

HAWAII

# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ NOVEMBER 30, 2013 ◆

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**CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF EXCELLENT CHRONICLING OF FILIPINO NEWS AND EVENTS!**

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## EDITORIALS

## Mahalo, PMAH for Reaching Out to Typhoon Victims

**O**nce again, a handful of local doctors from the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) are stepping up to the plate and going to bat for their *kababayans*. This time it's for a medical mission from December 13-23 to provide free medical services to typhoon victims in the Visayas. The team will also distribute medicines and other emergency supplies. But what makes this Visayan mission different from previous medical missions is that the team will be traveling to basically one large disaster scene, where in the storm's aftermath entire towns were flattened and desperate, starving people resorted to looting and violence. The mission team may also combine its efforts with other disaster relief teams already in the area.

As PMAH's volunteers reach the hardest hit towns, they will see in living color the typhoon's devastation and encounter the putrid stench from the numerous decomposed corpses that only recently have been collected. All in all, the powerful typhoon forever altered the lives of some 10 million people in the Central and Visayan region of the Philippines. The area was already struggling to recover from a magnitude 7.2 earthquake in October, not to mention lingering issues of poverty. Still, the Filipino people are by and large a people of faith. And it is by faith and God's grace that will see them through.

While it is important to donate what we can to the relief efforts, let us not forget most of all to pray for the team as they step into the chaos of the storm zone. Let's pray that the Lord's covering will be on each and every volunteer and for the overall success of this medical mission. It bears repeating that enough good things cannot be said of our kind-hearted Filipino doctors who repeatedly give of themselves time and again. It is truly compassion in action and perhaps the practice of medicine in its purest sense—providing lifesaving treatment free of charge to the less fortunate without expecting compensation or a reward. May the kindness given by these PMAH medical mission volunteers return to them many times over!

## Support Printed Newspapers And Books; Buy What You Can Touch

**A**mericans, if not a great part of the world, owe a handsome gratitude to the New York Times not just for producing some of the greatest news reporting that influence policy-making on a daily basis, but for its contribution to keeping print media alive.

How so? Each week in its Sunday edition, the New York Times' reputable Book Review section has been helping to keep literacy animated, featuring the latest book releases and arousing interest in specific books which otherwise would go undiscovered, forgotten. In fact, the New York Times Best Seller list has been one of the most widely used tools of reference to book buyers since 1942.

In spite of the New York Times and other newspapers around the world, from giant dailies to community weeklies, working to keep print relevant, the industry overall continues to

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**O**f your family is like most Filipinos, leftover turkey will probably be on the menu for the next few post-Thanksgiving meals. In fact, we'll likely use the "other white meat" days on end for sandwiches, soups, salads and other dishes. For those watching their waistline, nutrition experts say skinless turkey is a rich source of protein, is low in fat and a good source for iron, zinc, potassium and other essential nutrients.



With Christmas around the corner, buying your tree is perhaps next on your to-do list. If so, why not buy a locally-grown Christmas tree instead of an imported tree from the Pacific Northwest? One small business in particular, Heleman Farms in Whitmore Village, has been known for its Norfolk Pine and Leyland Cypress Trees. Give them a call at 622-4287 or visit their website at [www.helemanofarms.com](http://www.helemanofarms.com).

Personally, I've been touched by the tremendous outpouring of support for typhoon victims in the Philippines. Everywhere I turn, I hear news of local schools, banks, restaurants and even motorcycle clubs holding donation drives. One group that will be going to the Visayas region for yet another medical mission is the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (see cover story beginning on page 4). The Visayas mission will be one of the most challenging ever. Please pray for the safety of our volunteers and that the mission will go smoothly.

In other news, congratulations are in order to Waipahu High School and HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union, which recently opened a student-operated credit union on campus. Students who will be working at the campus credit union are enrolled in the school's Academy of Finance. It's important for young people to learn money management skills, especially in today's challenging economy. To find out more about this unique program, please turn to page 8.

There are other stories in this issue that we hope you will enjoy reading. In fact, this issue marks the Chronicle's 21st anniversary of excellent reporting of Filipino news and events. Our deepest thanks to our faithful advertisers, readers, family and friends for their support through all these years! As always, we invite our readers to contact us at: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto: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*

slip as digital media (online) strengthens. Both print newspapers and print book publishing are down.

For newspapers, print advertising revenues and print circulation (as opposed to online advertising revenues and online circulation) have been in decline for over a decade. According to Pew Research Center, print advertising revenues for newspapers fell nearly 48% since 2006. In 2000, print ad revenues was at \$48.7 billion. By 2010, total revenues for print media had fallen to \$22.8 billion, a decline of about 53% in a decade.

Print circulation stood at 62.3 million in 1990; it fell to 43.4 million in 2010, a decline of 30%. Print circulation has been declining at a slower rate than print advertising, which indicates that advertisers are playing a greater role in pushing the trend from print to digital than consumers.

For some newspapers, having both print and online options have been working well to expand their total audience reach, even as paid print circulation totals fall. But many other newspapers are still losing ground in this trend towards digital, including the New

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

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## OPINION

# Dogged Journalism Is A Blessing, Not A Curse

By Lee H. Hamilton

**L**et's start with the obvious: A democracy needs intelligence agencies. It needs to know what's happening in the world — and understand the plans of allies and enemies — to keep the nation prepared and secure.

If intelligence work is going to be effective, much of it has to be done in secret. "National security" is not merely an excuse for keeping intelligence activity under wraps: often, the only way to protect our collective well-being is to pursue many national security activities, including intelligence-gathering, in the dark.

But that's if they're legitimately in the national interest. All too often, governments use secrecy to protect themselves politically or to shroud activities that, seen in the cold light of day, their citizens would re-

ject. This is why secrecy in government can be dangerous, and should be subject to the checks and balances of our constitutional system.

However legitimate secrecy may be, though, there is a limit to how much a democracy can stand. As ordinary citizens, we need information about what our government is up to in order to make informed and discriminating choices about politicians and policies. Journalists and their media outlets are indispensable conveyors of this information. The work of the journalist, who often presses for a more open, accountable government, creates tensions with a government set upon guarding state secrets. But it's a healthy, much-needed tension.

Which brings us to Edward Snowden's revelations to the press about the National Security Agency and its vast efforts to monitor communications. Around Washington, Snowden is routinely excoriated, and he's

none too popular in the country at large, either. But whether he's a hero or a criminal in your book, there's no question that because of him, we know far more about the surveillance our government has been carrying out. The expansion of government power that the leaks reveal is without precedent in the modern era. Technology, along with the surveillance and monitoring it enables, has clearly outrun the policies to deal with it.

Although many commentators have raised questions about Snowden's leaks, the journalists who have dug into the NSA files he provided are doing the job that democracy depends on them to do: getting information that details government actions and prompting a badly needed debate. It's one of the most important ways to hold government accountable for the use of its power. Our ability to judge whether it acted appropriately or abusively and to act as responsible citizens is buttressed by journalists who

are skilled at finding and keeping confidential sources, who know how to dig through copious records or amounts of data, who have learned how to build a story from a tip or a leak, and who are accurate, honest, rigorous and fair-minded.

Now, I don't want to whitewash what's happening in the media right now. There are plenty of worrisome trends. As a whole, media outlets are less interested than they used to be in accuracy, objectivity, and solid coverage, and more interested in advocacy, persuasion, and entertainment. Even at the largest papers, cutbacks have reined in their ability to cover the world and to launch expensive investigative work. The recent rise of alternatives — such as the non-profit ProPublica and the investigative reporting venture just announced by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar — may go some distance toward recovering what's been lost, but they're also an acknowledgement that we have

lost ground.

And we've done so precisely at a time when we face a real challenge in constraining the reach of government into our lives. Its powers of monitoring and surveillance are astonishing and are being used aggressively. It is classifying secret information wholesale, it is vigorously seeking to prosecute leaks, and it is trying to intimidate journalists: all of these are signs of a national security state that is determined to bulk up.

Congress is only now beginning to stir; until recently it has been a passive and willing participant in secrecy. At a moment like this, we have to depend more than ever on the curiosity, skill and determination of good reporters to spur the kind of debate we should be having as our society tries to strike the right balance between security and freedom.

LEE HAMILTON is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

## EDITORIALS (from page 2, SPREADING...)

York Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post and other top-tier publications.

The trend towards digital (online) hasn't been kind to book publishing as well. Surveys show that only 25% of adults read books (both print and digital). Of those who are book readers, the average book consumption is only four books per year.

Data on both the newspaper and book industries could point to several assumptions. Digital is the future, but circulation is still strong enough to keep newspapers and books on the shelves. Advertisers partiality for digital is not well founded in many cases, with digital actually hurting the overall book industry and large sectors of the newspaper industry. This fact could mean that the convenience of online buying and consumption of newspapers and books is not necessarily translating to more people reading, at least not yet. How this will affect overall literacy could be problematic in the future.

Adult literacy in the U.S. is already low. The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Educational Statistics report that 43% of the adult population aged 16 and older could read at basic to below basic levels; 44% of the adult population can read at the intermediate level (enough to handle day-to-day reading); and only 13% of adults in the population possessed "proficient" reading skills.

### Why print is important

Although current data doesn't necessarily show that more people are reading in this period of increased digital (online) availability of newspapers and books, the reality could be that they are, but in a "bits-and-pieces" fashion. So when a respondent to a survey answers that he hasn't read a single book in a year, that doesn't necessarily mean he is not reading. Or a similar conclusion could be made if someone is not a subscriber of a particular newspaper, it doesn't mean that he is not

reading that newspaper. The digital era allows both, to be a nonsubscriber and avid reader of a particular newspaper, even if the reader only has limited access.

Where the difference lies between digital reading and print reading perhaps is in quality. The average reader today is more knowledgeable of facts due to the convenience of online searches, but may be less knowledgeable in understanding concepts, the "big picture." This is where the careful perusing of printed books and newspapers have an edge. The manner in which books are written -- they present issues in-depth, comprehensively, so that readers are better critical thinkers and versed on concepts, rather than just mere facts. Online books could have the same effect but hasn't proven to be popular enough.

Ultimately, there should be room for both print and digital newspapers and books to succeed. Advertisers should be aware of that and support both. The goal really is to have more people reading. The ben-

efits are obvious: improved mental processing, memory, creativity and concentration; expanded knowledge, vocabulary and skills. Reading is entertainment. Reading is cultural. And sometimes, reading can be life-changing. Somehow it just doesn't feel the same as having that life-

changing book on your bookshelf along with your other great collections compared to storing in on a computer desktop file. You could have both, but if consumers fail to support print, conceivably in the not-so-distant future, there might be only one choice, digital.



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## COVER STORY

# PMAH to Extend Helping Hand to Typhoon Victims

By Chona Montesines-Sonido

**T**he Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) is gearing up for a medical and humanitarian mission to the Visayan region of the Philippines—one that promises to be perhaps the largest and most intense ever undertaken by volunteers from Hawaii.

The mission is scheduled for December 13-23, 2013. Volunteers will be based in Cebu but plan to go to areas most devastated by the typhoon, including neighboring provinces and various evacuation centers.

“This is the first mission from Hawaii to help the Typhoon Yolanda survivors,” says mission chair Dr. Sonido, who has been involved in at least 20 missions of mercy over the past 30 years as a volunteer physician. He will be assisted by co-chair Dr. Russell Kelly, who is the current president of the Ohana Medical Missions—the missionary arm of the PMAH.

Organizers are expecting to serve up to 25,000 Yolanda survivors over the five-day period. Mission volunteers will bring over \$500,000 worth of medications and supplies such

as EKG machines, stethoscopes, and blood pressure and blood sugar monitors. Most of the items were donated by physicians, pharmaceutical companies, local drug stores and mainland medical companies.

Over \$75,000 will also be allocated for relief goods, including toys for children, food supplies, clothing and household goods to be bought in Manila or Cebu and distributed to the typhoon survivors. The amount was solicited from various individuals and organizations in Hawaii and from the mainland.

Major sponsors include PMAH, the Renato and Maria AF Etrata Foundation; Hawaii Filipino Healthcare; Titans USA Foundation; FMS/H&R Block; Galihier de Robertis and Ono Law Offices; and the Sonido family. Most of the big

donors will join the mission themselves to ensure that help will be received by those who need it the most.

“The mission team will carry these items to the disaster areas and distribute them directly to survivors with no additional overhead expense,” Dr. Sonido says. “We will be joining other volunteers if needed to pool our resources together for better health care delivery.”

A total of 40 volunteers will join the mission, including 20 physicians, medical and physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, medical students and other paramedical personnel. Every volunteer will pay for his or her own travel, lodging, food and other expenses.

Preparations for the mission have been intense. Volunteer doctors and lay people have attended several meetings to discuss logistics, administrative matters and tips on what personal effects to bring. In addition, updates are provided on the status of donations, medicine orders and allocations. PMAH organizers have been in constant contact with local officials of provincial health offices in the Philippines who will host the volunteers. The Philippine government requires these provincial health offices to issue official letters of approval for the mission to be conducted.

After the Visayas mission, PMAH volunteers will turn their attention to homecoming missions in Cabugao and Santiago in Ilocos Sur; and to Pasuquin in Ilocos Norte. Organizers have planned festive activities such as a



▲ PMAH volunteers with a large donation of items from the Lions Club for typhoon victims

spelling bee, General Info Triathlon and Pasuquin Idol contest.

PMAH volunteers will conclude their efforts with a medical mission to Payatas, Quezon City—a dumpsite district in Metro Manila which is considered one of the Philippines’ poorest communities. Volunteers are scheduled to return to Honolulu on December 24, 2013.

Danny Villaruz, president of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii, describes the team of Filipino doctors, medical professionals and other volunteers as “missionaries.”

“They offer their professional talents for free and sacrifice their time, effort and money to serve our typhoon devastated kababayans in the Visayan Region. Mahalo to all volunteers who will be participating this medical and humanitarian mission,” he says.

## Ground Zero

Filipinos are used to natural disasters and have over the years developed a resiliency to powerful storms. But they’ve never before seen the likes of Super Typhoon Haiyan, or Yolanda, as it is referred to there. As of November 27, the body count has risen to nearly 5,500 people dead and 1,757

others missing. Damage to infrastructure and agriculture is estimated at US\$551 million.

Health officials say the lack of food, clean water and shelter are taking a toll on children and young mothers. An estimated 1.5 million children are at risk for acute malnutrition, while nearly 800,000 pregnant and nursing mothers need nutritional help. Officials are also bracing for a surge in dengue fever cases in the coming weeks due to the presence of stagnant water in typhoon-ravaged areas.

Thankfully, signs of life are slowly returning to hard hit areas like Tacloban City. News reports from Tacloban say that the city’s major streets have been cleared. However, the once capital city of Northern Leyte with some 220,000 people has been reduced to a ghost town. Victims elsewhere are slowly rebuilding their lives from a sea of debris.

According to mission co-chair Dr. Kelly, volunteers are anticipating a very challenging mission.

“We expect horrible conditions in the Visayas because it is in a state of emergency and people are expecting a lot of help,” he says. “We are planning to deliver aid to as

(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, PMAH ...)

many survivors as we can to alleviate their suffering.”

Participating physician and current PMAH president Dr. Jose de Leon is also bracing for the challenges that lie ahead.

“It will be the most difficult mission so far because of the devastation of the area,” he says. “The mission’s volunteers will be facing not only health problems but also abnormal living conditions like lack of drinking water and exposure to various health hazards.”

Dr. Jerald Garcia, incoming PMAH president, will be unable to join the mission due to other obligations but will be doing what he can from here in Honolulu and also through his family which is currently in Cebu. Dr. Garcia says Cebu is a top tourist destination in Asia and very safe to begin with. For extra precautions, the mission team is coordinating with local governments of both the City and Province of Cebu to provide the necessary security to enable PMAH volunteers to perform their tasks.

“As a Filipino physician, this mission means a lot to me personally since it hits close to home. To be in a position to help your fellow countrymen at a time when they need it the

most is both a privilege and honor,” he says.

According to Maria and Renato Etrata, who are major sponsors and veteran mission volunteers, preparing for the Visayas mission is one of the most fulfilling projects they have been involved with.

“While we have contributed to many other community projects in Hawaii, the Typhoon Yolanda Relief effort is one of the most satisfying. People are dying and need our immediate and continuing help,” says Maria Etrata.

One of the mission’s volunteers is Melinda Montgomery, a small business owner, who lives in Hawaii Kai. For Montgomery, joining the mission is her way of giving back to the country of her birth. She has also prepared herself for whatever lies ahead.

“I’m ready and feel safe since we are going as a group,” she says. “I’ve followed instructions on what we should bring like insect repellent and bottled water. We’ve been reminded to be careful with the drinking water.”

Another volunteer is Montgomery’s daughter Pinky Que who was born and raised in the Philippines. She finds personal fulfillment from join-



▲ Participating doctors and volunteers attend a meeting in preparation for the upcoming Typhoon Haiyan Medical/Humanitarian Mission



▲ Volunteers sort and repack medicines to be distributed at the various mission sites

ing the mission and helping out in her own little way.

“I’m prepared for busy and hot days with no basic necessities like running water, electricity and bathrooms. But it’s a small price to pay for the large number of people we will be helping,” she says.

Visayan community leader Serafin “Jun” Colmenares is deeply appreciative of the efforts of medical mission volunteers to alleviate the suffering of typhoon victims.

“As a Visayan, I’m touched and sincerely thank them for their compassion and generosity,” he says. “They will certainly face many unexpected challenges when traveling to and conduct-

ing the mission at places they are unfamiliar with and under conditions that are appalling. I wish them well and pray that God be with them as they undertake this worthy humanitarian effort. *Daghan kaayong salamat!*”

For typhoon victims, it will be a very dark and dismal Holiday Season. Mission organizers say there is still time for Hawaii’s Filipino community to help make their kababayans’ holidays brighter by donating whatever they can to the relief effort.

“We appeal to your compassion and generosity,” says

Dr. Sonido says. “Together, let us extend a hand to all of those who desperately need our help.”

Colmenares also urges his fellow Filipinos to donate whatever they can to the relief effort. Clothing, food, blankets, tents and other items are needed—along with interpreters to facilitate communication.

“Above all, we can pray for them, their safety, health and the overall success of the mission,” he says.

*For inquiries about possible donations, please call JP Orias at 808-387-8297.*

Itinerary: Payatas, Visayas, Ilocos Sur, Pasuquin			Schedule #1
Tuesday, Dec 10			First Group leaves for Manila
Wednesday, Dec 11	12:10 AM		Second Group Leaves for Honolulu
Thursday, Dec 12	5:10 AM		Arrive Manila
	11:00 AM		Leave for Visayas (Exact City to be confirmed)
	12:15 PM		Arrive in Visayas
	1:00 PM - 6:00 PM		Travel Time to Mission site
Friday, Dec. 13	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM		Day 1 Medical Mission, Visayas
Saturday, Dec 14	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM		Day 2 Medical Mission, Visayas
Sunday, Dec 15	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM		Day 3 Medical Mission, Visayas
Monday, Dec 16	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM		Day 4 Medical Mission, Visayas
Tuesday Dec 17	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM		Day 5 Medical Mission, Visayas
Wednesday Dec 18	7:00 AM		Back to Manila
	12:15 AM		Arrive in Manila
	3:00 PM		Leave for Vigan
	11:00 PM		Arrive Vigan, Vigan Plaza Hotel
Thursday Dec 19	6:00 AM		Breakfast & Orientation
	7:00 AM		Leave for Cabugao Medical Mission
	8:00 AM - 1:00 PM		Cabugao Medical Mission
	7:00 AM		Ilocos Idol, Vigan Plaza
Friday Dec 20	6:00 AM		Breakfast, Orientation & Checkout
	7:00 AM		Leave for Santiago Medical Mission
	9:00 AM		Santiago Clinic Complex
	1:00 PM		End of Medical Mission
	2:00 PM		Leave for Pasuquin
	6:00 PM		Check in at Java Java Hotel
Saturday Dec 21	7:00 AM		Breakfast and Orientation
	9:00 AM		Medical Mission, Pasuquin
	10:00 AM		Spelling Bee, General Info Triathlon
	5:00 PM		End of Medical Mission
	6:00 PM		Pasuquin Idol
	10:00 PM		Leave for Manila or go back to Cabugao
Sunday Dec 22			Rest Day or half day mission in Cabugao
			Back to Manila
Monday, Dec 23	7:00 AM		Leave for Payatas
	8:00 AM		Medical Mission, Payatas
			Simloan Christian Academy
			004 Sto. Nino Street, Payatas A, Quezon City
	5:00 PM		Mission ends
Tuesday, Dec 24	8:00 PM		Leave Manila for Honolulu
	11:55 AM		Arrive Honolulu

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## FilCom Fundraiser Nets Over \$150K

The Filipino Community Center's (FilCom) 11th annual Gala Dinner and Silent Auction raised over \$150,000 which will be used to fund programs not only for Filipino elderly and youth but also the community at large.

Over 600 guests attended "Sharing Memorable Moments with Emme Tomimbang & Friends" held on November 9.

"We want to thank veteran journalist Emme Tomimbang, whom we honored that evening for her many decades of community service and for her ability to elevate the visi-

bility of the FilCom Center," says Edmund Aczon, chairman of FilCom's Board of Directors. "Emme's stature in the community attracted an eclectic group of individuals from celebrities, entertainers, elected, corporate, and religious leaders to justices of Hawaii Supreme Court."

FilCom's president and chief operating officer Rose Cruz Churma says the gala event provided much-needed visibility for the facility, including the Casamina-Flores Ballroom as an ideal choice for a special events venue.

The guest of honor described the event as a "magical



night."

"The evening was truly a celebration of life," Tomimbang says. "It was an honor to support the FilCom Center and bring people who wouldn't otherwise have ventured to the historic plantation town of Waipahu in order to see this beautiful center inspired by colonial Spanish design."

## State to Insurance Carriers: Continue Non-Renewed Health Plans

State Insurance Commissioner Gordon Ito is requesting that Hawaii's insurance carriers continue health plans that faced non-renewal by year's end. The state's request mirrors President Barack Obama's decision to allow states and insurers to choose which plans to continue as the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) is implemented.

The ACA required the inclusion of 10 essential health benefits. The non-renewed plans did not meet those requirements. This new decision

gives the consumer an opportunity to decide whether they want to stay with their existing plan, regardless of the specified essential health benefits, or opt for a new plan.

"We believe this will help to alleviate some of the concern and frustration over the non-renewals," says Ito. "This is an opportunity for consumers to look at the available plans and choose the best option for themselves."

Insurance carriers have the choice whether to apply to the Insurance Division to have the existing plans continue. The

division will expedite the rate review process to meet the proper deadlines.

Insurance companies must now decide whether they will apply to continue those plans. Those plans would not be available on the Hawaii Health Connector, and therefore not eligible for tax credits.

The President's decision extends the transition period for the ACA.

Special guests included the daughters of Leonard Freeman who created the original Hawaii 5-0 television series. Lisa, Robin, and Susan Freeman traveled to Honolulu from Los Angeles and hosted a table for the show's original cast members—Al Harrington, Kimo Kahoano, Jimmy Borges and Dennis Chun.

FilCom officials will continue fundraising for various worthwhile causes. Its board of directors are planning another fundraising event—this

time for the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan. FilCom will partner with the Consuelo Foundation, a non-governmental organization (NGO) with offices located in Honolulu and the Philippines, to raise, secure and disseminate funds directly to the survivors.

FilCom Center is also involved with "Aloha Philippines" which will receive checks for the typhoon victims through Bank of Hawaii, First Hawaiian Bank, American Savings Bank and Central Pacific Bank.

## Non-Profits Urged to Apply for Grant in Aid Funds

The City is encouraging qualified non-profit organizations seeking grants via the City's Grants in Aid (GIA) program to submit applications as soon as possible. The deadline is December 19, 2013.

Administered by the Department of Community Services, the GIA Fund was established to serve economically and/or socially disadvantaged populations, or provide services for the public's benefit in the areas of arts, culture, economic development or the environment. The City is man-

dated to set aside one half of one percent of General Funds for grants-in-aid.

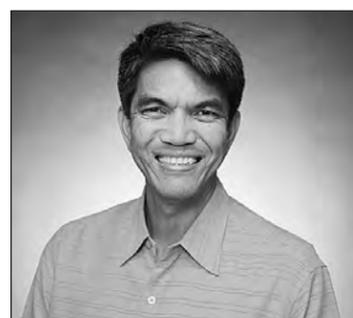
Applicants are required to attend mandatory information sessions at the Mission Memorial Building at 550 South King Street. Sessions will be held on November 25, 26 and 27, as well as December 2, 3 and 9. Space is limited, so applicants are advised to RSVP by calling 768-7761.

For more information on requests for grant proposals, please call the City's Division of Purchasing Help Desk at 768-5535.

## Miranda Named GM of Holiday Inn Waikiki Beachcomber Resort

Simeon Miranda was appointed general manager of the Outrigger-managed Holiday Inn Waikiki Beachcomber Resort. Miranda will be responsible for overseeing the resort's day-to-day operations and staff management, as well as planning, organizing and directing all hotel services and ensuring a balance between customer satisfaction, effective business management and financial viability for the property.

Miranda was the general manager of two other Outrigger-managed properties—the Airport Honolulu Hotel and the Best Western The Plaza Hotel, both located near the Honolulu International Air-



port—a position he held since July 2010.

"Simeon is a versatile hospitality professional who brings a wealth of experience to his new position," says Barry Wallace, executive vice president for Outrigger Enterprises Group. "His knowledge of Hawaii's visitor industry coupled with his expertise with nationally-branded hotel operations will serve him well as he steps into the leadership

role at the Holiday Inn Waikiki Beachcomber Resort."

A 26-year veteran of the hospitality industry, Miranda held the general manager position at the Anaheim Marriott Suites, Embassy Suites Hotel Lake Tahoe Resort and DoubleTree and Red Lion hotels in Sacramento.

Miranda holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Seattle University. He is a member of the Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association and The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii and is an involved advocate of the military through his involvement with Friends of Hickam and the Honolulu Navy League.

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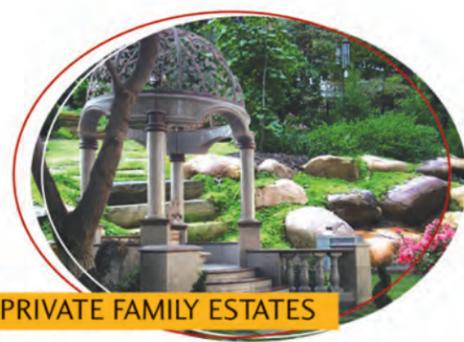
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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Waipahu Students Learn Fiscal Skills at New Credit Union

by HFC Staff

Waipahu High School and the HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union recently held a grand opening and blessing for a new student-operated credit union (SOCU) on campus.

Those in attendance were treated to entertainment, light pupus, prize giveaways and a blessing ribbon cutting ceremony. Guests included representatives from HawaiiUSA FCU's Board of Directors, State Department of Education, community leaders and government officials.

Among the guests was Honolulu City Councilmember Ron Menor, who presented an honorary certificate to the school and student credit union.

"To survive in today's turbulent economy, it is imperative for young people to learn basic money management skills," Menor says. "I'd like to commend the administrators from both Waipahu High School and the HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union for their visionary leadership in establishing the student credit union program for the benefit of Waipahu's young people. Best wishes for much success in the coming years to all of those involved with the student operated credit union program."

Brandon Elefante, legislative aide for Councilmember

Breene Harimoto, co-presented the honorary certificate at the November 19th grand opening. He described the new student credit union on the campus of Waipahu High School as a "great achievement" for the community and students.

"A program like the credit union is a unique opportunity for young people to learn more about money management," Elefante says. "As a result, they have the opportunity to enter adulthood with a better understanding of how money works and how to make it work for them."

### Hands-On Learning Experience

According to Lisa Sylva, director of Waipahu High School's Academy of Finance, the fully-furnished and branded facility gives students the opportunity to explore the world of business through hands-on learning, career shadowing and a paid six-week summer internship. Before working at the credit union, students received 12 hours of training by a HawaiiUSA FCU senior service sales trainer and went through a job interview. They must also be enrolled in Waipahu High School's Academy of Finance.

Administrators say the credit union will provide a head start for those students who are interested in a career in banking or finance. The

unique partnership also helps create an engaging educational environment in a real-life financial setting.

"Working at the student-operated credit union will allow students to work and interact with professionals in the financial services industry," Sylva says. "Many students will make contacts that may result in future employment at one of the HawaiiUSA FCU branches."

HawaiiUSA has a similar student credit union programs in place at three other high schools statewide. However, Waipahu is the first with a dedicated classroom for the credit union site on Oahu, is the first school to be selected as the model for the SOCU program and is the first SOCU on Oahu to have the look and feel of one of HawaiiUSA FCU branches.

The school and credit union hopes that the student credit union will create a new generation of savers and educate students on the importance of setting realistic savings goals. Membership is open to all Waipahu High School students, administrators, faculty and staff members. Financial services that are offered by the SOCU include opening new accounts and accepting deposits.

The partnership between Waipahu High School and the HawaiiUSA FCU began in 1995. The new student oper-



Councilmember Menor with several students who will be working at Waipahu High School's student operated credit union

ated credit union has the full support of Waipahu High School's administrators and faculty. The school has provided a dedicated room in a central and visible location for the credit union. Principal Keith Hayashi welcomes the opportunity to create an educational and work environment whereby students are fully engaged and offered hands-on experience in a real-world financial setting.

Hayashi, who received the 2013 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award, has championed the school's expansion of the Career Pathways and Small Learning Community Model which focuses on creating opportunities for students to apply real job skills to real world settings. Thanks to his efforts, Waipahu High School currently offers all six of the career pathways with several recognized by the National Academy Foundation of New York. All of the academies collaborate with committed industry and business partners to provide students with a hands-on approach in conjunction with classroom work.

### Academy of Finance

Waipahu High School launched its Academy of Finance in 1993. The two-year program offers relevant career-themed education that draws on current industry and educational expertise. Students receive instruction in banking, credit, financial operation, financial planning, stocks, bonds, investments and ratio analysis.

The Academy of Finance

is one of three academies that is part of the Business Learning Center and in the Business Pathway at Waipahu High School. The academy is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors. A total of 19 students are currently enrolled.

One of those students is senior Paul Kevin Relente, who joined the academy to learn the responsibilities of managing finances and to gain investing skills that will help him to become a better investor.

"By working at the credit union, I want to gain skills that will help me become a leader especially now that I'm one of the assistant branch managers of the school-operated credit union," Relente says.

Fellow senior Ilaisa Simati will be the student branch manager of the credit union. Her career goal is to one day run her own successful business.

"Learning about finance will help me accomplish that," Simati says. "That's why I joined the Academy of Finance because I wanted to learn about money and how save and manage it wisely."

By working at the credit union, Simati hopes to gain experience in how to work as a team and to also improve her leadership skills. She plans to attend the University of Hawaii-West Oahu campus after graduation.

"I also hope to inspire other students to consider taking finance because it will help them in life after high school," she says.

Al Brandon Lafuente says

(continued on page 15)

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## CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

## Typhoon Aftermath: Bodies, Bodies, Everywhere

**I**n the Philippines, the images from Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan, internationally) have been so devastatingly apocalyptic, 3.4 million Filipino Americans in the U.S. remain on edge.

“Get international help to come here now, not tomorrow, now,” survivor Magina Fernandez said in one televised report. “This is really, really like bad, worse than hell. Worse than hell.”

Personal communication is slow in coming. And if it hasn’t come by now, it is likely too late, and the only way to communicate is prayer.

Relatives in the U.S. and around the world have turned to social media sites like Facebook, all while waiting for that phone call, that text, that special communication from an unaccounted for loved one.

While the Third World is in rubble, the First World was in the dark.

In her home in San Francisco, California—the state where half of all Filipino Americans live—Janet Alvarado waits.

Alvarado, 52, the executive director of a Filipino American historical project that preserves images of Filipino American life and connects Filipino Americans to Tacloban’s main region, Leyte, has heard from just one family member.

But that’s just a single strand of a large-extended family in the Philippines.

Alvarado was born in the U.S. but her mother, Norberta Magallanes Alvarado, 94, immigrated to the U.S. in 1940s from Tacloban. Like many Filipinos, Norberta Alvarado came with only one of her younger brothers, meaning that there are many relatives still living in Tacloban and the surrounding area.

“My mom is so worried,” Janet Alvarado said. “She just gets up every day and prays.”

The first positive sign came when another cousin in San Francisco, was able to confirm on Facebook and through text messages that her cousin Ruseli and husband Nonoy Gula, were both able to leave Tacloban safely this weekend.

“She said they just couldn’t stay,” said Janet Alvarado. “It smelled too much like death.”

Another set of cousins, Dino Magallanes and a younger relative, were okay too. But Alvarado said they were on a motorcycle on the road from Bileran to Ormoc, another part Leyte. Alvarado said that trip normally takes an hour, but in the aftermath of the storm took five hours.

“They said there were just too many bodies all around,” Janet Alvarado said about her cousin’s experience. “The bodies were just piled up on the road.”

Now the focus is on finding another cousin from Tacloban proper.

And no one has heard from him.

“Armando is an engineer in his late 50s,” Janet Alvarado said. “His daughter Inday is missing too. Where they are? We just don’t know. We haven’t heard.”

They still haven’t.

The typhoon has changed everything. The good feeling about the Philippine economy has blown over. The struggling

country boasted a first quarter GDP growth of around 7.8 percent, outpacing China, as well as India, Thailand and Viet Nam. President Benigno Aquino, with an aggressive pro-business and clean government platform, seemed to be getting the country back on its feet.

But even then, the government mentioned its vulnerability to natural disaster.

Sure enough, Yolanda, the third major typhoon to hit the Philippines in three years, comes at a huge financial cost.

At approximately 44 pesos to a US dollar, the Philippines has about \$500 million to take care of infrastructure issues.

(continued on page 12)

## Are you covered?

The Hawai'i Health Connector is here to help you find a health plan that matches your health and financial needs.

### 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:

- Help you find and buy health plans.
- Help you determine if you qualify for low-cost—or no-cost—health plans.
- 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?

Visit our website at [HawaiiHealthConnector.com](http://HawaiiHealthConnector.com) for a calendar of events, information on community meetings, as well as other important resources.

You can also sign up for email updates to keep informed about our upcoming activities.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

# 'FAiTH' for Foreign Aid

by Zinnia Dela Peña  
Monday, November 18, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - As international aid continued to pour in for victims of Super Typhoon Yolanda, the government launched yesterday the Foreign Aid Transparency Hub or FAiTH, a pioneering web portal that allows the public to monitor foreign assistance to the country in response to calamities.

Budget Undersecretary and chief information officer Richard Bon Moya said FAiTH is a first for the government, which previously did not have a system to track the use of disaster relief funds donated by other countries and aid organizations.

"There's an urgent call for us to monitor the movement of foreign aid for Yolanda victims so they will go exactly where they're supposed to: the

survivors of the typhoon for whom recovery will be a long and arduous process, and to the communities that need to be rehabilitated as quickly and efficiently as possible," Moya said.

"FAiTH is the Aquino administration's pioneering response to this growing need for transparency and accountability in the management of humanitarian donations," he added.

The portal, which can be accessed at [www.gov.ph/faith](http://www.gov.ph/faith), shows comprehensive information on humanitarian aid.

Comprising the FAiTH monitoring team are the Department of Budget and Management, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Finance, Commission on Audit, Department of Social Welfare and Development, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the Presidential Man-



agement Staff and the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office under the Office of the President.

"Contrary to what people think, foreign aid is not given to the Philippine government in hard cash. Instead, these arrive in the form of pledges, which are released to aid groups or their corresponding organizations in the country such as USAID and Red Cross. In cases like this, FAiTH does not monitor these funds. Instead, it tracks for-

eign aid that is coursed through Philippine government agencies," Moya said.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said that the government's efforts to boost foreign aid transparency should go hand-in-hand with civil society and donor initiatives to improve accountability in the management of disaster funding in line with the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

"Working together, the Philippine government and the global community can accomplish much toward rebuilding the communities damaged by Yolanda and restoring normalcy to the lives of those who were affected by the typhoon," Abad said.

"While the Philippines is no stranger to calamity, Yolanda exceeded expectations around the world in the most unfortunate way possible. The Aquino administration and the Filipino people are grateful for the generosity

of the international community, as well as for the continuing selflessness of our relief and rescue workers, including those from the government, citizens' groups and various aid organizations," he added.

## Foreign aid reaches P10.6 B

Foreign donations for the victims of Yolanda reached P10.6 billion as of yesterday, the DFA said.

"Pledges and delivered assistance from 43 foreign governments and three international organizations are estimated at \$248 million as of 3 p.m.," DFA spokesman Raul Hernandez said on his Twitter account.

The United Nations last week launched a \$301-million flash appeal for typhoon victims in the Visayas.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, around 11.3 million people were affected by the typhoon in nine regions. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

# Bulk of Pope's Twitter Followers Are OFWs

by Camille Diola  
Friday, November 22, 2013



Alluding to the devastation wrought by super-typhoon Yolanda this month, faithful hold a poster reading 'Pray for the Philippines' during a ceremony celebrated by Pope Francis (top photo) to bless a mosaic dedicated to Filipino St. Pedro Calungsod, in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013.  
AP/Andrew Medichini

MANILA, Philippines - A good number of Pope Francis' followers on Twitter are overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) concentrated in Islam-dominated Middle East, a Vatican official said on Thursday.

"When the Pope went on Twitter. We can see where in the world the Pope has followers," Msgr. Paul Tighe, among the Pope's advisers managing his Twitter account @Pontifex, said in a Catholic Bish-

ops Conference of the Philippines report.

"We were surprised to see that in the Middle Eastern countries and Gulf states, there were huge following. Then we realized that those were the Filipinos," he added.

Tighe, the secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said that social media have been helpful for Filipino-Catholics abroad to connect with and deepen their faith especially in places when they cannot openly practice it.

"These Filipinos are in a situation that are not easy for Catholics but Twitter is something that allowed them some connection to the Church," he said.

He also urged Filipinos to continue using social media and the Internet to express their spiritual convictions and to boost their identification with the Church.

Tighe, who arrived in Manila to speak at a Catholic social media conference, said that the OFWs' expressiveness

of their catholicity is something he "loves about Filipinos."

Pope Benedict XVI joined Twitter last December and posts inspirational messages in different languages. The main handle @Pontifex is in English. Pope Francis, upon assuming his post, took on the

Twitter account that Benedict left.

On Friday, Pope Francis addressed typhoon-stricken Filipinos once again, asking them to ask God 'why' without expecting an answer as children do.

"(Your) sorrow was strong, but also the people were strong," Francis said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))



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**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**DOJ to Look Into Lapses on  
 Yolanda Preparedness**

by Evelyn Macairan  
 Wednesday, November 27, 2013

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Possible lapses in the preparations in Eastern Visayas that led to a high number of casualties in Tacloban City and some parts of Leyte that were devastated by Super Typhoon Yolanda last Nov. 8 will be looked into by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Last week, President Aquino instructed the DOJ and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to join the task force that would conduct an investigation on the high casualty rate in some areas badly hit by the typhoon.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said she is arranging a meeting with the DOST and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) today or tomorrow to determine how they would go about the task given by the President.

It was reported that in Tacloban City alone, more than 1,700 people were killed.

"The President only wants to know how come there were that many casualties. Of course we know that it is supposed to be one of the strongest if not the strongest (typhoon) in history. Maybe it was expected that there would be casualties but maybe the high number of deaths could have been prevented if something was done, and who should have done those measures that could have prevented loss of lives," De Lima said.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Manuel Roxas II is taking his hands off the investigation on the alleged failure of mayors and governors to act to minimize the damage caused by the super typhoon.

Roxas suggested that a third party should conduct the probe to remove any notion of the administration being biased towards LGU officials in Eastern Samar.

He pointed out that the investigation is meant to identify the mistakes com-



mitted and the lessons learned from the tragedy and prevent them in the future.

On questions of Sen. Nancy Binay regarding the P1.25-billion housing program being implemented by the DILG, Roxas said the department delegated the implementation of the housing project to the LGUs.

Meanwhile, De Lima also said that when it comes to identifying the fatalities from the typhoon it is the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) that is the lead agency.

NBI officer-in-charge Medardo de Lemos said that they planned to send the fourth Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) team to Tacloban yesterday to hasten the identification of the recovered bodies.

However, De Lemos admitted that even if they have already sent four teams to the disaster areas, the DVI experts would not be able to perform their tasks properly because of the lack of infrastructure in the area, such as the availability of continuous water and electricity.

De Lima said that she plans to talk to forensic pathologist Raquel Fortun, who reportedly walked out of Tacloban after the NBI allegedly questioned her system of identifying the bodies.

De Lima believed that Fortun might have only had a misunderstanding with the NBI. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

**CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 9, TYPHOON...)**

The personal needs of the population will have to be made up from individual Filipinos throughout the world. The country's 10 million overseas workers already provide the Philippines with \$24 billion in remittances. It's much needed when a third of the Philippines lives in poverty, existing on \$2 a day.

The U.S. government has already committed \$20 million to help in the aftermath of the typhoon.

But Filipino Americans will also be counted on to pitch in, perhaps even more than they already do.

It's the other part of the anxiety about that first-post storm phone call relatives are hoping comes soon.

The Philippines was tough enough when it was dry. Adding water to the country's economic situation only exacerbates the country's despair.

**EMIL GUILLERMO** is an award winning journalist and commentator.

## LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

**T**yphoon Haiyan has claimed over 4,000 lives in the Philippines, according to the latest tally of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. Over 4 million have been displaced and the livelihood of about 5 million workers has been severely affected.

The relief response of the international community has been overwhelming. Many countries all over the world have provided aid to those affected, including the U.S. government which is providing more than \$37 million in humanitarian aid.

## Immigration Relief for Filipinos Affected By Typhoon

In response to the devastation caused by the super typhoon, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) released last November 15 an announcement reminding Filipino nationals of certain immigration relief measures available to them. The USCIS recognizes that natural catastrophes and extreme situations can happen. These disasters are beyond anyone's control and can impact the individual's ability to establish or maintain lawful immigration status in the United States.

Eligible Filipino nationals who are currently in the U.S. on a non-immigrant status can request to change or extend their non-immigrant status. The request can be filed even if their authorized period of

admission already expired. Request for extension of stay is made on Form I-539. The applicants will need to explain how Typhoon Haiyan has disrupted their ability to travel home, how much longer they anticipate to stay in the U.S. and how they will support themselves while in the U.S. They may request for expedited processing of their application. They may also apply for a filing fee waiver if they are unable to pay.

For those paroled into the U.S., they can file application for an extension of parole and expedited processing. Extension of certain grants of advance parole may also be requested. Application for advance parole is made on Form I-131.

F-1 students who are expe-

riencing severe economic hardship may request off-campus employment authorization. The request is made on Form I-765 and the students must show how the typhoon has affected their ability to pay their tuition and other expenses. Expedited adjudication and approval of application for work authorization is also available to them.

Expedited processing of immigrant petitions for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents may be requested.

The USCIS will also assist lawful permanent residents who lost their green cards and other USCIS-issued documents who are stranded overseas. For lawful permanent residents who are stranded in a place where

there is no local USCIS, the USCIS and the Department of State will coordinate to provide assistance.

Those who lost their green cards may request to replace their cards on Form I-90. A request for interim evidence of permanent resident stamp (I-551 stamp) from a USCIS Field Office may also be made. Request for replacement of I-94 card is made on Form I-102.

Those who have received interview notices or request to submit evidence (RFE) in support of their application may show how the typhoon has affected their ability to appear or submit the documents required.

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

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Pacquiao Eyeing Transfer to Opposition?

by Jess Diaz

Friday, November 29, 2013

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Embattled boxing champion and Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao is said to be thinking of transferring to the opposition bloc in the House of Representatives led by San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora.

"He has always been interested in joining us. That interest heightened when the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) filed a tax case against him," Rep. Carol Jane Lopez of the party-list group You Against Corruption and Poverty said yesterday.

"He feels that the government is harassing him and that there's politics in it," she said.

Lopez is one of Pacquiao's closest friends among House members. Both of them hail from General Santos City. She was one of the few lawmakers who flew to Macau last weekend to watch Pacquiao defeat American boxer Brandon Rios.

Pacquiao is scheduled to visit Samar and Leyte this weekend to distribute relief goods to typhoon victims.

"His visit will definitely uplift the morale of our people who are struggling to bounce back. To them, Manny symbolizes hope," Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone said.

Evardone said his colleague informed him that he would visit Guiuan, where Super Typhoon Yolanda made landfall; Mercedes, Quinapondan, Giporlos, Hernani, Balangiga and Lawaan in Eastern Samar; and Marabut and Basey in Western Samar.

Pacquiao has switched parties since he became a congressman in the last Congress. He is now affiliated with the opposition United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) of Vice President Jejomar Binay, which has chosen to be part of the pro-administration majority coalition in the House despite being critical of President Aquino.

The boxing champion is the richest congressman, the only billionaire among the more than 290 House members, based on their statements of assets, liabilities and net worth.

Pacquiao is also one of the top House absentees. His fights

and travels abroad to promote them, together with his training, have kept him away from House sessions.

Zamora said his minority group is willing to give Pacquiao legal assistance in resolving his tax issues with the BIR, if he asks for it.

If not, Zamora said what his colleague from Sarangani should do is to recruit "a good accountant and a good lawyer."

"If Cong. Pacquiao wants to talk to anyone of us... we'll be glad to help him, but basically I think it's documentary more than anything else. In the

end I'm not certain that any additional amounts will be due from him," he said.

Other lawyers in Zamora's group said they were willing to help, but they would have to know the facts in Pacquiao's tax case first.

They noted the conflicting statements their colleague and BIR Commissioner Kim Henares have given to the media.

Henares has said they have been seeking from Pacquiao tax returns filed with the US Internal Revenue Service evidencing his tax payments there, but that the Sarangani congressman has

failed to produce them.

Pacquiao, on the other hand, claims they have sent the documents to the BIR. He also claims that all of his bank accounts have been frozen by virtue of garnishment orders from the BIR, while according to Henares, only two banks have reported two accounts holding only P1.1 million.

The Pacquiao, in an interview with GMA-7, admitted they owe the government some amount in income taxes and are willing to pay.

But it is not P2.2 billion that the BIR wants, both Pacquiao and his wife Jinkee, who is vice governor of their province, said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



**ILOKO**  
By Amado I. Yoro

# Idiay Paoay Adda Malacañang Iti Amianan

Impasiarnakami ti security officer A. F. Antonio. Segun ken ni Antonio: Nabangon ti Malacanang of the North idi 1976; limned a barangay ti dan-aw.



Malagipmi ti nadakamat ni Rudy Evan Calixto iti librona a "Ilocos and Other Reflections" nga insagutkadakami ni dati a Minister Counselor sa nag-Ambassador Ben Domingo, dati a destino iti KonsuladaHeneral ditoy Honolulu, tubo iti Salcedo, Ilocos Sur, librona ti Hawaii's Eminent Filipinos idi Enero 27, 1987

"Considered the Legendary Town of Ilocos Norte, it remains as it is because of the awesome gigantic structure of the Paoay Church built by the Augustinian monks in the 17th century. Its architectural design is the blending of the east and west making it one of the best churches built in the century.

"The lake nearby which draws special interest among historians for it was once a progressive town populated by advanced and scientifically gifted

civilization but disappeared in the twinkle of an eye, as the legend goes, because of their evil desires. The now famous Paoay Lake was the exact location of

the said community.

"Paoay also the seat of government where the Malacañang of the North is situated overlooking the legendary lake, where former President Marcos attends to his duties when visiting the province. Paoay is famous for its finely craft-woven inabel.

"Paoay home of the Paoay Church. UNESCO World Heritage Site. Don Martin Guiang first and founding leader.

**A**GDINDINA-MAG ti ili a Paoay gapu kadagiti adu a banag iti sakupna. Adda dagiti daan a pasdek. Naunegken napateg ti pakasaritaanna, mabasa man iti internet ket iti historia.

Iti panagbakasionmi idiay ilimi a Sinait iti nagbaetan ti Oktubre 24 ken Nobiembre 20, maysa ti Paoay apinasiarmi idi Nobiembre 15, 2012. Kaduami da kasinsin Letty, Allan, Isagani ken Lucia. Ni Jim nga asawa ni Mercy ti nagmaneho.

Paoay was derived from the phrase, "makapaway kami", which literally means, "We can live alone". When the early settlers were frequently attacked by the "tirongs", they were forced to move eastward. In their new settlement site, they discovered that they have neighbors, now Batac town. Believing that the-tirongs are still a threat to them, their neighbors convinced them to seek refuge in their place. The settlers begged off, and bravely replied, makapaway kami! Through the passage of time, the place was eventually and permanently called Paoay.

Ditoy met la naputarmi ti ababa a daniw:

## ADDA KINADAEG TI LANGIT DITOIY

Ditoy, napno ti kinadaeg a pakasaritaan Lakasa ti gameng iti namsek a kinaindaklan Ni Ilokano, samtoy a namunganayan Ti lagip ken pakasaritaan ti reyenda ti inna panagturay Pasdek a napno iti pakasaritaan dagiti panawen Ti gubat, ti kappia, ti progreso ken dur-as A panaglugpos ken panagbaliw ti rupa ti pagilian Iti Baro a gimong ken baro a pakasaritaan Ti man Amianan, Abagatan, laud ken daya Iti di mabilang a summit meeting Kadagiti teddek ken naindaklan A tulbek ti turay

Iti sangalubongan.

## MAINLAND NEWS

# U.S. Senate Supports Philippine Typhoon Victims

**T**he U.S. Senate on November 14th passed S.Res. 292, introduced by Hawaii Senator Brian Schatz, which expresses support for the victims of Super Typhoon Yolanda.

Sen. Schatz described to his colleagues in the Senate the devastation in the Philippines and called on the American people to make donations to help survivors.

"The Philippines is a resilient nation and a true American ally, and they need our help," Sen. Schatz said. "Although the storm is over, our work has just begun."

U.S. Sen. Robert Mendez of New Jersey says the U.S. is committed to standing beside the Philippines—its longtime ally—during this trying time.

"The Filipino-American community in New Jersey that

I proudly represent is being challenged like never before and we will work together to assist those who are suffering. We must deploy the many tools at our government's disposal to provide immediate humanitarian assistance and relief to the typhoon-affected populations," Mendez says.

U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland described the loss of life, injuries and devastation from the typhoon as "almost unimaginable."

"Filipino-Americans enrich our communities in Maryland and many communities throughout the U.S. I will look for every opportunity to support our good friends in the Philippines to help them recover from this terrible disaster," says Cardin.

Mendez, Cardin, Hawaii Senator Mazie Hirono and 10 other senators co-signed S.Res. 292 along with Schatz.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**51ST INSTALLATION & BANQUET OF ANAK TI BATAK OF HI • SATURDAY • November 30, 2013, 5:00 PM • Hale Koa Hotel • Contact: Liza Romualdo @ 220-5250**

**3RD INSTALLATION BANQUET, HI ASSOCIATION OF MAPUA ALUMNI • SATURDAY • November 30, 2013, 6:30 PM • Ala Moana Hotel • Contact: Cirvilina Longboy @ 488-2190**

**COOKING COMPETITION (2:00 PM) AND PAROL FESTIVAL (6:30 PM) • SATURDAY • November 30, 2013, 12:00 PM • Philippine Consulate • Contact: Jeffrey De Mesa @ 595-6316 Ext. 105**

**50TH FOUNDATION & GALA CELEBRATION DINNER & BALL OF CABUGAO SONS & DAUGHTERS OF HAWAII • SATURDAY • December 7,**

**2013, 6:00 PM • Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa • Contact: Mercedes Sonico, 258-9573 or 842-7149**

**STO. DOMINGO, ILOCOS SUR ASSOCIATION OF HI, OAHU CHAPTER, INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND CHRISTMAS BANQUET • SATURDAY • December 14, 2013, 6:30 PM • Pearl Country Club • Contact: Roger Tapat @ 294-0904**

**FIESTA TI KAILOKUAN BY AKA & GH • SATURDAY • January 18, 2014, 5:00 PM • August Ahrens Elem. School Cafeteria, Waipahu • Contact: Mrs. Pacita Saludes at 839-8016**

**JCI-HI FILIPINO JR. CHAMBER'S (JAYCEES) 4TH ANNUAL NIGHT OF HONOR & BOARD INSTALLATION BANQUET • SATURDAY • January 25, 2014, 5:30 PM • Contact: Clevan Cabuhat @ 330.2037**

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## GLOBAL NEWS

### Philippines Tops Asia for Gender Equality

The Philippines is the best performer within the Asia-Pacific region when it comes to gender equality according to the 2013 Global Gender Gap Report. The country has also improved its global ranking to fifth place from eighth last year.

The latest annual gender equality report of the World Economic Forum (WEF) ranked 136 countries on their ability to close the gender gap in four

key areas—economic equality, political participation, health and survival, and educational attainment.

“The Philippines remains the most advanced country in the [Asia-Pacific] region in terms of gender equality, ranking fifth in the global index. It improved as a result of advances in economic participation and opportunity, a sub-index of the report, as well as by having a strong score in terms of political participa-

tion,” the WEF report states.

The report also said the Asia-Pacific region lags behind every region in the world except the Middle East and North Africa when it comes to economic equality between the sexes. The eighth annual edition of the report ranked Iceland closest to equality for the fifth year running. Finland, Norway and Sweden were second, third and fourth, respectively. *(Good News Pilipinas)*

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS *(from page 9, WAIPAHU...)*

he joined the Academy of Finance because money is one of his passions.

“I enjoy counting and collecting it,” says Lafuente, a senior who is in his second year with the Academy.

By working at the student credit union, Lafuente hopes to further develop his communication and people skills.

“I plan to improve these skills by learning and experiencing new things, so I can not only build stronger relationships with employees and members, but create new ones as well,” he says.

Other students enrolled in the academy include Summer Akau-Mika, Kenneth Baclig, Giannie Cacayan, Mark Anthony Carino, Kiara Gail Castillo, Zaimon Cruz, Jemboy Dagdagan, Hana Faapeanimo, Marian Lenor Guillermo, Diane Lokebol, Sabrina-Kuipo Magdato, Jenna Marie Marcos, Luke McCann, Strawberie Napala, Kelsie Ridela, Anastasia Sepety and Chad Phillip Siador.

Had there been the opportunity to work at a credit union on campus, Waipahu alumna Ruffalyn Villanueva says she

would have joined the Academy of Finance.

“I think it would have been beneficial for me especially to learn how the financial institution operates while making some extra money on the side,” says Villanueva, a member of Waipahu’s Class of 2005.

She advises young people to start learning about money management skills early on because it will teach them to be fiscally-responsible.

“Schools strive to teach students reading and math from an early age but even high school seniors may never have had a single class dealing with basic financial skills,” she says. “As a result, many people end up playing catch-up with their financial education, often after accumulating piles of debt and little savings.”

### More Student Credit Unions?

HawaiiUSA FCU may be expanding the number of student-operated credit unions statewide. Waipahu has joined three other high schools—Farrington, St. Louis and Maui—where the credit union has established SOCU programs and partnerships.

And the number may soon increase.

“We are currently working with a handful of other schools who have expressed interest in the SOCU Program,” says Stacy Rosa, senior sales and service trainer for the credit union. “Because this program is intended to enhance and supplement existing curriculum that the teachers may have, it does require many hours of planning and preparation before we can become integrated.”

HawaiiUSA FCU has provided financial services to its members for the past 74 years. The credit union ended its first year of operation with 138 members and assets of \$4,499. It has since grown into Hawaii’s largest credit union with assets of more than \$1 billion, and is also the largest credit union by membership with more than 131,000 members who are served through 11 branch locations on Oahu and Maui.

The credit union regularly contributes to numerous community outreach efforts via volunteer work and donations. Its employees have actively par-

ticipated in a food drive to support Ronald McDonald House of Hawaii, American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life Event,

Special Olympics 2013 Summer Games, Kapiolani Children’s Miracle Network and other charitable events.

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