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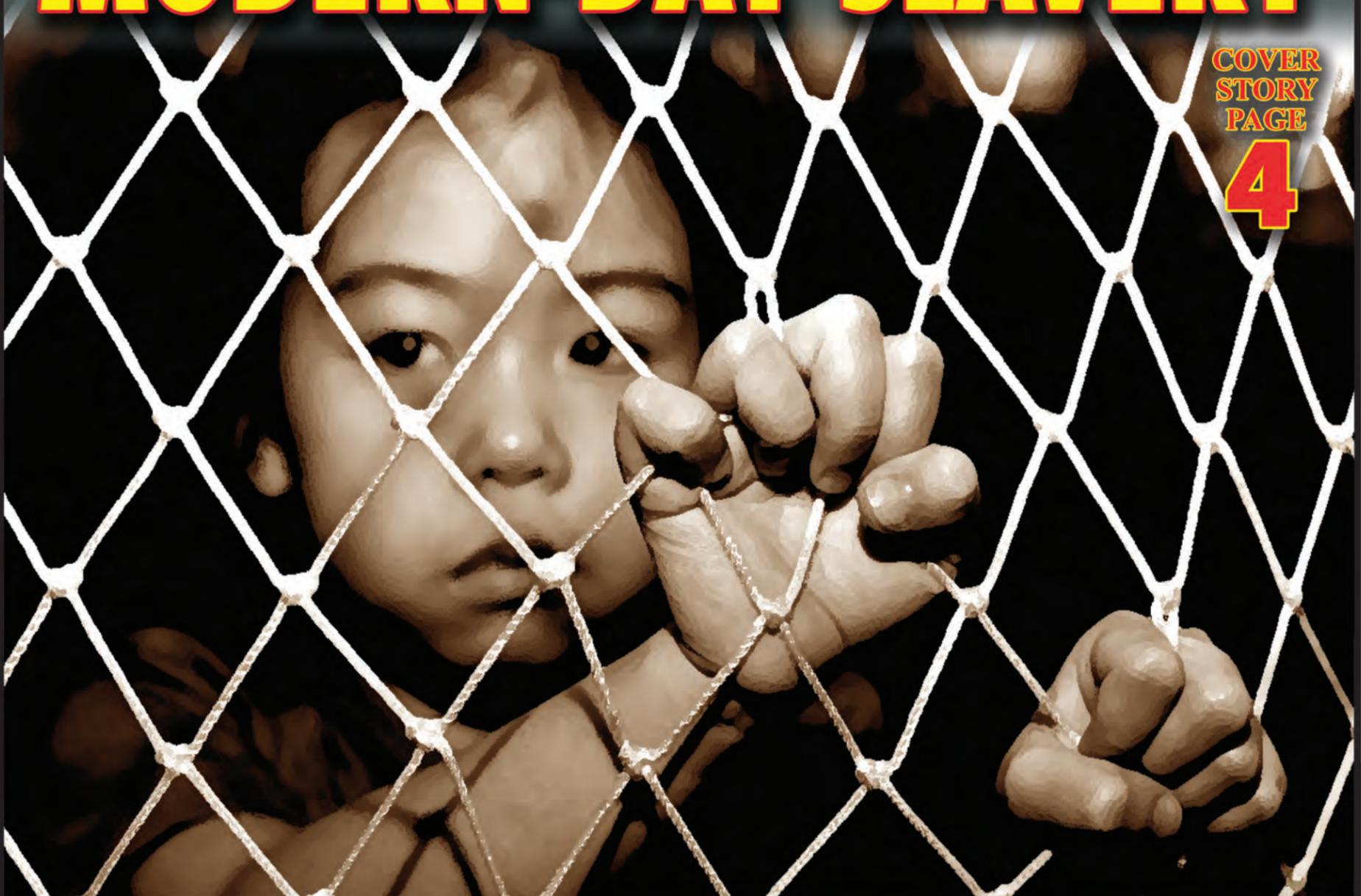
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ OCTOBER 12, 2013 ◆

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EDITORIALS

Ending Slavery in 21st Century

It's hard to believe that slavery is alive and well in the 21st century. The modern-day slave trade is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, enslaving more than 30 million individuals. Human trafficking is worth about \$32 billion annually to criminals and their networks. It is simply one of the world's most profitable crimes, where men, women, and children are bought and sold like commodities—tricked and forced to work in brothels, hotels, restaurants, factories, fields, and more.

While sex trafficking is often at the forefront, slave labor and debt bondage are more common. Sometimes entire villages with few economic opportunities are targeted as ideal laborers with few options. The weapon of choice for traffickers is often coercion, such as threats of deportation and harm to the victim or their family members. This can be so powerful that victims end up too afraid to accept help, even if someone reaches out to them.

While governments can, have and should pass laws that address this problem, it all starts with YOU. Everyone has the potential to discover a human trafficking situation. We often think that victims are kept behind locked doors but more often than not, they are right before our very eyes—at construction sites, restaurants, elder care centers, nail salons, agricultural fields and hotels. Human trafficking is a hidden crime, so the first step in combating this problem is to identify victims. To do so, learn to “look beneath the surface” in all situations you encounter and be vigilant for potential instances of human trafficking. Persons who live with their employer, avoid eye contact or have no identification such as a license, passport or other ID documents should raise major red flags.

Once you know simple indicators of human trafficking, act on your gut feeling that something could be wrong. If you believe you have identified someone in a trafficking situation, alert law enforcement immediately. Help bring human trafficking out of the shadows and expose this crime by taking action. Let's all do our part to rid the world of the misery and suffering caused by this heinous form of exploitation.

Spreading Blame for Government Shutdown

A CNN/ORC International poll conducted earlier this week showed that both Democrats and Republicans are to blame for the government shutdown—with the Grand Old Party (GOP) shouldering slightly more criticism than their counterparts across the aisle. According to the survey, 63 percent of respondents were unhappy with Republicans for their handling of the shutdown, while 57 percent were angry with Democrats. Half of respondents (53 percent) blame President Obama.

The partial government shutdown, brought about by Tea Party-backed GOP lawmakers who want to dismantle Obama's signature health care reform law, is nearing its second week with no end in sight. Nearly 800,000 federal workers have been furloughed due to the shutdown and many federal government services and agencies closed.

So who's really to blame? Most observers argue that the

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

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ore people will begin to feel the pinch as the federal government's partial shut down drags into its second week with no end in sight. If you've been affected or furloughed, we hope that you've made a plan since there's no telling how long the shutdown will last. First and foremost is to cut spending on non-essential items and focus your budget on essential items like rent/mortgage and utilities. You might also consider finding part-time temporary work, even if it's at a lower pay level, to supplement your income. Whatever happens, remain mentally tough and remember that you're not alone.

Our cover story for this issue is about human trafficking, a modern day form of slavery and exploitation. We delve into this heinous crime to find out what governments and social service groups are doing to stop its spread. The problem unfortunately persists in Hawaii where victims are brought from all over the world to work in farm fields, sweatshops, restaurants, landscaping workers, janitors and the sex trade. We hope that our well-written article “The Fight Against Modern Day Slavery” (see page 4) will educate you on this fast-growing criminal industry.

In other news, October is Filipino-American History Month. To celebrate this event, the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSOH) is coordinating Fil-Am History Fest 2013: Filipino Martial Arts in Hawaii which is scheduled for Sunday, October 27, 2013 at the FilCom Center in Waipahu from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Organizers have invited six Hawaii-based schools to present their histories and demonstrate their unique approaches and practices of *eskrima*. Please turn to page 11 if you want more details on this and other events commemorating Filipino-American History Month. By the way, Maui's Filipino community is also gearing up for their 2013 Annual Heritage Festival (see page 10). Best wishes to them for a successful event!

There are other useful and informative articles in this issue that we hope are of interest to you, including “Candid Perspectives” on page 6, “Immigration Guide” on page 7 and “Legal Notes” on page 13.

In closing, thank you for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. As always, we invite our readers to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii's dynamic and vibrant Filipino community.

Until next time...aloha and mabuhay!

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

LETTERS

TOO MUCH RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE IN PHILIPPINES?

The Philippines is the last country in the world where divorce is not openly discussed, taught or allowed. The majority of Filipino people (86 percent) are Roman Catholic. For over 400 years, the Spaniards who introduced Catholicism to the Philippines instilled a mindset among the people that they will be punished by the Lord if they allow or accept divorce—even in cases where a spouse is physically abused, battered and mistreated.

Generally, the powers of the government and religion are separated but not in the Philippines. If there is a crisis or controversial issue, religious groups will make noise and refuse to compromise, discuss or resolve the situation. They will attempt to rally the Filipino people against the government. In my opinion, one of the biggest hindrances to the progress of the Philippines is interference from religious institutions.

I believe a divorce law goes hand-in-hand with the Reproductive Health (RH) Bill and will augment reproductive and family planning services and maternal care, which are essential for the country's rapidly-growing population. Religion and honoring God are okay, but we must also be practical. Religion will not provide three meals a day—you must still work and earn a living.



Jimmy Encarnacion
Pearl City

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OPINION

President Aquino's Life in Serious Jeopardy

NO LIMITATION
By Ted Laguatan

Based on the gung ho statements of Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales, Department of Justice Secretary Leila De Lima and Commissioner on Audit (COA) Chairperson Grace Tan Pulido, President Benigno Simeon Aquino appears to be listening to the people's outraged cry to arrest and prosecute senators, congressmen, appointed officials and accessories involved in the massive embezzlement of public moneys.

Formal criminal charges of plunder and other crimes have now been filed by the Department of Justice and the NBI in the Office of the Ombudsman against powerful Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada, and Ramon "Bong" Revilla, five former Congress people, 30 other officials and co-conspirators. The alleged mastermind Janet Lim-Napoles has also been charged. Justice De Lima announced that this is just the first batch of alleged wrongdoers who are being charged. The investigations against other suspected wrongdoers including Senators Bongbong Marcos, Vicente Sotto, Gringo Honasan, Lito Lapid and other officials are still being completed.

The accused and suspects are all claiming innocence with statements that sound

like: "Those signatures are not mine."; "My staff were doing this beyond their authority without my knowledge."; "I didn't know that the funds were being manipulated"; etc.

They are also pointing to other officials who they claim are as guilty. As if that made them innocent. The more they attempt to look innocent, the more livid the public becomes. The thoughts expressed by a Makati restaurant owner reflect the anger and resentment of the people:

"Hirap na hirap lahat tayo na nagtatrabaho. Iniipit tayo palagi ng mga kulektor ng buwis na palaging humuhingi ng lagay. Itong mga buwis na kinukuha sa atin na galing sa ating pawis na dapat ginagamit para sa kahusayan ng ating mga kababayan – ninanakaw lang pala nitong mga baboy na Senador at ibang opisyaes. Ibitay dapat itong mga ito."

("We all work so hard. Tax collectors who are also corrupt pressure us to pay taxes which we sweated for and which are supposed to be used for the welfare of our people. Instead, these pigs, these Senators and other officials – just steal the money. They should hang.")

In the old West, when a horse thief was caught red handed, he was still entitled to constitutional due process. A common saying was: "Let's give the bastard a fair trial before we hang him."

Unquestionably, the accused in this Pork Barrel scam



are entitled to a fair trial even if the people believe them to be guilty as hell as suggested by the extent and weight of the evidence. In the Philippines, I don't see any problems with wealthy and powerful people being given fair trials. Oftentimes, the presiding judge is secretly actually their lawyer. It is often the Filipino people who are represented by the prosecutors who do not get a fair trial.

The cases against the Marcoses and their cronies reflect the state of the justice system in the Philippines. No justice for the people in most of these cases. In a recent 50 billion peso case, former Supreme Court Justice and now Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales who dissented – was shocked by the decision of her fellow Justices who decided in favor of an individual who was widely known as a Marcos crony. He was not a crony, wrote one of the majority Justices. It's like saying that the Lone Ranger and Tonto were not close friends.

Democrats want to avoid this by permitting \$1 trillion or more in new borrowing but Republicans are calling for new spending cuts.

If there was ever a time for compromise, it is now. In a democracy, it is essential to be able to compromise and work with those who may not agree with you. With so much at stake, we truly hope both sides can find common ground soon, end the shut-down and avoid the threat posed by default.

But now it appears that there is hope for change. Aquino is acting as a good moral President should. He is allowing the wheels of justice to properly turn. He should also make them turn faster by providing funds to increase the number of select competent teams of high integrity investigators and prosecutors. He is actually being graced by heaven with this tremendous opportunity to shift the directions of the country for the good of all.

If he is able to have big name crooks successfully prosecuted and imprisoned before his term ends – and gives the permanent message that henceforth, there will be zero tolerance for government corruption – life will be so much better for everyone. Our nation which is so rich in natural resources and talented individuals will then progress towards an exciting future for all. The people will be forever grateful and acknowledge Aquino as a great President.

The credible detailed testimony of whistleblower Benhur Luy, his possession of transaction evidences including dates, amounts, bank accounts, names and other important data that he downloaded from the computers of

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EDITORIALS (from page 2, SPREADING...)

fault rests with Republicans for insisting that the budget include provisions that defund the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare). As a condition of re-opening the government, Republicans want the Democrats to agree to partially dismantle or delay the president's health care law. The quandary lies in the fact that Obamacare passed both houses of Congress in 2010 and was later upheld as con-

stitutional by the Supreme Court. Obamacare is the law of the land and already taking effect.

As both sides continue to negotiate, a key deadline is fast approaching—October 17, which marks the day when the government will exhaust its ability to borrow funds and will have to rely day-to-day on tax and other receipts to pay its bills. Such a default could substantially damage the fragile economy.



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COVER STORY

The Fight Against Modern-Day Slavery

By HFC Staff

Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie has recently signed into law three bills aimed at tackling Hawaii's growing human trafficking problem. The measures — Senate Bill 192, House Bill 1068 and House Bill 1187 — were signed into law as Act 247, Act 245 and Act 246, respectively, on July 1, 2013.

SB 192 introduces the most important policies, which include categorizing the solicitation of a minor for prostitution as a class C felony. In the past, state law recognized the crime only as a petty misdemeanor. The bill also increases the statute of limitations to bring a cause of action for coercion into prostitution from two to six years, and it also mandates the registration of anyone convicted of solicitation of a minor for prostitution to the sex offender registry.

SB 192 complements SB 194, which was enacted as Act 53 on April 25, 2013, and added offenses related to solicitation of prostitution to the list of offenses ineligible for deferred acceptance of guilty plea.

In addition to the two measures, HB 1068 and HB 1187 were also signed into law to combat human trafficking in

the state. HB 1068 requires employers like strip bars and massage parlors to display a poster that provides the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline as well as specified information relating to human trafficking to encourage potential victims to seek help from law enforcement agencies. On the other hand, HB 1187 amends certain definitions in Hawaii's child abuse laws, the purpose of which is to ensure the provision of necessary and appropriate services to children who are victims of sex and labor trafficking. It also designates the month of January as "Human Trafficking Awareness Month" to promote public awareness of human trafficking as a significant societal and public health crisis.

The United Nations (U.N.) defines human trafficking as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or re-

ceipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation."

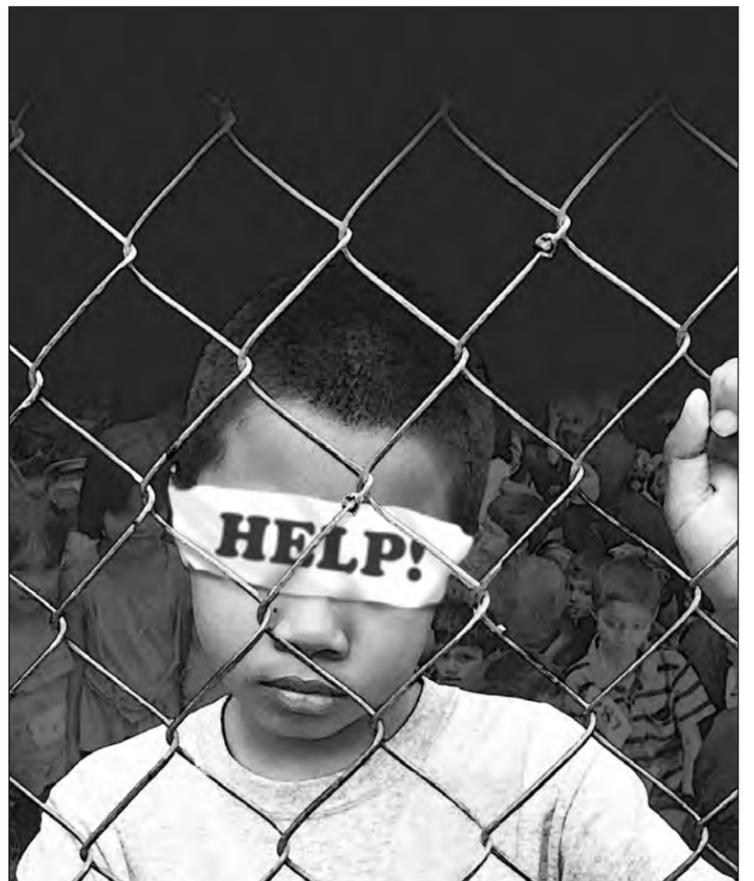
The U.N. definition further mentions that "exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."

Most victims of human trafficking are subjected to such horrendous systematic abuse that it has earned the alternative name "modern-day slavery."

According to information from the Hawaii-based Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery, an estimated 17,500 nationals of foreign countries are trafficked every year in the United States alone, while a staggering 300,000 American children are trapped in the U.S. sex industry.

Furthermore, the United Nations estimates that some 2.5 million people are being trafficked around the world at any given time, with 80 percent of the victims being women and children. The United Nations Children's Fund, on the other hand, estimates that 1.2 million children are trafficked around the world each year.

The sheer scale of the global human trafficking problem makes it the second leading criminal activity in the



world, just behind drug trafficking and ahead of illegal arms dealing. It is also the fastest-growing criminal industry in the United States.

Slavery in Paradise

Lola Salimova, program specialist at the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services, has welcomed the enactment of the bills, saying the much-needed laws have been worked on for a number of years already and was finally realized, thanks in no small part to the support provided by activists, service agencies and law enforcement agencies.

"These laws provide more enforcement power to the police, prosecutors' offices and to departments working with runaway or abused minors. They also raise public awareness of human trafficking problem, which is actually modern-day slavery, a concept many believe does not exist in our civilized society today," she said.

Contrary to this belief, Hawaii is actually a hub for human trafficking where victims are brought in from all over the world. This is according to Nestor Muyot, an activist working with the local non-profit organization Pacific

Gateway Center. He added that Hawaii is among the top ten U.S. states in terms of numbers of trafficking victims.

"Victims are exploited in a variety of industries, including commercial sex, sweatshops, construction or landscaping, farming or fisheries, tourism, panhandling, and janitorial and restaurant services," he said.

Women are usually trafficked into Hawaii from Asia or the U.S. mainland and forced to work in the sex industry or as domestic servants, although many are also brought in as mail-order brides. Men, on the other hand, are most commonly trafficked from Asia and other Pacific islands and are usually subjected to forced labor.

Salimova noted that for fiscal year 2010, 449 adult victims nationwide were certified as victims of human trafficking by the U.S. Government, and among these, 47 were trafficked into Hawaii.

"Thus, Hawaii, which has less than one half of 1 percent of the total U.S. population, was home to 10 percent of all human trafficking victims certified by the U.S. Government. In fiscal year 2012, Hawaii had 15 certified victims of human trafficking," she said.

(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, THE FIGHT ...)

Salimova noted, however, that these numbers reflected only those foreign nationals who were deemed victims of severe forms of human trafficking, and in Hawaii, they mainly included victims of labor trafficking. In addition, many victims are not willing to come forward, so experts are finding it hard to determine the full extent of the problem.

“For labor trafficking, the most recent victims have been men from Thailand, Vietnam and Laos. They have been recruited for farm labor. A couple of Japanese women and a Russian woman were also assisted by local non-profits.

“There are also some cases of women being recruited for domestic servitude. It’s very hard to know the extent of domestic servitude, as these women are in the homes of people,” she said.

For victims of trafficking for the commercial sex industry, on the other hand, Salimova said the data is quite fragmented, although traditional victims have been mostly girls and young women from Hawaii, the U.S. mainland and Asia.

“Often, girls and women are picked up as runaways or arrested for prostitution when, in fact, they could be trafficking victims. The Hawaii Police Department (HPD) and other local law enforcement agencies are working very hard to avoid such situations. HPD is partnering with local non-profits to help with identification. However, due to various reasons, this does not always happen,” she said.

Understanding the victims

But just how hard is it for victims of human trafficking to try to find a way out of their situation? Is it not as easy as just escaping their abusers or calling the police? Salimova said this is not always the case.

“For a foreign national victim, the biggest fear is deportation. Many of these people have expired or invalid documentation. There is also need or pressure to earn money to support their families back home.

“For domestic victims, the

same pressures as for persons in sexual or domestic violence situations apply. Often, the pimps approach girls and young women, become their ‘boyfriends,’ and, with coercion and drugs, break them into sexual servitude.”

She added that other factors, including shame, lack of public support and awareness, and inadequate funding for social services can also contribute to victims being unable to stay out of trafficked situations for long. The healing process alone can take years.

Muyot likewise noted that human trafficking victims are often uninformed about the things they can do to break out of the victimization cycle, and, more importantly, they live in fear of retaliation from their abusers.

“Force, fraud and coercion are the methods used by traffickers to press victims into lives of servitude and abuse. Force usually involves rape, beatings and confinement; fraud may involve offers of employment, marriage and better life; and coercion includes threats, restraint and psychological abuse,” he said.

As a result of these abuses, even those who have already been rescued continue to experience a number of emotional troubles.

“Victims often report experiencing panic, anxiety, anger, depression, trouble concentrating, and the feeling of being overwhelmed. They also continuously think about their experiences and exhibit increased concern for their personal safety and that of their families or loved ones,” he said.

Human Trafficking of Filipinos

According to Muyot, Filipinos and other victims who are trafficked into Hawaii for sex and labor exploitation are often deceived by criminals about the type of work they will do and the amount of pay they will receive.

“Their passports are confiscated, they are threatened or physically assaulted, forced to work under conditions which they didn’t anticipate, and paid nominal wages or none at all,” he said.

According to the U.S. De-



partment of State’s 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report released in June, the Philippines remains at Tier 2 on the department’s 3-level ranking system because it “does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.”

The report noted that a significant number of Filipino men and women who migrate abroad for work are subsequently subjected to conditions of forced servitude in different settings, including in factories, at construction sites, on fishing vessels, on agricultural plantations, in the shipping industry, and in domestic service and other service sector jobs. Filipino women working in domestic service in foreign

countries also face serious abuses, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse, as well as physical violence.

Furthermore, Filipino women are also being subjected to sex trafficking in various Far Eastern and Middle Eastern countries, including Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Syria.

In fact, in July 2013, a Filipino legislator accused embassy offi-

cials based in Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia of running “prostitution rings,” wherein distressed Filipino women were allegedly being forced into sexual exploitation in exchange for repatriation. This “sex-for-flight scheme” is currently being investigated by the Philippine Department of Justice and the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking. Both agencies are chaired by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, who vowed not only to investigate the embassies involved but also the possible cases of human trafficking happening outside their premises.

Human trafficking, however, also occurs internally within the Philippines, with men, women and children

being trafficked from rural areas to cities like Manila, Cebu, and Angeles and in famous tourist spots like Boracay, Olongapo, Puerto Galera and Surigao.

The Department of State’s report noted that men are usually subjected to forced labor and debt bondage in agriculture and fishing industries, while women and children are most commonly trafficked for forced labor as domestic servants, small-scale factory workers and beggars or for exploitation in the commercial sex trade. Child sex tourism remains a serious problem in the Philippines, with sex tourists continuing to come in from places like Northeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and North America to engage in the commercial sexual exploitation of minors.

Children in areas plagued by conflict are particularly at risk of becoming victims of trafficking. Armed groups like the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the New People’s Army, and the Abu Sayyaf Group

(continued on page 12)

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Government Shutdown Is Democracy Breaking Bad

The hit TV show, which is about what desperate people can do when faced with a catastrophic health issue, ends with Walter White being asked by his wife Skyler why he's done all the bad that he's done.

Walt answers memorably: "I did it for me. I liked it. I was good at it. And I was...really. I was alive."

You're not going to find Walter White's blunt honesty from any of the political participants in this current debate in Washington--the Republicans, the Democrats in both houses of Congress, or the Executive Branch--who have their own Walter White-ish, selfish interest for shutting down the government.

Texas Senator Cruz, a Canadian citizen with presidential ambitions, has a contrarian's glee painted all over his face when he appears on TV to blame the Democrats.

On the surface, he disagrees with "Obamacare," which is an act of political rhetoric and disrespect. Its rightful name is the Affordable Care Act, but when birthers couldn't get the president on his birth certificate, they attacked him on the largest piece of legislation he birthed and signed into law.

The Affordable Care Act, which passed both houses, has already been put through an election as part of a winning Democratic platform and even survived the constitutional scrutiny of the Supreme Court. If something's really wrong with the ACA, a responsible legislator should simply try to fix it.

Instead, the freshman Cruz is acting like the champion college debater he once was and has devised a nuclear option to stop the health care legislation.

The strategy may be ac-

ceptable in academic debate. But in the real life institution of democracy, it's completely selfish and irresponsible.

As Cruz, echoing Walter White, might say, "I did it for me... I liked it. I was good at it..."

Others in the debate have their own self-interest. But all the polls begin the blame with the Republicans (now made up of Tea gulpers like Cruz, and Tea sippers like Boehner), then to a lesser degree, the Democrats, and to a much lesser degree, President Obama.

Obama, by comparison, does look more like a leader. The Affordable Care Act is already a wonderful compromise. It's not the kind of single-payer health care system some on the Left have advocated for over the years. It's a lot more to the center, with big health insurers still retaining so much control that it's laughable to call the ACA "socialized medicine."

But it does do one thing

that no one has been able to do at the federal level: It helps the uninsured get the health coverage they need.

Despite the shutdown, you can actually sign up for a plan by going to www.health-care.gov.

For Asian Americans, it means nearly 2 million people who are uninsured will now have access to health care, according to the White House.

Already, 121,000 Asian Americans between the ages of 19 and 25, who would have been uninsured, have been added to their parents' workplace or individual plans.

Moreover, the ACA puts no lifetime limits put on care, and people with pre-existing conditions, normally denied coverage, can get coverage.

It's good for the people. Just not for Cruz. That's no reason to destroy our democracy.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award winning journalist and commentator.

Sen. Ted Cruz filibuster on C-SPAN already showed a lack of judgment. He frivolously compared his publicity stunt to the Bataan Death March, an inappropriate comment for which he has apologized.

Of course, I'd prefer he simply apologize for his senseless shutdown of our government. Now. The longer the shutdown goes on, the more it impacts real people. Military pay may have been approved, but I know many who still have had checks held up. It's maddening.

The breakdown of our democracy reminds me of a line from the now shutdown TV show, "Breaking Bad."

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OPINION (from page 3, PRESIDENT AQUINO...)

alleged Pork Barrel scam mastermind Janet Lim Napoles – together with the correlating records from the Commission on Audit – should be sufficient to convict the thieving Senators, Congressmen and appointed officials.

But even with the massive damning paper evidence and witness statements available, successfully prosecuting and jailing the guilty parties involved in this massive thefts of public funds will not be a romp on the beach. Many of the suspects are very powerful and wealthy people who can afford the best lawyers and have connections in high places.

They also know how to use media people who are on the take – mercenary hacks who will invent, lie or twist facts to misdirect the people's attention away from the guilty and put the blame on the innocent. Some of these older cockroaches disguised as journalists or columnists served as propagandists for the late greedy and oppressive

power hungry dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Their main enterprise is the selling of lies. Businesswise, they are doing well these days. They are misdirecting the public and focusing their attack on President Aquino.

To successfully prosecute, aside from having teams of dedicated competent investigators and prosecutors with unassailable integrity – competent and honest judges are also needed. The government might have an airtight case but a corrupt judge can conjure all kinds of reasons – even the most blatant lies – to arrive at results that he wants. Unfortunately, we still don't have a jury system. It's much more difficult to corrupt and bribe twelve jurors compared to bribing and corrupting just one judge.

President Aquino needs to absolutely beef up his security. The same evil dark forces which his father faced are at work. I was with Ninoy a few days before he left for the Philippines and to martyrdom.

I listened to him and observed that the man had become very deeply spiritual. He could no longer be bought and he could no longer be scared – so the only way to stop him – was to kill him. If his son President Aquino is also murdered, we are back to square one. He owes it to the nation to be extra careful.

The war between good and evil in the Philippines rages on. Good men and women cannot just stand on the sidelines and not be involved in exorcising the evil of institutional corruption in Philippine society. We must speak out with a loud voice against this terrible moral disease which inflicts so many government people from the lowest to the highest like vampires sucking the lifeblood of our people.

ATTY. TED LAGUATAN is a human rights lawyer based in the San Francisco area in California. He is also one of only 29 U.S. lawyers officially certified continuously for 25 years now by the California State Bar as Expert-Specialists in Immigration Law. Email laguatanlaw@gmail.com

IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Hope for Release of Aliens in Mandatory Detention



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

At the Immigration Court last week, the Judge asked a lawyer if he wanted a bond hearing. The lawyer said “No, I am waiving it.” When my turn to come to be asked, I replied “Yes.” The Judge set a bond hearing date for next week. Our alien clients were under mandatory detention.

What is a bond hearing? When an alien is arrested by immigration authorities, he is given Form I-286 which states that pending final determination by the immigration judge, you shall be: [] detained in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security, [] released on your own recognizance (released without putting up a bond).

The arresting officer’s supervisor will put a check mark on which option applies. The alien will further be told: [] you may request a review of this determination by an immigration judge, or [] you may not request a review of this determination by an immigration judge because the Immigration and Nationality Act prohibits your release from custody (meaning the alien is subject to mandatory detention). The supervisor will also check which option is available to the alien.

A “bond hearing” means that an alien may request an immigration judge to review the legality of his detention. So why should an alien waive or pass up an opportunity to be heard and possibly obtain his release on bond or on his own recognizance?

So why should an alien waive or pass up an opportunity to be heard and possibly obtain his release on bond or on his own recognizance?

Aliens Subject to Mandatory Detention

The Immigration and Nationality Act, Section 236(c), 8 USC Section 1226(c) provides for the mandatory detention of criminal aliens. Mandatory detention under Section 1226(c) applies to aliens who are inadmissible on account of having committed a crime involving moral turpitude or a controlled substance offense, on account of having multiple criminal convictions with an aggregate sentence of five years or more of confinement, on account of connections to drug trafficking, prostitution, money laundering, or human trafficking, on account of having carried out severe violations of religious freedom while serving as a foreign government official, or on account of having been involved in serious

criminal activity and asserting immunity from prosecution; aliens who are deportable on account of having been convicted of two or more crimes involving moral turpitude, an aggravated felony, a controlled substance offense, certain firearm-related offenses, or certain other miscellaneous crimes; aliens who are deportable on account of having committed a crime of moral turpitude within a certain amount of time since their date of admission for which a sentence of one year or longer has been imposed; and aliens who are inadmissible or deportable because of connections to terrorism. See 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c) (cross-referencing 8 U.S.C. §§ 1182(a)(2), 1227(a)(2)(A)(ii), 1227(a)(2)(A)(iii), 1227(a)(2)(B), 1227(a)(2)(C), 1227(a)(2)(D), 1227(a)(2)(A)(i), 1182(a)(3)(B), 1227(a)(4)(B)).

Bond Hearing for Aliens Mandatorily Detained

Many believe that once an alien is subject to mandatory detention, there is no hope for release until the removal proceedings are decided in favor of the alien, which could take years. In the Casas case he was detained for seven years. In the Ramiro case he was detained for four years. There are aliens who were never imprisoned but merely given probation for their underlying criminal offenses, yet they have been placed in mandatory detention for years.

In a recent case decided by the Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, it was held that an alien who has been subjected to prolonged detention (more than 180 days) is entitled to an individualized bond hearing by an immigration judge in which to contest the necessity of his continued detention. At the hearing, the government must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the alien is a flight risk or a danger to

(continued on page 8)

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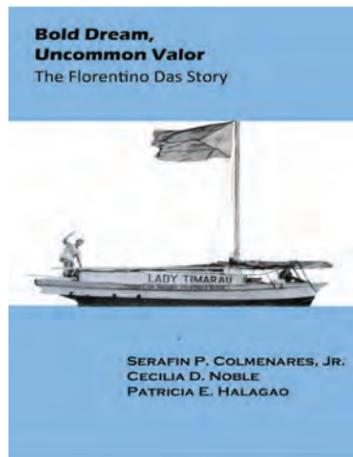
HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Books on Florentino Das and Dr. Jose Rizal Launched

by HFC Staff

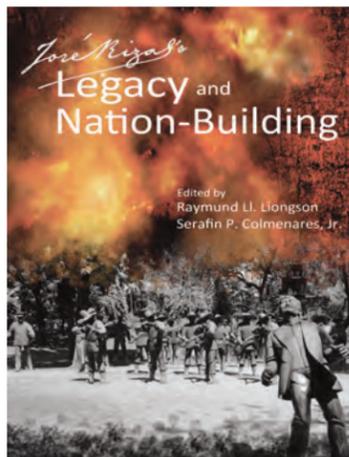
Two books authored by local Filipinos – one on Florentino Das and another on Dr. Jose P. Rizal – were recently launched in Hilo, Hawaii and in Montreal, Canada.

The book on Florentino Das, titled “Bold Dream, Uncommon Valor: The Florentino Das Story,” was co-authored by Dr. Serafin Colmenares Jr., Dr. Cecilia Noble and Dr. Patricia Halagao. Published by the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO) and the COVO Foundation, the book had its official launching during the 2013 Annual COVO Conven-



tion held in Hilo, Big Island, on August 10, 2013.

The book tells the life story of Florentino Das, a Filipino from Waianae, who made history by sailing solo on his self-made wooden boat, Lady



Timarau, from Hawaii to the Philippines in 1955-1956. Nothing much is known about him or his feat, and the purpose of the book is “to rescue Das from obscurity” and to let people, especially the Filipino

youth, know of his unique accomplishment. The publishers plan to distribute free copies of the book to Hawaii’s public high schools and libraries.

The book, with a foreword by Governor Neil Abercrombie, is divided into six chapters:

- **Chapter 1: Tinoy – Youth and Dreams** – tells about Das’ youth and his dreams growing up in Samar, Philippines;
- **Chapter 2: Life in Hawaii – Family Man and Jack of All Trades** – talks about his life in Hawaii;
- **Chapter 3: The Call of the Sea** – looks into his decision to undertake the voyage;
- **Chapter 4: The Solo Voy-**

age – narrates the voyage from Hawaii to the Philippines;

- **Chapter 5: Destination and Destiny** – deals with his arrival and tragic end in the Philippines; and
- **Chapter 6: Remembering Florentino Das** – examines his legacy and how he is being remembered.

Each chapter of the book has a section containing Reflection Questions and Activities, which are designed to prompt and help students think more deeply about the chapter content, connect to it, and take social action. The book also includes a photo gallery, and a copy of Das’ diary which tells about the early part of his journey and which was reprinted from six issues of what was then the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Copies of the book can be obtained from the publishers through a donation of \$10 per copy. Contact Jun Colmenares at 510-734-4491 for more information.

On the other hand, the book on Dr. Jose P. Rizal is titled “Jose Rizal’s Legacy and Nation-Building,” and is co-edited by Dr. Raymund Liongson and Dr. Serafin
(continued on page 12)

IMMIGRATION GUIDE

(from page 7, HOPE...)

public safety to justify the alien’s continued detention. If the government fails to do so, the immigration judge shall release the alien on reasonable conditions of supervision, including electronic monitoring if necessary. *Rodriguez v. Robbins*, No. 12-56734, 04/16/13 (9th Cir. 2013).

(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.

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What is the Hawai'i Health Connector?

The Hawai'i Health Connector (the Connector) is an online health insurance marketplace, created to help individuals and families take advantage of the health insurance choices that are available to them.

We'll provide you with a clear, easy way to compare health plans, benefits and costs—and to find coverage that best fits you and your family's needs—all in one place.

We're here to:

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- Help you find if you qualify for financial help to lower your cost of health care.

Who can use the Connector to purchase insurance?

The Connector will be available to lawfully present Hawai'i residents who're buying their own health insurance. To qualify as a Hawai'i resident, you must have a Hawai'i home address and generally consider the State of Hawai'i your permanent home. If you receive health coverage through your job, but your family isn't covered, you can also use the Connector to search for and purchase coverage that suits their needs.

What kind of help is available to lower the cost of health coverage?

Whether you're looking for health insurance for yourself or your family, you'll be able to get help that answers your needs—online, in-person or over the phone.

What kind of health plans will the Connector offer?

The Connector will offer quality health insurance plans from companies you know and trust—all of whom are guaranteed to provide the essential levels of coverage and consumer protections required by state and federal laws—including preventive services, doctor visit, maternity care, pediatric dental and vision, emergency care and drug prescriptions.

When does coverage purchased through the Connector begin?

Applications for enrollment in health plans are available now and will continue through March 2014.

How can I learn more about the Connector?

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

**Maui Filipinos Gear Up
for 2013 Annual Heritage
Festival**

by HFC Staff

Building on the success of last year's Maui Fil-Am Heritage Festival, organizers for the 2013 version have planned several new features that will add more pizzazz and draw even more attendees.

"We felt it was important to keep improving the Festival," says Sharon Zalsos, president of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the sponsor of the Festival. "So we added several features for everyone to not only learn about Filipino-American History Month but also to enjoy our culture and our heritage and to support our businesses."

The 2013 Maui Fil-Am Heritage Festival is scheduled for October 12 at the Maui Mall from 10 am to 3 pm.



all Filipinos so why not have a basketball free throwing contest? The basketball hoop will be set up near IHOP and the winner will be the one who makes the most hoops in the designated time (45 to 60 seconds). So come and show your hoop skills at the Festival!

P-Noy Artist Contest

Under the direction of highly acclaimed local artist Phil Sabado, the P-Noy Artist Contest will be open from October 8-11. Entries will be on display through Saturday. This year's theme is 'Filipino Ingenuity.' Youth may participate in the two dimensional, three dimensional and digital artwork categories, while adults may participate in the digital artwork and photography categories. More information may be obtained by calling Phil Sabado at 249-0980 or 205-2809.

Master P-Noy Chef Cook Off

Joey Macadangdang of Roy's Kaanapali returns to defend his title as Master P-Noy Chef, bringing his signature flair for combining the flavors of Asia with classical and international culinary techniques. Macadangdang missed the first Master P-Noy Chef Cook-Off as Roy's prepared to re-open its West Maui restaurant at the Kaanapali Golf Course but appeared last year to shade the first Master P-Noy Chef Sheldon Simeon.

"In the last two years, the Chef Cook Off was a highlight of the Festival," says Gilbert Keith-Agaran, who chairs the Cook Off Committee with Jake Belmonte, chef instructor at the Maui Culinary Academy. This year's special ingredients are paria (bittermelon) and carabasa (squash). The three chefs will shop for their ingredients at sponsor Whole Foods.

"The Foundation wants to continue highlighting Maui's chefs of Filipino ancestry," says Belmonte. "We hope this exposure will bring pride to the Filipino community and encourage Maui's youth to consider the culinary arts as their vocation."

Manong Flores Yo-Yo Contest

Not many people know that the first yo-yo was invented by a Filipino immigrant from Vintar, Ilocos Norte. Pedro Flores manufactured the yo-yo in Santa Barbara, California in 1928. A few years later, he sold his company to Duncan Yoyos.

Participants in the Manong Flores Yo-Yo Contest will get to showcase their own wizardry and talent—all in honor of Pedro Flores-- the first person to manufacture a yo-yo in the U.S.

Parol Making Contest

Another new feature will be the Philippine Parol Making Contest. The first 50 youth entrants will be provided free parol-making kits to create their parol on-site. Contestants will be allowed to bring their own materials to supplement.

The top three entries will receive a prize. All 50 parols will be displayed at Maui Mall during the Christmas season. Parols must be completed on-site by 2:30 pm. The Parol making contest will be in the Historical Display Room, located near the stage.

Little Filipino Fashionista

At 10:30 am, youth 12 years and younger will strut their stuff in a fashion show sponsored by the Friends of Alan Arakawa. The first place winner will receive a \$150 gift certificate, while the second and third place winners will receive \$75 gift certificates. The event is limited to the first 25 participants, so pre-registration is highly recommended.

Hoops @ the Festival

Yes, basketball is the national sport of

(continued on page 11)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Fil-Am History Fest 2013 to Feature Eskrima

For Fil-Am History Fest 2013, the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSOH) is presenting “Filipino Martial Arts in Hawaii,” an exhibition and demonstration of *eskrima* – the martial arts from the Philippines.

Eskrima is a class of Filipino martial arts that emphasizes fluid strike and defensive movements using a stick, knife, dagger and even bare hands. Originating from the Philippines and spreading throughout the world, *eskrima* is also known *arnis*, *kali* and *FMA* (Filipino Martial Arts).

FAHSOH has invited six

local *eskrima* schools to present their histories and demonstrate their unique approaches to and practices of *eskrima*. Regardless of teaching methodology, *eskrima* is considered so effective that even the U.S. military teaches it to some varying degree in all of its special ops branches. The event is not a competition but meant to educate the public and promote the ideals and beliefs of *eskrima*. A brief discussion session will accompany the demonstrations.

Fil-Am History Fest 2013, which is part of the Filipino Community Center’s series “FilCom Sundays,” is sched-

uled for Sunday, October 27, 2013, from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Admission is free and open to the public. For more details on Fil-Am History Fest 2013, contact Clement Bautista at 256-4380.

Fil-Am History Month

October is Filipino American History Month in Hawaii and the U.S. In 2008, the State Legislature passed HB 3343 HD1, designating the entire month of October as “Filipino-American History Month.” The bill was introduced by then State Representative, now City Councilmember Joey Manahan, and signed

into law. To commemorate the event, the following events have been planned:

- **October 11, 2013, 8 pm** | Charmaine Clamor & Abe Lagrimas Homecoming Concert at Leeward Community College Theater
- **October 12, 2013, 7 pm** | Charmaine Clamor on the Big Island of Hawaii Honokaa People’s Theater
- **October 13, 2013, 4 pm** | Charmaine Clamor at Kauai Community College Performing Arts Center
- **October 16 - 31, 7:45 am - 4:30 pm** | 2nd Pamana Exhibit: “2 Islands 1 Spirit” at Honolulu Hale
- **October 17, 2013, 5 pm** | 2nd Pamana Exhibit: “2 Islands 1 Spirit” Artists’ Soiree & Opening Program at Honolulu Hale
- **October 20, 2013, 5 pm** | Artists’ Reception for Art Tibaldo & Dave

- Leprozo at Philippine Consulate
- **October 22, 2013** | Lecture by Art Tibaldo & Dave Leprozo at UH-Manoa’s George Hall 301B
- **October 23 - 31, 2013** | UH-Manoa’s Center for Philippine Studies presents: Photo/Art Exhibit by Art Tibaldo & Dave Leprozo at UH-Manoa’s Hamilton Library, 1st & 4th Floors
- **October 23, 2013, 4 pm** | Opening Reception for Photo/Art Exhibit by Art Tibaldo & Dave Leprozo at UH-Manoa’s Hamilton Library, Rm. 301
- **October 24, 2013, 12 noon** | Lecture by Art Tibaldo & Dave Leprozo at UH-Manoa’s Moore Hall 102
- **October 27, 2013, 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm** | Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii presents “Fil-Am History Fest 2013: Filipino Martial Arts in Hawaii” at FilCom Center

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 10, MAUI...)

Challenging Macadandang will be Chefs James (Kimo) Simpliciano and Jojo Vasquez. Participating as guest host and guest judge will be the 2011 Master P-Noy Chef and Bravo TV’s Top Chef star Sheldon Simeon, who is now executive chef at Mala Wailea.

Filipino Fashionista

To further showcase the rich Filipino heritage, males and females will participate in the Filipino Fashionista, a Filipino Attire contest sponsored by Noble Travel. The winner in both the female and male divisions will receive free round-trip airfare to Las Vegas.

“Judges will determine the winner based on style, personality and grace,” says Teresita Noble. “So come with your best outfit but remember—ramp it up because your smile may be the deciding factor!”

Balut Eating Contest

For those who enjoy eating this exotic delicacy, the Speedy Balut Eating Contest may be just the thing for them. Balut is a popular street food in the Philippines. While many enjoy the thrill of witnessing friends eat this bizarre or ‘extreme’ delicacy, it is worth noting that balut is actually a natural aphrodisiac with natural health benefits. There will be two age categories—18 to 25 and 26 and over. Experience in eating balut is a must.

“The Speedy Balut Eating Contest is exactly that,” says Alvin Santander, who is in charge of the contest. “The fastest one to eat a balut will win.”

Participating Restaurants

Slated to provide you their best pansit, adobo, lumpia, bibingka, halo-halo, dinuguan, pork and peas, pinakbet, puto, empanada, cascaron, turon, and a whole lot more are eight restaurants—all ready to entice you to return to their respective establishments.

“We believe it is important to feature Maui’s Filipino restaurants which need more exposure to survive in this economy,” says Teresita Noble, chair of the Food Vendors Committee. “The Festival will help to create the needed momentum for these restaurants.”

With participation from Badua’s Catering and Crepes; CAA Mini Mart; Four Sisters Kitchen; Paradise Supermart; RM Mini Mart; Randy’s Catering & Fast Food; TJ’s Food Mart Fast Food Restaurant Catering & Bakery; and Tante’s Island Cuisine, attendees will definitely be able to enjoy their favorite Filipino dishes!

All-Day Entertainment

Along with the Master P-Noy Chef Cook Off event and other attractions, attendees can soak in the various entertainment which will include Filipino songs, dances, music and even a Filipino martial arts

demonstration.

“The entertainment will definitely leave an impression on you,” says Madelyne Pascua, chair of the Program Committee. “We will showcase Maui’s Filipino talents that will include songs and dances of the Philippines and an *eskrima* demonstration. We want to share our rich cultural heritage with everyone on Maui—locals and tourists alike. After all, our culture is about sharing, giving and celebrating.”

Hosting this year’s Festival will be Jason Salmo—selected by the Maui Time as the 2012 Best Local Radio DJ.

Business Booths, Historical Displays

In addition to food, song and dance, attendees can also get a head start on Christmas shopping. There will be gifts such as Philippine art and crafts, which will available for purchase.

The 2013 Historical Display will tell the story of Maui’s Filipino community through the lives of 20 larger-than-life individuals—Rafael Acoba, Virgilio Agcolicol, Vince Bagoyo, Jr., Walter Baloalao, Joe Balangitao, Artemio Baxa, Larry Cabanilla, Agrifina Cabebe, Richard Caldito, Claro Capili, Donna Domingo, Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Martin Luna, Elizabeth Menor, Pepito Ragasa, Jose Romero, Erlinda Rosario, A.B. Sevilla, Sheldon Simeon, and Dominic Suguitan.

And tucked away in the Historical Display Room will be a Photo Booth from Agrade Photography where you can dress up and be the star in your own photograph.

Corporate Support

The Festival is supported by the County of Maui, the A&B Foundation, the Renato & Maria A.F. Etrata Foundation, Johnstone Supply of Maui, Young Brothers, ILWU Local 142, First Hawaiian Bank, Noble Travel, Whole Foods, Friends of Alan Arakawa, Maui Mall, Maui Culinary Academy, Pacific Media Group, Maui Beach Hotel, Kaanapali Beach Hotel, Agrade Photography and Kit

Zulueta Productions.

“Corporate support is so vital to the Festival’s success,” says Alfredo Evangelista, event chair. “Without our sponsors, the Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation would be unable to share our culture, heritage and history, so we are extremely grateful for our corporate sponsors.”

For more information on the Festival, please visit the Chamber’s website at www.maui-filipino-chamber.com or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MauiFilipinoChamber. Pre-registration for the various contests may be made by email to: info@maui-filipino-chamber.com.



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COVERSTORY

(from page 5, THE FIGHT...)

have been identified by the U.N. as organizations that continue to target children for conscription in war.

Despite the challenges, the report noted that the Philippines was “making significant efforts” to comply with international standards for the elimination of trafficking. For instance, the country is said to have taken “notable efforts to prevent the trafficking of overseas workers and to protect Filipino victims exploited abroad.” Furthermore the Philippines was also able to expand many of its financial and human resource allocations to combat trafficking.

One big hurdle for the Philippines to overcome, according to the report, is addressing the weaknesses in its judicial system, which remain stumbling blocks in its effort

toward holding trafficking offenders accountable. For instance, some law enforcement and government officials remain involved in human trafficking activities despite the government taking some steps to identify and prosecute officials complicit in the crime.

In addition, the report noted that the “overall prosecutions and convictions remain disproportionately low for the size of the problem.” Although the Philippines has made amendments to its anti-trafficking laws that could help expedite prosecutions, “the excessive length of trials and lack of public prosecutors dedicated to trafficking cases continue to limit progress.”

The Philippine government, however, imposes stringent sentences on convicted offenders, with the 2003 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act pre-

scribing penalties that are commensurate with those prescribed for other serious crimes like rape. Trafficking children, for instance, carries the penalties of life imprisonment and a fine of ₱2 million to ₱5 million (\$45,800 to \$114,600).

Help Stop Human Trafficking on Its Tracks

In Hawaii, several organizations have founded 808Halt, a rescue and restore coalition, which provides education and outreach programs to the public and helps to identify and assist victims of human trafficking. The members include the Pacific Gateway Center, First Canoe, Career Changers TV, Myanmar Association of Hawaii, Word International Ministries Hawaii, Wat Lao Sithammaram of Hawaii and the Wat Dhammavihara Hawaii. The coalition can be

reached online at www.808halt.com.

“These organizations along with others work in partnership with legal services and federal agencies to assist victims of trafficking,” Muyot said.

The Pacific Gateway Center, with which Muyot is affiliated, provides services that aim to rehabilitate victims by helping them to build skills, receive social services and access opportunities to attain self-sufficiency.

Because many victims of modern-day slavery superficially appear just like everyday people, Muyot said the public plays a very important role in discovering them and reporting their situation.

“A victim of human trafficking may look like many of the people you see every day. Ask the right questions, and

look for clues. You are vital because you may be the only outsider with the opportunity to speak with a victim. There are safe housing, healthcare, immigration, employment, legal and interpretation services and referrals available to victims, but first, they must be found,” he said.

To report suspected human trafficking activities, members of the public are encouraged to contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of the Department of Homeland Security at 1-866-347-2423. To report suspected human trafficking activities involving Filipinos, one can contact the Manila office of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking at (+632) 523-8481 local 216.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 8, BOOKS...)

Colmenares Jr. Published by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter, the book was officially launched during the 4th Canada Regional Assembly of the Order of the Knights of Rizal held in Montreal, Quebec

on September 1, 2013.

The book is a compilation of papers that were presented during the 4th USA Regional Assembly and Conference of the Knights of Rizal that was held in Honolulu, Hawaii on

September 1-3, 2012 at the Ala Moana Hotel. The papers examined Rizal’s legacy and its implications to nation-building. The publishers also plan to distribute free copies of the book to Hawaii’s public libraries, in line with the organization’s mission of spreading the ideas and principles of the Philippines’ foremost national hero.

The book includes the following:

- Introduction by Dr. Serafin Colmenares Jr., executive director of Hawaii’s Office of Language Access;
- Rizal’s Vision: To Build a Filipino Nation, by Dr. Belinda Aquino, professor emeritus and founding director of the University of Hawaii Center for Philippine Studies;
- In Every Filipino, A Rizal,

by Reghis Romero III, Supreme Commander of the Order of the Knights of Rizal;

- Rizal in the 21st Century, by Paul Cortes, a Career Minister at the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs;
- The Question of the Plural, and the Question of the Philippine State: Rizal and the Virtues of Diversity and Cultural Pluralism, by Dr. Aurelio Agcaoili, professor of Ilokano at the University of Hawaii;
- Simoun’s IED: The Fili in the Nationalist Imagination, by Dr. Patricio Abinales, professor of Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii;
- [Un]-Boxing Rizal’s Legacy, by Clement Bautista, director of the Office of Multicultural Services at the University of Hawaii;
- Building the Imagined Na-

tion...for...with...of the Diaspora (BIND), by Mary Grace Ampil Tirona, Director of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas;

- Rizal’s Critical Consciousness and Nation-Building, by Dr. Raymund Liongson, professor of Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii Leeward campus;
- Rizal, Women and Nation, by Dr. Lilia Santiago Quindoza, professor of Ilokano at the University of Hawaii; and
- Quo Vadis, Knights of Rizal?, by Reghis Romero III.

Copies of the book are available from the publisher through a donation of \$15 per copy. Contact Raymund Liongson at 808-381-4315 or Jun Colmenares at 510-734-4491 for more information.

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LEGAL NOTES

Obama Urged to Stop Deportations



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Ommigration advocates are appealing to President Obama to exercise his executive power and stop the deportation of thousands of undocumented immigrants in the country while Congress is at a standstill on immigration reform. At present, over 1,000 undocumented immigrants are being deported per day. Last year, more than 400,000 were deported.

President Obama changed his policy on deportation last year and deferred the deportation of thousands of young people who were illegally brought into the country as children. Over 455,000 undocumented young people have so far been granted de-

ferred action.

This time, however, President Obama, in an interview, indicated that he cannot change his policy on enforcement nor expand the coverage of the deferment program. He also told progressive and labor leaders in a meeting that he cannot ease enforcement because his priority is to push for the passage of the immigration reform bill. According to an advocate, the goal is “getting the immigration reform passed, and that solves the problem – not starting a whole controversy as to whether he is easing up.”

Meantime, the President instructed the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division to focus on the deportation of felons and multiple offenders. Advocates say that the ICE and the Department of Homeland Security continue to deport undocumented workers who are without any criminal

record and are separated from their families. Last month, however, ICE issued a directive advising agents “to keep enforcement actions from unnecessarily impacting parents and primary caregivers.”

The President’s refusal to stop mass deportations has prompted immigration advocates to launch campaigns to demonstrate their frustration and disappointment. Seven undocumented workers affiliated with the National Day Laborer Organizing Network recently held a protest, handcuffing themselves at the gates of the White House and carrying signs with the words, “Mr. President Stop Deportations.”

Chris Newman, legal director of the same organization behind the protest expressed his concern saying, “There’s a clear contradiction in the president’s position right now. He’s saying either the House Republican’s will come around on the path to

citizenship, or I’ll be forced to keep deporting people. And that’s an untenable position.” Advocates maintain that the president has the power to stop deportations and are determined to keep challenging him.

Meanwhile, advocates are also intensifying their campaigns to pressure Congress to pass the immigration reform bill. Thousands of people are expected to join a rally and a concert at the doorsteps of Congress on October 8.

The House Republicans’ refusal to bring the immigration reform bill to the floor has increased the frustration of the immigrant community.

Although many are “losing heart” with the bill being sidelined for many reasons, immigration advocates will not stop pushing for the overhaul of nation’s immigration system. As Jaime Contreras of the Service Employees International Union pointed out, “It’s time for Republican leaders to start standing up to the extremists and let them know that inaction is not an option for us. We will not stop until we win this fight.”

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

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RETIREMENT

Saving More Money Critical For Those Who Hope to Retire

by Toy Arre

Americans are having trouble saving for the future. Nearly half of all Americans over age 55 have less than \$50,000 saved toward retirement, though conventional wisdom says that by age 60 people need to have 9 times their current salary in savings.

Many people put off saving, thinking there's too much they need to learn first or that they can't afford to save or that they don't have time to think about it. Filipino-Americans with family back in the Philippines may also find themselves sending all their "extra" resources to help relatives back home whose need is greater than their own. But if you hope to some day retire, it is critical to start thinking of saving money in the same way as paying a bill. Pay it every month but instead send the check to yourself.

Below are several tips on how to save for retirement:

- **Pay yourself first.** Before you pay your bills every

month, put some money aside to "pay yourself" first, even if it's only a few dollars. The easiest way is to save electronically. Simply ask your bank to transfer money from your checking to your savings account automatically.

- **Avoid debt: spend less than you make.** Take an honest look at how much money is coming in each month and how much is going out. If you're spending more than you make, you're piling up debt.

- **Pay down your debt.** If you have a lot of credit card debt, work on reducing it. If you're paying high finance charges, you may need to put more money toward reducing the debt instead of saving—at least for a while. But once your debt is reduced, put the amount you've been paying on the debt into your savings.

- **Save for the unexpected.** Unexpected costs can be anything from annoying to financially devastating. Your car might break down, the water heater might fail, or you could lose your job. Stash away three to six months pay as protection against the unex-

pected before you start saving for other things.

- **Always include retirement as a savings goal.** Don't wait until you're well into your career before saving for your retirement. Saving enough to afford a comfortable retirement is one of the best investments you can make. The earlier you start saving, the longer your money will have to grow and the faster you'll reach your goal.

- **If you have a 401(k), use it.** The easiest way to save is to have money taken out of your paycheck before you have a chance to use it. Contribute 10 percent of your pay to your 401(k) plan if you have one. If 10 percent is too steep, start a little lower, but bump it up with every pay raise. If your employer will match your contributions, put in at least enough to earn the full match. If you don't have a 401(k) or other plan from your employer or if you're self-employed, save for retirement using an IRA, SEP, SIMPLE, or one of many other types of tax-deferred retirement accounts.

- **Don't postpone saving until you've mastered in-**

vesting. You don't have to be an expert on all types of investments before you start saving for the future. If the idea of picking good investments is overwhelming, just focus on the saving part for now. If you are signing up for a 401(k) and you don't feel comfortable making investment choices immediately, start with a balanced fund (generally a mix of stocks, bonds and cash) or a target retirement date fund.

- **If you can't find money to save, look again.** Review all of your expenses and be sure to include the "little" things like restaurant meals, manicures, video rentals or the cost of parking your car instead of taking the bus to work. Look hard for ways to save. Pack your lunch a few days a week instead of buying it. Use coupons when you shop. Save your pocket change. Instead of buying a cup of coffee every day, make your own. Replace your credit card with a debit card that limits you to spending what you have rather

than borrowing what you don't. Be creative.

- **Think before you buy.** When you're about to buy something, stop for a minute and ask yourself if you really need it. If you do need it, do some comparison-shopping first and weigh your options.

- **Set saving goals.** Once you're in the habit of saving, think about your saving goals—how much you'll need and how long you have until you'll need it. The answers to these questions will help you figure out how to invest your money and reaching your goals.

If you want to learn more on how to budget, cut costs, increase savings, improve credit and get out of debt, AARP Hawaii will host a free educational seminar at the Filipino Community Center on October 26, 2013 from 9 am to 12 noon. To register, call 1-877-926-8300 or visit aarp.cvent.com/

TOY ARRE is chair of AARP's Filipino Advisory Committee

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Pangilinan May No Longer Join Aquino Cabinet

by Delon Porcalla
Wednesday, October 9, 2013

BALI – Former senator Francis Pangilinan may no longer join the Aquino government, but the post to be given to former senator Panfilo Lacson Jr. is being "ironed out," President Aquino said here on Monday.

The President said he talked with Pangilinan, husband of actress Sharon Cuneta, more than a month ago to check if he was still interested in joining government, because "somebody told me that he needed to spend quality time with his family."

The President said family matters could have forced Pangilinan to forgo a position in the national government.

"Perhaps he was kind of shy that after having so many meetings discussing exactly



Former senator Francis Pangilinan

where he feels he can fit in, then all of a sudden there is a need in the family and he has two children who are quite young," he said during an interview at the Nusa Dua Beach Hotel and Spa here late Monday.

"Perhaps he was told: Your daddy will no longer be as busy, and he will not be running (in elections), and that he will not be attending to this and to that," he added.

Aquino said he accepted Pangilinan's explanation "at face value" and respected his decision. (www.philstar.com)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Ala Moana Hotel • For details email pr.ufch@gmail.com

GLOBAL NAGUILIANDERS ALLIANCE NETWORK REUNION & DINNER DANCE • SATURDAY • October 26, 2013, 6 PM • Ala Moana Hotel • Contact: Eddie Baladad @ 341-5047

FILCOM CENTER'S 11TH ANNUAL GALA DINNER AND FUNDRAISER EVENT • SATURDAY • November 9, 2013, 5:30 PM • FilCom Center, Waipahu • Visit www.filcom.org for more information

63RD ANNUAL CONVENTION LUNCHEON OF DIOCESAN CONGRESS OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUB • SATURDAY • November 9, 2013, 12:00 PM • Pagoda Hotel

International Ballroom • Call Estrella Estillore at 672-8100 for details

UFCH REAFFIRMATION AND PROGRESS AWARDS • SATURDAY • November 23, 2013 • For details and nomination forms, email pr.ufch@gmail.com

MINI-CONFERENCE ON MINDANAO, MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY RESOURCE SPEAKERS • SATURDAY • November 23, 2013, 2 - 5 PM • Contact Dr. Fred Magdalena at 956-6086 for more info

50TH FOUNDATION & GALA CELEBRATION DINNER & BALL OF CABUGAO SONS & DAUGHTERS OF HAWAII • SATURDAY • December 7, 2013, 6 PM • Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa • Contact: Mercedes Sonico, 258-9573 or 842-7149

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MAINLAND NEWS

NAFCON Blames Both Parties for U.S. Gov't Shutdown

For one week and counting, Congress has shut down the government due its inability to agree on next year's budget. The shutdown sent home over 800,000 federal employees without pay indefinitely. The stalemate also halted many essential public services.

Closed services of particular concern to Filipinos include processing of new visas, citizenship applications and passports. The hold in visa renewals is leaving many Filipinos out of status and in jeopardy of deportation because they cannot update their work authorization. Despite the stoppage of visa processing, the Immigration Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol are still open and continue deportations.

Up until now, there is no clear timeline for reopening government services. Rather than working on immediate solutions,

Democrats and Republicans continue to blame each other. Democrats argue Republicans are inappropriately using the budget process to take down Obama's health care plan, while Republicans contend they are protecting America from "Obamacare."

Terrence Valen, president of the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (NAFCON), says neither party is acting in the best interests of the majority of people in America. Rather than holding one party responsible, NAFCON argues that both sides should be held accountable and voters must work toward real change for the future.

"This shutdown does not help us," Valen says. "This shutdown only benefits politicians who gain votes in the next election by using this issue to try to make the opposing party look bad. We should not put faith in either Democrats or Republicans when it is clear that neither is

truly representing us."

In the coming days, Congress must overcome a bigger challenge than resolving differences over next year's budget. It must decide by October 15th whether or not to increase America's debt limit. Each year, the government decides to increase the debt limit or stop paying its loans. The second option is unlikely because American currency is used as the standard in world trade for many nations. Consequently, an unstable dollar threatens the stability of the global economy. Despite this threat, many fear Congress' divide over the budget will spill over onto the debt-limit decision.

NAFCON questions the practice of continually increasing the debt limit and instead argues for balancing the budget by decreasing expenditures on war. The U.S. 2013 defense allocation was \$672 billion. NAFCON questions \$50 million earmarked

for military operations in the Philippines as one example of how the defense budget is utilized against taxpayer's interests.

"We are allocating millions of dollars to support the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and other paramilitary groups who are guilty of thousands of unresolved and atrocious human rights violations. There should be absolutely no question that these tax-dollars need to be re-allocated to improve education, health care and other social services here in America versus giving it to those who violate peoples' basic rights abroad," Valen says.

Vice President John Kerry is

scheduled to visit the Philippines on October 11 to solidify increased U.S. military presence on the archipelago and show continued support for the AFP. NAFCON urges the Fil-Am community to join protest efforts demanding full withdrawal of U.S. military assistance for the Philippines based on its poor human rights record. Protests throughout the U.S. and in the Philippines are scheduled to take place during Kerry's two-day visit.

GLOBAL NEWS

PH Wins Memory Championship

A 20-member Philippine team won first place in the First Hong Kong Open Memory Championship held September 28-29, 2013 at the True Light Girls College in Kowloon, Hong Kong.

The Philippine team garnered a total score of 15,198. Participating in the event were teams from the Philippines, Mongolia, Hong Kong, Japan, China, Indonesia and India.

Founded by the Hong Kong Memory Sports Council and sanctioned by the World Memory Sports Council, the Hong Kong Open Memory Championships included events, such as names and faces, random

numbers, speed numbers, playing cards, spoken numbers, binary numbers, abstract images, historic and future dates, random words and speed cards. Team Philippines will now prepare for the World Memory Championship in London this November.

Memory sport has been popular among Western countries for some time and is rapidly gaining popularity in Southeast Asia where more people are aspiring to become mental athletes.

"Memory techniques is something that everyone actually can learn and most likely would have a tremendous use of

in everyday life, not to mention in school or at university," says Jonas von Essen of Sweden, winner of the 2013 UK Open Memory Championships, held August 22-23 in London.

The competition to establish the first World Memory Champion was held in October 1991. Dubbed Memoriad '91, the event was witnessed by 100 spectators, journalists and film crews. News of the event spread round the world and made an overnight star of the first winner, Dominic O'Brien, who went on to win a total of eight times. From this modest beginning, the sport is now practiced in over 30 countries around the world. (DFA)



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