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A CLOSER LOOK AT U.S.-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

COVER STORY PAGE

4



THE JOINT PHILIPPINE-U.S. "BALIKATAN" MILITARY EXERCISE



OPINION

3 HAWAII'S ECONOMIC CRISIS IS GETTING WORSE



LEGAL NOTES

13 EMPLOYERS TARGETED IN DRIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT



MAINLAND NEWS

14 SAVE ACT INTRODUCED IN U.S. SENATE

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EDITORIAL

A Closer Look at U.S. Influence in Philippine Affairs

With China flexing its muscles in the long-disputed claim over the Spratly Islands, one can't help but think of the old adage: "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." Validating such a claim largely depends on the definition of "friend."

As far as relations are concerned, the Philippines has been a close and long-time friend of the U.S. Relations between the two nations are based on a shared commitment to peace, prosperity and democratic values. Much of the Philippines' institutions and representative form of government are modeled after those of the U.S. Soldiers of both countries fought side-by-side during World War II. Since 2002, the two countries have cooperated on fighting terrorism in the Philippines.

There are however, downsides to the U.S. presence in the Philippines. Anti-American sentiments from a small but vocal group of nationalists were directed at the tons of toxic waste left behind by U.S. troops at Subic Bay during the 1990s. Other Filipinos, upset with the conduct of American soldiers formerly stationed in the Philippines, opposed future military exercises on Philippine soil involving U.S. troops under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) who again would be granted immunity from criminal prosecution in Philippine courts. Still others complained that several major industrial projects in the 1980s were sabotaged by the U.S. for fear of the Philippines' economy improving, which would spur nationalism and greater public support for closing U.S. military bases. They also criticized such organizations as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank as tools by the U.S. to keep Third World nations like the Philippines subject to U.S. foreign policy.

In all fairness, the positives of U.S. relations with the Philippines have far outweighed the negatives. The U.S. has poured billions of dollars in military, economic and humanitarian aid for the Philippines. And it's not just dollars and pesos. Much of modern Philippine society today—its customs, judicial system and way of life is due to American influence. Again, not all of it is good but it is what most Filipinos have come to know and embrace.

For all of the rhetoric on nationalism, the fact of the matter is that the Philippines will continue to need U.S. involvement—particularly when it continues to struggle with economic and social ills—and especially with China moving towards imposing its claim on the Spratly's in the West Philippine Sea. As far as the validity of the old adage is concerned, *the enemy of my enemy is indeed my friend.*

Supporting the SAVE Our Industries Act

In the coming months, the 112th U.S. Congress will debate the merits of the SAVE Our Industries Act (S. 1244) which was re-introduced last week in the U.S. Senate. The bill's principal sponsors are U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Roy Blunt (R-Missouri). Its co-sponsors are U.S. Senators Daniel Akaka and Harry Reid (D-Nevada).

The SAVE Act would advance the Philippine-U.S. commercial relationship by expanding trade in the textile and apparel sectors. It would allow for duty-free entry into the U.S. of certain garments made in the Philippines using U.S. textiles. The Act also allows duty-free entrance for some non-import sensitive apparel items. Through this arrangement, mutual benefits can be derived as the U.S. textile and Philippine apparel industries increase exports and create jobs.

The SAVE Act would open the door to the Asian market for the U.S. textile industry, allowing for expansion in exports and strengthening the industry. U.S. apparel companies would also be provided a competitive sourcing alternative for their high-end gar-

FROM THE PUBLISHER



loha to our readers and welcome to the latest edition of Hawaii's most loved and widely-read Filipino community newspaper! As always, it is our pleasure to provide you with timely and useful news you can use. Before anything, we'd like



to wish all of you a very happy and safe Fourth of July holiday. Many people will be celebrating July 4th with a family barbecue, picnic, day at the beach or a spectacular fireworks show later in the evening. But if you're the type who loves a parade and doesn't mind people-watching, you may want to consider attending the inaugural Independence Day Parade through Waikiki on Sunday afternoon, July 3. The parade will be followed by Sunset on the Beach and the movie "Soul Surfer." Please see page 10 for more details on this event which is being sponsored by the City.

In the Philippines, July 4th is observed as Philippine-American Friendship Day. This year marks the 65th edition of this event. To further enlighten our readers, our newest contributing writer Maita Miallos has submitted a cover story beginning on page 4 which delves into the significance of Philippine-American Friendship Day, the historical ties between the two nations and the ups and downs of any long term relationship. We could have stopped there with Maita's well-written cover story but we didn't. We took it a step further and asked several members of Hawaii's Filipino community their opinions on how they and their fellow Filipinos have benefited from the close-knit relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines. Please read their heartfelt responses in our Chronicle Pulse columns on pages 8 and 10. By the way, we are fortunate to have Maita on board. She brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge in Philippine politics, business, life and related matters. Welcome aboard Maita!

Those of you who are keeping a close watch on the state of the economy may be interested in reading this issue's Opinion Column. Contributing writer Danny de Gracia, III writes on Hawaii's worsening economic crisis and the epic failure of our government to right the ship. He calls for less government intrusion and urges Filipinos to stop relying on government for the answers. The problem, he says, is not revenue shortfalls but a long-running excess of government intervention in our lives. Please read Danny's thought-provoking column on page 3 and see if you agree with him.

In closing, there are other articles of interest in this issue, including Immigration Guide (page 7), Travel & Leisure (page 12), Legal Notes (page 13) and Philippine Language (page 14). Thank you once again for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Please feel free to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii's dynamic and vibrant Filipino community.

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

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OPINION

Hawaii's Economic Crisis is Getting Worse and Government is Taking More



By Danny de Graia, II

When I was a political science undergraduate at the University of Texas at San Antonio in the late 90s, I studied under a Libyan professor who had escaped to the West by stealing a private plane and flying it under the Libyan Navy's radar floor to the island of Sardinia. He told me that regimes such as the one he had so dramatically fled from were self-corrupting systems which took good people and turned them into instruments of wrongdoing and no matter how well-intentioned its leaders were, the result was always more harm to the public good. The analogy he used was something he called a "broken house" – changes in leadership, new decrees and laws are just paint on the surface of a broken structure that needs to be replaced entirely. Today, the broken house analogy is something we ought to consider when looking at our own government and where it has brought us.

When this year began, the State of Hawaii officially reported being \$9.3 billion dollars in debt but when you include debt, pension, other post-employment benefits, unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities, unemployment trust funds and the budget shortfall, the number actually adds to \$26.1 billion dollars. Hawaii's cities and counties are also heavily leveraged, as the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) reported that in fourth quarter 2010 Hawaii had in excess of \$15.2 billion dollars in outstanding municipal bonds. Contrary to the optimistic and glowing reports of Hawaii's political class, our islands are insolvent, our government is bloated and things are getting worse, not better with each passing year. The problem we have is not a recent "revenue shortfall" but a long-running excess of government intervention in our lives.

Short Term Government Thinking Has Wrecked Hawaii and America

Whenever a nation's central

bank (in our case, the Federal Reserve) lowers interest rates or sells more bonds, the money supply expands which results in cheap money and a short term "boom economy" in which credit is used to acquire real estate, finance investments, start up companies and permit consumers to purchase more without actually producing more. Naturally, during these times of boom governments are prone to develop progressive taxation schemes in which higher incomes are taxed to fund more government. The problem is that unlimited credit expansion is impossible because disruptions occur between production and consumption as well as saving and investment and liquidation of unprofitables occurs. Businesses go out of business, individuals lose their jobs, consumers save to cope and government tax collections fall.

When a government boom is faced with an economic bust, the solution our policymakers always employ is to raise taxes to match state outlays. Of course, they find ways to raise taxes without actually saying they raised taxes – such as the recent Act 97 (2011) signed by Governor Abernombrie which repealed deductions for individuals making more than \$100,000 – or by issuing revenue bonds to investors which essentially transforms the fruits of the people's labor into dividends for others. This intensifies the crisis because taxation in general distorts the market in ways that hinder recovery and promotes unemployment. For example, higher taxes on businesses in a recession contracts the labor demand curve for labor to the left, which means higher unemployment and more drain on state unemployment benefits. The more the state intervenes, the greater the crisis becomes.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 1960 the people of Hawaii paid \$174.5 million in Federal taxes and \$33.3 million in state taxes. In 2009, the last year of the BEA's Hawaii data, we paid \$3.1 billion to the Federal government and \$1.3 billion to the state. Government is growing, taxes are soaring and the situation we face is currently a lose-lose situation for all of us. Just a few days ago, finance professors Joshua Rauh of Northwestern

University and Robert Novy-Marx of the University of Rochester released a report in which they calculated that state and municipal governments would have to raise taxes by \$1,398 per household each year – every year – for the next 30 years just to remain solvent. That's an additional \$42,000 in taxes just for local government. Last week, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner went before Congress to advocate raising Federal taxes on small businesses to prevent the United States government from going belly up. You don't have to be an economist or a political scientist to know that you can't just keep raising taxes every year, but our government seems intent on believing that the only solution is to take more from us and to teach us to make do with less.

A Nation of Elites

Another problem that arises from a credit cranking machine such as the Federal Reserve and a bloated state and national government is that it allows for the rise of an extreme separation between the haves and have nots – an elite society ruled by the political class who determines who gets what and the business elite who buys favors in the form of subsidies, preferential legislation and tax exemptions, often at the expense of the general public. We are now living in a self-corrupting system where elite society is literally built around government. A study by the CATO Institute by Richard K. Vedder in 1996 found that in all 50 states, the closer one lived to their state capitol or Washington D.C., the higher their incomes were and the less likely one was to be unemployed. I would argue that here in Hawaii, one of the reasons that politics is so competitive is because of the fact that the only option that people have to "make it big" short of leaving the islands or being featured in a television show is to be in political power to determine who gets what. Here in Hawaii, the biggest sector is government itself. Even in the developing "Second City" of Kapolei, one immediately notices that the biggest buildings and the largest parking lots are not for private business but are, in fact, for our government. This is a pattern we see all across America.

Instead of a "We The People" America, our country almost perfectly resembles pre-Revolution France of the mid-1700s in which all of the land was owned by nobles, the common people were forced to carry the economic burdens of production and paying taxes, and while France itself was one of the richest countries in the world, its people were among the poorest because of the parasitic redistribution of wealth from the worker to the elite.

I do not believe that we can continue in this course of borrowing money from the future, taxing away the present and living from one crisis to the next. We are headed for worse, not better times. Our house is broken and the shifts between Democrat and Republican leaders have done little to remedy the crisis except apply another layer of paint to an already rotten, defective building.

As Filipinos, we need to take example from our own history and show more pride in ourselves and our community than to allow Hawaii and America to go the way of a third world dictatorship. First things first, we need to break out of the elite-controlled mold and stand for family, freedom and most importantly, our future. This means rejecting the cult-of-personality state which has developed around career politicians and refusing to accept the myth that government

has all the answers. The truth is you and I have the answer inside of us. Your dreams and desires are more important than the government's plans. We need to learn from Filipino nationalist José Rizal's brave words: "I go where there are no slaves, hangmen or oppressors, where faith does not kill; where the one who reigns is God."

Freedom, prosperity and personal choice are the key to our future, not more government solutions. As an economist and a political scientist, Rizal's teachings remind me of what the Austrian economist Ludwig von Mises wrote: "Government interference always means either violent action or the threat of such action. Government is in the last resort the employment of armed men, of policemen, gendarmes, soldiers, prison guards and hangmen. The essential feature of government is the enforcement of its decrees by beating, killing and imprisoning. Those who are asking for more government interference are asking ultimately for more compulsion and less freedom."

Human beings weren't meant to live lives of constant toil and turmoil, moving from one crisis to the next. I believe as a man of faith that God created us to live in freedom and prosperity, not subservience and debt. It's time that we stop accepting state solutions and start taking back control of our future.

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Why Philippine-U.S. Relations Matter

By Maita Miallolas



Writing about the Philippines' relations with the U.S. to commemorate the 65th Philippine-U.S. Friendship Day is a challenging task. Discussing the benefits of the bilateral relations will no doubt touch on several sensitive issues that continue to influence Philippine-U.S. relations.

In my casual conversations with Filipino-Americans in Oahu since arriving last year, perceptions of "unequal" relations remain when viewed through the prism of continued dependence on the U.S. The Philippines is also viewed as "ungrateful" for treating the U.S. badly despite the assistance received from this relationship.

Whether right or wrong, these perceptions stem from over a century of shared history, cultural and economic ties and personal bonds forged between our peoples. It is due to this lengthy and intimate history that the Philippines' relations with the U.S. has had its ups and downs.

At the most fundamental level, human links form a strong bridge between the two countries. The U.S. State Department estimated that as of 2010 there are four million Americans of Filipino ancestry in the U.S. and more than 250,000 American citizens in the Philippines.

In a 2004 survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations, having relatives in the U.S. was one of the key factors behind continued good relations with the U.S. In another survey, Filipinos ranked high in supporting the U.S. in world affairs. In an 18-nation study conducted in 2007 by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the Social Weather Stations, the Philippines ranked first in trusting the U.S. to act responsibly in the world and in supporting long-term U.S. military bases overseas. Filipinos placed third in

feeling that the U.S. should continue to be the pre-eminent world leader in solving international problems.

If these surveys are to be believed, one asks why our bilateral relations remain fraught with controversy and difficulty? What does the Philippines get from the bilateral relations? Where do Filipino-Americans in Hawaii want the relations to go?

This article will attempt to address these questions while I present my claim that Philippine-U.S. relations matter. Despite our thorny history with the U.S. as well as our own domestic constraints, the relations retain strategic value in promoting our national interests.

Complex Bilateral Relations

In his article for a Center for Strategic and International Studies report entitled U.S. Alliances and Emerging Partnership in Southeast Asia (2009), Professor Renato de Castro of Dela Salle University describes the relationship between the Philippines and the U.S. as the "most complex in Southeast Asia for the U.S." Tied together by history, culture and demographics, he adds "both countries have had to overcome the legacy of colonialism and a cooling off period after the Cold War to remain as treaty allies to the present day."

The complex relations began in 1898 when the Treaty of Paris was signed and Spain ceded the Philippines to the U.S. including the Muslim-occupied areas in Mindanao and

Sulu. This agreement was not recognized by the short-lived insurgent revolutionary government that declared independence from Spain. The ensuing Philippine-American War resulted in massive casualties for Filipinos. The conflict was officially declared over in 1902 and civil government was established. An elected Philippine Assembly was convened in 1907 and commonwealth status was granted to the Philippines in 1935 in preparation for full independence in 1946.

Relations between the two countries steadily grew over the years since the Japanese occupation in the Second World War, to the post-war years and throughout the Cold War era. A military bases agreement was signed in 1947 that provided the U.S. access to military and naval bases in the country for U.S. forward-deployment posture in East Asia. The Mutual Defense Treaty was signed in 1951 that assured support of each other if either of the countries were to be attacked by an external party.

The robust relations suffered a period of breakdown and impasse with the closure of U.S. bases in 1991 and the withdrawal of U.S. forces the following year. U.S. security assistance fell to minimal levels and bilateral relations entered a cooling off period as both countries reassessed their security strategies in the face of Soviet collapse and the absence of threats from external aggressors.

A turnaround of this impasse came in 1995 when the U.S. and the Philippines found it imperative to review their alliance and security cooperation after expansive Chinese claims in the South China Sea. The Visiting Forces Agreement was signed in 1998 to provide terms and conditions for U.S. forces participating in regular military



U.S. and Filipino soldiers hold their respective flags during a Memorial Day ceremony at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Taguig City, south of Manila on May 29, 2011. Photo Courtesy of REUTERS/Clayton Ravello

exercises in the Philippines.

Military assistance was also extended to the Philippines under the U.S. Excess Defense Articles Program and Foreign Military Financing Program.

Relations were further revitalized in 2001 with the Philippines' support of the U.S.-led war on terrorism. This led to the U.S. designation of the Philippines as a major non-NATO ally and granted the Philippines additional defense items to bolster its fight against the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao and the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah. The following year, the Military Logistics and Support Agreement allowed the U.S. to use the Philippines as a military supply base for activities both inside and outside of the country.

Long historical relations have also made the U.S. among the Philippines' largest export market, trading partner, foreign investor and source of official development assistance. Other U.S. commitments include diplomatic and financial support for the Mindanao peace process and assistance for the Philippine Defense Reform program designed to enhance the capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation also provided funds for improving the coun-

try's revenue administration and anti-corruption efforts. Many programs in health, education, disaster preparedness and agricultural productivity also support improved governance, human capital development, poverty alleviation and sustainable growth.

Despite these positive developments, Philippine-U.S. relations continue to face challenges. Leftist and nationalist sectors of Philippine society continue to demand for a review and termination of the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Visiting Forces Agreement. They argue that the presence of U.S. forces violates the Philippine Constitution that prohibits permanent presence of foreign troops in the country.

Pressing domestic concerns such as poverty, unemployment and volatile domestic politics also limit Philippine-U.S. partnership beyond addressing the problems in Mindanao. The decision to pull-out the Philippine contingent from Iraq in 2004 to save the plight of a truck driver was made by an administration struggling to consolidate power after a hotly-contested presidential election. It made the decision based on the 8 million Filipino workers abroad who contribute close to U.S. \$9 bil-

(continued on page 5)

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, *WHY*)

tion that keeps the economy afloat.

The Philippines' volatile domestic politics is complicated by weak national institutions and lack of strategic thinking that hinder a more robust bilateral cooperation with the U.S. De Castro wrote, "The Philippine polity is slow to react, reactive and highly unpredictable in its near and long-term policies...bilateral relationship is largely focused inward with little vision beyond its borders." This observation is particularly relevant in the face of an emergent China with a growing military force projection. Recent tensions in the West Philippine Sea have exposed the Philippines' weaknesses and reliance on the U.S. to protect its territorial and maritime claims at sea.

Given the internal and external challenges faced by the Philippines, the question is to what extent have bilateral relations benefited the Philippines? The next section will discuss why our continuing engagement with the U.S. is important in promoting our national interests.

Benefits of Bilateral Relations

Philippine-U.S. relations since the post-bases era rest on economic and commercial ties as well as security cooperation. U.S. investment continues to play an important role in the Philippine economy while a strong security partnership rests on the Mutual Defense Treaty.

Based on the website of the U.S. embassy in Manila, two-way trade between the two countries was estimated to be U.S. \$12 billion in 2009. Twelve percent of the Philippines' imports came from the U.S., while 1 percent of Philippine exports were U.S.-bound. Key Philippine exports include electronics, apparel and footwear and heavy machinery. U.S. exports items such as electronics, food, grains, cereals, seeds, dairy products and plastics. The U.S. embassy website further claimed that the U.S. remains one of the largest foreign investors in the country and in 2008 had U.S. \$6 billion in total foreign direct investment.

Progress towards a bilateral free trade agreement remains slow, however, due to significant issues that need constitutional reforms on the part of the

Philippines. These include intellectual property rights and the opening of the services sector in the financial, telecommunication and the computer services. The Philippine Constitution currently prohibits foreign ownership in a number of service sectors. A trade and investment framework agreement was established between our countries to resolve such issues.

In 2009, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the primary U.S. agency responsible for administering civilian foreign aid, provided U.S. \$103 million in grant funds. Sixty percent of the economic assistance went to Mindanao to promote economic growth, peace and security as well as to mitigate conflict. Projects include livelihood training, infrastructure development and economic incentives to facilitate the reintegration of former combatants. The U.S. also supports the Mindanao peace process and sees its assistance as crucial in de-linking the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah.

Another significant aspect of Philippine-U.S. relations is continued support to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Chronic funding shortages have prevented the implementation of the AFP Modernization Act to transform the military into a "self-reliant and credible strategic armed force." Much of the AFP's equipment is aging and has seen dramatic decline in the decades-long hostilities between Muslim separatism and communist insurgency elsewhere in the country.

U.S. assistance to the AFP enables the Philippine military to acquire the necessary hardware to upgrade its capability to perform its missions as well as in "bridging the gap" until the Philippines can finance its own military modernization program. In a 2009 Senate hearing on the Visiting Forces Agreement, it was revealed that since 1999, the AFP received a total of U.S. \$249.99 million funds for firepower, engineering, mobility and communication equipment, maintenance of spares and repair of equipments through the Foreign Military Financing program.

A total of U.S. \$76.5 million was obtained from 2001-



Children waving American and Filipino flags during the Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTFP) in Mindanao. Photo Courtesy by JSOTFP

2007 to procure spares through the Foreign Military Sales. An additional U.S. \$76.77 was acquired from 1999-2007 for additional items through the Excess Defense Articles. The U.S. has further provided U.S. \$51.8 million since 2004 for the Philippine Defense Reform Program to bring about a system-wide reform in the Philippine defense establishment.

An integral part of Philippine-U.S. security relations is the conduct of bilateral military exercises such as the annual Balikatan (shoulder-to-shoulder) Exercise. It is the largest bilateral military exercise that aims to improve the countries' defense planning, combat readiness and interoperability of forces to address external aggression, terrorism, humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping. The joint exercises are conducted in various parts of the country and are accompanied by medical, dental, veterinary and engineering projects.

Besides joint military exercises, the U.S. extends non-combat support to the AFP in Mindanao. The Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) provides the AFP with intelligence, special patrols and night operation training. This military cooperation, according to Christopher Shay in the October 2009 issue of Time Magazine has led the AFP to "reduce the strength of the Abu Sayyaf from an estimated 1,000 active fighters in 2002 to around 200-500 in 2009." Members of the JSOTF-P also develop the capacity of local communities and demonstrate good governance through humanitarian projects such as building roads, wells, schools and clinics.

Other U.S. assistance includes helping Philippine communities prepare and respond to natural and man-made disasters. Since 2000, USAID has provided the Philippines with more than U.S. \$9 million to help affected communities. These include disaster relief assistance for the victims of typhoons Ketsana (Ondoy) and Parma (Pepong) in 2009; relief operations in Iloilo in the aftermath of typhoon Fengshen (Frank) in 2008; and typhoon reconstruction activities in the provinces of Bicol following the destruction wrought by typhoon Dorian (Reming) in 2007.

With several internal security challenges and the lack of resources faced by the AFP, the Philippines could no longer develop a credible air and maritime deterrent against China's incursions in areas claimed by the Philippines in the West Philippine Sea. The Philippines relies on the U.S. for external

defense and in 2002 signed the Mutual Logistic Support Agreement that assured the U.S. the use of the Philippines as a military supply base for future deployments in the region.

From the foregoing, Philippine-U.S. relations largely remain focused on internal security concerns due to the country's continuing constraints and limitations. Bilateral relations is limited to military capability upgrade, non-combat support to AFP operations and civic and humanitarian missions necessary to promote peace and security, improve governance, human capital development and poverty alleviation, among others.

Progress towards a bilateral free agreement is slow and external defense limited to invoking our alliance with the U.S.

The Way Ahead

Philippine-U.S. relations remain limited in view of our country's domestic constraints in promoting and protecting our national interests. That said, there is a need to review and update the Mutual Defense Treaty to reflect changing times.

Dr. Belinda Aquino of the University of Hawaii-Manoa maintains, "The language of the treaty was cast in Cold War rhetoric that says that if the Philippines is threatened by outside aggression, the U.S. is obligated to come to its defense. This is clearly a throwback to past thinking."

She adds, "The question is (continued on page 6)



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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Congressional Delegation Announces \$55 Million for Rail Transit

Members of Hawaii's congressional delegation announced that the Honolulu Rail Transit project will receive \$55 million from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) for the current fiscal year.

According to U.S. Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka, and U.S. Reps. Mazie Hirono and Colleen Hanabusa, the \$55 million in New Starts funding is identical to the amount requested in President Barack Obama's FY2011 budget.

They say that the level of funding Honolulu will receive

is significant, considering that the total amount of New Starts funds for FY 2011 was reduced from the \$1.998 billion level enacted in FY 2010 to \$1.597 billion, a 20 percent or \$401 million reduction.

"I am very pleased that the federal government recognizes the importance of this critical transportation project," says Sen. Inouye. "Federal funds are hard to come by in the current budget climate and the fact that Honolulu will receive everything the president asked for is very encouraging."

Inouye says that the rail project will bring welcomed relief to thousands of commuters who are forced to spend hours



in their cars on congested roadways.

Sen. Akaka called the funds

"an important first step towards a better planned Oahu."

"I appreciate the Obama administration's continued support of the Honolulu rail project. Rail will mean shorter commutes, more time with family, less pollution and local jobs we truly need," he says.

Hanabusa says the \$55 million reflects the federal government's continued commitment towards the Honolulu Rail Transit Project.

"It also shows that Presi-

dent Obama and Congress understand how much Hawaii needs this mass transit option," she says.

She and Hirono, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, both pledged to continue supporting rail.

"I will continue to work with the rest of Hawaii's Congressional delegation to ensure that we receive the full \$55 billion in federal funds," Hirono says.

COVER STORY (cont.) (from page S.WHY...)

where our fear is coming from. Is it from China that does not have a history of invading countries? Is it from terrorism despite the demise of its supreme leader, Osama bin Laden?"

These questions reflect the complexity of the security environment since the Cold War. Such questions further demonstrate the need to address changing security conditions that encompasses threats from external aggression and from non-traditional security concerns such as terrorism and natural and man-made disasters. Expanding the scope of the alliance in view of these concerns attests to both countries' commitment in keeping the alliance relevant.

"As the only country with which the Philippines has a defense treaty, our alliance remains relevant in addressing our internal and external security challenges," says Edilberto Adan, Undersecretary of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement. "Maintaining our alliance with the U.S. is therefore necessary."

Strengthening and broadening bilateral relations be-

hind security concerns would also include forging stronger economic ties between the two nations. Trade and investment are primary areas of interest for the Philippines in terms of economic development and job creation. There is no full-blown free trade agreement with the U.S. but a more focused sectoral bilateral agreement has been done with the garments sector. The "Save Our Industries Act" by Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) supports the granting of zero duty on the export of garments from the Philippines using U.S.-made fabrics. At present, these garments incur 17.5 percent duty when exported to the U.S. market.

According to Philippine Deputy Consul General Paul Cortes, the Save Act is an important milestone in economic relations with the U.S.

"There is still so much more to be explored in our bilateral relations and this Act represents an important step towards a broader free trade agreement," he says.

As for the large number of Filipino-Americans in the U.S., nurturing people-to-people contacts is essential.

"Filipino-Americans are productive immigrants in the U.S.," Cortes says. "They send remittances which help keep the Philippine economy afloat. Another critical component of our bilateral relations are student exchange programs that facilitate the transfer of skills and ideas that are applied to the Philippines when our scholars go back home."

The presence of a significant Filipino-American popu-

lation in the U.S. should not be overlooked for they are the bridge that links our countries. De Castro considers this particular population as a "soft power" edge in relations with the U.S. To exploit this advantage, Aquino suggested that we draw on the huge Filipino-American population to bring about economic development and broader political participation in American society.

"Expanded Philippine-U.S. relations should tap the Filipino-American community for trade, cultural, educational exchanges and other matters of mutual interest to both countries," she says. Aquino also pointed out that the significant population "should lead the Philippines and the Filipino-American community to be more aggressive in pushing initiatives that the U.S. can be involved in."

The many aspects of Philippine-U.S. relationship demonstrate the multifaceted nature of our bilateral relations. Despite the domestic constraints faced by the Philippines, the alliance has enabled the country to increasingly meet its internal security obligations as well as to prepare with U.S. assistance for threats arising from external aggression and from other non-traditional security concerns.

Enlargement of trade ties, promotion of student exchange programs and forging other people-to-people ties correspond to the other aspects of bilateral relations. The role of Filipino-Americans in the U.S. is crucial in actively engaging the U.S. towards economic development and broader political participation in American society.

Consulate Officials Visit Filipino Fishermen, Sailors at Honolulu Harbor

The Philippine Consulate in Honolulu visited approximately 40 Filipino fishermen and seamen docked at Honolulu Harbor's Pier 37 on June 18, 2011 as part of the Philippine government's celebration of Filipino Seafarers Day on June 25.

President Benigno S. Aquino III recently signed Presidential Proclamation 183 which declares June 25th of every year as Filipino Seafarers Day. In signing Proclamation 183, Aquino extended his personal support and gratitude for Filipino seafarers' contributions to the Philippines' economy and the global maritime industry.

Local IHOP Restaurant owners Vince and Sarah Espino prepared box lunches for these Filipinos, most of them do not

have entry visas to the U.S. and are constrained to remain within the vicinity of the pier. They are also subject to strict monitoring by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) authorities.

The Philippines is the world's leading supplier of ship crew with over 350,000 sailors, or about 20 percent of the world's seafarers, who man oil tankers, luxury liners and passenger vessels worldwide. Filipino seafarers remitted a total of \$2.46 billion in 2010.

In conjunction with various Filipino-owned companies in Hawaii, the Consulate arranges periodic get-together activities with these Filipino workers to ascertain their working and living conditions and to bring to these seamen consular services as necessary.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Minors Can Legally Have Violent Video Games



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

“O

Liberté, que de crimes on commet en ton nom!” (Oh Liberty, what crimes are committed in thy name!) – Madame Roland, when told by the French revolutionaries before being guillotined that she was being executed in the name of liberty.

“Oh, freedom of speech, what mischiefs have been committed in thy name?” – Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

able to a player includes killing, maiming, dismembering, or sexually assaulting an image of a human being, if those acts are depicted” in a manner that “[a] reasonable person, considering the game as a whole, would find appeals to a deviant or morbid interest of minors,” that is “patently offensive to prevailing standards in the community as to what is suitable for minors,” and that “causes the game, as a whole, to lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.”

Representatives of the video game industries brought a pre-enforcement challenge to the Act. The court enjoined its enforcement as violative of the First Amendment. The Court of Appeals affirmed. The U.S. Supreme Court also affirmed.

Freedom of speech protects video games

The court said that video games qualify for First Amendment (freedom of speech) protection like books, plays and movies which communicate ideas. Under our Constitution, “esthetic and moral judgments about art and literature . . . are for the individual to make, not for the Government to decree, even with the mandate or approval of a majority.”

The court pointed out that as

a general matter, the government has no power to restrict expression because of its message, its ideas, its subject matter, or its content. There are, however, exceptions in a few limited areas, like obscenity, incitement, and fighting words. But a legislature cannot create new categories of unprotected speech simply by weighing the value of a particular category against its social costs and then punishing it if it fails the test. The Court said that the Act creates a new category of content-based regulation that is permissible only for speech directed at children, which is unprecedented and mistaken. This country has no tradition of specially restricting children’s access to depictions of violence. The court said that psychological studies purporting to show a connection between exposure to violent video games and harmful effects on children do not prove that such exposure causes minors to act aggressively.

Minors can’t see nude women but can torture them in video game

A strange combination – Justice Thomas, a conservative, and Justice Breyer, a liberal-dissented. Justice Breyer said that courts have upheld bans on the sale of pornography to children. “What sense does it make to forbid selling to a 13-year old boy a

magazine with an image of a nude woman, while protecting the sale to that 13-year old of an interactive video game in which he actively, but virtually, binds and gags the woman, then tortures and kills her?” Justice Thomas said that “the First Amendment’s protection against laws ‘abridging the freedom of speech’ did not extend to all speech.” He said that “practices and beliefs held by the Founders” reveal another category of excluded speech: speech to minor children by-passing their parents.” He concluded that “It would be absurd to suggest that such a society understood ‘the freedom of speech’ to include a right to

speak to minors (or a corresponding right of minors to access speech) without going through the minors’ parents.” Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Assn., No. 08-1448, June 27, 2011.

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

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 yesterday, June 27, 2011, that a California law, Cal. Civil Code 1746-1746.5 prohibiting the sale or rental of “violent video games” to minors (under 18) and punishes violators with a fine of up to \$1,000 violates the freedom of speech under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The law was reportedly authored by State Senator Leland Yee, a child psychologist, who is seeking to be mayor of San Francisco.

The Act covers games “in which the range of options avail-

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

AMM Gets \$10K from Weinberg Foundation

The Aloha Medical Mission’s Honolulu Dental Clinic got an early Christmas present, thanks to the generosity of the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

The Foundation presented AMM with a \$10,000 gift at its “Christmas in June luncheon” on June 9, 2011. The mid-year luncheon allows the Foundation to choose an organization that they feel has committed to bettering Oahu’s social welfare. Since 1990, the Foundation has provided over \$262 million in grants to over 700 Hawaii non-profit organizations that help the poor and needy become productive citizens.

AMM board president Dr. Bradley Wong, a retired surgeon with the Queen’s Medical Cen-



◀ AMM patient Donna Cruz (seated) poses for a photo with mother-in-law Greer Cruz (left), AMM executive director Susan J. Hughes and Jeanette & Harry Weinberg Foundation controller Sid Tsutsui.

Founded in 2002 and located on the grounds of the historic Palama Settlement, AMM is the only free clinic in the state that serves the underserved and those who have no insurance.

Donna Cruz, a patient who has benefited from the services provided by the AMM Dental Clinic, was a guest speaker at the luncheon. She thanked AMM volunteers for their generosity and explained the various services the non-profit organization provides.

The AMM receives all its funding from donations and grants. For more information on AMM, please visit www.alohamedicalmission.org.



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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CHRONICLE PULSE

What Has the Philippines Gained Most from Its Relations with The United States?



TERESITA BERNALES, Ed.D., *Coordinator, Global Youth Center Hawaii* ▼

Generally, relations with another country—whether unilateral, bilateral or multilateral—are in areas of economic prosperity, trade relations and military security. We enjoy these relations with the U.S. and ideally, the benefits should be mutual.

Where there is imbalance in any of the three areas, the positives are overshadowed by the negatives. We hear of strong U.S. military presence in the south which negates all the other productive agreements and aid in various forms we receive presently. We will truly enjoy the liberties and freedom of a democratic country like the U.S. when we are recognized as an equal partner in its trust form.

We have gained advances in socio-political and economic areas, but not enough toward improved sustainability. Do we want to be a perennial Third World nation or do we want to ascend to heights our heroes fought and died for? This is the challenge that we must face and act upon.



LOLITA CAPCO, Consul, Phil. Consulate of Hawaii ▼

In 1898, the Philippines found itself able to chart its own destiny after more than 300 years of Spanish occupation. The yearnings of its people were for a free and democratic government and where its youth could soar as far and as high as their dreams and potential would take them.

The Philippines and the U.S. share the noble aim of freedom and democracy under which their people pursue their dreams and create something of value that improve their lives and the lives of the next generation. The Philippines and the U.S. equally value education, industry and personal integrity. They both applaud community service as an ideal. Filipinos call it the “Bayanihan spirit,” while Americans refer to it as “the spirit of volunteerism.”

What the Philippines has gained most from its relations with the U.S. is a mirror of its ideals and ambitions, of what a young nation of only 113 years could achieve if it continues in its path of unwavering dedication to the ideals of freedom and democracy.



VINA LANZONA, Ph.D., *Director, Center for Philippine Studies - UH* ▼

The Philippines inherited important public institutions from the U.S.—three branches of government, including the bicameral legislature, the public education system, health and sanitation facilities, acceptance (at least in principle) of democratic institutions such as elections, the separation of church and state and the idea of public civil service.

And yet, the policies of the U.S. colonial government did not change the social structures in the Philippines, and in many ways perpetuated existing inequities. Land reform was not implemented and economic elites, including large landowners, were promoted as political powerbrokers. While democratic institutions were established, the development of democracy itself was limited by the preservation of large economic inequalities.

Philippine relations with the U.S. were often contentious, especially during the postwar period. The Philippines was one of the foremost allies of the U.S. during the Cold War and became a testing ground for U.S. counterinsurgency programs.

The expansion of U.S. military bases threatened Filipino sovereignty and became a divisive issue. U.S. corporations enjoyed privileged access to Philippine natural resources which were openly exploited. As in colonial times, relations between the U.S. and the Philippines remained imbalanced and unequal.

The bond between the U.S. and Philippines remains strong but problematic. Although its military bases are gone, U.S. forces continue to advise and assist the Philippine military through the Visiting Forces Agreement. Trade relations are still important, as both the U.S. and Philippine economies have become less dependent on each other.

U.S. developmental and military aid still comes with many strings attached and the Philippines is still dependent on U.S. support, especially in its ongoing dispute with China over the Spratly Islands. While the Philippines has gained principles of democratic governance from the U.S., the promise of Philippine democracy and of an equal and mutually-respectful relationship between the two nations remains elusive.



FELIPE “JUN” ABINSAY, Former State Representative ▼

Aside from the benefits of the Philippine-U.S. Defense Agreement, particularly the implementation of on-going Joint Military Exercises, I believe that the issue of immigration has the most notable effect for the Philippines when it comes to relationship benefits. Without a doubt, many Filipinos who now reside in the U.S. can relate to the many advantages of this relationship. Not only have they enjoyed an improvement in the quality of life, many are exemplifying the spirit of giving back to help their families and the needy in our other country.

I look forward to the time when Philippine-U.S. relations will lead to greater private-public partnerships and job creation, which will help alleviate the problem of poverty in the Philippines.



HARRY ALONSO, President, Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ▼

I believe the Philippines has learned and adopted a lot from the U.S. A vast spectrum of ideas that was studied and imported to the Philippines would include the American style of business, an American system of government and a judiciary system based on laws and a constitution, personal freedom and an American education system. The Philippines has gained and adopted many ideas as a result of its relationship with the U.S.

In addition, the Philippines depends largely on the U.S. for military assistance and economic aid especially during times of crises. The U.S. also provides relief supplies, financial aid, equipment, and manpower during times of a natural disaster.

From a personal point of view, I think Filipinos have gained financial rewards by coming to the U.S. to seek better livelihoods and opportunities. I know because both my parents were immigrants from the Philippines looking for a better life. I am fortunate to have gained an education and a profession because of their sacrifice.



RAYMUND LIONGSON, Associate Professor & Coordinator, Phil. Studies Program - UCC ▼

I'd first like to mention what the Philippines has not learned from the U.S. The Philippines did not learn the concepts and values of freedom and independence from America. Filipinos fought for freedom and independence long before Americans set foot on Philippine soil in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American war. In fact, America stalled this struggle for freedom and independence when the Philippines became its colonial territory for almost 50 years.

Nonetheless, the Philippines has learned several things from America, including the idea of secularism, or the view that religious considerations should be excluded from civil and government affairs. This idea is fundamental to the principle of Separation of Church and State—a principle that was an appropriate antidote to the friarocracy established during the three-century Spanish colonial period.

America likewise introduced in the Philippines its public school system, influenced Filipinos in articulating the Bill of Rights and the independence of the three branches of government in the Constitution and directed its economy into the capitalistic system.

Perhaps the most significant gain the Philippines has made from its relations with the U.S. is economic. For instance, in the trade of goods. Statistics from U.S. Census Bureau show that in 2010, the U.S. imported goods from the Philippines valued at \$7,982.0 million while exporting American goods to the Philippines valued at \$7,376.1 million, or a gain of \$605.9 for the Philippines. Over the past 10 years, the Philippines exported \$107,277.90 million worth of goods to the U.S. and imported \$82,471.50 million, or a gain for the former of \$2,255.14 million.

The Philippines likewise receives over \$600 million in foreign aid from the U.S., a significant assistance for a country with a large number of its population drowned in poverty. This type of assistance, however, may come with some strings attached, be it political, economic, or both.

The U.S. has also become a new home for over 2.5 million Filipinos, as shown in the 2010 Census. This is a 38 percent increase from the 2000 U.S. Census.



JOEY MANAHAN, State Representative, House District 29 (Kalihi Kai, Sand Island, Makena, and Kapalana) ▼

Philippine relations are based on a shared history, a commitment to democratic principles and economic ties. The historical and cultural links between the Philippines and the U.S. remain strong to this day. The Philippines models its system of government institutions on those of the U.S. and continues to share a commitment to democracy and human rights.

Additionally, Filipino-American Communities form a strong bond between our two countries. There are an estimated four million Americans of Philippine ancestry in the U.S. (Hawaii boasting the second largest Filipino community in the U.S. following California) and more than 300,000 American citizens in the Philippines.



ILALO PARAYNO, Retired Vice-Principal, Campbell High School ▼

Most Filipinos including myself, appreciate the Filipino-American relationship through history. In light of the long relationship of the Philippines with the U.S., we Filipinos have come up short on the receiving end. We seem to rely on the protection of the U.S., especially during World War II. Historical notes indicate that the U.S. could have done a lot more and better with the relationship.

Many Filipinos were recruited into the U.S. military. For years, the U.S. Navy recruited young Filipinos who are now retired and living in the U.S. Another result of the relationship is that our teak wood and other resources are now out of the global market. Our forests have been denuded and we continue to suffer disastrous flooding. Our supposed democracy in Asia as a showcase for the U.S. is still faltering. Our economy has not improved. Our government has not really improved. What have we learned and gained from this relationship?

Of course, we can say that many of us were able to immigrate to America. However, other countries have done that and are still doing so in greater numbers than us. So, the question is—are we better off with the relationship or could we have done better without it? Some of us think that in the equation, we could have done much, much better with and perhaps even without U.S. involvement.



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Are They and Why?****BENNETTE MISALUCHA**, Chair, Phil. Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii ▼

People-to-people contact. Bilateral relations between the U.S. and the Philippines have traditionally been close and tight. Our shared history, as well as the presence of Filipinos in the U.S., who now make up a significant power base in many states in the U.S., necessitates such a strong relationship. The strength of our bonds has recently resulted in a good outcome as it enabled the Philippines to finally offer dual citizenship status to Americans of Filipino ancestry. Although I personally have not taken advantage of it yet, I am reassured with the knowledge that this option is available.

Economic relations. Another good outcome of solid bilateral relations is that business between the U.S. and the Philippines continues to flow in both directions. This sets the stage for the continued development of a strong economic base for our people. Greater prosperity can translate into higher aspirations which can then transform our communities to greater heights.

Immigration. There are immigration issues that should be tackled, particularly the Dream Act. These are tough issues to navigate but we cannot pretend these situations do not exist. Strong bilateral relations can at least ensure that both parties are open to listening to all sides of the issue.

**GIL KEITH-AGARAN**, State Representative, House District 9 (Paia, Spreckelsville, Paunee, Kahala, Waihuku) ▼

Immigration. My family came to Hawaii in the early decades of the 20th Century—with my maternal grandfather and his cousins to these islands and my maternal grandmother's brothers to the mainland (California, Illinois and eventually New York City). My father arrived in Hawaii in one of the last large waves of Filipino plantation workers in 1946.

In the decades following Philippine independence, family members who have come to the U.S. have had little or no connection to the pre-World War II immigrant plantation worker experience. In the State House, I represent the Central Maui area which has a large block of Filipinos, professionals and laborers and their children.

If there's an area that needs more attention it's the need to strengthen rather than abandon the U.S. immigration policy favoring family unification. We should find a way to allow families to come over together or at least make it quicker. Now, when only one parent and children immigrate, the other spouse and perhaps other children may have to wait years before getting the opportunity to join them. I think children benefit from growing up with both parents around them.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**Public Invited to City's July 3rd
Celebration Parade**

Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle is inviting the public to attend the City's inaugural Celebration Parade for America's July 4 birthday in honor of our military veterans and service members. The City will also commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Royal Hawaiian Band.

The event is scheduled for Sunday, July 3, 2011 in Waikiki. It kicks off with a parade beginning at Fort DeRussy at 6 pm and proceeding down Kalakaua Avenue to Kapiolani Park. Kalakaua Avenue will be closed to vehicle traffic at 5:30 pm.

The parade will be followed by a Sunset on the Beach celebration at Queen's Surf Beach, featuring the new film "Soul Surfer," the inspiring true story of Hawaii teen surfer Bethany Hamilton, who will join the parade along

with actress Anna Sophia Robb, who portrays Hamilton in the film.

The parade will honor our veterans and service members for their tremendous sacrifices in defense of our nation. Mayor Carlisle will welcome home the many service men and women who have returned from tours of duty in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.

The parade will include more than 60 entries, including the Honolulu Police and Fire departments, Hawaii Air National Guard "Royal Guard," Hawaii Maoli, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Girl Scouts of Hawaii, the 111th Army Band, the Hanayagi Dance Academy, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and Hawaiian Heat All-Star Cheerleading. Special guests will include Kantorei, the Singing Boys of Rockford, Illinois.

(continued on page 11)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Daily, Over 200 Pinoys Try to Leave Phil for Work

by **Mayen Jaymalin**
Tuesday, June 28, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - Bureau of Immigration (BI) records showed that almost 200 Filipinos attempt to sneak out of the country daily to work abroad.

BI officials said that more than 32,000 aspiring overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) posing as tourists were barred from leaving the country.

BI Associate Commissioner Siegfried Mison said from January to June, the bureau had "offloaded" or denied exit from various international airports in the country some 32,038 so-called "tourist workers."

"Our BI operative presented them from boarding the

planes because in all likelihood these travelers were victims of human trafficking and they are just posing as tourists," he said.

Mison pointed out that the BI only allows those with complete requirements, especially overseas employment contracts from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), to leave for employment abroad.

He said immigration officers are not curtailing the right of Filipinos to travel abroad, but the government has to ensure the safety and security of OFWs.

"It's for their own safety that we require them to present documents from the POEA if they would want to work abroad," Mison said.

Immigration officials as-

signed at the different airports said they could still not determine whether the number of so-called tourist workers is increasing since it was only last year that they launched an intensified campaign against human trafficking.

Mison said all those who were offloaded for the past six months were referred to the Inter-agency Council Against Human Trafficking (IACAHT) for the appropriate filing of criminal charges.

Immigration officials also admitted that only two cases of human trafficking have been filed before the court out of the thousands of Filipinos who were offloaded due to lack of employment documents.

Although many tourist workers were prevented from

leaving, recruitment officials claimed that many OFWs were still able to leave by paying a "facilitation fee" to BI agents.

Recruitment leaders said that OFWs using tourist visas, particularly those bound for Afghanistan and other countries with existing deployment ban, allegedly pay as much as P50,000.

BI officials, however, denied the allegations and claimed that "outsiders" and not BI officials received the bribe money.

On the other hand, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) chief Carmelita Dimzon said the government is now offering various packages so that Filipinos would have the option to stay and not leave the country illegally.

Dimzon said OWWA is

now implementing the P2-billion reintegration program that gives returning OFWs the chance to get as much as P2 million in loans so they could put up their own business.

She said the agency also assisted close to 10,000 OFWs who were repatriated from war-torn Libya.

Dimzon said a number of OFWs continue to return home from Libya and they were given P10,000 financial assistance.

She said OWWA has already released some P95 million in financial assistance to returning workers from Libya.

Dimzon said OWWA has also allowed recruitment agencies to pay on installment basis the P143-million repatriation cost of the OFWs from Libya. (www.philstar.com)

DTI Hails Filing of Save Act

by **Ma. Elisa P. Osorio**
Monday, June 27, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) hailed the filing of the Save the Industries Act before the US Senate because it is a step in the right direction towards the revival of the Philippine garments industry.

The principal sponsors of the bill are Sen. Daniel Inouye, a Democrat from Hawaii, and Sen. Roy Blunt, a Republican from Missouri. Co-sponsors are Senate President Harry Reid from Nevada and Sen. Daniel Akaka from Hawaii, both Democrats.

"This great development is a big step towards achieving our goal to invigorate the garments industry," Trade Secretary Gregory L. Domingo said.

In an interview over the weekend, Trade Undersecretary and Board of Investments (BOI) managing head Cristino L. Panlilio said they have been working on this bill since last

year and the filing of the bill bodes well for the country's garments industry.

"I hail the filing of this bill. This is something we have worked hard for since last year. The Department of Foreign Affairs led by Sec. Albert del Rosario and our new Ambassador to the US Jose Cuisia have also adopted the save act," Panlilio said.

However, Panlilio said that the filing only signals the beginning of the quest for the passage of the bill.

"This is a major step but the work is not over. We must work harder now to convince more senators and congressmen to support this bill," Panlilio said. "We are calling on all Filipinos here who have relatives in the US to please inform them about the Save Act. They can do their own share in getting in touch with their senators and congressmen."

The government will be sending a contingent to the US soon led by Congressman Manny Pacquiao to help rally more support for the bill.

The Save Act will allow the duty free exportation of Philippine made garments which used American materials to the US.

"This is a landmark piece of legislation that will redound to great benefits for both our people. It will revive the Philippines' garment industry that has been in the doldrums ever since the end of the quota regime and at the same time increase imports of US textile and export from the Philippines and other ASEAN countries of up to \$3 billion in the next three

years. This is definitely a win win solution," Panlilio said.

According to Panlilio, in spite of the history shared between the Philippines and the US, there is no bilateral trade agree-

ment that will help expand the trade between the two countries.

Panlilio underscored that the trade agreement can create 450,000 new jobs in the near future. (www.philstar.com)

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 10, PUBLIC)

The parade's sponsors include the City, the Waikiki Improvement Association, the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Royal Hawaiian Center and Aston Hotels & Resorts.

The City's Royal Hawaiian Band will also be recognized for its contributions and enduring legacy. Led by

Bandmaster Clarke Bright, the Royal Hawaiian Band is the only band in the U.S. with a royal legacy and the nation's only full-time municipal band. Founded in 1836 by King Kamehameha III, the band helps preserve Hawaiian musical culture and entertains Oahu's diverse mix of residents and visitors.

A Denmark State of Mind

THE X-PAT FILES by Scott R. Garceau

Don't get me wrong: Denmark is a lovely place. It has much to be proud of, history-wise, including its tradition of Viking warriors who probably visited much of the world way before the lower Europeans even got their first dinghies in the water. It's just that, well, its beer is a little lacking. And beer was supposed to be a big part of my recent visit to Scandinavia.

Our tour last April actually began in Belgium, which has glorious beer: some of the finest ambers and brews ever contemplated by man. My wish list of Belgium beers included Chimay Red, Saison Dupont, and the products of Cantillon Brewery in Brussels — all of which I failed to even sample because we (wife Therese and I) arrived late in Belgium, and only got a small taste of the country during an all-too-brief overnight stay in Bruges (which also has excellent beer). So, on to Denmark.

And what does Denmark have to offer? Carlsberg and Tuborg. Carlsberg: a company so timid in its beer pride that a large banner in downtown Copenhagen reads "Carlsberg: Probably the Best Beer in Town." Not even in all of Scandinavia, mind you; just "in town." Talk about self-esteem issues.

So the beer was nothing that would inspire Viking conquests. But at least Copenhagen has a great number of other attractions to make it a decent tourist draw, even if you're only passing through.

Let's start with Noma, visited by many to be the best restaurant in the world for two years in a row. It's a strange odyssey of food that takes you through courses featuring edible topiary and live shrimp (and those are

just the appetizers). Denmark's also the home of Hans Christian Andersen as well as Lars Von Trier, so you can expect some darkness, and I don't just mean the literal weather (our daily newspaper at the hotel informed us of "sunny spells," as though the appearance of sunshine in Copenhagen is some kind of aberration or temporary enchantment). And it's also the home of Lego, that tinkerer's dream toy that probably reflects the precise intellectual rigor combined with playfulness to be found in Danish society. Here are some things to check out.

1. Eat at Noma. While in Copenhagen, you must visit Noma, voted (in San Pellegrino's World's 50 Best Restaurants poll) as the best. Well, it also has a couple Michelin stars under its belt too, so those who turn up their nose at the "hipper" upstart rating system should keep that in mind. René Redzepi's kitchen serves up a tasting menu of 12-plus courses that starts with tiny forestry, includes live shrimp that you dunk in a killing sauce before downing in one go, and a battery of dishes that defy our expectations of what is food. Now that El Bulli's closing its doors, Noma seems to have a lock on outlandishly reimagined food. There are radishes in edible soil, shellfish served in a bowl of rocks, and pork belly that comes with a sheathed knife. Someone at our table called it "food from outer space," but to me it's food that casts a fresh new look at our very own Earth and all its ingredients, through the pleasures are sometimes more contemplative than purely



The Little Mermaid

gastronomic. (Interestingly, Copenhagen has 13 Michelin-star restaurants, the most in all of Scandinavia. Yet what do most restaurants serve? "Smørrebrød," or cold, open-faced sandwiches. Go figure.)

2. Pose with The Little Mermaid. A classic tourist site, the bronze statue by Edvard Eriksen erected in 1913 and placed on a rock in Copenhagen harbor has become an icon of the city. She's relatively small, only 1.25 meters, or human size ("part of the human world," I guess). When we arrived, we were told The Little Mermaid had been sent on tour to Shanghai, but — luckily — when we took a tour bus to the site, she was still out there in the harbor. Maybe she had visa problems?

3. Visit Tivoli Gardens. People who haven't been to Copenhagen might imagine lush Elysian fields or a Versailles-type estate. Actually, Tivoli Gardens is one of the oldest amusement parks in the world, a popular draw during Easter time, where large mechanical bunny rabbits welcome visitors at the gate. Don't expect mind-bending thrill rides, but it's definitely a nostalgic trip down memory lane.

4. Tour Elsinore Castle. "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark," observed Marcellus in Hamlet. Well, thankfully not on the day we visited. Elsinore Castle is not the brooding, fog-misted fortress we imagined Hamlet lurking about, but a big tourist draw, with performances of Shakespeare held inside as

well as guided tours. About 1-2 hours north of Copenhagen by bus.

5. Drop in at Christianborg/Fredricksborg/Rosenborg Castles. Really, what's a European trip without castles? (Or, as we used to say on the tour bus, "ABC: Another Bloody Castle.") Here's where you'll find relic rooms from the reign of Christian I and King Frederic. Castle Rosenborg — with its deadma sentries roaming the perimeter — even has a nice surprise in its cellar: the actual king's jewels and royal crown sealed in a vault for public viewing.

6. Line up at Legoland. The first Legoland amusement park was built here in Billund (4-5 hours north of Copenhagen by train) in 1968 near the original Lego factory. The brand has experienced a huge spike in popularity of late, long after Ole Kirk Christiansen molded his first plastic parts in 1949. Surprising, unless you're really into zig-zaggy plastic replicas of houses, airports and Star Wars action scenes. There are water rides and rollercoasters, life-size Lego models of Hans Christian Andersen and world landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower and Mount Rushmore.

Most interesting is the Lego Driving School, which allows batches of kids to climb inside tiny motor-driven cars and — after a safety and driver courtesy lesson — take their vehicles out for a spin on the kid-size track. Amazing how the kids actually observe the tiny traffic lights and signal when they want to turn. Perhaps Manila could set up its own Lego Driving School?

7. Shop at Strøget. It's a long pedestrian walkway of shops and side streets that's one of Copenhagen's biggest tourist draws. H&M and Lego are there, of course, but also excellent dessert shops and old vinyl record shops, bookstores, cafes and cinemas (the International Film Fest was going on while we were there), plus lots of

shawarma restaurants, when you get really tired of open-faced sandwiches.

8. Take a whiff of Christianity. A famed dope community set up in the late '60s, Christianity is actually a separate state from Denmark, with tax-free status. Yup, people can buy, trade and smoke marijuana and mild hallucinogens (though hashish and "hard" narcotic drugs are prohibited) inside its protected walls. Originally set up as a haven for the homeless and persecuted, walk along its bombed-out warehouse streets today and you'll mainly find people openly selling grams of marijuana and 'shrooms, along with Bob Marley t-shirts, "THC lollipops" and pot seeds. Picture-taking is not allowed inside the selling area. A big sign announces you are safely "Entering the European Community" as you leave its hazy, smoke-swirled gates.

9. Gape in awe at Louisiana. A modern art museum located north of Copenhagen overlooking the coast, it features an amazing sculpture garden and a mix of live performance, design and architecture. Included in the book 1,000 Places To See Before You Die, it's a unique art environment in an expansive space, mixing famous names like Picasso and Paul Klee with the best of modern Danish artists.

10. Stretch your mind at Experimentarium. Not just a kid's science museum, but a huge aircraft hangar-sized room of gadgets, interactive rides and learning experiences for kids located along the wharf near Hellerup. (You can take a bus from downtown Copenhagen.) Now showing is "Body Worlds," the latest version of German anatomist Gunther von Hagens' "Bodies" exhibit featuring flayed human corpses whose water and fat has been replaced with pliable plastic (a technique called plastination), allowing the figures to be posed in a number of intriguing poses, such as playing a Stratocaster guitar or having sex with one another. Believe me, after you've seen two flayed corpses having front-to-back sex in Copenhagen, you've seen it all. (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES

Employers Targeted in Drive Against Illegal Employment



By Reuben S. Seguritan

As part of its crackdown on illegal immigration, the federal government recently initiated a new round of employer investigations to ensure that businesses hire only individuals authorized to work in the United States. About 1,000 businesses, large and small, would receive I-9 audit notices from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The businesses will be facing inspection of I-9 forms, which employers are required to complete for each employee hired after November 6, 1986. The employee must provide a document or a combination of documents to establish identity

and employment authorization.

These companies, whose names have been withheld, have been selected based on information or tips of improper hiring practices. They are engaged in businesses related to critical infrastructure and key resources, such as agriculture, banking, commercial nuclear reactors, postal and shipping services, health care and transportation.

Since the beginning of fiscal year 2011 last October, the Obama administration has initiated more than 2,300 employer audits as part of its ramped-up efforts in immigration enforcement. This number is already greater than all audits conducted during the 2010 fiscal year. Compared to the workplace raids and worker arrests that were done during the previous administration, this administration has focused on workplace investigations.

The paper I-9 form, which is required of all employers, is also central to the E-verify system. E-verify is an internet-based program that allows an employer to check an employee's information against DHS and Social Security Administration (SSA) records, and to deny employment to those found ineligible to work. Currently almost 250,000 employers are signed up for E-verify but participation remains voluntary.

A bill introduced recently by Republican Congressman Lamar Smith of Texas would make employment eligibility verification mandatory for all employers in the United States.

The Legal Workforce Act (H.R. 2164) would require employers to enroll in a nationwide Employment Eligibility Verification System (EEVS) to be used for new hires.

Participation would be

phased-in over a period of 2 years. Large employers or those with more than 10,000 employees must use EEVS within 6 months from the law's enactment, while employers with 1 to 19 employees have 2 years to start using the system. Agricultural employers have 3 years from enactment to use EEVS for new hires.

Re-verification of current employees, while generally not required, would be mandatory for employees working in the government and in federal or state contracts. It would also be mandatory for employees with limited periods of work authorization and those working at critical infrastructure sites.

The bill imposes increased civil penalties for employers who hire unauthorized employees, including a maximum fine of \$25,000 for paperwork violations, unless they can claim a "good faith" exemption. Employers that are engaged in a pattern or practice of violations or

that knowingly hire unauthorized employees face imprisonment of at least one year and a fine of \$15,000 for each unauthorized worker.

Workers would face fines and a possible two-year imprisonment for knowingly providing false Social Security numbers and identification. There is an enhanced penalty if identity theft is also committed.

The bill allows the SSA to block the use of a Social Security number in case of unusual multiple use or when the visa of a noncitizen has expired. The agency would also send notices to employers submitting mismatched or corrected wage and tax statements. An individual worker would also be able to block the use of his/her number in case of unauthorized use by another person.

REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (213) 693-5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

PHILIPPINE NEWS

No More Facebook for Cops

by Cecille Suerte Felipe
Tuesday, June 28, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - Police are now banned from using Facebook and other social networking sites during office hours, unless it is to track down criminals roaming cyberspace.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has revived a campaign to save energy and water by limiting the operating hours of electricity consuming gadgets, including air-conditioning units and computers.

Chief Superintendent James Melad, head of the PNP Headquarters Support Service, recently issued a memorandum to all po-

lice units to exercise energy conservation methods that include the ban on the use of Facebook and other social networking sites so that the computers would be utilized only for official functions.

"All personnel and offices are prohibited to utilize computers for games, movies and other forms of online entertainment at anytime of the day and night," stated the memorandum sent to offices at Camp Crame, the PNP headquarters in Quezon City.

Under the Light and Water Conservation (LAWCON) inspector checklist, the administrative officers were directed to monitor compliance.

Based on the order, police and civilian personnel can use air-conditioning units for only five hours and 30 minutes during the eight-long office hours.

"During working days (Monday to Friday), use of air-conditioners is limited to 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. All air-conditioners shall be turned off during weekends and holidays," the memo stated.

The two-page memo noted that in cases where air-conditioning units are to be used, its thermostat should be set at 22 degrees or 25 degrees depending on the size of the office.

During lunch break, air-conditioning units should be

switched on to "fan" mode and that the use of the water dispenser should be limited from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to the memo.

"The use of electric stove and other kitchen electrical appliances is prohibited in all offices. The use of blinds/drapes should be discouraged to allow natural light to flow freely in the officer during working hours," the memo said.

The directive also added that all incandescent bulbs should be

replaced with compact fluorescent lamps that consume less electricity.

"Chiefs of offices/units are discouraged to allow the extended stay of personnel after 5 p.m.," the order said.

Duty personnel should use electric fans and the minimum lights needed, and that unnecessary lights have to be shut off after office hours as well as during weekends and holidays, it added. (www.philstar.com)

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



ILOKO
By Amado I. Yoro

Baro A Mrs. Hawaii Filipina 2011 Ni Joy L. Agni

panagraep, panagani, panagga-pas, sa iti panagtaep ken panag-bayo iti along ngem dakkadkel ti puntos ti talento nga impabayu ni Catherine Cabal Salvador iti mainaig iti panagaramidan iti tuba, lambanog, arak wemno basi iti simpli a buya ti kaniogan iti Quezon ket adda dagiti bunga ti niog ken ti dakkel a bayenyeng a naganayan dagitoy a mainum.

Ist princess ni Catherine Cabal Salvador, napili a Most Photogenic, Best Terno Speech, and Best in Talent.

2nd princess ni Claire Langcay, Congeniality, nangkanta iti "The Greatest Love of all" iti kategoria ti talento.

Timmabuno met dagiti dati a Mrs. Hawaii Filipina kadagiti napalabas a pakairamanan da

1. Miriam Guerrero, 1991, Big Island
2. Veronica Esteban, 1997, Oahu
3. Edith Simon, 2000, Oahu
4. Lydia Fontes, 2001, Oahu
5. Felice Chit Guillermo, 2003, Oahu
6. Armi Oliver Farinas, 2006, Oahu
7. Imelda Emmie Anderson,

- 2007, Oahu
8. Jema Geronimo, 2009, Oahu

Nangrugi ti Mrs. Hawaii Filipina Scholarship babaen iti panaginaw ken panangirugi ni Bert Ugalino idi damona ti agakem a presidente ti UFCH idi 1986, 1987 a nainaw sa naipaket iti umuna a programa idi 1988 a nakapilian ni Acela Garcia kas umuna a Mrs. Hawaii Filipina.

Nagtalinaed iti lagipni ti kinuna ni Ugalino: Nasaysayaat a pagsasalipen dagiti addaan iti asawa tapno dakkadkel la ngran-den ti urrongda, ad-adu pay ti maidonarda iti pannakaur-or ti pondo nga agpaay iti Scholarship program.

Da Amie Corpuz ken Maggie Domingo ti nagakem a Chairpersons iti damo a pasalip. Saan pay a nagsardeng daytoy nanipud idi nairugi kas panangyuna ni Acela Garcia a napili idi 1988. Simmaruno a napili da Erlinda Villena, 1989; Dolores Oandasan, 1990; Remy Rabanal, 1992; Evangeline Munoz, 1993; Felina Quebral, 1994; Corazon Manarapaac, 1998; Marites Domingo, 1999;

Therese Vagilla Aleta, 2002; Wibitz Stewart, 2004; Reyna Rahman, 2005; Edna Ballesteros, 2008;

Nayanak ni Joy iti Marso 3 iday Filipinas. Ni Ireneo D. Agni kasimpungalanna ken ad-daanda iti anak. Nagturpos iti Farrington High School, 1987; Hawaii Business College; American Institute of Banking, Rock-hurst University of Continuing Education Center.

Kameng kadagiti surna-ganad: Business Networking International Chapter of Choice,

Vice president; Pearl City Community Assn, director; Manaloa-Nimitz Lions Club, Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Filipino Womens Civic Club.

Pagesmanna nga aramiden ti agluto, agbasa ken agsiapiang.

Tinawan a maangay daytoy a kas paseten ti programa ti United Filipino Council of Hawaii tapno isu ti pamataudan ti pundo para iti scholarship project a manglutong kadagiti nasarrita nga estudiante iti nga aglutoy iti koleho wemno unibersidad iti beneg ti America.

MAINLAND NEWS

Save Our Industries Act Introduced in U.S. Senate

A measure that would expand U.S. trade in Asia by allowing apparel manufactured in the Philippines with U.S. fabrics to enter the country duty free was introduced in the U.S. Senate.

According to U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka and Roy Blunt (R-MO), the Save Our Industries Act (SAVE) has the potential to create upwards of 2,000 jobs in the U.S. fabric mill sector and spur an incentivized export market for the U.S. textile industry. With almost 99 percent of the U.S. apparel market now served by imports, U.S. textile manufacturers are reliant on export markets for their survival.

"The Philippines has been an important partner in the Asia Pacific region since the Spanish-American War," says Sen. Inouye. "The SAVE Act would represent the first trade initiative with the Philippines in nearly four decades. Unlike other countries in the region, the U.S. and the Philippines share a balanced trade relationship and this measure would continue to build on this relationship and bolster our economic ties by helping both countries reestablish competitive textile industries."

Sen. Akaka says that the SAVE Act underscores the strong bond between the U.S. and the Philippines, supports thousands of jobs, increases trade and strengthens the long-time alliance for mutual benefit.



The SAVE Act is patterned after the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement, or CAFTA, which permits tariff-free import of apparel assembled in those countries in return for using cotton and manmade fiber fabrics still made in the U.S. It is also expected to provide U.S. textile companies with new opportunities to export fabrics into the Asia Pacific market.

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officials conducted an informal technical review of the SAVE bill and concluded that the SAVE Act can be administered and enforced. The Philippine Department of Trade and Industry then reviewed and agreed to all customs enforcement provisions.

"Economic partnerships like this are an important way to both build on international relationships and provide relief for consumers at home," says Sen. Blunt. "The Philippines is a close and long-standing ally, and I'm pleased to join my friend Senator Inouye as we work to build on this important partnership."

Oti nangumpo a puntos dagiti kameng iti hurado a buklen iti lima a bin-ig a profesional kadagiti bukodda a trabaho wemno pagsiriban, nagresulta a: Ni Joy L. Agni ti napili a baro a Mrs. Hawaii Filipina 2011.

TALLO a beneg ti nakasagatan ken nakarukodan dagiti tallo a kandidata para iti Mrs. Hawaii Filipina 2011 ti nagbatayan dagiti hurado a nangpili no asino ti sumaruno wemno mangsukat ken ni Kanani Dias a Mrs. Hawaii Filipina 2010: Popularity [40%], Best in Talent [25%], Best in Terno/Speech [35%]

Ken ni Joy, naipabus-oy kenkuana iti Most Popularity, gapu ta isu ti kaaduan ti nakuarta a pakairamanan iti panaglako iti tiket ken iti advertisement.

Napintas met ketdi ti imparangna a talento kas iti "Planting Rice is never fun".

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 • Call Clarita Wickman @ 599-4266 for details

UFCH 53RD ANNIVERSARY & CONVENTION

July 13-15, 2011, 7:30am - 4pm
 • Hotel California in Las Vegas
 Contact: Lynne Gutierrez-728-1700

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ILOGOS SURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII, DINNER AWARDS AND FUNDRAISING / SATURDAY

August 27, 2011, 6pm
 • Coral Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village • Contact: Danny Villaruz @ 778-0233 or Maria Etrata @ 392-2962

VINART NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI GLOBAL NETWORK, REUNION & REAFFIRMATION OF OFFICERS / SATURDAY

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MAINLAND NEWS

US Senate Begins Debate on Immigration Bill for Minors

by Jose Katigbak
 Thursday, June 30, 2011

WASHINGTON – The US Senate held its first ever hearing on the DREAM Act Tuesday, with Jose Antonio Vargas, the Pulitzer Prize-winning Filipino journalist who outed himself as an undocumented immigrant, in attendance.

Born in the Philippines and brought to the United States as a child, Vargas was treated like a star by Senate staffers who jostled one another for a chance to be photographed with him.

Since his confession last week he has become somewhat of a poster child for young people brought to the US illegally but want the opportunity to continue studying in, or fighting for, the only country they have ever known, with a legitimate path to citizenship.

Witnesses at the hearing chaired by Sen. Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat and hosted by the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security, included Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Education Secretary Arne Duncan.

Durbin has expressed doubts he has the votes needed to get the bill passed through the Senate.

Called the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minor (DREAM) Act, the measure seeks to give undocumented immigrants the chance to become permanent US residents if they were brought to the US before the age of 16, lived in the country for at least five years prior to the bill's enactment, graduated from high school and have a clean criminal record.

They must also complete two years in the military or two years of college.

The DREAM Act was first introduced in 2001 and, after setbacks, was re-filed several times.

In her testimony, Napolitano denied Republican charges the Obama administration was trying to bypass Congress by secretly allowing young illegal immigrants to stay in the country.

Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Texas Sen. John Cornyn questioned her over a recent Immigration Department memo which emphasizes that the government's priority is

to deport dangerous criminals. The memo advises agents to take "particular care and consideration" when illegal immigrants are veterans, elderly, ill, have been in the country for a long time, or are victims of crimes.

Immigration officials said the memo merely restated previously articulated priorities but immigration hawks have derided it as "backdoor amnesty."

"There is no mass amnesty here," Napolitano said.

Passage of the DREAM Act will neither resolve nor substitute for the need for a comprehensive immigration reform to allow 11 million undocumented immigrants in the US to come out of the shadows, Napolitano said.

But while the broader immigration debate continues, Congress should pass the DREAM Act, she said.

Clifford Stanley, the Defense Department's undersecretary of personnel readiness, in his testimony said 25,000 non-citizens presently serve in the military and allowing more young immigrants to join would open up recruiting opportunities for the armed services. (www.philtar.com)

Philippine Embassy in D.C. Hosts Rizal Forum

The Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. hosted a forum in commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Philippine national hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

The forum was held on June 16, 2011 and co-sponsored by the Philippine Arts, Letters and Media Council (PALM).

Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. welcomed guests to the forum which featured distinguished speakers Bernadita Churchill, PhD, retired University of the Philippines professor and president of the Philippine National Historical Society; Anna Bantug-Herrera, Asia Foundation assistant director and great-great-grand

niece of Rizal; and Ramon Paterno, Esq., retired International Finance Corporation senior counsel and founder of the Rizal Day and Youth Awards Committee.

Churchill spoke on "The Vision of Rizal, the First Filipino" and provided a historical perspective of Rizal's actions and calls not only for change under Spanish rule but also for change in the Filipino social mindset.

Herrera, a direct descendant of Narcisa Rizal, shared photos of Rizal family mementos, including a business card used by Rizal while practicing medicine in Hong Kong and the tampaki that served as cover for the smuggled copy of the novel "Noli Me Tangere." She con-

cluded her remarks by saying that she will continue "rivalizing" the future.

Paterno shared his passion on learning about Rizal. He discussed Rizal as a Renaissance Man, as the first nationalist and why he is admired as the country's national hero.

After the presentations, audience members were given a chance to engage the speakers in an open forum. In attendance were Filipino-American university students, teachers, Fulbright scholars and D.C.-based Rizal descendants.

Guests were also invited to an exhibit on Rizal at the Asian Reading Room of the Library of Congress, which was on display through the end of June 2011. (DFA)



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