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MINIMUM WAGE HIKE: WHAT IT MEANS FOR HAWAII'S ECONOMY

COVER STORY PAGE

4



HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

MAUI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONORS 7 OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS

6



IMMIGRATION GUIDE

MARRYING TO BEAT DEPORTATION

7



PHILIPPINE NEWS

U.S. EYES USE OF NAVY BASE IN CAGAYAN

12



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EDITORIALS

Minimum Wage Hike to Negatively Impact Local Business

The signing of Senate Bill 2609 into law by Gov. Neil Abercrombie raises Hawaii's minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour by 2018. Depending on whom you talk to, raising the minimum wage can have both good and bad effects. A 2012 study by the Economic Policy Institute concluded that raising the minimum wage is not only good for the economy but also reduces employee turnover and improves workers' productivity, while a 2014 report by the Congressional Budget Office estimated that a federal minimum wage increase would cost America some 500,000 jobs.

Many small business owners testified against the wage hike, saying that it would make it even more difficult to survive. For one thing, an increase in the minimum wage would dramatically increase their payroll costs. To offset this cost, businesses would be forced to reduce employee hours, lay off staff, delay hiring and/or raise prices.

In our view, the free market is more than capable of handling the problems of unemployment and poverty much better than government bureaucrats. It's not that the wage should be set at a certain amount—only that it should not be left to government to decide. Rather, it should be between employer and employee. Business owners should be free to pay employees what they think they are worth. If employees don't agree, they are free to pursue employment elsewhere or join a competitor who pays better.

Just recently, the city of Seattle voted to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, making it the highest in the nation by far. Like Honolulu, Seattle will gradually phase in the increase over a period of several years. What many don't know is that SeaTac, a suburb of Seattle that encompasses the Seattle-Tacoma Airport, raised its minimum wage to \$15 at the start of the year and that consequences are now starting to be felt. There have been reports of managers taking on more responsibilities rather than hire more workers, businesses laying off workers or eliminating plans to hire more, and hotels cutting employee benefits, free food and overtime.

The jury is still out on the affects that a higher minimum wage will have on our local businesses. We can only hope and pray that the unpleasant results in SeaTac won't happen in Hawaii. If so, it would be an expensive lesson for our state's leaders to learn.

Election Season Kicks Into High Gear

With the June 3, 2014 candidate filing deadline come and gone, the 2014 election season is officially in full swing. Filipinos are key players in several races, including the high profile ones. State senators Will Espero and Donna Mercado Kim and Councilmember Joey Manahan are among the Democratic candidates in a crowded race for U.S. Representative, District 1. Early polls show Kim, State Senate president, out in front, with Espero and Manahan lagging behind. The winning Democrat will likely face Republican Charles Djou.

In the State House, Kalihi representative (District 30-Sand Island, Mokauea, Kapalama and Kalihi Kai) Romy Cachola will run opposed, despite an on-investigation by the State Campaign Spending Commission into his campaign's financial records and reporting. With Cachola's finances still under scrutiny, many observers felt that the veteran lawmaker was particularly vulnerable, especially since he defeated political newcomer Nicole Velasco

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Can you believe that another school year has come and gone? In fact, we are nearly at the halfway point of 2014. With summer now here, there will be graduation parties to attend and vacations to take. To all graduates, congratulations and



best wishes for continued success in your academic endeavors! Please turn to page 11 for a partial listing of our top high school graduates of Filipino ancestry. We tried to list the names of more students and their accomplishments but were unable to due to time constraints.

Our cover story for this issue delves into the minimum wage hike and its potential impact on the economy and local businesses. While not as heated as gay marriages, raising the minimum wage still generated a fair amount of debate and testimony. Supporters believe that an increase would help low-wage workers cope with the extremely high cost of living in Hawaii, while critics say raising the minimum wage comes at a time when the economic recovery for many industries and businesses is still fragile. In the end, the wage hike was approved by both houses of the State Legislature and signed into law by the governor. Turn to page 4 to find out what others think about the wage hike and what it could possibly mean for our state.

In other Hawaii-Filipino news, the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce will honor seven Filipinos for their outstanding leadership and community service at the 2014 Gintong Pamana Leadership Awards. We salute these individuals for distinguishing themselves in their respective fields. To find out more about the awardees, turn to page 6.

Lastly, June 1 to November 30 is hurricane season. Weather forecasters are anticipating more than the usual number of tropical cyclones in the Central Pacific region due to El Nino conditions caused by warmer-than-usual ocean surface temperatures. With a greater potential for a hurricane to affect our state this year, officials have emphasized the need for everyone to be prepared for natural calamities and other emergencies. While we have been lucky to dodge several hurricanes and tsunami alerts, let's not be lulled by a false sense of security. You can prepare yourself and your family by taking three simple actions—get a supply kit, prepare a personal evacuation plan and stay informed.

As always, we encourage you to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com with story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii's dynamic and vibrant Filipino community. Our sincerest thanks to all of you for reading and faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle!

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

two years ago by a narrow 120 votes. Inexplicably, Republicans were unable to field a candidate for this race.

Unlike Cachola, another Filipino State representative who also made news earlier this year won't get a free ride. Rida Cabanilla (District 41-Waipahu, Honouliuli and West Loch) recently came under fire after the Ewa Historical Society, a non-profit that she controls, was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the State Legislature. Although the State Ethics Commission closed the complaint filed against her, Cabanilla still faces an uphill climb. She faces HPU assistant professor Matthew LoPresti in the Democratic Primary, then, if she advances, former City Councilmember Tom Berg in the General. In a third House race, incumbent Representative Henry Aquino (District 38-Waipahu, Crestview and Seaview) will run yet once against perennial candidate and attorney Alex Sonson.

In the City Council, Filipinos Brandon Elefante and Baybee Hufana-Ablan square off in the race for District 8 (Aiea, Pearl City and Waipahu). Elefante is a council legislative aide and a member of the Filipino Jaycees, while Hufana-Ablan was former executive secretary of the City's Neighborhood Commission.

To all the candidates, thank you for running for office and best of luck. May the best men and women win!

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Not One More? Only If We Don't Forget the Isla Vista Shooter

festos, it certainly makes the point loud and clear. Rodger didn't like being Asian, and he saw it as a flaw in his quest for women—especially his preference. The murderer preferred blondes.

Women and sex, or the lack of them, was what life was all about for Rodger, a self-described un-kissed virgin at age 22.

Race definitely played a part, along with class and misogyny, in Rodger's "Day of Retribution," his revenge for his "miserable, lonely, celibate life."

It's all in his 137-page "manifesto," a late cry for help in the age of the narcissistic internet.

Rodger's roots are exposed in this verbal "selfie." In it, Rodger chronicles the evolution of a young man's awkwardness from adolescence to young adult. It's a half-Asian kid assessing his self-worth—at

age nine—that he was not very "cool."

This revelation about the world, and about myself, really decreased my self-esteem. On top of this was the feeling that I was different because I am of mixed race. I am half White, half Asian, and this made me different from the normal fully-white kids that I was trying to fit in with. I envied the cool kids, and I wanted to be one of them. I was a bit frustrated at my parents for not shaping me into one of these kids in the past. They never made an effort to dress me in stylish clothing or get me a good-looking haircut. I had to make every effort to rectify this. I had to adapt.

He bleached his hair blonde. Unfortunately, dye jobs don't last. But Rodger was hoping life was one big "Boy-meets-Jennifer Aniston" pop culture fantasy, where life was spent chasing the trappings of "cool." To Rodger,

that meant Armani shirts, Hugo Boss tennis shoes, and shiny BMW cars. He even had a narcissistic mantra he said to himself to boost his confidence: "I am the image of beauty ad supremacy."

No wonder girls didn't like him. Rodger thought attracting women was about wealth. He thought about getting rich through writing an "epic" novel or screenplay, then got discouraged. Instead, he spent hundreds of dollars trying to win the lottery. That didn't work. Of course, he was more privileged than poor. He often traveled first class with his family to Asia and Europe. But that wasn't getting him his idea of the holy grail—sex with some hot blonde. He grew angry and frustrated. With his sexless life, he turned up the self-hate.

His anti-Asian self-hate became even more evident. Of his two Asian roommates he wrote: "These were the biggest nerds I had ever seen, and they were both very ugly with annoying

voices...I knew that when the Day of Retribution came, I would have to kill my housemates. If they were pleasant to live with, I would regret having to kill them, but due to their behavior I now had no regrets about such a prospect. In fact, I'd even enjoy stabbing them both to death while they slept.

The two roommates were Cheng Yuan Hong, 20, and George Chen, 19, from San Jose. A third Asian male, Weihan Wang of Fremont, was also killed inside the apartment.

Knives are one thing. But after my experience with my cousin's death, what emboldened the shooter were the gun laws. All that needs to change.

Rodger was confused, but harmless until he gunned up.

We need tougher laws if indeed there is to be #notonemore.

EMIL GUILLERMO, an award-winning journalist and winner of an American Book Award, was an editorial board member of the Honolulu Advertiser.

People are using the hashtag #notonemore on social media.

But you know there will be.

I thought I was pretty hardened after my cousin Stephen Guillermo's recent shooting death. But when I heard about the Isla Vista rampage and the 7 dead and 13 wounded, I realized Stephen's case was just a subset of the larger picture of gun violence in America.

And then there's the race dimension of the story. That the killer, Elliot Rodger, was half-Asian (Chinese on his mother's side) probably wasn't the first thing you heard as people analyze root causes for his actions over this Memorial Day weekend. But if you read his mani-



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COVER STORY

Raising Hawaii's Minimum Wage: What It Means for the Economy

By HFC Staff

Gov. Neil Abercrombie recently signed Senate Bill 2609 (Act 82) which incrementally increases the state's minimum wage rate over the next four years and the tip credit over the next two years.

Act 82 increases the state's minimum wage rate to \$7.75 per hour beginning January 1, 2015. The rate will be raised to \$8.50 per hour beginning January 1, 2016, to \$9.25 per hour beginning January 1, 2017, and to \$10.10 per hour beginning January 1, 2018.

The law also raises the tip credit to 50 cents per hour beginning Jan. 1, 2015 and 75 cents per hour beginning January 1, 2016, as long as the combined amount the employee receives in wages and tips is at least \$7 more than the applicable minimum wage beginning January 1, 2015.

The tip credit is a term used to determine the amount of money an employer can subtract from the minimum wage to determine the cash

wages paid to regularly tipped employees. The current tip credit for Hawaii is \$ 0.25 an hour, which means employers may pay tipped employees \$7 an hour. However, if an employer takes a tip credit, Hawaii law requires that employee wages plus tips add up to at least \$0.50 more than the minimum wage, or \$7.75 an hour. If the employee's hourly wage plus tips earned don't add up to at least \$7.75 an hour, the employer must make up the difference.

Hawaii becomes the third state this year to raise the minimum wage rate to \$10.10 per hour, joining Connecticut and Maryland. Currently, Hawaii's minimum wage is \$7.25—the same as the federal minimum wage. President Barack Obama supports raising the



Gov. Abercrombie signs Senate Bill 2609

federal rate to \$10.10 but his proposal remains buried in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. Obama did, however, offer congratulations to his home state.

"I applaud Governor Abercrombie and the Hawaii Legislature for increasing their state's minimum wage. Their actions will help to ensure that hardworking people of Hawaii receive the raise all Americans deserve," the president says.

The Right Thing to Do?

Supporters say that the minimum wage hike not only provides the state's lowest paid workers with economic stability and security, but will also help the economy. Dwight Takamine, director of the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), expects the wage increase to boost consumer demand and generate economic activity as workers spend more on goods and services.

"The last four times the minimum wage was increased, the number of businesses went up by an average of 2.4 percent and the number of jobs increased an average of 2.1 percent 12 months later," Takamine says.

State Sen. Will Espero, who voted in favor of the bill,

said raising Hawaii's minimum wage was "the right thing to do." With the last increase seven years ago, the buying power of wages has decreased when factoring in inflation.

"Workers will certainly benefit from the new increases," he says. "These dollars will circulate into our local economy, help businesses and assist low income workers with caring for their families."

Also voting in favor of the bill was State Sen. Donna Kim, who says that the Senate gave careful consideration to balancing the increase in the minimum wage with not impacting businesses where jobs would be lost.

"Ultimately, we believed the increase was long-overdue and necessary in a place where the cost of living is very high, where working men and women have to struggle to pay for rent, food, utilities, transportation, health care, education, and all the basic necessities of everyday living," she says.

Anti-Small Business?

The majority of those who testified against Senate Bill 2609 were small business owners. Beth Hoban, president

of Prime Care Services Hawaii, is concerned with the impact to her company.

"The higher wages raises our cost of doing business because we have to pay higher prices for the goods and services that we purchase," she says.

Prime Care Services Hawaii is a licensed medicare-certified home health agency that has been in business for the past 20 years.

State Sen. Sam Slom voted "no" on the measure, believing that it would adversely affect the economy, particularly small businesses. Ninety-five percent of all businesses in Hawaii, Slom says, are small, struggling and can not endure additional compulsory costs on top of taxes, rents, utilities and supplies.

"Those that are paying a minimum wage now will have increased costs starting January 1, 2015 but will get pressure from other employees above that wage for an increase as well. Non-business people do not understand that most employer mandates like unemployment comp, workers comp, TDI and matching tax payments are based on experience and the wage base. As the wage goes up these costs in-

(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, RAISING ...)

crease as well," he says.

In written testimony before state lawmakers, Richard Parry, president and chief executive officer of Aloha Petroleum, Ltd., expects that the minimum wage increase to cause "substantial financial burdens" on locally-run businesses. Parry estimates that the labor cost impact alone will be more than \$300,000 in the first year and over \$1.7 million per year by 2018, leaving the company with four options:

- Pass the costs on to customers through higher prices
- Hire fewer entry level workers or reduce the number of employees
- Reduce the numerous and enhanced benefits currently provided to employees
- Reduce profitability

"All of these options have negative consequences for our employees, for the company and for Hawaii as a whole," Parry says.

Aloha Petroleum employs over 500 workers. Roughly 360 of those employees work at 42 convenience stores statewide.

Gwendolyn Purdy, vice president of Island Princesses, also provided written testimony against the wage hike. She says the company hires employees at \$7.25 per hour but provides wage increases for productivity, skills development and seniority.

"Not a single soul hired at

Island Princess at minimum wage last year who has passed their probation is still making minimum wage," Purdy says. "We call this personal growth. The process empowers people and makes them strong."

Island Princess owns a candy factory in Honolulu and a Macadamia orchard in Hilo. The company employs over 150 employees.

A third businesses executive, Roger Morey, Hawaii Restaurant Association executive director, says that the mandatory wage increase could leave restaurant owners little choice but to raise menu prices, scale back employee hours or eliminate jobs altogether.

"Restaurants are a very labor-intensive industry that operates on very slim margins, so when labor costs rise as it would with a minimum wage hike, there is virtually no wiggle room to absorb the impact," Morey stated in written testimony.

State Sen. David Ige says that during the legislative process, Senate leaders carefully considered the concerns raised by small businesses.

"I recognize the impact this legislation could have on our small businesses," he says. "To assist small businesses during this time of transitional increase, we spread out the increase from \$7.25 to \$10.10 over the span of four years. This will allow owners and those in the small business community to make the necessary adjustments and a smoother transition as we im-

plement this new law," he says.

Helping the Working Poor

Ige concedes that the new law is not the sole determining factor that will lift the working poor out of poverty. Hawaii's high cost of living continues to financially burden many families.

"Until we find a way to reduce the cost of housing, energy and food, we will continue to see many living in poverty," he says. "By investing in the sustainability of our state, combined with this increase in the minimum wage, we will begin to make a difference for those struggling to make ends meet."

Sen. Kim says that the causes of poverty are far wider and deeper than what a higher minimum wage can solve. Poverty can be linked to lack of education, family upbringing, health problems and other factors.

"The minimum wage was never intended to be a living wage. It is in fact, an entry-level wage," she says. However, with our high cost of living, a higher minimum wage is necessary. There's much more to be done to help the poor with their basic needs. Providing opportunities for the poor to succeed, such as through public

education, must be a priority."

Economists' Views

So what do the experts say? In an online blog, Dr. Carl Bonham of the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization cites a growing body of economic evidence that small minimum wage increases reduce poverty and have little or no adverse effects on employment levels.

Bonham concludes that businesses adjust to minimum wage changes in a wide variety of ways, and that reductions in labor turnover, improvements in organizational efficiency, reductions in wages of higher earners and small price increases "appear to be more than sufficient to avoid employment losses, even for employers with a large share of low-wage workers."

Fellow economist Leroy Laney takes a more cautious approach. He is a current professor of economics and finance at HPU and former chief economist for First Hawaiian Bank.

"Our lawmakers had all the good intentions when they

increased the minimum wage which is good," he says. "However, just remember that raising the minimum wage could increase the unemployment rate. People may not find a job at a higher wage."

Laney's colleague Dr. Feifei Zhu, assistant professor of finance and economics, says absorbing a wage increase can be bad for small businesses if they cannot pass on the hike to consumers.

"Some businesses will be driven out of the market," she says.

A fourth economist, Paul Brewbaker, says that the effects of raising the minimum wage varies from state to state. In Hawaii, there are relatively low unemployment rates and a lot of people already earn well above the statutory minimum.

"The jury is still out on how much benefit there is," Brewbaker said in a television news interview earlier this year. "At the end of the day, the best way to improve people's incomes and lives is for them to improve their skills and be better educated."

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Special Plantation Era Book Reading Scheduled for June 8

A special reading by storytellers featured in the book "Filipinas! Voices From Daughters and Descendants of Hawaii's Plantation Era" will be held on June 8, 2014 at the University of Hawaii-Manoa's Hamilton Library Room 301, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

The reading will be moderated by author Dr. Patricia



Dr. Patricia Brown

Hawaii Plantation Village's Board of Directors. She is also the author of "Kula San: Maui's Healing Place."

The storytellers include Amalia Bueno, Charlene Cuaresma, Rose-Marie deAquino Philips, Deanna Espinas, Nicolita Marie Garces, Sharon Matutino, Lise Miller, Anna Ramos and Darlene Rodrigues.

The event is open to the public and will have free parking. For more information, email Dr. Brown at: pbrown3311@gmail.com.

Brown, president of the Filipino American Historical Society of Hawaii, a national trustee for the Filipino American National Historical Society and a member of the



SAFETY ALERT: HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season begins in June.

For your safety and the safety of your family, prepare for emergency conditions before they occur:

- Gather emergency supplies, such as a battery-powered radio, flashlights, lanterns, and batteries.
- Store enough water, non-perishable food, and medicine for your family members and pets to last seven days.
- Become familiar with the location of emergency shelters in your area. Refer to the Hawai'i State Civil Defense list of hurricane shelters online at www.scd.hawaii.gov, or call 733-4300.
- Make plans to go to a safe location where electricity will be available if someone in your home depends on an electrically powered life support system and you don't have a backup generator.

For more safety tips, refer to Hawaiian Electric's Handbook for Emergency Preparedness online at www.hawaiianelectric.com, or call 543-7511.



www.hawaiianelectric.com

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Maui Chamber Honors Filipinos For Outstanding Leadership

The Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce has announced seven awardees for the 2014 Gintong Pamana Leadership Awards. The awardees will be honored at the Chamber's banquet scheduled for June 18, 2014 at the Maui Beach Hotel.

The seven award recipients are:

- **Joyce Afalla**—a staunch social justice advocate who served as president of Neighbors Helping Neighbors and immigration chair for Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE) Maui. In 2013, Afalla lobbied for reunification and immigration laws while helping undocumented families fight for equal rights. She is a State Case Worker for the Department of Human Services.
- **Emmanuel Baltazar**—as secretary of Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center, Baltazar led the Hotel Industry Awards Night and other events that perpetuated the Filipino culture. His dedication to the community was highlighted when he chaired the 2013 Barrio Fiesta Flores de Mayo Coronation program at the War Memorial soccer field. Baltazar continues to direct the Barrio Fiesta pro-

gram, which is now in its 45th year. He works as the lead houseman at the Grand Wailea Hotel Resort & Spa.

- **Alfredo Evangelista**—an attorney in private practice, Evangelista initiated and chaired the Fil-Am Heritage Festival on Maui for three consecutive years. He also developed programs that promote the Filipino culture such as the Master P-Noy Chef cooking contest, Speedy Balut Eating Contest and the Filipino Fashionista attire contest. He has served on numerous nonprofit boards both on Maui and Oahu, and made key contributions to the community.
- **Nante Manangan**—directed MMA War on the Valley Isle and Boxing Under the Stars in 2013 which provided a venue for local and international mixed martial athletes to compete. He has dedicated much of his time and resources to train students, most of whom are underprivileged, and to steer them onto the right path. Manangan's students continue to excel in the sport and look up to him for the values he has taught.
- **Liezl Oandasan**—organized a disaster-relief



fundraiser when Typhoon Haiyan stuck the Visayan region of the Philippines. As president of the Sto. Nino Club of Maui, she was quick to raise funds from the community, which included a fundraiser at the Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa, where she works in property operations.

- **Elmer Tolentino**—served on several community boards, including as vice president of the Maui Filipino Community Coun-

cil. He also led the organization at the Rizal Day celebration in 2013 which honored several community leaders. Tolentino often gives back to the community, including generous donations to the needs of his province in the Philippines. He works as a purchasing manager at the Westin Maui Resort & Spa.

- **Jojo Vasquez**—led a team of Maui chefs in a 2013 foodie-fundraiser dubbed “Kain Na! Kokua for the

Philippines” which raised more than \$20,000 for typhoon and earthquake victims. Guests at the fundraiser enjoyed an array of delicious Filipino-inspired dishes. Vasquez is the executive chef of the Plantation House in Kapalua.

The public is invited to attend the awards banquet. For more details, please call 291-9407 or 385-6532, or send an email to: info@mauifilipinochamber.com.

Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls Elects Officers for 2014-16 by JP Orias



BCCW's officers and Board of Directors members are sworn in to office by PhI Consulate Acting Head, Consul Roberto Bernardo.

Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW) has announced its slate of officers and members of the board of directors for the 2014-2016 term.

The following officers have been elected:

- President: Nicanor Joaquin, MD
- Vice President: Benilda Luz-Llena, MD
- Secretary: Imelda Joaquin
- Treasurer: Russell Tacata, MD
- Board of Directors: Elizabeth Abinsay, MD; Carolina Davide, MD; Jay Flores, RPT; Sorbella Guillermo, MD; Perlita Lampitoc, MD; Josephine Waite, MD; Roland Ylarde, DDS; and Jerard Garcia, MD and president of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH).
- Ex-officio directors: Charlie Sonido, MD and Arnold Villafuerte, MD

- Auxiliary Committee Chair: Dory Villafuerte
- Auxiliary Committee Co-Chair: Tim Llana
- Public Relations Officer: Chona M. Sonido
- Executive Director: J.P. Orias

A non-profit, community based healthcare organization, BCWW was established in 1997 by the PMAH in response to the need for free medical services for those in Hawaii with little or no medical coverage. BCWW was bestowed 501(c)(3) privileges in April 1999.

BCWW continues to provide free medical and dental services to everyone, including indigent locals, the homeless, immigrants and others who cannot afford traditional medical coverage. To avail of BCWW's services, call 387-8297.



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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Marrying to Beat Deportation



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

A Filipina named Imelda (no, not our Imelda), entered the United States legally as a temporary worker. She overstayed the permission given her to remain in the U.S. after repeatedly seeking an extension. Immigration authorities placed her in deportation proceedings. She conceded deportability. The Immigration Judge (IJ) granted her 30 days to depart voluntarily, based partly on her promise not to marry a U.S. citizen during that time.

Eleven days later, she married a U.S. citizen. They had been seeing each other for several months before the deportation hearing. Her husband filed a visa petition on her behalf, and Imelda filed a motion to reopen her deportation hearing to allow consideration of her application for adjustment of sta-

tus. The IJ denied the motion to reopen because he considered her guilty of "a breach of faith and a misrepresentation" to the Court. The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) dismissed her appeal reasoning that neither the equity inherent in her marriage nor the hardship to her citizen spouse was entitled to much weight, because the marriage took place after she had been found deportable.

Imelda appealed to the Court of Appeals arguing that the BIA acted arbitrarily in dismissing her appeal because her case is not factually distinguishable from Matter of Garcia, 16 I. & N. Dec. 653 (BIA 1978), where the BIA established a policy of granting reopening in cases like hers. Like Imelda, the alien in Garcia's case married a United States citizen and then filed a motion to reopen deportation proceedings to apply for adjustment of status based on marriage, which took place after the alien was found deportable and granted voluntary departure.

In Garcia's case, the BIA announced this policy: "[W]e shall hereafter generally reopen

the deportation proceedings in such cases unless clear ineligibility is apparent in the record. . . [W]e believe that discretion should, as a general rule, be favorably exercised where a prima facie approvable visa petition and adjustment application have been submitted in the course of a deportation hearing or upon a motion to reopen."

The BIA in Garcia's case reopened the proceedings solely on the basis of the alien's last-minute marriage to a citizen, and did not require Garcia to show any additional equities. The BIA apparently considered the fact of marriage to a citizen an equity sufficient to warrant reopening. The BIA in Garcia's case qualified its policy of normally granting reopening in marriage cases by stating that it did not intend to establish an inflexible rule requiring the IJ in all cases to reopen the proceedings. It clearly would not be an abuse of discretion for an immigration judge to summarily deny a motion to reopen upon his determination that the adjustment application

would be denied in the exercise of discretion notwithstanding the approval of the petition.

The court said that BIA cannot properly rely on that qualification in this case. The BIA acts arbitrarily when it exercises its discretion to deny a reopening in one case when it has granted a reopening in another factually similar case. The BIA "may not proceed at whim, shedding its grace unevenly from case to case."

The court held that because this case is virtually identical to the Garcia case, in which the BIA granted the alien's motion to reopen, the BIA acted arbitrarily in treating Imelda differently. *Israel v. INS*, 785 F.2d 738 (9th Cir. 1986).

***CAUTION:** There is no guarantee that an alien's marriage to a U.S. citizen while in deportation proceedings or after having been ordered deported will result in a visa. Each case is different. Furthermore, this case simply ruled

that an alien who marries after having been ordered deported may move to reopen the case for consideration of an adjustment of status application by the IJ. The case did not say that the IJ will approve the application automatically. There is no such thing as "automatic". Not even "automatic" transmission where the driver still has to shift the gears from "park" to "drive".

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He is originally from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. Atty. Tipon specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. He served as an immigration officer and co-authored "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. His radio program airs Thursdays at 7:30 am on KNDI 1270 AM. He can be reached via mail at: 900 Fort St., Suite 1110 (corner Merchant) Honolulu, HI 96813, by telephone at (808) 225-2645 or by e-mail: filam-law@yahoo.com. For more on Atty. Tipon, go online to: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

OFCC Annual Convention Set for June 14

by Amado I. Yoro

Community leaders and delegates from various Filipino unit organizations will gather at the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu on June 14, 2014 for the Oahu Filipino Community Council's (OFCC) annual convention.

The 2014 convention, themed "OFCC Is Alliance; Alliance Is OFCC," is expected to draw between 150 to 200 delegates from over 40 unit organizations. As anticipated, proposed by-laws, amendments and resolutions will be deliberated.

The convention schedule is as follows:

- **7 am:** registration
- **9 am:** call to order by OFCC president Jean Jeremiah. Opening prayer by Rev. Alex Ravelo Vergara, followed by the singing of the national anthem, opening remarks by Convention Chairman Jake Manegdeg and introduction of keynote speaker by Rev. Vergara
- **9:15 am:** Keynote speaker Atty. William Domingo

- **9:45 am:** Initial report by the Registration and Credentials Committee, followed by the appointment of Convention officers including parliamentarian, timekeeper and marshals; and reports from the president, treasurer and standing committees.
- **10 am:** close of delegate registration
- **10:10 am:** final report by the Registration and Credentials Committee
- **10:30 am:** Powerpoint presentation by Pioneer DuPont BioTech
- **11 am:** Social security plenary session by AARP
- **11:30 am:** lunch
- **12:45 pm:** Convention reconvenes. Report by the Nominations and Elections Committee, followed by secret balloting, canvassing and tallying of ballots. Danny Villaruz will announce the election results with installation to follow. Newly-elected officers will assume their duties beginning July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.
- **3 pm:** adjournment

Pre-registered delegates must register in person by 10 am on June 14. As of press time, there were two candidates for OFCC president—current 1st vice president Angie D. Santiago and director Alex Vergara.

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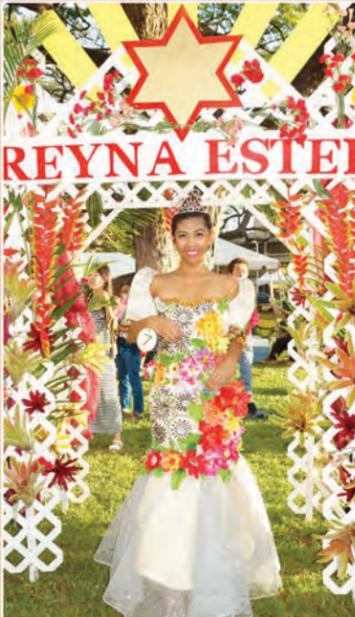
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HEALTH & FAMILY

How Okra Normalized My Blood Sugar

WELL-BEING by Mylene Mendoza-Dayrit

February 14 this year was extra memorable to me because that was the day I was declared diabetic!

My mother is, but I am the only one who's diabetic among my siblings.

I am taking medicines, exercising regularly, and dieting and while all of that significantly reduced my blood sugar by 20% in one week, it was a tip from a friend in Arizona which helped bring down my blood sugar to normal. She sent me a link about okra — aka ladyfingers or bhindi or gumbo pods (although in my research, it seems it is popular globally as okra) and how it helps diabetics.

The online discussions were encouraging. There were lots of testimonials on how simple yet effective the treatment was. So many swear by it and have stuck with the regimen for years.

Here's the recipe: Prepare okra water by using two fresh okras soaked overnight. Cut the ends of the two okras and slit them in the middle before placing in a glass of water. Keep overnight in room temperature. You can also cut the okras into four pieces each. You then take the water first thing in the morning on an empty stomach which should be slimy with the okra's mucilage. It is disturbing at first try, but the wonderful results encourage you to go on.

When I was diagnosed, my fasting blood sugar was 220. After taking medication, it went down to 180. But after a week of okra water (plus my medication), my blood sugar went down to 110 and is now between 86 and 92.

I always knew that a combination of exercise, diet, and medication helps diabetics. My doctor proclaimed he would help me be normal in three months so he was extremely surprised when I did it in one month.

One of my colleagues, who's at least 10 years younger than me, already takes

insulin shots. I have been encouraging people to try okra water and combine it with their medication so he did. Now, he said he doesn't need insulin shots!

According to www.medicalhealthguide.com, through the years, the simple okra has had a long list of medicinal benefits, to wit:

“Decoction of young okra fruit is used to treat inflammation of the mucous membrane, especially of the respiratory tract. Okra juice is used to treat sore throat associated with coughing. Decoc-



tion of okra leaves, fruits, and leaves is used to treat urinary problems, such as painful urination and other genitourinary problems including gonorrhea and syphilis.

“Okra leaves and roots are

used as poultice for wounds.

Okra juice is used to treat skin itchiness and acts as a skin moisturizer. Okra seeds are used to treat and prevent muscle spasms.

“Decoction of okra is used to treat fever, headache, and arthritis. Okra is rich in fiber that absorbs water and improves the bulk of stool. Very effective against diarrhea and constipation.

“Okra's mucilage binds with cholesterol and bile acids then expelled through stool from the body. Okra helps in lowering the blood sugar level by blocking the absorption of

sugar in the intestinal tract.

“Okra's mucilage acts as a lubricant and a laxative for the intestinal tract, facilitating the easy passage of waste. Okra is believed to smoothen the skin and prevent the eruption of pimples and acne.”

The website further revealed that in a study published in the Journal of Pharmacy & Bioallied Sciences 2011 entitled “Anti-diabetic and antihyperlipidemic potential of *Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.),” Moench suggests that extracts from okra could be developed as a

(continued on page 10)

Welcome

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

**Obama: US to Use Military
 Force If Allies' Security in
 Danger**

by Louis Bacani
 Thursday, May 29, 2014



President Barack Obama addresses U.S. and Philippine troops at Fort Bonifacio in Manila, Philippines, April 29, 2014. AP/Charles Dharapak

MANILA, Philippines — In what could be a reassurance to countries like the Philippines, President Barack Obama said the United States will use military force if the security of its allies is under threat.

In his speech at the US Military Academy commencement ceremony in West Point, New York, Obama said tensions in other parts of the world like the disputed South China Sea will affect allies and may need the attention of American forces.

"Regional aggression that goes unchecked -- whether in southern Ukraine or the South China Sea, or anywhere else in the world -- will ultimately impact our allies and could draw in our military. We can't ignore what happens beyond our boundaries," Obama said.

He said the US, which "remains to be the one indispensable nation," must always lead in the world stage to secure Americans' peace and prosperity and extend these around the globe.

But not every security threat outside the US requires military solution, Obama also said. He reiterated Washington's support for a peaceful resolution of the increasing tensions in the contested South China Sea.

"In the Asia Pacific, we're supporting Southeast Asian nations as they negotiate a code of conduct with China on maritime disputes in the South China Sea. And we're working to resolve these disputes through international law," Obama said.

But Obama also expressed willingness to use might if needed to respond to

the dangers in a changing world.

"First, let me repeat a principle I put forward at the outset of my presidency: The United States will use military force, unilaterally if necessary, when our core interests demand it -- when our people are threatened, when our livelihoods are at stake, when the security of our allies is in danger," Obama said.

The American leader added that when issues of global concern do not directly threaten the US, then the "threshold for military action must be higher."

In such circumstances, Obama said, the US must mobilize allies to take collective action and use tools like diplomacy, sanctions, appeals to international law, and if just and needed, multilateral military action.

Obama did not specifically mention the Philippines when he raised the security issues in the South China Sea.

Last month, Obama visited the Philippines and other allies in Asia to boost US ties.

He said the US has an "ironclad" commitment to defend the Philippines as a defense treaty ally.

Obama, however, said the US does not intend to counter or contain China since it welcomes the rise of the Asian giant. (www.philstar.com)

HEALTH & FAMILY (from page 9, HOW OKRA...)

prospective phytochemical plant against diabetes mellitus. The results show that by administering okra extracts to diabetic rats, there was a significant reduction in blood glucose level and the lipid profile level also normalized.

Besides being low in calories, okra is full of vitamins and minerals (A, thiamin, B6, C, folic acid, riboflavin, calcium, zinc, and dietary fiber). It is highly recommended for pregnant women because of its richness in folic acid, which is essential in the formation of the fetus especially during the first trimester.

Okra pods contain flavonoid antioxidants such as beta-carotene, xanthin, and lutein. It is one of the green vegetables with the highest levels of these antioxidants. The superior fiber found in

okra helps to stabilize the blood sugar by curbing the rate at which sugar is absorbed from within the intestinal tract.

The mucilage of okra also binds cholesterol and bile acid, carrying toxins dumped into it by the filtering liver. It helps lubricate the large intestines due to its bulk laxative qualities. The okra fiber absorbs water and ensures bulk in stools. This helps prevent and improve constipation.

It also binds excess cholesterol and toxins, which can cause numerous health problems. Okra fiber is also excellent for feeding the good bacteria probiotics, which contributes to the health of the intestinal tract. (www.philstar.com)

FEATURE

HONORING TOP FILIPINO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF 2014

By Carlota Hufana Ader



Jenny Rose Anacan

Liezl Samantha Bagay

Stacey Agustin

Iris Shaye Corrales

Sydney Unciano

Zander Pangilinan

Many Filipino families place a high value on education which is viewed as a means for upward social and economic mobility. To this end, many parents make tremendous personal and financial sacrifices to provide the best possible secondary and higher education for their children.

To honor those students who have excelled academically, the Chronicle endeavors each year to highlight their names, accomplishments and career goals. Due to time and other constraints, many more top Filipino graduates were unable to respond to our request for information. Nevertheless, we congratulate all of our hard-working graduates and wish them all the very best in their academic endeavors!

STACEY BRITNI AGUSTIN
Pearl City High School

GPA: 3.9
Awards/Honors Received: National Honor Society and Certificate of Achievement "Be the Change Grant"
School attending: University of California-Irvine
Major: Materials Science Engineering
Why: I'm always fascinated with building things
Personal motto: "Be the change you want to see in the world."

JENNY ROSE PEÑASCOSAS ANACAN
Pearl City High School

GPA: 4.064
Awards/Honors Received: School Valedictorian; Burger King Scholars Award; Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Scholarship recipient; Pearl City Community Association Scholarship re-

ipient; Pearl City High School PTSA Scholarship recipient; Taiwanese American Community Scholarship recipient; Pearl City High School Career Technical Education Completer (Clinical Health Program of Study); Hawaii State Career Technical Education Performance-Based Assessment 3rd Highest Overall Score (Clinical Health Program of Study); Successfully Met Proficiency in the Clinical Health Program of Study Performance-Based Assessment: Oral Presentation, Challenge Deliverable, Pathway Core Written Exam, Pathway Cluster Written Exam and Research Paper; National History Day Group Exhibit Board Finalist (10th Place); Hawaii History Day 2nd Place Group Exhibit Board; Hawaii HOSA: Future Health Professionals 2nd Place Medical Photography; and Pearl City High School Student of the Month (December 2010).

School attending: Chaminade University
Major: Nursing (specifically neonatal nursing)
Why: In the Philippines, my mother and father's family lacked health care due to poverty. Their not having access to health care made me want to become a registered nurse. As a nurse, I plan to reach out to the community by traveling to different parts of Oahu to provide health care to those who can't afford it. I want to reach not only to Hawaii residents but to others around the world by going on medical missions to help countries that are recovering from natural calamities or are not fortunate enough to receive health care. I specifically want to become a neonatal nurse because I want to give newborn infants with a variety of problems a better chance at life. These newborns may be

our next lawyers, doctors, teachers, authors, or even someone who discovers a medical cure. I want to help give these newborns a chance to live and find their purpose.

Personal motto: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely; In all you ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths."—Proverbs 3:5-6.

LIEZEL SAMANTHA RAMOS BAGAY
Waipahu High School

GPA: 4.039
Awards/Honors Received: Valedictorian, WHS Scholar Athlete Award, GEAR UP Educational Award, Waipahu Community Foundation Scholarship, WHS CRASH Scholarship, House of Photography Journalism Scholarship
School attending: University of Hawaii-Manoa, Shidler College of Business
Major: International Business/Marketing
Why: Waipahu High School strengthened my passion for business through the business pathway. Along with being an AP Japanese student, my interests are in management, design and culture. I would love to travel internationally to do business.
Personal motto: "Don't follow the crowd. Be authentic and real and never stop chasing your dreams."

IRIS SHAYE T. CORRALES
Mililani High School

GPA: 3.97
Awards/Honors Received: Summa Cum Laude
School attending: University of Hawaii-Manoa
Major: Bio-Engineering
Why: I want to solve problems in the areas of health care, medicine and biotechnology

ZANDER PADUA PANGILINAN
Lanakila Baptist High School

GPA: 4.0
Awards/Honors Received: Valedictorian, Member of the National Honor Society (NHS) and the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS), Presidential Scholarship Award.
Extracurricular activities: Captain of the cross country team and member of the track team. Also plays violin and a member of his church choir.
Leadership Roles: Was school's yearbook editor for three years, named the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leader and served as 12th Grade class treasurer.
School attending: George Fox University
Major: Mechanical engineering
Personal motto: "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

SYDNEY UNCIANO
Aiea High School

GPA: 4.037
Awards/Honors Received: School Valedictorian, Most Outstanding J.V. Track Girl, Pearl City Cross Country Ribbon, OIA Girls Varsity West Cross Country Ribbon, Leadership Award, Most Outstanding Sophomore of the Year, Cross Country Outstanding Athlete, Cross Country Hawaii Second All-Star Team and Barack Obama Presidential Community Service Award
School attending: University of Hawaii-Manoa
Major: Medicine
Why: I want to pursue a career as a pediatrician and make significant impacts on people's lives.
Personal motto: "The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied to the best of ourselves the task at hand."—Vince Lombardi
Parents: Richard Unciano and Bernie DeGracia

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Rizal Park One of Best Parks in Asia — Survey

by **Donnabelle Gatdula**
Thursday, May 29, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - The newly rehabilitated Rizal Park was cited as one of the best parks in Asia, according to the latest survey made by Agoda Company PTE Ltd. (Agoda.com), one of Asia's leading hotel booking sites.

In a statement, Agoda.com said Rizal Park, also known as Luneta Park, ranked eighth in a competitive regional list.

The output was based on customer feedback and analyzed booking information to present Asia's highest rated parks and green spaces as selected by Agoda.com customers.

According to Agoda.com, travelers surveyed loved a wide range of green space options from lush expanses of

jungle to manicured parklands.

The list includes huge national parks perfect for hiking or outdoor activities, marine parks for diving or kayaking, and green areas in the middle of a city that offer important historical context. All of the entries on the list have left a large enough impression on Agoda.com customers to warrant consistently high ratings.

In the middle of the sprawling Philippine capital, Rizal Park is both a beautiful escape from the traffic and noise and a potent symbol of the country's tumultuous history.

The park takes its name from national hero Jose Rizal, author and Filipino nationalist who was executed in 1896 for promoting sweeping social reforms during the Spanish colo-



nial era.

The 140-acre park is located next to the famous Intramuros walled city.

It is one of the most popular spots in Manila for locals to picnic, exercise and relax among gardens and greenery.

Adjacent to the park are the Museum of the Filipino People, Department of Tourism and the National Library. An impressive monument to Rizal stands on the western end.

Trivia note: all road distances in the Philippines are

measured from Kilometer Zero, just across the street from the Rizal Monument.

In 2011, Rizal Park underwent a massive renovation by the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) aimed at restoring significant elements of the park.

The plans included the rehabilitation of the old musical dancing fountain located on the 40 m x 100 m pool, which is the geographical center of the park. The renovation was handled by German-Filipino William Schaare, the same

person who built the original fountain in the 1960s.

Restoration in the park also included the Flower Clock, which was set for the inauguration on the 113th Philippine Independence Day; the Noli me Tangere Garden and the Luzviminda Boardwalk.

Agoda.com has also provided some great hotel recommendations to round out a perfect trip to visit Rizal Park such as the Manila Hotel, Hotel H2O and Bayleaf Intramuros Hotel.

Other national parks in Asia that made it to Agoda.com's list are Hallasan National Park Jeju-do, South Korea; Taroko National Park, Taiwan; Osaka Castle Park, Osaka, Japan; Halong Bay, Vietnam; Ang Thong National Marine Park, Ko Samui; Khao Yai National Park, Thailand; and Penang National Park, Malaysia. (www.philstar.com)

US Eyes Use of Navy Base in Cagayan

by **Jaime Laude**
Saturday, May 31, 2014

STA. ANA, Cagayan, Philippines - The United States may station troops at the Philippine Navy base here under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

Local officials disclosed that a team of US servicemen, accompanied by US embassy staff, inspected the Camilo

Osias Naval Base facility in Barangay San Vicente here recently.

Located on the northern tip of Cagayan, Camilo Osias base has maritime and territorial jurisdiction over the country's northern frontier - a portion of the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

A local official who saw the five US visitors said they were "introducing themselves

as tourists... and proceeded to inspect the naval base."

The local official asked not to be named, saying he is not authorized to speak on issues of national concern.

The base has a port and an airfield that can accommodate C-130 cargo planes, one of the requirements being considered by the US military leadership on the planned increased deployment of forces in the country.

An international airport, currently under construction, is now 80 percent complete in nearby Lal-lo town. The airport is being built to further bolster tourism in the northern end of Cagayan province. It can accommodate huge military cargo planes and fighter jets when it becomes operational.

Naval officials and personnel based here, however, declined to comment on the issue of the planned US troop deployment.

Defense Secretary Voltaire, for his part, Gazmin said this has yet to be agreed upon by the Philippines and the US governments.

Under EDCA, the US government, in line with its mili-



tary pivot to the Asia-Pacific region, is allowed to increase the deployment of troops as well as its air and naval assets on rotation basis on the condition that they are barred from establishing their own bases, which should be co-located inside Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) military facilities.

While the legality of the newly signed agreement is being questioned by several groups, the national government is upbeat that the increased presence of US troops in the country's western and northern frontiers will be a big boost to the country's territorial and external defense while the military is rebuilding its own capability.

With its limited capability, the Philippine military is faced with a major challenge in dealing with increased intrusions of

foreign military aircraft and ships and fishing vessels inside its 200-mile exclusive economic zone, not only in the West Philippine Sea, but also in territorial waters of Batanes and at Bingham Rise in the Pacific Ocean.

At present a lone Philippine Coast Guard vessel and a small Navy patrol ship are alternately patrolling the waters of Batanes and Bingham Rise.

The areas are being developed as an alternate fishing ground for displaced Filipino fishermen from Zambales after they were no longer allowed to fish in their traditional fishing spots at Panatag Shoal by its Chinese occupants.

The planned deployment of US troops will be a first, unlike those at Subic, Zambales; Clark Air Field in Pampanga and Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. (www.philstar.com)

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Retaining Priority Date in Multiple I-140 Petitions

Every fiscal year a limited number of immigrant visas are made available for each preference category. If the visa demand for a particular category is excessive and could not be satisfied by the number of visas allotted each year, the category is over-subscribed.

The cut-off date indicated in the visa bulletin released by the Department of State each month is the priority date of the first visa applicant who could not be reached within the limit. A visa number is immediately

available to an applicant whose priority date is before the cut-off date.

The cut-off date for a particular category may advance, remain unchanged or even regress depending on the visa demand.

The June 2014 Visa Bulletin shows that the third preference employment-based (EB-3) cut-off date for the Philippines is January 1, 2008 while the cut-off date for all other countries except India and China is April 1, 2011. The second preference employment-based (EB-2) preference remains current for all countries except China and India.

A Philippine national, for example, who is waiting under the EB-3 category must have a

priority date earlier than January 1, 2008 in order to be allotted a visa number. If his priority date is not yet current and he obtains additional education or experience to qualify under the EB-2 category, an employer may request the USCIS to classify the alien beneficiary under this visa category. Since the EB-2 category for the Philippines is current, a number is immediately available to him.

A new I-140 petition for the alien beneficiary with a DOL approved labor certification is filed to request a new visa classification.

An employer who files a subsequent I-140 petition must make sure that the beneficiary is qualified for the new category and that the initial I-140 petition is not revoked or with-

drawn. He must also include a copy of the prior approval notice containing the priority date and the approved labor certification.

Under the law, the alien beneficiary with an approved I-140 petition retains the priority date of the petition when a new I-140 is subsequently filed on his behalf. The new I-140 may be filed by the same employer or a different employer. The priority date is the date the labor certification is filed and if a labor certification is not required, as in the case of Registered Nurses and Physical Therapists, the date the I-140 petition is filed.

Employers may simultaneously file EB-2 and EB-3 I-140 petitions for an alien beneficiary who is eligible under each requested visa category.

If the priority date for the requested visa category is current and the applicant is already in the United States, the I-140 petition may be filed concurrently with the adjustment of status application.

If the subsequent I-140 petition is approved and the applicant has a pending adjustment of status application, the applicant may request the USCIS to transfer the newly approved I-140 petition to his pending I-1485 application. The applicant must make a request in writing. No new form or fee for the adjustment of status application is required.

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

MAINLAND NEWS

Climate Change and Power Plants: How Obama's Forthcoming Carbon Emission Limits Will Work

by Josh Lederman | AP

WASHINGTON -- The Obama administration is poised to unveil the first rules limiting carbon emissions from the thousands of power plants across the nation. The pollution controls form the cornerstone of President Barack Obama's campaign to combat climate change and a key element of his legacy.

Obama says the rules are essential to curb the heat-trapping greenhouse gases blamed for global warming. Critics contend the rules will kill jobs, drive up electricity prices and shutter plants across the country.

Environmentalists and industry advocates alike are eagerly awaiting the specifics, which the Environmental Protection Agency will make public for the first time on Monday and Obama will champion from the White House.

While the details remain murky, the administration says the rules will play a major role in achieving the pledge

Obama made in Copenhagen during his first year in office to cut America's carbon emissions by about 17 percent by 2020.

Some questions and answers about the proposal:

Q: How does the government plan to limit emissions?

A: Unable to persuade Congress to act on climate change, Obama is turning to the Clean Air Act. The 1970s-era law has long been used to regulate pollutants like soot, mercury and lead but has only recently been applied to greenhouse gases.

Unlike with new power plants, the government can't regulate existing plant emissions directly. Instead, the government will issue guidelines for cutting emissions, then each state will develop its own plan to meet those guidelines. If a state refuses, the EPA can create its own plan.

Q: Why are these rules necessary?

A: Power plants are the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Environmentalists and

the White House say without bold action, climate change will intensify and endanger the public's well-being around the world. In its National Climate Assessment this year, the administration said warming and erratic weather will become increasingly disruptive unless curtailed.

"This is not some distant problem of the future. This is a problem that is affecting Americans right now," Obama said earlier this month.

Of course, the United States is only one player in the global climate game. These rules won't touch carbon emis-

sions in other nations whose coal plants are even dirtier. But the White House believes that leading by example gives the U.S. more leverage to pressure other countries to reduce their own emissions.

Q: How steep will the reductions be?

A: We don't know.

The administration hasn't said whether it will set one universal standard or apply different standards in each state. But Obama's senior counselor, John Podesta, said the reductions will be made "in the most cost-effective and

most efficient way possible," by giving flexibility to the states.

That could include offsetting emissions by increasing the use of solar and nuclear power, switching to cleaner-burning fuels like natural gas or creating efficiency programs that reduce energy demand. States might also pursue an emissions-trading plan — also known as cap-and-trade — as several northeast states have already done.

Q: How will they affect my power bill? What about the economy?

A: It depends where you live. Different states have a different mixes of coal versus

(continued on page 14)

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Di Malipatan Ti Bulan Ti Mayo A Namsek Iti Adu A Pasken Dagiti Filipino

Opisyales.

Mayo 10, 2014 ti pannakaaramid ti FIESTA FILIPINA a maar-aramid iti tinawen ngem naawaganen iti SANTA CRUZAN. Panagparada dagiti adu a rereyna a nangibagi ti nagan dagiti SASANTA. Adda arko ti kada grupo a salinongan ti reyna ti organisasion nga itakderanna. Nagduduma ti pannakaaramid dagiti arko kasta met ti kawes dagiti rereyna a linungan ti arko. Adda pagsasalipan dagitoy segun ti ipresentar ken arte ti pannakaaramid dagiti arkoda.

Segun ti pakaamo ti Bise President ti Oahu Filipino Community Council a nadutokan a Coordinator, (Baybee

Hufana Ablan) iti daytoy a parada ti Santa Cruzan a para waragawag, adda tallo a mangabak ti kinapintas ti ARKO ket tallo met dagiti rereyma a kapintasan iti kawes ken mangipakita ti kaipapanan ti idasarda a nainangan kadakuada. Kas Fiesta Santa Cruzan adu met a tao ti timmalalanta iti Honolulu Hale a nakaaramidan ti parambak.

May 17, 2014 iti isu met ti ANNIBERSAYO ti PINOY POWER RADIO 650 AM. Ti inrusat ti natalento, managayat ken managserbi a FILIPINA a ni EMMIE ORTEGA ANDERSON (PINOY POWER, LLC FOUNDER/CEO) itoy a radio, nalatak ken makaiwan-

wan a pakaragagsakan dagiti amin a dumdumngeg. Naiyam-aamo amin dagiti DJ's ken dagiti amin a mangtarababay itoy a radio station. KUDOS to the organizer. More Power from All of us!

May 17, 2014 isu met ti pannakaaramid ti TALDIAP TI PROBINSIA ti Ilocos Sur nga idauluan i ti nabayagen a president iti daytoy nga organisasion a naaramid iti Hale Ikena iti Fort Shafter. Naafirmaran met dagiti babbaro nga opisyales a mangitantandodo itoy nabayagen nga organisasion. a saan laeng nga iti Hawaii ti pangipakpakitaanna kadagiti nasayaat a rusatna no dipay idiay pagilian kangrunaanna iti

probinsya nga Ilocos Sur. Awan makapada ti panagserbi ti Presidenta a natibker a tarabay dagiti kakaduana - da Estrella Taong a Bise Presidente, Loida Yamamoto, Rose Sabangan, Davelyn Quijano ken dagiti adu a tubo iti Ilocos Sur.

May 25, 2014 met ti San Nicolaneous USA nga ipangu-luan ni Mr. Johnny de Los Santos, ti nalatak ken managtulong a tubo ti San Nicolas. Adu a pasken dagiti agsasaruno a buangay dagiti nalatak ken natitibker a mangipangulo kadagiti adu a grupo. Naimbag a Gasatyo Amin.

CONGRATULATIONS to the SANCOLENEOS USA!

Saan a malipatan a ti bulan ti Mayo ti kada tawen a pagpupunipunan dagiti napateg a pasken dagiti adu a GRUPO ti komunidad.

Mayo 2, 2014 alas 6:00 iti malem ti RE REAFFIRMATION OF OFFICERS 2014-2015 ti CABUGAO SONS AND DAUGHTERS iti Hawaii. Ni Veronica Esteban ti Presidente. Ni Representative John Mizuno ti guest speaker ken nang reaffirmar kadagiti

GLOBAL NEWS

Exposure to Light While Sleeping Linked to Obesity: Study

LONDON (Xinhua) - Women who are exposed to greater levels of light while sleeping tend more often to be obese, according to a British study published on Friday.

Scientists at the Institute

of Cancer Research, London, found that body mass index, waist-hip ratio, waist-height ratio and waist circumference all increased with increasing exposure to light at night. They have published the findings in the American Journal

of Epidemiology.

These associations were still seen after adjustments were made for confounding factors, which could be associated with light exposure levels and weight in the study participants such as physical

activity, having young children and sleep duration.

However, the researchers cautioned that there is not enough evidence to advise people to buy thicker curtains or turn off the lights.

The results are taken from cross-sectional analyses of data from a major study, which followed more than 113,000 women in Britain for 40 years, in a bid to find the root causes of breast cancer.

Obesity has been a known risk factor for breast cancer, but identifying underlying causes could help inform women how to manage their risk.

Prof. Anthony Swerdlow at the Institute of Cancer Research, London, and co-leader of the study, explained: "Metabolism is affected by cyclical rhythms within the body that relate to sleeping, waking and light exposure." (www.philstar.com)

MAINLAND NEWS (from page 13, CLIMATE...)

gas and other fuels, so the rules will affect some states more than others. Dozens of coal-burning plants have already announced they plan to close.

Still, it's a good bet the rules will drive up electricity prices. The U.S. relies on coal for 40 percent of its electricity, and the Energy Department predicts retail power prices will rise this year because of environmental regulations, economic forces and other factors.

Environmentalists argue that some of those costs are offset by decreased health care costs and other indirect benefits. They also say the transition toward greener fuels could create jobs.

Q: Doesn't Obama need approval from Congress?

A: Not for this. A 2007 Supreme Court ruling gave the EPA the green light to regulate carbon-dioxide under the Clean Air Act. But that doesn't mean there won't be fierce opposition and drawn-out litigation. The government is expecting legal challenges and is preparing to defend the rules in court if necessary.

Q: Is this the final step?

A: Not even close. After the draft rule is proposed, there's a full year for public comment and revisions. Then states have another year to submit their implementation plans to the EPA. (www.philstar.com)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 • June 14, 2014 • Hilton Hawaiian Village | 6:30 PM • For reservations, please contact Edna Alikpala at 808-282-3699, Bernadette Fajardo at 808-342-8090 or Allan Alvarez at 808-392-8230.

OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) CONVENTION • SATURDAY • June 14, 2014 • Philippine

Consulate Lanai | 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM • For more info, contact Jean Jeremiah at 808-387-5481.

MAUI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S GINTONG PAMANA LEADERSHIP AWARDS • WEDNESDAY • June 18, 2014 • Maui Beach Hotel • For details, contact 808-291-9407 or 808-385-6532 or email to info@mauifilipinochamber.com.

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MAINLAND NEWS

Obama Calls on US Senate to Ratify UNCLOS

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama on Wednesday criticized the US Senate for its continued failure to ratify the Law of the Sea Convention, saying “we cannot exempt ourselves from the rules that apply to everyone.”

“It’s a lot harder to call on China to resolve its maritime disputes under the Law of the Sea Convention when the United States Senate has refused to ratify it – despite the repeated insistence of our top military leaders that the treaty advances our national security,” Obama said in a commencement address to graduates at the US Military Academy in West Point, New York.

He said China’s economic rise and military reach worried its neighbors, particularly the

Philippines and Vietnam, who have claims to parts of the South China Sea which Beijing asserts is almost exclusively its own.

Laying out a broad vision of America’s role abroad, Obama said in the Asia Pacific “we are supporting Southeast Asian nations as they negotiate a code of conduct with China on the South China Sea and are working to resolve territorial and maritime disputes through international law.”

Obama said the US was an indispensable and exceptional nation.

“That has been true for the century passed and will likely be true for the century to come,” he said.

He said when disasters occur – as when the Philippines was hit by Super Typhoon Yolanda last year – it is Amer-



ica that takes the lead in assisting people.

It was the second time in a week that a US leader mentioned the devastation wrought by Typhoon Yolanda in Tacloban. Secretary of State John Kerry, in his own commencement address to graduates of Yale, said the US went to the assistance of typhoon victims without being asked and without asking for anything in return.

Many senators and military analysts believe US accession to

the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) will not resolve the conflicting claims by a number of countries to barren islands, reefs, shoals and coral outcrops in the oil-and-gas rich South China Sea.

Also UNCLOS has provisions that could seriously interfere with legitimate US naval operations by allowing other nations to avail themselves of the treaty’s mandatory dispute-resolution mechanisms.

Besides, they point out that China is a party to UNCLOS but nonetheless is the source of much of the maritime problems in the region.

At a background briefing after Obama’s West Point address, a senior administration

official said the US would like to see China abide by basic international rules of the road in its conduct with its neighbors. The rules should apply to everyone, the official said.

“With respect to the Law of the Sea, the President made very clear that part of how the United States shows our own commitment to those rules and norms is by upholding them ourselves,” the official said.

“We act consistent with the Convention on the Law of the Sea, but it would send an important message for the Senate to ratify it, because that is the means by which we want to see disputes resolved,” he added. (www.philstar.com)

GLOBAL NEWS

Gov't Advises Filipinos in Libya to Leave Immediately

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - The Philippine government has heightened its call to Filipinos in Libya to avail of voluntary repatriation as it is set to deploy this week a team to the troubled country to assist embassy personnel in Tripoli, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said today.

In view of the increasingly volatile security situation in Libya, the department advised "all Filipino nationals in Libya to leave the country immediately."

Libya is presently under Crisis Alert Level 3, which involves total deployment ban for returning and newly-hired overseas Filipino workers



(OFWs) to Libya, as well as voluntary repatriation for Filipino nationals.

The DFA said it will also dispatch a four-person team to

Libya within the week to augment the Rapid Response Team and the embassy personnel stationed in Tripoli.

The augmentation team, together with the Rapid Response Team, and Tripoli Embassy representatives will be tasked to provide regular updates to the DFA home office, as well as to coordinate with

the Filipino community, the employers, and Libya officials and to facilitate the repatriation efforts, it added.

There are around 13,000 Filipinos living and working in Libya. The majority of them are skilled and semi-skilled workers engaged in oil, medical, construction, and service industries. (www.philstar.com)

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