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◆ MAY 10, 2014 ◆

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EDITORIALS

It's Filipino Fiesta Time!

Everybody loves a fiesta. For Oahu's Filipino community, there is only one that matters—the annual Filipino Fiesta. Now in its 22nd year, Oahu's oldest running and most popular event that celebrates the Filipino Culture has a new home, at least for now. Organizers are holding this year's Fiesta on Saturday, May 10th, on the grounds of the Honolulu municipal center. The public is already familiar with the municipal center grounds which hosts several large-scale events, including the City's annual Electric Light Parade, Honolulu 5K Run, Hawaii Book & Music Festival and various ethnic and children's events.

With its new location, there is really no excuse for Filipinos not to attend the event, particularly those who complain about having to drive into bustling Waikiki, which is something many locals are loathe to do. The municipal center is centrally-located, convenient and accessible by major City bus routes. Not to mention the ample parking along streets and in various parking structures throughout the Downtown area, if you don't mind walking 2-3 blocks. And why not? We could all do with a bit more exercise.

Admittedly, there will be less elbow room for the estimated 10,000 attendees, but at least it will be nice and cozy. Another drawback of holding it at the municipal center was the cancellation of the annual parade, a festive event that many Filipinos—participants and non-participants alike—looked forward to. The parade was axed due to costs that were estimated at over \$10,000. Organizers will put their heads together after the Fiesta and evaluate the results, before deciding whether to return to venerable Kapiolani Park or back to Honolulu Hale. If it is Honolulu Hale, organizers should strongly consider re-instating the parade, use Aala Park as a staging area and run the route through Chinatown to Honolulu Hale. A parade is indeed doable, despite the costs, particularly if there is enough support by the Filipino community. As the old saying goes, *if there's a will, there's a way*.

So walk, run, bike, carpool or better yet, ride the Bus to the Filipino Fiesta, a free event which has never failed to provide a fun experience for the entire family. As always, there will be traditional Filipino food, games, exhibits and live entertainment. Hope to see you there!

Supporting Healthy School Snacks

Starting July 1st, all public schools that receive federal funding will no longer be allowed to sell unhealthy junk food in cafeterias, vending machines or at bake sale fundraisers during school hours, under a new mandate from the USDA. Schools will be required to replace the junk food with nutritious items like fruits, vegetables, dairy, protein-rich foods, whole grain-rich foods, milk and 100 percent fruit and vegetable juice. The USDA is also moving towards banning junk food advertising in schools.

The federal Smart Snacks in Schools rule is the government's attempt to address the very real and expensive obesity epidemic in America. Fat-filled lunch choices in school have undeniably played a role in America's world-worst 21 percent obesity rate among children 12-19 years old. The

FROM THE PUBLISHER

A

loha and mahalo for reading this latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. First off, I'd like to wish all of you a very Happy Mother's Day! I hope that you've planned something special for your mom to show your love and appreciation for her. In line with Mother's Day, contributing writer Dr. Lilia Santiago shares a poignant piece entitled "Motherhood—Her Compassionate Profession." We hope that you will enjoy reading her article on page 11 which is bound to remind you of similar sacrifices that your own mom has made for you over the years.



This issue's cover story was written by Associate Editor Dennis Galolo, who reminds us that it's time once again for the annual Filipino Fiesta—Hawaii's signature event which celebrates and promotes the rich Filipino culture (see page 4). Now in its 22nd year, the Fiesta is still going strong and continues to get better each and every year. This year's Fiesta will once again have a Community Health Fair offering many free medical services for attendees. Please also note the Filipino Fiesta's change in venue from Kapiolani Park to the grounds of Honolulu Hale.

On a more somber note, we are saddened by the recent passings of several dear friends and members of the Filipino community—Tony Sagayadoro, a long time community leader and health advocate; Helen-Nagtalon Miller, a retired state educator and civil rights activist; and last, but not least, Remigia Pulanco Quinabo, the mom of the Chronicle's very own Associate Editor Edwin Quinabo. They will be truly missed. We send our heartfelt condolences to their respective families and pray for the Lord's comfort and peace.

In closing, we hope that you will take time to read this special issue, which also contains our Health Supplement and a number of useful health-related articles for you and your family. Please contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have any story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii's dynamic and vibrant Filipino community. Our sincerest thanks to all of you for reading and faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle—the state's #1 Filipino newspaper!

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

rate is even higher in Hawaii, where 27 percent of high school students are currently overweight and obese. With favorite local snacks like *li hing mui*, shave ice, *kakimochi* and spam *musubi*, it's easy to see why.

Groups like the American Heart Association believe that prevention is the key. Taking steps now to reduce the obesity rates for children will prevent the development of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other chronic illnesses later in life. Interestingly enough, a recent study by Cornell University researchers suggests that children's diets can be improved and childhood obesity consequently reduced by simply ensuring that healthier snacks are available.

While the new guidelines are good for our children, the responsibility of educating children on what is and isn't appropriate to eat ultimately falls on parents. The bottom line is that when it comes to making healthy choices, parents should remember that no government program or rule can ever replace their role to love, nurture and teach their children accordingly.

COVER STORY

Beloved Filipino Fiesta Finds New Home

By Dennis Galolo



The 22nd version of the longest running event featuring Filipino ethnic pride and culture in Hawaii has found a new home.

After an over two-decade run at Kapiolani Park, organizers of the annual Filipino Fiesta have moved the event to the Honolulu Civic Center grounds. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2014, from 10 am to 7 pm.

Sponsored by the Filipino Community Center (FilCom), the Fiesta will conclude the week-long Flores de Mayo Filipino Festival and will feature a full display of Filipino culture in Hawaii. The day-long Fiesta, which is themed *Isang Puso, Isang Diwa*—“One Heart, One Spirit”—is free and open to the public.

Randy Cortez, committee chair for the Fiesta, says that on-going construction at the Kapiolani Park Bandstand precluded the event from being held there. Organizers opted instead to hold the Fiesta at the Honolulu Civic Center grounds for several reasons, including available parking

options, proximity to bus routes, ability to do commercial transactions, and an amicable relationship with City officials who have provided financial assistance to FilCom for various events in the form of County Product Enrichment Program (CPEP) grants.

Cortez admits several logistical challenges involved with holding the Fiesta on the grounds of Honolulu Hale, foremost of which is reconfiguring the layout of booths for participants according to the space provided and spatial placement of trees, water pipes, sidewalks, sculptures and buildings within the area.

“This year, we also had to consider additional rentals such as an elevated platform for the stage. Normally, we wouldn’t have to worry about the stage since it’s already built into the Kapiolani Park Bandstand,” he says.

Although Kapiolani Park

offers more space than the Honolulu Civic Center grounds, Fiesta organizers are still expecting about 10,000 attendees—the same number as last year’s event. Cortez says that organizers will meet following the event to evaluate the outcome and determine whether to return to Kapiolani Park for 2015 or hold it a second time at the civic center.

No Parade This Year

In years past, the Filipino Fiesta was accompanied by an elaborate, colorful parade with floats designed by civic groups, community organizations and businesses. Participants included marchers from the Royal Hawaiian Band, Knights of Columbus, Sinulog Dancers and students from various high schools. The parade typically began at Fort DeRussy and ended at Kapiolani Park.

However, as a cost-cutting measure, organizers made the difficult decision to eliminate the parade for this year.

“There will be no parade due to the significant expenses we would incur as a result of street closures which constitutes a bulk of the expenses, along with assistance from HPD, coning and float subsidies,” Cortez says.

As far as most people can remember, 2014 will be the first Fiesta without a parade. There was initial dismay by some people in the Filipino community over not having the parade but they were more understanding when informed of the significant costs involved, which Cortez says would be in excess of \$10,000.

Santacruzán Parade



One of the Fiesta’s traditions is the Santacruzán—a parade that traditionally features a town’s most beautiful young ladies and their escorts in a flower-decked procession that commemorates the finding of the Holy Cross by the Reina Elena (St. Helena, mother of Constantine the Great).

Last year’s Santacruzán Pageant and Parade began at the Hawaii Plantation Village, then proceeded to the FilCom Center, where a cultural program of songs, dances and Filipiniana fashion show was held.

The 2014 Santacruzán will be on full display after 5 pm. Touted as a “mini-parade,” its route will be within the vicinity of the Honolulu Municipal Grounds and accompanied by music and entertainment. Santacruzán queens will include Ms. Hawaii Filipina 2013 Ms. Erika Ordonez. This event is free to attend.

Health Fair

Although the beloved parade has been axed, Fiesta organizers have continued the tradition of including a health fair for participants.

Volunteer medical professionals for this year’s Bayani-

han Clinic Without Walls’ Community Health Fair include a small army comprising of 25 physicians, 25 medical assistants and practitioners and 10 lay persons. From 10 am to 5 pm, there will be 12 booths offering free curbside consultation and medical services for blood pressure, cholesterol, dentistry, diabetes and diabetic eye exams, first aid assistance, healthy diets, mammograms, optometry, osteoporosis screening, physical therapy, podiatry, radiology information and varicose veins.

According to volunteer physician Dr. Charlie Sonido, the advantages of having a health fair at a marquee event like the Filipino Fiesta is that it increases an awareness about the different types of medical assistance and options available to people from all walks of life, including the medically-uninsured and others who are reluctant to see a physician due to inconvenience and other reasons.

Sonido is expecting the Health Fair’s physicians and medical professions to treat several hundred patients.

“Because of the new
(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY



(from page 4, BELOVED ...)

venue and the effectiveness of its promotions, it's quite possible that less people will come to the fair this year," he says. "If I were to venture a guess, it would be in the neighborhood of 1,000 people, compared to last year's estimate of 2,000 people who were served. This number does not count those who visited the various booths to browse the types of services that were available to them."

The cost of sponsoring a health fair of this magnitude, Sonido estimates, reaches as high as \$10,000, when factor-

ing in the time spent by its medical volunteers. Generous sponsors have stepped forward to help offset costs. The list includes the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH), Hawaii Filipino Healthcare, Clinical Laboratories of Hawaii, Waipahu Therapy Center, Eye Center of Hawaii, Hawaii Diagnostic Radiology Services, Sleep Center Hawaii and Breast Care Center of Hawaii.

Available Parking

For Fiesta attendees, parking is available at the following locations:

- Honolulu Municipal Parking Structure
- Kekuanaoa Building at the of Punchbowl Street and 465 South King Street
- Iolani Palace at 364 South King Street
- Kalanimoku Building at the corner of Beretania Street and 1151 Punchbowl Street
- Kinau Hale Building at 1250 Punchbowl Street and Beretania Street

Street parking is also available along South King and Punchbowl streets. Fiesta

(continued on page 7)

**22ND ANNUAL FILIPINO FIESTA
2ND FLORES DE MAYO FESTIVAL**
"Isang Puso, Isang Diwa" – One Heart, One Spirit
May 10, 2014 Honolulu Municipal Grounds
Filipino Fiesta 2014 Program

- 9:45 Emcees: Brandon Dela Cruz and Amy Cabatu
Opening Remarks by the FilCom Center
- 9:50 Invocation
National Anthems (Singing)
Star Spangled Banner – Ira Klein Cadiz
Hawaii – Stephen John Cu
Philippines – Pike Velasco
- 10:00 Royal Hawaiian Band (Live Orchestra)
- 10:50 Erika Ordonez (Dancing)
- 11:00 Unique Style Breakers (Breakdancing)
- 11:15 Precious Calaro (Singing)
- 11:25 Banda Kawayan (Bamboo Orchestra)
- 11:45 Annmercil Romaguera (Singing)
- 12:00 *Mayor's Appearance (11:30 to 12:30)
- 12:10 Pulahan Mandirigma Filipino Martial Arts Group
- 12:30 The Dynamic Trio (Singing)
- 12:50 Consuelo Foundation Presentation (Typhoon Haiyan Fundraiser)
- 1:00 Emcees: Angel Lewis and Eric Barsatan
- 1:05 The Playground Dance Studio – SMDC Starlife (Dancing)
- 1:10 Katrina Lopez (Singing)
- 1:35 Julius Mina (Singing)
- 1:45 Greg Gabaylo (Live Hypnotist Show)
- 2:45 Kulintronica (Traditional and Modern Kulintang Music)
- 3:10 Katrina Fernandez (Singing)
- 3:20 Waipahu High School Fil-Am Club (Traditional Philippine Bamboo Dance)
- 3:25 Tekniqlingz (Modern Philippine Bamboo Dance)
- 3:35 Happy Dance Happy Hour with the Tunog Kalye Crew (Dancing)
- 4:20 GMA Pinoy TV featuring Benjamin Alves and Steven Silva (Singing)
- 5:50 Santacruzán (Procession)
- 7:00 Vacations Hawaii Las Vegas Ticket Giveaway and Closing Remarks

Program line up subject to change
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OPINION

Let Us Honor And Celebrate Our Moms Even Beyond Mother's Day

By Edwin Quinabo

Mother's Day is traditionally one of the biggest days of the year for select businesses, including restaurants, retail stores and floral shops. But like Christmas and other commercial-driven holidays, the true meaning of Mother's Day reflects gratitude for someone who plays a significant part of our daily lives, someone who is an anchor to hold us steady during rough waters.

What our mothers mean to us personally varies from person to person, or even among sibling to sibling. There are both universal and uniquely specific memories we have of our mother.

Some universal attributes we share of our mother include her warmth and gentleness to smooth over any situation, her instinctual protective nature to guard us from others and ourselves, her unbreakable bond that remains iron-clad throughout our entire lives.

But ultimately it is the specific memories of our mother that transcends life itself and runs strong even after the frailty, aging and death. We may remember way back when she reassured us that everything would be fine on our first day of kindergarten or preschool. She calmed our fears and replaced them with excitement.

She held our hand tightly during our first dental appointment. The excruciating pain we felt was softened by her quiet, calming voice.



She is the first one we call to share great news because we know how happy she gets over our accomplishments. In many ways, our triumphs seem to become hers also, as she passes on the good news repeatedly to family, co-workers and friends—basically to everyone else she knows.

She is the first person to place a lei over our heads during our high school and college graduation ceremonies. She is

the first person to call relatives with the news that her son or daughter is engaged to get married. She is the person to bring out photographs and share stories of her grandchildren. She is the first person to fix any grievances that may jeopardize family unity.

On the flipside, our mother is also the first person we turn to when tragedy befalls us during a divorce, job loss or death. Her wisdom and hug renew our spirit. Her kiss on our cheek washes away our bucket of tears.

Despite the unconditional love our mother has given us all our lives, at times, particularly during old age, she is sometimes forgotten as we immerse ourselves in our own families and daily responsibilities. It doesn't mean at this stage that we love our mother any less, but it's a reality that's possibly rooted in our own

growing independence. Mothers can sense this and gradually retreat when we are able to stand on our own.

So in a way, Mother's Day is a time that we give thanks to her for all that she's done and a time to remember the good as well as the bad times, and a time to let her know that she is not forgotten and will never be.

In a perfect world, it would be wonderful to celebrate Mother's Day, every day. Considering the sacrifices she's made all our lives, perhaps the best thing we can do to make her feel special, particularly during old age, is to pay her regular visits, to call her frequently and most importantly, to allow her to play the role as mother to the very end, no matter how independent we have become.

Mothers—we honor your role in leading our families and give you thanks for making our communities and society better.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

City to Implement New Rules For Drivers' Licenses

To comply with State Department of Transportation rules, all City driver's license offices will implement new regulations governing the issuance of drivers' licenses effective May 1, 2014.

New fee changes for state identification cards also took effect on May 1st. Require-

ments for supporting evidence to accompany applications for a driver's license in Hawaii are now the same as when applying for a state ID card.

To satisfy requirements for documenting the applicant's legal name, date of birth, legal presence in the U.S. and social security num-



ber, those seeking to obtain a Hawaii driver's license will also be required to present two forms of proof of principal residence in Hawaii. These include bank, or agency-issued documents mailed to a resident's principal residence, such as utility bills (electric, water, sewer or cable TV), vehicle registration or title, current driver license, voter registration, property tax assessment form, student identification card and medical insurance cards, among others.

“Similar requirements for supporting documents have already been in effect for obtaining a State ID card, says Sheri Kajiwara, Customer Services Department director. “We highly recommend that those seeking a Hawaii driver's license take the time to understand the document requirements, before going down to a driver's license office.”

Names shown on all certified or original documents must be identical. In the event names do not match, which may result from a name change due to marriage, the marriage certificate, or other government-issued document proving the name change must be submitted with the application. For detailed list of ac-

ceptable documents, visit: <http://www1.honolulu.gov/csd/vehicle/dlrequirements.htm>.

The new regulations are part of a broader implementation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security of the Real ID Act of 2005, which requires all states to comply with strict rules before issuing a driver license or state identification card.

The fee for both state IDs and driver licenses is set at \$5 per year. State ID cards cost \$40 and are issued with an eight-year term of validity, regardless of the age of the applicant. Driver's licenses are issued for different periods depending on age groups. Duplicate cards incur a \$6 charge for all.

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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Caldwell Launches Bike Initiative

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell has proclaimed May 2014 as Bike Month in the City & County of Honolulu. The designation is significant considering the Caldwell

administration's priority for bicycling for 2014.

The City is embracing bicycling like never before and it's just the beginning. The mayor has proposed \$1.4 million in the Fiscal Year 2014-

2015 budget to improve biking infrastructure, most notably with a protected bike lane on South King Street, from the Alapai Transit Center to University Avenue. Bike lanes or

(continued on page 7)

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED



By Felino Tubera

Watering Down Quirky Remarks to a Good Laugh

Of we start the morning with a good laugh, it's very likely that the rest of the whole day will be a delightful day to live by. Oftentimes, quirky remarks between my wife and myself, generate spontaneous laughter that sweeten our days. Quirky "events" happen for many normal reasons. So it pays to notice. Here's a sampling:

Picking up my latest subscriber's copy of Time magazine, I notice that it is thick and heavy. It is the 2014 May 5 / May 12 special double issue. It features 4 front covers, each with the label - The 100 Most Influential People - and their pictures and descriptive write-ups. I tell my wife who is watching TV and at the same

time playfully making lei ribbons: "Look, no wonder, this issue is so thick, it is loaded with heavy influences from the 100 most influential people of the world. Can you name one woman of influence, who you think, is included in the list?" My wife, seemingly not even half-paying attention to my question, quips: "why would a woman I know be listed under the influence?" As I burst with laughter, I tell her: "Never mind, mama mia, you are such a woman who makes my day! What a difference a day makes when we don't differentiate influential from influence. Yes, there are circles of influence, gardens of square deals, but beyond the reach of the influential, there are nooks of influence-peddling in our midst.

The state of Hawaii legalizes same-sex marriage: my wife raises her eyebrows to the shape of a question mark and

asks: "What's next? You are married to your computer (s), will they make that legal, too?" I say, hold on a second, be careful about what you say. That kind of marriage is undefined. No such thing. No sex in that, too. If, in your mind I'm married to a computer, it's sacrilegious because I'm engaged to not just one computer, but with several different ones. That would be a polygamous relationship. Would you, or could you, as my wife, file for divorce on this ground? And could computers do it, too? Oh, honey, this is weird thinking. No amount of artifice or saccharine could sweeten swallowing such nonsense.

If Bill 69 (to allow advertising on the outside of city buses) becomes law for Honolulu, that will be the end of gratifying laughter for me and my wife. The eyesore-causing ads will worsen my already im-

paired vision caused by allergy to unwholesome views. Imagine seeing more than 500 rolling monsters covered with artless mosaic of ADS. We will cry for the loss of the costume dress of the Bus we knew. Will someone compose a song "Cry for me Honolulu?" Adios O Smiles From The CityBus Riders.

By the way, bus riders are abuzz with the birth of an Independent Party in Hawaii. Overheard from passengers: "If you lose 2 or 3 times in an election, you lose faith in the workings of the two-party system. You begin to rely on your independent thinking, sort-of-thing."

"So, is that so! Desperate people struggle to look for to grab the last straw."

"Awee! Expect the unexpected. Politics is the favorite breeding place for quizzical ideas, if not characters of the queer kind."

"Amen, to that."

My refrigerator's outside cover is loaded with a lot of stick-on advertisements: services, phone numbers and messages. An overly curious close friend of the family noticed that some of these posted stick-ons simply carry ACRONYMS wants to know what they mean since the full intended message is not spelled out. For my own purposes, I have Intentionally

arranged them in this order:

1. [FYI - IIB - BABTBW]
 2. [Q&A - KISS - TWFNO]
 3. [DIY - SBS - CUYM]
 4. [TWHE - DNSR]
 5. [LITS - S - LGO]
- To satisfy my friend's curiosity, my acronymous messages spelled out mean:
1. [For Your Information - Ignorance Is Bliss - But A Blessing To Be Wise]
 2. [Question&Answer - Keep It Short Sweetheart - Time Waits For No One]
 3. [Do It Yourself - Slow But Sure - Clean Up Your Mess]
 4. [The Walls Have Ears - Do Not Spread Rumors]
 5. [Life Is Too Short - Smile - Life Goes On]

Gentlemen and ladies, children and senior citizens, the above "quotes" are not, repeat, NOT advertisements.

In my household, these are SLOGAN-CLICHES meant to humor myself and my wife, and will never appear at my behest on outdoor billboards, nor ever appear as advertisements on any BUS.

All right! Talk the talk. Walk the walk. Ride the ride. Or do we all want to be on the same boat?

Let's hear some quirky remark on that.

GBUA!

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 6, CALDWELL...)

sharrows are being created on both sides of Waialae Avenue, from Saint Louis Drive to 17th Avenue, as Kaimuki's main thoroughfare is being resurfaced. In late April, Ala Wai Canal's bicycle and walking path was reopened after being closed since 2006.

The City's first Fixit stand, which has an air pump, bike stand and several tools for bike maintenance and minor repairs, was recently installed

at the mauka entrance of the Frank Fasi Municipal Building

Honolulu's new bike infrastructure will help accommodate the 1,700 bikes that will be available for use at 180 bikeshare stations in urban Honolulu by late 2015. The City has teamed with State officials, bicycling advocates, local businesses and community organizations to support Bikeshare Hawaii, a non-profit formed to implement

and operate the initiative.

As part of Bike Month festivities, the Hawaii Bicycling League will host a variety of events, including Bike to Work Day on May 16th when Mayor Caldwell and thousands of people around Oahu are expected to strap on their helmets and hit the streets. On May 18, the City will sponsor its annual Bike to the Zoo Day. A complete list of Bike Month activities can be found at www.hbl.org/biketowork.

COVER STORY (from page 5, BELOVED...)

organizers are encouraging attendees to utilize City bus service which has several routes running through Downtown Honolulu to the Honolulu municipal grounds.

"Parking shouldn't pose a big problem compared to the limited parking we have experienced at Kapiolani Park the past few years," Cortez says.

BROAD APPEAL

Organizers credit the Fiesta's longevity to its broad-based appeal and diverse

activities. In addition to Filipinos, the event continues to attract visitors and those from other ethnic groups.

Toy Arre, FilCom's former president and chief executive officer, invites everyone to the Fiesta.

"There will be fun, food, entertainment and something for all, no matter your age group, or whether you are an immigrant or local born," Arre says. "We hope that you will come and be a part of the biggest event in Hawaii for the Filipino community."

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Filipino Chamber of Commerce Bestows Annual Awards

by Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

The 2014 Filipino Entrepreneur and Scholarship Awards Annual Dinner, sponsored by the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH), was held at the Dole Cannery Ballroom on April 26. Three sets of awards were given to the Entrepreneur of the Year chosen from among five nominees, Young Entrepreneur of the Year, and seven scholarship grantees, with the top student awardee receiving \$5,000 from the Renato & Maria A.F. Etrata Foundation. Its co-chair, Maria Etrata, is also FCCH's current president.

Lolita Echaz Ching, owner and manager of Quality Case Management Agency since 1999, won the Entrepreneur of the Year Award. She was chosen from a field of five nominees, which included Francis Pascual, founder and majority owner of Affiliated Construction, LLC; Dr. Marina Badua, owner of Marina A. Badua, Inc.; Fred and Bella Dapar, owners of Nayong Filipino Restaurant; and Joel Navasca, owner of Pure Water Technology Hawaii Inc., Tiano's Food Group Inc., and Playground Dance Studio, Inc.

A Special Recognition as Young Entrepreneur of the Year was bestowed on Patrick Tantoco, who has owned Tantoco Financial and Insurance Services, Inc. since 2009.

The top scholarship prize of \$5,000 from the Etrata Foundation was awarded to

Maria Andrea Jurado, a senior at Waipahu High School, who has been admitted to Columbia University with a planned double major in history and biochemistry. She has a grade point average (GPA) of 4.12 and is class valedictorian, ranking No. 1 out of 497 graduating seniors.

Other scholarship awardees who received \$3,000 each include:

- Alea Amano of Kaiser High School—4.0 GPA and number 1 rank out of 289 seniors. She has been admitted to the University of Hawaii and plans to major in nursing.
- Mikayla Domingo of Moanalua High School—4.0 GPA and number 1 rank out of 459. She has been admitted to Oregon State University and plans to major in engineering management.
- Zachary Recolan of Campbell High School—4.1 GPA and number 1 rank out of 585. He has been admitted to Marist College and plans to major in computer science.
- Sherlynn Garces of Campbell High School—3.9 GPA and number 23 rank out of 585. She has been admitted to Saint Mary's College and plans to major in nursing.
- Nicholas Cole Kaiolohia Young of Kamehameha-Kapalama High School—4.02 GPA. He has been admitted to the University



From L-R: Acting Consul Gen. Roberto Bernardo, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, State Sen. Donovan dela Cruz, State Rep. Romy Cachola, FCCH president Maria Etrata, Fred Ching, Lolita Ching (awardee), U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, Vanessa Kop, event chair, State Senators David Ige, Clarence Nishihara, Michelle Kidani, State Rep/Vice Speaker John Mizuno, Nancy Walch and Bernadette Fajardo. Photo by Contemporary Photo

of Portland and plans to major in biology and pre-med.

Another scholarship award of \$3,000 was given by Cecilia Villafuerte and the FCCH Foundation to Sean T. Fitzgerald of Mililani High School. He has a 3.92 GPA, ranks 18 out of 604 and has been admitted to Vanderbilt University where he plans to major in engineering.

Villafuerte was president of FCCH in 1988 who initiated the Entrepreneur Awards and the Young Entrepreneur Special Recognition.

The Awardees

Lolita Ching has degrees in nursing from the Chinese General Hospital and Arellano University in the Philippines, and also earned a Master's degree in nursing from UH-Manoa. Her company started with two employees, but now has five full-time and one part-time staff, and nine professional case managers, including seven registered nurses and two Master-prepared social workers.

In addition to her professional duties as a nursing specialist and head of her company for the past 30 years, Ching has extensive community and volunteer services

with various institutions, notably the Aloha Medical Mission, having joined medical missions to the Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia and Bangladesh. She also serves as a commissioned officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, and has been deployed for active duty as a critical case nurse with Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. She has received several military citations and decorations, as well as meritorious and humanitarian awards.

Patrick Tantoco comes from the ranks of young and promising entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence in the field of business. He was recognized as one of Hawaii Business Magazine's 5 Star Wealth Managers in February 2014. The prestigious award is given to deserving individuals who are actively employed as a "credentialed professional" in the financial services industry for a minimum of five years.

Tantoco is a volunteer with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Hawaii which helps disadvantaged and underprivileged children. He also participated in FCCH's 2014 Trade Mission to the Philippines headed by Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Philippine Consul General Julius Torres and FCCH President Maria Etrata. FCCH president-elect Paul Alimbuyao was also a part of the delegation.

The student scholarship awardees—all seven of them—were chosen after an initial and final screening of more than 50 applications coming from various high schools in Hawaii. The names of their proud parents are worth mentioning as well.

The top awardee, Maria Andrea Jurado, is the daughter of Andrew and Mary Grace Jurado. Alea Amano's parents are Rickey and Imelda Amano. Mikayla Domingo is the daughter of Lori Domingo and Emeterio Domingo, Jr. Zachary Recolan is the son of James and Maile Recolan. Sherlynn Garces's parents are John and Juanita Garces. Nicolas Young is the son of Allen and Anita Young. And Sean Fitzgerald's parents are Russell and Leilani Fitzgerald.

Event Sponsors

An event of this magnitude needed several committed sponsors. The Diamond Sponsor was the Renato & Maria A.F. Etrata Foundation. Platinum Sponsors were Home & Community Services of Hawaii, Inc., also headed by Maria Etrata, and First Hawaiian Bank.

Gold Sponsors were Marina Badua M.D., Inc., and Advantage Health Care Provider, Inc., under Nancy Atmosperawalch. Ruby Sponsors were Kobayashi Sugita & Goda, LLP, Mercedes-Benz of Honolulu and Primary Care Providers of Hawaii.

Silver Sponsors were CW Associates, CPAs and House of Finance, Inc. Premiere Sponsors were Aloha Rehabilitation Services, Pure Water Tech Hawaii and Affiliated Construction, LLC.

The annual golf tournament under the auspices of FCCH raised the money that funded the scholarship awards. The event chairperson was Vanessa Tan Kop, who is currently FCCH's auditor. Rosemarie Mendoza served as scholarship awards chairperson. Both have been active FCCH members over the years.

(continued on page 9)

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Colonial Mentality Returns With New U.S.-Philippines Bases Agreement

past that began with the Spanish-American War.

I remember the anti-imperial fervor in the U.S. against Marcos and that the willingness of letting the Philippines be was so strong during the 80s. It was the fuel that eventually brought on the EDSA revolution and People Power.

But an important part wasn't just Marcos. It was the kicking out of the last symbol of American colonialism—the bases. More than 30 years later, a generation says, come back.

I found it astonishing. The bases agreement renewed for a 10 year period? It's an acknowledgment that the Philippines can't do it alone, can't stand up on its two feet, can't put on democracy's "big boy/big girl pants."

For the Philippines, it's an embarrassment. But for the U.S., it's an opportunity—not just for not-so-faux colonialism, but for real militarism.

In the U.S, Joseph Gerson of the American Friends Service Committee in New England and an Asia specialist issued this statement:

"Today, the U.S. is deepening and expanding military alliances and building new military bases to encircle China with a 'great wall in reverse,' to 'manage' China's rise. New military bases are being established in South Korea, Japan, the Philippines and Australia, while the U.S. hopes to retain bases in Afghanistan. The U.S. is increasing access to military installations and increasing military cooperation with Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand and India. With this increasing militarization come arms races and the growing dangers of miscalculations and war."

Oddly, protestors in Manila were few and described by the press as "militants." "Militants"? They were harmless

compared to the diplomats on parade and their militarism. Members of the Bayan group see the U.S. not as protectors but as merely replacing China as the Philippines' "bully."

The Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) is surely a far cry from EDSA. If the interest of the U.S. is to defend the Philippines, what happens when the U.S. (with its \$8-9 billion investments in China) must go up against a Chinese incursion in the Philippines?

Philippine legislators are right to ask if America would risk all that for Filipinos? This is where we as Filipinos in America and throughout the world are rightfully split.

China is a daunting foe for the Philippines. Realistically, having the security of Uncle Sam may help some sleep at night. But whose interests are ultimately protected?

Meanwhile, the psycholog-

ical damage to the Philippines is great. The triumph of kicking out the bases was a hopeful sign of the country's maturity as a democracy. But this new deal is like a step back towards colonialism.

No wonder the deal was somewhat shrouded by the Ukraine. Or by the bigotry of NBA basketball owner Donald Sterling.

It's embarrassing for all involved. And it casts a different light on folks who were considered heroes a generation ago. The "militants"? These were the same freedom fighters who were once hailed as People Power champions.

But now we know where People Power has led the Philippines—back to the paternal comforts of old.

EMIL GUILLERMO, an award-winning journalist and winner of an American Book Award, was an editorial board member of the Honolulu Advertiser.

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

Board of Judges

The task of choosing the winners fell on the Board of Judges. They met on several occasions for hours at a time, engaging in contentious discussions, sifting through voluminous papers and applying rigorous criteria in order to choose the "best and the brightest" from select groups and individuals all vying for the coveted awards.

Judges for the Entrepreneur Awards were Roland Casamina, Cheryl Cudiamat and Dustin Verity. Carlton L. Williams, managing partner of CW As-

sociates accounting firm, was the final judge and finance auditor.

Scholarship judges were Dr. Belinda A. Aquino, Dr. Lyla Berg and Dr. Emmanuel Kintu. The tabulator was Luz Peirson, a certified public accountant.

DR. AQUINO is currently professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii-Manoa where she was professor of political science and Asian studies, and founding Director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the Center for Pacific and Asian Studies before retiring.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

**USP4GG Leaders Attend Dinner
 in the Philippines for Pres.
 Obama**

by HFC Staff

Several Filipino-Americans and overseas Filipinos in the U.S., Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Guam were represented at a State Dinner for President Barack Obama held April 28, 2014 at Malacanang Palace.



From left: Atty. Loida Nicolas Lewis, Dr. Celia Lamkin, Secretary Imelda Nicolas of the Commission of Filipinos Overseas (CFO), Office of the President of the Philippines

Those invited were US Pinoys for Good Governance (USP4GG) National Chairperson Loida Nicolas Lewis, Spokesperson and Legal Counsel Ted Laguatan, President Rodel Rodis, Marianas chapter chair for CNMI and Guam Dr. Celia Lamkin and USP4GG member from New Jersey Vonz Santos. Rodis was unable to attend the event.

All cabinet secretaries, Philippine Vice President Jejomar Binay, former president Fidel Ramos, ambassadors, senators, business executives and diplomats were among the 300-plus attendees at the event.

The program started with a welcoming speech of President Aquino followed by President Obama, with toasts from both presidents and guests. Aquino says Obama's visit reaffirms the strong bonds between the U.S. and the Philippines.

"As a friend and partner of the Filipino people, you have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the growth and development of our nation," Aquino says. "Through this brief visit, I am confident that you have witnessed firsthand how such values, our shared beliefs and principles can transform a society—as it has ours."

President Obama says that Americans have been impressed with the resilience of the Filipino people.

"After (Super Typhoon) Yolanda, Americans grieved with you," Obama says. "But we were also inspired by your resilience and determination to care for

those who had been affected. You bring that same strength and solidarity to our alliance.

"We are honored and proud to call you an ally and a friend. Through our Treaty Alliance, the United States has an ironclad commitment to defend you, your security and your independence."

Lewis says that Obama's visit comes at a crucial time, considering the Philippines' on-going dispute with China.

"President Obama's visit signifies the importance of strengthening our alliance with the U.S. in all aspects—political, economic, business, and territorial integrity," she says. "It will give pause to China's aggressive actions against the Philippines vis-a-vis its bogus claim of 'nine-dash line' ownership of the West Philippine Sea, Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal."

Laguatan describes Obama as an "intelligent, non-egotistical president" whose visit sent a strong message to China.

"His message to China was: 'We respect and even support your aspirations to be a great country and have a better life for your people but you don't have to intimidate and coerce your neighbors in order to accomplish these noble objectives,'" Laguatan says. "Play by the rules and also respect their legitimate aspiration. Let conflicts be resolved peacefully and through proper avenues."

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FEATURE

Motherhood-Her Compassionate Profession

by Lilia Quindoza Santiago, Ph.D.

Her name is Buena which means “good” in Spanish. But she has a longer name, Buenaventurada, which she hated and never used. She turned 86 on May 3rd, just a week before Mother’s Day, so it’s only fitting that I write about her.

My mother always said she never had a job her entire life. Now I wonder whether that statement is true. She was my father’s caregiver after he suffered a stroke at the age of 53. He lived for the next 30 years under her care. My eldest sister, who petitioned her to come to the U.S. with my father, had three kids—all girls. My mother took care of all of them while my sister worked

as a nurse during day and night shifts at several hospitals in Virginia.

My mother also took care of my other siblings’ children, including my younger sister Becca’s three kids and my two brothers who also have three children each.

Sometimes she would talk with a little resentment about why she never had a “profession,” the way her children are all professionals. My two sisters are nurses, my youngest brother is a banker and my other brother is a computer technician for the Army and Navy.

I could never explain to her that a profession is one’s calling, the practice of what



Dr. Lilia Santiago with her mom, Buena

one professes to and believes in. To me, she engaged in the most compassionate profession ever—caring for and nurturing other people. My father would not have had lived beyond age 53 without her care. My nephews and nieces would not have been successful in their own careers and chosen fields without grandma Buena

coddling, feeding, putting them to sleep when they were infants and helping them with schoolwork when they were a bit older.

And she did the caring and babysitting with a lot of gusto—the Ilokano kind. She called each of her granddaughters *basang* (short for *balasang*, which means “maiden” in Ilokano) and her grandsons *balong* (short for *barok* or “young man”). She cooked, did laundry, cleaned house and tended to small plots of eggplants and tomatoes, while also caring for my father who had fits of epilepsy and high blood pressure.

Of course, her greatest achievement is sending all of her children, including two nieces, to school. She was an enterprising sari-sari store owner whose earnings added

to my father’s meager salary as a contractual carpenter. As a small businesswoman, she taught us to never shun good decent work, like vending pan de sal in the streets of Baguio which she did early in the morning so we could have baon or additional money for school later in the day.

Motherhood is a profession and for my mother Buena, this was her calling. So to her, and to all good mothers, I pay my deepest respects. I have not really been good at this because I shuttle between home and school, research and writing. I’ve been a teacher all my life and I believe teaching is also a compassionate profession. But I salute my own mother, who practiced motherhood—the most compassionate of all professions.

MAINLAND NEWS

Hirono, Gabbard Announce \$1 million to Fight Coffee Pest

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono, U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have announced \$1 million in federal funds to help combat the coffee berry borer that has ravaged Hawaii’s coffee farms for nearly the past four years.



The funds will be distributed through the Integrated Pest Management (IMP) Program at USDA. Hawaii will receive \$700,000 with the remaining \$300,000 going to Puerto Rico. The IMP Program is a scientifically-based approach to fighting invasive species.

The tiny coffee berry borer causes damage by boring and depositing eggs into the coffee berry. Entomologists are looking at ways to stop the insect from eating into coffee beans, which reduces the income for coffee growers and lowers the quality of coffee crops in Hawaii and around the world.

Because the insect spends most of its life inside the coffee berry, researchers say it is difficult to eliminate using

traditional chemical and biological controls. Males mate inside the berry with females but never emerge. Only mated females emerge to fly to a new berry and bore into it to lay eggs and start the cycle anew. Only when outside the coffee berry are adult females vulnerable to predators or chemical controls.

Hirono wrote to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack earlier this year and urged him to continued funding to fight the coffee berry borer. She says that USDA officials recognize the threat of this highly destructive invasive species to Hawaii’s farms and economy.

“I’ve met with farmers whose crops are being impacted by this alien pest species. Coffee is an impor-

tant agriculture crop and export for our state. We produce some of the world’s best beans so it is crucial that we provide the resources our farmers need. Over the past year, there has been encouraging progress as stakeholders from the federal, state and county levels work with farmers,” Hirono says.

According to Gabbard, the coffee berry borer has destroyed more than \$9 million worth of Hawaii’s world-renowned Kona and Ka’u coffee since 2010, leaving many small businesses and families in our rural communities devastated. Coffee farms are a major economic pillar in rural communities and a majority are family-owned and operated.

“This \$700,000 award to further fund the Coffee Plant Health Initiative program in Hawaii will help researchers combat this and other new invasive pests, and will also help to restore our farmers’ ability to grow and market world-class coffee, which is the only domestically-grown coffee our country has to offer,” Gabbard says.

Hawaii Island is home to more than 700 small coffee farms. In 2011, Hawaii’s coffee farmers produced over 8 million pounds of coffee, valued at more than \$30 million. The borer is an insect native to Central Africa that lives, feeds and reproduces in both immature and mature coffee berries. This damage can have a significant negative

impact on the quality and quantity of coffee crop yields. As a direct result of the coffee berry borer, many farmers expressed concerns that their yields were in jeopardy. The Agricultural Research Service commenced an integrated pest management program in 2013 to study and develop a management plan for the coffee berry borer.



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HUNTING FOR AN EASTER EGGS BENE^DICT

TURO-TURO by Claude Tayag

The time-honored tradition of hunting colorfully painted hardboiled eggs during Easter actually predates Christianity. The egg is a universal symbol of new life, fertility and rebirth, and it is celebrated to signal the start of springtime. But in the Christian world, the Easter egg is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and this tradition celebrates the end of the deprivations of Lent. Christians would traditionally abstain from eating eggs and meat during this cuaresma, and Easter was the first chance to break the fasting and abstinence.

It's no wonder one of the more popular Easter Sunday breakfast/brunch dishes is the egg and meat-based Eggs Benedict. It is a classic American dish that consists of two halves of hot buttered English muffin topped with ham, crispy, streaky bacon or lean, Canadian-style bacon, poached eggs, and a heavenly rich and creamy Hollandaise sauce. In

fact, it's so darn good it has become one of my favorite pick-me-up dishes to jumpstart any Sunday of the year. Well, that is, next to my all-time faves tocilog and longsilog, the Pinoy breakfast set of sinangag or fried garlic rice, fried egg and cured meats like Pampanga's sweet pork tocino, beef tapa and longganisa.

Though Eggs Benedict's origin is rather contentious, its universal appeal nevertheless has inspired countless variants like Eggs Florentine, which has spinach in place of the ham, while Portobello Benedict uses Portobello mushrooms for a vegetarian treat. Eggs Blackstone has crisp bacon with a tomato slice, while Eggs Oscar has asparagus and crabmeat, and on the US east coast Eggs Chesapeake with crab cakes is quite common.

The American southern states have Country Benedict using their biscuit, sausage patties, gravy and eggsfried to choice instead of the poached eggs. Further south of the border, the Mexicans have Huevos Benedictos with avocado and

chorizo topped with both a tomato salsa and Hollandaise sauce.

Across the Atlantic, on the other hand, the cured meat is substituted with smoked salmon and chives called Eggs Atlantic/Royale/Montreal, which is quite popular in the United Kingdom and Canada as well. Irish Benedict has corned beef in it.

The hollandaise sauce has also been substituted with a cheesy sauce called Eggs Mor-nay, which is basically a béchamel sauce (aka a white sauce made with a roux of butter and flour cooked in milk) combined with any two of grated Gruyère, Parmesan, Emmental and white Cheddar. Eggs Provençal uses Béarnaise sauce (made of clarified butteremulsified in egg yolks, white wine vinegar and herbs) while the Russian Easter Benedict has béchamel sauce flavored with lemon juice and mustard, and is topped with caviar — Beluga, no less. All the above-mentioned variants not only show its popularity but its flexibility and adaptability



Tocino Benedict with salted egg, anyone? This Pinoy makeover of the American classic Eggs Benedict uses our very own pandesal, tocino, salted duck egg and calamansi. Have some extra-hot pandesal handy for mopping up the egg yolk and the rich and creamy hollandaise sauce.

as well.

With all these variants, what is there to stop us Pinoys from creating our own version, using not only what is readily available to us, but something closer to our panlasa or the comfort-food taste buds we are most familiar with?

Here's my take on Eggs Benedict, inspired by our tocilog using the Pinoy's iconic bread hot pandesal and adding salted duck egg yolk to the hollandaise sauce. This version doesn't need to be cooked in a double boiler. Instead, a blender is used to mix two-minute soft-boiled eggs with the other ingredients. While the classic hollandaise uses only the yolks

and discards the whites, I'm using the whole egg so nothing goes to waste. Its consistency may not be as thick, but it will taste just as great! Garnish it with atchara or a tomato/cilantro/onion salsa, or even a grilled eggplant salad.

But why stop there? There's the Ilocano poki-poki dish of scrambled eggs with eggplant and onions, not to mention Vigan longganisa in place of the tocino. The playing field is level and wide open for this open-faced sandwich. The list of ingredients is limited only by one's imagination. Happy Easter hunting and may the best eggs win!

(www.philstar.com)

RECIPE:

TOCINO (500 grams of uncooked tocino will make 4 servings. Pampanga's Best has fatless tocino). Place tocino into a



nonstick pan and add 1/4 cup water. Cover and bring to a boil for 10 minutes. Remove cover and loosen meat pieces to form a single layer. Add 2 tbsps. cooking oil and continue simmering until liquid has evaporated, turning the pieces often. Keep cooking until a dark-brown caramelized coating on the meat is formed.

HOLLANDAISE SAUCE (to make 4 servings). Using a small saucepan, put about 2" deep water and bring to a boil. Slide to pan 4 eggs carefully, one at a time with a slotted spoon. Boil for 2 minutes. Transfer to a bowl with cold water. When cool, break eggs and place its contents into a blender. Add the juice of 4-6 calamansi (to make 2 tbsps. juice) and 1/4 tsp. salt and blend on medium speed for 20 seconds. Turn down speed to low setting, and then slowly add in 8 tbsps. of warm melted butter. Continue blending for another 30 seconds, then add 1 salted duck egg that has been peeled

and mashed. Taste for saltiness and acidity and add more salt or calamansi juice accordingly.



POACHED EGGS (2 eggs per serving). To poach eggs, fill a small saucepan with 2" inches of water. Bring water to a simmer, and then add 1 tsp. of white vinegar. This will make the egg whites cook faster and prevent it from spreading. Crack 1 of the eggs into a small bowl, careful not to break the yolk. Gently lower the edge of the bowl into the water, allowing some water to flow into the bowl. Then tilt the bowl downwards to let the egg slide out into the water. Repeat with the other egg. Cook each one for 2 minutes. Yolks should still be soft in center. Remove eggs from water with a slotted spoon and set on a plate lined with paper towel to absorb water. Set aside.



PANDESAL (1 large pandesal per serving, add more on the side). Slice pandesal in halves crosswise and spread softened butter on the cut sides. Place in a heated nonstick pan with the buttered sides down and toast until light golden brown. Turn and keep warm until needed. To assemble: Place 2 toasted pandesal on a plate and top each one with tocino slices, followed by one poached egg each. Pour hollandaise sauce and add freshly ground black pepper, chives or cilantro as desired. Garnish with atchara or a tomato/cilantro/onion salsa. Serve immediately. Have some extra warm pandesal ready to mop up the extra egg yolk and hollandaise.



LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Because of the stringent requirements for getting a U.S. visa, some applicants have resorted to extreme measures such as using a false name or assuming the name of another person. They carry this misrepresentation out by using a fake visa or passport.

Assuming that their misrepresentation is not detected at the port of entry, eventually their misdeeds will still catch up with them. When they apply for a green card, be it on the basis of a family-based or employment-based petition, they will be considered inadmissible due to fraud or misrepresentation.

The Immigration and Nationality Act makes inadmissible any alien who, by fraud or

Inadmissibility Waived Despite Fake Philippine Passport

willful misrepresentation of a material fact, procures a visa, other documentation or admission to the U.S. or other immigration benefit.

Technically, fraud and material misrepresentation are different. Material misrepresentation requires a willful misrepresentation that is relevant to the alien's eligibility for a visa. Fraud requires an intent on the part of the alien to deceive a consular or immigration officer, and the officer must believe and act upon the false representation.

In terms of practical effect, however, there is no difference between the two. An alien found to have committed fraud or material misrepresentation faces a lifetime bar from being admitted in the U.S.

The law provides for a discretionary waiver of this type of inadmissibility. The alien would need to show that his removal would cause extreme hardship to a qualifying rela-

tive if the waiver were denied.

Only spouses or parents who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents are considered as qualifying relatives. Children, even though they are U.S. citizens, may not be qualifying relatives.

Extreme hardship has no definite meaning but depends on the facts and circumstances of each case. Many factors are considered in determining whether an alien has established extreme hardship to a qualifying relative.

These factors include the qualifying relative's presence and ties in the U.S.; family ties outside the U.S.; conditions in the country where the qualifying relative would relocate; financial impact of his or her departure from the country; and significant health conditions particularly when tied to an unavailability of suitable medical care in the country to which the qualifying relative would relocate.

In one case, the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) sustained the appeal of a green card applicant from the Philippines whose waiver application was denied. The applicant had used a fraudulent passport in entering the United States.

She applied for adjustment on the basis of her U.S. citizen husband's immigrant petition but was found inadmissible for procuring admission to the U.S. through fraud or misrepresentation. The USCIS adjudications officer believed that she was unable to demonstrate extreme hardship to her qualifying spouse.

The AAO disagreed and found that extreme hardship to the qualifying spouse was established.

The applicant presented medical records and sworn statements indicating that for many years she and the qualifying spouse had been struggling with infertility and that the applicant would need to undergo in vitro fertilization under the care of her current

doctor. She needed to avoid stress and was already being treated for depression and anxiety.

She showed that if she were to be deported to the Philippines, her home country, she would need a new doctor. The husband also would not be able to afford to pay for medical care in the Philippines on his current salary. In fact, if the wife were forced to leave, the husband would not be able to afford basic monthly expenses with just his salary.

There was also evidence showing that the husband would suffer extreme hardship if he relocated to the Philippines with the applicant, such as losing his current employment of many years and experiencing serious allergies as he had in his past visits to the country.

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

MAINLAND NEWS

Biden: Immigration Crucial to American Innovation

MIAMI — Vice President Joe Biden extolled immigration as crucial to American innovation yesterday at a college graduation ceremony in South Florida.

The Miami Dade College graduates from two campuses and their families, 2,000 strong, cheered as a procession of 39 flags from their home countries, entered the gym and opened the program. Biden acknowledged that he was addressing many immigrants and the children and grandchildren of immigrants, many from South America and the Caribbean.

Biden said a "constant, substantial stream of immigrants" is important to the American economy, urging citizenship for immigrants living in the US illegally.

"That's why we have to act to bring 11 million people out of the shadows and put them

on a path to citizenship," Biden said. "These people are already Americans."

When someone in the crowd shouted "Stop deportations!" he replied, "We'll do that, too, kid, but let me finish my speech."

Biden also applauded the Florida Legislature for passing a bill Friday to allow students living in the country illegally to pay in-state tuition at the public colleges and universities. Florida is the latest of 20 states to enact such a measure, and its passage marks a significant shift in the immigration debate in Florida away from a focus on immigration enforcement.

"More than half of you speak a language other than English at home, but you speak the language of America," Biden said.

After the ceremony, Biden met privately with local Caribbean-American business leaders to discuss immigration

issues and then joined Rep. Joe Garcia, D-Fla., at his new campaign office.

Biden, whose wife is a longtime community college professor, praised the Miami Dade students for pursuing their education, quoting the late novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez in encouraging them to continue pursuing their personal and professional goals.

(www.philstar.com)



Vice President Joe Biden, center, smiles after arriving for a graduation ceremony at the Miami Dade College in Miami, Saturday, May 3, 2014. Biden said a "constant, substantial stream of immigrants" is important to the American economy, urging citizenship for immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. (AP Photo/Javier Galeano)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR • SATURDAY • May 10, 2014 | 10:00 AM-5:00 PM • sponsored by Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls & PMAH • Honolulu Municipal Grounds near Honolulu Hale • Contact JP Oras at 387-8297

ILOCOS SURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HI "TALDIAP TI PROBINSIYA ITI ILOCOS SUR" (A GLIMPSE OF THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR) RE-AFFIRMATION OF ITS NEW OFFICERS • SATURDAY • May 17, 2014 | 6:00 PM • Hale Ikena @ Fort Shafter, Honolulu, HI • Attire: Inabel and Filipiniana • Contact Estrella Taong 845-1681, Loida Yamamoto 679-9540, Rose Sabangan 677-9487 or Davelyn Quijano 489-8782

SANTANIANS ASSOCIATION OF HI-USA INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS • SATURDAY • May 24, 2014 • Ala Moana Hotel | **6:00 PM •** Contact Julius Soria @ 722-9958

UNITED PANGASINAN OF HAWAII 46TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE • SATURDAY • May 24, 2014 • Pacific Beach Hotel Grand Ballroom • Tickets & Information: Cely Villareal - (808) 778-2481 or (808) 689-4911

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GLOBAL NEWS

Pacific Partnership Brings New Look to Multilateral Mission

The U.S. Navy's 9th multilateral Pacific Partnership mission will include an enhanced role for Japan and simultaneous seaborne and airborne phases to improve disaster response preparedness in five Southeast Asia host nations beginning in late May 2014.

A Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ship will serve as this year's primary mission platform, marking the first time Pacific Partnership will be led from a partner nation's ship.

A simultaneous airborne

phase—also a first for the U.S. Pacific Fleet's annual humanitarian and disaster response-focused mission—will fly assistance into host nations Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

"As we saw last November when our Philippine allies were devastated by a typhoon, being able to provide effective humanitarian assistance and disaster relief is critical to stabilize a crisis," says U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Harry Harris, Jr. "Because U.S. naval forces are forward deployed, we were able to quickly respond with ships,

aircraft and personnel during Operation Damayan.

"But we were not alone, as many partner nation militaries, civilian agencies and non-governmental organizations also provided assistance to the Philippines. That's why multilateral missions like Pacific Partnership are so valuable, because it prepares us in calm so we can effectively respond together in crisis."

At the invitation of host nations, Pacific Partnership 2014 (PP14) unifies the efforts of partner nation militaries, host nation civilian agencies, and

non-governmental organizations (NGO) to strengthen the collective ability of the international community to operate as a team in delivering foreign humanitarian aid in times of natural disaster or crisis.

"We are grateful to host nations Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Vietnam, the civilian NGO specialists, and our military partners from Australia, Chile, Japan, New Zealand and Singapore for joining the Pacific Partnership 2014 mission," says Adm. Harris. "This multilateral mission will not only strengthen future disaster response preparedness, it will build trust and enhance interoperability so that we can con-

tinue improving regional security and stability."

While training in simulated crisis-conditions, Pacific Partnership missions to date have provided real-world medical care to approximately 250,000 patients, veterinary services to more than 37,000 animals, accomplished more than 170 engineering projects, and enabled critical infrastructure development in Cambodia, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu and Vietnam. (U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Comelec Allows 'Hakot System' During Registration

by Sheila Crisostomo
Monday, May 5, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - The Commission on Elections (Comelec) prohibits the herding of registrants to its local offices during election season, but for the resumption of the voter's registration next week, the poll body will condone this "hakot system."

"Mobilizing registrants is ok, we are not prohibiting it. But what we are against is the hakot system on Election Day. That is not allowed," Comelec

spokesman James Jimenez said over the weekend.

During the last few days of voter's registration for the barangay elections last year, many Comelec local offices had a deluge of registrants. But the Comelec found out that most registrants were herded by those gunning to run in the barangay elections.

Jimenez said what is important now for the Comelec is that all qualified voters will be able to register and vote in the May 2016 elections. (www.philstar.com)



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