

HAWAII-PHILIPPINE NEWS EDITION

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# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

## THE VISAYAN CENTURY: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE VISAYAN PRESENCE IN HAWAII

By Dennis GALOLO

**F**ilipinos of Visayan ancestry in Hawaii kicked-off their centennial anniversary celebration last January 18, 2009 with the Santo Nino Fiesta held at the Wailuku Community Center on Maui.

More than 600 people attended the event which was highlighted by a Sinulog procession, a Catholic mass, dinner, a gubernatorial proclamation and entertainment. Visayans from Honolulu, the Big Island and Lanai participated in the festivities. A resounding success, the Santo Nino festival will be followed by other centennial events statewide organized by the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO), in collaboration with other community groups.

### THE FIRST VISAYANS IN HAWAII

Records from the State Archives show that the first Visayan sakadas arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 20, 1909, aboard the s.s. Korea. There were 45 of them, including men, women and children. They included the first Visayan families in Hawaii – the Magpingo and the Yorung families – whose descendants still live in the islands.

This first group of Visayan sakadas originated mostly from Cebu and Siquijor Islands. They were

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## Lingle Appoints Filipinos to State House of Representatives and UH Board of Regents

By Carlota ADER

**G**ov. Linda Lingle recently appointed Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran to the State House of Representatives and Michael A. Dahilig to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents (BOR).

Keith-Agaran replaces the late Rep. Bob Nakasone, while Dahilig fills the remaining BOR at-large seat.

Rep. Keith-Agaran is a member of the House committees on Finance, Labor, Transportation and Public Safety. The governor chose him from among three finalists nominated by the Maui Democratic Party.

"I'm humbled and honored to represent the people of the Ninth House District," he says. "I look forward to this opportunity to serve the people of my community."

Rep. Keith-Agaran graduated from Maui High School and earned degrees from Yale College and the University of California-Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law.



Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran (center) with House Speaker Emeritus Joseph Souki (left) and Rep. Roland Sagum, III.

Since 2005, he has practiced law as a partner with Takitani & Agaran, Law Corporations. Prior to that, he worked for Carlsmith Ball LLP.

He also served as a member of former Gov. Ben Cayetano's administration, having chaired the State Board of Land & Natural Resources and served as the director of the Department of Labor & Industrial

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## Ilokano Program Issues Call For Papers For Upcoming Conference

By HFC Staff

**T**he University of Hawaii-Manoa's Ilokano Language and Literature Program is currently planning the 4th Nakem International Conference which is scheduled for November 11-14, 2009.

The theme of the four-day conference is "Dap-ayan: Sharing and Understanding Ethnolinguistic Worlds Towards Cultural Pluralism." Organizers expect the event to be well-attended by cultural researchers, heritage language educators, advocates

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## EDITORIAL

## Profligate Leadership by Example

While other countries have slipped into recession, President Arroyo appears determined to show to the world how healthy the Philippine economy is: by traipsing around the globe. Her latest eight-day jaunt across Europe, the Middle East and North America cost taxpayers a whopping P123 million — and that's the amount that Malacañang was willing to acknowledge.

What did Filipino taxpayers get in return? Few people remember exactly why the President went to Davos, Switzerland, or to Italy. If she went to the World Economic Forum to brag about the Philippine example, the international community seemed unimpressed.

Malacañang cited benefits from the entire trip amounting to an even more whopping \$2 billion. Where did that fantastic figure come from? Palace officials said the President received pledges of aid from Saudi Arabia totaling \$500 million and, from Bahrain, an investment commitment of \$350 million for a hotel project in Makati City. In the United States, where her quest for a coveted photograph with new President Barack Obama ended in humiliation, there is a possibility that the Philippines can export \$1.2 billion worth of textiles.

Decisions regarding foreign aid or major investments are not made as quickly as the President decides to fly to Washington for a photo op. The groundwork for decision-making is laid over several months, and the final commitment does not need the presence of the head of the recipient country. The original reason cited for the President's Middle Eastern trip was to act as job-hunter for overseas Filipino workers. But the region has been hit by the precipitous plunge in world demand for crude oil. Projects



and major investments in the Middle East are on hold, foreign workers are being sent home, and it's doubtful that recovery will be quick.

Textile exports to the US? The Philippine textile industry has been devastated by competition from China and India. And if there is textile to speak of for exports, are Americans buying at this time? As for that unfortunate pilgrimage to Washington, where the President did not merit even a nod or word of acknowledgment from her US counterpart, the embarrassment should be enough to keep her home at least for the duration of the global slump. But then that would be too much to expect of this President. If members of Congress and even police officers are inveterate junketeers at taxpayers' expense, it is because they are simply following their leader's example. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## See No Evil

Amid the latest corruption scandal, the government is again calling for appropriate cases to be filed instead in court. The developments in the last major scandal should remind the government of why many Filipinos have lost faith in the justice system and prefer to jump to conclusions instead.

The other day Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada led a mass action to retrace what he described as an attempt to kidnap him last year and prevent him from testifying about corruption in the national broadband network deal between the Department of Transportation and Communications and China's ZTE Corp. Lozada's allegations — both about the NBN deal and the kidnapping that he said started at the NAIA upon his arrival from soul-searching in Hong Kong — remain unresolved. None of the public officials linked by Lozada to his alleged kidnapping was meted even a slap on the wrist. The whereabouts of the mysterious security agents identified in the alleged kidnapping, including one linked to the Presidential Security Group, are unknown.

The administration had hoped that the ZTE scandal would go away, like a bad cold, with the scrapping of the deal and the resignation of Benjamin Abalos as chairman of the Commission on Elections. But without a final report from either the justice system or the Senate, this scandal will see no closure. And the fate that has befallen Lozada will discourage other public servants from sticking out their necks and blowing the whistle on corruption cases.

The latest scandal involves the rigging of bids in road projects funded by the World Bank. The House of Representatives hastily ended its inquiry into the scandal, clearing everyone, but so far the Senate is pursuing its own probe.

The Arroyo administration is seeking a copy of the World Bank report. All that the administration has to do is ask — from either the Department of Finance or the Office of the Ombudsman, which received copies of the official report months ago from the Bank. Seeing no action from the government, the World Bank announced it had permanently blacklisted a Philippine contractor and suspended six others, four of them Chinese companies, for collusion in rigging bids. The World Bank report is there, but it cannot be seen by anyone whose eyes are closed. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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MAYOR'S COLUMN

# Welcoming New Americans to Our Nation's Safest Big City



**AROUND THE ISLAND**

by Mayor Mufi HANNEMANN

One of the many things I enjoy about being mayor is the opportunity to meet immigrants from around the world who have chosen to make Honolulu their home. I normally attend the Naturalization Oath Ceremonies that are frequently held at the Mission Memorial Auditorium beside Honolulu Hale, where I have met many wonderful people who moved here from the Philippines and elsewhere to reunite with loved ones, pursue new opportunities and follow their dreams.

Attaining U.S. citizenship is a major milestone, and it is inspiring to be reminded how much this means to so many people. I am proud to welcome new Americans to our nation's safest big city, and to congratulate them on their achievements. We will all face challenges together as our nation struggles with its current economic problems, but we can all help to make our nation strong, prosperous, and a good friend to our global partners.

President Barack Obama, who was born here in Honolulu to parents who arrived from Kenya and from Kansas to pursue educational opportunities, provides an excellent example of the success that can be found in our city and our nation. I will work closely with President Obama's administration and our congressional delegation to support important infrastructure projects that will improve our quality of life and keep

people employed.

Our rail transit project promises to be a great boon to our economy during these hard times, and to provide thousands of jobs and spur new development in long-neglected areas. The Honolulu City Council recently took action to adjust the project's route so that it serves Honolulu International Airport, and I will respect that decision even though it may make some people unhappy. I said from the start of this project that I believed an airport route would be best, but I have been flexible and willing to consider other possibilities. Now that the council has made its choice, our job is to continue moving forward and to ensure there are no unnecessary problems or delays.

We recently took a major step toward beginning actual construction, by issuing the official Request for Proposal to construct the project's first segment, a 6.5-mile por-

tion from East Kapolei to Pearl Highlands. This is also a clear signal to officials in Washington D.C. that Honolulu is serious about rail transit this time. We've got a shovel-ready project and we're moving forward every day.

The Request for Proposal is for an estimated \$550 million to \$600 million design-build contract that includes track installation and surface restoration in addition to the gateway viaduct. Stations along the gateway are to be constructed in future contracts.

Contractors will have until March 13, 2009 to respond to the RFP. The selection process will take about six months and then final negotiations will be undertaken with the proposer providing the best value to the City when considering price and other factors. The winning contractor will be announced in the fall.

Separate RFPs are scheduled to be issued later this year for

final design contracts for rail stations and a design-build contract for the maintenance yard. The procurement of vehicles, traction power and train control systems is also scheduled to begin this year.

I'm also very pleased to announce that we have completed construction of the new Hale 'Imi 'Ike Learning Center at the Honolulu Zoo, which includes a classroom, reading area and space for multi-media presentations.

This Learning Center is a wonderful new addition to our zoo, and will be a great resource for teaching future generations about our animal friends and how we care for them. The 2,800 square foot Hale 'Imi 'Ike (House for Seeking Knowledge) Learning Center has seating for up to 50 people, makes extensive use of natural lighting and ventilation, and is furnished with a photovoltaic system to reduce energy consumption.

## OPINION

# Why Obama Will Likely Support Filipinos in Removing Evil Despots

AS I WRECK THIS CHAIR / By William M. ESPOSO

Avoiding meeting Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) last July and not accepting and returning her recent telephone calls do not indicate that President-elect Barack Obama isn't a friend of the Philippines.

Far from it, it would indicate that Obama is true to his word when he said (during his acceptance speech in Grant Field, Chicago last November 4) "tonight we proved once more that the true strength of our nation comes not from the might of our arms or from the scale of our wealth, but from the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, liberty, opportunity, and unyielding hope."

President-elect Obama is wise to avoid contact and association with someone like GMA whose regime has been characterized in the world press for repression, suppression of freedom of speech and the murder of unarmored political activists — not to mention election fraud.

A greater insight can be obtained from Barack Obama's own article which was featured in the July/August issue of Foreign Affairs. Headlined RENEWING AMERICAN LEADERSHIP, Obama outlined his foreign policy views which are consistent with his acceptance speech pronouncements.

In summarizing his world view and preferred approaches to pres-

ent problems, Obama wrote: "Today, we are again called to provide visionary leadership. This century's threats are at least as dangerous as and in some ways more complex than those we have confronted in the past. They come from weapons that can kill on a mass scale and from global terrorists who respond to alienation or perceived injustice with murderous nihilism. They come from rogue states allied to terrorists and from rising powers that could challenge both America and the international foundation of liberal democracy. They come from weak states that cannot control their territory or provide for their people. And they come from a warming planet that will spur new diseases, spawn more devastating natural disasters, and catalyze deadly conflicts."

He added: "The Bush administration responded to the unconventional attacks of 9/11 with conventional thinking of the past, largely viewing problems as state-based and principally amenable to military solutions. It was this tragically misguided view that led us into a war in Iraq that never should have been authorized and never should have been waged. In the wake of Iraq and Abu Ghraib, the world has lost trust in our purposes and our principles."

"After thousands of lives lost and billions of dollars spent, many Americans may be tempted to turn

inward and cede our leadership in the world affairs. But this is a mistake we must not make. America cannot meet the threats of this century alone, and the world cannot meet them without America. We can neither retreat from the world nor try to bully it into submission. We must lead the world, by deed and by example."

"Such leadership demands that we retrieve a fundamental insight of Roosevelt, Truman, and Kennedy — one that is truer now than ever before: the security and well-being of each and every American depend on the security and well-being of those who live beyond our borders. The mission of the United States is to provide global leadership grounded in the understanding that the world shares a common security and a common humanity."

"The American moment is not over, but it must be seized anew. To see American power in terminal decline is to ignore America's great promise and historic purpose in the world. If elected president, I will start renewing that promise and purpose the day I take office."

He provided an insight on how he will handle the Iraq quagmire. He wrote: "This redeployment could be temporarily suspended if the Iraqi government meets the security, political, and economic benchmarks to which it has committed. But we must recognize that, in the end, only Iraqi leaders can bring real peace and

stability to their country."

"At the same time, we must launch a comprehensive regional and international diplomatic initiative to help broker an end to the civil war in Iraq, prevent its spread, and limit the suffering of the Iraqi people. To gain credibility in this effort, we must make clear that we seek no permanent bases in Iraq. We should leave behind only a minimal over-the-horizon military force in the region to protect American personnel and facilities, continue training Iraqi security forces, and root out al Qaeda."

Again Obama reinforces his commitment to democratic ideals when he wrote: "There are compelling moral reasons and compelling security reasons for renewed American leadership that recognizes the inherent equality and worth of all people. I will show the world that America remains true to its founding values. We lead not for ourselves but also for the common good."

There is every reason for us to hope that President-elect Barack Obama will be a true friend of the democracy-loving Filipino people and may even be inclined to help us remove the evil despots in our land. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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# HEADLINE NEWS (CONT.)

(cont. from page 1: The Visayan ...)

followed by subsequent groups totaling more than 600 for the year 1909 alone. They were assigned to the Kahuku Plantation on Oahu's North Shore. Subsequent arrivals were assigned to other plantations on Oahu, Kauai, and the Big Island.

From 1909 to the mid-1920s, most of the sakadas who were recruited from the Philippines came from the Visayan islands, thereby making them the largest Filipino group in Hawaii.

Recruitment of Visayans started going down after the mid-1920s for several possible reasons:

1. They were actively involved in the unions and organized

or participated in several labor strikes, the highlight of which was the death of several Visayan strikers in the infamous Hanapepe Massacre of 1924 in Kauai. This did not sit well with the HSPA who decided to recruit what they considered as more "docile" Filipino groups rather than the Visayan "troublemakers"

2. At this time, the Philippine government was encouraging Filipinos from the north and central part of the country to settle in Mindanao. Most Visayan immigrants decided to go to nearby Mindanao rather than to the far-flung Hawaiian islands.

By the time recruitment from the Philippines ended in 1946, the Visayans have become a small minority within the Filipino community. Presently, they constitute around 10-15 percent of the Filipino population in Hawaii.

## VISAYAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Despite their small numbers in Hawaii, Filipinos of Visayan ancestry have made their mark in various fields of endeavors locally. Mention could be made of former governor Benjamin Cayetano, former Senate president Robert Bundo, Honolulu City Council chair Rudolph Pacarro, Ambassador Juan Dionisio, for-



mer state representative Bernaldo Bicoy, labor organizers Epifanio Taok and Tommy Tomimbang, well known TV personality Emme Tomimbang, world boxing champion Ben Villaflo, Filipino martial arts grandmasters Largusa and Villaribe, educator Dr. Ben Ju-

nasa, humanitarian Fr. Jaime Neri, social activist Mila Medallon, malaria researcher Dr. Sandra Chang, well-known cardiologist Dr. Danelo Canete, actress Tia Carrere, singers Jun Polistico and Kristian Lei, and many others.

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(cont. from page 1: Nakem ...)

of heritage preservation and promotion, public policy leaders, and cultural artists and workers who are interested in cultural pluralism, multicultural education, cultural democracy, heritage language teaching and critical practices related to the pursuit of linguistic rights and social justice.

The conference is the fourth in a series that began in 2006 during the Filipino Centennial Celebration. It will also be the second such conference to be held in the U.S. The conference aims to bring into the open a critical and creative discourse—as what happens in the *dap-ayan*—on what it means to share a heritage in a multicultural Philippines and among peoples of the Philippines in the diaspora.

The conference also hopes to locate Ilokano and various languages in the culturally plural experiences of the peoples of the Philippines and to revisit methods and methodologies that can be deployed to respond to the issues of multicultural education, literacy, cultural production and promotion, the sustenance of liv-

ing traditions, and the writing and sharing of intangible heritage.

## ABSTRACT PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Organizers are looking for abstract proposals that zero in on the theme of the conference or those that cover any of the topics listed in the Call For Papers. Abstracts must be 300 words or less and specify the issue it raises as well as the tentative direction it takes to respond to the issue.

The selection committee encourages papers from various ethnolinguistic communities in the Philippines and in the Philippine diaspora. Philippine scholars are encouraged to write their papers in any Philippine lingua franca (Ilokano, Tagalog, or Cebuano) provided that these papers have parallel English translation to be used during the presentation. The translations are required due to the international nature of the conference.

Abstracts must be saved on a document file, on Arial type font 12, and sent as an attachment. Accompanying the abstract is a



Convenor Dr. Lilia Quindoza Santiago

separate sheet on the proponent, with the following details:

1. Name
2. Organizational affiliation (if applicable)
3. Complete address including contact number
5. Email address
6. Alternative email address

The Selection Committee requires that another abstract of 50 words or less be submitted for inclusion in the program. The abstract should bear the title of the paper, the author or authors and the institutional affiliation (if applicable).

## TOPICS FOR PRESENTATION

Abstract proposals for full consideration by the Selection Committee must deal with the theme or any of the following topics:

- Ilokano and heritage language teaching and the world languages curriculum
- Appreciating ethnolinguistic worlds
- Tangible heritage from the various ethnolinguistic groups
- Theories and practices in the sharing and understanding of a heritage
- Cultural pluralism as a philosophy of education
- Pathologies of multiculturalism, remedies of cultural pluralism
- Languages and cultures in the diaspora
- Subversions of the multicultural Philippines experience
- Mass media, popular culture, and heritage education

The conference will follow a plenary session format for both the plenary speakers and the paper presenters. Each presentation is limited to 20 minutes maximum, with 5-10 minutes allotted for open forum. There will be separate sessions devoted for workshops and organizing and advocacy work.

## FULL PAPER SUBMISSION

Abstract proposals submitted prior to the deadline will receive consideration by the selection committee. This is to allow time for proponents to prepare their full paper, not to exceed 20 pages including references. Full papers must be double spaced, on an Arial type font 12, MLA format, saved on a document file and sent as an attachment to the selection committee. Full papers are due by May 31, 2009.

## CONVENERS AND SELECTION COMMITTEE

Conveners and members of the selection committee include Dr. Aurelio Solver Agcaoili, Dr. Lilia Quindoza Santiago, and Dr. Raymond Llanes Liangson.

The conference steering committee includes Dr. Agcaoili, coordinator of the Ilokano Language and Literature Program of UHM (conference chair); Dr. Santiago, assistant professor of Ilokano, UHM (co-chair); Dr. Liangson, coordinator of the Philippine Studies Program, Leeward Community College (co-chair); Clem Montero, lecturer of Ilokano and education specialist of the UHM Center for Philippine Studies and lecturer of Tagalog/Filipino, Kapiolani Community College (member); and Julius Soria, instructor of Ilokano at UHM and at Farrington High School in Kalihi (member).

Abstracts should be sent to: nakemconference@yahoo.com, cc to liliass@hawaii.edu and rliangson@gmail.com. Deadline for submission of abstracts is February 28, 2009. Proponents of abstracts accepted for presentation will be notified on or before March 15, 2009.

For updates on the confer-

ence, please visit nakemconferences.blogspot.com. Or you can visit the Nakem Conference button under the UH Ilokano Language and Literature Program website.

Out-of-state and out-of-country participants are advised to make arrangements with their travel agencies for itineraries and for special services like travel to and from Honolulu International Airport. The steering committee does not have the resources for lodging and other forms of accommodation to participants, nor can it offer financial assistance or grants to paper presenters.

As such, all participants are advised to check in with hotels and lodgings close to the conference site at UH-Manoa. The university has a number of hotels and hostels but booking is normally six months prior to the conference. Booking with these hotels and hostels are done individually. Online transactions would be sufficient for reservation and booking needs. Participants are advised to check with the university's website for these services.

The 4th Nakem Conference is part of an international linkage of UH Manoa Ilokano Language and Literature Program with Nakem Conferences, Inc. (based in Hawaii) and Nakem Conferences International-Philippines Chapter (also known as Nakem Conference Philippines), a language and culture advocacy group whose institutional and individual members come from various universities, colleges and organizations in the Philippines.

Other organizations and individuals have been invited to take part as co-sponsors in an effort to advance mother language education, cultural pluralism, and linguistic and cultural rights of all peoples of the Philippines in the homeland and in the diaspora.

Questions about the 4th Nakem Conference should be emailed to conference chair Dr. Agcaoili at: nakemconference@yahoo.com or to co-chairs Dr. S. Santiago (liliass@hawaii.edu) and Dr. Liangson (rliangson@gmail.com). ■



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# HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## CPS Raises \$22K for Philippine Literacy Project

by Carlota ADER

**AT A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER** on March 18, 2008 held at the Philippine Consulate in

Honolulu, the Center for Philippine Studies (CPS) at UH Manoa raised \$22,000 to help support GILAS (Gearing Up Internet Literacy and Access to Students), a private sector-led consortium that aims to connect all of the 6,300 public high schools in the Philippines to the Internet. Only 1/3 of them are currently Internet-connected.

The donation was made by the Ilocos Sur Association of Hawaii (ISAH), under the leadership of Danny Villaruz. Former state representative Jun Absinay and Dr. Charlie Sonido, publisher of Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, have agreed to fully fund three high

schools in Ilocos Sur province in the Northern Philippines at \$6500 each. ISAH will also fund the Internet connection of other high schools in the province at \$2500 per town. Altogether, the award amount is \$22,000.

Other Filipino community leaders, such as Dr. Dan Canete, Larry Ramirez, Chair of Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawai'i and Amado Bermudea, President of Rosaleni-ans of Hawai'i, have also made commitments to fund other GILAS projects in the Philippines.

GILAS is an international collaborative effort to help the Philippines by investing in the education of children who have little or no access to innovative, high-quality technology-based curricula. It is one of CPS' international outreach projects.

Only a small fraction of high

school graduates in the Philippine public schools attend college. Training them in basic computer literacy skills while in high school, or even in the elementary grades, is crucial because of the difficulty in competing for employment in the global market, which requires computer and Internet skills. Many of the more than 3,000 immigrants from the Philippines who arrive in Hawai'i annually have only a secondary education.

The GILAS project is implemented by the Ayala Foundation-USA, established in 2000 and currently headed by Vicky Garচিতorena (see related story). The Foundation is based in San Francisco. It reaches out to American corporations and international foundations to provide them with necessary information



Dr. Teresita Bernales, one of the coordinators of Gilas Project in Hawaii, is shown with Jun Absinay presenting the list of contributors/donors to Gilas project.

and due diligence on programs they aim to undertake in the Philippines. All donations are tax deductible.

For further information, contact Dr. Belinda Aquino, director of the CPS at (808) 956-6086 or email: lynody@hawaii.edu. ■

(cont. from page 1; Lingle ...)

lations, On Maui, he served as the director of the county's Department of Public Works & Environmental Management under Mayor Alan Arakawa.

He is a member of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association, the Kahului Filipino Community Association, the United Sons & Daughters of Ilocano Regions, the Pinili-Badoc Maui Association and Saranay Maui.

He also served as legal

counsel for the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH) and the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

Current UFCH president Eddie Agas says Gov. Lingle made the right choice in appointing Keith-Agaran.

"I've known Gilbert to be a person of excellence," he says. "He is also easy to work and get along with."

Dahilig's name will be submitted to the State Senate for its ad-

vice and consent. He previously served as the student member on the Board of Regents. He earned his law degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law and his Bachelor's in geology and geophysics from the School of Ocean and Earth Science Technology at UH-Manoa.

Appointments such as these are good for the Filipino community, says John C. Ramos, presi-

dent of the Filipino American League of Engineers & Architects (FALEA).

"These appointees contribute to the synergism that takes place during deliberations and decision-making processes at top levels of government," he says. "They can provide a balance with regards to the outcome

of any decision affecting the community as a whole, as well as Filipinos in particular. They can also be role models for our younger generation to emulate.

"It gives the Filipino community more respect and makes us proud to be a positive contributor to Hawaii's multi-ethnic population." ■

(cont. from page 4; The Visayan ...)

And there was the intrepid Florentino Das, who electrified the world in 1954 when he sailed from Hawaii to the Philippines in a small, home-made, wooden boat, guided only by the stars.

Visayans also boast of the oldest active Filipino community organization – the Balaan Catalina Society – which was founded in 1929, and what can be considered as the first Filipino community center in Hawaii – the United Visayan Community club house in Waipahu which was erected in the 1950s.

There are thus many things that Visayans in Hawaii can be proud of, thereby making this centennial year worthy of commemoration.

### VISAYAN CENTENNIAL EVENTS

COVO, the statewide umbrella of Visayan organizations in Hawaii, is leading the way in organizing various events to celebrate the Visayan centennial, or what they call as "the Visayan Century." The following is a tentative list of the major activities for the whole year:

1. Santo Nino Fiesta, January 18, 2009, Kahului, Maui (kick-off event).
2. Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO) 24th anniversary celebration, February 8, 2009, Philippine Consulate, Honolulu.
3. "BisDak" Live Band Concert, March 28, 2009, Ani at Binhi Filipino Community Center, Kahului, Maui.
4. Visayan Centennial float and cultural display booths, Filipino Fiesta and Pa-

rade, May 9, 2009, Honolulu.

5. Visayan Centennial Tour (Iloilo, Cebu and Davao), May 15-June 3, 2009, Philippines.
6. Visayan Centennial Fiesta, May 2009, Lanai.
7. Visayan Centennial Awards Gala, July 19, 2009, Hale Koa Hotel, Honolulu.
8. Balaan Catalina Society 79th anniversary celebration, July 25, 2009, Honolulu.
9. COVO Statewide Convention and Centennial Gala, August 2009, Kona, Big Island.
10. Commemorative Ceremonies at Hanapepe Massacre Marker and Visayan Musical Show, September 2009, Kauai.
11. 65th Anniversary Commemoration of Gen. MacArthur's Landing in Leyte (Liberation of the Philippines), October 20, 2009, Filipino Community Center (with Veterans of Foreign Wars), Honolulu.
12. Community Forum on the Visayans of Hawaii, November 2009 (with UH Center for Philippine Studies), Honolulu.
13. Publication of book "Handumanan: The Visayan Century in Hawaii" (a collection of stories and pictures of the Visayan experience in Hawaii), December 2009.

For more information about the Visayan Centennial activities, or to join the Visayan Centennial Tour to the Philippines, please contact Dayday Hopkins at dayday@hawaii.rr.com, or Jun Colmenares at juncolme@yahoo.com. ■

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# HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Bobby Agpaoa: Moving Forward to Building Legacies



Bobby Agpaoa (middle) poses with guests Larry and Jen Ordonez

**HAWAII JAYCEES PRESIDENT BOBBY AGPAOA** and members of the Board of Directors were installed into office on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at the Ohana Airport Hotel during the 2008 Year End State Convention.

Agpaoa is the first Hawaii Jaycees president who hails from the Honolulu Filipino Junior Chamber of Commerce (HFJCC) chapter. Excitement over his new position is tempered by the challenges that lay ahead. First and foremost is the economy.

"People may use the economic situation as an excuse to not get involved," he says. "But for myself, I see it as opportunity knocking. It'll be a big challenge but I won't let it hold me back."

The youngest of eight children, Agpaoa was born in Dingras,

Ilocos Norte, Philippines to Melquiades and Dolores Agpaoa. He migrated to Hawaii at the age of four. He currently lives in Kalihi with his wife Leeza.

Community service began at an early age for Agpaoa. While in elementary school, his parents warned him of the dangers of running with the wrong crowd.

"I saw others grow up and later join gangs," he says. "I had to turn onto another road and community service was it."

Several of his relatives were also actively involved in community service, particularly an uncle on the Big Island, who has since passed away. Their examples ultimately influenced his desire to serve others.

While attending Farrington High School, Bobby was active in several clubs and participated in

many extracurricular and community service activities. Bobby joined the Junior Jaycees at Farrington. In 1999, he joined the Honolulu Filipino Junior Chamber of Commerce (HFJCC), otherwise known as the Filipino Jaycees.

He served in various positions with the Filipino Jaycees, including as management vice president, business development vice president, individual development vice president, executive vice President and several others. Agpaoa became the president of the HFJCC in 2006 after returning from his deployment in Iraq.

One of the many activities that Agpaoa excelled in was the Write Up & Speak Up Program. He represented Hawaii twice in the Speak Up Competition at the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce Convention and placed in the top 10 from among 40 competitors.

Agpaoa and his 2009 Board of Directors will be focusing on five areas this year:

### PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

Promoting the Jaycees, its service projects, programs and training seminars is a key area for the Hawaii Jaycees. A successful PR and marketing effort will help others understand what the

Jaycees are all about.

### MEMBERSHIP

One person alone cannot build the Jaycees' legacy. It takes the entire membership to build the organization. Thusly, one of the board's priorities will be recruitment and activation of members.

### TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Another goal for the Hawaii Jaycees is training and professional development. The Hawaii Jaycees will be coordinating and/or providing training seminars and professional enhancement programs that members will find beneficial for their careers.

The uniqueness of the Jaycees allows young professionals to develop leadership and other professional skills, and at the same time, provide opportunities to give back to the community.

### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Jaycees will be looking to strengthen its relationship with the community and businesses.

"There are so many resources out there," Agpaoa says. "We just need to come together and help each other out to make our com-

munities a better place to live in especially during these tough economic times.

### LONG-TERM PLANNING

The 2009 Board of Directors will be looking at long-term planning for the Hawaii Jaycees. Instead of planning on a year-to-year basis, the focus will be on a longer horizon for the Jaycees—5 to 10 years from now.

Agpaoa admits that meeting these goals is impossible for one person alone to accomplish. Fortunately, he has assistance from the 2009 Board of Directors as well as the various Jaycee Chapters statewide.

The Jaycees is a civic organization for young adults ages 18-40. The Jaycees train young adults to become leaders through personal and professional development trainings, community service, and international relationships. The Hawaii Jaycees is part of the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Junior Chamber International.

If you are interested in joining the Jaycee organization, or starting a Jaycee chapter in your community, please contact Hawaii Jaycees at 941-5266 or email at [jayceelegacy@gmail.com](mailto:jayceelegacy@gmail.com) or visit the website at [www.hawaii-jaycees.org](http://www.hawaii-jaycees.org) ■

## Cayetano Autobiography Set for February Release

THE LONG-AWAITED AUTOBIOGRAPHY of Benjamin J. Cayetano, entitled "Ben: A Memoir, From Street Kid to Governor" will be released in mid-February, according to Watermark Publishing.

This revealing, 560-page book provides a rare look at the inner workings of island society and government—from ethnic voting to the Hawaiian sovereignty movement, from the Bishop Estate

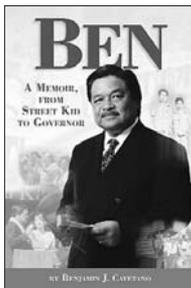
controversy to the backroom maneuvering of politicians and business leaders.

The political career of Cayetano, the nation's first Filipino-American governor, spanned a seminal period in Hawaii's history.

"Cayetano explains the intricacies and convolutions of Hawaii politics better than anyone ever has," says veteran political consultant Joseph Napolitan. "This is must reading for understanding how government in the Aloha State really works."

Born and raised in Kalihi, Ben Cayetano worked his way through UCLA and Loyola Law School. He served four terms in the Hawaii State Legislature, two in the House of Representatives and two in the State Senate, before being elected lieutenant governor under Gov. John Waihele. Cayetano's 28 consecutive years in public office were crowned by his own administration, during which he served as Hawaii's governor from 1995 through 2002.

In addition to its behind-the-scenes view of island politics, the new memoir presents a vivid account of Cayetano's personal life—including early encounters with Hawaii's ethnic pecking order, his youthful brushes with the law



and his mother's struggles with prescription drug addiction—private experiences that would later shape his views on public policy.

Governor Cayetano will be holding book signings at the following dates and locations:

- February 21, 11 am-noon / Barnes & Noble, Kahala Mall
- February 21, 2 pm-3 pm / Borders, Ward Centre
- February 22, 1 pm-2 pm / Barnes & Noble, Ala Moana
- March 7, 11 am-noon / Borders, Pearlridge
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# HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Philippines to Enter Robot in Hawaii Competition

**FOR THE SECOND YEAR** in a row, Hawaii will host the FIRST Robotics Competition from March 26-28, 2009 at the University of Hawaii's Stan Sheriff Center.

FIRST stands for 'For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology'—a non-profit organization founded by inventor Dean Kamen in 1989 to encourage students and their communities to get involved in science and technology.

The goal of the FIRST Robotics Competition is to help high-school-aged young people discover how interesting and rewarding the life of engineers and researchers can be. The competition builds not only science and technology skills and interests, but also self-confidence, leadership and life skills.

"The Lingle-Aiona Administration supports student robotics as part of the Hawaii Innovation Initiative because it provides students with a strong educational foundation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and offers them opportunities to solve problems, work as teams and think analytically—skills useful in any career," says Russell Pang, chief of media relations.

### TEAM PHILIPPINES

This year, the three-day robotics competition will have a distinctly Pinoy flavor as a team from the Philippines is scheduled to compete against 33 other teams from across Hawaii, the mainland and Mexico.

The Pinoy team is composed of 32 students from Philippine Science High School (PSHS). Accompanying the team are eight mentors from the University of the Philippines and De La Salle University and three coaches from PSHS.

They refer to themselves as "Philippine Team Lagablab," Lagablab is the Filipino term for a flame that burns strong and bright.

"We went ahead and chose a Filipino word, not only to identify us as Filipinos but to give impact to the name and purpose of our participation. We want to encourage students like us to pursue robotics and view it more than just a hard subject but something fun and beneficial," the group said in its website.

The Philippines team dubbed its robot "Larry Labuyo" which means "wild rooster." In some dialects it refers to hot chili.

"Cooking ingredients aside, we're here to make an impact, a lasting flavor with an aftertaste to boot. Labuyo, our robot, is a manifestation of our versatility, diversity and effort as a group," team members said.

Larry Labuyo is the only entry from a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

### ROBOT WARS

The competition pits teams of high school students and mentors against each other to solve a common engineering problem in a six-week time frame. The teams use their skills in science, technology, engineering and math to build a robot from motors, batteries, a control system and a mix of automation components, but no instructions.

Each year, FIRST unveils a new game for teams to solve. For this year, the students will be engaging the robots in a game called "Lunacy," which simulates the conditions on the moon. The idea for "Lunacy" was inspired by the 40th anniversary of Apollo 11.

"Just as NASA scientists landed a man on the moon and returned him safely to earth in 1969, so too will these young people go on and explore new frontiers and develop breakthrough technologies that change the world," said FIRST founder Dean Kamen.

Robots will be using a special kind of wheel to roll over regolith, a material which is almost frictionless. The objective of the game is to place as many "moon rocks" into the trailer of the opponent in two minutes and 15 seconds.

Teams are rewarded for excellence in design, demonstrated team spirit, gracious professionalism and maturity, and ability to overcome obstacles. Scoring the most points is a secondary goal. Winning means building partnerships that last.

Winning teams from the FIRST Hawaii Regional will earn the chance to compete in the 2009 FIRST Championship in Atlanta, Georgia from April 16-18, 2008.

### HAWAII TEAMS EXCEL IN ROBOTICS

Hawaii's teams have shown exceptional talents and risen to the top at recent FIRST Robotics regional competitions on the mainland. Last year, four Hawaii teams secured spots in the National Championships in Atlanta on April 16-18, 2008.

Waiakea High School placed second in the Silicon Valley Regional in San Jose, California, and received the Engineering Inspiration Award, which earned the team a spot in the National Championships.

Also, Sacred Hearts Academy finished in the top half of



Team Lagablab represented by the 32 students from Philippine Science High School

teams at the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Regional, an impressive performance for a first-year team, which earned them the Rookie of the Year Award and a spot in the National Championships.

Punahou and Waiialua High School were the other Hawaii teams that saw action on the mainland. Both schools turned in admirable efforts at the Silicon Valley and Chesapeake regions, respectively. At the Richmond, Virginia regional, Waiialua High School was presented with the Entrepreneurship Award, which recognizes a team that, since inception, has developed the framework for a comprehensive business plan to scope, manage and achieve team objectives. Waiialua competed in the National Championships.

The McKinley High School team won first place at the Portland, Oregon Regional—a victory made possible by forming a three-team alliance with teams from Oregon and California, which led to a score that more than doubled their opponents' score. As a regional champion, the team also earned a spot in the National Championships.

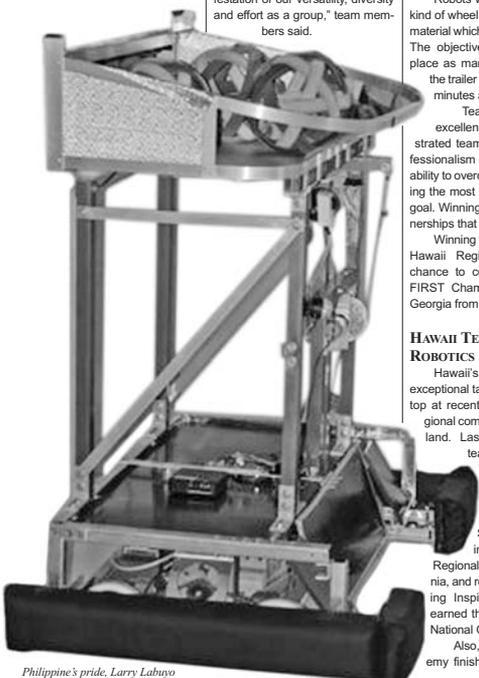
### PHILIPPINES HOPES FOR GOOD SHOWING

The Philippines' Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has already spent some P2 million for the development of the robot and payment of the mentors. They are hoping to raise an additional P4 million for the travel expenses of the delegates.

DOST officials hope to receive cash donations from private institutions since each student would need at least P125,000 to go to Hawaii.

"We are confident that Team Lagablab and their robot, Larry Labuyo, are on par with the students and mentors in the international community. Our ingenuity and versatility as a team will help us win," says Ester Ogena, director of the Philippines' Science Education Institute (SEI).

Ogena says Larry Labuyo, which has the feature of a trailer truck, has potential for use in robotic farming. The Philippines' Science Undersecretary Fortunato de la Peña says the robot could also be used in the manufacturing and health industries, especially in transporting hazardous materials.



Philippine's pride, Larry Labuyo

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# NEWS FEATURE

## Love's in the Head, Not the Heart

**WASHINGTON** – Like any young woman in love, Bianca Acevedo has exchanged Valentine hearts with her fiancé.

But the New York neuroscientist knows better. The source of love is in the head, not the heart.

She is one of the researchers in a relatively new field focused on explaining the biology of romantic love. And the unpoetic explanation is that love mostly can be understood through brain images, hormones and genetics.

That seems to be the case for the newly in love, the long in love and the brokenhearted.

"It has a biological basis. We know some of the key players," said Larry Young of the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta. There, he studies the brains of an unusual monogamous rodent to get a better clue about what goes on in the minds of people in love.

In humans, there are four tiny areas of the brain that some researchers say form a circuit of love.

Acevedo, who works at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, is part of a team that has isolated those regions with the unromantic names of ventral tegmental area (VTA), the nucleus accumbens, the ventral pallidum and raphe nucleus.

The hot spot is the teardrop-shaped VTA. When people newly in love were put in a functional magnetic resonance imaging machine and shown pictures of their beloved, the VTA lit up. Same for people still madly in love after 20 years.

The VTA is part of a key reward system in the brain.

"These are cells that make dopamine and send it to different brain regions," said Helen Fisher,

a researcher and professor at Rutgers University. "This part of the system becomes activated because you're trying to win life's greatest prize – a mating partner."

One of the research findings isn't so complimentary: Love works chemically in the brain like a drug addiction.

"Romantic love is an addiction; a wonderful addiction when it is going well, a horrible one when it is going poorly," Fisher said.

"People kill for love. They die for love."

The connection to addiction "sounds terrible," Acevedo acknowledged. "Love is supposed to be something wonderful and grand, but it has its reasons. The reason I think is to keep us together."

But sometimes love does not keep us together. So the scientists studied the brains of the recently heartbroken and found additional activity in the nucleus accumbens, which is even more strongly associated with addiction.

"The brokenhearted show more evidence of what I'll call craving," said Lucy Brown, a neuroscientist also at Einstein medical college.

"Similar to craving the drug cocaine."

The team's most recent brain scans were aimed at people married about 20 years who say they are still holding hands, lovey-dovey as newlyweds, a group that is a minority of married people. In these men and women, two more areas of the brain lit up, along with the VTA: the ventral pallidum and raphe nucleus.

The ventral

pallidum is associated with attachment and hormones that decrease stress; the raphe nucleus pumps out serotonin, which "gives you a sense of calm," Fisher said.

Those areas produce "a feeling of nothing wrong. It's a lower-level happiness and it's certainly rewarding," Brown said.

The scientists say they study the brain in love just to understand how it works, as well as for more potentially practical uses.

The research could eventually lead to pills based on the brain hormones which, with therapy, might help troubled relationships.

although there are ethical issues, Young said. His bonding research is primarily part of a larger effort aimed at understanding and possibly treating social-interaction conditions such as autism. And Fisher is studying brain chemistry that could explain why certain people are attracted to each other. She's using it as part of a popular Internet matchmaking service for which she is the scientific adviser.

While the recent brain research is promising, University of Hawaii psychology professor Elaine Hatfield cautions that too much can be made of these studies alone. She said they need to be meshed with other work from traditional psychologists.

Brain researchers are limited because there is only so much they can do to humans without hurting them. That's where the prairie vole – a chubby, short-tailed mouse-like creature – comes in handy. Only 5 percent of mammals more or less bond for life, but prairie voles do, Young said.

Scientists studied voles to figure out what makes bonding possible. In females, the key bonding hormone is oxytocin, also produced in both voles and humans during childbirth, Young said.

When scientists blocked oxytocin receptors, the female prairie voles didn't bond.

In males, it's vasopressin. Young put vasopressin receptors into the brains of meadow voles – a promiscuous cousin of the prairie voles – and "those guys who should never, ever bond with a female, bonded with a female."

Researchers also uncovered a genetic variation in a few male prairie voles that are not monogamous – and found it in some human males, too.

Those men with the variation ranked lower on an emotional bonding scale, reported more marital problems, and their wives had more concerns about their level of attachment, said Hasse Walum, a biology researcher in Sweden. It was a small but noticeable difference, Walum said.

Scientists figure they now know better how to keep those love circuits lit and the chemicals flowing.

Young said that romantic love theoretically can be simulated with chemicals, but "if you really want to get the relationship spark back, then engage in the behavior that stimulates the release of these molecules and allow them to stimulate the emotions," he said. That would be hugging, kissing, intimate contact.

"My wife tells me that flowers work as well. I don't know for sure," Young said. "As a scientist it's hard to see how it stimulates the circuits, but I do know they seem to have an effect. And the absence of them seems to have an effect as well." -AP ■



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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Entertainment Industry Stars Take Drug Test

by Marvin SY / Friday, February 13, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - **ELEVEN ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY** personalities showed their support for the government's anti-illegal drug campaign by voluntarily undergoing a drug test at the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters at Camp Crame in Quezon City yesterday.

Teen idols Mark Herras, Iwa Moto, Rainier Castillo and Ryza Cenon led other stars in giving their urine samples to police officials to demonstrate their full support for the war against illegal drugs.

Other teen idols like Mike Tan, Kevin Santos, Gino de la Peña, Victor Alivallas, Paulo Avelino, Prince Stefan and Kaye Alipio also showed up to support the campaign.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno lauded the teen models for volunteering to be role models.

Puno said the drug tests were meant to show that they are drug-free and to encourage other students to participate in the random testing initiated by the Department of Education as part of the national campaign against illegal drugs.

Herras also exhorted the public to rally behind the revitalized anti-drug campaign, calling on the youth to stay away from drugs and focus their energies instead on productive activities that will help them develop their full potentials and en-

sure a stable future.

Puno said he was surprised that the celebrities volunteered to undergo drug testing.

"I was surprised to learn that our young stars have come forward to voluntarily subject themselves to drug tests and serve as examples to our youth," Puno told a press briefing at Camp Crame.

"I thank our young stars for coming forward. They have shown to their fans that they are socially responsible citizens and that they are truly role models for our youth," he said.

RC Baltazar of the GMA 7 Artists Center, who spoke on behalf of the teen stars, said they volunteered to come forward to help the government in the anti-drugs campaign.

Puno called on other entertainment personalities to emulate the example set by Herras and the other teen actors.

Puno said their show of support will give a big boost to what President Arroyo described last month as her administration's "relentless and unyielding war" against the drug scourge.

He said the President has "taken a personal interest" in the war against narcotics after learning of the 2008 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which showed that the



Kapuso actor Mark Herras fills up a form before undergoing drug testing at the PNP crime lab in Camp Crame, Quezon City, Thursday.

Philippines remains a significant producer, consumer and transit country of illegal drugs.

"This government is dead serious about erasing this negative image of the Philippines and putting an end to the activities of drug syndicates who prey on the youth and destroy the social fabric of our society," he said.

Puno also said local officials could face administrative and criminal charges if they are negligent in their role in controlling illegal drugs in their respective communities.

Puno reminded local government executives of their duty to allocate a substantial portion of their annual budgets to finance the campaign against illegal drugs.

Puno also imposed yesterday a one-strike policy on police com-

manders who fail to detect illegal drug laboratories in their area of jurisdiction.

"The one-strike policy will be applied if the chief of police fails to lead anti-illegal drugs operations in their respective areas of jurisdiction or ignores adverse reports about the presence of drug dens or laboratories or the widespread use of illegal drugs," Puno said.

PNP chief Director General Jesus Verzosa said the PNP would continue its "unannounced random" drug testing among police personnel.

"Drug users have no place in PNP. We should serve as role models to the public. Change your ways or face dismissal," Verzosa said.

Verzosa also reiterated the one-strike policy to all PNP unit

commanders who will fail to lead anti-drug operations in their respective jurisdiction.

He ordered the immediate resolution of pending administrative cases involving policemen found guilty of using illegal drugs.

Verzosa also warned police officers using illegal drugs to reform or face dismissal from service.

Verzosa tasked Director Raul Bacalzo, chief of the Director of the Investigation and Detective Management and Commander of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF), to oversee the resolution of administrative cases of erring policemen.

Bacalzo said he will personally supervise the early resolution of pending cases and see to it that due process is observed as well.

President Arroyo, meanwhile, issued Administrative Order No. 253 calling for an automatic review by the Office of the President of all drug-related cases dismissed by the Secretary of Justice.

The AOS specifically indicated that all cases related to Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 would now be subject to automatic review by the OP, unlike before when only the cases with penalties of life imprisonment would be subject for review by the President. (www.philstar.com)

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## Business Expansion Seen Slowing Down on High Cost, Lack of Skilled Workers

by Ma. Elisa P. OSORIO / Friday, February 13, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - **LOCAL INDUSTRIES MAY FIND** it hard to expand their businesses this year because of lack of skilled workers, high cost of finance and reduced demand, according to a report by Grant Thornton International Business Report (IBR) released by tax and business advisory firm Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A).

The report said 63 percent of Filipino business leaders cited these reasons as a major roadblock to expansion, compared to 58 percent last year.

Privately held businesses face a big challenge in staying competitive during these uncertain times. And part of overcoming that challenge is operating with the mindset that all this shall also come to pass. We just need to weather the storm and emerge wiser, faster and more innovative," Greg Navarro, managing partner and CEO of P&A said.

"Business leaders have to be proactive by paying close attention to their operations, looking at where they can plug leaks or make savings. They have to study the specific issues affecting their business and develop strategies that will allow them to respond quickly to transformative changes in the market place," Navarro added.

The report stated that 61 percent of the privately held businesses (PHBs) surveyed named cost of finance as the second biggest roadblock to expansion. This was followed by shortage of orders.

Chipmaker Intel Corp. was forced to close its Cavite factory,



which produced \$5 billion worth of exports, due to a dramatic drop in demand for products such as personal computers and mobile internet devices. In the Cordillera region, nearly 2,000 miners have either lost their jobs or started working fewer hours as mining companies take on cost-cutting measures.

"PHBs in various markets have been affected differently by the economic downturn, but clearly, no one is immune from this slowdown," he explained further.

In fact, even industry giants like Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Ayala Land, Inc. have announced plans to cut capital spending for 2009 in response to the deepening global downturn.

"But in spite of the increasing number of workers becoming unemployed, companies still continue to complain about lack of skilled manpower. This is true particularly in the BPO industry, where the hiring rate is still around four percent to six percent of applicants, and in the construction industry, which is always in demand for highly-skilled welders and electro-mechanical workers," Navarro said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## Ex-Philippine Veterans Affairs Office Chief Denies Link to P43.7-M Fund Loss

by Michael PUNONGBAYAN / Friday, February 13, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - **FORMER PHILIPPINE VETERANS AFFAIRS** Office administrator Artemio Arugay has denied he had anything to do with the P43.7 million pension funds missing from the PVAO.

In a letter to The STAR, he said the unauthorized bank withdrawals happened after his term. He also cleared PVAO comptroller Heriberto Ruanto and data center chief Yvonne Agabayani of any wrongdoing.

The Ombudsman earlier said it is conducting a preliminary investigation against Arugay, administrator Wilfredo Pabalan, chief accountant Leovigildo Santos, consultant Enrique Sintos, Ruanto, and Agabayani for allegedly conspiring to defraud the government of millions of pesos in pension funds using a "kiting system" that involves writing a check on one bank account and depositing it in another just before the end of the accounting period.

Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandino said such a transaction means that no entry is made in the company's records on the fund transfer until the next accounting period.

Arugay said that on Dec. 5, 2002, prior to his resignation effective Jan. 9, 2003, he signed a letter of authorization, duly endorsed and countersigned by Santos, authorizing the Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) to debit P9,831,330 from a PVAO account and issue a manager's check in favor of PVAO.

He said the PVB account contains accumulated funds recovered from checks addressed to veterans who had already died. The amount to be withdrawn was to pay another set of veterans, Arugay said.

He said in December 2003, a year after he was relieved as PVAO chief, the PVB – upon an inquiry made by Ruanto – said the authorization letter was used to withdraw the manager's check dated Jan. 14, 2003.

The money was deposited at the Centennial Savings Bank (CSB), "which is a private commercial bank not accredited by the

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as PVAO's authorized depository bank," Arugay said.

He said the discovery of the anomaly led to probes by different government agencies. PBAO and CSB officials also discovered that there were additional deposits of manager's checks worth P33,454,152 withdrawn from PVAO funds from May 14, 2003 to Aug. 1, 2003.

The total amount that had been withdrawn from PVAO funds and deposited at CSB was P43,730,912, he said.

"I was not the one who implemented the withdrawal for I was already relieved by then," Arugay said.

He said he was never given a copy of the Commission on Audit report on the alleged anomalies, and was never interviewed or investigated about them by Congress or the different agencies that conducted the probes.

He said he did not "have a chance to explain my side, an injustice, which has prejudiced me and emotionally affected my family," ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## US Help Needed to Locate Kidnappers of ICRC Hostages

Sulu Vice-Governor Lady Anne Sahidilla (in hat), granted pass by Abu Sayyaf kidnappers, pose with the three ICRC hostages



by Jose Rodol CLAPANO / Friday, February 13, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - **SENATE MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO PIMENTEL** Jr. yesterday called on the Philippine government to seek assistance from the US to track down the Abu Sayyaf holding three workers of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) hostage.

Pimentel said the government could ask for technical assistance from US forces to lend their high-tech surveillance equipment to locate the kidnappers and the hostages.

"I am in favor of allowing the Americans to take part in the rescue of the abducted Red Cross personnel not necessarily by deploying troops but by aiding our troops with high-tech spy and surveillance equipment to pinpoint the location of the bandits and their hostages," Pimentel said.

Pimentel said the terms of reference of the joint Balikatan military exercises under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) provide the guidelines on the exchange of

intelligence information between the Philippines and the US in the fight against terrorism.

Pimentel said the US forces were a great help in locating the Abu Sayyaf bandits that kidnapped several foreign tourists that included American missionaries Gracia Burnham and her husband Martin in a resort in Palawan in 2001.

After almost a year in captivity, Gracia was rescued but Martin died in the attempt along with Filipino nurse Edibora Yap.

"It is clear that our troops lack equipment. That is a given and we don't have to deny that. It was through the use of American spy and surveillance equipment that the military was able to rescue Grace Burnham and other hostages. I think the use of such equipment is badly needed now by the military," Pimentel said.

Pimentel cited reports that government troops, backed by civilian volunteers, have cordoned off an area near Indanan, Sulu

where the Abu Sayyaf is believed to be holding the three ICRC workers as hostages.

The military has deployed more troops in Jolo to augment the forces surrounding the area where the Abu Sayyaf is believed to have taken the hostages.

Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Nelson Allaga said the deployment of troops was meant to augment the forces in the theater of operations but not to launch a rescue mission.

He said the presence of many troops has limited the mobility of the kidnappers in the attempt to force them to give up their hostages peacefully.

The Abu Sayyaf has taken hostage of Swiss Andreas Notter, Italian Eugenio Vagni, and Filipina Marie Jean Lacaba for almost a month now.

"All the actions and responses are calculated but still the safety of the hostages is our paramount consideration," Allaga said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■



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## ■ PHILIPPINE NEWS

# SC Orders Transfer of US Marine Rapist to RP Jail

by Ed PUNAY / Thursday, February 12, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - **THE SUPREME COURT (SC) RULED** yesterday that a US Marine convicted of raping a Filipina must be transferred out of his detention facility in the US Embassy.

The SC decided that Lance Corporal Daniel Smith should be detained in a facility under the Philippine government's control and that the US Embassy did not qualify as such a place.

Voting 9-4 with two justices inhibiting, the High Tribunal ruled that the agreements signed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo and US Ambassador Kristie Kenney on Dec. 19 and 22, 2006, which allowed the detention of Smith under US military custody at the US Embassy, were "not in accordance with the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA)," which covers procedures for crimes committed by US soldiers in the Philippines.

The 20-page decision penned by Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna upheld the constitutionality of the VFA.

Smith was sentenced to 40 years in prison in 2006 for raping a Filipina after military exercises in Subic in Olongapo City in 2005.

He was initially detained at the Makati City Jail pending an appeal, but was later transferred to a facility inside the sprawling US Embassy compound in Manila.

Smith's conviction prompted Washington to threaten to call off large-scale military exercises with Manila until he was turned over to the custody of the US Embassy.

Article 5, Section 10 of the VFA provides that confinement or detention of convicted US personnel should be done "by Philippine authorities."

The SC ruled that an agreement between Philippine and American governments should be forged only on the issue of which detention facility in the country Smith should stay in.

The High Court ordered Romulo "to negotiate with the United States' representatives for the appropriate agreement" on Smith's return to Philippine custody.

"The confinement or detention of one United States personnel shall be carried out in facilities agreed on by appropriate Philippines and United States authorities as provided in Art. V, Sec. 10 of the VFA," explained the ruling.

But SC spokesman Jose Midas Marquez told reporters in an interview that the Court did not issue a deadline for the transfer of Smith to Philippine custody as it also ordered the convicted rapist to be kept in the US Embassy pending negotiations between Philippine and US authorities.

The Court also directed the Court of Appeals to resolve without delay other pending petitions related to the case, including the appeal of Smith on his rape conviction by a Makati City regional trial court.

The decision penned by Azcuna, who is retiring on Feb. 16, was affirmed by Senior Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, and Associate Justices Consuelo Ynares Santiago, Renato Corona, Dante Tinga, Minita Chico-Nazario, Presbitero Velasco Jr., Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, and Arturo Brion.



Lance Corporal Daniel Smith

Chief Justice Reynato Puno dissented and was joined by Associate Justices Antonio Carpio, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez and Conchita Carpio-Morales. Associate Justices Antonio Eduardo Nachura and Diosdado Peralta inhibited from the case.

In his dissenting opinion, Puno said VFA fell short of meeting the requirement set under the Constitution that the treaty should be recognized by both governments.

"The circumstances present in the case at bar and recent case law in the United States' policy on treaty enforcement further exposed the anomalous asymmetry in the legal treatment of the VFA by the United States as opposed to the Republic of the Philippines. This slur on our sovereignty cannot continue, especially if we are the ones perpetuating it," the chief justice explained.

Puno and Carpio agreed that Smith should be transferred to the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa pending final resolution of his appeal from conviction for the crime of rape.

The case at the SC centered on two main issues: "Whether the right to custody of accused Daniel Smith during the pendency of his appeal belongs to the Philippine government or the United States authorities and whether there was a contempt of court committed in the transfer of accused Daniel Smith from the custody of the court to that of the United States authorities pending appeal."

"The issue here at the Supreme Court is interpretation of VFA. The main case involving the rape issue is with the Court of Appeals," explained Marquez in an interview.

Former senator Jovito Salonga and other petitioners will appeal the SC ruling upholding the constitutionality of the Philippine-US VFA despite losing the case with a 9-4 vote.

"We will appeal," UP Professor Harry Roque, counsel for Salonga said in a phone interview. "We are hoping we could convince the other justices to join the four dissenters."

In another statement, Roque said the SC stand on the VFA is "a bittersweet decision for the Filipino people." He said the High Court's refusal to declare the VFA unconstitutional "undetermined its own independence."

The case was triggered by the transfer of Smith to the custody of the US Embassy. Salonga and leftist groups questioned the agreement executed between Kenney and Romulo waiving the right of custody of Smith to US authorities pending appeal of his case.

(www.philstar.com) ■

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# FAMILY CORNER



by Grace F. FONG, EdD and  
Sylvia YUEN, PhD

## Play, Learn, and Grow

**Cognitive development.** As they play, children use all of their senses—taste, touch, sound, sight, and smell—to learn names of things, what they're

used for, and their properties, e.g., size, shape, texture, and weight. For example, when playing with blocks, children learn to add and subtract, measure, match patterns, sort same and different items, and build things. When others talk with them, describe objects and actions, and read or sing songs with them, children learn language. Through play, children learn the difference between what is pretend and real, build their attention span, develop new ways of thinking, and find creative ways to solve problems.

### ENCOURAGE PLAY

Children learn more when they experience a variety of play. Here are some ways to encourage play.

- Allow for exploration and variety. Children play using their entire bodies and all of their senses. Let them see, hear, touch, smell, and feel things to try them out. This means providing lots of supervision to make sure they are exploring safely. Encourage quiet and active play as well as indoor and outdoor play. Find ways to let them use their large muscles and small muscles. Use words to explain what is happening when they play. Play with sounds and words, such as "here are the bub-bubbles." Encourage new ways to play, such as pretending.
- Watch your child play. Be prepared for surprises! As you watch your children play, you can learn a lot about their interests, attention span, and skills. Your observations can tell you how to play with your children and when to offer new playthings as they grow—for example, when a child begins walking, he may enjoy a push-pull toy. You'll also get a sense of when it's good to join in and when it's best to be an observer.
- Accept invitations to play. Children may naturally include you

in their play. For example, they may say "Daddy, look." Be ready to join in, but avoid taking over; children learn and enjoy themselves more when they stay in charge of their own play. When adults respect children as they play together, children play longer. This increases their attention span. Children learn more and show more advanced play when they have chances to play with adults.

- Provide play space. Young children need room to play. If your home or yard is unsafe or too small, find a park to play in several times a week. At home, teach your child the house rules and allow him to play in spaces only where he can jump, climb, crawl, and explore safely.
- Provide play time. Routines like bathing, eating, and dressing can be just as much fun and adventurous as trips to the park. Allowing a little extra time for everyone to have fun during these routines encourages children to develop a sense of time management and responsibility. This can help them now with their play skills and later in school and at work. Also set aside a short time each day to play a game or two with your child. Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children—even toddlers enjoy time with children their own age.
- Provide play materials. Children can create their own fun with simple materials, for example, crumpled paper, pots and pans, large cardboard boxes, play dough, paper, crayons, and bubbles. Arrange

a place to keep playthings where children can select what they want to use. A shelf is better than a clothes basket so they can find and reach things easily without having to search. It also makes it easier for them to learn clean-up skills. When children lose interest in certain toys and other play materials, put those objects out of sight. Bring them back out a few weeks or months later. You may notice the children now use the toys differently because they have learned new skills.

- Encourage play that is right for your child's age and stage of development: Children play in different ways at different ages. Toddlers (ages 1-2) will play beside other children, but not usually with them. They enjoy watching what other children do and copying them. At about age 3 children start to borrow and lend toys, play follow the leader, try to lead others, take turns, and talk to each other, but there is usually no real cooperation. Between 3 and 4 years children begin to play cooperatively. ■

This article is adapted from the Family Resource Kit, produced by the University of Hawaii's Center on the Family.

**Editor's Note:** GRACE FONG is a professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. SYLVIA YUEN is the Director of the Center on the Family in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. This article is adapted from the Family Resource Kit published by the Center on the Family.

**W**hen children play, they are learning! All children love and need to play in order to learn and grow, regardless of culture, language, disability, or even hospitalization. Through play, children:

- Relax and enjoy themselves
- Practice skills already learned
- Try out new things and ideas
- Explore to satisfy their natural curiosity
- Learn about their world
- Learn and grow physically, cognitively, emotionally, and socially.

### Physical development.

Children need to be physically active to grow and be healthy, strong, and flexible. Active play that involves the use of large muscles, e.g., neck, arms, and legs, helps children develop the strength and coordination they need to stand, walk, run, jump, and balance. Play that uses small muscles, e.g., facial muscles, fingers, hands, and toes, helps children develop the strength and coordination they need to do finer tasks like forming sounds and words, grasping objects, and writing. They also develop eye-hand coordination—an important skill for everything from putting on clothes, to writing, drawing and playing sports—through play.

### Emotional development.

Children learn about themselves and others as they play. By pretending, daydreaming, imitating others, and having a good time, children learn to recognize their feelings and how to deal with them. When children experience stress, play helps them forget their worries and gives them a chance to feel more in control of their world. Children who play more are often happier and healthier.

### Social development.

Children practice taking turns and getting along, try out different behaviors, and learn about rules as they play with others. Younger children imitate older ones, who in turn gain confidence when they respect and teach younger ones.

## VALENTINE REFLECTIONS

### Building The Future In Love

by Danny  
DE GRACIA, II

As the community celebrates the season of love this Valentine's Day, let us bring to remembrance the words of

Ralph Waldo Emerson who said that a deep man believes that the evil eye can wither, that the heart's blessing can heal, that the orator can decompose his adversary, and most of all that love can exalt talent and overcome all

odds. The greatest force in building the future will be our love towards the community as a whole and our love towards one another. Political issues come and go just as certain as the weather changes, people rise to fame and fall from power, strength, intellect, and skill will fade, but what remains forever is love. As we begin to commit to love our neighbors as ourselves and to turn from strife, we will open the door to all of our dreams and aspirations for the future. Our greatest leaders are the leaders who lead in love, walk in truth, and live in compassion.

One such rising star in the community that is deserving of recognition is none other than the host of the new Oahu television program Better Government,



Sarah Ann Hunt, left, with Rep. Kymberly Pine and Rep. Gene Ward on the set of an episode of Better Government. ■

Sarah Ann Hunt, Hunt, who regularly features Filipino legislators on her program, is also developing a new website to educate the public and bring greater awareness to not just the challenges but the responsibilities that we all have to-

wards building the future. Despite the fact that we live in a big world, people like Hunt are helping to make the distances between hearts smaller and smaller every day. The example set by people like Hunt is one to be followed. ■

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# LEGAL NOTES

## Prepare H-1B Petitions Now



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

**A**s in the last two fiscal years, the H-1B visa quota for fiscal year 2010 is expected to be used up in the first few days after the start of the filing period on April 1, 2009.

It is therefore imperative for employers to start preparing their petitions now.

The fiscal year starts on October 1, 2009. There are only 65,000 visas allocated each year. An additional 20,000 visas are reserved for those with master's or higher degrees from a U.S. university.

Last fiscal year (2009), nearly 163,000 H-1B petitions, including those for the advanced degree category, were filed from April 1 to 7, 2008.

In fiscal year 2008, 133,000 petitions were received by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on April 2 and April 3, 2007.

Because of the huge number of petitions received, all the properly filed petitions were subjected to random selection.

They were labeled with unique numerical identifiers and went through a computer-generated lottery process to determine which cases would undergo adjudication.

Last fiscal year, the random selection for the U.S. advanced degree cap cases was first conducted until the 20,000 cap was reached. Those not chosen were transferred to the general pool of H-1B petitions for the selection of the general H-1B 65,000 visa numbers.

Petitions that were not selected were returned to the petitioners along with their filing fees. Duplicate filings were not included in the random selection as they violated USCIS policy.

The H-1B program is one way that U.S. employers are able to hire professional workers in special occupations such as teachers, engineers, accountants, computer programmers, architects and therapists. The law requires as a minimum a bachelor's degree or equivalent.

Preliminary paperwork needs to be prepared now. The basic documentary requirements include credential evaluations. The petitioner must obtain the diploma, academic transcripts, resume, experience letter and other proofs of the beneficiary's qualifications. If the diploma has not been issued yet, the USCIS will accept proof that the beneficiary has "earned" the degree

and is just waiting for his/her graduation.

The documents submitted should come from a verifiable authorized official of this school. Questionable documents may lead to charges of document fraud with serious implications.

The petitioner is required to pay the beneficiary at least the prevailing wage for the position in the area of the intended employment. The petitioner also needs to attest that the current employees and the union, if any, are given notice of the petition and that there is no strike or lockout in the occupational classification at the place of employment. ■

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

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

### JDV Eyes New Coalition for 2010



Congressman Joe De Venecia

by Perseus ECHIMINADA / Friday, February 13, 2009

**MANILA, Philippines - FORMER SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA JR.** is preparing to break away from the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats party to form a new political coalition that will support a presidential candidate in the 2010 elections, a reliable source disclosed yesterday.

The source, a leader of a political party, said De Venecia is now conducting one-on-one meetings with leaders of various political parties to discuss plans to form an alliance that will be a major political force in the coming election.

"The former speaker (De Venecia) is in the process of re-

viewing the rainbow coalition minus the Lakas party," the source said.

The reported alliance came a week after the pro-administration party Bigkis Pinoy launched the so-called "Coalition for the Deserving," which was supposed to be composed of the Reporma of former defense secretary Renato de Villa, Aksyon Demokratiko of the late Sen. Raul Roco, and the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

But a day after the coalition was launched, Jay Sonza, Secretary-General of Aksyon Demokratiko and De Villa of Reporma disowned the coalition, saying that party leaders were not consulted.

Party leaders said that Bigkis Pinoy is raiding other political parties for still unknown reasons without consultation with the other parties.

The source declined to give more details but he hinted that among the possible moves of the former speaker is to revitalize the Christian Democratic Party (CMD), which merged with the Lakas Tag of former President Fidel Ramos during the early 1990s.

De Venecia is the founder of the CMD party, which spearheaded the rainbow coalition that supported the candidacy of Ramos.

Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis said that Lakas has already foreseen the possible defection of De Venecia from the Lakas-CMD party to form another political alliance.

Solis said if De Venecia bolts from the administration party at least 32 congressmen would join him, which will affect the political setup of the administration party at the House.

It was not known what the composition of the new political alliance of De Venecia would be, but another source indicated that the former speaker is also talking with the Nacionalista Party of former Senate president Manuel Villar. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### Farewell to Corky Trinidad



**VETERAN EDITORIAL CARTOONIST** Francisco Flores Trinidad Jr., better known as "Corky," passed away on February 13, 2009 from complications with pancreatic cancer. He was 69.

The award-winning cartoonist, was elected into the Hawaii Journalism Hall of Fame in 2005 by the Society of Professional Journalists.

His career has spanned several decades, beginning in the Philippines, where he earned his degree from the University of Ateneo de Manila in 1960. A year later, he was working for the Philippines Herald as a political cartoonist and columnist, where he quickly made a name for himself. Within a few years, he was well-known in Asia and in fact was the

first Asian editorial cartoonist to be syndicated in the U.S.

Unfortunately, he raised the ire of then-president Ferdinand Marcos, who did not take kindly to his political cartoons. To escape the harassment, he moved to Hawaii and began working for the Honolulu Star Bulletin. The rest, as they say, is history.

He is survived by his wife, Hana and five children. ■

## Inventor Unveils RP's First Electric Tricycle

**THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST** electric-powered tricycle could be soon plying Metro Manila's busy street streets.

According to its inventor, Allan Agular, the public transport tricycle that he called the "e-trike" had impressed Land Transportation Office (LTO) officials during a recent testing at its firm office in Quezon City.

According to Agular, his tricycle

was the first of its kind to pass the carrying capacity and speed tests for a low-speed vehicle.

He said the e-trike passed the 40-kilometer per hour maximum speed, and the 250-kilogram carrying capacity on 25-degree road elevation during the tests.

As for its production, Agular said it could go full blast as soon as he receives the manufacturer's accreditation from the government. A number of orders have already been received since he launched the e-

trike last November.

"We can manufacture one to two e-trikes a week," Agular said.

Compared with the gasoline-powered tricycle, the e-trike uses P20 worth of electricity for a whole day's operation.

Agular invented the e-trike with his father Epifanio Guillermo, who is also an engineer. Father and son simply decided to modify the lowly tricycle, the most popular mass transport system and second only to the iconic jeepney. (*Good News Pilipinas*) ■

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# MAINLAND NEWS

## Abercrombie Fights to Keep Filipino Vets in Stimulus Bill

**U.S. REP. NEIL ABERCROMBIE JOINED** colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) to urge that a provision be kept in the Economic Stimulus package authorizing long overdue benefits for Filipino veterans who fought alongside U.S. armed forces during World War II.

Abercrombie and U.S. Rep. Mike Honda (D-California), who chairs the CAPAC, appealed to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and the respective chairs of the House and Senate committees who will sit down to reconcile differences between the Senate and House versions of the Economic Stimulus legislation approved by the Senate last Tuesday. Conferees include Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye, who put the Filipino Veterans provision in the Senate bill.

"Keeping a good old promise to the few surviving Filipino veterans who fought with the U.S. military in World War II won't add a cent to the Economic Stimulus bill," said Rep. Abercrombie. "The fund-



ing was approved last year. All we need now is the program authorization to direct the funds."

In July 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt enlisted the help of the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the Armed Forces of the U.S. and promised 250,000 Philippine soldiers that they would earn the same benefits as U.S. soldiers. The current authorization would provide a one-time payment to Filipino World War II veterans in recognition for their service.

"This one-time payment is less than we promised, but we have the opportunity in this legislation to do something for these brave men," said Rep. Abercrombie. "There are less than 20,000 Filipino WWII veterans still alive. It's time to end six decades of broken promises." ■

## AAJA Group Offers Free Training Camp For Students

**THE ASIAN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATION (AAJA)** is accepting applications for "J Camp," its a national multicultural journalism program which allows high school students to meet with top journalists and develop their written, speaking, communication and leadership skills.

The 2009 J Camp will be held August 7-12 at Emerson College in Boston. The event brings together a multicultural group of high school students from across the nation to sharpen their journalism skills and work together in a unique learning environment.

The curriculum consists of interactive workshops, hands-on training, and field trips. J Camp confronts the lack of diversity in journalism. With a diverse team, readers and viewers get different views on city governments, human interest stories, entertainment and recreation, science and medicine, and national and international news.

The program is not limited to

Asian American students but is open to all high school freshmen, sophomores, or juniors. There is no fee to apply and all costs are covered -- including airfare, lodging, and meals. Students will stay in university housing during the camp week. Applicants must demonstrate a keen interest in broadcasting, newspapers, magazines, photojournalism, or online media.

Program details and applications are available at [http://www.ajaa.org/programs/for\\_students/journalism\\_trainings\\_j\\_camp/](http://www.ajaa.org/programs/for_students/journalism_trainings_j_camp/).

"In today's world, it is essential for young people to use their critical thinking skills to understand how media impacts their lives," said AAJA Executive Director Ellen Endo. "With J Camp, students learn how a diversity of views makes for good journalism."

Since its inception, a total of 335 of the nation's brightest young people have graduated from J Camp. Graduates have had their editorials and stories published,

secured internships at media companies, won top honors as student scholars and started news-related jobs.

Speakers have included: Tim Russert, managing editor and moderator of "Meet the Press"; Ed Bradley, correspondent for "60 Minutes"; Carl Bernstein, Pulitzer Prize-winning Watergate reporter; Aaron Brown, CNN anchor; James Colton, Sports Illustrated photography editor; Leonard Downie Jr., Washington Post executive editor; Hoda Kotb, "Date-line NBC" correspondent; Atoosa Rubenstein, Seventeen magazine editor-in-chief; Carole Simpson, ABC News senior correspondent; Arthur Sulzberger, Jr., New York Times publisher; Helen Thomas, Hearst Newspapers Washington columnist; and Brian Williams, "NBC Nightly News" anchor and managing editor.

J Camp 2009 is co-directed by Clea Benson, senior writer at Congressional Quarterly weekly magazine in Washington, D.C., and Angie Lau, anchor, Bloomberg Chicago Bureau. ■

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

### Cops to Monitor Valentine's Day

#### Hot Spots

by Cecile SUERTE

/Friday, February 13, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - **THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE** National Capital Regional Office (NCRPO) deployed 500 additional policemen to secure shopping malls and other public places, including motels, to prevent any untoward incidents on Valentine's Day tomorrow.

NCRPO spokesman Superintendent Rommel Miranda told reporters during the weekly forum Usapan sa Daungan at Danara Hotel in Quezon City that aside from the additional security personnel, more checkpoints would be set up in strategic areas to prevent any terrorist attack similar to the bombing incident that occurred during Valentine's Day in 2005 in Makati City.

"We will also keep watch on areas frequented by people during Valentine's Day," he said.

He added that NCRPO chief Leopold Bataoal would lead police officers in distributing red roses to pedestrians on Valentine's Day.

Bataoal said the police deployment, however, would focus on soft targets such as the stations of the MetroRail Transit and the Light Railways Transit, government installations, malls, and other public places.

He said policemen from the Regional Mobile Group would augment local police officers.

Metro Manila Development Authority executive director Angelito Vergel de Dios said that although they will be conducting regular operations, they would monitor the traffic flow in the so-called "Valentine's Day hot areas" near motels.

Rep. Irwin Tieng of the party-list group Buhay advised lovers to refrain from taking photographs or videos inside motels to avoid sex scandals.

"Your lover today may be your blackmailer tomorrow," Tieng warned lovers.

Tieng authored House Bill 4315 that seeks to criminalize the recording of private acts and other violations of the privacy of an individual by means of mobile phones or video cameras.

He said that his office has monitored too many cases where individuals spread sex videos on the Internet or via Bluetooth on cellular telephones.



Representative Irwin Tieng

Tieng had proposed a penalty of up to six years imprisonment and a fine of up to P500,000 for those doing peep-show clips or those engaging in audio-visual kiss-and-tell.

He said that his proposed measure could now be considered a "crime against persons," upon the recommendation of Cavite provincial chief prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, which means anybody can file a case against the couplet even if the victim or the victim's family will not.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) warned unmarried couples from engaging in premarital sex on Valentine's Day.

He believes that from a moral standpoint, unmarried couples engaging in premarital sex and extra-marital affairs are going against the teachings of the Church. [www.phstar.com](http://www.phstar.com) ■

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**55TH TERNO BALL & 5TH WOMEN ACHIEVERS' AWARDS NIGHT / SATURDAY**

March 7, 2009 • Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Ballroom • Contact Lina Longboy (375 0828) or Jo Farina (282 3847)

**OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) GOLF TOURNAMENT / SATURDAY**

April 15, 2009 • Kapolei Golf Course

**FILIPINO FIESTA, PARADE AND SANTACRUZAN / SATURDAY**

May 9, 2009 • All day starting at 8:00 a.m. • Kalakaua Avenue and Kapiolani Park • For more information, call the Fil-Com Center at 680-0451

**GOLDEN JUBILEE MISS OAHU FILIPINA PAGEANT / SATURDAY**

June 13, 2009 • Pacific Beach Hotel

**OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) ANNUAL CONVENTION / SATURDAY**

June 27, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village

**FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII INSTALLATION BANQUET / SATURDAY**

July 11, 2009 • 6:00pm • Hilton Hawaiian Village • Call Rose Mendoza at 371-3902 or Bennett Evangelista at 398-5988.

**VISAYAN CENTENNIAL AWARDS DINNER, SHOW / SUNDAY**

July 19, 2009 • Hale Koa Hotel • 6:00pm • Email Jun Colmenares at juncolme@yahoo.com

**UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII (UFCH) CONVENTION**

July 24-26, 2009 • Molokai



SIGNIFICANT DATES IN 2009 WHEN THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONOLULU WILL HOLD COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL EMILY AT 595-6316 EXT 242

**FEBRUARY TO AUGUST—**

*Overseas Absentee Voting Registration for Filipino citizens* who wish to vote in the presidential elections in May 2010. Registrants may come to the Consulate in person with their Philippine passports to accomplish the appli-

cation form.

**APRIL 6TH.** 4pm, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl — *"Araw ng Kagitingan"* (Day of Valor)

**JUNE 12.** 8:30am, at the con-

sulate grounds — *"Araw ng Kalayaan"* (Independence Day) and another activity at 6:30 pm.

**JULY 10-14TH** — *Ambassadors and Consul Generals Tour to the Philippines*, a special package tour for the public.

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