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# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JULY 4, 2015 ◆

## FILIPINO SHOPPERS AND BUSINESSES ADJUST TO PLASTIC BAG BAN

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## EDITORIALS

## Adjusting to Ban on Plastic Bags

**T**he City & County of Honolulu has joined the growing list of municipalities in the U.S. and around the world in banning the use of plastic bags which scientists say is a scourge on the environment. When carelessly-discarded, these wind-driven bags can be seen everywhere on Oahu—on streets, sidewalks, fences, bushes and trees, where they are difficult to remove. For an island state like Hawaii, these single-use plastic bags are especially problematic since they end up in landfills and take an extremely long time to biodegrade—about 1,000 years, some scientists say. Perhaps worst of all, they end up in the ocean, where they entangle marine life and are mistaken for food by fish, turtles and birds. The rest break down into smaller pieces that pollute our oceans and the food chain.

A handful of shoppers were prepared well in advance for the new law, which took effect on July 1st. Most found the new law inconvenient but they complied and even purchased reusable cloth bags. And to many stores' credit, they initially offered customers steep discounts on reusable bags and thicker plastic bags allowed under the new law.

Realistically, it will take some time to adjust to life without plastic bags, especially for an entire generation raised on receiving plastic bags at the point of purchase. The plastic bags with their convenient handles are used for a myriad of purposes, such as packing school lunches, picking up pet waste and lining trash cans. The adjustment period, some researchers say, will take a minimum of 21 days—the amount of time needed for most people to form a new habit. A paltry three week period is well-worth it for the sake of a cleaner, safer environment. Hawaii has a strong tradition of caring for the 'aina and the new law is quite fitting for a state that prides itself on a healthy and happy population.

We have no doubt that Oahu residents can make do without plastic bags. Think of it as a small sacrifice that delivers big environmental benefits. Kudos to our beautiful City and residents who are willing to ditch the use of plastic bags. Our island home will be much better off without them.

## A Case For the Philippines' National Women's Soccer Team

**T**eam USA's 5-2 victory over Japan in the 2015 Women's World Cup of Soccer was seen by vast numbers of people across the globe. Even Filipino-Americans, whose sport of choice is most likely not soccer, had a reason to pause and cheer for Team USA. Other than the Olympic Games, few sports events can unite an entire country and illicit rapturous celebrations like the World Cup of Soccer can.

In the midst of the euphoria, the question really begs... why not the Philippines? If fellow Asian nation and 2011 Women's World Cup champion Japan can enjoy tremendous success in the world's most popular sport, why not the Philippines? Japan's national players were noticeably shorter than the U.S. team and other opponents, yet that has not stopped them one bit. Soccer does not belong to strongest, the tallest or heaviest—but to the swiftest and the most technically-sound. Ask Thailand's women's soccer team, which made its debut on the world stage. The Asian newcomers even managed to log a 3-

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**W**

e hope that you enjoyed a long and relaxing Fourth of July weekend! Summer is in full swing and it sure has been unbearably warm and humid the past few weeks.



Fortunately, forecasters say cooler weather is ahead.

Speaking of July, your shopping experience has been forever changed with a new City law prohibiting the use of plastic bags. In our cover story, the Chronicle interviewed several Filipino shoppers and businesses about their efforts to comply with this ban (see page 4 for "Plastic Bags No Longer Option for Oahu Shoppers"). If you purchased reusable cloth or other insulated bags, remember to wash and clean them regularly to prevent contamination, especially if you use them to hold raw meats, fruits and vegetables.

In other news, the rail project has been in the headlines lately, particularly the negative impact the construction work is having on businesses in Waipahu. The Honolulu Authority For Rapid Transit (HART) is offering free social media workshops for businesses to help them weather the impacts of construction. If you know of or work for a business along the rail line, I encourage you to attend this workshop set for Saturday, July 11th at the Filipino Community Center. Please turn to page 10 for more details on how to register for this event.

Last month, a bill was introduced in Congress that would award Filipino veterans of World War II with the Congressional Gold Medal for their service. The bipartisan measure has the full support of Hawaii's congressional delegation. Filipino veterans groups will lobby Congress in the coming months to approve the measure. Barring objections from select House and Senate members, supporters expect the bill to receive approval by late 2015 or early 2016.

Lastly, we have on page 9 a news feature by Dr. Raymund Liongson on the recent Rizal Youth Leadership Institute. The event brought together many young Filipinos who learned valuable leadership and life skills, along with a greater understanding of Dr. Jose Rizal, the Philippines' national hero, and the values that he espoused. A big mahalo to the many volunteers who made this event possible!

That's all for now. Please take some time to read the rest of this issue. As always, we are grateful for your continued support. If you would like to share a story idea, suggestion or concern, please email it to our staff at: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com).

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

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

2 win against Côte d'Ivoire of Africa.

In case you're wondering, the Philippines does in fact field a women's national soccer team—the Malditas (meaning "bad" or "rough" girls). The Malditas are a growing program which competes in several regional tournaments and championships, including the Asian Football Federation (AFF), the Southeast Asian Games and the Asian Football Conference (AFC). While basketball is the primary team sport of interest in the Philippines, soccer's popularity continues to grow each year.

In 2012, the Philippine Women's National Soccer Team made its first ever appearance on U.S. soil, participating in the LA Viking Cup held in Southern California and representing the AFC. The Malditas won the tournament by defeating the California Cosmos in a penalty shootout. The team finished the tournament with three wins and one draw—an impressive

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

# HED: Same-Sex Win a Personal Victory in My Family

**M**y cousin Pauline lives with her wife and daughter in Honolulu.

I thought of her when I saw Jim Obergefell, the lead plaintiff in the historic case that made same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states. He was riding high as the honored guest at the recent SF Pride parade.

The celebratory weekend began early for Obergefell the previous Friday when the Supreme Court delivered its historic 5-4 decision. It was punctuated by a congratulatory call from President Obama.

"Not only have you been a great example for people," the president said to Obergefell, "but you also brought about a

lasting change in this country, and that's pretty rare when that happens."

Let's hope it lasts. Obergefell challenged Ohio's same-sex marriage ban and went to Maryland to get married. But when he returned to his home state, Ohio still didn't honor his marriage.

The Supreme Court fixed that by saying that the right to marry applies everywhere in the U.S.

Justice Anthony Kennedy's ruling on same-sex marriage made reference to *Loving v. Virginia*--the 1967 ruling that lifted all bans on interracial marriage. It played a key part in his decision.

"A first premise of the Court's relevant precedents is that the right to personal choice regarding marriage is inherent in the concept of individual autonomy," Kennedy said. "This

abiding connection between marriage and liberty is why *Loving* invalidated interracial marriage bans under the Due Process Clause."

The other half of the argument was based on the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

But it was the liberty argument that sealed the deal.

NYU Law professor Kenji Yoshino called it one of the things that was really clever about the Kennedy opinion.

"He could have gone on equality grounds, but he primarily rested on liberty grounds," said Yoshino to CNN's Anderson Cooper. "If you go on equality grounds, you can either level up or level down. You can say we're not issuing marriage licenses to anyone, or we're issuing them to everyone. Once you say there's a fundamental right, as Kennedy did in his majority opinion, you can't level down anymore."

Yoshino said challenges to

the ruling were unlikely to prevail, and that calls for constitutional amendments were "utopian arguments." He also said that proposed statutes to protect religion from its conflicts with gay marriage won't work either, given the precedent established by Kennedy's decision.

In many ways, the plight of Obergefell was not much different from that of Asian Americans at the turn of the 20th century, when anti-miscegenation laws were bigoted responses to prevent marriage to whites. These laws forced many Asian Americans to cross state lines to marry. It wasn't until 1967 that the *Loving* case made interracial marriage legal in all 50 states.

Just as the old laws on race and marriage wreaked havoc on the personal histories of my extended Filipino family, my cousin Pauline experienced the history of same-sex marriage firsthand.

In 2003, Pauline "married"

her spouse, Jill Togawa, in San Francisco, when civil unions were seen as the solution of the day. Was it a wedding? It sure looked like it to me.

It was the height of the really bigoted rhetoric about same-sex marriage.

As a public service, I suggested that people go to a gay or lesbian wedding to understand what it was all about.

In 2003, I wrote in the *San Francisco Chronicle*: "If you're blessed to experience one, as I was to attend my cousin Pauline's, all you notice is the love. And then you can see for yourself how hateful, intolerant and discriminatory this madness over marriage really is."

But Pauline wasn't done.

In 2004 in San Francisco, then-Mayor Gavin Newsom took a stand, and despite little support from national political groups--gay or straight--the city allowed legal marriages to take place. Pauline and Jill got married again.

(continued on page 5)

**EDITORIALS** (from page 2. A CASE...)

feat considering that the players trained together for the tournament for less than two weeks.

In 2013, the Philippine women's national team was ranked 83rd in the world and made a big push to recruit more Filipino-Canadian and Filipino-American players. In 2014, the Philippines narrowly missed out on qualifying for the AFC Women's Asian Cup, a bi-annual competition in women's soccer for the region. The Philippines lost to Thailand by a single goal despite convincing wins over opponents Iran and Bangladesh. Later that year, the team hired a new female coach, the first ever in team history, and shifted its focus to recruiting more Philippine collegiate soccer all-stars. The early results appear to be positive.

The Malditas' most recent tournament was the 2015 AFF Women's Championship held in May 1-10, 2015 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The Philippines was among eight teams that competed for the title. The Malditas

beat Malaysia 3-0 in their first match but lost their next two against Myanmar and Vietnam.

While the results may not be as desired, it's at the very least a step in the right direction. For the Philippines' women's soccer program to continue growing, more government-funded youth soccer programs for girls need to be established at the elementary grade school level and continue throughout junior high and high school. One thing about soccer is that it doesn't take much money to play—just a soccer ball, a grass field and two make shift goals. The sport has flourished in even the most impoverished communities where many youth spend much of their time honing their skills.

The collective goal is for the Philippines to one day field a team in a future World Cup Tournament. So why not the Philippines? With a little luck, a lot of hard work and enough government as well as private support, the dream may just come true for the Malditas and fans of Filipino soccer.

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## COVER STORY

# Plastic Bags No Longer Option for Oahu Shoppers

By Dennis Galolo

**S**ingle-use, flimsy plastic bags are out. Reusable, paper and compostable bags are in.

Ready or not, that's what shoppers like Carolina Muraoka faced on July 1st when a new City law took effect that banned plastic bags at the point of sale.

Fortunately, Muraoka came prepared when shopping for groceries at Times Supermarket in Mililani.

"I remembered to bring my reusable bags with me so I can't complain," she says. "I reminded my husband to always keep at least two of them in the car."

The ban makes exceptions for plastic bags used to pack loose items like meat, fish, fresh produce, prepared foods and bakery goods (from food trucks and restaurants), laundry, dry cleaning and even newspapers.

The law also allows retailers and businesses to issue three types of checkout bags—compostable plastic bags, recyclable paper bag and reusable bags made of cloth or a durable material, including plastic that is at least 2.25 millimeters thick. All approved plastic bags must carry the "compostable"

logo approved by the Biodegradable Products Institute.

Times Supermarket gave Muraoka a thicker plastic bag to carry the meat and fresh produce that she purchased. For her, the little inconvenience is well worth it.

"I support the ban because it is better for the environment," she says. "Just remember to clean your reusable bag after using it to prevent contamination, especially if you use it to carry meats."

The transition has also been smooth for Waipahu resident Rachel Vitoria. Her family began preparing for new law weeks ago and kept several reusable bags in their cars. The only one who misses the plastic bag is her grandmother.

"It's taken my grandmother a little longer to adjust to not having any plastic bags. She loves the plastic bags for other uses around the house," Vitoria says.

## Added Costs For Businesses

At Pacific Supermarket in Waipahu, which is frequented by many Filipinos, manager Phil Tran noticed that some customers were bringing their own shopping bags a few days before the new law took effect. The supermarket initially provided unprepared shoppers with a reusable bag.

"For now, we won't charge them but we might start charging for it later," says Tran, who notes that the new reusable bag that Pacific Supermarket offered to customers costs 10 times more than the previous plastic bags.

Tran expects his customers to eventually adjust to the new law.

"I don't think that it will be a problem, but it will take time for shoppers to get into the habit of bringing their own bags with them," he says.

On July 1st, Jimmy's Produce & Seafood Market cashier Ella Isidro says the vast majority of customers were either unaware of the new law or simply forgot to bring a reusable bag.

"Only 1 or 2 of them brought their own bags," says Isidro, who has worked at Jimmy's for 10 years. "The owner decided to provide them with free paper bags for the first day. I don't know how long we will keep doing that because paper is much more



Filipino shoppers at Pacific Supermarket in Waipahu pack their own groceries using recyclable cloth bags.

expensive."

At Kalihi Super Meats, employees began informing customers a month ago that plastic bags would no longer be provided. A cashier who identified herself as Linelle says customers were for the most part unhappy and grumbled about how they would carry their purchases.

"I think it's good for the environment but not for our customers because they are so used to being given plastic bags," she says. "I hope that we don't end up having fewer customers as a result."

Foodland Supermarket will give customers a 5 cents credit or three Hawaiian Airlines mileage awards for every reusable bag they used. For shoppers who forget to bring reusable bags, Foodland's courtesy clerks will offer to help carry groceries to their cars—and still give the Hawaiian miles.

## Customers' Reaction

Waipahu resident Rose Sa-

bangan says she and her husband Al began stockpiling plastic bags when they first heard about the ban.

"I tried to save them as much as possible when we came home from shopping," she says. "Now I have quite a bit. I like them because we also use it to line the small trash cans in the house."

Sabangan noticed that Times Supermarket in Waipahu began informing customers about the plastic bag ban over a month ago. The cashiers offered her a reusable bag for a \$1.50 each but she declined. She already has several insulated bags that she will take along when grocery shopping.

"It will be like the old days in the Philippines when we used to bring our own bags to the market in the provinces to carry our goods," she says.

Sabangan says she will miss the handy plastic bags but will eventually get used to not having them available.

"I may have to use news-

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Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, PLASTIC ....)

paper instead to line our trash cans," she says.

Makakilo resident Franco Lagat was aware of the ban but did not know about the July 1st effective date. He expects to buy a reusable bag from Walmart, Kmart and other stores that he frequently shops at.

Lagat says that he may end up limiting the number of items he purchases while shopping, depending on the size of the reusable bag he purchases.

"If I do forget to bring my reusable bag or the bag is not large enough, I might end up buying more," he says. "Overall, I think the new law is more eco-friendly and we would end up seeing less litter on the streets."

**A Look Back**

The ubiquitous plastic bag has a relatively short history. It was invented in Sweden in 1962 and introduced in the U.S. in 1976. Many stores and retailers pushed for plastic because it was cheaper and took up less space than paper bags.

Not long after their introduction in supermarket stores, environmental groups began raising concerns about plastic bags' detrimental effects. Like most plastics, plastic bags are made from oil and natural gas, which have significant environmental impacts during production. Furthermore, its lightweight makes plastic bags easy to fly out of garbage bins and trucks, littering streets, entire communities and waterways.

According to the scientific community, plastic bags are a serious threat, particularly to marine life, which often mis-



take the bags for food and ingest them.

Mark Hixon, a marine biology professor at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, was among those who testified in support of Bill 38 CD2, which specifically prohibits biodegradable plastic bags from use. Hixon has personally witnessed the widespread distribution of plastic waste in the ocean and its horribly negative effects on sea life.

"Plastic grocery bags are among the worst of plastic debris," Hixon said in written testimony to the City Council. "Larger pieces of plastic bag are eaten by and choke sea turtles, and smaller pieces are eaten by and cause starvation of sea birds. Other sea life, including seafood species, are also negatively affected."

Fellow UH scientist and astrophysicist Paul Coleman also testified in support of the ban. He compared plastic materials to a "great sponge" that carries harmful or toxic chemicals.

"Very few people realize that as a plastic bag deteriorates, it simply breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic and eventu-

ally animals ingest the plastic which has no food value," he stated in written testimony. "It has been long known that these toxic chemicals will eventually make their way up the food chain and end up in our diet."

Bill 38 CD2 was adopted by the Council in September 2014 and signed into law a few weeks later by Mayor Kirk Caldwell. At his press conference, the mayor recounted moments when plastic bags would entangle his arms while swimming in the waters off Ala Moana Beach Park.

"The entire island is going to be plastic free and I think that's really important because we're surrounded by water and these bags are blowing every-

where," he told the media.

**Behind the Times?**

Oahu is the last county in the state to ban plastic bags. Big Island and Kauai counties banned the use of plastic bags in 2011, with Maui following suit in 2013.

In 2007, San Francisco became the first city in the U.S. to ban plastic bags and impose a 10-cent fee on paper bags. Just last year, Los Angeles became the largest city in the nation to ban plastic bags.

Even the Philippines' capital city of Manila banned plastic bags in 2011 under the Total Plastic Bag Ban Act which was championed by Senator Loren Legarda, a dedicated environmentalist. Violators face fines ranging from P500 to P5,000, imprisonment from one to three months and revocation of business permits.

As of last year, a reported 15 Manila municipalities have complied with the ban, with Mandaluyong City being the latest.

"Plastic bags end up as litter as it makes its way to landfills, drainages and bodies of water, taking decades to decompose and damaging marine

life when dumped in the sea," Sen. Lagarda said in a media statement. "This issue of pollution is further aggravated by natural hazards, which have become unpredictable due to climate change."

Muraoka remembers how plastic bags cluttered the streets of Manila when she was a student at the University of the East.

"There was so much litter from plastic bags on the streets and in the Pasig River," she says. "Plastic bags were often the cause of floods because people threw them into the river and everywhere else instead of the proper receptacle."

Waikiki resident Keinn Pagulayan is "all-in" on the plastic bag ban. A frequent shopper at stores like Don Quijote, Foodland, Times, Pacific Supermarket and Walmart, Pagulayan brings her own reusable bag and is more than happy to buy additional bags if need be.

"It may be inconvenient for some shoppers but in my opinion, banning plastic bags will go a long way towards helping to save Mother Nature," Pagulayan says.

**CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 3, HED: SAME-SEX....)**

In 2008, when California recognized the right to marry, Pauline and Jill married a third time.

But then they moved to Hawaii, where marriage was illegal.

In 2010, Pauline and Jill decided to become one of the plaintiffs to challenge Hawaii's law. But that was derailed when the legislature acted and same-sex marriage was ultimately made legal in 2013.

When the Supreme Court

decided the Obergefell case, it was still early in the morning.

"I just felt a sense of peace," she told me from Honolulu when I called to congratulate her.

Love wins. To my family, it's more than a hashtag.

**EMIL GUILLERMO** served on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser. An award winning journalist, he was the first Filipino to host a national news program when he hosted NPR's "All Things Considered." He lives in Northern California.

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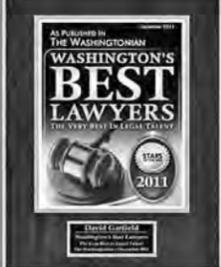
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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## State Adds New Services to Assist Condo Owners

The State Department of Commerce and Commerce Affairs' Real Estate Commission (REC) has launched two new services to help Hawaii condominium owners.

The REC created a new email subscription list for unit owners and the public to provide greater access and wider distribution to relevant educational materials. REC plans to send out materials such as a quarterly condominium bulletin and information on changes to the condominium law, and other useful information through this email list. REC may also end out occasional surveys to gather information on condominium interests and issues.

Currently, information is provided only to the designated contact person listed on the association's biennial reg-

istration form.

"With more and more Hawaii residents buying and moving into condominiums every year, we are taking steps to make sure people who own, live and manage condominiums have the information they need in a form that's easier to access." Says Neil Fujitani, REC's supervising executive officer.

Interested parties may subscribe to the REC email list by visiting: [cca.hawaii.gov/reb/subscribe/](http://cca.hawaii.gov/reb/subscribe/).

Secondly, REC is promoting the start of its evaluative mediation service as a means of dispute resolution for condominium owners. The addition of evaluative mediation gives condominium owners a stronger tool for resolving disputes, while supporting the underlying philosophy of the



Hawaii condominium law, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 514B, of self-enforcement by the condominium owners.

Evaluative mediation is a style of mediation that employs trained mediators who possess subject matter expertise in condominium, construction or contract law and other areas. Mediators are familiar with relevant case law and may make recommendations regarding the strength of each party's position and the likelihood of either party prevailing

in court or in an administrative hearing. The evaluative mediators facilitate discussion between the parties and assist in the parties' attempts to reach an agreement. Many of the practitioners of evaluative mediation are active attorneys and retired judges.

Evaluative mediation is open to any condominium owner of a registered condominium association. REC has entered into agreements with four providers of evaluative mediation:

- The Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc.
- Dispute Prevention and Resolution, Inc.
- Crumpton Collaborative Solutions, LLC
- Lou Chang, Esq., A Law Corporation

All four providers have extensive experience in mediation and arbitration. The cost

to users, except for a one hour payment by all parties, is subsidized by funds from the Condominium Education Trust Fund. The maximum amount per mediation is set at \$3,000 unless the mediator determines the parties would benefit with additional mediation time. Under this program, each party would be responsible for the first hour of mediation, which is \$375.

"The evaluative approach to mediation provides a mediator with enhanced tools to help the parties reach a resolution," says Fujitani. "Evaluative mediators may be chosen for their skills as a mediator, as well as for their knowledge of the relevant case law, and subject matter expertise of the laws governing condominium associations."

To contact the REC, call 586-2643.

## State DOH Launches New Crisis Prevention Hotline

To address suicide and other personal crises, the State Department of Health's Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) launched the new Crisis Line of Hawaii beginning July 1, 2015.

The Crisis Line of Hawaii is a "warm line" which is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days

a week, thanks to funding for two additional full-time equivalent positions. AMHD officials also use call-in staff to ensure around the clock phone coverage.

"This new phone line is strictly dedicated to helping individuals who are facing crises," says Steven Balcom, AMHD's crisis/residential

treatment services coordinator. "This reflects our renewed focus on our program's primary mission of providing crisis support to the community."

The Crisis Line is in addition to the State's ACCESS Line, which was launched in 2002 to provide phone counseling and guidance for those seeking access to State-funded mental health services.

According to DOH statis-



tics, suicide is the most common cause of fatal injuries among residents, outpacing car crashes, homicide, poison-

ing and drowning. It is estimated that one suicide is committed every two days in Hawaii. Of the 75,000 calls received by the ACCESS Line last year, about 20 percent were related to crisis intervention.

The number to the Crisis Line is 832-3100 for Oahu residents and 1-800-753-6879 for neighbor island residents. To find out if you are eligible for government-sponsored mental health services, call 643-AMHD.

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## Rail Gets \$250 Million in Federal Funds

Honolulu's \$5.4 billion fixed rail project continues to enjoy the support of Hawaii's congressional delegation, which successfully secured an additional \$250 million in federal appropriations for its construction.

Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives appropriations committees included the funding in both of their Fiscal Year 2016 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bills.

The U.S. House passed its

FY 2016 transportation appropriations bill earlier this month, while the Senate bill was reported from the Senate Committee on Appropriations on June 25.

The new installment of \$250 million for Fiscal Year 2016 would be part of the Honolulu rail project's \$1.55 billion in federal New Starts funding. If approved, it will be added to the \$1.056 billion in New Starts funding committed or collected to date, for a total of \$1.306 billion.

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, a member of the U.S. Senate Transportation Appropriations

Subcommittee, called the funding amount an "important step" and promised to do all he could to make sure the project has the funding it needs to stay on track.

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell thanked members of Hawaii's congressional delegation for their support.

"With the GET extension and our congressional delegation's commitment to fulfilling the full funding grant agreement, the rail project will have the funding it needs to complete the East Kapolei to Ala Moana line," Caldwell says.

LEGAL GUIDE

# Famous Cases Make Bad Law – Like Legalizing Same Sex Marriage



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon



What makes you so angry? I asked my health care provider during my annual health and wellness exam. “The Supreme Court decision upholding Obamacare subsidies,” I answered. And “what makes you very angry?” “The Supreme Court decision legalizing same sex marriage.”

Every morning after checking the obituaries to be sure I have not been reported as dead, I go to the website of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) to read the latest opinions. The two worst decisions during this term are: the opinions legalizing same sex marriage and upholding Obamacare subsidies. They are a bundle of misinterpretations and contradictions.

In this article, we will talk about the same sex marriage decision (*Obergefell v*

*Hodges*, No. 14-556, USSC, 06/26/2015, [http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/14-556\\_3204.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/14-556_3204.pdf)).

The majority opinion (5-4), penned by Justice Kennedy legalizing same sex marriage is anchored on the Fourteenth Amendment. He said: “The Fourteenth Amendment requires a State to license a marriage between two people of the same sex.”

The Fourteenth Amendment provides: “Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

Even with the aid of a high powered microscope, no one will find the word “marriage” or “sex” in the Fourteenth Amendment

which was intended to protect former slaves by conferring upon them American citizenship and prohibiting states from denying them the privileges and immunities of citizens or depriving them of life, liberty, or property, become the basis for justifying same sex marriage when neither sex nor marriage was in the mind of the framers of the Amendment?

The majority further said that “the Court has long held the right to marry is protected by the Constitution” and that “the right to marry is a fundamental right inherent in the liberty of the person.” Really? Eleven days earlier, on June 15, 2015, the Supreme Court rejected in *Kerry v Din*, a U.S. citizen’s claim that she had a “liberty interest in her marriage” and a “liberty interest in being reunited with one’s spouse,” and should be entitled to due process protections against the denial of a visa to her husband. The Court in *Kerry* said that *Din*’s claim that the denial of a visa to her husband “deprived her of liberty is equally absurd,” because there is no “free-floating and categorical interest in

marriage . . . sufficient to trigger constitutional protection.” Since *Obergefell* did not overrule *Kerry v Din*, how can this contradiction on whether there is a “liberty” interest in marriage be reconciled?

Just two years ago, on June 26, 2013, the same five-justice majority led by Justice Kennedy who penned *Obergefell*, held in *United States v. Windsor*, No. 12-307, USSC, 06/26/13, that “By history and tradition the definition and regulation of marriage has been treated as being within the authority and realm of the separate States.” For “when the Constitution was adopted the common understanding was that the domestic relations of husband and wife and parent and child were matters reserved to the States,” but the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) enacted by the U.S. Congress which defined “marriage” and “spouse” as excluding same-sex partners “rejects this long-established precept.”

So why did not the majority in *Obergefell* defer to the states’ definition of marriage? Why did it take it upon itself to usurp the states’ function by prescribing its own definition of “marriage” and ordering all 50 states to follow it? As Chief Justice Roberts

said in his dissent, “The fundamental right to marry does not include a right to make a State change its definition of marriage. . . Today, however, the Court takes the extraordinary step of ordering every State to license and recognize same-sex marriage.” “for those who believe in a government of laws, not of men, the majority’s approach is deeply disheartening. . . . Five lawyers have . . . enacted their own vision of marriage as a matter of constitutional law.” He accused the majority of “Stealing this issue from the people”. He pointed out that “The right it announces has no basis in the Constitution or this Court’s precedent.” The majority relies “on its desire to remake society according to its own “new insight” into the “nature of injustice,” and “invalidates the marriage laws of more than half the States and orders the transformation of a social institution that has formed the basis of human society for millennia.” He expressed serious concern about “allowing unelected federal judges to select which unenumerated rights rank as ‘fundamental’ – and to strike down state laws on the basis of that determination.” “Just who do it?”

(continued on page 11)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Rare ‘Corpse Plant’ Set to Bloom at Foster Botanical Garden

The world’s largest flower and one of the smelliest is expected to bloom soon at Foster Botanical Garden.

The Titan Arum or *Amorphophallus titanum* is native to Indonesia, the Philippines and other islands of the South Pacific. The flower of the Titan Arum is about 5’9” tall but can grow to heights of over 10 feet. It is also known as the “corpse plant” for its distinctive aroma when in full bloom.

The plant blooms sporadically and flowers only for a few days. It consists of a fragrant spadix (spike) of small

flowers, which resembles a large loaf of French bread. The spadix is wrapped by a spathe, which looks like a large petal and is green on the outside and dark burgundy red on the inside.

The plant is pollinated by carrion eating beetles and flesh flies. In order to attract pollinators, Titan arum uses several tricks to convincingly mimic a rotting piece of meat. The flower’s deep red color and texture, along with the powerful scent contribute to the illusion.

Analyses of chemicals released by the spadix shows the fragrance includes di-

methyl trisulfide (found in limburger cheese), trimethylamine (found in rotting fish), and isovaleric acid (found in sweaty socks).

To keep track of the progress of the Titan Arum plant, please visit and “like” Foster Botanical Garden on Facebook or visit [honolulu.gov/parks](http://honolulu.gov/parks).

To get a close-up look at the Titan Arum, drop by Foster Botanical Gardens, located at 50 North Vineyard Boulevard. The garden is open from 9 am to 4 pm seven days a week. For more information, call 343-9181.



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# Visiting China—the Middle Kingdom

By Jo Farina

**O**ur very own Eddie Flores, in his capacity as president of the Hawaii Chinese Chamber of Commerce, initiated and organized a trade, cultural and goodwill tour of China. Our group consisted of 110 travelers, including the Narcissus Queen and her court.

We left Honolulu on June 2, 2015 on an 11-hour flight and were greeted by a welcoming committee upon arriving in Beijing. We started our exploration by visiting Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. As soon as we got off our tour bus, it began to rain. Conveniently, vendors popped out like mushrooms peddling umbrellas, ponchos and cell phone selfie sticks.

Many tourists were convinced to buy these wares to protect them from the elements, since the weather was unpredictable. Tiananmen Square is located at the center of Beijing City. There you can visit the Tiananmen Tower, Monument to the People's Heroes, Great Hall of the People, Chairman Mao Zedong Memorial Hall and see the national flag raising ceremony. Visitors by the thousands visit the Square each day, which is said to be the most important place to visit in Beijing City.

## The Temple of Heaven

The next morning, we visited the Temple of Heaven—a cultural museum and an important window through which we can learn about China's history. Upon entering, a feeling of solemnity, holiness, respect and silence wells up in your mind. Most people believe that looking at the beautiful sacrificial altar will purify their souls and thoughts.

The five architecture groups in the Temple are given respective features, while the magnificent Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests is the major symbol. The temple is divided by two enclosed walls into the

inner altar and outer altar. To better symbolize heaven and earth, the northern part of the temple is circular while the southern part is square, which reflect the ancient Chinese belief that heaven is round and earth is square.

Located in the northern part of the temple is the Altar of Prayer for Good Harvests, where the animals were sacrificed and incensed burn to pray for a bountiful harvest, while in the southern part ceremonies were held at the Circular Mound Altar for worshipping the heavens. Additionally, in the temple are the Hall of Abstinence where emperors held fasts before the ceremony, and the Divine Music Hall, which is an imperial organization in charge of performances during the ceremonies.

## The Great Wall

After lunch, we enjoyed the Hutong Cultural Tour via a rickshaw or wheeled passenger cart, which gave us a glimpse of old Beijing. The traditional lifestyle has been well-preserved in the oldest neighborhoods of the city—the Hutongs, which are mazes of narrow alleyways and old traditional courtyard houses. Many of these structures still survive today and are pleasant to walk or bike and take pictures with old folks for a token fee.

Next was our excursion to the Great Wall of China—the world's longest wall and largest surviving piece of ancient architecture. To have climbed the wall is a great feat and not many can complete it. The Jiankou section of the Great Wall, known for being steep and winding, enjoys the most frequent appearance on picture books and postcards. The most famous section of the Great Wall, Badaling, had been visited by over 300 heads of state and VIPs from around the world, the first of which was Soviet statesman Klim Voroshilov in 1957.

We were transferred via



Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing

coach to Tianjin, a major port city in northeastern China. Its name means “the place where the emperor crossed the river.” The land where Tianjin is located today was created by sedimentation of various rivers entering the sea at Bohai Gulf, including the Yellow River. European-style houses, municipal buildings and churches in Wudadao (Five Great Avenues), and the surrounding historic districts are legacies of that period. We visited the Tianjin Italian style town, Ceramic House Museum and Jinyuan (Last Emperor's mansion).

Our tour guide squeezed in a trip to Beijing Olympic Park where the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games took place. At the centerpiece of this park is the National Stadium which totals 2,195,838 square feet and can hold 91,000 people. The stadium is shaped like a bird's nest, symbolizing a cradle of life and mankind's hope for the future. Later in the evening, we enjoyed a night cruise tour on the Haihe River.

After breakfast the next day, we were taken to Yangliuqing Village which is famous for its UNESCO-listed Farmer's Painting Museum. After lunch, we flew to Shanghai and checked into the Radisson Blu New World Hotel.

## Shanghai and Beyond

On our first morning, we visited the Shanghai Museum, which is considered one of China's first world-class modern museums. Eleven galleries spread over four floors offer a

historical tour of the Middle Kingdom and ancient Chinese art dating from as far back as 20 centuries B.C.E. We enjoyed the gallery of various costumes worn by men and women in the late 18th century. Surprisingly, we noticed some similarities of costumes worn by our own men and women in the Cordilleras.

Later that day, we toured Yuyuan Garden in old Shanghai and took in the ambience of a famous classical Chinese garden located in Anren Jie in the south district of Shanghai City. We also visited a silk spinning factory, where we were shown live silkworms eating specific mulberry leaves for them to produce the most excellent silk threads for use in the finest fabrics. We were ushered into a shop within the facility where we bought silk material like bedspreads, bedsheets and pillow cases which were packed airtight for easy handling.

After a Shanghai dim sum dinner at the famous Old Green Wave Restaurant, we strolled along the Bund, viewing the beautifully-decorated colonial buildings along the Huangpu River. At night, all buildings (ancient or modern) are lit up in different colors, giving an ambience of progress and happiness.

The following day, we explored Xintiandi in Downtown Shanghai. Designed by MIT architect Ben Wood, Xintiandi is a \$200 million two-block “entertainment environment” stuffed with modern restaurants, clubs, cafes and bou-

tiques accessorized with old bricks, stone gates and ornately-carved wooden balconies from old courtyard houses. Xintiandi proved so successful a model for urban redevelopment that it spawned dozens of duplicates across the country. In the evening, we enjoyed a jaw-dropping Shanghai Acrobatic Show.

The morning after the acrobatic show, we experienced Shanghai's bullet train better known as the Shanghai Transrapid which reaches a top speed of 431 kmph (268 mph). The line is the first commercially-operated high-speed magnetic levitation line in the world and runs from Longyang Road station in Pudong to Pudong International Airport.

Next, we were taken to Suzhou, where we visited Pingjiang Old Street along the Grand Canal and the Humble Administrator Garden before driving to Wuzhen—one of six famous ancient water towns south of the Yangtze River. Wuzhen is within the triangle formed by three top tourist cities: Shanghai, Hangzhou and Suzhou.

Despite Wuzhen's commercial atmosphere, the charm and the elegance of this ancient water town were undeniable. An unexpected loveliness emanates from this Southern water town—from its stone bridges and placid canals, its faded wood buildings and casual life rhythms, to its inviting storefronts and diverting quaintness. A few days in this Venice-like resort provided the perfect end to our China experience as we wandered, explored and enjoyed the many delights.

In summary, our trip to China exceeded all expectations. Traveling abroad allows you to experience first-hand about other cultures. Traveling allows you to learn invaluable lessons, grow into a more responsible and mature person and, create priceless memories. And when returning home, you bring a deeper, more balanced perspective of the world we live in.

NEWS FEATURE

# Rizal Youth Leadership Institute: A Leadership Seminar “By the Youth, For the Youth”

By Raymund Ll. Liongson, Ph.D.

**A**bout 50 youth from different public high schools and campuses of the University of Hawaii on Oahu gathered for the Rizal Youth Leadership Institute (RYLI) on June 27 at Leeward Community College. The one-day youth seminar was organized by the Rizalian Youth Council of Hawaii, in collaboration with the UH-Leeward Philippine Studies program and the Knights of Rizal.

“By the youth, for the youth”

“I enjoyed the activities very much,” wrote one participant in the evaluations, taking note of the fun, fellowship and learning that was shared during the day. RYLI included different engaging activities that taught the participants leadership skills like goal-setting, communication, teamwork, networking, problem solving, trust, and social responsibility.

This year’s RYLI is described as “a youth leadership seminar of the youth, by the youth, and for the youth.” The activities were planned, prepared and facilitated by members of the Rizalian Youth Council of Hawaii.

In addition to the lively and spirited activities, plenary speakers were invited to talk on certain topics. Philippine Consul General Gina Jamoralin spoke on “Rizalian Vision: The Youth as the Hope of the Future.” In her talk, she echoed the challenge of the national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, for the young people to continue to strive for a better society and future.

Dr. Serafin Colmenares,

Deputy Regional Commander of the Knights of Rizal in the United States, gave a very enlightening talk on “Rizalian Ideals: A Framework in Youth Leadership Development.” Colmenares drew lessons from the life and works of Rizal and cogently organized them as a framework for good leadership.

Dr. Mark Silliman, Director of the Early College Program at Waipahu High School, talked on “Education, Leadership and the Future.” Armed with graphs and statistics, Silliman demonstrated the value of higher education and its social and economic impacts.

This year’s Rizal Youth Leadership Institute was made possible with the support of the following sponsors: The Aikea Movement and UNITE HERE Local 5 (Platinum); GeoPolicy Development Group through Tobi Solidum (Gold); Edmund Aczon, Edilberto Agas, Sr., Arnold Villafuerte, Ben Sanchez & Cora Nelson (Silver); and Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Mario Palma, and Gerhart Walch (Bronze).

### Rizalian Youth Council

The RYC was formed on January 29, 2015 at Waipahu High School by Dr. Raymund Liongson, Philippine Studies professor at UH-Leeward CC and Area Commander of the Knights of Rizal (Western USA-Hawaii). The youth group is also known in its Filipino name as Kabataang Pangarap ni Rizal (KAPARIZ). The charter members were students in the Early College Program, a joint educational program of the U.S. and Hawaii Department of Edu-



cation and the University of Hawaii, where secondary school students have the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school. Organizing the students into this association was to ensure continuing learning, collaboration, youth development and leadership training among the students even beyond the academic calendar.

1. to promote among the youth the ideals, principles and virtues of the Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal;
2. to instill among the youth the appreciation of Philippine history, heritage, culture and arts;
3. to develop leadership, civic mindedness and social responsibility among the youth; and
4. to create avenues for the expression and development of youth creativity, talents and skills.

The charter officers of the Rizalian Youth Council were inducted to office on February 6, 2015 by former Philippine Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. at the Max's Restaurant in Dillingham St., Honolulu.

Members of the organization stand proud of their



history and heritage, inspired by a verse from Dr. Jose P. Rizal's poem, "To The Filipino Youth" -- “Hold high the brow serene, O youth, where now you stand.”

The Rizalian Youth Council-Hawaii has adopted the motto "Non Mihi Solum" -- Not for Myself Alone. The organization is committed to the promotion of human dignity, self-respect, social responsibility and empowerment among its members.

The Rizalian Youth

Council (or KAPARIZ) is a youth group affiliated with the Order of the Knights of Rizal, a global, non-profit, not-partisan, civic organization founded in the Philippines on December 30, 1911 under Republic Act 646.

**RAYMUND LL. LIONGSON, PH.D.** is an associate professor in Philippine/Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii-Leeward and the Area Commander of the Knights of Rizal for the Western USA (Hawaii). He is also the founding adviser of the Rizalian Youth Council of Hawaii.

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## HART Offers Social Media Workshop

To help Waipahu businesses better cope with the impacts of the rail construction project, the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) will hold a free social media and marketing workshop on July 11, 2015 from 9 am to 11 am at the Filipino Community Center.

The workshop will offer tips for businesses owners and managers on how to maximize and market themselves online using Facebook and Twitter

platforms. The workshop will be led by L.P. "Neez" Faleafine, owner of Pono Media. Attendees are encouraged to bring a wireless-ready device such as a laptop, iPad or tablet. The session will also be shown on a large video screen for those without devices. Attendees will also receive a complimentary one-hour social media and online marketing consultation session from Pono Media.

A second workshop is

scheduled for Pearl City and Aiea businesses on July 18, 2015 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am at Aiea Elementary School Cafeteria.

To RSVP for the workshops, send an email to: [info@HonoluluTransit.org](mailto:info@HonoluluTransit.org) or call 768-6117.

Since construction work began on Farrington Highway in Waipahu in 2014, businesses located along the rail line have complained of a decrease in customer flow by as much as 40

percent due to inaccessibility, dust, noise and other impacts.

HART also has a Business Alliance Program which partners with businesses along the route and is designed to help them through the construction process via regular meetings, tailored briefings and one-on-one consultations. The program also provides key resources to businesses in need of assistance. HART partners with the U.S. Small Business Administration-Hawaii, Small Business Development Center, Mayor's Office on Economic Development, and

the Mink Center for Business and Leadership to assist business during construction.

For more information on the Business Alliance Program, call HART's 24-Hour Hotline at 566-2299.

Affected business owners and the public are also invited to share their concerns at the West Oahu/ Farrington Highway Business & Community monthly meetings which are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at the Filipino Community Center at 6:30 pm.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

### Bets for PNP Chief Down to 2?

by Cecille Suerte Felipe  
Monday, July 6, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - The race for the next chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) is now down to two.

President Aquino separately interviewed Deputy Director General Danilo Constantino, the chief of directorial staff, and PNP operations chief Director Ricardo Marquez two weeks ago, sources revealed.

The President has yet to appoint a full-time PNP chief with only 11 days before the retirement of officer-in charge Deputy Director General Leonardo Espina. The PNP has no permanent chief following the resignation of Director General Alan Purisima, who was ordered dismissed from the service over his involvement in a questionable gun license courier deal.

Sources said Deputy Director General Marcelo Garbo Jr. the PNP deputy chief for

operations appeared to have lost the chance to land the top post.

Garbo is next in line in seniority but he would be retiring on March 2, 2016 during the height of preparations for the presidential elections.

The President reportedly asked the contenders about their retirement apparently in connection with the May 2016 elections.

Constantino will retire on July 2, 2016 or two days after the 16th Philippine president is sworn in while Marquez will bow out of the service on Aug. 28, 2016.

The President reportedly asked the two police officials to submit their respective written reports on various issues, including what they think of the Mamasapano incident and the grumbling of senior officials in the PNP.

Constantino and Marquez were classmates at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandigan" Class of

1982. Their classmates include Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief Director Benjamin Magalong, National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Carmelo Valmorina, Director Christopher Laxa, head of the Directorate for Human Resource and Doctrine Development (DHRDD), former Special Action Force (SAF) chief Director Getulio Napeñas and former PNP spokesman Chief Superintendent Agrimero Cruz Jr.

Both Constantino and Marquez had training both in the country and abroad. They were also classmates in masters in management at Philippine Christian University (PCU).

A personal data sheet obtained by The STAR showed Constantino underwent an Urban Patrol Tactics Course in 1991, General Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Course in 2000 and Police Executive Role in Combating Terrorism



in 2005, all held in the US. He also completed an International Strategic Intelligence Course in Australia.

Constantino has Police Executive Service Eligibility and Napolcom eligibility and held about 39 positions in about 35 years in the police service.

A native of Gapan, Nueva Ecija, Constantino is married to Chona Alano-Constantino. They have three children.

Constantino's four-page curriculum vitae did not mention any awards or citation from the police service.

The STAR also obtained an eight-page copy of the personal data sheet of Marquez, which stated he held about 37 positions in his about 35 years in the police service.

Marquez had training in Senior Crisis Management Course in the US, Senior Leadman Course, Workshop for Senior Police Officers of ASEANAPOL Member Countries, Police Intelligence Officers Senior Executive Course, PNP officer Advanced Course, PC Officers Basic Course, Basic Intelligence Course for Constabulary and INP Officers, Managing Effectively the Human Dimension of Strategic Organization Development, Counterfeit Detection Seminar, Lecture on

Graft Law and Public Accountability, workshop on illegal drugs, leadership program and intelligence seminar.

Marquez received numerous awards and commendations, including PNP Junior Police Commissioned Officer in 1994 and 1995.

During his stint as provincial police director of Nueva Ecija, Marquez initiated efforts to ensure peaceful and orderly elections. The province, which used to have bloody elections due to intense political rivalry, made history for having the most peaceful polls in late 2000.

Marquez has 148 medals and awards, including four distinguished service medals, 12 PNP outstanding achievement medals, seven PNP special service awards, four PNP heroism medals, three bronze cross medals, 16 merit medals and four for good conduct.

The PNP leadership credited Marquez for the peaceful and orderly visit of Pope Francis last January, the APEC meetings and the recent ASEAN forum.

Sources said President Aquino will announce his choice for PNP chief soon – either before Espina's retirement on July 19 or before his State of the Nation Address on July 27. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

# NFA: Plasticizer Found in 'Fake' Rice Samples

by Czeriza Valencia  
Saturday, July 4, 2015

**M**ANILA, Philippines - A plasticizer contaminant was found in samples of suspected synthetic rice obtained from Davao City, the National Food Authority (NFA) said yesterday.

Samples of cooked rice obtained from a complainant in Davao City were sent last week to the NFA-Food Development Center in Taguig City for preliminary laboratory testing, results of which were cleared yesterday.

Food security chief Francis Pangilinan, who oversees the state grains procurement agency, said the samples were found to contain dibutyl phthalate (DBP), a plasticizer used for the manufacture of cosmetics.

"There are still further tests needed to determine if there are resins so the test results are still inconclusive," he said.

Citing a medical advisory from the Department of Health (DOH), Pangilinan said DBP is considered harmful if ingested in large amounts.

"There is no cause for alarm as DBP, when taken in small amounts, is not harmful. As per DOH medical advisory, for DBP to become harmful it needs to be ingested repeatedly for months," he said.

Pangilinan said the agency decided to disclose the results of the preliminary testing, although still inconclusive, as a matter of precaution and to ensure the consuming public stays vigilant.

NFA administrator Renan Dalisay said the initial microscopic test conducted on samples from Davao established that it has starch content, same as the NFA rice it was compared to.

It still has to be determined if the starch found in the rice is indeed rice or other grains such as corn and potatoes, ingredients supposedly found in the so-called fake rice, along with resin.

Dalisay said the NFA has coordinated with the DOH and the Food and Drug Administration to analyze the starch content of the sample and determine the presence of heavy metals in it.

Some of the samples would have to be sent overseas as the Philippines does not have the proper equipment for conducting some of the succeeding tests.

Synthetic rice, allegedly manufactured in China, is believed to be made from potatoes, sweet potatoes, even corn and resin.

Reports said fake rice has found its way to Asian countries such as India, Indonesia,



Suspected synthetic rice made with dibutyl phthalate is seen liquefied in a vial (right) after being exposed to acetone by NFA-Food Development Center lab technicians. Left vial contains real rice, which doesn't liquefy in acetone. |JEDD GUMBAN

Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines.

The cooked rice is said to last up to three weeks without spoiling.

The NFA this week conducted a surprise inspection of rice stores in Cartimar market in Pasay City following the reported proliferation of synthetic rice.

The NFA also asked the public to be vigilant and immediately report to the NFA hotline - 0906-4363133 - suspicious rice products in the market.

Dalisay, through a special order dated June 29, has ordered NFA inspectors nationwide to conduct daily inspection of rice stores.

The NFA office in Davao City received a complaint on June 26 from Carmencita Grinio of Matina Aplaya, who said she bought rice that had a styrofoam-like appearance.

Grinio said she purchased cooked rice from Ciudad Esperanza canteen in Cabantian, Davao City.

The canteen and its supposed rice supplier, Eliza Breta, denied selling synthetic rice, according to NFA spokesman Angel Imperial Jr.

### DOJ probe

Meanwhile, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima bared yesterday her department will investigate the entry and sale of alleged fake rice from China.

De Lima said she received a directive from President Aquino to look into the issue and determine how the reportedly poisonous rice penetrated the local market and if there are people who could be held liable.

"I will constitute a task force to investigate that and coordinate with Sec. Kiko Pangilinan in his capacity as

presidential assistant on food security and agricultural modernization," she told reporters.

### Everything under control

Malacañang, for its part, assured the public yesterday that the concerned government agencies are working together to verify the alleged presence of synthetic rice in the local market.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said the departments of health, trade and industry and agriculture - specifically the NFA - are conducting a thorough investigation on the presence of fake rice.

Coloma told anchor Rey Langit in his radio program "Kasangga mo ang Langit" over dwIZ that the government will not allow the health of the public to be put in danger because of the entry of foods that do not pass safety standards.

### No fake rice in Bacolod

The NFA office in Negros Occidental, on the other hand, has so far not found any synthetic or fake rice being sold in the area.

NFA officials and personnel conducted a thorough inspection of rice retailers in Bacolod last Thursday, including those at the Burgos Public Market, Libertad Public Market and Downtown Central Market. (www.philstar.com)

### LEGAL GUIDE (from page 7, FAMOUS ....)

we think we are?" he exclaimed. "The legitimacy of this Court ultimately rests upon the respect accorded to its judgments." "That respect flows from the perception - and reality - that we exercise humility and restraint in deciding cases according to the Constitution and law." Justice Roberts concluded.

Justice Scalia writing in dissent said: "The opinion is couched in a style that is as pretentious as its content is egotistic." He ridiculed the majority's statement that "The nature of marriage is that, through its enduring bond, two persons together can find other freedoms, such as expression, intimacy, and spirituality."

"Really?" Justice Scalia intoned, "Who ever thought that intimacy and spirituality [whatever that means] were freedoms? And if intimacy is, one would think Freedom of Intimacy is abridged rather than expanded by marriage. Ask the nearest hippie." Scalia lamented that the Supreme Court has "descended from . . . disciplined legal reasoning . . . to the mystical aphorisms of the fortune cookie."

**QUERY:** Whether or not you like the majority's opinion, do you respect it?

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## FOOD &amp; LEISURE

## A PINOY CHEF WINS BIG IN PARIS

FEAST WITH ME By Stephanie Zubiri-Crespi

**O**n my last trip to Paris, after a long, luxurious lunch of delicious new flavors and light spring vegetables drowned in cold Sancerre, my husband and I lingered over coffee catching up with our dear friend Aaron Isip. I was thoroughly impressed. The server had come over and asked me, “Was it really good? Have you seen an evolution?” To which I replied with all honesty, “Yes. He’s come a long way and this has been the most refined and sophisticated his food has ever been.”

Well, it seems like the French culinary community agrees with me because last June 29, at Le Pré Catalan, chef Aaron Isip was awarded Le Trophée Espoir by Gault & Millau. Mingling with the likes of other big-name chef awardees in different categories like Pierre Gagnaire and Pascal Barbot was this Filipino chef who worked his way through the tough, copper-pan, no-mercy kitchens of Paris to attain the coveted title of executive chef.

What most people don’t realize is that in France, just because you have a degree from a culinary school doesn’t mean you automatically get the title of “chef.” Some people don’t go to school at all, starting from the very bottom, peeling potatoes and

chopping onions, some literally begin as “plongeur,” or dishwasher (plongeur literally translates to a “diver” drowning in a bunch of dirty pots and plates). It’s tough hours and poor pay and if you want to give up there’s a whole line of hopefuls waiting to take your place.

What I love about Aaron is he did not take shortcuts. He didn’t do his stage and say, “I’ve been there, done that, let’s open my own joint back home.” He stuck it out all the way — over 11 years, to be exact — complete with the visa problems any immigrant Filipino might face, having to prove to the French that he deserved to stay because he could do the job better than anyone else. Well, there you go. Yes, he can.

When we arrived at Dix-Huit, it was packed. Every table was taken, and in true Parisian fashion, diners were rubbing elbows. We squeezed into our table for two in a corner made by two other tables. As we sipped our cold bubbly, I soaked in the joyous hustle and bustle of happy diners and their collective oohs and ahs. The ladies next to us were extremely happy: “C’était vraiment frais avec des saveurs exquis (It was really fresh with exquisite flavors)!”

We decided to go light for lunch, enjoying all the



Chef Aaron Isip is honored with the Trophée Espoir of Ile de France by Gault & Millau.

beautiful late-spring, early-summer produce: asparagus, peas, baby fennel paired with delicate flesh like razor clams, daurade, crab, veal and monkfish giving birth to gorgeous dishes with his signature touch of exoticism: veal tartare with a peanut sauce, ornithogalum and bottarga trikalinos, reminiscent of Indonesian satay and honestly one of the best and most surprising renditions of tartare I’ve ever had.

Daurade crudo with a wild herb snow and spring vegetables with the most sophisticated use of calamansi; tostada of Brittany king crab with aligote mayonnaise, Argentine asparagus, raw daikon and daikon flowers and nasturtium leaves — wonderfully crisp with a subtle layering of flavors and

textures, it was like a Cinderella story of the ugly, lowly crab that had shed its usually fried, crab-cake delicious vulgarity, and with the help of magic, had been dressed up to go to a royal ball, resulting in something absolutely sublime.

Beautiful food with all the zeal of someone who loves to eat and discover something that he describes as “French cuisine with influences from my origins and from my travels. Being Filipino gave me great pride by using Filipino ingredients available in France, like fresh calamansi grown in the South and utilizing it, it gave me an edge and character in my cuisine.”

When Aaron was told he was going to win this award, he said, “Honestly, I was shocked when they told me that they had been following me since my Pan days. They said when they tasted my degustation menu that it belonged to a starred restaurant in a more prominent quarter.”

I completely agree. Dix-Huit is not the chef’s first venture at the helm of a kitchen. Pan was a lovely place in an old, beat-up chandelier factory in the heart of the 10th arrondissement, where the surrounding quarter felt more like Little Africa

than Paris. It was quite a trek to get to a nondescript street, and yet he managed to shine bright as early as then. I have never missed a gig of his and have eaten in all the restaurants he’s worked in, even as an intern at Apicius. His stint at Pan allowed him to come into his own, crystallizing his unique style and flavor profile. I’ll never forget that lamb both tender and crispy with the smoky, fried curry leaves. But it was his time in Dix-Huit where he was truly able to refine and perfect his craft, getting nods from the Parisian foodies, his name regularly popping up in the press and blogs.

“The award came totally unexpectedly!” he says. “I was trying to do my job and didn’t expect to be rewarded for it.”

We were chatting after lunch when he shared with us the good news. “Guys, it’s incredible. I just received an email that Gault & Millau is giving me an award! Holy sh\*t, I can’t believe it.”

These accolades are so difficult to attain in such a competitive environment like Paris that his humility is well placed and honest. When you begin in a French kitchen you know it’s going to be a long time before you really get anywhere, so you do your job as best you can taking each achievement — a well-made sauce, a plate wiped clean, a promotion — as a small but well-deserved victory. “But to be standing next to all these famous chefs, it’s so surreal!”

What’s next for Aaron? I know he’s toying with the idea of returning home eventually but for right now, “I’m keeping my options open,” he says. “I still feel like an eternal student and willing to learn more things and evolve.”

Keep on evolving and then in the end we all shall be waiting with bated breath for your homecoming! (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

# Getting a Green Card Despite Petitioner's Death

**O**s it possible for surviving family members to get a green card despite the death of the petitioner?

As a rule, the death of the petitioner automatically revokes the approved family based petition. For beneficiaries residing abroad, this could mean the end of their dream of ever living in the United States. However, the good news is the law gives the USCIS the discretion not to revoke the approval for "humanitarian reasons."

The I-130 beneficiary may

ask for the reinstatement of the revoked petition by submitting a written request for humanitarian reinstatement to the USCIS office where the I-130 petition was filed. Only approved petitions may be reinstated and not petitions where the petitioner died before the approval.

The following factors are considered in evaluating a humanitarian request: disruption of an established family unit; hardship to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents; the beneficiary is elderly or in poor health; the beneficiary has had lengthy residence in the United States; the beneficiary has no home to go to; undue delay by the DHS or consular officer in processing

the petition and visa; and the beneficiary has strong family ties in the United States.

The beneficiary must have a substitute sponsor who will execute the affidavit of support (I-864) in the place of the deceased petitioner. A law enacted in 2002 allowed the following relatives to become substitute sponsors of the beneficiary: spouse, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sibling, child (if at least 18 years old), son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandparent or grandchild or legal guardian of the beneficiary.

The substitute sponsor must meet the minimum income requirements and be a U.S. citizen or legal perma-

nent resident, at least 18 years old, and domiciled in the U.S.

In 2009, Congress passed a law known as Section 204(l) that provides great relief to I-130 beneficiaries already present in the United States at the time of the petitioner's death. These beneficiaries may have their pending visa petition and adjustment of status application approved if they are surviving relatives under the law and they meet the residence requirement. In these cases, the petition does not die with the petitioner, so to speak.

The deceased qualifying relative may be the petitioner or the principal beneficiary in a family-based immigrant visa petition, the principal beneficiary in an employment-based visa petition, the petitioner in a refugee/asylee relative peti-

tion, the principal alien admitted as a T or U nonimmigrant, or the principal asylee who was granted asylum.

Furthermore, the surviving relatives must have resided in the United States at the time of the petitioner's death, and continue to reside in the United States. For purposes of this law, "residence" need not be lawful U.S. residence.

Beneficiaries who were outside the United States when the petitioner died have humanitarian reinstatement as their only recourse. A claim of humanitarian factors must be supported by documentary evidence in order to increase the chances of the petition's reinstatement.

**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

## Binay Retains P86-M Pork – Evardone

by Jess Diaz  
Monday, July 6, 2015

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Vice President Jejomar Binay retains his P86-million annual pork barrel fund, allowing him to use taxpayers' money to promote his presidential ambition, a lawmaker said yesterday.

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone said the pork barrel fund is part of the Vice President's 2015 budget amounting to P222.6 million.

"The P86 million is a lump sum labeled as 'financial assistance/subsidy.' It can be used by the Vice President to assist anyone he chooses to help. This means that he can use the money to promote his quest for the presidency," said Evardone, vice chairman of the House appropriations committee, which scrutinizes the annual budget.

Unlike members of Congress, Evardone said Binay has retained his pork barrel fund.

"It gives him a distinct advantage over other presidential aspirants," he said.

Aside from the P86-million fund for financial assistance, he said Binay also has



VP Jejomar Binay

funds amounting to P23.9 million for travel and P15 million for representation expenses.

The lawmaker added that in 2014, the Vice President had a budget of P85 million for financial assistance and subsidies, P23.9 million for travel and P14.9 million for representation expenses.

Evardone pointed out that in 2013, Binay had a total of P285 million in pork barrel funds.

"Of that amount, P185 million was for 'subsidies and donations,' while P100 million was for 'public infrastructures,'" he said.

When the Supreme Court abolished the Priority Development Assistance Fund in the latter part of 2013, Evardone said Congress scrapped

Binay's P200-million PDAF, reducing his pork barrel funds to P85 million to 86 million.

"He is the only Vice President who was allocated a P200-million PDAF, aside

from being the only VP given a palace – the Coconut Palace – as official residence-office," he stressed, noting that former Vice President Noli de Castro did not enjoy those privileges.

Likewise, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad chided

Binay for criticizing the PDAF and the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP).

"It is hypocritical for VP Binay to be ranting against the PDAF and DAP when he himself benefited from these two funds," the budget chief said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

GLOBAL NEWS

## Philippines Hopes for Favorable Ruling on China Sea Row

**M**ANILA, Philippines - The Philippines is optimistic and looking forward to a favorable ruling regarding the jurisdiction the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) has over Manila's maritime case against China.

The hearings, scheduled to start tomorrow at The Hague until July 13, will deal with the issue of whether the PCA has jurisdiction over the case or not.

"If the decision of the arbitral tribunal would be favorable to the Philippines, the country will be given an opportunity to present the merits of its petition in oral arguments,"

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said over state-run dzRB yesterday.

Coloma noted that the hearings set this week are only preliminary.

"We believe in the strength of our position that is grounded on the principles stated in the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)," Coloma said.

The Philippine team is led by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., accompanied by a delegation of mostly lawyer-officials.

Coloma said the three branches of government – executive, legislative and judi-

ciary – are one in supporting the Philippines' case against China.

Among officials included in the high-level team in the Netherlands are Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. from the legislative, and Supreme Court Justices Antonio Carpio and Francis Jardeleza from the judiciary.

Solicitor-General Florin Hilbay, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and retired Armed Forces chief and now undersecretary for security cluster Emmanuel Bautista are also in the delegation.

Deputy presidential  
(continued on page 14)



**DAYASADAS**  
By Pacita Saludes

# Naselebraran Ti Maikasangapulo Nga Anibersario ti KPRP 650 AM Pinoy Power Radio

**A**wan umasping ti kinangayed ti Mayo 23, 2015 a nagrabrabii iti Hawaii Prince Hotel a nagatendaran ti nasurok nga uppat a gasut a tattao a tumultulong ken agdengdenggeg iti KPRP Pinoy Radio- kaubingan ken maysa a kalatakan kadagiti radio iti Hawaii.

Rusat ti natalento a babai, ti pondador, ni Emmie Ortega Anderson. Mannakaawat ken managpasensia ken napakumbaba a tao ti tarabayen ti langit. Dayta ni Emmie a nangirusat ti KPRP Radio a pagdengdenggan tayo.

Ammotayo a ti namunganayanna a kas mutya kadagiti napalabas a panawen, adu dagiti naaramidanna ken nakaitan-okanna agingga ti pannakairusatna ti kaadda ti nalatak a Radio KPRP a maysa a kalatakan a pagdengdenggan

iti iti kaaduan. Adu dagiti agraem ti rusatna. Iti daytoy maikasangapulo nga anibersario ti KPRP, naidasar dagiti naaramidanna ken rusatna babaen kadagiti wagas ken makita a pannakaiparang dagiti amin a ballaigi a dangdangayan dagiti amin a kakaduana a DJ's a napadayawan. Kas tay pagsasao. "ARAMID TI PAKAKITAAN". Asino kadagiti nabayagen nga estasion ti radio ditoy Hawaii ti nakaawis iti kastoy a tariptonng ken nakaidasar ti pammadayaw kadagiti amin nga agserserbi ken maar-aramid iti agdama? Awan!

Babaen ti pannakipagdanggay ti patpatgenna a ni TITO MAHAL a nakaibulonan ti natalek a panagdanggayda a kas kunana "HE IS THE WIND BENEATH MY WINGS". Malaksid ti pannakapadayaw dagiti amin a DJ's naidasar pay a napadayawan dagiti PINOY P O W E R W O M E N S AWARDEE's, da Editha,

Mary, Shirley, Fides, Melinda, Carlota, Lina ken Kathleen.

Napintas ken dayawen dagiti amin nga agdengdenggeg kadagiti amin a programa kangrunaan pay ti inaldaw a mangriing a programa ni Emmie a kaduana ni nasirib ken nalatak a Cesar Bonilla iti PINOY PWER SUNRISE iti kada bigat ti Lunes inggana ti Viernes iti alas sais agingga iti alas otso ken uray pay alas nuebe iti binigat.

Kas nayon ti panagraem tayo iti producer ti KPRP, napasnek pay a tumultulong ti pannaka-pasayaat ti pagadalan dagiti Elementary School idia Ilocos Norte ken dadduma pay idia Pilipinas. Manamnama a natalged ti itultulongna babaen dagiti naayat a tumultulong ti PINOY POWER HAWAII KAMAY TEAM nga isungsungsung met laeng ti manangngaasi nga producer ti KPRP. Pudno a ti manangngaasi ad-adda a kakasian ti Apo. Tumulong

ken mangngaasika tapno matulungan ken kaasiandaka. Napintas met a maiyadal dayta. Kudos to you Mrs. Anderson. More Grace and more power to you. Good Luck and God bless you all. Kablaawanmi amin nga taga KPRP RADIO. God Bless you all!

## ARAMID TI PAKAKITAAN

Naaramidan ti pakakitaan  
Saan a sao ti pakasagatan  
Gapuanan ti pakapaneknekan  
Kinasiatano iti kagimongan

Ti abilidad nga agtungpal  
Aramiden a naipabaklay  
Ipamatmat a pudno a kabaelan  
Ibalbalikas dayta dilam

Arakupen a sitatalugod  
Naipakumit awan tanabutob  
Itungpal awan ti unget  
Kasta ti napiar tao a nasingpet

Sinapataan nga aramiden  
Di paginsasaanan wenno agpakuniber  
Kasta ti tao a mapagpiaran  
Ken makuna a tao a pagwadan

Ipakitam a sika ti sarikedked  
Ik-kutam a kabaalam ken bileg  
Awan mailaok nga ublag a manggeppas  
Uray pay katademan nga armas

Adu ti mangsusak kapanunotan  
Ta kayatnaka a maartapan  
Iseman, di ikankano palugaran  
Palugodam, salimetmetam ta dayaw.

Ti aramid ti pakakitaan  
Nauneg, narabaw a nagapuanan  
Saan a tapok laeng a naipalais wenno  
Angin laeng manipud sapri dagiti bibig.

### GLOBAL NEWS (from page 13, PHILIPPINES...)

spokesperson Abigail Valte earlier pointed out that the delegation, composed of leaders of both houses of Congress and members of the judiciary and the executive, "clearly shows the support of government for the case (is) across the board... It's a country effort.

"A lot of the members of the delegation have something to contribute to the discussions... on the dispute involving the West Philippine Sea, and they would also like to see the progress of our complaint, of our memorial

before the tribunal," Valte said.

She clarified that it is the PCA, which is also under the United Nations, and not the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) that is hearing the case, which has jurisdiction as China's refusal to take part in proceedings has prompted the need for compulsory arbitration.

In an informal briefing, Valte said President Aquino directed Ochoa to make sure that the government's case against Beijing is presented well. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION 36TH NATIONAL CONVENTION** | July 22-26, 2015 | HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE, WAIKIKI BEACH RESORT | For more information, contact Tina Salvador @ 778-3832 or 426-6183

**MISS HAWAII FILIPINA CORONATION DINNER, UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII (UFCH),** | July 25, 2015 | PACIFIC BEACH HOTEL BALLROOM | 6:00 PM | Contact: UFCH Pres. Maria Etrata @392-2962

**CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATION (COVO) ANNUAL CONVENTION** | August 18, 2015 | DAYTIME SESSION WILL BE HELD AT THE KING KAUMU'ALI'I ELEM. SCHOOL CAFETERIA (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM), EVENING BANQUET AT THE KAUAI BEACH RESORT HOTEL | 6:00 PM | Contact: Firmo Dayao. 206-5301 | Contact: May Mizuno at 741-4503

**FILIPINO WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB MARIA CLARA BALL** | September 12, 2015 | POMAKAI BALLROOMS, DOLE CANNERY | 6:00 PM | Contact: Bernadette Fajardo @ 342-8090 or Cecilia Villafuerte @ 371-8538

**THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER'S BAYANIHAN GALA FUNDRAISER** | September 18, 2015 | SHERATON WAIKIKI HOTEL | 5:30 PM | Interested in volunteering and for details, please contact Exec. Director Donnie Juan at 808-680-0451.

**MRS. ISAH 2015 CORONATION AND GALA NIGHT** | October 24, 2015 | ALA MOANA HOTEL | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Contact Danny Villaruz 778-0233

**FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S KIMONO BALL AND FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMAN**

**OF THE YEAR AWARD** | November 14, 2015 | ALA MOANA HOTEL, HIBISCUS ROOM | Contact: Nancy A. Walch @778-3882

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**MAINLAND NEWS**

**Lawmakers Renew Push for Congressional Gold Medal for Filipino Veterans**

**F**OLLOWING the introduction of a bipartisan bill that would award more than 260,000 Filipino and Filipino-American soldiers who fought for the United States during World War II, Rep. Mike Honda (D-Calif.) announced his support for the legislation.

“The bill will honor the selflessness of so many Filipinos who fought to ensure an American victory during WWII,” Honda said in a statement issued on Thursday, June 25. “These veterans made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation even though they were citizens of another country.”

The measure, The Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015 (HR 2737/S 1555), was introduced on June 11 by a bipartisan and bicameral group of legislators that expressed appreciation for the Filipino-American community and for Filipinos who served during World War II.

HR 2737 is supported by 16 members of Congress, including: Sens. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Dean Heller (R-Nev.), Harry Reid (D-Nev.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) and US Reps. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), Mark Takai (D-Hawaii), Joe Heck (R-Nev.), Mike Thompson (D-Calif.), Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) and Juan Vargas (D-Calif.)

Reid said in a statement that he was pleased to be a lead sponsor of the legislation.

“Throughout my career I have been a fierce advocate for the Filipino community, which is why I made sure the Recovery Act of 2009 created a compensation fund for Filipino veterans

who fought in World War II but have been denied the benefits they deserve,” he said.

Honda, in a statement, said that because of their service during the war, he fought to secure benefits and recognition for Filipino World War II veterans during his seven years as chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).

“I led CAPAC’s efforts to include compensation for Filipino WWII veterans as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that was signed into law,” he said.

Of the nearly quarter-million Filipino World War II veterans, only about 40,000 remain alive, most of whom are in their 90s.

“Time is running out for the diminishing number of Filipino World War II veterans who fought and sacrificed alongside American servicemen. We as a nation made a promise to these veterans that must be kept,” Hirono said in a statement.

Takai said in a statement he was pleased to witness Filipino veterans of World War II receive the recognition they deserve.

“It is the moral obligation of the United States to provide recognition to the Philippine Army veterans who served alongside our troops in the Pacific,” he said.

Among those who also called for the gold medal is Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Tony Taguba, a Filipino American who is best known for releasing “The Taguba Report,” which documented the torture and abuse that took place at the Abu Ghraib prison.

“For over 70 years, the Filipino [World War II soldiers]



have sought recognition for their courageous actions and selfless service in defending the United States and Philippines,” Taguba said, according to a news release. “Despite having their benefits rescinded by the [US] Congress in 1946, they maintained their unwavering loyalty to the US. We are eternally grateful for their faithful and dedicated service. They have earned national recognition from the [US] Congress proven by the thousands of lives lost in combat, and for those wounded for life.”

Arturo Garcia, national coordinator of Justice for Filipino American Veterans (JFAV), said the organization supports the awarding of a gold medal to Filipino veterans. The organization previously did not back the medal, as it would have been given only to those who fought in Bataan.

“We didn’t want to support something that was very exclusive. It was very exclusive because they were only giving [the medal] to the Bataan survivors. Out of the almost 460,000 Filipino soldiers that fought during [World War II], only 70,000 fought in Bataan. Now that they made it inclusive, we are for it now,” Garcia said.

Although JFAV is now in support of the proposed recognition, he said Filipino veterans de-

“This medal will stand as a testament to the sacrifice of these heroes and to the patriotism of their community,” he said.

Recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal are persons “who have performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized as a major achievement in the recipient’s field long after the achievement.”

“Awarding these Filipino WWII veterans with Congressional Gold Medals is the least we can do to recognize the often-forgotten bravery of these service members,” Honda said.

A measure to award Filipino World War II veterans a Congressional Gold Medal was previously introduced in January 2013 by then Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D-Hawaii). The bill was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, House Financial Services and House Administration but was not enacted.

(www.asianjournal.com)

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