

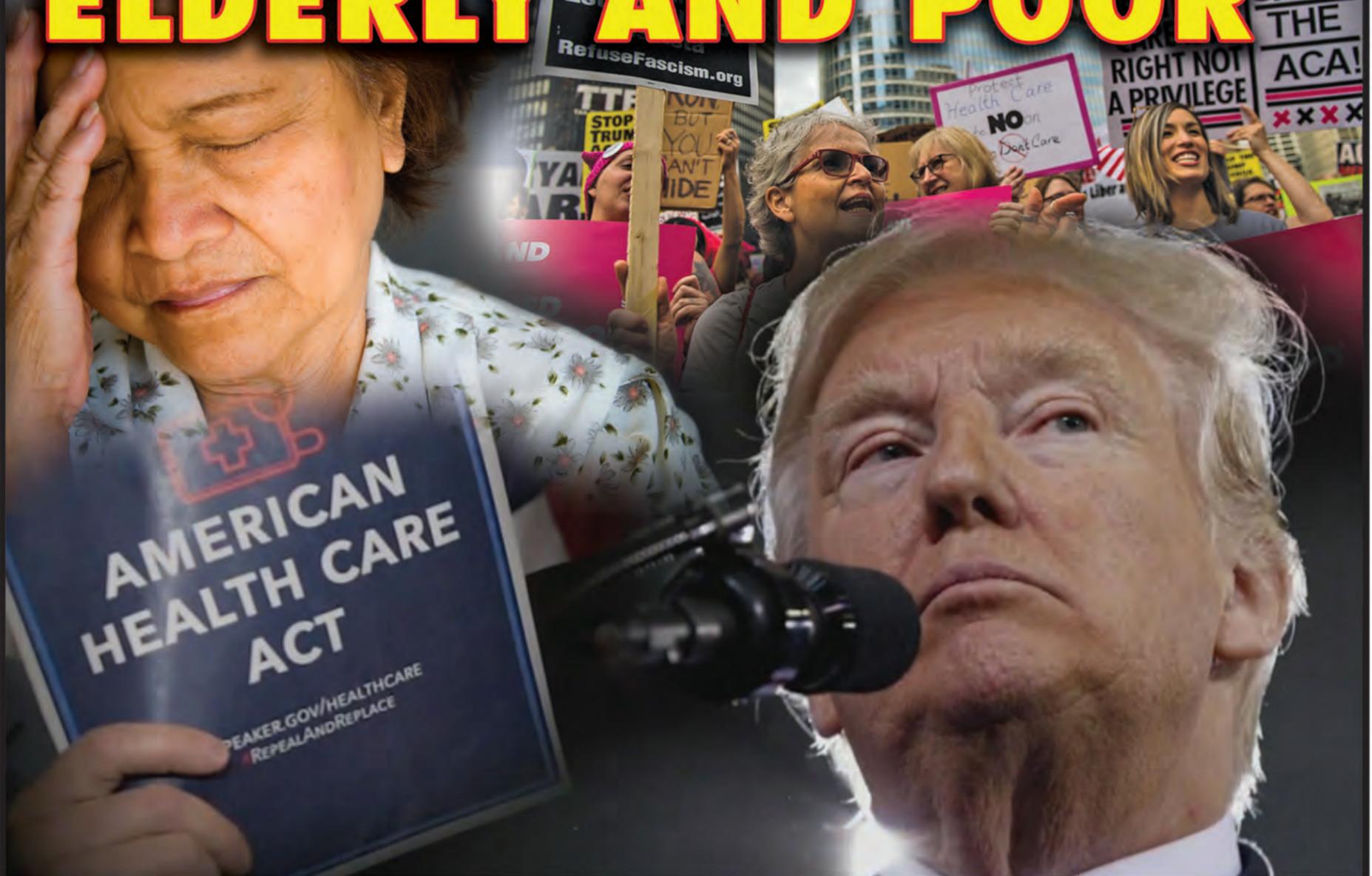
Happy Mother's Day!

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ MAY 6, 2017 ◆

TRUMP'S HEALTH CARE ACT HURTS THE ELDERLY AND POOR

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EDITORIALS

AHCA Deserved to Die; But Watch Out for A New Version

After Republicans have voted to overturn Obamacare more than a dozen times since the GOP took control of the House in 2011 and Senate in 2014, it is now clear that all along they had no real viable alternative to Obamacare as evident by President Donald Trump American Health Care Act's (AHCA) major flop. The GOP is fast realizing how much easier it is to vote-down reforms to healthcare than to come up with meaningful consensus acceptable to both the giant for-profit interests (insurance, and pharmaceutical companies, hospitals) and the greater public interest. AHCA was simply flawed from conception and mishandled legislatively that ultimately led to its dead-on-arrival fate in Congress. But make no mistake, the features of AHCA (while dead temporarily) must continue to be debated, as well as areas where Obamacare is failing in order for our country to move forward with a better healthcare model.

The overwhelming unpopularity of AHCA tells us that the vast majority of Americans do not want to regress to pre-Obamacare days where millions less were uninsured and millions more were vulnerable to unfair for-profit practices. AHCA, if enacted, would have been particularly harsh on the elderly population and the poor. Under AHCA, insurance companies would have been able to charge older people up to five times more than those younger insured. Under AHCA, Medicaid expansion would end in 2020, blocking out completely new candidates who otherwise could have qualified for Medicaid. From the for-profit business side, they were not pleased with AHCA's proposal to end the insurance purchase mandate that would have resulted in millions of healthy, younger insurance holders opting to drop their coverage. This undermines the principle of risk-sharing that has helped to keep the cost of healthcare from rising dramatically.

One silver lining to AHCA's first-round demise is that party politics was not blind to the will of the people. Some members in the GOP deserve credit for breaking party-lines and not giving in to the temptation of killing Obamacare without a workable substitute. Healthcare is the most complex issue facing our country. The president himself called it an "unbelievably complex subject." Trump confessed "Nobody knew health care could be so complicated." While it is politically unrealistic with the GOP in power, a single-payer healthcare system at the very least deserves to be in the mix of discussions concerning healthcare. In the meantime, Americans must continue to be vigilant against features of AHCA that might creep back into a new future version that Trump is bound to bring up again.

Happy Mother's Day

As we grow older and encounter new experiences, it becomes crystal clear that only a few things in life are constant. In retrospect, our childhood and time in grade school, high school and college seems like a dream. Friends pass through our lives like a revolving door; and sometimes so does our love relationships that we thought would last forever. But one constant that most of us can agree on is the love of a mother for her children. That is as steady and perpetual of a relationship that has no parallel. Mom taught us to speak our first coherent word; and throughout our lives she became our greatest teacher. She held our hand, made us feel secure, and walked us to our first day of school; and throughout our lives she has done the same thing with just about every other "first" experience we had, offering us words of wisdom in the greater school of life. We talked with

FROM THE PUBLISHER



resident Donald Trump's American Health Care Act (AHCA) that is being pushed to replace Obamacare is so dynamic that as I am writing this note from the publisher, hard negotiations are taking place in Congress to rally support for its passage. No one really knows when Congress will take it up for vote. It could be within a week or delayed for a year or more. What we do know is that the halls of Congress are teeming with powerful lobbyists and citizens' groups all hoping to save or dismantle features of Obamacare. The Trump administration and House Speaker Paul Ryan are reportedly close to getting the GOP in line for a vote. The Freedom Caucus conservatives that blocked AHCA's first attempt at passage is now said to be onboard. But the political tides on this highly contentious issue are still too rough to predict.

For our cover story this issue, HFC's associate editor Edwin Quinabo reports in detail features of the AHCA -- new proposals and those that Trump want retained from Obamacare. He also interviewed some members in the community who shared what they think about the high-drama unfolding in healthcare. AHCA remains overwhelmingly unpopular to most Americans and rejected by medical professional groups such as the American Medical Association for the expected decline in health insurance coverage and potential harm it would cause to vulnerable patient populations, particularly the poor and elderly. AHCA version one was undeniably crafted to benefit big insurance and pharmaceutical giants. Let's see what AHCA version two will have to offer.

Also this issue we have several informative local and mainland news, including a news feature on former Gov. Ben Cayetano who made an appeal to President Trump to terminate the Federal Transit Authority's (FTA) Full Funding Grant Agreement with the city of Honolulu. Cayetano is urging it be discontinued to force the city to find less costly alternatives to the already over budgeted billions dollar rail project. Originally estimated to cost \$5.28 billion, the project construction cost is looming at \$10 billion or \$500 million per mile, making it the most costly in the world, Cayetano states in an open letter full-page ad published in the Washington Post.

In other news HFC's contributor Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand writes about the Honolulu Biennial art exhibition that features artists from the Pacific Rim, including Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan who contributed their work entitled "Crossings."

Also in this issue, we have two assessments of Trump's first 100 days in office: one written by HFC columnist Emil Guillermo; the other is an Open Forum contribution by Tim Van-deveer, chairperson of the Democratic Party of Hawaii.

As usual in the month of May, we present a health supplement.

Lastly, we'd like to wish all moms a very Happy Mother's Day. Read Seneca Moraleda's special "message to moms" in this issue. Until next time, warmest *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido



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The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. and 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.

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(continued on page 8)

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Trump's 100 Days: Record More Important Than You Think

Everyone is trying to jump the gun on Donald Trump's 100 days, officially on the April 29th. But I'd say Earth Day is a good barometer for what grade to give Donald Trump in advance.

Let's see, he's put in a climate-change denier to run the Environmental Protection Agency.

He's cutting billions from the budget that would signal America's global leadership on climate change.

And he wants to jump start coal like it's some answer to our energy issues.

For taking us backward, and for raising our temperature levels, just like a good greenhouse gas, on every other issue from immigration to travel bans to North Korea and the Middle East, there's only one grade for Trump.

And the F doesn't stand for Filipino.

100 days? It's a phony benchmark, Trump says.

It's not.

It's an early stage round number that can act as a political Nostradamus tool. (You know, the 16th Century French physician Nostradamus who could see the future, though I doubt he could have predicted Marine Le Pen).

100 days is more than just symbolism. It's like a preventative check-up. Are they worthwhile or a waste? Not if you catch that thing in your colon.

And the Trump administration has some not so benign growths, before we start talking about Russia.

For a presidency, 100 days is the way to spot an early trend of an administration's credibility.

Is it trustworthy? Is it caring?

Above all else for Trump, it's a matter of showing competency. Does it know what

it's doing? Does Trump really know what it takes to lead? To govern? Is he right for the job?

100 days shows if an administration can go off its training wheels.

It also can confirm if voters made the right choice.

It's like the money-back-guarantee on a purchase. Only there really isn't a MBG for the presidency.

You can impeach, but that's easier said than done. And then once impeached, it's not easy to remove. (Like Bill Clinton).

Every day there's a new spotlight on Trump's exposure. Just this week, there's the pinging of his own D.C. hotel on a State Department website. Add that to the potential conflicts with all his business holdings internationally. But who knows the real extent since Trump's failed to produce an income tax return that fully discloses Trump interests to establish some transparency.

At the very base, Trump has not even done the minimum we need for an incoming president.

If you thought it was a good idea to have government run as a business, then by now you must know how ridiculous that is.

Shareholders aren't the same as citizens really. If they were, then why would Trump be so willing to throw 24 million off Obamacare? Or cut benefits and support to the poor and elderly?

Trump has tried to adapt his boss approach to government by issuing more executive orders in his first 100 days than previous presidents.

Most of them have had the impact of press releases. They're basically photo ops for temporary laws that can be reversed at the drop of a hat.

For Trump, EO's also create useless amounts of paperwork and argument, when boneheaded ideas are proposed like his Muslim travel bans, both of which have been halted by the courts, one by a judge in Hawaii.

Which brings us to yet another hallmark of Trump's 100 days, his placing into his administration clueless people whose philosophies are antithetical to the people.

Trump values money over intellect. If you've made money you're a success. That's why his billionaire cabinet which includes Betsy DeVos who never met a public school she didn't like.

He likes people who will undo all the good that has come from previous generations.

In fact, some don't even have a respect for the people of the United States of America. Case in point, Attorney General Jeff Sessions who was on conservative talk radio last week talking about the travel ban. Said Sessions: "I really am amazed that a judge sitting on an island in the Pacific can issue an order that stops the president of the United States

from what appears to be clearly his statutory and constitutional power."

Oh, my Lord.

I am amazed that someone like Sessions from Alabama has the intelligence to rise to the levels of government.

Sessions defended his comments by saying "nobody has a sense of humor anymore."

Well, there's nothing funny about making fun of a U.S. judge of the 50th state for protecting the Constitution that says the government does not create laws against people purely for their race or religion.

There's no joke in that. But in the First 100 days, the Trump

administration has been such an enduring joke that Saturday Night Live has become the weekly antidote to all the stupidity and hypocrisy coming out of the White House.

This is where we are. The undoing of America.

And despite downplaying the 100, Trump seems desperate to do something by the deadline. Who knows?

Tax cuts, especially the roll back of corporate taxes? You mean more "trickle down?" No matter what Trump says, we already know that that doesn't work.

The Armada heading to North Korea? For World War 2.5? 2.75?

Trump may try to be a "100 day" denier. But his 100 days is on the record. And as we review it, it gives us a chance to see the difference between the campaign guy and the guy in office. And now when the new president is on

the honeymoon, when the president is new and usually will get a pass to get some things done, we look back and see, he's done nothing.

He makes a gridlocked Congress look more active.

As I write the best thing Trump done is say he'll push back the funding for his border wall until later this year.

That may be the best approach for Trump, to not do anything, not break anything while he's there.

And wait for people to emerge to engage the people in what government can do for a country united. Sounds like a John Kennedy line.

And that's the importance of the 100 days. It may spur some people to finally decide it's time to really take action.

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.



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COVER STORY

Trump's American Health Care Act Could Be Disastrous for Seniors and the Poor

By Edwin Quinabo

No, the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare was not replaced and repealed on the first day of Donald Trump's presidency as he promised. In fact, President Trump and the Republican leadership's American Health Care Act (AHCA) that was supposed to replace Obamacare flopped, dead on arrival in Congress, despite a GOP majority in the U.S. House where it failed under House Speaker Paul Ryan's charge.

This legislative misadventure showed Americans just how green the president is in the way of pushing forward major bills, especially one that is as complex and far reaching as healthcare reform. His top-to-bottom strategy that may have worked as a corporate CEO runs contrary to the D.C. culture where collaboration, deal-making, and compromise are the essential hammers to break apart any gridlock, even as president of the United States.

Besides the president's inapt leadership style, AHCA failed on substance. AHCA's

future spelled doom immediately after the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its analysis: 24 million Americans would lose coverage over the next 10 years—14 million in the first year alone; 2 million Americans with employer-sponsored coverage would lose it by 2020; 7 million would lose it over 10 years; higher premiums, higher deductibles, and more out-of-pocket costs; insurance premiums would skyrocket by 20% by 2019; \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid funding while giving rich Americans and corporations a

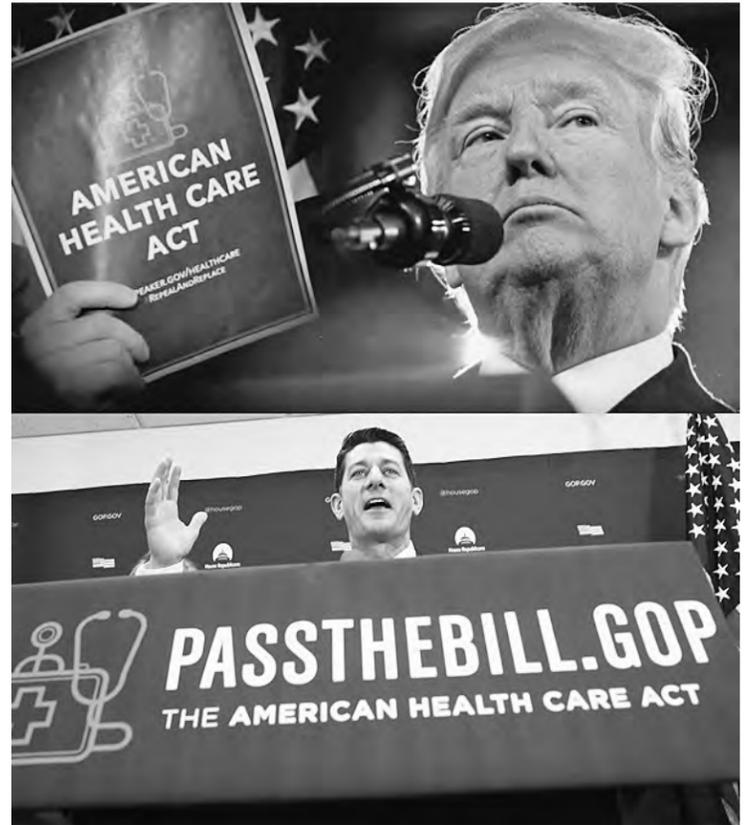
\$592 billion tax cut.

Besides the health insurance and pharmaceutical lobby, most Americans disapproved of AHCA. A Quinnipiac poll found just 17 percent of Americans approved AHCA; by contrast, 56 percent disapproved of it.

The features of AHCA would have been so disruptive that it was opposed by various health professional organizations, including the American Hospital Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, and the American Medical Association.

Dr. James Madara, CEO of the AMA, the largest association of physicians and medical students in the U.S., said: "While we agree that there are problems with Obamacare that must be addressed, we cannot support the AHCA as drafted because of the expected decline in health insurance coverage and the potential harm it would cause to vulnerable patient populations."

AMA was concerned about the plan to stop Medicaid expansion in 2020. Under the AHCA, states that offer the Medicaid expansion would continue receiving federal funds for those already enrolled, but would not receive federal funds as of 2020 for new candidates who only



qualify for Medicaid under expansion rules.

"Medicaid expansion has proven highly successful in providing coverage for lower income individuals," said Madara.

Hawaii's House delegation Reps. Tulsi Gabbard and Colleen Hanabusa opposed AHCA.

The AARP Hawaii said AHCA threatens the solvency of Medicare and would hurt long-term care and in-home services for seniors.

"The bill gives sweetheart deals to drug and insurance companies while doing nothing to lower the cost of health care or prescription drugs. Instead of this harmful bill, we encourage Congress to focus on protecting and improving Medicare's benefits and financing; providing access to affordable quality coverage; preventing insurers from engaging in discriminatory practices," said AARP Hawaii state director Barbara Kim Stanton.

One of the features of AHCA that is problematic for seniors is that it would allow insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more than those younger in-

sured. Under Obamacare, the limit is three times more.

An example of price increase, AARP estimates that a 64-year-old in Hawaii making \$25,000 would see a premium increase of \$6,791 under the AHCA. A 55-year-old making \$25,000 would see a \$3,578 premium increase because of the age Tax. The bill is a double whammy for older Americans ages 50 to 64, who are too young for Medicare. Their premiums go up because insurance companies would have free rein to charge older Americans more than everyone else for the same coverage.

AARP Representative Toy Arre Jr. said the age tax in AHCA could cost older Americans up to \$13,000 a year.

In addition to changes to how much insurance companies can charge based on age, AHCA alters Obamacare's guidelines to help lower and moderate income people 40 percent less in subsidized assistance than what they are paying now. To qualify for subsidized help, that also would change from those making up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level to a

(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, TRUMP'S...)

new standard cut off of 100 percent.

To help individual insurance buyers, AHCA would have offered tax credits, something that the more conservative members of the House's Freedom Caucus opposed. The tax credit would have been based on the following schedule: under age 30: \$2,000; between 30 and 39: \$2,500; between 40 and 49: \$3,000; between 50 and 59: \$3,500; over age 60: \$4,000. No household would get more than \$14,000 worth of credits and the credits taper off for single filers making over \$75,000 and joint filers making over \$150,000.

The two main features that AHCA would retain from Obamacare include: children could stay on their parents' health care insurance until they turn 26; and insurance companies cannot deny coverage for a pre-existing health problem.

Another big change in AHCA is that it would have ended the insurance mandate removing tax penalties to those who do not have insurance.

Critics say the problem of getting rid of the mandate to buy insurance while at the same time keeping the provision that insurance companies cannot deny pre-existing health problems leads to healthy customers dropping their plans, undermining the principle of risk-sharing that has helped to keep the cost of healthcare from rising dramatically since Obamacare's inception.

As more people drop their insurance coverage, doctors worry that emergency rooms will begin to be used as a primary care clinic once again. This not only impedes effective health care delivery in emergency rooms, it also costs taxpayers more money because the government must pay hospitals for these patients who come into the ER but cannot afford to pay.

What Next? What about Obamacare...

After his first-round defeat in Congress, President Trump said he is going to wait



“to let Obamacare explode” and wait for Democrats to come to him to collaborate on a new version of AHCA. “The beauty,” Trump says of waiting for an explosion, “is that Democrats own Obamacare.” But it’s doubtful that voters will be too forgiving of this viewpoint given that the Republican party controls both Congress and the presidency, and should be proactive in improving Obamacare. No timeline has been announced as to when AHCA will be taken up again, but the president vowed that replacing and repealing Obamacare was still on the table.

That window of opportunity is short because the midterm elections is one year away and the current GOP majority in Congress could be overturned, making whatever Trump proposes, including reforms to healthcare, that much steeper of an uphill battle.

For Americans who voted for Trump because they wanted to see Obamacare repealed, the missed opportunity this time around comes as a surprise since Republicans have voted to overturn Obamacare more than a dozen times since the GOP took control of the House in 2011 and Senate in 2014. Now that Obama is no longer in office to reject the GOP’s vote, and when Republican lawmakers votes really mattered for the first time in 8 years, the party failed to get anything adopted. It turns out simply repealing has been much easier than coming up with a viable system, Obamacare supporters point out.

“There have been recent reports that members of Congress are working behind closed doors to revive AHCA. AARP is fighting to stop any backroom deal in Congress

that would make you pay even more for health care,” said Arre.

One of the features that AARP will be monitoring is any changes that would allow big insurance companies to deny health coverage based on pre-existing conditions. “This would deny coverage up to 25 million Americans, including 93,366 people in Hawaii,” said Arre.

Trump said: “Now, I have to tell you, it’s (healthcare) is an unbelievably complex subject. Nobody knew health care could be so complicated.”

Dr. Charlie Sonido, who has one of the most well established clinics in Hawaii, said: “Healthcare is very complex. I don’t know that anyone knows the exact formula yet. Something has to be done to make it affordable for every stakeholder.

On Obamacare, Dr. Sonido realizes its shortcoming. “It has been very expensive for the insurers, medical device companies and others, even for the government.” At the same time, he recommends that it should be improved on, not repealed and replaced.

Unlike in the U.S. mainland, Dr. Sonido points out that Hawaii’s employer insurance mandate buffers the need for Obamacare in the state. “Personally, Obamacare has not affected me because I only have about less than 10 patients on it. But this has been true for the state of Hawaii in general. The state does not need Obamacare. The insurance mandate for employees working more than 20 hours/week and other safety nets (private-public health centers) provide good health coverage for Hawaii residents. For the rest of the nation, however, Obamacare has been a

blessing. About 20 million people now have some type of medical coverage because of it. That is why I generally favor Obamacare. It provides a safety net for the poor and even the middle class in some states with no insurance mandates.”

Perie Danao, executive director of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, Hawaii Chapter (PNAH) also doesn’t support replacing Obamacare. If it does, she hopes the new system should include key elements of Obamacare such as tax credits for small businesses that offer health benefits, coverage for dependents up to 26 years old, and that people with pre-existing health conditions are not denied health coverage.

Essential Health Benefits or EHBs -- a core package of benefits offered by all insurers -- is something Danao and others are closely keeping an eye on. She says “Trumpcare will only require private insurers to offer all essential benefits, but Medicaid plans

will not offer all.”

Obamacare currently requires insurers to cover in full or parts of 10 EHBs: ambulatory patient services, emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care, mental health, prescription drugs, rehabilitative services, laboratory services, preventative and chronic disease management, pediatric services, and oral and vision care.

Ultra conservative Republicans of the Freedom Caucus in the House supported cutting back on Obamacare’s EHB requirements.

Hawaii State Sen. Josh Green, MD, chair of the Senate Committee on Human Services, said “it is important to keep the essential benefits and the prohibition on discriminating against people with preexisting conditions. He added “Trump’s plan would be a disaster for our country. It would put in peril all rural healthcare facilities and would destroy the safety net for people in the middle class.”

Dr. Josephine Waite-Ansdell, President of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH), believes Obamacare means well but it needs to be fixed. “I don’t know if Trump’s (AHCA) would be any better. It might be worse. It’s very compli-

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Message to Moms

by Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

Hey mom, It's been a long day, isn't it? It's always a long day. Even rest times are not times of rest with so many things on your mind and so many things to accomplish. The house is so messy. The toys are scattered, the sink is filled with dirty dishes, the laundry basket is overflowing, and the living room is not conducive for living anymore. And here are the kids throwing tantrums, yelling at each other, wanting your attention. You're on call 24/7. No days off, no sick leaves. You are not just your children's mother, you are their cook, cleaner, dishwasher, launderer, playmate and entertainer. I once read a quote that says, "A mother is one person who does the work of twenty. For free."

Motherhood, the daily grind of child-rearing can be exhausting, physically, mentally and emotionally draining, and sometimes suffocating. It is. It definitely is.

You want a break, don't you? Maybe you are longing to travel, to treat yourself to a cup

of coffee, pamper yourself with a haircut, or even catch a few hours of sleep. There are times you want to escape and breathe, close your eyes and relax your mind. Even for just a little while. Go ahead, you deserve it.

Mom, I just want to tell you, you are doing fine. In fact, you are doing great. You are awesome even if at times you feel inadequate or you're not doing enough. You are beautiful even in moments you feel ugly and old. You are a Wonder Woman and a Superwoman rolled into one. You are awesome.

You have a job no one else can handle. You put on a hat nobody else can put on their head. You wear a shoe no one can wear. You have a destiny no one else can fulfill. You are unique. You are the best. Whether you are staying at home with your children or working to make ends meet, hats off to you.

By raising your kids the best way you can, you are making an impact not just on one life but on a generation, not just on one simple being but on nations. Yes mom, you might not



know it but the simple things you do—feeding your children, clothing them, teaching them, inculcating good values and discipline, loving them -- they go a long way. They are worth it. They will bear fruit.

So hang in there, momma!

And to you, single mom...

How do you do it? Being a mother with a partner by her side is not easy at all, let alone being one without help. I am sure there have been so many times you wanted to give up, you wanted to retreat but you still carry on. I am imagining the moments you would go into your room and cry silently, and come out still smiling.

Thank you for your re-

silience and strength. Parenthood is not meant to be done alone but you are rocking it. You are fulfilling the greatest job in the world by yourself and that's pretty amazing. Know that your children are proud of you. Thinking of you makes your children courageous. You encourage them to be fearless and to never ever quit. Life must be undeniably difficult but I am sure that you and your children will finish strong.

And to you mom who has gone ahead and has finished the task of motherhood...

Thank you. Though you are missed, you are always on your children's thoughts.

You may never have the

chance to hear these words again but you are loved, adored and honored. You have become a great example, an inspiration to many moms who are struggling but still fighting, exhausted but still carrying on because becoming a mom is the greatest task of all.

This is a message to every mom...

Thank you for exemplifying selfless love. Despite all our stupid choices, immature decisions, and crazy actions, your love is boundless. Thank you for your touch that brings healing, your smile that brings comfort, your laugh that brings joy. Thank you for your calmness in the midst of trials and your strength in times of weakness. Saying thank you will not suffice. Uttering 'I love you' will not compare to your hard work and devotion. Your sacrifice can never be repaid, only appreciated and remembered. Your children's success, they owe to you. Your children's future relies on you. You are God's gift to the world. You are beautiful and wonderful. This is your day, momma! Go celebrate!

"But behind all your stories is always your mother's story, because hers is where yours begin" – Mitch Albom, For One More Day

Happy Mother's Day to all you amazing moms!

COVER STORY (from page 5, TRUMP'S)

cated and frustrating."

Time to try a new healthcare model?

Some experts studying the American health care system for decades say that we've tried everything to fix health care and have come up short. What hasn't been tried is a single payer system, universal health care coverage.

Pro-single payer system advocates say that even with Obamacare -- the closest model the U.S. has ever had to universal health care -- millions of citizens will still be uninsured and health care rationing (not seeing a doctor because it is too expensive) will still be a common practice. While health care spending per person has grown less

rapidly in the six years since Obamacare was enacted than in any period in the last four decades, experts say the cost of healthcare still is rising at a much faster pace than inflation that eventually translates to more people dropping their insurance, even under Obamacare. U.S. companies are also still struggling to stay in business under the weight of health care premiums. Americans fortunate enough to have health insurance through their employers are still paying more, getting less, and living under the constant threat that should they lose their jobs while getting sick or hospitalized, they face economic disaster. On top of all this, the government via the federal or state, is already covering about 70 percent of health care costs.

Some pro-single payer ad-

vocates say that if AHCA eventually passes, it will be such a colossal disaster that it will move the country politically closer to Medicare for all, or universal health care.

Under a single-payer system, all Americans would be covered similar to the Medicare model for elderly citizens. Employers would no longer be burdened with providing health care for their workers. The idea is that the vast "risk pool" reduces the price of medicine and medical care. Administrative costs would also be reduced tremendously by about 15 percent or \$500 billion annually. Already there is evidence that administrative costs for regular insurance cost about 12 percent; while administrative costs of Medicare consume less than 4 percent.

Dr. Sonido said a single payer system could be good for the U.S. and benefit the majority of Americans. But he doubts that it will ever pass Congress. "Most doctors are opposed to it," he said.

Sen. Green, MD, agrees that a single payer system would benefit the U.S. "I would propose a modified single payer system with options to buy additional insurance if people wanted it over core coverage."

Danao opposes this system: "One insurer can monopolize the market that can lead to much higher cost of health coverage."

The current political climate rules out a single payer system in the immediate future. Americans just have to wait and see what the president and GOP come up with.

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WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Can Fiancée Whom Petitioner Married and Divorced Adjust Status

There are a number of cases where an alien fiancée was admitted to the United States pursuant to a fiancée visa petition filed by a U.S. citizen. The fiancée and the U.S. citizen married within 90 days. She filed an application for adjustment of status but it remained adjudicated. After living together as husband and wife for almost two years, the U.S. citizen divorced his alien wife.

Can the wife continue to pursue the adjustment of status she filed?

The USCIS and the BIA and some lawyers say no. I say yes.

The naysayers anchor their denial on Section 245(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 USC 1255(d)] which provides: (d) The Attorney General may not adjust, under subsection (a), the status of an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence on a conditional basis under section 216 [Conditional Permanent Resident Status for Certain Alien Spouses and

Sons and Daughters]. The Attorney General may not adjust, under subsection (a), the status of a nonimmigrant alien described in section 101(a)(15)(K) [K visa holder] except to that of an alien lawfully admitted to the United States on a conditional basis under section 216 as a result of the marriage of the nonimmigrant (or, in the case of a minor child, the parent) to the citizen who filed the petition to accord that alien's nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(K).

What does the term "as a result of the marriage" mean?

In *Choin v. Mukasey*, 537 F.3d 1116 (9th Cir. 2008), the government argued that Section 245(d) excludes parties who are no longer married at the time of the adjudication. In other words, according to the government, the statute imposes a durational requirement and that to receive conditional resident status, an immigrant who is here on a K visa must stay married until the government gets around to adjudicating her application for adjustment of status.

But one U.S. Court of Appeals rejects this interpretation, saying that the language of Section 245(d) is ambiguous,

that it does not impose a durational requirement for the marriage, and that there is nothing in the statute suggesting that an application that was valid when submitted should be automatically invalid when the petitioner's marriage ends in divorce two years later. The court pointed out that under Section 216(c)(4)(B) of the Act [8 USC 1186a(c)(4)(B)], which provides that a non-citizen can apply for a waiver of the joint petition requirement if the marriage was entered into in "good faith," the non-citizen spouse is not automatically returned to his or her native country upon divorce. Instead, the statute focuses on the good faith of the marriage, not the marriage's success or failure. The court concluded that the purpose and context of Section 245(d) does not support the government's reading of the statute that requires the automatic removal of immigrants whose marriages end in divorce while their application for adjustment of status languishes in the agency's file cabinet. *Choin v. Mukasey*, 537 F.3d 1116 (9th Cir. 2008).

This analysis resolves only one side of the issue: The Attorney General may not deny adjustment of status to a fiancée visa holder whom a citi-

zen married and then divorced while the adjustment of status application is pending.

The other equally critical side of the issue is: May the Attorney General grant adjustment of status to such an alien? The court in *Choin v. Mukasey* did not address this issue.

We submit that the Attorney General may grant adjustment if the fiancée visa holder whom the citizen married and then divorced meets the requirements of Section 245 of the Act, namely, that the alien was inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States, and

(1) the alien makes an application for such adjustment,

(2) the alien is eligible to receive an immigrant visa and is admissible to the United States for permanent residence, and

(3) an immigrant visa is immediately available to him at the time his application is filed.

Furthermore, the alien must not be disqualified under the other provisions of the Act.

CAUTION: Adjustment of status is discretionary. Even if the alien meets all the statutory requirements, the Attorney General (or his delegates) may still deny adjustment. It is important that the adjustment application must be supported by

evidence to establish that the marriage was in good faith. The alien must anticipate and prepare to rebut evidence that the former spouse might submit to show that the alien did not act in good faith in entering into the marriage.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School where he specialized in Constitutional Law. He has also a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He placed third in the Philippine Bar Examination in 1956. His current practice focuses on immigration law and criminal defense. He writes law books for the world's largest law book publishing company and writes legal articles for newspapers. He has a radio show in Honolulu, Hawaii with his son Noel, senior partner of the Bilecki & Tipon law firm, where they discuss legal and political issues. Office: American Savings Bank Tower, 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2305, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filam-law@yahoo.com. Website: www.bileckilawgroup.com. He was born in Laoag City, Philippines. He served as a U.S. Immigration Officer. He is co-author with former Judge Artemio S. Tipon of the best-seller "Winning by Knowing Your Election Laws" and co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Atty. Tipon has personally experienced the entire immigration cycle by entering the United States on a non-immigrant working visa to write law books, adjusting his status to that of a lawful permanent resident, and becoming a naturalized United States citizen

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Sign Up for Waipahu Community Association's Business Start-up Classes

Have you ever wanted to own your own business but didn't know how to get started? During the month of May, the Waipahu Community Association will be offering classes that will teach people how to plan and operate a small business. The micro-enterprise training is provided by the WCA to further its mission of building a stronger community, and is held in partnership with SCORE HAWAII, a business education organization which will conduct the

classes.

Classes will be held every Saturday at the Waipahu Community Association at 94-340 Waipahu Depot Street, #201 (upstairs from Waipahu Festival Marketplace). Classes will run from May 6 through May 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The following are dates and topics of the business start-up classes: May 6, 2017 Small business start-up basics (Part One), May 13, 2017 Small business start-up basics (Part Two), May 20, 2017 Critical factors in entrepreneurship and business plans (9am – 12noon), May 27, 2017 Internet,

Guerilla Marketing and Sales.

In these classes, students will learn 1) assessing oneself as a business owner, 2) developing a business idea/plan, 3) conducting a market study, 4) preparing a marketing plan, 5) looking after the money in your business, 6) understanding profit, 7) preparing a cash flow plan, 8) forms of business, 9) legal responsibilities.

Cost for the four-session course is \$20. Scholarships are available to qualified individuals. Deadline to register is Friday, May 5, 2017. To register call (808) 677-6939 or email at wca.waipahu@hawaiiantel.net.



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NOBU GOES FILIPINO

THE UNGENTLEWOMAN By Gabbie Tatad

When one hears the name Nobu, one immediately thinks “fine Japanese-Peruvian fare,” many thanks to the innovation of renowned chef Nobu Matsuhisa, whose black cod in miso took the world by storm. Nobu’s famed restaurants and hotels span the globe, from New York to London, Athens to Munich, Moscow to Monte Carlo, Budapest to our very own Manila.

But even with all that creative mastery, how many of us really imagined that Nobu’s penchant for fusion would extend to our local cuisine? Well, it seems that the wildest fantasies really do come true at the City of Dreams, because from April 1 to June 30, Nobu restaurant has added Filipino-inspired dishes to its dinner menu.

The idea for these specials was conceived following an event that involved chef Michael De Jesus, head chef of Nobu Manila, and Nobu New York’s executive chef Ricky Estrellado, who demonstrated to the rest of Nobu’s international culinary team — including Matsuhisa himself — how well Filipino flavors play with the existing Nobu concept.

De Jesus, who was born in the Philippines but spent many of his formative years in the

United States, has clocked in his hours at Nobu. He has worked with the company for nine years total, establishing him first as the sous chef of Nobu Los Angeles, and later on as chef de cuisine of Nobu Las Vegas, before coming to helm the Manila establishment in 2016.

De Jesus’ mother is from Ilocos Norte, while his father is native to Zambales. He recounts how one of his most favorite dishes growing up, even in California, was the classic Filipino peanut-based stew, kare-kare. De Jesus mentions the love and care that went into his mother’s preparation of the dish, saying, “We were spoiled. She always made it with oxtail, and she had to make sure that she could get all those good, fresh ingredients, or she wouldn’t make it at all.”

It is this attention to detail that has not only gone into the development of the specials, but that crosses over into the general philosophy that guides the entire dining experience at every Nobu establishment.

“Wherever Nobu is located, the restaurants try to adapt to a certain extent to what produce is available and what flavors might be popular,” explains Nobu Manila’s general manager Marlon Hirsh. “But even if you have the best and freshest ingredients, it is nothing without the



Not your mama's palabok: The use of udon and an uni-based sauce elevates this dish to new heights.

kokoro.”

Kokoro, as some may know, is the Japanese word for “heart,” but the word transcends a mere organ and suggests a complete connection of heart, mind, and spirit. This is the driving force behind Nobu’s cuisine, highlighting the importance of inserting soul into the creation of every dish, whether it’s a heavier main dish or a simple but masterful piece of sushi.

But the thoughtfulness in the conceptualization of these dinner specials isn’t simply in its masterful craftsmanship; rather, it has extended to their general affordability, given the caliber of Nobu dining. This is largely credited to the restaurant’s effort to participate in “Flavors of the Philippines,” the annual gastronomy festival

organized by the Department of Tourism and the Tourism Promotions Board.

It starts with Nobu’s Sushi Bar, which includes a selection of nigiri with prices ranging from P350 to P490. Each order comes with two pieces, featuring Seared Tuna Sushi with Coconut Milk, unanimously loved by everyone at our table; Whitefish Adobo Sushi, a personal favorite from the selection; and local Snapper Sushi with Tomato Salsa and Salted Egg. Each type of sushi is perfectly seasoned, and are served without additional sauces for dipping. The sushi bar specials also feature an eight-piece maki in the form of the Tuna Sisig Cut Roll, a great value at P380 per order.

With the main course spe-

cial come an appetizer-sized Kurobuta and Foie Gras Sisig “Pica Pica” (P530 for two pieces), which features sous-vide pork belly and is served in a toasted mantou bun. The Nobu Palabok (P1,240) is a thing of beauty that uses udon instead of your classic thinner noodles, which holds up to the delicious uni palabok sauce, spectacularly capped off with tiger prawns and an Onsen egg.

Then there is the Wagyu Beef Short Rib Kare-Kare Anticucho (P1915), which may be the cleanest, most delicately balanced kare-kare you may ever try. With perfectly cooked vegetables, a moderate amount of sauce, and just the perfect amount of accompanying shrimp paste, it’s a dish that is scrumptious for those who already love kare-kare, but is also a great way to introduce the dish to those who may be apprehensive about its contents.

While everyone and their mother seems to try and reinvent the wheel, what Nobu accomplishes here is the perfect give-and-take in making fusion work. Each ingredient has its place, each flavor is given a moment to come through, and instead of combating each other, the elements of each dish align to form perfect harmony. It’s the sheer fulfillment of the expectation that when Nobu opens its doors to embrace local cuisine, it does it in the way it knows best, and that is with simple, delectable perfection. (www.philstar.com)

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

less by example, doing whatever it took in the way of sac-

rifice to make her children’s lives easier, the best she knew

how. She taught us compassion by being compassionate. She is the feminine energy that

gives balance in our emotional development, enabling us to be softer, emotionally healthier, whole individuals.

For some of us who lost our moms to death, when Mother’s Day comes around we can only relish the fond memories we shared and quickly realize that since her passing, life just hasn’t been the same. Yes, we heal, but memories and photographs are frozen in time while we carry on wishing that she was around to be that first person to talk with about for yet another “first” experience in our lives. For those of us whose

moms are still present to celebrate Mother’s Day, be joyous for the gift of another year you have together. Embrace her, honor her, laugh with her, enjoy her stories on Mother’s Day, and every opportunity that you are blessed to share with her. Mother’s Day is a day to give gratitude for who she is, was, and will forever be in your life -- that rare constant, the “first” person whom you’ve developed a loving bond that has proven to be unbreakable. To all our moms, thank you for the sunshine you bring into our lives. Happy Mother’s Day!

A POPULAR RESTAURANT IS FOR SALE

An authentic Filipino restaurant near the Kahului airport is for sale.

A popular spot for tourists as well as local people.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

U.S. ARMY POSTHUMOUSLY PRESENTS PURPLE HEART TO PFC ADRIANO ALAGON

Gen. Robert B. Brown, Commanding General, United States Army Pacific, presented the Purple Heart Medal posthumously to Private First Class Adriano Alagon for his bravery in the liberation of the Philippines during WWII. His daughter, Elisea Alagon Jamoralin, received the award on behalf of her deceased father during a formal ceremony at the historic Fort Shafter headquarters, a building ironically used to plan for the liberation of the Philippines in 1944.

During the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, Pfc. Alagon was a member of the 14th Engineer Battalion, Philippine Scouts, who gallantly served alongside American forces in the eventual liberation of the country. Enduring some of the fierce battles of the campaign, Pfc. Alagon was captured



Fort Shafter, Hi- Gen. Robert B. Brown, Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific, presents a replacement Purple Heart medal to Ms. Elisea Alagon Jamoralin, whose father Pfc. Adriano Alagon died while serving with the Philippine Scouts during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. Looking on is Philippine Consul General in Honolulu Gina A. Jamoralin, the granddaughter of Pfc. Alagon. Photo courtesy: U.S. Army

on his birthday, made to endure the horrific march across Bataan, and subsequently killed by his captors after spending nearly two years in brutal conditions as a POW.

The family brought a framed copy of an original letter signed by then President Harry Truman that in part said;

“He stands in the unbroken line of Patriots who have dared to die so that freedom might live, and increase its blessings. Freedom lives- and through it- he lives.”

“I’ve never heard it captured so well, said Gen. Brown. Freedom does live thanks to men and women like



Undated photo of Private First Class Adriano Alagon, 14th Engineer Battalion, Philippine Scouts. Photo courtesy: Philippine Consulate

Private Alagon-his sacrifice really humbles us.”

“Through the horrors and terror of this period, we can take what endures over the years-the freedom and sacrifices made by Soldiers like Pfc. Alagon for our two nations,” said Brown before presenting the medal.

Ms. Jamoralin was only eight years old when her father,

a Soldier who survived the Bataan Death March, succumbed to the brutalities of the enemy while a prisoner of war of the Japanese. Over the years, his daughter longed for a tangible reminder of the honor bestowed upon her father, a man who served both the Philippines and the U.S. It was through the perseverance of her own daughter, Gina Jamoralin, the Philippine Consul General in Honolulu, who researched her grandfather’s saga and contacted the U.S. Army about a replacement award, that she now holds that replica of her father’s medal in her hands.

“Today’s event is the culmination of my search for answers in what might have been forgotten by succeeding generations. While we miss our grandfather, we are consoled by the fact he died for his country and we are deeply proud of him,” said Consul General Jamoralin on behalf of the family.

KAKATALK

Honolulu Biennial Showcases Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan Work

by Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

“Aquilizanesque” is not a term in the dictionary yet. However, the Honolulu Biennial showcases one of the works that will inspire its inclusion and use in the future to describe an instantly recognizable diaspora-inspired artistic approach.

The Honolulu Biennial is a two-month long event that will end on May 8. Biennial (or Biennale) is used within the art world to describe large-scale international contemporary art exhibitions. The inaugural Honolulu Biennial is spotlighting artistic visions from the dynamic Pacific Rim region. Most of the work and installation are temporarily occupying a space in Kakaako, amidst the many high-rise de-

velopments. Specifically, most are in “The Hub,” located in the former Sports Authority store on Ward Avenue. A few are in Bishop Museum, Honolulu Museum of Arts, Foster Botanical Garden, and others.

Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan are two of the thirty-three featured artists. The husband and wife team are biennial event veterans and are described as Philippine-born and Australian-based artists. Specifically, Alfredo’s root is Cagayan while Isabel’s Manila. They left the Philippines ten years ago and immigrated to Brisbane with their five children.

The Aquilizans’ contribution to the Honolulu Biennial is entitled “Crossings.” After entering the Hub and passing its information counter,



“Crossings” is the first thing on the left side that catches one’s attention. It is a large installation featuring several fishing boats of different sizes. Each boat has cargoes of materials that reach up to 2-3 times the former’s height.

There would be a familiar affinity with the Aquilizans’ art installation especially if you came here as a Filipino immigrant. According to a docent at the Hub, the Aquilizans arrived in Honolulu a few months before the Biennial opening. They went around the island collecting used things in a manner that is not too different from how many immigrants have come to have some of their possessions.

Some items were from curbsides while others were donations, gifts, or lent to them.

“This place was literally like Goodwill (Industries thrift store staging area) before the opening,” explained a young Filipino artist who was taking photos of “Crossings.” He

said that the Aquilizans pored over the collected materials carefully and collaboratively toiled from dawn to late evenings to make the various materials work for them. Each boat and its cargo is a vignette of immigrants’ live. The first boat, for example, is a vignette of an immigrant woman’s life.

Each boat and its cargo can provoke many layers of thoughts and feelings among immigrants. It is this particular installation that researched about Filipinos and Hawaii’s

(continued on page 12)

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State Bailout Bill for Rail Project Dies

Hawaii's State Senate and House leaders could not agree on amendments to the rail bill, SB 1183, on the last few days remaining of this legislative session. As of press time, the bill is considered dead unless the Legislature extends the 60-day session to come to a resolution or lawmakers broker a solution in the few remaining hours. Gov. David Ige said he opposed extending the session.

Both chambers passed their own version of the rail bill. The Senate's version wanted to extend Oahu's half-percent surcharge on the GET for an additional 10 years. The House rejected that plan.

The House wanted to extend the GET by one year plus raise the hotel room tax to help pay for rail. The Senate rejected the House plan.

There was controversy over the method of voting in the House. The House passed the rail bill by voice vote instead of a roll call.

Rep. Gene Ward (R) said "You do not create nor increase the public's taxes by a billion dollars based solely on a mere voice vote, we all need to stand up and be counted.

A voice vote does not record how a lawmaker votes; a roll call puts the lawmaker's vote on record.

Ward added there was also a 'poison pill' on the Rail Bill he voted against because it took almost \$67 million away from the City and County of Honolulu. This deficit can only be recouped by raising property taxes, which is something Ward strongly objects to.

"The reasoning the Majority Leaders gave for the voice vote was for speed and efficiency. However, this is not the case, as it was done to protect the legislature members voting records. This is unfair to our constituents, who deserve transparency on what their representatives are voting for," Ward said.

The City of Honolulu will have to come up with other means to finance the rail since this year's state bailout failed.

Elefante Confirmed as Deputy Director of the Department of Taxation

The Hawaii State Senate voted to confirm Damien Elefante as the Deputy Director of the Department of Taxation (DoTax).

Governor David Ige appointed Elefante to fill the position following the departure of Joe Kim, who moved to the private sector in July.

Elefante most recently served as the compliance coordinator in DoTax. Prior to that, he was the deputy Attorney General representing the state's interest in contested tax-related cases. Before joining the state, Elefante worked at Hisaka Stone Goto Yoshida Cosgrove & Ching, and served as a law clerk for Chief Judge James S. Burns at



DoTax Deputy Director, Damien Elefante and members of the Senate of Filipino ancestry, (L-R) Sen. Brickwood Galuteria (Dist. 12), Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran (Dist. 5), Sen. Donna Mercado Kim (Dist. 14), Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz (Dist. 22), Sen. Will Espero (Dist. 19), Sen. Lorraine Inouye (Dist. 4). Photo courtesy: Senate Communications

the Intermediate Court of Appeals. He is a graduate of Kailua High School and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He received his law degree from Syracuse University College of Law.

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Dr. Jon Avery Go is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and underwent training at the Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence, Rhode Island which is affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine.

Hawaii Senators and AG Criticize Sessions for His 'Island in Pacific' Remark

Hawaii lawmakers fired back at Attorney General Jeff Sessions after he said on the Mark Levin Show that a "judge sitting on an island in the Pacific" could stop President Donald Trump's travel ban.

"I really am amazed that a judge sitting on an island in the Pacific can issue an order that stops the president of the United States from what appears to be clearly his statutory and constitutional power," said Sessions said.

The AG's comment refers to U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson, a federal judge in Hawaii who issued a nationwide temporary restraining order to Trump's travel ban, and then extended the order, prompting the president to file an appeal.

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono wrote on her Twitter account "Hey Jeff Sessions, this #IslandinthePacific has been the 50th state for going on 58 years. And we won't succumb to your dog whistle politics." She added: "Hawaii was built on the strength of diversity & immigrant experiences- including my own. Jeff Sessions' comments are ignorant & dangerous."

Hirono also said Sessions' remarks suggested he is prejudiced against Hawaii.

"Why isn't a federal judge from Hawaii as able as any other judge from anywhere to issue rulings?" Hirono asked.

Sen. Brian Schatz tweeted to Sessions: "You voted for that judge. And that island is called Oahu. It's my home. Have some respect."

The Justice Department responded to criticisms by stating: "Hawaii is, in fact, an island in the Pacific--a beautiful one where the Attorney General's granddaughter was born. The point, however, is that there is a problem when a flawed opinion by a single judge can block the President's lawful exercise of authority to keep the entire country safe.

Hawaii Attorney General Douglas Chin said in a statement: "President Trump previously called a federal judge in California a so-called judge. Now U.S. Attorney General Sessions appears to dismiss a federal judge in Hawaii as just a judge sitting on an island in the Pacific. Our Constitution created a separation of powers in the United States for a reason. Our federal courts, established under article III of the Constitution, are co-equal partners with Congress and the President. It is disappointing AG Sessions does not acknowledge that."

NEWS FEATURE

FMR GOV. CAYETANO CALLS ON PRESIDENT TRUMP TO STOP FTA FUNDING FOR THE RAIL PROJECT

by HFC Staff

Former Hawaii Gov. Ben Cayetano took out a full-page ad in the Washington Post asking President Donald Trump to terminate the Federal Transit Authority's (FTA) Full Funding Grant Agreement with the city of Honolulu and to discontinue funding the remaining \$800 million out of the dedicated \$1.5 billion.

Cayetano urges the president to terminate the agreement to force the City to consider less costly alternatives to the rail system. In his open letter to Trump, Cayetano appealed to the President's common sense approach to scrutinizing wasteful spending on pork barrel projects.

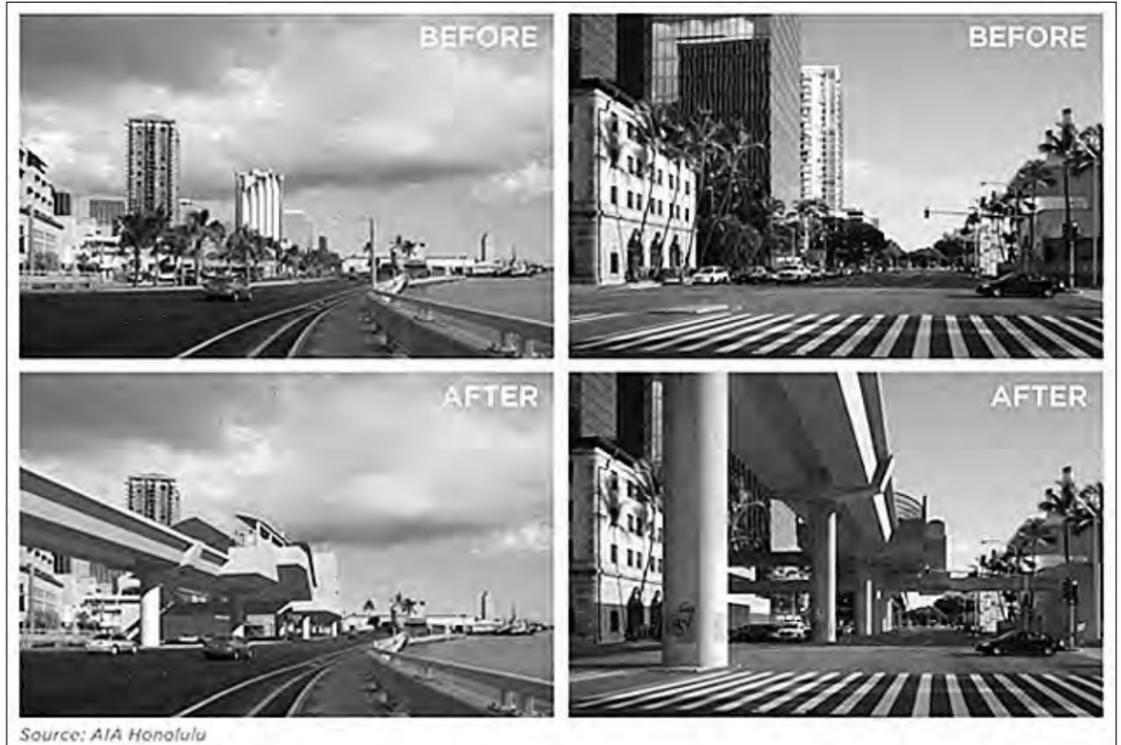
"Massive cost overruns and inflated ridership projections are the norm in rail projects, but Honolulu's 20-mile elevated rail system tops them all. Initially estimated to cost \$5.28 billion, the projected construction cost is now \$10 billion or \$500 million per mile, the most costly in the

world," said Cayetano.

The former Governor -- who came out of retirement to run unsuccessfully for mayor in 2012 to stop the rail project -- said the project was driven by politics than by objective engineering and planning, adding that the City does not have the funds to complete the 20-mile system, "failing at least \$3 billion short and six years behind schedule."

The rail project current streams of funding come from \$1.5 billion from the FTA (that Cayetano is calling on Trump to terminate) and \$6.8 billion that is generated from the Oahu 0.5 additional surcharge on the state's GET. That makes it \$3 billion short of the estimated \$10 billion that Cayetano points out in the ad. In 2012, city planners estimated the cost to be \$5.2 billion. HART's latest estimate is at \$6.9 billion; the FTA's figure looms around \$8 billion.

"It (Honolulu's rail project) has become a poster boy for how politics, incompetence, disinformation and outright lies are at the root of wasteful rail projects which do



Source: AIA Honolulu

little for the public except raise taxes," Cayetano wrote in his open letter.

Cost and aesthetics continue to be major sources of contention for the rail project. It has been the single-most important issue in several election cycles for Honolulu mayoral and city council races. Some political analysts believe Cayetano's run for mayor against pro-rail candidate Kirk Caldwell in 2012 was stymied by former Sen. Daniel Inouye who pushed for the rail project and acquired federal funding for it.

Cayetano mentions the late senator's role in the project.

"The rail project exists today mainly because the FTA buckled under pressure from U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye who was then chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The powerful chairman famously declared 'it would take World War III to stop the rail project!'"

Pro-rail Pacific Resources Partnership (PRP) and other powerful pro-rail unions poured multi-millions of dollars to support Caldwell. The former governor also was hit with one of the nastiest negative campaigns in that race in

which Cayetano threatened to sue the now defunct PRP.

The rail project is projected to run from East Kapolei to Ala Moana Center. It is an elevated rail line that runs about 20 miles with 21 stations. Some Hawaii residents suggest an alternative to save on cost would be to end the project in Kalihi. This would also preserve the beauty of urban Honolulu along the pier and beaches as well as free up funds to be used on other more pressing issues facing the city.

The ad in the Washington Post is paid for by the Abigail K. Kawanakoa Foundation.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Sen. Hirono Opposes Relocation of Retail Services from Lihue Post Office

LIHUE --- Sen. Mazie K. Hirono said she opposes the relocation of retail services from the Lihue Post Office. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) will restart its regulatory review process and provide an additional public comment period.

Senator Hirono said the following statement: "I appreciate today's announcement by the USPS and concur with their decision to provide a more thorough explanation to the community on the need to relocate retail operations. When my



office has asked questions of the USPS on this matter, we have received inconsistent information from the USPS which is of great concern to me," said Senator Hirono. "We need a process that is fair and

transparent, and works in the best interest of the local community. I will continue to work closely with the mayor and the USPS to look for ways to keep the retail operations at the Lihue Post Office. I encourage all Kauai residents to take advantage of the extended comment period to make their voices heard."

Last month, Senator Hirono wrote to USPS in opposition to the relocation. The Senator cited the lack of transparency from USPS to the Kauai community, as well as a weak case for relocating the post office as a basis for her opposition.



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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OPEN FORUM

100 Days of Broken Promises: Hawai'i Democrats to Highlight Trump's Disastrous Administration

by Tim Vandever, Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i

April 29th marked 100 days since Inauguration Day. So far, Trump's first 100 days have been filled with broken promises and policies that hurt Americans in every corner of our nation.

For example:

- Trump promised he would drain the swamp, but instead he's filled his administra-

tion with billionaires, Wall Street bankers, lobbyists and the same Washington insiders he railed against during the campaign.

- Trump promised better health care that would cost less and provide more benefits, but instead he backed a bill that would have thrown 24 million off of their health care and driven up premiums for older Americans, all while giving tax

breaks to the wealthy.

- Trump promised he would deliver for the "forgotten man," but his budget would cut funding for vital services like job training, Meals on Wheels, and disease research to finance yet another tax break for the rich.

- Trump promised Mexico would pay for the wall, but instead he's trying to get U.S. taxpayers to pay for it in the latest government funding bill.

- Trump upset bipartisan negotiations to fund the government with a late-in-the-game attempt to get funding for his border wall and even threatened to hold health care for millions hostage to do so.

- Trump promised he would get tough on outsourcing and trade, but he has failed to stand up to China and continues to hire foreign workers

at his resorts like Mar-a-Lago.

- Trump signed an executive order blocking citizens of six predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States, the most significant hardening of immigration policy in generations. In bringing a national halt to the executive order, Judge Derrick Watson (ruling on a challenge to the ban by Hawai'i Attorney General Douglas Chin) wrote "The illogic of the government's contention is palpable... The notion that one can demonstrate animus toward any group of people only by targeting all of them at once is fundamentally flawed."

- Trump's Attorney General, Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III, insulted Hawai'i residents by saying (in reference to Judge Watson's ruling) "I really am amazed that a judge sit-

ting on an island in the Pacific can issue an order that stops the president of the United States from what appears to be clearly his statutory and constitutional power." Senator Mazie Hirono responded: "Hawaii was built on the strength of diversity & immigrant experiences - including my own. Jeff Sessions' comments are ignorant & dangerous" and Senator Brian Schatz tweeted: "Mr. Attorney General: You voted for that judge. And that island is called Oahu. It's my home. Have some respect."

Hawai'i Democrats will be gathering across the state to continue to #resist by marching for climate change, rallying for our 'āina, and talking about how Trump's broken promises, disrespect, and disastrous policies are impacting their lives.

KAKATALK (from page 9, HONOLULU....)

other immigrants.

In a Honolulu Biennial video on youtube, the Aquilizans explained that "Crossings" is part of their decade-long project called "Another Country."

"Another Country is about that space in between," they said. "When you leave home, there is no place you call home anymore. You are just in that middle ground. For example, if go back to the Philippines, we become foreigners; If we are in Australia, we do not feel it is home."

In "Crossings," the Aquilizans looked back on Hawaii's history.

"As you all know, the last plantation just closed (Maui in 2016). It is the end of the era of 180 years of sugarcane agriculture. It changes the demographics of the whole islands. In a way, it creates another culture. It is important to talk about it."

If you have not experienced a Biennial event yet, the Honolulu Biennial is accessible and one to go to. The Honolulu Biennial has a website for more information. <http://www.honolulubiennial.org/>

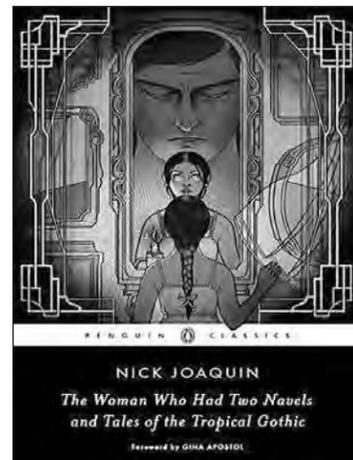
BOOK REVIEW

Penguin Classics Release Nick Joaquin Collection

By Rose Churma

Celebrating the centennial of Nick Joaquin's birth in May 2017, Penguin Classics recently released the first ever U.S. publication of his seminal work.

Joaquin is widely considered one of the greatest Filipino writers, but he has remained little-known outside the Philippines, despite the fact that he wrote in English. His work dissects the Filipino's new freedom after a long history of colonialism. These literary pieces explore folklore, ancient



THE WOMAN WHO HAD TWO NAVELS AND TALES OF TROPICAL GOTHIC. by Nick Joaquin with a foreword by Gina Apostol and introduction by Vicente L. Rafael. New York: Penguin Classics. 2017. 480p, softcover

Museum of Art last year).

American Book Award-winning author Jessica Hagedorn describes his works as "...akin to Garcia Marquez in the extravagant, surreal imagery of his stories, the fatalistic humor, and the intricate weaving of history and memory..."

Singer and actress Lea Salonga notes, "Nick Joaquin was such a presence in my childhood. I remember having a collection of Joaquin's stories for children in my personal library. They were large beautiful volumes that provided commentary to our culture in language so engaging for a child to understand. He has been a beloved storyteller for the Philippines for generations and now his memorable stories and play will be made available around the world."

For Hawai'i's readers, the book will be available at the Honolulu Book and Music Festival to be held May 6 & 7 at the civic grounds surrounding Honolulu Hale (look for Reiyukai America's booth near the main stage). For inquiries regarding Nick Joaquin's other published works, please email <kalaman-sibooks@gmail.com>.

Catholic rites and magical realism.

This collection features his best known story, "The Woman Who Had Two Navels," centered on Filipino emigrants living in Hong Kong—which was later expanded into a novel. Also included in this collection are the classics "May Day Eve" and "The Summer Solstice," as well as the play A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino (whose film version was screened at the Filipino Film Festival at the Doris Duke Theater of the Honolulu

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LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

What to Do If ICE Agents Confront You in Public

subway stations.

In California, Texas, Oregon, Colorado and Arizona, plain-clothes ICE agents have been seen inside and outside courthouses to apprehend undocumented immigrants. One undocumented immigrant in Texas was arrested while in an elevator in a courthouse. Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye of California, the first Filipino-American to hold such a high position, wrote a letter recently to Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Department of Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly about the presence of ICE agents in courthouses scouting for undocumented immigrants. Justice Cantil-Sakauye stated that courthouses should not be used as a place to wait for undocumented immigrants because these people “pose no risk to public safety.” Immigrant advocates have noted

that everyone, not just undocumented immigrants, will now fear going to courthouses as victims, witnesses or defendants. This would have an impact on the administration of justice.

In response, Virginia Kice, the spokesperson for ICE stated that the ICE agents were apprehending undocumented immigrants who have prior criminal convictions in the United States. Furthermore, she claimed that ICE agents take every effort to take undocumented immigrants in custody away from public view and this eliminates the safety risks of detaining someone on the street.

In Virginia, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents waited outside a church shelter where undocumented immigrants had gone to stay warm. In response, Gov. Terry McAuliffe of Virginia wrote a letter to Mr. Kelly that this should not be done because

Virginia residents cannot be detained without cause or specific allegations of criminal activity.

These brazen operations by ICE agents are alarming and can cause people to panic. Therefore, it is important for legal and undocumented immigrants to know their rights in order to ensure that ICE agents do not go beyond what they are allowed to do under the law. These rights are granted by the United States Constitution regardless of one’s immigration status.

If ICE agents approach you in a public place, the first thing to know is that you do not have to say anything or answer any questions. You must make it clear to the ICE agents that you choose to remain silent. Furthermore, if the ICE agents ask you which country you are from, you can refuse to show documents showing your identity and origin. Do not sign anything and do not

give up any of your documents.

If the ICE agents stop you in public, ask if the agents have a warrant signed by a judge to arrest or search you. If they do not have any, you do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings. However, the ICE agent may legally “pat down” your clothes to make sure that you do not have any weapons. Then, ask if you’re being detained and whether you are free to go. If they say yes then calmly leave. If they say no, continue to remain silent but ask to speak to a lawyer. Remember that having a lawyer with you will ensure that your rights are protected. Lastly, you can contact your consulate to ask for help.

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

The aggressive enforcement of our immigration laws by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in recent months is a stark contrast to the policy of the previous administrations which focused on arresting and deporting legal and undocumented immigrants convicted of heinous crimes such as homicide, sexual assault and rape. Now, even legal and undocumented immigrants without convictions or even criminal charges are detained, questioned, or deported.

ICE raids or operations of ICE to arrest legal or undocumented immigrants has occurred even in public places such as parks, sidewalks and

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Free Classes Offered on Historic Preservation of Commercial Buildings

If you own are a historic building owner, property manager, tenant, professional who work with historic commercial properties or policy maker who can learn about the challenges and concerns building owners face and potential solutions, you might consider attending the historic preservation summer series presented by the Historic Hawai‘i Foundation and the Chinatown Improvement District.

The classes will be in three parts covering information about methods, techniques and resources to preserve historic commercial buildings. They will provide practical, specific information on maintaining and rehabilitating historic structures, helping them to continue to provide benefits to the owners, historic districts and the greater community.

The 2017 series will be held on the second Wednesdays of the months of May, June and July from 12 – 1 p.m. at Lyon Associates, 45 No. King Street,



5th Floor, in Honolulu. The series is hosted by Lyon Associates.

“As we start the third year of this project, we’re pleased by the community interest and participation and also grateful for the specialists and professionals who have donated their time and expertise to lead the sessions”, notes CID President, Lee Stack.

The one-hour classes are free and open to the public: May 10: Facades & Storefronts: Identifying & Protecting Your Build-

ing’s Visual Presentation in a Cost Effective Way, presented by Fung Associates, Inc. and Mason Architects, Inc.; June 14: Improving the Performance of Historic and Existing Buildings to Save Energy and Money, presented by Hawai‘i Energy, US Green Building Council Hawai‘i Chapter, Huper Optiks; July 12: Infrastructure: Electrical Capacity and Upgrades, presented by Douglas Engineering Pacific, Inc.

Advanced registration is recommended. Register online

at www.historichawaii.org.

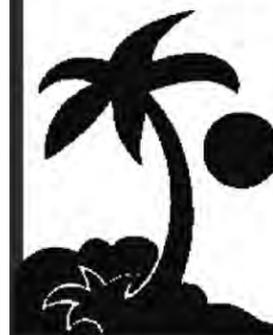
HHF is the only statewide non-profit organization solely dedicated to preserving the historic buildings, sites, communities and objects that tell the unique stories of Hawai‘i’s multilayered history.

Chinatown Improvement District (CID) is a 501(c)3 charitable organization formed to improve conditions in the greater Chinatown area and to encourage and promote the preservation and enhancement of the ethnic, cultural and historical character and significance of Chinatown.

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Dagiti Kapampanunotan Nga Idasar Dagiti Nadumaduma A Pammati

Kada pamilia idiaiy pagilian tayo wenno ditoy Hawaii ken amin a disso, ad-daanda ti bukod a pammati. Ngamin ta nadumaduma met ti iturong dagiti adu a mangidaldalan ti PAMMATI (religion). Ti kina CATOLICO ti immuna a naipaagsep iti kapampanunotan ti kaaduan ken nagkauna a tattao idiaiy pagilian gapu ti panangisungsong dagiti agturaturay a Castila idiaiy pagilian. Ti immuna a pammati a kina CATOLICO, sakupenna dagiti nagkauna a pamilia kadagiti nagkauna nga aldaw.

Ngem kabayatan ti panagallin ti panawen adu met dagiti natibker a saan laeng a sumursurot kadagiti gangganaet a Kastila. Saanda amin a simmuko kadagiti kastila a nangiturong ti kina-Catolico (Romano). Inrugida metten a

di sumurot kadagiti gangganaet, nga adda bukodda a simbaan (INDEPENDIENTE) ken bukodda a padi a saan a pasurot dagiti Romano.

Ket kas ti kinabileg ti pak-inakem dagiti ad-adu pay a grupo ti nabukel a kas ti Iglesia ni Cristo ken dadduma pay nga iturong met dagiti nakaadalen a papadi. Maawagan dagitoy ti simbaan a babassit ket iti tunggal grupo,

adda bukodda pagkararagan, ken bukodda a Pastor a mangidaulo. Ditoy Hawaii naisangpet met laeng dayta a pammati ket adda latta metten dagiti simbaan.

Ngem nupay adu dagiti turongen ti tao a pagkararagan saan nga ibaga a saan a maymaysa ti panggep. Ta saan a ti papanan ti mangipakita ti aramid ken rikna. Saan a ti disso a mapan pagkararagan ti

mangipakita ti kinasiasino tayo iti imatang ti APO. Uray sadino iti ayan, adda iti rikna ken panunot a maymaysa ti Apo a pagkararagan ken pangitaklinan ti rikna panunot ken pammati. a pagdawdawatan ti pammakawan ken panangaasi. Ni Apo a Dios ti maymaysa a mangkitkita ken mangsursurot ti kaibatugan ti kada maysa kadatayo.

Uray sadino ti ayan nga

agkararag no napudno, iturong ti Apo ti kararag ken dawaten a panangngaasi, sidedengeng kadagiti ar-ararawtayo. Isu ti mangpakawan kadagiti basbasol tayo ken naglabsingan tayo kasanguanan a dumatag tayo kenkuana. Sabali manen a tawen ket kiddawentayo ti Apo nga adda latta a mangkitkita ken mangtarabay kadatayo bayat ti panagbiagtayo!

PARIKUT TI BIAG

Awan ti naiyanak nga awanan parikut
Ta amin a nabiag addaan ti bukod a babala
Kinapinget kadagiti kalikaguman a magun-od
Dayta ti lubong a pagtaengan ti sulisog

Anusak ti agtaeng ti lubong a nakaikariak
Ta dayta ti naikeddeng a disso a pagnaedak
Paraisok numan pay napnot lunod ken damsak
Ta bareng isudat burayok a pagsakduak ragsak

Umaddangak nupay nasiit dagiti lasatek a dana
Ikarigatak a piduten tunggal makapuris iti saka
Rinantak tapno siak met laeng ti mangdasdas
Ammok a ti masakbayak agbatay laeng iti nalikudak

Uray ta bagnosko ti bassit a silaw a sinegdak
A binalonko kadagiti amin a disso a nakaisadsadak
Nagkarkaradapak kasanguanan a makatakderak
Awanan sarukod, awan man laeng ti mangbatak

Aramatek kakaisuna a saguday naipabulod kaniak
Pakirangetko ti aniaman a bakal a pakaisagmakak
Kired pakinakem ti taklanko a mangsaluad kaniak
Karkararagko ti balonko a pagkammatalkak

Inkarigatak a lasaten ti nasamek a bakir ti biagko
Bareng agwada tapno nabanglo a rosas itukitko
Disso a pagpasagak kayatko a nadalus tugotko
Bareng nasaysayaattot irurusing dagiti saringitko

Ay biag, biag a punganay ti itatanor
Inkarigatan a laktawen amin a sarraisi ti biag
Ta awan met ti tao a di kalatkatan ti parikut
Ngem no italek pakuyogan kararag iti Dios
Isut' makaugas ti amin a PARIKUT.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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2ND PMHA GOLF TOURNAMENT | October 18, 2017 | **9:00 am** (Registration), **11:00 a.m.** (Golf Tournament Begins) and **6:00 p.m.** (Awarding of Prizes and Buffet Dinner) | **HOAKALEI COUNTRY CLUB** | For registration, contact Elmer Baysa, MD @ 689-8315, Ray Romero, MD @ 680-0554 or Christopher Regala, MD @ 622-2626.

MAINLAND NEWS

President Donald Trump Signs into Law Major Weather Legislation

President Donald Trump has signed into law H.R. 353, the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017. The bill includes sweeping reforms to federal forecasting to improve seasonal forecasting, monitoring and clearly communicating information about extreme weather events, the availability of aircraft systems for hurricane tracking, and the use of commercial data that have been collectively called “the first major piece of weather legislation adopted since the early 1990s.”

Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii, the lead Democratic Sponsor of the Senate companion bill said: “Hawaii faces unique vulnerabilities from tsunamis, hurricanes, and coastal flooding. The bill signed into law will strengthen our ability to forecast all of these so that we can be better prepared for the threats we might face. At a basic level, this means safety—but as important, it means that businesses can plan bet-

ter so fewer jobs are lost, and people will be able to maintain their livelihoods. The better forecasts this law supports will benefit everyone, and shows how it is still possible for the Congress and the President to come together to stand up for American communities.”

“As we learned during Hurricane Hermine last year, if NOAA’s Hurricane Hunter jet is out of commission, there’s no backup plan in place,” said Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), the ranking member of the Commerce Committee. “This bill will ensure we have a reliable backup that enables scientists to continue gathering critical data about where a storm is headed and whether it’s strengthening or weakening.”

“The president signing the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act marks a significant shift toward the improvement of our country’s ability to forecast major storms and tornadoes,” said House Science Committee Vice Chairman

Frank Lucas (R-Okla.), the sponsor of H.R. 353. “This legislation packs in multiple efforts to protect lives and property from severe weather because Americans deserve nothing less than the most accurate and timely weather predictions. By encouraging new technologies both outside and inside of NOAA, we can put our country back on track to be a world leader in weather forecasting. I thank my colleagues in Congress and the president for taking action to implement these life-saving policies.”

“President Trump’s signature on the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act marks a major advance toward transforming our nation’s public-private weather enterprise,” said House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas).

“Preparing in advance for tsunamis can save lives and property in coastal communities across the United States,” said Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.).

Sen. Hirono, Asian Groups Support Program to Benefit Filipino WWII Vets

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In response to President Donald Trump’s report that the Administration is reviewing immigration parole programs, Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) urged the president to continue the implementation of the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program (FWVP), which reunites Filipino veterans who fought for the United States during World War II with their families.

The Obama Administration announced in May 2016 that it would create a parole program to reunite the families of Filipino World War II veterans.

“Today, there are less than six thousand surviving Filipino World War II veterans in the United States,” the Senator wrote. “Like most elderly Americans, these veterans are likely to become more reliant on family members for care as they grow

older. However, because the current family-based immigrant visa backlog extends back more than 20 years, these family members have not been able to reunite with their relatives in the United States.

“We know you understand the contributions and sacrifices that these veterans and their families have made to our country. Therefore, we hope that USCIS will continue its full implementation of the FWVP policy uninterrupted and that you work to address the needs of these veterans.”

“The Humanitarian Parole of the FWVP Policy that allowed Family Members to come to the U.S. and be reunited while waiting for their visa’s availability is a relief for the family,” Gaspar Milla, son of Filipino World War II veteran Jesus Milla said. “We hope the USCIS will continue its full implementation of this

FWVP Parole Program to acknowledge the heroism of these Filipino Veterans under the command of American Military during WWII. They should be more considerate since most of them are now in poor health condition; consequently, the elderly tend to be more at high risk of developing disabilities and contracting diseases that needs care of the family.”

“The Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program has honored the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos who fought bravely under the American flag during World War II,” said Brendan Flores, National Chairman of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA). “This program allows family members to reunite in the U.S. to provide support and care to their aging Filipino veteran family members, many of whom have already passed

away or are in their twilight years. For the sake of our veterans, we must honor their service by ensuring that this program will continue to be implemented.”

Filipino veterans were granted citizenship in recognition of their service to the United States during World War II. Many of their children, however, were not. Due to backlogs in the U.S. immigration system, it can take more than 20 years for a visa to become available. Under the FWVP program, families, some of whom have been waiting decades, can finally be together in the United States while they wait for a green card.

“The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans continues to strongly support the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program, which would allow these veterans, who served our country with courage and

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bravery, to be reunited with family members who have been waiting for decades. With nearly 300 pending applications, it is our duty to ensure this important program continues without delay,” said National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) National Director Christopher Kang.

“Taking care of America’s veterans is one of the promises made by the Trump administration, and we would expect that promise to include Filipino WWII veterans and their families, who have been separated for decades by an inhumanely long visa backlog and denied the opportunity to live together in the United States,” said John C. Yang, president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice. “Advancing Justice | AAJC is fully committed to fighting for the rights of these war heroes, their families, and all immigrants.”

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