

HAWAII

# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JULY 20, 2013 ◆

## HISTORIC IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL FACES UPHILL BATTLE

COVER STORY PAGE

4



IMMIGRATION GUIDE

THE GAYING OF AMERICA

7



OPINION

CHINA: A SUPERPOWER WITH NO MORAL PRINCIPLES?

8



FEATURE

FILIPINO EDUCATOR WINS NATIONAL AWARD

10

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## EDITORIALS

## Take Action Now For Immigration Reform

**T**he battle for comprehensive immigration reform has shifted to the U.S. House of Representatives. The Senate passed S. 744—the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act—on a strong bipartisan vote, but only after much heated debate over border security, a pathway to citizenship and other contentious issues.

Although the Senate's immigration reform bill is far from perfect, it contains many provisions that will benefit Filipino-Americans. For starters, it will allow the children of World War II veterans to be reunited with their aged parents and ease the visa backlog both for family-based and employment based-immigration. The Philippines has the highest number of employment-based registrants and the second highest number of family-based registrants on the waiting list.

Speaker John Boehner will not introduce a bill on the House floor unless it receives support from a majority of Republicans. The GOP's leadership may want to bury its collective head in the sand and hope for the issue to go away, but as U.S. Sen. John McCain has already publicly stated, the status quo of de facto amnesty of 11 million people in this country is unacceptable. The nation must move forward with reforming our broken immigration system.

The Chronicle joins the growing number of voices calling for comprehensive immigration reform that must include a pathway to citizenship for those living in the shadows. Filipino-American communities across the U.S. need to make their voices heard and start organizing rallies in support of the immigration reform bill. We also urge individual Filipinos need to call, write, email, tweet and/or fax their representative in Congress and tell them to support comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship for aspiring Americans, promotes family reunification and meets the economic, business and employment needs of our nation. Immigration reform has been on hold for far too long. Let's make sure members in the House of Representatives know that we want immigration reform passed!

## Keep Saturday Mail Deliveries, Change USPS Pension Reserve Burden

**“W**hen patterns are broken, new worlds emerge.” Perhaps poet Nephtali “Tuli” Kupferberg's quote couldn't be more precise in describing the rise and fall of companies and today's changing economy.

The latest organization hard hit by new business practices, specifically e-mail and online bill payments, is the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) which recently announced plans to stop deliveries on Saturdays starting this August due to budgetary shortfalls. It's estimated that USPS has lost 20 percent of mail volume due to the internet.

Who would have thought it possible—the USPS, in trou-

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**T**hank you for picking up the latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! Summer vacation, like all good things, will soon come to an end. But before it does, we hope you will enjoy the remaining few weeks while you still can, because the 2013-2014 school year is just around the corner.

Our cover story for this issue is immigration reform which is currently being debated in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Senate passed its comprehensive immigration reform bill, which includes provisions to reunify families, including children of Filipino WWII veterans, and creates a pathway to citizenship that would give hope to the 11 million undocumented people who already live and work in the shadows of our society. Most observers expect the House to break the Senate bill down into separate pieces of legislation for individual consideration. If immigration reform stalls this summer, House Republicans, especially those with large Hispanic populations, could face voter backlash at the polls. For more details on this very important issue, please turn to “Historic Immigration Bill Faces Uphill Battle in House” on page 4 and our Legal Notes column on page 3.

In other news, we'd like to congratulate Dr. Christian Gloria, an assistant professor of health sciences at Hawaii Pacific University, for receiving the recent Teacher Shout Out Award for excellence in teaching. Originally from Metro Manila, the first-year professor did not expect to win the national award. He has been described by his students as “super helpful, personable, fun and a genius.” His advice to young people who may be interested in teaching career is to work as a substitute teacher. That way, they can experience teaching in a variety of grade levels and subject areas, which can help them find their niche. Please turn to page 10 for more on this outstanding young educator.

Lastly, for an update on the latest news at City Hall, please turn to page 9 for “City Highlights,” a column from City Councilmember Ron Menor—one of three councilmembers of Filipino ancestry.

That's all for now. We at the Chronicle once again send our sincerest mahalo to our readers and advertisers for their faithful support. It is truly a blessing to have them as partners as we continue our mission to serve Hawaii's vibrant and dynamic Filipino community. As always, we encourage you to share any story ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have by sending an email to: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com). Until next time... *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

ble? The railroad industry, some of the nation's largest banks and retailers and entire cityscapes have come and gone through the centuries; but the Postal Service with its track record dating back to 1692, has remained solid and unchanging with modern times. It must do so once again; and how it responds to changing business practices in the coming years is critical to its long-term survival. But the U.S. Postmaster's first plan to nix Saturday deliveries is questionable at best and perhaps not as important as making structural changes to its reserve capital requirement.

### The Number One Obstacle

The real issue is the \$5.5 billion the Postal Service has to pay every year to fund the health benefits of its future retirees. Since the enactment of a 2006 law called the “Postal Account-



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(continued on page 3)

LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

# Despite Lopsided Senate Vote, Immigration Bill Faces Rough Road in House

The Senate approved last June 27 the “Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act” by a 68-32 vote. Immigrant advocates are hoping that the broad bipartisan support would put pressure on the House of Representatives to act and vote on the bill which would finally fix the country’s broken immigration system.

But House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) has indicated that the House is not going to take up and vote on whatever the Senate passed and that they are going to make their own bill. The House Speaker said that “For any legislation, including a conference

report, to pass the House, it’s going to have to be a bill that has the support of a majority of our members.” For the immigration bill, this means that a majority of the party in control of the House will have to support the proposed legislation before it is voted upon by the full chamber.

With the majority of the members of the GOP-dominated House opposing the proposed pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S., the comprehensive immigration reform bill will face a much longer and tougher road ahead. In fact, a group of conservatives in the House of Representatives are already employing the “piecemeal approach” to immigration reform by passing

individual bills addressing specific aspects of immigration.

Among the piecemeal measures introduced in the House are the following: a bill dealing with farm workers, temporarily granting them permission to live and work in the U.S. but not providing a pathway to citizenship, a bill requiring businesses to check on the legal status of employees within two years, and a bill criminalizing undocumented individuals who are “unlawfully present” and allowing state and local governments to enforce federal immigration laws.

This “piecemeal approach” is staunchly opposed by Democrats and is seen only as a means to kill any efforts towards creating a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented in the country.

Despite the difficult and tumultuous road ahead, the passage of the bill in the Senate is a major step towards immigration reform which cannot be summarily dismissed nor ignored by the GOP-run House. Achieving the strong bipartisan support in the Senate did not happen overnight. The bill underwent a long process, with more than 300 amendments considered in the Senate Judiciary Committee and critical changes adopted one day before it was finally voted upon.

The amendment bolstering border security by allocating \$40 billion for border enforcement measures including doubling the number of Border Patrol agents and installing 700 miles of fencing won over more Republican votes in the Senate.

Notwithstanding the strong opposition in the House, Dem-

ocratic Senator Charles Schumer believes that the House will ultimately pass the comprehensive immigration bill before the end of the year. Top Republicans have said that with the growing Hispanic and Asian American voting block, any chance at winning the White House will depend on the passage of this bill.

The GOP-controlled House cannot simply put the bill on the back burner. The mounting pressure from religious organizations including evangelical Christians and the Catholic Church, business groups, the high tech industry, labor unions and farm groups just won’t allow it.

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EDITORIALS (from page 2, KEEP...)

ability and Enhancement Act” (PAEA), the Postal Service was mandated to pre-fund its retiree health care and pension benefits for 75 years. So each year billions must be contributed to that reserve which affects the organization’s overall financial stability. This structural handicap accounts for 85 percent of the Postal Service’s budget red ink, according to the post office Inspector General.

Just as federal regulators mandate banks and insurance companies to set aside reserves to ensure enough capital is available to sustain operating costs, the Postal Service must do the same. Fair enough. But the amount required to go into the reserve is set too high for the Postal Service, above the rate of any other government agency or private company. The Inspector General says the pension reserve is over-funded and far higher than the federal government as a whole, the military and almost all Fortune 100 companies.

Reserves are actual prof-

its that cannot go back into the company for investments. So the Postal Service has billions sitting in a fund that is unable to generate investment income to strengthen its financial profile. The Postal Service would be posting profits if it were not for the 2006 mandate which was crafted during President George W. Bush’s administration at the time when by Republicans also attempted to privatize Social Security. The Inspector General estimated that if the Postal Service hadn’t had to pay over the past six years into that reserve, as of 2010 it would have ended with \$1 billion surplus.

**Pending Legislations**

The USPS is a quasi-corporation, quasi-governmental agency, meaning it operates independently as a corporation, does not receive tax-dollars but is still answerable to Congress.

The USPS recommends mail be delivered to homes and businesses from Monday through Friday only, but mail

would still be delivered to post office boxes on Saturdays. Post offices now open on Saturdays would remain open on Saturdays. The cut-back on Saturday deliveries is expected to save \$2 billion a year. This new plan must be approved by Congress.

How does Congress plan to improve the Postal Service? The Democrat-controlled Senate passed a bill that would allow the USPS to phase out 100,000 positions. It would lessen the pre-funding to its reserve, limit overnight delivery in some areas and allow the agency to generate more income by allowing the start of shipping wine and beer like private shipping companies already do.

The Republican-controlled House is sponsoring a bill crafted by Tea Party congressmen Darrell Issa and Dennis Ross which would allow for the phasing out of more than 150,000 jobs, do away with Saturday deliveries and bar no-layoff clauses in labor contracts. It would also

establish a commission tasked with cutting costs if the Postal Service doesn’t meet certain benchmarks. Remember that the Tea Party as a political party advocates less government. Critics say the Issa-Ross bill would essentially gut the Postal Service and prepare the way for breaking

it up into pieces so that private corporations can skim the most profitable parts and leave behind the “universal service obligation.”

**A World Without USPS**

Republicans led the USPS to near financial ruin in

(continued on page 7)



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## COVER STORY

# Historic Immigration Bill Faces Uphill Battle in House

By HFC Staff



Last month, the U.S. Senate passed a historic immigration bill that offers hope of citizenship to millions of undocumented immigrants.

The Senate voted 68-32 to support Senate Bill 744, which had been mired for years in political gridlock. Fourteen Republicans crossed the aisle to join all 52 Democrats and two independents on the bill. Immigration reform, however, faces much uncertainty in the House of Representatives where the Republican majority is firmly against approving citizenship to illegal immigrants who have been living in the U.S. Members of the “Gang of 8,” the Senate bipartisan group that drafted the measure, have appealed to their colleagues in the House to support the measure.

Senate Bill 744 includes numerous steps to prevent future illegal immigration and to verify the legal status of job applicants already living in the U.S. It also offers a 13-year path to citizenship for up to 11 million undocumented immigrants.

The measure also requires the addition of 20,000 new

Border Patrol agents, the construction of 700 miles of fencing and the use of an array of high-tech devices along the U.S.-Mexico border. The added security is estimated to cost \$46 billion. This military-style buildup along the border must proceed before immigrants without legal status can finish their 10-year transition to green card status or 13-year path to citizenship.

A plan requiring businesses to verify the legal status of job applicants would also be phased in over a four-year period. Other provisions would expand the amount of visas for highly skilled workers for the technology industry. A separate program would be established for lower-skilled workers, while farm workers would be admitted under a temporary program.

In addition, the current system of legal immigration would be changed, making family ties



less of a factor and giving more importance to education, job skills and age factors.

## Concerns Over the Bill

The National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (NAFCON) says the bill is a good first step towards addressing the current immigration system but criticized its unrealistic timeline and array of eligibility restrictions that could ultimately exclude a majority of the 11 million undocumented immigrants.

“The bill creates a long and arduous obstacle course that would be impossible for most of our undocumented community to complete,” says Terrence Valen, NAFCON president. “The bill makes it worse because it invests billions of dollars in increased enforcement, detentions, and deportations.”

Valen cited enforcement portions of the bill that were inserted to gain support from conservatives. These include components such as “E-Verify,” a national biometric ID system that all employers and employees would be required to enroll in prior to filling jobs. While the aim is to create a fool-proof system that prevents undocumented immigrants from finding employment in the United States, Valen says E-Verify has proven to be inaccurate and has been used to target immigrant workers speaking up for their rights in the work-

place.

Other enforcement components include the continuation of “Secure Communities,” a controversial program requiring local police to assist in detaining suspected undocumented immigrants until ICE can pick them up. Valen says that if the bill becomes law, the millions who will not complete the legalization process will be “pushed further into the shadows.”

“It will be harder for them to find a way to survive, which will make them more desperate and more susceptible to exploitation,” he says. “On the other hand, there will be stronger enforcement which will force many more into the inhumane practice of detention and deportation.”

NAFCON is a national alliance of Filipino organizations and individuals whose mission is to protect the rights and welfare of Filipinos by fighting for social, economic and racial justice and equality.

Of the 11 million undocumented persons in the U.S., at least are 270,000 are Filipinos living, according to the Department of Homeland Security. According to NACFON officials, the number of undocumented Filipinos could be as high as 1 million.

The number of undocumented Filipinos rank second, behind Chinese and ahead of Koreans. In all, Chinese, Filipinos and Koreans make up at least a third of the estimated 1.1

million undocumented Asians living in the U.S.

## In the House

House Speaker John Boehner recently convened with fellow Republicans behind closed doors to assess the GOP majority’s response to the bipartisan Senate bill. A majority of House Republicans oppose the bill because it includes a 13-year citizenship path for immigrants without legal status. But GOP leaders hope rank-and-file lawmakers are open to a compromise to help the party’s outreach to the growing numbers of Latino voters.

The House’s own “Gang of Seven”—a group of three Republicans and four Democrats—reportedly has drafted their version for immigration reform but have yet to introduce the bill. The group has met intermittently for several years to discuss immigration reform.

The word on the street is that House Republicans will consider a “piecemeal approach” to immigration reform by passing several individual bills instead of a single large package. Any such bills are likely to focus more on border security and enforcement, rather than offer a pathway to citizenship, which remains a key sticking point.

Although House Republicans oppose the prospect of allowing people who came to the U.S. illegally to become citizens, they are considering proposals to give priority for legalization to the so-called Dreamers, or those who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa says the House’s approach to tackling immigration reform in smaller increments won’t work.

“Stand-alone bills will do very little to address our nation’s immigration issues and do not offer a realistic solution to developing a fair and efficient system,” she says.

Although she disagrees with certain aspects of the Senate’s version, Hanabusa would offer her support if introduced in the House. If not, she and

(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, HISTORIC ...)

several Democrats will push to have the Senate's bill introduced on the House floor.

"This is not a perfect bill and I personally do not agree with its problematic border provisions, but I applaud my colleagues for working together to develop a compromise that seeks to fix our nation's broken immigration system," she says.

Most observers are conceding that the House won't act on any legislation before the August recess and that discussion will likely continue into the Fall.

**Helping Hawaii**

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono, the only member of the Senate who is an immigrant, voted in favor of the bill. She worked closely with colleagues to shape the bill in the Judiciary Committee and on the senate floor. Hirono also admitted the bill is not perfect but called it a "true compromise developed through a transparent and open process."

"Beyond just providing a path to citizenship for millions of undocumented workers, the bill contains a number of measures that will help Hawaii, clear the family immigration backlogs and provide protections for immigrant women and families," she says.

Of Hirono's 11 measures that were passed by the Judiciary Committee, all were included in the final bill. These include major legislative victories for Hawaii—measures that help Filipino World War II veterans reunite with their children, restore Medicaid eligibility for COFA migrants, help Hawaii's fishing industry and could expand foreign tourism in the state. She also convinced her colleagues to include key protections for women and families during the committee's markup.

**Other Benefits for Hawaii**

Another benefit for Hawaii, particularly among the high-tech industry, is the increase in the number of H-1B temporary work visas for foreigners with advanced college degrees or who work in highly-skilled jobs. The bill nearly doubles the H-1B



visa cap to 110,000 from 65,000, and allows an extension of up to 180,000 in case of high demand.

Employers say H-1B visas help to find qualified workers for high-tech jobs in science, engineering and computer programming that are difficult to fill. The intent was to attract more of the world's brightest minds in engineering and technology and allow these workers to stay in the U.S.

Immigration opponents fear that the Senate's version could open a floodgate of cheap labor that could drive down wages for U.S. workers. Not so, says U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz. He says that the Senate's version will safeguard American wages by changing the way employers recruit and pay foreign workers.

"Employers of foreign workers will be required to do more to advertise open positions to American workers before hiring immigrants and will be required to pay them higher wages than under current law," he says. "Overall, studies estimate that this immigration reform bill will significantly benefit our economy, as well as reduce our deficit substantially over the next 20 years.

"By bringing undocumented workers out of the shadows, we are giving them a chance to earn higher wages. Once they achieve legal status, they will no longer be vulnerable to exploitation, which is what actually drives wages down."

**Helping Fil-Am Vets**

Of particular interest to the Filipino community is reunifying Filipino WWII veterans with their children. Although thousands of Filipino veterans were granted citizenship in recognition of their service in World War II, their sons and daughters were not granted citizenship.

Due to high demand from the Philippines for immigrant

visas to the U.S., it has taken adult children of Filipinos who have become naturalized Americans as long as 20 years to get permission to immigrate. Hirono's amendment helps eliminate the immigration backlog for the families of Filipino World War II vets seeking citizenship.

What frustrates Fil-Am veterans is that relatives of veterans from other countries who fought alongside with U.S. troops have been exempted from the annual limits, allowing them to come to the U.S. immediately. These aging veterans say they only want their children and grandchildren to be with them during their final years.

Teofilo Espelita is one such veteran. He filed a petition for his three children (now adults) in 1993 and spent about \$4,000 for the process. He says the paperwork has been pending since. He is still waiting for an interview and medical appointment.

"I am just hoping that this reform bill comes true," Espelita says. "I've been waiting for 20 years now for my family to be reunited. Since I filed initially, my children got married and had kids. I might all die without seeing

this happen."

U.S. Rep. Hanabusa says Filipino veterans have earned the right to be with their families.

"This bipartisan landmark legislation takes critical steps toward family reunification and ensures that our country keeps its promise to our Filipino WWII veterans by granting U.S. citizenship to their children and eliminating the troublesome backlog these families face during the immigration process," she says.

**Need for Immigration Reform**

U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard remains hopeful that the House and Senate can work through their differences and ultimately send a bill to President Obama for his consideration. She would like to include the sibling and married adult children family visa categories among the reforms.

"The House needs to pass an immigration reform bill which updates an archaic outdated set of laws and addresses the unique immigration chal-

lenges we face in Hawaii and across the country," she says.

U.S. Sen. Schatz called on his colleagues in the House to come together and pass the Senate's immigration reform bill.

"While this bill is far from perfect, we must find ways to strengthen the bill and provide the appropriate fixes over time," he says. "The time is now for immigration reform and the House must move forward immediately with meaningful legislation that provides a pathway to citizenship."

U.S. Sen. Hirono echoed her colleagues' statements. She says the immigration reform bill "delivers big results for Hawaii and includes a number of measures that protect immigrant women and families."

"Not only does this bill help fix our broken immigration system, it contains key provisions that will have a major impact on Hawaii families," she says. "Now it's time for the House of Representatives to take action and consider the Senate bill."

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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# State Insurance Division Reminds Public About Hurricane Coverage

When it comes to preparing for Hawaii's hurricane season, which began on June 1st, most people think of stocking up on supplies like water, preparing an emergency kit and making a family evacuation plan.

Because insurance policies are often overlooked, the State Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs' Insurance Division is reminding the public that now is a good time to review their insurance policies to make sure that their home, condominium and/or business

is covered in the case of a hurricane-related loss.

"Hurricane Iniki caused almost \$2 billion in damages, which is about \$3 billion in today's dollars," says Insurance Commissioner Gordon Ito. "It can take just one major storm to cause severe property damage, so we urge you to be prepared."

Because basic home insurance does not cover hurricane damage, homeowners typically must purchase hurricane insurance separately. Also, not all wind damage is covered by hurricane insurance. The Central Pacific Hurricane Center of the National Weather Serv-

ice must declare a wind-related event to be a hurricane for this coverage to become available. Banks usually require hurricane insurance as a mortgage condition.

Hurricane policies will cover water damage resulting from wind-related impairment of a home's exterior. Other types of water damage such as a storm surge, cascading water or rising streams are not covered by hurricane or homeowners insurance. Flood insurance provides coverage for these other exposures.

Review your policy and discuss with your insurance agent the following:

- Is your home listed as single wall, double wall, or masonry?
- Do you have hurricane straps or clips on your home?
- Does your agent provide premium credits for such mitigating devices and did your agent check for this?
- How much is your home insured for? Is it covered for replacement value or actual cash value?

After a loss, consumers and businesses may have difficulty submitting a claim because of a lack of proof of assets owned. When reviewing

your policies, it is also a good time to take photos of jewelry, electronics, appliances, sports equipment and artwork. Gather receipts and serial numbers as well. Keep this information in a secure area so you can access them for claim purposes. Make sure these assets are covered under your policy.

Residents are also encouraged to shop around for coverage. The Insurance Division has a publication to assist in shopping for homeowners' and hurricane insurance. It is available at [http://hawaii.gov/dcca/home\\_rates/home-insurance-rate-comparison.html](http://hawaii.gov/dcca/home_rates/home-insurance-rate-comparison.html).

## Defense Department Begins Furloughs For Civilian Workers

Mandatory work furloughs began July 8, 2013 for about 650,000 civilian employees of the U.S. Department of Defense, who will be required to take 11 days of unpaid leave through September 30, 2013 as part of the federal sequester spending cuts.

The furloughs will result in more than \$42 million in lost wages for the nearly 13,000 civilian defense employees in Hawaii. The DOD estimates that a civilian employee in Hawaii who is furloughed for 11 days will face an average salary cut of \$3,300, which is about a 20

percent loss of pay from now until the end of the fiscal year.

U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, who is a member of the House Armed Services Committee, says the impact will be felt at military bases where important services will be cut, maintenance will be delayed and the ability to recruit new employees to replace the retiring workforce will be hampered. She warned that such consequences could affect the nation's military readiness.

"Furloughs will continue to be the reality every fiscal year unless sequestration is repealed. Allowing sequestra-

tion to remain in place is not a solution to getting our fiscal house in order, and I will continue to urge my colleagues to come together, in a bipartisan fashion, to find a long-term solution to protect our country and support our civilian workforce," Hanabusa says.

According to military offi-

cials in Hawaii, the furloughs will affect a wide range of employees including plumbers, electricians, accountants, human resources personnel and contracting specialists.

In April, Hanabusa wrote a letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, requesting flexibility to miti-

gate planned furloughs of civilian DOD employees in Hawaii.

"Sequestration remains a bad policy for Hawaii and our nation," she says. "I will continue to work with my colleagues to replace the destructive plan laid out by sequestration."

### MAINLAND NEWS

## Immigration Reform Will Strengthen Economy and Boost GDP -White House

by Mico Letargo  
Saturday, June 13, 2013

LOS ANGELES – The ever-growing immigration reform debate is dominating the political environment in Washington, DC, and for good reason. The Senate just passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill last June, while the House is expected to come up with its own version in the near future. And to further advocate for "commonsense" immigration reform, one of President Barack Obama's core political agendas, the White House weighed in on the matter for good measure. And among the key points that the White House made: a projected \$1.4 trillion growth in the US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by the year 2033.

#### Four key points



On Wednesday, the White House Office of the Press Secretary announced the findings of a report, The Economic Benefits of Fixing Our Broken Immigration System, which enumerated the range of benefits of immigration reform to the US economy. The report, which was prepared by the President's National Economic Council, Domestic Policy Council, Office of Management and Budget, and the Council of Economic Advisers, focused on four key effects of the Senate-passed bipartisan immigration reform

bill. The report argued that the immigration bill: (1) Strengthens the overall economy and grows the US GDP; (2) Fosters innovation and encourages job creation and job growth in US; (3) Increases productivity of workers and adds protections for American workers; (4) Decreases budget deficits, balances out an aging population and strengthens Social Security.

#### A stronger economy and a growing GDP

The report cited independ-

(continued on page 13)

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

# The Gaying of America

opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.” 1 U. S. C. §7.

Edith and Thea, both women, were married in Canada but resided in New York which recognized their marriage. Edith sought refund of estate taxes imposed on her when Thea died leaving her entire estate to Edith, arguing that she was exempt from taxes as the “spouse” of Thea.

Justice Kennedy, speaking for the majority, said: DOMA “violates basic due process and equal protection principles applicable to the Federal Government, and concluded: “The federal statute is invalid, for no legitimate purpose overcomes the purpose and effect to disparage and to injure those whom the State, by its marriage laws, sought to protect in personhood and dignity. By seeking to displace this protection and treating those persons as living in marriages less respected than others, the federal statute is in violation of the Fifth Amendment.”

In a scathing dissent, Justice Scalia, joined by Chief Justice Roberts and Justice

Thomas, said: “We have no power to decide this case. And even if we did, we have no power under the Constitution to invalidate this democratically adopted legislation.” He said that the judicial power involves only “cases” and “controversies” and that there was no controversy here because the plaintiff won in the lower courts and the United States agreed. Justice Scalia criticized the majority saying “it accuses the Congress that enacted this law and the President who signed it of something much worse than, for example, having acted in excess of enumerated federal powers—or even having drawn distinctions that prove to be irrational. Those legal errors may be made in good faith, errors though they are. But the majority says that the supporters of this Act acted with malice—with the “purpose” (ante, at 25) “to disparage and to injure” same-sex couples. It says that the motivation for DOMA was to “demean,” *ibid.*; to “impose inequality,”

ante, at 22; to “impose . . . a stigma,” ante, at 21; to deny people “equal dignity,” *ibid.*; to brand gay people as “unworthy,” ante, at 23; and to “humiliat[e]” their children, *ibid.* (emphasis added). I am sure these accusations are quite untrue. To be sure (as the majority points out), the legislation is called the Defense of Marriage Act. But to defend traditional marriage is not to condemn, demean, or humiliate those who would prefer other arrangements, any more than to defend the Constitution of the United States is to condemn, demean, or humiliate other constitutions. To hurl such accusations so casually demeans this institution.”

In *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, No. 12-144, 06/26/13, involving the question whether California’s Proposition 8—a ballot initiative to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman—was valid under the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, brought by a same sex-couple, a majority of the Supreme Court, 5-4, held that the petitioners (proponents of the initiative) did not have standing to appeal the District Court’s order finding Proposition 8 unconstitutional. Thus, the District Court’s order remained.

### Effect on Immigration

With DOMA’s demise will the USCIS, which had previously denied petitions by same sex couples, now approve a visa petition filed by a same sex partner, a USC, for her alien partner in the U.S. illegally whom the petitioner married in a state allowing gay marriage? Will the USCIS approve a petition by a USC for his alien fiancée of the same sex so that they can marry in a state where gay marriage is legal?

Secretary Janet Napolitano of the Department of Homeland Security (of which USCIS is an agency) said: “Working with our federal partners, including the Department of Justice, we will implement today’s decision so that all married couples will be treated equally and fairly in the administration of our immigration laws.”

As the saying goes, “the proof of the pudding is in the eating.”

(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.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com](http://www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.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).

The Supreme Court has removed the remaining roadblock for America to become a gay (not necessarily a happy) nation. In *United States v. Windsor*, No. 12-307, 06/26/13, a 5-4 decision, a majority of the Justices held that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was unconstitutional.

Section 3 provides: “In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress, or of any ruling, regulation, or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States, the word ‘marriage’ means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word ‘spouse’ refers only to a person of the

### EDITORIALS (from page 5, KEEP...)

the first place with the suspect 2006 legislation requiring such a high reserve for pensions. Should they get their way with the Issa-Ross bill, it is conceivable for the Postal Service to transform into an organization unrecognizable to what it is today.

In a hypothetical world without USPS, the “universal service” obligation that most Americans receive would be discontinued. That means every American home and business (including far-flung places) wouldn’t necessarily have postal service because private businesses handling mail have no obligation to service areas that would be unprofitable. To a completely privatized delivery company, making nickel-and-dime deliveries simply would not be worth it in rural areas. How would the elderly, sick and disabled who do not drive receive life-saving medications in small communities

throughout the country?

The universal, same price for a letter, whether it’s going from Florida to Seattle, or Hawaii to Ohio, would also change and be adjusted for cost. With the current system, a letter mailed down the street at 46 cents helps to underwrite the cost of a letter mailed across the country for the same price. It’s a system that works and saves consumers money and only possible because of USPS’ vast network that took centuries to establish.

A dramatically scaled down USPS would also have a profound effect on the overall economy. Behind only the federal government and Walmart, the USPS is the third largest employer with roughly 550,000 career employees. (USPS employees have a separate distinction from federal employees because they are not paid by tax dollars.) If Americans

thought saving the U.S. auto industry was imperative to a healthier economy, keeping the USPS strong is even more important, especially when considering the outside businesses it serves, an estimated 8 million workers and more than \$1 trillion in business annually.

Before cutting Saturdays, the USPS and Congress ought to first work on reducing the unfair pre-funding requirement of its pension. USPS must be cautious in trying to scale back too much, too fast. Americans who value USPS’ services ought to take this announcement of discontinuing Saturday deliveries seriously and utilize the Postal Service as much as possible. First it could be Saturday, then perhaps Friday gone. Soon the universal public service obligation of mail delivery for all could very well come to an end.



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# China: A Superpower With No Moral Principles?

NO LIMITATION by Ted Laguatan

**A**nation can be compared to a train where the citizens are passengers. The leaders are the engineers who direct the train and the speed with which it travels. If the engineers recklessly run the train along tracks beside a cliff at a rate of unsafe speed, it could very well derail and fall hundreds of feet down killing or seriously hurting its helpless passengers.

Arrogance of power and false dangerous ego based nationalism can blind a nation's leaders and many of its people - leading them towards a dangerous path headed for sure disaster. How can leaders of nations and many of its citizens be so irrational or be so blind as not to see that they are bringing their people to hell?

The history of mankind is full of stories of charismatic ego driven leaders who impressed upon their people that it is their manifest destiny to rule the world and that their time has come for these glorious moments. Leaders might be labeled by their own people as being "great" especially when they have conquered other nations - but in actuality, they were not only terrible scourges to the people they conquered but also were curses to their own people who eventually suffered much because of their leaders' blind ambitions to rule the world.

Within human beings are the seeds of good and evil. There is a terrible frightening force within us that operates on a personal and group level that makes us blind to the evil that

we do - even causing us to see the evil as good. Hitler's attack or invasion of neighboring countries which were militarily and economically weaker like Poland, France, England, Holland, etc. swelled the hearts and minds of many Germans with national pride. They even considered the mass slaughter of innocent Jews as necessary for the motherland to conquer the world. They saw Nazism as good instead of the horrible evil that it was. What terrible forces blinded them from clearly seeing the evil that they were doing and made them even think they were doing something good?

In the case of Hitler's Nazi Germany and Japan's Tojo governments in WWII, it was a combination of group ego, false nationalism and power tripping over lording it over weaker helpless nations. Their lack of respect and brutality towards other nationalities eventually caused the Germans and the Japanese to be defeated, to suffer much and their countries destroyed.

They had their temporary victories and glories, but over time, they incurred the combined wrath of those countries they invaded and oppressed and who in turn regrouped and made them and their people pay heavily for their bullying grabbing ways. Hannibal, Napoleon, Japan's military leaders in WW II, Hitler, Mussolini, Saddam Hussein - are some examples of ego driven leaders who initially successfully invaded and conquered other countries but eventually paid heavy prices for their megalomania and dragged their



people down with them. Eventually, other countries they had not yet invaded realized that they could be the next victims. They allied themselves with those similarly situated and went to the rescue of the conquered countries whose citizens also fought from within to defeat the invaders.

Is China heading towards the same direction? With its recent remarkable economic success, China has expanded and re-armed with modern weapons its armed forces - now the largest in the world in terms of number of military personnel. Will China's arrogant behavior of showing no respect to other nations who are much weaker militarily and making immoral policy decisions lead the Chinese people along a dangerous path where eventually, the whole world will ally to bring China down as a rogue evil nation?

Here's the thing:

The primary obligation of any government is to provide a good honest efficient government that constantly attends to the general welfare of the people. Ideally, governments should provide its citizens with the basics of: economic opportunities for honest livelihood, defense against foreign invaders, protecting the citizenry from dishonest individuals in the private and public sector, education and health services and promulgating conditions that would enable many to reach their highest potentials as human beings. This means having a non-strangling political environment that affords free legitimate self-determination choices for a happy

fulfilling life.

But in addition to these, governments also have a moral obligation to its citizens of maintaining the respect and goodwill of other nations by avoiding aggressive immoral illegitimate ego and greed based oppression of weaker nations that cause a sense of outrage in the global community. The lessons of history show that no nation, however big, wealthy or powerful - can carry on with immoral oppressive policies against other nations without risking the security of its own people or risk internal strife among its own people.

Nouveaux rich China with its aggressive bullying territory grabbing military actions against weaker nations, support of corrupt oppressive governments and non-respect for the patent rights and intellectual property belonging to citizens of other countries - is fast heading towards the downward road to hell for its citizens.

As in Hitler's Germany, some of China's current political and military leaders and many of its citizens may be ego tripping with their new wealth and military might. It appears that they are escalating their abuse of power in many ways - as they believe themselves succeeding economically with their nefarious ways. Hopefully, the more rational among the Chinese people will look at history and see that the present course they are on will lead their nation to self destruction.

Consider some of China's policies. According to Transparency International, China has very close ties with many of the most corrupt and oppressive human rights violator nations - supplying them with armaments, equipment and various infrastructures - in exchange for concessions to their oil, minerals and other natural resources: Sudan, Chad, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, the Congo, Zimbabwe, North Korea, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, etc. Billions of dollars go to the pockets of the dictators in these countries instead of benefiting the impoverished hungry pop-

ulations which rightly own the wealth of their countries. How much bad will is China incurring with the victim citizens of these countries?

In the Philippines and other surrounding countries, China's leaders are outrageously claiming that territories within 200 miles of these countries rich in fish and vast energy resources are theirs - even if the United Nation's Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) affirms otherwise. China bases its claim on what is obviously recognizable pure fiction simply used as a reason to oppress weaker nations to take over their territories and valuable resources.

China's premises its claim on an ancient Han Dynasty map and also on an arbitrary map made by an individual in Chiang Kai Shek's Kuomintang government in 1948 - which indicated China's territory with a U shaped (like a cow's tongue) so called "9 dash line". This 1948 map neither has any factual nor legal basis. Even some Chinese scholars indicate that the Chinese claim is so arbitrary that it cannot be sustained on factual or legal grounds.

If China's leaders are acting in good faith and truly believe that they have a valid claim, then they should have no problems in having their claim and the conflicting claims of other countries in having these adjudicated in the International Tribunal utilizing the UNCLOS law to which they are signatories. Why won't they agree to this fair objective process meant to resolve ocean territorial disputes between countries unless they themselves know that they are pushing a bogus claim which cannot withstand judicial scrutiny?

They want to take over Philippine territories because of the enormous resources found there so they simply use brute force by squatting and claiming fictitious rights on these. Initially, being cautious, China was using veiled methods to take over islands in Philippine territories - such as

(continued on page 11)

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CITY HIGHLIGHTS

# Council Approves Budget and Help for Varona Villages, Homeless



By Councilmember Ron Menor

Last month, the City Council approved the City's \$2.8 billion operating and capital improvement budget for Fiscal Year 2014. The budget includes no increases in property tax rates and nearly all fees will remain the same.

There are also funds for the following projects that will benefit our community:

- \$1.064 million for the full restoration of Country Express Route E. Many West Oahu residents, including those in Waipahu and Ewa, work in urban Honolulu and Waikiki and use the Country Express Route E, which travels from Ewa Beach to Waikiki via Ala Moana

Center. Restoring Route E eliminates lengthy delays for bus riders who have to transfer from Downtown Honolulu bus stops.

- \$200,000 for the Weed & Seed Program. Two of the three program sites are in Council District 9—Waipahu and Ewa. The program weeds out violent crime, gang activity and drug trafficking in high crime neighborhoods, then seeds the target area with social programs, neighborhood restoration projects and economic development.

- \$200,000 for planning and design of dog obedience facility and additional parking at Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park. Construction monies will be added in future budget.

**Varona Village**

I also included \$500,000 in

the budget for immediate repairs to the dilapidated homes at Varona Villages in Ewa where residents have lived for years in substandard conditions. As the landlord, the City is obligated to provide living conditions that are at the very least safe and adequate.

To address these concerns, I introduced Resolution 13-114 along with my colleague Councilmember Kymberly Marcos-Pine, which calls on the City to form a working group to address short- and long-term housing needs for residents at Varona Village in Ewa. The working group would be comprised of representatives from various City departments, the Ewa Villages Homeowners Association and other stakeholders.

To ensure that the work is done timely and efficiently, I have requested the Department of Facility Maintenance to provide me with a timeline and a detailed description of the

scope of the work that needs to be done.

**Help for the Homeless**

I have also introduced two resolutions to address Oahu's homeless issues. This is a priority because of the large number of chronically homeless individuals with mental health issues who have settled in the Waipahu and Ewa Beach communities that I represent.

Resolution 13-122 urges Mayor Kirk Caldwell to work with Governor Neil Abercrombie in developing a mental health action plan for the homeless, while Resolution 13-123 requests the City to establish a website to assist homeless persons in receiving donations from the commu-

nity. Requests would be posted daily for the public to view and donate requested items. The website would also allow multiple donors to partially fund a request by a homeless family.

These resolutions are still being reviewed by the appropriate committees. I will continue to work with my fellow councilmembers on implementing and fine-tuning these resolutions.

Lastly, the Council will in the coming months hear Bills 34 to 43, relating to real property tax laws, which may need to be updated. These bills were a result of a City task force's recommendations to streamline tax laws. If you have concerns or would like to provide input on these bills, please contact my office at 768-5009.

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**Perla Rabilas**  
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**FEATURE**

**Filipino Educator Wins  
National Award**



(L TO R): Hawai'i Pacific University Assistant Professor Christian Gloria, Ph.D., Herff Jones representative Mary Chiang, Health Sciences Program Chairman Mark Tomita, Ph.D., and College of Nursing and Health Sciences Acting Dean Dale Allison, Ph.D., celebrate Gloria's recent Teacher Shout Out award, with checks totaling \$5,000 presented June 26.

By HFC Staff

**D**r. Christian Gloria, an assistant professor of health sciences at Hawaii Pacific University, recently won \$5,000 as part of the 2013 Herff Jones "Teacher Shout Out" Award—a national contest that lets students show gratitude to a teacher, advisor or coach.

A first-year professor, Gloria says he chuckled at the prospects of winning a national award that he was nominated for by a student. But after six weeks and 10,000 votes later, he was among the 10 recipients nationally and the only awardee in the state.

"It was really such a surprise to win the award," he says. "This recognition from my own students helped to validate my efforts and strategies toward being an effective teacher and role model."

Born and raised in Metro Manila, Gloria was the son of parents who worked as bankers. He was fortunate to have excellent teachers throughout his school years who inspired him to always do his best. In college, he initially shunned a career in teaching because of the small pay and recognition.

"Frankly, I couldn't get away from my calling. After trying other career options, I simply did a full-circle and returned to pursuing what I most enjoyed and loved—teaching. I'm not financially wealthy, but I'm very happy and feel wealthy in all other aspects of my life," he says.

He became interested in the field of health behavior and health promotion after taking an undergraduate elective course in weight training. As a child, Gloria was sickly and struggled to maintain his health. But after taking the course, his health noticeably improved. It was also a time in life when those closest to him passed away from health problems and chronic diseases.

"I realized how being a healthy individual can truly change the world around me, so I pursued the area of health with the intention of helping people live healthier lives," Gloria says.

He later enrolled at the University of Texas-Austin, where he earned his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. in health behavior and health education in May 2013. After graduation, he was at a Starbucks in Austin, Texas where he randomly stumbled upon an online job posting at HPU and emailed his application. And the rest,

as they say, is history.

**Teaching Excellence**

During his first year teaching at HPU, Gloria has impressed both faculty and students, says Acting Dean Dale Allison.

"He has excellent rapport with the students and is well-liked and respected by his peers," says Allison. "We're very proud of him. He's been a great addition to the Health Sciences faculty."

Dr. Mark Tomita, Associate Professor and chair of HPU's Department of Health Sciences, describes Gloria as an "outstanding teacher" with "endless energy" and a "teachable spirit."

"From the day Dr. Gloria started work at HPU, we knew we chose the right candidate for the job," Tomita says. "He has brought to our department expertise in areas desperately needed. What impresses me the most is that he is able to connect with the students and he gives each student the attention they need."

Tomita has observed Gloria's excellent rapport with students in the classroom and during service learning projects in the community. He describes Gloria as a good role model for HPU's students who come from the U.S. and over 80 countries.

"Most of our health science majors are Filipino. I think Dr. Gloria being a person of color has really helped our students to have an outstanding role model. It's not every day that Filipino college students can work closely with a Filipino professor and see that they too can become successful in life," Tomita says.

Gloria considers it a blessing to teach at HPU. He credits the support of the school's experienced faculty for his continued professional growth and development. He looks forward to the upcoming school year and further refining his teaching skills.

"Today's students are our future," he says. "It's important for teachers to properly educate our children and adolescents, and raise them into productive and prosperous adults. I carry a great sense of obligation and responsibility to make sure that my students succeed in the 'real' world. The greatest gift I could ever receive as a teacher would be to have our alumni look back and say, 'I'm successful today because Dr. Gloria prepared me for this very day.'"

**OPINION** (from page 8, CHINA...)

claiming that they were merely putting a resting station for their fishermen in Mischief Reef. It turned out later that what they built was a permanent military garrison. To take over Scarborough Shoals, they sent in over a hundred disguised fishing boats accompanied by armed patrol boats.

In the interest of peace, seeking to avoid armed heated confrontation with the giant Chinese dragon and seeking a diplomatic solution, the Philippines has agreed to cool the situation by withdrawing its ships from the area with the understanding that China would do the same. Not only did China not withdraw its ships, it even increased their numbers and also roped off the area preventing Philippine fishing and patrol boats from entering Philippine territory which is only 120 miles from the Philippines' Zambales province and over a thousand miles from China. Some reports indicate that Chinese ships were observed unloading construction materials in the Scarborough area.

Emboldened by its strategy and the ease with which it can gain valuable territory without a fight, China is using the same strategy to take over other areas clearly inside the Philippines 200 mile economic zone. Only now, their takeover plans are no longer veiled but includes outright arrogant declarations that these waters and land inside Philippines territory is theirs and that it is the Philippines which is trespassing. Not only do their fishing boats now come in and out of Philippine waters without permission but Chinese cruise ships and missile carrying war ships do the same. Three of these recently deployed themselves near Ayungin Shoals, their next target for occupation.

At the Shangrila Dialogue Conference in Singapore on June 2, 2013, Chinese Lt. General Qi Jianguo, Deputy Chief of the Chinese Liberation Army - openly declared Philippine territory as theirs: "We don't see any necessity to resort to an international tribunal. Patrols by Chinese warships and surveillance vessels

within our own territory are totally legitimate and uncontroversial."

Major General Zhang Zhaozhang, a professor at the National Defense University recently openly disclosed in a television interview the Chinese strategy to take over Philippine territories: Chinese warships have been "wrapping Panatag (Scarborough) like a cabbage" successfully keeping Philippine patrol and fishing boats away. "We can adopt this method elsewhere."

"We have successfully sealed the area. If the Philippines wants to get in, they have to ask our permission....Our fishermen can carry out their production safely while our country's marine rights and sovereignty are safeguarded."

These statements clearly indicate China's strategy from the start and for the future. They were feeling out how the Philippines and its major superpower ally the United States would react if they took a small piece of Philippine territory using bully tactics and armed might intimidation. Having had two seemingly successful grabs, they now believe that they can now proceed with their cabbage strategy at will - grabbing one area after the other until they possess everything.

Engaged in obvious duplicity, at the same time that they are engaged in these blatant territorial grabs, they are telling the world that their intention is to have peaceful relationships with their neighbors and want only mutual cooperation and development.

China's political and military leaders are outsmarting themselves and going on a very dangerous deadly course of action for its people. The Philippines, the United States, the surrounding countries - are not exactly fools and are very aware of China's trickery and insincerity. The more China's leaders engage in these immoral activities, the more they incur the ire and resentment of the global community.

Very clearly, the Philippines now knows what China's takeover plans are from the

very beginning and for the future. If nothing is effectively done to stop China from carrying out its cabbage and other nefarious strategies, pretty soon, not only will Chinese warboats, patrol and fishing boats be regular fixtures in Philippine waters, Chinese oil rigs and oil tankers will also be common sights.

Given these blatant immoral actions on the part of China, what should the Philippines do?

Here's my take on this:

China or at least its leadership - is generally no longer the China guided by the principled thoughts of its great philosopher sages like Confucius, Lao Tzu, Mencius and others which valued concern for humanistic values such as: human rights; love and respect for family and neighbors; a commitment to truth and justice.

While the world should rightfully rejoice with the long suffering Chinese people on its new found prosperity, it should also be aware of the dangers that face the Chinese people and the world - because of the directions some of her leaders are taking.

The official modern China of today, sad to say, has incorporated in its present culture much of the ugliness found in western corporate culture: Insatiable greed, the loss of spirituality, insensitivity to the sufferings of exploited people, a willingness to use military might and devious methods to grab the territories and resources of weaker nations, supporting oppressive corrupt foreign dictators, etc.

Like a vampire constantly lusting for blood to sustain its life, China constantly is now constantly lusting for oil, food and other resources - to sustain its continued economic progress. As such, she has targeted the Philippines and other neighboring militarily weak countries to be her victims whose resources she covets.

Victim countries like the Philippines must now take a bold firm stand. It's now or never. We cannot and should not expect China to take the moral high ground in its deal-

ings. China's cold hearted leaders are mainly preoccupied with economic, military and political power concerns and the hell with who gets hurt.

Given the reality that we are facing a heartless mighty dragon who wants to take what is not theirs, what choices do we have? We either fight or we run away and live with the unpalatable thought that our people and country are being raped and pillaged before our very eyes.

Many Filipinos have been lulled into inaction by the thought that we have already brought this matter to the United Nations for arbitration. This is hardly a solution. China's officials have hinted that they will not submit to the jurisdiction of the UN Court on this matter. Moreover, it will take at least four years before this arbitration process is completed. Meanwhile, China continues to take and occupy strategic points in our territories. When these points are connected, China will then claim that the area enclosed by the lines all belong to them.

There are also those who keep on floating the idea that the solution can be found through diplomatic means. China has repeatedly announced that they are open to discussions. But the discussions would be limited to bilateral negotiations where only

China and the Philippines will be involved. No input from the United Nations or other countries. Correctly, the Philippines as well as former US Secretary Hillary Clinton - have rejected this arrangement. The results are predictable. China's tremendous leverage over the Philippines, as Clinton pointed out - will leave the Philippines with little bargaining power. Diplomacy will work only if both sides are in good faith.

In dealing with a country like China where moral principles are not primary considerations, we can expect that the only forces that will serve as leverage for the Philippines are factors that affect China's national pocketbook and the risk for them that other countries will ally with the Philippines including superpower USA which will equalize the face off.

I believe that if the Philippines wants to retain its territories and resources, it has no other choice but to immediately defend against China's intrusion. But this must be done intelligently. We must try to ally with as many countries as possible and get the support of the majority of the global community. The world must clearly be informed through a concerted public and social media campaign of the truth about China's immoral use of its military might to

(continued on page 14)

**Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.**



**Board-certified  
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1988 to 1990  
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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# SC Votes 8-7 to Extend Suspension of RH Law

by Edu Punay  
Wednesday, July 17, 2013

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Government efforts to address the country's runaway population and rising maternal deaths have suffered another setback following a Supreme Court order extending its freeze on implementation of the Reproductive Health Law.

The High Tribunal voted 8-7 in session yesterday to extend the 120-day status quo ante order issued last March 19 and which is to expire today.

In a press conference, SC spokesman Theodore Te said the status quo ante order would remain in effect "until further orders from the court." He did not reveal the details of the voting by the magistrates.

In the original status quo ante order, the SC magistrates voted 10-5. Malacañang called the SC order unfortunate.

After the oral arguments on the 15 petitions questioning the constitutionality of the RH law last July 9, two justices expressed belief that the law should now be implemented. Te declined to name the two justices.

The SC set the resumption of oral arguments on July 23.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez welcomed the decision, saying the SC justices should remain steadfast in opposing the RH Law to "protect the country from going into the abyss of the liberal society."

"We laud the SC ruling extending the status quo ante order against the RH law," Rodriguez told The STAR.

"All of us pro-life pray that they would stand firm and ob-

jective and in the final decision strike down the RH law for not only being destructive of our sacred moral values, but also for being violative of the Constitution," he said.

Sen. Vicente Sotto III said the SC decision was "God answering the prayers of the faithful."

He said the order was a strong indication that the high court would eventually declare the law unconstitutional.

He said the Constitution mandates that the state shall protect the founding of the family as well as the right to religion.

## Dismayed

Senator Pia Cayetano expressed her disappointment over the SC decision, saying "it sends the wrong message to women of our country."

Cayetano, the principal author and sponsor of the RH bill in the Senate, said that she was present during the oral arguments last week and found the presentations made by the petitioners "quite weak."

"To me, it sends the wrong message to the women of our country. As we debate this, there are women who are sacrificing, dying, losing their children and being placed in a situation where they would undergo abortion," Cayetano said.

She reiterated her appeal to critics from the religious sector to observe the principle of separation of church and state and let the people decide on the bill based on an objective presentation of facts.

She said the Catholic Church and other religious



groups may have exerted pressure on the faithful.

"Remember, this is not an abortion law. This is a law providing access to reproductive health services and information. If at all it's a law providing access to contraceptives, not abortion," she said.

"So I am appealing to all those concerned to have an open mind and listen to the arguments because to stand in the way of one's religious views would be contrary to our obligation to uphold the Constitution," she added.

Cayetano pointed out that the Constitution provides for the separation of church and state and so personal religious beliefs should not influence policy-making decisions.

Opponents of the RH Law believe the law violates the right to life under Section 12, Article 2 of the Constitution as it introduces a new definition of conception, which is implantation or when the fertilized egg cell reaches the uterus. They said this is contrary to the true definition of conception, which is fertilization.

Lawyer Ma. Concepcion Noche, one of the petitioners representing the Alliance for the Family Foundation Philippines, presented this argument

before the SC in the previous oral argument. Some justices rebuffed her, saying the high court might not be the best venue to resolve an issue that even the medical profession has not conclusively resolved.

In the next hearing, lawyer Luisito Liban is expected to discuss how the law allegedly violates the rights to religion, free speech, and academic freedom, as well as the "proscription on involuntary servitude." Another lawyer, Luis Gana, will try to convince the high court that the law violates the Organic Act of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Former Senate president Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has also submitted to the high court his arguments on how the law violates autonomy of local government units including ARMM.

The 15 consolidated petitions against the RH Law were filed by couple James and Lovely-Ann Imbong, non-profit group Alliance for the Family Foundation Philippines Inc. (ALFI), Serve Life Cagayan de Oro City, Task Force for Family and Life Visayas Inc., lawyer Expedito Bugarin, Eduardo Olaguer of the Catholic Xyberspace Apostolate of the Philippines, Philippine Alliance of Ex-Seminarians Inc., Dr. Reynaldo Echavez, former Sen.

Tatad and his wife Ma. Fenny, a group of doctors represented by lawyer Howard Calleja, Millenium Saint Foundation Inc., Pro-Life Philippines Foundation Inc., a group of Catholic students represented by the legal office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Catholic lay group Couples For Christ Foundation (CFC) and Almarim Centi Tillah and Abdul Hussein Kashim.

After the petitioners finish presenting their arguments, the government through the Office of the Solicitor General will defend the RH law along with six intervenors in the case.

Named respondents in the case were Executive Secretary Pacquito Ochoa Jr., Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, Education Secretary Armin Luistro, Health Secretary Enrique Ona, and Interior and Local Government Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

The six intervenors aside from Cayetano are former Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros, former Health secretaries Esperanza Cabral, Jaime Galvez-Tan and Alberto Romualdez Jr.; the group of 2005 Bar topper Joan De Venecia; the Catholics for Reproductive Health and Interfaith Partnership for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood Inc.; and Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, author of the law in the House of Representatives. (www.philstar.com)

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

# Filipinos In And Out of the Closet

**D**riving home from the recent SF Pride, I listened to the news radio station's summary of the parade. After the report, came an unintentional funny ad for a closet company: "Imagine the closet of your dreams..."

In a world of Pride you wouldn't need closets at all.

It would just be one walk-in life.

I had forgotten what Pride was like, having been to many of them in the 80s when it was just a quaint celebration in the Castro, my old neighborhood. I'd seen it all change, along with the entire city, to the point where Pride is just a

massive celebration of all sorts of diversity, no different than the Giants World Series parade, just different bats and balls.

This year due to the Supreme Court striking down the Defense of Marriage Act, as well as the challenge to Prop. 8 made Pride special.

"I wouldn't have come ordinarily," said Ralph Bolano, 26 of Daly City. "But this year is very important because there's marriage equality, it's a historic event we all want to be here."

Bolano came to America from the Philippines at 14, came out at 16, and admits at first it was hard on his parents. But in time, with the help of his sisters, his mother and father came around to see him for what he is.

A guy with a headband and a necklace around his neck that says "Barbie."

"They're accepting now, and I love them to pieces," Bolano said.

It's different for his friend, Danny, 29, from Daly City, who is out with his friends and co-workers but not his family.

He immigrated here four years ago from Pangasinan, where he knew as early as kindergarten that he was "different." In the RP, Danny said it was very hard to be who he was.

"It's still hard there," he said. "It's so much freer here."

But not with his parents.

"They're typical Catholics," he said. "They know, but just hard for them to understand."

Typical Filipinos, they ignore the details, look away, while Danny lives his other life with friends like Ralph and goes to Pride with a sense of hesitation. The closet is still there partly there for him.

In New York recently, I had the chance to talk to Cardinal Timothy Dolan, about how Catholic parents should deal with such issues.

He didn't attack gays, or criticize the parents. He said all parents could do was to continue to set a "good example." And that means approaching such a situation not with scorn, but with love.

Is there a better answer?

Julia Thoron agrees. She's the chair of the San Francisco PFLAG ( Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) group (pflag.org ) that supports parents dealing with their gay children.

Thoron said PFLAG's support helped her and her daughter get to the truth.

"When she knew who she was, she turned to her family and shared it," said Thoron. "She trusted us to continue to love her in the same way that

we had always done. That's the greatest compliment a parent can get is that trust by that child in your response."

At a celebration like Pride, sometimes the loud sounds of fun drown out the important parts.

But when the music stops and you can hear the inside of your head, while freedom and equality are part of the equation, Pride is really just about love.

*EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist and commentator who has written on Filipino and Asian-American issues for many years. For two years, he served on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser. Guillermo was the first Filipino-American to host a national news program when he hosted NPR's "All Things Considered."*

*He later served as press secretary to then Congressman Norman Mineta in the 103rd Congress in Washington. Based in Northern California, Guillermo, won an American Book Award in 2000 for his book "Amok: Essays from an Asian American Perspective."*

**MAINLAND NEWS** (from page 6, IMMIGRATION...)

ent studies that affirm the possibility of economic growth when commonsense immigration reform is enacted. A non-partisan office in the Congress that analyzes the federal budget and US economy – the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) – estimated that the US GDP will grow by as much 3.3 percent in 2023, and 5.4 percent in 2033, if the Senate version of immigration reform is put into law. Converted into today's dollar values, those increases would roughly translate into \$700 billion in 2023, and \$1.4 trillion in 2033. This projected growth would be buoyed by the inflow of immigrants to form a larger labor force; a larger labor force would mean higher productivity and investment. Technology, tourism, hospitality, agriculture, and housing – industries that would directly benefit from comprehensive immigration reform would in turn, boost the US economy.

**Innovation, job creation and job growth**

The White House also cited evidence that prove that immigrants are highly entre-

preneurial. Point in case: the Koreans and the Chinese. Immigration reform would attract entrepreneurs to the US to start companies and create jobs. According to the report, in 2007, immigrant-owned small businesses generated a total of \$776 billion in receipts and employed an estimated 4.7 million people. In 2011, immigrants started 28 percent of all new US businesses, in spite of accounting for only 13 percent of the entire US population. Immigration reform would spur job growth by attracting the most talented workers into the country. The bipartisan Senate bill proposes improvements to the employment-based immigration system that would strengthen the United States' position to attract and retain highly-skilled global talent. By way of immigration reform, the US will also attract investments into the country, the White House report said. The bipartisan Senate bill proposed reforms that would make the EB-5 immigrant investor program permanent. EB-5 grants permanent resident status to foreigners who bring in investments

amounting to more than a minimum threshold, and invests in new job-creating commercial enterprises in the US. In the fiscal year alone, EB-5 investors infused at least \$6.8 billion of capital into the US economy, and created at least 48,950 jobs for Americans and immigrants alike.

**Worker productivity and protection**

While the common preconception of most Americans is that immigrants would cost US-born workers their jobs, the White House argued differently. The report cited findings that revealed immigrants

mostly complement rather than substitute their US-born counterparts. According to studies by CBO and independent groups, immigration reform would increase overall productivity in the US, resulting in higher GDP and wages. According to the White House, bringing undocumented workers "out of the shadows and into the legal economy" would put a stop to workplace malpractices, which lead to undercut wages and worsening working conditions for American workers.

**Decreasing budget deficits and strengthening Social Security**

In enacting the Senate's bipartisan bill, federal budget deficit was projected by the CBO to decrease by nearly \$850 billion over the next 20 years. The additional taxes paid by new and legalizing immigrants would offset any new spending by the government, and are seen as a means to close the deficit gap in the US budget over the 20-year window. According to officials, it is estimated that immigration reform would improve the long-term financial standing of the SSA, and would extend Social Security solvency by two years. ([www.asianjournal.com](http://www.asianjournal.com))

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## PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



**ILOKO**  
By Amado I. Yoro

## Umuna A Paset

**T**

aoka, Bagnos!  
! Taoka!”

Sumsumgiab ti apuy iti barukongna.

“Ammok a masapulnak. Agkallaysatan tapno maminggan ti amin.”

Kasla dadakkel a gurruod a mangdupdupir iti barukong ni Brother Bagnos Dayrit dagita a balikas ni Stella Cruzado, ti sigud a kaayan-ayatna.

“Saannak a sulisogen, Stella. Saan ! Panawannak !. Addan dakkel a karik iti Dios nga agserbi Kenkuana. Inton bigat laengen ket maysaakton a pastor.”

“Lasagka met a kas kaniak, Bagnos. Narukop a lasag...Inasawa ti kararua. Narasitayo amin. Masapul-tayo ti bara ken darang ti ayat. Masapulka, Bagnos. Diak

**Editor's Note:** This short story won first prize in 1981 Gumil Hawaii short story writing contest on a pen name: Oram Odil and published in Bin-i, a GH anthology book. Due to space limitation each issue, HFC will publish it in five (5) parts. *Nangabak daytoy a sarita iti umuna a gunggona iti Salip Ti Sarita 1981 iti Gumil Hawaii. iti parbo a nagan: Oram Odil ken nairaman iti Bin-i a libro ti GH Gapu iti limitado nga espasio, agbalin a lima a paset daytoy.*

## Ti Torre, Ti Apuy, Ken Ti Ima Ti Dios

kadi maikari a tagikuaem ita a darikmat?”

“Panawannak, Stella. Inkan. Panawannak. Pumigpigan ti bagyo. Umatiberberen ti angin. Umayen ti nakaam-amak a tudo.”

“Uray no pangep-ep laeng, Bagnos. Naragsakak-ton a pumanaw. Nawayakan-ton. Saankanton a singaen. Pangaasim, mawawak. Masapulka!” Agsangiten ti balasang.

“Adaywannak, kunak, Stella. Pumanawka. Saankanton nga umay. Dinak suboken. Dinak irubo. Inkan!”

## KASTA UNAY TI PANNAKABARINGKUAS

ni Brother Bagnos iti iddana. Agtigtigerger a bimmangon. Nagtarus nga imminun iti danum. Binatibat manen iti nakaro unay. Dina maawatan ti kayat a sawen ti tagainepna. Kasla agpayso latta nga adda itay ni Stella iti dennana. Manulsulisog. Manggargari.

Naglakan ti agbasol, naisennaayna. Piltak koman iti kararuana no tinutopanna ti

balasang. Apay ngata a natagtagainepna manen ni Stella Cruzado?

Pinirit ni Brother Bagnos ti singin nga imingna. Ania ti pudno nga agparparikna kenkuana? Ita kadi pay a malagipna manen ti napalabas iti biagda ken ni Stella? Nabayagen a nagsinada.

Nagpinnapilitanda dagiti propesiona. AB-Theology ti iringringpas idin ni Bagnos. AB-Foreign Service met ken ni Stella. Ngem idi agangay, impapilit ni Stella iti ipapanna idiy London a kas DH. Nangrugi ditan ti susikda. Ket saan a nagbaliw ti panggeddeng ni Stella.

Nasayaat pay met la ti kasasaadna kadagiti immuna nga aldaw a kaaddana sadiay. Awan met ti pagkunaanna iti ipakpakita ken ti panangtrato dagiti amona. Ngem iti saan a nagbayag, naaksidente ti amona a babai. Saan a nakalasad daytoy.

Iti saan a namnamaen a mapasamak, rinames ti amona a lalaki. Adu pay a simmaruno a naisakripiso ti

dayawna. Agpulong koma iti autoridad, ngem asino ti mamati. Idi saanen a makaibtur, naglibas

No adda maidanon ken ni Bagnos idi a damag maipapan iti sigud a kaayan-ayatna, adda agkuna a nasumokna ti lubong dagiti kalapati a nababa ti tayabna. Nagbalin kano a paminudo kadagiti mabayadan iti apagdarikmat a ragsak. Nagakar-akar kadagiti nadumaduma a ciudad ti Europa. Adda met agkuna a simrek iti Stella iti balay dagiti mongha. Di ammo ni Bagnos ti patienna. No pudno man ken saan dagitoy a sayang-guseng, awan ti ammona. Namimpinsan metten a nagsat dagiti damag a dumanon kenkuana iti seminario.

**IMMANGES** ni Brother Bagnos iti nauneg. Kayatna a liklikan ti rupa ti kalman. Kayatna a sanguen ti agdama. Adda dakdakkal a pagrebbengan a sangsanguen ita. Inton bigat laengen, awatennanto ti kinaan-anayna a ministro.....

Lima a tawen a naipupok itoy a seminario. Nabayagen a naipusing iti akinruar a lubong. Maawatnanto ngata ti

kinagulo ken kinapegges ti sulisog iti ruar?

“Adda ditoy a seminario ti kinatibker ti agbalin a pasurot ti Dios, Bagnos Dayrit. Adda kenka no panggepmo ti agbabawi. Ket no namnamaem a saan a para kenka daytoy a bokasion, nasaysayaat laengen a saanka nga agtuloy. Adu ti rumbeng a sursuruem. Adda dagiti bisio a saan a mabalin ditoy. Masapul ti tangken ken tibker ti pakinakem. Adda dagiti sebbang ken sulisog,” paset ti orientation ken indoctrination nga inted ni Bishop Jacobo Ratsem, ti misionero nga Olandes.

“Daytoy ti balay a pakatubayan ti pudno a malalaki iti tay-ak ti religion ken pammati. Panagserbi ti Dios. Ti panggepna. Nasken ti pananglipat ti naindagaan a bisio ken aramid. Ammuem koma nga adu dagiti mangpadas, ngem ad-adu dagiti mapaay. Saanda a makaanus. Dida maited ti biagda itoy a kita ti panagserbi. Saan a nalaka ti agbalin nga Ima ti Dios. Adu ti agtarigagay, bassit dagiti mapili ken makalusot iti naiget a panubok....”(Adda tuloyna)

## OPINION (from page 11, CHINA...)

grab the Philippines and other countries' territories and resources.

The Philippines must learn from the experience of Vietnam in 1988. Unarmed Vietnamese sailors were dispatched by the Vietnamese government to Johnson Reef which was well within Vietnam's economic zone to keep Chinese sailors from occupying the area. China was also claiming that this area was theirs. When the Chinese Navy ships got there, they massacred the unarmed helpless Vietnamese sailors with 37mm anti-aircraft guns killing 64 of them and seriously wounded many. The Chinese filmed this episode and proudly displays it. It can easily be accessed in YouTube.

The Philippines must place well trained and well armed men in different areas within its 200 mile economic zone. Aside from professional soldiers, these fighters can also include civilian volunteers who understand the risks involved which might mean giving their lives for a noble cause. Even long term prisoners who can be trained to fight and who might want to volunteer to be stationed in these areas for at least three years in exchange for their freedom, should be considered.

The Philippines and its people are called upon at this important time - to fight for the well being and welfare of generations of Filipinos.

*Note: ATTY. TED LAGUATAN is a human rights lawyer who writes for various publications. Email [laguatanlaw@gmail.com](mailto:laguatanlaw@gmail.com)*

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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**59TH ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HI • SATURDAY • July 20, 2013, 6 PM**

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## GLOBAL NEWS

# Global Protest Rallies Against China Set for July 24

By Rodel E. Rodis

“Stop China’s invasion of the Philippines!” is both the plea and the demand that Filipinos will be making simultaneously in front of China’s embassies and consulates all over the world from Washington DC to Makati on Wednesday July 24 at 12 noon.

The call for the global mass action was initiated by the US Pinoys for Good Governance (USP4GG) in response to last year’s Chinese military occupation of the Philippines’ Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal) off Zambales and its imminent threat this year to invade Ayungin Reef, part of the Kalayaan municipality of Palawan, a threat which began on May 8 when three Chinese warships appeared off Ayungin which is defended by a contingent of Philippine marines.

China has denounced the Philippines for its “illegal occupation” of what they call “Rena’i Reef” which is only 105 miles from Palawan and 600 miles from China. Ayungin is considered the “gateway” to the oil-rich Recto Bank which is just 85 miles from Palawan.

The largest of the rallies is expected to take place in front of the China Consulate in Makati on July 24 where more than 5,000 people are expected. Sponsored by the West Philippine Sea Coalition (WPSC) and the USP4GG, the Makati rally will feature speakers including Sen. Grace Poe, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano and Education Secretary Bro. Armin Luistro, former president of De la Salle University. Other speakers include Rep. Walden Bello and Rissa Hontiveros of Akbayan, Rep. Roilo Golez, former Executive Secretary Rafael Alunan III, General Danilo Lim of the Guardians Society, as well as

Solita Monsod and Jarius Bon-doc.

Expressing the sentiments of the rally’s sponsors, Inquirer columnist Conrado de Quiros wrote: “The only way we can really deter China...is not by bringing the fury of our arms to halt the invader in its tracks but by bringing the weight of global condemnation to bear on it to make it rethink the costs of occupation.”

### ‘Filipinos Unite’ Artists’ Collaboration

The Makati protest rally will feature the debut performance of an unprecedented collaboration of Filipino artists from around the world who came together to produce a song and video in response to the escalating tensions with China in the West Philippine Sea. They have labeled the project “Operation: Change the World” and their songs can be viewed online at [www.filipinosunite.com](http://www.filipinosunite.com).

Among the young artists who have come together to express their love of country are: Abra, Anne Curtis, Billy Joe Crawford, Charice Pempengco, Dcoy, Gian Magdangal, Izz, Jamir of Slapshock, Janjay, Jay R, Joshwa of Lion and The Scouts, Jugs of Itchyworms, Julianne, Karyll, Kat Agarado of Sinosikat, Kate Torralba, Kitchi Nadal, Kris Lawrence, Loonie, Mica Javier, Nimbus 9, Noel Cabangon, QYork, Roxee B and Teddy Corpus of Rocksteddy.

They have called it the “F.U. Movement” which stands for “Filipinos Unite”. The project was spearheaded by USP4GG’s Vonz Santos, an expat Fil-Am who has been actively developing awareness of the China invasion issue for many years.

### New York Rally at the U.N.

The New York July 24 rally will be held in front of the United Nations at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza at First Avenue and 43rd Street. A coalition of Fil-

ipino community groups led by the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) and the Filipino American Legal Defense Fund (FALDEF) will join members of the Vietnamese American Community of New York in protesting China’s imperialism in Southeast Asia.

At a New York planning meeting hosted by Nicolas-Lewis on July 2, 50 Filipino leaders from the Northeast promised to mobilize their communities to attend the UN rally on July 24. Among the attendees were members of the Filipino Intercollegiate Networking Dialogue (FIND), the Knights of Rizal, the National Filipino Teachers Association (NFTA), Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) and other civic groups.

### San Francisco Protest Rally

At a packed Filipino community meeting in San Francisco held at the Philippine Center on July 12, members of the Vietnamese American community led by Judge Tue Phan Quang and Atty. Tam Nguyen of the Vietnamese American Voters League.

“I feel inspired and motivated that the people of Philippines will all stand up and wake up the world’s conscience on this important topic which affects the entire region,” Atty. Tam said as he announced that his group will send at least 50 members to attend the July 24 protest rally in front of the San Francisco Chinese Consulate at 12 noon at Geary Blvd. and Laguna Street.

Atty. Tam later emailed the San Francisco sponsors of the protest rally to inform them that Dr. Hoi Do from Florida, chair of the Vietnamese-American Federation in the US has just announced his group’s endorsement of the July 24 global protest against China.

A mass for peace in the West Philippine Sea will be held on

July 24 at 10:30 AM at the St. Mary’s Cathedral on Geary Blvd, just half a block from the Chinese Consulate. Celebrating the mass will be Fr. Abraham Alonzo, Fr. Mark Reburiano and Fr. Ray Albano. All 81 Filipino Catholic priests in the San Francisco Archdiocese have been invited to attend the mass and to bring along their parishioners.

State Sen. Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) reminded rally organizers at a July 4 Filipino community Independence Day picnic in San Bruno that when he spoke at the Philippine Independence Day festivities at the Intercontinental Hotel in San Francisco on June 12, he said, speaking about the crisis in the South China Sea, “when you examine the situation objectively, when you just look at the facts, you will have to conclude the Philippines is right and China is wrong.”

### Global Rallies Set

Rallies are also planned at the Chinese Embassy in Washington DC and at Chinese consulates in Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston and Saipan. Protest actions are also planned in front of Chinese government offices in Denver and Atlanta.

In Rome, Merilla Murillo reported that a meeting on July 11 attended by almost 50 Filipinos was held to plan the protest rally in front of the local Chinese Embassy on July 24.

Similar actions are planned in London, Sydney and Copenhagen. Even in China-dominated Cambodia, a group of Filipinos plan to protest in front of the Chinese Embassy in Pnom Penh

on July 24.

In a prayer to be delivered at the July 24 protest rally, Fr. Abraham Alonzo wrote: “We praise you Father, for walking with us through our journey to freedom from both foreign domination as well as well as from our Martial Law years... Today, more than ever, our freedom is under a serious attack by the invasion of the Communist government of China, whose godless ideology has no regard for the basic human rights of its neighbors much less of its own people.”

The New York Times op-ed article of Loida Nicolas-Lewis ends with this statement which reflects the sentiments of the Filipinos protesting on July 24:

**“To the government of China, we say, the will of a Filipino people that is united is more powerful than your threats and your armaments. To the people of China, we declare, we have no quarrel with you but with your government, which has established a Manchukuo-style regime in Sansha City to lord over the South China Sea. To the people of the world we say, we are confident that you will support our quest to ensure that justice, not brute force, will prevail.”**

For more information on the global protest on July 24, please log on to [usp4gg.org](http://usp4gg.org).

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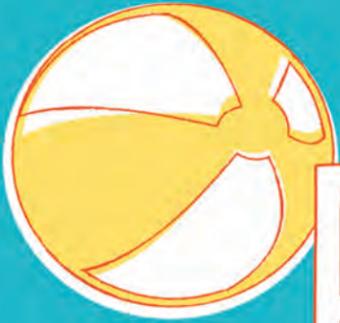
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