

HAWAII



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NANI COLORETTI: FILIPINA FROM HAWAII IS HIGHEST RANKING FIL-AM IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

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EDITORIALS

Filipina the Right Choice for Obama Cabinet

Hawaii residents continue to make the news. This past weekend, University of Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota was presented with the 2014 Heisman Trophy—the first person born in Hawaii to win the coveted award which recognizes college football's best player.

Earlier this month, another Hawaii resident made news headlines as 1987 Iolani School graduate Nani Coloretti was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), making her the highest ranking Filipina-American in the Obama administration. Her primary task will be to manage HUD's day-to-day operations, including its \$45 billion budget and some 8,500 employees. Her supporters are confident that Coloretti, who grew up in Kapahulu, will do an excellent job, given her dedication to public service and bona fide experience as a veteran manager with a proven record of leading local and federal government programs.

Filipino-American grassroots organizations nationwide hailed Coloretti's confirmation and recognize the significance of a Filipina holding a visible and influential post in the upper echelons of the federal government. Coloretti, in fact, joins a growing list of influential Filipinas in various sectors of the economy who have been recognized for outstanding work in their respective fields, achievements and contributions to society, mentorship and legacy.

Coloretti—who is of Filipino, Spanish and Italian extraction—is an excellent role model for young women in high school or college who aspire for a career in public policy or government service. She comes from a family steeped in a tradition of public service. Coloretti learned the importance of community involvement from her Filipino grandfather who was a minister and community organizer for Filipino sugar plantation employees, and her grandmother, who was one of the first in a long tradition of Filipino nurses.

We congratulate Ms. Coloretti on her appointment and wish her the very best in her efforts to help improve the lives of the people impacted by HUD.

Support Obama's Immigration Executive Order; It's Not Over-reaching

After years of putting immigration reform on the bottom half of his priority list, finally President Barack Obama has decided to give this pressing issue legs to run by saying he would use an Executive Order (EO) to get reforms done.

But the president's timing couldn't be more inopportune after the midterm elections that now place Republicans in full control of both chambers of the U.S. Congress; and empower the GOP to challenge the president's EO as an overreach of authority, or opt to pass counter immigration measures, or ultimately stall other legislations important to Obama as retaliation.

Not too many people are aware that in 2013, Obama did try to pass a more ambitious, comprehensive immigration reform

FROM THE PUBLISHER

The excitement continues to build as Christmas is right around the corner! If you're still wondering what to get for your children, consider taking them to the museum or the latest movie instead of buying them yet another toy that will keep their attention for only a few minutes. An added bonus is the quality time you and your children will spend together as a family.



Speaking of holidays, contributing writer Deborah Manog profiles Olivier Jodloman, a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) manager at the Honolulu International Airport. He joined TSA shortly after 9-11 and began as a rank-and-file Transportation Security Officer (TSO). As a TSA manager, he oversees a team of TSOs at the airport's Inter-Island Terminal (IIT). You might just see him at IIT if you are traveling this Christmas season. Turn to page 6 to find out more about him.

Our cover story for this issue is about Nani Coloretti, the new deputy director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the highest-ranking Filipina-American to serve in President Barack Obama's administration. The second eldest of five sisters, Nani comes from a family dedicated to public service. We hope you will enjoy reading more about this fascinating woman beginning on page 4.

In Ewa Beach, where there is a sizable Filipino community, City officials and developer Haseko dedicated a beautiful new 18-acre public park in the Ocean Pointe-Hoakalei subdivision. The new district park provides badly needed open green space for this rapidly-growing community. Youth and adult sports teams from nearby communities will be attracted to the new basketball and volleyball courts, as well as the large, open fields. The City should encourage its users to take greater pride in the park and look after its upkeep. In fact, we all need to be better stewards of the gifts we have been given. Turn to page 7 for a photo on the park's recent dedication ceremony.

Lastly, as we look back at the events of the previous year and say goodbye to 2014, we do so with grateful hearts, knowing the faithful support that we enjoy from our readers and advertisers. Please remember to share your blessings with our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Christ. We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

plan. It passed the Democrat-controlled Senate but failed in the Republican-controlled House. But where pro-immigration reform backers and Hispanic voters feel Obama let them down is his unwillingness then to use the full weight of his office to exert pressure and make deals with the GOP to get something passed. The effort by Obama's administration was anemic to the point that many in the general public never even knew attempts were made at passing immigration reform last year.

So we enter Obama's last two years in office and his last chance to get something substantial passed other than Obamacare from his first term. His EO is the President's only option at reforming immigration. But an EO doesn't possess the longevity as passing congressional legislation in that the next president could more easily reverse Obama's EO.

Weak Plan, But Deserves Support

Republicans should actually be pleased with the features of Obama's plan. The meat and bones of his proposed changes to immigration fall way short of anything comprehensive and long-lasting.

(continued on page 3)

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COMMENTARY

Look Up, Americans, It's Not As Bad As You Think

By Lee H. Hamilton

We are one glum country.

Trust in the federal government is at historic lows, according to Gallup. More than half of the respondents to an October Rasmussen poll think our best days are behind us. And just a few weeks ago, an NBC/Wall St. Journal poll found that the one thing Americans agree upon whatever their race or circumstances is that the system is stacked against people like them.

Scratch an American, it seems, and you'll get a litany of complaints about our representative democracy.

I see this defeatism all around me. When I speak to classes of university students, I almost always ask for a show of hands on whether these young people believe the U.S. is in decline or on the rise. Every time, the room is evenly split. That's a lot of people who are losing faith in our system.

So I have just one thing to say: Could we all take a deep breath?

For one thing, we deal with our challenges from a position of strength. We have friendly neighbors to the north and south, oceans to the east and west, and a growing, relatively young population. We possess abundant natural resources, the world's most capable military force, a nuclear arsenal second to none, and a deterrent power

envied by every other country on earth. We face no existential threat from foreign powers. We can choose the role we want to play in the world.

We created the major mechanisms for world stability — the United Nations, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank — and we still help maintain them. We lead the way in pressing for open markets and free trade. Our fundamentals — from our military to our technology to our system of higher education — remain strong. We're doing better economically than any other major industrialized nation, and have put more people back to work since the recovery began than the rest of the industrialized world combined. Does that sound like a once-great nation on its knees?

Our people possess strengths in abundance. We have a remarkable reservoir of talent both in the workforce and, to judge by the students I encounter every day, preparing to enter it. We're blessed with a strong entrepreneurial tradition that nurtures inventiveness

and creativity, and that draws countless people from abroad eager to make something of their future. Though we're hardly perfect on this score, we have friends across the globe who genuinely admire our accomplishments.

I'm not blind to our shortcomings — if you read this column regularly, you know that — or to the severe challenges we confront. But in the face of extraordinary difficulties, we adapt, persevere, and eventually emerge stronger.

After decades of trying, we have begun to wean ourselves from foreign oil. Our response to the ebola crisis was initially halting and clumsy, but the federal government and the nation's hospitals reformed their protocols remarkably quickly for a set of complex institutions. It's taken a long time to put a coalition together to fight the Islamic State, but international coalitions are difficult to create, and by dint of hard work we're better off now than we were a year ago. In the end, government may act slowly, and it's often well behind where you'd wish it to be, but

it does act.

All these things give our society a resilience to keep in mind the next time you see a news story or commentary hyping a pessimistic view of our future. The world around us is in turmoil, under enormous and even volcanic pressures that explode most every morning somewhere, yet we remain an island of stability. We may be disenchanted with our government, yet we've come out of the downturn stronger than any other country in the world — a testament not just to our private sector, but to the public policies that supported it.

We have a long way to go, there's no doubt about it. But I'm reminded of a young woman a few years ago who asked me, after a bleak speech I'd given laying out the problems of the world, "Is there any hope?" My answer now is the same as it was then: Yes, of course there is.

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

EDITORIALS (from page 2, SUPPORT....)

Under the new policy, undocumented parents of U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents who have been in the U.S. for at least five years would win a temporary stay of deportation and be eligible for work permits.

Now a temporary stay of deportation isn't exactly the pathway to citizenship pro-reformers wanted. But it at least buys some time for those who fall under this category and keeps families together until something else comes along.

Another feature of the new policy is to reorder immigration enforcement. In some states local law enforcement has often been used to identify undocumented immigrants. The new policy strengthens what already is — that enforcement of immigration matters fall under the federal government.

If This Fails, Who Is To Blame?

As you can see Obama's proposals lack the substance of true comprehensive reform typically required by congressional approval. It would only address the situations of only a third of the undocumented population.

Obama's weak proposals to immigration reform follow the limitation of an EO. It is a reasonable EO, limited and temporary, contrary to whatever Republicans are spinning it out to be. If Republicans offer resistance to even these small changes, Hispanics should come to the sobering reality that the GOP is not a place for them, if immigration reform is something of importance to them. Hispanics did not come out to support Democrats in the midterm elections because of their disenchantment with Obama and his empty promises of getting immigration reform passed. The election result sent a message to Democrat Party leaders that they will need Hispanics to come back and support them, especially in the next presidential election. This is what Obama's immigration EO is really about — an accountability check: first, that Republicans do not want any true immigration reform passed (contrary to what some GOP politicians have been saying), and second, that with the Democrat Party, at the very least, some features of immigration reform could benefit the Hispanic and immigrant population.

This proof will come in the immediate future as Republicans will paint the president's EO as an abuse of power, but at the same time, they will walk delicately not to send a message that they are against immigrants or legal immigration.

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COVER STORY

Filipina from Hawaii is Highest Ranking Fil-Am in Obama Administration

By Chona Montesines-Sonido

Earlier this month, the U.S. Senate confirmed Nani Coloretti as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)—making her the highest ranking Filipino-American in the Obama administration.

The U.S. Senate voted 68-28 to confirm Coloretti, a 1987 alumna of Iolani School, to HUD's second highest post. Her primary task is to manage HUD's day-to-day operations, including a \$45 billion annual budget and approximately 8,500 employees.

The department's overall mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all by strengthening the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers, meeting the need for quality affordable rental homes, utilizing housing as a platform for improving quality of life, and transforming the way HUD does business.

HUD Secretary Julián Castro described Coloretti as a "proven executive who has excelled at making government more efficient at the municipal and federal levels."

"Her breadth of experience and track record at the Treasury Department make her the ideal

choice for a mission-oriented agency like HUD," he says.

In a press conference following her Senate confirmation, Coloretti stated that she was "immensely grateful" for the trust that President Obama and Secretary Castro placed in her to help lead HUD at this critical time.

"The department is undergoing significant change as it works to support our nation's housing recovery and improve the way it serves communities all across this country," Coloretti says. "I'm looking forward to working with the department's outstanding employees and continue a data-driven approach to help make HUD's operations run as efficiently as possible."

Members of Hawaii's congressional delegation offered their personal congratulations, including U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz who said that HUD has gained an "outstanding, well-qualified deputy secretary."

"Nani not only brings

strong leadership experience but also the ability to inspire the next generation of Filipino-American leaders in Hawaii and across the country," he says. "I am proud to call Nani a friend and I look forward to continuing to work with her in her new role."

U.S. Rep. Judy Chu of California, who chairs the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), called Coloretti's confirmation a "positive step forward" for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

"It marks only the third time in history that an AAPI has held a deputy secretary position," she said in a press statement.

Young Filipino-American community leaders nationwide applauded Coloretti's confirmation. Members of Kaya: Filipino Americans for Progress supported her nomination and said she was more than capable of helping HUD create a strong and inclusive communities across the country.

"Nani's nomination demonstrates President Obama's commitment to diversity and great talent in his cabinet," says Romeo Ymalay, co-chair of Kaya, told members of the media. "Her confirmation would ensure the representation of the Filipino American community and the greater AAPI community in developing policies that impact us."

Kaya is a progressive grassroots organization that focuses on policy advocacy, leadership development and the power of civic engagement and volunteerism.

Her Background

"I come from a family with a tradition of community service and one that represents the best of what our country has to



Nani Coloretti with husband David Goldstein and son Kaleo Goldstein-Coloretti at her U.S. Senate confirmation hearing. | Photo: Marilyn Aguilar

offer," she told members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs in a confirmation hearing earlier this year.

Her grandparents on both sides of her family emigrated to the U.S. from three different countries—the Philippines, Italy and Spain—all in search of a better life. Her Filipino grandfather was a minister and later became a community organizer to address working conditions for Filipinos in Hawaii's sugarcane fields. Coloretti's grandmother was one of the first in a long tradition of Filipino nurses.

Her mother, one of six children, also worked as a nurse and later a preschool teacher. Her mother is Filipina and a little Spanish, was born in Paia and raised in Honolulu. Coloretti's father is half Italian, half Spanish and a Bay Area North Beach native.

Coloretti's parents ultimately decided to raise their family in the beautiful state of Hawaii.

"It is there where I learned how to listen, celebrate differences and to make space for others," Nani told the committee. "These values of community involvement and inclusion directly contribute to my pas-

sion for public service today."

Coloretti is married to David Goldstein, her life's partner for the past 15 years. She met him years ago while she was still a student at the University of California-Berkeley's School of Public Policy. David is a teacher and education policy consultant. They have a 12-year-old son named Kaleo.

Previous Experience

Prior to joining HUD, Coloretti served as an Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, a position she held since November 2012. Her duties included advising the Secretary on the development and execution of the department's budget, strategic plans, and the internal management of the agency and its numerous bureaus.

She also worked with the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury to modernize the department's systems, created an analytical approach to operations and management through quarterly performance reviews, provided more visibility into Treasury operations for decision making and accountability, and processed over 95 percent of payment transactions electroni-

(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, **FILIPINA...**)

cally instead of on paper.

According to Coloretti, the efforts yielded over \$1 billion in budget savings and allowed the department to better complete the merger of two bureaus, saving \$96 million over 10 years.

While at the Treasury, she also helped to create a new Treasury Operations Excellence Team, which successfully applied principles developed in the private sector to improve performance at the Treasury. The work encompassed dozens of process improvement outcomes—ranging from an eight-fold efficiency gain in processing visitor access requests to the Main Treasury building to improvements in data reporting efforts that now span hours instead of days.

“This work has saved Treasury money and staff time while engendering a culture of continual improvement,” she

told the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs in April of this year.

Coloretti also set up a governance structure to review all IT investments and provide a forum to track cross-cutting efforts across bureaus, such as the closure and consolidation of 18 data centers over the last four years.

“The Treasury continues to achieve clean audit opinions with no new material weaknesses since fiscal year 2009, which is an accomplishment that I am proud of considering the complexity and breadth of Treasury’s programs and financial systems,” Coloretti says. “All of this work continues to help Treasury structure itself for the future.”

San Francisco

Before joining the Treasury, Coloretti worked for 10 years for the City and County of San

Francisco, where she managed the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families. She later served as Mayor Gavin Newsome’s deputy policy director and then as his budget director. She led cross-cutting teams to implement universal health care coverage and a city-wide wellness initiative.

“As budget director for San Francisco, I balanced three consecutive budgets, the last year being the most difficult since we faced a \$575 million shortfall, which was about half of the city’s discretionary budget.”

Coloretti was able to balance the budget that year by working with the Legislative branch to prioritize core city services, working with the unions and managing the city’s revenues effectively.

In years prior, she served as a consultant at the Law and Economics Consulting Group, a health finance and budget analyst in the Clinton Administra-

tion’s U.S. Office of Management and Budget from 1994 to 1997, and a budget analyst for the State of Hawaii’s Department of Public Safety from 1991 to 1992.

She is a recipient of the UC-Berkeley Goldman School Award for Policy Innovation, the National Public Service Award, and the Fed 100 award. She holds a B.A. in Economics and Communications from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master’s in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC-Berkeley.

A Sister’s Perspective

Oldest sister April Coloretti, who works in Honolulu as a technical writer at local engineering firm SSFM, is incredibly proud of Nani—the second eldest of five girls—followed by Leimomi, Harmony and the youngest Angela.

April describes Nani as a “total bookworm” while

growing up.

“Like all of us, she learned to read when she was three,” April says. “She was always volunteering for any and everything you can imagine—student government, Mathlete and dancer. She even performed at Pearlridge Shopping Center in a lip sync contest as (1980s pop star) Sheila E.”

The five sisters, April says, are extremely close. They call, text or email each other regularly for advice or updates on the joys and adventures of life, kids and aging parents.

“All of my sisters are like my best friends,” April says.

One of Nani’s biggest assets, April says, is the ability to see the big picture—and at the same time still be very personable.

“She is well-organized, has high standards for herself that she expects from everyone who works with her, and best of all, she gets stuff done,” April says.

CITY HIGHLIGHTS



By Councilmember
Ron Menor

It took awhile, but the City finally restored the original Country Express Route E effective December 7th. I joined Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell and fellow Councilmember Kymberly Marcos Pine for the official announcement and press conference.

The restoration of the original Country Express Route E, which travels from Ewa Beach to Waikiki via Ala Moana Center, has been a major priority for myself ever since I assumed office and also benefits many of my constituents from Ewa, Ewa Beach and Waipahu. With this route now back in service, West Oahu residents who work in urban Honolulu, Ala Moana or Waikiki no longer have to face lengthy delays. I would like to thank the mayor for restoring this very important route and for his responsiveness to my con-

Restoring Original Express Route E, Approving ADUs

stituents’ concerns.

Here at City Hall, the Council at its December 12th meeting voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 14-200 which I introduced. The resolution proposes amending the existing Land Use Ordinance for “ohana” dwellings to permit Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) which are a potential low-cost way of increasing the inventory of affordable rentals on Oahu where there is a dire need.

ADUs are separate additional living units that typically include a separate kitchen, sleeping and restroom facilities that are either attached or detached from the primary residential unit, on a single-family lot.

The benefits to the homeowner and the ADU occupant are many. For the homeowner, ADUs are an affordable and independent housing option to the owner’s grown children, or to an elderly parent who might need a helping hand nearby. The unit could also provide affordable housing to the ADU occupant as well as supplemental rental income for the owner, which could offset the high cost of a home

mortgage, utilities, and property taxes. Finally, leasing an ADU to a young person or family can provide an elderly homeowner with a sense of security and an opportunity to exchange needed work around the house and yard for a discount on rent.

On November 15th, I was an invited panelist at an affordable housing summit at the State Capitol hosted by Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE) which discussed affordable housing solutions, including ADUs. I believe that this ADU proposal deserves serious discussion because Oahu is faced with an affordable housing crisis.

At the same time, I support ample public discussion to ensure that the policy will not substantially alter the character of existing neighborhoods or create traffic, parking or other problems. The resolution will go before the City’s Department of Planning & Permitting for further review and recommendation.

Lastly, as we prepare to enter the new year, the new City Council will be taking up a full agenda of important issues and

challenges, including putting together a budget that provides for services while holding the line on fees and taxes; affordable housing; homelessness; improving roads, parks and other infrastructure; and improving and restoring bus service and routes. As always, I will continue to address district concerns that are brought to my attention. If you need assistance, please contact

me at 768-5009 or via email at rmenor@honolulu.gov.

In closing, it has been a privilege to serve as a City councilmember this past year. I look forward to continue working together with you to address the many issues facing our island. From my family to yours, we wish you the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Years! Maligayang Pasko!

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FEATURE

TSA MANAGER OLIVIER JODLOMAN — FLYING THE FRIENDLY (AND SAFE) SKIES

By Deborah T. Manog

With gas prices at near-record lows, tens of millions of Americans are expected to take to the skies during the 2014 Holiday Season to visit loved ones. And although the majority of the traveling public is unaware of it, a group of individuals are working behind the scenes to get them safely from point A to point B.

“That’s your child. It’s your job to keep him safe and to make sure that kid reaches his destination safely and comes back home to Hawaii,” is what Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Manager Olivier Jodloman tells his team of security officers at Honolulu International Airport.

He advises his officers to think of each person that goes through the security checkpoint as a member of their own family.

“I think it really hits home because a lot of us are travelers ourselves,” says

Jodloman. “All it takes is one mistake and it can cost hundreds of lives.”

The TSA’s mission is to protect the nation’s transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce. The agency was established in 2001 after nearly 3,000 people were killed in a series of coordinated terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. TSA uses layers of security to ensure the traveling public and the nation’s transportation systems are protected.

A year later, Jodloman applied and began his career with the federal government as a transportation security officer (TSO). He rose through the ranks over the years and is currently a transportation security manager who oversees a team of TSOs at the airport’s Inter-Island Terminal.

For Jodloman, the most important traits a TSO should have are integrity and patriotism.

“Integrity is important because the lives of the travel-



TSA Manager Olivier Jodloman

ing public depends on me and they should be able to trust me with their lives,” Jodloman says. “If I have integrity, I am trustworthy.”

Although Jodloman genuinely loves his job, it’s a career that his 20-year-old self would have never envisioned for his future. Beneath the stresses of his job dealing with large scale safety and terrorist prevention lies the soul of an artist.

Jodloman was born into a talented family with six siblings. His father is a skilled illustrator who drew for DC and Marvel comic books. Both of his parents were singers in the Philippines. Music had always been a significant part of his childhood. He grew up singing and playing several types of instruments. He was also a member of his family’s band, Musikinesis, which toured all over the world including the Middle East during the 1980s.

He later met his American wife and moved with her to Hawaii. He found himself

moving around in the restaurant business from working as a cook and waiter at several Oahu establishments and as a supervisor and manager, while pursuing his love for art in the islands.

Jodloman has experience in the performing arts, directing, film production, illustration, graphic design and has written two children’s novels that he hopes to publish soon and dreams of turning them into musical plays and animations.

This creative jack-of-all-trades says his greatest passion is acting. He has graced the stage of Diamond Head Theatre in several different plays. He won the Po’okela Award for best featured male in a musical with his portrayal of Max Von Mayerling in DHT’s “Sunset Boulevard.” Po’okela Awards are like the Tony Awards of Hawaii and are presented at the annual Stars Night Out event to honor the best of the best in local theater.

Lino Brocka, his early mentor and a famous Filipino director, once told him that in order to be a good actor, you don’t pretend to be someone—you just have to be that character.

“Like Johnny Depp, you don’t see him as an actor on-screen, you just believe that he is the role that he plays,” says Jodloman.

On top of all this, this jack-of-all-trades also holds the title of “tennis instructor” up his sleeve. At first he knew

nothing about the sport and would sit on the sidelines during his daughter’s tennis matches and overhear other coaches mentoring their players. He was later asked by the United States Tennis Association (USTA) to volunteer as a parent-coach for his daughter’s tennis team.

When he’s not busy working at Honolulu International Airport, Jodloman spends a lot of his time under the beating sun teaching weekly tennis classes to all ages ranging from little children to adults. He loves coaching and finds happiness in seeing his students make progress after working with him.

The arts continue to play a very special role in Jodloman’s life. He jokes around that he can no longer compete in the music and theatre industry because “one needs to have hair.” But even with his position at the TSA, he still finds a way to incorporate his artistic vision.

He has created entertaining, interesting visuals and animations to train and educate TSOs during his tenure as the Supervisor of TSA Honolulu’s training department. One of his animated creations earned him as the first recipient of Kip Hawley’s (TSA Administrator) “I AM TSA” recognition award.

Jodloman loves his position in mentorship and enjoys using his creativity, enhancing the learning of the Transportation Security Officers.

ERRATA:

In the Chronicle’s December 6, 2014 issue, the name of flower shop owner Lina B. Mercado on page 12 was misspelled. We apologize for the error.



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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Using Obama Amnesty as Weapon to Fight Deportation



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

A great general uses every weapon in his military arsenal to fight the enemy – whether he likes the weapon or not. Similarly an immigration lawyer who expects to become great must use every weapon in the legal arsenal to fight the government who is deporting the lawyer’s clients, whether the lawyer likes the weapon or not.

The Obama immigration amnesty was originally conceived to entice aliens unlawfully in this country to “come out of the shadows” by allowing them “to stay in this country temporarily without fear of deportation.” Read Obama’s speech at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/20/remarks-president-address-national-immigration>

But can the amnesty be used by aliens unlawfully in the country already out of the shadows and have been caught by immigration authorities for having violated immigration laws and are

in various stages of deportation?

Why not? We have used it in three instances. First, even before President Obama made his speech on November 20, 2014 that he was going to use his executive powers to defer the deportation of aliens unlawfully in the country and that he was going to make the announcement after the elections, we sked an Immigration Judge (IJ) to continue (postpone) the hearing of a deportation case until a date after the November elections in anticipation that the President will be announcing an immigration relief program that could potentially benefit the alien.

The IJ denied the request for continuance on the ground that it “is speculative at best” and ordered the alien deported without a hearing on the merits.

We appealed the IJ’s decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals on the ground that the IJ denied the alien due process of law and committed grave abuse of discretion as a result of which the alien suffered prejudice because the IJ ordered the alien removed even though the alien had a reasonable ground and good cause for continuance. We contended that a modicum of respect for the President should have made the IJ treat the

alien’s request for a two-month continuance as a “good cause” for continuance. The period requested was not unreasonable. The President was not bluffing or speculating when he made a pre-election announcement that he would grant relief to certain aliens who were otherwise removable. As it turned out, the President’s pre-election announcement became a reality on November 20, 2014 when he allowed parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who have been in the country since before January 1, 2010 to request deferred action. The program is called Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA). The alien qualified for relief because he had three U.S. citizen children and the alien had been in the U.S. since before January 1, 2010. We are filing an application for DAPA benefits for the alien. Then we will ask the BIA to terminate the removal proceedings.

In second instance, the USCIS wrote to an alien that it would deny the alien’s application for removal of conditional resident status because the alien did not estab-

lish that her marriage to her U.S. citizen husband/petitioner was bona fide. If denied, the alien would be placed in removal proceedings. We replied on behalf of the alien telling USCIS to grant the application because there was sufficient evidence to establish the bona fides of the marriage. We told USCIS that if it denied the application, we were filing an application for DAPA benefits for the alien since the alien had children who were lawful permanent residents and the alien has been in the U.S. since before January 1, 2010.

In the third instance, an alien was ordered removed and is scheduled to be physically removed next year. We filed an application for DAPA benefits since the alien has a U.S.C. child and the alien has been in the U.S. since before January 1, 2010.

The Department of Homeland Security has not issued forms and released specific guidelines on how to apply for DAPA benefits. But why wait?

“He who hesitates is lost.” If a client has been ordered deported or is in imminent danger of deportation, there is no time for these niceties, otherwise you will lose. File first and let the government challenge your filings. As they say in war, “shoot first and ask questions later.”

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.

PICTORIAL NEWS



Thank You for the New Park!

Student government leaders from Keoneula Elementary attended the City’s dedication ceremony on December 15th for a new 18-acre park in the Ocean Pointe-Hoakalei subdivision in Ewa Beach that was recently conveyed to the City by developer Haseko Inc. The students thanked the City and Haseko for the new park, which includes a baseball field, 2 basketball courts, 2 volleyball courts, an 118-stall parking lot and a comfort station. Pictured directly behind the students are Mayor Kirk Caldwell (wearing lei), City Councilmember Ron Menor and State Sen. Will Espero.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Yes, Hawaii is paradise and beautiful and all the races mix. So it's easy to dismiss the case of Eric Garner as a mainland problem.

If you do, you'd be kidding yourself.

Garner, a 350-lb unarmed African American man, was choked to death on video by New York City police. It really is the story of stereotypes in action. When I say, "Japanese," as a Filipino, you have an image. Same with the word "haole."

Now mix it up, with the words "good" or "bad." An image comes to mind, I'm sure. In America, when there's an image of a "big black man," Barack Obama

Eric Garner in Hawaii? Islands Not Immune to Mainland Madness

usually doesn't come to mind.

What's the automatic response? One of openness? Or do you harbor a stereotype—positive or negative? Or do we just cross the street?

Real problems arise when the stereotypical views are held by police or anyone with authority or with guns. By now, you know the grand jury in New York City, nearly five months after Garner's death, has declined to indict the police officers involved in the case.

One might conclude that Lady Justice isn't just blind—she also doesn't mind holding her breath until she turns NYPD Blue. One also might conclude that giving the police body cams isn't going to be an answer to anything.

The question should really be what a white police officer, or anyone for that

matter, automatically sees when approaching a black man who may or may not be a suspect. In this case, Garner was suspected of selling loose cigarettes, a minor violation of tax law.

But if you're a white cop and the image of a black man communicates negative feelings, then the strength of the automatic bias in the cop could determine what happens. In truth, automatic bias is present in all of us.

To what degree? You may be able to tell by taking an online test from Harvard's Project Implicit. The Implicit Association Test (IAT) on race will reveal the degree of your preference between blacks or whites. You'll be asked to sort pictures of whites and blacks. The test determines your race preference based on the speed by which you sort the pictures.

No preference and you're

a saint. Maybe not even human. Any preference and you've uncovered your bias.

It doesn't make you Adolf Hitler, but the range runs from "little or no preference" to slight, then moderate, followed by "strong" for the real racists among us.

"How implicit associations affect our judgments and behaviors is not well understood and may be influenced by a number of variables," the test results page says. "As such, the score should serve as an opportunity for self-reflection, not as a definitive assessment of your implicit thoughts and feelings. This and future research will clarify the way in which implicit thinking and feelings affects our perception, judgment and action."

So let's not judge. Let's do what the deaths of Garner and Ferguson's Michael Brown are compelling the

whole of America to do—reflect on our biases. The test showed I had some.

The test showed that I had a slight preference for European Americans compared to African Americans. But then I took it again after the grand jury announcement on Garner and guess what? My preference had risen to "moderate."

Maybe it would have been different had I just seen more positive images in the news and the movies, or lived in a less segregated community that is more than 70 percent white.

Is it possible that simply being exposed to positive images of minorities would change a negative stereotypical attitude? The studies suggest that being allied with or seeing a person of color do something simple, like helping you, or something extraordinary, like saving your life, has an automatic impact. Makes every black man a

(continued on page 11)

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TRAVEL

REVIVING INTRAMUROS

SKETCHES By Ana Marie Pamintuan

Retired educator Consuelo Dancel-Sison, who is turning 94 this Jan. 27, remembers her childhood days as a resident of Intramuros, when school – Santa Isabel and then Santa Catalina – was just a short walk from home.



the lady vendor with her bilao filled with produce from the market across the Puente Colgante (now Quezon Bridge). Beside it was the huge fabrica de hielo (ice plant) with a serena (siren) which sounded at 7:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 5:00 p.m.”

* * *

Last week Sison’s group sat down with Intramuros Administration head Marco Sardillas and representatives of the schools, Rotary Club and Tourism Council operating in the Walled City. Sardillas will be leaving the IA soon and is said to be eager to return to his farm in Iriga, Camarines Sur. But he can pass on the recommendations to his successor.

The group has enlisted the help of urban planner Felino Palafox Jr. to draw up a master plan for a restored Walled City.

A major hurdle in this undertaking is clearing the area of informal settlements. Sison is offering assistance on one crucial aspect: a viable reset-

(continued on page 10)

Lola Elong, now a widowed mother of 13, grandmother of 35 and great-grandmother of five, heads The Friends of Intramuros, which is working to restore Manila’s Walled City to its old grandeur.

Now a resident of Quezon City where she was recognized as Outstanding Citizen in 2009, home for Lola Elong in the 1920s was a traditional house across San Agustin church in Intramuros, with narra flooring on the second floor and barandillas under the windows.

The youngest of nine children, Lola Elong is a native of Laoag, Ilocos Norte, where

people know how to preserve heritage sites.

To give you an idea of what Intramuros was like in her youth, here are excerpts from Lola Elong’s article in Gaceta de Intramuros, published in 2008:

“I have memories of Intramuros and its moss-covered muralla (walls)... When I grew older, I was sent to buy our pan for the day at La Suiza and La Palma de Mallorca. I got dressed up for High Mass at San Agustin in my Sunday finery of ruffled organdy and straw hat with ribbons and artificial grapes. We went on paseos (strolls) to the Luneta on Sunday afternoons, with

my sister properly chaperoned by cousins.

“I can still see the different old churches adorned with flowers and lit tapers during their festive novenas. To me, Santo Domingo in October was the most dazzling. A biased opinion because of my immersion with the Dominican sisters of Santa Catalina. But Lourdes Church in February was something else again. That small church on General Luna was always decorated with fresh white flowers and

blue ribbons the color of Our Lady’s sash. I wore the habito (habit) to mass until the war broke out and my clothes got lost when the Japanese army invaded Albay.

“Even in the middle of the night, people could walk freely in the streets which were flushed clean from horse dung from the calesas (no noisy tricycles)...

“Drinking water was brought from artesian wells regularly and fresh fish and vegetables were bought from



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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

City Mails 2015 Real Property Assessments

City officials have mailed real property assessment notices for 2015 and the total assessed valuation of all taxable real property on Oahu has increased from \$200.74 billion to \$214.90 billion—an overall increase of 7.1 percent.

The 2015 assessed valuations were set as of October 1, 2014 and are based on sales of similar properties through June 30, 2014. The assessment notice is not a tax bill, but a statement of what the City has determined to be the property's value for tax assessment purposes. Notices include property assessment information including any exemption which the owner has been granted in accordance with City ordinance. The standard homeowner's exemption for an owner-occupied property is \$80,000 and increases to \$120,000 for homeowners age 65 or older.

Property owners who do not receive their 2015 Assessment Notice by December 31, 2014, are advised to contact the Real Property Assessment Division at 768-3799 or 768-3799.

Those who wish to dispute their real property assessment may file appeals from December 15, 2014 to January 15, 2015. For more information, please call 768-3799 or visit the Real Property Assessment Division's (RPAD) website at www.realpropertyhonolulu.com and

click on the "Assessment Appeals" link.

In an effort to expedite the appeal process and minimize the wait time for a Board of Review hearing date, RPAD is requesting appellants to submit evidence and supporting documentation with their appeal or shortly thereafter. If submitting separately from the appeal form, please include your name, Parcel ID (Tax Map Key), year of the appeal, contact information such as phone number, mailing address, or email address. Please call the appeal hotline at 768-7000 with any questions.

The RPAD website offers digital services to reduce paper and postage costs while providing more efficient service to the public. Property owners may register to receive their real property assessment notices via email, pay property taxes electronically, submit a Change of Status form and file for home exemptions or real property tax appeals.

Please visit www.honolulupropertytax.com to use the RPAD's online services to search and view additional information regarding tax records, exemptions and tax billing information.

Questions regarding real property assessments may be directed to the Real Property Assessment Division at 768-3799 or emailed to bfsrpmmailbox@honolulu.gov.

TRAVEL (from page 9, REVIVING...)

lement site. This is a 13-hectare area in the valleys and hills overlooking Lingayen Gulf in San Fabian, Pangasinan. The land is owned by the family of Sison's late husband, corporate lawyer and war veteran Domingo Sison of the University of the Philippines law class of 1949.

The owners are willing to part with the 13 hectares for 50 percent of the fair market price. The land is part of a 75-hectare estate along the highway between San Fabian and Damortis, La Union, connected to Baguio City through Rosario Road.

Palafox Architects is willing to develop the 13 hectares into a so-called garden city, and the rest of the estate into a residential-industrial complex.

Those who are relocated from Intramuros can find jobs in the beach resorts of San Fabian, which served as a base during World War II for Filipino and American liberation forces.

* * *

Squatter relocation requires strong political will. Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, who has said he wants to leave the city much better than when he took

over, may be willing to invest political capital in persuading his poor constituents to move to San Fabian.

The second hurdle is funding for development of the relocation site. Here the national government can step in with its socialized housing program.

Once the welfare of the informal settlers is taken care of, the revival of Intramuros can get underway in earnest. Educational institutions, offices and commercial establishments operating in Intramuros must do their share by keeping their surroundings clean and, ideally, embarking on beautification.

The Friends of Intramuros are asking the Manila Electric Co. for more street lamps to improve lighting and security in the Walled City.

Concerned authorities will have to pass regulations, in consultation with the National Historical Institute, to make architecture, landscaping and public works within Intramuros reflect the look and ambience of Old Manila.

The Friends of Intramuros want the area restored as "a worthy historic heritage for Filipinos." Within the lifetime of Lola Elong Sison, perhaps the dream can become reality. (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

State Announces Reduction in Unemployment Taxes for 2015

The State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) recently announced that Unemployment Insurance contribution rates for 2015 will be reduced 22 percent on average, resulting in employers paying \$50 million less in taxes or \$100 less per employee on average for 2015.

The unemployment rate has dropped to 4.1 percent

from 6.8 percent in December 2010, which contributed to the replenishment of the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund. As of October 2014, Hawaii had the sixth lowest unemployment rate in the nation. Hawaii's civilian labor force reached a record of 667,750 persons in October.

"This is welcome news to many small businesses throughout the state who can now consider investing the



savings in their businesses and personnel," says Gov. David Ige. "The Trust Fund is designed to replenish its balance when times are better so the taxes on employers do not rise when the economy falters and when employers can least afford higher taxes."

The Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund went bankrupt in December 2010, forcing the State to borrow \$183 million to pay benefits. However, the fund balance has grown to nearly \$400 million. The goal of the unemployment insurance financing structure is to maintain the Unemploy-

ment Compensation Trust Fund at an adequate reserve level, which is the balance necessary to pay out one year of benefits. The current reserve is at 0.99 of the adequate level, or about 12 months of benefits. The higher fund balance triggered Schedule D for 2015, down from Schedule E in 2014.

"Unemployment benefits play a major role in stabilizing the economy during recessions by maintaining the purchasing power of those without in-

come from employment. DLIR's duty is to protect employers against the double 'whammy' of diminishing profits and rising unemployment taxes during recessionary times," says DLIR Director Dwight Takamine. "Unemployment benefits also provide the ability for unemployed workers through no fault of their own to put food on the table and shelter over the heads of their families while they search for another job."

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 8, ERIC GARNER....)

Morgan Freeman or a Denzel Washington.

Certainly, it makes the case for making diversity a priority or promoting more programs of inclusion. If we want an honest discussion of race in America, or on the differences that divide us anywhere in the world, we'd better own up to our automatic biases and realize how these feelings are more fluid than we think. That means they can be changed for the

good. Sure, they all can be manipulated by the images and stereotypes we see in society and the media. But they all can be undone by working hard to be inclusive and respectful of our common humanity.

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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The Stress Is On Holiday Stress

AN APPLE A DAY By Tyrone M. Reyes, M.D.

We all experience stress in our daily lives. From traffic jams to money woes, a worrisome illness to day-to-day pressures in the office, the world is bursting with situations that can cause stress. The Christmas holidays are a particularly stressful time of the year. Aside from your everyday stresses, you may have to add to your schedule holiday shopping, Christmas parties, gift-giving, family gatherings, and other holiday stressors.

Just as serious as the stressors themselves are the adverse effects stress can have on your emotional and physical health. Many well-respected studies link stress to heart disease and stroke — two of the common causes of death among Filipinos. Stress is also implicated in a host of other ailments such as depression, anxiety, chronic lower respiratory diseases, asthma flare-ups, rheumatoid arthritis, and gastrointestinal problems.

While you can't avoid stress altogether, you can learn to manage stressful situations in healthier ways, enabling you to sidestep certain health problems and prevent some ailments from worsening. But a

recent study showed that the way Filipinos cope with stress could be unhealthy, too. For example, many resort to binge drinking after office hours as their way of handling stress. As noted likewise by Sheldon Cohen, a psychology professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, "People under stress tend to drink alcohol and smoke more, skip exercise, and eat and sleep poorly," which further aggravates their health.

Stress symptoms

Our body's response to stress can include increased breathing and heart rates, tense muscles, and the release of energy-producing hormones such as adrenaline and cortisol. In a recent poll of more than 1,200 adults by the American Psychological Association (APA), respondents blamed stress for causing their irritability, fatigue, lack of energy, headaches, and upset stomachs. Following are some other ways that stress can affect your health:

- **Colds.** Chronic stress alters the body's ability to fight inflammation, leaving people more susceptible to colds, according to an April 2012 study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In one experiment, peo-



ple who reported a major stressful life event during the previous year were at a higher risk of catching a cold after they were exposed to cold viruses. Another study found that participants reporting more chronic stress were more likely to produce excessive pro-inflammatory cytokines — protein molecules that trigger inflammation — after being exposed to the cold virus.

- **Alzheimer's disease.** Life's stressful events might also be linked to the onset of dementia, according to a study presented at the 2012 meeting of the European Neurological Society. The study included 107 men and women diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and 76 healthy adults. Almost three-quarters of the people with Alzheimer's disease had experienced major stress — such as losing a spouse — about two years before the onset of the disease, compared with 24 percent of those in the control group.

- **Stroke.** Psychological distress, including anxiety and depression, was associated with increasing a person's risk of dying of stroke, according to a study published in the June 12 issue of the Canadian Medical Association Journal. Researchers assessed the stress levels of 68,652 adults at the start of the study, then followed them up for about eight years. The findings suggest that psychological stress appears to increase the chance of a person dying of stroke.

How to lessen your stress

There is plenty of research that supports a variety of stress-reduction methods, including

do-it-yourself techniques and professional help. The American Psychological Association (APA) survey found that women are more likely than men to use various strategies to relieve stress, including reading, praying, spending time with family or friends, shopping, getting a massage, or seeing a psychiatrist or psychologist. You might try one or more of those methods this holiday, as soon as you feel yourself becoming more stressed.

Following are some other effective tools:

- **Meditation.** There are several forms of this practice, including mindful meditation, where you focus your attention on breathing to become more aware of the present. In a May 2012 study of 100 adults, who utilized this technique, as published in the British Medical Journal, the participants said their stress level scores dropped by about 10 points (out of 40 points) by the end of the six-week program.

- **Biofeedback.** This method uses electronic devices to measure heart rate and other indicators, and visual feedback to determine how well you're doing at reducing stress. Practitioners of biofeedback therapy use a variety of relaxation methods to help their patients manage stress, including controlled breathing, muscle relaxation, and guided imagery.

- **Exercise.** Endorphins, or feel-good chemicals released during exercise, can counteract adrenaline's negative effects when you're feeling stressed. "It's like a spa for the heart,"

says Tracy Stevens, MD, a cardiologist at the St. Luke's Mid America Heart Institute in Kansas City, Mo. in the US, since endorphins relax muscles and dilate blood vessels. And there's evidence that people who get regular aerobic exercise have lower levels of stress hormones and experience smaller increases in heart rate and blood pressure under stressful conditions. Mind-body exercises like Pilates, tai chi, and yoga also cause physiological changes, including a lower blood pressure and heart rate.

- **E-mail hiatus.** People who didn't have access to their work e-mail for five days were less stressed than colleagues who kept e-mailing, according to a small study presented recently by researchers from the University of California at Irvine and the US Army. The researchers found that workers who checked their e-mail had higher heart rates, indicating stress.

- **Massage.** There's evidence that massage can help relieve anxiety and stress. An annual survey conducted by the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) found that 30 percent of people who had massages in 2011 said they chose them to relieve stress and relax. Cynthia Riberio, AMTA president, suggests massaging your temples or forehead, or rolling a tennis ball on your forearm for quick relief from tightening muscles.

Mini-relaxations

If you have only a short while to spare, dip into the stress-busting suggestions (described below) from experts from the Harvard Medical School:

- **When you've got one minute.** Place your hand lightly just beneath your navel so you can feel the gentle rise and fall of your belly as you breathe. Breathe in slowly. Pause for a count of three. Continue to breathe deeply for one minute, pausing for a count of three after each inhalation and exhalation.

(continued on page 13)

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LEGAL NOTES

Nonimmigrant Visa for Nurse Trainees



By Reuben S. Seguritan

The USCIS recently released a policy guidance on H-3 nonimmigrant trainees. The new guidance consolidated previously issued guidance on the program.

The H-3 visa is for foreign nationals coming to the U.S. to participate in training programs with U.S. employers. The training program may be in any field including agriculture, commerce, communications, finance, government, transportation, among others. It must not be available in the foreign national's home country and must benefit his career or employment outside the United States.

Although H-3 trainees are allowed to receive compensation while training, they cannot engage in productive employment unless necessary

to the training and should not displace the regular employment of citizens and resident workers.

A foreign nurse may enter the U.S. under an H-3 visa to receive training provided he meets the basic H-3 trainee requirements, is not on an H-1 status, and has a full and unrestricted license in the country where he obtained his nursing education or such education was obtained in the U.S. or Canada.

The petitioner seeking H-3 classification for a nurse must certify that under the laws of the place where the training will be conducted, the nurse is fully qualified to receive training and the petitioner is authorized to give such training.

The petitioner must also certify that there is a genuine need for the nurse to receive training and that the training is designed to benefit both the beneficiary's career outside the United States and his overseas employer.

The petition for an H-3 trainee is made on Form I-129.

The petition must be accompanied by a statement describing the training program, the supervision to be given, the proportion of time devoted to productive employment and the number of hours spent on classroom or on-the-job training.

The statement must also include the reasons for training the beneficiary and why such training cannot be obtained in the foreign national's country, the benefit the beneficiary's training will bring to the petitioner, and the amount and source of the beneficiary's remuneration.

The USCIS will scrutinize the training program and may not approve the program if the following features are present: it deals with generalities and does not have a fixed schedule, objective or means of evaluation; it is incompatible with the petitioner's business or enterprise; the beneficiary already has substantial training and expertise in the field of nursing and his training will unlikely be used outside the U.S.

In addition, the training

program may not be approved if it results in "productive employment, unless necessary to the training"; it is designed to recruit and train foreign nurses for staffing of U.S. hospitals and other healthcare facilities; the petitioner has no venue or sufficient staff to provide proposed training; and it is designed to extend the total allowable practical training allowed a nonimmigrant student.

An H-3 trainee is admitted for the duration of the program but for not more than two years. Extensions may be obtained if their original period of stay under H-3 status was less than two years. After two years, an H-3 trainee may not seek extension, change of status or be readmitted to the U.S. under H or L status unless he resided and had been physically present outside the

U.S. for the preceding six months.

There are a few exceptions to this general rule. One exception is where the H or L status of the H-3 nonimmigrant was seasonal, intermittent, or lasted for an aggregate of 6 months or less per year. Also, an H-4 dependent may change status to H-3 and vice versa. The time spent as an H-4 dependent does not count towards the maximum period of stay under H-3 status.

There is no annual limit for the H-3 category. The spouse and children of the H-3 visa holder may enter the U.S. under the H-4 visa.

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

HEALTHLINE (from page 12, THE STRESS....)

- *When you've got two minutes.* Count down slowly from 10 to zero. With each number, take one complete breath, inhaling and exhaling. For example, breathe in deeply saying "10" to yourself. Breathe out slowly. On your next breath, say "nine", and so on. If you feel lightheaded, count down more slowly to space your breaths further apart. When you reach zero, you should feel more relaxed. If not, go through the exercise again.

- *When you've got three minutes.* While sitting down, take a break from whatever you're doing and check your body for tension. Relax your facial muscles and allow your jaw to fall open slightly. Let your arms fall to your sides. Allow your hands to loosen your legs or ankles. Feel your thighs sink into your chair, letting your legs fall comfortably apart. Feel your shins and calves become heavier and your feet grow roots into the

floor. Now, breathe in slowly and breathe out slowly.

- *When you've got five minutes.* Try self-massage. A combination of strokes works well to relieve muscle tension. Try gentle chops with the edge of your hands or tapping with fingers or cupped palms. Put fingertip pressure on muscle knots. Knead across muscles, and try long, light, gliding strokes. You can apply these strokes to any part of the body that falls easily within your reach. For a short session like this, try focusing on your neck and head.

- *When you've got 10 minutes.* Try imagery. Start by sitting comfortably in a quiet room. Breathe deeply for a few minutes. Now, picture yourself in a place that conjures up good memories. What do you smell — the heavy scent of roses on a hot day, crisp fall air, or the wholesome smell of baking bread? What do you hear? Drink in the colors and shapes

that surround you. Focus on sensory pleasures: the swoosh of a gentle wind; soft, cool grass tickling your feet; the salty smell and rhythmic beat of the ocean. Passively observe intrusive thoughts, and then gently disengage from them to return to the world you've created.

And to all the faithful readers of this column: May you have a stress-free and hassle-free Christmas holiday! (www.philstar.com)





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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



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By Amado I. Yoro

PANAGSUBLI: DUA A TALDIAP

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Tugot
Ramut
Dapan
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a tumaytayab
kas iti sallapingaw
agampayagda
met a kas iti tuwato
iti law-ang
ti init
a sumsumged.]

Dayta kinaagtutubo
Nga isem
Dagiti kasingin ti sutil
Wenno sariwawek sirmata
Ti panagbaniaga
Iti isu met la nga init
Riniwriw a darepdep
Nailaga met latta ti dismaya
Wenno karit
A mangsuba ti allon
Dagiti kumalatkak

A sirmata
A balangat ti balligi
Adtoy: taliawek ti puon
Dagiti ipapanaw ti inkur-it
A binatog
Iti ungtu ti panagbirok
Ti ramutko
Ti kinasudi a saan nga aglumen
Daydi indayon
Ken duayya
Umayakto manen
Iti sabali a pannakainaw-pannakasikog
Iti maysa a pannakaipasngay!

PANAGSUBLI: Taldiap Dos

Panagsubli itoy a dagidagi

Nabirokak man ken saan ti kinaasinok
ungto ti panagbirok ken panagtawataw
Adtoy: subliak ti ramutko iti kinasudi a
saan nga aglumen daydi indayon ken
dagidagi ti duayya ken panagkansion
ti tudo ken dagiti sabong.
Adtoyak ita iti sabali a
pannakainaw-pannakasikog
Iti sabali a pannakaipasngay!

Nagkupas kadi ti tugot
Naugotan kadi ti ramut

Ti ammok, magna latta daytoy a dapan
Iti sabali a panagubing ken kinaagtutubo
Dagiti agkabannuag a panagem

Subliak a sirayen ti tumaytayab
Ngatuen ti Pikkan kas iti sallapingaw
agampayagda latta uray dagiti tuwato
iti law-ang ti init a sumsumged.

Dayta kinaagtutubo nga isem
Dagiti kasingin ti sutil
Wenno sariwawek sirmata
Ti panagbaniaga
Iti isu met la nga init
Riniwriw a darepdep
Nailaga met latta ti karit
A mangsuba ti allon
Dagiti kumalatkak a sirmata
A balangat ti balligi
Adtoy: taliawek ti puon
Dagiti ipapanaw ti inkur-it a binatog
Ket dinto met latta magawidan
Ti segga ti malem
Iti ungtu ti panagbirok

Daytoy ti indayon
Ken duayya ti ipapanaw
No agkidemen ti rabii.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Corruption Index: Philippines Improves Rank

by Kathleen Martin and Helen Flores

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines improved its ranking in the latest Corruption Perception Index (CPI), reflecting the government's drive for good governance.

In the latest report released by Transparency International, the Philippines climbed to 85th place from 94th last year and 105th in 2012.

The survey covered 175 countries this year, 177 in 2013 and 176 in 2012.

"Although the Philippines still belongs to two-thirds of the 175 countries (that) scored below 50, this is a marked improvement from the 2012 CPI score," Transparency International-Philippines said in a statement yesterday.

In 2012, the Philippines scored 34/100 and ranked 105; while it scored 36/100 and ranked 94 in 2013.

"Focusing on the score rather than the rank, the Philippines showed a significant improvement in the CPI if we compare our score in 2012 and 2014," the anti-corruption group said.

"We consider a score of +4 to represent change in the perceived level of corruption," said Cleo Calimbahin, executive director of Transparency International-Philippines.

The CPI pools data from business groups and experts to estimate the level of corruption in the public sector.

The Philippines shared rank 85 with Burkina Faso, India, Jamaica, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Zambia.

Denmark topped the rankings, followed by New Zealand,

(continued on page 15)

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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.

MAINLAND NEWS

Fil-Am Groups Discuss Obama's Immigration Action

Several Filipino-American organizations recently held launched public information public forums in New Jersey and New York City in response to President Barack Obama's executive action on immigration that will allow undocumented immigrants to stay and work temporarily in the U.S.

"We want to help our *kababayans* by providing information about this new immigration relief," says Hanalei Ramos of the New Jersey-based Filipino Immigrants and Workers Organizing Project (FIWOP). "We want to inform them about the resources and help that they can get."

On November 20, Obama announced a three-pronged immigration policy that calls for tighter border security, the modernization of visa programs to entice high-tech workers to come or stay in the U.S., and deportation relief for undocumented immigrants.

An estimated five million unauthorized immigrants are expected to be eligible for Obama's initiative that will allow them to work and stay in U.S. According to 2012 es-

timates from the Department of Homeland Security, there were 310,000 undocumented Filipinos in the U.S.

Immigration lawyer Cristina Godinez says that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is finalizing guidelines and application forms.

"Applications for the expanded DACA will start on or around February 18, while application for DAPA will begin on or around May 19," says Godinez. "Those who are approved under both deferred action programs will obtain three years of deportation relief and work authorization."

DACA refers to the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals, while DAPA is the Deferred Action on Parental Accountability. Obama's executive action expands the DACA program by removing the age cap and extending the date-of-entry requirement to a later date. This is expected to cover an additional 290,000 undocumented childhood arrivals, referring to those who arrived the U.S. prior to turning 16 years.

Godinez explained that initial

and renewal of DACA applications under the June 2012 program are ongoing and the recipients will receive not two, but three years, of deportation relief and work authorization.

DAPA, for its part, allows undocumented parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents who have been in the U.S. for five years as of January 1, 2010 to apply for a three-year permit to stay and work in the U.S.

"This is not an amnesty, nor does it provide a path to citizenship," Godinez says. "This is an executive action and it is limited. Legalization of status can only happen through a legislated comprehensive immigration reform program."

Yancy Gandionco, also of FIWOP, says Obama's immigration action was a result of the advocacy and struggle of the immigrant community.

"We celebrate this executive action as a victory but we also recognize that a lot of immigrants were left out. We need to come together and push for genuine immigration reform," he says. (www.immigration.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Phil Sees Record-high Remittances from Nationals Overseas in October

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - The remittances from the Philippines' 10 million migrant workers rose to a record-high \$2.458 billion in October, an increase of 6.9 percent year on year, the country's central bank said on Monday.

Central bank data showed these remittances brought the 10-month tally to \$22.02 billion.

"The steady demand for skilled professional Filipino manpower supported the growth in remittance inflows," the bank said in a statement, reflecting the durability of these inflows amid difficult global economic conditions.

The bulk of remittances was from the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Japan,

Hong Kong, and Canada.

Last year, the remittances summed up to \$22.968 billion and made up more than 8 percent of the country's gross domestic product, the statement said.

The money from overseas Filipinos has been the main sources of the country's domestic consumption and the largest driver of its economy. (www.philstar.com)

(from page 14, **CORRUPTION INDEX...**)

Finland, Sweden and Norway. Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Canada complete the top 10.

North Korea and Somalia, meanwhile, shared rank 174 and were deemed the most corrupt

among the countries surveyed.

Also near bottom of the list were Sudan, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Libya and Eritrea.

"This development recognizes the achievements of the Philippines

in the area of governance," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"The BSP is one with the government in promoting transparency and accountability, taking these guiding principles strictly in the con-

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duct of its regulatory role over the financial sector," he added.

In a statement, the BSP's Investor Relations Office (IRO) said the country's improvement in the rankings shows the government's drive to fight corruption is making headway. (www.philstar.com)



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FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF
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