

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ APRIL 20, 2013 ◆

FILIPINOS RALLY FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM



COVER STORY PAGE **4**



OPINION

WHY HI'S LEGISLATURE MUST PROTECT THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND JOURNALISM

3



CANDID PERSPECTIVES

FILIPINO LINCECUM BATTLING TO REGAIN STATUS AS ONE OF BASEBALL'S BEST

8



LEGAL NOTES

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP IS KEY TO GENUINE IMMIGRATION REFORM

13

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EDITORIALS

Immigration Reform Should Get Passed



What's really stopping immigration reform from getting done?

Both Republicans and Democrats agree on tougher border security.

Both parties agree on improving the current legal immigration system of expediting and expanding the issuance of green cards.

Both parties agree on better tracking of people here on visas, as well as implementing a more effective employment verification system to ensure that employers are not hiring undocumented workers.

Both parties are also on board with providing a pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States. A system that would require rigid and thorough background checks, a penalty payment and possible back taxes, aptitude for the English language, and placement to the back of the list behind those already awaiting legal citizenship.

It took more than 10 years of hardball debates, stalling, compromising and political jockeying to reach this point where both parties at least in policy have a general agreement of what immigration reform should look like.

Despite outward looking consensus on the major aspects of immigration reform by both parties, the latest excuse for moving forward is reaching agreement on the small details. But if that truly were the case, lawmakers need to be reminded of what they do every day of their political lives, making amendments to already existing laws.

What's really going on?

The truth is immigration reform could be passed and the little details could be worked out later through amendments. But there are non-policy reservations holding it up.

Republicans are still unclear on where they stand. The elitist, pro-business contingent of the GOP has always leaned on the side of expediting immigration reform because of the labor advantage immigrants provide to companies. The larger, rural, working class Republicans remain stuck in their old prejudices and fears that their culture and value system are quickly being replaced by those held by newer immigrants. So the less immigrants, the better in their perspective. Conservative Republicans are a mixed bag toward immigrants: they see newer immigrants as potential allies in promoting

(continued on page 3)

City is Right to Restore Bus Routes



On March 23rd, City officials restored two bus routes for riders on the Leeward coast and in town that were that were altered a year earlier by the previous mayoral administration in an effort to save some \$7 million in operating costs. Another six city bus routes on the windward side, along School Street, in East Honolulu, Wakiki and Manoa are scheduled to be restored, or partially restored in May.

The former mayor's decision to alter some 21 routes drew hundreds of complaints from bus riders who faced longer waits to catch overcrowded buses. Senior and disabled riders complained the loudest, saying that the changes made it more difficult for them to get to appointments, work, school and other destinations around town. In stepped Mayor Kirk Caldwell who vowed to restore the routes as part of his administration's top priorities. His plan will cost \$4.6 million but the cost is well worth it, considering the benefits that public transportation brings for the roughly 200,000 people who ride TheBus everyday on Oahu.

The bottom line is that public transportation in Hawaii is a crucial part of the solution to the state's economic, energy and envi-

FROM THE PUBLISHER



Our hearts and prayers go out to all of those affected by the horrific tragedy at the Boston Marathon earlier this week. We stand in full support with the U.S. president who vowed to the nation that any responsible individuals, any responsible groups, will feel the full weight of

justice. One can't help but wonder if a similar situation could happen here in our very own Honolulu, considered by many as the safest big city in America. We realize that the police can't be everywhere at all times, so let's do our part by calling 911 immediately if you observe any suspicious persons or activity.

In other news, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell signed a bill into law last week that bans smoking at several Oahu beach parks. The ban is enforceable for now only at Ala Moana Beach Park, which is City-owned. The City Council will need to pass another law to allow enforcement at State beach parks like Waikiki, Kapiolani and Sandy's. For the time being, HPD will educate beachgoers on the new law, which takes effect immediately. Fines are \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second and \$500 for subsequent violations.

Our cover story for this issue is about renewed efforts on the part of U.S. lawmakers, immigrant rights groups, minority advocates and other stakeholders to make comprehensive immigration reform a possibility. If passed, millions of immigrants living illegally in the U.S. could earn a chance at citizenship under a proposal by an eight-member bipartisan group in the Senate. It is hoped that the proposal would solve the problem of illegal immigration and at the same time clear a backlog of millions of foreigners who are trying to enter the country through legal channels. If immigration reform is approved, the long wait could soon be over for those Filipinos who have waited decades to petition their relatives in the Philippines. To find out more on this very important issue for Filipino-Americans, please turn to our cover story on page 4 entitled "A Renewed Call For Comprehensive Immigration Reform." For additional information on immigration reform, please turn to our Legal Notes column on page 13. The column is written by Reuben S. Seguritan, a well-respected immigration attorney based in New York City.

This issue also marks a new column "Candid Perspectives" by Emil Guillermo—a well-known print and broadcast journalist, commentator and humorist. Emil's work has been featured on radio and television and in newspapers in the U.S. and Asia. For his first article (see page 8), he introduces us to major league baseball player Tim Lincecum who pitches for the San Francisco Giants. Lincecum is a two time Cy Young Award winner, a four-time All-Star and a two-time World Series champion. Incidentally, Lincecum is half-Filipino on his mother's side. Best wishes to Tim for yet another successful season and welcome aboard, Emil!

In closing, we hope that you will take time to browse through this issue and read the many informative articles and columns that we have provided. As always, if you would like to share a story idea, suggestion or concern, please send it to our staff at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Until next time... aloha and mabuhay!

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

ronmental challenges—and helps to bring a better quality of life. Riding TheBus enhances personal opportunities, saves fuel, reduces traffic congestion, provides economic opportunities, saves money, reduces gasoline consumption and reduces the carbon footprint. And with one-way adult fares at \$2.50 as well as discounts for seniors, military and children, TheBus is one of the most affordable ways to get around Oahu.

Government is often criticized for unwise decisions, but this time around, City officials got it right. Kudos to the mayor for making good on his campaign promise to restore bus service. He displayed the hands-on leadership that was sorely needed to resolve numerous complaints from the bus riding public.



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MEMBER, SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

OPINION

Why Hawaii's Legislature Must Protect the First Amendment and Journalism

By Danny de Gracia

Playwright Edward Bulwer-Lytton famously wrote "Beneath the rule of men entirely great the pen is mightier than the sword."

Today those words ring especially true as the proliferation of communications technology and access to the Internet have enabled people the world over to be more informed and connected than ever before in human history. Traditional geographic borders and national identity are no longer absolute in the 21st century as a single article, blog post or status update on Facebook can go farther, faster and to more people in less time than even a jet airplane.

Just three years ago the Arab Spring which changed the political landscape of Northern Africa and the Middle East began not with the shots of rifles but with status updates on Facebook and Twitter that expanded into continent-wide regime change. We now live in a world where a single journalist with a camera-equipped cell phone or a blogger with a laptop and Internet access can lit-

erally transform the world. It is not surprising therefore that governments and traditional brick-and-mortar style news organizations with roots in 20th century or earlier feel severely threatened by the new forms of media and independent "social" journalism.

Hawaii set an example for the world to follow when in 2008 it enacted special protections which allow a journalist to keep confidential the identity of their news sources and reporting research. Termed "the Shield Law" this was a small yet important step towards fostering a new era of openness and transparency to coincide with our rapidly evolving information age. The law was limited and by no means perfect, but it was an important start towards a more crystalline and free future.

As any journalist will tell you, the ability to boldly report and editorialize without fear of recrimination or censorship is not only critical to the profession but essential to a free society. In the past, whistleblowers such as Daniel Ellsberg or Jeffrey Wigand who saw corruption and approached the media suffered immensely for "leaking" information to the press,

yet their sacrificial actions revealed truths that otherwise would never have been exposed to the public.

Today, the advances in communications technology make the potential impacts of whistleblowing far more effective in reform yet the protections afforded both to journalists and their sources are minimal and far behind the information curve. While we have the power to change the world, we are under constant threat to remain silent and to legal pressure ignore "hot" stories, lest we be sued or worse. In fact, being a journalist today – whether "traditional" in working for a major news organization or "new media" in being a blogger or independent reporter – is more risky and dangerous than it has ever been in our nation's history. Thanks to the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), domestic journalists can be indefinitely detained without trial and "interrogated" by their government to reveal confidential sources on the mere whim that their reporting may compromise "national security" though they are not permitted to see their accusers or stand trial by jury to appeal the accusation. The

potential political abuses of this power to suppress journalism is chilling.

Furthermore, President Obama's ongoing use of extrajudicial drone strikes on U.S. citizens abroad such as the 16-year old Denver, Colorado-born Abdulrahman al-Awlaki also stirred concerns in Washington earlier this year that the ongoing war on terror might permit the president to target journalists suspected of being in contact with "terrorists." In February, The New Yorker ran an article entitled "Can A President Use Drones Against Journalists?" warning that the existing laws supporting the war on terror could be broadly applied to allow warrantless surveillance, even assassination of journalists. All of this should serve as a wake up call to Americans both of the power of the pen and the potential of government to utilize its tools to suppress it.

What does all of this mean for us here in Hawaii? It means that the Hawaii State Senate is on the wrong side of freedom and history if it thinks that protecting journalism and news should only cover "traditional" news organizations. The political and media establishment may not like it, but the truth of the matter is in a free society anyone who seeks to report and cover the news is a journalist and should enjoy the full freedoms of speech without fear of

punishment.

I think it's fair to say that in a free country - unlike dictatorships abroad - journalists should not enter the profession worried about being imprisoned or martyred by their own government in the exercise of their First Amendment.

The State Legislature made a significant lapse of judgment when it decided to advance a bill which codified what it considers to be a "legitimate" reporter. It is important to remember that the news media serves to protect the public as a watchdog against tyranny. But as seen all throughout history, when the iron curtain of tyranny falls the only "legitimate" news is "government approved news." We should learn from that historical example and flow with the tide of history and freedom, not against it. If the State Legislature wants to promote freedom, it must not stand in the way of our technological and cultural revolution.

A legitimate journalist is not defined by the politicians that approve of his words. A true journalist is one who speaks the truth, and if our government would only step out of the way, we will speak the truth.

DANNY DE GRACIA is a political scientist, a former senior committee adviser to the Hawaii State Legislature (2005-2010) and a national columnist.

EDITORIALS (from page 2, IMMIGRATION...)

pro-family values; but newer immigrants are mostly non-protestant and Catholic. This doesn't neatly fall into the majority fold, so like their rural, working class Republicans, conservative members of the GOP would like to keep this group of newer immigrants of Hispanics and Asians low in numbers.

The turning point for the Republican party and the primary reason why immigration reform might have a realistic chance at passing this time around has to do with the reelection of President Obama. When the president was first elected, the results showed that Hispanics and Asians were the difference makers in the election with their overwhelming support for Obama. Along with women and Blacks, these two newer groups of ethnics and pro-immigration reform supporters, confirmed

through Obama's re-election that Democrats may finally have the numbers to possibly win yet another streak of presidential elections, especially given the way the electoral college system is set up. A tipping point demographically now favors Democrats; and Republicans are all too aware of the need to make some inroads in these communities in either turning them into Republicans, or at least, have them not be passionately against them. One or both of these goals are realistically achievable considering Hispanics' strong family values and Asians' strong pro-business stance. The policy just to make this happen could very well be the passage of immigration reform.

While Republicans are largely to blame for stalling immigration reform, Democrats also have concerns on the issue

whether they'd like to admit it or not. Most prominent among them is the impact newer immigrants-turned citizens could have on an already heavy-laden social services system.

Passed Old Arguments

The good news about immigration reform is most Americans are no longer arguing moot points. A majority of Americans now support a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants already living in the U.S. Hard-core stance emphasizing deportation is simply accepted as unrealistic, impossible in the way of cost (estimated at \$288 billion for complete deportation proceedings of that many people), and impossible in the way of enforcement, unless as former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney suggested, millions of undocu-

(continued on page 7)



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COVER STORY

A Renewed Call For Comprehensive Immigration Reform

By HFC Staff

Of all the major issues facing the country, immigration is notoriously complex and difficult. It involves views on highly-emotional concepts such as fairness, opportunity and concerns about national identity and culture.

For years, immigration rights groups have implored Congress to pass immigration reform with a real and inclusive path to citizenship for the roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. Lawmakers have tried unsuccessfully to draft comprehensive immigration reform. They came close in the Senate in 2007, but the deal collapsed amid interest group bickering and public backlash.

During the first few months of 2013, demand for immigration reform has once again resurfaced. Supporters are seeing a window of opportunity and the prospects for real and new conversation on immigration reform. The window albeit is small and could close, given the other priorities facing Congress for 2013, including government spending, the national debt, gun control and other issues.

That hasn't stopped tens of thousands of immigrants and

activists from holding rallies across the U.S. last week in hopes of pushing Congress to support immigration reform measures. Groups like Anakbayan-New Jersey, which represent a wide range of Filipino, Latino and other ethnic communities. Demonstrations took place in at least 18 states and in Washington, D.C.

"We demand a realistic path to legalization for all migrants, just and fair working conditions, equal access to education regardless of immigration status, and an end to criminalization and illegalization of immigrants," says Bea Sabino, chairperson of Anakbayan-New Jersey. The group aims to build unity among Filipino youth, whether immigrant or born and raised in the U.S.

Local Immigration Concerns

For several members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, immigration reform is

high on their list of priorities. One member, U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, sponsored

a recent comprehensive immigration reform forum attended by the Hawaii Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Catholic Charities Hawaii and Faith Action for Community Equity.

Gabbard says that reforming the immigration system is crucial for Hawaii's families, small businesses and the local economy. According to an economic analysis firm The Perryman Group, Hawaii would lose \$2 billion in economic activity, \$900 million in gross state product and about 8,460 jobs if all unauthorized immigrants in the state were removed.

"It hurts our economy when small businesses face unnecessary draconian audits and automatic categorization as fraudulent entities simply due to their size," she says. "We must address the unique immigration issues in Hawaii as part of the national reform legislation in order to reunite families and grow our local economy."

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono also hosted a recent roundtable discussion with some 20 community leaders about how comprehensive immigration reform could impact Hawaii. Attendees included immigration law specialists, children's advocates, philanthropic organizations and immigration justice activists. They spoke of their own daily experiences dealing with the immigration system and discussed ways immigration reform could make their jobs easier.

"After listening to these local immigration experts, I was struck by their stories of how central families are to an immigrant's success," Hirono

says. "These professionals and activists serve on the front lines of the issue in Hawaii, helping immigrants wade through the bureaucratic red tape and see firsthand the challenges our immigration system poses for families."

Robert Egan, a Honolulu immigration attorney, says that such a meeting has been long-overdue.

"What I thought was so great is how many different voices from the community were in attendance—people from Micronesia, people with medical issues related to immigration and the immigration services community," Egan says. "It was great to get so many voices around the table and have a free interchange."

Support from Obama

Since winning re-election in 2012, President Barack Obama has made it clear that immigration reform is a top priority for his second term and something he wants to see quick action on.

"We've got to fix the system and make sure that every business and every worker in America is playing by the same set of rules," Obama said during a speech in Las Vegas, Nevada. "We have to bring this shadow economy into the light so that everybody is held accountable. That's why we need comprehensive immigration reform."

The president is committed to comprehensively fixing the broken immigration system through common sense reforms so everyone plays by the same rules. These measures include:

- Continuing to strengthen border security
- Cracking down on employers hiring undocumented workers
- Earned citizenship
- Streamlining legal immigration

As for the 11 million undocumented immigrants, Obama says it's just not practical to deport them. He has proposed providing undocumented immigrants a legal way to earn citizenship that will encourage them to "come out of the shadows."

An estimated 300,000 overstaying Filipinos out of the 11 million undocumented immigrants could be eligible for green cards under the proposed reforms.

They would have to pass national security and criminal background checks, pay taxes and learn English before they can earn their citizenship. The proposal will also stop punishing innocent young people who were brought to the country through their parents and give them a chance to earn their citizenship more quickly if they serve in the military or pursue higher education.

A Filipino-American group called KAYA (Filipino Americans for Progress) commended the president for renewed efforts to fix the nation's immigration problems. The group is dedicated to building partnerships that increase Filipino-American electoral representation, advocating for policies that benefit the Fil-Am community, and promote and developing progressive leaders to represent the

(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, **A RENEWED...**)

Fil-Am community at every level of government.

“Of particular interest to the Filipino-American community is ensuring that earned citizenship is available for DREAMers, decreasing the backlog in the family-sponsored immigration system, especially for Filipino World War II veterans, and promoting immigrant integration in the community,” KAYA officials said in a press statement.

Officials with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) say meaningful immigration reform should strengthen family reunification, provide a clear path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and protect the rights of all workers.

“Comprehensive immigration reform should seek to close the gap between the rights of U.S.-born Americans and immigrant Americans,” says Margaret Fung, AALDEF executive director. “Our immigration laws should adhere to basic human rights standards. Fair treatment of undocumented immigrants, including a path to citizenship, should not be conditional on stricter enforcement measures.”

Gang of Eight

As of press time, the “Gang of Eight”—four senators from each party—is expected to release the 2013 immigration reform bill early this week. The bipartisan group includes Republicans John McCain from Arizona; Lindsey Graham of South Carolina; Jeff Flake from Arizona; and Marco Rubio from Florida. Democrats include Michael Bennet from Colorado; Dick Durbin from Illinois; Chuck Schumer from New York; and Robert Menendez from New Jersey.

Under the Gang of Eight’s proposal, undocumented immigrants will be required to pass a rigorous background check, pay back taxes, as well as any outstanding fines and other application fees in order to get a work permit. They won’t be immediately eligible for federal benefits. After 10 years, they will be afforded the chance to apply for permanent residency.

In exchange for providing

a path to citizenship for the undocumented, lawmakers will be implementing some of the toughest enforcement measures in the history of this country. There will also be measures to better secure the border, track illegal immigrants in and out of the U.S., and improve the employee-verification system, known as E-Verify.

Observers say that the new development marks a big step forward in getting a deal brokered that would bring about comprehensive immigration reform, and that the Senate group’s plan falls largely in line with President Obama’s proposal on immigration which calls for a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants residing in the U.S.

Suggestions for Immigration Reform

New York City-based immigration attorney Reuben S. Seguritan supports pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers and calls it a fair and humane step, given the fact that they are already contributing to the U.S. economy. He says that U.S. workers are impacted by the non-competitive salaries being given to undocumented workers by some U.S. employers.

“This scenario will be avoided if undocumented immigrants are given the chance to come out of the shadows and become productive members of society. The government will without doubt be able to generate large revenues from payment of taxes.

According to Seguritan, the process for acquiring legal status and ultimately citizenship should not be unduly restrictive or expensive, but reasonable and with no penalties. He says comprehensive reform should:

- Increase the annual quota for both family-based and employment-based visa categories;
- Reclassify spouse and children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives;
- Raise the per country caps from 7 percent to a minimum of 12 percent
- Exempt children of Fil-



ipino World War II veterans from the numerical caps;

- Raise the age from 18 to 25 for children to benefit from their parents’ visa petitions;
- Allow for the sponsorship of same-sex partners;
- Create a temporary visa category for domestic workers;
- Provide a minimum of 50,000 immigrant visas annually for medical doctors, nurses and therapists and abolishing the Visa Screen requirement;
- Providing for a workable pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants present in the U.S. as of the date of the passage of the immigration reform bill.

Petitioning Family Members

Many immigration advocates have lobbied for faster family petitions for Filipinos who wait an average of 20 or more years before relatives can arrive. The problem has resulted in a severe backlog in the issuances of immigrant visas.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina has proposed limiting the number of

family-based petitions and instead issue more job-based visas. At present, far more people in the U.S. gain legal status through family connections than through employment. In 2012, those who became legal permanent residents 66 percent used family-based petitions, while 14 percent used petitions based on employment.

“Green cards are economic engines for the country,” Graham told the Associated Press. “This is not a family court we’re dealing with here. We’re dealing about an economic need.”

Many immigrant rights groups say that redefining who can come to the U.S. on a family based visa petition would

tear many immigrant families apart. Attorney Seguritan criticizes Sen. Graham’s proposal and says that limiting the number of family-based visas and/or eliminating the categories for adult children and siblings will undermine the foundation of the immigration system.

“This proposal is contrary to American values and is against the basic precepts of family unity and reunification which our current immigration laws seek to promote,” he says. “Even from an economic standpoint, the proposal does not make much sense. Immigrant workers are more productive if they have the support network of their extended families.”

To help reduce the backlog, Seguritan says that the government should increase visa numbers, eliminate the per country limits and not count derivative beneficiaries against the annual cap.

“Today, the children and spouse of the principal benefi-

(continued on page 8)

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Veterans Group to Host Fundraiser for Homeless

The U.S. Veterans Initiative's (U.S. VETS) program at the Waianae Civic Center will host the 4th Annual Hana Like Kakou (Many Hands Working Together) fundraising dinner on Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 6 pm to 10 pm at the Pacific Beach Hotel. The event will benefit local homeless individuals, couples and family households, both veteran and

non-veteran.

State Sen. Brickwood Galuteria will be the keynote speaker. The event will feature master of ceremonies Captain Paul Stewart from FM 107.9's Cool Radio, a color guard, honor table, national anthem and Hawaii Pono'i sung by Ginai, musical stylings by Tihati Productions, client success stories and a silent auction featuring items by local artisans.



Organizers are inviting the public to participate in the fundraiser via corporate table

sponsorship, monetary gifts or items for the silent auction, or by sponsoring a table for veter-

ans. Donors' names will be listed on the commemorative program and on the U.S.VETS-Waianae's website.

The U.S. VETS is a non-profit organization committed to the successful transition of military veterans and their families through the provision of housing, counseling, career development and comprehensive support.

For more details on the fundraiser, please contact Rita Martin at 664-1400

Filipino Youth Encouraged to Apply for Leadership Program

If you are between the ages of 18 and 40 and have a keen interest in the future of the Philippines and the Filipino-American community in the U.S., the Philippine Consulate of Honolulu is encouraging you to apply for the Second Filipino American Youth Leadership Program (FYLPro).

Those who are chosen will serve as delegates in an immersion program in the Philippines from July 7-9, 2013 and will also participate in the 8th Ambassadors, Consuls Gen-



eral & Tourism Directors Tour from July 9-11, 2013. They are also expected to commit their time, skills and resources to engage in ways that would advance the causes and interests of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans.

The Second FYLPro will

provide delegates opportunities to meet with the highest officials and policymakers in the Philippines, leaders of industry, legislators, media, artists and cultural experts, entrepreneurs and innovators in selected fields.

"We hope to attract more young Filipino-American leaders who will be among the movers and shakers of the emerging generation," says Julius D. Torres, Consul General to Honolulu. "Their involvement is expected to further add vibrancy and dynamism to the development of the Philippines and the Fil-

ipino-American community in the U.S."

The Second FYLPro aims to build on the success of the inaugural program, which was held July 13-16, 2012 in the Philippines. Organizers say the event yielded a remarkable batch of young Filipino-Americans who continue to work on different advocacies to promote further progress in the Philippines and to further engage the multi-faceted Filipino-American community.

"The first batch of delegates have gone on to undertake political advocacy initiatives, cultural and tourism promotion programs,

social entrepreneurship activities, education innovations, Filipino-American heritage projects, voter awareness and education and even launched political campaigns of their own," says Torres.

Applications are available online at: <http://www.philippineembassy-usa.org/uploads/pdfs/embassy/2013/2013-0315-FYLPro.docx>. The deadline for submission is April 30, 2013. Please call the Consulate at 595-6316 for further details.

Chosen delegates will be announced by the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. on May 15, 2013.

Philippine Consulate Issues Reminders for Registered Voters

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu is reminding overseas absentee voters and especially those who have not voted in the past two Philippine elections that the deadline to submit their Manifestation of Intent to Vote in the 2013 Philippine national elections has been extended to May 13, 2013.

Registered voters in Hawaii, American Samoa and French must appear in person at the Consulate to sign the required forms.

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has begun mailing electoral packets containing ballots for the Philippine elections. However, some packets have been deemed un-

deliverable and returned by the U.S. Postal Service. The packets may be claimed at the Consulate from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

As of March 19, the following undeliverable packets were addressed to:

- Edna Longboy Agpaoa
- Nelson Correo Agustin
- Camilo Grande Alob



- Arnold Reginaldo Asuncion
- Rodolfo Palepec Barcena
- Wilfred Evera Califlores
- Siduro Palalay Caoang
- Irene Ruth Agustin Cumlat
- Krishha Vidania De Guzman
- Fernando Gaballo De Ocampo
- Paul Patrick Divina
- Dexter Cardona Fernandez
- Rogelio Domingo Garcia
- Charmaine Madamca
- Rommel Minerales Manuel
- Sally Liberato Patoc
- Gloria Tomas Resurrecion
- Arnel Bundang Severo

- Benjamin De Los Santos Tamayo
- Quirino Domingo Tumamao

A valid passport or ID card with photo will be required to claim the packets. Voters must cast their ballots by mailing or dropping them off at the Consulate no later than May 13, 2013 by 7 pm.

Those who have not received their ballots by April 15, 2013 are advised to contact the Consulate at 595-6316.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Adulteress Deported



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

There remain a few countries in the world (like the Philippines) living in the shadow of the Old Testament which still make adultery a crime. Most, if not all, of the states no longer make adultery a crime. Adultery is not specified as a ground for deportation. Nevertheless, many immigration adjudicators still regard adultery as evil and will find ways to deport aliens or deny benefits to aliens who indulge in it without specifying it as the ground for deportation.

Take the case of Beltsy, decided last week by the Court of Appeals, First Circuit, involving an alien, who married Lemuel, a U.S. citizen. He filed a visa petition for her which was approved. She filed an application for adjustment of status which was likewise approved. She

was given a 2-year conditional resident status. Before the 2 year period expired, she filed a petition to remove the condition of her residency and requested waiver of the requirement that her husband co-sign the petition because they had begun divorce proceedings. The petition was denied. She filed a second petition which was also denied because her divorce had not been finalized. She filed a third petition claiming that her marriage was in good faith but that she and her husband had separated. She claimed that her husband had confessed to her that he was attracted to other men. Alanarud.

During the interview, she admitted having given birth to a child while the couple was still married but that her husband was not the child's father. While the petition was pending she remarried. DHS denied her petition to remove conditions on her residency because of lack of convincing documentary evidence that the first marriage was bona fide, i.e. that it was not entered into for the sole purpose of procuring her admission as an immi-

grant. DHS placed her in removal proceedings because her conditional resident status had been terminated and she had no continuing authorization to remain in the U.S. 8 USC § 1227(a)(1)(D)(i). Before the I.J., Beltsy pursued her petition for removal of the conditions on her residency under 8 USC § 1186a(b)(2) and also filed an application for cancellation of removal under 8 USC § 1229b(b)(1). While her removal proceedings were pending, her second husband filed a visa petition on her behalf.

The IJ found Beltsy removable as charged and denied her request for relief. The IJ noted several discrepancies in her testimony before the DHS and the court regarding her employment and residence history and that there were no contemporaneous documents regarding her cohabitation. The IJ concluded that she had not met the burden of establishing that her first marriage was entered into in good faith. The IJ also denied Beltsy's application for cancellation of removal because she gave false information to immigration

authorities and to the immigration court, and therefore could not establish good moral character under 8 USC § 1101(f) (6) for purposes of cancellation of removal. The BIA affirmed. The Court of Appeals likewise affirmed, finding that substantial evidence supported the BIA's decision. The court noted the birth of a child to Beltsy prior to her divorce from her first husband, but emphasized that it was "undisputed that the child was not born 'to the marriage'". *Reynoso v. Holder*, No. 11-2136, 03/26/13, CA1.

OBSERVATION: A Filipina was petitioned by her husband. At the time of her interview, she was carrying a baby. The consul asked when the baby was born. She gave a date. The consul asked when was the last time that her husband visited her. She gave a

date which was more than one year before the baby was born. The consul asked if the baby was her husband's child. She said yes. The consul said she was lying because the husband could not have fathered the child if they had not seen each other for more than one year prior to the baby's birth. The consul denied her a visa on the ground that she did not have a good faith marriage.

(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. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270, AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.iluko.com.

EDITORIALS (from page 3, IMMIGRATION...)

mented suddenly were to volunteer to be deported.

There is also progress in public perception and attitude towards newer immigrants, even undocumented ones. Most people realize the contributions they are making in our communities and economy. From Silicon Valley to the farming fields of the Midwest and Northwest U.S., these new working immigrants are making a difference. Half of all tech startups in Silicon Valley had a foreign-born founder. A majority of large and small farmers rely on many undocumented workers to keep their businesses afloat. The same is said of many small businesses owned by immigrants in major cities.

A pathway to citizenship for the undocumented would also mean more taxes collected, more contributions to Social Security and Medicare. This would ease the toll on helping to pay for the

baby boomer generation's benefits. Currently, it is taking five workers to pay for one American retiree. That number is expected to be three-to-one by 2050. The addition of more workers in the system from the undocumented millions would help the solvency of Social Security and Medicare.

The Last Mile

With policy almost agreed upon, what remains in getting immigration reform passed is good old fashioned public relations. Republicans will do what it takes in stalling until a satisfactory perception of bipartisanship is in place, and that their party had as much to do with passing immigration reform as Democrats, particularly the parts on strengthening border security and making it as difficult as possible for the undocumented to become citizens.

President Obama will play along, and actually has been extremely tough on border security and deportation. Deportations have been up since Obama took office, but shifted to the deportation of criminal aliens, not law-abiding families. Illegal crossings along the Mexican-U.S. border has reached its lowest level in 40 years.

At some point during this last leg of public relations, the President must do a final push for the passage of immigration reform. He owes it to Americans who voted for him specifically for his position on reforming immigration laws, the Hispanic and Asian communities, the business and labor communities calling for it, human rights groups, the Catholic Church's leadership in America, and even to his own party the Democrats who are banking on future election success with the support of these same groups.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Filipino Lincecum Battling to Regain Status As One of Baseball's Best

On honor of April, the start of baseball season, it's fitting to stray from the serious matters of the day to focus on a game that, among other things, helped Americanize my immigrant father from Ilocos Norte.

My dad was around to see the first Filipino in the Major Leagues. Former Hawaii Islander player Bobby Balcena, played briefly in 1956 for the Cincinnati Reds. Balcena scored twice, but not much else. At least, he made it to the "beegs." Since then, Filipino ballplayers have been a bit like unicorns, not seen often, but at times magical. Forty-two years later, the pride of St. Louis High, Benny Agbayani, certainly had some

special moments wearing No.50 for the New York Mets.

But my dad, as many baseball loving Filipinos do, would have adored the San Francisco Giants' Tim Lincecum.

Lincecum, half-Filipino on his mother's side, is baseball player enough to have amassed quite a resume: NL Cy Young winner (2008, 2009) and four-time NL All-Star. He's just the third pitcher since 1893 to reach 1,300 strikeouts in six seasons.

And of course he has two World Series rings with the Giants in 2010 and 2012.

But Lincecum watchers know something is not right with Timmy of late.

On a recent start on April 9, Lincecum had no idea he was pitching on a day known as U.S./Filipino WWII history as Bataan Valor Day—the day the U.S. surrendered Bataan to the Japanese, leading to the in-

famous death march.

That coincidence of history aside, Lincecum and the Giants could have easily given up with the Rockies ahead by 4. Instead, Lincecum settled in after a disastrous five-run second, and the Giants offense came alive to stun the Rockies 9-6.

Still, it was another rocky start for Lincecum. A "doozy" as Lincecum put it.

Starting his 7th season, with 191 career appearances, Lincecum is no longer the Giants' brightest star.

While still a fan favorite—especially among Filipino Americans—he has become the question mark, going from staff act to posting a 5.18 ERA, the highest among all NL pitchers last year.

Certainly it's not the Filipino half, but the other half that's the issue, right?

Whatever it is could effect his bank account. Lincecum

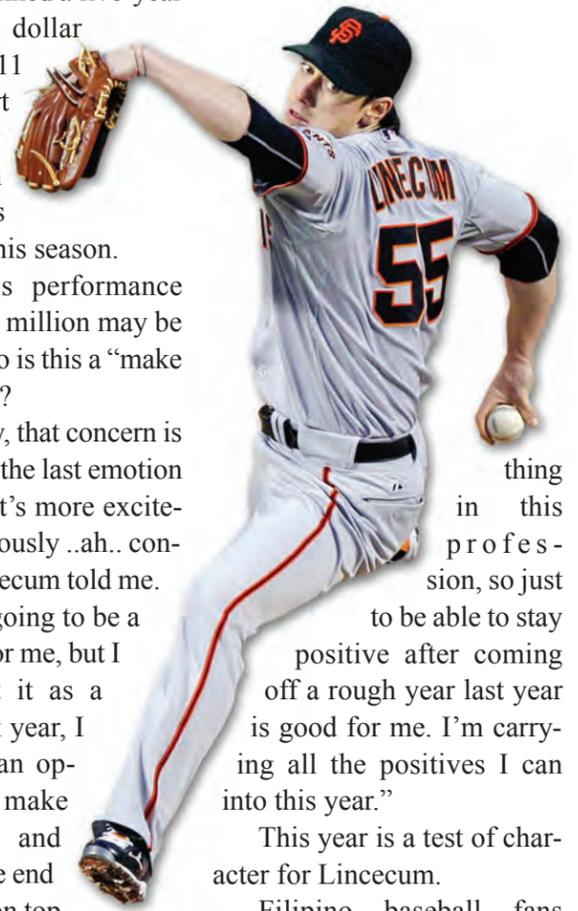
reportedly shunned a five-year \$100 million dollar deal after 2011 to take a short term, two-year \$40.5 million deal that ends at the end of this season.

Unless his performance improves, \$20 million may be out of reach. So is this a "make or break" year?

"Not really, that concern is the last worry, the last emotion on my mind, it's more excitement and obviously...ah.. conviction," Lincecum told me.

"This year is going to be a big, big year for me, but I don't look at it as a make or break year, I look at it as an opportunity to make myself better and come out at the end of the season on top.

"You never want to take a negative approach to anything in baseball or any-



thing in this profession, so just to be able to stay positive after coming off a rough year last year is good for me. I'm carrying all the positives I can into this year."

This year is a test of character for Lincecum.

Filipino baseball fans everywhere will be watching.

Twitter @emilamok, @linceblog

COVER STORY (from page 5, A RENEWED...)

ciary of a visa petition are counted against the annual quota thereby rapidly using up the already limited visa numbers available. If they are not counted against the numerical limitation, more visa numbers will be available per year and this will reduce if not eliminate the backlogs," Seguritan says.

In 1989, Oahu resident Arnold Villafuerte petitioned his brother who lived in Ilocos Norte. He waited a total of 23 years. The long wait meant that a good portion of his brother's productive working years that make immigration a good investment had passed. There were also telephone bills and other expenses involved in

maintaining long distance family ties.

"It was so frustrating not having heard from the National Visa Center for two decades," he says. "We also questioned the accuracy of the information provided every time we called for answers."

Villafuerte says that the government needs more funds for additional staffing of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) immigrant petition processing centers and visa processors at State Department consular offices, which would help to reduce the backlog.

New Jersey resident, Mariasol Madla petitioned for her

brothers and sisters in 1990 and endured a frustratingly long wait. She insists that the wait should be shortened to no longer than 10 years, instead of the maximum 20-25 years.

"When things go wrong and you need help, you want your family to be here for support," she says. "What happens if the parents who petitioned their kids died? The opportunity for these kids and their hopes and dreams to be reunited with their families is also lost."

Ending Unjust Deportation

The passage of SB 1070 in the state of Arizona in 2010 spurred huge rallies across the country. The law required anyone who looked like he or she could potentially be an undocumented immigrant (i.e. anyone who was not white) to produce papers to law enforcement at any time and for any reason.

The law galvanized the Filipino-American groups and created a new wave of alliance among immigrant rights groups. Filipino-American

groups partnering with Latino groups when realizing that they share much of the same issues. Filipino youth activist groups across the country began mobilizing around SB 1070, sending delegations to Arizona to march alongside Latino groups, organizing rallies against similar bills in other states, linking up with immigrant rights groups abroad, and forming alliances across ethnic lines in their neighborhoods.

Many immigrant rights groups have called on the government to end unjust detention and deportation of immigrants and refugees, including legal permanent residents, who are separated from their families and removed for minor infractions. Many of these immigrants are young people who are being repatriated to countries that they never knew.

One of the lucky ones is Oahu resident Gabriela Andrade, who was recently granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status—a new policy by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) which allows

certain young immigrants who do not have lawful immigration status and who came to the U.S. as children, to remain in the U.S. temporarily without fear of deportation.

"It was a major milestone on my journey towards acceptance as an American," she says. "It allowed me to get a driver's license and a work permit, but most importantly empowered me to speak out about my status without fear of deportation and to take an active role in the fight for immigrant rights."

For every success story like Andrade's, there are many others who end up on the short end, prompting lawmakers like U.S. Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada to say that fixing our nation's broken immigration system should be done with "our heads and hearts."

"Our broken system tears families apart every day; it leaves our country vulnerable and it is not good for our economy. I will continue working closely with the community to get this bill over the finish line," he says.

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PICTORIAL NEWS



U.S., Philippine Officials Observe Araw Ng Kagitingan

by Carlota Hufana Ader

Dozens of political leaders, dignitaries, veterans and invited guests were on-hand for the 71st Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor). Held on April 9, 2013 at Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific, the memorial ceremony honors Filipino and American veterans of World War II.

In attendance were Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Consul General Julius Torres, Philippine Undersecretary Edilberto P. Adan, Lt. Gen. Thomas Conant, U.S. Pacific Air Forces Commanding Gen. Herbert Carlisle, members of the State Legislature and staff presenting members of Hawaii's congressional delegation. Dr. Belinda Aquino, the Chronicle's very own contributing writer, represented U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa and delivered her message during the event.

Gov. Abercrombie says that the courage of Filipino-American veterans of World War II was second-to-none.

"We thank them for their sacrifice and their valor will forever be remembered. Filipinos have been a vital part of Hawaii, helping mold it into the great state it is today," he said.

Philippine Undersecretary Adan, who is also a retired Lt. Gen. of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, delivered the keynote address. He thanked the Filipino veterans for their courage, dedication to duty and selfless service.

Memorial wreaths were later laid in honor of the fallen soldiers of WWII. The ceremony was organized by the Philippine Consulate General in coordination with the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii and with the U.S. Pacific Command providing all the military components of the celebration.





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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

**Hirono, Gabbard Respond to
 Obama's Proposed Budget**

President Obama has proposed a \$3.77 trillion budget for 2014 that would cut deficits by \$1.8 trillion over the next decade. The president's proposed budget offers changes to Medicare and Social Security and includes tax increases that would primarily hit high-income households and corporations. The plan also calls for greater spending on infrastructure, early childhood education and non-defense research.

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono says the president's budget contains a number of provisions that would create sustainable economic growth and jobs, including \$250 million for Honolulu's rail project, expanding access to early childhood education, increased funds for military construction projects and supporting jobs and innovation in the clean energy arena.

Hirono, however, sharply disagrees on Obama's plan to institute what is known as "Chained CPI," which would change how Social Security, veterans' and other benefits are calculated. She says Chained CPI cuts Social Security and Medicare and is the wrong approach to reducing the deficit.

"It amounts to a benefit cut to Hawaii seniors and veterans that I cannot support, Hirono says. "Undermining the vital lifeline that these programs represent for many of our kupuna and veterans is not the way we should go about getting our fiscal house in order."

Hirono says that as Congress works to develop appropriations and other legislation to address the nation's fiscal challenges and keep the economy moving, she will "be pushing for other ways we can responsibly reduce our deficit while keeping our promises to our kupuna and keiki."

U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard called Obama's budget proposal "a measured approach to reducing our deficit without jeopardizing our fragile economy" and a "sincere effort to encourage economic recovery and create conditions for job growth."

Gabbard also expressed reservations about some elements of the budget, such as proposed cuts to Social Security.

"It would also cut our missile defense budget, even as Hawaii and the rest of the country face direct and heightened threats from North Korea," Gabbard says. "As we consider all options for a smart and balanced approach, I will work together with my Democratic and Republican colleagues to tackle the difficult decisions facing our nation."

President Obama's budget contained funding for important initiatives for Hawaii:

- \$250 million in rail funding
- \$410 million in military construction—\$44 million more than in FY 2013.
- Early childhood education—Obama lays out an early childhood education framework similar to Hirono's PRE-K Act. This would provide federal matching funds to states to expand and improve quality preschool for 4-year-olds from low-income and middle-class families. With a strong state plan, Hawaii could apply for \$750 million in FY14 for pre-school development grants, which could help states like Hawaii that don't yet have a state program get up to speed.
- Native Hawaiian programs—Obama requests over \$34 million for the Native Hawaiian Education program; \$28 million for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions of Higher Education; \$13 million for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant (NHHBG); and \$2 million for payments to the State for the treatment of Hansen's disease.
- Hawaii veterans—The president is requesting almost \$16 million to provide the lease for a VA outpatient medical center on Leeward Oahu.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Sea Life Park to Host Earth Day Event, Musical Fest

If you're looking for an afternoon of family fun and education, consider bringing your ohana to Earth Day Celebration in the Makapu'u Meadows at Sea Life Park on Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 12 noon to 4:30 pm.

Hosted by the Sea Life Park Education Department and Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii, the event will have live music by talented local performers including Summer, The Urchinz, HI Remedy and Shawn Kau'awa-Mokuahi Garnett. There will also be a variety of non-profit booths, educational displays, guest speakers, raffle prizes and activities including games, art and face painting for keiki.

Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii will work in tandem with Sea Life Park for the biggest beach cleanup event ever on Oahu. Volunteers will be picking up trash along the

coastal areas of East Oahu from Sandy Beach to Kaneohe Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Admission to Sea Life Park for volunteers on that day will be \$5.

For those unable to help

with the beach clean-up, residents and visitors can still get 50 percent off regular admission with a movie stub from Victoria Ward Consolidated Theatres or by bringing an empty Coca-Cola product to the ticket booth to be recycled. With this discount, admission is \$15 for



adults and \$12 for children 3 to 11 years.

More information on the

event is available online at: <http://www.sealifeparkhawaii.com>.

Two Winners Named in Global Pinoy Singing Idol Contest in Hawaii

Hawaii resident Katrina Lopez was named as one of two winners at the 2013 World Caravan Global Pinoy Singing Idol (GPSI) contest held April 6, 2013 at the Ala Moana Hotel.

Lopez's winning song was entitled "Cabaret." The other winner was California resident Jona Peralta. Both singers were selected from a field of 13 contestants. They received \$1,000 plus free round trip

tickets to the Philippines and a free week-long stay in Manila

where they will represent the U.S. in the 2013 GPSI Grand Finals in January 2014.

The contest was organized by ABS-CBN (DZMM Teleradyo) and ANCOP USA with the assistance of various local Filipino community organizations. Proceeds will be used



to sustain the projects of ANCOP USA for the poor people in the Philippines.

GPSI is a global search for talented overseas Filipinos which aims to promote the Philippines and DZMM's unparalleled reach worldwide. The talent search began in 2009 and has been widely participated by pinoy in the U.S., Canada, Australia,

Japan, the Middle East, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Those who made the event a success include Anne Romaguera and Ed Nix of Nix Performance Arts; Emmie Anderson, president and owner of KPHI 96.7 FM; Art De Guzman of 3 Star Gourmet Restaurant; Leth Evangelista of Music Drive Entertainment; Danny Villaruz, president of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii; Honolulu City Councilmember Joey Manahan; and the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu.

FilCom Sunday to Feature Ilocano Culture

On every last Sunday of the month, the Filipino Community Center (FilCom) hosts a free event for the public.

Each FilCom Sunday has varying themes and Filipino community groups are encouraged to take the lead in organizing each respective event. This

month's FilCom Sunday is themed "Taldiap ti Napalabas ti Kultura Ilokana" (a Glimpse into Ilocano Culture) and is scheduled for April 28, 2013

from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

The program includes an introduction of GUMIL Oahu by Rafael Alimbuyuguen; a performance by the Banda Kawayan; Kinnantaran by Jun Bermisa and Rizal Fernandez; folk dances by Elizabeth Alimbuyuguen and Betty Alimbuyuguen; vocal solos by Eddie

Bueno and Gladys Menor; a poem by Jun Bermisa; a suleto by Rizal Fernandez and Mila Fernandez; Bucanegan by Gladys Menor, Mila Fernandez and Avelino Felicitas; Pakpakatawa by Avelino Felicitas and Tessie Felicitas; and a drama entitled "Ti Ayat Ti Baket, Nakilkilnet Ngem Diket."

Please call the FilCom Center at 680-0451 for more details.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Palace: No Solid Catholic Vote in May polls

by Delon Porcalla
Tuesday, April 16, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - Reproductive health law advocate Malacañang believes that any threat from the Catholic bishops, who are campaigning openly against most of the administration senatorial candidates, will not make much of a difference since the church has no solid vote in the May elections.

"Obviously, there is no single main position taken by the Catholic hierarchy," presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said, referring to the separate positions taken by Pangasinan Bishop Soc Villegas and the White Vote group.

Villegas, a protégé of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, has voiced concerns about the church endorsing candidates, considering the separation of church and state.

On the other hand, the White Vote group headed by charismatic leader Mike Velarde of the El Shaddai movement have initially endorsed six candidates.

Velarde's group is known to be under the influence of the Catholic Church.

Among the candidates endorsed were three each from Team PNoy - Senators Koko Pimentel and Antonio Trillanes and ex-Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar - and from United Nationalist Alliance - Reps. Mito Magsaysay, JV Ejercito and Sen. Gringo Honasan.

All six candidates voted against the RH law that has been questioned before the Supreme Court.

"You have to look at their different advocacies. It's their right, if they want to endorse a candidate based on a single issue. But does it better the people that you're going to elect? That's a big question if you're going to focus only on one issue," Lacierda said.

"Obviously, Pangasinan Bishop Villegas disagrees with the position taken by the White Vote," he added.

But a month before the elections, Team PNoy senatorial candidates have started to personally seek individual endorsements from influential religious groups in the hope of making it to the Senate. (www.philstar.com)



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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Korea Emergency: US May Set Up Bases Here If...

by Jaime Laude
Friday, April 13, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - In case of extreme emergency resulting from the developing security crisis in the Korean peninsula, US troops may be allowed to set up bases in the Philippines, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said yesterday.

Gazmin noted that under the Constitution, foreign troops are barred from establishing a permanent presence in the country, a law that forced the shutdown of Clark Air Base in Pampanga and Subic Naval Base in Zambales – formerly the biggest military facilities outside the US.

“Right now our Constitution does not allow that but in



Sec. Voltaire Gazmin

cases of extreme emergency then there are extreme measures to be undertaken. Maybe this is one of them,” Gazmin said.

Gazmin made the statement in response to questions if the US would be allowed to set up their bases in the country in the event the Korean



Balikatan military exercise

conflict turns into a full-blown war.

But Gazmin also pointed out the absence of US bases in the country is already being compensated by joint training and exercises as well as increased rotational presence.

At present 8,000 Filipino and US servicemen are con-

ducting the annual joint Balikatan military drill in Central Luzon.

Defense spokesman Peter Paul Galvez, meanwhile, clarified the extreme emergency being referred to by Gazmin is a scenario where North Korea would launch a nuclear strike on South Korea, the US and its allies.

In a disaster forum held at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, Gazmin said the country has already drawn up its own contingency plan.

“We have to be prepared. We should prepare for this contingency. Our number one concern is the evacuation of our countrymen in South Korea and those who are near the conflict zone. We are just

hoping that we are not going to implement this contingency plan at all,” he said.

Gazmin earlier said the defense department, in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), has placed on standby two of its C-130 Hercules planes and three transport ships of the Philippine Navy, ready to depart for South Korea to pick up and transport home the 40,000 Filipinos working and living there in case war breaks out.

However, under the country’s Nuclear Research Institute (NRI) designed three-level contingency plan, the current situation is still normal, Gazmin said. (www.philstar.com)

50,000 May Lose Jobs Due to Mindanao Power Problem - Pamalakaya

by Dennis Carcamo
Tuesday, April 16, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - At least 50,000 workers in several canning factories and deep-sea fishing vessel companies in General Santos City, Zamboanga Peninsula and South Cotabato are in danger of losing their jobs because of the current power crisis in Mindanao, a fisherfolk group said Tuesday.

Pamalakaya vice chairper-

son Salvador France said the seven to eight hour power outages now sweeping the Mindanao island will force operators of canning factories and deep sea fishing to downsize labor, reduce fishing and canning hours and cut minimum wages by a half because of the daily brownouts.

“Mr. Aquino should not ignore this economic holocaust now unfolding all over Mindanao and being witness with outrage by the Filipino

public. Imagine the impact of power crisis to 50,000 fish workers and fishport workers in Zamboanga Peninsula, General Santos City and the entire Socksargen area,” France said.

He said that aside from the power outages, other issues complicating the operations of Filipino owned fish canneries and deep sea fishing in Mindanao are the sky high cost of petroleum products and the 12 percent expanded value added tax.

He added that at the height of oil price increases in 2009 and 2010, some commercial

fishing operators were forced to shut down operations or reduce labor force by one-third up to one-half.

France also asked fish cannery and deep sea fishing operators not to sacrifice jobs and wages just to survive the impacts of power outages in Mindanao.

France said Filipino businessmen and fish workers both affected by the power crisis in Mindanao should agree to seek audience with President Benigno Aquino III and the power utility firms.

“The focus of outrage against the power crisis in

Mindanao should be on the Aquino administration, its deregulated policy on the power industry and those transnational companies and their partners in crime who take advantage of the deregulated regime to gain huge profits by exploiting Filipino businessmen in canning industry and the fish workers,” he said.

The group claimed that the power outages in Mindanao had caused Filipino businessmen to lose as much as P300 million in unrealized sales and higher costs which started this summer. (www.philstar.com)

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Gov't Warns Public Against Heat Stroke

from www.philstar.com
Friday, April 13, 2013

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - The government reminded today the public to take precautionary measures to prevent heat stroke after several people died from the current scorching weather in the country.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte issued the statement after a number of Filipinos, including two local candidates who



have been campaigning for the upcoming May elections, died due to heat stroke.

“That’s why the advice of the Department of Health (DOH) is, first, if we can’t avoid to be under the heat of

the sun from the hours of 10 in the morning to late in the afternoon...let’s drink water and let us know the symptoms of heat stroke to prevent it,” she said on a state-run radio.

The DOH also advised the public to drink eight to 12 glasses of water a day to avoid heat stroke and not to stay under the sun too long.

Since the Philippine state weather forecasting agency declared the entry of summer late last month, temperatures in some parts of the country, including Metro Manila, hit over 35 degrees Celsius.

LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Pathway to Citizenship is Key to Genuine Immigration Reform

Providing a pathway to citizenship to the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the country remains the most contentious issue in immigration reform. Republican Senator Ted Cruz even termed it the "poison pill" that will kill any efforts towards passing a comprehensive immigration reform bill. He contended that even if the Senate passes the bill, he thinks that the House will never pass it.

The sentiment of Senator Ted Cruz reflects the stand of the majority of his Republican base. According to him, the only way that a comprehensive immigration reform bill can

pass the House is to abandon the 'path to citizenship' for the undocumented immigrant. It should focus instead on securing the border and streamlining the immigration process.

Meanwhile, support for providing a path to citizenship for undocumented workers in the country is growing with 6 out of 10 Americans supporting it based on a recent Washington Post-ABC poll. Democratic support reached an all-time high of 73 percent.

The support within the Republican Party, however, remains low. The support is so low among Republicans that some say Senator Marc Rubio's involvement in the immigration reform deal might hurt his chances of becoming the GOP presidential nominee in 2016.

According to political ob-

servers, the chances that Senator Rubio will walk away from the reform legislation proposed by the 'Gang of Eight' which is composed of four Democratic and four Republican Senators is slim. Although Senator Rubio's support to provide a path to citizenship may cost him the ire of primary Republican voters, his involvement is seen to win back support of Latino voters who withdrew support for the GOP for its anti-immigrant position.

Recently, the 'Gang of Eight' announced that it has completed its comprehensive immigration reform bill. A bipartisan group in the House is also preparing its own version of the bill. Both House and Senate immigration plans offer a path to citizenship.

The House version is said to provide three paths to citi-

zenship. One path is offered to young immigrants or the so-called Dreamers who were brought into this country illegally when they were still children and agricultural workers who play a critical role in the economy.

The second path is offered to immigrants who entered the country illegally but whose family ties or employment relationships allow them to apply for legal status. The barrier including the three to ten year ban will be waived or lifted. They will be required to return to their home countries to apply for legal status and comply with other requirements.

The third path is offered to all other undocumented immigrants who may apply for "provisional legal status" so long as they have not committed any crime and they comply

with requirements such as they payment of fines and learning English. Under the House version, it is said that the undocumented immigrants will have to wait ten years to be issued their green cards and wait another five years to apply for citizenship.

In order to fix the broken immigration system, the dilemma facing 11 million undocumented immigrants has to be addressed. Indeed, the pathway to citizenship, no matter how long or difficult, is essential to genuine immigration reform. This is the reality that the GOP-run House has to contend with unless they want a remake of the 2012 presidential elections in 2016.

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

MAINLAND NEWS

Thousands Rally Across US for Immigration Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tens of thousands of immigrants and activists rallied across the U.S. Wednesday in a coordinated set of protests aimed at pressing Congress to approve immigration measures that would grant 11 million immigrants living here illegally a path toward citizenship.

Organizers said demonstrations were taking place in at least 18 states and in Washington, where a large, festive crowd gathered on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

"We won't win immigration reform just coming to Washington. We need to walk the streets all over the country," said Ben Monterroso, national director of civic participation of the Service Employees International Union, which represents nurses and lower-wage employees including janitors and child care workers.

In Atlanta, more than 1,000 people marched around the Georgia Capitol Wednesday midday, calling for comprehensive changes to immigration policy and an end

to deportation.

In San Francisco, several hundred demonstrators marched toward the federal building holding red and orange paper flowers representing the number of people deported daily for immigration violations. In San Diego, about 50 demonstrators gathered on a sidewalk outside the office of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a sharp contrast to massive protests in 2006 when thousands of demonstrators shut down downtown streets to support looser immigration policies.

A person familiar with proposed bipartisan immigration legislation being written in the Senate said Wednesday the bill would require greatly expanded surveillance of the U.S. border with Mexico and greatly increased detention of border crossers in high risk areas. The person provided the information on condition of anonymity because the deliberations were private.

Groups opposed to illegal immigration say they are not



worried that lawmakers or voters will be swayed by emotional messages, and argue that extending legal rights to immigrants living illegally in the U.S. will create financial problems for cash-starved governments and spur more illegal immigration.

"There ought to be a rally for the 20 million Americans who can't find a full-time job," NumberUSA President Roy Beck, whose group advocates reductions in immigration levels, said in a statement Wednesday.

The immigrant activism movement gained national attention in 2007 when President George W. Bush and a bipartisan group of lawmakers unsuccessfully tried comprehensive immigration overhaul. Some high school and college students who were brought to the U.S. as

young children began living openly and holding rallies.

The movement gained new supporters in 2010, when Congress debated but did not pass the DREAM Act — legislation that would have granted legal status to young immigrants living illegally in the country.

President Barack Obama announced in June his deferred-deportation program allowing young immigrants to apply for work visas. During his State of Union address in February, Obama called on Congress to quickly pass an immigration bill. (www.philstar.com)

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TRAVEL

Discover Quezon Province This Summer

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ANILA, Philippines - There are two ways to discover the sights, sounds and taste of Quezon province during the summer break.

On May 15, experience the gaiety of the Pahiyas Festival in the town of Lucban. The daylong festival, one of the country's top tourist draws, is deeply rooted in the traditional celebration of thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest in honor of the patron saint of farmers, St. Isidore the Laborer.

Delight in the visual feast of houses, decorated with leaf-shaped and multi-colored rice paste wafers called *kiping* along with fresh produce and flowers.

Shop for hand-painted bayong, artworks by local artists, and local handicrafts. Feast on local culinary delights such as the pancit habhab, the garlicky Lucban longganisa, pilipit made with

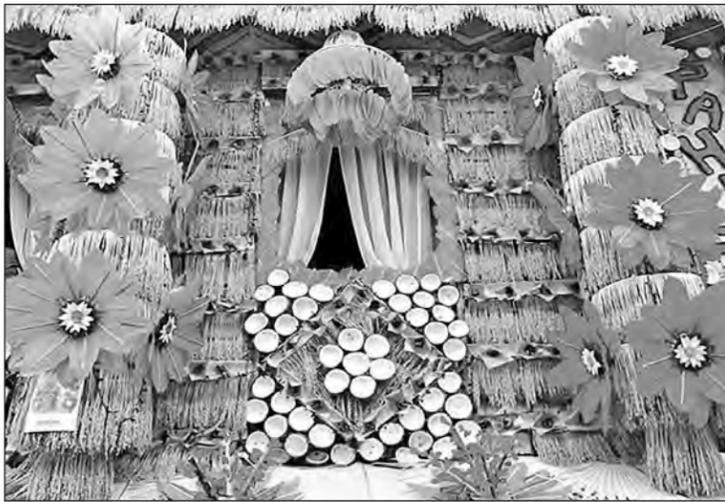
sticky rice and squash deep-fried and coated with brown sugar, and many more.

Join the parade of carabaos in the afternoon where these beasts of burden draw carrozas festooned with agricultural produce and flowers, and are made to kneel once they pass in front of the town's colonial church.

A second occasion is through a daylong pilgrimage with Fr. Nelson Osorio, OSJ, a beloved healing priest, as pilgrimage director on May 18.

The pilgrimage takes participants to the historic towns of Sariaya, Tayabas and Lucban. In Sariaya, confession will be heard by Osorio at the 18th-century Church of St. Francis of Assisi.

Venerate the miraculous



Marvel at houses decorated with leaf-shaped and multi-colored rice paste wafers called *kiping* in Lucban, Quezon during the Pahiyas Festival

image of the Crucified Christ of Burgos brought from Spain by galleon and is an object of pilgrimage every Friday. A running tour around the town

square follows for a glimpse of Spanish-era ancestral houses and the Art-Deco town hall.

In Tayabas, a healing

Mass, officiated by Osorio, will be held at the Minor Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, a national cultural treasure. The best preserved and the most beautifully decorated church complex in the province, the Neo-Classical styled Minor Basilica is also the longest Spanish colonial church (103 meters) in the country and one of the oldest.

In Lucban, Osorio will share the story of St. Isidore the Laborer whose venerated image is enshrined at the Church of St. Louis, Bishop of Toulouse. Time for pasalubong shopping will be extended during this stop. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

10 Filipino Boston Marathon Participants Safe - DFA

by Prinz P. Magtulis
Tuesday, April 16, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - No Filipinos were hurt during the twin bombings at the Boston

Marathon, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Tuesday.

"Meron na tayong mga reports na galing sa ating konsulada sa New York at ang sabi po ni Consul General de Leon na so far wala tayong reported Filipino casualties sa pagbombang nangyari po sa Boston," DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said in a radio interview.

Hernandez said the DFA is still waiting for updates from Boston authorities and its Filipino contacts regarding the explosion that occurred near the finish line of the oldest running event in the US.

"They are still conducting, the police, the Boston police pati na rin po mga hospitals at yung mga Filipino contacts at yung Boston Athletic Association para alamin kung merong mga Filipino na nadamay doon sa pagsabog na nangyari dun sa Boston," he added.

Hernandez said that the 10 Filipino runners who joined the Boston Marathon are all safe.

"May sampung Filipino participants doon sa marathon at nakausap nila yung isa I



Photo: AP/Charles Krupa

think si Arland Macasaeb at sinabi po ni Macasaeb na sila ay ligtas so as far as the participants are concerned,

walang nasugatan o nasaktan o nadamay doon sa pagsabog sa Boston," he said.

The DFA is continuously coordinating with and getting updates from the Philippine embassy in Washington and Consulate in New York regarding the incident, which left three persons dead, including an eight year old child, and more than 130 people injured.

Malacañang said in a statement that President Benigno Aquino III "personally conveys a message of deep sympathy, concern, and solidarity with the people of Boston, where he and his family had found refuge during martial law, and which so many Filipinos call home."

"Boston is a city of bravery, openness, and liberty: this tragedy will not change these essential truths, and points of pride, for this great city," Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said in a statement. (www.philstar.com)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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NINE (9) DAY NOVENA FOR OUR LADY OF MANAOAG BEFORE THE FIESTA • April 18-26, 2013, 7:00 PM daily except on Wed April 24, 2013 will be 5:00 PM • Saint Jude Catholic Church, Kapolei, HI • Contact: Fil Castillo 386-0775; Fred Martinez 358-8049

FCCH FILIPINO ENTREPRENEUR & YOUNG FILIPINO ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR • April 27, 2013, 6:00 PM • Sheraton Waikiki Kauai Ball • Contact: (248) 626-2878 or 808-680-0558

CAGAYAN VALLEY ASSOCIATION INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BALL • May 18,

2013, 6:00 PM • FilCom Center • Contact: Dolly Ortal - 422-1667 or 225-9997

UFCH 23RD MS. HAWAII FILIPINA • May 24, 2013, 6:00 PM • Ala Moana Hotel • Contact: Jenny Quezon @ pr.ufch@gmail.com

UNITED PANGASINAN OF HAWAII 45TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE • May 25, 2013 • Pacific Beach Hotel Grand Ballroom • Contact: Dr. Cely Villareal, (808) 778-2481 or (808) 689-4911

21ST UNIVERSITY OF STO. TOMAS MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN AMERICA (USTMAAA) GRAND REUNION AND MEDICAL CONVENTION • June 26-30, 2013, • Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort • Contact: (248) 626-2878 or 808-680-0558

GLOBAL NEWS

Highest Overseas Voter Turnout in Hong Kong

MANILA, Philippines - Filipinos abroad were urged to go out and vote as Hong Kong reported the highest voter turnout at more than 2,500 on the second day of overseas absentee voting (OAV) yesterday.

Singapore reported 164 voters last Saturday, and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia 149.

As of yesterday, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) said the consulate in Hong Kong and the embassies in Singapore, Riyadh, London in the United Kingdom, Brunei, and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and the representative office in Taichung in Taiwan have submitted their written reports.

The elections in Hong Kong, Singapore and Riyadh are automated, while in London, Brunei, Abu Dhabi and Taichung postal and personal voting are being implemented.

Lawyer Jane Valeza, a member of the Comelec's absentee voting

committee, said the poll body and the Department of Foreign Affairs will continue the information drive to encourage Filipinos abroad to vote.

Filipino communities abroad are helping them in the campaign, she added.

Last Saturday, the month-long OAV started in all Philippine embassies and consulates.

In Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, voting will start tomorrow.

The Philippine diplomatic post in London had already received around 300 ballots through postal voting, Brunei 26 and Abu Dhabi 126.

The Comelec will expand coverage of the automated elections from two to seven areas in the hope that voter turnout will increase to 60 percent from the 25 percent in the 2010 polls.

Bleeding pens have disrupted the OAV in Hong Kong and the Comelec sees cold weather as the possible



cause.

Chairman Sixto Brillantes said one PCOS machine had started rejecting smudged ballots after 90 runs last Saturday.

"Personally I'm not making any conclusion," he said.

"I leave it up to our technical people. But for me, maybe cold weather had something to do with this. The ink didn't dry up well."

Ink from the pens of voters had smudged the ballots.

The PCOS machine was replaced with an extra unit that also had the same problem last Sunday.

Brillantes said the Comelec has contingency measures in case the problem occurs in other parts of the world.

They already replaced the two affected PCOS machines with units coming from Manila, he added.

Brillantes said voter turnout in OAV is low so they were able to re-

PHILIPPINE NEWS

OFW Inflows up 6% in Feb

by Prinz P. Magtulis
Tuesday, April 16, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - Remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) rose by six percent to \$1.682 billion in February from \$1.587 billion in the same period last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reported yesterday.

For the first two months, cash remittances went up by seven percent to \$3.363 billion.

A separate gauge called personal remittances rose by a faster 6.9 percent last month and 7.6 per-

cent for the first two months of the year, the BSP said.

The BSP expects remittances to grow by five percent this year although that outlook is up for review this month. Last year, cash remittances totaled \$21.391 billion.

"The steady deployment of overseas Filipino workers remained a primary contributory factor to the growth in remittances flows," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., said.

A total of 219,206 job orders were approved for deployment by the Philippine Overseas Employ-

ment Administration (POEA), data from that agency showed. The bulk of job orders, about 24 percent, were for services, production, professional and technical work.

They were intended primarily to meet the manpower requirements of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which were among the main sources of remittances this year.

The US remained the top source of remittances, accounting for 41.5 percent of the total inflows. It was followed by Canada (9.8 percent), Saudi Arabia (7.9 percent), the United Kingdom (5.3 percent), UAE (4.5 percent), Singapore (4.1

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place the smudged ballots with new ones.

"Our estimate is that there will be no 100 percent turnout," he said.

"In fact we reviewed the history of Hong Kong and we found out that in 2010, there were 82,000 registered voters, but only 44,000 actually voted. So there were many excess ballots. (www.philstar.com)

percent) and Japan (3.5 percent).

More than three-fourths of cash remittances as of February were sent by land-based workers, figures showed, while about a quarter were sent by seafarers.

In the coming months, the BSP chief said remittances could increase further, especially with "opportunities" in infrastructure projects in Hong Kong and an increase in monthly wages for workers in Taiwan.

Likewise, a resumption of OFW deployment to Iraq, Yemen and Eritria, after POEA lifted the ban in those countries, could also "boost" remittance inflows, Tetangco added.

Remittances form part of the country's balance of payments (BOP), which gauges its capacity to settle external debts and meet trade obligations. (www.philstar.com)



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