

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

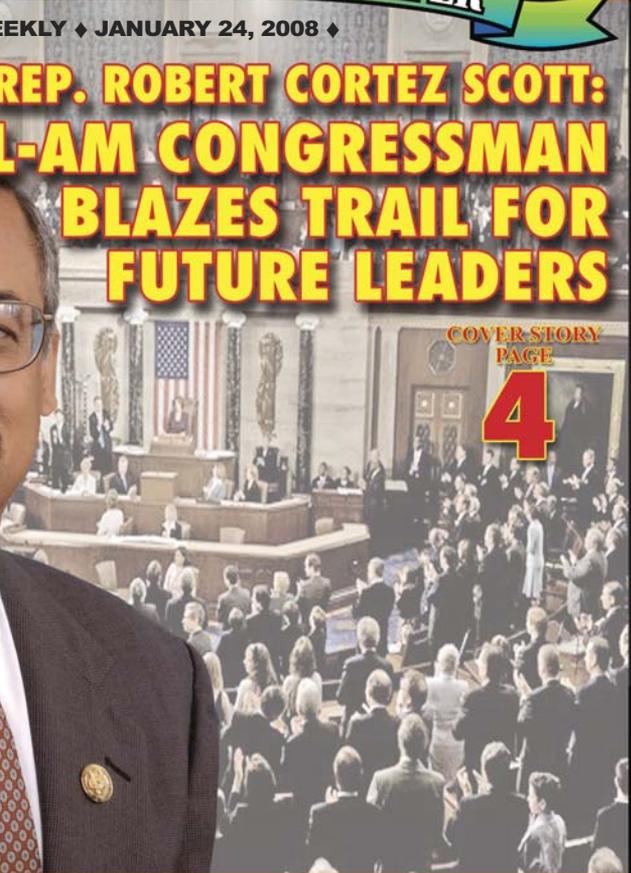
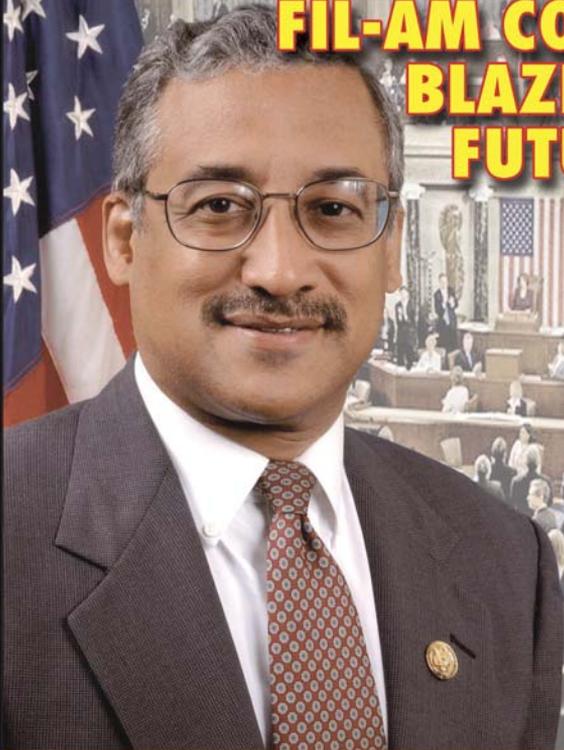
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ JANUARY 24, 2008 ◆

U.S. REP. ROBERT CORTEZ SCOTT: FIL-AM CONGRESSMAN BLAZES TRAIL FOR FUTURE LEADERS

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EDITORIAL

Can Hawaii Follow Virginia and Ohio?

While the world's attention was riveted to television sets for Barack Obama's swearing in ceremony last week, far less people took notice as two Congressman from Virginia and Ohio joined their colleagues in an oath taking ceremony two weeks earlier.

The two are Robert Cortez Scott and Steve Austria. They hold the distinction of being the first two U.S. legislators of Filipino descent elected to Congress. The former was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, while the latter won his election in 2008. Their victories may reflect the growing acceptance and respect for minorities in the U.S., coupled with Obama's popularity.

Still, it's difficult to explain how voters in two states with rather paltry Filipino populations were able to send these two to Congress, when Hawaii, with its sizeable number of Filipinos, has been unable to do so. While the Filipino community in the Aloha State does have its share of firsts—Peter Aduja being the first Filipino-American elected to office in 1955 and Ben Cayetano being the first Fil-Am to be elected governor of a U.S. state in 1994—lately it seems that we've hit the proverbial ceiling.

If we are to send one of our own to Congress, the Filipino community needs to continue pressing forward. We should start putting forth the same amount of effort into political matters as we do into our social gatherings and beauty pageants.

We should also wholeheartedly support candidates of Filipino ancestry—not just during election time. We should be politically involved year-round on the many issues that affect us, our pocketbooks and our quality of life. If we do, breaking through the ceiling may simply be a matter of time.

Goodbye Bush, Hello Obama

The now former president rode, make that flew, into the sunset aboard a marine copter one final time at the conclusion of the inauguration ceremony in D.C. for successor and Hawaii's favorite son Barack Obama. Despite the repeated handshakes and gracious thank-you's, many words in Obama's aural speech must have stung the former president.

Nevertheless, the final chapter in the Bush presidency can at last be closed. While staunch Bush supporters say his presidency and accomplishments went underappreciated, he will perhaps go down as one of the most unpopular U.S. presidents ever.

As with any new beginning, hope springs ever eternal. The task before the new president is daunting, considering that the nation is grappling with an unpopular war and a looming economic crisis not seen since the Great Depression.

For the time being, though, even such daunting matters can wait while minorities, Filipinos included, bask in the euphoria and dawn of a new era—that of the 44th and first ever African-American to hold the highest office in the land.

In his speech, the new president urged downtrodden Americans to pick themselves up, dust themselves off and begin the work of remaking America—starting today. Obama ran on a campaign of change, which many bought into. If you believe and support the president, you would do well to realize that the process starts not by changing others, but yourself. That's when change can and truly will begin.

FROM THE PUBLISHER



Welcome to the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's second issue of 2009! Some of you may be wondering when the recent cold weather will start to warm up. Before you complain any further, just remember that on the mainland, temperatures have been near freezing. Nevertheless, we hope you've managed to stay nice and warm despite the frigid, sub 70-degree temperatures.



Speaking of warmth, many Hawaii residents experienced a nice, farm fuzzy feeling while watching President Obama's inauguration. Even if you didn't vote for him, you've got to admit at least feeling a bit of pride for the former Hawaii boy. The eyes of the entire nation and the world will be watching him closely, particularly during his first 100 days in office.

Our cover story for this issue, written by Daniel de Gracia, II, is about Robert Cortez Scott, a Virginia legislator who holds the distinction of being the first Filipino-American elected to Congress. Joining Rep. Scott as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives is Rep. Steve Austria from Ohio, who handily defeated his opponent in the November 2008 election. De Gracia offers many gems for young aspiring political candidates and for the Filipino community with his exclusive interview with U.S. Rep. Scott. Please read more on pages 4-5.

On page 6, we have a profile story of Joy Malbog, an up-and-coming film star from Kapolei who has already starred in several Tagalog movies. What readers will find inspiring is Malbog's willingness to help the less fortunate. She started a scholarship foundation in the Philippines to help struggling parents pay for their children's tuition. She also helps children in the Philippines who are suffering from cancer. Mahalo, Joy, for your community service and aloha spirit. We wish you all the very best in your acting career!

We hope you will take time to read these and other articles of interest in this jam-packed issue, articles such as Legal Notes, Immigration Guide and Philippine Language. Thank you once again for your support of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! Until next time.....

Aloha and Mabuhay!

Charla A. Montesinos-Sonido

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

Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesinos-Sonido

Associate Editors
Dennis Galolo
Edwin Quinabo

Creative Designer
Jungzjo Peralta

Design Consultant
Randall Shiromata

Photographer
Tim Liena

Administrative Assistant
Shallmar Pagulayan

Columnists
Carlota Ader
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Carlo Cadiz, M.D.
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Rosemerie Mendoza
J.P. Orlas
Paquita Saludes
Charlie Sonido, M.D.
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Felfino S. Tubera
Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

Contributing Writers

Calvin Alonzo, O.D.
Rowena Ballesteros
Clement Bautista
Linda Dela Cruz
Constante A. Domingo
Danny De Gracia
Amelia Jacang, M.D.
Caroline Julian
Albert Lanier

Ashley Monfort
Paul Melvin Paladay, M.D.
Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.
Glenn Wakai

Philippine Correspondent
Giff Franco

Big Island Distributor
Elmer Acasio
Ditas Udani

Maui Distributor
Cecile Piroso

Molokai Distributor
Maria Watanabe

Advertising/Marketing Director
Chona A. Montesinos-Sonido

Account Executives
Carlota Ader
J.P. Orlas

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MAYOR'S COLUMN



By Mayor Mufi Hannemann

A Year Honolulu Moved Forward

will provide a transportation alternative we all need, while creating thousands of jobs to help sustain our struggling economy.

Our holiday celebrations were a great success this year, and many of you visited Honolulu Hale and Kapolei Hale for our annual City Lights events, or enjoyed one of the Christmas parades in your neighborhoods. Thank you to everyone who participated.

We all face new challenges in 2009, and we'll certainly be tightening our belts at Honolulu Hale. But we will remain committed to keeping Oahu safe and clean, and to maintaining our public parks and vital infrastructure.

We're also continuing to improve our popular ferry service between Kalaheo and Aloha Tower, called TheBoat. We recently added a new ves-



The three Sumatran Tiger cubs born at the Honolulu Zoo have been named Malosi, Keahi and Tondi. Mayor Hannemann invites everyone to visit them and welcome them to our ohana.

sel to our small fleet: The 81-foot Catalina Adventure, which was built last year and is expected to be more comfortable and reliable than the older vessel that has plied the route since we launched ferry service 16 months ago.

The Catalina Adventure is also more fuel efficient and provides a more comfortable

ride. The vessel will replace the 20-year-old Rachel Marie. A third vessel, the Melissa Ann, will remain.

We've worked very hard to provide commuters with pleasant alternatives to clogged freeways and traffic jams, and we look forward to smooth sailing with the Catalina Adventure.

TheBoat has carried more than 83,000 passengers since service began in September of 2007. Each ferry can carry up to 149 passengers per trip, and includes a snack bar, restrooms and free Wi-Fi access for laptop computers.

The ferries are integrated with a network of feeder buses that carry passengers to and from the piers at each end, connecting communities as far away as the Leeward Coast with final destinations such as Waikiki and the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Passengers pay a single fare to ride the

ferry and buses. The adult fare is \$2.

In August of 2008, we expanded the bus service to Makaha, and to Kaupae and Kapolei Knolls in Kapolei.

Passengers may also be dropped off at the piers, and there are 23 free parking stalls available at the Kalaheo pier on a first-come-first-available basis for vehicles arriving with two or more occupants. More free parking is available nearby at the Kapolei Home Depot parking lot along the Kapolei Parkway frontage, connected to the pier by a shuttle bus.

For further information, including schedules for TheBoat and TheBus routes, go to www.trytheboat.com.

In other good news, our zoo's three Sumatran Tiger cubs - Malosi, Keahi and Tondi - are now more than three months old and doing great. Please visit them at the zoo and welcome them to our ohana.

These cubs are the first tigers to be born at the zoo in 27 years. Their parents are Christie and Berani, who are part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan for Sumatran Tigers, a structured breeding program designed to maximize genetic variability in the captive population. We're very proud to participate in this effort to ensure that these magnificent creatures survive and prosper.

Happy New Year and *Manigong Bagong Taon!* The past year presented many challenges, but we moved forward by working together and staying focused on our goals.

We experienced a ferocious rainstorm that damaged and destroyed homes and other property in December, but we worked together to make repairs and clean up the mess.

Our rail transit project is firmly on track, thanks in large part to support from the Filipino community. Most of you clearly recognized that rail

CASH BY FAR THE MOST POPULAR GIFT FOR '08 HOLIDAY SEASON

A recent survey by a leading money remittance company shows that the most popular gift of choice among consumers during the past holiday season was cold hard cash.

According to Western Union, 65 percent of Americans preferred to receive \$100 in cash, rather than a specific present or gift card of the same value. Of the 65 percent, more than half (54 percent) would have used the money on basic living expenses such as gas, groceries and bills—while 14 percent admitted that they would have spent it on a treat for themselves.

Western Union executive vice president Stewart A. Stockdale says that the sluggish economy forced consumers to rethink their budget for the holidays.

"People view cash gifts as a way to control spending and stay within their budgets, while providing loved ones with a financial boost," Stockdale says. "Either way, cash was clearly the 'must have' gift."

Stockdale noted that the popularity of giving gift cards dropped as the 2008 Holiday Season neared and as the economic crisis hit. Two months before Christmas, 40

percent of respondents planned to give gift cards. That figure dropped to 30 percent.

"It was a dramatic drop," Stockdale says. "All of that told me that in these economic times, frivolity was out and practicality was in during the holidays."

The survey also revealed the following:

- 62 percent of households with incomes of less than \$50,000 were likely to give cash
- 53 percent of households with incomes higher than \$50,000 were likely to give cash
- 65 percent said they often end up spending more on gifts than they had planned.
- 59 percent said they would be sending gifts to people they won't see in person.

"For those who send gifts to people they won't see in person, the gift of cash via a money transfer with Western Union can be the ideal way to give their loved ones exactly

what they're hoping for," Stockdale says.

To further enhance consumers' gift giving experiences during the holidays, Western Union is featuring online community areas where consumers can share gift stories relevant to each of the major holidays and can send free electronic greeting cards to family and friends.

Western Union provides three simple options for sending the gift of cash: by visiting any of the more than 320,000 Western Union Agent locations worldwide; calling 1-800-CALL-CASH; or logging onto www.westernunion.com.

Western Union has partnered with Filipina YouTube sensation Happy Slip, Christine Gambito, on five video series incorporating a Western Union Money transfer. Her YouTube videos consistently rank high among most viewed Filipino and Filipino American viewers. To see her videos, please visit www.youtube.com and search key words: Happy Slip "Fragile" or Happy Slip "More



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In Step With U.S Representative Robert Cortez Scott: First Filipino Congressman

By Danny de Gracia, II

In "Crisis, Danger, Opportunity: Filipinos Prepare for 2009"—the cover story for the January 10th edition of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle—persons of Filipino heritage are making a difference all across America.

One such person of mixed Filipino descent who is touching lives amidst troubling times is U.S Congressman Robert Cortez Scott from Virginia's third congressional district.

Scott, whose maternal grandfather Valentin Cortez Hamlin is a Filipino, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992 and has been a rising star ever since.

Born on April 30, 1947 in Washington, D.C., Scott grew up in Newport News, Virginia and graduated from Groton High School. He later went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in political science from Harvard in 1969 and then a Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School in 1973.

He then served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1970-1974 and later in the history-rich ranks of the Massachusetts National Guard from 1974-1976.

Scott first entered politics in 1977 when he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates and in 1982 to the Virginia Senate. As a Virginia legislator, Scott championed numerous causes in the areas of tax credits to businesses that provide social services to the community,

healthcare access and raising the minimum wage.

In 1992, Scott was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and earned the distinction of not only being the first ever elected U.S. Representative of Filipino descent, but also the first person of African-American heritage since Reconstruction to be elected to office. Since then he has been re-elected seven times.

Scott, who is presently the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security as well as a member of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, recently granted an interview with the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. He shared his insights on several key issues for 2009, community service and advice for prospective candidates to elected office.

Major Challenges Ahead

Several major challenges,

both national and international, lay ahead for lawmakers in 2009. First and foremost, Scott believes, is the economy.

"We have the worst economy by just about any measure since the depression," he says. "Getting the economy back on track and our nation's budget back on track will be the biggest challenges this year."

Other key challenges include:

- Healthcare: there are a more people without healthcare access today then there were 10 years ago.
- Education: the U.S. House of Representatives hopes this year to renew the No Child Left Behind policy.
- Crime: a more proactive approach to both reduce crime and prevent crime is needed.
- The environment: There are also pressing issues that we face, such as global warming.
- Foreign policy: the U.S. has the worst image that we've had in years. President Barack Obama and (Secretary of State) Hillary Clinton will work on improving the nation's tattered image.

A Career in Elected Office

Upon graduating from law school, Scott became actively involved in several organizations. His involvement opened his eyes to the many challenges facing the community, particularly in the areas of housing, employment, and criminal justice.

"Our elected representatives weren't meeting those challenges," Scott says.

Some may aspire to become a politician but the unpredictability of politics makes it nearly impossible to plan for such a career. According to



"We have the worst economy by just about any measure since the depression. Getting the economy back on track and our nation's budget back on track will be the biggest challenge this year."— U.S CONGRESSMAN ROBERT CORTEZ SCOTT

Scott, it's pretty much hit-and-miss.

"Sometimes a candidate might have the right issue platform for the right time, but it isn't acceptable by voters living in the district they're running in," he says. "Other times there may be incumbents who are difficult to defeat. Sometimes [getting into office] is a matter of being able to recognize opportunities as they emerge."

However, if a political career is not in the cards for you, you can still make a difference in your community, Scott says.

"The important thing is to get involved in your community and in organizations and to find out how the issues and concerns you have can be addressed," he says. "There are many ways to serve, not just in elected office, but also on boards and commissions. It's important to determine what you feel called to do

and to always give back to the community."

The Future of Filipino Leadership

Hawaii's Filipinos who have an interest in national elected leadership should take to heart several pointers from Rep. Scott, who says that persistence, timing and the will to keep on dreaming and keep on serving others is sometimes what it takes to get over the hump and into office.

Scott first ran for U.S. Representative in 1986 but lost by 17,349 votes to Republican Herbert Harvell Bateman in Virginia's District 1 race. Six years later, Scott won by an overwhelming 96,652 votes more than his opponent, carrying 79 percent of the electorate.

The message to be learned, Scott says, is that delays are not to be interpreted as denials of





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dreams but that hard work and endurance really do pay off in the long run.

Filipinos can take heart knowing that more and more of their brethren are assuming leadership roles at Capitol Hill. Just last November, another Filipino was added to the ranks of the U.S. Congress with the election of Steve Austria from Ohio's seventh congressional district. Austria is the second person of Filipino descent elected to office in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Austria won with 58 percent of the electorate, defeating Democratic challenger Sharen Neuhardt. His father Clement Austria of Tiaong, Quezon fought as a guerrilla in the Second World War.

The lesson that Filipinos should learn from the success of U.S. Rep. Scott and more re-

cently U.S. Rep. Austria is that in America, dreams often come true for those who are willing to make the courageous choice to keep on dreaming despite what may often seem to be impossible odds.

In fact, Filipinos with the humility to serve and the vision to lead should recognize that America is in need of their talents now more than ever before.

Sarah Hunt, host of the television show Better Government recently commented, on the topic of Filipinos running for office, that vision is critical in these times of turmoil.

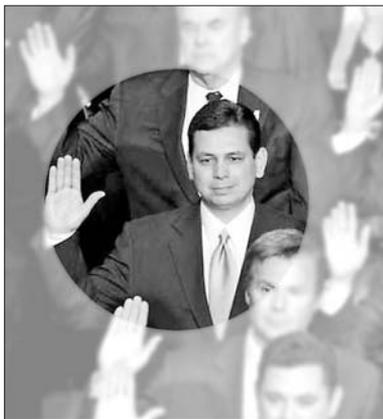
"The people of America are hurting in these economic times and are looking for a leader to connect with them and reflect their true needs," Hunt said.

"We need candidates who reflect the voice of Americans and who will provide the right

kind of change. They need to see real change as a part of their candidate's vision. Not just any change, but the right kind of change, for not all change is good. They want change that will bring a higher quality of life for all Americans. Change that will bring back passion and leadership to the halls of government. Change that will fight corruption and change that will bring much needed reform."

Filipinos should make every effort to follow in the footsteps of men like Robert Cortez Scott and Steve Austria, because there is an entire nation in desperate need of their talents.

It's time for Filipinos to follow the path that has been paved by sacrifice, and to lay down new paths not just to tomorrow, but also to victory.



Congressman Steve Austria (R - Beaver Creek) was sworn in as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives last November 2008

LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION

Dealing with Our Fireworks Problem



By Senator Will Espero

On New Year's Eve, I drove from Kaimuki to Ewa Beach at 11pm. The amount of illegal aerials which I saw was huge. Moreover, it was the most illegal aerials I had ever seen. The areas of Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa had the most smoke and illegal aerials during my drive.

As I speak with residents throughout Oahu, the verdict is mixed about the solutions to our problems. Residents, however, are irritated and angry about loud bomb-like explosions, irresponsible popping at odd hours of the day and night, and the blatant disrespect of the law that some people have.

The illegal aerial fireworks displayed throughout Oahu this New Year celebration highlighted a major problem within our state: the ease of importing illegal explosives to Hawaii. Throughout Oahu, I have heard and read of illegal fireworks activity with very little if any law enforcement involved to stop it. From a social, cultural, or recreational point of view, one may state it's a once a year celebration. It's no big deal. From the

perspective of asthmatic individuals, pet owners, elderly and children, public safety personnel, and others, it's a situation that has gotten out of hand. Who is smuggling in these illegal aerial fireworks and how are they doing it?

This is not a matter of differing personal preferences. There is a much larger issue at stake: our own safety and security. If it is so easy to smuggle illegal fireworks to our state, it is probably easy to smuggle a dirty bomb or other explosives. This makes the situation a homeland security threat, and our state must develop a plan or action to better inspect and secure our airport and harbor cargo and to stop the illegal importation of explosives.

As it currently appears, one could easily import illegal explosives which could do horrific damage to Hawaii. The damage to our tourism industry and economy would be devastating if a bomb or other explosives were detonated in a hotel or at a tourist destination. Our military installations and infrastructure would also be in jeopardy.

To address this situation, I have introduced a bill to establish the Illegal Fireworks Task Force. The Task Force will meet at least 5 times between June 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009. The mission of the task force will be to develop a plan and make recommendations to better secure our harbors, airports, and

state from imported illegal explosives/fireworks and to address the gaping holes or flaws in our system which have allowed illegal fireworks to be heavily used and distributed in Hawaii.

My preference would be to have the Department of Transportation provide administrative support for the task force since our harbors are the most likely points of arrival for illegal explosives. Member organizations to be invited to be a part of the task force are HPD, State Fire Council, FBI, DEA, state harbors rep, state airport rep, Department of Defense Rep, airport general or rep, Coast Guard, Dept. of Homeland Security and one member each appointed by the governor, House Speaker, and Senate President.

A preliminary report would be submitted to the State Legislature by January 10, 2010.

Some have called for a total ban of fireworks in our state except for public displays. I do not believe the votes are present in the Legislature for passage, however, I have introduced measures to combat our fireworks problems.

Two measures I have introduced would reward residents who help law enforcement combat illegal explosions (bomb-like) or aerials. One measure will give a monetary reward of \$1000 for anyone who provides

information which leads to the arrest and conviction of sellers or dealers of illegal aerials. I am only aware of two individuals who were recently arrested for the sale of illegal aerials, and this number must increase. If sellers have no fear of arrest, they will continue their illegal criminal activity.

The second bill would create a Crimestopper-like program for those who turn-in people who are engaged in illegal fireworks activity. Anonymity is important with Crimestoppers, and I believe anonymity would

help catch some of those individuals who are popping fireworks at the wrong hours of the day or right after Thanksgiving for example.

If anyone has any ideas or thoughts on the fireworks situation in Hawaii, please feel free to contact my office at 586-6360 or senespere@capitol.hawaii.gov. Celebrating our holidays is important for island residents but the recent New Year's eve celebration has triggered calls from our constituents to address the fireworks problems which appear to be getting out of control.

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Rising Film Star Looks Forward to Bright 2009

By Caroline Julian

The New Year has just begun and for Kapolei's Sheena Joy Malbog, it's already looking busy.

There are two movies she expects to have a role in this year. Both movies don't have official titles yet, and each takes anytime from a week to about 12 months to film, depending on how big the production.

Along with working in movies, Malbog also hopes to launch a talk show in the Philippines similar to the ones by Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres and Tyra Banks in the U.S. In fact, she's still searching for sponsors of her show.

"I want to give the people of the Philippines the opportunity just like how Oprah, Ellen, and Tyra provide for those here in America. They've helped to change lives and I want to do

the same," said the 24-year-old Malbog who already has two Tagalog flicks on her resumé.

Her first foreign film was entitled, "Ay Ayeng," which was about a young girl named Ayeng whose dreams of becoming a teacher were hindered by military oppression. But she was able to make her dreams come true with the help of a friend named Karen, a photo-journalist from Hawaii played by Malbog.

In her second movie entitled "Medalya," Malbog plays another character also named Karen. This time, she is the daughter of a military general. The theme of family values is sprinkled throughout the movie.

Malbog spoke English in her first movie role but for the second, she tackled speaking Tagalog for the first time on screen.

Although not bi-lingual yet, she's overcoming the language barrier through speaking "Tag-



Malbog poses with children at an elementary school in Urdaneta, Pangasinan where she has started a scholarship foundation. Her scholarships help struggling parents pay for their children's early stages of schooling.

lish" (Tagalog mixed with English).

"Growing up, I heard my parents talking in Ilocano and Tagalog. I somehow made myself learn and understand the language but I could never figure out how to speak it. When I went to the Philippines last year (June 2008-October 2008), I learned more Tagalog and how to speak it properly. I'm not fluent, but I'm trying hard," says Malbog, who has a younger

brother and whose parents are originally from Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

When not working on films, Malbog, who was born in Oahu and graduated from St. Francis School, splits her time between Hawaii and the Philippines working on various projects.

She has a scholarship foundation in her parents' hometown, where she sponsors tuition, books and uniforms for 12 elementary students.

She also wants to help children with cancer. She is soliciting help from her acting colleagues to join her in bring-

ing smiles to the kids by having a "Party Day" for them at a Philippine hospital.

Malbog admits getting bit by the volunteerism and humanitarian bug when she got involved in community service as a student at St. Francis. She continued giving to the community as a volunteer for HUGS (Help Understanding Group Support), while attending Hawaii Pacific University.

In Hawaii, Malbog has a radio talk show called T&YA: Teens & Young Adults, where a person in that age group can openly discuss issues they're facing. It airs on KPHI FM 101.5, AM 1130, and on Digital Cable Channel 882, every Wednesday and Saturday from 4 pm-6pm.

Along with her other projects, Malbog's passion lie with trying to make a difference in the lives of people in the Philippines.

"I can see that Filipinos have a lot of potential. They are a hard working and dedicated people. In America, we already have all the resources available, but outside of America people are still fighting for their freedom, fighting to survive—taking whatever little thing they have to survive day by day. If I can make that difference, just like Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres, and Angelina Jolie, even if it's just one—that one can turn into a million by everyone just doing one good deed."

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SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

"Retire Online. It's So Easy!"

By Jane Yamamoto-Burigsay

Social Security has a new online retirement application and a new celebrity spokesperson to help spread the word.

You can apply for retirement benefits from the comfort of your home or office at www.socialsecurity.gov. There's no need to drive to your local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative. You can complete the new online retirement application in as little as 15 minutes. It's so easy!

In most cases, after you click the "Sign Now" button and submit the application electronically, that's it. There are no forms to sign, and usually no additional documents are required. Social Security will contact you directly if more information is needed.

Award-winning actress Patty Duke has volunteered her services to let people know they can retire online. Ms. Duke has brought back the much beloved identical cousins Patty and Cathy Lane from the hit 1960's sitcom "The Patty Duke Show" for a series of Public Service Announcements that tell Americans it's now easier than ever to apply online.

If you are uncertain about when to retire, you can check out the online fact sheet, "When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits." And if you are not ready to retire, you can plan for retirement using Social Security's online Retirement Estimator (italicize please). It is a great financial planning tool that will give you an immediate and personalized estimate of how much your retirement benefits would be if you stopped working at age 62, age 66, age 70 or any point in between.

To learn more about retiring online as well as to watch the new Public Service Announcements, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/pattyduke.

IMMIGRATION GUIDE

10 Commandments on How to Obtain Adjustment of Status



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Adjustment of status is the process by which an alien who is physically present in the United States converts his or her nonimmigrant status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence without having to leave the United States.

It is distinguishable from change of status which is the process by which an alien lawfully admitted to the United States changes his or her nonimmigrant classification to another nonimmigrant classification.

To successfully obtain ad-

justment of status, the following 10 Commandments must be followed. However, complying with these 10 Commandments does not automatically result in obtaining approval of an application for adjustment of status, since the approval of an application for adjustment of status is discretionary with immigration authorities.

1. Applicant must read all the laws, regulations, instructions, and precedent decisions relating to adjustment of status, including those pertaining to particular nationalities or classes of aliens, as may be relevant, especially Immigration and Nationality Act Section 245, 8 CFR Part 245, and Instructions to Form I-485 and other required accompanying forms.

2. Alien must be physically present in the United States and in lawful status, subject to certain exceptions.
3. Alien must have been admitted or paroled into the United States after inspection by an immigration officer, subject to certain exceptions.
4. Alien must be petitioned by a qualified relative, such as a spouse, adult son or daughter, or parent, who is a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident alien.
5. Relationship between the petitioning relative and the alien beneficiary must be bona fide.
6. Alien must be eligible to receive an immigrant visa and is admissible to the United States and must not be excludable or removable, subject to applicable

- waivers.
7. A visa must be immediately available at the time of filing the application for adjustment of status.
8. A complete I-485 application package with the required accompanying forms and supporting documents together with the correct amount of filing fees must be filed with the appropriate USCIS office.
9. Alien must pass a medical examination, subject to certain exceptions, and must have his or her biometrics taken by a USCIS Application Support Center at the appointed date, time, and place.
10. Alien must pass a personal interview by an immigration officer, although the interview may be waived in the case of a child under the age of 14, or when the

USCIS determines that an interview is unnecessary.

(ATTY. TIPON has won all deportation cases he handled and obtained approval of all visa petitions he has filed. He is from Laaog City. He has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service," an 8-volume practice and procedure guide for immigration officers and lawyers. He specializes in immigration and criminal defense. Office at 905 Umi St. corner N. King, Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96819. Tel. (808) 847 1601. Fax (808) 847 1624. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com. Listen to the most interesting and humorous radio program on Hawaii radio KNHI 1270 every Friday 7:30-8:00 AM. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice for any specific person or situation. Neither the writer nor publisher warrant the completeness or accuracy of the information provided herein at the time of publication.)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Filipina Heads Local Chapter of American Chemical Society

Dr. Leticia Colmenares, an associate professor of chemistry at Windward Community College, was recently elected chair of the American Chemical Society (ACS)-Hawaii Section. The ACS is the world's largest scientific society with over 160,000 members and is the leading publisher of peer-reviewed journals of chemistry and related sciences. The Hawaii Section was chartered in 1922 and currently has about 250 members.



Dr. Leticia Colmenares

Dr. Colmenares is the first Filipino to head this group. She obtained her Bachelor's degree (magna cum laude) from the Mindanao State University and her Master's from the University of the Philippines. She received her PhD in chemistry from the University of Hawaii-Manoa as an East-West Center grantee.

A productive researcher, Leticia has over 25 scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals. She has received research grants, presented at various local, national and international conferences and is a recipient of the 2003 UH Board of Regents' Excellence in Teaching Award as well as the W Learning Champion Award. She was nominated to

Who's Who Among America's Teachers from 2004-2005 and Who's Who Among American Women in 2007. She was recognized for her achievements in the teaching and scientific fields by various Filipino organizations and has received commendations from the Hawaii State Senate and House of Representatives.

Dr. Colmenares is actively involved in college and community activities. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA). She coordinates the WCC Community Forum in Chemistry, a speakers' bureau, and the Peer Tutoring in Chemistry project.

Dr. Colmenares finds time for community service. She is a

past president of the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) and an IT volunteer at the FilCom Center.

During a recent ACS banquet, Dr. Colmenares laid out her plans for her term of office.

"I will focus on two things: increasing the membership of the section and increasing the visibility of ACS in the community," she said.

The projects and activities she has lined include: a chem-

istry instrumentation workshop at UH for high school and college students and faculty; co-sponsorship of a Science Café (an informal monthly discussion group) with the Hawaii Academy of Science; continuation of the Community Forum in Chemistry at WCC, Chem Olympiad and co-sponsorship of the Hawaii State Science Fair, and activities to celebrate National Chemistry Week.

In addition, Dr. Colmenares

plans to create a website and publish a quarterly newsletter. She is also leading efforts to amend the section's by-laws to include voting by email so as to give members more opportunities to participate and get involved in the activities of the section.

She is married to Dr. Jun Colmenares, executive director of the Office of Language Access, Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.



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SOCIETY PAGE



Buddy and Aida Aquino enjoying the holidays at a party in Waikiki



Gerald and Louie Corpuz at a breakfast party during the holidays



Jane Gonzaga with her son Jona at a holiday party



Dr. Ian Levi Chua (center) with Crescencia Angeles (left) and Connie Galinquez at a farewell party in Kaneohe



Irene Alabanza with Maria Teresa Velasco at a Waikiki holiday party



The Yadao Family during a holiday celebration: (L-R), Kathleen, Moymoy, Jay-Anne and Gloria



Aurora, Nelson, Jason and Nikka Sonido welcoming the New Year



Henry and Lisa Mendigorin celebrating the holidays with family and friends



L-R: Erlinda Sonido, Vilma Fuentes and Shelli Pagulayan



L-R: Carlota, Kevin and Nicole Fajardo with Virgil and Elvie Gabriel



The Lagat Family during a holiday dinner party: (L-R): Crystal, Christopher, Ofella, Ben and Christian



L-R: Rica Ciara Radona, Cristina Aglibot and Roy de Leon joined in to celebrate the holidays at a party in Waikiki

... MORE PHOTOS TAKEN DURING THE HOLIDAYS

TIM LLENA PHOTOGRAPHY



L-R: Arnold Villafuerte, Drs. Richard and Mercedes Kua, Dory Villafuerte and Linda Sarmiento



JP Orias, Dr. Ruth Mabanglo, Dr. Belinda Aquino, Clem and Gina Bautista with son Samuel at a dinner function



James, Lawrence and Mary Ann Castillo having fun at a holiday party



Atty Emmanuel Tipon with his wife welcoming 2009



Sen Willie Espero with Teresita Bernaldes during a New Year's day party



Nellie and Andy Somera during a New Year holiday celebration in the Windward area

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

FTA Requested to Conduct Independent Analysis of Airport, Salt Lake Boulevard Alignments

Councilmember Romy M. Cachola has requested the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) to conduct an independent ridership analysis to determine whether Salt Lake Boulevard or the airport alignment is the optimal route for the City's mass transit project.

"Since we have asked the FTA's assistance, the Council should delay a decision on the proposed route change until we hear back from the FTA," says Councilmember Cachola.

Councilmember Cachola has also asked the FTA to look at

the delivery approach proposed in segmenting the work and to consider the use of a Master Contractor with the experience and capability to undertake the responsibility in accepting in large part the risk associated with the integration of the rapid transit system components.

"To ease our taxpayers' burdens during these dire economic times, we need to find out which route is most prudent and cost effective," says Councilmember Cachola. "The FTA's findings should end all debate on the preferred route.

"The optimal alignment debate is not an 'us-versus-them' or a popularity contest," Councilmember Cachola says. "This is a serious pocketbook issue with billions of dollars at stake. The FTA's independent analysis will give taxpayers peace of mind, comfort and confidence to fully support this mass transit project."

To view Councilmember Cachola's letter to the FTA online, please visit: <http://docsis01:8080/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-154499/3wv9gwgr.pdf>.

Waipahu Student Honored for Anti-Tobacco Advocacy

Courtney Viernes-Silva, a junior at Waipahu High School, was named as a 2008 Youth & Young Adult Tobacco Control Advocate by the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii.

The Coalition annually recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated leadership and creative effectiveness in their contributions to tobacco control.

Viernes-Silva works as a youth leader at the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii's anti-tobacco youth group REAL. She joined the group while in intermediate school and soon realized that young women were increasingly being targeted by the tobacco industry.

Beginning in 2008, she led efforts to create "REAL Girl Talk"—gatherings where girls have the opportunity to take action against tobacco advertising in fashion magazines. She provided testimony and petitions in support of state tobacco control laws, and has helped organize statewide



Courtney Viernes-Silva

youth anti-tobacco summits and events such as "Youth United for Kick Butts Day."

In Hawaii, about 12.6 percent of 8,374 high school students are habitual smokers. Each year, about 1,900 or 27,400 of youth under 18 become hooked on cigarettes.

However, the efforts of Project REAL and volunteers like Viernes-Silva help keep Hawaii's teen smoking rate in check through education and events that increase awareness on the dangers of tobacco use.

The AMM is a Honolulu-based, secular, nonprofit, volunteer organization that

provides free health care to underserved people overseas and in Hawaii.

AMM Launches First Mission of 2009

A team of 35 volunteers with the Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) will be spending the next two weeks in Candon City, Ilocos Sur, Philippines.

The Candon City Mission, which is led by Dr. Ignacio Torres and Dr. Antonio Tan, is AMM's 113th trip to the Asia-Pacific region. Volunteers were personally invited by Allen G. Singson, mayor of Candon City, which prides itself as the home of delicious calamay and crunchy comik—two popular Filipino snacks.

The 35 volunteers include:

- 16 physicians from Hawaii, New York and the Philippines.
- 7 nurses from Hawaii, Cali-

fornia, Washington state and the Philippines.

- 12 lay volunteers, including the Hawaii National Guard reservist Edmund Agnaoa, who volunteered his R&R time with the AMM. He is currently serving in Kuwait. The mission anticipates treating 3,000-4,000 patients, to include about 50 major surgeries and 200 minor surgeries.

All volunteers pay their own way, contributing thousands of hours of service. They take along donated medical equipment and supplies worth thousands of dollars. Medicines and additional supplies are purchased with funds from donations and fundraisers.

Other AMM missions

planned for early 2009 are:

- Calamba, Laguna, Philippines: February 6-15, 2009
Mission leader: Carl Lum, M.D.
- Luang Prabang, Laos: February 16-20, 2009
Mission leaders: Alison Shigaki, M.D. and Lisa Grininger, M.D.
- Pakse, Laos: February 23-27, 2009
Mission leaders: Moni Syravong, R.N. and Lisa Grininger, M.D.

Motorists Encouraged to Report Potholes

The recent heavy rains have unfortunately resulted in numerous potholes on Oahu's streets. Motorists are urged to report the locations of these potholes to either the State Department of Transportation (DOT) or the City's Department of Transportation Services (DTS) respective hotlines.

If the pothole is located on a state road or highway, please call the State Pothole Report Phone Line at 536-7852. Examples of State roads or highways include H1, H2 or H-3 (including on- and off-ramps). Likewise, Nimitz, Pali and Kalaniana'ole highways, Vineyard and Ala Moana boulevards, and most of Kamehameha and Far-



ington highways.

To report a pothole on a City street, please call the City's Pothole Report Phone Line at 768-7777. The public can also visit: www.honolulu.gov and click on the "City Pothole Report" link.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Bill Outlaws Texting, Gaming, E-mail While Driving

State Rep. Barbara Marumoto has introduced a bill that would outlaw texting, gaming and e-mailing while driving.

If approved, Hawaii would join seven other states that currently ban text messaging, sending or reading text messages, instant messages (IMs) or e-mail while operating a motor vehicle. Similar bills are currently in the works in Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

"The next step should include bans on playing video games while driving before there's a major accident on our highways," Rep. Marumoto says. "As lawmakers, we must prohibit dangerous driving habits."

According to a 2008 study by Nationwide Insurance, an estimated 20 percent of drivers send or read text messages while behind the wheel. Statistics from the Hawaii State Department of Trans-

portation show that texting has led to numerous accidents and fatalities.

Marumoto's bill is part of her Omnibus Traffic Safety measure that encompasses several traffic reforms. Also included are provisions to:

- Prohibit minors from riding on ATVs.
- Prohibit passengers riding in pickup truck beds.
- Require helmet use for all two wheeled vehicles.
- Require video screens be placed behind the driver.
- Prohibit cell phone & electronic communication device use except with hands-free accessories.

The Honolulu City Council and the State Senate are taking up similar legislation. Rep. Marumoto says such safety measures are long overdue.

"I hope that the public will get behind these safety measures. I also hope other legislators will see the wisdom of these ideas and advance similar bills," she says.

Public Comment Period for Transit Project's DRAFT EIS

The City's Department of Transportation Services has extended the public comment deadline for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for Honolulu's proposed rail transit system until February 6, 2009. Previously, the comment period was scheduled to conclude January 7.

The comment period has been extended to allow stakeholders and residents additional time to review and comment on the Draft EIS.

Copies of the Draft EIS are available for review at State libraries, the City library, the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) office (650 South King Street, 3rd Floor), and the DTS Rapid

Transit Division office (1099 Alaake Street, 1700).

In addition, the Draft EIS is available online at the project's website: www.honolulutransit.org.

The public can comment in writing to the DTS (650 South King Street, 3rd Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813) and on online at the project website: www.honolulutransit.org.

The public comment period is mandated by federal and state laws. All comments received will be considered as the Final EIS is prepared by the Federal Transit Administration and the City. All relevant comments will be responded to in writing.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Shipment of Pirated DVDs, CDs Confiscated

By Rudy Santos/Thursday,
January 22, 2009

Joint operatives of the Optical Media Board, Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) Naval Intelligence Service Group and Intelligence and Investigation Division of the Manila International Airport Authority, yesterday prevented a huge shipment of pirated DVDs and VCDs with the arrest of the suspected courier.

Based on a report by Col. Rene Gonzales, chief of the IID-MIAA to MIAA General Manager Alfonso Cusi, the suspect was identified as Alimudin Yusop

Imam, 31, a resident of Poblacion, Lumbatan, Marawi City. Imam was arrested outside the Cebu Pacific Air Cargo along the Old Domestic Road, Pasay City, while waiting for the shipment to be loaded in a plane bound for Mindanao. Authorities confiscated 40 boxes containing assorted pirated DVDs and VCDs. The suspect tried to escape when he saw the agents but was nabbed after a brief chase.

According to authorities, the shipment originated in Arlegui, Quiapo, Manila and was to be transported to Bacolod, Tagbilaran, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Dumaguete, Tacloban, General Santos City and other big cities in the Visayas and Mindanao. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Enrile Sees an 'Obama' among Presidential Hopefuls

By Des Ferriols/Thursday, January 22, 2009

Does the Philippines have a presidential hopeful who can be inspiring to Filipinos as United States President Barack Obama is to Americans?

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile thinks there can be someone like Obama here who can inspire hope and change among Filipinos.

"Let time unravel the whole thing. We do not need an Obama of the Philippines. We need a Juan de la Cruz. Juan de la Cruz, not Juan Ponce Enrile. Well, I can see someone who is like Obama. But let us stop at that. Let everybody imagine that there is a Mr. Obama," Enrile told reporters yesterday.



Sen. Pres. Juan Ponce Enrile

"Mr. Obama is having problems and has to rise to the occasion. He is a bright man, very personable, very articulate, very charming but with very heavy burdens... (But) I know that he has something between his ears," Enrile said.

He agreed with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita that Obama could learn from the Arroyo administration.

"Well, probably on how to solve problems. At least, so far we are not hit by the problems of America. Isn't it? We are better off than America right now. America is having big financial problems but so far the Philippines is afloat. So that is one we can teach them if they want to learn anything from us. How did we do it?" Enrile said.

But Senators Francis Pangilinan and Panfilo Lacson believed otherwise.

"As the most unpopular president the Philippines has ever had, as president of a nation judged as the most corrupt in Asia and as a president who has had impeachment complaints filed against her every year for the past four years, one cannot help but wonder what good things are there to learn from the Arroyo administration," Pangilinan said.

Intel Confirms Closure of Philippine Facility, 4 Other Manufacturing Sites Worldwide

By Eden Estopace/Thursday, January 22, 2009

In a press statement released today, Intel said it is going to "restructure some of its manufacturing operations and align its manufacturing capacity to current market conditions."

"The company plans to close two existing assembly test facilities in Penang, Malaysia and one in Cavite, Philippines, and will halt production at Fab 20 an older 200mm wafer fabrication facility in Hillsboro, Oregon. Additionally, wafer production operations will end at the D2 facility in Santa Clara, California," it said.

An estimated 5,000 to 6,000 employees will be affected by the decision. However, Intel said not all employees would leave Intel as others may be offered jobs in other facilities.

The closure of the five facilities in three countries will take place between now and the end of 2009, according to Intel.

In the Philippines, Intel said approximately 1,800 employees will be affected and will be of-

fered a severance package and a number of transition services.

"We know this is a difficult time for our employees and their families and we will make available the best support systems to ease the transition. We are deeply grateful for the strong support that the Philippine government has extended to our operations in the country in the last 35 years. It has been key to our success," the company said.

Intel however clarified that the sales and marketing organization will not be affected by the closure. Its major social responsibility programs in the country will also continue, particularly in the area of science and math education.

The test-and-assembly facility of Intel in the Philippines is located at the Gateway Business Park in Javalera, General Trias, Cavite. According to its website, the manufacturing site was set up in 1996 and was Intel's second offshore assembly operations center in Asia, and the first American multinational and semiconductor company in the Philippines.

Positive Direction of RP-US Relations to Continue - Kenney

By Pia Lee-Bragio/Thursday, January 22, 2009

US Ambassador Kristie Kenney said yesterday no major changes are expected in the US partnership, development assistance, and security relationship with the Philippines under the leadership of President Barack Obama.

In an interview over radio dzBB, Kenney said no immediate changes are expected to take place in the US Embassy in Manila and the posting of US ambassadors.

She was referring to speculations about the recall and new diplomatic postings of ambassadors under Obama's administration.

"I think we're going to see things continuing very much the same in the Philippines. We've got a very positive direction. We're working on a lot of good things together. But of course we will see things unfold as our two governments at the highest level get to know each other better," Kenney said.

She said the US campaign against terrorism and poverty will continue.

Asked about Obama's speech, she said it was "realistic" amid grave economic worries and high expectations.

"He said these are tough issues and will be tough to solve. I am hopeful all of us around



US Ambassador Kristie Kenney... the world will continue to hear that honesty from him," she added.

Kenney said Obama had been a member of the US Senate foreign relations committee who knows very well the partnership, security relationship and assistance of the US government to the Philippines.

She said the two countries have a great government-to-government relationship and the personal relationship of President Arroyo and Obama is expected to continue.

US Embassy Press Attaché Rebecca Thompson said there is much speculation about the recall and new diplomatic postings of ambassadors in the new administration.

"We actually do not expect an immediate change in ambassadors. There is much speculation about that position, probably (due to) excitement over President Obama," Thompson said.

The White House report-

edly picked career diplomat Harry K. Thomas Jr. as the next ambassador to Manila to replace Kenney after Obama assumed the presidency.

Diplomatic sources said Kenney, the first female US ambassador to Manila, is getting another ambassadorial post this year in South America. (www.philstar.com)

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54102 Farrington Hwy. Wahiawa 9713009
Aloha Mobile Center - Lower level
Honolulu 96813
PAPA MOBILE
46-026 Kaneohe Hwy. Kaneohe 96745
MR 1102 Farrington Hwy. Wahiawa 968400
41-501 Kalia St. Waimanalo 96740
ROYAL CASH WAIMANALO
755 Kaneohe Hwy. Wahiawa 968400

STORE LOCATIONS

HONOLULU
KAPAHULU
631 Kaneohe Ave. #13
KAPOLU AGE CENTER
401 Kaneohe Blvd.
NAVY EXCHANGE
4725 Bingham Rd.
PEARL AND OHTOWAN
98-1305 Moanalua Rd.
SALT LAKE SHOPPING CENTER
948 Aiea Ln. #10
TOWN CENTER OF MILWAUKEE
96-1245 Moanalua Hwy.
WHEELER PROGRAM OUTLETS (Pearl Point)
54-780 Lanihale Dr. Kula
WINOARD CITY SHOPPING CENTER
45-482 Kaneohe Bay Dr.

ILOKO NEWS

ILOKO



By Amado I. Yoro

Being an Ilocana in Hawaii is to perpetuate the essence of what we stand for: intelligent, hard working, ambitious, thrifty, respectful, and be beautiful inside and out", daya ti pananglukat a balikas ni Davelyn "Davie" iti cultural presentationa idi Oktubre 11, 2008 a pannakaangay ti koronasyon ti 3rd Mrs Ilocos Surian Assn of Hawaii Scholarship Pageant a naangay iti Tapa Tower 3,4,5, Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & SPA iti Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Ii video presentationa, naiparang dagiti kangrunaan a bayya, historical and tourist spot iti Sinaít. Nairaman man ti nadumaduma a produkto ti ili, pakairamanan iti bawang, tabako, asin, unan, panagalap, pangarmigian iti asin.

Ti kapupunan ti Sinaít, ti sigud a SINNAIT wenna salip, kontes, kas dati a sinakup dagiti tirong sakbay a sinakup ni Juan de Salcedo. Ti Sinaít ti napanangan a GARLIC CENTER OF THE NORTH gapu iti kinalabon ti produkto a bawang ken sentro ti pananglakuan.

UMUNA a gundaway a makisalip ti gunglo dagiti taga-Sinaít iti Hawaii ita a 2008 para iti pasalip ti Ilocos Surian Assn of Hawaii [ISAH]. Daytoy ti maikato a daras nga agpasalip ti ISAH kabayatan dagiti nagsasaruno nga administrasion ni Danny Villaruz, tubo iti Rancho, Santa, Ilocos Sur.

Nupay partisipante ni Sinaít iti napulbas a pasalip nga esponsoran ti ISAH kas iti Miss Ilocos Surian, daytoy Mrs. ISAH 2008 ti nangallukoy ti

DAVELYN ANCHETA QUIJANO, MRS. ILOCOS SURIAN 2008

Tube ti Sinaít Ilocos Sur Philippines ti Baro a Mrs. Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii 2008

gunglo dagitoy kakailian ti Sinaít gapu iti medical mission a programana kas mayataday unay met iti nairugin ti Sinaítians International & Global Network [SIGN], ti Medical and Dental Mission.

Malaksid dagiti dua a gunglo [Annak Ti Sinaít iti Hawaii ken Sinaít National High School Alumni Assn of Hawaii] a kangrunaan nga esponsor iti kandidatura ni Davelyn, dakkel met ti tulong da Dr. Estrella Pada Taong ken Paul Taong, M/M Antonio Ipalari, Mrs. Leonila Degala, M/M Johnny Idecia, M/William Gaspar, M/M David Willing, Gus Concepcion, Adoracion Balagso, M/M Bennie Medina, Rose and Troy Mendoza ken dadduma pay.



Ababa a taldiap ti MRS. ISAH

Damo a pasalip ti Mrs. ISAH idi 2003 kas nairanta para iti beautification project ket ti tallo nga Welcome Arch komo iti beddeng ti La Union/Ilocos Sur; Narvacan/Pidigan; Ilocos Sur-Ilocos Norte ti kangrunaan komo ida a pagpaayan ti mapastreik.

Tema: A Tribute to Our Filipino Women: A Pride, a Legacy"

Royal Court 2003 Her majesty Queen Nancy Clemente, [Cagubago] Zenaida Pineda Abalos, 1st princess [Santa Maria] Josie Quidez Lopez, 2nd princess [Santa] Josie Salamat Alcaín, 3rd princess [Vigan]. 2003

Tema: From Farm Fields to Any Field"

Royal Court 2006 Mrs Centennial Her Majesty Queen . Elena Puetia,[Santa] Letty Dalit,[Santa Maria] Teri Sagaysay,[Santiago] Zeny

Sumibcay, [Cagubago] Alice Castaneda [San Juan/Lapog]

Tema: My Roots, My Family, My Future

Ita a 2008 da: *Royal Court ni Her Majesty Queen Davelyn Ancheta Quijano*, anak ti Sinaít, Ilocos Sur, ken dagiti Analiza Braceros Mateo iti Cagubago, Loida Alimboyoguen Yamamoto iti Vigan City, ken Ruth Eden Manzano iti Santa.

Dagiti nangabak iti Special Awards:

- *Best Cultural presentation* – Analiza Mateo
- *Best in Terno* – Analiza Mateo
- *Manang Biday for Congeniality* – Loida Yamamoto
- *Napintas for Photogenic* – Analiza Mateo

Dagiti hurado:

- Honolulu Councilman Donovan dela Cruz
- Maria Handi, Business & Personality Development
- Shannon Wise – Modeling,

Hawaii's Top Ramp & Print Model

Asino ni Davelyn Ancheta Quijano?

Nayanak idiy Pug-os, Sinaít, Ilocos Sur. Nagturpos iti Sinaít National High idi 1978, sa intuloyana iti Waialua High School apanan a nakasagup ditoy Hawaii. Nangala iti Accounting Course iti Leeward Community College idi 1980-1982; John Stapleton Real Estate School 2000, Licensed Real Estate Agent; University of Phoenix, Business Administration 2004

Kameng ni Davelyn iti Annak Ti Sinaít Ili Hawaii nariipud pay idi 1992 ken agdama a sekretaria iti Sinaít National High School Alumni Assn of Hawaii manipud idi 2007. Ak-tibo a tumutulong kadagiti proyekto a pamaatundan iti pondo para iti pagsayaan ti gunglo ken ili, aglalo ni para iti medical and dental mission.

Kangrunaan a nagsagid ti pusona iti pannakipartisiparna iti Medical/Dental mission nga

insayangakat ti Sinaítians International & Global Network [SIGN], idiy ili a Sinaít, Ilocos Sur idi Abril 2008.

Maysa a Real Estate Professional ket empleado iti Home808, LLC

Kameng kadagiti sumaganad:

- Filipino Chamber of Commerce – Member
- Sinaít National High School Alumni – Member/Secretary
- Annak Ti Sinaít Ili Hawaii – Member/Previously a Corresponding Secretary
- Honolulu Board of Realtors – Member
- National Association of Realtors – Member

Hobbies and other interests: Golfing, dancing, swimming, reading (romance & comics), sewing & designs, gardening and cooking.

Uppat ti annakda ken ni Ador Farinas Quijano, da Allen, Jairemie, Janere and Allysen

Ken dua ti apokona.

MAINLAND NEWS

In Manhattan Nuns' Lawsuit, the Smoking Gun is Filipinos' Iconic 'Tuyo'

NEW YORK — It may be a cultural thing, but when you're up against a congregation of nuns and your neighbors in an apartment building in Manhattan, a lawsuit would make an interesting anthropological study in ethnic tension.

The Missionary Sisters of Sacred Heart in Manhattan has filed a complaint against Filipino American couple, Michael and Gloria Lim, over a Filipino delicacy called "tuyo" (dried fish), and its funky cousin, the "tinapa" (smoked fish). The case is now with the Manhattan Supreme Court.

Reports say Gloria was smoking fish outside her apartment window when the smell — noxious stench to the nuns, divine aroma to the Lims — of the salted fish wafted throughout the Gramercy apartment building. The "foul smell" was too strong the nuns suspected it was com-

ing from a decomposing body and called in the Fire Department.

According to reports, the firemen searched every unit of the building and were able to trace the source of the smell to the Lims' unit. They knocked, and when no one came to the door, the NYFD came barreling in. Gloria, a nurse, found her door knocked down and was obviously peeved. It appears the MSSH leases the unit to the Lims and may have authorized the assault.

"I cook dried fish," Gloria defiantly declared to the NY Post.

Dried fish is not a Philippine exclusive. It is an essential in the traditional Chinese and Malaysian fried rice along with chopped spring onions, garlic and chili. Sometimes, it is pulled and sprinkled on chocolate porridge or 'champorado.'

Food with a strong salty taste

like 'tuyo' or 'tinapa' might be too intense for the morning stomach, but many Filipinos would never leave for work in the morning without having it for breakfast.

The complaint appears to divide the apartment tenants, some finding themselves squarely on the side of the sisters who find the smell "potentially dangerous to life and health," and some defending the FilAm family's right to eat their own ethnic food in the privacy of their home.

"This is plain racist," comes a shout-out from a supportive blogger.

Which side to take, undecided tenants turn to what's stated in the housing rules: Cooking smelly food is not allowed.

The nuns are seeking \$75,000 in damages. They made it clear that they have nothing against Filipinos as a people.

Source: Philippine News

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LEGAL NOTES

Temporary Workers Get Protection Under New H-2B Rules



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Temporary workers under the H-2B program will get more protection from abusive employers under the revised regulations recently promulgated by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Labor.

The H-2B visa is for non-agricultural temporary workers who enter the U.S. to perform jobs that are a one-time occurrence, seasonal, peak-load or intermittent.

Typical jobs in the H-2B classification include those in hotels/motels, restaurants, country clubs, resorts and theme parks, construction and retail stores.

The annual quota allocation of 66,000 will not be increased. As of December 26, 2008, 29,702 petitions have been counted towards the 33,000 cap allotted for the second half of

fiscal year 2009. The new rules will enhance the integrity of the H-2B program by preventing fraud and will strengthen enforcement.

Employers petitioning for H-2B workers must first secure a certification from the Department of Labor (DOL) that there are not sufficient U.S. workers who are able, willing, qualified and available to perform the job and that their employment will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers similarly employed.

The DOL will centralize the processing and require the employers to conduct pre-filing recruitment. The DOL may conduct post adjudication audits and penalize employers that fail to comply with the rules.

Once the labor certification is obtained, the employer will file an I-129 petition with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). If the petition is approved, the worker will apply at a U.S. consulate abroad. If he/she is in the U.S. and is in valid status, the

worker may change to H-2B or extend his/her current H-2B.

The rules revise the definition of "temporary services" to include a specific one-time need of up to three years without a demonstration of extraordinary circumstances. Substitution of beneficiaries will also be allowed.

Under the old rules, the H-2B holder after three years would have to leave the U.S. and stay outside the U.S. for at least six months before being eligible to re-obtain H-2B status. The new rules reduce this time frame to three months.

The prospective H-2B employer may specify only the number of positions to be filled without having to name the prospective worker/s in the petition except when the beneficiary is already in the U.S., or from a country not eligible to participate in the H-2B program. A list of participating countries will be simultaneously published with the Final Rule. Those from countries not on the list may still be eligible for H-2B but will be ad-

judicated on a case-by-case basis.

The H-2B employers and recruiters are not allowed to impose certain fees to H-2B workers as a condition of securing employment. This is a ground of denial or revocation of the H-2B. The employer, however, may refile the H-2B petition within one year of the denial or revocation and show that the H-2B worker has been reimbursed or cannot be located despite the employer's reasonable effort as a precondition for approval of the H-2B petition.

Sanctions will be imposed on H-2B employers if found to have failed to meet any condition of the H-2B or if they had willfully misrepresented a material fact in the petition. The sanction includes debarment from obtaining temporary labor certification for a period determined by the DOL. The debarment period may be for at least one year but not exceeding five years. The employer will be unable to bring in H-2B workers during this period of debarment.

By the start of fiscal year 2010, the start-up date indicated on the Form I-129 petition should match the date stated on the accompanying temporary labor certification.

Employers are required to notify the USCIS within two working days in case the H-2B worker failed to report to work within five working days from the employment start date indicated in the petition; or if the work for which the H-2B workers were hired is completed more than 30 days earlier than the end date indicated in the petition; or if the H-2B worker absconds or is terminated prior to the completion of the job for which he/she was hired.

A land-border exit system pilot program would be established that would require H-2B workers admitted through a participating port of entry to also leave through a participating port and to present the designated biographic and/or biometric information upon departure.

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

NAFCON Celebrates Victory in Avalon 11 Case

The National Alliance of Filipino Concerns (NAFCON), a nationwide alliance of Filipino groups and individuals united to promote and protect the rights and welfare of Filipinos in the U.S., expressed its "utmost joy and congratulations" to the 10 nurses and 1 attorney known as the Avalon 11, whose criminal charges were dropped after a two-year legal battle against the Suffolk County Judicial System.

The nurses, former employees of Avalon Gardens in Woodmere, New York, resigned in 2006 after alleged intolerable working conditions, including discrimination, unpaid back wages and being recruited under false pretenses by Avalon Gardens' parent company SentosaCare LLC. In retaliation, SentosaCare owner Bent Philipson filed criminal charges of patient endangerment against the 11.

The 10 Avalon nurses were among a group of 27 healthcare workers who were recruited from the same agency in the Philippines. The nurses say they were collectively duped by SentosaCare LLC into signing false contracts whose tenets were not honored when they migrated to the U.S. Instead, they were farmed out to a number of SentosaCare-owned nursing facilities throughout the New York area.

In early 2007, NAFCON launched a series of townhall meetings to drum up support for the workers, including support from the American Nurses Association, the New York State Nurses Association, the Philippine Nurses Association, SEIU Local 1199 United Health Workers East, and even Philippines-based support from Migrant International, Gabriela Women's Party, and the Alliance of Health Workers in the Philippines.

"The dismissal of the criminal charges against the Avalon 11 marks a meaningful victory for the community as well," says

NAFCON spokesman Rico Foz. "The community groups under NAFCON and others built a movement behind the leadership of the nurses and their legal team. The lesson is that with collective action and will from the community, we all can win."

Former Avalon nurse Harriet Avila was speechless upon hearing news of the dismissal.

"In the end, the truth prevailed," Avila says. "This should never happen again to any of our kababayans. We may have won this battle but the fight is not over."

With the civil cases against all 27 health workers still pending, NAFCON has planned a community townhall meeting on January 25, 2009.

US FILVETS AT PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL



▲ INVITED GUESTS
Philippines' singing sensation Charice Pempengco is congratulated by Filipino WWII veterans Jay Cabacar and Rudy Panaiglima, at the Philippine Embassy reception for visiting Presidential Inaugural guests on January 19, 2009 in Washington DC. (ACFV photo by Eric Lachica)



WARMS COMPANY ▲
US Army soldiers and Virginia WWII veteran Rudy Panaiglima, 78, of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, a Washington DC advocacy organization, pose in front the Presidential Inaugural stage on January 19, 2009. (ACFV photo by Eric Lachica)

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

BAHAGHARI



ni Elynia S. Mabanglo

Noong unang panahon, isang mayamang lalaki ang nakatira sa isang nayon. Tatlo ang kanyang anak na pawang lalaki—sina Suan, Iloy at Ambo. Sapagkat naniniwala ang lalaking ito na edukasyon ang tunay na kayamanang maipamamana niya sa kanyang mga anak, ipinadala niya sa ibang bayan kung may mga anak upang pag-aralin. Ngunit pagkatatamad ng mga anak na ito. Wala silang ginawa kundi maglakwatsa at magbisyo. Nang dumating ang bakasyon, nahihiya silang umuwi sa kani-

Kuwentong Pangasinan: Paghahanap ng Kapalaran

lang bayan sapagkat wala silang maipakipatag dunong o napag-aralan. Samakatawid, naglalagala sila. Nagpunta sila sa iba't ibang bayan para hanapin ang kanilang kapalaran.

Sa kanilang paglalakbay, isang matandang babae ang nasalubong nila. Hindi na mainam ang tindig niya dahil sa katandaan. "Mga apo," anang babae. "Baka gusto niyong bilhin itong libro ko," sabi nang matandang sumalubong sa kanila.

"Ano naman po ang makukuha naging sa librong iyan, Lola?" tanong ni Ambo.

"Naku, maganda ang bertud nito, mga apo." Sagot ng amata. "Kung gusto niyong buhayin ang isang patay, buksan lang niyong sa harap ng bangkay ang libro. Agad-agad, mabubuhay ang patay!" Natuwa

si Ambo. Hindi na siya nag-tanong pa. Agad-agad, binili niya ang libro.

Nagpatuloy sila sa paglakad.

Muli, may nasalubong silang isang matandang babae na banig naman ang itinitinda. Interesado si Iloy kaya siya ang nagtanong kung ano ang mainam sa banig na iyon.

"A, kung gusto mong maglakbay sa cere, sumakay ka lang dito," sagot ng matanda. "Makakarating ka saan mo man gusto."

Hindi nagdalawang-isip si Iloy. Binili niya agad ang banig.

Sabihin pa, si Suan na lamang ang walang agimat. May libro si Ambo, may banig si Iloy. Nagpatuloy sila sa paglakad hanggang makakita siya ng dalawang bata na manaka-naka'y magdidikit at magiging isang bato at pagkatapos ay maghihiwalay at magdadalawa uli. Pinulot ni Suan ang dalawang bato sa paniniwalang may madyang ang mga ito. Naisip niyang mapagdidikit niya ang anumang magkahiwalay sa pamamagitan nito.

Masayang nagpatuloy sa paglakad ang tatlo. Magaan

ang kanilang pakiramdam sapagkat bawat isa'y may agimat o bertud. Hindi nagtagal, nadaanan nila ang isang kulongpung ng mga taong nag-iyak sa bangkay ng isang magandang babae. Sinabi ni Ambo sa magulang ng babae na maari niyang buhayin ang namatay na babae kung babayaran siya ng mga ito. Nagkasundo sila sa presyo kay binuksan ni Ambo ang bangkay na binuhay ang babae. Nang mabayaran na si Ambo, inilatag ni Iloy ang kanyang banig at sinabi sa kanyang mga kapatid na hawakan ang babae at tumuntong sa banig. Ginawa mga nila at sa isang iglap, ang magkapatid at ang babae ay inilipad na palayo ng bay.

Mula roon, sumakay sila sa isang barko at nagtungo sa ibang bayan. Gayunman, sa gitna ng dagat, nagkaroon ng bagoy at naira ang barko. Maraming pasahero ang nahulog sa dagat at nalunod. Samakatawid, inayos ni Suan ang sira sa pamamagitan ng kanyang mga agimat na bato. Nabuung muli ang barko at naglayag patungo sa destinasyon nito.

Nang makababa sila ng

barko, nag-away-away ang tatlong magkapatid. Pinag-awayan nila kung sino ang magmamayari sa magandang babae.

Sabi ni Ambo, "Kaya ang bumuhay sa kanya kaya dapat sa akin siya mapunta."

"Aba," sabi ni Iloy. "Kung hindi ko kayo pinasakay sa aking banig, hindi natin siya maddala."

Sumagot si Suan. "Kung hindi naman sa akin, patay n asana tayong lahat ngayon. Dapat ako ang mapangasawa niya."

Tumindi ang away ng tatlo kaya naisipan nilang humingng ng payo sa hari. Nang malaman ang puno't dulo ng gustot, ipinasya ng hari na hatin sa tatlo ang babae at bawat isa sa magkapatid ay bigyan ng parte. Nagapan ang pasya ng hari. Nang matanggap ng bawat isa ang kani-kanilang parte, hindi nakontento sina Ambo at Iloy. Para sa kanila, walang kuwenta ang mga bahaging napunta sa kanila kay itinanap nila. Pero iba si Suan. Pinulot niya ang mga natirang bahagi at pinagdung-tung niya sa pamamagitan ng kanyang agimat. Muling nabalik sa dating anyo ang babae at nakipag-isandibid kay Suan. Si Suan ang pinakamasuwerte. Maganda ang naging kapalaran niya.

PAALAM MAMANG

(sa pagpanaw ni Josefina A. De Los Santos, Enero 18, 2009)

Tahimik kang lumisan
Sa awa mo marahil sa amin—
Baka nagkagasta pa kang
naospital ka.

Kaya, payapa kang yumaos,
Walang abog, walang bunto,
walang buwelo.

Hanggang sa huli parang
naririnig ko:

Kayong magkakapatid na Ma-
bangelo

Puro kayo gasta, Sa pagtitipid
di na kayo natuto.

Hindi ako dumating dahil si-
nusunod kita,

Kailangang maging praktikal
Dahil ang totoo, wala namang
isusumar;

Nagkasakit din ako't ang mga
bill, todo-todo;

Pero pinilit kong kahit paano,
Bigyan ng pamasko ang
mga kapatid ko.

Bayaran din ngayon ng buwis,
Problema pa ang mga klaseng
mami-miss.

Kaya pasensiyang na, Mamang,
Hindi na kita ihahatid sa hul-
ing hantugan.

Sa aking hapaag, nagtayo ako ng
altar.

Nilagyan ko ng mga bulaklak
ang iyong larawan

At, ako mismo ang nagdarasal.
Nakatatlong gabi na rin ang
aking pasiyam,

Kanina'y ipinagluto kita ng gi-
natanan.

Habhatian ko ang aking mga
kasamahan

Bilang selebrasyon ng iyong
buhay,

Maraming salamata sa Mayka-
pal,

Kasama mo na silang kapatid
mo' magulang.

Tanggapin mo ang piping pa-
maamalam,

Ang taos na pasasalamat sa
iyong pagmamahal.

Di sana kami nakarating dito
Kundi sa pag-ibig at pag-aan-
dukha mo.

Salamat Mamang, pahatid ko'y
halik

At pangakong lagagi kang
nakaukit

Sa aming mga puso at isip.

(Honolulu, Hawaii (Enero 20, 2009))

GLOBAL NEWS

Russia's First Ever Filipino Restaurant Opens Doors

Filipino food made its official entry into Russia with the recent opening of Wokstudio in Moscow.

Located in the popular Tverskaya district near the Mayakovskaya metro station, Wokstudio offers a one-of-a-kind dining experience for Moscow residents who have yet to discover Filipino cuisine.

Wok Studio is managed by Filipino executive chef Ronald Pangilinan, a long-time resident of Russia and owned by Russian State Duma Deputy Edward Yanakov.

The restaurant offers tried and true-Filipino dishes, such as Pork-Chicken Adobo, Boracay Fried Noodles and Pancit Palabok. Dessert items include Leche Flan, Banana-Almond Lumpia, Maja Blanca and Manila Toast—a coconut-coated fried toast with bacon and maple syrup and Crepe de Coco made with coconut milk.



Victor Garcia III, Philippine Ambassador in Moscow, cuts the ribbon at Café Wokstudio's opening

A section of Wokstudio's menu offers non-Filipino items. An American breakfast is available—complete with an L.A.-style omelet with sautéed mushrooms, apple wood smoked bacon and avocado. For lunch or dinner, Rib Eye Steak, Rack of Lamb and Chilean Sea Bass are available.

A recent restaurant review by Moscow-based Passport magazine gave Wokstudio high marks, citing its quality of food and

"light, open and clean atmosphere." Publisher John Ortega, a Fil-Am who helped in his grandfather's Filipino restaurant in Southern California during his childhood, gave Wokstudio a thumbs up.

"We were generally pleased with the quality of the food at this new Asian restaurant," he says. "Wokstudio is missing only a children's menu, a shortfall that hopefully will soon be remedied." (Passport Moscow)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII 31ST INAUGURAL / SATURDAY

January 31, 2009 • 6:00pm • Kahala Hotel, Maile Ballroom • Call Tess Bernales at 256-8747

CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS (COVO) ANNIVERSARY / SUNDAY

February 8, 2009 • Philippine Consulate Lanai • Call Marilyn Silva at 387-5570 or email therose1306@yahoo.com

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

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

FILIPINO FIESTA, PARADE AND SANTACRUZAN / SATURDAY

May 9, 2009 • All day starting at 8:00 a.m. • Kalakaua Avenue and Kapiolani Park • For

more information, call the Fil-Com Center at 680-0451

OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) ANNUAL CONVENTION / SATURDAY

June 27, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village

FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII INSTALLATION BANQUET / SATURDAY

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

VISAYAN CENTENNIAL AWARDS DINNER, SHOW / SUNDAY

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

UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII (UFCH) CONVENTION

July 24-26, 2009 • Molokai



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

FEBRUARY TO AUGUST—

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

cation form.

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

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

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

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

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