



# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JANUARY 10, 2015 ◆

## NEW MEDICAL GROUP TO ADDRESS FILIPINO PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE



COVER STORY PAGE 4



### CANDID PERSPECTIVES

**7** MARIOTA'S ISLAND PRIDE BESTS WINSTON'S IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE



### PHILIPPINE NEWS

**11** LOWER AIRFARES SEEN AS FUEL SURCHARGE LIFTED



### MAINLAND NEWS

**14** FILIPINA NAMED CALIFORNIA STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR



HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE  
94-356 WAIPAHU DEPOT RD., 2ND FLR.  
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HONOLULU, HI  
PERMIT NO. 9661

## EDITORIALS

## Addressing the Filipino Physician Shortage

**T**he 'Ekahi Health System, through the 'Ekahi Integrated Practices and 'Ekahi Urgent Care, opened a new clinic in Waipahu which is a crucial step towards addressing the shortage of physicians in Hawaii, particularly for Filipino doctors. According to statistics from the University of Hawaii, the state is about 750 physicians short of the number that should be treating patients, based on Hawaii's overall population.

The problem is particularly worrisome for Filipino physicians in Hawaii, a good number of whom are international medical graduates (IMGs) educated in the Philippines and trained in the U.S. Their ranks continue to dwindle as many of them are nearing retirement age and have few, if any, successors available. Of the 2,795 documented full-time physicians in Hawaii, an estimated 150, or a paltry 5.3 percent, are of Filipino ancestry. This equates to roughly 2,280 patients of Filipino- or part-Filipino ancestry for every Filipino physician. With less immigrant Filipino physicians anticipated in the years to come, groups like the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) and 'Ekahi Integrated Practices are taking measures to boost the numbers of Filipino physicians. PMAH's mentorship program allows students of Filipino ancestry to shadow physicians from various backgrounds and specialties, while 'Ekahi Integrated Practices is actively recruiting recent graduates of residency training programs both here and on the mainland to come to Hawaii. Studies show that minority patients, particularly immigrants from underserved communities like Waipahu and Kalihi, overwhelmingly prefer seeing a physician of their same ethnicity based on communication, cultural and other reasons.

The 'Ekahi Urgent Care clinic is not only conducive for those needing to see a physician after normal business hours, its facilities support Filipino physicians by accommodating their patients on weekends, holidays and whenever they go on vacation. An added bonus is that the clinic's staff speak Tagalog and Ilocano and are culturally sensitive to patients' needs.

A third component of the 'Ekahi Health System is 'Ekahi Care Management, which provides disease management, care management and well-being strategies. All three work as an innovative healthcare delivery organization that unifies independent physician practices, urgent care clinics and care management teams. 'Ekahi in fact means "one" in Hawaiian and embodies the company's innovative approach to delivering quality healthcare. Congratulations to the 'Ekahi Health System on the opening of the urgent care clinic in Waipahu. We wish the company much success in its efforts to improve the health and well-being of our communities.

## Congress is Reckless in Passing New Ukraine Freedom Act

**C**ongress passed one of the most dangerous and potentially miscalculated pieces of legislation to end 2014.

As if tension between Russia and the U.S. isn't already alarming with threats of outright war and nuclear weapons already being positioned by both sides throughout Europe, Congress upped the ante by passing

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**H**appy 2015—the Year of the Ram! We trust that you had a joyous Holiday Season with family and friends. Commuters enjoyed a reprieve from traffic during the Christmas break, but with public schools and the University of Hawaii-Manoa resuming classes on January 12th, expect gridlock to resume. This means leaving home a little earlier and allowing more time for our commute.



In the political arena, Gov. David Ige begins his term and is still assembling members of his cabinet, which includes recent appointees Jade Butay and Randy Baldemor (see "Ige Appoints Two Filipinos to Cabinet" on page 6). The Democrat-controlled State Legislature convenes on January 21, 2015 and will be dealing with such issues as the economy, education, domestic violence and prison reform. The Senate is led by President Donna Mercado Kim and Vice President Will Espero, while the House is headed by Speaker Joe Souki and Vice Speaker John Mizuno.

On the City side, the Council hit the New Year running, having held an inauguration ceremony for its newly-elected members on January 2, 2015. On an interesting note, four of the nine councilmembers are of Filipino ancestry—Brandon Elefante, Joey Manahan, Ron Menor and Kymberly Pine. The Council will be working with Mayor Kirk Caldwell in the coming months on passing a balanced City budget for the next fiscal year, scrutinizing the rail project's finances, and dealing with homelessness and other important matters.

Our cover story for this first issue of 2015 is about the opening of the new 'Ekahi Urgent Care Clinic in Waipahu and the impact that the shortage of Filipino physicians in Hawaii is having on the Filipino community. With other states experiencing similar physician shortages, the competition to attract new doctors fresh out of residency programs has heated up. Turn to page 4 and find out what the new 'Ekahi Integrated Practices, the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) and other medical groups are doing to meet the demand for physicians.

In closing, we do not know what the New Year holds but the Chronicle will be here to provide you with timely and informative news that you can use. We wish our readers and advertisers a very blessed and bountiful 2015 and that all of your resolutions for the New Year will hold true.

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

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

HR 5859 or the Ukraine Freedom Support Act. For the first time, this legislation authorizes the U.S. to provide military aid to Ukraine, including anti-tank weapons, ammunition and troop-operated surveillance drones. It could in essence, put both superpowers directly head-to-head in military armed conflict. The Ukraine Freedom Support Act also expands existing sanctions and sets new ones to hurt Russia's defense and energy sectors.

One very curious and odd part of the Act would require sanctions be placed on Russia's OAO Gazprom (GAZP), the world's largest extractor of natural gas, if GAZP withholds supplies to other European nations. Could this very well be another chapter in the U.S. and Western Europe's old storyline of entering into a conflict over oil and natural resources?

Congress' justification for the passage of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act is to affirm the U.S.'s commitment to Ukrainian sovereignty and to punish Russian President Vladimir Putin for his annexation of the pro-Russian parts of Ukraine into Russia.

(continued on page 3)

Publisher & Executive Editor  
Charlie Y. Sonido, M.D.

Publisher & Managing Editor  
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors  
Dennis Galolo  
Edwin Quinabo

Contributing Editor  
Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.

Creative Designer  
Junggoi Peralta

Photography  
Tim Llana

Administrative Assistant  
Shalimar Pagulayan

Columnists  
Carlota Hufana Ader  
Emil Guillermo  
Ruth Elynia Mabanglo, Ph.D.  
Ron Menor  
J.P. Orias  
Pacita Saludes  
Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.  
Charlie Sonido, M.D.  
Emmanuel S. Tapon, Esq.  
Felino S. Tubera  
Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

Contributing Writers  
Clement Bautista  
Teresita Bernales, Ed.D  
Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D.  
Julia Crowley  
Linda Dela Cruz  
Fiedes Doctor  
Danny De Gracia, II, MA  
Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand  
Amelia Jacang, M.D.  
Caroline Julian  
Federico Magdalena, Ph.D.  
Deborah T. Manog  
Maita Milallos  
Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D.  
Seneca Moraleta-Puguan  
Lilia Q. Santiago, Ph.D.  
Jay Valdez, Psy.D.  
Glenn Wakai  
Amado Yoro  
Philippine Correspondent  
Greg Garcia

Big Island Distributor  
Grace Larson  
Ditas Udani

Maui Distributor  
Cecile Piroso

Molokai Distributor  
Maria Watanabe

Advertising/Marketing Director  
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives  
Carlota Hufana Ader  
J.P. Orias

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. It is mailed directly to subscribers and distributed at various outlets around Oahu and the neighbor islands. Editorial and advertising deadlines are three weeks prior to publication date. Subscriptions are available at \$75 per year for Oahu and the neighbor islands, continental U.S. \$80, foreign country \$90. Copyright 2006-2014. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone (808) 678-8930 Facsimile (808) 678-1829. E-mail [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com). Website: [www.thefilipinochronicle.com](http://www.thefilipinochronicle.com). Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

[www.thefilipinochronicle.com](http://www.thefilipinochronicle.com)  
[www.efilipinochronicle.com](http://www.efilipinochronicle.com)



MEMBER, SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

COMMENTARY

# Now It's Time to Focus on Growing the Economy

By Lee H. Hamilton

**R**ecent economic news has been broadly reassuring. Retail sales are strong, November saw the best job gains in three years, the federal deficit is shrinking, the stock market is robust, and the Fed is expressing enough faith in the economy that an interest rate bump next year is considered a certainty.

Yet the public remains unconvinced. This is partly because perceptions haven't caught up to reality. For many middle- and lower-class families, economic circumstances have not changed very much. Average wages, adjusted for inflation, have not risen in keeping with the good economic news. The median net worth of households is actually a bit less than it was in 2010, just after the official

end of the recession — and the gap between the wealthy and the rest of us is wider than ever.

Strong numbers do, however, offer one unambiguous piece of good news: The pressure on policy makers to focus on near-term or immediate problems has eased, which means they can now focus on the fundamental question of economic growth. That's where their attention should turn.

A strong economy that is growing for everyone, not just the people at the top, offers many benefits. The quality of people's lives improves. Political problems become more manageable. More people have greater economic opportunity. There's more social mobility and more tolerance of diversity.

Because the economy is always at or near the top of voters' concerns, the temptation for the policy-maker is to

support another tax cut or the next move to stimulate the economy in the short term. Now is the time for policy-makers to resist this and try to understand the large forces — technology, automation, globalization — that drive our economy. As Princeton economist Alan Blinder, political strategist Al From and others have pointed out, the key is to concentrate on creating the environment in the country for sustained, non-inflationary economic growth.

To begin with, we have a chance to get our fiscal house in order and pursue long-term deficit reduction. This is a crucial early step for government to take in creating a sound environment for economic growth.

This means modernizing entitlement spending and shaping a tax-reform package that focuses on investments to boost productivity and help the economy to grow for

everyone, through research and development, job training, upgrading skills as well as technology, and reducing outsourcing.

At the same time, it means eliminating public subsidies to individual enterprises. That money can be spent on boosting the economic skills of ordinary Americans through education and training. Policies aimed at strengthening our education system from pre-kindergarten to graduate school, and at promoting lifelong learning and a workforce capable of upgrading its skills to meet changing needs, will have a far more salutary effect on our economy than singling out politically connected enterprises for tax and other benefits.

There are other steps government policy-makers can take to improve broad economic growth. We need to expand trade through open markets and simplify the regulatory structure so that it protects Americans without burdening companies beyond reason. And we must address our nation's deferred infrastructure needs, which hinder the smooth functioning of every business that relies on transporting its goods.

The same applies to reforming government itself. A government that does not work

well — that wastes money, fails its regulatory responsibilities, and cannot make timely decisions — undermines economic growth. You can see this, for instance, in our current inability to pass comprehensive immigration reform: We cannot increase economic growth without the people our labor force needs, from mathematicians and engineers to migrant farm workers.

Finally, policy-makers need to remember that economic growth means providing a ladder out of poverty for the truly needy. Providing opportunity for low-income Americans through the Earned Income Tax Credit and programs to upgrade their skills is vital. No one who works full time should be poor in this country.

Free, competitive markets are the best way to deliver goods and services to Americans. Government must not get in the way of that system. Nor should it stand idle. The right response by government to our economic challenges is not to focus on the immediate economic problems of the day, but to invest in economic growth for all.

**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, CONGRESS....)**

So far the U.S. has resisted providing lethal military assistance to Ukraine since the start of the conflict in March 2014, until now, should President Barack Obama decide to act upon the recently passed Act. Congress' passage of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act adds pressure on Obama to harden his stance, which some critics already see as harsh, saying that Obama has gone too far in rhetoric and bravado.

**What Obama Should Do**

Ultimately, it's in the interest of the entire world community that Obama either veto the Act or simply ignore it because an already dangerous situation in Europe could escalate into something far more chaotic, far more consequential, and far more deadly than what the world has seen in any previous military conflict, ever. This is what's at stake.

Russia is already a country in economic decline, dragging around a wounded leg in the new body of economic globalism. Russia's number one export and source of revenue, oil, is bleeding the country at the moment with global oil prices tumbling to a five-year low. Russia's ruble has fallen 40 percent against the dollar in 2014, and could devalue further. The country's inflation rate also continues to climb.

The bottom line is: the last scenario the world would want to see is for Putin to have an excuse to enter into armed conflict with the U.S., to drum up Russian nationalism, and to deflect his own inability to move his country forward economically. And this ill-conceived

Ukraine Freedom Support Act passed by Congress might just be that excuse for Putin, should a pressured Obama pushed into enacting it.

Already Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov announced that should new sanctions be enacted from this Act, "We (Russian leaders) will not be able to leave that without an answer," meaning that counter measures will be taken by Russia. Putin in the past has retaliated by restricting food imports from a range of Western countries. But that in actuality has done more harm onto Russia's economy than harmed the West. The fact is Russia's only alternative to causing hurt onto the West and the U.S. would be an act of military aggression.

Americans should hope that the U.S. and West discontinue these dangerous sanctions that corner Russia into a position where a military first strike is a last and only option.

It is irresponsible for the Congress to put the world in jeopardy with this kind of legislation that does nothing but aggravate tensions. It seems like world leaders have forgotten that nukes could be brought into this conflict at any time.

It is also irresponsible by American broadcast media to ignore much of the drama unfolding between the U.S. and Russia. Print media has done a better job in covering U.S.-Russian relations of late. At this very critical moment, an informed citizenry on what's going on becomes even more imperative for Americans, so that Americans can pressure their elected leaders in Congress to stop behaving recklessly.



Dr. David Mai MD | Dr. Sharon Takayasu OD | Dr. Michael Bennett MD  
& Camara Eye Clinic Staff

**We are humbled and honored to carry on the tradition of the CAMARA EYE CLINIC**



Restaurant Row  
500 Ala Moana Blvd Tower 5 Suite #300  
Honolulu HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 533-0177

## COVER STORY

# New Medical Group Helping to Meet Filipino Physician Shortage

By Dennis Galolo

**O**ahu's newest medical facility officially opened its doors on January 3, 2015 with a blessing ceremony for the beautifully-renovated 2,200 square foot 'Ekahi Urgent Care Clinic in the heart of Waipahu.

The blessing was conducted by Father Edmundo Barut. Attendees included City managing director Roy Amemiya, Councilmember Ron Menor, and State Senators Clarence Nishihara and Donovan Dela Cruz. Other guests were Filipino Community Center (FilCom) executive director Donnie Juan, Waipahu Community Association member Susan Moniz, Philippine Medical Association (PMAH) president-elect Dr. Carolina Davide, Waipahu neurologist Dr. Ray Romero and other Leeward area physicians.

The clinic is located at the corner of Farrington Highway and Waipahu Depot Road, and is a partnership between 'Ekahi Health System and SKAI Ventures.

In addition to treating ailments such as the flu, sore throat, ear infection, bronchitis, low back pain and fractures, 'Ekahi Urgent Care

offers a wide range of laboratory tests, sports and school physicals and radiology services. The clinic is open 7 days a week, Mondays through Fridays, from 10 am to 6 pm, and from 8 am to 4 pm on Sundays.

## Filipino Doctor Shortage

While news of the clinic's opening provided a boost for the Waipahu community, those in the know see it as an important step towards addressing a larger problem—the growing shortage of Filipino doctors in Hawaii.

A majority of Filipino physicians in Hawaii are international medical graduates (IMGs) who were educated in the Philippines and trained in the U.S. The average age of these immigrant doctors is over 65. Most are ready to retire within 5-10 years and sadly have no successors to take over their practice.

One such physician is Dr. Romeo P. Pineda, a Honolulu-



**Top left:** The staff of the newly-opened 'Ekahi Urgent Care Clinic. **Bottom left:** Dr. Ray Romero, the only Filipino neurologist in Hawaii, is briefed by Dr. Kevin Lum, 'Ekahi Urgent Care Clinic's medical director. **Bottom right:** Family medicine practitioner Dr. Carolina Davide (middle) and a guest chat briefly with Dr. Kevin Lum at the clinic's blessing ceremony.

based radiologist who has been in practice since 1975. Age and the difficulty of keeping his practice afloat due to low reimbursements factored into his decision to retire after 40 years.

"I plan to retire this year as soon as I get somebody to take over my practice," he says. "I'm still looking and have no successor in mind yet."

Dr. Pineda plans to spend his retirement gardening, going on cruises and visiting his hometown in Dinalupihan, Bataan in the Philippines where he has not been for many years.

Dr. Pineda is concerned with the shortage of Filipino doctors in Hawaii.

"I would like to serve our population here in Hawaii but it will be hard for me to continue due to hard economic times and the changing medical reimbursements," he says. "We need Filipino physicians who are culturally-attuned to the needs of their patients and who speak their language."

According to the Hawaii Physician Workforce Assessment, Hawaii faces an overall shortage of about 750 physicians, especially in the area of primary care—general internists, family doctors and pediatricians. These are the doctors whom patients go to first for non-emergency needs before seeing a specialist.

For the Filipino community, there is an acute need for Filipino doctors in select specialties. For example, there are currently no available Filipino ophthalmologists or urologists in Hawaii, with the untimely passing of the late Dr. Jorge Camara and the retirement of Dr. Antonio Tan, respectively.

Also thinning the ranks of Filipino doctors is the semi-retirement of cardiologist Dr. Danelo Canete, who also has no replacement. The number of Filipino general surgeons has also dwindled when general surgeon Dr. Ignacio Torres retired a few years ago and had no suc-

cessor. Busy pulmonologist Dr. Danilo Ablan and his pediatric allergist wife Dr. Mary May Ablan also left last year to be with their family in New York, again with no replacements.

## Meeting the Need

Addressing the shortage of Filipino doctors is crucial considering that in Hawaii, Filipinos and part-Filipinos comprise the second-largest ethnic group at 342,095 strong. According to data from the 2010 U.S. Census, the number of Filipinos and part-Filipinos increased 24 percent since 2000 and continues to grow with more than 5,000 immigrants arriving each year from the Philippines.

These new immigrants face unique cultural and language barriers. Not surprisingly, they feel more at ease with a Filipino doctor.

"The best care for these new arrivals is provided by

(continued on page 5)



**BALIKBAYAN BOXES  
LBC HARI NG PADALA**

**GRACE LARSON**  
BIG ISLAND AGENT of LBC

**211 MAKANI CIRCLE  
HILO, HI 96720**  
808-640-1540  
808-960-6006  
Fax: 1-866-663-1453  
raven\_reuboni@yahoo.com

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

**PARALEGAL SERVICES  
IMMIGRATION SERVICES  
INTERPRETING SERVICES**  
(Tagalog, Visayan & Ilonggo)

**GRACE MANIPOL-LARSON**  
Paralegal / Interpreter

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

COVER STORY

(from page 4, NEW MEDICAL...)

immigrant physicians,” says Waipahu-based physician Dr. Charlie Sonido.

Studies have shown that when minority patients are allowed to select a health care professional, they are more likely to choose someone of their own racial or ethnic background. Studies have also indicated that relationships between patients and physicians of the same race or ethnic background are characterized by higher levels of trust, respect and the increased likelihood that patients will recommend their physician to others.

For PMAH’s Dr. Davide, a key factor is communication. She says that immigrant patients are more expressive and comfortable when speaking in their own dialect.

“They feel inadequate in expressing their symptoms and sentiments to a non-native speaking doctor,” she says.

She too is concerned with the physician shortage which she says will affect not only Filipino patients but the Hawaii population at-large.

Of the 2,795 documented full-time physicians in Hawaii, an estimated 150, or a paltry 5.3 percent, are of Filipino ancestry. This equates to roughly 2,280 patients of Filipino- or part-Filipino ancestry for every Filipino physician.

To attract more young people to study medicine, PMAH and the University of Hawaii’s SEED Program recently launched a mentorship program for high school and college students of Filipino ancestry which provides prospective medical students with the unique opportunity to shadow physicians and other medical providers of varying backgrounds and specialties. The program is headed by oncologist Dr. Melvin Paul Palalay, who was born, raised and educated in Hawaii and trained on the mainland.

“We hope to inspire these young Filipinos to strive for higher education, optimize their potential and even pursue a career in medicine,” says outgoing PMAH President Jerry Garcia. “If we tap local students and encourage them to go into medicine, the higher our



(from left): 'Ekahi Health System President Jay Fujimoto with State Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Waipahu-based physician Dr. Charlie Sonido and State Sen. Clarence Nishihara at the 'Ekahi Urgent Care Clinic's grand opening.

'Ekahi Health System Chief Executive Officer Dean Hirata with City Councilmember Ron Menor.

chances are of retaining these future physicians to our state and not losing them to better opportunities on the mainland.”

Several local hospital groups have also taken steps to expand their residency training programs. For instance, the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center will be opening a new Family Medicine Residency Program next year.

This year, Kaiser Permanente will open a new Internal Medical Residency program at its Honolulu hospital and clinics. And the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program based in Hilo is now in its second year of residency training.

“All of this is being done to attract our young people to train and practice in Hawaii,” says Dr. Sonido.

By the year 2020, Filipino physicians who were educated in the Philippines but wish to train in the states will have little or no chance of getting accepted into U.S. residency programs. The reason is that the number of allopathic graduates (MD) and osteopathic graduates (DO) in the U.S. is expected to match the number of available residency training slots.

**Ekahi Health System Steps Up**

Another key player in efforts to address the physician shortage is 'Ekahi Health System, which is comprised of 'Ekahi Integrated Practices, 'Ekahi Urgent Care and 'Ekahi Care Management. All three work as an innovative health-care delivery organization that unifies independent physician practices, urgent care clinics and care management teams.

'Ekahi Health System is led by Chief Executive Officer

Dean Hirata and President Jay Fujimoto.

Dr. Sonido, who heads 'Ekahi Integrated Practices-West, is also doing all he can to recruit recent graduates of residency training programs, particularly in primary care, to come to Hawaii.

“That’s why I decided to join 'Ekahi Integrated Practices,” he says. “Financially, I cannot afford by myself to recruit immigrant physicians who were educated in the Philippines and trained here. It’s too expensive.”

With 2020 fast approaching, Sonido says time is of the essence. Unfortunately, most doctors choose the mainland instead of Hawaii because the financial rewards—higher wages and lower cost of living—are greater there.

Nevertheless, Dr. Sonido remains optimistic.

“With only a five year window, now is the time to actively recruit especially those doctors who are coming out of residency,” he says. “We have started interviewing physicians who have trained here and on the mainland. Four physicians have already committed to joining our group.”

In addition to the new Waipahu clinic, 'Ekahi Integrated Practices is scheduled to open a second urgent care clinic in Kalihi where there is also a large Filipino population and a sizable number of Filipino doctors. The company hopes to open additional clinics across Oahu in late 2015 and early 2016 to address the needs of other ethnic groups.

Currently, 'Ekahi Urgent Care has three physicians on staff and at least one clinician always on-site during office hours. The clinic also has Taga-

log- and Ilocano-speaking employees who are culturally sensitive to the needs of Filipino patients. Office manager Teana Penn heads a staff of seven, was born and raised in Waipahu and is a 1997 graduate of Waipahu High School.

“I’ve always wanted to give back to the community that I grew up in, so when I saw the opportunity to work for 'Ekahi I thought that this would be my chance,” she says.

The urgent care clinic supports Filipino doctors who practice in the community by seeing their patients after office hours, on weekends, holidays and when they go on vacation.

“Typically, urgent care clinics are for patients with injuries or illnesses that require immediate attention but usually not serious enough for a visit to the emergency room,” says Dr. Sonido. “The Waipahu urgent care clinic is more affordable, convenient and offers faster service.”

The clinic offers in-house x-ray and lab services that help rapidly diagnose a patient’s condition. Common lab services include rapid strep, rapid flu, urinalysis, glucose and hemoglobin testing. The clinic also offers tetanus and influenza vaccines and purified protein derivative (PPD) testing to determine if patients suffer from tuberculosis (TB).

What makes 'Ekahi Urgent Care different from other clinics is that it is part of a larger system that also includes physician practices and care management programs. In fact, 'Ekahi, meaning “one” in Hawaiian, embodies the approach to unify independent physician practices, urgent care clinics and core management teams to provide greater access to quality care through a sustainable and community-driven delivery system.

“Being part of a larger system facilitates a more seamless delivery of care for our patients,” says Dr. Kevin Lum, the clinic’s medical director. “For example, the 'Ekahi Urgent Care staff will have access to our technology platform that includes pertinent clinical information to reduce the need for patients to recall important health history and enable our staff to provide high quality, personalized and coordinated care. We have close relationships with primary care physicians in the community to ensure continuity of care.”

**GOLDEN CUT**  
HAIR | NAIL | JEWELRY

Full Service Salon & Fine Jewelry 14K, 18K Gold, Pearls, Diamonds and Accessories.  
Holiday Specials **70% OFF** on Jewels

**YES WE BUY GOLDS & DIAMONDS FOR CASH**  
*No one beats our prices*

**Golden Cut**  
94-050 Farrington Hwy, Waipahu, HI 96797  
Phone (808) 677-7532

## OPINION

# Political Will – No Political Sense

CTalk By Cito Beltran

**A**ccording to news reports, DOTC Secretary Jun Abaya and officials in Malacañang have discovered the meaning of political will and have decided to show it through their Judas-like act of betrayal by raising train fares of the MRT and LRT while we were all commemorating the coming of our Savior. They have even gone as far as adopting the mindset of the high priests who said “better that one suffer than the whole nation perish.” In the case of the fare hikes Malacañang obviously believes that better all the riders suffer than the one outfit who owns the MRT, who are just so Sobra-Suerte they are reportedly the only beneficiary of the fare hike and probably part of the multi-billion peso allocation given by Senate two days before the act of betrayal.

\* \* \*

Secretary Abaya and Malacañang may have belatedly discovered the need to show political will but the “Student Council” members apparently did not know that political will only works when it comes with political sense. In terms of presentation, announcement and rationalization, the fare increase was not even done in a professional, proper and polite way. To date it is unclear what or how the fare increase was arrived at. There was no effort made to inform or educate the public where, what for, how, why and when the total additional funds would be used. Even after allegations were aired that the fare increase was to be paid to the Sobra Suerte group that owns the MRT, DOTC or Malacañang chose to ignore or to be silent on the allegations.

Instead, they broke out another bottle of vintage blame, saying that past administrations did not have the political will to raise fares in over a decade. Interestingly enough, I actually remember former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo saying that the reason she refused to raise the fare was because after a careful analysis of the cost-benefit, it was evident that

a fare increase would not improve the financials of the operation. Being an economist and a politician Arroyo had a grasp of what made political sense.

The difference then and now was that under Arroyo the proposed fare hike was not even half of the latest hike. In addition to the difference in fare increase, the biggest difference would be the mindset and understanding of why governments all over the world subsidize mass transit. PGMA’s team had an appreciation of the fact that trains helped move people and things around and that was good for the economy. The P-Noy administration is simply dead set on outperforming the Arroyo administration in savings and to be able to say P-Noy is a better economist than PGMA. That obsession with Arroyo is unfortunately costing the Filipino people in multiple taxes, traffic, higher fares, higher electricity and an overall higher cost of living.

As a final point, Palace apologists are claiming that there were various public consultations on the fare hikes, but the funny thing about their claim is that none of the organized group of train riders confirmed that claim. In fact a couple have called it an outright lie! It would be interesting to watch how the DOTC addresses this issue in the Supreme Court or in the Philippine Senate where they will come face to face with the people they betrayed.

\* \* \*

While our Senators and Congressmen prepare the royal barbecue of officials of the DOTC, May I request that they also inquire as to why the DOTC has failed to impose their will on bus companies and shipping companies to create a reliable way for the public to know of their trips (destinations — fare — schedule — and depots) from Metro Manila to any point of the Philippines. The problem of having rich and upper class officials in government is that they have no idea on how the rest of the people as well as non-business class tourists and guest travel. I consider myself a well-traveled Pinoy in my country but whenever I have to take the bus or a

boat, I have to ask people who’ve done it or actually go directly to the bus or shipping company because most of them don’t have working phones, are not in the yellow pages, have no website or have no idea what to answer because it’s all “Tekka - Tekka” or “Alas Puno” or it leaves at the time it’s full.

If the LTFRB cannot impose a rule on schedules, fares, and destinations then it’s about time we cleanse the LTFRB and even the DOTC of several overstaying or unqualified doing nothing political appointees.

\* \* \*

Driving back to Manila, I immediately caught sight of how the Star Tollway and the

SLEX put up signs asking drivers to prepare the exact fare or change for the toll. That’s quick response and deserves credit. Now, may we suggest that they put up several billboards right after the entry points, at the various gas stations and handout various toll rates that can be printed by many willing advertisers. I also want to repeat the suggestion of tokens or cards that can also be contracted to some advertiser. Either that or go the way of Senator Sotto who wants toll-free on holidays.

\* \* \*

Don’t say I didn’t warn you. If you’re not planning on getting out of town before Pope Francis arrives, then you’d bet-

ter stock up on a lot of patience or make friends with Waze, Uber, or start planning your activities this early.

As I listened to the various announcements and new reports on plans and activities for the visit of Pope Francis, I realized that even before the Pope arrives many places will practically be inaccessible or difficult to pass through especially the city of Manila because of the advanced preparations not to mention the on-going preparation and actual day for the Feast of the Black Nazarene. This double treat if we can call it that will also be a double threat on everyone’s activities as well as patience. So be forewarned.

(www.philstar.com)

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### Ige Appoints Two Filipinos to Cabinet

**G**ov. David Ige recently announced the appointment of seven members of his administration, two of whom are of Filipino ancestry.

The first Filipino appointee is Jade Butay, who will assume his previous role as deputy director for administration at the State Department of Transportation, a position he held from 2011-2013. Butay is currently serving as deputy director for the Department of Labor



Jade Butay

Randy Baldemor

and Industrial Relations. Butay holds an MA in business administration from Babson College and a BA in business administration from the University of Hawaii-Manoa.

The other appointee is Randy Baldemor, who has been named deputy director of

the Department of Human Resource Development. Baldemor previously served as the director of Strategic Initiatives for the Office of the Governor. He has 14 years of experience in a wide range of fields including taxation, law and computer software development. Baldemor received his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Florida and his law degree from the University of Washington School of Law.

## PICTORIAL NEWS



### Filipino Caucus at City Hall

The Honolulu City Council held an inauguration ceremony on January 2, 2015 for its newest members. The current Council has a distinct *pinoy* flavor with four of the nine members being of Filipino ancestry. They are (from left): Joey Manahan (District 7), Kimberly Marcos Pine (District 1), Brandon Elefante (District 8) and Ron Menor (District 9).

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

# Mariota's Island Pride Bests Winston's In More Ways Than One

**W**ith the world never short of turmoil, it was nice to be able to kick back, enjoy the holidays and watch the national coming out party for Hawaii's Marcus Mariota.

The star has emerged from St. Louis School. It all started last month with winning the Heisman Trophy and being the first Asian American of Polynesian descent from Hawaii to win the award as the best college football player in the land.

We don't see many Asian Americans in football, let alone as the star quarterback. Mariota's excellence is such a rare thing, he puts the "P" in AAPI, standing before the nation as a role model for all Polynesian athletes.

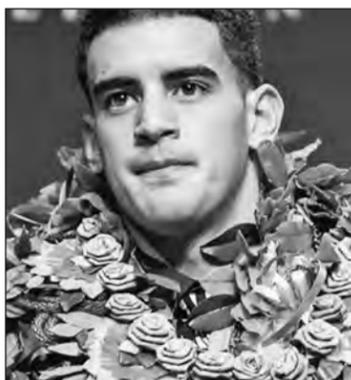
But even more refreshing is his humility. In an era when jocks aspire to "showtime"

and bling, Mariota seems "bling-less." Though he did show off the trophy when he won the Heisman, his speech and the ceremony were a much-needed antidote to all the things that have marred the season.

Mariota's victory was a reminder of a message that is too often forgotten in this venal, mercenary world—the good still triumph. The gift of the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day was also a nice treat.

Florida State's Jameis Winston, dogged by sexual assault allegations the last two years, may have found a way to prevail in the legal system in the state of Florida.

But not on the field on New Year's Day. The game was a kind of football tribunal for Winston with a national television audience of 28 million serving as jurors. The final score was definitive: Oregon 59, Florida State 20. It was an embarrassing defeat for Winston, the 2013 Heisman winner, who did manage to hold his own



Marcus Mariota

against his rival, Oregon's Mariota.

But it's Mariota, who now takes his team into the national championship against Ohio State on January 12th. In the Rose Bowl, Mariota was as advertised—a passer, running threat and leader.

Winston played well enough, but not when it mattered. One play in particular seemed indicative of the kind of day it was when the ball seemed to fly out of Winston's grip as he recoiled to pass. An Oregon defender recovered it for a touchdown.

It was a national lesson in

humility for Winston, who after the game was seen on camera congratulating Mariota. If football is said to build character, maybe there's some hope for Winston.

I wish the same could be said for some of the other participants. As noted by the game sportscasters, nearly 70 percent of the Florida State team never bothered to shake hands with their opponents but instead went straight to the locker room.

But Oregon too had an

apparent lapse of note. Ebulient as they were, some players took the moment to jeer Winston with a satirical cheer. They took FSU's War Chant aimed it at Winston and took it up a notch.

You know the chant. Now change the words and say, "No-o000-oh, No means nooo..."

Repeat.

It was funny considering the current concern on college campuses across the country over rape.

Video was taken of the

(continued on page 12)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## 'My Big Bossing' to Debut on Oahu

Popular Filipino film "My Big Bossing" starring Vic Sotto and Ryzza Mae Dizon will be showing in select theatres in the U.S. including the Pearlridge West Theatre on January 16, 2015.

The film opened in Philippine theaters on December 25, 2014 and is an official entry to the 40th Metro Manila Film Festival. "My Big Bossing" is the sequel to the popular 2013 family film "My Little Bossings" and is a bigger, funnier version split into three stories within the movie. The three-part family-friendly movie shows Dizon taking on different characters in the fantasy "Sirena," the horror-comedy "Tak-tak" and the family story "Prinsesa."

"My Big Bossing" also co-stars Marian Rivera, Nikki Gil, Rufa Mae Quinto,



Ryzza Mae Dizon, Nikki Gil, Alonzo Muhlach, Vic Sotto and Marian Rivera

Pauleen Luna, Zoren Legaspi, Maricar De Mesa, Manilyn Reynes and Jose Manalo. The film was directed by award-winning directors Joyce Bernal, Marlon Rivera and Tony Reyes, and produced by Octoarts, MZET, and APT Entertainment.

Movie buffs can check out the trailer and other tidbits on [www.abovethelineevents.us](http://www.abovethelineevents.us) and on Facebook (MyBigBossingUS) or get updates on Instagram (@AboveTheLineEvents).

**CATCH US ON THE WEB!**

"WE'RE NOW READ BY MILLIONS OF FILIPINOS AROUND THE GLOBE."

Go to [efilipinochronicle.com](http://efilipinochronicle.com) or [thefilipinochronicle.com](http://thefilipinochronicle.com) and see how the face of business is changing!

**We are also on KWHE-TV 14**

Be a part of Oahu's **HAWAII'S BEST 2014** family.

The Arcadia Family of Companies is the "BEST" place to work. We offer outstanding benefits that include: medical, drug, vision, dental insurance and a 403(b) plan. We care about our residents, members, clients, participants, and our EMPLOYEES. Join our growing family!

**NOW HIRING**

- Certified Nurse Aides
- Nurse Aides
- Wellness Trainer
- Clinic Manager
- Scheduler
- Receptionist
- Activities Aide
- Ward Clerk
- Environmental Services Supervisor
- Maintenance Technicians
- Parking Valet
- Waitstaff/Busser

For a complete listing of all available jobs or for more information visit: [arcadia.org](http://arcadia.org)

ARCADIA FAMILY OF COMPANIES

15 CRAIGSIDE AN ARCADIA COMMUNITY

ARCADIA RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

ARCADIA AT HOME

ARCADIA HOME HEALTH

CENTRAL UNION CHURCH ADULT DAY CARE & DAY HEALTH

KILOHANA SENIOR ENRICHMENT CENTER

VIC SOTTO      RYZZA MAE DIZON

**MY BIG BOSSING**

*in Hawaii!*      **JANUARY 16-22, 2015**  
**Pearlridge West Theatres**  
 98-1005 Moanalua Rd, Aiea, HI 96701

GET UPDATES ON SCHEDULES BY CHECKING IN WITH US  
[www.AboveTheLineEvents.us](http://www.AboveTheLineEvents.us)    f /AboveTheLineEvents

distributed by:

# Walang naiiwanan na discount

Save an average of \$500.\* Let us make sure you get all the discounts you deserve, as well as provide you with the right coverage. **GET TO A BETTER STATE®.**  
**CALL ONE OF OUR AGENTS NOW!**



**Anita Diniega**  
 Honolulu  
 808-841-5915



**Marilyn Jacobe**  
 Kaneohe  
 808-254-7028



**Rachel Rooney**  
 Kaneohe  
 808-247-0091



**Robert Shimabuku**  
 Keaau  
 808-982-4530



**Wayde Omura**  
 Wailuku  
 808-249-0990

statefarm.com



\* Average annual per household savings based on a 2012 national survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm. The insurance's policies, applications, and required notices of State Farm are written in English. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company - Bloomington, IL

TRAVEL

# THE GOLDEN DESTINATION IN NUEVA ECIJA

**M**ANILA, Philippines - It's easy to overlook Nueva Ecija in a local traveler's quest for an interesting travel destination in Northern Luzon. What rather comes to mind are the province's more popular neighbors and their respective attractions – Baler's sought-after surfing swells, Pampanga's famed culinary delights, Pangasinan's beautiful stretch of seascapes, the Cordilleras' picturesque slopes and rich cultural heritage, or Cagayan Valley's wealth of undisturbed terrain and rugged coastlines.



The Peñaranda river, fed by waters from the Sierra Madre, cuts across beautifully sculpted limestone karst formations. Photos by Berlin Maynigo

For many, Nueva Ecija largely remains merely a gateway or passage – until one discovers the natural treasure that is Minalungao.

Think Surigao del Sur's Enchanted River and Palawan's breathtaking lagoons rolled into one – calm waters hemmed by impressive limestone formations, giving off a vibrant emerald hue.

Spread over more than 2,000 hectares of prized land in the town of General Tinio, Minalungao National Park is Nueva Ecija's well-kept tourist secret. The place derives its name from the local terms "mina" and "lungao" which mean "mine of gold in caves." The area was brimming with commerce until gold panning was prohibited and the reserve was declared a national park in 1967. Sitting on the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountain range, the natural enclave holds a plethora of experiences waiting for both the daring adventurer and the passive admirer.

To get to the other end of the Peñaranda river, Minalungao's center of attraction, an option is to traverse along the jagged limestone walls, where a gentle sloping trailhead lies at the end of the stretch. Within a good five-minute hike, adventurers will be taken to the mouth of a cave which, although modest in scale, makes for a worthwhile

visit. Spelunkers are advised to bring a headlamp or flashlight and wear proper footwear as the cave's chambers become slippery especially during the rainy season, when water continuously drips from the ceiling.

More experienced adventurers can opt for a more intensive cave exploration, as a system of subterranean caverns has also been identified. Another experience gaining popularity among the brave of heart is Minalungao's version of cliff diving from a stone ledge jutting out over a portion of the river.

The less audacious need not worry about being left behind, as they can enjoy a leisurely trip gliding through the waters on a rented bamboo raft. Apart from providing a view of the stunning landscape, friends and families can enjoy a hearty lunch or merienda under the raft's canopy.

These same rafts can also transport visitors to another point of interest in the park, which is the Minalungao cross. Perched on top of a hill adjacent to the river, the cross stands at the center of a polygonal base that can be reached after climbing a flight of a thousand steps. While the hike may be tiring, one's hard work will be rewarded by priceless panoramic views of the national park and the majestic

and imposing Sierra Madre looming in the distance.

To get to the Minalungao National Park from Manila, one can board a bus that plies the Cagayan Valley route and get off at Gapan, Nueva Ecija. From here, the best mode of transportation is the tricycle. Hop on the public routes to Gen. Tinio, or charter one to go directly to the park en-

trance to save time and effort.

Going back home, simply take a tricycle back to Gen. Tinio and take a jeep to Gapan or Cabanatuan, where buses bound for Cubao or Pasay are stationed.

Victory Liner, with its fleet of well-maintained air-conditioned buses, is the best bet for relaxing and safe travel in Northern Luzon. Victory

Liner buses plying the Cagayan Valley route regularly pass by Gapan or Cabanatuan.

Victory Liner's cushioned reclining seats, entertainment system plus strong WiFi connection are sure to make the four-hour trip to Nueva Ecija a breeze. Online reservations and bookings can also be made for added convenience. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## GARFIELD | LAW GROUP

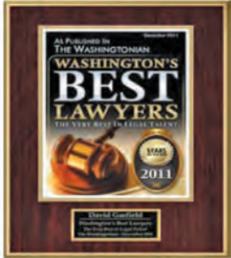
FULL SERVICE IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM

**Free Immigration Consultations Offered Now!**  
**Libre Nga Konsultasyon Maipanggep Ti Imigrasion!**  
**Libreng Konsultasyon Tungkol Sa Imigrasyon!**



**ONLY IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

- Removal and Deportation Defense
- Family-based Immigration/Waivers
- Citizenship and Naturalization
- Business/Employment Visas
- Investor Visas
- Political Asylum
- Obama Executive Action Advice



Top Washington DC immigration law firm has opened an office in Honolulu and is offering **FREE immigration consultations** with founding partner, David Garfield. Please call or email for an appointment.



**HONOLULU OFFICE**  
 Topa Financial Center  
 Bishop Street Tower  
 700 Bishop Street, Suite 2100  
 Honolulu, HI 96813

**WASHINGTON DC OFFICE**  
 1634 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
 Washington DC 20006

**CALL: 808-439-8555**

EMAIL: [davidg@garfieldlaw.com](mailto:davidg@garfieldlaw.com) VISIT: <http://garfieldlaw.com/>

**kwhetv 14**  
**OCEANIC CABLE,**  
**CHANNEL 11**

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**

For a Christian TV Station.  
 Broadcasting experience preferred but not required.  
 EEO Employer.  
 Send resume to: [dkanyuck@lesea.com](mailto:dkanyuck@lesea.com)

**BROADCAST ENGINEER**

For a Christian TV Station.  
 Minimum 3 yrs experience in TV broadcasting.  
 EEO Employer.  
 Send resume to: [mkemmerling@lesea.com](mailto:mkemmerling@lesea.com)

**LOCAL AND NATIONAL  
 INSPIRATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

- SUPERIOR LIVING  
 - Pacific Revival Center
- HIS HIGHEST PRAISE  
 - Dr. Adrian Yuen
- VOICE OF ZION  
 - Lyons Welch
- TAP IN, NOT OUT  
 - Jay Amina
- WORD OF LIFE  
 - Art Sepulveda

**SPORTS**

Hawaii TV Bowling  
 HPU Basketball & Volleyball

**CHILDREN'S TELEVISION**

Go For It • Real Life 101 • NASA •  
 Ultimate Choice • Zone

**BOOK'EM DANO**

**HAWAII 50**

**MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**  
**7 PM**  
**THE BEST OF HAWAII**  
**TV CLASSICS**

For advertising, call  
 Tel: 538-1414 (office) • 255-4085 (cell)  
 or email: [dkanyuck@lesea.com](mailto:dkanyuck@lesea.com)

**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**

**City Moves Forward With LED Streetlights Plan**

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell has issued a request for proposals for a contractor to replace approximately 52,000 low pressure sodium (LPS) City streetlights with light-emitting diode (LED) streetlights. A 2013 pilot project by the City demonstrated that retrofitting streetlights to LEDs provides significant cost savings, greater efficiency and increased visibility.



Mayor Kirk Caldwell

“Last year’s pilot project showed the advantages of transitioning all 52,000 city streetlights to LEDs,” says Mayor Caldwell. “By creating a public-private partnership to do the installation, the City will receive the benefits without having to pay the initial upfront cost for installation. This innovative approach is a win for taxpayers, motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and the environment.”

The City commenced a pilot project in June 2013 to replace approximately 400 street lights using U.S. Department of Energy funding. In his 2014 State of the City Address, Caldwell announced plans to replace all 51,700 city-owned street lights with LED fixtures and committed to a complete conversion in ap-

proximately four years via a public-private partnership.

Compared to existing LPS streetlight fixtures, the new LED lights reduce energy consumption by an average of 50 percent and have a payback period of just four years. City streetlights consume approximately \$6 million in electricity annually and the switch to LED is projected to save roughly \$3 million in energy costs each year. The winning contractor will enter into a public-private partnership with the City and be paid for its services over a period of time through energy savings.

In addition to reduced energy costs, the City is also eligible for a \$25-\$33 electricity rebate per fixture from Hawaii Energy.

LED streetlights are more energy efficient and provide brighter light directed towards the street, rather than radiating light toward surrounding homes and businesses as LPS streetlights do, enhancing public safety while reducing peripheral glare. For more information on the project, please visit the city’s purchasing website at [www.honolulu.gov/pur](http://www.honolulu.gov/pur).

**HFD Reminds Public to Safely Dispose Christmas Trees**

With Christmas and the Holiday Season now but a memory, Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) officials are reminding the public of the need to remove and recycle their non-artificial trees as soon as possible.

According to HFD Chief Manuel P. Neves, a dry Christmas tree is a serious fire hazard.

“While the tree itself won’t start a fire, it is a fuel source that burns very quickly and can cause a fire to spread,” Neves says. “An indoor Christmas tree fire can be very devastating. An outdoor Christmas tree fire is also very dangerous, as it can send flames, heat, and smoke billowing into a structure, thus endangering lives and property.”

HFD officials issued the following reminders to help reduce the risks associated with Christmas tree fires:

- Never burn a Christmas tree or tree clippings in a fireplace. This is likely



to deposit highly flammable creosote in the chimney and may cause a fire to extend to the rest of your home.

- Never burn a Christmas tree in a bonfire. The pitch in the wood is likely to generate large, fast-moving sparks, which can spread a fire.
- Rubbish fires are illegal. Other open burnings, such as bonfires, require

- the fire chief’s approval.
- Do not leave your Christmas tree outside for a long period of time. Someone may be tempted to ignite the tree, which would endanger life and property.
- Place your tree at the curb on your green waste collection day or take it to the nearest City convenience center or composting facility.

For additional information on disposing your Christmas tree, visit [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org).

PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Transit Fare Hike Protest Grows

Opposition to the fare hike for the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and the Light Rail Transit (LRT) train lines continued to mount as a formal petition was filed before the Supreme Court.

The petition was filed by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan against Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC); Renato San Jose, officer-in-charge of the Metro Rail Transit 3; Honorito Chaneco, administrator of the Light Rail Transit; and the Metro Rail Transit Corporation and the Light Rail

Manila Consortium.

Senator Chiz Escudero, chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, says the DOTC's 2015 budget request would not have been approved had the Senate known that the fare increases would be implemented.

Escudero adds that the new rates would burden the public without any improvement in the service of the rail transit system. Passengers have complained about worn-down tracks, open train doors and broken elevators at the stations.

"The reason why this fare increase is such a burden is because the service is not im-

proving," Escudero says. "We already allocated money for the MRT rehabilitation and improvement for 2015. There is enough funding. We don't need the money from the fare hike in order to improve MRT3.

"We are not in favor of this LRT-MRT fare hike. They never mentioned this, not during the senate hearings with the department, not even during the budget deliberations."

Escudero says public hearing must be held before a fare hike can be implemented. DOTC officials insist that such a hearing was held in 2011.



"If that is their basis for the hike this 2015, I think that is not fair. They will implement the fare hike four years after the public hearing and they will tell us that that is the public hearing as required by law? I certainly disagree with that logic," Escudero says.

The petition estimates that

the fare hike, which went into effect on January 4, 2015, will take P2.1 billion from at least 1.3 million commuters who use the three train lines every day.

Supporters say the fare hike is long overdue and that government lawyers are ready to defend it.

# Relieving Philippines' Overcrowded Jails

The Supreme Court of the Philippines has ordered 286 people to be released from jail because they had already spent the same amount of time behind bars as the minimum penalties for their alleged offenses.

The court's long-overdue action is designed to address the country's serious problem of lengthy pretrial detention and is part of what the court called its Judgment Day program. Along with "Justice on Wheels" and "Hustisyeah!," the program aims to decongest the Philippines' notoriously overcrowded detention facilities.



The Supreme Court deserves credit for taking the initiative to address the problem of lengthy pre-trial detention in the Philippines. But human rights group say that the release of these detainees is nothing more than a symbolic drop in the bucket compared to the estimated 70,000-plus pre-trial detainees, many of whom

spend decades in jail waiting for their case to go before a judge.

A June 2014 report by the International Center for Prison Studies noted that the Philippines has the highest number of pre-trial detainees in Southeast Asia and the sixth highest in the world. Prolonged pre-trial detention violates international

human rights law that the Philippines has agreed to uphold. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, for instance, states that everyone detained on a criminal charge is "entitled to trial within a reasonable time or release."

Prolonged pre-trial detention is often the result of the Philippines' inefficient judicial system, which is hobbled by corruption, clogged dockets, and an inadequate number of court facilities and judges to oversee them. Police and prosecutors often file charges despite inadequate preliminary

evidence or the absence of probable cause. The passage of the country's tough anti-drug law in 2002 also resulted in a sharp rise in arrests that have added to the pressure on the country's already overcrowded detention facilities.

Reducing the large numbers of people in lengthy pre-trial detention will require more than occasional mass-releases of individuals whose trial was overdue. It will require much more wide-reaching justice system reform to address the systemic issues that create such injustices. The Supreme Court has highlighted the problem but now it is up to the government to step up and take serious action. (HRW Press)

# Lower Airfares Seen As Fuel Surcharge Lifted

by Lawrence Agcaoili  
Wednesday, January 8, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - Airline passengers can expect lower fares this year as the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) lifted the fuel surcharge imposed by foreign and domestic airlines.

The CAB yesterday published Resolution No. 79 dated Dec. 22, lifting the authority of domestic and foreign airlines to impose fuel surcharge on domestic and international flights.

The resolution was signed by Transportation and Communications Undersecretaries Jose Perpetuo Lotilla and Benito

Bengzon Jr., Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines director general William Hotchkiss III and former Clark International Airport Corp. president Victor Jose Luciano.

CAB executive director Carmelo Arcilla said airline passengers could expect lower fares starting this weekend.

Arcilla said the fuel surcharge imposed by domestic and foreign airlines depends on the distance of the flight.

The surcharge is between P200 and P500 for domestic flights and can be as high as P15,000 for international destinations.

Fuel cost accounts for over

50 percent of the total operating costs of airlines.

The CAB allows airlines to impose a fuel surcharge to help recover fuel costs and system losses caused by sudden spikes in fuel prices.

Based on prevailing international practice, fuel surcharge may be reduced or removed as it is not part of the basic fare, depending on the price of jet fuel in the world market.

Citing data from the Department of Energy, the CAB said fuel prices have declined by 25.51 percent from January to November last year.

On Dec. 5, CAB asked domestic and foreign airlines to explain why they have not reduced or lifted the fuel surcharge. (www.philstar.com)





**McMANN EYE**  
INSTITUTE

Michael A. McMann, M.D.

**BOARD CERTIFIED FELLOWSHIP-TRAINED EYE SURGEON**

*Same Day Appointments Available*

- COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE
- CATARACT SURGERY
- GLAUCOMA
- DIABETIC EYE CARE
- PTERYGIUM
- MACULAR DEGENERATION
- LASIK VISION CORRECTION
- ADVANCED CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION
- SUNGLASSES, EYEGLASSES & CONTACT LENSES

Hawaii Medical Center West • St. Francis Med. Plaza West  
91-2139 Ft. Weaver Rd. # 202 • Ewa Beach

**677-2733**

**FREE Parking / Next to The Bus Stop**  
**Staff speaks TAGALOG & ILOCANO**

FEATURE

# Disaster Preparedness in the Philippines

By Julia Crowley

**T**his past December 6th was a difficult day for Filipinos all over the world as Typhoon Hagupit made landfall in Eastern Samar with sustained maximum wind speeds of 125 miles per hour. The Category 3 storm hit many of the same locations as Super Typhoon Haiyan, which occurred just a little over a year ago. The news of such calamities can be extremely stressful to Filipinos abroad as they rush to locate their loved ones.

Pearl Erguiza Pacada, the former Vice Governor of Tarlac, was residing in Hawaii when Typhoon Hagupit occurred. Pacada came to Honolulu for five months to take part in a leadership program.

“Having witnessed and experienced the impact of strong typhoons in the Philippines, I

was worried when Typhoon Hagupit hit our country this year while I was in Honolulu, studying as a fellow in the East West Center,” she says.

In the midst of these difficult times, a Honolulu-based organization called the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) has been sharing its resources and expertise to aid the Philippines. NDPTC was founded by Congress in 2008, and is funded by the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The executive director is Dr. Karl Kim, a professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

“NDPTC delivers and develops training courses that integrate urban planning and disaster risk reduction with a focus on natural hazards that affect coastal communities, is-

lands, and underserved at-risk communities,” says Kim.

This past August, Kim and other researchers and scientists were brought to the Philippines by the Consuelo Foundation, a Hawaii-based non-profit, to assist in the recovery from the disaster of Typhoon Haiyan.

“[This trip gave us the opportunity to] engage in information exchange, technical capacity building as well as develop relationships with universities, government agencies, and NGOs,” says Kim. “We also were able to study and learn about recovery. Disasters are teachable moments because they magnify what works and what does not work.”

Kim, who currently serves as the chair of the National Do-

mestic Preparedness Consortium, frequently delivers training programs to help first responders prepare for natural disasters all over the world. He feels that one of the most important lessons learned in the case of Typhoon Haiyan is the importance of education and training for detection and warning, evacuation, search and rescue, and especially for recovery because storms and other hazards will strike again. As for measures that the Philippines can take to prepare for future disasters, Kim recommends investing in educa-

tional drill exercises in all communities. NDPTC looks forward to more collaboration projects with the Philippines in the future.

“We have strong ties with the Philippines,” says Kim. “We need to work more closely with this country, which has many similar threats and hazards as we have in Hawaii. There are great opportunities for us to learn from each other.”

*JULIA CROWLEY is a PhD student in the Urban and Regional Planning department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She can be reached at crowleyj@hawaii.edu.*



Dr. Karl Kim visits survivors of Typhoon Haiyan

**ADVERTISE NOW AND SEE HOW THE FACE OF BUSINESS IS CHANGING!**

No matter how small your ad, it gets our readers attention!  
CALL 678-8930 OR GO TO OUR WEBSITES @  
[www.thefilipinochronicle.com](http://www.thefilipinochronicle.com)  
[www.efilipinochronicle.com](http://www.efilipinochronicle.com)

**IMPORTS GIFT SHOP & MINI-MART**

82 Ala Malama Street  
Kaunakakai Hawaii 96748  
PHONE NO: 553-5734

- Baskets, Lauhala Mats
- Books, Notecards
- Fine & Fashion Jewelry
- Groceries
- Handbags, Hats
- Hawaiiana
- Jewelry Repair, Resetting & Resizing
- Molokai Arts, Crafts, Supplies
- Philippine Products Dried & Frozen
- Quilts & Notions
- Refreshments
- Seashells
- Shoes & Accessories
- Sport & Dress Clothing
- Surfing Line
- Surfwear & Surfboards
- Sundries
- T-shirts, Sweatshirts



**ONE STOP SHOPPING!**

OPEN 7 DAYS  
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

**CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 7, MARIOTA'S....)**

players and posted on the web by Fox Sports West. Some of the Ducks could be seen as “bad sports” but are they as bad as the FSU players who walked off the field without as much as a breathy “good game?” They, not the Oregon players, should be disciplined.

But as the AP reported, the Oregon coach was not happy with his players’ chant.

“We are aware of the inappropriate behavior in the

postgame,” coach Mark Helfrich said in a statement released by Oregon. “This is not what our program stands for and the student-athletes will be disciplined internally.”

It’s good to see the Oregon squad is aware of a problem that some other players and schools (Like Winston and FSU) still don’t seem to get—No means no. And that tomahawk chant has always been racist and stupid too.

Let’s hope Helfrich’s internal discipline is just a minor slap on the wrist. Ten pushups and a lap or two around Mount Hood. Something innocuous.

And then let’s hope Mariota puts the exclamation point for Oregon, and for Hawaii, in the national championship game

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

**Call Rey-Cel Travel For The Lowest Fare To Manila. (808) 871-6251**



**Listen To KPMW The WILD 105.5 FM (808) 871-6251**

**Request call (808) 871-6933**

**Energetic young individual who can speak Ilocano and Tagalog (bilingual) to be a disk jockey of a radio station. Computer literate, radio experience, or will train. Fax resume to 808-871-5670.**



LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

# Don't Be A Victim of Immigration Scam

**F**ollowing President Obama's announcement of his immigration plan which includes protection from deportation for millions of immigrants, immigrant advocates warned against scammers who seek to profit from the program. Their modus operandi would be to promise immigrant families help in exchange for a fee.

The President's series of executive actions which include the Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) program and the expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is expected to grant deportation relief to approximately five million undocumented immigrants.

Under the DAPA program, "deferred action" is extended to qualified parents who have U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident children who have resided in the U.S. since January 1, 2010. The DACA program launched in 2012 is also expanded to cover undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children but did not qualify under the initial program because of their age. The expansion would allow more immigrants to qualify under the program.

Applicants will undergo a thorough background check. Beneficiaries of the program would also be granted work authorization,

The United State Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that the initiatives have not yet been implemented and that they are not yet accepting any requests or applications at this time.

The USCIS also warned against different scams such as telephone scams. Scammers, in

such instances, would pose as USCIS personnel or other government officials and request personal information such as Social Security number, passport number, identify false problems on the individual's immigration records and ask for payment to correct the records.

The agency also warned against advertisements in the internet, newspaper, radio and community bulletins offering immigration help. Many fall prey to unscrupulous individuals who pose as "Notario Publico" and offer legal services related to immigration. The USCIS stressed that notaries are not authorized to provide legal services relating to immigration. They are people appointed by state governments to witness the signing of an important document and administer oaths.

Some businesses may also advertise that they can "guarantee" a visa, green card, or employment authorization doc-

uments and can obtain it faster than when applying directly with the USCIS. They would charge a high fee.

Immigrant advocates advised that immigrants should seek information from legitimate legal service providers. They should seek reputable attorneys and Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accredited representatives working for BIA approved organizations. Heartland Alliance's Chicago-based National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) further recommended that they should also not sign any document or pay anyone at this time for legal services.

A total of 891 complaints for immigration services were reported last year according to the Federal Trade Commission. This number is up from the 746 complaints reported in the previous year but less than the reported 1,220 complaints in 2011.

Dan Kowalski, editor of Bender's Immigration Bul-

letin, believes that it is too early to hire anyone since the government is not expected to publish applications for three to six months. He said that "There is no application date, there's no form, there's no procedure. Anyone who pays a dime is gambling."

Individuals who qualify for the administrative relief may begin collecting necessary documents in preparation for the application process expected to start next year. Documents may include, among others, proof of identity, family relationship and presence in the US.

Immigrant families are warned that the wrong help would not only cost them money but would also hurt their chances of benefitting from the program.

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Noy Wants Papal Visit Security Improved

by Cecille Suerte Felipe  
Wednesday, January 8, 2015

**M**ANILA, Philippines - A few days before the arrival of Pope Francis in the country, President Aquino urged government officials and security personnel to further improve security preparations for the papal visit.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Manuel Roxas II yesterday said the President on Tuesday presided over a four-hour meeting on the security preparations, and Aquino "critiqued the plan for each part of the visit."

The President would like all 18 government agencies to further strengthen their security plans in the remaining days before the pope's arrival on Jan. 15.

Roxas gave assurance that the Philippine National Police (PNP) is prepared to secure the perimeter of the areas to be visited by the pope.



The PNP announced earlier that 25,000 policemen would be deployed in all areas where the pope would pass and stay.

The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) also started erecting concrete barriers along the stretch of Roxas Boulevard and other roads where Pope Francis would pass.

NCRPO chief Director Carmelo Valmorita said the concrete barriers would serve as the "first line of defense" against "troublemakers" and those too eager to get close to the pope.

The southbound section of Roxas Boulevard will be

closed on certain hours during the papal visit to give way to the papal entourage.

In a traffic advisory, the

Pasay City government yesterday said on Jan. 15, the southbound section of Roxas Boulevard will be closed from 4 p.m. until the papal entourage passes.

On Jan. 16 it will be closed from 1 p.m., on Jan. 17 from 8 a.m., and on Jan. 19 from 5 a.m. until the papal entourage passes.

The 125,000-strong military, meanwhile, will be on red alert starting on Saturday until Pope Francis leaves on Jan. 19.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Gregorio Catapang Jr. said the alert status entails the cancellation of leaves of soldiers.

The military would also tap 100 snipers to further secure the venues of the papal visit.

Roxas said ensuring the safety of all the devotees is part of the security preparations because millions of people are expected to see the pope. "So whatever the preparations in major activities such as the State of the Nation Address, this must be tripled with sev-

(continued on page 15)

## Build A Rock® Solid Future

LIFE • AUTO • ANNUITIES

Tel. 808-935-1948  
Ditas Guillermo Udani  
Premier Agent  
The Prudential Insurance Company  
of America  
CA State Lic#OD90884  
[www.freditas.udani@prudential.com](http://www.freditas.udani@prudential.com)



"I'll help you build your financial future on a strong foundation."

**Prudential Financial**  
Growing and Protecting Your Wealth

Insurance and annuities issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark NJ and its affiliates.  
"Availability varies by carrier by carrier and state."

0153198-00002-00 Exp. 12/2/10

PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



**DAYASADAS**  
By Pacita Saludes

# Nangayed Nga Selebrasion Ti Paskua Ti Naaramid Iti Philippine Consulate Nga Insagana Dagiti Grupo Ti Filipino Iti Hawaii

**R**abii ti Martes, Disiembre 16, 2014 ti dinto malipatan a panakaselebrar ti Pascua ti Philippine Consulate babaen ti panangisungung dagiti kadadakkelan a grupo ti Filipino iti Hawaii.

Ti Congress of Visayan Organisation - da May Misuno ken Hernando Tan, ti Oahu Filipino Community Council da Alex Vergara ken Richard Ancog, ni Maria Etrata ti United Filipino Council of

Hawaii, Chamber of Commerce in Hawaii ni Paul Alimbuyao ken Bernadette Fajardo ti nangidaulo nga nangpan-gayed daytoy nga selebrasion.

Technical Direktor - ABONG CALLANTA, Set Design and Execution Stagecraft - ROGER KAEMER ken KEVIN PAGADUAN, Sounds and Lights da MUSIC DRIVE ENTERTAINMENT ni LETH ULEP CALLANTA - Arts ken Digital Designs ni CHARLES P. IZUMOTO ket ti panangurnos ken dlreksion ti amin - ni LEO GOZAR.

Ti Congress of Visayan Or-

ganization, OFCC KEN UFCH ti nangisagana dagiti adu nga makan. Nadumaduma a luto Filipino ti naidasar agraman ti lechon baboy. Saan kano a kompleto ti pasken no awan ti lechon. Adu pay dagiti naidasar nga pagsasalipan a kankanta, salsala a nangparagsak iti rabii. Nakaawatda ti premio nga impaay ti Filipino Chamber of Hawaii. TI Philippine Consulate Coordinating Committee iti Hawaii ti nangisagana ti sibubukel nga programa a nangparagsak ti rabii.

Naidasar pay ti kaugalian idiyay Filipinas a Misa de Gallo,

dagiti nadumaduma a kanta ti Filipino, dagiti nadumaduma a pannakasangal ti maibitin a parol ti Paskua, baso a maisalsala ken panagkablawa a Mano po Ninong ken Ninang..

Naragsak unay ti programa babaen ti panangiwanwan ni Amelia Casamina Cabatu. Ni Padre Mario Raquepo manipud iti Stephen Parish ti nangmisa, paraibasa ni Mrs. Alikpala Ward a nangasisttir ti misa. Nagkumulgar dagiti amin nga adda a nakimisa ken babaen pay ti asisttir ni Padre Alex Vergara a presidente ti OFCC.

Nangngeg met ti kablaaw ni Consul General GINA JAMORALIN, ti kabbarbaro a

Konsul General iti Hawaii a nakikanunong ti napintas a program a naaramid.. Kararagsakan pay laeng a Paskua a naaramid iti Balay dagiti Filipino iti Hawaii daytoy a pasken. Agyamantayo kadagiti naanep a kameng ti Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee iti Hawaii, kasta met ti panagtutunos dagiti adda iti konsulado a kadua ni Consul GINA - da Joyleen Santos, Jeffrey de Mesa ken Teresita Canilao.

**NARAGSAK A PASKUAYO KEN NARAGSAK A BARO A TAWENYO AMI MANIPUD KADAKAMI!**

MAINLAND NEWS

## Filipina Named California State Teacher of the Year

**A** Philippine-born middle school teacher holds the distinction as the first Filipino to be presented with the California State Teacher of the Year Award.

Lovelyn Marquez-Prueher, an eighth grade English teacher at Dodson Middle School in the Los Angeles Unified School district, was recognized as an exemplary teacher who

best represents all of California's nearly 300,000 teachers and symbolizes the profession's contributions to quality education.

Marquez-Prueher received



Lovelyn Marquez-Prueher with Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools Arturo Delgado

the award along with four other 2015 California Teachers of the Year awardees who were described by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Toriackson as "incredibly dedicated teachers who devote their energy, passion and creativity to helping all their students achieve inside and outside the classroom."

"I intend on using what I learn about myself to understand the diversity and culture of every child that walks through my classroom door. Through this, I believe that I can ensure that all students learn to function effectively in today's diverse society," Marquez-Prueher says.

Marquez-Prueher admits encountering difficulties as an immigrant child coming from

the province of Cavite, south of Manila. She was bullied and even suspected of having a learning disability because she did not speak English well. She has since become a strong advocate for immigrants who need additional assistance in learning the English language. Marquez-Prueher says the award will help to open doors of opportunity to talk with parents, fellow teachers and students in California about overcoming such obstacles.

Dodson School Vice Principal Agnes Pitlik affirmed Marquez-Prueher as an "exemplary model for other teachers. She is a leader in promoting partnerships with parents and the community." ([www.good-newspilipinas.com](http://www.good-newspilipinas.com))

**philstar.com**  
The Filipino Global Community

*shines even brighter for the Filipino Global Community*

Join us as we journey into a new home!

Log on to [www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

# North Cotabato Praying for MJ's Miss Universe Win

by John Unson  
Tuesday, January 7, 2015

**K**IDAPAWAN City, Philippines - North Cotabato-born Binibining Pilipinas-Universe 2014 Mary Jean Lastimososa is now preparing for the 63rd Miss Universe pageant on January 25 in Miami, Florida.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmylou Taliño-Mendoza, a staunch benefactor of Lastimososa, on Wednesday said provincial officials, relatives and friends of the beauty queen are praying hard for her to take home the elusive Miss Universe crown.

"We are optimistic about it. She is intelligent, smart and beautiful and, most importantly, she's a very fine woman," Mendoza said.

Lastimososa, who is known in the province as "MJ," left for America last January 3.

Lastimososa was born and raised in North Cotabato's Tulunan town, some 20 kilometers southwest of the



provincial capital, Kidapawan City. Mendoza said the 27-year-old Lastimososa is now preparing for the January 25 pageant.

At least 86 other contestants from different countries will aspire for the Miss Universe crown.

In a farewell message emailed to

reporters, Lastimososa said she will do her best to win the crown.

"There is always an ideal timing for everything under heaven. If we fail, we can try and try to pursue our dreams," she said.

Lastimososa was crowned Binibining Pilipinas-Universe on Mar. 30, 2014, after two failed attempts to win the title in 2011 and in 2012.

Lastimososa said she is elated with the show of support from various sectors in North Cotabato.

"I wish to thank in advance those who are praying for me, praying hard for me to bring home the crown. I can't thank them all enough," she said.

Lastimososa said she is also grateful to the local leaders in Tulunan and to Mendoza for providing continuing assistance needed in her bid for the Miss Universe title.

The office of Mendoza sponsored the participation of Lastimososa in the 2014 Binibining Pilipinas pageant. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

(from page 13, **NOY WANTS....**)

eral government agencies involved."

"The challenge is not only for the PNP but for the entire country... It's a great job; it's a great challenge. And I know, and I'm confident, in what I have seen in the PNP, we'll live up and we'll be able to set up to that challenge," he added.

## PAL, AirAsia cancel flights

Since roads leading to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) will be temporarily closed and will affect airline operations during the papal visit, Philippine Airlines (PAL) and AirAsia yesterday announced the cancellation of over 160 domestic and international flights.

In an advisory, PAL said 142 flights or 71 roundtrip flights have been cancelled on Jan. 15 and 19 to give way to the arrival and departure ceremonies of Pope Francis at the NAIA.

On Jan. 15, PAL cancelled 62 flights or 31 roundtrip flights. Affected domestic destinations include Bacolod, Busuanga, Cagayan de Oro, Caticlan, Davao, Dumaguete, Laoag, Legazpi, Puerto Princesa, Surigao, Tacloban, Tagbilaran, Zamboanga and Cebu. Affected international routes include Hong Kong, Singapore, Kansai, Bangkok and Honolulu.

The airline also called off 80 flights or 40 roundtrip flights on Jan. 19. Affected domestic destinations include Bacolod, Basco, Busuanga, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Calbayog, Catarman, Caticlan, Davao, Iloilo, Kalibo, Legazpi, Naga, Ozamiz, Puerto Princesa, Roxas, Surigao, Tacloban, Tagbilaran, Zamboanga, Jolo and Cebu. Affected international routes include Hong Kong, Singapore, Haneda, Bangkok, Jakarta and Fukuoka.

Passengers are advised to visit the PAL website ([www.philippineairlines.com](http://www.philippineairlines.com)) or the PAL Facebook page to know the status of their flights.

Affected passengers may also call PAL Reservations (632-8558888) for rebooking or refund assistance. "Tickets may be rebooked for travel within 30 days from the original travel date without penalty, provided tickets are still valid. Tickets may be refunded without penalty. Rerouting will be allowed under certain conditions," PAL said in its advisory.

AirAsia, on the other hand, cancelled 24 domestic and international flights on Jan. 15, 17 and 19.

On Jan. 15, four international flights to Kuala Lumpur and Seoul as well as 10 domestic flights to Cebu, Tacloban, Kalibo, Tagbilaran and Kalibo were called off.

The low-cost carrier also cancelled six flights to and from Tacloban City on Jan. 17 as Pope Francis is scheduled to visit the province battered by Super Typhoon Yolanda in November 2013.

Four flights to Tagbilaran, Cebu and Kalibo on Jan. 19 were also cancelled as Pope Francis is scheduled to end his four-day visit to the Philippines.

AirAsia said affected passengers could opt for a refund or to move to the next available flights of the same route within 30 days from original departure; credit shell valid for 90 days.

Last Monday, Cebu Pacific and Tiger Airways Philippines also announced the cancellation of over 200 domestic and international flights from Jan. 15 to 19 due to the papal visit.

Operations of NAIA would be affected from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 15 due to the arrival of Pope Francis as well as from 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. of Jan. 17 when the pope departs to Tacloban City and from 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. when the Pope returns to Manila from Tacloban City.

The international gateway would also be disrupted from 6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. of Jan. 19 when Pope Francis ends his visit. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**THE BEST MLM OPPORTUNITY EVER!  
GREAT PRODUCTS GREAT COMPENSATION**  
Teamvelara.com/aquaman3 808-966-4675

**DENTAL ASSISTANT**  
Liliha/Kalihi, P/T w/ poss. F/T, experienced preferred, English, Tagalog, Ilokano spkg. Call 532-5888 or fax 528-3384

**NIPPON RESTAURANT**  
**Drivers Needed**

- Part or Full-time position
- Abstract Needed
- Apply at 420 Waiakamilo Rd. or call 842-3456

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**KAWAIIAE MARKET & DELI \$249,000**  
OWNER MOTIVATED. SKIES THE LIMIT WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THIS SUPERIOR RETAIL LOCATION TO INCREASE ALREADY PROFITABLE SALES.

Rebecca Kelihoomalau, R (B), SRS, GRI  
Senior Vice President of Sales  
INTERCONNECTED. LOCALLY FOCUSED. GLOBALLY AWARE.  
808-895-1156 rebecca@macarthurhawaii.com  
65-1279 Kawaihae Rd., Suite 104 Kamuela, HI 96743

**Comprehensive Eye Care**

- In Office Laser Treatment For Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma, "After Cataracts"
- In Office Eye Injections for Macular Degeneration and Diabetic Retinopathy
- Glaucoma Management
- "No Stitch" Cataract Surgery using Multifocal Intraocular Lenses
- Pterygium Surgery
- "No Stitch" Vitrectomy Surgery
- All Eye Emergencies

**PACIFIC EYE SURGERY CENTER, INC.**  
Kalihi Medical Building  
2055 N. King St., Suite 100  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
Tel: (808) 533-7400

**Pang Medical Building**  
94-871 Farrington Hwy, Unit 200  
Waiapahu, HI 96797  
Tel: (808) 677-7400

Participating With Most Insurances On-Site Lab Prescriptions Filled

**Help Wanted: LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE/GARDENER**

Experienced only - Previous Job References required  
Knowledge of Plants & Sprinklers  
Conscientious & Quality Oriented  
Ilocano/English speaking

- ✓ Excellent Benefits
- ✓ Paid Medical/Dental/Vision, Vacation, Holidays and Sick pay
- ✓ Starting pay : \$10/hr. no drivers license \$11/hr. with drivers license

**Call 721-6520**

We are Oahu's highest quality commercial janitorial service company and we want you to be part of our team!

Part-time janitorial workers for retail stores needed in the Royal Hawaiian, Ala Moana and Kahala area...

- ✓ Duties include but are not limited to cleaning of bathrooms empty trash, sweeping, vacuum and carrying cleaning supplies and equipment.
- ✓ Must be reliable and must be able to smile and care for our clients, no matter what mood you're in.
- ✓ Must be able to pass background check and drug test

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE SERVICES, LLC**  
1541 S. Beretania St., Ste 204  
Honolulu, HI 96826  
Work: (808) 983-1250 Mobile: (808) 208-3295  
Email: [service@bmsnationwide.com](mailto:service@bmsnationwide.com)

**Century 21** NILFA 'NIL' CATARAJA (RA)  
808.343.4036  
[think.give.1st@gmail.com](mailto:think.give.1st@gmail.com)

**Mga Kapamilya!**  
Gusto niyo na ba bumili at magkaroon ng sarili ninyong bahay?  
O baka naman mayroon na kayong sariling bahay at nagbabalak na ibenta?  
Ako si Nil, at makakatulong sa inyo upang maisakatuparan ang inyong nais.

**Mabuhay po tayong lahat!**

# Now Accepting Patients

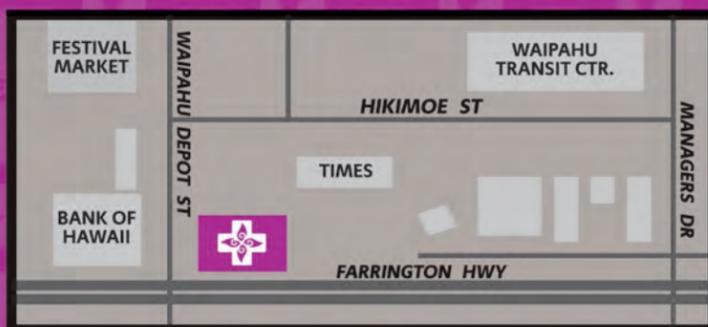


## 'EKAHI Urgent Care

'EKAHI Urgent Care is a new urgent care clinic serving the Waipahu Community to treat common non-life-threatening ailments such as flu, sore throat, ear infection, bronchitis, low back pain, stitches and fractures. The state-of-the-art clinic also offers lab tests, sports and school physicals, and X-ray services.



No Appointments Necessary, Come in Any Time



**Address**

94-229 Waipahu Depot St., Suite 101  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

**Hours of Operation**

Monday-Friday: 10am-8pm  
Saturday: 10am-6pm  
Sunday: 8am-4pm

**(808) 380-2727** [www.EkahiHealth.com](http://www.EkahiHealth.com)