



www.efilipinochronicle.com
www.thefilipinochronicle.com

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

NEWS EDITION

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

COLMENARES RECEIVES NATIONAL EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AWARD

by Chona Montesines-Sonido



Jun Colmenares receiving the 2013 William J. Harris Equal Opportunity Award from NASWA President Mark Henry (from Mississippi) on September 19, 2013 during NASWA's 77th Annual National Conference in Denver, Colorado

Dr. Serafin "Jun" Colmenares Jr., executive director of the State Office of Language Access (OLA), recently received the 2013 William J. Harris Equal Opportunity Award in recognition of his outstanding performance and accomplishments in the area of equal opportunity.

The award is given annually by the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) and named in honor of William J. Harris, who served with distinction as the Director of the Directorate of Civil Rights, now the Civil Rights Center (CRC), for the U.S. Department of Labor. NASWA is an or-

ganization of state administrators of unemployment insurance laws, employment services, training programs, employment statistics and labor market information and other programs and services provided through the publicly-funded state workforce system. The award also recognizes the head of the workforce agency as an additional

award recipient.

To be considered for the award, nominees must have made significant contributions toward the understanding and achievement of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination for all employees and customers.

Colmenares traveled to Denver, Colorado to accept the award, which was given

(continued on page 4)

FILCOM CENTER TO HOST FUNDRAISING DINNER NOV. 9

by HFC Staff



The Filipino Community Center (FilCom Center) will celebrate its 11th Annual Gala Dinner and Fundraiser on November 9, 2013 at 5:30 pm at the FilCom Center in Waipahu. The evening is called "Sharing Memorable Moments With Emme & Friends."

"We want to honor Emme Tomimbang, a highly-esteemed veteran broadcast journalist, for her many contributions to the Filipino community and the community-at-large over the past several decades," says Rose Cruz Churma, president of the Filipino Com-

(continued on page 4)

ACTIVIST TAKES RISKS FIGHTING FOR U.S. IMMIGRATION REFORM

by Mary Tablante



WASHINGTON, DC—Raymond Jose, 22, knows what it's like to live in fear every day. He goes through each day knowing that his mother, father or sister could be taken away from him because they are undocumented immigrants.

Raymond Jose speaks at a press conference across the Capitol after introduction of Senate bill providing millions a pathway to US citizenship, but would also enforce stricter deportation measures. PHOTO BY JASSIEL PEREZ. (UNITED WE DREAM)

In a protest demanding comprehensive immigra-

(continued on page 6)

Q & A



Overseas Filipinos Threaten to Withhold Remittances

11

LEGAL NOTES



USCIS Issues New Guidance on Same-Sex Marriage

13

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE
94-356 WAIPAHU DEPOT RD., 2ND FLR.
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

EDITORIAL

Americans Do Not Want Another War in the Middle East

There is no need for the U.S. to rush to war in the Middle East, a region where nothing seems to get settled quickly and peacefully. A contained military air strike by the U.S. would not change that historical tradition, suddenly bring about a transition of power in Syria, and instantly move towards disarming both sides of the civil war into diplomatic engagement.

Realistically, it would take a lot more in the way of military intervention than an airstrike to achieve this, specifically, years of ground-support by the U.S. of which President Barack Obama's administration is not even mentioning.

Just freshly after the debacle of the Iraq war in which the previous administration led the country into war under false pretenses of weapons of mass destruction, Americans know better and should not be fooled hastily into a military conflict in that region.

It's naive to think that should the U.S. get involved militarily in Syria that it would limit itself to airstrikes. The first Bush practically laced with bombshells via airstrikes every square inch of Bagdad, but was unsuccessful in ridding Iraq of its dictator. It took the second Bush to finish what his father started at great cost. Now it's conventional wisdom as to the real reason for that decades-led campaign, not to get rid of Iraq's dictator, but to open up greater access and channels for extracting oil to benefit the West.

Why shouldn't Americans be skeptical in this new development in Syria? What could the real reason be for the U.S. involvement, aside from the public relations humanitarian one given? Why would Russia take such a great interest in seeing the Bashar al-Assad administration succeed in smashing that country's rebellion? If the U.S. were so concerned about dictatorships and democracies in that region, why is it so accepting of Saudi Arabia and all those archaic monarchies we have as allies to-no-end, then at the same time harshly criticize other questionable forms of leaderships where we have no control of oil resources?

The truth is Russia has an oil interest in Syria and Iran just as the U.S. has one in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and now Iraq. Threatening the oil resources and supply to Russia is a dangerous situation for the U.S. and the West. An interesting fact to consider is that Syria and Iran have a pact stating that should either of their countries get invaded militarily, the other agree to come to its aid. Or could it just be what the western powers really want, to finally draw Iran into war, and finally have com-



plete control of the entire region's oil trade and supply? Would Russia and China allow such a scenario to play out?

The history of the Middle East goes beyond religious strife and ethnic-cultural differences. Its current borders were carved up and established by the world's super powers after WWII. Imperialistic influence has and will always be in the mix with the sovereign rights of countries in that region until oil dries up. Russia has defended rebellions and questionable leaders; so has the U.S. and the west. To think that all these super powers have no interest besides only wanting countries in that region to have leaders who can treat their civilians humanely, is lacking an understanding of middle eastern politics.

The face of diplomacy will play out in the coming weeks among super powers. The latest is Syria agreeing to relinquish to Russia its chemical weapons. If the only interest that U.S. and western powers have is what they are claiming -- to disarm Syria's government from using chemical weapons -- the end to this tragedy should come to an end quickly as far as U.S. military intervention goes. But we just don't know enough yet to see what's really behind the rhetoric.

What's encouraging is that Americans, even those who love and support Obama, are right to be reluctant and distrustful of the U.S. entering another war in the Middle East.

The U.S. should not look away and ignore the atrocity Assad has committed onto his own people. It should pursue the matter aggressively, but diplomatically.

Ultimately the U.S. cannot dictate the outcome of Syria's civil war, unless it is willing to go way beyond what is currently being discussed, and that is an Iraq-type ground troops swell of American troops in Syria. If that accurate and truthful scenario is presented to the American people, there is little doubt that most Americans would not approve of such a imperialistic commitment to yet another grave misadventure in the Middle East.

It's interesting how an economically weaker Russia stood by with resistance the turn over of Iraq to western powers. Decades later up to the current time, a far more economically robust and modern Russia, which along with China, the soon to-be numbers two and three economies of the world, is asserting itself once again in swaying world affairs.

This standstill over what to do with the Assad administration has a far greater impact than most realize, which makes it even more crucial that diplomacy succeed and a blueprint be set for future conflicts of interest among the world's super powers. ■



NEWS EDITION

www.thefilipinochronicle.com | www.efilipinochronicle.com

Charlie Y. SONIDO, M.D.
Publisher and Executive Editor

Chona A. MONTESINES-SONIDO
Publisher and Managing Editor

Dennis GALOLO
Edwin QUINABO
Associate Editors

Randall SHIROMA
Design Consultant

Columnists
Carlota Hufana Ader
Sen. Will Espero
Emil Guillermo
Grace F. Fong, Ed.D.
Ruth Elynia Mabanglo, Ph.D.
J. P. Orias
Pacita Saludes
Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.
Charlie Sonido, M.D.
Emmanuel S. Tapon, Esq.
Felino S. Tubera
Amado Yoro
Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

Contributing Writers

Belinda Aquino, Ph.D., Clement Bautista, Teresita Bernales, Ed.D., Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D., Linda Dela Cruz, Fiedes Doctor, Danny de Gracia II, M.A., Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand, Amelia Jacang, M.D., Caroline Julian, Maita Milallos, Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D., Glenn Wakai

Creative Designer

Junggoi Peralta

Philippine Correspondent

Greg Garcia

Photography

Tim Llana

Administrative Assistant

Shalimar Pagulayan

Advertising/Marketing Director

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives

Carlota Ader
J. P. Orias

Big Island Distributor

Grace Larson
Ditas Udani

Maui Distributor

Cecile Piros

Molokai Distributor

Maria Watanabe

 **MEMBER,**
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. It is mailed directly to subscribers and distributed at various outlets around Oahu and the neighbor islands. Editorial and advertising deadlines are three weeks prior to publication date. Subscriptions are available at \$75 per year for Oahu and the neighbor islands, continental U.S. \$85, foreign country \$95. Copyright 2007-2012. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone: (808) 678-8930. Facsimile: (808) 678-1829. E-mail: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.



by Emil GUILLERMO

I don't ever expect to see the Emmys—the award for excellence in television—to ever award diversity. Not even a bone for "Hawaii 5-0."

But it would be nice.

I didn't see many people of color winning anything on the most recent incarnation of the Emmy broadcast. A lot of "just happy to be presenting," never mind "just happy to be nominated."

And winning?

As a person of color, you have a better chance of recognition if you're dead than excellent.

There were two diversity moments worth noting, one was during the obit

A Native American Moment, But Emmys Still Fail Diversity Test

slide show which reminded me of the death of Russell Means, the American Indian Movement's leader at Wounded Knee.

I forgot that Means was also an actor, and most recently appeared in the show "Banshee" last year on Cinemax. He played the character Benjamin Longshadow.

Means was 72 when he died.

To see his face flash by for even for a few seconds is more than Native Americans get on shows like the Emmys.

And just to accent the plight of non-white actors, Mean's show "Banshee" also featured an Asian American actor, Hoon Lee. All you Lee fans will note, you may have first noticed him in "Sex in the City," as Dr. Mao, Charlotte's acupuncturist.

None of those roles per-



haps would have been considered Emmy worthy performances, but that's why when you see a Kerry Washington ("Scandal") up for best actress in a drama, it's worth hoping for a breakthrough.

But it wasn't to be last night for Washington, who was given a kind of consolation prize---the honor of escorting Diahann Carroll to the stage.

Still stunning at 78, Carroll was the first African American actress to star in her own series where she played a nurse. She was

nominated for an Emmy in 1969, but only won a Golden Globe for "Best Actress in a Television Series" in 1968.

As a young boy, I remember "Julia" quite well. It was the very first TV show that taught me how beautiful African American women were. (Am I allowed to confess my massive crush on Diahann Carroll?)

At the time, I was attending an all-black junior high school, so I had no problem acting out any fantasies. But I did notice how when my family moved from one neighborhood in San Francisco to another, my friends all change from black to white.

And when "Julia" had run its course, and with diversity lacking on TV, I just didn't see very many other non-white faces. Life was on a different channel.

This is the power of TV

that we always seem to miss out on.

Later on the Emmy broadcast, the actor Don Cheadle presented clips of the MLK speech and march 50 years ago juxtaposed with clips later that year of the JFK assassination.

We all know how TV can inform, engage and entertain once we turn it on.

But we forget how it brings us together as one, all watching the same thing, the same events, the same shows. From Hawaii to Maine.

TV has the power to integrate, to create that perfect electronic village. But from what we see on prime time, how can it achieve that goal if it constantly fails to depict the true diversity in our society? ■

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist who writes for the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. Twitter@emilamok. Visit www.amok.com

an evening of Filipina Jazz with
CHARMAINE CLAMOR
and special guest Hawaii's own
ABE LAGRIMAS JR.

OCTOBER 11, 2013

Celebrated by the Los Angeles Times as "one of the important and original new jazz singers of the decade," Filipino-American recording artist and cultural trailblazer Charmaine Clamor will perform for one night only alongside Hawaii's Abe Lagrimas, Jr. For more information about her concert and to purchase tickets, visit us at lcctheatre.hawaii.edu or call us at (808) 455-0380.

AT THE LEeward THEATRE
Leeward Community College • Pearl City, Hawaii

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

during NASWA's 77th Annual Conference held September 18-20, 2013. He felt honored and humbled to receive the national award, which he says was "very unexpected."

"I must admit I was shocked," Colmenares says. "I'm not sure if I deserved it. Nevertheless, it certainly inspires me to continue what I and my office is doing to help the limited English proficient community in Hawaii."

Colmenares was nominated for the award by Pamela Martin, administrator of the Wage Standards Division for the State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations. As the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) officer for the Workforce Investment Act, Martin received an unsolicited email from NASWA. After reading the solicitation and documentation, it struck her that Colmenares' work with OLA was the type of work that NASWA was looking for, particularly with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) programs.

"I knew that Hawaii was the only state with an independent Language Access Office and thought this unique situation would be attractive," Martin says. "Despite the economically-challenging years in the recent

past, Jun somehow continued to grow his program."

In August 2012, Martin attended training for LEP programs, which impressed and inspired her, given the practical lessons she learned and the connections she made in implementing ideas.

"That personal experience, along with the other work he was doing throughout the State made me think Jun and his program were a good match for the award," she says. "It was also a program that I thought could be replicated in other states and worth bringing to the attention of a national audience."

Martin has personally known Colmenares since 2007. She describes him as "a smart man who is both down to earth and scholarly when it is appropriate."

"All of my interactions with Jun have been helpful, insightful and very professional, she says. "He has great vision which likely comes from his positive attitude. I rely on Jun and his office for guidance on issues related to reaching out and providing the department's services to a wider audience."

THE MAN BEHIND OLA

OLA is the state entity in charge of providing education, oversight, central coordination and technical



Jun Colmenares with Pamela Martin, Hawaii DLIR Equal Opportunity Officer, who nominated him for the award

assistance to state and other organizations that receive state funds in their respective implementation of Hawaii's Language Access Law. The purpose of the law is to affirmatively address the language access needs of limited English proficient (LEP) persons in Hawaii.

With its large immigrant population, Hawaii has one of the largest percentages of LEP individuals in the nation. According to the latest data, out of Hawaii's total population, 24.4 percent or about 311,000 speak a language other than English at home. Of these, 45 percent or about 141,000 are limited English proficient.

OLA's vision is "Language Access for All." Established in 2007, the office is mandated by law to ensure that state and state-funded agencies provide language services—interpretation (oral) and translation (written)—to LEP individuals.

Its mission is to ensure that state agencies and covered entities are in compliance with the requirements of Hawaii's language access law. "State agencies" in-

clude all agencies that receive funding from the state (county agencies, non-profits, etc.).

OLA currently provides education and outreach, advocacy, technical assistance, coordination, compliance review and monitoring, investigation and resolution of complaints, research and reporting. With the recent passage of Act 217, OLA has been given additional responsibilities to establish and run the Language Access Resource Center and a multilingual website.

The office also organizes an annual conference on language access held at the East-West Center. Currently in its sixth year, the conference typically draws hundreds of attendees.

OLA originally had a staff of six, including the executive director. In 2009, OLA lost five of its staff following the RIF (reduction in force) in state government due to economic downturn. It remained a one-man office until early 2012 when money was budgeted to fund two positions.

Colmenares says the

biggest hurdle for OLA is the lack of resources. Restoring the three staff positions, he says, will enable OLA to address its original mandate.

"Without the three positions, we are unable to do compliance monitoring on a regular basis, as well as meet the requests for technical assistance from state and state-funded agencies," he says. "In addition, Act 217 was passed but only gave us less than half of the funds that we need to implement the Language Access Resource Center and a multilingual website."

Another hurdle is the lack of buy-in from some agencies. Colmenares says fully implementing the requirements of the Language Access Law is difficult considering the fact that OLA has no "teeth" and has to depend on "voluntary compliance" from state agencies.

Nevertheless, he remains committed to serving with excellence in the area of equal opportunity.

"We're extremely grateful for the strong support from the Language Access Advisory Council and the community at large, as well as the strong commitment to language access from the governor and the Legislature. This has enabled OLA to weather some challenges to its very existence and provided it with the will and the strength to work toward the fulfillment of its mandate," he says. ■

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

community Center. "Her dedication to foster goodwill in the community we live and work is much admired. We are forever grateful for her tireless service to the betterment of the Filipino community."

Tomimbang, who is the president and chief executive officer of multi-media production company, EMME Inc. and the executive producer and host of the award-winning television special "Emme's Island Moments," is a founding member of the FilCom's Board of

Governors.

Several award-winning chefs credited for launching the Hawaii Regional Cuisine movement in the 1990s will make special guest appearances, including James Beard recipients Roy Yamaguchi and Alan Wong, as well as D.K. Kodama and Philippe Padovani. Each chef will be inspired by authentic Filipino cuisine to create his own interpretation of classic Filipino dishes.

Na Hoku Hanohano Award winner Willie K and other top recording artists will add to the *bayanihan*

spirit and liven the event as the evening's marquee performers. The evening will also feature exciting silent auction items.

Proceeds from "Sharing Memorable Moments With Emme & Friends" will benefit the FilCom Center, which serves thousands each year with enriching programs for youth, senior citizens and families.

Table sponsorship and individual tickets are currently on sale. Visit the Filipino Community Center website at filcom.org for more information. ■



by Councilmember Ron MENOR

Auditing the Board of Water Supply, Increasing Affordable Housing

I've been busy tackling several important issues on behalf of my constituents. The first involves the Board of Water Supply (BWS) and the numerous calls I have received from constituents who have complained about their bills as well as the long delays when calling BWS' customer service department.

To address these concerns, I introduced Resolution 13-201 which requests the City auditor to conduct a comprehensive management and performance audit of the Board of Water Supply (BWS). An audit would ensure that the BWS is being run efficiently and effectively. Resolution 13-201 was approved by the Public Works & Sustainability Committee approved and will be voted on by the full Council at its October 9, 2013 meeting.

Secondly, I have introduced a package of proposals aimed at increasing the amount of affordable housing on Oahu. Resolution 13-168 and Resolution 13-202 would tighten the City's affordable housing rules by:

- Increasing the number of affordable units that a developer is required to build in new development projects and lower the prices of those units.
- Requiring developers to build affordable rentals as part of meeting the affordable housing requirements.
- Increasing the length of time that affordable for-sale and rental units stay in the affordable category.

Resolution 13-168 and Resolution 13-202 have both been referred to the Zoning & Planning Committee and is scheduled to be heard in committee on October 31, 2013. My interest in affordable housing began when I served in the State Senate, where I chaired the Senate's Committee on Consumer Protection & Housing and Co-Chaired the Joint Senate &

House Affordable Housing Task Force.

Thirdly, I was informed that the Ewa Post Office is being targeted by the U.S. Postal Service for closure. I sent a letter to the U.S. Postmaster urging that the Ewa Post Office remain open. Myself and other concerned residents also attended a meeting on September 20 where we asked that the Ewa Post Office be spared.

Instead of closing its Ewa branch, the Post Office should instead be increasing its services for the area, especially with several new housing developments on the



Councilmember Menor with Ilocos Sur Gov. Ryan Luis Singson and his wife Patricia

horizon in West Oahu—projects like Ho'opili and Koa Ridge that will result in thousands of new homes.

Closing the Ewa Post Office would also negatively impact our elderly and immigrant population. Instead of a brisk walk, seniors at West Loch Elderly Village would be forced to travel to

the nearest post office several miles away, which would be a great inconvenience, since many of them no longer drive. Elderly and immigrant families are less likely to have email or computer access, and consequently are more dependent on the conveniences offered by a full-service postal station.

Lastly, it was a pleasure to meet several distin-

guished visitors from the Philippines, including Ryan Luis Singson, governor of Ilocos Sur in the Philippines; Eva Medina, mayor of Vigan; and several councilmembers from Vigan, which has a Sister-City relationship with Honolulu. Governor Singson, Mayor Medina and the delegation from Ilocos Sur visited Oahu to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Vigan Association of Hawaii. Leaders from the Filipino community later took the delegation on a tour of Oahu and a dinner reception. The anniversary celebration was held August 31st at the Ala Moana Hotel's Hibiscus Ballroom. ■

MAHALO



Jorge Vicente G. Camara

May 21, 1950 – August 28, 2013

Binky Valdes Camara and the family of Dr. Jorge Camara express their sincere appreciation and gratitude for all your intentions, prayers, and generous donations on behalf of Jorge to the University of Hawaii Law School Augusto Camara Scholarship Fund / Aloha Medical Mission.

We are comforted by your love.
May Jorge rest eternally in peace.



by Dan GRABAUSKAS

Back On Track

Aloha! The Honolulu rail transit project is back on track with construction of the rail system resuming in West Oahu on September 16.

The restart of construction follows last year's ruling by the Hawaii Supreme Court, which placed a temporary hold on construction of the rail system from West Oahu to Ala Moana Center until all archaeological survey work was completed for the entire 20-mile alignment.

The archaeological reports related to that court ruling were approved by the State Historic Preservation Division in August. This allowed the Honolulu City Council to adopt key per-

mits and intergovernmental agreements earlier this month to clear the way for construction to resume.

The restart of construction is a major step forward for the rail project. Crews are back at the worksite in East Kapolei, pouring concrete for columns for the elevated guideway, relocating utilities and conducting soil testing along the alignment between Pearl City and downtown Honolulu. Grading work will also resume at the train operations and control center in Waipahu near Leeward Community College.

Our objective is to have the first half of the rail route – from East Kapolei to Aloha Stadium – open to the public by 2017, with the entire 20-mile route set to open in 2019. With the project being the single largest job creator for our local construction industry, we look forward to getting Oahu's construction work-



Construction of the Honolulu rail transit project resumed on Monday, Sept. 16 in East Kapolei. Workers drill shafts in the ground for future columns that will support the 20-mile rail guideway from West Oahu to Honolulu.

ers off the bench and back on the job.

Getting back to work now also means we avoid any further delay costs and move closer to completing the project on time and on budget. That's our responsibility to Oahu taxpayers.

While deadlines and budgets are critical, safety is HART's top priority during the construction work.

We plan to keep the public informed about upcoming lane closures and other traffic impacts related to the work. Not only do we want to make drivers aware of any traffic changes so they can better plan their commute, we also want the public and our work crews in the construction zones to be safe.

Rail will be an efficient

and reliable transportation option for the Filipino population living on Oahu. Seven of the 12 communities along the rail route from East Kapolei to Ala Moana already have a significant Filipino population that could ride the train as part of their commute to work and other destinations.

The new transit-oriented development that will take place in the neighborhoods surrounding the rail stations will bring significant investment and an added vitality to communities along the rail route.

The building of this rail system will not come without some growing pains. But once completed, rail will enhance the quality of life for our island. HART continues to ask for your support and patience as rail gradually becomes reality for Oahu. ■

DAN GRABAUSKAS is executive director and CEO of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART).

HEADLINES

(cont. from page 1; **ACTIVIST ...**)

tion reform that doesn't separate families, Jose sat on the back of a deportation bus at the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Phoenix, Arizona, in order to stop the deportation of the people on

board.

Federal agents threatened to use pepper spray, and law enforcement subsequently arrested Jose. But for him, the activism was worth the risk of both arrest and possible deportation.

Jose and another immi-

gration rights activist, Jose Patino, were arrested around 12:30 a.m. on Aug. 22, but were released about one hour later. The next day, ICE let someone out from the bus who was of lower priority and the person was able to return to his family.

his family when he was nine years old. He was not aware of his undocumented status until he started applying for college, when his parents informed him that because of his status, he could not accept scholarships.

Although Jose admits his family was initially upset to hear about his arrest, he said they understand why he did it. It's difficult, he said, for most people in the Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities to reveal that they are undocumented and to stand up for fair immigration reform, but his parents are slowly breaking out of their shell.

"If we stay silent and keep our heads down nothing's going to change," he said.

BECOMING A LEADER

Someone who has seen Jose grow as an activist is his close friend, Yves Gomes, who works with the Maryland Dream Youth Committee.

"I'm very glad to see that [Jose has] been able to step up to leadership and he's really seized it. He's one of the best leaders," Gomes said.

Gomes, who was born in India, said although one out of every 10 immigrants is of Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) descent, most people would never know that based on media coverage and turnouts at events.

"It just can't be myself and [Jose] to represent our AAPI community in the [D.C., Maryland and Virginia] area," Gomes said. "Our community is still very afraid and ashamed. It's not a Latino issue or Asian issue; it's a human issue."

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED

With debates over military action in Syria and the budget raging at the forefront, immigration reform could be pushed back to the end of the year, or even longer, but activists like

(continued on page 7)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

BOARD CERTIFIED FELLOWSHIP-TRAINED EYE SURGEON

Same Day Appointments Available

Hawaii Medical Center West • St. Francis Med. Plaza West
91-2139 Ft. Weaver Rd. # 202 • Ewa Beach

677-2733

FREE Parking / Next to The Bus Stop
Staff speaks TAGALOG & ILOCANO



McMANN EYE
INSTITUTE

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

MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

"I definitely went in with the mind-set that this is something I have to do," Jose said. "I feel that through civil disobedience the American public would see this is the pain our community goes through on a daily basis. It's a message to Congress that they need to act now and stand up [for] families."

Members from the largest youth-led immigration rights group in the US, United We Dream, participated in this act of civil disobedience. Jose works as the Washington, DC, organizer for the group.

A resident of Rockville, Maryland, Jose came to the US from the Philippines with



by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

Reporting Money Exports or Imports

“Are you carrying more than \$10,000?” asked the Customs and Border Protection officer at the airport.

“I’m not sure, we would have to count it.” I answered.

“How long will you be abroad?”

“About a week.”

“What will you do there?”

“Representing a client at the U.S. Embassy whose young wife was denied a visa.”

“Are you a lawyer? Never mind, you can go.”

That was the only time while traveling that I was asked how much money I was carrying. At other times, CBP officers must have thought that I was probably too poor to be carrying over \$10,000.

Others who, with all due respect, appear poorer than me have had trouble with the \$10,000 question with terrible consequences.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Federal law, 31 USC § 5316, requires every person, agent, or bailee (trustee) to file a report if

such person knowingly (1) transports, is about to transport, or has transported, monetary instruments of more than \$10,000 at one time (A) from the United States to a place outside the United States, or (B) to the United States from a place outside the United States; or (2) receives monetary instruments of more than \$10,000 at one time transported into the United States from a place outside the United States.

The report must be filed on Form FinCEN 105 “Report of International Transportation of Currency and Monetary Instruments.” Get the form from a CBP officer before traveling or upon arrival.

A customs officer may stop and search, at the border and without a search warrant, any vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or other conveyance, any envelope or other container, and any person entering or departing from the United States. 31 USC § 5317(b).

Any money or property involved in violating 31 USC § 5316 is subject to criminal or civil forfeiture.

THE VIOLATORS

Most people are not aware of the reporting requirements. But that is no excuse. As the old Latin maxim puts it: Ignorantia legis neminem excusat. Some have complained

that the government should post signs at the airport about the requirements. That is tantamount to asking the government to paste each page of the Penal Code on the walls of public buildings.

Others think that a person cannot take out or bring in more than \$10,000, so they try to hide it in their bra or other unmentionable garments. “This is my life’s savings, why can I not bring it with me,” a woman remonstrated. There is no prohibition against carrying more than \$10,000. However, it must be reported.

Others know about the reporting requirements. But they fail or refuse to make the report.

OPTIONS FOR VIOLATORS

When a person is charged with violating 31 USC § 5316, such person may (a) take no action in which case the government will initiate forfeiture proceedings, (b) file a petition for the remission of forfeiture before forfeiture proceedings are initiated, (c) make an offer in compromise before forfeiture

proceedings are instituted, (d) abandon the property or state that you have no interest in it, or (e) file a claim and request that the case be referred to the U.S. Attorney for court action.

It is best to consult an attorney with experience in these matters to determine the most feasible option. Our office has successfully represented persons charged with violating the reporting requirements.

CRIMINAL CONSEQUENCES

There are criminal consequences for violating 31 USC § 5316. Additionally, the violator could be charged with making false statements to a federal officer if the violator denied carrying more than \$10,000 and is found telling a lie.

Early this year, a Filipino senator’s wife was reportedly convicted of cash smuggling and conspiracy to structure monetary trans-

actions in Las Vegas. She claimed she was carrying \$10,000, but was found to have \$40,000 in her socks and luggage. After pleading guilty, she was sentenced to three years of probation, including five months home confinement, a fine of \$40,000, and forfeiture of \$159,700. The maximum penalty imposable was five-years imprisonment. Why did she not avail of the options available and avoid a criminal case? ■

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. Office: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270, AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.iluko.com.

HEADLINES (CONT.)

(cont. from page 6; ACTIVIST ...)

Gomes stress the need for immediate action on the immigration issue.

“Our focus is to remind [legislators] that this issue is very urgent,” Gomes said. “It has to be done now. Every day we wait, every day we remain silent, thousands of people get deported from the country.”

Gomes continued: “My parents have been deported, I haven’t seen them for about five years. I want everything to see my parents here.”

Gomes added that Jose is adamant about fighting for his family to stay in the country. He observes how close Jose is to his

family and he sees all of them work hard from day to day.

ABOUT FAMILIES

“It’s not about us, it’s about our parents; it’s about our families,” Gomes said. “It’s about all the hard-working people who otherwise pay taxes do everything else, but aren’t American on paper.”

Jose hopes that some form of relief will be passed sometime this year addressing immigration. For the time being, he will continue empowering people in the DC, Maryland and Virginia areas who are facing deportation. (globalnation.inquirer.net)

Personal Injury

Asbestos Mesothelioma

We can help you get justice.



Loreto M. Vilorio, Paralegal



- Auto Accidents
- Industrial Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Help you get to medical appts.
- Home and hospital visits
- Help with insurance forms
- Help you with legal forms
- Help with car and towing

If you’ve been seriously injured in an auto or industrial accident, please call Loreto M. Vilorio at our Waipahu office. He has over two decades of experience working with attorneys to help injury victims understand their rights and insurance procedures. We speak fluent Tagalog and Ilocano at our Waipahu office and treat every client like family. There is no charge for an initial consultation and no fee if there’s no recovery.

GARY GALIHER
GALIHER DEROBERTIS ONO
ATTORNEYS AT LAW / LAW CORPORATIONS

Call 24 hours Office: 676-5665 Cell: 227-2333

An Evening of Filipino-Style Jazz

FILIPINO-AMERICAN RECORDING ARTIST and cultural trailblazer Charmaine Clamor will perform in concert for one night only alongside Hawaii's Abe Lagrimas, Jr. on October 11, 2013 at the Leeward Theatre on the campus of Leeward Community College beginning at 8 pm.

Celebrated by The New York Times as "a gifted vocalist" and by The Los Angeles Times as "one of the important and original new jazz singers of the decade," Clamor introduced "jazzipino" to the world, a new

music style that blends American jazz with music from her beloved home country. Her artistry was featured on BBC's "The World" and NPR's "Weekend Edition," which described her music as "the perfect bridge of two cultures."

Originally from the provincial town of Subic-Zambales in the Philippines, Clamor immigrated to the U.S. as a teenager. She was discovered by the musical director of Crescendo, a vocal jazz harmony quintet, while singing Whitney Houston songs at a Filipino fried



chicken restaurant. Her many honors include the Asian Heritage Award in Performing Arts, Filipinas Entertainer of the Year, and recognition as one of the 100 Most Influential Filipinas in the U.S.

Lagrimas, Jr. is a talented, versatile multi-instrumentalist who originally hails from Waipahu. Predominantly known as a drummer, he is highly proficient on the vibraphone and the ukulele and continues to perform

throughout the world on all three instruments and in many different musical situations. His latest album "Solo Ukulele – The King of Pop" pays tribute to Michael Jackson showcasing unique solo ukulele arrangements of Jackson's music. It was recognized by Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts as the 2011 EP Release of the Year.

For more information about the one-night-only homecoming concert or to purchase tickets, go online to: lcctheatre.hawaii.edu or call 455-0380. ■

New Filipino Action Thriller Opens in Theatres Nationwide

THE LATEST FILIPINO CRIME THRILLER FILM "ON THE JOB" made its nationwide debut in U.S. theatres on September 27, 2013.

"On the Job" is based on the true scandal that rocked the Philippines where prison inmates were contracted by high-level politicians to temporarily leave jail and conduct a series of assassinations before returning to incarceration.

Directed by Erik Matti, the film made waves in the

international scene as one of 21 selected feature films screened in the Directors' Fortnight at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France from May 16-26, 2013. Though it did not win the Caméra d'Or prize, the film was well-received by viewers and given a two-minute standing ovation.

The action thriller features popular stars Piolo Pascual, Gerald Anderson, Rayver Cruz, Shaina Magdayao and Empress

Schuck, as well as veteran actors and indie favorites Joel Torre, Angel Aquino, Vivian Velez, Joey Marquez, Leo Martinez, Michael de Mesa, Al Tantay and Niño Muhlach.

A review by the "Hollywood Reporter" describes the film as a "likable, rough-edged hit men vs. cop thriller."

"On the Job" was co-produced by Reality Entertainment and Star Cinema, the film arm of ABS-CBN. The film was inspired by a



On The Job lead actors (L-R): Piolo Pascual as Francis, Joel Torre as Tatang, and Gerald Anderson as Daniel

real-life corruption case that involved prisoners being released for a day to work as assassins for politicians.

"On the Job" debuts lo-

cally at the Pearlridge West 16 Theatres at the Pearlridge Shopping Center. For show times, call the theatre at 483-5235. ■



Memorial Mass for Jorge Camara, M.D.

May 21, 1950 - August 28, 2013



SEPTEMBER 27, 2013, FRIDAY @ 11:00 A.M.

SAINT MARIANNE CHAPEL
ST. FRANCIS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM OF HAWAII
2226 LILIIHA STREET, HONOLULU, HI

'P50 M for Senators After Corona Trial'

by Christine MENDEZ/
Thursday, September 26, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - **SEN. JINGGOY ESTRADA CAME OUT SWINGING** yesterday, alleging that senator-judges received P50 million each in "incentives" after convicting Renato Corona and ousting him as chief justice in the impeachment trial last year.

Estrada tagged Senate President Franklin Drilon, at the time chairman of the finance committee, as the one who allegedly allotted the money, as reflected in a "private and confidential letter memorandum."

Drilon denied this and said he had not seen the letter.

"I have yet to see that letter mentioned by Senator Estrada. But if the insinuation is that the Department of Budget and Management and I gave out additional PDAF funds as incentives to those who voted to convict then chief justice Renato Corona, that is not true," Drilon said in a statement, referring to the Priority Development Assistance Fund or pork barrel.

Drilon said even Estrada acknowledged that any PDAF release came "after the conviction" and was not meant as a "bribe."

"I maintain that the senators voted according to their conscience and their impartial evaluation of the evidence presented during the Corona trial," Drilon declared. Both Drilon and Estrada voted for Corona's conviction.

In a privilege speech, Estrada also insinuated that fund releases were used by the administration to influence lawmakers in voting for the impeachment of Merceditas Gutierrez when she was the ombudsman.

Gutierrez resigned without waiting for the case against her to be tried by the Senate.

Estrada said Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, during her presidency, also used the PDAF to prevent several

impeachment cases filed against her from prospering at the House of Representatives.

No complaint against Arroyo, now on her second term as a Pampanga representative, ever reached the Senate.

Estrada did not present evidence to substantiate his claims. Instead he referred to a text message purportedly from Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, who allegedly warned that there would be no fund releases to certain congressmen if they did not vote for the impeachment of Gutierrez.



Sen. Jinggoy Estrada

He claimed fund releases were also used by the administration to push for the passage of the sin tax law. He voted against the measure.

He alleged that at the height of the debates on the measure, the secretary of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office offered

speedy fund releases to congressmen for the passage of the measure.

Last week, smarting over being singled out in the investigation of the pork barrel scam, Estrada had promised a "bombshell" in his privilege speech.

Yesterday, he challenged Abad to provide the documents needed by the Commission on Audit to assist the agency in its audit of the P155-billion PDAF released from 2007 to 2009.

Estrada said he was baffled by Abad's silence over the pork barrel controversy.

During his speech, Estrada also slammed Justice Secretary Leila de Lima for selective prosecution. "Selective justice is injustice," he said repeatedly.

"The media frenzy, the cry for blood and for the heads to roll has reached much intensity that it seems impossible now for those implicated to be given any just and fair treatment," Estrada bewailed.

He cited reports about the release of pork barrel funds at the height of the debates on the Reproductive Health (RH) bill.

"I will leave it to the people to create their own conclusion, whether this is true

(continued on page 10)

Making the connection between health and happiness

The Hawai'i Health Connector is here to help you find a health plan that matches your health and financial needs with in-person help, wherever you need it.

We're happy to meet you

Through our online health insurance marketplace, or in-person with a Kōkua, you can:

- Easily compare health insurance plans from multiple companies
- Find out if you qualify for savings through low or no-cost health plans
- Enroll once you find the plan that fits your needs
- Do it all in one place

Connecting with Kōkua

With Hawai'i Health Connector (the Connector) you'll be able to get all your questions answered in-person, over the phone or by chatting online. We are currently creating a statewide network of unbiased, trained and certified partners—whom we call Kōkua—to help you through the process face-to-face. And all assistance will be confidential and at no additional cost.

Who can use the Connector to purchase insurance?

Starting this Fall, residents of Hawai'i who are seeking affordable health insurance, will be able to compare plans from multiple companies and purchase health coverage through the Connector.

Call 1-877-628-5076

Connecting health and happiness.

@hiconnector

/HawaiiHealthConnector

@hiconnector

HAWAII' HEALTH CONNECTOR
hawaiihealthconnector.com

Scan or text HEALTH to 43766 for more information.

Open enrollment begins this Fall for coverage as early as January 2014.



kwhetv 14

OCEANIC CABLE, CHANNEL 11

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

For a Christian TV Station.

Broadcasting experience preferred but not required.

EEO Employer.

Send resume to: dkanyuck@lesea.com

BROADCAST ENGINEER

For a Christian TV Station.

Minimum 3 yrs experience in TV broadcasting.

EEO Employer.

Send resume to: mkemmerling@lesea.com

LOCAL AND NATIONAL INSPIRATIONAL PROGRAMMING

- SUPERIOR LIVING
- Pacific Revival Center
- HIS HIGHEST PRAISE
- Dr. Adrian Yuen
- VOICE OF ZION
- Lyons Welch
- TAP IN, NOT OUT
- Jay Amina
- WORD OF LIFE
- Art Sepulveda

SPORTS

Hawaii TV Bowling
HPU Basketball & Volleyball

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION

Go For It • Real Life 101 • NASA •
Ultimate Choice • Zone

BOOK'EM DANO

HAWAII 50

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
7 PM
THE BEST OF HAWAII
TV CLASSICS

For advertising, call

Tel: 538-1414 (office) • 255-4085 (cell)
or email: dkanyuck@lesea.com

I Feel Vindicated – Corona

by Edu PUNAY/
Thursday, September 26, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - **OUSTED CHIEF JUSTICE RENATO CORONA FEELS VINDICATED** by the claim of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) had offered P50 million each to several senators after his conviction.

In a text message to The STAR last night, Corona said: "I thank God for the vindication he had given me today."

Corona said he was not surprised at the revelation, adding that Estrada merely confirmed what he and many Filipinos had known all along.

"Since the start, I have said that the allegations of Malacañang against me are not true and all they said about me were lies," he said.

Speaking from his hospital bed, Corona said he knew the truth would eventually come out.

(cont. from page 5; '50 MILLION...)

or not," Estrada said. "But I can reveal that after the conviction of the former chief justice, those who voted to convict the former chief justice, those who voted to convict were allotted an additional P50 million."

But Estrada said he stood by his decision to convict the former chief justice.

In his speech, Estrada explained that lawmakers get to control public funds greater than the P200-million PDAF for each senator and P70 million per congressman.

During budget deliberations, he explained, the amounts are swollen through "congressional initiatives" or "budget insertions."

Lawmakers can also avail themselves of a so-called economic stimuli fund, above their PDAF, for other pet projects.

Drilon, in his statement, said that after the privilege speech, "Senator Estrada told me at the senator's lounge that he did not mean to say that the additional PDAF was a 'bribe'."

"Estrada said that he was standing by his decision to convict Corona and he was not influenced by any supposed incentive. He said the additional PDAF 'came after the fact of



Impeached chief justice Renato Corona during his Senate trial

"The exposé of Senator Estrada about what really happened during my impeachment trial is clear that the ouster of the chief justice was a violation of the Constitution," he said. Corona said his impeachment trial was a sham, and that it arose from the decision of the Supreme Court under his leadership to distribute the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac to farmers.

"This vindictive regime has continued to harass and persecute me and my family, using the entire government machinery and resources against one man who dared stand up to it," he said. (www.philstar.com) ■

the conviction'," Drilon declared.

Corona was convicted of betraying public trust for inaccuracies in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth.

HIT LIST

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada's promised bombshell was aimed at several of his colleagues and other government officials. Among those in his crosshairs yesterday were the following:

- Senate President Franklin Drilon
- Blue Ribbon chairman Teofisto Guingona III
- Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano
- Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV
- Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago
- Former senator Francis Pangilinan
- Former senator Manuel Villar
- Former senator and now interior chief Mar Roxas
- House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II
- Former An-Waray Rep. Florencio Noel
- Batanes Rep. Henedina Abad
- Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas
- Rep. Isidro Ungab
- COA Chairman Grace Pulido-Tan
- Budget Secretary Florencio Abad

(www.philstar.com) ■

Overseas Filipinos Threaten to Withhold Remittances to Protest Corruption

by Odette KEELEY

Editor's Note: Protests against corruption in the Philippines erupted last month over a "pork-barrel" scandal, in which a wealthy businesswoman colluded with high-ranking government officials to siphon off 10 billion pesos (\$233 million USD) from public coffers. The corruption, which spanned a decade and involved more than 28 legislators, came to light in July. Hundreds of protesters rallied in Quezon City yesterday, expressing outrage over officials allegedly misappropriating public funds to enrich themselves – money, they say, was made through the labor of Filipino workers in the country and abroad. These laborers pump back tens of billions of dollars into the country's economy by sending remittances to family members back home. Activists have called for an international zero remittance day on Sept. 19 in an attempt to flex their political muscle through their pocketbook.

New America Media News Anchor Odette Keeley spoke with Francis Calpotura, founder and executive director of the Transnational Institute for Grassroots Research and Action (TIGRA), with offices in Oakland, California and Manila. The group advocates for the rights and welfare of overseas workers.

Odette Keeley: *The Philippines is infamous for government corruption, so what makes this scandal different and why have protesters chosen to withhold remittances as a way to express anger over government corruption?*

Francis Calpotura: I think in general folks are outraged by the pork barrel scandal in the Philippines. Everyone knows that this happened, but that finally when it was brought to light — the extent of it, and the duration that it has been going on, reinforces the worst speculations that people have about the Philippine government. And people are manifesting that outrage in a lot of different ways, including this call by Migrante [International] on Sept. 19th. as a way for OFWs [Overseas Foreign Workers] to register their complaints about this intolerable exposure that has happened in the Philippines. The ZRD protest is part of the continuing exploration of how to match the economic power of the Filipino diaspora with political influence. Overseas Filipinos have played contributing (at times, central) roles in key

struggles, such as ousting the dictatorship in the 1980s to the passage of Overseas Voting Act in the past decade. So I am sympathetic to this ongoing exploration [of] how to wield power and influence by this sector.

Keeley: *Do you think the number of Filipinos supporting the campaign by withholding remittances will be extensive?*

Calpotura: There's no question that people want to act on this anger, and one of the ways that they can do so... is around their economic power, or the leverage that their economic power brings. If there's one thing we are sure about, it is that the economic impact of migrants is a fundamental and profound influence in the Philippine economy. It constitutes at least 15 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product] of the Philippines ... and it's only increasing as the years go on.

Keeley: *If participation on Zero Remittance Day were high, what potential impact could that have on the country's economy?*

Calpotura: According to the latest data from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas [an agency of the Philippine government], there [are] ... over 10 million Filipinos outside of the Philippines at this time, in about 183 countries. Four million of the 10 million reside in the United States, most of whom are not con-

tract workers. They're mainly immigrants, who have chosen to at least permanently stay in the U.S. as their new residence. The vast majority of overseas Filipinos... are, for example, in the Middle East or in Europe or in Australia. [They] are in those places [on] a 2-3 year contract, and then they have to go back to the Philippines after that contract is over. The data that I have on remittances to the Philippines is about \$23 billion (USD) that went through the Central Bank of the Philippines in 2012 alone, and that increased almost 10 percent from 2011. If that withholding of remittances happened around the world, if you took \$23 billion and [divided] that by 365 days, then you would get about \$63 million for each day on the average. But the trick here is that in fact they will just send their remittance the day before or the day after the scheduled ZRD protest.

Keeley: *Is there an estimate of the amount of remit-*



tances that Filipino professionals and immigrants in the United States might be sending to relatives back in their home country?

Calpotura: The most systematic study was done by Prof. Joaquin "Jay" Gonzalez III at [The University of San Francisco] about 5 years ago. He estimated that about 63 percent of Filipinos in the Bay Area send money at least eight times a year and the average amount is somewhere around \$250 each time.

There are about 40-50,000 Filipino newcomers that come to the U.S. from the Philippines every year. So that number keeps on growing. Newer immigrants, or those who have been in the country for about 15 years or less, tend to send back home more consistently.

Keeley: *Even though the Philippine government taxes remittances, Malacanang Palace [the Philippines' White House] said the* (continued on page 12)



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

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



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

Build A Rock® Solid Future

LIFE • AUTO • ANNUITIES

Tel. 808-935-1948
Ditas Guillermo Udani
Premier Agent
The Prudential Insurance Company
of America
CA State Lic#OD90884
www.freditas.udani@prudential.com



"I'll help you build your financial future on a strong foundation."



Growing and Protecting Your Wealth

Insurance and annuities issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark NJ and its affiliates.
"Availability varies by carrier by carrier and state."

0153198-00002-00 Exp. 12/2/10

Phl Heads UN Body on Status of Women

by Pia LEE-BRAGO
Monday, September 23, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - **THE PHILIPPINES HAS ASSUMED CHAIRMANSHIP** of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Philippine Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Libran Cabactulan has assumed the chairmanship of the Bureau for the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, a move that is seen as the international community's recognition of the Philippines' leadership.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of

women. Every year, representatives of member states gather at UN headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

In a statement, Cabactulan said that the Philippines is thankful for the "confidence placed by the international community" in an important UN body.

"The Philippines is honored by this position of leadership which recognizes the country's long-lasting and continuing commitment to gender equality and the advancement of women. Under the Philippines' lead-



ership, we will continue to build on the Commission's accomplishments and help ensure that current efforts contribute to a future of gender equality and empowerment of women," Cabactulan said.

The priority theme for the 58th session of the CSW, which will take place in March 2014, is "Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and

Girls."

Other members of the bureau for the 58th CSW session include Christine Loew (Switzerland), representing the Western European and other states group; Neli Shiolashvili (Georgia), representing the Eastern European states; Mohamed Elbahi (Sudan), representing the African states, and Carlos Garcia (El Salvador), representing the Latin American and Caribbean states.

The Philippines served as vice chair representing the Asia Pacific group during the 56th and 57th sessions of CSW.

It facilitated the agreed conclusions of the 57th session of CSW and played an instrumental role in breaking an impasse from 2003, when states were unable to reach common ground on ending violence against women and girls.

A record 146 UN member and observer states and 11 groups of states addressed the meeting.

Nearly 3,000 representatives of nongovernment organizations attended.

Media coverage in more than 50 countries was unprecedented, including a prominent editorial in The New York Times.

(www.philstar.com) ■

Q & A

(cont. from page 11; OVERSEAS ...)

campaign would do more to hurt families in the country than the government. What is your reaction to this?

Calpotura: It's a debate about whether people are going to withhold their remittances. Yes, they might withhold it for that one day, but their obligations to their families is such that they will send their money to their families. People send once a month, twice a month or in the case of Filipinos in the U.S., an average of eight times a year. In line with that, I take issue with what Malacanang Palace has said, it doesn't mean that if people withheld what they would have sent in that one day, that they're not going to send it. It's not punishing the

family. What Malacanang tries to minimize is that overseas Filipinos are trying to find how they can match their economic power with political influence. I consider this an important impulse that folks are still trying to get their footing on how to have a significant and profound political impact that's commensurate with their economic clout.

Keeley: Will the Zero Remittance Day protest be effective though if people can just send their money a day earlier or after?

Calpotura: The ZRD protest is a symbolic act that seeks to give expression to the anger and frustration of Filipinos abroad on the endemic corruption

of our political system. One clear manifestation of this corrupt system is to rely on labor export as the government's signature development policy in the past 40+ years. So Filipinos overseas have paid for this corrupt system with their bodies. They know it too well. So I can understand Migrante's call for withholding remittances in one day, as a way of unified action, as an exercise in collective unity, that can send a message. But to equate that with being able to change the course to what has happened in the Philippines and can reverse what has happened, to me it doesn't amount to that, because the practical impact of what they're doing, is not really

going to have the intended result in the Philippines. It doesn't really centrally address the corruption which is the issue at hand. If the [tax] which is levied on remittances coming into the country by the Central Bank of the Philippines has direct ties to the pork barrel funds in question, then I can see the leverage it generates. But it doesn't. Pork barrel funds are part of the overall budgeting process of government revenue collected from multiple sources. If you starve the government coffers, it doesn't necessarily mean that it will be taken out of the pork barrel funds. It might be taken out of more "undeserving" or "politically expendable" programs for the poor, for example.

Keeley: Are there other actions that overseas Filipino workers could take that you think would be more effective to protest government corruption?

Calpotura: I'm hoping for a campaign that targets the most egregious violators of this scandal...to look into what they own in the Philippines and abroad, including investments in real estate...and [other] industries that directly rely on diaspora dol-

lars, for example, shopping malls, cellphone/telecom gadgets, car dealerships, condo developers... and call for a genuine boycott of these companies.

Keeley: The Philippines is known for high levels of government corruption. What makes this latest scandal different and why was it a tipping point?

Calpotura: Sobra na. Tama na. Palitan na. (This is too much. This is enough. It's time to stop this.) This was our demand during the Marcos dictatorship. It's a similar sentiment that has surfaced 37 years later. It has also been stoked by...Philippine President Aquino III in going after former President Arroyo and other public officials accused of corruption or wrongdoing in government. I think these recent high-profile examples of championing anti-corruption and government transparency has raised the floor of what people expect of their politicians. This latest episode, with its brazenness and high-level corruption, has broached the cultural tipping point of what Filipinos expect of their public officials.

(www.asianjournal.com) ■

**Call Rey-Cel Travel
For The Lowest Fare
To Manila. (808) 871-6251**



**Listen To KPMW
The WILD 105.5 FM
(808) 871-6251
Request call (808) 871-6933**



Energetic young individual who can speak Ilocano and Tagalog (bilingual) to be a disk jockey of a radio station. Computer literate, radio experience, or will train. Fax resume to 808-871-5670.



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

USCIS Issues New Guidance on Same-Sex Marriage

Supreme Court decision in U.S. v. Windsor which declared Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) as unconstitutional and ensure that same sex couples are given the same immigration benefits as all other couples.

A U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident who is in a same-sex marriage can now file an I-130 petition on behalf of his/her same-sex spouse. The USCIS will adjudicate the petition and the visa application or adjustment of status in the same manner that it adjudicates a petition or application filed on behalf and by an opposite-sex spouse. Also, a U.S. citizen

who is engaged to a foreign national of the same sex may file a petition on Form I-129F on behalf of his/her fiancé/fiancée so long as other immigration requirements are satisfied.

The guidance further states that the validity of a marriage for immigration benefits is determined by the law of the place where the marriage took place and not the place of domicile. This rule is "subject to some limited exceptions under which federal immigration agencies historically have considered the law of the state of residence in addition to the law of the state of celebration of the marriage." However, this would depend on

"individual, fact-specific circumstances". Further guidance will be issued on this.

Same-sex marriage is presently recognized in the District of Columbia and 13 states, namely, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

The USCIS is currently in the process of identifying I-130 petitions which were denied after February 23, 2011 solely on the ground of DOMA and will attempt to notify petitioners that their cases will be reopened. However, petitioners are advised to email USCIS at USCIS-626@uscis.dhs.gov notifying the agency that their cases should be reopened. Additional evidence will be accepted during this process.

For those whose petitions were denied before February 23, 2011, it is required that petitioners email the agency at USCIS-626@uscis.dhs.gov before March 31, 2014 for the USCIS to reopen their cases. It will reopen all applications associated with the I-130 petition including

applications for adjustment of status and work authorization.

The USCIS guidance also clarifies that the spouse of a same-sex marriage is now eligible to benefit from the status as spouse accompanying a family sponsored or an employment-based immigrant or spouse of a nonimmigrant, asylee or refugee. Also, the effect of same-sex marriage on the qualifying relationship as a "child," "son or daughter," "parent," or "brother or sister" for immigration purposes will be the same as opposite-sex marriage.

The residency requirement for naturalization for the same-sex spouse of a U.S. citizen will be three years so long as the couple were living in marital union three years immediately preceding the filing of the N-400 application.

Eligibility for waivers of inadmissibility on the basis of the status as spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident also extends to the same-sex spouse and the case shall be adjudicated in exactly the same manner as those of opposite-sex couples. ■

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

MAINLAND NEWS

No Pinoys Hurt in Washington Navy Yard Shooting

WASHINGTON, DC – AN OFFICIAL IN THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DC confirmed that no Filipinos were among the 12 victims in Monday's deadly attack at the Washington Navy Yard.

"From initial reports we do not believe there were Filipino victims," a woman at the Philippine Embassy told the Asian Journal on Tuesday. She did not give her name since she was not authorized to discuss the situation.

According to the Associated Press, law enforcement officials believe Aaron Alexis, a 34-year-old former defense contractor, killed 12 people at the Navy Yard with an assault rifle before being gunned down by police.

The AP reports that the Navy reservist used a valid pass to get onto the installation and started firing inside a building.

The shooting was the deadliest on a military installation in the US since



the tragedy at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2009, according to the AP.

Investigators say his motive is a mystery.

There are more than 30 Fil-Ams among the 3,000 workers who work at the Navy Yard, according to Eric Lachica, a Washington DC-based Filipino World War II lobbyist.

Lachica said two of his friends were working at the Navy Yard at the time of the shooting.

The two women declined to be interviewed as per their bosses' request to not speak to the media.

Lachica said one Fil-Am in her 60s prayed during the whole ordeal.

The woman worked at building 197, just a few feet

away from building 200 where the shooting took place inside a cafeteria, he said.

"She went to church this morning and thanked God for keeping her safe," he said.

Lachica said his other friend worked at a dental facility inside the Navy Yard. He said she was stressed but relieved that the ordeal is over.

Lachica said both of the women, along with other workers were released last night at 8pm. Their bosses told them to not speak to media as authorities investigate the shooting.

Lachica said the latest shooting incident serves as a reminder that the government needs to push legislation for more responsible gun ownership.

Citing reports that the gunman, Alexis, was mentally unstable, Lachica said Filipinos as a community should also pay attention of family, friends and co-workers mental state, and look for warning signs. (www.asian-journal.com) ■

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



Board-certified ophthalmologist
U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Philippines
San Marcelino, Zambales
1988 to 1990
Tagalog and Ilokano spoken

SPECIALIZING IN:
•CATARACT AND LASER SURGERY
•COMPLETE EYE CARE
•EYEGASSES AND CONTACT LENSES
•CATARACT • GLAUCOMA • PTERYGIUM SURGERY

WAIPAHU MEDICAL CENTER
94-307 Farrington Highway, Suite B7a
Waipahu, HI 96797
808-678-0622



DAYASADAS

by Pacita C. SALUDES

Naballaigian ti panagtutugmok dagiti Mannurat nga Ilokano iti kaaldawan ti Labor Day babaen ti tinawen a rusat ti GUMIL HAWAII nga idauluan ni Mrs. Cirvalina Longboy a Presidente.

Nagrabrabii ti panagiinnadal dagitoy a mannurat ti Jesse's Restaurant. Daytoy ti umuna a napateg a gandat ti GH manipud pay nairusat idi January 16, 1971. Ti pannakaitandudo ti pagsasao nga lluko kien pannakaasa dagiti Mannurat nga Ilokano a mangiyebkas kadagiti paspasamak ken kapampanunotanda babaen iti pluma.

Adda dagiti nasanayen a Mannurat a nagisarita kadagiti bukodda a padas. Mainanama a rumegta dagiti agdadamo a Mannu-

rat babaen kadagiti mangngengda a wagas ti panagurnong a suratenda babaen dagiti wagas a naadalda iti daytoy nga aldaw.

Adda ti Presidente ti UFCH ni Jenny Quezon nga agsursurat kadagiti amin a warnakan a mangipakpakaammo kadagiti amin a damdamag kadagiti warnakan iti Hawaii a nangisarita kadagiti padasna. Adda pay ni Dr. Aida Martin ti narnuayan ti padas a mangisursuro kadagiti pagdalan ken nalaing met nga agsursurat kadagiti warnakan ken libro.

Ni Engr. Ric Agnes a nabayagen a Mannurat ken agdama a kolomnista ti Bannawag, ni Gladys Menor nga Anunciador ti K P H I R a d i o , sumasalaysay ken kuerdas ti GUMIL OAHU. Ni Amado Yoro a tuodan a Mannurat manipud pay idia Filipinas agingga ditoy Hawaii. Agur-urnong

kadagiti nainsiriban a wagas ti panagsuratan nga iyal-allatiwna kadagiti dipay makaammo ti kabaruanan a wagas ti panagsuratan, kadagiti agdadamo nga agsurat nga ILOKANO.

Nairana pay a sangaili iti Hawaii ti maysa a Mannurat, ni Mr. Norberto D. Bumanglag. Maysa a nobelista ken short story writer ti Bannawag ken nalatak a mannurat nga agnaed iti Mainland America ti nangisalaysay met ti padasna a nagsursurat.

Nagsarita met ni Cesar Bonilla, ti Presidente ti GUMIL HAWAII, kolomnista ti FIL-AM COURIER, Anunsiador ti KPHI Radio "Power Pinoy Sunrise" kadagiti padasna iti panagsuratan. Inlawlawagna met dagiti annuruten ti panangipublikar kadagiti warnakan. Iti daytoy a nagmalen, adda met a nakidanggay ken nagiburay kadagiti kapanunotanna ni dati a Miss Hawaii Filipina

Mrs. Emmie Ortega Anderson a pondador, CEO ti KPHI RADIO a pakaitantannayagan ti PINOY POWER iti intero a lubong. Dakkel nga inspirasyon ti naipaduyakyakna kadagiti Mannurat. Reyna ken mangidaulo a pagwadan ni PINOY.

Nagmalem met a pakinnadal ti nalatak a ken nasaririt a John De Los Santos nga akinkukua ti Citizen's Mortgage Corporation iti main America ken iti Hawaii. Isu ita ti mainanama a makaitungpal ti American Dreams ditoy America. Napateg met dagiti naiburayna kapampanunotan ken nagkameng payen ti AKA ken

GH. You are greatly welcome Apo De Los Santos.

Adda dagiti salusod ken sungbat a nagadalan dagiti Mannurat iti daytoy nga aldaw. Nasaludsod pay ni Leta Bayudan ti maysa a Mannurat maipapan ti panagsuratan iti daniw ken salaysay. Adu metten dagiti gapuanan ni Leta a nailibro.

Napili met ti Queen of Queens manipud kadagiti adu a rereyna nga agserserbi iti organisasion. Naipaay ti Banda a pamadayaw ken Adore Udani, Mrs. AKA (Annak ti Kailukoan 2011). Isu ita ti agdama a sekretaria ti GH ken AKA. ■

— MAINLAND NEWS —

Obama: Syrian Chemical Weapon Ban Must Be Enforced



UNITED NATIONS — **PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA CHALLENGED THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL** to hold Syria accountable if it fails to live up to pledges to dismantle its chemical weapons stockpiles. He said the United Nations' credibility and reputation is at stake.

"If we cannot agree even on this," Obama said, "then it will show that the United Nations is incapable of enforcing the most basic of international laws."

The United States and Russia earlier this month brokered an agreement to secure and destroy Syria's chemical weapons, thus averting a threatened US military strike to deter and degrade Syrian President Bashar Assad's ability to use the banned arms. Despite the agreement, Washington and Moscow remain at odds over possible consequences should Syria fail to comply.

"We believe that as a starting point the international community must enforce the ban in international weapons," Obama said in his address to the UN General Assembly.

The US-Russia agreement came as Obama was pushing Congress to approve a military strike against

(continued on page 15)

philstar.com
The Filipino Global Community

*shines even brighter
for the Filipino Global
Community*



Join us as we journey into a new home!



Log on to www.philstar.com

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND UNIT MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL, RE-AFFIRMATION AND INSTALLATION BANQUET • SUNDAY • October 6, 2013, 6 PM • Pacific Beach Hotel • For reservations and more information, please call Angie Santiago (542-1418), Baybee Hufana-Ablan (723-1473) or Loida Yamamoto (679-9540)".

UFCH MRS. HAWAII FILIPINA SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT • SUNDAY • October 13, 2013, \$60 Donation • Ala Moana Hotel • For details email pr.ufch@gmail.com

GLOBAL NAGUILIANDERS ALLIANCE NETWORK REUNION & DINNER DANCE • SATURDAY • October 26, 2013, 6 PM • Ala Moana Hotel • Contact: Eddie Baladad @ 341-5047

FILCOM CENTER'S 11TH ANNUAL GALA DINNER AND FUNDRAISER EVENT • SATURDAY • November 9, 2013, 5:30 PM • FilCom Center, Waipahu • Visit www.filcom.org for more information

UFCH REAFFIRMATION AND PROGRESS AWARDS • SATURDAY • November 23, 2013 • For details and nomination forms, email pr.ufch@gmail.com

50TH FOUNDATION & GALA CELEBRATION DINNER & BALL OF CABUGAO SONS & DAUGHTERS OF HAWAII • SATURDAY • December 7, 2013, 6 PM • Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa • Contact: Mercedes Sonico, 258-9573 or 842-7149

CLASSIFIED AD

Valbin Corporation is currently seeking **TS/SCI TAGALOG LINGUISTS** who are also fluent in Maguindanao and/or Maranao. Please send us your resume and salary requirements if interested at jobs@valbin.org

LAND SURVEYING RODPERSON NEEDED

Prefer experience but can train FT w/ some OT. Call (808)395-5476

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

FOR LEASE OFFICE SPACES LOCATED IN THE HEART OF WAIPAHU
 AVAILABLE IN 132, 230, 262, 524, 515, 530, 1,060 SQ.FT. NEAR BUS STOP EASY ACCESS TO THE FREEWAY
 For more information, please call **RENTAL MASTERS** @ 678-8930 or 284-4185

LEEWARD OAHU REHAB SERVICES
 ■ Work and No-Fault Related Injuries
 ■ Reconditioning
 ■ Orthopedic Evaluation and Rehabilitation
 ■ Neck Pain
 ■ Back Pain
(808)671-5928
 VILMA D. FUENTES
Registered Physical Therapist

GLOBAL NEWS

Philippines Seeks Intl Support for Rules-Based Approach to Resolve Dispute

THE PHILIPPINES HAS AGAIN CALLED ON the international community to help bring about an enduring peace in the Asia-Pacific region by expressing its support for the rules-based approach Manila has been advocating to resolve the overlapping claims in the West Philippine Sea.

"To support the Philippines in the path we have chosen to peacefully settle the West Philippine Sea dispute is to support a rules-based international order, where disputes are settled not through force or might but through an objective and just application of international law," Am-

bassador Cuisia told the Ambassador's Forum of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Ambassador Cuisia delivered his remarks a few weeks after the Philippines was told to formally present its case before the five-member Arbitral Tribunal at The Hague that was convened at Manila's request to resolve issues related to China's claim over the West Philippine Sea.

"The case we have lodged before the Arbitral Tribunal will be a building block towards the strategic landscape of the future," Cuisia says. "A victory for the rule of law will guarantee a rules-

based regional landscape, where all nations can grow and prosper together."

"We are counting on the international community to support not just the Philippines, but the primacy of the rule of law," Ambassador Cuisia said. "In expressing this support, you would have contributed significantly to shaping an enduring peace for the Asia-Pacific region."

While some would like to characterize the issue as a purely territorial dispute that should be resolved directly by the parties concerned, Ambassador Cuisia says the maritime row has far

reaching implications to the international community, in terms of respect for the freedom of navigation and commerce and the peaceful settlement of disputes. *(Philippine Embassy, Washington, DC)* ■

MAINLAND NEWS

(cont. from page 14; PHL..)

Syria for a chemical weapons attack last month on civilians outside Damascus, which the Obama administration contends was carried out by Assad's regime. With Congress appearing all but certain to withhold its approval, Obama did an abrupt turnaround and asked Secretary of State John Kerry to try a last-ditch diplomatic approach with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The subsequent diplomatic steps placed the threat of force on hold.

Kerry and Lavrov were meeting at the United Nations later yesterday to discuss how to enshrine the agreement in a binding Security Council resolution. They are to meet again at the UN on Friday with Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN-Arab League special envoy for Syria, to push ahead

with plans for a new international conference that would help form a Syrian transitional government.

Despite the chemical weapons deal, the Russians have challenged the administration's claims of Assad's culpability. Assad has blamed rebel forces for the attack.

Obama aggressively pushed back against those claims in his UN speech.

"It's an insult to human reason and to the legitimacy of this institution to suggest that anyone other than the regime carried out this attack," the president said.

Obama also said that while the international community has recognized the stakes involved in the more than 2-year-old civil war, "our response has not matched the scale of the challenge."

Obama also announced that the US will provide

\$339 million in additional humanitarian aid to refugees and countries affected by the Syrian civil war, bringing the total American aid devoted to that crisis to nearly \$1.4 billion. The White House said the aid will include \$161 million spent inside Syria for medical care, shelter and sanitation projects, with the remainder going to help Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt.

Obama reiterated his stand that Assad cannot continue to lead Syria, but said he would not use US military force to depose him.

"That is for the Syrian people to decide," he said. "Nevertheless, a leader who slaughtered his citizens and gassed children to death cannot regain the legitimacy to lead a badly fractured country."

He called on Assad al-

lies to stop supporting his regime.

"The notion that Syria can somehow return to a pre-war status quo is a fantasy," he said. "It's time for Russia and Iran to realize

that insisting on Assad's role will lead directly to the outcome that they fear: an increasingly violent space for extremists to operate." *(www.philstar.com)* ■

IMPORTS GIFT SHOP & MINI-MART

82 Ala Malama Street
 Kaunakakai Hawaii 96748
 PHONE NO: 553-5734

- Baskets, Lauhala Mats
- Books, Notecards
- Fine & Fashion Jewelry
- Groceries
- Handbags, Hats
- Hawaiiana
- Jewelry Repair, Resetting & Resizing
- Molokai Arts, Crafts, Supplies
- Philippine Products Dried & Frozen
- Quilts & Notions
- Refreshments
- Seashells
- Shoes & Accessories
- Sport & Dress Clothing
- Surfing Line
- Surfwear & Surfboards
- Sundries
- T-shirts, Sweatshirts



ONE STOP SHOPPING!

OPEN 7 DAYS
 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

NEW MIGHTY WINGS®

**Pangalan pa lang, bigatin na.
Dambuhala pa, pati sa lasa.**

Wing lovers rejoice. Narito na ang malaki, malinamnam na

wings na pinakahihintay mo. Ipinakikilala ang bagong

Mighty Wings mula sa McDonald's®. Talagang katakam-takam,

Mighty Wings are wonderfully crispy with the perfect kick.

Isang kagat lang, siguradong hahanap-hanapin mo.

Kaya bilisan mo na, sandali lang merong Mighty Wings.



L I M I T E D T I M E



i'm lovin' it®