

# THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF A TRADITIONAL FILIPINO CHRISTMAS

COVER STORY PAGE

# 4



### HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

**KALIHI CHURCH TO HONOR FILIPINO SAINT**

# 10



### PHILIPPINE NEWS

**PESO STRENGTHENS AS LOCAL STOCKS AND OFWS REMITTANCES SURGE**

# 12



### LEGAL NOTES

**COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM LIKELY TO PASS NEXT YEAR**

# 13

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## EDITORIALS

## Christmas Traditions Worth Holding On To

**F**or most Filipinos, particularly those who were born and raised in the Philippines, the word “Christmas” conjures up memories of festive celebrations with family and friends. Christmas is the most anticipated day of the year and the one holiday that entire families celebrate together.

As the only pre-dominantly Christian nation in Asia, Christmas is near and dear to the hearts of many Filipinos. Different regions in the Philippines celebrate Christmas with various colorful festivities, like the world famous giant lantern parade hosted by the town of San Fernando, Pampanga. Some towns held special re-enactments of the Christmas story (*Panunuluyan*), while others followed the Spanish tradition of attending early morning masses (*Simbang Gabi*).

Filipino families also have their own unique Christmas traditions that have been passed down to future generations—traditions such as making Christmas lanterns (*parol*), sharing a Christmas Eve meal together (*Noche Buena*), singing carols (*Namamasko*) and opening presents. Locally, the Fil-Com Center in Waipahu has hosted annual Christmas (*Pasko!*) celebrations that replicate the various elements of a traditional Filipino Christmas, and will do so again this December 16. Nowhere else in Hawaii can one find a singular event that celebrates all these Filipino Christmas traditions under one roof. The event can also be a nostalgic walk down memory lane, particularly for ex-pats reminiscing of life back in the Philippines. Kudos to the Fil-Com Center and the numerous community groups for co-hosting this spectacular event that celebrates the richness of the Filipino culture.

As an ethnic group, we need to hold fast to these rich and uniquely Filipino Christmas traditions and see to it that they are passed on to our children and grandchildren. Such traditions connect us to our past, bind us closer to our families and leave an indelible reminder of who we are and where we came from.

## Solutions to Waikiki's Public Restroom Crisis

**P**ublic beach restrooms in Waikiki, the state's tourism mecca, have long been a source of complaints. Toilets are broken, poorly-maintained, lack hand soap and paper towels, suffer from vandalism and just plain smell. In response, the City has launched a public restroom renovation project at a cost of \$800,000. The price tag jumps to \$2 million if efforts to upgrade the restrooms at Ala Moana Beach Park are included.

In all fairness to the City, it does not have enough groundskeepers to clean the restrooms at its 282 public parks across Oahu. Once a day is the bare minimum but some of the most heavily-used facilities are cleaned as often as 16 times per day. Adding to the problem is that soap and paper towels when installed vanish almost immediately. With homeless people also camping out in the loo, it's hard to blame City officials who in recent months have decided to close its restrooms in Waikiki from 12 midnight to 5 am for safety reasons.

While there are no easy answers to Waikiki's outhouse crisis, perhaps Honolulu should study the efforts of other jurisdictions that have wrestled with public restroom problems. Officials in Portland, Oregon have come up with a unique and patented outdoor restroom that is fireproof, sturdy and has a graffiti-free coating. It also has no running water or mirrors, which discourages

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**M**y goodness, can you believe that it's already December? Before you know it, Christmas, in all of its festive glory, will be here. Soon it will be 2013. Seriously, where does the time go?

For now, with Christmas just around the corner, we'll be focusing our efforts on preparing for the Holiday Season. Early preparation may just be the secret to minimizing the amount of stress that inevitably comes with the Yuletide Season—which is the happiest time of the year for many Filipinos. And for good reason. It's a time to gather with family and friends, renew friendships and strengthen the ties that bind us. Those who have been away from home for extended periods really yearn to spend Christmas in the Philippines—where some would say Christmas celebrations are the merriest and most meaningful! In the Philippines, people start putting up Christmas decorations in their homes and offices as early as October, compared to the U.S. where we don't see such displays until after Thanksgiving Day. To read more about *Simbang Gabi*, *Noche Buena*, the ubiquitous *parol* and other distinctly Filipino Christmas traditions, please turn to page 4 for our cover story entitled “Enjoying a Very Merry Christmas, Filipino-Style.” Merry Christmas to all of you!

In other Christmas-related news, Dr. Arsenio Balisacan, who is considered the leading economist for the Philippines, will deliver a lecture on the state of the Philippines' economy at the Philippine Consulate General on December 6, 2012 at 6 pm (see page 6). The Chronicle featured Dr. Balisacan in our November 3rd issue, so his name may be familiar to our readers. His lecture is just part of the many activities scheduled for the first ever Parol Festival, scheduled for November 30 to December 15 at the Consulate. If you're interested in attending the lecture or any of the festivities, please call the Consulate at 595-6316 extension 103 for more details.

We would also like to alert our readers on the efforts of Honolulu Mayor-Elect Kirk Caldwell to fill members of his administration. If you are or know of a qualified Filipino, please consider applying or encouraging that individual to apply. It is always a benefit and a boost in morale to the Filipino community when one of its own is appointed to leadership positions in government. For information on how to apply, please read “Caldwell Accepting Applications for Cabinet Posts” on page 10.

In closing, Pasko! sa FilCom is scheduled for Sunday December 16, from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the FilCom Center. Please make plans to attend this very special event celebrating all things that are good about Filipino Christmas traditions.

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

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

homeless from washing themselves or their laundry, and bars at the top and bottom of the structure—all of which are designed to not only keep degenerates in check but also make them want to get out of there as fast as possible. Cops can peep in at ground level to make sure there's only one set of feet inside. And the openings allow for sound to easily pass in and out. The bottom line is that Portland's public toilets make going to the john uncomfortable for users, which makes them feel less empowered to do illegal activities.

At a cost of \$60,000 each and an annual maintenance fee of \$12,000, Portland's toilet may be well worth the price. The City can continue to upgrade its public restrooms in Waikiki but also close them during evening hours to deter vandalism and other nefarious activities—and provide several of Portland's toilets in select areas. As a world-class visitor destination, Waikiki's tourists deserve better—including adequate and open restroom facilities 24/7. It is a responsibility that should be taken seriously.



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## EDITORIAL

# What Have We Learned? A Recap of the 2012 Election

**T**o many Americans, the end of the election season is much welcomed given the built-in divisiveness and negativity it brings. While the process is paramount to any healthy democracy, there is no other point in time than during elections that we Americans hail our differences over our commonalities, and draw clear lines separating ourselves from each other along political party, competing issues, race, and even geographic location of our communities. It's a wearisome process, but a necessary one to determine the course our nation must navigate through that aptly reflects the political landscape chosen by the majority of our people.

Some of the salient conclusions we could make based on the election results are predictable, while others leave us scratching our heads in wonder.

Starting from the top, we know that Barack Obama's B-rated first term performance was enough to warrant an encore for the president. His commanding win in the electoral college and popular vote is a mandate on many issues -- that Obamacare is in step with our values on healthcare; that the tone on immigration reform ought to be compassionate and collaborative; that both the sequence and intensity of tackling our national debt must first trend a fuller economic recovery followed by a gradual reduction in spending; that government playing an active role is preferred over a hands-off approach in many key areas such as corporate and banking regulations; and that Medicare and Social Security must be preserved as closely as possible to their original models that ensure affordability. Perhaps what's most revealing of the Obama victory is that the new voting coalition among women, Latinos, Blacks, Asians, young adults, gays, liberals and urban communities as analysts have been talking about four years ago when this president was first elected is a solid coalition that can win

presidential elections consistently. Unless Republicans at the national level are willing to make fundamental changes in policy to be more inclusive, the same coalition of minorities now have the numbers to make another successful run at the White House.

In local elections, Hawaii residents have felt for the first time the full brunt of the Supreme Court's ruling on Citizens United that granted unlimited spending on elections to super PACS and corporations. Pacific Resources Partnership flexed its muscles to take down one of Hawaii's most formidable political icons in former governor Ben Cayetano. PRP did it in a dishonorable fashion that more than likely will be replicated in future elections should a viable threat arise. Because of Cayetano's defeat this election, powerful interest groups, not just PRP, could resort to smear campaigning which has proven to be an effective model for victory even in Hawaii where our culture of fair play is idealized. The future model of smear campaigning in Hawaii has but one deterrent: the outcome of Cayetano's lawsuit against PRP. That legal case, should Cayetano prevail, could re-establish certain boundaries of decency that should not be crossed in election campaigning.

Given the margin of victory of Kirk Caldwell over Cayetano, whether we would like to admit it or not, the mandate for the creation of rapid rail transit stays. A majority of voters on Oahu, twice, have approved the rail project. To speak of fairness and honoring the will of a majority of voters, rapid rail transit deserves to be pursued. In this election, compared to the city Charter Amendment vote previously, there was greater transparency of the numbers, clearer debates on rail's effectiveness, and adequate discussion on potential budgetary shortfalls this time around. Despite all these questionable loose ends, a majority of voters still approved the project via the election of pro-rail candidate Caldwell.

Referencing former governor Linda Lingle's campaign commercial that "party doesn't

matter" to her, apparently that wasn't sufficiently believable to Hawaii voters. Not only does party matter to a majority of Hawaii Democrat voters, it's so important that putting a Republican candidate in Congress who essentially claims to be independent apparently was too great a risk to take. This same reasoning could be said of the Colleen Hanabusa versus Charles Djou race in which Republican Djou unsuccessfully ran a campaign portraying himself as bipartisan and independent. Or even in the primary election where Ed Case failed to make a wave as a "moderate" Democrat candidate -- his defeat in part tells us how committed and deeply rooted traditional, progressive Democrat values are to a majority of Hawaii voters.

So what does this mean to the Filipino community? -- whose electorate is gradually moving center and independent as polls indicate, and marginally away from the majority of Hawaii voters' inclination toward left-leaning Democrat values. It could mean that while Filipinos are now the largest ethnic group, their influence on future elections could result as what occurred in this 2012 election -- a fragmented voting force that picks both winners and losers, both traditional Democrats and self-professed Republican-independents. As a community wielding a swing vote as in past elections, the Filipino electorate as a splintered force doesn't bode well. But based on sheer numbers alone, the Filipino vote perhaps should no longer be considered a swing vote, but more akin to Hawaii's Caucasian votes: massive, diverse and not necessarily

party-specific or labor union driven, in contrast to the state's Japanese American electorate. This new voting trend among Filipinos could not have been more apparent in the Cayetano race that had our community essentially split 2-to-1 for our fellow Filipino. Traditionally Democrat and labor friendly Filipinos, who still make up a large percentage in our community, for some reason could not come together to vote for the new Cayetano who seemed to have swayed too far from the Democrat, pro-labor base, to a very independent, almost Republican-like candidate.

It's even debatable that this new perception of Cayetano is what actually cost him his victory in the mayoral race particularly among Japanese and Hawaiian voters, more so than the smear campaigning and pro-rail issue. The truth probably is that Cayetano is not anti-union or anti-Democrat, but this is what voters perceived him to be. In hindsight, perhaps Cayetano's commercials should have utilized union la-

borers in hard hats excited about jobs and eager to work on fixing the multi-million dollars sewage system in need of repair or his proposed billion dollar FAST project. After all, it would have been these labor unions working on these enormous projects in the end. Cayetano's campaign alienated unions in general, not just those linked in some way to the rail project -- that is what cost him too many Democrat votes even though he is a Democrat.

What could have been, should have been is all academic at this point. Cayetano ought to be commended for running an honorable campaign and one that was able to put pressure on those in charge of rail to be more transparent. The voters have made their choices and certain projects will move forward as rapid rail transit locally and perhaps immigration reform nationally, as a result of this last election. We can only hope at this time that our nation and communities are well served by those whom we've elected.

*May your holidays be merry, bright, and safe!*

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- Outdoors, only use light strands and extension cords that are rated for outdoor use.
- When hanging lights outdoors, keep yourself and your ladder at least ten feet away from power lines.
- Turn off or unplug light strands before leaving home or going to bed.

For more information on electrical safety, go to [www.heco.com](http://www.heco.com) and click on "Safety and Emergency."



**Hawaiian Electric Company**

## COVER STORY

# Enjoying a Very Merry Christmas, Filipino-Style

By HFC Staff

**"C**

ome on, ring those bells... light the Christmas tree  
Jesus is the king, born for you and me.  
Come on, ring those bells... everybody say  
Jesus, we remember this your birthday."

Perhaps no other time of the year is as festive, warms our hearts or inspires goodwill as much as Christmas. For many deeply-religious Filipinos, Christmas is one of the most highly-anticipated times of the year.

Chalk it up to Filipinos' love for family, warm hearts, culinary appetites and deep personal faith. The result is a holiday fiesta and family traditions unlike any other in the world.

A predominantly Catholic nation, the Philippines celebrates Christmas longer than any country. The festivities last for nearly a month, beginning early on the morning of December 16 with the first of nine consecutive early morning Catholic masses called the "Misa de Gallo" (or *Simbang Gabi in Tagalog*) and ending in early January with the Feast of the Three Kings.

"Filipinos believe Christmas is a day of faith and love," says Evangeline Endrina. "I personally look forward to seeing the wonderful and colorful Christmas decorations, the sweet scent of the Christmas tree, the cold weather and the twinkling lights that brighten the streets and houses. Most of all, I look forward to being with my family."

While there is no denying the influence that U.S. and western culture has had on the Philippines and how Christmas is celebrated back home, many Filipinos in Hawaii have nevertheless held steadfast to traditions they observed since childhood.

### Uniquely Filipino Christmas Traditions

Perhaps the most recognized Christmas symbol for Filipinos is the *parol*, or star

lantern representing the star over the town of Bethlehem. Traditionally made from bamboo, the *parol* is uniquely Filipino and can be seen everywhere, including homes, churches and businesses.

Some *parols* are simple and made from paper and tassels, and have candles in the center. Others are more colorful and as large as 5 feet in diameter. The elaborate *parols* are usually lighted by dozens of colored bulbs that are time sequenced so that it appears the lights are dancing. At some town festivals in the Philippines, the *parol* gets as big as 12 feet in diameter and lighted by hundreds of blinking light bulbs.

But the granddaddy of all *parols* are the giant lanterns painstakingly made by the townfolk of San Fernando, Pampanga. San Fernando's lanterns are enormous—over 40 feet in diameter and illuminated by thousands of flashing, colorful lightbulbs. Because of these giant lanterns and their jaw-dropping displays, many consider the city as "the Christmas Capital of the Philippines."

Locally, the Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii are co-sponsoring the first ever Parol Festival from November 30 to December 15, 2012 at the Consulate grounds. Among the Festival's activities will be a display of *parols* imported directly from the Philippines. Deputy Consul General Paul Cortes expects up to 350 guests for the opening night, including Gov. Neil Abercrombie and Mayor-



Elect Kirk Caldwell.

"The two-week long Festival mirrors the celebratory Christmas mood of Hawaii's largest ethnic minority," Cortes says. "It will showcase various segments of Philippine culture and highlight Filipinos' unique celebration of Christmas."

Another beloved tradition observed by most Filipinos is the nine-day celebration before Christmas called *Simbang Gabi*, meaning "night worship," which originates from the Catholic custom of gathering together to celebrate the Eucharist in the pre-dawn hours on each of the nine days before Christmas.

Other Filipinos refer to this celebration as the *Misa de Gallo*, or "Mass of the Rooster." Catholic churches throughout the country will start ringing their bells long before the roosters crow. This uniquely Filipino observance tests one's devotion and requires much discipline to get out of bed at 3 am for nine straight days. After the mass, Filipinos typically enjoy *puto*

*bumbong*, *bibingka*, hot chocolate, tea and other treats at home or at one of the many makeshift stalls lining the street in front of the church..

On Christmas Eve, Filipino families traditionally stay awake past midnight to usher in Christmas. At midnight, the entire family gathers for a family feast called the *Noche Buena*. The home is wide open to relatives, friends and neighbors to drop by and eat. *Lechon*, *pancit*, *adobo*, *lumpia* and other delicacies are served buffet style, along with beer, wine and liquor.

Outside of the typical home, the streets are lighted and full of activities, with children playing. The entire evening is a time for family members, both immediate and distant, to bond together and share the true meaning of Christmas.

Bernie Bernales has fond memories of celebrating Christmas as a child.

"I wish I could be young once again and do all the things I did then when life was

(continued on page 5)

## Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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## COVER STORY



Pasko! sa FilCom offers uniquely Filipino Christmas celebrations. (left): Actors stage the Panunuluyan, or re-enactment of Joseph and Mary's search for an inn. (right): Filipinos try their hand at making a parol

(from page 4, ENJOYING...)

simpler, such as the ritual of Misa de Gallo and on Christmas Day visiting my grandparents and close relatives for their blessings and gifts," he says.

Bernales also remembers spending time at home with his siblings, playing games with them and the neighborhood kids and celebrating the Noche Buena with her family. As an adult, he has continued much of his childhood Christmas traditions, such as putting up the decorations and getting the belen, or nativity scene, ready for his son Bobby to assemble himself on Christmas Eve.

"It's a family tradition that we have been doing since my son was 2 years old," he says.

### Pasko! sa FilCom

If you've never been to the Philippines to experience Christmas, you're in luck. Many of the same beloved Filipino traditions will be available for all to see, taste and enjoy at the upcoming *Pasko! sa FilCom* celebration on December 16, 2012 from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu.

About 200 volunteers from various Filipino community organizations will be pooling their resources in hopes of making the event a perennial success. Previous celebrations averaged well over 500 people.

As in past events, attendees

at this year's *Pasko!* will have opportunities to sing festive Christmas carols of today and yesterday; taste *bibingka* and other goodies prepared during cooking demonstrations by various community organizations; listen to storytelling and performances by FilCom's Banda Kawayan and Himig at Indak; enjoy games, crafts, music and dance; and make their own *parols* and decorative Christmas trees. There will also be the *Panunuluyan*—the re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's search for an inn.

This year's *Pasko!* is bound to evoke feelings of nostalgia, especially for those who were born and raised in the Philippines. In fact, organizers say

*Pasko! sa FilCom* will be a good venue for attendees to sit, smell the food, listen to their native dialect and be dazzled once again by the colorful costumes.

*Pasko! sa FilCom* has the added benefit of publicizing the rich Filipino culture to other ethnic groups.

"It promotes the FilCom Center's goals of preserving Filipino traditions in Hawaii," says Jun Colmenares. "It will be a way of sharing and educating local born and non-Filipinos about the variety and uniqueness of Filipino culture."

### Maligayang Pasko!

When asked if she would rather celebrate Christmas in the Philippines or in Hawaii, Endrina prefers the Philippines.

"I would want to celebrate Christmas in the Philippines because all our relatives are there," she says, "while I only have my immediate family here in Honolulu."

Endrina's fondest childhood memory of Christmas

was making *parols*. As an adult, she continued her family's traditions of enjoying *Noche Buena* and attending Christmas mass together.

Bernales, however, prefers celebrating Christmas in Hawaii.

"At this stage of my life, I lean on the practical side," he says. "We love Christmas here. It's the closest thing to being in the Philippines with family and friends."

As a child, he would go to where his elders lived, pay respects and ask for their blessings and best wishes throughout the year. Now it's time for his children to spend time with he and his wife Teresita.

For Bernie, the best Christmas gift he ever received was a visit by his grandchildren Ashley and Teo several Christmases ago.

"With Hawaii being so far away, I do not get to spend a lot of time with my grandchildren. The time we had with them during that Christmas was the best gift I ever received."

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# 28th Annual City Lights Celebration Set for December 1st

The City will hold the 28th Annual City Lights Celebration on December 1, 2012 at 6 pm on the lawn of Honolulu Hale.

This year's fanciful ocean-themed decorations for the grand Christmas tree were inspired by Shaka Santa's snorkeling holoholo adventure to Hanauma Bay, featured in the event's signature ornament.

Presented free by the City and the Friends of Honolulu City Lights, the annual holiday celebration draws thousands to the Downtown/Civic Center on opening night to see the "corridor of lights" followed by the always popular Public Workers Electric Light Parade, sponsored by Hawaiian Electric Company and Macy's.

The parade will start at Aala Park and move down King Street. Dozens of decorated City vehicles, high school bands and sponsor floats, including two large Macy's star balloons, will arrive at King and Punchbowl streets just as the City Christmas tree is illuminated at 6:30 pm. Brother Wade of radio station Hawaiian 105 KINE and Shannon Scott, Cox Radio on-air personality and promotions director, will announce the pa-

rade from a platform in front of Honolulu Hale.

An 11-foot screen will be set up near the Honolulu Hale stage which will allow families to sit and watch the parade live along King Street. Santa will be at the Mission Memorial Auditorium adjacent to Honolulu Hale. Hawaiian Telcom will take free photos of keiki with Santa between 7:30 pm to 9 pm. After 9 pm, parents should use their own cameras to take photos.

At 7:30 pm, Tihati Productions will present a holiday concert near Sky Gate. This year's line-up includes Melveen Leed, Frank DeLima, Anuhea, Ballet Hawaii, PAC Kids and Company, and the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Families are encouraged to come early to avoid the expected heavy traffic. Parking is available in the Civic Center parking structure and at various parking garages in the area. For those unable to attend, the event will be broadcasted live on Olelo Channel 55 starting at 6 pm.

A one-hour parade special, sponsored by Hawaiian Electric Company, will air on KITV-4 on December 24, at 7 pm and December 29 at 2 pm.

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Balisacan to Lecture at the Consulate

Dr. Arsenio Balisacan, the Philippines' socioeconomic planning secretary and concurrent director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), will deliver a lecture at Philippine Consulate General on December 6, 2012 at 6 pm.

Balisacan holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Hawaii-Manoa, an MS degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños,

and a BS degree in Agriculture from the Mariano Marcos State University. He is an internationally-recognized expert on poverty, inequality, agricultural and rural development, human development, impact assessment and governance issues in East and Southeast Asia.

Balisacan's lecture, entitled "The Philippine Economy: a Rising Asian Tiger," will discuss the noticeable resurgence of optimism about the Philippines' economy,



which has been sparked largely by President Benigno S. Aquino's pursuit of good

governance as the overarching strategy to achieve inclusive growth and development.

"The administration's efforts are working," Balisacan says. "The Philippine economy is expected to grow close to 6 percent in 2012 despite global shocks."

According to Balisacan, the Philippines' greatest challenge is the high incidence of abject poverty and that sustained economic growth is needed to address this. The country also has to deal with

festering issues on inequity in access to opportunities, especially in education, health, infrastructure and land.

"Deepening policy reforms to sustain improvement in the investment climate and fiscal space that generate high-quality jobs for the country's rapidly growing population is a major test of President Aquino's administration," he says.

The public is invited and refreshments will be available for attendees. Contact the Consulate at 595-6316 ext. 103 for more information.

## Christmas Events Planned for Downtown Hilo

The Hilo Downtown Improvement Association (HDIA) is teaming with Big Island Mayor Billy Kenoi for "The Magic of the Season," a series of events focused on lighting up the County Building and Downtown district for the month of December.

"The Magic of the Season" comes on the tail of November's First Friday event

(Black & White Night).

HDIA is asking Hilo merchants and businesses to stay open late on Friday December 7 for "Red & White Night" when the Department of Parks & Recreation will install and light up a Christmas tree in Kalakaua Park at 6:30 pm. HDIA hopes businesses will light up their windows, buildings and properties at the same time.

"The Magic of the Sea-



son" will continue at the County Building with many departments decorating and installing trees in the atrium

area. A public open house is scheduled from December 10-14 and December 17-21 from 5 pm to 8 pm. City departments will each host an evening with free live entertainment and holiday goodies for everyone.

A blessing and re-dedication of the renovated Mooheau Bus Station at 329 Kamehameha Avenue is also in the works, with the date and time

to be determined. For more details, please send an email to: askalice@downtownhilo.com.

HDIA is a non-profit organization that was established in 1962 to preserve and revitalize Hilo's historic district. It serves as a collaborative, community voice that works to promote, support and sustain the history, culture, environment, and economy of the area.

### For Lease

# RETAIL / OFFICE SPACE



### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Best office building in Waipahu! The highly visible ground floor space is exposed to an average 7,910 (2008) cars daily.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

# Damned If You Do and Damned If You Don't Bring Your Child With You



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

**"E**xtrême hardship, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder."— Emmanuel S. Tipon

We won a deportation case yesterday on the issue of whether a child will suffer extreme hardship if the mother is ordered deported and leaves the child in the U.S. or brings the child with her. INA Section 212(h) allows the Judge to grant a waiver of inadmissibility in favor of an arriving alien or returning permanent resident who has committed a crime if certain qualifying relatives like a U.S.C. or LPR child, parent, or spouse will suffer "extreme hardship." The law does not define what constitutes extreme hardship. We started our closing argument by saying: "Extreme hardship, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder." The judge perked up. "We hope that your Honor will see, like we do, that the facts of this case show that the respondent's child will suffer extreme hardship if respondent is deported -- and either she leaves the child in the United States or she brings the child with her to the Philippines."

The alien had been convicted of a criminal offense and then traveled abroad. Upon returning, immigration authorities discovered that she had committed a crime and was therefore inadmissible as an arriving alien. She could have been placed in detention but she was granted parole and allowed to enter to answer the Notice to Appear before an Immigration Judge. The alien was statutorily eligible for a waiver because she met the requirements of Section 212(h) except for the issue whether her child would suffer extreme hardship.

We pointed out that she had not decided in the event

she is deported whether she would leave the child in the U.S. or bring the child with her. She is in a situation where she is damned if you do and damned if you don't bring your child with you. She is praying that she will not have to make that painful decision. In some cases, the judge will ask the respondent to choose. Some courts require the respondent who says that she will leave the child in the United States to submit proof that arrangements have been made for the taking care of the

child. The judge did not ask the respondent to do this because we cited a case that when these alternatives are presented, the judge must evaluate both alternatives.

Leaving the child in the U.S. will cause extreme hardship to the child. Her mother takes care of all her needs from waking up, bathing, feeding, and dressing her up to go to school, bringing her to school, and upon returning from work, she would feed the child, bathe her, help her do her homework, and put

her to bed. She was not married to the child's father and they were not living together. The child's grandmother could do some of those things but she was looking for work and would become unavailable. There is no substitute for a mother's love, care, and affection. There is psychological trauma from separation.

On the other hand, if the child was brought to the Philippines, she would be uprooted from family and friends. She would suffer culture shock. Balikbayans or re-

turning residents are special targets of criminals especially in the provinces because they are presumed to have money. Medical care is inadequate and expensive. The educational system is below American standards and the child when she returns to the U.S. would be behind educationally compared to children her age. The child did not speak Ilocano and would have to learn the language since it is now medium of instruction in the public schools in the region.

(continued on page 11)

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**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**

**Kalihi Church to Honor Filipino Saint**

St. Anthony's Church in Kalihi will host a Eucharistic Celebration on December 16, 2012 at 3 pm in honor of the second Filipino saint Pedro Calungsod.

His Excellency Most Rev. Larry Silva will preside in the Thanksgiving mass celebration, which is themed "Life that is Offered, Faith that is Proclaimed."

The event will feature a video presentation on the life and canonization of San Pedro Calungsod before the mass, a collage display by St. Anthony's Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and food and entertainment after the mass.

Calungsod was a teenage lay



Catholic Christian from the Visayas who served the Jesuit Mission in the Marianas as a catechist and helper from June 16, 1668 until his death on Guam on April 2, 1672.

Limited parking will be available at St. Anthony's Puuhale Convent, Kalakaua Middle School and Kalakaua District Park. The parking site at the school will be available from 2:30 pm in the unpaved area on the mauka side of the parking lot. Transportation will be provided to and from the church.

Church officials are requesting a donation of \$5 per person for dinner. Please call 623-0598 or (714) 767-4076 to reserve a seat. Tickets are also available at St. Anthony's parish office.

**Teach for the Philippines: Educators Needed**

Teach for the Philippines, an organization which seeks to expand educational opportunities in the Philippines, is looking for educators.

Teach for the Philippines recruits the most promising Filipino graduates from universities in the Philippines and abroad for a two-year teaching commitment at high-need and underserved public schools. These high achieving, problem solvers are trained to teach to the Department of Education curriculum, which gives Filipino children a chance to attain an inclusive, relevant, and excellent education.

"This is an exciting opportunity to give back to the Philippines," says Angela Lagdameo, Teach for the Philippines co-director of strategy. "It's not volunteer work. It's an experience of a lifetime with a very competitive salary and benefits package."

Studies show that in the Philippines,

at least 58 percent of Filipino youth are not completing their education and that inconsistent education policies, teacher shortages, and inadequate teacher development programs are problems inhibiting equal access to quality education for Filipino public and non-elite private school students.

Participants help to transform communities by providing the knowledge, skills and inspiration that public school students need to graduate from secondary school and continue on to lead productive adult lives. Through this experience, they also gain an understanding of the root causes of the crisis in Philippine education and become lifelong advocates for education reform.

Applications are due by December 2, 2012. To apply online, please visit: <http://www.teachforthephilippines.org/apply/who-we-look-for>.

**Caldwell Accepting Applications for Cabinet Posts**

The transition team for Mayor-elect Kirk Caldwell is accepting employment applications for director and deputy director positions for various City departments.

Interested parties are encouraged submit a résumé with appropriate references to:

**Caldwell Headquarters**  
 1130 N. Nimitz Highway #A-151  
 Honolulu, HI 96817  
 Attn: Transition Committee

Applications must be received by

mail by December 7, 2012. Hand-delivered or electronically-submitted resumes will not be accepted. Applicants who are selected for an interview will be notified by mail or phone by December 31, 2012. Due to a large number of anticipated responses, if applicants are not considered for the position, they will not be notified.

For more information, please visit <http://www.kirkcaldwell.com/city-team/> or contact Glenna Wong at (808) 395-4321 or (808) 291-4035.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Viloria Willing to Fight in Japan

by Quinito Henson  
Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Opening doors to all comers except countryman Milan Melindo, WBO/WBA flyweight champion Brian (The Hawaiian Punch) Viloria said yesterday he's willing to risk fighting WBC counterpart Toshiyuki Igarashi in Japan but left the choice of his next opponent to his Los Angeles manager Gary Gittelsohn.

Viloria, who turned 32 last Saturday, frowned on facing Melindo, the WBO No. 1 contender due for a mandatory title shot, because they're both Filipino and it made no sense. The option is for Viloria to vacate the WBO throne and keep the WBA belt, allowing Melindo to fight for the title against the next available contender in the ladder. But at the moment, Viloria said he's not making any decisions.

"I know Milan is the next mandatory challenger and he deserves a title shot," said Viloria who was feted by Solar TV officials led by CEO Peter Chanliong in a belated birthday celebration at Romulo's Bar in Makati the other day. "But there's no drama in the fight. Who will want to watch it? It just doesn't make sense, financially, to do the fight."

While Viloria is on a roll, he'd like to strike while the iron is hot. Viloria's recent win over Mexico's Hernan (Tyson)

Marquez to unify the WBO and WBA flyweight titles has dramatically boosted his stock as a marquee fighter with the potential to crack the pay-per-view stakes. A fight against Melindo would be a step back in his campaign for global recognition. The US market prefers a fight between a Filipino and a Hispanic for the angle of ethnic rivalry.

WBA lightflyweight champion Roman (Chocolatito) Gonzalez initially mouthed off that he would face the Viloria-Marquez winner but after watching the Hawaiian Punch dispose of the Mexican, the unbeaten Nicaraguan began to sing a different tune. "At our weighing, Chocolatito's camp was all over the place saying he'll take on the winner of my fight with Marquez," said Viloria. "Now, they want two or three more title defenses before moving up to flyweight. I can only guess why."

Viloria stamped his class by flooring Marquez in the first, fifth and 10th rounds before the Mexican's trainer Robert Garcia threw in the towel, prompting referee David Mendoza to step in. "When Marquez went down in the 10th, I looked straight at Robert," said Viloria who had a bitter parting of ways with the trainer. "He trained me for four fights then when I had a conflict in schedule with Nonito (Donaire) whom he also



Victorious Brian "The Hawaiian Punch" Viloria

trains, it got tricky. I tried to go back to his gym but his boys told me I wasn't welcome anymore. So I found another trainer."

Viloria began his career with Freddie Roach as trainer then moved to Joel Hernandez, Joe Goosen, Garcia, Freddie Liles, Mario Morales and Marvin Somodio. "I went back to the Wild Card Gym to train for Marquez and Freddie assigned Marvin to me," said Viloria. "Marvin's like a young Freddie. He wraps my hands, does the mitts with me the right way, wears the body shield for me to practice my body shots. During the Marquez fight, he talked to me in between rounds like Freddie would to his fighter, reminding me about things we worked on, keeping me focused. Right now, he's handling some world-rated fighters at Wild Card. He has learned a lot from Freddie and continues to improve."

Viloria said he was never hurt early in the fifth round when Marquez pinned him to

the ropes and banged away. He admitted a right hand buzzed him. "While Marquez was punching himself out, I looked at the ref and told him,

"I'm good," said Viloria. "In the dressing room before the fight, (chief second) Ruben (Gomez) mentioned to the ref that I might play possum in the fight and let Marquez hit me so for him not to jump in to stop the fight if that happens. The ref had that in mind when he allowed the fight to go on. I waited for Marquez to tire out then knocked him down in the same round."

Viloria's wife Erica was in the second row at ringside and as she does in all his fights, kept her eyes closed, praying to the little Sto. Niño statue in her hands. "I sit there but I don't watch," she said. "That

(continued on page 12)

## IMMIGRATION GUIDE *(from page 7, DAMNED...)*

The respondent would find it difficult if not impossible to find work because there is high unemployment and she would be a deportee with a criminal background. Nobody would hire one like her when there are thousands available who are clean.

The judge granted relief. He said that the totality of the circumstances showed that the child would suffer extreme hardship. The judge did not say whether the child would suffer extreme hardship if she was left in the U.S. or if she were brought to the Philippines.

**Comment:** We are writing a book on Section 212(h), also known as the criminal offense waiver. Hundreds of aliens who have committed criminal offenses have sought a waiver of inadmissibility under 212(h). Most have been denied because their lawyers failed to establish "extreme hardship". There are also other requirements for a 212(h) waiver, like 7 years of continuous residence, and the alien has not committed murder, torture, or an aggravated felony. Even if the alien meets all the statutory requirements, the alien must convince the

judge to exercise discretion favorably by showing that the alien has more positive equities than negative factors, and the alien has been rehabilitated.

(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: [filam-law@yahoo.com](mailto:filam-law@yahoo.com). Websites: [www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com](http://www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com), and [www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com](http://www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com). Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270, AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at [www.iluko.com](http://www.iluko.com).



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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# House OKs Freedom of Information Bill

by Paolo Romero  
Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012

**M**ANILA, Philippines - The House committee on public information finally approved yesterday the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill despite attempts by some lawmakers to block it in a bid to include the controversial right of reply provisions.

The panel, chaired by Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, approved House Bill 43 with a vote of 17-3 with one abstention after nearly two hours of debate.

The bill - touted to be a major transparency and anti-corruption measure - will now be referred to the plenary, which the authors and supporters admit would be a major hurdle due to time constraints and lukewarm support

from Malacañang.

"Thankfully, the bill has been approved by the committee and will now be transmitted to the plenary. We may be running short of time but if the public will closely watch and monitor, anything is possible, and everything will be doable," Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara, one of the authors of the bill, said.

"From day one, I have been saying that the passage of this proposed measure will signal the beginning of the realization of our quest for good governance, transparency and accountability," he added.

"By then, the days of the corrupt would have surely become a thing of the past," he added.

Deputy Speaker and Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III, principal author of the meas-



ure, expressed elation over the passage but warned the bill could face tougher opposition in the plenary.

"The total victory is when the FOI bill is enacted," Tañada said, noting there are only 11 session days left before Congress goes on a Christmas break and election fever sets in.

Angara also warned the committee approval would be

"a hollow victory" if it falls short of plenary approval given the short time left to discuss the merits of the bill.

He said anti-corruption statutes could not be fully enforced if there are no disclosure and information statutes, as well as laws to protect whistleblowers in government.

The voting came only two weeks after Akbayan party-list Rep. Walden Bello made a motion for the committee to vote on the measure that was strongly opposed by Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino, who insisted on inserting a right of reply provision.

"It (FOI) gives the media widespread, unbridled access to information," Antonino told the panel, adding the measure has been influenced by media groups like the Philippine Press Institute (PPI).

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño however said the FOI is really for the public and not the media.

The debate heated up when Antonino castigated Bello, Tañada and Ifugao Rep. Teddy Baguilat.

"You can time it all you want," Antonino told Bello when the latter pointed out he was already exceeding the time limit for him to speak.

(www.philstar.com)

## Peso Strengthens As Local Stocks and Remittances of Filipino Workers Surge

**M**ANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - The Philippine peso closed on Monday at \$41.025 to the dollar, the highest level since March 2008, mainly due to a jump in remittances from overseas Filipino workers and the reported rise in consumer spending in the United States, the country's major trading partner.

The last time the peso closed stronger than the rate recorded Monday was on March 7, 2008, when it hit P40.85 against the dollar.

Market analysts said the rise of the peso, along with other Asian currencies, could be the result of an increase in consumption of the United States, the world's biggest economy.

A report from a group of US retailers showed that Amer-

icans spent 13 percent more during the last four-day Thanksgiving weekend compared with that in the same period last year.

But the major contributory factor to the strengthening of the peso was the dollar-denominated remittances from Filipinos living and working overseas.

A report on Nov. 15 by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the country's central bank, showed that personal remittances - the cash and non-cash items or goods sent by overseas Filipinos through formal and informal channels - rose 6 percent in September from a year ago to \$2 billion.

This brought the 9-month remittance tally to \$17.3 billion, up 5.7 percent year on year.

"Remittances remained resilient on the back of sustained foreign demand for skilled Fil-

ipino manpower and continued financial service innovations of banks and other financial institutions to address the remittance needs of overseas Filipinos and their beneficiaries," the BSP said in a statement.

The BSP said that cash remittances - the ones coursed through banks - rose 5.9 percent to \$1.8 billion in September, the highest monthly level recorded so far.

Major sources of remittances to the Philippines were the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Italy, Germany, and Norway.

Jonathan Ravelas, a market strategist for Banco de Oro, says that the growing remittances due to the coming Christmas holidays helped boost the value of the peso against the dollar.

(www.philstar.com)

(from page 11, VILORIA...)

night, some Nicaraguans behind me kept tapping my shoulder to tell me Brian's doing fine. But I could also hear them say oh, no sometimes so maybe, that was when Brian got hit. I only watched the fight on TV after it was over."

Viloria said he won't be able to watch the Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez fight in Las Vegas on Dec. 8. The night before, the Vilorias

will be in the entourage of his brother-in-law's wedding in Hawaii. The next day, Viloria will host a viewing party of the Pacquiao-Marquez fight with 200 guests.

The Vilorias arrived here last Saturday. The unified flyweight champion did a media tour and was honored in a Manila motorcade by Mayor Alfredo Lim last Tuesday. The couple leaves Manila for Honolulu today. (www.philstar.com)

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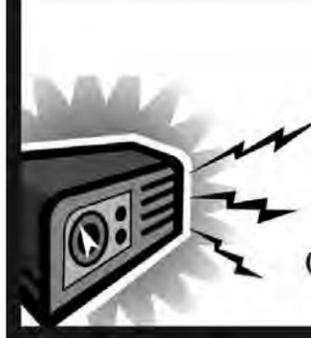
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## LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

**P**resident Obama's historic reelection accomplished what years of advocacy, opposition and political gridlock couldn't. The GOP's crushing defeat at the elections has left the Republican Party with little choice but to face the reality that this nation's broken immigration system must be

## Comprehensive Immigration Reform Likely to Pass Next Year

fixed and it must be fixed now.

Minority voters turned out in record numbers and helped propel Pres. Obama to victory. Almost three-fourths of the Asian American vote went to Obama, as did 93% of the African American vote. More than 70% of Hispanics picked Obama over Gov. Mitt Romney, whose 27% share of the Latino vote was even less than that received by Sen. John McCain in 2008.

Exit polls showed that 77% of Hispanic voters be-

lieve that undocumented immigrants should be given a chance to apply for legal status. Among all voters polled, 65% agreed that undocumented immigrants should have legal status and only 28% favored deportation.

These numbers have caused an about-face in immigration among the Republican Party's members and some of its supporters.

House Speaker John A. Boehner, for one, said in an interview that immigration reform is an issue that has been

around far too long and that a "comprehensive approach is long overdue". He expressed optimism that he, the president and others "can find a common ground to take care of this issue once and for all."

A former governor of Mississippi, Haley Barbour, views the need for immigration reform as an issue of good policy. In a television interview, he said that he believes that in today's global market for labor and capital, the U.S. needs not only Ph.D.s in science and technology but also skilled and unskilled workers.

Even conservative talk show host Sean Hannity has weighed in on immigration reform. Saying that he has "evolved" on the issue, he now supports giving a pathway to citizenship to law-abiding immigrants who have been in the U.S. for a long time.

This position is in line with that of his boss, Fox News owner Rupert Murdoch, who had expressed bewilderment over Gov. Romney's refusal to reach out to Latino voters, whom Murdoch said were "naturally Republicans". After the elections, Murdoch sent out a tweet calling for "sweeping, generous immigration reform".

Many believe that Gov. Romney's chances were hurt by the divisive and anti-immigrant rhetoric he adopted early on in his campaign. It will be remembered that during the primaries, he suggested that illegal immigrants should "self-

deport" to their home countries. He also promised his supporters that he would veto the DREAM Act.

Later on he tried to soften his tone on immigration. He said that he supports the military service portion of the proposed DREAM Act. He also promised not to deport individuals who received approvals under Pres. Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program but said that he would replace it with a long-term solution. The DREAM Act and DACA were initiatives that enjoyed popular support among minorities.

Minorities now make up 36% of this country's population. Given the major role that this demographic played in the last elections, politicians should rightly assess their positions on matters that are important to this growing electorate.

Last September, President Obama said that his greatest failure was not passing comprehensive immigration reform legislation in his first term. He vowed to push for immigration reform in 2013 if he is reelected.

Once again, immigration reform is at the forefront of U.S. politics. The message sent from the polls was loud and clear and politicians can only ignore it at their own peril.

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

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Senators Hit China's Move to Include Disputed Areas in Passports

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Senators expressed opposition on Wednesday over the "aggressive" move of the People's Republic of China to include the disputed West Philippine Sea in the map printed on its passports.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago described China's move as an "affront to Philippine sovereignty."

"We can't prevent China from printing any kind of passport bearing any kind of legend or photograph. That is vicious, but we have sovereign power to prevent any person from entry into Philippine territory by any entry point—sea, land or air—seaport, airport or any other means of transportation," Santiago said.

"That would be considered as an act of aggression. That's aggressive," Santiago added.

Santiago said any Chinese national bearing the "questionable" passport should be denied entry to the country.

"So I don't care what they print on their own passport because we cannot infringe on their own sovereignty but I do care as a Filipino citizen, the moment they come into our country, if they bear that kind of passport they will be acting well within our right to deny

them admission into our territory. Turn them back immediately. They should be self-deported upon arrival at the airport," the senator said.

Santiago said the Philippines should encourage a "strong regional action" over China's latest move.

"We should take a strong regional action against this apparently miniscule controversy because it might be the beginning of a wave of protectionism in China over this territory that is included in their map," Santiago said.

"Mamaya 'yun ang unang hakbang nila e di umpisa pa lang magreklamo na tayo," Santiago said.

"We should do as Vietnam did. We should refuse to accept those. After all, we are supreme in our territory. And the only reason we have a passport is they have to show that they are in effect authorized to enter our territory," the senator said.

"I'm like a hawk. If I draw the line and you cross, I scream," Santiago added.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson en-joined the country's top foreign officials to express its massive concern and protest over China's move.

"We should question (that) because they included disputed areas... The other coun-

tries within Asia have complained. We should also make a strong protest against (China's) move," Lacson said.

On the other hand, as far as Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile is concerned, it should not be a big deal.

"If they would like to have a passport like that so what? we can also create our own passport. We can include the entire Pacific area, include some of their areas there so it doesn't matter," Enrile said.

China's new passport shows the country's map which was printed on the inside pages of the travel document. It reveals an outline of China, which includes Taiwan and the South China Sea - a subject of disputes by its neighboring countries.

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

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



**DAYASADAS**  
By Pacita Saludes

# Gapuanan A Makita Ti Mangipaneknek Ti Pudno A Naaramidan

**S**aan a malipatan ti tawen 2012 gapu ta ita laeng a tawen ti panakaidasar daytoy a panggep. Idi malem ti Octubre 28, 2012 napusek ti FILCOM CENTER BALLROOM kadagiti naisagana a lamisaan a nagidasaran ti kada organisasion dagiti Filipino kadagiti amin a nagapuananda ken nagapapuananda kadagiti adu a tawtawen a napalpalabas manipud naorganisar da.

Indasar met ti GUMIL HAWAII dagiti gapuananna a libro iti 4 years a napalabas. TI umuna a libro idi 1974, nairugi ti pannakaaramid dagiti Anthogia kas bunga ti ar-aramienda a panagilibro. DAGITI PAGWADAN A FILIPINO ITI HAWAII - inurnos ti nagorganisar dagitoy; 1975-DAN-DANIW ILUKO KEN ENGLISH; 1976-IDI KAMAN Ken ITA; 1977-

GUMIL HAWAII AG-TANGKAYAGEN; 1978-BULLALAYAW; 1979-UTEK NI KAYUMANGGI-putar dagiti ILOKANO Editor -da Pacita Saludes ken Amado Yoro; 1980-GUMIL HAWAII ITI SANGAPULO NGA TAWEN- inedit ni Mario Albalos, Amado Yoro ken Pacita Saludes; 1981 BIN-I - Editor P. Saludes, Mario Albalos, Amado Yoro, Felipe Abinsay Jr, Francisco Ponce, Sr., Mel Gonzalez ken Carlo Laforga; 1985 - DAWA- Nakatipontiponan dagiti nangabak a sarita ken drama manipud 1980-1984; 1990-GUMIL HAWAII ITI DUA A DEKADA- Inedit da Pacita Saludes, Rick Agnes ken Jeremias Calixto; 1997-AGAMANG-Inedit da P.C. Saludes ken Jeremias Calixto; 2001-BAGNOS-GH ITI TALLO A DEKADA-Inedit da P. Saludes, Cles Rambaud, Rev. Jaime Galvez ken German Labayog; 2002-GAPU TA PATPATGENKA inedit da Severino Pablo ken Rev. David Saludez; nakatipontiponan dagiti drama a sinurat ni Pacita Saludes a naipabuya kadagiti

amin a pasken, koronasion ti GUMIL HAWAII kabayatan dagiti adu a tawen- 2003-AL-LANGOGAN inedit da P. Saludes, Peter La Julian ken Carlo Laforga; 2004-GUYOD DAGITI RAMUT (Pull of Roots) da P. Saludes ken Jeremias Calixto para iti AKA; 2005-TAMPIPI inedit ni Pacita Saludes; 2007-BALLAIGI DAGITI TUGOT - gapuanan ti ANNAK TI KAILOKUAN ITI AMERICA; 2011-GUMIL HAWAII ITI UPPAT A DEKADA (GUMIL HAWAII in FOUR DECADES) inedit ni P.C. Saludes. Padaan dagiti sumarsaruno ti BALLAIGI TI PULI - maiyalnag iti umuna bulan ti 2013.

Ikarigatan ti AKA ken GH ti mangipablaak ti maysa a libro iti kada maysa wenno dua a tawen.

Iti panagsurat ti drama, adu metten ti naipabuya ti GH ken AKA a drama. Manipud pay idi 1975-GAPU TA PATPATGENKA - sinurat ken indreksion ni Pacita C. Saludes, kas ta met ti AGTANGKAYAGEN TI INIT-1976 a naipabuya iti Farrington High

School Auditorium; 1977-DUA NGA ARAPAAP-Leo Blanco; 1978-AWITEM TI SUPAPAK KINAULPITMO-Perlita Yoro. 1979-NAILET TI LUBONG-ni Mario Albalos. 1980-BIKTIMA A NAITAN-OK-ni P. Saludes. 1981-ADDA LUNOD DAGITI PAS AMAK-ni Mario ALBALOS; 1982-NASUTIL TI LUBONG-ni Mario Albalos; 1986-AGTAYYEK TI RUEDA TI PANAWEN; 1984-SAN NG A AGKIKIDEM TI LANGIT-ni P. Saludes; 1985-MAWAKNITANTO TI AGKIKIDEM A LANGIT ni Mario Albalos; 1988-DAGITI SANING-I TI SAKAANAN TI ALTAR A DAGA ni AMADO YORO; 1988-IKKIS TI DAYA-Ni Mario Albalos; 1989-URAY LAKAY NO LANDING- ni Pacita C. Saludes; 1990 Clarissa ni P. Saludes; 1981-DAGITI SAGUDAY A SAGSAGRAPENDA-ni Ric Agnes; 1992- BULLALAYAW TI AYAT-ni Pacita Saludes; 1993-SAN A MATAY TI

UMUNA NGA AYAT PART I-ni Pacita C. Saludes; 1994-SAN A MATAY TI UMUNA NGA AYAT PART II ni Pacita C. Saludes; 1995-NATILITIL NGA AYAT ni Pacita Saludes; 1996-SANGARAAY A KARI ni Pacita Saludes; 1997-TI NABILEG A KALASAG ni Pacita Saludes; 1998-NAIPALAD TI GASAT ni Pacita Saludes; 1999-LOVINA ni Pacita Saludes; 2000-PAPEL A ROSAS ni Pacita Saludes; 2001-INA A NAITAN-OK ni Pacita Saludes; 2002-NASUTIL NI AYAT ni Pacita Saludes; 2005-URAY ANIA DITAN, DUNG-DUNGUENKANTO LATT! ni Pacita Saludes; 2010-GASAT KEN AYAT ni Pacita Saludes.

Dagitoy ti gapuanan ti GUMIL HAWAII a nailibron ken naipabuyan iti publiko. Maisagsagana ti maysa pay a drama a mabuyanto dita August Ahrens into no umay a tawen January 19, 2013. Isunto ti pannakabalangat ti Miss/Mrs. AKA 2013 ken Miss/Mrs. GUMIL HAWAII 2013.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### LECTURE FORUM OF NEDA SECRETARY BALISACAN ON THE STATE OF PHILIPPINE ECONOMY / THURSDAY •

December 6, 2012, • Alay sa Sakada Lanai, Philippine Consulate General • For more information please contact Paul Raymond P. Cortes at: Tel. No.: (808) 595-6316 extension 103, Fax No: (808) 595-2581. You can also email: paul.cortes@dfa.gov.ph or paul.cortes@hawaii.twcbc.com.

### 3RD ANNUAL NIGHT OF HONOR AND TOYF, JCI HAWAII FILIPINO JUNIOR CHAMBER / SUNDAY •

December 9, 2012, • Hibiscus Room, Ala Moana Hotel • For more information please contact Randy Cortez at: 342-7685

### PAROL FESTIVAL / SUNDAY • Nov. 30-Dec 15, 2012 •

Philippine Consulate • Please contact 596-6316 ext. 106 or email

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### SAN PEDRO CALUNGSOD THANKSGIVING MASS CELEBRATION / SUNDAY • December 16,

2012, • St. Anthony Church, Kalihi • For dinner reservation, please contact, Gene Lumantas @ 623-0598 home or (714) 767-4076 cell, for food ticket donation of \$5.00. Tickets are also available at Saint Anthony's Kalihi office

### PASKO SA FILCOM / SUNDAY • December 16,

2012, • 94-428 Mokuola Street, Waipahu • 3:30 - 7:30 PM • please contact, Gene Lumantas @ 623-0598 home or (714) For inquiries, contact (808) 680-0451 or email: filcom@filcom.org.

## GLOBAL NEWS

# MoneyGram Launches 'Fly Home for the Holidays' Promo

As part of its "Fly Home for the Holidays" Facebook promotion, MoneyGram will be giving away a free roundtrip ticket to a lucky Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) to visit his or her loved ones in the Philippines for Christmas.

Residents of the Philippines who have OFW relatives in the U.S., Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, South Korea, Australia, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Cyprus, Germany, Israel, Belgium, Netherlands and France will need to "like" the MoneyGram Facebook

Page to enter the contest, then upload a one minute video stating why they want to have their OFW relative home for Christmas.

"Christmas is very important to Filipinos and MoneyGram would like to be a part of bringing together families during this season," says Alex Lim, MoneyGram's Country Manager for the Philippines. "We recognize the hardship of our OFWs and how much they are willing to sacrifice to provide for their families. This is our way of showing our appreciation for their patronage and loyalty to the MoneyGram brand."

OFWs who live or work in Aus-

tralia, Hong Kong, South Korea, Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, US and Canada may nominate themselves by sending a one minute video sharing why they want to come home to the Philippines this Christmas.

The video entry with the most number of votes and highest score garnered from the judges will win a round trip economy airline ticket. The deadline to submit entries is December 14, 2012. The winner will be announced on December 19, 2012.

For more details on MoneyGram's "Fly Home for the Holidays" promo, visit MoneyGram's facebook page at [www.facebook.com/moneygrado](http://www.facebook.com/moneygrado).

# Phl Bans Deployment of Filipinos to Some Parts in Israel

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - The Philippines government has imposed a deployment ban of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in some parts of Israel in the wake of the armed conflict in the Gaza strip, a senior government official said today.

"Due to the ongoing Israel-Hamas armed conflict in the Gaza

strip, the Department of Foreign Affairs raised the security alert level in certain areas in Israel, thus, restricting the processing and deployment of overseas Filipino workers bound to those areas," said Philippine Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz.

She said that alert level 4 has been raised in Gaza strip. Alert level 2 is set in Southern and Central Israel which include Sderot, Beer-sheva, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Tel Aviv

and Jerusalem, which necessarily limits the deployment of OFWs to these locations.

Under the current situation in Israel, Baldoz said it was resolved to "impose a total deployment ban on areas and districts on Alert Level 4 and a temporary suspension on the processing and deployment of newly hired OFWs bound to the Southern and Central areas/districts." ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

# 3rd Filipino Fatality in New Mexico Oil Rig Blast Confirmed

MANILA, Philippines - Another Filipino worker's body had been found, bringing the death toll of Filipinos from the oil rig explosion in Louisiana last November 16 to three.

Philippine Ambassador to United States Jose Cuisia said that Jerome Malapago's body was found on Monday. He said that they did not immediately release any information until the body was positively identified.

Cuisia said that Malapago's body

was found near an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico, about 20 miles from the ill-fated platform that he and eight other Filipinos were working on at the time of the incident.

Two more Filipinos were killed and three more were seriously injured by the explosion.

"We are deeply saddened to learn that we lost our compatriot, Jerome Malapago," Cuisia announced after he was informed by the Coroner's Office of La Fourche Parish that the remains belonged to

the 28-year-old fitter from Danao City, Cebu.

"We console ourselves with the thought that Jerome has been found and will be reunited with his loved ones," Cuisia.

Cuisia said that the authorities were initially planning to take DNA samples from Malapago's father, also an offshore oil worker in Louisiana, to identify the body but Philippine consular officials recommended that dental records be submitted itself.

The recovery of Malapago

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came three days after a fellow Filipino worker Avelino Tajonera, a 49-year-old welder from Bataan, died as a result of complications from the serious burns he sustained in the incident.

Another Filipino, Ellroy Corporal, a 42-year-old rigger from Iligan City, also died in the incident.

Two other workers remain in critical condition at the Regional Burn Unit of the Baton Rouge General Hospital while the condition of another, Wilberto Ilagan, a 50-year-old welder from Batangas, continues to improve.

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