

# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ APRIL 25, 2009 ◆

## FILIPINO FIESTA AND PARADE TO CELEBRATE 4 OUR YOUTH

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## EDITORIAL

## Oahu's Signature Filipino Celebration Marks 17th Year

**E**very year, a singular event galvanizes Hawaii's Filipino community into action like no other. Several Filipino organizations in Oahu begin planning for the event months in advance and work feverishly to make it happen. The event is none other than the Filipino Fiesta and Parade—a fun-filled, day-long event that celebrates all things Filipino from food, music, folk dances and crafts.

The concept of celebrating "fiesta style" has long been ingrained in the Filipino psyche. It is part and parcel of our culture and a microcosm of everything the Filipino holds dear. Through good times and bad times, the fiesta is held. Each city and barrio in the Philippines has at least one local festival of its own, usually on the feast of its patron saint, so that there is always a fiesta going on somewhere in the country.

Some say that the fiesta is a waste of energy and resources. Bear in mind, however, that fiestas nowadays are not celebrations of a bountiful harvest. Rather, it is one of the benefits of productivity. Unproductive communities cannot celebrate fiestas. The fiesta, then, is a barometer of the progress the Filipino community has made in Hawaii over the past century.

While the Fiesta and Parade can't showcase everything about Filipino culture, it at least gives other ethnic groups a glimpse into what it is. Organizers build upon previous fiestas and each year incorporate new themes that promote new aspects of Filipino culture that enlighten and educate us all. And that is the true beauty of the Fiesta and Parade.

## No Easy Solution for Philippines' Piracy Problem

**O**nce the bane of ancient mariners, piracy has resurfaced in modern times. The hot spot is the Indian Ocean off the coast of Somalia. Since the collapse of the Somali government in the 1990s, some Somalis have turned to piracy as a means of obtaining money—and lots of it. In 2008 alone, Somali pirates demanded and received over \$150 million in ransom money—a tremendous amount in a country where almost half the population needs international food aid.

Caught in the middle are the Philippine government, its sizeable merchant marine workforce and the roughly 100 Filipino seamen who are currently being held hostage by Somali pirates. The Philippine government has refused to pay ransom money, realizing that it would only fuel more acts of piracy. The government has taken it a step further and banned Filipino seamen from working aboard vessels that do not follow designated security corridors through the Gulf of Aden or that sail within 200 miles of the coast of Somalia. The ban has drawn the ire of Philippine seamen's groups who call it empty rhetoric from a government unable to provide livelihoods at home.

The sad reality is that many of the estimated 250,000 Filipino seamen will continue to work aboard ships that

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**A**

loha and welcome to the latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! In case you didn't know, it's officially summertime in the Philippines. While those back



home are already complaining of the heat, here in Hawaii, we've been fortunate enough to enjoy surprisingly cool weather for much of this year. Let's enjoy it while we still can.

For this issue, we welcome aboard two of our newest contributing writers. The first is Fiedes Doctor, who has several years of experience as a journalist in the Philippines for a community newspaper and a non-profit organization in the Philippines. Fiedes has written this issue's cover story on the annual Filipino Fiesta and Parade, scheduled for Saturday, May 9. This year's theme, "Kabataan: Ang Pag-asa ng Bayan"—the youth is the hope of our nation, is very fitting since many young people are not only involved in the planning but will actively participate in many of the activities. We encourage our readers to make plans now to attend this very special event.

Our second contributing writer is Gregory Bren Garcia, who has extensive experience in writing, editing, public relations and advertising, as well as events management. He was recently employed as a writer and accounts executive for a major public relations firm in the Philippines. For his first article, Gregory interviewed Allen Evangelista, an up-and-coming Filipino actor who currently stars in the hit ABC-TV show "The Secret Life of the American Teenager." Please read more about Evangelista on page 7.

Congratulations are in order to those who were honored last month by the Hawaii Filipino Women's Club at its 55th Anniversary Celebration and 35th Annual Terno Ball. The HFWC honorees included five recipients of the Filipino-American Women Achievers Award, as well as winners of the Terno Ball and Barong Tagalog Contest. We have listed the names of the honorees and winners on pages 6 and 8, respectively.

As always, we are grateful for your support. Please take time to read the other columns of interest in this issue, particularly the "Governor's Column" on page 3 and "Legal Notes" on page 13.

Until next time...aloha and *mabuhay!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

sail into pirate-infested waters. Their salaries—which are often doubled when working these dangerous routes—is permitted back home to support their families.

Until economic conditions improve or the Philippine government takes more decisive action in working with the international community in a united effort to eliminate piracy, who can blame these merchant marines for ignoring the government's ban?

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## GOVERNOR'S COLUMN



By Gov. Linda Lingie

# Honoring Our Military and Robotics Students

ceiving the credit and acknowledgment they were promised and deserve as part of the federal stimulus package. As Senator Daniel Inouye said, ensuring this recognition after so many years was "a matter of honor."

We all share an obligation to support our soldiers, not only during Military Appreciation Month and on Memorial Day, but throughout the year. I was fortunate to be able to visit with Hawai'i soldiers in Fort Hood, Texas in October before they deployed to Kuwait. I have also visited with families of Hawai'i National Guard soldiers during Christmas, Valentine's Day and most recently in Hilo, where many of our National Guard soldiers are based.

Ending long separations from their loved ones, and taking on heavier responsibilities in their households, our soldiers' families also make great sacrifices for our country. We must remain the kind of community we say we are and continue to support our military families until their loved ones' safe return, whether in the form of



food, monetary assistance, childcare or a sympathetic ear.

Our students also need the community's support. More and more Hawai'i students are participating in robotics programs that teach them the skills they need to succeed in the 21st-century global economy. Their participation is the result of a team effort that involves not only schools, but parents, teachers, mentors and businesses.

In March, we were proud to host Team Lagablab from the Philippines at the FIRST in Hawai'i Regional Robotics Competition. Competing against 24 teams from Hawai'i, seven teams from the mainland and one team from Mexico, the first-time competitors from Philip-

pine Science High School did very well, winning the Rookie All-Star Award and earning a place in the World Championship in Atlanta in April.

I am incredibly proud of how all our students performed at the regional, including teams from Moanalua, Maui, McKinley and Waialua high schools who also qualified for the championship in Atlanta. Robotics education teaches students to work as a team and think analytically. It also exposes them to different cultures and diverse perspectives, which can be just as powerful in transforming a student's horizons. The more students from different parts of the world can learn from each other, the better. For

more information on robotics, visit [www.robotics.hawaii.gov](http://www.robotics.hawaii.gov).

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to preview my sixth annual International Women's Leadership Conference (IWLC), happening September 22, 2009 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. Last year, White House executive chef Cristeta Comerford and U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney were among our inspirational speakers. This year, we are excited to host Senator Loren Legarda, who is a Filipina broadcast journalist and senator in the Philippines who has been widely recognized for her environmental advocacy.

I hope Filipino Chronicle readers will join us to hear Senator Legarda and her fellow IWLC speakers from eight other nations. Please find additional information and register at [www.iwlchi.org](http://www.iwlchi.org). In addition, please feel free to send my office your input on the issues we face as a state at [governor.lingie@hawaii.gov](mailto:governor.lingie@hawaii.gov). You can also visit my website at [www.hawaii.gov](http://www.hawaii.gov) to learn more about my Administration's initiatives and sign up for my weekly e-newsletter.

**M**ay is a busy month when my Administration is testifying about bills during the final days of the session and carefully reviewing legislation passed by the Legislature. I look forward to providing you with an update on our legislative initiatives and budget measures in my next column, once the legislative session concludes. I also welcome your input on bills that are passed by the Legislature as I consider whether to sign or veto them.

In the meantime, I would like to use this opportunity to recognize our men and women in uniform during Military Appreciation Month and Memorial Day. Like you, I am grateful that the Filipino soldiers who fought on behalf of the U.S. during World War II are at long last re-

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## COVER STORY

and dance, and the imagination that modernizes Philippine folk dances.

Entertainers who are scheduled to perform include Neolan Trias (Jasmine Trias' sister), Marlene Baldueza, singer Jericah Baxa, R&B sensation Ryan Pugal, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Singers. There will also be the Royal Hawaiian Band and other cultural groups, martial artists, singers and a rap/live band.

Other events at the all-day Fiesta include:

- Booths showcasing local and foreign entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations.
- Free medical screenings and services by the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls. Volunteer physicians who will be available for free consultation.
- A drawing by Hawaiian Airlines for six round trip tickets to the Philippines. The winners will be announced towards the end of the Fiesta.

Fiesta sponsors include Western Union and Island Insurance (Mabuhay sponsors),

the Fil-Com Center, COVO, the Honolulu Filipino Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the City & County of Honolulu. The Fiesta will be broadcasted live on KNDI radio.

### A Procession of Filipina Beauties

The Santacruzian starts at 5 pm at Kapiolani Park where the audience will be regaled with a procession of Filipina beauties amidst glowing candles. It promises to be an amazing sight—almost ethereal—with the fading sky as a backdrop.

Also known as Flores de Mayo (Flowers of May), the Santacruzian is a popular religious festival in the Philippines. It doubles as a beauty pageant, thus the parade of women representing various religious and historical figures.

Each queen will be dressed in stylish gowns and escorted by their consorts, aptly dressed in classic Barong Tagalog. The arches, too, will be as interesting as the queens. In fact, there is a contest for the best decorated arch. Little ones will be dressed as angels and will be lead the



way with a carpet of petals.

The United Filipino Council of Hawaii and the Oahu Filipino Community Council are the coordinators of the Santacruzian.

### A Sense of Community

Booth sponsor Evangeline Endrina says the Filipino Fiesta always reminds her of the country back home.

"Where else can you get Filipino food that is authentic and be exposed to Filipino culture at the same time? There is a sense of unity and commu-

nity—no Tagalog, Bisaya or Ilocano but just Filipino. It is a wonderful experience!"

Endrina has set up her Lasang Pilipinas food booth for the past five years and describes the event as very successful. Her pancit malabon, kare-kare and halo-halo were constant bestsellers.

Funds that will be raised from the event will benefit the programs at the FilCom Center.

Geminiano Arre Jr., Fil-Com president and Chief Operating Officer, won't be too disappointed if not much funds

are raised.

"Our primary reason is to perpetuate Filipino culture through songs, dances and other activities," he says.

Colmenares says the goal of the Filipino Fiesta is to share the Filipino culture with other ethnic groups and to introduce our uniqueness and variety.

"It helps evoke pride in our accomplishments as a people," Colmenares says. "For our youth, it is one way of making them aware of their roots and helping them understand who they are."

## FILIPINO FIESTA PROGRAM (MAY 9, 2009)

TIME	EVENT
10:00	<b>First Segment:</b>
	Invocation by <i>Don Aguilar</i>
	Philippine National Anthem by <i>Paul Cortes</i>
	Royal Hawaiian Band
	Opening Remarks by <i>Serafin Colmenares</i>
	Filipino Songs by <i>Mutya ng Bayan Choir</i>
	Performance by the <i>Hawaii-Filipino Martial Arts</i>
12:00	<b>Second Segment:</b>
	Cultural Dance by <i>HPU Kababayan Fil-Am Association</i>
	Modern Cultural Dance by <i>Katipunan UH/Tekniqlngz</i>
	Main Event: <i>Youth Dance Crew Showdown</i>
	Song by <i>Jericah Baxa</i>
	Song by <i>Jasmin Idica</i>
	2:00
Song by <i>Marlene Baldueza</i>	
Performance by the <i>UST Singers (Philippine-based)</i>	
Ryan Pugal Sings R&B	
Performance by <i>Miss Teen Filipina Hawaii</i>	
Song by <i>Neolan Trias (sister of Jasmine Trias)</i>	
Cultural Dance by the <i>Sinulog (Tribo sa Sugbo)</i>	
5:00	<b>The Santacruzian</b>
	Mic3 Performs Rap/Live Band
	Cultural Performance by the <i>FilCom Cultural Group</i>
	Martial Arts by the <i>Bandalan Doce Pares</i>

\*N.B. This program is subject to change without prior notice.

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**WOMEN ACHIEVER AWARDEES**

# Women's Club Honors Achievers

By Carlota Ader

**T**he Hawaii Filipino Women's Club (HFWC) honored several outstanding Filipino women during the 55th Anniversary Celebration and 35th Terno Ball, held last month at the Ala Moana Hotel's Hibiscus Ballroom.

The Filipino-American Women Achievers Awards, now in its fifth year, are given annually to Filipino women who have distinguished themselves in their respective professions. This year's honorees include Belinda Aquino (higher education and social science), Magdalena Domingo (humanitarian and community service), Ruth Mabanglo (arts and letters), Elizabeth Ramos (government service) and Beatriz Razon (nursing administration).

"We have exceptional career women in our midst who excel in their own fields of endeavor," says HFWC president Maria Jo Farina. "These beautiful ladies are definitely instrumental in uplifting the image of the Filipino American society in Hawaii."

Event co-chair Amalia Pagaduan Gozar thanked the five honorees for their outstanding work.

"The contributions of our sisters have uplifted the image of the Filipina through their individual commitments to their crafts," she says. "May they continue to inspire other women."

**BELINDA AQUINO ▶**

**(HIGHER EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCE)**

Aquino is the current director of the Center For Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Her career has included teaching, research, writing, community service, and activism for various social, educational, humanitarian and international issues.

An internationally-recognized expert on contemporary Philippines, Aquino has written extensively on cultural, social and political issues. Under her leadership, the Center For Philippine Studies has become a respected authority of information and analyses on Philippine-related issues.



**◀ MAGGIE DOMINGO**

**(HUMANITARIAN AND COMMUNITY SERVICE)**

Domingo is the president of the Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii (PCFH), which has raised \$100,000 in funds for the Fil-Com Center. The PCFH also sponsors the annual Filipino Parents of the Year and Filipino Valedictorians of the Year from all of Hawaii's schools.

Domingo has received numerous awards for her community service. A well known KNDI radio personality, Domingo is also a successful businesswoman. She works as president and manager of Phil-Am Travel Agency. She is also a licensed insurance agent and a counselor for funeral plans.



**RUTH MABANGLO ▶**

**(ARTS & LETTERS)**

Mabanglo is a professor of Filipino and Philippine Language at the Department of Hawaiian and Indo-Pacific Languages at UH. She has distinguished herself as a five-time first place recipient of the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for literature.

*(continued on page 10)*



**PICTORIAL NEWS**



**ARAW NG KAGITINGAN** Shown in this photo with Sec. Teodoro are the Farrington High School students and Rep. Joey Manahan at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl last April 6.

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## FEATURE

# Fil-Am Actor Realizes Dream in ABC Family TV Hit Series

By Gregory Bren Garcia

**F**or many actors, the calling of Timeslot town begins at a very tender age. Young Filipino-American artist Allen Evangelista's love story with show business is no different. Ever since he played the funny role of a drunken man in a third grade school play and had everyone in the audience laughing, he realized that his lifelong passion would be to entertain. Today, as one of the mainstays in the top-rated ABC Family TV show "The Secret Life of the American Teenager," Evangelista is living this passion and fulfilling his dreams.

## Small beginnings, big dreams

"Music and acting have always been part of my life," says Evangelista, a bright-eyed young man with wholesome Asian features. As a matter of fact, the Los Angeles native traces his roots to the Philippines. Born of a father from Manila and a mother from Pampanga, he is of pure Filipino descent and considers his love for entertainment as an offshoot of his ancestry.

"I find us (Filipinos) a very talented people. Many of us can act, sing and dance. The world is getting to see more and more of that," he says.

Evangelista grew up in the small L.A. suburb of Pico Rivera, in a close-knit family of four with his parents and his sister. Before going full-time in show business, Evangelista kept himself busy attending school. He attended Cal Poly Pomona (The California State Polytechnic University, Pomona) where he majored in computer science, but ended up in communications with an emphasis on public relations.

Evangelista first became visible in the entertainment industry when he did guest spots on popular ABC television shows including the family drama "Once and Again" and the acclaimed action thriller series "Alias." He also appeared on Fox's sci-fi action drama "Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles" and was a recurring guest star on Nickelodeon's teen comedy show "Zoey 101."

"I also shot a couple of

movies with the likes of Josh Hartnett ("Mozart and the Whale"), Seann William Scott and Randy Quaid ("Balls Out: Gary the Tennis Coach"). These were pretty big roles too so I feel blessed and extremely lucky," he adds.

## A look into The Secret Life

The biggest break for Evangelista, however, came when auditions opened for "The Secret Life of the American Teenager"—ABC Family's current highest-rating original series.

A brainchild of "7th Heaven" creator Brenda Hampton, the series revolves around the pregnancy of character Amy Jeurgens (played by Shailene Woodley), a 15-year-old high schooler, and how her unexpected situation affects her family and her friends.

In this show, Evangelista plays the somewhat introverted and geeky character Henry Miller, the loyal best friend of Ben (played by Kenny Baumann), Amy's present boyfriend.

The show's portrayal of a good variety of true-to-life characters helps in its gaining much acclaim among audiences and industry critics alike. For instance, an excerpt from the New York Times stated that "the kids in 'Secret Life' are more real and come from families of all stripes—from intact to single-parent households to one boy in foster care. And they are all good kids despite their shortcomings."

Indeed, in contrast to many other teen-oriented shows which are, more often than not, populated by stereotypical characters played by actors who look more like post-grad students than actual high school teens, "The Secret Life" seems to have a line-up of better fleshed out characters and a more believable plotline.

"Sadly, I feel the show portrays real obstacles faced by high school students these days. Teens do have sex and girls do get pregnant," says Evangelista. "While we certainly can't say we're solving the problem, I feel like we're helping make people become aware of it. Being on ABC Family, parents can watch the show with their kids and hopefully, this opens dialogue about these issues."

Career-wise, Allen believes

"The Secret Life" opens a lot of opportunities. "My current job on 'The Secret Life' is my biggest role yet and also my most popular," he says. "I get stopped in public often and the fans have been amazing and supportive. Our ratings reflect that too. We're on cable but we're beating shows like 'Gossip Girl' and '90210.' I can't thank the fans enough."

Evangelista's success has inspired other Filipino-American and Asian-American artists who also aspire to be in show business. "It's truly a blessing," he says. "There are people saying I've inspired them to get into the business and are asking me for advice. I'm grateful for everything."

## Real Allen vs. 'Reel' Allen

Off-screen, Evangelista is just your day-to-day, average teenager. He loves playing basketball and video games, as well as eating to his heart's content. He also plays the guitar and listens to music of acoustic artists including Damien Rice, James Morrison and Jason Mraz.

But when asked whether he is vain like most good-looking men, he humbly retracts. "I workout every other day and I do try to look my best. There's a lot of pressure in this business," he says. "But I truthfully don't consider myself good-looking."

Right now, a love life is non-existent for him. He has chosen to put his career first until he's well-off enough to find someone and provide for a family.

Nevertheless, Evangelista has a growing fan base, as evidenced by websites dedicated to him popping up on the Internet. Does he ever have any problems with over-enthusiastic admirers?

"Everyone who's come up to me in public has been extremely sweet," he says. "I get some really crazy fan mail sometimes but I just laugh it off. It's just flattering."

Like any other guy on the street, Evangelista has his share of favorite actors. However, it seems that he goes for substance more than plain reputation when choosing his idols.

"William H. Macy has my ideal career. He did solid work in many films, but doesn't necessarily get all the 'fame' that goes with it," he explains. "Johnny



*"Music and acting have always been part of my life," says Fil-Am actor Allen Evangelista, a bright-eyed young man with wholesome Asian features.*

Depp can't go wrong and I'm a big fan of Kevin Spacey as well."

So what will it be for him after "The Secret Life of the American Teenager?" Like a true artist, he always looks forward to improving his craft and setting the bar higher.

"I'm writing and recording songs. I hope to get them out there in the near future," he says. "I always try to expand my marketability. God-willing, if I can

continue to make a living in this business, I will. I really can't see myself doing anything else."

Exactly what sort of personal philosophy does he try to live by in order to survive the dog-eat-dog world of show business?

"To always set higher goals and never quit. And also to never change as a person. My friends have my consent to slap me if my head gets bigger and starts floating," he says.

## Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# HFWC Announces Winners of Terno Ball, Barong Contest

**T**he terno is one of the Philippines' national dresses that embody beauty, elegance and tradition. The terno never fails to gain admiration for its one-of-a-kind design and artistry. A key feature of the terno is its large domed butterfly-shaped sleeves.

To celebrate this uniquely Filipino fashion style and to preserve its cultural significance, the Hawaii Filipino Women's Club (HFWC) began sponsoring an annual Terno Ball. According to HFWC president Maria Jo Farina, the launch of the first Terno Ball in 1974 created quite a stir within the Filipino community.

"Every year thereafter, various types and styles of the terno came into being," she says. "Many women look forward to the event which showcases our most popular Filipino dress, thus making this event a fun, exciting and lively night."

The annual Terno Ball, now in its 35th year, is also a fundraiser for the HFWC's many activities. Proceeds have been given to the American Heart Association, shelters for abused women, Catholic Charities, the Hawaii Foodbank, Child and Family Services, the Fil-Com Center, and a host of other non-profit social service

agencies.

The contest was expanded in recent years to include the men, who compete in a separate barong tagalog contest. The barong evolved from a flimsy, hand-woven or abaca shirt with long sleeves that Filipinos wore when the Spaniards colonized the Philippines. Prohibited from adopting the Western style coat and tie, the Filipinos improved the barong by using finer and more expensive hand woven materials like silk. They also embellished the shirt with pleats and embroidery to give the oppressed Filipinos their own sense of fashion and identity.

Today, many Filipino men wear the intricately embroidered barong tagalog for both casual and formal events.

This year, the 35th Annual Terno Ball and Barong Tagalog Contest was held on March 7, 2009 at the Ala Moana Hotel during the HFWC's 55th Anniversary.

The winners are as follows:

- Ms Terno—Lovely May Orsino
- 1st runner up—Melissa McMurray
- 2nd runner up—Bianca Castillo

For the men, the winners are:

- Mr. Barong—Al Franz
- 1st Runner up—Joe Lim
- 2nd runner up—Tony Saramosing



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**WOMEN ACHIEVER AWARDEES**

*(from page 6, Women's Club Honors Achievers)*

She has also co-authored textbooks, scholarly materials and articles, stage plays and writes a weekly column for the Hawaii-Filipino Chronicle. Mabanglo envisions her advocacy work for Filipino as global language to help in the promotion of cross-cultural understanding and greater appreciation of the Philippines' heritage.



**◀ ELIZABETH RAMOS**  
**(GOVERNMENT SERVICE)**

Ramos is a telecommunications specialist who worked for the U.S. Navy from 1980-2001 on the management of Department of Defense (DOD) and non-DOD communications system and equipment. During her years of service, she has received numerous awards and commendations from the military.

**BEATRIZ RAZON ▶**  
**(NURSING ADMINISTRATION)**

Razon is a registered nurse, a Certificated Director of Nursing and a fellow of the National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long Term Care. Her 35 years of experience as an RN led her to management levels and to her current position as quality assurance nurse for the State Department of Human Services.

In 2000, Razon established Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc (NAMI), which helps Philippine-trained nurses realize their dreams of working in the U.S. Over the years, Razon has received numerous awards for her contributions to the field of nursing and for her many hours of community service.

In a written message, Philippine Consul General Ariel Y. Abadilla congratulated the five honorees.

"They contribute their time and abilities in exemplary service to the Filipino-American community in Hawaii," he says. "They are role models for everyone who wishes to achieve success in their respective professions."



**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**

**City Council Approves Cell Phone Ban While Driving**

The Honolulu City Council voted 6-1 to adopt a bill that outlaws the use of cell phones and all electronic mobile devices while driving.

Cell phones would still be permitted if motorists use wireless, hands free devices such as Bluetooth technology. The bill also allows drivers to make 911 emergency calls.

There are, however, exemptions. The bill exempts emergency personnel and drivers who use two-way radios on the job, as well as amateur radio operators.

The bill now goes before Mayor Mufi Hannemann for his signature. All signs point toward the mayor signing the bill into law. If so, the bill will take effect on July 1, 2009.

Prior to enforcing the law, HPD says it will launch a public educational campaign to warn motorists.

Hawaii joins the District of Colum-



bia and six other states—California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Utah and Washington—that have banned the use of hand-held cellular phones while driving.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Massive Win Catapults Vitoria to No. 1 in Latest 'Ring' Rankings

By Dino Maragay/  
Wednesday, April 22, 2009

**M**ANILA, Philippines — Filipino-Hawaian Brian Vitoria has gone from zero to hero, as far as the ratings of the so-called "Bible of Boxing" are concerned.

After scoring a dazzling victory over highly rated former champion Ulises Solis last Sunday, Vitoria is now the number one-ranked junior flyweight of The Ring Magazine, according to the publication's official website (<http://www.ringtv.com/>).

What's more impressive is that Vitoria isn't even rated by the reputable magazine before beating Solis.

"It's amazing what a dramatic knockout can do to the perception of a fighter," the magazine said.

The Filipino-Hawaian uncorked an overhand right that dropped the visiting Mexican in the 11th round of their championship bout in "The Flash and the Furious" boxing card at the Araneta Coliseum last Sunday. The fight was for Solis' IBF flyweight crown.

Vitoria became the first fighter to stop the highly regarded Mexican, a fact that



Brian Vitoria downs Ulises Solis on the 11th round to wrest the IBF flyweight crown

members of the magazine's rating panel heavily considered.

Vitoria's win over Solis had such an impact that The Ring even ranked him above fellow junior flyweight champion Edgar Sosa — a fighter who in 2007 defeated "The Hawaiian Punch" via majority decision to wrest the WBC 108-pound crown.

"As No. 2 contender Edgar Sosa beat Brian Vitoria, we considered making him No. 1 and Vitoria No. 2, but decided

against it for two reasons: One, Sosa's win over Vitoria was a majority decision, and two, it was in 2007. Therefore, we gave greater weight to Vitoria's more recent and more convincing victory over Ulises Solis," said Nigel Collins, editor-in-chief of The Ring.

The tough Solis, meanwhile, slid down to the fourth spot in the magazine's ratings ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)).

## Troops Clash with Rebels in Maguindanao

By Paolo Romero /  
Thursday, April 23, 2009

**C**OTABATO (Xinhua) — Clashes between Philippine security forces and rebels erupted this afternoon in Maguindanao, a local Army ground commander said.

Troops fired several rounds of 105 howitzers towards the position of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the country's largest rebel group, in the marshy areas of Datu Saudi Ampatuan town in Maguindanao province, First Mechanize Battalion Col. William Alondoy told Xinhua.

The exchange of fire forced a number of local villagers to flee home, he said. "We have yet to determine if there are casualties on both sides in our artillery attacks," Alondoy said.

He said the rebels were believed to be the followers of MILF sub-commander Ameril Umbra Kato, on whose arrest the government offers \$283,949 in bounties.

Peace talks between the government and the 11,800-member MILF collapsed anew in August 2008 after the two sides failed to sign an agree-



ment on ancestral domain, prompting radical rebel commanders to launch deadly attacks on Christian communities in Mindanao.

Kato, among two others, was accused of engineering the series of attacks last August.

Ancestral domain refers to the MILF's demand for territory that will constitute a Muslim homeland. It is the last remaining hurdle for a final political settlement that is expected to end the four decades of Muslim insurgency that has claimed more than 120,000 lives. Once signed, both sides are expected to work towards a final peace deal that would include plans for the future of the group's 12,000 fighters. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## Over 50,000 Sign Up for Overseas Absentee Voting



By Dino Maragay/  
Wednesday, April 22, 2009

**M**ANILA, Philippines — The number of new Filipinos who registered as overseas absentee voters (OAVs) has reached 50,122, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) announced yesterday.

According to a statement released the DFA, the figure was based on the latest tally received from Philippine Embassies, Missions, Consulates and Offices around the world.

The statement, published in the DFA's official website (<http://dfa.gov.ph/>), showed the breakdown of the total number of OAV registrants worldwide: Asia and the Pacific (13,136); Americas (12,342); Europe (7,298); Middle East and Africa (5,756).

A total of 11,590 new OAVs have so far registered at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) OAV registration centers.

"These figures will increase tremendously as we continue for promotion of OAV activities in all Philippine Foreign Service Posts intensify during the remaining period of OAV registration," said DFA Undersecretary Rafael Seguis.

Seguis is also the Chairperson of the Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat.

The DFA added that the OAV registration will last until August 31, 2009.

([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))



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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# First Gentleman Brings to SC Appeal vs P12.5-Million Libel Suit Filed by Journalists

By Edu Punay /  
Thursday, April 23, 2009

**M**ANILA, Philippines - First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo asked the Supreme Court yesterday to stop a Makati court from hearing a P12.5-million damage suit filed against him by over 40 journalists and media organizations in December 2006.

In his petition, Mr. Arroyo said Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 143 did not acquire jurisdiction over the case due to non-payment of the

proper docket fees.

Judge Zenaida Galapate-Laguilles acted without jurisdiction when she admitted the amended complaint of the journalists, he added.

The Court of Appeals had denied with finality Mr. Arroyo's petition to dismiss the complaint.

"The Court of Appeals ruled contrary to law and existing jurisprudence in affirming the admission of the amended complaint considering that the non-payment of docket fees did not vest the trial court with jurisdiction over the case and such



FG Mike Arroyo

defect is not proper subject of an amendment," read Mr. Arroyo's petition.

Mr. Arroyo's lawyer Ruy Roudain said the preliminary hearing based on the amended complaint would violate his client's rights since the Makati court has yet to acquire jurisdiction

over the case as the journalists have yet to pay the proper docket fees.

Based on his computations, Mr. Arroyo said since the 39 complainants are seeking damages totaling P487.5 million, they should have paid P9 million in docket fees.

The journalists used the word "each" in their original complaint, denoting that each of them desires to recover damages from him, he added.

In their amended complaint, the journalists removed the word "each" but asked the same amount of P12.5 million in damages.

Last Sept. 22, the CA's former seventh division has denied the petition for lack of merit.

The CA said there was no proof of bad faith on the part of the journalists when they filed

the amended complaint.

"To be sure, the present motion for reconsideration does not present any new issue which has not been addressed in the Court's decision," read the CA decision.

The CA dismissed Mr. Arroyo's motion for reconsideration last Feb. 24.

At least 40 journalists and media organizations, "on their own behalf and acting as class suit representatives of fellow members of the Philippine press," filed a class action suit against Mr. Arroyo on Dec. 28, 2006 before the Makati RTC.

They demanded "the symbolic amount" of at least P12.5 million in damages for "anxiety, loss of income and other inconveniences" caused by libel suits which Mr. Arroyo had previously filed against them. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## RP 2009 Borrowings to Reach P613.9 Billion

By Dino Maragay/  
Thursday, April 23, 2009

**M**ANILA, Philippines - The Arroyo administration has increased its borrowing for 2009 to P613.9 billion after it revised its budget deficit ceiling target from P172 billion to P199 billion in anticipation of a far worse slowdown in the economy.

The Department of Finance (DOF) said it has firmed up the revised borrowing program for 2009, marking an increase in official development assistance (ODA) as well as domestic borrowing.

Finance officials announced yesterday that the government has also revised its borrowing mix, increasing its planned foreign borrowing to

28 percent of total borrowing, from 25 percent.

The bulk of this year's government borrowing will remain domestic, but the proportion would decline slightly to 72 percent from the previous level of 75 percent.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan announced that the revisions in the borrowing requirement for this year stemmed from the increase in the deficit ceiling.

Government was also forced to raise the amount it had to borrow because revenues were declining this year, indicating that there would be no other way to finance the increase in its spending.

Tan said the government now plans to borrow P174.9 billion from foreign sources but explained the incremental for-

ceign borrowing would come from official development assistance or ODA sources.

"These are slower than commercial borrowing but we are eyeing program loans that would be faster than project loans," Tan said.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government is not ruling out more commercial borrowing as an option down the road but right now, he said the most attractive opportunities were in ODA sources.

"It's not that we are relying on ODAs, there are just more and better opportunities now in that area, particularly with the Asian Development Bank," Teves said.

On the other hand, the government's domestic borrowing has also been increased from P439 billion to P442 billion that would be raised from the credit market in the form of government securities. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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## LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

# Prospects for Immigration Reform Getting Brighter

ing into fruition with the united support of several influential interest groups, particularly the labor unions.

This week, the two most powerful labor federations, the AFL-CIO and the Change to Win, agreed for the first time to join forces in pushing for the legalization of undocumented aliens and their families.

Other advocacy groups have also come out openly for reforms. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has expressed continued support for a guest worker program. A coalition of advocacy groups has committed \$18 million to campaign around the country and rallies are ex-

pected in several cities in the coming weeks.

There is ample support for comprehensive reform in the current Congress. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi have long championed immigration reforms. Representative Luis Guterrez of Illinois has been touring the country since December to generate enthusiasm on the issue.

Of course, as in the past, there are opponents of immigration reforms, particularly in the face of major unemployment and recession in the U.S.

However, studies and data released by economic and labor

experts as provided by the Immigration Policy Center showed that contrary to the fear of its probable dire effects, legalizing undocumented workers already in the U.S. would actually rebound to the benefit of all American workers and help revitalize the U.S. economy.

First of all, legalization of undocumented immigrant workers will increase wages of all U.S. workers by "bringing people out of the shadows" and preventing employers from exploiting the illegal workers by paying them lower than prevailing wages, thus, depressing the wage rate for all U.S. workers.

It would allow workers to be treated fairly and provide a level playing field for all U.S. workers to compete for jobs in the labor market.

Also, integrating undocumented immigrants into the U.S. legal system will motivate them to invest in themselves and in their communities, and this will bring in more revenues into the economy.

The Obama proposal will remove incentives to enter the country illegally by cracking down on employers who hire undocumented immigrants. It will keep families together, meet the demand for jobs that em-

ployers cannot fill, and will enforce border security.

Mr. Obama's thrust is to frame a "policy reform that controls immigration and make it an orderly system" according to Cecilia Munoz, a deputy assistant to the president and director of intergovernmental affairs in the White House.

The studies showed that the new policy reform would actually reduce the high bureaucratic cost of "enforcement-only" approach to immigration and would pay for itself by increasing the wages, the buying power and the tax contributions of all working people.

Addressing this difficult issue will not mean that other priority issues will take a backseat such as healthcare, education, security and the economy. It is part of a comprehensive approach to "support the country's economic recovery and allow honest, hardworking people to become lawful, contributing members of our society," according to Angela Kelley, Director of the Immigration Policy Center in Washington D.C.

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

## GLOBAL NEWS

## De La Salle Building Among World's Top Buildings

The centerpiece of De La Salle University in Manila has achieved what no other building in the Philippines has done ever before.

St. La Salle Building is the one and only entry from the Philippines in the book "1,001 Buildings You Must See Before You Die: The World's Architectural Masterpieces."

Authored by Mark Irving, the book lists 1,001 wonders of architecture that span traditions throughout the world, from adobe pueblos to the lat-

est Pritzker Prize winners.

St. La Salle is a neo-classical building built during 1920-1924 on the campus of De La Salle College to accommodate the increasing student population. A competition to design the building was won by renowned architect Tomas Mapua.

It was once used as the grade school and high school building back when the college was still offering those levels. Its chapel occupies the second and third levels of the south wing of the building. A fourth level was added in the 1990s for the Open House of

the De La Salle Brothers.

The structure was severely damaged during the Allied liberation of Manila in World War II in the Philippines. Restoration of the building after the war took two years and cost 246,883 pesos.

The structures in the publication vary from the Chateau de Chambord in the Loire Valley of France; Borromini's San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane in Rome; the Berlin Reichstag by Sir Norman Foster; the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles by Frank Gehry; and the Yale Art Gallery by Louis Kahn. (*Good News Philippines*)

## Dutch Museum Displays Cora Jacob's bags

A Filipino icon in bag designing is now on display at the world's biggest museum of bags and purses.

Cora Jacob is first-ever Filipino to grace the Netherlands' Tussenmuseum Hendriksje, or Museum of Bags and Purse.

Jacob is known for introducing Filipino craftsmanship to exclusive designer labels such as Dior, Givenchy and Yves Saint Laurent in Paris. Her designs have also graced the shelves of New York's Saks Fifth Avenue and Bloomingdale's, as well as other chic boutiques in Hong

Kong and Singapore.

The lawyer-turned-fashion-designer was invited by the museum's director and curator. The exhibition entitled "Woven Chic Spring-Summer Collection 2009," features eight different lines of bags made of shells, crystal beads, sequins, pearls and other materials woven onto buntal fabric. Made of indigenous Philippine materials, Jacob's bags stand alongside those dating from the late 16th century to present day.

Sigid Ivo, daughter of museum founder Hendrikje Ivo, was impressed by the colorful

collection inspired by tropical themes like the sea, lush forests, tropical fruits and the sun.

"Even in Netherlands, there are craftsmanship that are already lost which is why I'm very happy to see old craftsmanship in modern designs. The materials are very elegant and unusual," Ivo says.

The collection impressed even Madame Martine Louise Amélie van Loon née Labouchere, the Mistress of the Robes to Queen Beatrix (closest confidante of the queen), who granted the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Woven Chic Spring-Summer Collection 2009 will be display until May 3. (*Good News Philippines*)

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Angelica Reyes, Consoladation Prize*

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to All*

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 **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**

**JUNE 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 application form.

**JUNE 12, 8:30am.** at the consulate 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.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**DIVINE WORD COLLEGE OF LAOAG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII (DWCLCAAH), 1ST INT'L GRAND REUNION**  
May 2, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii • For more information call Jesse Pascual at 225-3388 or Fe Velasco at 2227436; Amado Yoro 699-9814

Waikiki Ballroom • For tickets and more information, call Dr. Aurelio Agcaolli at 956-8405 or Julia Soriso at 956-2226

**FILIPINO FIESTA, PARADE AND SANTACRUZAN / SATURDAY**  
May 9, 2009 • All day starting at 8 am. • For inquiries, call Fil-Com Center at 680-0451

**DENT'S BALL / FRIDAY**  
June 26, 2009 • 6 pm • Hilton Hawaii Village Resort & SPA H  
• Contact event chair Leo Gozar at 230-0088 or Lina Longboy at 375 0828

**OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY CONVENTION (OFFC) ANNUAL CONVENTION / SATURDAY**  
June 27, 2009 • 7:30 am - 4 pm • Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort & SPA • Contact event chair Carlota Ader at 688-3215 or Lina Longboy at 375 0828 for more details

**FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ENTREPRENEUR** May 2, 2009 / **SATURDAY** • 7 pm • Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom • Call Bernadette Fajardo-342-8090 and Jason Pasca-386-3823

**LITTLE MISS PHIL. HAWAII / SATURDAY**  
May 30, 2009 • Call Maggie Domingo-841-2841, Estrella Ramos-927-8188 and Janice Sevilla-595-8000

**MRS. HAWAII FILIPINA PAGEANT BY UFCH / SATURDAY**  
June 6, 2009 • 6 pm • Hilton Hawaiian Village, Tapa Room • Contact person: Eddie Agas-783-3327, Carlota Ader-688-3215

**FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII INSTALLATION BANQUET / SATURDAY**  
July 11, 2009 • 6 pm. • Hilton Hawaiian Village • Call Rose Mendoza at 371-3902 or Bennett Evangelista at 398-5988

**THE DIVINE WORLD COLLEGE OF LAOAG PHIL. INTERNATIONAL GRAND REUNION**  
May 2, 2009 / **SATURDAY** • 7 pm • Hilton Hawaiian Village, Hotel • Call Amado Yoro - 699-9814, General Chairperson-Jesse Pascual - 225-3388

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROJECT / SATURDAY**  
June 13, 2009 • 9:30 am - 1:30 pm • Likelike Highway & Kalihi Street • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828

**VISAYAN CENTENNIAL EVENTS**

**VISAYAN CENTENNIAL FIESTA**  
May 2009 • Lanai

**UST SINGERS PERFORMANCES** May 8, 2009 / **FRIDAY** • 6:30 pm • Farrington Community Auditorium  
May 10, 2009 / **SUNDAY** • 6:00 pm • Filipino Community Center • For more information, call 678-8930, 387-8297 or 671-3911.

**MISS OAHU FILIPINA PAGEANT / SATURDAY**  
June 14, 2009 • 6 pm • Hawaii Prince Hotel • Contact event chair Danny Villaruz at 778-0233 or Lina Longboy at 375 0828

**VISAYAN CENTENNIAL TOUR**  
May 15 - June 3, 2009 • (Iloilo, Cebu and Davao) Philippines

**VISAYAN CENTENNIAL AWARDS GALA / SUNDAY**  
July 19, 2009 • 6 pm. • Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki

**TIMPUYOG AND ILOKANO BA SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET / FRIDAY**  
May 8, 2009 • Hale Koa Hotel,

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**COVO STATEWIDE CONVENTION AND CENTENNIAL GALA**  
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