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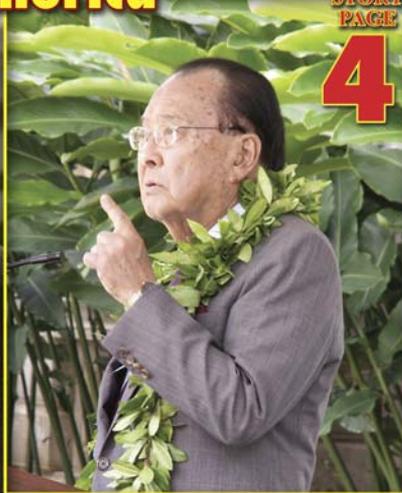
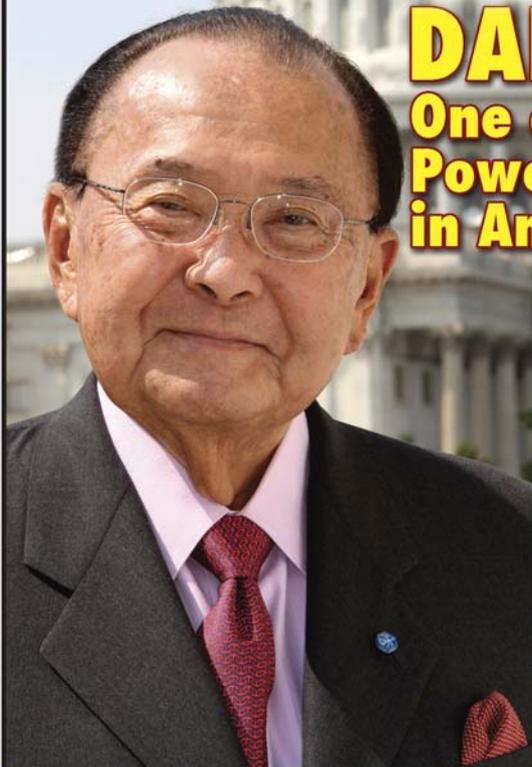
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ OCTOBER 9, 2010 ◆

An Interview with Senator **DAN INOUE** One of the Most Powerful Politicians in America

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EDITORIAL

Inouye Good for Filipinos and Hawaii

Over the years, political hopefuls have typically courted the Filipino vote. They appear at parties and the like, pose for pictures and shake hands. Some have gone as far as aligning themselves with Filipinos, promising, if elected, to support various causes espoused by the community.

Each election season brings new names and faces, but one politician has remained steadfastly behind Hawaii's Filipino community—U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, Hawaii's elder statesman and senior ranking member of the U.S. Senate. Some politicians talk a good game but Inouye, 86, has put his money where his mouth is by sponsoring many initiatives that benefited not only the Filipino community, but the entire state. Take for example, his dihard support of Filipino World War II veterans. Inouye authored a provision that was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. He fought like crazy to insert \$198 million for Filipino veterans in the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill over the objections of fellow lawmakers. In 2003, he introduced the Filipino Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act, which provided a number of benefits to assist Filipino veterans in their twilight years. It doesn't end there. In 2002, Congress appropriated \$800,000 to help complete the Fil-Com Center, thanks largely to Inouye. He was also instrumental in securing a \$2 million grant for the Fil-Com Center from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Currently, Inouye chairs the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee as well as the Defense Subcommittee. During his five-decades in Congress, he has delivered billions of dollars in federal money to Hawaii. Whether it's money for mass transit, agriculture, the military, education, the environment, construction or other sectors, he could be counted on to bring home the bacon for the Aloha State.

It's no surprise then, that Inouye has won the admiration and respect of Hawaii's Filipinos—many of whom would overwhelmingly vote him to a ninth term in Congress. This November 2nd, let's be certain that he is.

DREAM Act Remains a Dream for Young Immigrants

On September 21st, the U.S. Senate rejected the Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors (DREAM) Act by a 56-43 vote. It needed 60 votes to pass but ultimately, two Democrats voted 'no' and not a single Republican in favor. The DREAM Act offered a path for young people to become legal U.S. residents after spending two years in college or the military. It applied to those who were under 16 when they arrived in the U.S., have been in the country at least five years and have a diploma from a U.S. high school or the equivalent.

Each year, about 65,000 undocumented children graduate from high school. Many of them are no different than their peers who are U.S. citizens. Their ranks include honor roll students, star athletes, talented artists, homecoming queens and aspiring teachers, doctors and other professionals. Sadly, many of them reach a dead end after high school. They find it impossible to join the military, legally work or afford to attend college.

The carefully-crafted DREAM Act targeted these promising young people who demonstrated the hope and promise of a better life that America has always held out to those who seek its shores. Unfortunately, they and other undocumented immigrants who have been productive members of society will have to continue waiting to achieve the American Dream.

Despite the setback, we need to continue to press forward and

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Aloha! It seems like forever and a day since our last issue, which was September 18. The three-week break was refreshing but now we are back and will be providing you with weekly issues from now through the end of 2010. Speaking of which, can you believe how fast the year has flown by? Before you know it, Halloween will be here, followed by the General Election on November 2nd, then Thanksgiving...and before you know it, Christmas!

But first things first. For this issue, we are pleased to present to our readers an exclusive interview with the Honorable U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye. We cannot say enough good things about Sen. Inouye who, time and again, has gone to bat for the Filipino community, particularly on behalf of our World War II veterans. The entire state has in fact benefitted from his considerable clout on Capitol Hill. Thanks to Inouye and our hard-working congressional delegation, Hawaii has gotten its fair share of federal dollars. He now faces Republican opponent Cam Cavasso in the General Election. Based on his seniority in the Senate and what he brings to the table for Hawaii, we feel that Sen. Inouye is the right choice and good for Hawaii. We hope you will enjoy reading about Sen. Inouye beginning on page 4.

Also in this issue, we have an interesting "Ask a Doctor" column written by Frigga Fabay, M.D., who discusses the effects of gout and the latest treatments. Since many Filipino dishes are rich in meat and seafood, it's not surprising that Filipinos, particularly middle-aged men, suffer from gout. If you're interested on learning more about this "disease of kings," please read the article on page 12.

Lastly, there's still time to purchase tickets for "Love Stories," a new musical presentation by Doctors-on-Stage, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 9 at 6pm at the Fil-Com Center. Proceeds will benefit Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls—a free health care initiative that has benefited thousands of immigrants and other needy Hawaii residents since 1997. More details on the musical are available on the full page ad on page 3. Hope to see you there!

That's all for now. Until next time... aloha and mahalo!

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

to support comprehensive immigration reform that repairs the current system that strands thousands of deserving would-be immigrants on endless waiting lists. More importantly, what is needed is a true champion like President Barack Obama, who has yet to make good on the immigration reforms he promised during his presidential campaign. It is time to stop punishing innocent young people, especially those who grew up in America and want to serve their country in the military or pursue higher education. What they want is an opportunity to go to school and live their lives in a country they call home. It certainly isn't too much to ask.

LETTERS

A Big Mahalo to the Filipino Community

I like to commend your newspaper for providing an intelligent and lively forum for political ideas which has helped turn many Filipinos into informed voters. Thank you for this opportunity to thank the Filipino community for the tremendous victory that we all put together on Primary Saturday, September 18.

I am grateful to those Filipinos who were a part of our campaign. Together we modeled a new way forward for Hawaii. The way we campaigned—positive, empowered, open and inviting—is exactly how we need to be if we are going to bring change to Hawaii.

Mahalo and mahalo!

Neil Abercrombie
Democratic candidate for governor



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COVER STORY

An Interview with Senator Dan Inouye

One of the Most Powerful Politicians In America

By HFC Staff

GHRONICLE: Jobs are the number one concern among most Americans. Many people see economic globalism, jobs being shipped away for cost-savings, as part of the problem. What can Congress do to find a balance between being competitive globally and keeping more jobs from leaving the U.S.? How can the federal government stimulate job growth?



U.S. Senator Dan Inouye of Hawaii

INOUE: When one considers global competitiveness and retaining jobs in the U.S., generally the first thought that comes to mind is "trade." For example, 100 years ago, the thought that Hawaii would be without a strong sugar industry seemed unlikely. The plantations were both a way of life and a source of employment. It started the wave of immigration of Filipinos to Hawaii. In the last 20 years we have watched the plantations close as markets abroad and increased competition made sugar too expensive to continue here. Diversified agriculture and specialty projects have replaced "big" sugar as our export commodities.

There are a number of ways that Congress can help to ensure the U.S. remains a global competitor without the risk of losing jobs overseas. This includes examining trade agreements carefully. Far more important to the

long-term survivability of our competitive edge is our emphasis on education. In this world of technological advancement and scientific discovery, our nation must do everything it can to provide a solid understanding in the basics of math and science if we are to remain competitive globally.

The White House proposed and Congress passed the Economic Stimulus law to help jumpstart the economy and to help people struggling through this economic downturn. To date, about \$2 billion in federal spending is coming to Hawaii to build infrastructure, grow jobs and provide social services to those in need.

CHRONICLE: *Hawaii is able to garner a lion's share of federal dollars due in part to its strategic position in the Pacific as well as its senior representation in the Senate in yourself*

and Sen. Daniel Akaka. Your presence in the Senate clearly will secure those much needed federal dollars that help keep the state's economy from slipping further. Considering how much our state depends on jobs that are funded federally, how would you address the legitimate concern that such funds may dip considerably without senior representation in the Senate in the next 12-14 years?
INOUE: With my many years of seniority and experience in the Senate, I am in a position to deliver federal resources to Hawaii to build our economy and create jobs, to invest in better, more accessible health care, and to continue to improve our education system. If I am re-elected, I will continue to make long-term investments for Hawaii which our children and grandchildren will reap in the years ahead.

CHRONICLE: *Immigration reform is poised to be the next big issue Congress will tackle perhaps as early as next year. What are some specific features you will be supporting?*

INOUE: I have long supported efforts to control illegal immigration into the U.S., particularly when those who apply for immigration through legal channels currently endure long waits under our outdated immigration system. I believe reform that creates an orderly system based on reasonable and robust enforcement of law is essential.

There is a need for fundamental changes in federal immigration law. However, Congress has been unsuccessful in passing comprehensive changes due to divisive passions and a lack of a coherent view of how immigration policy should be shaped. The need for reform was heightened by the recent passage of an Arizona law that addressed the issue of illegal immigration. This law may lead to a myriad of abuses including discrimination against immigrants, which is contrary to the traditions and interests of this country. The key will be to find a fair balance.

I support the Development, Relief, and Education of Alien Minors (DREAM) Act to enable students and select members of our military to seek legalization. I also support updating to the immigration quota system to reclaim unused visas in past years, revise the term "immediate relatives" to include spouses and

minor children of green card holders, and exempt children of naturalized Filipino World War II veterans from worldwide or numerical immigrant limitations. I co-sponsored the Reuniting Families Act of 2009, which allows widows, widowers and orphans to immigrate, despite the death of a petitioner. These provisions would benefit many Filipino families that have been impacted by family immigration backlogs and deaths of the petitioner family member, due to long waits for family-based visas.

CHRONICLE: *As an extension of immigration reform, there's some momentum among GOP leaders to change the 14th Amendment, specifically the section that grants U.S. citizenship to every child born on U.S. soil. The likelihood of this passing is very slim, but its mere consideration reveals just how far apart sectors of our country stand with regard to immigration. Given this wide rift, what concessions do you foresee happening in immigration reform?*

INOUE: On the issue of changing the 14th Amendment, I frankly see this issue going nowhere. Some of my Republican colleagues want to reconsider this amendment that grants automatic citizenship to persons born in the U.S. Repealing this citizenship right can only be done through a constitutional amendment, requiring approval by a two-third majority in both cham-

(continued on page 5)

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, An Interview...)

bers of Congress and by three-fourths of the states. There are no concessions on this particular issue nor should there be..

CHRONICLE: *Americans in many states with large progressive Democrats, Hawaii included, believe Obama's healthcare plan is just a spring-board toward real healthcare overhaul. Would you support continued efforts to include a paid option or other features that move the country closer to a single-payer system?*

INOUE: Since my earliest days in the Congress, I believe that all Americans should have access to quality, affordable health care. I am extraordinarily proud to have voted for the original Medicare and Medicaid legislation, a hallmark of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society vision more than 40 years ago. Over the years, I have supported more comprehensive health care legislation than any other sitting member of Congress. Almost everyone would agree that we have the greatest health care system of any nation in the world. And yet, our health care costs have been escalating faster than any other segment of our economy and are simply unsustainable. Over the next five years we will see the systematic implementation of the President's vision, with minor modifications as they become necessary. For the first time, wellness, prevention and encouraging healthy diets and lifestyles have become a national priority. Working as a

team, our congressional delegation was successful in including a provision in the President's bill which will allow the Hawaii Pre-paid Health Care Act to continue in effect, as long as we meet or exceed the new national standards. Hawaii has been a leader.

At this time, it is too early to predict whether our nation will ultimately decide to adopt a "single-payer" system. The more critical issue is working together to improve access to quality health care for all citizens, curtail the costs involved, and bring the latest advances in scientific knowledge into a clinician's daily practice for the benefit of all patients.

CHRONICLE: *The U.S. Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission ruled this year that corporations may spend as freely as they would like to support or oppose candidates in federal elections, in essence, lifting PACS's existing contribution limitations. This is a landmark decision and game-changer in the amount of skewed influence big money will have on elections, undermining the democratic process. What actions are Congress prepared to take to even the playing field and undo the Supreme Court's ruling?*

INOUE: Following the Supreme Court's decision, legislation was introduced in both houses of Congress which would address loopholes created by the ruling to restrict electioneering expenditures by corporations.



The Act is called the Democracy is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in Elections (DISCLOSE) Act. I voted to allow debate on the DISCLOSE Act because it was important the full Senate had an opportunity to thoroughly discuss the arguments and merits. To ensure that our electoral process remains free of malicious influences, the Congress has enacted a variety of campaign finance and election laws that curb special interests from unduly influencing campaigns. At the same time, we must balance the safeguarding of our elections without infringing on the Constitution's protection of free speech.

CHRONICLE: *In your many decades at the Senate, how has*

Congress changed throughout the years for better and for worse?

INOUE: Thirty years ago, we enacted many legislative measures that were attributed to the bi-partisan spirit that was present in the U.S. Senate. For example, Senator Stevens and I, though from different political parties, worked together to improve the quality of life for our respective non-contiguous states. We focused on our similarities and we succeeded. Our rule was that we knew how to disagree without being disagreeable.

Today, it saddens me to see how partisan the U.S. Senate has become and how frustrating and difficult it continues to be to complete any legislative action. Stonewalling has become commonplace. I believe that the U.S. Senate can accomplish its goals by returning to better collaboration and compromise. I remain optimistic that we can return to the bi-partisanship spirit soon.

CHRONICLE: *How would you assess President Barack Obama's performance to date? How could he improve his working relationship with Congress?*

INOUE: President Obama has performed admirably considering the daunting challenges left

to him by the previous administration. He has brought energy and optimism to our nation. The problems the President inherited were numerous. It included two wars, a global financial crisis that originated with the U.S. housing market and a nation divided by partisan bickering. The President has done his best to stabilize the U.S. economy by jumpstarting the economy and creating jobs, and shepherding through Congress the most comprehensive financial reform since the Great Depression, and the most comprehensive health care overhaul since the enactment of the Medicare program in 1966. And, Obama has managed two wars while overseeing the gradual draw down of troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I have seen my share of new administrations and like those before him, President Obama will come to realize that Congress is not a rubber stamp for any administration, and must consult with Congressional leaders before unveiling sweeping policy reforms. I look forward to working with the President and his administration to improve the future for Hawaii's working families.

CHRONICLE: *How do you view your relationship with the*
(continued on page 6)



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COVER STORY (cont.)

(from page 5, An Interview...)

Filipino community?

INOUE: I view my relationship with the Filipino community as one of admiration and respect. It stems back 50 years, when I traveled to the Philippines soon after my election as Hawaii's first Representative to Congress. The hospitality of the Filipino people was beyond every expectation. Although I was but a freshman member of Congress from a freshman state, I was accorded the privilege of conferring with President Carlos Garcia and his Cabinet.

I have since made several return visits to the Philippines including an unplanned trip in 1972 shortly after devastating floods ravaged much of the Philippines. I had just been designated chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and decided to make a personal, on-site investigation. At that time, the floods were considered the worst natural disaster in recorded Philippine history. As a result of my visit, the U.S. Congress provided \$50 million in disaster relief to the Philippines.

In each of my subsequent visits to the Philippines, to this day, I remain appreciative and deeply moved by the outpouring support and continued hospitality of the Filipino people. I am honored and proud to be an Honorary Citizen of Pangasinan and the "Son of Bustos," two designations bestowed on me by the government of the Province of Pangasinan and by the Municipality of Bustos, Bulacan, re-

spectively.

I continue to support aid to provide hope and promote peace in the Philippines. Within the last two fiscal years 2009 and 2010, at my request, Congress has provided \$62 million in foreign military financing to the Philippines; \$60 million in economic support funds; and \$70.2 million in development assistance for a wide range of poverty-reduction and long-term development activities including agriculture and rural development, education and training, energy and environment and micro-credit programs.

CHRONICLE: What do you think are the major issues facing the Filipino community today?

INOUE: Filipinos represent the fastest growing segment of the State of Hawaii, comprising 14 percent of the entire population. However, findings of a study conducted by the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine, indicate that Filipinos represent more than 47 percent of the gang membership on Oahu, suggesting that low Filipino cultural identification and low family support are important risk factors for delinquency.

In addition, Hawaii Department of Education statistics show that Filipino students, Grades K-12, are the second largest ethnic group (21 percent) enrolled in Hawaii's public schools, with an average graduation rate of 85 percent (2007-2009). At the same time, Filipino



students rank second to last, in both reading and math proficiencies (69 percent in 2010, and 51 percent in 2010, respectively), compared to Japanese students (84 percent and 70 percent) and white students (81 percent and 60 percent).

When you look at these statistics, a major issue facing the Filipino community today is our State's Filipino youth and the continued investments needed to improve the quality of their education, and provide a better appreciation and self-pride toward their heritage and culture. In this regard, I was able to secure for the last three years, approximately \$1.5 million to the University of Hawaii to expand its outreach efforts to our Filipino youth to support them in their successes in the future higher education pursuits. Education is the great equalizer.

CHRONICLE: Japan and Korea are on the U.S.'s Visa Waiver Program which allows their citizens easier entry to the U.S. for business or pleasure. There are many Philippine nationals who would love to come to Hawaii to visit relatives here but talk about the difficulty of obtaining visa clearance. Given the huge potential for increased Philippine tourists stimulating our state's economy, as well as the benefit of uniting Filipino families temporarily, would you support efforts to get the Philippines on the list of countries on the U.S. Visa Waiver Program?

INOUE: To petition for admission in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), the Philippines must meet security and other objective statutory requirements that examine visa fraud and refusal rates. VWP applicants are required to maintain counter-terrorism, law enforcement, border control and document security standards. The 9/11 Act of 2007 included these enhancements to provide a more secure interna-

tional travel environment and help facilitate the movement of legitimate travelers to the U.S. A VWP-eligible country must also have a nonimmigrant visa refusal rate of 3 percent or less. For Fiscal Year 2009, unfortunately, the visa refusal rate for the Philippines was 36 percent. Accordingly, until its nonimmigrant visa refusal rate is lowered considerably, the Philippines cannot be considered for admission in the VWP.

CHRONICLE: Which legislation are you most proud of?

INOUE: There are many measures that I am most proud of including the recognition of service for the Filipino World War II veterans. Over the years, I have tried my best to right the injustices committed against the Filipino World War II veterans. While their road to recognition has been long and difficult, for me, it is a matter of honor that they truly deserve.

In recognition of their contributions during World War II, Congress in March 1942 granted Filipino citizens the privilege of becoming U.S. citizens. The law expired on December 31, 1946, but many Filipino veterans were denied the opportunity to apply for the naturalization benefit because of an executive decision to remove the naturalization examiner from the Philippines for a nine-month period.

Further, under the Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt, Filipinos who volunteered for the Philippine Commonwealth Army and fought alongside U.S. armed forces were also entitled to full veterans' benefits. However, Congress enacted the Rescission Act of 1946, which declared the service performed by the Philippine Commonwealth veterans as not "active service," thereby denying Filipino World War II veterans benefits to which they were entitled.

In 1990, I authored legislation which was included in the Immigration Act of 1990. The measure allowed certain Filipino veterans who served during World War II to apply and become eligible for U.S. citizenship. Approximately 24,000 Filipino World War II veterans took advantage of this law and became U.S. citizens. However, this law did not confer veterans' benefits on these American citizens.

It took nearly 20 years to pass a series of laws culminating with a provision I authored in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to establish the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund which provides a one-time benefit payment to eligible Filipino World War II veterans. More than 40,000 claims for this one-time benefit were received and continue to be adjudicated by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Manila. Congress provided a total of \$265 million for this initiative. This benefit represents a small token of acknowledgment and appreciation to the remaining Filipino World War II veterans for their sacrifices and contributions made in defense of our nation.

CHRONICLE: In the next four years, what would you most hope to accomplish?

INOUE: I have made it my life's work to ensure that our island home is not forgotten or left for last by Washington D.C. The people of Hawaii have supported me for 50 years and I promise to honor that trust by doing my best for Hawaii. Throughout my career, I plan 10 years ahead, laying the groundwork for infrastructure that will endure through the decades. Since 1963, I have directed billions to Hawaii to create jobs, build infrastructure and establish and support industries in astronomy, high-technology, the military complex, research, agriculture and education.

In order to accomplish these goals, each county should have a four-year University of Hawaii campus, as well as an expanded community college system, so children from all corners of our state can achieve a college education to be competitive in the global economy.

My service to Hawaii is far from done, so I humbly ask for the privilege to continue fighting for your interests on Capitol Hill.

CHRONICLE: Any final message to our readers?

INOUE: Thank you to all and for your continued support.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat, at sa inyong patuloy na pagsuporta.

Agymamanak kadakayo amin,

ken ihi agnanayanon nga suporta.

Daghang salamat kaninyong tanan ug sa inyong padayon nga pagsuporta

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.

Board-certified ophthalmologist
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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel
Samonte Tipon

What Constitutes Ineffective Assistance of Counsel in Removal Proceedings

cealing malfeasance, (5) conceding inadmissibility or removability, (6) filing documents belatedly, (7) filing inadequate application for adjustment of status, cancellation of removal, or asylum, (8) filing wrong application for relief, (9) fraud and deception, (10) making statements prejudicial to alien, (11) misadvising alien to seek relief under repealed statute, (12) misfiling application for relief with wrong agency, (13) misinforming alien of date or time of hearing, (14) misrepresenting facts or law to alien, (15) preventing alien's attendance at hearing, (16) recommending incorrect or prejudicial theory, claim, or defense, (17) sending notices to alien at incorrect address, (18) withdrawal, abandonment, or failure or refusal to appear for alien.

Acts after Hearing

(1) Filing untimely or defective motion to reopen or reconsider, (2) withdrawing appeal to Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), (3) filing appeal in wrong office, (4) filing untimely or inadequate notice of appeal to BIA, (5) filing untimely or

defective brief with BIA, (6) filing defective brief on appeal to Court of Appeals, (7) misrepresenting to alien that petition for review was filed with Court of Appeals.

Omissions or failures before Hearing

(1) Failure to contact alien, (2) failure to inform alien of hearing date, (3) failure to prepare for hearing, (4) failure to consult with or prepare alien before hearing, (5) failure to advise alien how to collect evidence to substantiate claim or defense, (6) failure to timely file application for cancellation of removal, waiver of inadmissibility, adjustment of status, asylum, Convention Against Torture (CAT), Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA), (7) failure to advise alien against withdrawing application for relief, (8) failure to correct errors in application for benefits or relief.

Omissions or failures during Hearing

(1) Failure to attend, (2) failure to subpoena, prepare, call, or question witness, (3) failure to ob-

tain or present evidence, (4) failure to object to or impeach evidence, (5) failure to explain whether vacatur of conviction was for rehabilitative or immigration-related reasons or for substantive or procedural defects in conviction, (6) failure to challenge revocation of visa petition for alien, (7) failure to request voluntary departure, (8) failure to request stay of removal.

Omissions or failures after Hearing

(1) Failure to timely file motion to reopen or reconsider, (2) failure to file adequate motion to reopen, (3) failure to advise alien of documents needed for motion to reopen, (4) failure to appeal or to timely appeal Immigration Judge's decision to BIA, (5) failure to file or to timely file appeal brief with BIA, (6) failure to appeal or to timely appeal BIA decision to Court of Appeals, (7) failure to file adequate brief in Court of Appeals, (8) failure to inform alien of denial of application for relief, (9) failure to inform alien of removal order, (10) fail-

ure to inform alien of dismissal of appeal.

In the next article, we will discuss the requirements to establish a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.

RECOMMENDATION: If you are a victim of the above-described or similar conduct, consult immediately with a competent and honest attorney.

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He practices in Hawaii, specializing in immigration law and criminal defense. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: flamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com. He is from Laog City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed." an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Listen to the most funny, witty, and useful radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270 AM dial every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. and on KHCB at 1060 AM dial every Thursday at 8 p.m. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness at the time of publication.)

Ineffective assistance of counsel is a ground for reopening removal proceedings if the alien can establish that counsel's misconduct impinged upon the fundamental fairness of the proceedings and the alien was prevented from reasonably presenting the alien's case in violation of due process.

The following are examples of acts or omissions constituting ineffective assistance of counsel, resulting from (1) gross ignorance of immigration law and procedure, (2) poor judgment, (3) poor office management, (4) dishonesty or fraudulent conduct, (5) laziness, etc.

Acts before and during Hearing

(1) Advising alien not to attend hearing, (2) advising alien to give false or inaccurate testimony, (3) concealing bad advice, (4) con-

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Joins Fight Against Chronic
Kidney Disease**

The Filipino community will be among the ethnic groups to benefit from the recent joint efforts to combat chronic kidney disease, the ninth leading cause of death in Hawaii. The Kalihi-Palama Health Center (KPHC) announced that it will be teaming up with the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii to help fight the disease that affects more than 27 million Americans each year and one out of every seven people in Hawaii. Studies show that Filipinos are among the top ethnic groups suffering from kidney disease.

KPHC received \$150,000 in federal funding for the year 2010 and will receive

an additional \$250,000 for 2011 to develop and improve health care programs specifically targeting Hawaii's Filipino population who are at a high risk for chronic disease. Federal funds were made available through the efforts of Sen. Daniel Inouye.

"We are grateful for Senator Inouye's continued commitment to providing health-care services to our community," said Emmanuel Kintu, executive director of KPHC. "With this funding, we will be able to provide outreach, education and support services to individuals who are at risk or may be afflicted with chronic kidney disease."

KPHC is the second largest community health center in Hawaii. Last year, it served 20,000 individuals in 95,000 visits.

**UH Hilo Celebrates Filipino-
American Heritage Month In
October**

The University of Hawaii at Hilo in collaboration with community organizations will be presenting several events in October as part of a month-long celebration observing Filipino-American Heritage month.

The festivity jump-started with a fashion show on the first of the month. On October 14, the university will be hosting the showing of the movie *Caregiver* at the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center, 4 p.m., followed by a panel discussion at the conclusion of the film.

Caregiver is a poignant story of the challenges of one Filipino woman who

leaves the Philippines to seek employment as a care giver in London. Filipina superstar Sharon Cuneta plays the leading role.

To recognize the hard work and contributions of Filipinos in the community, there will be an Outstanding Filipino Leaders Award Ceremony on October 21. Festivities will conclude at the Flow, a fiesta featuring music, entertainment, games and food.

For more information, call 1-808-933-3412.

The month-long events are presented by UH Hilo, Minority Access and Achievement Program, New Student Programs, Campus Center, Bayanihan Club, Diversity Committee, Filipino Advisory Committee and Hawaii Community College.

**Consuelo Foundation Board of
Directors Member Patti Lyons
Honored with Mayor's 2010
Honolulu Forever Young Award**

Patti Lyons, Historian/Secretary, Board of Directors of the Consuelo Foundation, received the Mayor's 2010 Honolulu Forever Young Award, along with other distinguished community members at a special luncheon on October 6.

The award is given to inspiring individuals who represent a new generation of seniors who are redefining our views of aging. They view age 65 as only the beginning. Recipients were selected based on their careers, contributions to the community through mentoring, philanthropy, volunteerism and their healthy lifestyle.



Patti Lyons

The Consuelo Foundation is a private foundation working to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged children, women and families in the Philippines and Hawaii.

Other recipients include Wally Amos, CEO of Chip and Cookie; Ho'oiipo DeCambra, Housing Director of Waianae Coast Community Mental Health Center; Dr. Reginald Ho, oncologist at Straub Clinic and Hospital; the Honorable Michael Town, judge, Criminal Division of the First Circuit Court; and Jackie Young, Ph.D., chief staff officer for Mission, American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

OFWs Saving More - BSP

By Lawrence Agcaoili /
Monday, Sept. 20, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - Beneficiaries of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are turning to savings and investments as the country posted a surprising economic rebound in the first quarter of the year after, results of a survey conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed.

Rosabel Guerrero, director of BSP's Department of Economic Statistics (DES), said the percentage of OFW beneficiaries that earmarked portions of remittances from OFWs increased to 43 percent in the third quarter from 38 percent in the second quarter and from only seven percent in the first quarter of 2007 when the quarterly survey was started.

"The percentage of households that allotted portions of remittances to savings continued to increase to 43 percent (from a low of 7.2 percent in the first quarter of 2007)," Guerrero stressed.

She reported that about seven percent of the beneficiaries of OFW in the third quarter are turning to investments from 7.2 percent in the second quarter and from only 2.3 percent in the first quarter of 2007 when the survey was started.

"On the other hand, the percentage of OFW households that allocated portion of their remittances to investments remained steady at seven percent in the third quarter of 2010," she added.

Families of OFWs have realized the importance of savings and investments as the country's gross domestic product (GDP) posted a surprising growth of 7.9 percent in the first half of the year from 1.2

percent in the same period last year. The country's GDP grew by 7.9 percent in the second quarter after expanding by 7.8 percent in the first quarter of the year.

Data showed that about 96 percent of the households with OFWs used the remittances for food, 71.7 percent for education, 61.6 percent for medical expenses, and 50.3 percent for debt payments.

"OFW households utilize their remittances primarily for food, education, medical expenses, debt payments, and savings in the third quarter of 2010," Guerrero said.

The BSP official also reported that the percentage of respondents with OFW households that used their remittances for the purchase of motor vehicles, appliances, and houses increased in the third quarter from the second quarter.

The percentage of OFW households that used the remittances for the purchase of appliances and other consumer durables increased to 31 percent in the third quarter from 27 percent in the second quarter while those who used the remittances for the purchase of motor vehicles went up to 11.3 percent from 7.7 percent. The percentage of those who used remittances for the purchase of houses increased to 15.5 percent from 11.9 percent.

Latest data from the central bank showed that OFW remittances went up by 7.1 percent to \$10.679 billion from January to July this year compared with \$9.973 billion registered in the same period last year as remittances from sea-based Filipino workers grew by 9.4 percent while that of land-based workers rose by 6.5 percent. (www.philstar.com)

RP May Stop Sending Domestic Workers Abroad

By Mayen Jaymalin /
Monday, October 4, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines may be forced to stop the deployment of household workers (HSWs) abroad early next year as a result of the new migrant workers law, a ranking official of the Department of Foreign Affairs said recently.

Foreign Affairs undersecretary Esteban Conejos admitted that many countries hiring Filipino household workers and other skilled workers are having difficulty complying with the provisions of the new law.

Conejos said under the new migrant workers law, the deployment of household workers is only allowed in countries with existing bilateral agreement with the Philippines or mandated certification from the DFA.

However, Conejos said a number of countries hiring these workers are unlikely to comply with the certification requirement of the government.

To address the problem, Conejos said the government is even considering "quality certification" or certification by skill, thus eliminating the vulnerable sectors.

"We are trying to be optimistic about this, but considering the historical evidence, we might not be so confident with respect to certain sectors. Ironically, the sector (vulnerable sector) that Congress wanted to protect with this amendment might just be the sector that would be stripped of formal protection," Conejos explained.

He added that restriction in deployment may also trigger a rise in illegal deployment of HSWs.

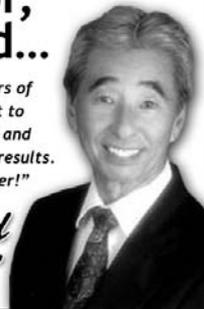
Recruitment leader Lito Soriano said stopping the deployment of HSWs might result in a backlash from foreign countries which may exert economic and political pressure on the Philippines.

Labor Usec Hans Cacdac, however, maintained that the Philippine government has no plans yet to ban the deployment of HSWs abroad. (www.philstar.com)

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ASK A DOCTOR



By Frigga Fabay, M.D.

Disease of the Rich: Looking Back and Moving Forward

Gout is a painful and potentially disabling form of arthritis, more prevalent in men from developed countries. In the ancient times in Egypt, they call it as “the disease of kings.” It is because, historically, those people who are commonly afflicted by this illness are those who are affluent, those that can

afford to overindulge in any kind of foods. This is consistent with a study done in Eastern China that there has been a remarkable increase in prevalence of gout and high uric acid levels in urban areas and developed cities compared to in rural areas. Investigators postulate it may be a renal inability to compensate for a high purine intake, others say an inherited predisposition to develop gout from a Westernized or urbanized diet. However, a 1975 study in the Philippines showed that male

Filipinos, particularly those from low to middle income groups have increase rates of high blood uric acid levels and gout. This is an outright disagreement to the history that this truly is the disease of the rich. Let me tell you what’s new with gout and maybe you can help me decide if this term is still applicable now and in the near future.

Among Filipinos, some doctors and laymen alike believe that high purine meats (visceral-organ meats like liver or tripe), seafoods (sardines, shellfish, turkey, salmon, trout) and vegetables (beans and other legumes) causes gout. Were the ancient Egyptian kings and queens also fond of eating these kinds of foods?

Let us sieve out the facts on what to and what not to eat in gout. Recent reports showed an associated increase risk of gout with high levels of meat and seafood consumption. Purine-rich vegetables are no longer associated with increase attacks of gout. When it comes to drinks, two or more 12-ounce beers daily, increases the risk more than two shots of liquor daily. Consumption of two 4-ounce glasses of wine does not. Furthermore, fructose rich corn syrup seen in softdrinks and other major sources of fructose, including total fruit juice and fructose-rich fruits (apples and oranges) were associated with increase risk. It is believed that fructose enhances purine synthesis and degradation. A high level of consumption of dairy products is associated with decreased risk of gout. And this is because of



the uric acid component in dairy products which enhances elimination of uric acid through the kidneys. Coffee but not tea also decreases uric acid levels, as well. And this is not related to caffeine levels. So in summary, the bad foods are meat, seafoods, softdrinks and beer; the good foods are dairy products, coffee and purine rich vegetables. However, how come a lot of Filipinos and Pacific Islanders that we see in the clinic still experience acute attacks after eating beans (especially mungo beans for Filipinos) and legumes? There is no resolved answer to this, but one rational approach I was made aware of is to advise individuals with gout to keep a diary. To write down the foods they eat before an acute gouty attack so that these foods can be avoided if they truly consistently cause an acute attack.

Medical treatment of gout has recently evolved significantly despite it being a very old disease. Aside from the old uric acid lowering drug Allopurinol, FDA has approved Febuxostat, the first new gout drug in more than 40 years. This was proven more effective, but pricier than Allopurinol and it has less incidence of Steven’s

Johnson’s Syndrome (a potentially life-threatening skin disease), a prevalent side effect among Filipinos. There is also a new drug waiting for FDA approval. This is Rasburicase, a recombinant uricase. Humans lack uricase, which is present in other forms of lower mammals, and this substance is capable of eliminating uric acid from the body by converting it to a more soluble form called allantoin. Another new update was about the more-than-a-century-old drug, Colchicine. Recently a pharmaceutical company got a three year patent for documenting its true effectiveness in the treatment of gout. As a consequence, this gout drug is getting costlier than usual.

This old disease has truly gone far. The foods that make you at risk were demonstrated; drug treatment has been confirmed and evolving. After all these changes, all of us are hoping that this disease can be easily managed economically and change its old name completely.

DR. FRIGGA FABAY is a graduate of University of Santo Tomas and a licensed physician in the Philippines. She is currently participating in the preceptorship program led by Dr. Charlie Sotido.

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LEGAL NOTES

Senate to Vote on DREAM Act



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced on September 14 that the DREAM Act (Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act) will be brought to the Senate floor for a vote next week. It will be attached as an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill.

There is a strong bipartisan support for the bill. The last time the bill came to a vote in the Senate was 2007. Ten Re-

publican senators voted for it. The bill has been introduced in various forms several times in the U.S. Congress since 2001. It was included in the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006, which was passed by the Senate, and the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007.

If the bill passes the Senate it will go to a conference committee reconciliation and then to both House and Senate for a final vote.

The bill would allow certain undocumented students to adjust their status to that of a conditional permanent resident for six years.

To be eligible for benefits under the bill, the student must have entered the U.S. before the

age of 16 and physically present for a continuous period of not less than 5 years immediately preceding the enactment. The student must be less than 35 years old when the law is enacted.

He must also have been enrolled in college or earned a high school diploma or GED certificate. He must be of good moral character.

As a conditional resident he will be eligible to obtain a driver's license, attend college as an in-state resident, work legally, obtain a social security number, and travel outside the U.S.

To remove the condition the student would have to either 1) earn a degree from a community college; or 2) complete at least two years of a bachelor's degree;

or 3) serve in the U.S. military for at least two years.

According to an analysis made by the Migration Policy Institute, 726,000 undocumented young adults would be eligible for conditional permanent resident status and that approximately 114,000 would be eligible for permanent resident status after six years.

Supporters of the bill have argued that these students were brought to the U.S. by their parents when they were young and therefore they should not be held accountable for their parents' action.

Many of these students are smart and talented and have excelled in their school, in sports, and in the fields of arts, science and technology. Because of

their undocumented immigration status they have been unable to pursue their dreams of going to college.

Legalizing them would strengthen our economic infrastructure as it would expand our educated workforce.

While some argue that passage of the DREAM Act would distract from comprehensive immigration reform, the fact that it has been so close to being passed before should be a good reason for our community to strongly support it and actively campaign for its immediate passage. We should take action now and urge our senators to vote for the bill.

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Vigan Judge Shot Dead

By Paolo Romero / Tuesday, October 5, 2010

CAMP FLORENDO, La Union, Philippines – A judge was gunned down in Ilocos Sur yesterday.

Judge Reynaldo Lacasandile of Regional Trial Court Branch 20 in Vigan City was waiting for a ride at 4:45 a.m. along the national highway in Barangay Lalong, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur when two men on a motorcycle shot him, according to Ilocos region police director Chief Superintendent Orlando Mabutas.

Lacasandile sustained two

gunshot wounds in the chest from a caliber .45 pistol. He was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. Lacasandile traveled for over two hours from his house in Tagudin to his office in Vigan City everyday, according to police.

Senior Superintendent Agrimero Cruz Jr., Philippine National Police (PNP) spokesman, said they are ready to provide security to judges and other individuals receiving death threats. Police will review all the pending cases Lacasandile was handling, Cruz said. (www.philstar.com)

RP Bonds 2nd Best Performer in Asia

By Lawrence Agcaoil / Monday, October 4, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - Local currency government bonds issued by the government emerged as the second best performer in the Asia Pacific region in the third quarter but warned that investors are in for a challenging market environment in the fourth quarter of the year as well as the early part of 2011, Singapore-based DBS Bank Ltd. said in a study.

DBS Bank said local currency government bonds issued by Asian countries including the Philippines posted strong gains in the third quarter of the year with Indonesia leading the pack in terms of total returns over the last three months as measured by iBoxx broad market local currency bond indices exceeding

seven percent followed by the Philippines with six percent, Korea with three percent, Malaysia with two percent, and Thailand with one percent.

The investment bank reported that Indonesian bonds have provided investors with a cumulative return of 20.7 percent in the first three months of the year followed by Philippine bonds with 11.35 percent, Korea and Thailand with eight percent, Malaysia with 5.25 percent, and India with 4.5 percent.

The study cited that US Treasuries only yielded a total return of 8.73 percent to investors from January to September this year.

DBS Bank, however, pointed out that local currency government bonds have become expensive after a strong showing this year.

It added that the bond mar-

ket in many countries is not the place to be until yields rise considerably again.

"The market environment is likely to get more unfriendly and challenging for bond investors in fourth quarter of 2010 and 2011, as slower growth has now been priced in and rate hike expectations adjusted," DBS Bank said.

The Philippines relies heavily on foreign and domestic borrowings to finance its swelling budget deficit after the government's fiscal consolidation program was derailed by the global economic crisis that struck late 2008.

Fiscal managers of President Aquino led by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima is bent on trimming the budget deficit to two percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2013 until the end of the term of the new government in 2016. (www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



DAYASADAS
By Pacita C. Saludes

Panagiinnadal – Dakkel Ti Maitulong na Iti Kasasaad Iti Biag Ken Pamspanunot

Kas tinawan nga aramiden dagiti llokano a selebraranda ti LABOR DAY, ket iti biang dagiti Mannurat nga llokano (GH), saan a mapalabas daytoy nga aldaw nga awan ti maibati a pagbaliwan wenna pakalaglagi-pan no mabalín. Kadagiti napa-palabas, umawgkami kadagiti nalaing a mangdaldaiy Filipinas, dagiti adun ti padasna nga mangiburay ti kas-

apulan dagiti Mannurat. Adun a panagiinnadal ngen nakirang pay met dagiti nakaadal.

Nagtitipon dagiti agur-urong ti pakasaritaan dagiti kayda a saritaen. Inwardasmi dagiti sumagmamao a wagas ti panagsuratnang kas iti panag-padamag, no kasano ti agsurat iti padamag. Maaramat dagiti FIVE W's, ti pakasaritaan ti Biag ti Tao, BIOGRAPHY ti masapul kadagiti ur-urongeng a malibro. Tapno nasaysayud ti pan-nakaammo ken naur-urnos, in-singsing ni Mrs. Lina Longboy a nasayaat no adda maaramat a porma (form) a pangsurotan

kadagiti agsasaganad a kayat a maamuan manipud iti biag ti tao nga isurat ti kabibiagna. Ag-paysyo dayta tapno naur-urnos ken awan ti malibitawan no damdamagen laeng. Masapul nga agsasaganad dagiti umno a kabibiagda.

Imbasa met dagiti nagsurat ti Daniwda ket nailawlawag met dagiti nagduduma a wagas ti pannakaisurat ti dandaniw. Dagiti maidaniw ti Akto ken dagiti maisurat a naglaon kadagiti pampanunoten ken rikna a kayat nga iladawan dagiti agsurat babalen kadagiti balikas a maiyatadaya, Saan nga

ipapan lattan dagiti nauneg a balikas a di met maiyatadaya.

Imburay met ni Jenny Al-concel Quezon dagiti padasna a nagsursurat kadagiti warnakan (kolonnista) ti adun a tawen kadagiti nadumaduma a pigi-warnak a nagsursuratanna Nalawag nga maawatnang ti lekturana.

Kas agsursurat ken mang-gar-aramid kadatiti adun nga naipabpabaya ti GUMIL HAWAII kadagiti adun a tawen, indasarmi met dagiti nadumaduma a kita ti Drama. Ta daytoy no dadduma ditay mapagdadasig ti intay buyaen, no Drama wenna Sarsuela wenna ania ditan. Adu a kita ti Drama. Drama a pan-

gentablado ken saan. Pang-entablado ti nagsasaritaan mi.

Ingunamgunammi ti panagsurat dagiti kameng iti Drama. Ta ti kapintasan ti sinu-rat isu ti maipabuya ket ti nagsurat isu ti director ti sinu-ratna. No masurot dagiti ala-gaden ti panagsurat ti paginsasanaan ti nasayaat met a maipabuya. Maadalto ti sumarsaruno a panagtitipon dagiti rumbeng nga aramiden ti Direktor ti mangiturong ti sinu-ratna. No apay a maigunam-gunam ti pa nagpabaya iti Drama gapu ta isu ti makaidasar ti isasao ti organisasion nga panangpresbera ti kultura, tradision babalen dagiti panagtangnag, panagsasao ken panagkawawes dagiti ag-pabaya. Maituloyto...

Alinuno A Mangirarem

Annadan a dumangis alinuno a nadawel Di mapakpakadaan nga inna idadapgis Saan a gandaten a supangen iwisiwis Ta sumubli ti aplit inka ipaltik

No iwaras panagkita ti aglawlaw Nadumaduma a rupa inka matmatman

Sigud nga am-ammo ken damo a makitang Mariknamon no siasinot mapagpiaran

No lagip agbariw-as, taliawan dagiti malem Kayat nga ikupin binulongna nakaut-otoy Malagip met dagiti naka-aapal narabuy nga isem Kasta met dagiti nakudrep di

kayat lagipen No nalulem man idi ti sakupmo a tangatang Balawan a wananawan nawadwada a law-ang Ti isasangbay iti baro a disso inka salaan Baro a musika a parduay baro a panawen Adu man dagiti rituwer a di

mapaginsasaanan Saosao parduay rikna, tignay a maimatangan Kapilitan nga akuen iparikna a maem-eman Ikarigayan nga aturen alinuno a mangiyaw-awan

No maysa tay man kadagiti muyong a managinlalayag Laglagipen a ti bagyo awan lisianna a suboken Ipariknana a dagiti nababa

ad-daanda met tibker A mangsuba ti alinuno iti dawel ti panawen

Bigat aldaw malem, mangampet ken pumanaw Di mapaduan no ania kadagitoy di mapuputan nga sumangbay Iddateng ti dawel ni alinuno di mapakpakadaan ta pagsanikuaan ken sirib dinaka maisalakan.

MAINLAND NEWS

Fil-Am Candidate Wins Primary Election

MARYLAND-Incumbent Fil-Am candidate Kris Valderrama topped the list of seven candidates in a hotly contested September 14 Democratic Primary for Maryland's General Assembly (state legislature). The top three Democratic candidates will face off with their Republican counterparts in the November General Elections.

Valderrama is running for a second term representing the 26th legislative district of Prince George's County.

"This was a sweet victory, Valderrama, 39, told supporters.

She is a member of the House Judiciary Committee and plans to push for child protection laws and secure more funding for education. In her first term, she fought for funding for health care and



domestic abuse victims. "But I will work even harder for every vote," Valderrama said. "I'm determined to win so I can represent the interests of my district, especially working families and children."

Kris holds the seat formerly occupied by her father David Valderrama, who served in the General Assembly for 10 years.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THE BAYANIHAN CLINIC WITHOUT WALLS (BCWW) / SATURDAY
October 9 • Musical fundraising project entitled Love Stories at the FilCom Center • 6 – 11pm • For more info call Imelda Joaquin at 497-8190

BAYANIHAN DINNER FUNDRAISING EVENT / FRIDAY
December 3 • Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel • 6 – 11pm • For more info, call FilCom Center @ 480-0451

PASKO SA FILCOM / SUNDAY
December 12 • 9am – 8pm • For more info call FilCom @ 6800451

GLOBAL NEWS

HP to Expand Presence in the Philippines

By Aurea Calica/
Monday, Sept. 27, 2010

SAN JOSE, California - President Aquino said here Saturday his trip to the United States would yield investments for the country that would create thousands of jobs for the people.

Mr. Aquino will be going home Sunday night (Monday in Manila) and will arrive on Tuesday with the business agreements signed by his Cabinet officials with various companies here and in New York.

The President witnessed the signing of the letter of intent between the Philippines and Hewlett Packard to explore ways to expand HP's presence and investments. The President also toured the HP facilities in Cupertino where the signing was also held.

"As a global company operating in more than 170 countries, HP seeks

to increase its long term investments in strong emerging markets such as the Philippines to support its continued growth in products and services in the Asia-Pacific region," HP executive vice president for emerging markets Francisco Serafini said.

For his part, the President said the "Philippines welcomes this latest expansion from HP, which is considered one of the leading global BPO companies. This development for HP will further boost investor confidence and hopefully attract other global companies to do business in the (country)."

HP cited the Philippines' strategic location in the Asia-Pacific region in its expansion plans and skilled workforce.

The President said at the end of his trip, all the incoming investments would be announced.

"If it's only 10,000 (new jobs), I will be sad but we have surpassed

that. But I have to consult with my (Cabinet secretaries) first (as to the exact number)," he said.

Before his trip, the number of jobs estimated to be generated was at 17,000 to 18,000 based on the prospective investments. But his officials said there could be more.

Aquino said with the gains they were expecting to get from the trip, spending P25 million was a "good deal."

He said aside from the \$434-million grant from the Millennium Challenge Corp., AES, an American power company, would expand its operations in the Philippines by 600 megawatts.

But he said the grant was only an "appetizer" because companies that will put up factories in the Philippines would be worth more than \$434 million to Filipinos. (www.philstar.com)



US Wants Asean, China to Boost Spratlys Pact

By AP/
Tuesday, October 5, 2010

SOUTH CHINA SEA - China and the Southeast Asian nations disputing ownership of the Spratly Islands need to turn their 2002 accord into a legally binding code to prevent clashes and keep the vast region open to commerce, the United States ambassador said yesterday.

China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed a non-binding edict eight years ago that called for a peaceful resolution of competing claims of

ownership of the Spratlys in the South China Sea and a freeze on any steps that could spark fighting.

The United States is concerned that the dispute could hurt access to one of the world's busiest commercial sea lanes. President Barack Obama and ASEAN leaders recently reiterated their support for a peaceful resolution of the disputes, which some fear could spark Asia's next conflict.

"They should develop a code of conduct," US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. told foreign correspondents in a news forum. "This was agreed to in 2002 and it should be expanded."

Asked if a new Spratlys accord should be legally binding, Thomas

replied: "Of course."

He did not specify any feature Washington wanted to see in a new Spratlys accord but added that if asked, the United States would be willing to extend any help when negotiations start to craft such an agreement.

A new code of conduct in the disputed region should "ensure regional stability and freedom of navigation for international commerce," he said.

Responding to another question, Thomas said it was not up to Washington whether claimants should be required to disarm or demobilize forces stationed in the contested region under a new pact. (www.philstar.com)

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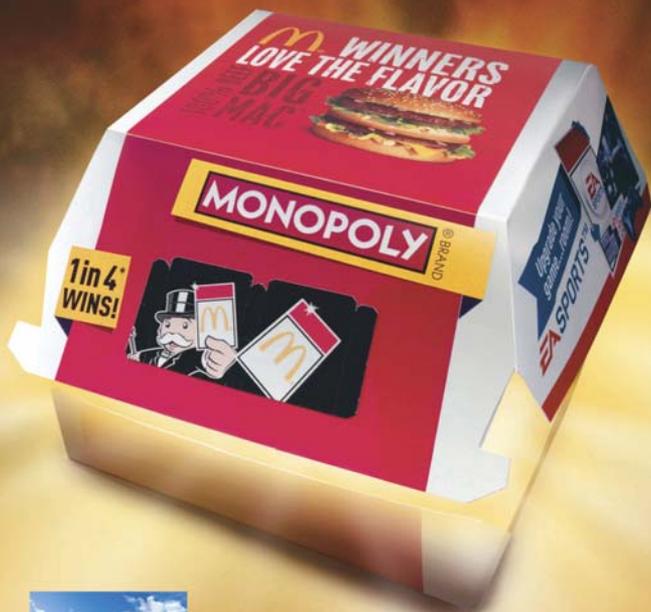
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