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◆ NOVEMBER 8, 2014 ◆

DEMOCRATS DOMINATE GENERAL ELECTION

COVER STORY PAGE 4

FILIPINO CANDIDATES AMONG WINNERS



IMMIGRATION GUIDE

7 HOW TO BRING A LOVE CHILD TO AMERICA



FEATURE

12 HONORING OUR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN THIS VETERANS' DAY



NEWS FEATURE

14 THE FILCOM GALA NIGHT IN RETROSPECT



HAPPY VETERANS DAY!

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EDITORIALS

Democrats Retain Stranglehold on Isle Politics

Like clockwork, party loyalty held true in the 2014 General Election as Democrats reeled off victory after victory, much to the chagrin of Republicans, Independent, Libertarian and Green party candidates. Sam Slom remains the lone Republican in a 25 member State Senate, while Republicans in the State House increased their numbers by a paltry 1 seat.

The triumphs of many Democratic candidates, starting with David Ige's easier-than-expected victory over Republican Duke Aiona in the gubernatorial election, prove that the winds of change do not or may never blow as hard in Hawaii as on the mainland, given the Democratic Party's deep roots here. It's not that the other parties did not field good candidates. Many voters thought Charles Djou, for instance, was an excellent choice for Congress. It's just that the Democratic Party simply knows how and what it takes to run an effective grass-roots campaign. Ige and Mark Takai, two veteran Democrats emerged victorious in races that not many gave them a chance to win—despite little name recognition outside of their respective Senate and House districts, and little money in their campaign coffers to begin with. As their respective campaigns gained momentum, the well-oiled Democratic machine was a force to be reckoned with.

Some would argue that having Democrats in power means the party can better focus its energies on making actual progress for Hawaii. However, a lop-side one-party system together with yet another abysmal voter turn out means not all voices or ideas are adequately heard or represented. As Djou stated in his concessionary speech, the prospects of building a strong two-party democracy, changing our government and transforming how Hawaii operates will have to be deferred for yet another day.

However, all is not lost for the GOP. The party has several young, bright candidates who could step up to the plate one day and assume the mantle of leadership—provided that they accept the challenge. Until that day comes and until voters realize the advantages of a true two-party system for Hawaii, it will be business as usual for a state that badly clamored for change.

Lessons Learned from 1st Anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan

Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines on November 8, 2013, killing thousands and making millions more homeless. The powerful storm struck an already poor Eastern Visayas region, pushing many families deeper into poverty and making them more vulnerable to the next disaster.

Immediately after Haiyan, Tacloban City modified its building code and master plan. Most hospital emergency rooms and essential equipment needed to be relocated above the ground floor which tended to be the hardest hit. Other options included conducting yearly disaster drills and constructing storm surge breakers or barriers. These are viable measures considering the scientific community's predictions that the intensity of typhoons in the region is likely to increase due to climate change. At the same time, population growth, migration and poor planning are forcing many more poor people to live in vulnerable areas.

Victims of Haiyan are continuing to rebuild their lives and communities. News reports say that many more have yet to receive official aid. To be successful, any post-Haiyan reconstruction plan must be aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty

FROM THE PUBLISHER

W

in or lose, those who ran in the 2014 General and Primary elections deserve our congratulations. They expended a great deal of time, energy and effort to win their race and serve the people if elected. While we may not have agreed on the stances they took on certain issues, these candidates put themselves on the line and had a common desire to serve our community. Thank you, candidates, for your commitment to serving and making Hawaii a great place to live, work and play! We also thank those voters who did their civic duty and took time to cast their ballots. Your vote truly did make a difference!



Speaking of elections, our cover story for this issue reviews the results of the 2014 General Election and how Filipino candidates fared in their respective races (see "Democrats Dominate Hawaii's 2014 Election" on page 4). As far as elections in Hawaii go, the 2014 election season rhetoric was relatively mild, with the candidates for the most part choosing to take the high road and instead touting their accomplishments. Much of the so-called "attack ads" were launched by mainland lobbyists from both sides who poured millions of dollars into radio, TV and print advertisements that were not endorsed by the candidates.

In non-election news, November marks the start of the 34th Annual Hawaii International Film Festival. Several Filipino films are part of the line-up (see "HI Intl Film Fest to Feature Filipino Films" on page 8). One of the films—"Shunned"—was nominated for an award. "Shunned" is a no-holds barred look into the lives of transsexuals in the Philippines and their struggles, battles with society and their love lives. Look for a review of "Shunned" in our next issue.

Lastly, the Filipino Community Center (FilCom) hosted its 12th Annual Gala last October 24th at the Sheraton Waikiki. Over \$200,000 was raised for FilCom and three special individuals were honored for their contributions to the community. To find out who the honorees were, please turn to page 13.

In closing, we'd like to wish all of our veterans a Happy Veterans Day and to thank them for serving our country. Several Filipino groups are lobbying Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest civilian award in the U.S.—to Filipino World War II veterans. Please turn to page 12 for more about the Congressional Gold Medal efforts and for a summary of Veterans Day events across Oahu.

That's all for now. Until next time... *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

by diversifying livelihoods, increasing secure land tenure, relocating those living in high-risk areas and ensuring local institutions and services are better equipped to respond to disasters. Financial resources for reconstruction must also prioritize poor communities that need them most—rather than areas or social groups that may be politically or economically more influential. That, in turn, will require greater transparency in how reconstruction funds are spent and in how contracts are awarded for infrastructural repairs. It will also require the active involvement of independent media and civil society watchdogs to ensure this happens.

Overall, the Philippine government must increase efforts to tackle poverty and to reduce the growing risk of climate-related disasters that the Philippines. For families to survive, they must rebuild more resilient community in the coming years, which will likely produce more frequent and extreme storms. Greater efforts are needed to help devastated communities rebuild their homes, infrastructure and livelihoods in ways that leave them better equipped to withstand the next disaster.

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COMMENTARY

Some Thoughts on Governing

By Lee H. Hamilton

O have been working in or around government for over 50 years, and if you asked me to boil down what I've learned to one sentence, it is this: Governing is much harder work than most people imagine. This doesn't excuse its lapses or sluggish rate of progress, but it does help explain them.

Why is it so hard? Partly it's the country we live in. There were 130 million Americans when I was in high school. Now we number over 300 million, with a diversity and cultural complexity that were impossible to imagine when I started out. Finding common ground, meeting complex needs, answering to an overwhelming diversity of interests — this is not work for the faint of heart.

The structure we do this with makes it even tougher. We have governments at the federal, state, and local levels, and they in turn have branches — executive, legislative and judicial — and a cornucopia of massive agencies. To solve a problem you have to navigate a slow, complex, untidy system whose transparency and accountability are always less than they should be.

This is magnified by an American public that, these days especially, wants mutually contradictory things. We want to rein in Wall Street excess, but we don't support the regulatory structure to do it. We want affordable health care but don't like Washington's involvement in the health-care system. We want to shrink the deficit without any cuts in defense spending or entitlements.

Our diversity, complex structure, and difficulty settling on coherent policies make the

hardest part of governing even harder. Building a consensus is the most important and most difficult part of political leadership. If politics is ultimately about the search for a remedy — I know, for many politicians it's about ego or power or money, but I'm interested in the ideal — then you have to be able to get a consensus around that remedy. You need a majority in the U.S. House, 60 votes in the Senate, and the President's approval. This country cannot be governed without compromise, dialogue and accommodation, and it comes apart at the seams when we go too long without them.

We often have disagreements in politics, but good politicians know that we have no choice but to work through them. The best want to bring different groups of people together, not pull them apart. They understand that not all the good ideas come from one source,

and they reject the idea of constant conflict and permanent gridlock. In a divided country with a government specifically set up to divide powers, we need to follow this process — not because we want to but because we have to.

They know, too, that you have to treat every person with dignity and respect, even though the clashes may be hard. I used to watch Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill engage in tough, hard-hitting dialogue over the issues of the day, but for both of them the underlying premise was that they had to reach an agreement and move ahead. They knew civility had to be the rule — and always ended by trying to top each other with a good Irish story, doing their best to leave everyone in the room in an upbeat frame of mind.

Don't get me wrong. The clash of ideas is important. In a dynamic system, with competing power centers and a panoply of interests trying to use their power to achieve their

objectives, better policy — a policy that more nearly reflects the will of the American people — can emerge from this debate. Playing one side against the other, or merely stating the problem in order to rile up listeners — these are easy. Moving ahead to reach a solution: that's the hard part.

Which is why our system works so slowly. It's unwieldy, messy, and often very noisy, but most of the time, it gets there.

Yet there are no guarantees. Our system is not self-perpetuating. There is no automatic pilot. The question Abraham Lincoln asked at Gettysburg 151 years ago is as fresh today as it was then: Can a nation so conceived and so dedicated long endure? We're still finding out, but we know one thing: It will take hard work.

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

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Typhoon Haiyan—A Year Later

By HFC Staff

A year after powerful Typhoon Haiyan killed nearly 8,000 people in Leyte, international news reports say that there is little visible improvement for victims. Many families have not returned to their communities to rebuild but instead are living in temporary shelters or tents. Others continue to go hungry and work opportunities remain few and far between. Worse yet, there is evidence of prostitution and sex trafficking of Yolanda victims in the Eastern Visayas.

The negative news comes despite billions of dollars in foreign aid pouring into the country and assurances from the Philippine government for speedy assistance. Some observers blame rampant government corruption for the delay in aid and monetary assistance reaching those victims who need it the most.

According to Dr. Belinda Aquino, an expert in Philippine affairs and retired University of Hawaii-Manoa professor of political science and Asian Studies, there is more to the problem than meets the eye.



“From what has been reported by the media, there is some confusion as to who is responsible for the functions that need to be done in terms of the recovery efforts,” says Dr. Aquino who is also the founding director of the UH Center for Philippine

Studies. “You're not only looking at the national government but also local—city and provincial governments, along with several international and volunteer agencies which are helping to rebuild devastated areas and assisting thousands of disaster victims trying to put back their lives together.

“There is also a need for greater transparency and how to deal with the donations. All of these are enormous problems for a country like the Philippines to deal with.”

Aquino says better accountability of donations would prevent monies from falling into the pockets of certain officials and others who are supposed to be leading the recovery efforts.

“Corruption is a basically a function of opportunity,” she says. “Corruption

(continued on page 6)

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COVER STORY

DEMOCRATS DOMINATE HAWAII'S 2014 GENERAL ELECTION

By Chona Montesines Sonido

When it comes to politics, Hawaii continues to bleed a single color—Democratic blue. The 2014 General Election proved just that, with the major races won by Democrats. In fact, the Democrats held onto just about every seat in the State Legislature, bucking the national trend where Republicans strengthened their numbers in Congress.

The big prize was that of governor, where Democrat David Ige handily beat runner-up Duke Aiona 49 percent to 37 percent. Former Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann came in a distant third with 12 percent of the votes, followed by Libertarian Jeff Davis at 2 percent.

Ige's victory comes on the heels of a convincing win over Neil Abercrombie in the Primary Election. His win was nothing short of astonishing, considering that in Hawaii's history, a sitting governor had never lost a Primary Election to a challenger from within their own party. Furthermore, Ige had little name recognition outside of his State Senate district and not a lot of cash in his campaign coffers. He ran a grassroots campaign with face-to-face meetings and stew-and-rice gatherings statewide where he shared his

goals and vision for the state.

Also, fears that Hanne-mann would draw away Democratic votes never materialized—similar to how Ed Case split the Democratic and Independent vote in 2010, allowing Charles Djou to win the 1st Congressional district election to replace Neil Abercrombie, who had resigned to run for governor. The political future remains unclear for Hannemann, who had the support of businesswoman Maria Etrata and other key leaders in the Filipino community.

"He was the only candidate with a track record of working closely with the Filipino community for decades," she says. "We voted for Mufi because we know and trust him and that he cares about us."

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's poll of registered Filipino voters, taken October

8-14, showed Ige ahead by 36 to 27 percent margin. Rose Galera, president of the International Housekeepers Association-Hawaii Chapter, was among the number of Filipino voters who supported Ige.

"He is a person of integrity, is smart, honest, caring and a decisive leader," says Galera, who also served as Ige's campaign co-chair. "His priorities for people, education and business excellence will move Hawaii towards a better and brighter tomorrow."

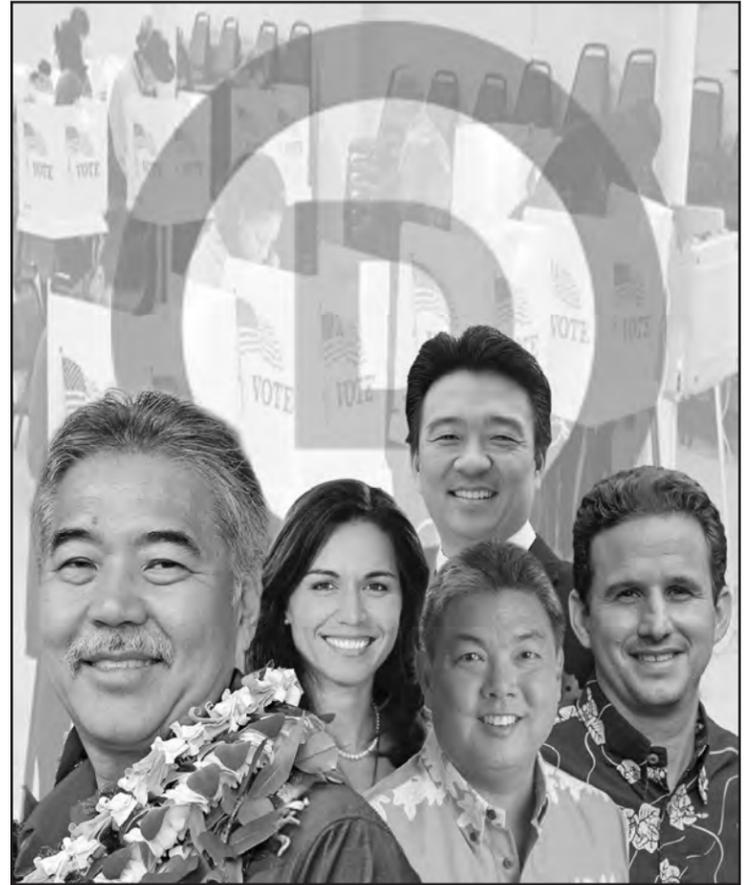
Aiona's defeat was disappointing for those in the Filipino community who had supported him. Conservative voters like Melle Aguinaldo, an associate pastor, says she voted for Aiona because his goals and plans are deeply rooted in family values.

"He and Elwin (Ahu) did not run for political gain but to save our state from professional politicians, where the same things tend to happen," Aguinaldo told the Chronicle.

Takai Ekes Out Victory

Another closely-watched race involved Democrat Mark Takai and Republican Charles Djou for the 1st Congressional District Race. Voters again went Democrat, sending Takai to D.C., by 52 percent to 48 percent—a difference of less than 7,000 votes. Takai will serve the remaining two years of Colleen Hanabusa's term. She resigned to run for the U.S. Senate where she ultimately lost to Brian Schatz in the Democratic Primary.

However, the Chronicle's poll showed Filipino voters solidly behind Djou 34 percent to 27 percent—which is not



surprising, since not many in the Filipino community knew of Takai. The poll's substantial undecided vote of 43 percent strongly suggests that the well-oiled Democratic machine, which also backed Ige's gubernatorial bid, did an excellent job convincing undecided voters to go Democrat during the days leading up to the election.

Takai's victory is equally impressive as Ige's, given that he too was relatively unknown outside of his State House District of Pearl City and that he beat more widely-known Senate President Donna Mercado Kim in a crowded Democratic Primary Election.

Takai and other members of Hawaii's Democratic delegation—Brian Schatz and Tulsi Gabbard, who both easily won re-election, and Mazie Hirono, face a tough road ahead, especially with Republicans winning key races nationwide and tightening their control on both Houses. Djou's supporters say he would have at least given Hawaii a stronger voice at the table on immigration, healthcare reform, the na-

tional debt, U.S. involvement in the Middle East and other key issues, and ensuring that Hawaii gets its fair share of federal dollars.

How Filipino Candidates Fared

For the most part, Filipino candidates who ran for the State Legislature did well in the General Election—winning five races and losing three.

State Senate District 4

Lorraine Rodero Inouye (D) beat Alain Schiller (L) 8,780 to 2,501

State Senate District 5

Incumbent Gil S. Coloma Keith-Agaran (D) beat Joe Kamaka (R) 9,770 to 4,149

State Senate District 12

Incumbent Brickwood M. Galuteria (D) beat Chris Lethem (R) 6,426 to 4,544

State Senate District 17

Roger Clemente (I) lost to incumbent Clarence Nishihara (D) 3,531 to 8,312

(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, DEMOCRATS...)



Cachola Guzman SanBuenaventura Rodero Inouye Keith-Agaran Au Belatti Aquino Cullen Galuteria

State House District 4

Joy A. SanBuenaventura (D) beat Gary Thomas (R) 4,261 to 1,700

State House District 24

Della Au Belatti (D) beat C. Kauai Jochanan Amsterdam (R) 4,465 to 1,784

State House District 40

Rose Martinez (D) lost to incumbent Bob McDermott (R) 1,915 to 3,161

State House District 45

Michael Yadao Magaoay (D) lost to incumbent Lauren Cheape Matsumoto (R) 1,175 to 3,069

Incumbent State Rep. Henry Aquino (D) won his Primary Election against Alex Sonson (D) and did not have an opponent in the General. Two others—Representatives Ty Cullen (D) and Romy Cachola (D)—ran unopposed in the Primary and General and

automatically return to the State House.

In sum, control of the State Legislature remains firmly in the Democratic Party's hands, with 24 Democrats and 1 Republican (Sam Slom) in the Senate; and 44 Democrats and 8 Republicans in the House—Beth Fukumoto, Aaron Ling Johanson, Lauren Cheape Matsumoto, Bob McDermott, Feki Pouha, Cynthia Thielen, Andria Tupola and Gene Ward.

On Maui, incumbent Don Guzman beat Joe Pontanilla for the County seat representing Kahului 23,856 to 15,719.

Dismal Voter Turnout

Voter turnout for the General Election was the worst ever in Hawaii's history. Only 52.3 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots, eclipsing the previous low of 52.7 percent in the 2006 election. Hawaii is likely once again dead last in the nation when it comes to

voter participation.

However, hope may be on the way with a proposal to allow same day voter registration and eliminating deadlines to register expected to be allowed in time for the 2016 elections. The 2012 Legislature also passed a bill that provided \$500,000 to the State Office of Election for the design of an online voter registration system, which is expected to encourage more people to vote and will also save money.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Mayor Hosts Affordable Housing Town Hall Meeting

City officials including Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Transit-Oriented Development Administrator Harrison Rue and Office of Housing Director Jun Yang attended a town hall meeting on November 6, 2014 in Waipahu to discuss the City's aggressive new islandwide housing strategy.



The meeting was held at Waipahu District Park and broadcasted live on Olelo channel 49. Attendees offered their suggestions on how the Caldwell administration can better serve the housing needs of Oahu residents.

Under Caldwell's plan, the City would bump up Oahu's affordable housing count by more than 4,000 within the next five years. The plan also calls for more stringent requirements of developers and home builders applying for building permits, a loosening of rules pertaining to accessory dwelling units and incentives for those who build along the City's upcoming 20-mile rail line.

Caldwell's "Islandwide Housing Strategy" and its executive summary are available for viewing online by the public at: www.honoluludpp.org. The mayor has visited numer-

ous communities around the island since taking office.

TOD Meeting in Waipahu

On November 13, 2014 the City's Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) will hold a community meeting on proposed zoning and land use regulation changes in the Waipahu Neighborhood Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Plan Station Area, which are also summarized online at: <http://bit.do/HonoluluTOD-Implementation>. The meeting will be held at the Waipahu Intermediate School cafeteria from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Waipahu TOD Plan was the first to be adopted by the City Council in April 2014. Based on the plan's recommendations, the City is initiating zone changes and a TOD special district around the West Loch and Waipahu Transit Center rail stations.

Among the proposed changes, properties will be zoned for mixed use, and the TOD Special District will require new development standards for site layout and ground floor building design. Height limits will generally be the same, except for certain areas along key or primary streets where bonus heights will be allowed in exchange for community benefits, such as public plazas and affordable housing. In some cases, the new zoning districts will also legalize current uses that do not conform to existing zoning regulations.

Overall, these changes will encourage walking and active areas by locating housing, jobs, shops and services within close proximity, while improving the pedestrian experience. A final plan will be submitted to the Planning Commission for a public hearing and then to the

City Council for additional hearings and action.

Property owners impacted by the proposed changes will be notified by mail. Comments received during the community meeting or by

mail/email will be used to fine-tune the revisions before they are submitted to the City Council for adoption.

Please contact DPP at 768-8284 if you have any comments or questions.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Hawaii is its own place, where Republicans are really Democrats with too much money, and everything is done in paradise time.

But what happened on election day? Chances are that you probably didn't go vote. According to a list put out by George Mason University and reported by CNN.com, Hawaii is one of the worst in the nation at 48.8 percent.

I know—you'd rather be surfing. But look at the numbers for other states. The top three?

Minnesota was at 77.8 percent; Wisconsin was at 72.4. That's nearly three-quarters of the registered voters. Even an add-on state like Alaska shamed Hawaii with a turnout of 68 percent. True, there's no surfing in any of those states. But Hawaii, re-

What Would Make People Turnout Like the San Francisco Giants

ally? 48.8 percent?

What if they gave out malasadas at the polling places?

California, where I am based, was at 60.9 percent which is not really all that great. It means that two-thirds of the people decide what will happen for everyone else. Oh, and this is just the number of people who actually bothered to register to vote in the first place. And those people, of course, had to be eligible and naturalized and become citizens in many cases.

It's part of the civic process if you're a Filipino who has immigrated to America. From what I'm told, the participation numbers in Hawaii have been on a steady decline from the day when close to 90 percent voted.

Why you no care, bra? Or maybe the question should be "What do we care about?"

You may have noticed, just days before the election in San Francisco, there was a huge parade for the San Francisco Giants on Halloween.



Roberto Nievera with son Robert, Jr.

There I met Giants fan Robert Nievera from Honolulu, who was with his son, Robert, 4. Nievera thought that was important enough to drop everything and head to San Francisco. After the Giants won Game 7 of the World Series, he had to be at the Giants parade. He grew up in San Francisco a Giants fan and kicked himself for missing the previous two parades in 2010 and 2012.

Nievera's extended family still lives here. He had to be here. He told me it was about culture and legacy. He wanted his son to experience the Giants, the same way he had as a boy growing up in San Francisco.

"It's a family event," he said.

Indeed, it was a once in a lifetime experience. I didn't even think to ask him about voting. Mind you, this is no knock on Nievera, who at least flew back to Honolulu on Tuesday. Maybe to vote?

But the Giants aren't really an excuse. Maybe for Nancy Pelosi. An excuse for her to smile. She was at the parade. Despite getting wet, she had real reason to be happy—for the Giants. Then I asked her about Election day which seemed to disrupt her celebratory moment.

"We're trying hard," she said. "We'll see." And this



No Washington Parade for Nancy Pelosi. Blues are bluer today, as country gets redder. I wouldn't blame the minority leader if she cried in her orange rally rag.

week, we did.

Hawaii wasn't impacted the same way, so maybe it doesn't really sink in. But I have to think she was wondering what political force could unite people from all walks of life and have them root so fervently as one.

What candidate could attract this kind of parade with vast throngs? No one in Washington today. Funny how eight years ago, Barack Obama might have. When hope doesn't deliver, things change.

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 3, TYPHOON...)

happens when there are monies and resources lying around that are easy to channel to private sources."

Aquino says the Philippines lacks the infrastructure needed to deal with the effects of a mega typhoon like Haiyan.

"One problem compounds another, which cannot be solved overnight—just like New Orleans, which is still suffering from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina several years ago. I don't foresee a quick solution or end to the

situation in Leyte," she says.

Aloha from Hawaii

Volunteers who assisted with initial recovery efforts in Tacloban, Leyte and neighboring towns a few weeks after Haiyan struck paint a much rosier picture.

In December 2013, the Philippine Medical Association's (PMAH) Ohana Medical Mission (OMM) provided free medical services to tens of thousands of victims and distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of medical

supplies, equipment and relief goods.

Volunteers returned a second time in July 2014 to follow-up on patients and survivors. In addition to free medical services, medication and supplies, volunteers also provided continuing medical education on topics such as hypertension, bleeding disorders associated with pregnancies, diabetes and post-traumatic stress disorder.

OMM President Dr. Russell Kelley, who served as co-chair of the missions, says volunteers saw a tremendous improvement in the immediate area.

"The first time we went, the place was devastated," he says. "There was garbage, the smell of rotting flesh and a pall of smoke, which made some of our volunteers sick. Upon returning, a lot of the infrastructure problems had been addressed. Roads,

bridges and areas around the airport had been cleaned up."

OMM volunteers also heard from former patients that people were offered \$200 a day to help with the clean-up efforts. For the most part, OMM worked with churches and non-government organizations while assisting victims. Mission officials faced the usual challenges but nothing that could not be overcome with patience and persistence, says mission co-chair Dr. Romeo Perez. Philippine Airlines denied OMM's request for reduced fares for boxes of medicines and several dentists who failed to join the mission as promised.

Nevertheless, both missions were a resounding success. In addition to free medical services, medication and supplies, volunteers also provided continuing medical education on topics such as

hypertension, bleeding disorders associated with pregnancies, diabetes and post-traumatic stress disorder.

According to Dr. Kelly, OMM is planning future medical missions to the Philippines, but not to Tacloban and the Visayas.

Danny Villaruz, president of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii, describes the Ohana Medical Mission volunteers as "missionaries."

OMM also contracted with Leyte physicians to provide continuing weekly medical care with medications and supplies that were previously provided.

They offered their professional talents for free and sacrificed their time, effort and money to serve our typhoon-devastated kababayans in the Visayas," he says. "Mahalo to all of them for participating in the medical missions."

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

How to Bring a Love Child to America



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

The term “love child” is a euphemism for an illegitimate child or child born out of wedlock. This is a misnomer because it implies that only a child born out of wedlock is the product of love. Children born in wedlock are also products of love. Originally “bastard” was the term used for an illegitimate child. Older statutes and court decisions use that term.

Senator Juan Ponce Enrile in his memoir edited by my fraternity brod Nelson Navarro admits that people referred to him while growing up in Ca-

gayan as “Oy bastardo!” (Hey, bastard!). His father was Atty. Alfonso Ponce who later changed his name to Alfonso Ponce Enrile. Manong Johnny acknowledges that his father sired a number of children with different women. This lends credence to the anecdote that lawyers are the champions in fathering “love children”. [Full disclosure: I am a lawyer but I have no love child]. When I went to a Makati bookstore to buy his book the salesgirl told me to go to the biography section. Another giggled that if I cannot find it there to go to the fiction section.

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and immigration regulations use the term “child born out of wedlock” or “illegitimate child”. INA § 101(b)(1)(D). 8 CFR § 204.2(d)(2)(iii). The term “child” includes a child born in wedlock and out of wed-

lock. INA §101(b)(1)(A) and §101(b)(1)(D). When a “child” is 21 years of age and above, INA refers to the child as “son” or “daughter” as the case may be.

A U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident may file a petition for visa classification of a legitimate or illegitimate child (son or daughter if 21 or over). INA §§ 201, 203 and 204.

The difference in treatment is in the kind of evidence required to support the petition. If a petition is submitted by the father of a legitimate child, the primary evidence required are the birth certificate of the child, the marriage certificate of the parents, and proof of the termination of the parents’ prior marriages, if any.

However, if a petition is submitted by the purported father of an illegitimate child,

the primary evidence required are documents that the petitioner is the natural father and that a bona fide parent-child relationship was established when the child was unmarried and under 21 years of age. Evidence to show that the petitioner is the child’s natural father is the child’s birth certificate showing the father’s name. Evidence to establish a bona fide parent-child relationship include documents that demonstrate emotional and/or financial ties or a genuine concern and interest for the child’s support, instruction, and general welfare. There should be evidence that the father and child actually lived together or that the father held the child out as being his own, and that he provided for some or all of the child’s needs, or that in general the father’s behavior evidenced a genuine concern for the child. The most persuasive evidence is documentary evidence which was contemporaneous with the events in question, such as money order receipts or canceled checks showing the father’s financial support, the father’s income tax returns containing the child’s name as a dependent, the father’s medical or insurance records naming the child as a beneficiary or dependent, school records of the child showing the petitioner as the father, correspondence between father and

child, and similar evidence. 8 CFR § 204.2(d)(2)(iii).

Complying with USCIS requirements is not easy. In case of doubt, USCIS will deny the petition. If you really love your “love child,” it is best to consult with a lawyer experienced in this kind of petition and who has a successful track record. The lawyer can tell you what alternative evidence to submit if you do not have all those that the regulations require or what additional evidence to submit to be more convincing. How much does it cost to hire a lawyer? A fee of not more than \$3,000 is reasonable. If you really love your “love child” that is a trifle.

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. For more on Atty. Tipon, go online to: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

HAWAII FILIPINO NEWS

Emme’s Island Moments to Air Special on Haiyan Anniversary

After a two-and-a-half year hiatus, veteran broadcast journalist Emme Tomimbang, president of EMMIE Inc., will return to television with yet another exciting “Emme’s Island Moments” special that’s sure to touch the hearts of island residents, especially for the Filipino community.

“Haiyan—After the Storm” is scheduled to air on KGMB-TV on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2014 beginning at 9 pm. It will be rebroadcasted on Sunday, November 30 at 9 pm on KHNL.

Tomimbang recently traveled through the storm-ravaged Philippines to check on areas of her family ancestral homeland. She returned with a poignant television special just in time for the 1st anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan.

“Haiyan—After the Storm” is a sobering, grim anniversary show which nevertheless

provides an uplifting look into the horrific devastation that ripped through the Eastern Visayas region of the Philippines.

“Emme has witnessed

human suffering on a grand scale from grieving families still searching for missing bodies of loved ones, communities having little to no access to safe drinking water, sanitation, waste disposal, and to visiting mass gravesites of unidentified storm victims,” says Jon Matsuoaka, president and CEO of the Consuelo Foundation.

“Through the haunting remnants of Haiyan, Emme captures the resiliency of the Filipino people.”

Rebuilding communities will be an unwavering commitment as the Philippines continues its resurrection from ruin. University of Hawaii-Manoa scientists traveled to the Visayas as part of the Consuelo Foundation delegation to assess the damage, and use that information to make recommendations for rebuilding and reconstituting a better, safer, and more resilient community pre-Haiyan.

For a country that faces the perpetual risk of another typhoon, Emme caught up with the team of UH scientists who can help Hawaii learn many lessons on the perils of natural dis-

asters and the hope for resilient building structures.

Haiyan has been recorded as the most destructive typhoons in recent history to make landfall. In its wake last November, the storm left a trail of more than 6,000 Filipinos killed, tens of thousands missing, and a crippled infrastructure that pushed millions into homelessness. Yet, an outpouring of international humanitarian aid to help storm victims continues to pour into the island nation.

Last year in Hawaii alone, generous donors and local Filipinos held fundraisers and concerts and gave what they could. The U.S./Hawaii-based Consuelo Foundation, a philanthropic, non profit organization stepped forward to match locally raised monetary donations, raising the combined total contributed more than \$3.5 million for disaster relief funds.

“Haiyan—After the Storm” is sponsored in part by American Savings Bank, City Mill, Hawaiian Electric Industries, Hawaii Government Employees Association, and The Queen’s Medical Center.



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

HI Intl Film Fest to Feature Filipino Films

By HFC Staff

Several films from the Philippines are among the movies to be shown during the 34th Annual Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) which runs through November 16, 2014. The HIFF boasts a stellar line-up of narrative features, documentaries and shorts from 45 countries.

The Filipino films include:

- **M (Mothers Maiden Name)**
Written and directed by



Zig Dulay, "M (Mother's Maiden Name)" centers on Madame Bella, a single working mother who is battling cancer. The film offers an insightful commentary on the disparity of the medical treatments available in

the Philippines where there is a deep chasm between the rich and the poor. Showing November 8 at Dole Cannery Theatre at 11 am.

- **Quick Change**
"Quick Change" depicts

the slow acceptance of change in a society that is quick to judge. Dorina, a lady incarcerated inside a male body, earns her living by peddling her cheap services illegally. Her weapon is the syringe, a tool that can turn an ordi-

nary face from simply pretty to pretty fierce. Her customers are mostly seasoned gay beauty pageant contestants obsessed about the men in their lives and how they can keep them entertained. Showing November 8 at Dole Cannery at 9 pm.

- **Where I Am King**
The film is about Ricardo, an arrogant self-made tycoon who has well and truly forgotten his humble beginnings. Years of high living and a series of poor financial decisions have caused his fortune to dwindle to practically nothing. One of the few properties he still owns is Tondo, the tenement he grew up in. With his two grandchildren in tow, Ricardo moves back into the crumbling apartment block he left behind. "Where I Am King" mixes fish-out-of-water comedy with serious questions about what we owe to the society we live in—whether we should look out only for ourselves or adhere to higher principles. Showing November 9 at Dole Cannery Theatre at 11:30 am and November 14 at Waimea Theatre on Kauai at 7 pm.



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HIFF is the premiere cinematic event in the Pacific and annually attracts more than 70,000 film enthusiasts from around the state, the nation and throughout the world. HIFF audiences reflect the diverse multi-cultural face of Hawaii. For more information on the the 34th Annual Hawaii International Film Festival, go online to: <http://program.hiff.org/films/>.

SOCIETY PAGE

12TH ANNUAL FILCOM GALA



Kumu Kaleo Trinidad offers a special Hawaiian oli (chant) for the honorees



Event chair person Rosemarie V. Mendoza and co-chairs A.J. Halagao Jr. and Sherry Menor-McNamara pause before presenting leis to honorees



Justice Ramil receives an award from the FilCom Center presented by State Rep. Romy Cachola and other government officials



Evelyn Cabradilla and Troy Mendoza dance a Maria Clara dance "Bailes de Antano"



Event committee members and Coro Filipino sing "Dahil sa 'Yo'" as the finale and mahalo on behalf of FilCom to guests and honorees



Charles Degala sings "Waikiki" accompanied by the ever graceful Iwalani Tseu



Pianist Noly Paa provides lovely dinner music



Kristian Lei sings "The Impossible Dream" which she dedicated to the honorees



Honoree Maria Etrata and family pose for a group photo



Former Gov. Ben Cayetano and wife Vicky



Maggie Domingo with ladies from Primary Care Providers



(L-R): FilCom Center's Board of Directors Avelino J. Halagao (vice chair), Donnie Juan (executive director), Lorna Kidd (secretary) and husband Santos Kidd

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

**Binay Snubs Senate Probe,
 Flies to Cebu**

by Louis Bacani
 Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - Vice President Jejomar Binay went to Cebu on Thursday and snubbed the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing on the corruption allegations against him.



According to a live report on ANC, Binay is now in Cebu for official engagements, including interviews with local radio stations and a visit to Toledo City.

Binay is being investigated in connection with the allegedly overpriced Makati City Hall II parking building and other projects that he supposedly profited from.

He has been accused of using dummies to conceal his alleged ill-gotten wealth, including a 350-hectare property in Rosario, Batangas.

Binay has refused to attend the hearings held by a Senate Blue Ribbon Subcommittee, calling it a "kangaroo court." He believes that Sens. Alan Cayetano and Antonio Trillanes IV have already prejudged him.

His camp earlier said that he will appear at the Senate only upon the invitation of the mother Blue Ribbon Committee.

Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, commit-

tee chair, accepted the challenge and issued the invitation last month.

Trillanes said they would grill Binay for at least six hours if shows up. But even with his absence, the senator said the investigation will still continue.

"What he does or will not do, siya ang accountable doon, si Vice President Binay," Trillanes said in a televised press conference on Wednesday. "Kapag hindi siya magpakita, ibig sabihin hindi mo talaga mapagkakatiwalaan itong taong ito."

Earlier this week, Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco of the United Nationalist Alliance claimed in an interview on ANC that Binay was planning to attend the Senate hearing.

Tiangco, however, has been dissuading Binay from facing the Senate, saying he has nothing to gain from it.

(www.philstar.com)



**20,000 Disaster Survivors to
 Join Yolanda Event in
 Tacloban**

by Dennis Carcamo
 Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - Survivors of various disasters in the country will converge in Tacloban City on a two-day rally to commemorate the first year anniversary of the super typhoon Yolanda landfall in Eastern Visayas.

Members of People Surge, an alliance of Yolanda survivors, said they are expecting other survivors of calamities, such as typhoons Pablo and Sendong as well as those from Zamboanga siege and Bohol earthquake, to join the event.

The group said that the survivors will also aim to form a national wide alliance of disaster survivors during the

event to demand accountability of the Aquino administration.

The group said that the 20,000 participants of the event from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will be welcomed by Tacloban City Mayor Alfred Romuladez.

People Surge said that it is now on the final stage of its preparations for the November 7 and 8 rallies to commemorate the first year of Yolanda where they will burn the effigy of President Benigno Aquino III.

The group earlier demanded that President Aquino to step down due alleged graft ridden transactions of the national government to reconstruct the places devastated by Yolanda.

(www.philstar.com)

ASK A DOCTOR

The Common Myths and Truths of Hawaii's Silent Sickness

By Dr. Theresa Dizon

As an internal medicine doctor on the West side of Oahu, I see many people with diabetes. It's such a pervasive condition in our state, and can be especially problematic for the Filipino population, which tends to have a higher rate of diabetes than many other ethnic groups.

I've noticed that people often misunderstand what diabetes is, and how it can be prevented and treated. So I thought it would be important to share a few of these myths (and one truth) to help clear up common misconceptions.

Myth: I'll know if I have diabetes or pre-diabetes, because of the symptoms.

While it's true that there

are common symptoms of diabetes, such as frequent urination and excessive thirst, it's not unusual for people with diabetes to go years without experiencing or feeling a thing.

In fact, it's estimated that more than 26,000 people in Hawaii have diabetes and don't know it. And that doesn't include a much larger group who are silently pre-diabetic.

Because early diabetes can be "silent" in this way, it's important to make sure you get a screening test for diabetes when appropriate.

Myth: Diabetes runs in my family, so I might as well enjoy more cascarones, because I'll get it eventually anyway.

There's no question that some families are more prone to diabetes than others. I've seen this in several generations of families I've treated in my practice, but that doesn't necessarily mean that people



are destined to be diagnosed with the condition.

While these families may carry genes in their DNA that make them more likely to get type II diabetes – the more common form of the condition – lifestyle factors can also contribute to the problem. Family members typically share many behaviors, such as how much they exercise and what kinds of foods they eat. Those family members who improve their lifestyle choices, usually by exercising more and eating healthier, may be able to delay or even prevent a diabetes di-

agnosis. Those are some powerful choices!

Truth: Once you're diagnosed with diabetes, you'll always have it.

If you spend enough time looking at health information on the Internet, you'll see statements that suggest you can reverse type II diabetes. While it's certainly possible to manage your blood sugar in such a way that your blood tests have normal results, I think a far better word to use for this is "controlled."

When you get type II diabetes, it means your body has become at least partially resistant to insulin, which your pancreas releases to help lower potentially harmful blood sugar after a meal. Although losing weight can sometimes reverse insulin resistance and help diabetes

blood tests return to normal, you'll still need to maintain that weight loss to help keep your blood sugar in check.

It's easier to control your diabetes the earlier you're diagnosed with the illness, so it's important to get screened if you're at risk for diabetes to catch it sooner than later.

I hope this information helps you better understand the myths and truths surrounding diabetes, and I encourage you to share this with your family this holiday season.

DR. THERESA DIZON is Chief of Kaiser Permanente's Nanaikeola Clinic in Waianae. She was born in the Philippines and attended medical school at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine. She completed her residency at the University of California, Davis Medical Center. Dr. Dizon is board certified in internal medicine and joined Kaiser Permanente in 2003.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Returning Filipino Peacekeepers from Liberia to Stay in 'Paradise Island' During Quarantine

by Alexis Romero
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - Filipino peacekeepers deployed in Ebola-stricken Liberia will soon experience why it's more fun in the Philippines upon their return.

The 112 members of the Philippine contingent will be enjoying the beach while on a three week-quarantine in a "paradise island" in Luzon.

While enjoying the view of the still undisclosed island, the soldiers can go fishing and nature tripping. If they choose to stay indoors, the peacekeepers can surf the Internet or watch their favorite cable channel.

Armed Forces public affairs chief Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc said these rewards await the soldiers who will return to the country on November 11.

"They will enjoy their stay in that island," Cabunoc told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo on Wednesday.

"We will provide everything. They will have an Internet facility. They will have cable TV. They can enjoy the beach. They can go fishing," he added.

Cabunoc said the quarantine, which looks more like a rest and recreation, is a reward for the "heroes who risked their lives to maintain peace in Liberia."

"They risked their lives. They were at risk of being shot or stabbed by conflicting groups. They were sent there to keep the peace, risking their lives and limbs," Cabunoc said.

"When they return, let's reward them. We will follow the quarantine procedures while making our soldiers happy," he added.

Cabunoc said measures are

being done to ensure the safety of residents in the island. He also urged the public not to be afraid of the peacekeepers, noting that they are not considered "high-risk personnel."

The Philippines pulled out its peacekeepers in Liberia because of the outbreak of the Ebola virus, which has killed about 4,900 persons.

(www.philstar.com)

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FEATURE

HONORING OUR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN THIS VETERANS' DAY

By HFC Staff

Freedom isn't free. The price is steep—often requiring tremendous sacrifice and if necessary, the very lives of those who love freedom the most.

One such day for all Americans to remember the high cost of freedom is Veterans' Day, which honors all veterans, both living and deceased, for their service to our country. Those men and women who died did so to secure Americans' right to speak their mind, vote and live the type of life that they so choose.

Veterans Day traces its roots to the ending of World War I when England and France in 1918 buried unknown soldiers with highest honors. The ceremonies took place on November 11th—which became known internationally as "Armistice Day."

The U.S. followed suit a few years later when the remains of a World War I U.S. soldier—his name known but to God—were buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking Washington, D.C. The site later became known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Located in Arlington National Cemetery, the tomb symbolizes dignity and reverence for the American veteran.

November 11th was officially recognized as Armistice Day by Congress in 1926. Twelve years later, Armistice Day became an official national holiday. In 1947, a Vet-

erans Day parade was held in Birmingham, Alabama on November 11th to honor all of America's veterans. Not long after, a bill was introduced in Congress to change the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day in order to honor all veterans who have served the U.S. in all wars.

A Veteran's Perspective

World War II veteran Domingo Los Banos says it is important for the nation to recognize the sacrifices of its military men and women.

"We fought for freedom and the American way of life," says Los Banos, who served as an infantryman with the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment, which was comprised almost entirely of all Filipino-Americans.

Due to a pinched nerve, the 89-year-old Los Banos has decided to skip Veterans Day ceremonies this year and will remain at home. His surviving band of brothers from World War II have been reduced to three.

Despite difficulty moving around, Los Banos and fellow WWII veterans from the famed 442nd Regiment will be speaking next week about their wartime experiences with a group of students from Iolani School.

"I will tell them that war is stupid and wasteful," he says. "The ones who get hurt are parents and the soldiers. It's tragic that people cannot solve their problems diplomatically."

Medals of Honor

Ret. Army Maj. Gen. An-



tonio Taguba is heading a national campaign to award the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest civilian award in the U.S.—to Filipino World War II veterans. Other minority groups have received their Congressional Gold Medals, including the Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers and Women Air Service Pilots.

"Filipino veterans of World War II are the last cohort that has yet to receive their congressional gold medal," Taguba said in a recent media interview. "Filipino-American World War II soldiers are equally deserving of this award because they fought valiantly under the American flag."

Taguba estimates that there are about 16,000-17,000 Filipino WWII veterans still alive, with hundreds passing away each week.

Los Banos supports the Filipino Veterans Recognition Education Project and says that the Filipino American Historical Society, which has 28 chapters on the U.S. mainland, is helping to coordinate fund raising efforts for the gold medals.

After the General Election, various Filipino groups will begin lobbying Congress to issue a national proclamation awarding each Filipino WWII veteran with the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their wartime service to the U.S.

"We are going to need the help of all Filipinos and Hawaii's congressional delegation in order for the veterans to get the medals," Los Banos says.

While the Congressional Gold Medal is a prestigious honor, many surviving veterans

are continuing to wait for long-promised and overdue pensions from the U.S. government. Thousands are still waiting for lump sum payments that were denied because their services cannot be verified, according to Justice For Filipino-American Veterans.

"It's tragic but they will never get it," says Los Banos, who credits the late U.S. Sen. Dan Inouye for securing \$198 million in payments to Filipino veterans as part of the economic stimulus bill passed by Congress in 2009.

Thanks largely to Inouye, Filipino veterans who were U.S. citizens received a one-time lump sum payment of \$15,000 and non-U.S. citizens received \$9,000.

Observing Veterans Day

Veterans Day across the U.S. is marked by parades and remembrance events. It's also a busy day for war museums, including in Hawaii.

At the Battleship Missouri Memorial, all Veterans Day and Armistice Day observances around the world will come to a close with a special ceremony just before sunset on November 11. This year's ceremony will pay tribute to the sacrifice of America's veterans both past and present. Special attention will be paid to the most recent generation of men and women who have bravely chosen to take a stand and protect freedom and liberty in America's current conflicts.

The ceremony will feature special remarks by Rear Admiral Richard L. Williams, Commander of Navy Region Hawaii and the Naval Surface

Group Middle Pacific, and Vice Admiral Robert K.U. Kihune, USN (Ret.), former chairman and current member of the Board of Directors for the USS Missouri Memorial Association. The event is free and open to the public.

Complimentary round-trip shuttle service for the event will be offered from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center beginning at 3:30 pm. Attendees must RSVP at rsvp@ussmissouri.org by November 6 to arrange shuttle service and base access.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie will also host the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe at 1 pm. The program will begin with a musical prelude by the 111th Army Band of the Hawaii Army National Guard, followed by a conch shell opening featuring Kahu Manu Mook. The parade of flags and presentation of lei will be carried out by various veterans' organizations.

Gov. Abercrombie will provide the keynote Veterans Day address with State Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Wong giving the welcoming remarks. Gov. Abercrombie, Maj. Gen. Wong and Jennifer Aina, will present the state wreath at the Memorial Plaza Monument. Thereafter, U.S. Pacific Command and senior commanders representing each military service will also present a wreath. A rifle salute will be performed by the Hawaii Army National Guard's Honor Guard. Civilian attendees are asked to wear aloha attire. Military attendees are asked to dress in Class B or equivalent attire.

In Wahiawa, the Wahiawa Lions Club will hold the 68th Annual Veterans Day Parade starting at 10 am. The route starts at Ka'ala Elementary School and proceeds up California Avenue to the district park. More than 80 participating units are expected, including the 25th Infantry Division Band, Leilehua and Kalani high school bands, Kanani Oliveira Hula Studio and more.

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Green Card for Teachers

Employment of teachers is expected to grow in the near future. This positive outlook includes teachers at all learning levels – pre-school, kindergarten, elementary and high school – but the opportunities are greater in certain fields, such as math, science and special education, and in some geographic areas.

In the United States, there is a history of recruitment of foreign teachers, particularly from countries such as the Philippines, India and Russia, in order to meet the demand from the increased student enrollment and the need to replace aging teachers.

Foreign teachers who have a job offer from a U.S. em-

ployer, usually a school district, individual school or state education agency, and who wish to work in the United States on a permanent basis must obtain an employment-based green card under the EB-2 preference category or the EB-3. The November 2014 cut-off date for EB-3 (worldwide) is June 1, 2012 while EB-2 is current for all countries except China and India.

The process of obtaining a green card involves three broad steps, which begins with the labor certification from the U.S. Department of Labor. The next two steps involve the filing of the immigrant worker petition by the employer and the teacher's adjustment of status (if the teacher is in the U.S.) or immigrant visa application (if abroad).

Before the U.S. employer can file an immigrant petition for the teacher, it must submit

an application for labor certification using ETA Form 9089. The DOL's program is called Program Electronic Review Management (PERM).

The procedure begins with the employer obtaining a prevailing wage determination prior to filing the PERM case. The prevailing wage is determined according to the job offered, the geographic region, the skill level or "job zone" assigned to the position, which in turn depends on the required education, experience and level of supervision for the position offered. The employer must offer at least 100% of the prevailing wage rate.

Next, the employer must conduct a recruitment by placing a job order with the State Workforce Agency in the area of intended employment for at least 30 days. The required recruitment steps include two Sunday newspaper ads and three additional recruitment

methods and notices at the workplace.

U.S. worker applicants who meet the minimum requirements for the position must be interviewed. The employer must document its reasons for rejecting minimally qualified U.S. workers and have lawful, job-related reasons for their rejection. If the employer is unable to recruit U.S. workers after testing the labor market, it can proceed to file the labor certification application.

The DOL will either certify, deny or audit the application. If the employer is chosen for an audit, it must respond to the audit letter and submit the required documentation. Even after responding to the audit letter, however, the employer may be directed to conduct a DOL-supervised recruitment.

As one can imagine, the labor certification process is cumbersome and quite costly.

Although teachers seeking classification under the employment-based third preference (EB-3) category are required to go through this process, teachers who can qualify under the second preference (EB-2) category can ask for a waiver of the labor certification requirement if they can show that it is in the national interest of the United States.

Once the ETA Form 9089 is certified, within 180 days the employer must file the Form I-140 immigrant petition for the teacher. After approval of the I-140, when the priority date – usually the date the PERM case was filed – is reached and a visa number becomes available, the teacher can file the adjustment of status application or the immigrant visa application with the U.S. consulate overseas.

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

Applications for US Jobless Aid Tick Up to 287,000

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people seeking unemployment benefits rose slightly last week, but remained at historically low levels that signal a strengthening job market.

Weekly applications increased 3,000 to a seasonally adjusted 287,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, declined 250 to 281,000, the lowest level in more than 14 years.

Applications are a proxy for layoffs and have fallen 20 percent in the past year. Faster growth has encouraged companies to hold onto their staffs and step up hiring. Employers are adding jobs at the healthiest pace in eight years.

That is contributing to faster growth: The economy expanded at a solid annual rate of 3.5 percent in the July-September quarter, according to a separate government report



Thursday. More business investment and exports, as well as a burst of government spending on defense, drove the increase.

"There continues to be no sign in these very timely data of weaker global growth or turmoil in the markets causing U.S. growth to falter," Jim O'Sullivan, an economist at High Frequency Economics, said in a note to clients.

Employers have added an average of 227,000 jobs a month this year, up from an average of 194,000 last year. The economy has gained 2.64 million jobs in the past 12 months,

the best annual showing since April 2006. The unemployment rate has fallen to 5.9 per-

cent, a six-year low.

The Federal Reserve cited the steadily improving labor market in its statement Wednesday. Partly as a result, the Fed also ended its two-year effort to stimulate growth by purchasing government bonds and mortgage-backed securities. Those purchases were intended to lower longer-term interest rates. It kept its benchmark short-term interest rate at nearly zero, where it has been

for almost six years.

Despite the improved hiring, the job market is still not at full health. More than 7 million people hold part-time jobs but want full-time work, up from 4.6 million before the downturn. And there are still twice as many people unemployed for longer than six months as there were before the recession, even though that figure has steadily declined in the past three years.

(www.asianjournal.com)

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NEWS FEATURE

FILCOM GALA NIGHT IN RETROSPECT



by Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

The Filipino Community Center (FilCom) celebrated its 12th Annual Gala on October 25, 2014 at the Sheraton Waikiki with over 500 people in attendance and the biggest ever so far in FilCom's history. Themed "Bayanihan," a Filipino cultural norm loosely translated as "working together," the event commemorated the achievements of the first Filipino arrivals in Hawaii in the early 1900s to work on the sugar plantations.

The gala raised over \$203,000 for the FilCom and its many programs, recognized the achievements of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans, and highlighted Philippine culture and society to the larger community in Hawaii.

The highlight of the evening was the recognition of

three honorees for their lifelong contributions to the community—former Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court Simeon R. Acoba, Jr.; former Supreme Court Associate Justice Mario R. Ramil; and philanthropic community leader and specialist in the healthcare industry Maria A.F. Etrata.

Meet the Honorees

Acoba, who recently retired as Associate Justice of the High Court, was appointed in May 2000 by Gov. Benjamin Cayetano. Acoba has had a distinguished judicial career and an outstanding public service record. He continues to be active in the legal profession and as a lecturer at the University of Hawaii-Manoa Richardson School of Law. He was recently nominated by Gov. Neil Abercrombie to serve on the UH Board of Regents.

Acoba started his judicial career as a per diem judge in district court when he was appointed by then Supreme Court Chief Justice William Richardson. He was later appointed District Court Judge by Gov.



Justice Simeon R. Acoba, Jr., Maria A. F. Etrata and Justice Mario R. Ramil

George Ariyoshi from 1980 to 1994, and then appointed to the Intermediate Court of Appeals by Gov. John Waihee III where he served from 1994 to 2000.

A BA graduate of UH, Acoba later attended the Northwestern University Law School where he obtained his Juris Doctor (J.D) degree. Among his prominent positions and honors after graduating from Law School were: Deputy Attorney General of Hawaii, State House of Representatives Majority Attorney, Adjunct Law Professor at the UH Law School, founding Chair of the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission, and Recipient of the National Dwight Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence. He was also Director of the

Hawaii Justice Foundation and Mediation Center of the Pacific, among others.

He was also the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Japanese American Citizens League, the HSBA's Golden Gavel and President's Award, and was a Fellow of the Pacific awardee of the Hawaii Pacific University.

Ramil is the second American of Filipino ancestry to be appointed to Hawaii Supreme Court by Gov. Waihee. The first was the late Justice Benjamin Menor in 1974. Ramil was born in the Philippines and immigrated with his family at the age of 10. He received his BA from California State University in Hayward in 1972 and his J.D. degree from the University of California Hastings College of Law.

In 1975, he was appointed as Deputy Attorney General and later State Insurance Commissioner in the early 1980s. He became state Director of Labor in 1987 and was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 1993.

After retiring in 2002 after two decades of public service, Ramil practiced law with Imanaka, Kudo and Fujimoto. Later, he focused his law practice on the areas of Arbitration/Mediation, Administrative Law and Government Relations at Badger Arakaki LLC.

Ramil has served as director or advisor of Olelo Community Media, FilCom Center, Oahu Filipino Jaycees, Palama Settlement, Hawaii Youth at Risk, St. Francis Healthcare System, Advisory Council on Housing and Construction, Moanalua Gardens Foundation, Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii and

Hawaii Nonprofit Housing Corporation.

Etrata's life story might well be subtitled "the American Dream Come True." Born in Ilocos Sur, she arrived in Hawaii in 1956, attended Farrington High School and finished at Elk Grove High School in California. She later attended Sacramento City College of Nursing, Cannon Business College and the University of Hawaii, where she received a Liberal Arts degree and a Licensed Practical Nurse certificate from Kapiolani Community College.

She founded and developed three home care facilities: the Preferred Home & Community-Based Services, Home and Community Services of Hawaii, and the Primary Care Providers of Hawaii—all concentrating on attendant care and services to the developmentally and physically disabled population in Hawaii.

She and her husband established the Renato & Maria A.F. Etrata Foundation, a nonprofit that benefits educational institutions and students in the community by providing scholarships, financial services and other assistance. She has donated to numerous humanitarian causes locally and in the Philippines.

Etrata serves on the FilCom Board of Governors and also on the Kauai Filipino Community Center. She has held various community positions, including president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, the Oahu Filipino Community Council, Filipino Women's Civic Club, Filipino Women's Business Association and the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee. She was also named Filipino Business Woman of the Year in 2007 and later as Filipino Entrepreneur of the Year by the Filipino Chamber of Commerce.

Planning the Event

Numerous volunteers and a dedicated planning committee chaired by longtime Filipino community leader Rosemarie

(continued on page 15)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MISS PHILIPPINES HAWAII USA PRESENTATION • SATURDAY • November 22, 2014 | Kalayaan Philippines International, Pacific Beach Hotel | 6:00 PM | For more info, contact Ben Pulido @ 421-9747.

PASKUHAN SA CONSULADO, A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION • TUESDAY • December 16, 2014 | Philippine Consulate Grounds | 5:30-10:30 PM | For more info, call Jeff de Mesa @ 595-6316 to 19 ext. 105.

FILIPINO ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (FAUW), PASKO! • SUNDAY • December 21, 2014 | Honolulu Museum of Arts | 11:00 AM-3:00 PM | FREE Admission courtesy of Bank of Hawaii's monthly family Sunday | For more information, please contact Pepi Nieva at pepinieva@hotmail.com.

TARLAC MUTUAL CLUB, ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY & CORONATION OF MOTHER OF THE YEAR • SATURDAY • December 27, 2014 | FilCom Center | 5:00-11:00 PM | Contact Armando Celestino @ 779-2166 for more info.

GLOBAL NEWS

Donating to Disaster Relief: Sending Goods Back Home 'Expensive'

By Jeremaiah Opiniano

In the lead up to the first anniversary of typhoon Yolanda's destruction of the Visayas Islands, a Filipino donor group in Hong Kong had to learn the hard way how in-kind donations from abroad may be best sent back home.

WIMLER Partnerships for Social Progress raised some P805,526 in cash donations and numerous relief goods from donors in the Crown Colony and in four other countries in the last 11 months since Yolanda hopped islands in the Visayas and wrought destruction that the world took notice.

But as WIMLER volunteers and donors had been sending these donations to affected residents in the towns of Coron (Palawan province), Bantayan (Cebu) and Estancia (Iloilo), something was more expensive as the relief effort from the group progressed—the sending of the donated goods itself.

“We realized that sending of goods from Hong Kong to the local beneficiaries was not only impractical but even more expensive,” says WIMLER co-founder Leila Rispens-Noel, who is Filipina-Dutch.

What happened was some of the cash donations raised was used to defray the costs of shipping relief goods to WIMLER's beneficiary-municipalities. For example, about P38,059 was spent to ship tents, 12 boxes of baby milk and four boxes of Nestogen (an adult milk brand), 18 feeding bottles and medicines to



Coron. Another P96,668 was spent to ship goods, blankets, tents and blankets benefiting 150 families in Bantayan, where WIMLER also handed out 20 small fishing boats to affected fishermen.

Rispens-Noel wished that the cash donations raised could have been used to buy goods in affected areas—for as long as the recipient of such amounts is well-trusted.

If another natural disaster happens, “it is better to collect the funds and send the money to the contact person/s and who shall then be tasked to buy the goods locally instead of sending goods from Hong Kong,” Rispens-Noel said.

Nevertheless, WIMLER continued to attract donations to Yolanda-stricken areas. Like for the beneficiaries from Estancia, Iloilo, WIMLER's volunteers based in Hong Kong organized a dodge ball tournament which raised some P217,555 that was used to buy 38 sacks of rice, 150 pieces of blankets, 12 boxes of Bearbrand milk, 100 pieces of aluminum kettles and 20 liters of kerosene. Funds were also used to hand out three motorized

fishing boats complete with fishing gears, support organic farming project, as well as to provide financial support to 20 Estancia-based pupils who are victims of Yolanda.

WIMLER also received a total of P453,244 from individual and corporate donors—including Filipino-run firms—based in Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Belgium, the U.S. and Mexico.

On November 8, 2013, Yolanda left 11 million people affected and many more homeless. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRMMC) reported that at least 6,268 died, 28,689 were injured and 1,061 were missing given the wrath of the world's strongest weather system to hit landfall. Damage in agriculture and infrastructure is estimated at US\$ 878.86 million.

But months after some billions of donations had been raised worldwide, there are still concerns surrounding the judicious use of donations on the ground after a natural disaster. A recent report by the Commission on Audit showed that over-Php741.59 million in quick response funds that were funneled through the Office of Civil Defense and the NDRMMC have yet to be spent.

Filipinos abroad and their organizations, known to be frequent donors to the motherland right after natural disasters strike, continue to send in-kind donations. But given its own experiences in response to Yolanda relief efforts, Rispens-Noel says a “good” agreement with relevant parties, persons or group beneficiaries must be done before sending any goods.

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NEWS FEATURE (from page 14, FILCOM...)

Mendoza helped to make the event a success. The co-chairs were Sherry Menor McNamara, president of the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce and lawyer A.J. Halagao of Hawaii Electric Industries.

A silent auction and entertainment by Banda Kawayan,

Tekniqlingz Crew and Coro Filipino preceded the formal program. An oli blessing by Kumu Kaleo Trinidad and a Fireknife Dance by Julian Maeva graced the occasion with a touch of Hawaiian culture.

“We tried to create a truly

spectacular evening of celebration, culture and dedication to honor three important individuals for their service, commitment and leadership,” says Menodoza who received a special recognition from FilCom Board Chair Edmund Aczon and Donnie “Franz” Juan, Fil-

Com's new executive director.

“A big mahalo to our many generous sponsors who supported our efforts like Zippy's Inc., Pomaika'i Ballroom, ACE, Food Solutions, Napoleon's Bakery and others who joined together in the spirit of bayanihan for a truly

spectacular evening.”

DR. AQUINO, the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Contributing Editor, is Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii-Manoa where she was Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies, and founding longtime Director of the Center for Philippine Studies before retiring.



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