Drive Safely**



State Senators Espero and Mike Gabbard and State Rep. Karen Awana congratulated the winners of the student poster contest "Drive Safe 4 Ewa/Kapolei." The students' visual reminders of the necessity for safe driving are a poignant reminder for motorists



to drive sober.

**Ehime-Hawaii Goodwill Visit**

The 11th annual Ehime-Hawaii Goodwill tournament took place in Ehime Prefecture in November 2012. Three

Hawaii baseball teams, coaches, parents and government officials traveled to Japan for the memorial service, tournament and home stay. The goodwill games are alternately held in Hawaii or Ehime in honor of those whose

lives were lost in the 2001 incident off Diamond Head.

**PISCES Conference**

This year's PISCES conference, held at the Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, gave scientists and industry members the chance to share information on the latest in space exploration. Its theme was "Pioneering Planetary Surface Systems Technologies and Capabilities." The University of Alabama's robotics team won the NASA international robotics competition with their lunar explorer.

**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 7, ABERCROMBIE...)**

generate local jobs. Priority has been given to repair and maintenance projects for public and educational facilities and ongoing CIP projects. Other projects focus on health and safety, and court-mandated or statutory requirements. The requested CIP budget is approximately \$1.7 billion in fiscal year 2014 and \$906 million in fiscal year 2015 from all sources of funding, such as general obligation bonds and revenue bonds from self-funded enterprises.

More than two-thirds of the budget expansion over fiscal year 2013 are for items considered as non-discretionary costs. These include increasing costs for health and other post-employment benefits, debt service, Medicaid, pensions, risk management and workers compensation. Approximately 63 percent (\$278.5 million) for fiscal year 2014 and 70 percent (\$437.1 million) for fiscal year 2015 are for these non-discretionary expenditures.

However, the state's positive economic outlook and the

administration's fiscal prudence have afforded the opportunity to put into place several new initiatives for the benefit of the people of Hawaii while addressing fixed costs and long-term liabilities. The administration's commitment to investing in the people of Hawaii, growing a sustainable economy and making government more efficient and effective is reflected by investments in:

- Hawaii's keiki, including early learning and early childhood health;
- Preparing for the future through information technology transformation and providing a digital curriculum for students;
- Providing resources for kupuna care and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers;
- Improving the state's fiscal condition by providing modern and contemporary technology infrastructure that will give reporting transparency to the public and give government business managers the tools

necessary to make better informed analysis-based decisions;

- Sustainability and protecting the aina by maintaining Hawaii's watersheds and developing renewable energy resources to reduce reliance on fossil fuels;
- Stabilizing the state's financial structure addressing increasing long-term fixed costs such as unfunded or underfunded liabilities for public employee benefits.

"Our budget allows our state to make clear and deliberate steps in addressing unfunded liabilities that otherwise would continue to threaten our future fiscal solvency," says Kalbert Young, director of the state Department of Budget and Finance. "Rather than leaving unresolved long-term commitments for the next generation, we are fulfilling our responsibility to deal with them now."

The budget is available online at <http://hawaii.gov/budget>.

**FEATURE (from page 11, JOJO VASQUEZ...)**

be food-related," he says. "When I visited Chicago and saw the leaves falling, I was inspired by the colors and the smell of the fall season."

When asked why Filipino food has not been as widely accepted in mainstream culture as other ethnic foods, like Vietnamese, Korean and foods from other Asian countries, he says that more exposure is needed.

"If you ask people their favorite Filipino dish, it usually doesn't go past adobo or pancit," he says. "Our cuisine is very diverse from meats, fish to complex stews. The flavor profiles are deep from tamarind, patis to vinegars. If the general public was educated more to our cuisine, then it'd be up to the chefs to adapt flavor profiles for the

(continued on page 13)

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LEGAL NOTES

# Heavy Demand for EB-5 Investor Visa



By Reuben S. Seguritan

**D**ue to heavy demand, for the first time since the program began twenty years ago a cut-off date might have to be created for the employment-based fifth preference (EB-5) category. The backlog, if it does occur, will affect applicants from China and likely take effect next year. Currently, the EB-5 category is current and visa numbers are available to applicants from any country.

The Department of State made this announcement in the December 2012 visa bulletin and said that based on the current demand for EB-5 visa

numbers, a cut-off date might be necessary sometime during the second half of fiscal year 2013.

The EB-5 visa category allows foreign nationals who can make substantial investments to become permanent residents. There are two ways by which one can become an EB-5 investor. The first is through the regular program which requires the investor to make a \$1 million investment (\$500,000 in a rural or high unemployment area) in a new commercial enterprise which will create at least ten full-time jobs.

The second way is through the pilot program which permits investments in designated regional centers that will create at least ten jobs, directly or indirectly. There are more than 70 regional centers today and most of them require a \$500,000 investment. The re-

gional center program was recently extended until September 30, 2015.

The alien investor must file an I-526 petition along with supporting documents showing the investment in the enterprise or regional center and demonstrating that the funds came from a lawful source. Once that is approved, he can file for a conditional green card. The condition will be removed two years after the investor's admission as a conditional resident upon showing that the required number of jobs was created.

Congress allotted 10,000 visa numbers to EB-5 investors and 3,000 of those to investors in regional centers. Spouses and unmarried children under 21 are included in the count. But the program has drastically grown in popularity in recent years that a waiting line might be created next

year. For example, in 2006 the USCIS received less than five hundred I-526 petitions. In 2012, it received over 6,000 petitions.

Most of the demand comes from Chinese nationals. Since the worldwide demand under EB-5 is not enough to reach the quota, unused visa numbers fall across to China, which would have been an oversubscribed country if not for that method of visa allocation. If the worldwide demand for EB-5 visa numbers goes up and the quota is reached, then China would become oversubscribed and a waiting line would be created.

A waiting line means that investors whose priority dates are prior to the cut-off date would not be able to immigrate until an immigrant visa is immediately available. An investor who is in the U.S. must be careful not to lose

lawful status in order to be eligible for adjustment of status once a visa is available. Even if the investor has an approved I-526 petition, the investor cannot file for adjustment of status if a visa number is not yet available to him/her.

Right now, nationals of countries other than China can still look to the EB-5 visa as a viable option for permanent residence. In contrast with the family-based and other employment-based preferences where the delays range from several years to more than two decades, the EB-5 category with a total processing time of approximately one year is still one of the fastest routes to a green card.

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

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Noy: Remember the Essential Gifts

by Aurea Calica  
Sunday, Dec. 23, 2012

**M**ANILA, Philippines - President Aquino yesterday reminded Filipinos about the essential gifts that could not be wrapped this Christmas: God's everlasting love, selflessness, honesty and concern for others.

In his Christmas message, Aquino said Filipinos are known to have the longest



Christmas celebration in the world, with the excitement building up as early as September because of gifts given and received and feasts to be shared with the family.

"But Christmas' true meaning can't be boxed in gifts, in lavish banquets or colorful decorations. In the middle of our celebrations, let us remember the stories about Christmas," he said.

Aquino said Christmas was about the birth of Jesus to save humanity from sin, the strangers' opening of doors for Joseph and Mary, the parents of Jesus, so they could spend the night in a manger, the three kings who traveled a long way just to offer their gifts to the Holy Child and, most of all,

God's eternal love for His children.

The President said this season was an opportune time to be thankful for everything that the country had achieved with the cooperation of the people.

"In behalf of the whole government, I thank all Filipinos who contributed to the formation of a culture of honesty and deep concern for others," he said.

Because of extraordinary strides along the straight path, Aquino said Christmas has become more meaningful for Filipinos.

The President said the

people remain the strength of the government.

"It is clear: Every grain of success we harvest is from the hard work planted by the people. You, our bosses, made this happen," he said.

Aquino added that all these gains mirror the true meaning of Christmas: giving, humility and love for others.

"We have proven to the world over and over again: Christmas in the Philippines is unique because of our readiness to become the light to our fellowmen, not only during Christmas but in the everyday treading of the straight path," he said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

### FEATURE (from page 12, JOJO VASQUEZ...)

American public."

Vasquez's masterpiece—the one dish that has received rave reviews—is seared ahi with foie gras, marinated shiitake mushrooms and zinfandel gastrique. Other than the Plantation House Restaurant, Vasquez says chefs on Maui go to his house whenever they crave that dish or any of his other sumptuous dishes.

"I have a beautiful wife, a 7-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old son. They are my world outside work. We love hosting dinners and having

barbecues under the Maui sun," he says.

For young people who want to pursue a culinary career, Vasquez advises them to start by working for free in a professional kitchen.

"If cooking is your passion, then experience what it really takes to be a cook," he says. "Make it a goal and surround yourself with good people in the industry. If they feel your passion, they will be there to lift you up. And never quit because nothing worth having ever comes easy."

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WHAT'S COOKING?

# Monchong, Watercress, Green Beans, Tamarind-Coriander Broth

By Chef Jojo Vasquez



**Ingredients: (Serves 4)**

- Monchong filet or any fresh Hawaiian fish 4 pieces, 6 oz each
- Green beans 1 pound
- Watercress 1/2 pound

**TAMARIND- CORIANDER BROTH**

- Coriander seed 5 table spoons
- Onion, diced 1 pc
- Garlic, chopped 5 cloves
- Ginger, chopped 1 small piece
- Chili flake 1 tsp

- Patis* (Silver Swan) 2 table spoons
- Tamarind paste 2 table spoons
- Tomato paste 1 tea spoon
- Tomatoes, seeded and chopped 2 pc
- water 8 cups/ 2 quarts
- Salt and black pepper To taste
- Cilantro, bruised handful



*Procedure:*

In a pot on medium heat, toast coriander seeds until fragrant. Add 1 table spoon oil, onion, garlic and ginger then sautee until tender. Add chili flake and deglaze with patis until dry. Add tamarind paste and tomato paste and lightly toast for 1 minute to extract flavor.

Cover pot with the chopped tomatoes and water. Season with salt and pepper then bring to a boil. When you reach a boil, reduce to a simmer and bruise a bunch of cilantro with the back of your knife to release the aromatic scent. Add cilantro to simmering broth and cook for 15-20 minutes. Check seasoning, then add beans and cook until tender; about 8 minutes. Remove from heat.

Heat a saute pan, season fish with salt and pepper and sear on both sides for about 4 minutes each or until cooked thru. Arrange cooked fish in a large bowl and pour enough broth to cover fish. Add fresh watercress on top along with more cilantro and fresh tomatoes for garnish.

Serve family style with white rice and a San Miguel beer. Enjoy!

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**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

# Indian Firms to Hire 5,000 Workers in Phi

from [www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)  
 Tuesday, December 25, 2012

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Indian companies are keen on expanding operations in the Philippines and hiring around 5,000 Filipino workers in the information technology (IT) sector, Vice President Jejomar Binay said yesterday.

Binay, who met with executives of ESSAR group/AEGIS, HCL technologies Ltd., Syntel Inc., Infosys BPO Ltd., Tata Consultancy Services and Interglobe Technologies, earlier witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Business Process Outsourcing Association of the Philippines (BPOAP), the National Association of Software Services Company and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

He said that the government of

India is willing to extend relief assistance to Filipino families affected by typhoon "Pablo."

"The Indian ambassador to the Philippines manifested the Indian government's commitment to assist the victims of typhoon Pablo, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveyed their desire to provide relief to those who suffered in the calamity," said Binay, who just returned over the weekend from a short trip to India.

He also met with Myanmar President Thein Sein and the latter sought the assistance of the Philippines in agriculture development.

"Our Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) met with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on Dec. 20 at the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Commemorative summit," Binay said.

He said the meeting focused on revitalizing Philippines-Myanmar

business relations through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the PCCI and UMFCCI in the areas of agricultural development, particularly in rice technologies, bananas, and related areas.

Binay represented President Aquino at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and the 2nd ASEAN-India Business Fair and Conclave in New Delhi.

He said leaders of the ASEAN countries and India committed "to strengthen cooperation to ensure maritime security and freedom of navigation, and safety of sea lanes of communication for unfettered movement of trade in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS."

"Negotiations of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement in services and investments were also concluded in New Delhi just in time for the commemorative summit," Binay said.

**GLOBAL NEWS**

# Filipino Nurse Kidnapped in Yemen Released

**S**ANAA (Xinhua) -- Yemen's security services today set free a Filipino nurse two hours after she was kidnapped in the Yemeni capital, the official Saba news agency reported.

"The 20-year-old Filipino, who works with one of the Yemeni government hospitals, was released unharmed earlier Monday nearly two hours after she was kidnapped," Saba quoted a spokesman of Interior Ministry as saying.

The nurse was forced into a car by two gunmen late Sunday in Hadda Street in downtown Sanaa.

"The security services traced a

blue Suzuki Vitara on a highway in the southeast of Sanaa, captured the kidnappers and set the Filipino nurse free," the spokesman said.

The incident came less than two days after militants snatched two Finns and an Austrian in central Sanaa, just a few meters east of the Presidential Palace.

The Yemeni Interior Ministry has formed a crisis team to search for the three hostages.

"Security services are carrying out a large-scale search to locate the whereabouts of the kidnapped foreigners," Saba quoted Interior Minister Abdelqader Qahtan as saying as he met a Finnish diplomat Sunday who was dispatched to liaise with the

Yemeni authorities for the release of the abducted Finnish nationals.

The kidnapped Westerners are expected to appear in an online video in the next few weeks to deliver kidnappers' demands, said Yemeni security officials.

Foreigners were frequently kidnapped in the impoverished Arab state by al-Qaeda militants and tribesmen for ransoms or release of their jailed members. Most of the kidnapped were freed unharmed.

The Yemen-based al-Qaeda wing, the most active terrorist network in the Middle East, is still holding a Swiss woman and a Saudi diplomat captive for nearly one year. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

**COVER STORY** (from page 6, DANIEL ...)

them a better understanding and appreciation of their native culture," Li-ongson says.

Space limitations prevent me from going into further detail of the achievements of the departed senator. But I would like to add a personal note of immense gratitude to the senator as well, for introducing a "private bill" for me in the mid-1970s which enable me to resolve an immigration issue at the time when the Philippines was under a continuing dictatorship. He did not know me from a hole in the wall, but with ini-

tial assistance from the late U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink, who introduced me to the senator, I was able to solve my problem successfully, otherwise, my life could have taken a wrong turn. And this will always mean a lot to me. So thank you so much, senator. You were a life saver in more ways than one. I'm just one of the many thousands you had helped in your own wonderful way. How we will miss you so very much.

**Conclusion**

As indicated earlier, we can ex-

haust a lot of words and still not convey adequately enough the depth of feeling that the late senator has elicited from those he left behind. Such is the nature of legend.

To paraphrase President Barack Obama, "our country has lost a true American hero." Secretary of State Hillary Clinton describes the senator as "a tireless advocate for the disenfranchised, minorities and women throughout the country... who spent his life working for a brighter future and we are all better off because of it."

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U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka will miss his colleague and "brother" deeply. He says, "He (Sen. Inouye) leaves behind a list of accomplishments unlikely to be ever paralleled. Every child born in Hawaii will learn of Dan Inouye, a man who changed our islands forever."

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



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