



NEWS EDITION

OCTOBER 13, 2012

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

PMAH SENDS LATEST OHANA MEDICAL MISSION TO PHILIPPINES

By Teresita G. Bernales, Ed.D.



Throng of patients in Cabanatuan City, the Philippines wait for free medical services provided by volunteers with the Ohana Medical Mission

Dozens of volunteers with the PMAH Ohana Medical Missions recently returned from a medical mission to Cabanatuan City held from September 3-7, 2012.

Volunteers provided free medical serves for Cabanatuan City's poorest of the poor in its 89 *barangays*. Cabanatuan is considered the commercial, industrial and educational hub of the province of Nueva Ecija, the Philippines. According to the latest census data, Cabanatuan City has a population of 259,267 people. The bustling city is home to many jeeps and tricycles. With its 38,202 registered tricycles, Cabanatuan bears

the title as the "Tricycle Capital of the Philippines."

As with previous medical missions, volunteers again paid their own way, including airfare and in-country transportation, accommodation, meals and other expenses. The mission was possible because of the combined efforts of many hard-working volunteers from both sides of the Pacific Ocean. Local volunteers began with fundraisers and soliciting in-kind and financial donations from private individuals, corporations and institutions. Paperwork

and other necessary forms were filed in order to comply with the Philippine Regulatory Commission (PRC).

Mission chair Dr. Elenita Alvarez worked relentlessly to make the mission a success. Her extensive network of colleagues and friends from across the U.S and Asia helped raise the necessary funds for the mission.

On the other side of the Pacific Ocean, volunteers in Cabanatuan City put together a myriad of details, including logistics, staffing, facilities,

(continued on page 4)

FIL-AM HISTORY FEST 2012

by HFC Staff

The Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAH-SOH) is organizing a day of sharing, educating and networking in FilAm History Fest 2012, set for October 28, 2012 from 3:30 pm to 6 pm at the FilCom Center.

"Ever since Filipinos settled in Hawaii we have



organized to support each other, to enjoy each others' company, to educate the young and our communities and to promote our

(continued on page 5)

DR. AQUINO ESTABLISHES INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINE STUDIES ENDOWMENT

by HFC Staff

University of Hawaii-Manoa alumna and faculty member, Dr. Belinda Aquino, has established the Belinda A. Aquino International Philippine Studies endowment. The fund will promote and enhance academic and professional studies at UH on the Philippines and Filipinos from an international, comparative, cross-cultural and interdis-



Dr. Belinda A. Aquino

ciplinary perspective.

Edward J. Shultz, dean of the School of Pacific & Asian Studies, says that the endowment will encourage

(continued on page 5)

LEGAL NOTES

Lawsuits by ICE Agents is Latest in Anti-Immigrant Attacks

13

GLOBAL NEWS

House Passes Bill Expanding Overseas Voting Law

15

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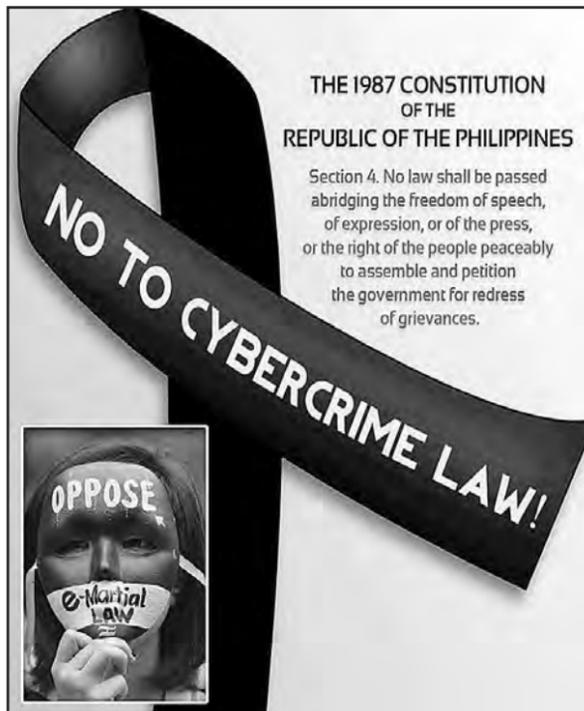
EDITORIALS

Legislation

No law can be passed that curtails rights guaranteed by the Constitution. That's the argument given by government officials who are urging the public to give the Cybercrime Prevention Act a chance to work. Whether the argument is valid is now up to the Supreme Court to decide, as the tribunal tackles petitions challenging the constitutionality of Republic Act 10175.

In the wake of widespread protests especially online, several lawmakers who supported the passage of the measure are backpedaling. The positive objectives of RA 10175 – going after terrorists and purveyors of pornography, for example – have been overshadowed by the inclusion of online libel as a new criminal offense whose penalty is a degree higher than libel committed through traditional media as defined under the Revised Penal Code. Human rights advocates have also raised concern over provisions, some of them vaguely worded, which give the government broad powers to monitor and block access to online data and social media.

The Supreme Court did not grant petitions to stop the start last week of the implementation of RA 10175. Members of Congress and the executive branch have urged critics to wait for the implementing rules and regulations before raising a howl.



If the SC declares the new law or portions of it unconstitutional, it will not speak well of the legislative process. The provision on libel was reportedly a last-minute "insertion" by the bête noir of the online community, Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto. Some senators are claiming they did not bother to read the insertion. This is a troubling admission of a cavalier attitude in crafting legislation. It gives an indication of why too many laws in this country cannot be properly enforced.

The Human Security Act, for example, included silly provisions that threatened long prison terms for law enforcers engaged in legitimate counterterrorism operations. Cops don't want to apply the law, and it has proved useless as a weapon against terrorism. Certain provisions of the Clean Air Act have also been deemed impractical and are now routinely violated. And then there's the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, which requires an amendment almost for every small batch of predicate crimes that it can cover.

Legislation does not come free; public funds are needed for the upkeep of the two chambers. Time is also precious; many urgent matters call for legislation. For the multimillion-peso pork barrel allocations and fat commissions legislators enjoy, they must at least be able to churn out laws that do not require amendment as soon as these come into force.

(www.philstar.com) ■

Political Investments

With the campaign period approaching, a proposal that has been kicked around for years has been revived again: subsidize political parties and regulate campaign financing. This may go down well with some taxpayers – but first, they must be able to distinguish one party from another. At this point in Philippine politics, party lines have been blurred in practically all issues in the senatorial race. At the local level, the contests in many areas are drawn not along party lines but family affiliations.

The proposal for a subsidy should stimulate discussions on campaign finance. Politicians have resisted every effort to regulate and bring transparency to campaign fund-raising and spending. By law, candidates are required to submit a detailed list of donors and their contributions, and to observe spending limits. The laws and implementing rules need fine-tuning for effective enforcement, but there is no effort in this direction. Those with the power to rewrite the rules are happy with the opaque status quo.

President Aquino, who was swept to power on an anti-corruption plat-

form, should push for those reforms. Corruption in this country starts with campaign fund-raising. When it comes to campaign contributions, Filipino politicians know enough that there is no such thing as a free lunch. Donors see their contributions as investments, and they expect a handsome return on investment in case their candidate wins. The ROI can be a lucrative sweetheart deal, or a position in government for the donor himself or his relatives and friends. Repaying political debts in this way undermines efforts, tepid as they are, to develop a merit-based society. The present system rewards individuals for their connections rather than qualifications.

Recent developments do not inspire much hope that the President is ready to expend political capital in pushing for campaign finance reforms at this time. He still has over three more years, however, to shake up the system. It may be unlikely for him to push for such reforms before crucial midterm elections. But he can start working on measures that he can propose to the next Congress. If the President can put campaign finance reforms in place before he leaves office, it will be a major victory along the straight path. (www.philstar.com) ■



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by Senator Will ESPERO

Hawaii Wins Online Democracy Award!

Congratulations to the Hawaii Senate Data Systems team! Its easy-to-use, informative website was named best in the country at the National Conference of State Legislatures' 2012 Legislative Summit in Chicago, Illinois. A round of applause also goes to Jan Yamane of the State Office of the Auditor, who won a Dedicated Legislative Staff award.

I hope you take the time to see www.capitol.hawaii.gov. The "Online Democracy Award" recognizes a state legislative website that makes democracy user-friendly. The extensive amount of information impressed the judges.

Check it out for yourself. It has a guide for first-time visitors, explanations about how to use its features, a citizens guide, and a legislative glossary. These help the public understand how the Legislature operates. Its simple, clean, consistent layout puts the most frequently-used items at the center of the home page. On the left are search tools to help you find bills and hearings notices. On the right are navigation tools to help you find broadcast schedules, bill archives, maps, directories, special studies ordered by the Legislature, the legislative calendar and committee hearings. There's also a "find your legislator" button if you don't know who he or she is.

Want to see what bills were introduced? You can click on "Reports and Lists". Who's on which Senate and House committees? Click

"Committees". Want to be notified when a hearing is being held on a bill you're interested? Click "Hearing Notification" and sign up to get notices. Want to see what bills will be voted on a particular day? Type in the day in the "Order of the Day" box. Our fantastic website makes it easier than ever for the public to know what's going on at the State Capitol.

The most impressive features of our website are the online submission of testimony and viewing of bills with related testimony and current status. The "Bill Status / Measure Status" box lets you see just where a bill is through the fast-paced process. The "Submit Testimony" is a star that cinched the award for the Capitol's website. Right now, Hawaii is the only state that has the capacity for accepting testimony online. Shut-ins, the elderly and disabled, those living on the neighbor islands, anyone

who can't get to the Capitol because they can't take off from work to testify in person – everyone can turn in his or her testimony online. That capability makes participating in democracy accessible and easy, and that made Hawaii's website a star to the judges.

E-mail testimony began being accepted in the Public Access Room (PAR) a decade ago. In 2001, its first year, 483 were received. By 2006, five years later, 4,237 e-mail testimonies came in to the PAR. The vast outpouring was beyond the capacity of the two-person staff, and the Legislature began taking over receipt of e-mail testimony.

Around that time, Senator David Ige began work on the Senate Paperless Initiative, and our hardworking Data Systems staff rewrote its system to make bill searches easier. Up until then, our Legislature, as all 50 do, dealt with tons of paper. Old-timers remember

the waiting in line at the print shop to ask for bills and all the related delay and hassle that it entailed. President Hanabusa directed our Senate Data Systems to go paperless, putting all bills, testimony, hearing notices, and related documents on computers.

The project was wildly successful. We saved tons of paper and hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs – costs for paper, toner, copier operations, office supplies, electricity bills, and staff. Having all of this online made it easier for advocates and the public to find hearing notices much faster. The refining over the last six years resulted in the present Hawaii Legislative website. The Senate shared its success with other legislatures in a 2011 national conference. This year, the NCSL gave it top honors as a model for the other 49 states. A great job all around! ■

OP-ED

Medical Missions

by Dr. Florangel Rosario BRAID

MANILA, Philippines — My good friends, Honolulu-based Dr. Tess Gregorio-Bernales, husband Bernie, and their son Bobby, who is a doctor from New York City, are part of the Ohana Medical Missions, Inc., team. The latter provides much needed healthcare and health education to indigent patients in the Philippines, Hawaii, and other countries. During the past four years, Tess, a psychologist-counselor, and Bernie, a chemical engineer, together with 20 medical volunteers – doctors, nurses, and other professionals, traveled to underserved barangays in the Bicol Region, Davao, Ilocos Norte, and recently in Cabanatuan City, where they rendered service to an average of 8,000 individuals for each event. We have had the privilege of having them as houseguests when they would join us after the end of their five-day mission. The medical services consist of

diabetes testing, respiratory, eye examination, and consultations with dental doctors, pediatricians and surgeons. Vitamins and pain medication tablets were dispensed, and food bags distributed to the poorest members. The recent mission was a partnership with the local government with Cabanatuan City Mayor Jay Vergara providing counterpart resources for the purchase of medicines as well as accommodations and hospitality for the medical team.

I was quite impressed with Tess' account of the careful attention that was given to the planning of each of the four missions. It usually starts with a letter of invitation from the town executive who also commits the services of his staff and health officers, site visits and identification of beneficiary barangays as well as defining roles and responsibilities of local volunteers. Even as early as several months before their expected departure

for the country, the Mission chair is expected to have coordinated with relevant national agencies – the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). This ensures adherence to the guidelines in the conduct of the Foreign Surgical and Medical Missions (FSMM) in accordance with the Joint Administrative Order No. 2009. The latter issued in 2001 was revised in 2009.

But there were fierce objections nonetheless as most of the volunteers found it increasingly difficult to meet stringent requirements like the increase in the medical license renewal fees to \$300 (Section 5) and having to secure a liability insurance (Section 17). Some of the missions which cancelled their visits brought their complaints to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and the Department of Health (DOH).

Jose Ma. Montelibano chided the Professional Regulation Commission for its

being unable to facilitate the work of the medical missions as well as its failure to motivate local doctors and nurses to volunteer part of their time to serve the poor communities. Perhaps, he noted, if the latter were available we did not have to depend on the Fil-Am medics as we do not have enough

doctors and nurses to reach 20%-25% of the poor and marginalized communities. Some of the models which PRC could emulate are agencies such as the Central Bank, the Department of Tourism, and real estate developers for having acknowledged with much ap-

(continued on page 5)

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(cont. from page 2: HOMELESSNESS...)

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



transportation, security, lodging and accommodations and hospitality.

Monies raised made it possible for mission organizers to purchase much-needed medicines and supplies. Donations of medical supplies were also collected from hospitals, medical professionals and medical suppliers. *Balibayan* boxes were packaged as soon as medicines and supplies arrived. Medicines in big quantities were re-packaged in 30-day supply pouches. A total of 45 *balibayan* boxes containing medicines and supplies and an ultrasound machine were shipped. Twenty-four boxes of pediatric medicines were also bought to the Philippines.

Due to continuous torrential rains over a three week-period, volunteers saw first-hand the conditions brought about by extensive flooding and landslides in various parts of the Philippines. Some say conditions were worse than "Ondoy" of 2010 because the floods not only inundated metropolitan

Manila but many places across the Philippines. It was because of this situation that a portion of funds that were raised was solely dedicated for humanitarian aid.

Of particular note was a \$7,000 donation from Dr. Frank and Mrs. Charlotte Voralik, which was used to purchase food bags distributed to 1,590 indigents. The food bags contained two kilos of rice, five pieces of canned meat or fish and six pouches of noodles intended to feed a family of six for a day. A bag costs around P200.00, which is roughly \$4.87.

Helen Bagasao, head and co-chair of Cabanatuan City's Disaster and Relief Operation, compiled a list of poor and disaster prone families which received this aid. Food distribution at each site was done at the end of the mission.

A RIGOROUS SCHEDULE

The volunteers' daily schedule began with a 6 am wake-up call, followed by breakfast at 7 am and departure for the mission site by 8

am. At the site, a local team handled the set-up and triage. Upon arriving at about 8:30 am, volunteers encountered a line of eager patients waiting to be seen by the medical staff.

Volunteers on the other hand unloaded medicines and supplies, and staff the various tables for adult and pediatrics, dental check-ups, vision exams, pharmacy, vitamins and medical records. Breaks and lunches were on-the-fly or staggered.

Boxes of supplies and medicines were divided equally for each day of the mission and participating physicians were provided with a list of medications. Cooperation among volunteers resulted in a smooth process which allowed the mission to serve more people than possible. In fact, all registered patients were seen and nobody was refused.

The day was usually done by 5 pm with volunteers exhausted to the bone. While traveling to and from the mission sites, volunteers enjoyed police escort and transportation was provided by the city administration. Daily security was very visible throughout the mission.

For the first time, the Lions Club of Honolulu donated about 1,500 used eyeglasses for the mission. The glasses were cleaned, neutralized and ready to be reused. Vision care was the most sought-after service, with long lines and patients waiting for hours. The team rarely stopped for breaks or lunch and served a total of about 1,150 patients.

Over a five-day period, volunteers visited a total of six mission sites and treated 5,692 patients. Physicians performed 17 major surgeries, 620 dental exams, 1,150 vision exams, 300 physical

exams for *barangay* officials and aides, and passed out 1,590 food packets.

During the week, Mayor Julius Vergara hosted dinners for mission volunteers that were very memorable and full of fellowship, camaraderie, live bands and dancing. On the final day of the mission, a farewell/appreciation night was held for volunteers, who were also awarded with certificates of appreciation.

NO GREATER JOY

The consensus among volunteers was that of complete satisfaction and joy, despite having to serve a large number of people in a very short time. First time medical mission volunteers like Ludivico and Remy Pagaragan had no idea what the conditions would be like.

"We are not in the medical field. We are retired. I worked in a bank and my husband at Pearl Harbor," Remy says. "My children were hesitant to let us join since we may not be able to withstand the long and heavy work. But I wanted to help my people because I am from Guimba, Nueva Ecija."

Other volunteers like Dr. Helen Gomez and husband Eddie Gomez have for the past three years devoted themselves to joining medical missions. It's the couple's way of acknowledging God's grace, especially for Helen who recently survived a major operation for a brain aneurysm.

"The cooperation and random acts of kindness made me look forward to each day of the mission," says Dr. Gomez, a former Cabanatuan City resident. "We were able to endure the heat and throngs of sick people, thanks to the help of the friendly participants both locally and from Hawaii."

The mission was also the first for the Reyes family, which served as part of the vision care team. Despite the throng of patients, they were steadfastly committed to helping as many townmates as possible. The family's experience was so positive and spiritually invigorating that they are already looking forward to joining future medical missions.

Phoebe Marie Pacheco, a volunteer physician from Australia, eased into the workload like a veteran missionary. She worked seamlessly with the group and uplifted everyone's spirits with her ready smile and encouraging remarks. Dr. Pacheco says she would like to be informed of and join in future missions whenever possible.

For mission chair Dr. Alvarez, the Cabanatuan City medical mission was an opportunity to rediscover her roots and renew relationships with people from her past.

"This particular medical mission brought me back to my mother's original home. I saw my relatives and townmates. The numbers may be more but the people are all the same. Their needs, conditions, gratitude and continuing need from us are always the same. I wish we could do more, give more, come back more often and share."

For Dr. Alvarez, participating in medical missions has resulted in personal growth and fulfillment.

"I've learned to be more sensitive to the needs, feelings and sufferings of others," she says. "I am more grateful for every day of my life and for all the blessings that we take for granted. I marvel at the contentment that I see in those people who have less but seem to be happier than

(continued on page 5)

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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HEADLINES

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(cont. from page 4; **OHANA...**)

those with much. It's a reminder to never forget that happiness cannot be bought with money."

First time mission volunteer Dr. Joseline Sangalang describes the mission as "an experience of rich complexity of lessons" which will take her "a lifetime to reflect and digest." As a second generation Filipino-American who was

born and raised in Hawaii, she saw the mission as an opportunity to learn about her Filipino culture and to see first hand the living conditions of locals in their own community.

"I encountered children begging at church and in the streets. I saw the somber faces of the poor elders and mothers with babies in tow standing in the sweltering heat and humidity with only a

ragged washcloth on their heads to shield them from the hot sun as they patiently waited their turn to receive a bag of rice and a couple of cans of sardines," she says.

"Though the numbers were staggering and we all worked our best to treat as many patients, I think we all wished we could have done more to ease their pain and suffering. It was a priceless

lesson of empathy, humility, compassion and deep gratitude for all that we may have taken for granted in our daily lives."

Marianela Jacob, a registered nurse and nurse practitioner, says the mission was a great experience for all the volunteers.

"It made us realize how much luckier we are, compared to the impoverished

people we serviced for the whole week," she says. "Our short-term mission delivered as much medical attention as we could in very little time. The people were very appreciative in their own way. We did the best we could and the rest of our team contributed in as much of an effort to make this a rewarding experience. More power to Ohana Medical Missions!" ■

(cont. from page 1; **FIL-AM...**)

ideals and beliefs," says coordinator Lyna Burian. "All Filipino organizations and their members are invited to participate in this event to share their histories."

Participating organizations will be provided a display table to share their history, membership, activities and goals for the future.

Through its digital archives project, FAHSON will be undertaking a digital documentation of participating organizations.

"Keeping track of the many diverse organizations we create and commit to has often been difficult. The Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii wants to help organizations keep and maintain their histories and

knowledge of their activities for future generations. This event will be a first step in this documentation," Burian says.

In addition to organizations' displays, a talk story session will provide an overview and reflection of



Filipino organizing in Hawaii. For children attending the afternoon event, the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) will conduct their annual ANAK storytelling event.

Free entertainment and food for purchase will also be

available.

FilAm History Fest 2012 is part of FilCom's monthly series "FilCom Sundays." Registration for display tables is free but required. Visit the FAHSON website for registration information and a response form: www.fahsoh.org. More details are available by calling 521-7721. ■

(cont. from page 1; **DR. AQUINO...**)

and support the study of diasporic and global issues affecting Philippine society and culture, and Filipino communities overseas.

"Filipinos are playing an increasingly important role in Hawaii and in other parts of the world. Demography tells us this role will only grow more important. We need our students and community to be at the cutting edge of this new wave and certainly the Aquino endowment will move us in this direction," Shultz says.

Aquino is an internationally-recognized expert on contemporary Philippine society, politics and culture. She currently serves as a professor emeritus at the School of Pacific and Asian Studies where she was professor of political science and Asian studies, as well as

longtime director of the Center for Philippine Studies. As founding director of the Center for Philippine Studies, her intellectual leadership was instrumental in developing the Center as the leading institution in the U.S. for academic and comprehensive studies on Philippine society and culture.

"Through this endowment, I hope to perpetuate an intellectual tradition of acquiring a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Philippines as a strategic country in the Asia-Pacific region and as a vibrant member of the international community," she says. "It will support efforts to energize and strengthen the Philippine homeland itself by supporting initiatives such as scholarships, fellowships, research and publications, library materials, exchange

programs, visiting scholars, conferences, workshops, websites, educational travel and other opportunities aimed at achieving sustained academic and professional interest in Philippine Studies for the benefit of future generations of Filipinos as democratic, progressive, participating, vital and productive members of society, both internally and internationally."

Since joining the Manoa faculty in 1975, Aquino has been recognized for her numerous contributions to teaching, research and community service. She has been a key source of information and analysis on issues including immigration, human rights, labor, higher education, Philippine corruption and poverty, Philippine-American relations, women, minorities and contemporary

affairs.

Additionally, she has actively participated in various activities involving humanitarian projects, institution-building, educational programs and other social issues. She is the first-ever recipient of the prestigious Dr. Jose Rizal Award for Peace. Because of her expertise as a social scientist and Philippine specialist, she is frequently invited to present papers or speak at forums, conferences and programs locally and internationally.

The Belinda A. Aquino International Philippine Stud-

ies endowment will be administered through the Center for Philippine Studies with the participation of the Dean of the School of Pacific and Asian Studies, the Chair of the Asian Studies Program, and the Philippine Studies faculty at the Asian Studies Program.

To support the School of Pacific & Asian Studies, please contact Harriet Cintron at (808) 956-3594 or Harriet.Cintron@UHFoundation.org. You can also make a secure gift online at: www.uhfoundation.org/Give-toSPAS. ■

OP-ED

(cont. from page 2; **MEDICAL...**)

preciation, contributions made by our Filipino-American brothers and sisters. The message that the public is now sending is that while many sectors of society have expressed gratitude for what the Filipinos abroad are doing for the country, here is a government agency that continues to construct barriers.

With the combined voices from citizens' groups,

the media, and former Fil-Am medical personnel, the PRC finally relented by immediately suspending the implementation of Sections 5 and 17 of the PRC resolution. And CFO Secretary Imelda M. Nicolas reiterated the good news and adds a plea to all medical missions not to cancel their scheduled visits. The Department of Health, she assures everyone, has the leading role in

overseeing the implementation of foreign surgical and medical missions (FSMM) and that the agencies concerned – the DOH, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), CFO and PRC would organize a multistakeholders strategic planning workshop this October for the purpose of strengthening communication and coordination among stakeholders.



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State AG Opposes Bill Reducing Oversight of Payday Lenders

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL DAVID LOUIE HAS JOINED 40 other attorneys general to urge Congress to oppose a bill preempting states' authority to crack-down on predatory high cost, short-term lending practices. The State AGs say that the proposal could preempt state laws and undermine consumer safeguards.

A joint letter from Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller warned U.S. House

Speaker John Boehner, House minority leader Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senate majority leader Harry Reid and Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell about the negative effects of the Consumer Credit Access, Innovation and Modernization Act, or H.R. 6139.

Many states have established their own framework of regulations to protect consumers from risks associated with nonbank credit service providers. However, the legislation would allow

these providers—including payday lenders, installment lenders, car title lenders, prepaid card issuers and check cashers—to obtain a federal charter and sidestep more stringent state laws.

The bill would allow lenders to extend credit to consumers if there is a reasonable basis for believing consumers can repay the loans but without putting specific standards in place. The legislation also exempts loans with terms of one year or less from the disclosure

requirements of the Truth in Lending Act and substitutes a cost metric. By preempting state laws, the proposed legislation would impede state efforts to immediately and directly protect consumers from harm.

This bill was assigned to a congressional committee which will consider the legislation and determine whether to send it to the full House or Senate.

Also signing onto the letter were attorneys general from Alaska, Arizona,

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Guam, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. ■

City Seeks Artwork for Wahiawa Transit Center

THE CITY'S COMMISSION ON CULTURE & THE ARTS is seeking proposals from artists or artist teams for two works of art for the Wahiawa Transit Center. The budget for each project is \$100,000.

The anticipated goal is for artwork that highlights the history and culture of Wahiawa with emphasis on the transportation history of the area.

Built at a cost of \$5.56 million and dedicated in October 2011, the Wahiawa Transit Center is a park-and-ride bus transit facility located at 956 California Avenue. The two-story, 46,000 square foot structure features exterior historic-themed decorative elements and functions as the main community bus station.

The artwork will be des-



ignated for the transit center's West Artwork Project Location and the East Artwork Project Location. The artwork may include works such as a mural, frieze,

fresco, sculpture or other wall-mounted work of art that is permanently installed. The work of art may be installed on a substrate to be attached to the existing wall.

The selected artist or artist team must comply with federal Transit Administration contractor requirements. Applications must be received by 4 pm on January 11, 2013 at:

Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts
Attn: Art for Wahiawa Transit Center
550 South King Street, Room 203
Honolulu, HI 96813

The final selection shall be made by the Commission on Culture & the Arts at its meeting on February 14, 2013. For application requirements, project details or other information, please call 768-4105. ■

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AlohaCare Advantage (HMO) is a health plan with a Medicare contract. AlohaCare Advantage Plus (HMO SNP) is a health plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Hawaii Medicaid program. The benefit information provided herein is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information contact the plan. Limitations, copayments and restrictions may apply. Benefits may change on January 1 of each year. AlohaCare Advantage Plus is available to anyone who has both Medical Assistance from the State and Medicare.



by Atty. Emmanuel
Samonte TIPON

Obama Gov't Fights Immigrant Aged-Out Children's Retention of Original Priority Date

Janus was a Roman god with one head but two faces, one looking forward and the other looking backward. Thus, the term "Janus-faced" means "double-dealing, double-faced, fake, feigned, hypocritical." Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

The Obama government is fighting hard to prevent children of immigrants who turned 21 (aged-out) from retaining the priority date of the visa petition for which they were included as derivative beneficiaries. Instead the Obama government has assigned such children a new (and later) priority date when another visa petition is filed on their behalf by an immigrant parent. This delays their reunification with their parents and siblings who have already immigrated to the United States. On the other hand, the Obama government has given "amnesty" to the illegal alien children of illegal aliens. They call it "deferred action".

Hiding behind the skirt of ambiguity, the Obama government claims that the provision of the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA) providing priority retention rights to aged-out children of immigrants is ambiguous. Thus, the statute should be interpreted against these children. How harsh and mean can the Obama administration get? As a recent court decision described it, the plain language of CSPA unambiguously grants automatic conversion and priority retention to aged-out derivative beneficiaries, and a contrary interpretation is not entitled to deference. *De Osorio v. Mayorkas*.

QUOTA SYSTEM

Millions of people want to immigrate to the United States. To control the number of immigrants, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides that U.S. Citizens (USC) and lawful permanent residents (LPR or green card holders) may file visa petitions for certain qualifying relatives but the total number of visas issued

each year may not exceed 480,000, with the total for each foreign state not to exceed seven percent. INA also establishes preference categories based on the relationship between the petitioner and their alien relatives, and limits the number of visas in each preference category.

These categories are:

F1: Unmarried sons and daughters of USCs

F2A: Spouses and children of LPRs.

F2B: Unmarried sons and daughters of LPRs

F3: Married sons and married daughters of USCs

F4: Brothers and sisters of USCs

For immigration purposes, the term "child" means an unmarried person under the age of 21, while the term "son" or "daughter" means a person who is 21 years or over.

IMMEDIATE RELATIVES EXEMPT FROM QUOTA SYSTEM

Immediate relatives of USCs (spouse, children, and parents) are not subject to the annual limits. In other words, they are not under the quota system.

HOW PRIORITY DATE IS ESTABLISHED

After a USC or LPR files a visa petition on behalf of a non-immediate relative, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) determines if it is complete and properly filed and if a qualifying relationship exists. If so, USCIS puts the beneficiary "in line" in the appropriate visa category, based on the date the petition is filed. This is known as the "priority date". Due to the statutory limits of each visa category and a substantial backlog, it may be as long as 23 years before a petition's priority date becomes "current," meaning that a visa is available for the beneficiary. See U.S. Dep't of State, Visa Bulletin, showing visa availability.

WHO ARE INCLUDED IN A VISA PETITION

A petition can include the spouse and/or children of the primary beneficiary, and they may receive "derivative visas" at the same time that the pri-

mary beneficiary receives a visa. "A spouse or child . . . shall . . . be entitled to the same status, and the same order of consideration provided in the respective subsection, if accompanying or following to join, the spouse or parent." 8 U.S.C. § 1153(d).

WHO ARE "AGED-OUT" CHILDREN

The primary beneficiary's child can only receive a derivative visa if such child is under 21 when the parent's priority date becomes current. Often times, such derivative children are over 21 when the parent's priority date becomes current. Such children may no longer be able to immigrate with their parent. This is referred to as "aging out" of visa eligibility.

NEW PETITION BY PARENT

The immigrant parent of the "aged-out" children ("sons" or "daughters") should immediately upon arrival in the U.S. file

a new visa petition for them. They will be categorized as F2B. What is the "priority date" of the new petition – the date when such new petition is filed or the date of the earlier petition in which the "aged-out" child was included as a derivative?

CHILD STATUS PROTECTION ACT

Without the Child Status Protection Act, the answer would generally be the date when the new petition is filed. To ameliorate the harshness of the immigration law, Congress enacted the Child Status Protection Act in 2002 which

included a provision "Rules for determining whether certain aliens are children". 8 U.S.C. § 1153(h). Like the 2009 romantic comedy film starring Meryl Streep, Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin "It's complicated".

8 U.S.C. § 1153(h)(3) provides: "If the age of an alien is determined [under subsection (h)(1)] to be 21 years of age or older for the purposes of subsections (a)(2)(A) [children of LPRs] and (d) [derivative beneficiaries], the alien's petition shall automatically be converted to the appropriate category and the alien shall retain the original priority date issued upon receipt of the original petition."

CONFLICTING COURT DECISIONS

The issue is: Does 8 U.S.C. § 1153(h)(3) apply to aged-out children of all visa categories or, as the Obama administration insists, only to aged-out children of LPRs (F2A)?

The U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals are divided in their an-

swer. The 5th (Texas-based) and 9th (California-based) Circuits said "YES." See *Khalid v. Holder*, 655 F.3d 363 (5th Cir. 2011) and *De Osorio v. Mayorkas*, No. 09-56786 (9th Cir. 2012). However, the 2nd Circuit (New York-based) said "NO". See *LI v. Renaud*, 654 F.3d 376 (2nd Cir. 2011).

Which Circuit Court will the Obama administration follow? Until the Supreme Court decides, the answer depends on geography. ■

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PAKAAMO TI SINGASING PANGGEP ITI KONSTITUSIONAL A ENMIENDA ITI KONSTITUSION TI ESTADO TI HAWAII

Kabayatan tii Kadawyan a Session iti 2012, Bente-Sais a Lehislatura, dua a pagibasaran a laonen ti naisingasing a konstitusional nga enmienda ket naadap a maibagay ti nesesito nga artikulo XVII, Seksion 3 iti Konstitusion ti Estado ti Hawaii.

H.B. No. 2594, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1
SINGASING NGA ENMIENDA TI ARTIKULO VII, SEKSION 12, ITI KOSNTTUSION TI ESTADO TI HAWAII A MANGTULONG KADAGITI AGTAGIKUA TI DAM KEN PAGGABEDDAN TI DANUM.

ARAMIDEN NGA PAGLINTEGAN BABAEN ITI LEHISLATURA TI ESTADO TI HAWAII:

SEKSION 1. Ti panggép iti daytoy nga Akto ket mangisingasing iti enmienda iti artikulo VII, seksion 12, iti Konstitusion ti Estado ti Hawaii, nga autorisaran ti Estado a mangted iti naisangsangayan a panggép ti tubo ken kinita ti tubo a tumulong kadagiti agtagikua ti dam ken paggabedan ti danum.

SEKSION 2. Artikulo VII, seksion 12, ti Konstitusion iti Estado ti Hawaii ket na enmienda a kas masurot:

"KAYAT A SAOEN; PANANGTED ITI NAIMBAG A NAKEM WENNO UTANG

Seksion 12. Para ti panggép kadagitoy nga artikulo:

1. Ti termino nga "piansa" ramanen na ti piansa, nota, ken dadduma pay nga instrumento iti naimbag a nakem weno utang.
2. Ti termino nga "kadawyan nga obligasion ti piansa" kayat na a saoen nga amin a piansa para ti bayad iti prinsipal ken interes ti napuno a talek a naikari ken utang iti Estado weno politikal a paset, anya man pay a mangipakita, a ramanen ti napasubli a kuarta nga inyabuno iti kadawyan nga obligasion a piansa.
3. Ti termino nga "iket a tubonet" weno "iket nga agusar ti resibo a buis" kayat na a saoen iti tubo weno resibo ket naggapu idiyay:

a. Publiko nga aramid, pasayaaten weno systema a naibati kalpasan ti pateg a panagpataray, pannaripato, tarimaanen iti publiko nga aramid, pasayaaten weno systema, ken kasapulan nga bayad iti prinsipal ken interes iti amin a tubo ti piansa a naited nupay kasta, a naaramid; weno
b. Ania a bayad weno napasubli a sekuridad babaen iti pautang a programa weno utang sadiay babana, kalpasan ti pateg a panagpataray ken administrasion ti pautang a programa, ken iti kasapulan a bayad iti prinsipal ken interes iti amin a tubo ti piansa nupay kasta, ket nalpas a naaramid.

4. Ti termino nga "agtagikua" kayat na a saoen ania man a tao nga adaan kalintegan, titulo, weno interes iti uneg weno iti dam, weno paggabedan ti danum, weno appurtenante a trabaho a nailugar weno singasing a pakailugaranna.

[4-] 5. Ti termino a "tao" kayat na a saoen nga iti maysa a tao, kompania ka sosio, korporasion, asosasion, kooperatibo, weno legal nga entida, paset iti gobierno, weno ahensia, bord, buru, weno kombinasion iti immun-una.

[5-] 6. Ti termino nga "basar, upa ken pagbayaden" kayat na a saoen nga iti tubo ken kuarta a naggapu ti operasion weno bulod para iti publiko nga aramid, pasayaaten weno systema, weno naggapu iti aniaman nga bayad weno pasubli ti sekuridad iti uneg ti pautang a programa, weno pautang a kalpasan na: nu laketdi ti panagpasigurado a bayad iti primium, asesment, nayon ti bayad, a kas mangbukel ti basar, upa, ken pagbayaden iti programa iti state property insurance.

[6-] 7. Ti termino a "panagisubli kadawyan nga obligasion a piansa" kayat na nga saoen nga iti kadawyan nga obligasion a piansa a naited ti publiko nga aramid, pasayaaten weno systema nga iti tubo, weno panagusar ti buis, weno pagtipunen iti dua, ket naggapu ti prinsipal ken interes a mapasubli ti kuarta nga inyabuno iti kadawyan a pundo ken pasubli ti kuarta nga inyabuno a kasapulan iti linteg, ken, iti kaso ti kadawyan nga obligasion a piansa a kas naggapu iti Estado para iti political a paset, kadawyan nga obligasion a piansa para ti bayad iti prinsipal ken interes a kas mapasubli a kuarta nga inyabuno iti kadawyan nga pundo a kasapulan iti linteg maaramid nga aggapu ti tubo iti political a paset.

[7-] 8. Ti termino a "tubo ti piansa" kayat na saoen mabayadan nga piansa nga naggapu ti tubo, weno panagusar ti buis, weno pagtipunen ti dua para iti publiko nga aramid, pasayaaten weno systema, pautang a programa, weno pautang a kalpasan naken kinatalged nga ipaay ti linteg, lak-amen iti pautang a programa a mangted iti pautang para ti programa ti estado a tagikua a panigurado a mangipaay ti bagio a panigurado nga abbong para kadagiti kadawyan a publiko.

[8-] 9. Ti termino a "naisangsangayan a panggép a tubo ti piansa" kayat na a saoen nga amin nga tubo a nasken a bayadan a naggapu ti upa weno sabali nga bayad napartua ti tagitumpuar a tao a panagallukoy iti kontrata ken kinatalged nga ipaay iti linteg.

[9-] 10. Ti termino nga "panagusar ti buis" kayat na a saoen nga dagiti banbanag naiken ti buis weno serbisio weno konsumsion, ti risibo a naggapu ti konsumsion weno usar weno, panagilako ti ban banag ken serbisio nga agusar ti pakausaran weno serbisio nga ipaay ti publiko nga aramid, panagpasayaat weno sytsema; ipaay ti bienes a kasuratan a buis ket mangbukel iti panagaramat buis iti programa ti estado a tagikua a panigurado.

Ti lehislatura, ti kaaduan a botaha kadagiti membro iti balay ti tunggal maysa nga ikkan ti kerebengan a legal, masapul a pasingkedan ti tagitumpuak iti amin a kadawyan nga obligasion a piansa, piansa nga naggapu ti uneg ti naisangsangayan a panagpasayaat a pagalagadan, ken tubo a piansa, ken masapul nga

iriseta babaen it wagas ken pamay an para iti isuansé. Ti lehislatura ti kadawyan a linteg kasapulan nga autorisaran ti politikal a subdibision a mangisyu ti kadawyan nga obligasion a piansa, piansa nga naggapu ti uneg ti naisangsangayan a panagpasayaat a pagalagadan, ken tubo a piansa, ken masapul nga iriseta babaen iti wagas ken pamay an para iti isuansé. Amin a piansa nga naited babaen weno nainaganan iti politikal a subdibision masapul a nautorisaran babaen iti panag gobierno a bagi a kas politikal a subdibision.

Naisangsangayan a panggép a tubo ti piansa masapul nga autorisaran laeng weno maisyu ti pinansial a pasilidad ti weno para, weno iti panagpautang ti tinubo a kas piansa nga tulungan dagiti:

1. Panakabrika, panag proseso[;] weno industrial nga negosio;
2. Pakaaramatan a serbisio para kadagiti kadawyan a publiko;
3. Panagtaripato ti salunat a pasilidad nga mangipaay ti kadawyan a publiko saan-para-kita a korporasion;
4. Nasapa nga edukasion para kadagiti ubing ken panagtaripato ti salunat a pasilidad nga mangipaay ti kadawyan a publiko saan-para-kita a korporasion;
5. Nababa weno median a sueldo a programa ti gobierno para kadagiti balay balay;
6. Saan-para-kita a pribado saan a sectarian, ken sectarian nga elementario, nga eskuelaan, maikadua nga eskuelaan, colohio, unibersidad; [weno]
7. Agrikultura a negosio a mangipaay ti importante nga agrikultura a daga[;] weno
8. Agtagikua ti dam ken paggabedan ti danum,

ti tunggal maysa ti daytoy a paragraf a maisangsangayan a singasing ti bagi.

Ti lehislatura, iti dua-maikatlo ti botaha dagiti membro iti balay ti tunggal maysa a balay ikkan ti kerebengan a legal, mabalin nga aramiden ti proseso nga managramid ti linteg para ti isuansé iti naisangsangayan a singasing a tubo ti piansa a lumasin ti naisangsnagn tunggal maysa a bagi ken, ti dua-maikatlo nga botaha dagiti membro iti balay ti tunggal maysa a balay ikkan ti kerebengan nga legal ken nalasin nga proseso nga panagarid ti linteg, mabalin nga pasingkedan ti Estado nga mangted ti naisangsangayan singasing ti tubo a piansa para ti tunggal maysa a proyekto weno agduduma a proyekto a programa a sibabagi; nu laketdi ti isuansé ti naisangsangayan singasing ti tubo a piansa ket mabirukan ti interes ti publiko babaen ti lehislatura; ken ti Estado mabalin nga ilaok iti maysa nga isiu ti naisangsangayan singasing ti tubo a piansa dua weno addadu nga singasing nga isiu iti mangtulong kadagiti Saan-para-kita a pribado saan a sectarian, ken sectarian nga elementario, nga eskuelaan, maikadua nga eskuelaan, colohio[;] unibersidad, agtagikua ti dam ken paggabedan ti danum, nailaksid ti kerebengan a kas naibaga, ti dagup a bilang [iti] saan nga agsubra ti pagmaymaysaen it singasing ti agduduma nga isiu ti naisangsangayan singasing ti tubo a piansa. Ti lehislatura mabalin nga mangaramid ti proseso nga agaramid ti linteg nga kerebengan ti politiko a paset tapno mangipaay ti, naisangsangayan singasing ti tubo a piansa. Nu naiken ti kerebengan, ti politikal ken nailaksid nga oridansia mabalin nga ikkan ti kerebengan ti isiuansé iti al a paset iti dua-maikatlo nga botaha dagiti membro nu iti agtuturay nga bagbagi ken naikken ti kerebengan nga legal ken nailaksid ti ordinansia a mabalin ikkan ti kerebengan ti isiuansé ti naisangsangayan a singasing a tubo ti piansa tunggal maysa a proyekto weno nadumaduma a proyekto nga programa tunggal maysa a naisangsangayan a singasing a bagi; nu laketdi ti isuansé ti naisangsangayan a singasing a tubo ti piansa ket naduktalan nga adaan ti uneg ti interes iti publiko babaen it agtuturay a bagi ti political a paset. Awan a naisangsangayan a singasing a tubo ti piansa a mabalin a sekuridad a natalged a direkto weno saan a direkto kadagiti kadawyan a mangted ti utang weno, tubo, weno buis kadagiti tagaited, ti laeng risibo a nagapu ti bayad iti tao weno fattao nga adaan kontrata weno agduduma a kontrata weno naisangsangayan a singasing a tubo ti piansa ken awan cuarta nu laeng iti risibo ket maaplikar ti naibaga a bayad. Ti agtuturay paayanda ti lehislatura intu Nobembre ti tunggal maysa a taoen a kadua ti padamag ti kumulatibo a bilang ti amin nga naisangsangayan a singasing a tubo ti piansa na atorisaran ken naited, ken amin nga impormasion ket masapul."

SEKSION 3. Ti saludsod a maimprinta ti balota ket kas masurot:

"Mabalin ngata nga autorisaran ti Estado a mangipaay ti naisangsangayan a singasing a tubo ti piansa ken usaren ti ganansia a naggapu ti piansa a mangtulong kadagiti agtagikua ti dam weno paggabedan ti danum a mapagbalin a sumursorot ti madama a natalged a kondision a standarte ti pasilidadda?"

SEKSION 4. Konstitusional a materyal a mangikat ti autoridad ket naiken iti braket ken namarkaan weno naliniaan. Baro a konstitusional a materyal ket na underskoran.

SEKSION 5. Daytoy nga ammienda agepekto kadaytoy panangsuorot ti artikulo XVII seksion 3, ti Konstitusion iti Estado iti Hawaii.

S.B. 650, H.D. 1
SINGASING NGA AMMIENDA PARA ITI ARTIKULO VI, SEKSION 3 ITI KONSTITUSION TI ESTADO TI HAWAII A MANGAUTORISARAN TI HEPE HUSTISIA TI ESTADO A NANGATO A KORTE NGA AGITUDING RETIRADA A HUES NGA AGSERBI AS KAS EMERITUS A HUES.

PAGBALINEN NGA ARAMIDEN TI LEHISLATURA TI ESTADO TI HAWAII:

SEKSION 1. Ti panggép ti daytoy nga Aramid ket mangisingasing ti enmienda ti artikulo VI, seksion 3 ti Konstitusion iti Estado iti Hawaii autorisaran ti hepe hustisia ti nangato a korte nga agituding ti hues a nagsardeng a nagtrabaho. Nu nagunoda ti senta a taoen a kas emeritus a hues, palubusan nga agserbi a kas temporario a hues ti korte, saan a nangatngato ngem ti korte a lansad a nasagpatda sakbay a nagsardengda a nagtrabahoken ti beddeng ket saan nga aglabes ti tallo a bulan.

SEKSION 2. Artikulo VI, Seksion 3 Ti Konstitusion ti Estado iti Hawaii ket kas mabasa:

"AGITUDING KADAGITI HUSTISIA KEN HUES
SEKSION 3. Ti gobernador, nga adaan ti anamong ti senado, ket mabalin a punuen ti bakante iti opisina ti hepe hues, nangato a korte, intermedio apelente a korte, sirkito a korte babaen ti panangituding ti tao a nagapu ti listaan a saan a basbasit ngem upat ken saan nga agsobosobra nhem inem, nomini ti bakante, ipresenta ti gobernador babaen ti judicial seleksion commission.

Nu ti goberdnamor ket mapaay nga agituding ti uneg ti trenta nga aldaw ti presentasion weno iti uneg sangapulo nga aldaw ti panakawaksi ti senado ti nasakbayan a panakaituding, ti tuding ket aramiden ti judicial seleksion commission a naggapu ti listaan a ramanen ti anamong ti senado. Nu ti senado ket mapaay a mangiwaksi ti natudingan ti trenta nga aldaw, ipagarup a naikan ti anamong ti natudingan. Nu ti senado ket iwaksi na siasinoman a natudingan, ti gobernador mabalin a mangaramid ti sabali nga tuding a naggapu ti listaan iti uneg ti sangapulo nga aldaw. Ti isuman a natudingan ken anamong a pamuspusan ti masurot aggingana ti umisua panakatuding ket maaramid. weno mapaay daytoy, ti comision mabalin nga agituding ti uneg ti listaan, uray awan ti anamong ti senado.

Ti hepe hustisia, agraman ti anamong ti senado mabalin na a punuen ti bakante ti distrito ti korte babaen ti panangituding ti maysa a tao a naggapu ti listaan a nabababa ngem inem a nomini nga idutukan para iti bakante a naipresentar ti judicial seleksion comision. Nu ti hepe hustisia mapaay a agituding ti uneg ti trenta nga aldaw a naipresentar, weno sangapulo nga aldaw ti panangiawaksi ti senado ti siasino a natudingan sakbay na, ti nadutukan ket maaramid babaen ti judicial seleksion comision a naggapu ti listaan nga addan anamong ti senado. Ti senado mabalin a mangtengel ti publiko a panangdengeng ken agbotas ti tunggal maysa a natudingan ti uneg ti trenta nga aldaw ti aniaman a natudingan. Nu ti senado mapaay nga agituding naggapu ti listaan nu awan ti anamong ti senado. Ti hepe hustisia mabalin nga agituding per diem ti distrito a korte dagiti hues a kas ipaay ti linteg.

Ti hepe hustisia mangituding ti hues a retirado kadaytoy nagunod nga edad a sente a taoen a kas emeritus a hues, palubusan dagiti natudingan a hues nga asangapulo agserbi a kas temporario a hues ti korte saan a nangatngato ngem ti lansad a korte a nagunodda sakbay a nagretiro ken ti beddeng saa nga aglablabes ngem tallo a bulan tunggal maysa a natudingan.

KALIPIKASION TI PANAGITUDING

Dagiti hustisia ken hues masapul a residenteda ken sitisen iti Estados Unido, ken lisensiado nga agparaktis ti linteg babaen to nangato a korte. Ti hustisia ti nangato a korte, ti hues ti intermedio apelante a korte, ken hues ti sirkito a korte ket kasapulan a lisensiado ti periodiko saan nabababa ngem sangapulo a taoen sakabay ti nominasion.

Awan hustisia weno hues a mabalin, kabayatan ti beddeng ti opisina, ket nakatulag nga agparaktis ti linteg weno agtaray para iti weno adaan posision ti opisina ti ganansia ti uneg ti Estados Unidos, Ti Estado weno iti politikal a paset na.

PANAGAKEM; PANAGRETIRO

Ti beddeng ti opisina ti hustisia ken hues ti nangato a korte, intermediente apelante a korte, sirkito a korte, ket sangapulo a taoen, ti hues ti distrito a korte ket mabalina tenglen ti opisina ti periodiko a kas ipaay ti linteg. Ti kabasitan ti inem a bulan sakbay nga agangsab ti hustisia ken hues ti beddeng ti opisina, amin a hustisia ken hues ket appetision ti judicial seleksion comision a taginayonen ti opisina, weno ipakaamo ti comision ti gagara nga agretiro. Nu ti judicial seleksion comision ikeddeng na dagiti hustisia weno hues ket taginayonena ti opisina, ti comision ket ipabaro ti beddeng ti opisina ti hustisia ken hues iti periodiko nga ipaay ti seksion weno linteg.

Hustisia ken hues mabalin nga agretiro kalapasan a nakagunod ti sente a taoen. Lakamen na ti aniaman a linteg ti Estado panggep iti pinagretiro."

SEKSION 3. Ti saludsod a naimprinta ti balota ket kas masuratan:

"Mabalin ngata ti hepe hstusia ti estado ti nangato a korte agituding ti hues a nagretiro kalpasan a nugunod na ti sente a taoen a kas emeritus a hustisia, palubusan nga agituding ti hues nga agserbi a tempraryo iti korte a saan nga aglabes ngem tallo a bulan kada tunggal maysa a tuding?"

SEKSION 4. Ti baro a konstitusional a materyal ket na underskoran.

SEKSION 5. Daytoy nga enmineda ket agipekto apaman nga amanugot ti artikulo XVII, seksion 3, iti Konstitusion ti Estado iti Hawaii.

CJ LEONG
Clerk of the House of Representatives

CAROL TANIGUCHI
Clerk of the Senate

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Questions-and-Answers to Common Social Security Questions

by Shona BARNES

Q: I applied for a Social Security card for my baby at the hospital, but the card came back with a misspelled name. What should I do?

A: Find at least two original documents proving your child's U.S. citizenship and identity, as well as one proof of your identity as the parent. Then go to your local Social Security office or card center to ask for a corrected card. The documents you show us must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. To find out more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Q: What are some of the documents Social Security will accept as proof of identity for a child?

A: While you can use a birth certificate to prove age or citizenship, you cannot use it as proof of identity. We prefer to see the child's U.S. passport. If you don't have a passport, we may accept the child's adoption decree; doctor, clinic, or hospital record; religious record (e.g., baptismal record); daycare center or school record; or school identification card. We generally can accept a non-photo identity document if it has enough information to identify the child (such as the child's name and age, date of birth and parents' names). All documents must be originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. To find out more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Q: What is the earliest age that I can apply for my Social Security retirement benefits?

A: The earliest is age 62 but you can apply up to three months beforehand. If you retire at age 62 today, your benefit would be about 25 percent lower than what it would be if you waited until you reach full retirement age. Even if you are not ready to retire, you still should sign up for Medicare three months before your 65th birthday. You can do both online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline.

Q: Can I delay my retirement benefits and receive benefits as a spouse only? How does that work?

A: It depends on your age. If you are between full retirement age and age 70 and your spouse is receiving Social Security benefits, you can apply for retirement benefits and request the payments be suspended. You can then choose to receive benefits on your spouse's Social Security record. You then will earn delayed retire-

ment credits up to age 70, as long as you do not collect benefits on your own work record. Later, when you do begin receiving benefits on your own record, those payments could very well be higher than they would have been otherwise, because you earned delayed retirement credits.

Q: What is Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

A: SSI provides monthly income to people 65 or older, blind or disabled, who also have limited income and financial resources. To be eligible, an individual also must be a U.S. citizen and resident of the U.S. or a non-citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence. There are, however, some non-citizens granted a special immigration status who are eligible. To get SSI, an individual's financial resources (savings and assets) cannot be more than \$2,000 (\$3,000, if married). For more information, read our publications "Supplemental Security Income" and "Understanding Supplemental Security Income." Both are available online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Q: Are Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits subject to federal income tax?

A: No. If you get SSI, you will not receive an annual form SSA-1099 from Social Security. However, your Social Security benefits may be subject to income tax. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: Do disabled children qualify for disability benefits?

A: There are two Social Security disability programs that provide benefits for disabled children. Under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, a child from birth to age 18 may receive monthly payments based on disability or blindness if the child has an impairment or combination of impairments that meets the definition of disability for children; and the income and resources of the parents and the child are within the allowed limits.

Under Social Security, an adult child (a person age 18 or older) may receive monthly benefits based on disability or blindness if the adult child has an impairment or combination of impairments that meet the definition of disability for adults; the disability began before age 22; and a parent of the adult child worked long enough to be insured under Social Security and is receiving retirement or disability benefits, or is deceased. Under both of these programs, the child must not be doing any substantial work. The child also must have a medical condition that is expected to last at least one year or result in death. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability.

(continued on page 11)

Upcoming Events at FilCom

SEVERAL EVENTS ARE BEING HELD at the FilCom Center for the month of October. One such event is the Kinabukasan Series, which is designed to help attendees navigate the complexities of preparing for retirement, protecting assets, and dealing with stressful situations such as a foreclosure.

The financial literacy courses are held every Tuesday from 6 pm to 8 pm at FilCom. The classes started September 4, 2012 and will continue through the month of October. The following classes will be held:

- October 16: "Saving for a Rainy Day—Analyze Your Financial Needs" (How to achieve stability and peace of mind and avoid the paycheck-to-paycheck survival syndrome). Presenters are



- Marlon Ignacio and Irene Santos Brackenridge.
- October 23: "Ready to Retire? Options to Retirement—Return to the Philippines" (Topics include possible changes to U.S. social security and Medicare, pros and cons of retiring in the Philippines, advantages of dual citizenship for Philippine-born Fil-Am retirees, Medicare portability, etc). Panelists include George Carpenter, Paul Cortes, Bruce Bortorhoff and Rhoda Yabes Alvarez.

- October 30 - Protect Your Home, Protect Your Future" (Topics include reverse mortgages, preventing foreclosures, short sales and loan modifications). Presenters are Steve Llorens, Guy Tamashiro, Rosana Agustin and Rosita Agustin.

This series is made possible by the Molave sponsorship of Pyramid Insurance and Ayala Land. Registration is free and open to the public. To sign up or for more information, please contact the

FilCom Center at 680-0451 or via email at: filcom@filcom.org.

CONSULATE OUTREACH

Also during October at the FilCom, the Philippine Consulate General will conduct Outreach Programs for Overseas Absentee Voting (OAV) Registration and Passport Application on October 16, 23 and 30 from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Consulate officials encourage eligible Filipinos to exercise their right and responsibility as Philippine citizens to vote. For more information on OAV registration and passport application, please visit the Consulate's website at: www.philippineconsulate-honolulu.com.

HAWAII HEALTH CONNECTOR

On October 15, 2012, the Hawaii Health Connector will hold an evening of conversation at the FilCom Center's Flores Ballroom from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

The Hawaii Health Connector is Hawaii's online health insurance exchange created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The Hawaii Health Connector was established by the Legislature in July 2011 through ACT 205. It will enable individuals and small businesses to browse and select health insurance plans on a transparent online marketplace.

The event aims to empower individuals and small businesses while they work to address decision-making around providing and purchasing health care plans through the Hawaii Health Connector. ■

City Clerk Issues Reminder to Voters

THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK ISSUED AN ADVISORY for absentee mail voters who recently changed their voter registration address to also make changes to their absentee mail balloting address.

Voters are advised to go

online to: www.honoluluelections.us to download a new absentee ballot application which must be submitted by October 30, 2012 by 4:30 pm. Absentee ballots will be mailed starting October 15, 2012 but voters are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to ensure adequate ballot delivery time.

Absentee walk-in voting starts October 23, 2012 and runs through November 3, 2012, excluding Sundays, from 8 am to 4 pm at Honolulu Hale, Kapolei Hale and the Pali Golf Course Clubhouse. The Kapolei Hale and Pali Golf Course locations will feature electronic voting machines exclusively. ■

SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

(cont. from page 10; QUESTIONS.)

Q: Does Social Security provide special services or information for people who are blind or visually impaired?

A: Yes. Social Security offers a number of services and products specifically designed the blind or visually impaired. Our publications are available in multiple formats including Braille, audio cassette tapes, compact disks or enlarged print. Most of our publications are also available online in audio format. To receive these products in alternative formats, contact us by:

- Going online to www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/alt-pubs.html;
- Calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY, 1-800-325-0778) between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday;
- Contacting your local Social

Security office;

- Contacting your U.S. Embassy or Consulate, if you live outside the U.S.; or
- Mailing, calling, or faxing your request to:

Social Security Administration, Braille Services Branch
6401 Security Boulevard,
L1141 West Low Rise
Baltimore, MD 21235
Phone: 410-965-6414 or 410-965-6407
(TTY, 1-800-325-0778)
Fax: 410-965-6413

Q: I need to make changes to my Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. When can I do that?

A: Open season for Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage runs from October 15 to December 7. The Medicare Part D prescription

drug program is available to all Medicare beneficiaries. Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan is voluntary and participants pay an additional monthly premium. While you are looking at changing your plan, you might want to revisit the Application for Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs. If you have limited income and resources, you also may be eligible for Extra Help to pay monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. The Extra Help is estimated to be worth about \$4,000 per year.

To find out more, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp. For more information about the Medicare Part D prescription drug program itself, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048). ■

PICTORIAL NEWS



Student chefs Vaneza Lyn Agustin (right) and Shianti Leighton won the 2nd Annual Art of Healthy-Licious Cooking Competition at Kapiolani Community College. They bested three other teams in preparing original and healthy dishes using chicken as the main ingredient. Agustin and Leighton whipped up a healthy sautéed vegetable and chicken dish, earning them both a \$500



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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Phl Named One of 'New SEA Tigers'

from www.philstar.com/
Wednesday, October 10, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **A BUSINESS WEBSITE HAS NAMED THE PHILIPPINES** as one of the "new tigers" in Southeast Asia, owing to the country's recovery from the Asian financial crisis and its high potential for growth, a report on Yahoo! News posted last Monday said.

Yahoo! News reported that according to Market Watch, the Philippines and Indonesia have "come of

age" and are "poised to drive future growth and grab more economic power."

The four Asian tigers are Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan.

"In an economically vibrant Southeast Asia, Indonesia and the Philippines stand out as the region's 'New Tigers' with the potential to leave a bigger imprint on global growth for years to come while the developed world struggles with excess debt and traditional regional



heavyweights China and India lose momentum," Market Watch said.

The business website cited the edge of Philippines and Indonesia over other

countries in the region, including large and young labor force, an expanding middle class and elected governments with policies inspiring investor confidence, the Yahoo! report said.

Market Watch added that sturdy banks and enough foreign exchange reserves also put the countries at an advantage.

Yahoo! reported further that Market Watch noted that national debt remains low in the Philippines and

Indonesia compared to countries in the West, "leaving both enough room to boost their economies in case of need."

Market Watch also noted that since the end of 2008, the two countries' stock markets have been among the world's best performing, the Yahoo! report said.

Market Watch said that marking the two countries' takeoff is their leap from borrower to lender status in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with each pledging \$1 billion to replenish the multi-lateral bank's funds. ■

Bill Seeks Committee vs Bullying, Violence in Campuses

from www.philstar.com/
Wednesday, October 10, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **THE STEADY INCREASE IN REPORTED VIOLENCE** and bullying in campuses in the country has prompted a lawmaker to seek the creation of a crime prevention committee.

Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara (Lone District, Aurora) filed House Bill 6479, which seeks the creation of a Student Crime Prevention Committee in every school all over the country.

"There is a need to provide a secure environment for students to enable them to better focus on their studies," Angara said.

Angara said access to information with regard to cam-

pus crime statistics, as well as crime prevention plans in these schools, will equip parents in making informed choices as to which school to send their children to.

"At the same time, students currently enrolled in their respective universities need to know the measure undertaken by their institution, as well as courses of action in cases of emergency to guarantee security and expedient assistance, if need be," said Angara.

He said the proposed crime prevention committee shall be in charge of formulating a crime prevention strategy.

This strategy, the lawmaker said, shall include a

statement on current campus policies on procedures and facilities for students and others on how to report criminal actions or emergencies happening inside the campus as well as policies concerning the institution's response to such reports.

Under the bill, the crime prevention committee has several functions and duties such as to formulate crime prevention programs which the Committee itself shall implement.

It will also be directed to coordinate with school heads in the maintenance of peace and order within school premises as well as to conduct an intensive information drive on the crime prevention



committee including semestral distribution of copies and orientations therein.

The measure provides for the composition of the crime prevention committee which would include the vice president for community affairs or heads of office that deal with campus security and safety as the presiding officer; vice president for student affairs or those heads of office that deal with the welfare and discipline of students as alternate presiding officer.

University student council president/supreme student council president or chairperson; class presidents of the high level and college presidents; corps commander of the ROTC and CAT; head of campus police or security personnel; the president of the parent-teachers association or its equivalent and the secretary of the university council, which shall serve as the committee secretary, shall likewise be members of the crime prevention committee. ■

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Aquino to Meet Malaysian PM Razak in Manila

from www.philstar.com/
Wednesday, October 10, 2012

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) -- **PRESIDENT BENIGNO AQUINO III WILL HAVE A BILATERAL MEETING** with the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak in Manila early next week, Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said today.

Lacierda said in a news briefing the bilateral meeting will take place prior to the signing of the Framework Agreement between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which was facilitated by Malaysia on October 15.



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak

The spokesman, however, declined to reveal the talking points of the two leaders as this was being handled by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Aquino is expected to personally convey to Najib the Philippine government's gratitude for Malaysia's facilitation of the peace nego-

tiations.

Razak will be present at the signing ceremony of the peace deal to witness the historic moment after the bilateral meeting, Lacierda added.

According to Lacierda, MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad will be at the signing ceremony along with members of their peace panel led by Mohagher Iqbal, and members of the International Contact Group (ICG) and others that were involved in the peace process.

"We are preparing the list. All those who have in one way or another contributed to the successful conclusion of the Framework Agreement will be invited," Lacierda said. ■



by Reuben S.
SEGURITAN

Lawsuit by ICE Agents is Latest in Anti-Immigrant Attacks

Only two weeks into the implementation of the deferred action program and amidst a spate of anti-immigrant attacks against it, a group of immigration officers has filed a lawsuit challenging the policy as unconstitutional.

The plaintiffs in *Crane v. Napolitano* are Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who claim that the recent directives of the Department of Homeland Security command them to violate federal law and are a usurpation of the legislative power of Congress.

They challenge in partic-

ular the June 15, 2012 memo of Sec. Janet Napolitano on deferred action for childhood arrivals and the June 17, 2011 Morton Memorandum establishing enforcement priorities, which they had complained of earlier. The agents say that they are forced to violate their oaths of office and several laws, or be disciplined for doing their job if they follow federal law and disregard the directives.

In effect, they disagree with the President's policy to deport criminals first before students and individuals who were brought into the U.S. as young children, so much so that they refuse to be bound by the policy and have chosen to bring this difference of opinion to the court.

Many legal observers believe that the lawsuit has no merit and that it would be dismissed on jurisdictional grounds.

The group's legal costs are shouldered by the anti-immigrant organization NumbersUSA. The agents' lawyer is Kris Kobach, whose name may sound familiar because he authored the infamous Arizona immigration law SB1070. He also advises GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney on immigration.

One of the claims made by the employees is that federal law does not authorize deferred action, much less the granting of this benefit to 1.7 million potential beneficiaries.

But deferred action is not new. Widows of U.S. citizens have received deferred action from the USCIS, as do women who have suffered physical and mental abuse because of rape and domestic violence who are applying for a U visa. Foreign students who were affected when Hurricane Katrina hit the U.S.

were able to get deferred action. Deferred action is also a form of relief that is available in removal proceedings, whereby the DHS agrees not to deport an alien or not to execute a removal order.

I myself have in the past helped obtain deferred departure status for hundreds of nurses who would otherwise have been deported because they failed their licensure exams or changed employers without authorization. The INS agreed to give them deferred departure status for a maximum of 3 years. Many of these nurses eventually regained lawful status.

This present lawsuit is just the latest onslaught against the program that grants reprieve from deportation to deserving individuals who are in the U.S. through no fault of their own. On the same day that the USCIS began accepting deferred action requests,

the governor of Arizona issued an executive order denying state benefits, including driver's licenses, from deferred action beneficiaries. Nebraska's governor quickly followed suit and announced that his state would also deny driver's licenses, welfare benefits and other public assistance to DREAMers.

Elsewhere, there are reasons for DREAMers to remain optimistic. In New York, for instance, a lawmaker has introduced a bill that would give undocumented youth access to government financial aid for college. A Colorado university has started to charge a reduced tuition fee for eligible undocumented students. A federal court also recently blocked key parts of immigration laws of Alabama and Georgia. ■

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

GMA Trial to Resume Nov. 15

by Perseus ECHEMINADA/
Thursday, October 11, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **THE PASAY CITY REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) BRANCH 112** has set aside a motion of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to postpone the pre-trial of Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to Jan. 31 next year and scheduled it on Nov. 15 and 22.

"The Oct. 25 schedule was reset to allow the Comelec to finish its electoral duties, but the pre-trial will proceed as scheduled," Felda Domingo, court spokesperson, said yesterday.

Pre-trial hearings are also scheduled on Jan. 31 and Feb. 7 next year.

Benjamin Santos, Arroyo's counsel, filed the opposition to delay the trial of the electoral sabotage case against the former president.

He said the argument of the prosecution that they

are busy with the election period is not a valid reason to delay the proceedings.

During the Sept. 23 pre-trial, the prosecution submitted their 28-page brief, including the list of 59 witnesses lined up against Arroyo and her co-accused.

The defense, however, reiterated their earlier stand not to submit any trial brief.

As this developed, Ombudsman prosecutors handling the P365.9-million plunder case against Arroyo are objecting to her continued detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) in Quezon City.

However, they are willing to allow her to be detained at the Philippine National Police (PNP) custodial center in Camp Crame, where two of her co-accused are currently detained.

Director Diosdado Calonge said he and his panel of prosecutors will oppose Arroyo's motion for hospital

arrest, which will be heard by the Sandiganbayan's First Division today.

"We will ask time to file comment or opposition, we will oppose," Calonge told The STAR, saying

the former president should be detained in a regular jail facility.

"The law must apply equally to all," he said, adding, however, that if Arroyo would want to be detained in Camp Crame, the prosecution will be amenable to it.

GMA STILL IN PAIN

According to the director of VMMC, Arroyo is still in pain and the scheduled exam to determine if her potassium level had normalized was not done on Tuesday as planned because of this.

"We had to defer taking her blood for potassium de-

termination due to pain," Nona Legaspi said yesterday.

Legaspi said they were going to try to take the blood sample if the former presi-

dent got better.

Arroyo is under hospital arrest once again at the VMMC in Quezon City. (www.philstar.com) ■



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DAYASADAS
by Pacita C. SALUDES

Daytoy a panagtitipon maiyawis kadagiti Filipino organisasion iti Hawaii, tapno idasarda dagiti naaramidanda, pakasari-taanda, kotribusiona iti pakasari-taan ni Filipino ken dagiti manamnama a naserbi iti masakbayan.

Awisen ti FAHSONH dagiti organisasion a makipagparte kadagiti panagiinnadal ken pagrarsakan iti selebrasion. Dagiti makipagparte w en n o a g a t e n d a r ,

maikkanda ti iti bukodda a lamisaan iti ballroom a pagidasaranda kadagiti gapuananda, ti pakasari-taan ti grupoda, dagiti naaramidanda ken pakabuklan dagiti akitibidadesda. Makaammodan a mangbisti ti lamisaanda, mangabbong ken mangurnos kadagiti idisplayda.

Maaramid a pagssari-taan dagiti exhibits a mairugi iti malem (3:30pm) agingga iti alas 7:30 iti rabii. Alas kuatro (4:00 agingga ti 5:00 ti panagsarsarita maipapan kadagiti naaramidan dagiti organisasion ken aramidanda iti masakbayan a p a g s a y a a t a n k e n pakairanudan ti kumonidad

para iti agdama ken masakbayan.

ANAK and storytelling and Arts Crafts maaramid iti Tech-room iti alas sinko ti malem (5:00pm) agingga iti alas seis y media ti malem(6:30pm). Adda Entertainment iti Consuelo Courtyard ken adu pay a malako a makmakan. Adda pay Filipino Movie Screening iti Consuelo Courtyard.

No ania met dagiti maidasaryo ipakaammoyo. Deadline ti registration Friday Octubre 12, 2012. No ania pay ti kayatyo a maamuan awagan ti FIL-AM History Fest. Ni Lynna Burian (Coordinator) iti telepono 521-7721. ■

SAAN NGA AGIKIKIDEM TI LANGIT

Awan marikna a saranta No di lipaten ti sagubanit Gubuay maidadanes nga isip Ta kada adda maipaayan A mananama a matulongan Imbag a pagraranudan pakadayawan Mapagbalin a biddut makapanaang

Kalpasan nabuslon a tuladan Namseken ap-apunan nga agamang Tapno agtamed laeng kaaduan

Kalpasan dagiti isem a narunaw Gasat a nalpay, eppes a namnama Maipuera, awan kaipapanan Agsimron rebbeng a lipaten Iwalin a pakuyogan isem Urayen kaibatugan a sagrapen Ta ti langit saan nga agikikidem

Ti namnama a maaramidan Makaparagsak kaarbanan Agbalin a napait makaidagel Awanen kaibatugan ken laing Mangipagarup awanen kaipapanan

MAINLAND NEWS

US Affirms Steep Tariffs on China Solar Panels

WASHINGTON (AP) — **THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION IS UPHOLDING STEEP TARIFFS** on solar panels made in China, finding that China's government is subsidizing companies that are flooding the US

market with low-cost products.

The Commerce Department determined Chinese producers sold solar panels in the United States below cost, a tactic known as "dumping," and will impose



tariffs ranging from 18 percent to nearly 250 percent.

That's according to a source with knowledge of the ruling who spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision hasn't been formally announced.

For some of the Chinese companies, the dumping-re-

lated tariffs are slightly lower than preliminary tariffs imposed in May. But another set of duties dealing with improper subsidies is being increased more than threefold.

The tariffs could aggravate already tense trade relations between China and the US. (www.philstar.com) ■

GLOBAL NEWS

Riyadh Embassy: Renew Passport Early, Use Online System

by Jovan CERDA
Wednesday, October 10, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN RIYADH** has advised overseas Filipino workers and other frequent travelers to renew their passports as early as nine months before its expiration, the Foreign Affairs Department said on Tuesday.

"Filipinos in the Kingdom are advised to inform their employers of the expiry date of their passports to avoid inconvenience as the new electronic passport will be released around one month after filing or renewal application," the state agency said.

Applicants for renewal are advised to visit the embassy's website, www.philembassy-riyadh.org, to schedule an ap-

pointment.

The online appointment system will allow the applicants to schedule the date and time of their appointment, with a system sending a confirmation to the applicants' email address.

DFA said the embassy no longer accepts appointments made through text messages due to difficulty in managing them.

"The embassy discourages multiple bookings made by a single applicant to maximize the appointment slots of 216 applicants in one day. In the event that an applicant wishes to change his/her appointment schedule, he/she needs to cancel the appointment to allow another applicant to book the vacated slot," the state agency added. (www.philstar.com) ■

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PAMPANGA CIRCLE OF HAWAII, 48TH ANNIVERSARY & INDUCTION OF OFFICERS / SATURDAY • October 13, 2012, • Hale Koa Hotel • 6:30 p.m. • Contact: Petronila Foster, 722-8605

UFCH REAFFIRMATION AND PROGRESS AWARDS GALA BANQUET / FRIDAY • October 19, 2012, • Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom • Donation \$60 • For more information pls. call Carmen at 358-3845 or email quezonj001@hawaii.rr.com

DOCTORS-ON-STAGE'S 'BELIEVE IN PRAISE OF FAITH AND FREEDOM' / SATURDAY • October 27, 2012, • Worship and Performing Arts Theater Kroc Center Hawaii, 91-3257 Kualaka'i Parkway, Ewa Beach, HI 96706 • Matinee 3:00 p.m. / Gala 7:00 p.m. • For the benefit of BAYANIHAN CLINIC WITHOUT WALLS, INC. • For reservations: call (808) 841-4195 or (808) 671-3911

SAN NICOLAS GOODWILL FOUNDATION OF HAWAII LITTLE MISS INFANTILE PAGEANT / SATURDAY • November 10, 2012, • FilCom Center Casamina Flores Ballroom • Donation \$45 • For more information, pls. call 680-0451

ISAH MRS. ILOCOS SURIAN FUNDRAISER / SATURDAY • November 17, 2012, • Hilton Waikiki Beach Resort Hotel • Donation \$65 • For more information and tickets, pls. call Davelyn at 489-8782

3RD ANNUAL NIGHT OF HONOR AND TOYF, JCI HAWAII FILIPINO JUNIOR CHAMBER / SUNDAY • December 9, 2012, • Hibiscus Room, Ala Moana Hotel • For more information please contact Randy Cortez at: 342-7685

GLOBAL NEWS

House Passes Bill Expanding Overseas Voting Law

by **Jovan CERDA**
Friday, October 5, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS PASSED** a bill amending the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003, allowing more overseas Filipinos worldwide to cast their votes in Philippine elections.

Rep. Elpidio Barzaga, Jr., chair of the House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, said the amendment to Republic Act 9189 will provide easier access to global Filipinos through field and mobile registration centers.

Filipinos abroad may file their application personally at any designated registration center in the Philippines, as approved by the Commission on Elections, Barzaga said.

Rep. Erico Aumentado, author

of house Bill 3966, said the measure will allow overseas Filipino voters to cast their votes not only in presidential and midterm elections, but in all national referenda and plebiscites as well.

Aumentado said records from the Comelec show that there are about 3.6 million qualified Filipino voters abroad.

"Out of this figure, 589,830 were registered voters while only 153,323 actually voted, broken down as follows: 39,564 voted by mail, 64,743 voted manually or in person and 49,016 voted through automation," Aumentado said.

"The present law provides for the voting by mail to only three countries. This limitation effectively disenfranchises many OFWs abroad," he added.

The bill's co-author, Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello, said the new law will allow overseas Filipinos with dual citizenship to vote with-

out renouncing their other citizenship. Immigrants and permanent residents also need not execute affidavits declaring that they shall continue residence in the Philippines not later than three years from the approval of their applications under RA 9189.

The measure also expands other means of overseas voting, which include personal voting, by mail and any other means as allowed under Section 52.1 of the Omnibus Election Code.

The law mandates Comelec to adopt more efficient and reliable technology for onsite remote registration and elections.

It also establishes the Overseas Voting Secretariat under the Foreign Affairs Department, and authorizes the poll body to allot at least 10 percent of the overseas voting budget for information dissemination campaigns.

(www.philstar.com) ■

WHO: 350 Million People Suffer from Depression

MANILA, Philippines - **MORE THAN 350 MILLION PEOPLE** suffer from depression, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

"But because of the stigma that is often still attached to depression, many fail to acknowledge that they are ill and do not seek treatment," WHO said in a statement as it called on nations to end the stigma against the mental disorder on the 20th anniversary of World Mental Health Day this October 10.

The WHO cited cultural attitudes and lack of proper understanding as some of the reasons people suffering from depression

do not seek help for their condition.

"We have some highly effective treatments for depression. Unfortunately, fewer than half of the people who have depression receive the care they need. In fact in many countries this is less than 10 percent. This is why WHO is supporting countries in fighting stigma as a key activity to increasing access to treatment," said Dr. Shekhar Saxena, director of the Department for Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The first step towards treating depression is recognizing that it exists, according to the WHO. It should, however, be distinguished from "mood fluctuations." If the feeling of sadness persists for two weeks or more and one's ability to

function at work, school or home is affected, that may already be depression.

Some of the effective treatments the WHO recommends are psychosocial treatment and medication. Early treatment is crucial for it to be more effective.

There are many factors that lead to depression. It may be social, psychological or biological. Economic pressures, unemployment, disasters and conflict were also cited as factors.

"At its worst, depression can lead to suicide. Tragically almost one million people commit suicide every year and a large proportion of them had experienced depression," the WHO said.

(www.philstar.com) ■

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