Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All!

Christmas is indeed a joyous occasion but some of us this year will be celebrating the birth of Christ with heavy hearts—particularly those who have been affected by the recent tragedies in the Philippines. Ever attentive to the needs of our less fortunate kababayans, a group of volunteer Filipino doctors and medical professionals from Hawaii have traveled to the midst of the devastation in the Visayas where they are helping to mend the physical and emotional wounds that victims have suffered. Let’s continue to pray for those affected by the tragedies—that they may find comfort and hope during this very difficult time.

The tragedies in the Philippines are reminders of how precious life is and the importance of living each day to its fullest. Sometimes we get so caught up in the “busy-ness” of life that we forget what a gift life is, and how it’s up to each of us to live everyday as if it were our last—because one of these days, it will be.

Having said that, we at the Chronicle are very grateful for the many blessings we have received. And with the faithful support of our friends and generous advertisers, we have been able to continue our mission of providing Hawaii’s Filipino community with the very best reporting and news.

In closing, we would like to wish all of you the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Years! May you be gifted this festive season with wonderful moments that fill your heart with smiles and cheer. And may 2014 be decorated with sweet memories, wonderful days and memorable nights. Have a great year ahead!

EDITORIALS

Following the Christmas Star

One of the most beloved symbols of Christmas is the ubiquitous Star of Bethlehem. In the Philippines, the star is called the parol, or colorful star lantern, which can be seen everywhere during Christmas, including in homes, churches, businesses and along busy streets.

While scholars and scientists have debated the source of the star, most Christians simply believe that God put a star in the heavens to announce the dawn of the first Christmas. The Bible says this special star guided the shepherds and wise men, or magi—a name given to the stargazers and wise men of ancient Babylonia and Persia.

These magi first saw the star in their own land, and realizing it was no ordinary star, followed it west to Jerusalem to see the newborn king. In the Gospel of Matthew, it’s interesting to note that the star actually moved and stopped. It went ahead of the wise men, supernaturally guiding them as they traveled hundreds of miles. Bear in mind that traveling was extremely difficult during those times. There were rivers to navigate, uncharted deserts to penetrate, mountains to cross, and bands of robbers and cutthroats to face. They traveled for months, following the star to Jerusalem and then to the little town of Bethlehem where shone it brightly over the place where the baby Jesus was born.

Just as the magi closely followed the Star of Bethlehem over vast distances, in this journey of life, let Jesus be your guiding star, especially for the coming new year which will bring its share of challenges that will cause anxiety and worry. Let’s remember to trust that God can give us bearings for today and tomorrow, as He did with the wise men.

Many of us have heard the oft-quoted advice of well-known American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson to “Hitch your wagon to a star.” If you do, just make sure it’s hitched to the Star of Bethlehem.

Haiyan—A Symbol of the Perils of Global Warming

The consensus among the scientific community is that global warming will increasingly lead to more frequent and more severe weather, including mega storms around the globe.

Scientists are now gathering data to find out if Super Typhoon Haiyan, the strongest storm ever to hit land with wind speeds exceeding 310 kilometers per hour, actually was a manifestation of global warming.

Following the storm and its initial impact on human suffering, perhaps the responsible action the media ought to bring light to is whether or not storms like Haiyan are a direct result of climate change triggered by increased greenhouse gases produced by human activities such as burning of fossil fuels and deforestation.

If there is any possible link between irresponsible human activity on the environment to the devastation that occurred in the Philippines, there is no better time than now to discuss the issue. At a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Warsaw where delegates from over 190 countries gathered for two weeks to discuss climate change, Philippine student leader Ditto Sarmiento was quoted as saying “If not us, then who? If not now, then when? If not here in Warsaw, where?”

Christiana Figueres, who was helping to oversee talks in Warsaw, said the typhoon was part of a “sobering reality” of global warming. She believes Haiyan will become a symbol of climate change for years to come, just as Hurricane Katrina.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology climatologist Kerry Emanuel predicted that the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones would increase due to greenhouse gas emissions in the 21st century, and that the increases will most likely be pronounced in the western North Pacific, which is where Haiyan struck.

Jim Kossin, an atmospheric scientist with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climatic Data Center, said storms like Haiyan thrive on warm water that goes deep into the ocean. Haiyan dipped down near the equator, where it likely picked up more steam, before heading to the Philippines, similar to what happened in Hurricane Katrina, which picked up steam as it passed over warm waters in the Gulf of Mexico in August 2005. Among other factors, warmer (continued on page 3)
and efficiency. Countries through energy conservation greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by lowering mitigating climate change Intergovernmental Panel on burning of fossil fuels and human activities such as the global warming is caused by occurred since 1980. The fright- face temperature has in- rising. The earth’s mean sur- sphere and oceans since the warming, the earth’s atmos- 

typhoon and earthquake vic- 
tims in the Philippines. It 
warms my heart to see how quickly we have reached out to our kababayans. My per- sonal thanks to all of you who generously contributed to the various relief efforts! We as a community are truly vibrant because of people like you who generously give of your time and resources.

At last month’s Council meeting, I presented an hon- orary certificate to a group of World War II Filipino-Ameri- can veterans for their mili- tary service. Our country owes a debt of gratitude to these veterans who not only helped to win the war, but also shortened its duration, limited the financial cost and spared the lives of many Americans who would have died or suffered injuries had it not been for their involve- ment. We today live as free citizens, thanks to these and other veterans from previous conflicts. On a personal note, my late father, State Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Menor, was a member of the U.S. Army’s 1st Filipino Infan- tary during World War II.

Also last month, I at- tended a special fundraiser at the Filcom Community Cen- ter which honored veteran newscaster Emme Tomim- bang. She has worked tire- lessly on many projects throughout the years that have led to the betterment of our community. By the way, I have known Emme for many years and consider as my per- sonal friend. Her husband Judge Jim Burns was a mem- ber of the Judiciary along with my father. And Judge Burns’ late father Governor John Burns—one of the most significant figures in Hawaii’s history—was a mentor and friend of my father and ap- pointed him to serve as an As- sociate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Looking back at this past year, I’m amazed at how quickly time has passed. It seems that it was just yester- day that I was sworn in as a councilmember. From Day 1, I’ve worked hard to address the many issues facing our community—repaving City streets, restoring cuts in bus service, addressing homeless- ness, increasing the numbers of affordable for-sale and rental units on Oahu, and au- ditng the Board of Water Supply to ensure that it is being run efficiently—to name just a few. And along the way, I’ve been able to bet- ter acquaint myself with many of you.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your councilmember. I can be reached at 768-5009 or via email at: menor@honoaul.gov if you need assistance. From my family to yours...have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

EDITORIALS

By Councilmember Ron Menor

C hristmas is by far my favorite time of the year. Here at Hon- oulu Hale, the City’s elves have done a marvelous job deck- ing the halls with tinsel, mistletoe, lights and other colorful deco- rations. I also joined the mayor for the annual Christ- mas Tree Topping Ceremony on December 6th on the front lawn of Honolulu Hale. Please visit City Hall if you haven’t had a chance yet to see the many beautifully-decorated trees and other displays!

On a more serious note, let’s continue to pray for the typhoon and earthquake vic- 
tims in the Philippines. It 

waters increase the intensity of storms, along with wind speed and direction.

Global Warming

Many climate researchers think that tropical storm ac- tivity will increase as the planet warms. Due to global warming, the earth’s atmos- phere and oceans since the late 19th century has been rising. The earth’s mean sur- face temperature has in- creased by about 0.8 degrees C (1.4 degree F). The fright- ening fact is that two-thirds of the increase in temperature occurred since 1980.

The consensus is that global warming is caused by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels and destruction of forests. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change believes mitigating climate change can be reduced by lowering greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation and efficiency. Countries must look into renewable energy to meet their power demands and begin massive reforestation programs.

The alternative of inac- tion would result in continued global warming and more severe weather causing devastation around the globe. Poorer countries are even more vulnerable since they have less resources to pre- pare for severe weather and to deal with the aftermath. Countries such as the Philip- pines, due to its geographical positioning where typhoons are naturally frequent even without the effects of global warming, could be at greater risk.

Haiyan is the third storm to hit the Philippines in less than 12 months. Earlier, Ty- phoon Trami caused massive flooding in Luzon; Typhoon Bopha killed up to 2,000 people and caused US$1.7 billion in damage in Mindanao. Haiyan’s estimated damage by Bloomberg In- dustries is expected to reach US$14billion.

Symbol of Global Warming

Figueres was right to claim Haiyan as a symbol of global warming in Warsaw. By doing so, the fight to stop global warming becomes politicized with human suffer- ing. The tendency for most people is to view natu- ral disasters as a no-fault sit- uation, an act of nature that cannot be prevented. But as scientists become more cer- tain that global warming is linked to severe weather, we must all be more aware of our partial accountability when such disasters strike and of the importance of mitigating climate change.

Stopping global warm- ing will take international cooperation. Its failure as a political movement to this day sadly is related to gov- ernments’ unwillingness and inability to innovate renew- able energy to power our cities and communities. It’s time that this issue be given greater priority and atten- tion.

Visit our websites @ www.hawaiifilipinochronicle.com and www.epilipinochronicle.com and enjoy the e-copy of the hawaii-filipino chronicle!
For many Filipino families, Christmas is a magical time of not only celebrating the birth of Christ, but to also enjoy the company of immediate and extended family members.

Christmas is the most important holiday in the Philippines. Rooted in the Roman Catholic heritage of the Spanish colonial era, Christmas was introduced to the Philippines a short time after 1565, when the Spaniards formally established their presence in the islands. The Philippines holds the distinction of celebrating Christmas longer than any country in the world. The festivities last for nearly a month, beginning early on the morning of December 16 with the first of nine consecutive early morning masses called the “Misa de Gallo” (or dawn mass). The typical Filipino family works hard throughout the year to make ends meet and are at times apart from each other due to work, school and other obligations, so important holidays like Christmas are a time for family members to reconnect with each other.

Parents also stress to their children early on about the importance of gathering with family or returning home for Christmas.

“I was taught by my dad that Christmas is a time to honor God and to thank Him for coming into this world to save us,” says Rhea Ruiz of Salt Lake. “To properly celebrate Christmas and to honor God, the entire family needs to be together. That’s why everyone in our family always made it a point to come home for Christmas and to celebrate Christ’s birth.”

Christmas Eve in the Philippines is highly-anticipated event. Many families stay awake the entire evening and continue celebrating well into Christmas Day.

As a child, Ruiz remembers everyone in her family would stay up until midnight on Christmas Eve. Her parents’ home in Cebu would be opened to everyone and filled with the sounds of laughter, music and the delicious aroma of foods like lechon, puto, bibingka and tuko (hot chocolate). As she grew older, she learned how to cook and would help prepare Filipino-style fruit salads and even pizza from scratch.

Relatives and friends would be dancing, while neighbors would drop by to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. The streets would be well lit and full of activities. Children would run in and out of the house to play and eat.

“At midnight, we would stop dancing and gather to pray,” she says. “Then we would have a family meal and more dancing afterwards. Sometimes there would be fireworks.”

The festivities at the Ruiz household would continue until the wee morning hours. Family members who were still awake would make their way to the seashore and wait for the sunrise to welcome Christmas Day.

For Waipio resident Ruffa-linee Villanueva, her family has always observed the nine days of early morning mass before Christmas. And on Christmas Eve, her family would attend midnight mass at St. Joseph’s Church in Waipahu.

“Afterwards, we would gather as a family to partake in my mom’s specially-prepared Noche Buena feast,” she recalls. But rather than stay up all night, her family would exchange Christmas gifts and then head to bed. A few hours later, everyone would awaken to attend an early morning Christmas Day mass. After offering their thanks to God, there would be more eating and family festivities.

Villanueva says it’s important for families to celebrate an important holiday Christmas together under one roof. She says families are linked to one another forever—for better or for worse.

“Many times we forget how important family is,” she says. “We take for granted all the wonderful things that having a family brings to our lives. Christmas should be a time for everyone to focus on the importance of family and being together.”

For Vilma Fuentes of Ewa Beach, Christmas also means being with her family, having parties, going to mass and exchanging gifts. While she can do those things here in Hawaii, she still prefers celebrating Christmas back home in Cebu where she is originally from.

“It’s more fun in the Philippines,” she says. “There’s no place I’d rather be to celebrate Christmas. For me, Christmas will always be a celebration of the birth of a divine baby born in the manger—Jesus Christ.”

Fuentes returned home last summer for a visit and thankful her family was unaffected by the recent typhoon and earthquakes.

Dr. Richard Kua of Aiea also prefers celebrating Christmas in the Philippines, specifically Baguio City, where his family is from. One of his earliest memories of Christmas at the age of 7 was his parents’ fireplace and Christmas tree.

The Kua family’s Christmas traditions involved attending an evening mass and having a big family meal together during Christmas Eve.

“We celebrated the Chinese version of Noche Buena,” he says. “It’s the same except we ate Chinese food like nooddles, dumplings and chicken and fish dishes.”

Kua also stresses the importance of celebrating the holiday with family, especially since Christmas involves the Holy Family. As Kua grew up,
his older brothers and sisters went to Manila to study, so Christmas was a time for family members to get together.

From page 5...

Not surprisingly, Kua also prefers celebrating Christmas in the Philippines.

“There’s a closeness with your family and even neighbors in the Philippines that you can feel,” he says. “Here in America, it’s a different feeling.”

Keeping ‘Christ’ in Christmas

During the holidays, it’s easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season, including shopping, going to parties, decorating the tree and other activities. While these are good, it’s not the reason why we celebrate Christmas in the first place.

Felino Tubera of Honolulu has noticed the extreme over-abundance of commercialism during Christmas. He says there are other ways besides gift giving to express your goodwill during Christmas, such as caroling and other forms of social interaction.

According to Tubera, there are many families suffering from broken relationships that no amount of gift giving can ever mend.

“The way I look at it, forgiveness is the best gift you can give to someone and to yourself,” he says. “Christmas is about mending broken relationships. Now would be a good time to forgive others, especially those you have been holding a grudge against.”

Interestingly enough, in his book, “Forgive and Forget,” author Lewis B. Smedes writes: “When you release the wrongdoer from the wrong, you cut a malignant tumor out of your inner life. You set a prisoner free, but you discover that the real prisoner was yourself.”

More and more people are also eschewing gift giving—not because they are scrooges, but instead to refocus on the “Reason For the Season.” Those who took the leap reportedly felt lighter and unburdened, compared to those shoppers who find themselves stuck in long lines in the aisles, waiting to pay for gifts that may lose their meaning shortly after they are unwrapped.

Tubera and his wife have decided against buying toys for their 16-month-old granddaughter Maxine Grace, opting instead to give her cash.

“A few days after Christmas, the toys will be thrown away or lose their meaning,” he says.

“We’ve given cash to our granddaughter’s parents, hinting to them to save it for her future. At her age, she doesn’t appreciate the value of money.”

A simple way of remembering Christ during Christmas is to put up a nativity scene, or belen, at your home. Just make sure that it’s placed in a focal point like in the living room or near the entrance. The belen is a traditional Filipino Christmas symbol depicting the infant Jesus in a manger surrounded by Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and their flock, the wise men, stable animals and angels.

Saint Francis of Assisi is credited by historians for creating the first nativity scene in the year 1223. He reportedly gathered local people in Italy to portray the biblical characters and used a figure made of wax to represent the infant Jesus. The portrayal quickly caught on, and live as well as sculpted nativity scenes quickly spread all over Europe. The event is depicted in stained glass windows in churches and cathedrals throughout the Philippines.

Ruiz says that the best way to keep Christ in your Christmas celebration is to have Him present in your daily life—not just during the Holiday Season, but all year round. For Ruiz, this means daily revealing the character, love and spirit of Christ that dwells in you and allowing these traits to shine through your actions to everyone you meet.

“For Christmas to be truly meaningful, Jesus has to be the focus,” Ruiz says. “Our children should know what the celebration is all about. They won’t learn it at school or from all the advertisements. They will only know if we teach them about it.”

What is Your Christmas Wish and to Whom Would You Like to Wish a Merry Christmas?

“I’d like to wish everybody the joys of Christmas and the hope and promise that the New Year brings! As we celebrate this holy season, let us keep in our prayers those who have less in life, those who are sick, the homeless, the hungry, and those who are marginalized.”

— Jun Colmenares, Honolulu

“I wish my heart will find peace, love and happiness… Families will always be there to support, guide, understand and love each other… Kids would always be in good health and obedient… and peace for everyone so we can live safely.”

— Vilma Fuentes, Ewa Beach

“If I have a wish this Christmas, it would be to share and feel loved all the time. To whom I would like to wish a Merry Christmas is to my Mother, personally with a tight hug and kiss, which has not happened for many years now.”

— Lynette Iglesias, New York

“My wish for this Christmas is to be with my family and wishing all my friends and relatives a Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas.”

— Fe Revilla, Ewa beach

“I just want my loved ones to be happy and healthy. I always pray to God to heal my cousin Seig’s sickness so he can be a normal kid like me.”

— Lawrence Pagulayan, age 6, Waipahu

“It is my glorious hope and wish that the message of love and spirituality of Christmas triumphs and reigns over the psyche and soul of humanity… for everyone at any age, everywhere.”

— Felino Tubera, Honolulu

“My wish is for the safe return of all service men and women who are protecting our freedom. Merry Christmas to all our family and friends and a Happy New Year, 2014!”

— Christy Yamada, Mililani
Abercrombie Announces $1.1 Billion Fiscal Turn-Around Since 2011

Gov. Neil Abercrombie recently announced that the State ended Fiscal Year 2013 with a positive fund balance of $844 million. The positive balance marks a $1.1 billion turnaround since the governor took office.

Abercrombie and State Finance Director Kalbert Young made the announcement at a Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii luncheon where attendees were brief on the state’s fiscal situation and economic outlook.

In 2011, the state faced a $220 million shortfall, leaving it with crippled government programs, furloughs and poor reserve levels and balances. Through difficult but necessary financial control measures implemented by the Abercrombie administration in FY 2011, 2012 and 2013, the state gradually increased its ending balances. By carefully managing the state’s financial resources, affordable and sustainable contracts were negotiated with the majority of public workers. The state was also able to recapitalize reserves for the Rainy Day and Hurricane Relief funds in the amount of $211 million, and critical government services like agricultural inspections were restored.

“We’ve worked diligently to stabilize and grow our economy and fiscal situation during my first three years of office,” Abercrombie says. “We are now in a better situation to address key social and community issues like early education, environmental protection, homelessness and support for our seniors. Only with a strong economy and sound financial management can we adequately address these important issues.”

Furthermore, $1.2 billion was expended in FY 2013 for priority capital improvement projects that invest in state infrastructure and facilities while strengthening the local economy and generating job opportunities. As of October 2013, Hawaii’s unemployment rate was 4.4 percent, compared to the national jobless rate of 7.3 percent.

Recently, institutional and retail investors responded favorably to the state’s 2013 general obligation bond sale. On November 21, 2013, the state successfully completed the sale of $860 million of tax-exempt and taxable general obligation bonds.

“This year’s successful bond sale is the latest reflection of investor confidence in the State of Hawaii,” says Finance Director Young. “The better things get, the shorter memories sometimes become. Just three years ago, our state had a less-than-favorable rating and faced a dire financial situation. We have accomplished much in a short period of time. The difficult decisions we made are now paying off. We will continue to responsibly manage the state’s fiscal affairs in order to grow our economy and provide quality government services to the people of Hawaii.”

City Mails 2014 Real Property Assessments

City officials will send approximately 293,000 real property assessments for 2014 to property owners this week. The total assessed valuation of all taxable real property on Oahu has increased from $184.3 billion to $200.6 billion, an overall increase of 8.8 percent.

New developments, including residential subdivisions, condominiums, commercial and industrial projects, and construction of new buildings and improvements to existing parcels, and increases in the values of properties are contributing factors for the overall increase. The 2014 assessed valuations were set as of October 1, 2013, and based on sales of similar properties through June 30, 2013.

Residential property gross valuations increased from $148.1 billion to $162.7 billion, or by 9.9 percent. Hotel and resort property values increased 6.4 percent, commercial property values increased 5.9 percent, and industrial property values increased 2.4 percent. These percentage changes represent broad totals and do not necessarily reflect the value of a particular property.

“This year’s real property assessments are a reminder that Oahu’s economy is improving and real estate values are up,” says Mayor Kirk Caldwell. “The increase in Oahu property values will help us narrow the budget shortfall, but we will not know exactly how much additional revenue the City will receive until appeals are concluded on February 1st. Even in the best case scenario, we will still need to find cuts and revenue enhancements to minimize the budget shortfall’s impact on taxpayers while improving core city services.”

The notice includes property assessment information including any exemption which the owner has been granted in accordance with City ordinance. The standard homeowner’s exemption for an owner-occupied property is $80,000 and increases to $120,000 when the homeowner reaches age 65 or older.

Leeward Job Fair Set for January 2014

If you’re looking for a job and live on the Leeward coast of Oahu, mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Leeward Job & Career Fair which is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu campus from 10 am to 3 pm.

The event is open to the public and admission is free for job seekers. Queen’s Medical Center, Central Pacific Bank, JW Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa and Jamba Juice are just some of the Leeward businesses participating.

The fair will also offer free career development seminars with guest speaker who will speak on:

- How to Prepare for an Interview
- How to Write a Resume
- Dress for Success Tips
- How to Start a Business
- Time Management Techniques

City Councilmember Kymberly Marcos Pine launched the “Hire Leeward” initiative at last year’s job and career fair. “Hire Leeward” is a five-year campaign that seeks to encourage Leeward residents to seek Leeward jobs; reduce traffic congestion to town; encourage better cooperation among Leeward job employers and job seekers; encourage Leeward residents to buy from Leeward companies; hold job training events; and improve the quality of life for Leeward residents.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/hireleeward or call Councilmember Pine at 768-5001.
Ilocano Wins Case Against Ineffective Counsel

Ramiro, an Ilocano from Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, was with his “barkada” (Filipino slang for “group of friends”) when one of them shouted that somebody wanted to buy drugs. Ramiro did not want to become involved and threw away a plastic packet. Another picked it up and gave it to the one who shouted. The latter then gave it to the buyer who turned out to be an undercover agent.

Ramiro and his barkada were charged with drug distribution before a federal court. Ramiro pleaded not guilty. Since he appeared without a lawyer, the judge appointed a lawyer for Ramiro. The court-appointed lawyer told Ramiro that if he fought and lost he would get 20-40 years but if he pleaded guilty counsel would negotiate a term of 12 to 18 months. Ramiro, terror-stricken, agreed to change his plea to “guilty.” Ramiro asked the lawyer about the possibility of deportation. The lawyer told Ramiro that he “may” be deported. He did not tell Ramiro that drug distribution is an “aggravated felony” and that he will be deported. Ramiro contacted us. We filed a 28 U.S.C. § 2255 petition to vacate a sentence of a person in federal custody. We alleged that his counsel was ineffective by misadvising Ramiro before changing his plea to guilty that (1) he “may” be deported when the correct advice should have been that he “will” be deported, and (2) he would be released after serving his sentence when the correct advice should have been that after serving his sentence he will continue to be detained pending removal proceedings. We alleged that if Ramiro had been told the truth he “will” be deported and that the maximum sentence he could get was 24 months if he went to trial and lost, he would have gone to trial and might have won because a reasonable juror could conclude that he was “discarding” not “distributing” drugs. We contended that Ramiro was prejudiced because he gave up his right to a jury trial and was convicted and served a prison sentence, and faced continued detention pending removal proceedings. We argued that but for the deficient performance of his attorney, the result of the case would have been different. The judge summarily dismissed our § 2255 petition, saying that the criminal defense counsel’s performance was not ineffective and that Ramiro did not show prejudice.

We appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals which held: The district court erred by summarily dismissing Ramiro’s motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Ramiro is entitled to relief if his counsel “effectively misled” him about the immigration consequences of his guilty plea and he was prejudiced by that misleading advice. Prejudice requires establishing that, but for counsel’s errors, there is a reasonable probability “he would not have pleaded guilty and would have insisted on going to trial.” “Because Ramiro has adequately alleged that his counsel’s performance was both objectively unreasonable and prejudicial, his § 2255 motion should not have been summarily dismissed.” The court vacated the district court judge’s dismissal and remanded the case for further proceedings.

While this case was pending DHS filed removal proceedings against Ramiro and he was ordered removed. The court refused to hold in abeyance his removal pending the outcome of this case. DHS deported Ramiro without notifying his counsel. We will ask the court to order the DHS to bring Ramiro back so that he can continue to fight his case.

By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Consultate Signs Pact with U.S. Labor Dept to Protect Filipino Workers

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu joined officials from consuls generals in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Agana, Guam in signing alliance agreements with the U.S. Dept. of Labor to promote and protect the labor rights of Filipino workers.

Through this new partnership agreement, OSHA and the four Philippine consulates will reach out to Filipino workers in Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to explain their rights in the workplace and the responsibilities of their employers under the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

“Workers have the right to safe and healthful jobs, and to know and understand their rights in the workplace,” says Ken Nishiyama Atla, OSHA regional administrator. “This is a tremendous opportunity to work with the consulates and community groups. We can reach out to these workers and provide information that will enhance the quality of the workplace and their work lives.”

In conjunction with OSHA, the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu will organize a series of lectures on occupational safety and health in various industries such as hotel, caregiving, health, nursing and construction. Last September 2013, the Consulate organized a lecture on commercial fishing safety for Filipino fishermen at the Honolulu Pier.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS
More Pinoys See Better Life in Next 12 Months – Survey

by Helen Flores
Thursday, December 19, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - More Filipinos look forward to a better life in the next 12 months, a recent Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey showed.

SWS said the net personal optimism rose to a “very high” +35 in September, with 40 percent of the respondents saying they expected the quality of their lives to improve in the next 12 months and six percent claiming otherwise.

This was higher than the “high” +28 (35 percent optimistic, seven percent pessimistic) recorded in June.

The survey was conducted from Sept. 20 to 23 or before the Oct. 15 magnitude 7.2 earthquake in Bohol and Cebu and the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yolanda in the Visayas.

The Bohol quake killed more than 200 people while Yolanda left more than 6,000 dead and close to 2,000 missing as of the latest count.

The survey used face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults nationwide.

Net personal optimism was “very high” across all socioeconomic classes, the SWS said. It rose to +33 from a “high” +27 among the D class, to +49 among the ABC crowd and to +36 among members of the E class.

By region, it rose to a “very high” +37 in Luzon, to a “very high” +35 (from +24) in Mindanao and to a “high” +29 (from +16) in the Visayas.

It dropped to +35 in Metro Manila, although the figure was still in the “very high” territory.

Meanwhile, 24 percent of the respondents said their lives improved compared to last year while 36 percent said it worsened.

For net personal optimism, the SWS considers scores of +30 and above as “very high” and +20 to +29 as “high.” The +10 to +19 range, which contains the historical median and mode, is classified as “fair.”

Scores of +1 to +9 are “mediocre,” zero to -9 “low” and -10 and below “very low.”

Filipinos’ outlook on the economy was also “very high” at a net +17, unchanged from June, the SWS said.

For net economic optimism and net gainers, the SWS uses “low” for scores ranging from -20 to -29 and “very low” for -30 and below since the most common answers historically have been highly negative. “Fair” applies to -9 to zero, -10 to -19 is “mediocre,” +1 to +9 “high” and +10 and above “very high.”

The SWS said optimism on the economy stayed “very high” among all classes.

It was up by 16 points to +28 among the ABC, a point higher at +17 among the masa but nine points lower at +13 among the E class.

By region, it was “very high” in all areas except Metro Manila.

Optimism on the economy improved to +16 from a “high” +8 in Mindanao, and by a point to +23 in balance Luzon. However, it fell two points to +11 in the Visayas.

The SWS poll has sampling error margins of plus or minus two percentage points for national and plus or minus six percentage points for area percentages. (www.philstar.com)
“Like A Calling”-- An American Filipino Eager to Help Shows Up in Tacloban

By Emil Guillermo

In Tacloban City, there was to be a candle lighting ceremony for those lost to Yolanda/Haiyan. It was to be held on the 17th, the 40th day since the super typhoon.

When I last checked the death toll was well over 5,000.

Hearts are still heavy, but now, more people are choosing to go to the Philippines to see how they can help.

As I write, Kayak tells me you can go to Cebu from Honolulu for about $1575-$2000, depending on the number of stops and whether you want to patronize PAL.

It’s coach class, but comfort is relative. At least you’ll be dry. Not like it was in Tacloban.

While some were able to connect with the Red Cross or humanitarian groups in the U.S. prior to going, one of my relatives wasn’t bothering.

“Too much red tape,” Judy, the wife of my late cousin said. “I’m going now. They can’t stop me.”

My family is from Ilocos, with most still around Laoag. For them, Yolanda/Haiyan was just a bullying rain storm. It wasn’t a nightmarish monster of a typhoon.

Judy’s side of the family is from that central region where they speak Waray. She has visited a number of times and her mother just came back from a visit in October.

Judy just couldn’t wait for paperwork or training. She was ready to go now.

“I feel like it’s a calling,” she told me.

People know “tsunami.”

(continued on page 10)
PHILIPPINE NEWS

Noy: US Statement vs China to Help Reduce Tension Over Sea Row

by Pia Lee-Brago
Thursday, December 19, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - President Aquino believes US Secretary of State John Kerry’s pronouncements and those of officials of other countries on China’s air defense identification zone would reduce tension in the disputed areas.

Speaking to reporters after an event in Malacanang yesterday, Aquino said the pronouncements would be helpful.

“I suppose it is good that America said that – very categorical and very clear,” he said.

“It’s not only America… South Korea also, Japan and other countries. Everybody wants to have stability in the region and stability is necessary for prosperity. And one would like to think that all countries are after the prosperity of their peoples.

“…That shows the countries that have embarked on what seemed to be adding to the tension to perhaps pause and think, and perhaps bring them closer to having something towards reducing the tensions.”

Aquino refused to elaborate on US assistance and spoke only in broad terms.

“This will provide technical expertise, training, and again, the equipment… to support our capability building for the Philippine Coast Guard and the PNP (Philippine National Police) in the areas of maritime security, counterterrorism and other law enforcement training,” he said.

Press Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said Aquino and Kerry had a private meeting on Tuesday night in Malacañang and discussed areas of cooperation in economic development, including expanded trade and investment and US assistance in hastening the reconstruction effort in calamity areas.

“They affirmed the two countries’ partnership in promoting stability, the rule of law and preserving freedom of navigation in the (West Philippine Sea),” he said.

“Also clarified were parameters of the framework agreement on rotational presence that will be fleshed out in continuing bilateral talks. All of these were discussed within the context of common history and shared values.”

In his speech during the dinner for Kerry, Aquino thanked the US for strongly supporting the rule of law in moving towards the peaceful resolution of tensions in the region and the significant assistance it extended to the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Yolanda.

Kerry said, “I’m pleased to come here today on behalf of President (Barack) Obama and the American people to rekindle the ties between us and to reaffirm America’s commitment to help in this effort to rebuild and to continue to stand with the Philippines as we share values and aspirations and a lot of history so that we deal with the problems of the South China Sea, and the… challenge of meeting the aspirations of our people, the challenges of security, of growing our economies, building a new trade relationship and indeed, of living up to the hopes of the people who give us these responsibilities.”

Kerry visited the country to boost ties and personally see the situation in Tacloban City. (www.philstar.com)

CANDID PERSPECTIVES

They know that word.

Calling a spade a spade might have saved lives. In an archipelago of 7,200 islands, with practically a dialect per island, working toward clearer communication might have helped. And who do you blame that on? Not just Malacanang. Some local governments failed to do what was done in Balankayan, and now residents are paying the price.

Judy’s last message: “People have strength,” she continued. “They are rebuilding while foreigners are here to help rebuild… Have to turn off roaming for now.”

It was time for prayer.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award winning journalist and commentator.
ACLOBAN, Philippines — The United States is providing nearly $25 million in additional humanitarian aid to help the Philippines deal with the enormous devastation and deaths wrought by Typhoon Yolanda last month, US Secretary of State John Kerry said yesterday after touring the worst-hit region.

Kerry flew to Tacloban City, where he was overwhelmed by the vast landscape of wrecked villages that he saw. He visited a food-distribution center run by USAID and government welfare officers, talked with officials and consoled survivors.

Tacloban, a city of 220,000 people, bore the brunt of Yolanda’s fury last month as towering tsunami-like waves whipped up by the storm obliterated many of its coastal districts.

“This is a devastation unlike anything that I have ever seen at this scale,” Kerry said at a temporary USAID headquarters in Tacloban. “You have to see this to really believe it, and to feel it and understand it.” “It is really quite stunning,” he said. “It looks like a war zone and to many people it is.”

The new food aid, shelter materials, water and other supplies he announced for typhoon-lashed families bring the total US assistance package to $86 million to one of its closest Asian allies.

One of the most ferocious typhoons to hit on record, Yolanda (Haiyan) left more than 6,000 people dead and nearly 1,800 others missing. It damaged or swept away more than 1.1 million houses and injured more than 27,000 people.

More than four million people were displaced, with about 101,000 remaining in 300 emergency shelters in typhoon-smashed central provinces.

“Entire communities leveled, water up to the second story of the airport tower, and all of this covered in water,” he said, gesturing toward tents during his visit to the USAID depot near Tacloban’s airport.

Kerry paid tribute to the resilience, courage and determination of the survivors while waiting for international aid.

In a state dinner hosted by President Aquino Tuesday, Kerry described the Filipinos as “beautiful people—smiling, energized, and unbelievably strong as we have seen in their amazing resilience as they fight back against the extraordinary forces of Mother Nature.”

“And it is clear that we found new meaning in our relationship as we saw the United States join hands with you in order to respond to the needs of so many people,” he said. Kerry offered a toast for the health and resilience of Philippines-US relations. Aquino said that with its quick response to pleas for help for Yolanda victims, the US has proven its genuine concern for an ally in trouble.

Across Tacloban many remain homeless and are living in crowded camps or in temporary shelters made from scrap wood and tarpaulin.

A faint stench of decay hangs in the air, almost six weeks after the tragedy, and authorities are still struggling to fully restore some essential services as Christmas approaches.

“We are trying to get the Christmas spirit up, but it is not easy when you’ve lost relatives,” said Catholic priest Amadeo Alvero, who administered last rites to hundreds of dead or dying victims in the immediate aftermath of Yolanda. (www.philstar.com)

Chinese Envoy to Phl: Nothing Can Keep Us from Being Friends

MANILA, Philippines - Despite the row over maritime territories and occasional exchange of bitter words, China and the Philippines still enjoy a "deep historical friendship," the top Chinese diplomat in Manila said.

Outgoing Chinese Ambassador Ma Keqiang believes that the tension between the Asian neighbors will not last long as both sides are keen on mending the "strained" relationship.

"United we win, divided we lose. So, upon leaving, I have confidence that I would look forward to the day when our relations would be back the normal track and will be even better again. I hope the day will come sooner than later," Ma said in a farewell dinner on Tuesday night as quoted in a state news report.

Ma was appointed ambassador to the Philippines January 2012 and will end her tour of duty early next year.

I learned a lot from these two years. One of the most (challenging) experiences is that how to deal with a host country with which your own country has a conflict of sovereignty. It is very complex (since) it bears the national sentiments of both countries," Ma admitted.

Ma said that her term as China's representative in Manila was immediately met with a renewed public and political interest on the overlapping claims over Spratlys Islands in the West Philippine Sea—a situation she dealt with locally by winning friends and reaching out.

"Outside Metro Manila I have visited nine provinces and spoke to students in a dozen universities and also local civil society. I have also managed to make friends [in] these difficult times and I am very lucky to have all of you to support me and help me in my endeavors," she said, addressing a crowd of industry leaders. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

US Gives Additional $25-M Typhoon Aid to Phl

by Aurea Calica

Thursday, December 19, 2013

The United States is providing nearly $25 million in additional humanitarian aid to help the Philippines deal with the enormous devastation and deaths wrought by Typhoon Yolanda last month, US Secretary of State John Kerry said yesterday after touring the worst-hit region.

Kerry flew to Tacloban City, where he was overwhelmed by the vast landscape of wrecked villages that he saw. He visited a food-distribution center run by USAID and government welfare officers, talked with officials and consoled survivors.

Tacloban, a city of 220,000 people, bore the brunt of Yolanda’s fury last month as towering tsunami-like waves whipped up by the storm obliterated many of its coastal districts.

"This is a devastation unlike anything that I have ever seen at this scale," Kerry said at a temporary USAID headquarters in Tacloban. “You have to see this to really believe it, and to feel it and understand it.” “It is really quite stunning,” he said. “It looks like a war zone and to many people it is.”

The new food aid, shelter materials, water and other supplies he announced for typhoon-lashed families bring the total US assistance package to $86 million to one of its closest Asian allies.

“One of the most ferocious typhoons to hit on record, Yolanda (Haiyan) left more than 6,000 people dead and nearly 1,800 others missing. It damaged or swept away more than 1.1 million houses and injured more than 27,000 people.

More than four million people were displaced, with about 101,000 remaining in 300 emergency shelters in typhoon-smashed central provinces.

"Entire communities leveled, water up to the second story of the airport tower, and all of this covered in water,” he said, gesturing toward tents during his visit to the USAID depot near Tacloban’s airport.

Kerry paid tribute to the resilience, courage and determination of the survivors while waiting for international aid.

"And it is clear that we found new meaning in our relationship as we saw the United States join hands with you in order to respond to the needs of so many people,” he said. Kerry offered a toast for the health and resilience of Philippines-US relations. Aquino said that with its quick response to pleas for help for Yolanda victims, the US has proven its genuine concern for an ally in trouble.

Across Tacloban many remain homeless and are living in crowded camps or in temporary shelters made from scrap wood and tarpaulin.

A faint stench of decay hangs in the air, almost six weeks after the tragedy, and authorities are still struggling to fully restore some essential services as Christmas approaches.

“We are trying to get the Christmas spirit up, but it is not easy when you’ve lost relatives,” said Catholic priest Amadeo Alvero, who administered last rites to hundreds of dead or dying victims in the immediate aftermath of Yolanda. (www.philstar.com)

Chinese Envoy to Phl: Nothing Can Keep Us from Being Friends

by Camille Diola

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - Despite the row over maritime territories and occasional exchange of bitter words, China and the Philippines still enjoy a "deep historical friendship," the top Chinese diplomat in Manila said.

Outgoing Chinese Ambassador Ma Keqiang believes that the tension between the Asian neighbors will not last long as both sides are keen on mending the "strained" relationship.

"United we win, divided we lose. So, upon leaving, I have confidence that I would look forward to the day when our relations would be back the normal track and will be even better again. I hope the day will come sooner than later," Ma said in a farewell dinner on Tuesday night as quoted in a state news report.

Ma was appointed ambassador to the Philippines January 2012 and will end her tour of duty early next year.

“I learned a lot from these two years. One of the most (challenging) experiences is that how to deal with a host country with which your own country has a conflict of sovereignty. It is very complex (since) it bears the national sentiments of both countries," Ma admitted.

Ma said that her term as China's representative in Manila was immediately met with a renewed public and political interest on the overlapping claims over Spratlys Islands in the West Philippine Sea—a situation she dealt with locally by winning friends and reaching out.

"Outside Metro Manila I have visited nine provinces and spoke to students in a dozen universities and also local civil society. I have also managed to make friends [in] these difficult times and I am very lucky to have all of you to support me and help me in my endeavors," she said, addressing a crowd of industry leaders. (www.philstar.com)

Personal Injury
Asbestos Mesothelioma

We can help you get justice.

- Auto Accidents
- Industrial Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Help you get to medical appts.
- Home and hospital visits
- Help with insurance forms
- Help you with legal forms
- Help with car and towing

If you've been seriously injured in an auto or industrial accident, please call Loretto M. Viloria at our Waipahu office. He has over two decades of experience working with attorneys to help injury victims understand their rights and insurance procedures. We speak fluent Tagalog and Ilocano at our Waipahu office and treat every client like family. There is no charge for an initial consultation and no fee if there's no recovery.

Gary Galicher, Atorneys at Law
Galicher de Robertis Ono
Call 24 hours Office: 676-5665 Cell: 227-2333

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Statement: If you have a disability and need assistance with these materials, please call 1-800-872-2213 and use Voice Relay Service.

Hawaii Filipino Chronicle
December 21, 2013

© 2013 Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. All rights reserved.
Only 377 Out of Almost 11,000 Pass PNP Exam

by Dennis Carcamo
Wednesday, December 18, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - Only 377 out of 10,966 examinees passed the admission test to the Philippine National Police Academy last November 10. The examinees took the three-hour PNPA Cadet Admission Test in 24 key cities nationwide. It consisted of four parts—English and Communications, Mathematics and Science, Abstract and Logical Reasoning and General Information and Current Events.

The PNPA administration, under Chief Superintendent Noel Constantino, has increased the recruitment and selection standards starting this year which includes adopting a competency-based predetermined passing score of 60 percent and with no score below 50 percent in each of the four parts of the examinations which totaled 200 items.

To attract the best and the brightest applicants for PNPA cadetship, for the first time, high school valedictorians and salutatorians as well as college cum laude graduates who are qualified were granted the privilege to be exempted from taking the cadet admission test.

A total of 144 honor high school graduates (valedictorians and salutatorians) and honor college graduates (cum laude) have availed of the privilege.

Passing the highly-competitive CAT examinations is only the first stage of the PNPA cadet admission system as the successful examinees together with the qualified honor student graduates will undergo a series of tests to be conducted by PNPA Cadet Admission Committee and to be ably assisted by the PNPA National Headquarters.

The tests include psychological, psychiatric, physical, medical, dental, drug test and physical fitness test.

The passers will also undergo background investigations and a panel interviews.

The PNPA said that if an exam pass fails any of the tests, he will not be allowed to proceed to the next stage. The congratulatory notices will be sent to the successful CAT examinees as well as notices to the qualified honor student graduates within this week, the PNPA said.

Those who will receive the notices must report to the PNPA Training Service in Camp Crame, Quezon City not later than 8 a.m. of January 13, 2013 and bring with them the said notice and other requirements as indicated in the said notice.

They may also check out the PNPA website at www.pnpa.edu.ph or for any inquires may call the PNPA Registrar’s Office mobile numbers 0917-8169415 and 0939-9393769.

Those who will hurdle all stages of admission will be appointed as PNPA cadets as members of Batch 2018 not later than May 1, 2014.

PNPA cadets are more than full government scholars as in addition to free tuition, board and lodging and initial clothing allowance, they also receive a monthly pay and allowance amounting to P29,525.

PNPA cadets who successfully complete the four-year training are conferred a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Safety and are commissioned as Inspectors in the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and the Bureau of Fire Protection.
Filipino Caregivers Recover Over $800k in Unpaid Wages

On December 18th, International Migrants Day, workers from three San Francisco carehomes celebrate their recent settlement agreements, ending their months-long claims against their employers which totaled over $800,000 in unpaid wages.

Filipino caregivers employed by Sunset Gardens, Nacario’s Home of San Francisco, and Veal’s Residential Care Homes joined other workers to raise awareness about wage theft in this industry and the rights of all workers, regardless of their immigration status.

“Over the last few years, the Filipino Community Center (FCC) has proudly supported Filipino caregivers and also hotel and restaurant workers in reclaiming over $1 million in unpaid wages,” says Mario de Mira, FCC’s Workers Rights Program Coordinator. “We congratulate these Filipino caregivers for their victory in asserting their rights in an industry that takes advantage of workers, especially immigrant workers.”

Filing their claims with the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE), the workers faced similar conditions to many other residential care-home workers. Caregivers sometimes work nearly 24 hours a day, but they are rarely paid the legally mandated minimum wage, overtime, or double time for these extended work schedules.

“The Sunset Gardens employees worked extremely long hours cooking, cleaning and caring for the residents,” says Donna Levitt, manager of the City’s Office of Labor Standards Enforcement. “They must be paid no less than minimum wage and overtime for their work.”

Together with City Attorney Dennis Herrera, OLSE has now reached settlements and verbal agreements with seven residential care facilities over the last two years, recovering a total of over $1.5 million in wages.

During the labor dispute, the Tanato family, owners of the Sunset Gardens, initiated the sale of their personal and business properties and told others that they would be leaving the country. The OLSE and the City Attorney co-counseled with the Wage Justice Center, the Employment Law Center, and the Workplace Justice Initiative to pursue the workers’ claims and ensure that the Tanatos did not escape justice.

“Low-income, immigrant workers often fail to see the wages to which they are entitled. But these workers fought to realize their rights. By doing so, they have recovered over $800,000 in unpaid wages.”

The USCIS has also addressed the problem of improper rerouting which is particularly important to beneficiaries who will not seek adjustment of status in the US or who are not eligible for Section 245 benefits.

In discussions with representatives from the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the USCIS said that the response to Form I-130, Section C, Question 22 will determine whether the file will be forwarded.

To ensure routing to the National Visa Center, the consular post has to be indicated in the I-130 form and it’s advisable to state that the beneficiary is ineligible under Section 245. If the form is correctly filled out and the case is improperly sent to the National Records Center, the local USCIS Field office should be contacted so that the file will be routed to the National Visa Center without filling Form I-824.

Form I-824 is an application to request further action on a previously approved application or petition and the filing fee is $405. It may be used to request USCIS to send an approved immigrant visa petition to the US Department of State’s National Visa Center.
Bieber Brings Cheer to Typhoon Survivors in Tacloban

Pop megastar Justin Bieber sang to young survivors of the Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) after he flew into the disaster zone to boost an international relief effort.

Bieber arrived unannounced in Tacloban City about a month after it was devastated by Yolanda and sang Christmas carols to children at a local school amid tight security. “He sang ‘Holy Night’ for the children,” says Kate Donovan, a spokeswoman for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), one of three aid agencies that will benefit from Bieber’s charity work. Photos posted on social media showed young fans with mobile phones snapping away at the Canadian teen heartthrob, who has more than 46 million followers on Twitter. Prior to visiting the Philippines, Bieber posted a message on fund raising website Prizeo.com urging his fans to donate to the victims of the typhoon. He also said that those who donated to this cause could win a chance to personally see him record music next year.

“Many other international celebrities have loaned their voices to the massive rehabilitation effort, including Grammy-award winning singer Alicia Keys who visited victims airlifted to Manila several weeks ago,” (Good News Pilipino)

Philippine Government Vows to ‘Build Back Better’

Top Philippine government officials have expressed their collective commitment to “Build Back Better,” a principle of building more resilient communities in areas devastated by Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan).

Speaking before the members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations, Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III stated, “We know that we cannot allow ourselves to be trapped in a vicious cycle of destruction and reconstruction. We know that it is more efficient to prioritize resilience now, rather than to keep rebuilding. This is why we are going to build back better.”

Aquino delivered his remarks at the closing of the Briefing for the Development Partners of the Philippines on Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda, which was co-organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Finance.

The Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda (RAY) is developing an operational framework for the rehabilitation of disaster-affected areas. RAY represents the results of the preliminary assessment of damage, loss and needs by sector and outlines the core principles, strategies and mechanisms in reconstruction and recovery. It is a phased, cumulative and flexible response to address the impact of Typhoon Yolanda.

Samsung Electronics and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) co-hosted a Briefing for the Development Partners of the Philippines on Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda, which was co-organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Finance.

The Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda (RAY) is developing an operational framework for the rehabilitation of disaster-affected areas. RAY represents the results of the preliminary assessment of damage, loss and needs by sector and outlines the core principles, strategies and mechanisms in reconstruction and recovery. It is a phased, cumulative and flexible response to address the impact of Typhoon Yolanda.

“With President Aquino’s leadership and your support, we hope to successfully implement RAY as a continuation of the president’s promise to the Filipino people. Please join us in this extraordinary mission to rebuild, renew and reinvigorate the Visayas,” Del Rosario said. (DFA)

MAINLAND NEWS

[from page 11, FILIPINO...]

so, they showed what can be done when government and the community come together in the fight for wage justice,” says Jay Shin, an attorney with The Wage Justice Center.

The State of California’s Division of Labor Standards Enforcement & Bureau of Field Enforcement also got involved and visited the care-home. With all of this attention, the Tanatos’ relatives, owners of the Nacario’s Home of San Francisco, negotiated a settlement and finally paid their workers.

“We are honored to have been able to stand alongside these brave workers who stood up for their most basic right—to be paid for their work,” says Carole Vigne, the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center’s attorney for the plaintiffs. “We hope this settlement will serve as an example to other workers whose rights have been violated so that they too can find justice.”
To our Advertisers, Readers, Family and Friends,

Thank you for all your support and encouragement throughout the years. Your confidence and trust in us give us strength to continue our work. Above all, we thank the Lord Almighty for His Continued Blessings Upon Us.

May you have a Very Merry Christmas and A Prosperous & Safe New Year that is filled with love, joy, peace and hope!

From The Management and Staff of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle
EAT

BAKON HABANERO RANCH

SOUTHWEST McWRAP®

PEEL

ONE HOT® HOLIDAY

WIN

XBOX ONE

PUWEDE KANG MANALO NG ISA SA LIBO-LIBONG XBOX ONE ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM O MILYON-MILYON PANG IBANG PREMYO FOR XBOX. KAYA TARA NA SA McDonald'S® PARA SA SPICY TASTE OF VICTORY TODAY. MERONG SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE TO LOVE, AND WIN, MULA SA McDonald'S.

*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. LIMIT FIVE (5) PRIZE CLAIMS PER PERSON PER DAY. Must be a resident of US & DC, 13 or older. Game begins 10/3/13 and ends 12/31/13, or while supplies last. Game subject to Official Rules available at participating restaurants and OneHotHoliday.com; see Rules for complete details, eligibility restrictions, prize information, ARV, odds and how to play without purchase. Odds of winning Xbox One 1/12/21. To receive a Game Pack without a purchase, write to: McDonald's, 6225 North Cedar Avenue, Chicago, IL 60656. No purchase necessary by 12/31/13. One request per online email. Limit 500 requests per person. VT residents may omit return postage. See Official Rules for complete details. Void where prohibited. Sponsor: McDonald’s USA, LLC. Oak Brook, IL 60521. Microsoft & Fox Broadcasting Company are not sponsors of this promotion. ©2013 McDonald’s. All rights reserved.