

www.thefilipinochronicle.com

HAWAII

FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JANUARY 9, 2016 ◆

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Reliving the Top Stories of 2015

COVER STORY PAGE

4



CANDID PERSPECTIVES

TRUMP THE UNIFIER?
ONLY WHEN IT COMES TO
MISS UNIVERSE

3



FEATURE

FILIPINO POET WINS
WORLD ECOPOETRY
PRIZE

11



LEGAL NOTES

THE LONG WAIT FOR
EMPLOYMENT-BASED
GREEN CARD

13



CELEBRATING **23 YEARS**
OF EXCELLENT CHRONICLING
OF FILIPINO NEWS AND EVENTS!

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

Making the Most of the New Year

Now that we're several days into the New Year, some of us are still basking in the glow of yet another fresh start in our lives. Others use this time to reflect, look back, take stock, assess how they did during the past year and resolve to do better going forward. Besides our birthdays, perhaps no other moment in the year gets this amount of attention.

These first few weeks in January are an ideal time for renewed optimism for change, a better life and a new you. Starting today, let's make the most of this gift of another New Year. Don't just make resolutions like exercising more or spending more time with loved ones, but really try to build a better you. Start by letting go of previous failures, fears and old baggage. You have been given a fresh start. Leave behind any mistakes and failings from the past year and step into the future, with all its limitless potential. Secondly, decide what matters most today. Think about things that you are most passionate about, that excite and invigorate you. Have it clear in your mind at the beginning of each day, then start doing it. When you know what your passion is, you feel motivated, inspired and so much clearer about what your next steps should be.

Next, find your happiness now. Don't think of happiness as a destination or a goal that you're working to achieve. It will never come if you keep pushing it back until later. Always remember that happiness is possible now. Take time to enjoy life and the relationships you have made along the way. And lastly, reinvent yourself and your life every single day. Do what matters most to you each day. When you do so, you'll give yourself a fresh new start every single day of the New Year. And that, my friends, is the best thing you can ever do for yourself. This is your new year. Your fresh start. Your blank page.

Here's to a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year to all!

What's Ahead for 2016

The following year will present many challenges for Hawaii and the nation. A look at the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's crystal ball shows several crucial events in 2016 that could affect the direction that we take. Nationwide, the November presidential election will decide who takes over leadership of the White House as Barack Obama ends his term. There is no lack of challengers from both parties, with the winner assuming the seat of the most powerful person in the free world. Will it be Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump or a surprise winner? Then there is global climate change and U.S. foreign policy to terrorism, particularly the Islamic State (ISIS). A Republican victory will likely mean a more visible presence of U.S. troops on the ground and increased efforts to disrupt ISIS in Middle East countries like Syria and Iraq.

Locally, Honolulu's beleaguered \$6.8 billion fixed rail project will again take center stage as the City Council is expected to vote sometime in January on whether to extend the half percent general excise tax surcharge for an additional five years. The vote is crucial since the project faces a \$1 billion deficit. The mayoral race will determine if incumbent Kirk Caldwell will continue efforts he has launched to address homelessness and affordable housing. Council Chair Ernest Martin has yet to formally announce his candidacy, but the winner will need to convince voters that he is best suited to tackle these two longstanding problems that have been front page news for many years.

At the State level, a \$4.3 billion acquisition of Hawaiian Electric by Florida-based NextEra Energy needs to be finalized. And for the 2016 State Legislative session, which begins Janu-

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Happy New Year to our faithful readers and welcome to the first issue of 2016! We hope that 2016 will bring you much peace, health, happiness and prosperity. Families across the state rang in the New Year in true local style—fireworks, family, food and fun!

Fortunately, there were no deaths or major injuries in Hawaii this year, unlike in the Philippines where fireworks account for hundreds of injuries requiring amputations due to serious blasts or burns.

Here at the Chronicle, it is our custom to begin the first issue of the New Year with a review of the top stories of the previous year that impacted Hawaii's Filipino community. Looking back at the events of the past 12 months allows us to relive our successes and provide valuable lessons from any mistakes we have committed. We hope you will enjoy reading about the Top 10 news events of 2015 beginning on page 4.

In other news, St. Anthony's Church in Kalihi is celebrating its 100th year anniversary with a special celebration on Sunday, January 10, 2016. Most of the church's parishioners are Filipino but there are also Portuguese, Hawaiian, Japanese, Micronesian and other members who regularly attend Mass. For more on the church's Centennial Celebration, please turn to page 10. Congratulations to St. Anthony's Church and best wishes for many more years of meeting the spiritual needs of the Kalihi community.

Also in this issue, contributing writer Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand introduces us to award winning poet Luisa Igloria who won the 2015 Resurgence Poetry Prize and artist extraordinaire Benedicto Reyes Cabrera who attended *Sakada* Day ceremonies last month and gifted a beautiful painting to the Philippine Consulate General in honor of these pioneering Filipinos. We always take great pride in the accomplishments of our *kababayans*, and these two are no exceptions. Please read more about their accomplishments on pages 11 and 12, respectively.

Lastly, we apologize for a misleading headline in our last issue. The Rizal Day celebration was held at the Philippine Consulate but organized by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter. We again apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

In closing, please read the other informative columns and articles we have for you in this issue and email us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com with any story

Until our next issue...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

ary 20, there will be no shortage of issues that will clamor for lawmakers' attention. Many will be old issues—efforts to bolster the economy and increasing construction funds for public schools. Lawmakers will be especially eager to appease their constituents, given that 2016 is an election year. Prospects for Republican candidates could be better than in years past, given Obama's term limit and the downward spiral of Obamacare.

The coming months will certainly be interesting to watch and prove pivotal for many people. We encourage you to keep abreast of the news and get involved in your community. Here's to a successful and memorable 2016!

**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



HAWAII
**FILIPINO
CHRONICLE**

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

Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors
Dennis Galalo
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.
Cong. Mark Takai
Emmanuel S. Tison, 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
Raymund LI. Liongson, Ph.D.
Federico Magdalena, Ph.D.
Deborah T. Manog
Maita Milallos
Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D.
Renelaine Bontol-Pfister
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. Website: 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

MEMBER, SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Trump the Unifier? Only When it Comes to Miss Universe

Hawaii knows the value of a beauty queen. And they know she has more than just ornamental power.

That's why the Miss Universe blunder is no small thing. But one thing is sure. No one should listen to Donald Trump on how to resolve all the hurt feelings.

Trump, the great divider, was quick to be the great unifier, suggesting co-Queens.

Co-Queens?

In our best collective Trumpian voices, we should loudly and simply respond: "Stuff it, pal."

For now, if you were really Filipino at heart, then there is just one thing that explains what happened to Miss Philippines, Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach on pageant night.

Divine intervention. Prayers answered. What else? It had to be.

There was the German-Filipino beauty standing to the side with her consolation flowers wilting as Miss Colombia was crowned, only to find her Half-German-Filipinoness plucked back into the limelight.

Does this happen during Christmas timewithout prayer?

A Filipino, of any degree, half-full-quarter-partial, knows. But most rational souls would simply say, "Did you see 'Family Feud'-meister Steve Harvey's massive blunder?"

Well did you?

Frankly, I was not a big fan of Ms. Wurtzbach initially in the competition. She seemed somewhat augmented as they say in the swimsuit comp. A little too bobble-heady in the strategic places if you know what I mean.

Of course, for those of us whose preferred body part is the exposed brain, I always watch these things for the high comedy of the "Big Question"

section. This year we got the high comedy and the drama.

Miss Philippines got this question: "Do you think the United States should have a military presence in your country?"

Softball, right. Not exactly explain the Spratly Islands in 30 seconds or less. And I doubt any Filipino politician can answer that any more effectively in an evening gown.

But there was Wurtzbach displaying her full colonial mentality:

"I think that the United States and the Philippines has always had a good relationship with each other," Wurtzbach said. "We were colonized by the Americans and we have their culture and our traditions even up to this day. and I think that we are very welcoming with the Americans and I don't see any problems with that at all."

That must make her the darling of all Filipino nationalists!

But come on. She's not running for president. She just wants to be Miss Universe.

And so I gladly cut her some slack, and revert back to the time tested way any Filipino watches the Miss Universe pageant--as a Global Nationalist from wherever you are!

Like many American Filipinos, I grew up with beauty queens and pageants as part of my ethnic Filipino tradition. And then there are all the niche pageants we have. Ever been to a GAPA pageant?

But Miss Universe is the Super Bowl of beauty pageants. It's not regional. It's not national. It's not niche. It's the whole damn Universe.

And besides, it's not Donald Trump's Universe anymore.

You've got to watch.

We have ancestral homeland rooting interests. One is ethnically obligated.

Just look at this year's Asian diversity in the Top Ten: Miss Japan was a bi-racial beauty, Ariana Miyamoto;

Miss Thailand, Aniporn Chalermburanawong; and a Miss Philippines with the un-Filipino sounding name of Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach. Born in Stuttgart to a German father and Filipina mother, Wurtzbach is both a model and a chef, which brings to mind a variation of the old Chinese food joke that may or may not work with Filipino German food? An hour later, you're hungry for power?

Or just Miss Universe?

After the pageant blunder, we were hungry for an explanation.

Miss Universe ended like the movie "Carrie," but with no blood and telekinesis. Just a glaring host boo-boo that will be talked about for as long as there are sash-bearing pageants.

With comedian, author, talk host, game show host Steve Harvey at the helm, for

the most part the show was fine. I mean, it's not "Family Feud." But when it came to naming the winner, from the time **H a r v e y a n n o u n c e d "Miss Universe 2015..."**, there was a 12-second gap. And it wasn't just for drama.

I think he was actually trying to figure out who the winner was as he opened the envelope. Though reports have suggested there was a Tele-Prompter problem.

It was down to the final two, Miss Philippines and Miss Colombia, who were both supportively hugging in that show of beauty queen-faux good will.

And then Har-

vey said it. "Miss..... Colombia!"

From that point on, it was probably the slowest two-and-a-half-minutes in the history of beauty pageants.

At :08, Miss Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez gets a hug. She's given her country's flag to wave at :17.

At :19 she gets sashed. Sashed! Then come the flowers. And why wait for the big get-up? The tiara is on her head at :44.

Pardon me for looking at this like the Zapruder film. I'm not searching for a second gunman or a conspiracy. Time is significant because usually, as in football, if you snap the ball before there's a call for a video challenge, the play goes through. And the crowning of the tiara is as close to starting a reign as you are going to get.

Now, I am on the west coast, and when some dutiful pageant-watching friends on the east coast saw all this live, they alerted your scribe as to

this real life snafu taking place live.

It's not Miss Colombia, it's Miss Philippines, they tell me, and I, as an American Filipino, should be happy, they say. But.....

I was too busy eating my vegan tacos to care about such trifles until the west coast feed.

Believe me, I was fully expecting to see more of an "oops" moment, where the oops is immediately acknowledged, arm, no foul.

But as I watched, the replay, It was clear Miss Colombia was the new "Carrie."

She was flying kisses, waving, flashing a "V" for victory sign at :1:27 into her "reign."

I kept waiting for Harvey to jump in, but it wouldn't happen for another 40 seconds, when the emcee comes out to say, "OK folks...uh..... there's... have to apologize."

There are a full 12 seconds of gasping and shrieking in

(continued on page 6)

Be a part of Oahu's



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

- Licensed Social Worker
- RN Clinic Manager
- Certified Nurse Aide
- Travel Registered Nurse
- Activities Aide
- MDS Coordinator

- Maintenance Technician
- Pantry Worker
- Dishwasher
- Parking Attendant
- Waitstaff

For a complete listing of all available jobs or for more information visit:

arcadia.org/jobs















COVER STORY

The Year in Review: Top Stories of 2015

By Dennis Galolo

For many people, 2015 was unfortunately a year marked with violence and shootings. It began in early January with the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris, which was followed in June with a mass shooting at a Afro-American church in Charleston, South Carolina, and bookended with more coordinated terrorist strikes in Paris in November that left 130 people dead.

One of the more positive stories of 2015 was the U.S. women's soccer team's World Cup victory in July. There was also the visit by Pope Francis to the U.S. in September and his personal address to lawmakers at Capitol Hill—but such positive stories were few and far between.

Locally, 2015 was not all bad as the Aloha State was spared from large scale tragedies. We saw the rail project complete its first five miles of guideway and a record-breaking summer heatwave that forced public school students and teachers to keep their cool in the classroom. And thankfully, our state emerged unscathed during a much busier-than-normal hurricane season.

Throughout the past year, the Chronicle's editors and

staff worked hard to keep readers updated on top local, mainland and global news stories and how they affected Hawaii's Filipino community. What follows are the Top 10 Stories of 2015 as reported by the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Enjoy!

10. The Incredible, Edible Malunggay

The *malunggay*—the ubiquitous plant found in the backyards of many Filipino homes enjoyed the limelight during the 1st Annual Great *Malunggay* Festival and Parade, held February 21, 2015 at Leeward Community College (LCC).

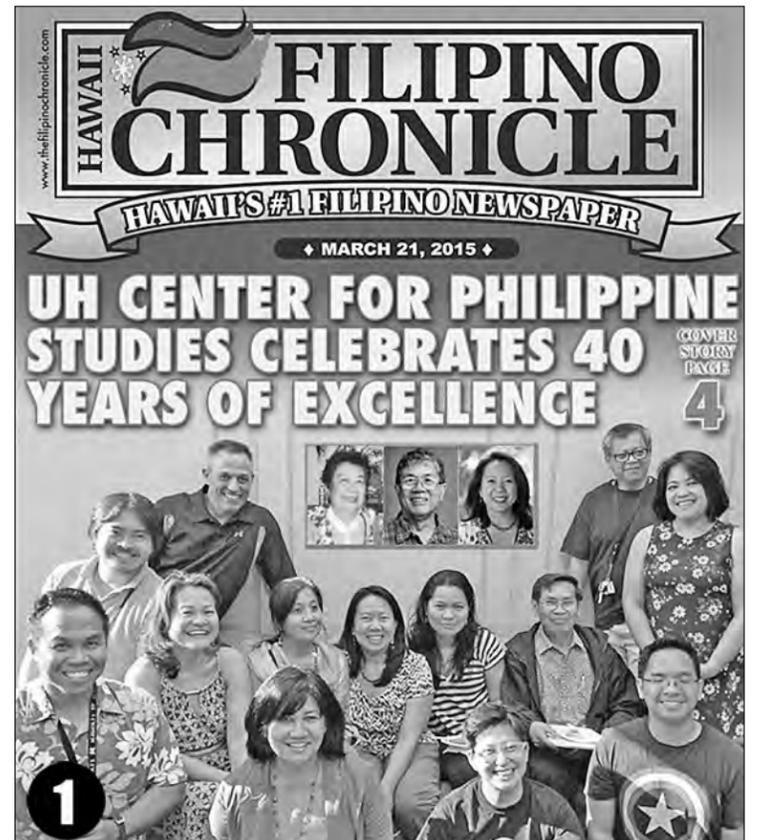
Hundreds attended the barrio fiesta-style celebration for *malunggay* which has enjoyed a close association with Filipino culture and cuisine. Festival organizers are looking to make it an annual event for Fil-

ipinos to enjoy and for the community at-large to discover the wonders of this amazing backyard plant, known scientifically as *Moringa oleifera*. The festival also helps to foster pride and awareness of the rich Filipino culture and heritage, and proceeds are used to fund scholarships for Filipino students attending LCC.

9. Ballet Philippines Performs at UH Kennedy Theatre/ UP Concert Chorus Brings the Very Best in Entertainment

Who says that the Philippines lacks cultural sophistication? For connoisseurs of the fine arts, two well-known performing groups from the Philippines visited Hawaii within a span of a few weeks. The first was Ballet Philippines, which performed at the Asia Pacific Dance Festival. Currently in its 46th season, Ballet Philippines is widely-recognized as the country's flagship company for ballet and contemporary dance. Its wide ranging, eclectic repertoire is unparalleled in Asia. From full-length classical ballets and internationally-recognized masterworks to indigenous works of Filipino folklore and social issues, the company weaves a colorful tapestry of the Philippines' rich and diverse cultural heritage, which is uniquely and distinctly Filipino.

The second talented group was the University of the Philippines Concert Chorus (UPCC) which held a special concert at the Kroc Center in Kapolei. For well over 50



years, this well-traveled, multi-awarded choral group has captivated audiences the world over with its flawless renditions of many popular songs, while also promoting Filipino cultural pride. When UPCC members combine their vocal abilities with signature vibrant choreography, compelling theatrical expressions, eye-catching costumes and a charisma that is uniquely Filipino, the result is a truly memorable audio and visually-entertaining performance.

8. Filipino Judge William Domingo Joins State District Court

Born and raised amidst humble beginnings in Kalihi Valley, William M. Domingo became the newest judge of Filipino ancestry to join the State of Hawaii's First Circuit (Oahu) District Court. Domingo is the latest in a short but distinguished list of Filipino judges who blazed a trail and left behind an enduring legacy for future Filipinos to follow. Names like Simeon Acoba Jr., Peter Aduja, Rey Gaulty, Alfred Laureta, Benjamin Menor and Mario Ramil are recognizable, household names for Filipinos.

Those who have followed Domingo's career say he has the ability to listen to competing viewpoints and employ a balanced, common-sense approach to decision-making. That, in addition to his even temperament, sharp mind,

work ethic and 30 years of experience as a trial attorney for both the State and Federal Public Defender's Offices and in private practice make him an excellent judge and a tremendous asset to the Judiciary. Leaders in the Filipino community hope that younger Filipinos will draw inspiration from Domingo's example and follow in his footsteps, just as he followed those Filipino judges before him.

7. The Case for Multilingualism

Comments by Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump who chided an opponent at a press conference for speaking a foreign language (Spanish) drew a firestorm of controversy, especially from immigrant rights groups. His comments renewed heated debate on an English-only policy, which infuriated many immigrants who say that denying them their right to speak in their native dialect is a direct violation of their right to freedom of expression.

Political observers say Trump's comments have further alienated the Latino vote, where a media poll showed 82 percent of Hispanics now view him in an unfavorable light. Republican analysts estimate that they need will need about 40 percent of the Latino vote to win the presidential election. Knowing that Mitt Romney received a scant 27 percent of the

(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

Drop-off Your Balikbayan Boxes at Two Big Island Courier locations!
Come visit us at our Authorized Partner locations:

<p>HILO WAREHOUSE 831 Leilani St., Hilo, HI 96720</p> <p>Business Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 am - 10:00 am or 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Sundays at 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>KONA 73-4776 Kanalani St. Unit #12 Kailua Kona, HI 96740</p> <p>Business Hours: 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Sundays only</p>
--	---

CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR PICK-UP!

Grace Larson
(808) 640-1540
Joy Luea (Kona)
(808) 937-0663

LBC We Like To Move It

(800) 338-5424 www.LBCexpress.com /LBCexpress @LBCexpress

www.allparalegalservices.com

COVER STORY

(from page 3, THE YEAR...)



Hispanic vote in 2012, Republicans face an uphill battle to win over minority voters—especially with Trump in the lead.

6. Plastic Bags No Longer Option for Oahu Shoppers

The shopping habits of shoppers across Oahu were forever changed when a new City law banning single use plastic bags at the point of sale took effect July 1st. Stores began warning its customers several months prior to the ban. Most shoppers took it all in stride, while others hoarded as much plastic bags as possible.

A few stores continue to provide thicker, biodegradable bags at no charge and some shoppers are getting into the habit of bringing their own reusable cloth bags. The new law was inconvenient for the vast majority of shoppers who were raised on receiving plastic bags at the point of purchase. Nevertheless, it's a small sacrifice that will deliver big environmental benefits down the road.

5. Rising Cost of College Tuition Affecting Students' Dreams of Higher Education

Recent high school graduates are finding that the cost of higher education continues to spiral upward each year. The news is particularly disheartening to many Filipino families who place a high priority on college education for their children.

At the University of Hawaii-Manoa, the state's flagship campus, tuition for the 2015-2016 school year is \$10,344 for full-time undergraduate students—an increase of 20 percent since 2012 when the first of several tuition hikes were implemented. Not surprisingly, enrollment levels

have dipped slightly. What is surprising is that the number of Filipino students rose by 3.2 percent over the same period—proving once again the resiliency of Filipino families in making the most out of any situation. Despite rising tuition costs, many still see UH-Manoa as a good value when compared to mainland universities offering a similar caliber of education.

4. Support Grows for Congressional Gold Medals for Filipino WWII Veterans

In their on-going quest for justice, Filipino World War II veterans and their supporters continued to lobby for their rights and benefits, including efforts to award the veterans with the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal which is considered the highest award given to civilians in the U.S.

Hawaii's U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono supported the proposal and last October introduced several measures respectively, just in time for Filipino-American History Month. Many veterans rights groups are optimistic that the measures will be passed but say that it will take a bipartisan effort and a coordinated effort involving many parties. There is a strong consensus that the Filipino veterans have yet to be properly recognized for their courageous service during World War II and that the Congressional Gold Medal would be a well-earned tribute for their heroism.

3. Rail Construction Grips Waipahu Residents, Businesses

During much if not all of 2015, a myriad of lane closures, detours, noise and dust caused by construction of the rail project

along a three-mile stretch of Farrington Highway frustrated numerous Waipahu businesses, residents and even students at Waipahu High School.

Waipahu is the first community to feel the full brunt of the heavy construction work and its disruptions. In fact, observers say that what's happening in Waipahu is a good indication of what will unfold in urban Honolulu when rail construction reaches the area—but on a much larger and uglier scale. To the credit of officials from the Honolulu Authority For Rapid Transit (HART), they have engaged with the community and dealt with complaints as best as they could. Nevertheless, the good people of Waipahu will be forced to wait a bit longer until construction passes and the rail line begins running through their neighborhood. How much longer remains to be seen.

2. New Medical Group Meets Filipino Physician Shortage

Healthcare on the Leeward side of Oahu received a major boost with the grand opening of the beautifully-renovated 2,200 square foot 'Ekahi Urgent Care Clinic in the heart of Waipahu in January 2015. For those needing to see a physician after normal business hours, the new clinic is an affordable and convenient alternative to an emergency room visit.

In the bigger picture, the 'Ekahi Urgent Care Clinic helps to address the growing shortage of Filipino doctors in Hawaii. Statistics show that out 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. The clinic's staff speaks Tagalog and Ilocano and is culturally sensitive to patients' needs—which are added bonuses. Studies also show that minority patients overwhelmingly prefer seeing a physician of their same ethnicity based on communication, cultural and other reasons.

1. UH Center For Philippine Studies Celebrates 40 Years of Excellence

The University of Hawaii Center For Philippine Studies (CPS) reached a landmark 40th anniversary which was celebrated with a series of academic and cultural events including an international symposium, a community banquet and dance performances. CPS holds the distinction as the first institution in the U.S. dedicated entirely to Philippine Studies. It is now widely-considered as THE center for intellectual and aca-

demix exchange on Philippine and Filipino studies. Many of its faculty members are highly-qualified individuals who hold world-class credentials.

CPS is a major player in the Filipino community and has hosted numerous visiting scholars, sponsored scholarly exchanges, promoted research and graduate education, participated in community events like fundraisers for victims of natural disasters and provided much-needed financial assistance for students. One of the greatest testaments to the success of CPS is the increasing number of Filipino students who are enrolled in CPS courses and in the university system. There is also an unmistakable and growing amount of ethnic pride felt by these students who display more self-confidence and motivation in their pursuit of higher education. Many former students who excelled in their courses have gone on to hold key po-



McMANN EYE
INSTITUTE

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

Michael A. McMann, M.D.
BOARD CERTIFIED FELLOWSHIP-TRAINED EYE SURGEON

Same Day Appointments Available

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

COMMENTARY

A Very Tough Job

By Lee H. Hamilton

You know who I feel sorry for? Today's politicians.

You'll laugh at this, but hear me out. This is a very tough time to be a politician — whether running for office or trying to lead while holding office. The women and men who've undertaken to represent us face circumstances that make campaigning and governing unusually challenging right now.

Not that they've ever been easy, at least in my lifetime. Our size, diversity, and multi-layered government structure; the number and complexity of the problems our political leaders face daily; and the divided politics of our time, which make settling on coherent policies especially challenging — all these combine to make being a politician in a representative democracy one of the

most demanding jobs around. Several features of the current political landscape, however, give politics a sharper edge and make it far more difficult to navigate.

For starters, our political discourse, from city councils to state legislatures to Congress, is less forgiving than it was a generation ago. Political opponents are no longer just people with whom we happen to disagree — they're people who need to be shamed into silence. They can't be trusted, they can't be negotiated with, they're self-serving and unpatriotic, and when they're not incompetent, they're scheming, ill-informed and ill-intentioned. This rhetoric is not just calculated demonization. The extent to which politicians today genuinely distrust the other side is something new in our politics. It makes progress on the issues of the day extremely complicated.

This is exacerbated by politicians' awareness that vot-

ers have lost confidence in our traditional political leadership and are searching hard for alternatives. You see this in the rise of candidates like Donald Trump on the right and Bernie Sanders on the left, who speak to voters who are looking for someone to express their anger and frustration.

Why are Americans upset, and more willing than usual to rally to outlying candidates? I don't think there's any great mystery. For starters, we have a society that is deeply concerned about economic insecurity; as the Pew Research Center reported recently, the American middle class — for decades the stable anchor of economy and society — is in trouble and no longer in the majority. People are moving up, but most are not, and some are moving down. Small wonder that immigration causes so much concern.

You can add to this the fear of terrorism and a deeply unsettled view of the major changes taking place in American society: the rise of big data and its

attendant loss of privacy; the migration flows that whittle away at some communities while causing others to change unrecognizably from month to month; the tensions that diversity, arguments over gender, and racial conflict all produce; the fluid and ever-changing patterns of religious belief and identity that have shaken many communities loose from the institutions that once moored them; the decline of the traditional, objective media. America today is an uneasy place, and we see this reflected in voters' frustration and pessimism.

With next year's elections still almost a year away, voters are mostly just looking around. They like candidates who express their anger and resentment, but that's in part because they're not measuring candidates by whether they seem fit for the presidency or Congress or the governor's mansion. Voters are just now starting to hold candidates up to the standards of the offices they seek; as they do, the unsettled political environment in which we find our-

selves will grow a bit less uncertain.

But the long-term issues — the fears and uncertainty and the forces driving them — won't have gone away. Which is why I feel great sympathy for politicians at the moment. The skills we need in our political leaders, like the ability to approach those with whom they disagree with a measure of good will and an openness to negotiation and compromise, are not held in high esteem by the voters or by the loudest voices in their own parties. It's easy for a politician to pander to anger and frustration. It's much harder to face a roomful of disparate opinions and forge a consensus behind a solution. Yet that is precisely what many politicians recognize our country needs.

.....
LEE HAMILTON is a Distinguished Scholar, Indiana University School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES from page 3. **TRUMP...**

dozens of languages.

And then comes the bucket of blood in the form of a correction that takes two-minutes-and-thirty seconds after the boo-boo: "The first runner up is Colombia."

There are nearly 20 seconds of international "WTF-ness," not just in the Vegas auditorium, but around the world. People comprehending "First Runner-up."

When I saw it in Northern California, the local FOX station didn't even give Miss Philippines her moment in the sun. It cut it off right at 10 pm.

OK, I know, we must put this all in perspective. But there is a fairy tale in these kinds of entertainments. And when all that and the fakeness of beauty get obliterated by something so

real and human as a major screw-up, the show becomes a worthy Greek tragedy.

These aren't just mannequins on heels, after all.

Unlike in "Carrie," Miss Colombia got no blood spilled on her, but she must have been horrified. Later in a video, she was seen pushing back tears as only a jilted queen can do. "Everything happens for reason, so I'm happy," she says on a tape the pageant provided to NBC News.

Miss Philippines seemed to need Miss USA to explain to her what was happening. In the same tape, Wurtzbach called it "a very non-traditional problem."

And poor Steve Harvey, whom I love as a stand-up comedian and host, had to feel

bad. He took full responsibility for the boo-boo in the YouTube clip.

But when he went to social media, it got worse, as he first misspelled Philippines "Philippians," and Colombia "Columbia."

I know an honest mistake. This wouldn't happen if we made the pageant required viewing as a geography and spelling lesson.

Harvey's corrected tweet added, "I feel terrible."

If there's one silver lining, it may be this. You'll recall last year's brouhaha between Donald Trump and NBC, when Trump made comments about undocumented immigrants (not the phrase he uses). Trump bought out NBC for the rights to the show, held the stock for a bit, then sold it off to WME/IMG, which put it on Fox.

That may have been your cover to watch the proceedings to imagine a world without Trump. But it may also turn out to be a campaign ploy for Trump.

Could you conceive of the show ending the way it did

had Trump been involved?

Of course not.

Sure enough, there was The Donald tweeting: "This would never have happened!"

And then, he was on the NBC-TODAY show, extending his time, when he talked of all things world politics, to talk about what he really knows.

Beauty pageants.

And then he made the suggestion that the new owners "do a co-winner."

Co-winner? What? And he thinks the tiny Philippines would allow itself to be robbed to justify human error? That wouldn't be fair. Would Trump accept a co-winner role in New Hampshire or Iowa if he won outright but had it stolen from him? I think not.

I wonder if Al Gore was watching and had nightmares of hanging chads.

But that's it. Trump is a divider in all things. But he sees the virtue of unity only in beauty pageants. In stuff that really matters he's bad at. Building walls and just saying no to innocent refugees. But when it comes to solving prob-

lems of complete irrelevance, he's defined his genius.

Trump should stop running for president, and just take over as the country's Beauty Pageant Czar --before another beauty queen is falsely tiara-ed.

He can make Miss Universe great again!

Just leave Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach alone. The Filipinos don't deserve to be jacked around because of Harvey's blunder. Wurtzbach is the future of universal global beauty, the Filipino blend, where we all have an interest in one another. Wurtzbach is the rightful queen, the one and only Miss Universe. But sharing the crown? To cover up the pageant's blunder?

If the Filipinos would defend the Spratlys, you know they will defend their right to Miss Universe.

.....
EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist and commentator who writes from Northern California. He recently won the 2015 Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice from the Asian American Journalists Association, California.

visit our website@
www.thefilipinochronicle.com

and enjoy the
e-copy of the
hawaii filipino
chronicle



LEGAL GUIDE

Saving Grace Poe Without Really Trying



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon



When the law is against you pound on the facts. When the facts are against

you pound on the law. When the law and the facts are against you, pound on the judge” – Atty. Tipon’s version of an old adage on legal strategy.

Mary Grace Natividad Sonora Poe Llamanzares and her lawyers have apparently used our version of the old adage on legal strategy.

The law is against Poe. Article VII, Section 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides: “No person may be elected President unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, a registered voter, able to read and write, at least forty years of age on the day of the election, and a resident of the Philippines for at least ten years immediately preceding such election.” <http://www.lawphil.net/consti/cons1987.html>

The facts are likewise against Poe. Poe admitted that she is a foundling who does not know (cono) her natural (biological) parents. Thus, she cannot prove that she is a “natural-born” citizen of the Philippines. Poe also admitted that she is not “a resident of the Philippines for at least ten years immediately preceding such election” on May 9, 2016. In Poe’s Certificate of Candidacy for Senator, she stated “6 years and 6 months” in the space provided for the candidate’s period of residence in the Philippines on Election Day on May 13, 2013. Counting backward, Poe’s Philippine residency began on November 13, 2006. Consequently, if Poe’s Philippine residency commenced on November 13, 2006, Poe will be a resident of the Philippines for 9 years and

6 months on Election Day on May 9, 2016.

On December 22, 2015, the Comelec en banc disqualified Poe from becoming a candidate for the Presidency on May 9, 2016 for making material misrepresentations in her Certificate of Candidacy for President by claiming (1) she was a natural-born citizen of the Philippines and (2) she would be a resident of the Philippines for at least ten years before the May 9, 2016 election. The Comelec en banc found that Poe (1) is not a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, and (2) did not meet the 10-year period of residency in the Philippines before the election. The Comelec en banc thus denied the motion for reconsideration filed by Poe from the decisions of the Comelec’s First and Second Divisions which had previously disqualified her on December 11 and December 1, respectively.

For a discussion of what constitutes “material misrepresentation,” read our book: Tipon and Tipon, “Winning by Knowing Your Election Laws.”

So what did Poe and her lawyers do? Pound on the judges – the Comelec Commissioners. On December 28, 2015, Poe petitioned the Supreme Court to reverse the Comelec’s decision, saying through her lawyer that “Through arbitrary, capricious, and seemingly orchestrated, acts over the past two months, the Commission on Elections has single-handedly imperiled the sovereign right of the Filipino people to elect the 16th President of the Republic of the Philippines.” Poe herself was quoted as saying: “The Comelec denied our people their choices in an open election but I am confident that the Supreme Court will uphold the truth and the spirit of the Constitution.” <http://thestandard.com.ph/news/headlines/195505/court-stops-poe-disqualification.html>

What will Poe say if the Supreme Court denies her petition to reverse the Comelec decision cancelling her certificate of candidacy? Pound on the

Supreme Court justices as well?

On December 28, 2015, the Chief Justice issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the Comelec from enforcing its decision en banc and from cancelling Poe’s Certificate of Candidacy for the May 9, 2016 election. The TRO is subject to confirmation by the Court en banc when it resumes its session on January 12, 2016.

All these would not have come to pass if Poe, instead of wasting time undergoing DNA tests with suspected relatives in Guimaras and Iloilo which were negative, had agreed to a DNA test with the children of the “usual suspect” who is said to be her father – President Ferdinand Marcos. This is not merely an “urban legend”. There are people who seem convinced that President Marcos and Rosemarie Sonora had a romantic relationship, and that the fruit of that relationship is Mary Grace Natividad Sonora Poe Llamanzares. To hide the shame, it is surmised that Rosemarie delivered the baby in Iloilo and then the baby was brought to a church in

Jaro, Iloilo where the baby would surely be safe and would definitely be found. Why did Rosemarie go to Iloilo? Because she reportedly had relatives there - Cecilia Sayson, the wife of Agustin Locsin, is from Molo, Iloilo. Sayson is said to be a forebear of Rosemarie. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_Roces

If this is not true, why did Rosemarie’s sister Jesusa Purificacion Sonora (screen name Susan Roces) wife of the late Fernando Poe, Jr., who was living in Metro Manila at the time of Grace’s birth go to Iloilo to adopt her? Why go to far away Iloilo when there were hundreds of babies to adopt in Metro Manila? How did Susan know about Grace and that she was for adoption?

Grace Poe has denied that she is the daughter of President Marcos. <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/08/20/1359740/daughter-marcos-tag-amuses-grace-poe>

Bongbong Marcos has likewise denied that Grace Poe is his sister. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1lhmBfxNi0>

[h?v=i1lhmBfxNi0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1lhmBfxNi0)

But how are they to know?

If Grace really wants to save her candidacy, it is not too late for her to have a DNA test with Bongbong. Bongbong has not voiced any objection to it. He is said to have joked that if Grace is his father’s daughter, “welcome to the family.” The testing could be done secretly, using aliases. The DNA samples should be sent to the U.S. If the test is negative, that kills the rumor. If the test is positive – that she is a blood relative of President Marcos - that solves the citizenship question. Grace can then ask for a judicially supervised DNA testing with Bongbong, and with the positive result, move for the re-opening and reconsideration of the Comelec decision on the ground of newly discovered evidence.

As for the residency issue, 6 months short of ten years is de minimis. “De minimis no curat lex (the law does not deal with trifles), as the old legal saying puts it.

If Grace wins the Presidency, Marcos pa rin! Or Mar-

(continued on page 12)

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 VISIT: <http://garfieldlaw.com/>

SOCIETY PAGE

The Bautista's Golden Wedding Anniversary



Domingo "Domi" and Elisa Bautista (wearing leis) are joined by relatives from the Philippines for their Golden Wedding Anniversary. From left: The Hon. Judge Laarni Parayno (the couple's niece); Leticia Parayno (Laarni's mom and Elisa's younger sister); and Josa Ramos (Elisa's older sister). Photo by April Jessee



▲ Domi and Elisa renew their vows at Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Catholic Church which was decorated with autumn leaves following the "Fall in Love Forever" theme. Photo by April Jessee



Dr. Edna Bautista (daughter), Rick Parkinson (son-in-law), Domi and Elisa, and Dr. Dennis Bautista (son) at OLPH. Domi is wearing the same suit he wore at their wedding 50 years ago. Photo by Lani Parayno



Generous guests shower Domi and Elisa with money during the traditional Filipino Money Dance. Photo by April Jessee



Family and friends line up for the customary Filipino Money Dance with Domi and Elisa. Photo by April Jessee



Foreground from left: Deacon Eric Kim and his wife Mela, Father Santiago "Bong" A. Agoo Jr. and Father Edmundo "Ed" N. Barut Jr. from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. In the background are a group of Domi and Elisa's friends originally from their hometown of Pangasinan, Philippines. The men in the background all served in the U.S. Navy.



A gift-opening ceremony concluded the 50th Wedding anniversary festivities. Photo by Lani Parayno



Domi and Elisa with a few of the nearly 120 guests who attended their 50th golden wedding anniversary. Photo by April Jessee



Co-workers, neighbors and church friends celebrate Domi and Elisa's 50th Wedding Anniversary at the Hawaii Prince Golf Club's Bird of Paradise Restaurant.

FEATURE

COMPASSIONATE, HARD WORKING FILIPINA TOUCHES THE LIVES OF MANY

By Teresa Marie Doumont

Come to the edge, he said. They said: We are afraid. Come to the edge, he said. They came. He pushed the... and they flew.”—*Guillaume Apollinaire, French poet and writer (1880-1918)*

For businesswoman and entrepreneur Carlota Hufana Ader, that in a nutshell perhaps best describes the positive influence and encouragement she has provided to the many people in life she has crossed paths with.

A woman of many talents, Carlota was born in Bacnotan, La Union in the Ilocos region of the Philippines. For one thing, academics has always come easy to her. She attended high school at Christ The King College and Far Eastern University in Manila, where she majored in pre-medicine.

During that time, an opportunity arose for her to work in the U.S. as a medical exchange intern for a hospital in Chicago, but she instead enrolled in Manila Central University to pursue a degree in medical technology. She later graduated among the top 10 in her class and even taught a course in clinical laboratory science. Looking back, it was a decision that she has never regretted.

“Things happen in life for a reason,” Carlota says. “It was always a dream of mine to come to the U.S. but back then, the timing wasn’t right so I waited for the right opportunity.”

While in college, Carlota made good on numerous opportunities to uplift the lives of others. She volunteered for numerous community outreach activities as president of her school’s student council and often traveled to rural districts on medical missions for the poor and needy.

Carlota learned from her parents the importance of help-

ing the less fortunate. Her dad Juan “Johnny” Hufana was a barrio captain and generous philanthropist. He operated a fleet of fishing ships and owned property along seashore, which was known as Villa Hufana. Carlota’s mom ran a small sari-sari store and worked as seamstress and practical nurse for the Philippine Red Cross.

Johnny Hufana passed away in 1994 but not before establishing a scholarship at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University that paid for the tuition of 10 deserving students each year. He also co-founded the school’s College of Nursing. In addition, the Hufana family donated several parcels of land to San Fernando City government officials, including the historic St. Jude’s Church property for the expansion of Poro Elementary School and several waiting sheds. A thankful city named a street in his honor—J. Hufana Road. Her parents left behind an enduring legacy that made an indelible impression on a young Carlota.

“My parents just didn’t talk about helping others,” she says. “I saw for myself how they put their compassion for others into action. They lived it out every day, which really affected my outlook on life.”

After graduation, she married John Ader, a young man from Hawaii to whom she was betrothed to even before birth. The arrangement was made between couple’s respective grandmothers who were best friends. John worked as a food and beverage manager at the



Sheraton Waikiki. Carlota and John had two children—Teresa (45) and Glory Jane (35).

Carlota’s first job in Hawaii was as head cashier at a local department store. After passing a board exam administered to non-licensed immigrants with a background in medical technology, she landed a job as a medical laboratory assistant and was shortly promoted to laboratory technician. She then took another difficult supervisory-level board certification exam. After passing, she was at last a fully licensed Medical Technician with a specialization in hematology and blood banking.

Carlota worked as laboratory manager for Ali’i Laboratories and supervised three Kaiser Permanente laboratories in Punawai, Waianae and Mililani. She also worked as Assistant Laboratory Director for the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, where she will retire in February 4, 2016 after 32 years of service as supervisor in Coagulation Department. She also worked in the management team of Diagnostic Labs at Queen’s Hospital and Clinical Laboratories. In addition, she worked at Kapiolani Women’s and Children Hospital and was a supervisor at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific.

She will continue as the owner and president of CHA Services, a company she founded in 1976 that adminis-

ters medical exams for all insurance companies. CHA Services also teaches phlebotomy, EKG and intravenous therapy courses with CTI International. Carlota served as Commissioner of Real Property Tax Board of Review II, City & County of Honolulu and a Notary Public, State of Hawaii.

Giving Back

Despite a hectic work schedule, Carlota manages to squeeze in numerous community and civic involvement activities, first and foremost with La Union Circle of Hawaii, which she served as president for 16 years from 1998-2014. During her tenure, the La

Union Circle raised funds for deserving college scholarships for students in the Ilocos region. Members also spearheaded numerous service projects that benefited their hometown.

Carlota also served as vice president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council, vice president of the Hawaii Filipino Women’s Club (HFWC) and vice president of the American Business Women’s Association, Leeward Chapter. She is also a member of the National Association of Professional Women, USA. The HFWC worked with members of the Rotary Club and Girl Scouts in the Philippines on various outreach projects, including a medical mission to San Fernando City during which the group adopted the city’s health center. Thousands of dollars worth of medicines and medical supplies were given to the poor and needy, including several wheelchairs and hearing aids.

In 2012, she founded Grandma Hawaii International which undertakes service projects for the poor and needy in Hawaii and the Philippines. The organization was patterned after a similar program started by the Filipino Channel. In

(continued on page 15)

GOLDEN CUT
BOUTIQUE | JEWELRY | HAIR | NAIL

Full Service Salon.
Come for Beauty Need Head to Toe.

- Eyebrow Tattoo
- Lash Extension, Lash Extension Extra fabulous, Color Lash Extension, Lash Extension Refill
- Make Up for any occasions
- Nails Spa- Manicure, Pedicure
- Gel Nails w/ Booster & Designs
- Special Haircuts
- Highlights, Color, Color Retouch, Rebonding, Straightening, Hair Gloss and all your hair needs
- Up do for all occasions!

— — — — —

Fine Jewelry 14K, 18K, Gold, Pearls, Diamonds (70% Off).
Personalized Jeweledries and Accessories.
Check Our New Arrivals of Women’s Shoes, Casual & Evening Wear

HOLIDAY SPECIALS ON JEWELRIES.
We PAY CASH for your Old, New and Broken Jeweledries.

GOLDEN CUT
94-050 Farrington Hwy, Waipahu, HI 96797
Phone (808) 677-7532



PASTOR David E. Sumrall

with PASTOR ALISHA SUMRALL

The Gospel.

Learn It.

Believe It.

Live It.

Preach It.

Starts August 17, 2015

Monday to Friday

6:00 - 6:30 AM

KWHE TV 14

Oceanic Cable Channel 11
Hawaiian Telcom TV Channel 14

1188 Bishop Street, Suite 502, Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel. (808) 538-1414

www.cathedralofpraisehawaii.com • www.facebook/cop.hawaii

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

State Ok's Transfer of Oceanic Franchises to Charter Communications

The State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Cable Television Division (CATV) has conditionally approved the merger transaction transferring control of Oceanic Time Warner Cable LLC's six cable franchises to Charter Communications, Inc.

Charter provides entertainment and communications services to approximately six million customers in 28 states. Charter and Time Warner Cable, Inc. (TWC), the parent company of Oceanic, filed an application in July 2015 to indirectly transfer control of Oceanic's cable franchises statewide, pursuant to a merger transaction between Charter and TWC.

"After an extensive review of the merger transaction application, we determined that the proposed transfer of Oceanic's Hawaii cable franchises to Charter, with the conditions imposed on by the state, is in the public's best interest," says CATV Administrator Ji Sook Kim. "Charter is committed to improving cable networks in Hawaii and providing a low cost broadband service for Hawaii's low-income consumers."

The Decision and Order requires Charter to:

- Provide a broadband service for low-income consumers in Hawaii, including families with children participating in the National School Lunch Program and seniors age 65

and older who are eligible and receive federal Supplemental Security Income benefits within three years of the close of the merger transaction.

- Invest \$10 million to build its networks and 1,000 new line extensions to homes within three years of the close of the merger transaction.
- Provide 1,000 new public WiFi access points within three years of the close of the merger transaction.
- Transition virtually all of Oceanic's cable systems to all-digital networks and provide subscribers two digital transport adaptors or "basic boxes" free of charge for a period of two years and make them available at Oceanic's customer service centers and delivery by mail.
- Promote and make available energy efficient set-top boxes that meet energy star requirements.
- Develop an economically feasible program to trade out old boxes with efficient ones.

The merger and transfer of Oceanic's Hawaii franchises will not take place until federal regulatory review of the merger transaction is completed. The Federal Communications Commission is currently reviewing the Charter and Oceanic merger.

St. Anthony Church Kalihi to Celebrate Centennial

St. Anthony Kalihi will celebrate its landmark 100th Anniversary on Sunday, January, 10, 2016 with a mass at 9 am presided by Bishop Larry Silva, followed by a fair 10:30 am.

The Centennial Celebration theme is "100 Years Growing in Faith, Hope, and Love." Located at 640 Puuhale Road in the residential and commercial/industrial district of Kalihi, St. Anthony is perfectly positioned to reach some 62,000 residents in the area, most of whom come from immigrant families. The church's parishioners and priests are constantly working to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the masses with its numerous outreach programs that benefit the poor, homeless and less fortunate in the community.

The fair will have a historical-cultural theme and showcase cultural and

game booths, entertainment depicting important events as well as colorful aspects of the various cultures of parishioners. Included in the program is the coronation of the Centennial Court.

St. Anthony Kalihi has been serving the residents of all ethnicities throughout lower Kalihi from Hawaiians, to Portuguese, then with a wave of Japanese, Filipino, Samoan and Micronesian immigrants.

Today, St. Anthony Church Kalihi remains a vibrant faithful community of various ethnicities. The parish campus includes a school serving students from pre-school to Grade 8, a convent and a rectory.

For more information regarding the Centennial Celebration, please visit SaintAnthonyKalihi.org or call Father Arnel Soriano at 845-3255.

FEATURE

FILIPINA POET WINS WORLD ECOPOETRY PRIZE

By Carolyn W. Hildebrand

What a *kayumanggi* presence! The poem “Auguries” moved distinguished judges of the 2015 Resurgence Poetry Prize and brought first place honors to award-winning Filipina poet Luisa A. Igloria.



Luisa A. Igloria | Photo Credit: poetryfoundation.org

The 2015 Resurgence Poetry Prize is the world’s first major award for “ecopoetry,” which is defined as contemporary poetry with a strong ecological emphasis. Igloria read her winning poem on December 15, 2015 at the Leighton House Museum in London. The award came with a monetary award of over \$7,400.

Sir Andrew Motion, chair of the judicial panel, praised Igloria’s poem for its “authenticity, intensity and cohesion.”

Founded in 2014, the Resurgence Poetry Prize reflects the founders’ shared passion for and commitment to poems that investigate and challenge the interrelationship between nature and human culture. The competition was launched to foster the role that poetry can play in providing insight, raising awareness and provoking concern for the ecological imperative of the times.

Igloria’s Outstanding Ways

Igloria is no stranger to awards and recognitions at the highest levels. She graduated *cum laude* from the University of the Philippines-Baguio with a bachelor’s (humanities major in comparative literature). She earned her master’s in literature at Ateneo de Manila as a Robert Southwell fellow and her Ph.D. in English and creative writing at the University of Illinois-Chicago as a Fullbright Fellow.

In the Philippines, she was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Award for Literature based on numerous awards she won in poetry, nonfiction

and short fiction genres. The Chicago-based Poetry Foundation lists her numerous honors including poetry prizes, residencies, seminars and international retreats for writers.

Hawaii also recognized her in 1996 when the University of Hawaii-Manoa Center for Philippine Studies invited her as a Visiting Humanities Scholar. She is a tenured professor of English and creative writing at Old Dominion University where she also served as director of the MFA Creative Writing Program from 2009-2015.

On the Prize and Event

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle asked Igloria for her thoughts on this latest award and winning poem. She graciously took time to share the following about the prize:

“The Resurgence Poetry Prize is the world’s first prize for ecopoetry, which makes it not only special but urgently relevant in the context of all we are experiencing in the global environment. I am of course thrilled beyond words that the distinguished panel of judges (headed by no less than former UK Poet Laureate Sir Andrew Motion, with members who are also some of the most respected names in contemporary British poetry—Jo Shapcott and Alice Oswald) found my poem to be the most meritorious.

“It was an honor to meet the judges as well as key personae who are members of the Resurgence Trust and/or count themselves as Prize

Founders—environmentalist, former Jain monk and publisher Satish Kumar, environmentalist and entrepreneur Sir Peter Phelps and British actress Joanna Lumley.

“It was truly special to be named the inaugural winner of this prize and for me to be able to fly to London with my husband and youngest daughter to attend the program. Two friends—my co-blogger via ViaNegativa, himself a poet and publisher, Dave Bonta; and his British partner, former BBC journalist Rachel Rawlins, were also with us.”

On the Poem, Upbringing and Future

Igloria also brought her Philippine upbringing and traditional Filipino environmental values to prominence with these striking thoughts about her winning poem:

“I always find it difficult to “explain” my own work—but about “Auguries,” the winning poem, I guess I could say that it is a kind of lyric elegy mourning a world that seems

to be passing away. I was raised in Baguio in a mostly Ilocano household that had a strong awareness of animistic beliefs. We practiced *atang*, for instance—putting aside small offerings of food and drinks for the spirits of our loved ones who are departed; and I was taught not to indiscriminately trample on or pull up plants in the backyard because spirits might live there.

“In our contemporary world, many might feel uncomfortable with such ideas. And unlike in my childhood, our modern environment seems so full of dangers and risks that we don’t want to expose our children (or even ourselves) to.

“While my poem expresses sadness at such things, at the same time, I like to think that there is hopeful sentiment

there too—with all the very real effects we are experiencing owing to climate change. As I said in a few remarks at the program, our dearest hope is for our children to have a viable world to inhabit in the future.”

An Inspiration to Filipino Writers

Igloria is an extraordinarily prolific writer who has written at least one poem a day since November 20, 2010. She shares generously in her personal website www.luisagloria.com.

Fortunately for budding poets and creative writers, the internet offers access to her lifetime work, experiences and personal insights that helped to shape her journey as a writer and scholar. To view her poems, go online to: www.vianegativa.us/author/luisa/.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE. TAKE CARE OF YOUR LEGAL MATTERS WHILE YOU CAN AND DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Start collecting your ex-husband's retirement pay.
- Write a will before the state picks who gets your stuff.
- Make a living trust before you get Alzheimers.
- Agree on who inherits what before your 2nd marriage.
- Become your adult disabled child's legal guardian.
- Protect government benefits with a special needs trust.
- Change your power of attorney after the divorce.



Sheryll Bonilla
Attorney at Law
(808) 670-6177

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



“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

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Renowned Filipino Artist Returns to Hawaii for Sakada Celebration

by Carolyn W. Hildebrand

The First Migrants

Hawaii's inaugural Sakada Day was celebrated on December 20, 2015 which also marked the 109th anniversary of the arrival of the first 15 Filipino sugar plantation workers from Candon, Ilocos Sur.

Renowned Filipino artist Benedicto Reyes Cabrera (or "BenCab") set aside some time to return to the islands for Sakada Day. He came to Honolulu some 31 years ago for "Being Filipino: Paintings, Prints & Drawings," a 12-year retrospective exhibition held at what was then the Honolulu Academy of Arts (now the Honolulu Museum of Arts). This time around, he was in town to present "First Migrants," a painting that was commissioned by Ilocos Sur Congressman Eric Singson for Sakada Day.

"First Migrants" was unveiled at the State Capitol during a public ceremony that honored living *sakadas* and former plantation workers who came to Hawaii between 1906 and 1946. The commissioned work was formally gifted to the Philippine government on December 21 and is on permanent display at the Philippine Consulate General.

For "First Migrants," BenCab selected four images from photographs that he received. He liked the images of a young *sakada* and three others who were working in the field. He wanted to capture the smiles and the recognition that with those smiles came anxiety, worry and homesickness of being far away from home.

In his artist statement, BenCab expressed hope that his painting will honor the first 15 *sakadas* who arrived in Hawaii and his desire to also be remembered as "a Filipino and a Filipino Artist."

"First Migrant" is his latest painting that depicts the life migrant Filipinos. In 1988, his painting "America is in the Heart" went on display at a London art gallery. That painting was inspired by Carlos Bulosan's autobiography describing the racial discrimination against Filipinos in the U.S.

Meeting with Community Members

BenCab meet numerous members of the Filipino community while in Hawaii. On December 19, he and Congressman Singson were special guests of the Candonians of Hawaii at the organization's Scholarship Fund Drive and

Christmas party held at the Filipino Community Center.

On December 20, BenCab joined Philippine and Hawaii dignitaries, descendants of *sakadas*, Filipino community civic leaders, volunteers and the public at the State Capitol where he officially unveiled "First Migrants." The event made it to the front-page of the Honolulu Star Advertiser newspaper the next day.

On December 21, the Philippine Consulate General held a reception for BenCab and Congressman Singson. Maui artist Philip Sabado introduced BenCab and retold the story of a young boy who drew all the time and on anything. He also highlighted BenCab's belief in three important traits that every artist must have in order to succeed—curiosity, passion and making art from life." Guests were then treated to a retrospective slide presentation of his works from his career of 50 years.

On December 22, BenCab traveled to Maui for a reception at the Sabado Studios in Wailuku where he was greeted with a traditional Hawaiian blessing. The reception was attended by people from all walks of life, including Hawaiian elders, teachers and instructors from the university, Filipino and non-Filipino artists, parents and students, and art majors who are attending college on the mainland but were home for the holidays. The event included a question-



National artist BenCab

and-answer session for guests.

It was publicly acknowledged at all of these events that Sakada Day and BenCab's return to Hawaii would not have been possible without the leadership of Consul General Gina Jamoralin, Congressman Singson and State Rep. John Mizuno.

BenCab Then and Now

Some things have remained the same for Ben Cabrera since Hawaii last saw him in 1984 but many things have also changed. He still goes by "BenCab," a name that distinguished him from several other Ben Cabreras when he was just starting his career in the fine arts. This time, however, he was introduced to Hawaii as a "Philippine National Artist," a distinction he was conferred upon in 2006 by then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

His work has reached many audiences through numerous exhibits, commissioned works, and private and public collections around the world. In 2009, the BenCab Museum was opened near Baguio City, his adopted hometown and a sister-city of Honolulu. It now serves as a

permanent home for BenCab's works in the fine arts and also features the works of other known Filipino masters, rising contemporary artists and the Cordillera communities' unnamed indigenous folk artists and utilitarian crafters.

The BenCab Museum is a must-see visitor destination. Among its recent visitors was Sabado who was impressed by the museum's intent to bring arts closer to the people and its commitment to stewardship of the natural environment and indigenous Cordillera cultural and traditional materials.

In 2015, "BenCab: 50 Creative Years" was launched in the Philippines as a year long retrospective celebration of BenCab's five decades as a professional artist. A series of exhibits were mounted in eight major museums, along with a musical production was also presented.

According to various internet sources, BenCab's artwork is still on display at the following venues: the Ayala Museum ("Portraits by BenCab"); the Vargas Museum-UP Diliman ("BenCab Redux"); the BenCab Museum ("BenCab: Up and Personal"); and the Metropolitan Museum of Manila ("BenCab: The Filipino Artist").



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

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

Camara
EYE
Clinic

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

LEGAL GUIDE (from page 7, SAVING POE)

cos na naman!

DISCLOSURE: We are for upholding the law. We are not against Grace. Her running mate, Chiz Escudero, is our fraternity brod. We filed an amicus curiae brief in 2004 favorable to her adoptive father Ronald Allan Kelly Poe (aka Fernando Poe, Jr.) in the disqualification case against him for not being a natural born-citizen. FPJ won. The citizenship issue in PFJ's case was entirely different from Grace's. FPJ was not a founding; Grace is. FPJ's fa-

ther was known, although it was claimed that he was not a Filipino citizen at birth because FPJ's grandfather Lorenzo Pou was a Spanish subject, born in the Philippines before it was acquired by the United States. Lorenzo Pou, however, benefited from the "en masse Filipinization" effected by the Philippine Bill of 1902. Fornier v Comelec and Poe, G.R. No. 161824, March 3, 2004. Thus, Grace Poe's hope that "the Supreme Court will decide the same way it did in her father's case" is vain.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: 900 Fort Street, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

The Long Wait for Employment-Based Green Card

Many people know that the process of becoming a U.S. immigrant through employment begins with the filing of a labor certification application or an immigrant visa petition which assigns a “priority date” to the foreign national. This priority date determines the foreign national’s place in the line for an immigrant visa.

But many people also make the mistake of underestimating the length of time they must wait before a visa number becomes available to them. For example, if an EB3 preference

petition is filed for a professional today, he might assume that, based on the latest visa bulletin which shows an August 1, 2007 cut-off date for the Philippines, his priority date will become current in about eight years.

This is not necessarily true. To understand how long one must wait before his/her priority date is reached, it is useful to have an idea of how immigrant visa numbers are allocated and what the actual demand under a visa category is.

The monthly cut-off date is determined by the Visa Office (VO) of the Department of State (DOS). The VO collects information from overseas consular posts as well as the USCIS with regard to immigrant visa

requests. It calculates visa number usage and compares the demand with the allotment, separating it by foreign state chargeability and preference.

If the demand does not exceed the allotment, the category is current and no cut-off date is needed. Otherwise, the category is considered oversubscribed and DOS sets a cut-off date which is the priority date of the first applicant who will not receive a visa number.

Employment-based (EB) immigration operates on a preference system which distributes the limited number of immigrant visa numbers available each year into five general categories. These are: EB1 for priority workers; EB2 for advance degree professionals and aliens of exceptional ability;

EB3 for skilled workers, professionals and lesser skilled “other workers”; EB4 for special immigrants, including religious workers; and EB5 for investors. The principal worker’s spouse and children are counted against the available number of immigrant visas.

The law sets a worldwide limit of 140,000 EB visas per fiscal year. The EB1, EB2 and EB3 categories each get 28.6% of the total or 40,040 visas per category. The EB4 and EB5 categories each get 7.1% or 9,940 visas.

However, there is also a per-country limitation in the number of visas available per EB category which is 7% of the total annual limit. This means that only 2,803 visas for EB1 through EB3 and about 700 visas for EB4 and EB5 may be initially allocated to any single nationality group per year. Quite obviously, the visa allocation system works to the disadvantage of populous

countries such as India, China and the Philippines.

The complex visa allocation system also involves several mechanisms that reallocate unused visa numbers. Unused visa numbers in EB4 and EB5 “fall up” to EB1. Unused numbers “fall down” from EB1 to EB2 to EB3. If an oversubscribed country has a relatively small demand for family-based visas, the excess visa numbers “fall across” to the EB preferences, as long as the total number use is still within the 7% limit for the country. This also works the other way around, i.e. from employment based to family based. However, the Philippines does not benefit from this type of spillover because it is oversubscribed in both employment and family preferences.

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

MAINLAND NEWS

GABRIELA Supports Launch of Migrant Workers Group



GABRIELA Los Angeles (LA) has joined efforts to launch Migrante LA, a national democratic Filipino workers’ organization that aims to end systematic export of labor and to uphold the rights of all migrant workers.

“We continue to be inspired by the resilience of migrant workers and stand by them in the struggle to end forced migration, wage theft, modern-day slavery and human trafficking,” says Janelle Viray of GABRIELA LA. “We denounce the widespread joblessness, landlessness and lack of social services in the Philippines

under President Benigno Aquino’s regime and call for a new beginning of true rights and welfare for migrants everywhere.”

Viray says massive unemployment rates, poverty and repression in the Philippines has forced migrant workers to leave their families. In the last five years, approximately 6,000 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) leaving the country each a day. The Philippines is one of the largest labor-exporting countries in the world, with some 2.3 million OFWs working abroad.

These OFWs, Viray says, are often mistreated by employment agencies, traffickers

and employers, as seen in the recent case of the 11 Filipino bakery workers at L’Amande Bakery in Southern California. And since 2003, Isidro Rodriguez illegally recruited and trafficked hundreds of undocumented teachers from the Philippines into the U.S. before he was arrested.

“We denounce all those who take advantage of workers for profit and the failure of the Philippine government to provide support or services to migrant workers suffering abroad,” Viray says.

“GABRIELA LA rejects the government’s Labor Export Policy and calls for the Philippine government to end its severe dependence on labor export and forced migration. We seek a Philippines that provides sufficient jobs through national industrialization, social services, healthcare and a living wage that will allow people to provide for their families and no longer be torn apart for survival.”

Homework Is What I Do Best!
JESSIE R. KOPPEL, RA, SRES

- Experienced & Trusted Realtor since 1987
- Senior Real Estate Specialist
- Experienced Residential and Commercial Sales and Leasing
- Member of Muscular Dystrophy Assoc. and ALS Ohana Hawaii
- Fluent in Tagalog & Visayan Language

Locations LLC-Diamond Head Office
 Cell: 808-222-0224
 Direct: 808-738-8971
 e-mails: jrkoppel@hawaii.rr.com; jessie.koppel@locationsllc.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

PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Baro A Tawen, Baro A Rusat, Baro A Pakinakem

nayka ngaruden tapno nabag-bagas ti maapit. Sabali manen a pelikula ti biag ken narangrang-ay a masakbayan. Ituloy dagiti inrusat nga aramid ket planuen pay dagiti nadadaeg pay nga itungpal nga inar-arapaap.

Baro a tawen manen Kaili! No malmalday iti napalabas piliem a naragrasak ken nagin-gin-awa ita a tiempo a 2016.

Nasayat Met Ti Tumaliaw

Adu dagiti naaramid a pangselebrar ti napalabas. Wen mailaglagip dagiti immuna a SAKADAS, the brave SAKADAS nga immuna nga simmangpet ditoy Hawaii. Adu nga ILOKANO nga mangdamdamag kadagiti saan a makalagip ken makaammo kadakuada. They are the brave people (family) who first came to Hawaii as SAKADAS, who are they?

The arrival of the first Filipino workers was recorded in the immigration office of Hawaii in December 1906. After checking out at the immigration office, the Filipino

workers were directed to proceed to the Olaa Plantation in Keaau, Hawaii where they worked with the other sugar plantation workers. Armed with strong determinations and high hopes to transform their lives into meaningful and fruitful ones, their hopes were tested as they were made to work in the unforgiving hot sun.

The first arrival of Sakada workers was on December 20, 1906 via SS Doris. They were Ilokanos-Simplicio Geronilla (56) together with his children, Antonio(14), Francisco(18), Vicente(19), Mariano (23), Celistino Cortez (19), Julio Galmen (20), Martin de Jesus (22), Apolonio Ramos (26), Emiliano Dasalia (26), Marcelino Bello (27), Cecilio Sagun (27), Prudencio Sagun (28), and Filomeno Rebodilio (30). The first wave of Filipino immigrants arrived in Hawaii in December 1906-1919, the second wave in 1920-1929, the third wave 1930-1934, the fourth wave in 1948, and the fifth wave in

1968. Filipino immigrants legally entered Hawaii through their SAKADA parents and brothers. Isu dayta ti nangrugian dagiti Filipino

a simrek ditoy Hawaii. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL. NARAGSAK A BARO A TAWENYO AMIN!!!

Baro a tawen manen, nalpas manen dagiti napalabas a tinartarigagayan a magun-od. Adu manen dagiti pampanunoten ken kayat nga aramiden iti tawen a matapugan.

Ania manen dagiti irusad? Ikarigatan manen nga itungpal dagiti mapanunot a pagrang-ayan ken pagbaliwan, dagiti kalkalikaguman a gaw-aten tapno rumangrang-ay ti kasasaad ken rumagrasak ti biag. Ti tao a managpanunot adda latta a mangwanwanawan ti nasaysayaat a tapuganna a makaitungpal kadagiti ar-arapaapna iti daytoy a biag.

Mangasawaakon Tatang! Daytoy metten ti tawen a panagrugi nga agmula kadagiti ar-arapaapem a tan-ayan. Adu ti kayat a buklen iti daytoy matapugan a tawen. Agtig-

PAKABULKLAN TI NASAYAAT A KINATAO

Iparang a naragsakka a makisarsarita
Saan a makaaliaw ta ipeperreng
Kaemen dagiti natibker a bibig
Saan nga agukap no di makarit

Taliawem ti nalawlawa a kapanagan
Say-upem angin a pakagin-awaam
Silalanay iwalin dagiti makasipar
Tapno nawaywaya ti iyaaddang dagiti dapan

Aramaten naalumamay a pannakigayem
Ipatatmat ti nasayaat a kababalin
Laokam ti sangakutsara a kinamanagayat
Sangarakem a panagtalek, nabuslon panagpaay

Ipatatmat nga awan rimer pakinakem
Iti kupita ti di marupsa a pannakilangen
Idasarmo ti sanga-appopo a ragsak
Kas ti kabaalam nga umisem a di agressat

Ipalusposmot panagarubos dagiti luam
A makipagladingit ti agsagaba a kaarrubam
Ipakitam a ta puso makipagliday
Lutuem a nasayaat ti idasarmo a naynay

Ibulsam a di maibutaktak a palimed
Siglutam ti naisawangmo a kari
Itungpal ti kari ta isut rupa
Laglagipen a ti tarnaw ti puso isut tawa
Ti nadalus awan tulawna a kararua.

MAINLAND NEWS



Congress Averts Government Shutdown

Congress recently approved a \$1.1 trillion spending package that avoids a federal government shutdown and funds federal agencies through next fall. The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the measure in a 316-113 vote. The U.S. Senate also

passed the bill 65-33, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama.

U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard supported the measure which she described as a compromise between both parties and represents a strong economic package.

“I voted to keep the gov-
(continued on page 15)

philstar.com
The Filipino Global Community

*shines even brighter
for the Filipino Global
Community*

FLIPINO
Global Community

Join us as we journey into a new home!

Log on to www.philstar.com

MAINLAND NEWS (from page 14, CONGRESS.....)

ernment open, take care of 9/11 first responders, protect our environment, and empower working families and small businesses, encouraging long-term growth across the country," Gabbard says. "We avoided the detrimental alternatives of either a shutdown or a continuing resolution, which would have had a devastating impact on our communities, and on our military and national security."

Key provisions included in this legislation that benefit Hawaii include:

- Military Construction: \$444 million
- Education: \$51.4 million in educational grants for Native Hawaiians
- Conservation: \$17.6 million for parks and wilderness preserves
- Infrastructure: \$250 million for Honolulu's rail project and \$6.5 million for various U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects

- East-West Center - \$16.7 million

"There are critical investments across the state of Hawaii that are funded in this bill, such as rural development projects that serve local businesses and communities, maintenance and improvements for our highways, public transportation and infrastructure, land and water conservation projects for at-risk forests on the Big Island and Oahu, and education grants for Native Hawaiian students and families, to name just a few.

"One in eight of our keiki in Hawaii live in poverty and the permanent extension of the Earned Income and Child Care Tax Credits will help thousands of middle- and low-income local families pay their bills and put food on the table. Local businesses, students, teachers, working families and the environment will benefit from the extension of tax credits for higher education, energy efficiency, renewable energy, research and development, and more."

FEATURE (from page 8, COMPASSIONATE....)

2013 under her direction, a fundraiser was held on behalf of a school for handicapped children. Several "grandma queens" from Hawaii with family roots to the Ilocos region were on-hand at the fundraiser which was co-sponsored by the La Union Circle of HI and Associates.

The 2nd Grandma Hawaii Int'l and the first Little Aloha State Int'l held last October 25, 2015 at the Ala Moana Hotel was a success. The fashion show by Totoy Madriaga enthralled the audience with fabulous designs of ternos and evening gowns, most of which were sold after the event. Proceeds will benefit the Adopt a School in the Philippines, which ABS-CBN International Kapamilya is now preparing for an upcoming Philippines trip with Carlota and event co-chair Adela Salacup for endorsement in 2016. Other programs to benefit include drug treatment, homeless, Fil-Am Veterans, the Humane Society and scholarship programs for college-bound students.

Many people also know Carlota as the entertainment columnist for the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. She is a fixture at many social, political and cultural events hosted by the Hawaii's Filipino community. Carlota has used her extensive contacts to secure exclusive one-on-one interviews with "movers and shakers" from both the Philippine and

U.S. governments, including former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Joseph Estrada, Ernesto Maceda, former U.S. president Bill Clinton, current Philippine President Noynoy Aquino and various consuls and visiting dignitaries.

The following are just a few of the awards she has received:

- Various honors and awards from City, State and Federal government for Heroism in Saving the Life of Police Officer Stan Cook (1995)
- Who's Who in American Professionals (2006)
- American Business Women's Association Award (2008)
- Stratmosphere Who's Who (2008)
- Women in Laboratory Medicine Award by the San Fernando City Professionals Organization (2008), BREA, CA
- Abel Award to Non-Government Organizations by the Philippine government (2010)
- Global Community Service & Entrepreneurship Award by San Fernando City presented by Senators Grace Poe and Chez Escudero (2013)
- Celebrity of the Day Recognition Award by Spot Light Radio Network, New York (2014)
- Recognition Award For 31 Years of Service at Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health care (2014)

- Empowered Women Award by radio station KPRP (2015)
- International Leadership Women's Association (ILWA) Empowerment Award 2015

Not surprisingly, Carlota is often asked to emcee and judge various events due to her warm spirit, infectious smile and engaging personality. She has chaired several Mrs. Hawaii Filipina and SIRMATA pageants; served as a judge for the Miss Caloocan City and Miss Teen USA pageants; was a guest speaker at several San Fernando City festivals and the Bacnotan Sports Festival in La Union; and was the installing officer for the Young Hearts Club Association in La Union.

Carlota's achievements and community service have not gone unnoticed. Leaders in Hawaii's Filipino Community like Joe Lazo admire her work ethic and commitment to helping others.

"I would like to commend Carlota for her many accomplishments," Lazo says. "She has been successful in her chosen profession because she is passionate about providing excellent serv-

CLASSIFIED ADS

FRUIT/VEGETABLE CUTTER (FT/PT)

Paid Vacation+Overtime Possible
Super Foods, Inc.
3209 Ualena St., 834-1541

JANITORS PART TIME | TOWN | DAYS \$8 HR

Full time utility esp strip/wax floors, clean carpets, windows
6AM-2:30 PM or 7PM-3AM | \$9- \$11 hr
Dr Lic & US Citizen helpful but not needed
Call 8451955| 9-4PM M-F

DRIVER & PROCESSION ROOM WORKER

- Clean abstract required for driver.
- Competitive pay, medical, dental, vision, & 401k
- profit sharing benefits.

Application hours:

10am-3pm, Mon-Fri

Apply in person at:

KOHA FOODS
500 Alakawa St. #104
Honolulu, HI 96817

HELP WANTED Full time & Permanent

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE Entry Position

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Ilocano/Eng. speaking; farming experience; Knowledge of plants; Experienced with some power tools; Quality conscious; Team Player

BENEFITS:

Medical/Dental/Vision HMSA coverage - fully paid
Paid Holidays (15), Vacation Pay, and Sick Pay
Annual Raises and Annual Bonus

COMPENSATION:

Start \$11 - \$12/hr; Opportunity for advancement

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE Experienced Professional

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Ilocano/English speaking; Irrigation Repair & Controller Knowledge; Commercial/Industrial experience; Knowledge of Herbicides; Pesticides, and Fertilizers; Knowledge of plants; Experienced with tools, equipment & machines; Team Player; Quality Conscious; Industry References; Valid Drivers License

BENEFITS:

Medical/Dental/Vision HMSA coverage - fully paid
Paid Holidays (15), Vacation Pay, and Sick Pay
Annual Raises and Annual Bonus

COMPENSATION:

Start \$14 - \$16/hour depending on industry knowledge, experience, & capabilities

CALL 721-6520

ice. She is just as passionate when it comes to helping the less fortunate in Hawaii and the Philippines. She has touched many, many lives because of her big heart."

CATCH US ON THE WEB!

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

Go to efilipinochronicle.com or thefilipinochronicle.com and see how the face of business is changing!

We are also on KWHE-TV 14



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.





**WISHING YOU ALL
A HAPPY, HEALTHY,
SAFE, PEACEFUL
AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR!**

We could not continue being Hawaii's
#1 Filipino newspaper without the
faithful support of our readers,
advertisers, family and friends.
We look forward to a prosperous 2016!

From The Manangement & Staff of
HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE