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HAWAII



# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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◆ MAY 17, 2014 ◆

## BRUNO MARS: POP STAR MAKES TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO HONOLULU 4

COVER STORY PAGE



Cover Photo: Ron Guerrero



### OPINION

**3** WHO'S REPRESENTING YOU IF BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES ARE NEARLY IDENTICAL?



### FEATURE

**11** TONY SAGAYADORO: A LEGACY OF SERVICE



### LEGAL NOTES

**13** FILING POINTERS FOR FY 2015 H-1B CAP PETITIONS



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## EDITORIALS

## Bruno Mars: Local Boy Makes Good

**T**he past few years has seen a meteoric rise in the career of recording artist Bruno Mars. Billed as a classic showman in the vein of James Brown and Michael Jackson, Mars' 2010 debut studio album, 'Doo-Wops & Hooligans,' peaked at number three on the Billboard 200 chart. The album was nominated for seven Grammy Awards, winning Best Pop Vocal Performance for the hit 'Just the Way You Are.' In 2012, his album 'Unorthodox Jukebox' sold more than 1.8 million copies in the U.S. The hits kept coming for Mars, who was named Billboard's Artist of the Year 2013. In February 2014, Mars and his eight-piece band The Hooligans put on a spectacular Super Bowl halftime show that drew over 115.3 million viewers. It was the most-watched Super Bowl halftime show ever, beating out Beyoncé's 2013 show, which attracted 110.5 million viewers.

For all of Mars' showmanship, what's really endeared Mars to local fans is his genuine love for Hawaii and his local roots. When a second leg for his wildly popular Moonshine Jungle Tour was announced, Mars made sure that Hawaii would be the first stop. The local boy and Roosevelt High School alum did not disappoint, playing at the Blaisdell Arena to sold out audiences who thoroughly enjoyed the amazing show he put on. Several years ago, former University of Hawaii football player Colt Brennan did something similar that endeared him to Hawaii residents. Brennan announced that he would skip the NFL draft, turning down millions of dollars, and instead return for his senior season because he loved playing for Hawaii. He also credited the local culture and people for helping to turn his life around.

Unfortunately, there is a very real downside to fame and fortune for young celebrities like Mars, 28. He needs to realize that there are drugs and other temptations all around that could stymie his career. In view of that, Mars would be wise to keep a close group of trusted friends around who knew him before he became famous. They should be with him as much as possible and for as many things as possible. Let's hope that Bruno finds the inner strength to stay on the right path and remain grounded. If he manages to do so, the sky's the limit for this local boy.

## Airport Passenger Fee Hike Bad for Hawaii

**L**ate last year, as part of the budget compromise bill, leaders in Washington more than doubled the airline passenger security fee, which was instituted about a decade ago to help fund the then-newly formed Transportation Security Administration. The fee hike means bad news for Hawaii residents, who are already faced with higher costs for energy and goods.

Hawaii is unique in that air travel is essential to traveling between counties within the state for business, health care and to visit family. Consequently, residents have no real alternative to commercial intra-state flights. To get from island to island, our only option is to fly. Members of Hawaii's and Alaska's congressional delegations moved quickly to introduce legislation to exempt both states from the fee increase, which would more than double from \$2.50 to \$5.60 per passenger beginning July 1, 2014. Ironically enough, the Obama administration has also proposed to gradually increase the fee to \$7.50 by 2019. Doing so would raise an additional estimated

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**W**e

hope that you had a good time at the 22nd Annual Filipino Fiesta, held last Saturday, May 10th on the grounds of Honolulu Hale. Some liked the new venue, while others thought it was too cramped and did not feature enough food vendors. If anything, it's at least good to know that the civic center is a workable alternative, in case Kapiolani Park is once again unavailable for use. Mahalo to all of you who helped to make this year's Filipino Fiesta a success!

Speaking of success, it seems that the Philippines may have found another sport to really get into—cheerleading. Team Philippines placed third in the World Cheerleading Championships held recently in Orlando, Florida. The team is comprised of a select group of students from high schools and colleges in the Philippines. To find out more about the Philippines' dynamic cheerleaders, please turn to page 8.

Our cover story for this issue was submitted by contributing writer Deborah Manog, who wrote about pop mega sensation Bruno Mars and his recent concerts in his home state of Hawaii (see "Bruno Mars Thrills Hawaii Audiences" on page 4). Not much more can be said about the young musical phenom, other than the fact that we're extremely proud that he is part-Filipino and that he has not forgotten his local roots. There's just something about a local boy like Bruno who has finally realized his dreams that makes you cheer like crazy. His story not only makes you feel good but also inspires you to give it your all and to never stop believing that one day you too can reach your goals—if you continue to work hard at it.

Lastly, if you know of someone who has contributed to the Philippines' development initiatives, promoted the interests of overseas Filipino communities or exceptionally distinguished themselves in their work or profession thereby bringing honor to the Philippines, you may want to consider nominating him or her for the 2014 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas. The deadline to submit nominations is May 31st. Turn to page 10 to find out more about this prestigious award given by the Philippine government to select individuals and organizations.

As always, we encourage you to contact us at: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com) with 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!

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

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

\$25.9 billion over 10 years. About \$8 billion of that revenue would offset aviation security costs.

While we understand the need to support air travel security, the fact remains that the passenger security fee increase is financially disproportionate and hits Hawaii families and businesses especially hard. For those Hawaii residents who depend on air travel, the hike means a huge increase in already expensive travel costs. But some also say that higher airline passenger security fees would do more than just drive up the cost of flying—it could also lower the demand for travel, cost jobs and ultimately harm the U.S. economy.

We urge Congress to act immediately by exempting travelers in Hawaii and Alaska from this fee hike. In the past, Congress has exempted these states from paying increased fees given the unique role air travel plays in our basic infrastructure. But Congress won't act unless our voices are heard. We urge you to join the fight against this unfair fee hike by contacting any member of our congressional delegation.



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## OPINION

# Who Is Representing You If Both Political Parties Are Nearly Identical?

By Edwin Quinabo

**N**oam Chomsky, one of the greatest intellectuals of our time, said: "The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum."

This astute observation by Chomsky perhaps is most apparent in today's political sphere. In the mainstream press, we are constantly presented with Democrats' and Republicans' big ideas on solving all the big issues. But it's increasingly suspect if either party represents the best interests of the people and are adequately giving voice to major sectors of society.

## What is America's "Corporate Party"

When you consider the close similarities between the Democratic and Republican parties, it's reasonable to say that they are really one "Corporate Party" with only differences on social issues separating the two.

The GOP has always been the party henchmen of America's corporations. There's been no illusion here. But the perception that Democrats and their left-leaning progressive-liberal faction have the interests of the people first, the average Joe, that is quickly becoming more fiction than fact.

In ensuring their interests are guaranteed on both political fronts, large corporations have been donating almost equally to the Democratic and Republican parties nationally. Contrary to popular belief, Democrats are as much as Republicans, beholden to big business. So as Chomsky's quote suggests, this is why the spectrum of arguments on policy is narrow, bouncing back and forth between what big corporations want.

In fact JP Morgan Chase & Co. donated more to Democ-

rats than Republicans since 1990 with just over \$10 billion to Democrats, and close to \$9.5 billion to the GOP, a rough 52-48 percentage breakdown. Other giant financial firms donating billions to both parties within the same time frame include: Morgan Stanley, American Bankers Assoc., Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Credit Union National Assoc., Deloitte Touch Tohmatsu, Ernest & Young, Credit Suisse Group, to name a few.

The same could be said of the biggest corporations in healthcare, insurance companies, and telecommunications - all of which have donated substantially to both parties.

It may come as a surprise to some that even the largest weapons producers in the U.S. follow the same practice. The multi-billion dollars companies Lockheed Martin and Boeing each have donated substantially to both parties. Lockheed Martin contributed close to \$8 billion to Democrats and just over \$10 billion to Republicans since 1990. Boeing donated 48 percent of its total donations to Democrats (\$6.6 billion) and 52 percent to Republicans (\$7.2 billion) in the same time frame.

Year after year, the power of money by the largest corporations have translated to favorable concrete results from both political parties. Otherwise, there would be an obvious disparity in donations favoring one political party over the other. That is not what the facts show when you follow money contributions, nor does it show in policy that favor big businesses from corporate subsidies and banking regulations down to foreign affairs and war.

What's even more curious is that Washington gridlock actually benefits big corporations on so many fronts almost as if by design. If the true powers in Washington, big corporations, want to get things done, they do. Case in point: notice how quickly the trillion dollars bailout passed through Congress during the latest recession;

in comparison, the Federal minimum wage hike proposal keeps coming back to Capitol Hill only to be pushed, rolling back down, year after year. It may eventually pass when big corporations allow it to, when the need to boost consumer spending outweighs the wage hike.

## What's Good For Big Corporations Is Not Necessarily Good For The People

The spectrum of political debates on almost every issue ultimately is limited when considering that the so-called opposing parties are actually both under the same corporate spell. The mainstream "big business" media is complicit in fostering this limited scope.

This is why truly innovative ideas have disappeared to a large extent from the U.S. political landscape.

This is why there is also a lack of moral voice and reason to question suspect policies. Take the turn of events that's unfolding in the Russian-Ukraine conflict. As a policy, the U.S. was headed toward cutting back on defense funding before this latest episode. The aggression by the west in wooing Crimea to the E.U. and subsequent reaction by Russia has now led to a new type of cold war. U.S. military funding will once again skyrocket with arms corporations to benefit; at the expense as usual, to the American public. Crimea is not a threat to American national security; yet this incident will be used as the impetus to reinvigorate military defense funding in this new cold war. The likely scenario is funding will be redirected to military spending, or added on to debt, of which the American public must deal with the consequences. Who benefits -- billion dollar corporations; and at who's expense -- the people.

All of this is occurring without a hint of criticism by the mainstream press in part because there is no politician, including among Democrats,

willing to challenge the might of the neo-cons and big corporations, particularly when patriotism could be called to question.

## It is time for real change, not the kind driven by politicians

It is time for the walls of illusion to be hammered down. The Democratic party, if it aims to be the true party of the people, must loosen the iron-clad grip corporations have on it, and stop being the even more dangerous, wolf in sheep's clothing.

The alternative is for people, with eyes wide open, begin to seek new representation, outside of either of the established political parties. Or take back the Democratic party from those who hijacked it.

The interests of the people must be articulated once again -- 1) the workers who's wages actually have been frozen for over two decades when adjusted for inflation; 2) the massive unemployed and college students wanting to find decent jobs but can't due to outsourcing and globalism; 3) both parents working two part-time jobs who are separated from each other and their children as corporations' new practice of hiring part-time only, and on-call workers, become standard business practice for greater profits; 4) small businesses in every industry that find the business climate impossible to

compete against the resources of big corporations; 5) small businesses and anyone who owns property or rents finding their lease space, real estate, or rental dictated in price by the large, corporation-landowners (particularly in Hawaii); 6) everyone falling prey to the many types of insurance price gouging; 7) taxpayers who carry a heavier burden while big corporations and billionaires receive tax subsidies and breaks; 8) the environment stressed with the exploits of overdevelopment by big developers; as well as destruction of forests and massive discharge of pollutants that do irreparable damage; 9) students who see the price of education out of reach because higher learning institutions have become too adherent to the principles of big business over the societal good of fostering a more educated society; 10) seekers of truth and fairness who are denied those sacred principles as the big business mainstream media become more "product based" and geared at winning over select audiences; 11) unions that have been decimated or left powerless due to corporations' union busting tactics; 12) farmers whose industry has been taken over by big corporations who taint food and beverages with genetically modified foods (GM) to alleviate pro-

(continued on page 5)



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## COVER STORY

# Bruno Mars Thrills Hawaii Audiences

By Deborah T. Manog



*“I didn’t want to come back home to Hawaii a failure,” said Peter Gene Bayot Hernandez, better known the world over as pop megastar Bruno Mars.*

Since his early days on the Waikiki strip as a Michael Jackson impersonator and the world’s youngest Elvis impersonator, Mars has clearly carved out a name for himself in the music industry.

Just a week after winning highly-acclaimed Grammy Award for Best Pop Vocal Album, the second Grammy of his career, he blew away the nationwide television with a flawless halftime performance at Super Bowl XLVIII. Mars opened the show by paying tribute to his beloved late mother with an electrifying solo on a drum kit that displayed her name in bold letters across a large red heart.

“His Super Bowl performance sealed the deal,” says Alycia Kiyabu, a Bruno Mars fan who made up her mind to secure her ticket to see him in concert.

The following day, tickets

went on sale for Mars’ Moonshine Jungle Tour concert at Hawaii’s Neal Blaisdell Center, which seats approximately 8,000. Within an hour, he had sold out three consecutive shows.

“It’s the biggest one-day, three-show sale in the history of the building,” promoter Tom Moffatt told the Star Advertiser.

“I couldn’t believe how fast the tickets went by,” says fan Janelle Lamosao who saw Mars in concert in 2010. “I remember how his concert was the first time so I was super excited.”

Lamosao was lucky enough to purchase a ticket which was a nearly impossible task. Many people who stood in long lines or waited next to their computers were unsuccessful in the ticket hunt. But still, Bruno’s Hawaii fans couldn’t wait to welcome him back home.

## It Started with a Dream

Peter Gene Bayot Hernandez is the son of a Puerto Rican Jewish musician from Brooklyn and a singer/dancer from the Philippines who met in Hawaii. He has five siblings — four sisters who are chasing their own music dreams in Hollywood and star in their own reality television show, “The LYLAS,” and a brother who joined him as his drummer on tour.

Although his legal name was Peter, his father nicknamed him “Bruno” because he thought that he resembled the pro wrestler Bruno Sammartino as a child. And the name stuck.

He was born into a family who loved music and performing.

“Growing up in Hawaii made me the man I am. I used to do a lot of shows in Hawaii with my father’s band. Everybody in my family sings and plays instruments. I’ve just been surrounded by it,” says Mars.

His energy and talent, even as a toddler, earned him a spot as the star of the show in his family’s musical act, five days a week in Waikiki. In the late 1980s, he was known as Hawaii’s “Little Elvis,” complete with rhinestones on a white jumpsuit and big wave of hair on his head. He was even featured as a young Elvis impersonator in the 1992 film “Honeymoon In Vegas.”

“He was always singing and dancing and trying to impress the girls,” says Elise Park, who remembers Bruno as a charismatic teenager at Roosevelt High School before he became a household name.

He formed a band with his



high school friends called “The School Boys.” Immediately after graduating from high school in 2002, he moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in music.

But he found himself being racially typecast into a certain role. He told GQ Magazine that the record labels would say things to him like “*your last name’s Hernandez, so maybe you should do Latin or Spanish music. Enrique’s so hot right now.*”

He knew he had to come up with a new name if he was ever going to make it on the pop music scene. He chose “Mars” because it sounded like something out of this world. After adopting the stage name “Bruno Mars,” he never looked back.

After several years as a struggling artist, he formed a record producing and songwriting team with friends Philip Lawrence and Ari Levine in 2009 and they dubbed themselves “The Smeezingtons.” The trio began producing major hits for singers including Cee-Lo Green, Sean Kingston and Matisyahu. The work Bruno put in eventually led to his big break in 2010 as a featured writer/producer/singer on the

two summer sensations: Travis McCoy’s “Billionaire” and B.o.B’s “Nothin’ On You.”

Even with all this newfound fame and success, Mars imagined himself returning to the islands. He told GQ Magazine about his retirement plans.

“On a beach, drinking out of a coconut, watching some kids running around in the sand, looking at ocean,” says Mars. “And then planning a reunion tour, overweight.”

## His Concert

Fans sat in anticipation as the lights dimmed for Bruno’s third and final show in Hawaii on April 21st. The show was slated to start at 8 pm and was opened by local reggae band, The Green, and Bruno’s father with his doo-wop revival, “The Love Notes” backed by a full Latin band. It was also announced that the State Legislature officially proclaimed that day as “Bruno Mars Day.”

At a quarter to 10 pm, a large curtain swept over the front of the stage and the crowd grew wild, cheering and chanting “Bruno, Bruno, Bruno” in anticipation of his grand entrance. But right after singing his entrance song,

(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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## COVER STORY



(from page 4, BRUNO ...)

Bruno and his band “The Hooligans” ran off the stage and a large voice boomed over the speakers “Bruno Mars will be back in 15 minutes.” Several people were quickly escorted out of the arena and it was clear that the delay was not a part of the show.

“That intermission was very confusing but after seeing security in the red shirts and sheriffs in brown uniforms coming in and checking the isles, I knew something was up,” says Dean Domingo.

Law enforcement officials delayed the concert because of a bomb threat and an unrelated fight involving 10 people broke out during Bruno’s entrance. But soon enough, Bruno returned to the stage and shouted—“Honolulu, I

don’t know what happened but what do you say we pick up right where we left off?”

Chairs were not needed that night because Bruno Mars had everyone in the arena up on their feet. His velvety smooth voice combined with slick dance moves made for a magnetic stage presence. The Hooligans were having fun onstage and that transferred to the audience, turning the arena into a large party.

His set not only included popular songs from his latest album “Unorthodox Juke-Box” (2012) and “Doo-Wops and Hooligans” (2010) but also surprised the crowd with several renditions of well-known oldies such as Montell Jordan’s 1995 hip hop soul jam “This is How We Do It.”

“I loved how he took it back to when I was young singing old school songs,” says Fenelle Lamosao, who spent the entire concert dancing, even swaying side-to-side during his slow songs.

Girlied Mae Barit and her friends were separated by individual seats during the concert but that didn’t stop them from having a good time.

“There were moments I wished I was with friends, but the concert experience and Bruno’s interaction with the crowd was all part of the experience,” Barit says. “This local boy proudly showed off his island roots making references to MidWeek Magazine, Zippy’s Restaurant and how to woo a local ‘honeygirl.’ Hearing Bruno Mars speak local made me realize that

he’s incredibly talented and humble.”

“It was really nice to hear him represent Hawaii and how he loves being home,” says Kiyabu. “It definitely instilled a great sense of pride.”

For many in the audience, one of the highlights of the night was witnessing an intimate family moment when Mars dedicated his Grammy Award winning pop song “Just the Way You Are” to his grandmother, who sat among the crowd.

“When you smile, the whole world stops and stares for a while cuz Mama you’re amazing, just the way you are” Bruno sang to his grandmother, who couldn’t hold back her tears.

“That was my favorite part,” says Domingo. “It was

so touching and heartfelt.”

Mars ended the show with a bang, literally, with fireworks, lasers, flashing screens and an explosion of gold glittery confetti.

Ryan Agcaoili admitted not being a huge Bruno Mars fan but was “sold” after the concert.

“The way he commanded the stage, interacted with the crowd and the energy he brought made me a believer,” he says.

For many Bruno Mars fans, his concerts were an unforgettable experience. Barit says she is reminded of his concerts every time she hears a Bruno Mars song on the radio.

“I always reflect back to him genuinely saying ‘Honolulu, your braddah made it.’”

## OPINION (from page 3, WHO ISL...)

duction cost; 13) every consumer of goods, foods and services who must pay the price of rising inflation, ultimately set by the pro-big corporation Federal Reserve and banks that control everyone’s credit and buying power; 14) Americans who are against war who see big corporations dictate foreign policy and enter conflict for profit, not based on national security; 15) the American voter who must chose from one of two viable party candidates, Democrat or Republican, who are beholden to big corporations due to campaign laws that allow big corporations to sway elections and own politicians whether they like to admit it or not. The list is endless as to how mighty

big corporations influence is in every aspect of people’s lives.

When so-called populist radical ideas are left out of policy discussion to reform some of these major lingering problems, Americans should be asking themselves why are they deemed radical and to whom. Who is protecting the status quo? Who is limiting the spectrum of discussion? Americans will find that it goes back to those who are in power attempting to control the limits of the people’s imagination of real possibilities. The stark reality is that power rests in big corporations that have taken over the U.S. government. Who then is actually representing the will of the people?

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Philippine Student is First Recipient of Dr. Belinda Aquino Endowment

by HFC Staff

**M**arie Jocelyn “Joy” Marfil is the first graduate student recipient of a travel research grant from the Aquino International Philippine Studies Endowment from the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). She received a \$2,000 grant to travel to Mindanao in the Philippines to collect research data for her doctoral dissertation.

The Endowment was established in perpetuity and named after Dr. Belinda A. Aquino on her retirement in 2010 after 36 years of service at UHM as Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies, and Founding Director of the Center for Philippine Studies. It aims to promote and support academic and professional studies at UHM on Philippine society and culture and Filipinos in various fields from an international, comparative and cross-cultural perspective.

Marfil is currently a Ph.D. student in music composition at UH-Manoa. She obtained her Bachelor of Music (Cum Laude) and Master of Music in Composition from the University of the Philippines. As a Fulbright Scholarship recipient, she graduated with a Master of Arts in Music Theory at the State University of New York.

Her first encounter with a musical instrument was at the age of eight when her dad taught her how to play the ukulele. She also learned how to play the piano, then joined a Rondalla Ensemble when at age 10, where she learned to play banduria, laud, guitar and bajo de arco. She had a great exposure in Rondalla Ensemble through Rondalla competitions held annually in Davao City from elementary to high school, and playing in church every Sunday and during other special occasions.

It was Marfil’s dream to compose a song but then she had no idea how to start. During her second year in high school, she was inspired by a fellow Rondalla member’s beautiful

compositions. And so Joy Marfil tried her hand at composing. It was a simple Tagalog song entitled *Pagtutulon sa Kapwa* (Helping Others).

In her junior year, she joined a national song-writing competition and her piece *Awit ng Pluma* (Pen’s Song) was one of the 11 finalists. However, meeting and listening to the works of other composers was further inspired her to pursue Music Composition in college.

While studying Composition at the University of the Philippines, she learned avant-garde music and playing kulin-tang and other Asian instruments. In her last semester of studies she was invited her to teach Music Theory at the University. Although teaching at the University of the Philippines was one of her dreams, she felt unprepared at that time. She wanted to finish her doctorate first before jumping into a teaching career but accepted the invitation due to the support and encouragement of her superiors and family. After two years of teaching, she pursued her Master of Music in Composition at the same university.

One of her greatest dreams also, was to become a film music composer. During her last semester in college, a professor recommended her to film director Gil Portes to compose music for a documentary film. After two years, Gil Portes offered her to score a feature film *Mulanay* (1995), from which she won Best Musical Score in the Manila Film Festival 1995 and Gawad Urian Award 1996.

From then on, she was the exclusive film scorer in Portes’ films. She was nominated for and received additional awards, including Best Movie Theme Song for the film *Saranggola* (The Kite, 1999) and Best Original Score for *Mga Munting Tinig* (Small Voices, 2002). From 2000 to 2002, their three independent films was the Philippines’ entry for the Oscar’s Academy Award in the Best Foreign Language Film category. She also orchestrated *Rizal* (1998) and *Muro Ami* (1999). Joy’s first step in Honolulu was when she represented *Mulanay* in the Hawaii Interna-



Joy Marfil

tional Film Festival 1997.

While in academe, she sensed the need to equip herself to keep abreast on the new studies of Music Theory. With the Fulbright Scholarship, she was able to study Master of Arts in Music Theory at the State University of New York at Buffalo. During weekends, she volunteered as a keyboardist at the church she attended in New York.

Before returning to the Philippines, her short musical play “The Last Days of Jose Rizal” was performed in California by a Filipino-American group in June 2005.

After her studies, Marfil resumed teaching at the Univer-

sity of the Philippines and continued composing for films, musical plays and arranging songs and other chamber music. She also continued her ministry at her church and eventually became the choir director. Choir conducting became her passion. She always looks forward to Easter and Christmas cantata presentations.

After several years of teaching, she pursued a Ph. D. in Composition to learn new styles and techniques. And now she is on ABD (All But Dissertation) status at the University of Hawaii-Manoa and also serves as the choir director of Moanalua Community Church and Manoa Valley Church.

Marfil’s latest interest is writing for Western and Asian instruments and getting materials and concepts from Philippine literature, culture and tradition. She finds it fascinating exploring different combinations of sound and timbre.

Her recent works include *Anguish of Isolation* (2011), a multi-media work based on a poem “Duet of Laura and Florida” by Dr. Lilia Q. Santi-

ago, inspired from the epic of Francisco Balagtas’s *Florante and Laura*, written for dance, kulintang and agung (both are Philippine instruments), angklung (Javanese bamboo instrument), Nepali bell (Nepal instrument), sogo (Korean percussion instrument), taiko (Japanese drum) and klui (Thai bamboo recorder).

A second work is *Muted Cry*, (2012) which is based on a poem of the same title written by Trinidad Tarrosa-Subido for violin, cello, three guitars, guzheng (Chinese instrument) and koto (Japanese instrument). *Muted Cry* is a trace of protest and bitterness, where the poet laments how her own language has been snatched away after colonization by the Americans in the Philippines.

Inquiries about the Aquino Philippine Studies Endowment can be directed to the Center for Philippine Studies at 956-6086 or email at [cps@hawaii.edu](mailto:cps@hawaii.edu) or online at [www.hawaii.edu/cps](http://www.hawaii.edu/cps).

Inquiries can also be directed to Terri Alvaro at the UH Foundation (956-3717) or via email at [terri.alvaro@uhf.hawaii.edu](mailto:terri.alvaro@uhf.hawaii.edu).

## Yoro Wins Poetry Contest

**A**mado Yoro, a contributing writer for the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, was named the winner of the 2014 Iluko Poetry Contest.

The annual contest is sponsored by the Severino and Eufemia Lacar Commemorative Award (SELACA) and coordinated by the Timpuyog Dagiti Mannurat Nga Ilokano (TMIF).

A multi-awarded writer, Yoro won the 1997 Man of the Year Poetry Award, Gumil Filipinas; 2002 Pedro Bucaneg Award, Gumil Filipinas; 1988 Thomas Jefferson Award, American Institute of Public Service; 2001-2003 Volunteer of the Year, OFCC; and the 2000 UFCH Progress Award-Media and Communication. He is also a community organizer and volunteer.

The writing contests are open to all Ilokano writers and poets in the country and abroad. The poetry contest requires



Amado Yoro

writers to submit three original Ilokano poems of at least 21 lines each. Writers are free to choose his or her theme but the poems “must be cut from the landscape of Ilokano culture and tradition,” says Franklin P. Macugay, TMIF president.

The SELACA is sponsored by the family of the late Severino and Eufemia Lacar of Bacarra, Ilocos Norte through their son Francisco Lacar and daughter Juanita Lacar-Portman, who are now residents of Australia.

The poetry writing (daniw) offers the following

prizes: P10,000 for first place; P7,000 for second; P5,000 for third prize; and three consolation prizes at P1,000 each.

The winners of SELACA 2014:

- 1st - Amado I. Yoro - Ewa, Hawaii
- 2nd - Elmer L. Lopez - San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte
- 3rd - Isaganie S. Bermosa - San Jose City, Nueva Ecija
- 4th - Henry R. Tangalin - Naguilian, La Union
- 5th - Rudy Rumbaoa - Maui, Hawaii
- 6th - Rolando S. Gamoso - Candon City, Ilocos Sur

Cash prizes with certificates of participation will be presented during the 6th TMIF International Literary Convention and Seminar from May 2-4, 2014 at the Lower Magat Eco-tourism Park (formerly Paraiso, Tribu Vizcaya) Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya. All winners are encouraged to be present to receive their prizes.

## LEGAL GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

## Let Him Who Is Not a Racist Cast the First Stone

net. He was pleading with her: All I ask is that you do not broadcast it on Instagram.

Fairness requires that one listen to the entire conversation between Sterling and his inamorata, rather than taking words out of context, before saying things against him. [http://www.t TMZ.com/videos/0\\_wkuhmkt8/](http://www.t TMZ.com/videos/0_wkuhmkt8/).

He says "There is nothing wrong with minorities. They are fabulous." She asks if he does not like blacks (a stupid question since she herself is black and Mexican). He responds that he loves black people. If Sterling hates blacks, why is he consorting (sleeping?) with one? Why is the majority of his team composed of blacks?

As they say in Spanish "No hay mas loco que el loco viejo enamorarse." (There is no bigger fool than a foolish old man who falls in love.)

The sanctions imposed on Sterling without due process of law by the NBA are terribly out of proportion to the alleged offense - \$2.5 million dollar fine, banned for life from the NBA,

prevented from managing his team, and recommending a forced sale of his team.

### Freedom from the thought that we have

Before condemning Sterling, people should hearken to Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, one of the greatest American jurists. In *United States v. Schwimmer*, 279 U.S. 644 (1929), Holmes dissented: "if there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other it is the principle of free thought—not free thought for those who agree with us but freedom for the thought that we hate." A majority of the Supreme Court rejected an alien's naturalization application for saying she would not "take up arms personally" in defense of the United States. *Schwimmer* was overturned by the Supreme Court in *Girouard v. United States*, 328 U.S. 61 (1946), thus Holmes's opinion prevailed.

In *Abrams v. United States*, 250 U.S. 616 (1919), Holmes dissented saying: "the

ultimate good desired is better reached by free trade in ideas — that the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market, and that truth is the only ground upon which their wishes safely can be carried out. . . . I think that we should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions that we loathe and believe to be fraught with death, unless they so imminently threaten immediate interference with the lawful and pressing purposes of the law that an immediate check is required to save the country." The Supreme Court majority convicted the defendants for advocating curtailment of production of things necessary for the war against Germany.

In *Schenck v. United States*, 249 U.S. 47 (1919), Holmes said: "The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theatre and causing a panic. . . . The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent. It is a question of proximity and degree." The Supreme Court convicted

the defendants for causing insubordination in the military.

### I will defend your right to say it

"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it."- Attributed to Voltaire but reportedly said by his biographer Evelyn Beatrice Hall.

If Sterling does not fight back, the sanctions against him could become a precedent. Imagine what would happen to anyone alleged to be a racist. If the person is a businessman, he could lose his business. If the person is a professional, he could lose his license. If he is an employee, he could be fired. Without due process of law!

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He is originally from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. Atty. Tipon specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. He served as an immigration officer and co-authored "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. His radio program airs Thursdays at 7:30 am on KNDI 1270 AM. He can be reached via mail at: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813, by telephone at (808) 225-2645 or by e-mail: [filamlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:filamlaw@yahoo.com). For more on Atty. Tipon, go online to: [www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com](http://www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com). This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

## PICTORIAL NEWS



### Standing With Vietnam Against China's Aggression

Loida Nicolas Lewis (3rd from left), national chairperson of US Pinoys for Good Governance (USP4GG), at a May 16th press conference in Makati City urging Filipinos to support the Vietnamese people against China's intrusion of their territorial waters and intrusion into the West Philippine Sea. She is joined by USP4GG legal counsel Ted Laguatan (far left), Roilo Gomez of Di Ka Pasisiil Movement, Long Trinh Huu of Vietnamese Overseas Initiative for Conscience Empowerment, Rafaela David of Akbayan Youth Movement and Knowa Lazarus of Filipinos Unite.

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# Philippines Wins Bronze in World Cheerleading Championship

by HFC Staff

**T**eam Philippines won the bronze medal in the All Girl Elite category in the 2014 International Cheer Union World Cheerleading Championships, held April 24-25 at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando Florida.

Eduardo C. David Jr., team manager and delegation head, is extremely proud of the girls' performance. With



over 17,000 athletes from 80 participating countries and more than 150 divisions, the

2014 ICU World Cheerleading Championship is considered as the Olympics of

cheerleading.

"They gave their best and definitely exceeded expectations. They had a few hits and misses but it was the best run they ever had. Fortunately, it was enough for a bronze medal," says David.

Performing on the world's biggest stage and being the only team from Asia in their division only added to the pressure, but team members took it all in stride.

"They focused on their routine and worked together,"

David says. "We always tell them that their main goal is to just hit their routine and that the results don't matter. We're just happy to have made it to Orlando and to show the world what we can do."

For the past three years, Team Philippines has competed in at least one international competition, winning the gold medal in the Southeast Asian Cheerleading Open held in Singapore. In 2010, Team Philippines won the World Cup Cheer and Dance Championship held in Brisbane, Australia.

Funding has been a constant challenge, despite the team's success. A big financial supporter, David says, is the National Cheerleading Championship (NCC)—the Philippines biggest cheerleading organization.

"Although recognized as a sport in most countries, financial assistance from the Philippine government has been elusive," David says. "Fortunately, we have the support of the NCC and most especially, the parents. Hopefully with our victory, we will be given more support. We have basically two goals—to showcase Filipinos' talent in cheerleading and to bring honor to the Philippines."

Over 100 girls from various high schools and colleges auditioned for the team during tryouts held earlier this year at the Central Colleges of the Philippines campus. The 2014 squad include students from School of the Holy Spirit in Quezon City, St. Paul College of Pasig, Ateneo De Manila University, University of Santo Tomas, Assumption College in Makati and others.

The team's home practice facility is based in San Juan, Metro Manila. The girls spend 4-5 hours each day training. The team also has its own nurse and physical trainer.

"Cheerleading has been said to be a dangerous sport," says David. "Each skill is taught from the basics and include safety and spotting. On top of the stunts and tosses that we teach, safety is prioritized."

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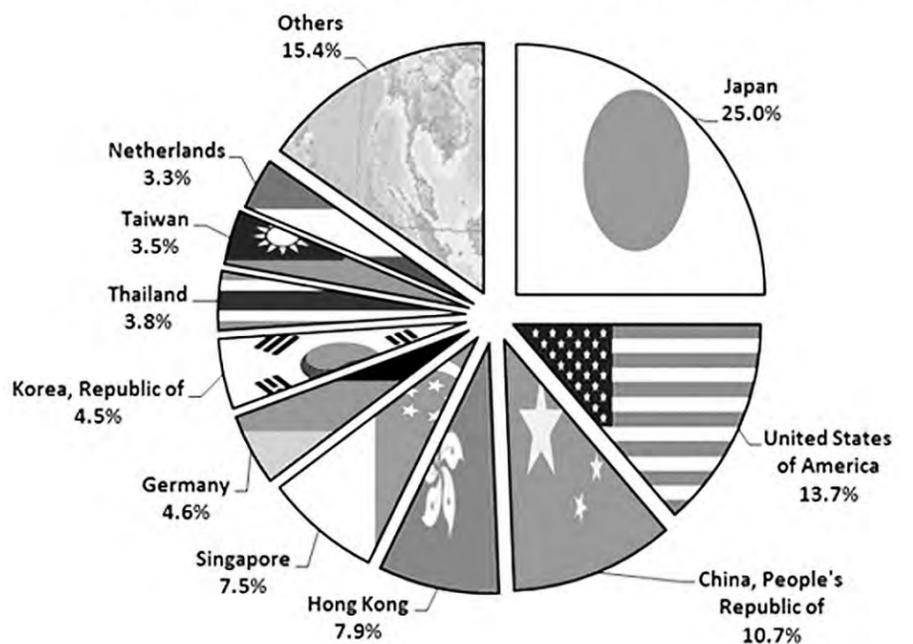
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**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

Philippine Top Ten Exports by Country: March 2014



**March Exports Post Double-digit Growth**

MANILA, Philippines - Merchandise exports posted a double-digit growth in March with an 11.2-percent rise to \$5.227 billion from the \$4.699 billion a year ago.

"The positive growth was mainly brought about by the increase of seven major commodities out of the top ten commodities for the month. These are: bananas (fresh); machinery and transport equipment; ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircrafts and ships; other mineral products; wood-crafts and furniture; electronic products; and articles of apparel and clothing accessories," the Philippine Statistics Authority said.

It was the second consecutive month

exports posted a double-digit growth, after the revised 11.6 percent registered earlier.

Electronic products took the lion's share in the earnings, accounting for a 41.4 percent of the total revenue. The country's top export posted a 10.1-percent increase to \$2.166 billion from the \$1.967 billion posted last year.

Japan was the country's top export destination, with a 25-percent share in the total receipts. This was followed by the United States, (13.7 percent), China (10.7 percent), Hong Kong (8 percent) and Singapore (7.5 percent).

Exports to East Asia accounted for 51.7 percent of the total, followed by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at 15.4 percent and the European Union which accounted for 11.8 percent.

([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))



**Nomination Deadline for Presidential Awards is May 31**

The Philippine government's Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) is reminding the public that the deadline to submit nominations for the 2014 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas is May 31, 2014.

The awards are given biennially to recognize Filipinos and other individuals or organizations who contribute to the Philippines' development initiatives, or promote the interests of overseas Filipino communities. The awards are also given to overseas Filipinos who have distinguished themselves in their work or profession and have thereby brought honor to the Philippines. Another cate-

gory is reserved for foreign individuals or organizations for their exceptional contribution to the Philippines and for advancing the cause of overseas Filipino communities.

The awards were first conferred in 1991 by President Corazon Aquino to 34 overseas Filipino individuals and organizations. Since then, the awards have been bestowed to 367 Filipino individuals and organization overseas from 46 countries and territories.

The awards ceremonies will be held in December 2014 at Malacañang Palace in Manila. For more details, send an email to: [rgarcia@cfo.gov.ph](mailto:rgarcia@cfo.gov.ph) or [presidentialawards@cfo.gov.ph](mailto:presidentialawards@cfo.gov.ph).

## FEATURE

# Tony Sagayadoro A Legacy of Service

by Glenn Wakai

**T**ony Sagayadoro grew up in San Mateo, Isabela having to walk to school with his siblings. A shallow river flowed between his home and campus. Each morning, Sagayadoro would carry his sisters across the river, so their uniforms wouldn't get wet. His trousers were drenched.

Sagayadoro grew up poor but he didn't lack talent or entrepreneurship. He was a prolific saxophone player in his school band. Occasionally he would get paid gigs and then hand the money to his mother to help defray family expenses.

That is the way Tony Sagayadoro lived his life – always putting the needs of others before his own. He would have celebrated his 60th birthday a week ago, May 11.

The industrious Sagayadoro got a college degree in accounting and later married Rina in the Philippines in 1977. A year later he came to Hawaii and settled in Kalihi, with Rina's family.

His daughter Sharon recalls her dad's first job at Queen's Supermarket. "He heard they needed a 'stock clerk,'" says Sharon, "Having a degree in accounting. Dad thought he would be buying and selling stocks. He came dressed professionally and landed up putting groceries onto shelves."

That job didn't last long before Sagayadoro got his next job delivering chicken for a fast food restaurant near the airport. Eventually he used his accounting background to become a book keeper for Tropic Rent A Car, Cutter Dodge, and then a landscaping company called Sea of Green.

Following a trade mission to the Philippines in the early 90's, he decided to open a small boutique in Waipahu. He sold prom dresses and women's formal wear.

Just when revenues began to come in, things turned upside-down. Sagayadoro began to

show signs of exhaustion. His children say their father declined to see a doctor and didn't want to worry the family. One night he was taken to the hospital where doctors found he suffered from chronic kidney disease.

Then began the excruciating process of dialysis. His eldest daughter, Cheryl, remembers being picked up from school and told to wait outside a doorway for four hours. "My dad never actually talked to us about him being diagnosed with kidney failure. He never wanted us to know what was going on," says Cheryl. "He felt we were too young to know and he didn't want us to research living donation because he would never take our kidneys."

As Sagayadoro struggled through dialysis, he became the Coordinator for the Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program. MOTTEP was a National Program designed to increase organ donations, and in Hawaii specifically within the Filipino community (one of the highest population in need for organ transplants in Hawaii).

National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii CEO, Glen Hayashida fondly recalls Sagayadoro's passion for his work, "He was consumed with saving people's lives. The time of day did not matter to him. If there was a need for him to visit someone at a hospital, or to organize a fundraiser, or to advocate at all hours at the Hawaii State Legislature, he was there."

Ironically, as Sagayadoro was saving those around him, his own life was in jeopardy. He put himself on the organ donor waiting list as his own kidney function deteriorated. Time passed. No call. Sagayadoro was approaching 8 years on dialysis.

On Mother's Day 2000, he finally got a lifeline. A kidney was available. He was rushed to St. Francis Hospital and given a second chance at life. An accident at Ala Moana Shopping Center claimed the life of Steven Ginoza. The Ginoza family's generosity saved four lives that day - two needing a kidney, another searching

for a heart, and fourth seeking a liver.

Sagayadoro's children say their dad viewed his post-transplant life as Bonus Time. "He took his ailment and turned it around. He didn't ask for pity. I really respected him for that," says his eldest child Glenn.

Father and son were often seen at a variety of community events providing DJ and audio services. Glenn grins when saying, "It was a way for us to bond and share our views. He always instilled family values. If anyone was sick he would call. If anyone needed help, he would be the first to lend the aid."

That compassion extended far beyond his family. He had a weekly talk radio show called Buhay Hawaii on KNDI. He utilized the power of the media to build a better community. Anytime a Filipino organization had a fundraiser or there was a disaster relief effort, Sagayadoro would shuttle his equipment around to do live broadcasts.

Sagayadoro founded the Isabela Hawaii Association. The organization brought those from his province together for social gatherings. Members eventually created a pageant to raise money for scholarships, so young Filipinas could attend college.

When Sagayadoro got involved in Toast Masters, he was introduced to many civic leaders who encouraged him to get even more engaged in the community. Sagayadoro got involved in the Knights of Rizal and helped to send an Aloha Medical Mission to Isabela.



Tony Sagayadoro (middle) and family on his daughter Cheryl's wedding day. From left: Daughter Sharon, wife Rina, daughter Cheryl and son Glenn

Sagayadoro handled all the logistics of sending doctors and supplies to benefit thousands of impoverished residents in his home province.

Raymund Liongson, professor a LCC, met Tony 40 years ago in Laoag City, Philippines. He described Sagayadoro's indelible mark in Hawaii, "He championed truth, social justice and humanitarian causes. He was impartial, soft-spoken and calculated, but he never wavered in his support for projects that benefited Filipinos and humanity."

Cheryl got used to sharing her father with others, "He always, annoyingly, wanted to include everyone, so small gatherings would become huge events. I would say 'for real?' That's why we are close with our cousins today because he wanted to do things as a family."

His children say their popular dad would run into countless friends in the grocery store. Picking up milk became an hour long ordeal. Each struggled in their father's larger than life shadow. "I didn't want to be known as Tony's daughter. I wanted my own identity," says Sharon, "But after a while I just stopped being embarrassed. I was proud to be his daughter."

"I used to hate that he was involved in so much stuff and I

wondered why don't you just relax," says Cheryl, "Now thinking back it makes you feel so small. He did so much. He made such a huge impact in his life. I am just in awe of what he did. He never complained and he did it, not wanting recognition. It was out of the goodness of his heart."

In 2011, Sagayadoro settled into a new job at the State's Office of Community Services, as a senior accountant. Shortly thereafter, Cheryl gave him his first grandchild. "Just seeing him with Luke, that's what I am going to miss the most. My dad's eyes would light up. He just had the biggest smile when seeing Luke. They were best buddies. That was his pride and joy, for sure."

Tony Sagayadoro leaves behind three children, all in their 30s, one grandson, and his soul mate. "Everywhere dad needed to go, mom was there," says Glenn, "She wouldn't complain and joined him without hesitation. My mom was proud to be with him. They were inseparable."

Sagayadoro was given the Gift of Life. In turn, he gave so many the Gift of Love.

GLENN WAKAI is a State Senator for Kalihi-Salt Lake-Foster Village and a former veteran television reporter.

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FOOD & LEISURE

# Start Grilling Season with the Classic Patty Melt

by Elizabeth Karmel | AP

**O**ne of my favorite big city comfort foods is a staple of the diner scene — the patty melt.

According to lore, the patty melt originated in California as a burger topped with fried onions and melted cheese served on grilled rye bread. Of course today, the patty melt comes in all manner of variations, including many grilled cheese-style versions done indoors on a griddle. But now that the weather is warming up, it's the

perfect time to try my version of the original — the grilled patty melt.

The first step in making a perfect patty melt is to shape your patty to fit the size of your bread. This results in an oval-shaped patty, but ensures that every bite has all the good stuff — grilled beef, caramelized onions, melted cheese and toasty rye bread. I like to use lightly seasoned ground sirloin for a lean but rich, beefy flavor.

The classic patty melt calls for Swiss cheese, but I have noticed that many diners

are opting for American cheese to get that ooey-gooey melted texture. I prefer the flavor of Swiss cheese, but if you really want that wet, melty experience, I suggest a combination of Swiss cheese for flavor and American cheese for texture.

Finally, I up the ante on the onions by accenting them with tangy balsamic vinegar. I find the vinegar adds a depth of flavor and cuts through the richness of all the other layers of the sandwich. It also eliminates the need for a tangy condiment, like the Thousand



Grilled patty melt with balsamic caramelized onions in Concord, N.H.

Island dressing that sometimes is served alongside the sandwich.

Use the best quality rye bread you can find, one with a slightly chewy crust and a dense crumb. The lighter the bread, the more difficult it will

be to contain all the layers of the sandwich. And it is all the layers that make the patty melt so delicious. It is the classic example of the whole being so much greater than the sum of its parts. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## GRILLED PATTY MELT WITH BALSAMIC CAMELIZED ONIONS

Start to finish: 45 minutes

Servings: 4

### For the onions:

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 4 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, divided
- 3 large yellow onions, sliced into rings

### For the burger:

- 1 pound ground sirloin
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 8 slices of fresh rye bread, toasted
- 8 large slices of Swiss cheese, or a combination of Swiss and American

pan or Dutch oven over medium heat, combine the olive oil and butter. When the butter is melted, add the salt, 3 tablespoons of the vinegar, and the onion rings. Cover and cook for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove the cover and cook, stirring occasionally, for another 10 minutes, or until the onions are all a deep golden color. When the onions are done, transfer them to a bowl and immediately drizzle the remaining vinegar over them. Stir to combine, then set aside. The onions can be prepared to this point up to 2 days ahead, then refrigerated in an airtight container.

cook the burgers, prepare a grill for direct, medium heat cooking.

Being careful not to overwork the meat, season the sirloin with salt and pepper, and mix until combined. Gently shape the meat into 4 oval patties of equal size and thickness (about 1/3 inch thick).

Use your thumb to make an imprint in the center of each patty. Place each patty directly on the cooking grate and grill for 4 minutes. Turn and continue grilling until the meat is no longer pink, another 4 to 5 minutes. Once the patties are made and grilled, transfer to a clean platter.

Meanwhile, begin to assemble the

patty melts by layering each piece of the rye toast with a slice of cheese. Take the bread to the grill and place directly on clean cooking grates for 1 to 2 minutes, or until the cheese begins to melt and the bread is warm and lightly toasted.

Once the cheese has melted, transfer each burger patty to one slice of bread. Divide the onions between the remaining 4 slices of bread, then assemble into 4 sandwiches.

Nutrition information per serving: 720 calories; 370 calories from fat (51 percent of total calories); 44 g fat (17 g saturated; 1 g trans fats); 140 mg cholesterol; 41 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 9 g sugar; 46 g protein; 1,140 mg sodium.

## Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# MM Has World's Highest Homeless Population

by Jose Rodel Clapano  
Tuesday, May 6, 2014

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Metro Manila has the highest homeless population in the world, according to an online site that compiles what it describes as "lesser-known intriguing information on a variety of subjects."

A list of "25 Cities With Extremely High Homeless Populations" posted by List25.com on its website on April 29 showed that 22.8 million people, including 1.2 million children, are residing in slums in Metro Manila.

List25.com also said

300,000 more people are reported to have gone homeless following recent calamities that hit the Philippines.

The United States has the most number of homeless populations with 11 cities, it reported.

The descriptions about the 25 cities' homeless were written by Juan Castillo, who has a Bachelor in Design from the University of Florida with a major in Architecture.

Castillo is currently working on an urban regional planning masters project.

He said the information on the number of homeless is based on statistics released by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which

reported that around 100 million people worldwide are homeless.

The List25.com's "25 Cities With Extremely High Homeless Populations" are as follows: Metro Manila; New York City; Los Angeles; Moscow; Mexico City; Jakarta; Mumbai; Buenos Aires (Argentina); Budapest (Hungary); Sao Paulo (Brazil);

San Francisco; Seattle (Washington); Athens; San Diego (California); Tampa (Florida); Rome; Washington; Chicago; Tokyo; Baltimore (Maryland); Rio de Janeiro; Dublin (Ireland); Indianapolis (Indiana); Denver (Colorado) and Lisbon (Portugal).

([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

## Filing Pointers for FY 2015 H-1B Cap Petitions

**T**he number of H-1B cap filings for fiscal year 2015 during the first five business days of the filing season (April 1-7) is expected to exceed the annual quota of 65,000 for foreign workers in specialty occupations and the 20,000 allotted for graduates with advanced degrees from the U.S.

If the USCIS receives H-1B petitions that exceed the numerical cap, the USCIS will conduct a lottery which would randomly select the number of petitions required to reach the cap. It must be noted that peti-

tions postmarked on the fifth day may not be included in the lottery. Only those properly filed petitions with the correct fee that are received by the USCIS by April 7 will be considered. Thus, it is best to file the H-1B petition on April 1.

Petitions not selected during the lottery will be rejected along with those filed after April 7. The petition and fee shall be returned.

Multiple filings by an employer for one H-1B worker will result in the denial of all petitions. USCIS will not refund filing fees in this case. Related employers such as parent and subsidiary companies, however, are not precluded from filing petitions on behalf of the same H-1B worker so long as it is for different posi-

tions and based on legitimate needs of the employers.

If the H-1B petition is accompanied by a request for premium processing, it will not increase the chances of obtaining an H-1B number. However, applications filed under premium processing will be issued receipts faster than those filed under regular processing. If the USCIS conducts a lottery, the petition filed under premium processing will know more quickly whether or not it was included in the lottery. Premium processing will not start until April 28.

Aside from early filing, the H-1B petition should be carefully reviewed to avoid rejection. Mistakes made on H-1B petitions may result in the rejection of the petition in the USCIS mailroom.

Also, in preparing the H-

1B petition, employers are reminded to indicate their true intention regarding the work site of the H-1B worker. If the H-1B worker will not work at their headquarters but in a client worksite, they must indicate it in the petition. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has filed criminal cases against employers who indicated their headquarters as the work site in the petition even though the true intention was to put the H-1B worker in another worksite.

An employer who intends to assign the H-1B worker in another work site on October 1 should state it in the petition and the Labor Condition Application (LCA) even if the employer is still unable to specify the work site at this time.

If the H-1B petition comes with a request for change of

status, the petition must be accompanied by documentary evidence of the nonimmigrant status of the beneficiary through September 30, 2014.

Work authorization for F-1 students under Optional Practical Training (OPT) who have timely filed an H-1B petition and requested for change of status shall be extended until September 30 when the petition is approved or while the petition is pending. Students who completed their OPT but are within valid grace period will receive automatic extension of their authorized stay. However, they will not be allowed to work during this period.

**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

## Audit Sought on Foreign Funds for Yolanda Areas

by Paolo Romero  
Tuesday, May 13, 2014

**M**ANILA, Philippines - The leader of the independent bloc in the House of Representatives called yesterday for an audit of local and foreign funds allocated to areas that Super Typhoon Yolanda had devastated.

Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez said people have not yet seen or heard of any breakdown on where the money and goods went.

"We, the public, have yet to see convincing documentary proofs of how the money has been spent so far," he said.

"We don't have any idea where the money and the goods are being kept, who are the custodians, how much has been disbursed or distributed and for whom or to where."

Romualdez criticized the administration for lack of a master rehabilitation plan.

"We will also ask for inventories and audit reports on the hundreds of billions of pesos in aid, both in cash and in kind, which were poured in internationally for the sur-

vivors," he said.

Romualdez said he sees no clear data on how many shelters have been built and for how many survivors.

"Most of all, we have not seen any assurance that the aid is not being misplaced or diverted to the pockets or into some vested personal interests of other people instead of the survivors," he said.

### Lacson speaks out

Presidential assistant on rehabilitation and recovery Panfilo Lacson said the two Cabinet members who were not cooperating in rehabilitation efforts are now closely working with him after he had reported to President Aquino.

"They are now cooperating in the rehabilitation work," he said.

Speaking to reporters during the weekly Kapihan sa Diamond Hotel in Manila news forum, Lacson yesterday said their agencies are vital in implementing various rehabilitation programs.

However, he declined to identify the two Cabinet members.

Lacson said rehabilitation work will start next month and construction of infrastructure in December.

Yolanda-hit areas will be classified as high risk, controlled and safe areas, he added.

Lacson said he will also push for the planting of high-yield, high-value crops suitable for the typhoon-devastated areas as part of livelihood assistance to typhoon victims.

Victims of Typhoon Pablo in Compostela Valley are now earning at least P90,000 yield per hectare planting bell pep-

per, he added.

Lacson vowed to unmask saboteurs trying to derail government rehabilitation efforts in typhoon-devastated areas in the Visayas.

Before he assumed his post, one of his priorities was to strengthen intelligence networks at the grassroots so he would know what is happening, he added.

Lacson said substandard materials were used in some bunkhouses, and that he had discovered that protesters in Tacloban City are not typhoon victims.

"They are not from

Tacloban but from other provinces who were hauled by buses to participate in the rallies," he said.

### Houses built and repaired in Negros

A farmers' group together with its foreign partner organizations made possible the construction and repair of 324 houses for fisherfolk in Negros Occidental that Yolanda had displaced.

Task Force Mapalad (TFM) specifically pointed to residents of sitios Diot and Matabas in Barangay Molocaboc, Sagay City as beneficiaries of the newly built houses and those that underwent repair. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



**ILOKO**  
By Amado I. Yoro

# Miss Oahu Filipina Scholarship Pageant Mayo 30, 2014

Ordenez iti Mayo 30, 2014 pannakakanta ti dua a nailian nga himno ti pagilian, im-bokasion, pannarabo a kablaaw da Armi Farinas ken Jean Jeremiah, Event Chair ken OFCC president kas agsarunoda. Kumablaaw met ni Consul Roberto Bernardo iti Philippine Consulate.

Tallo a parte ti

pakasagatan dagiti kandidata iti pannakapili ti Miss Oahu 2014, kas iti Talent, Terno ken Speech.

Mapilinto ti Miss Congeniality, Miss Photogenic, Best Terno in Design, Miss Popularity, Best in Swimsuit, Best in Talent, Best in Terno Speech, Best in Pre-Interview.

Malaksid iti korona ken scepter, adda maited a gung-gona iti Miss Oahu a cash prize, para pagbasa, pagbiahe

idiay Filipinas, ken dadduma pay a premio.

Ni Jean Jeremiah ti agdama a presidente ti OFCC.

**"A** dda lima a kandidata nga addaan iti Filipino a dara nga agtartaray iti uratna dagiti napagasatan nga agsasalip para iti Miss Oahu Filipina ita a tawen kas impakaammo ni Armi Oliver Farinas, Event Chair.

Dagiti lima isu da: Hazel Barsatan, Desiree Bucasas, Cecelia Crimmins, Natalie Jacob ken Lovely Orsino.

Maangay ti pabuya a pakapilian ti Miss Oahu Filipina iti Ala Moana Hotel intono Mayo 30, 2014. \$50.00 ti maysa a tiket.

Tinawen a maangay daytoy a programa a maysa kadagiti programa ti Oahu Filipino Community Council [OFCC] kas immuna a naisayangkat idi 1973.

Paset ti programa nga iturong da Jennifer ken Larry

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Justo Dela Cruz+= 1959-1961  
Adelino Valentin+=1961-1961  
Diosdado Avecilla+=1961-1962  
Jesus O. Cayaban+=1962-1963  
Dr. Marcelino Avecilla+=1963-1964  
Gelacio Daoang +=1964-1965  
Moises Claveria+=1965-1966  
Pedro Oducayen+=1966-1967  
Emilio Alcon+= 1967-1967  
Victor Agmata =1967-1968  
Justo Dela Cruz+=1968-1969  
Bart Alcaraz+=1969-1970  
Pol Ragasa+=1970-1971  
Gene Albano =1971-1973  
Pete Racelis, Jr.+ =1973-1974  
Mel Europa+=1974-1975  
Mel Agag, Jr.+ =1975-1976  
Ilalo Parayno =1976-1977  
Fred Aspre+=1977-1978  
Matilda Molina+= 1978-1979  
Ricardo Labez+=1979-1981  
Mario Albalos+=1981-1982

Amado Yoro= 1982-1982  
Nunelon Medallon+=1982-1983  
Victor Guillermo =1983-1984  
Gerry Rojo =1984-1986  
Don Alvarez+=1986-1990  
Maggie Domingo =1990-1990  
Romualdo Agustin =1990-1992  
Marlene Manzano+=1992-1994  
Jun Abinsay =1994-1996  
Ernie Pascua =1996-1997  
Ben Cabreros =1997-1999  
Edith Pascua =1999-2001  
Eddie Agas, Sr. = 2001-2003  
Jenny Quezon = 2003-2004  
Dr. Arnold Villafuerte =2004-2005  
Lynne Gutierrez =2005-2007  
Franklin Borromeo =2007-2008  
Cirvalina "Lina" Longboy =2008-2009  
Danny Villaruz =2009-2010  
Maria Etrata =2010-2012  
Jean Jeremiah =2012-2014  
+= pimmusayen

### LISTAAN DAGITI MISS OAHU FILIPINA

1973 Carmela Barut\*  
1973 Ludivina De Castro  
1974 Celita De Castro\*  
1974 Robin Cabiles  
1975 Jackery Tejada\*  
1975 Sharilyn Baqui  
1976 Sharon Robles\*  
1976 Erlinda Meneses  
1977 Lourdes Felipe\*  
1977 Teresa Fernandez  
1978 Theresa Ribaya  
1979 Elsa Perlas  
1980 Juli-Ann Nalani Sagum  
1981 Cynthia Lapenia  
1982 Coralei Rivera  
1983 Melinda Gaborna\*  
1983 Maribel Esteban  
1984 Dodie Viquelia\*  
1984 Ginger Davenport  
1985 Gladys Primero  
1986 Joyce Mina  
1987 Ligaya Stice\*  
1987 Marie Ann Agustin  
1988 Melissa De La Cruz  
1989 Romelia Broas\*  
1989 Ania Lei Davalos  
1990 Kathy Duhaylongsod\*  
1991 Lori Ann Messina  
1992 Gayle Valdez  
1993 Raquel Bueno  
1994 Corazon Dumlaog  
1995 Pamela Domingo\*  
1995 Cheryl Fernandez

1996 Lori Butay\*  
1996 Lynn Bagasol  
1997 Angelica Batin\*  
1997 Lesley Ann Paglinawan  
1998 Jessica Corpuz\*  
1998 Pamela Lavlilla  
1999 Arnalde Dedee Melchor\*  
1999 Fe Albano  
2000 Jennifer Vea\*  
2000 Sheri-Lynn Baclig  
2001 Maribel Apuya\*  
2001 Lori Lamug  
2002 Agnes Calderon\*  
2002 Liana Green  
2003 Aureana Tseu\*  
2003 Glenda Salvador  
2004 Ruth Aguinaldo  
2005 Jermel Lynn Quillopo  
2006 Mary Jo Bautista  
2007 Jerryca Gasmen  
2008 Krystle M. Acido\*  
2008 Bianca Castillo  
2009 Margaret Pascual \*  
2010 Marinell Castillo  
2011-Leoveni Mabiog  
2012-Heavenly Fines  
2013-Erika Joy Ordonez\*

\*= immuna a nakoronaan a Miss Oahu Filipina nga sponsoran ti OFCC sa nangabak iti Miss Hawaii Filipina ti statewide pageant nga sponsoran ti UFCH

### MAINLAND NEWS

## Fil-Am TV Producer Nominated For 3rd Daytime Emmy

Marc Anthony Nicolas, an accomplished television producer, received his third Daytime Emmy nomination for outstanding work for "The Talk" on CBS.

The 41st Annual Daytime Emmy Awards is scheduled for June 22, 2014 at the prestigious Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Throughout his career, Nicolas has worked for FOX, MTV, the Tyra Banks Show and other outlets, dedicating himself to honing his craft and producing engaging television for a wide and diverse audience. He has worked with stars such as Beyoncé, Rihanna and Sharon Osbourne and was named to Philippine



Marc Anthony Nicolas  
Photo: Graphics Metropolis

News' list of 2013 Most Influential Filipino-Americans.

Nicolas is currently taping his own lifestyle show "On Your Marc!" as he transitions from behind the scenes to the front of the camera, interviewing Hollywood celebrities.

"On Your Marc!" is slated to premiere on The Filipino Channel's Lifestyle Network this summer.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**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**

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## MAINLAND NEWS

## Kerry: US Worried Over China Acts

**W**ASHINGTON — The United States and other nations engaged in navigation and traffic in the South China Sea are deeply concerned about China's "aggressive act" near the Paracel Islands, US Secretary of State John Kerry has said.

"We want to see a code of conduct created. We want to see this resolved peacefully through the Law of the Sea, through arbitration, through any other means, but not direct confrontation and aggressive

action," he told reporters before meeting here with visiting Singapore Foreign Minister K. Shanmugam.

There are many issues of concern where the United States and Singapore think alike and "one of the most recent, obviously, is the Chinese challenge to the Paracel Islands," Kerry said.

"And we are particularly concerned — all nations that are engaged in navigation and traffic within the South China Sea, the East China Sea, are deeply concerned about this

aggressive act," he added.

Shanmugam, having just come from an ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) meeting in Myanmar, said, "We want a code of conduct to be progressed with. We need a situation where parties resolve their disputes and differences in a way that's acceptable to all."

Vietnam said a Chinese vessel intentionally rammed two of its ships last week near the disputed Paracel Islands where Beijing has deployed a giant oil rig. Since then both

sides have accused each other of ramming ships and blasting each other with water cannons.

Vietnam has demanded that China pull back the rig. China has refused, saying the waters are its "inherent territory."

Beijing claims almost the entire resource-rich South China Sea, rejecting rival claims to parts of it from the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

China is also at loggerheads with Japan over dis-

puted islands in the East China Sea.

## Objectivity sought

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman said yesterday that Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed the South China Sea dispute with Kerry and urged him to speak and act cautiously.

Wang urged Kerry to be objective, ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a daily press briefing. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## GLOBAL NEWS

## Phl Protests China Airstrip on Reef

**M**ANILA, Philippines - China is re-claiming land on Mabini (Johnson) Reef in the West Philippine Sea apparently to build an airstrip, Malacañang said yesterday.

The government has filed a diplomatic protest in response, presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said in a press briefing yesterday.

The development came on the heels of Washington's chastising China for its "provocative" actions in the South China Sea.

Lacierda said China's reclamation activities on Mabini Reef as well as the filing of a diplomatic protest were reported to the Palace by the defense and foreign affairs departments last month, but the matter was not publicly announced so as to avoid further stoking tensions.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said the diplomatic protest was filed on April 4. Beijing rejected the filing outright, he said.

Lacierda said the latest de-

velopment should highlight the need for a multilateral instead of bilateral approach to resolving the territorial issue with China. Beijing said it would only accept a bilateral solution to its problems with its neighbors.

"And emphatically the President has always said that we prefer a multilateral dialogue consistent with international law, consistent with the rule of law, consistent also with the Declaration on the Conduct of (Parties in the) South China Sea where there has been an emphasis on the provisions on not escalating any further tensions and also, not disrupting the status quo," Lacierda said.

He said that despite China's aggressive staking of its claims in the West Philippine Sea, Manila remains committed to dialogue — a tack unanimously approved by the international community.

"As we have seen, several countries have already voiced their support for the diplomatic path that we have taken," he said.

"I would like to believe that China is a member and would like to be a member of the international community in good standing," Lacierda said.

"It appears that they are doing things which we find objectionable. We do believe that international support and international persuasion can be a big voice with respect to China dealing or conducting itself in the international arena," he said.

He said member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had agreed on a number of things, including the speedy completion of the DOC.

He also cited the "iron-clad" support promised recently by US President Barack Obama for the Philippine position on the West Philippine Sea issue.

"We see a progression of statements that will show support for us," he said.

Lacierda also noted that the recently signed Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the US would

improve the country's defense capabilities.

"So all of these are part of improving our own capabilities — separate and apart from reaching out to the international community. And it's not difficult to reach out to them because we have the voice of reason on our side, we have the invocation of international law and abiding by a rule-based arbitration mechanism to resolve disputes," Lacierda said.

"The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has many signatories. We have resorted to a mechanism that is found in that particular law. In and of itself, a favorable resolution would certainly enhance our position, the position taken by this government insofar as resolving disputes in the South China Sea," he said.

## Aerial photos

Foreign affairs spokesman Jose said evidence of the Chinese activity on the reef had been shown in aerial photographs taken by the Philippine Navy. The Philippines and Taiwan already have airstrips in the area. "They're about to

build an airstrip," Jose said.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, an area rich in energy deposits and an important passageway traversed each year by \$5 trillion worth of ship-borne goods.

The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims on the area.

Jose said China began moving earth and materials to Mabini Reef, known by the Chinese as Chigua, in recent weeks. He said China's move was in violation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

He confirmed that the DFA had raised the issue behind closed doors at last weekend's ASEAN summit in Myanmar.

Department of National Defense (DND) spokesman Peter Paul Galvez also said there are "ongoing reclamation or earthmoving activities in said areas" but the DND would still have to determine what the Chinese were really up to in re-claiming land on Mabini Reef.

What is clear, he said, is that China's acts were in violation of the C O C . ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

# Still No Charges in Shooting Death of Stephen Guillermo in San Francisco

**A**fter a police investigation and at least one refusal by the District attorney to charge his murderer, my family finally buried Stephen Guillermo, 26, my first cousin, once removed.

But we haven't given up seeking justice.

Stephen was shot in his apartment building early Saturday morning May 3 after a night on the town with friends in San Francisco.

There's no crime being drunk if you're responsible enough to not drive, and sober enough to text home.

But he made a fatal error that night.

Stephen lived on the fifth floor. He got off on the third. When he couldn't get into the identical apartment on the different floor, a resident tenant, a 68-

year-old retired security guard, shot him.

The only witness that remains is the shooter, Amisi Kachepa, who turned himself in and was under arrest for suspicion of murder.

But then on May 6th, the SF District Attorney determined there was not enough to charge Mr.Kachepa for murder now.

Because of California's version of "Stand Your Ground," the killer has been set free to return to his apartment.

The law is known to gun owners, but generally unknown to the general public, unless you've been victimized by gun violence. The Castle law is the grandfather of the modern "Stand Your Ground" law of the Trayvon Martin case. Castle is based on the idea that your home is your castle and you have a right to defend. It's been battle tested throughout for decades in the courts in a number of states, California included.

But it's still based on the notion that the shooter had a "rea-

sonable fear of imminent peril of death or great bodily injury to self."

That's enough for DAs to fold up their tents and go home.

However, recently in gun-friendly Montana, where Castle is the law, a DA has charged a shooter in a recent shooting death.

So why not in liberal San Francisco—especially in the case of Stephen Guillermo?

To see Stephen is to witness almost a child-like presence. He was small in stature.

He was an immigrant from the Philippines at age 8 and still had that skinny build. He also had been through plenty: the death of a father to cancer in 2006 which forced him to be the family breadwinner, as well as father to his surviving siblings. Indeed, Stephen had an inheritance: his father's credit debt. So he held two jobs, bringing on a case of hypertension. But the family was frugal, living in a small apartment in the South of Market in San Francisco.

Graduation was a light to a better future.

Then Stephen met a handgun.

The police have investigated twice, and the case is now at the DAs office to charge.

We hope the DA examines a direct witness who heard nothing out of the ordinary the night of the shooting. No argument, no conversation, no break in.

Indeed, if there was no break in, maybe Stephen was lured or let in. If that's the case, then we don't have a threatening home invasion.

The released suspect Kachepa, could have said, "Sorry buddy not your apartment."

Stephen may have tried the knob lock, but when I saw it, the knob was off, but the lock was in tact.

There's also a dead bolt. Stephen would have had to be let in, by Kachepa.

But there was also a peephole. Had Kachepa seen tiny Stephen, a man two times

smaller, where's the fear?

Indeed, Kachepa was in control of the situation. And knowing Castle would back him up, likely opened the door, letting Stephen in.

And then a gunshot was heard.

Would Castle apply here?

The DA's hesitance to charge indicates Castle does apply, and why wreck your won-loss record?

But Montana charged in a similar case, and it was because it also involved a dead German exchange student.

The German government got behind the push.

Maybe the Philippine government needs to push here. Stephen was born in the Philippines, to Philippine parents.

He did not deserve to die senselessly—just for being in the wrong apartment.

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




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- Must be able to lift up to 50 lbs., work for long hours in a standing position

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Or apply online at [www.seafoodcity.com](http://www.seafoodcity.com)

Due to the large number of applications we receive, only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

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