

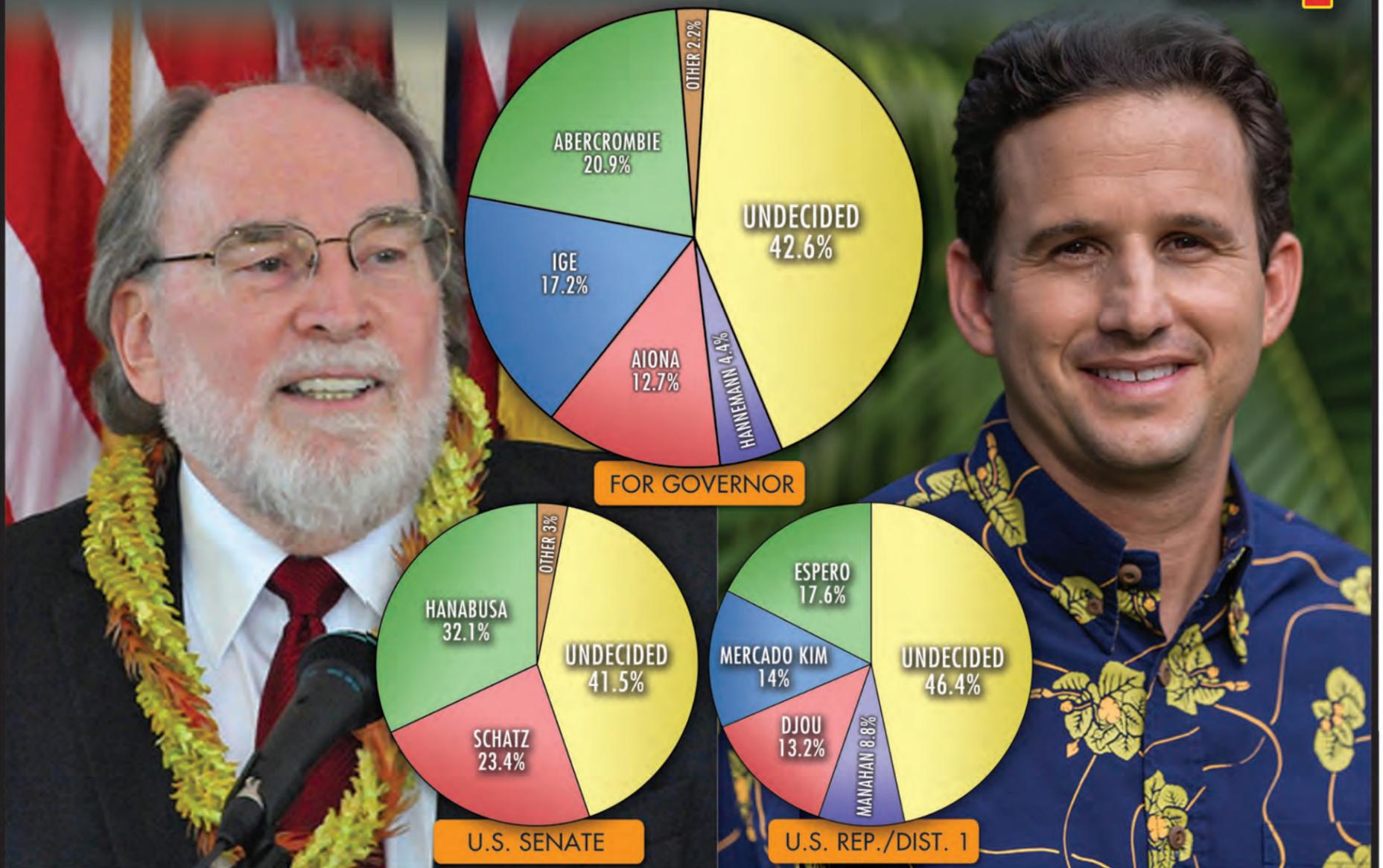
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JULY 26, 2014 ◆

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EDITORIALS

Chronicle Poll: Gubernatorial, U.S. Senate Races Wide Open

The Democratic Primary for governor between incumbent Neil Abercrombie and challenger David Ige is a virtual dead heat (21 percent to 17 percent), according to a poll taken July 1-10, 2014 by the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle of registered Filipino voters. A total of 140 respondents participated in the poll, which has a margin of error of 4 percent. The slim margin in the gubernatorial race is a bit surprising considering Ige's lack of history with Hawaii's Filipino community. In the Democratic Primary for U.S. Senate, Colleen Hanabusa holds a slightly larger 32 percent to 23 percent lead over Brian Schatz. Her lead is likely a combination of the late Sen. Dan Inouye's lingering influence among voters and the fact that Schatz is a relative newcomer to Filipino voters.

HFC's poll shows a large percentage of undecided Filipino voters in both the gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races—43 percent and 41.5 percent respectively. The large number of undecided voters implies greater volatility and means a lot more campaigning left to do. We can expect candidates to continue pressing the Filipino community for votes, especially in the final days leading to the Primary Election. And during the final push, it will surely help candidates with greater name recognition and financial resources.

Many Filipinos are also keeping a close eye on the race for U.S. House of Representatives-District 1, where one of their own could very well be Hawaii's first congressional member of Filipino ancestry. The Chronicle's poll shows 17.6 percent of Filipino voters favor Will Espero, while 14 percent support Donna Mercado Kim. A third Filipino candidate, Joey Manahan, came in last with 8.8 percent of Filipino voters' support.

We can only hope that this election season, Filipinos will at long last flex their political muscle at the polls and make their voices be heard. Filipinos have long complained of a lack of respect and relevance when it comes to social, political, economic and other issues. If we as community want to address such complaints, a good place to start would be at the polls come August 9. Now is the time. Let's get out and vote!

Supporting Anti-Bullying Efforts

Bullying continues to be a problem among Hawaii's young people, where the number of youth who are afraid to go to school or skip classes for fear of bullying is much higher than the national average. Bullying has been listed as the top concern at the last five annual Children & Youth Summit held each October at the State Capitol. Victims of bullying are unable to take advantage of educational opportunities or concentrate in their school work. They also tend to avoid participating in sports and other social activities, and in extreme cases resort to suicide as a way to end the bullying.

There have been concerted efforts by government officials to address the problem of bullying. In 2011, the Legislature's Keiki Caucus, led by Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, introduced House Bill 688 which was signed into law as the Safe Schools Act. While policies are now in place at the State Department of Education to address bullying, what has been lacking is implementing such policies and training appropriate DOE staff.

The latest effort to address bullying is being debated by the Honolulu City Council. Resolution 14-145 requests the Department of Parks & Recreation to develop anti-bullying initiatives to protect children and youth enrolled in its various programs and activities administered throughout the year. For the City's efforts to be successful, DPR must partner with appropriate private sector agencies that have extensive experience in bullying and violence preventing training. A 20-minute long powerpoint presentation simply isn't enough. At the very minimum, an all-day training session in small group setting is what's needed to fully train DPR staff.

This intimate, hands-on setting would be more effective training-wise for City employees to properly identify bullying, monitor the problem and refer it to the appropriate agency. Implementing such a policy will take financial resources and a willingness on the part of the City's leaders. It certainly won't be a quick fix but rather a change that could take several years to develop. Such a policy is long overdue and badly needed, particularly if it can spare even one child from the horrors of bullying.

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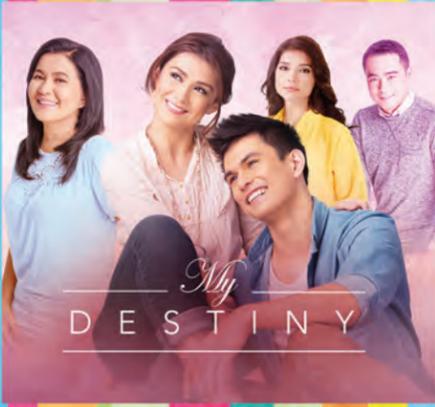




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loha and welcome to the latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! We have for your reading pleasure the results of our Primary Election Poll, as well as a special Election 2014 Supplement which has vital information on the candidates, a guide to smarter voting, the voting process and nearly everything about the election.

To gauge the pulse of the Filipino community for the upcoming Primary Election, we conducted a recent telephone survey of registered Filipino voters from districts with higher concentrations of Filipinos. We asked these voters which candidates they would vote for in the race for governor, the U.S. Senate and U.S. House, to name a few, as well as the most pressing issues facing Hawaii's Filipino community. Compiling the results was our veteran associate editor Edwin Quinabo. Keep in mind that polls should be taken as snapshots in time, unless taken right at election time, and that voters' opinions and intentions to vote can change. Nevertheless, we feel that our poll has a fairly good grasp of the Filipino voter and his or her preferences. Please turn to page 4 to read the cover story on the results of our poll.

Also in this special issue, our staff also went to great lengths to contact candidates of Filipino ancestry from as

many races as possible. We asked them to briefly explain why they are running for office, their backgrounds and priorities if elected. To read more about these candidates, please turn to page S6 in our Election Supplement. And for more information on where to vote, how to vote absentee by mail and other election-related matters, please read pages S14 of the supplement.

That's all for now. Please take some time to carefully read the various articles as well as the political advertisements in this special issue and election supplement. Be a smart voter and familiarize yourself with the candidates. Please remember to go out and vote on August 9. As always, we encourage you to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have any 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

CANDID PERSPECTIVES

Campus Sex Assault a Problem, Even in the Aloha State



By Emil Guillermo

Hawaii likes to sell its grass skirt image. It's sexist but it's marketing. But what happens when certain persons take the marketing a bit too seriously and don't understand the meaning of "no"?

Adults at a nightclub bar are certainly old enough to make their own decisions. But what about young people, university and college students in situations both on and off campus? The issue has become a nightmare for colleges, including the University of Hawaii-Manoa. A few months ago, UH was on a list that includes Harvard, Princeton and even Catholic University.

Cool, right? But not when it's the list compiled by the U.S. Department of Education that shows schools with open sexual assault cases. (<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-list-higher-education-institutions-open-title-i>).

As lists go, it's pretty

shocking. Still, it's not as shocking as the report released just last week by U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri.

If anyone out there has a daughter attending or about to attend a so-called place of higher learning in the U.S., the report gives you the legitimate right to wonder: A) just how safe she'll be on campus, and B) if she will be treated with the respect she deserves considering how the whole experience costs your family tens of thousands of dollars annually in tuition and fees.

Sen. McCaskill's just-released survey of how 440 institutions of higher learning deal with sexual violence on campus is far worse than previously thought. Apparently, schools really believe that, by doing nothing, ignorance masks their sexism. It doesn't.

A third report released by the U.S. Justice Department earlier this year told us just five percent of rape victims even report their incident to law enforcement. Just how bad are things actually? We don't really know.

While experts agree that schools should take "campus climate" surveys, institutions

responding to McCaskill's report show that just 16 percent of schools actually do "climate" surveys.

In other words, the vast majority of places of higher learning in the U.S. like being totally in the dark when it comes to the state of our daughters' safety on campus.

The do-nothing attitude just gets worse.

For example, phone hotlines are considered a vital best-practice in reporting sexual violence. Yet only 51 percent of institutions have hotlines. And only 44 percent allow online reporting. Eight percent have neither. And it all feeds into the general attitude of "don't call us, we won't call you."

According to McCaskill's report: "Despite the prevalence of campus sexual assaults, about 41 percent of schools in the national sample reported not having conducted a single investigation in the past five years. More than 81 percent of private for-profit schools and 77 percent of institutions with fewer than 1,000 students have not conducted any investigations."

There does seem to be a willingness to report incidents—just not willing to go all

the way and do the moral thing—investigate. In some schools, there are seven times more incidents than there are investigations.

The survey is critical of all phases of the process, saying schools just aren't doing enough in training and protocols for those who can help victims.

And when there's punishment to mete out, the Greek and athletic teams are often spared. Only 31 percent impose fraternity or sorority sanctions, and only half use athletic team sanctions, according to the report.

Discuss McCaskill's report with your friends who have daughters. They need to know that the modern college campus is much more hostile and sexist to young women than anyone could ever imagine.

If your daughter is attending UH-Manoa, at least she's close. That's not the case, if your daughter is thousands of miles away at a college that believes in the "do-nothing" approach.

EMIL GUILLERMO was on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser. An award-winning Filipino American journalist, he was also a host of NPR's "All Things Considered." He is based in California.

COVER STORY

Incumbents Beware

Abercrombie and Schatz Are Vulnerable In the Primary Election

By Edwin Quinabo

Of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (HFC) poll is any indication of what might transpire this 2014 election, then incumbents, get ready for a rough ride.

In two of the most prominent races this primary election, incumbents Gov. Neil Abercrombie and U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz find themselves in jeopardy of re-election.

Among only registered Filipino voters who participated in the HFC poll, Abercrombie leads challenger state Sen. David Ige by a slim margin, 20.9 percent to 17.2 percent. Schatz, who held his post for 18 months, faces a steeper challenge against U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, who leads in the HFC poll 32.1 percent to Schatz' 23.4 percent.

The large number of undecided registered Filipino voters in both these contests -- 42.6 percent for the governor's race and 41.5 percent in the U.S. Senate race -- means both races are wide open and all candidates must push even harder in the weeks ahead to win over a majority of Filipino voters.

While the governor's and U.S. Senate races have attracted the most attention in the mainstream press, the most highly anticipated political contest to many in the Filipino community is the battle to fill the seat for U.S. Representative, 1st Congressional District. To no surprise, the three Fil-Am candidates in this race are faring well in the HFC poll. But the top vote-getter is not the Fil-Am candidate who is actually leading in mainstream polls.

State Sen. Will Espero came out on top of the HFC poll with 17.6 percent even though he trails in mainstream polls. He is followed by State Sen. Donna Mercado Kim at 14 percent, who is at the helm among all candidates in most other polls. Former U.S. Rep. Charles Djou, who has always held a steady base among Republican Filipino voters in past elections, placed third at 13.2

percent, even beating out Fil-Am Joey Manahan, who placed last with 8.8 percent. Other prominent candidates who were part of the HFC poll but received no votes include: Honolulu City Council members Ikaika Anderson and Stanley Chang, State Rep. Mark Takai, and well-known activist Kathryn Xian.

Governor's Race

The lukewarm popularity of Abercrombie among Filipino voters in this particular race might be puzzling to some political observers, considering his traditionally favorable showing in each HFC poll in the past. The slippage in approval could be attributed in part to former Gov. Ben Cayetano's endorsement of Ige. It could also be in part due to Ige's merits as a worthy opponent. Or the most likely possibility why Abercrombie's popularity could be waning has more to do with the chief executive syndrome that practically all incumbent presidents, governors, and mayors encounter -- that it's harder win to the second time around. At times, unrealistic expectations of what a chief executive can actually do in a short period of time make it near impossible to please large segments of the entire voting population.

Performance-wise, Abercrombie scored big on the state's minimum wage increase that could benefit many Filipino workers. Abercrombie has also done well balancing the budget with a surplus to top.

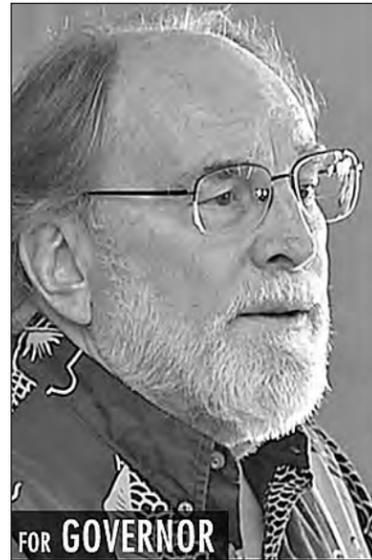
At the same time, the state legislature could claim equal

credit to both major accomplishments. As the chairman of the powerful Senate Ways and Means Committee the past two years, Ige has legitimacy in perhaps claiming a lion's share of that credit as one of two top leaders this 2014 Legislature.

A 27-year veteran of the Legislature, Ige is competent enough to lead the state as governor and clearly savvy enough to have climbed up the political ladder to reach the most powerful committee in the Senate. Ige has also been around long enough that key unions know of his work, and chose to endorse his candidacy. Could Ige have made the very difficult decisions as Abercrombie had in leading the state out of the deepest recession and deny powerful interest groups? No one really knows, except that kind of ability takes a certain maverick character of which Abercrombie has shown to be able to switch on when needed, and off when building consensus.

Ige's Achilles' heel is that he does not have the name recognition as a statewide political personality. Prior to his election plans to run for governor, he hasn't been a media marquee name, in the headlines advocating for or against the biggest issues. If he had, large communities outside his district just hadn't noticed. But his unassuming, quiet, collaborative-type leadership could also be a breath of fresh air at this time, and perhaps just might be what the state needs now that the heavy storms of the recession seem to have passed.

It might be true as some people are saying that this gov-



FOR GOVERNOR

ABERCROMBIE 20.9%
IGE 17.2%
AIONA 12.7%
HANNEMANN 4.4%
OTHER 2.2%
UNDECIDED 42.6%



FOR U.S. SENATE

SCHATZ 23.4%
HANABUSA 32.1%
OTHER 3%
UNDECIDED 41.5%

HFC Infographics

ernor's race will be largely determined by pro and anti-Abercrombie sentiments, independent of his opponent's popularity. But make no mistake, Ige is a solid enough opponent and would represent the Democratic party well into the general election, should he prevail in the primary.

Other results of the HFC poll in the governor's race: Former Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona came in third with 12.7 percent and former Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann placed last with 4.4 percent. The undecided is 42.6 percent and other 2.2 percent.

U.S. Senate

For most Democrats, particularly of the liberal or progressive ilk, they would be more than satisfied by either Schatz or Hanabusa winning. For months, the two candidates have been trying to establish their differences -- experience, age, gender, leadership style, family values, local values, legislative accomplishments -- but the reality is that on most of the major issues from Social Security and Medicare to the environment and healthcare, both Schatz and Hanabusa would probably vote on the same side more than 90 percent of the time.

It will be disappointing to see a loser in this race given the top quality of both candidates. It would be even more disappointing if the loser fails to challenge for another congressional seat in the future, and opt instead, to make this U.S. Sen-

ate seat a permanent Schatz v Hanabusa battleground.

Because of the candidates' closeness ideologically, this race will be won by other, lesser considerations. Most glaring among them, and sadly so, is the late Sen. Dan Inouye factor. The appointment of Schatz, instead of Hanabusa, whom Inouye had chosen as his successor, may work against the freshman senator.

In the endorsement game, Hanabusa also might have an edge. The endorsement of Schatz by national giants President Barack Obama and former vice president Al Gore, while very impressive, just doesn't resound as much as Hanabusa's endorsements by local political legends U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka and former Govs. George Ariyoshi and Ben Cayetano, not to mention the last request endorsement by Inouye.

A lesser factor but definitely a potentially influential one could also be ethnic voting. In this particular race, even more so than the governor's race, support for Schatz and Hanabusa trail along racial lines, however politically incorrect this might be. With the Caucasian and Japanese American votes canceling each other out, the Filipino vote is clearly the swing vote. Based on this HFC poll, Hanabusa at this point, commands a comfortable lead among Filipino voters which just might be that added boost to carry her to victory.

(continued on page 5)

COVER STORY

(from page 4, INCUMBENTS...)

U.S. Rep, 1st Congressional District

Hands clasped together. Could this finally be the year to send a Fil-Am to Congress? Based on early mainstream polls, this might be the Filipino community's best chance to make history should Mercado Kim maintain her lead. The crowded field of candidates bodes well for this veteran lawmaker who perhaps holds the biggest name recognition. But at the same time, this crowded field happens to have two other Fil-Am contenders who will likely split at least some of the Filipino community's votes, as the HFC poll results suggest.

Espero, a fiscally conservative Democrat and recently converted liberal Democrat socially, is outpacing Mercado Kim in most of West Oahu. He leads the entire field in the HFC poll and perhaps could have been faring better in mainstream polls if more of the rest of the island knew who this new Espero is evolving into. This new Espero fits well ideologically with the liberal Democratic leadership in Washington, and the traditionally liberal delegation that Hawaii voters have been sending to Congress.

Manahan leads only in Kalihi and is little known outside of his district. His recent election to the Honolulu City Council should broaden his name recognition in the future. Comments within the Filipino community about Manahan vary. Some see him as a political rising star. Some believe his ambition might derail that elusive dream of having a Filipino in Congress with his late entry into this race, that undoubtedly, could have a splintering effect among Filipino voters. Both Espero and Mercado Kim have paid their dues and waited a long time for this opportunity to run for higher office. Manahan had not waited long enough, some believe. In fairness to Manahan, though, other politicians have been even quicker to abandon that waiting game with surprising success: remember neophyte-turned-congresswoman, Tulsi Gabbard.

While Mercado Kim



ESPERO
17.6%



DJOU 13.2%

FOR U.S. REP., 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



MERCADO KIM
14%



MANAHAN
8.8%

HFC Infographics

placed second to Espero in the HFC poll, she has the greatest upside because she leads candidates in just about every neighborhood besides West Oahu and Kalihi. While her reputation is a mixed bag of sorts, no one can deny that she is perhaps the most experienced of the group, a fixture in local politics, and an unrelenting hard worker. She's tough and someone everyone would want to have as an ally. She is a known fiscal conservative, a moderate Democrat. She voted against same sex marriage and wrangled with aspects of the state's increase of the minimum wage in the past, which she eventually supported this year. On the national level, the Democrat leadership have been staunch supporters of same sex marriage. Where Mercado Kim would fit in ideologically with her liberal Democrat leadership in Washington could be a misfit at times, leaving her, and the state, potentially outside the loop of power when Democrats eventually regain a majority in the House.

Ranking the Issues

#1 Economy

The state of our economy is perhaps the most pervasive issue that affects every aspect of our daily lives. So it's no surprise that the economy once again ranks first in our HFC poll with 65.7 percent of respondents believing it is the most critical issue facing our community.

While there is sufficient economic indicators that suggest moderate improvements are occurring in our state and national economy, there still is a general feeling that the economy could be a lot better. Some industries have experienced larger growth while others only incremental gains. So some

local residents feel an economic recovery is in the process, while others just can't see it.

The general consensus among economists is that the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will expand but at a slow rate. The National Association for Business Economics predicts that for the first time since the great global financial recession beginning in 2008, the economy might reach close to 3% growth, which has historically served as the dividing line between strength and weakness.

Marginal expansion of the economy do not tell the whole story. It is still delicate with chances for additional positive and negative shocks to the national economy. Pressures in health care with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, monetary, foreign trade, debt, energy and immigration policies all could have a major impact on the economy.

Outlook for Hawaii's economy in 2014 is similar to the national scene -- marginal growth with some industries expected to perform better than others. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) predicts Hawaii's economy to grow by 2.6% this year, with the construction industry as the main economic driver. While tourism posted record numbers in visitor arrivals last year (8.2 million out-of-state visitors, a 2.6% increase), tourism has been stabilizing and is expected to be at 1.7% for 2014.

#2 High Cost of Living

HFC respondents (16.4 percent) believe the high cost of living is the second most pressing issue in our state.

The average Honolulu consumer inflation rate between

1990 and 2013 was 2.7%. DEBT expects the Honolulu Consumer Price Index (CPI), a proxy for inflation, to rise by 2.1% in 2014.

According to this, the cost of living locally over this period of time, hasn't changed much. But what's on paper, often times, do not jibe with real life perception. It could be true that cost of living and high price of goods and services have always been too high for the average Hawaii resident, so even a minimal rise statistically, is already too high.

Forbes Magazine listed Honolulu and New York City as tops in its latest ranking of 100 largest metropolitan areas with the highest cost of living. Forbes annually measure Housing Opportunity index, Cost-of-Living index and Consumer Price index.

Affordability of homes and rent greatly affect the cost of living. Mortgage or rent generally is the largest monthly expense for the average person. With Honolulu having one of

the highest median sales price for a single-family home (\$629,500 as of Jan. 2014), it's expected that Honolulu finish at the top or near top in most expensive U.S. cities.

One international study took the median price of a home and compared it with the gross annual median household income. Among the international cities examined, Hong Kong, Vancouver and Honolulu ranked the highest as least affordable in the world. Homes in Honolulu, was top in the U.S., at 9.4 times its gross annual median household income. Santa Barbara, California was the second highest U.S. city in this study.

In another study that crunched more than 50,000 prices of goods and services, spanning everything from grocery items to transportation to housing, Honolulu ranked third. The national average on the study's index is 100; Honolulu's index is 167.7.

In almost every financial magazine or university study ranking the cost of living, Hawaii annually ends up in the very top tier. The high cost of shipment to the state as well as the limited yet high demand for real estate are two of the major driving costs that will unlikely change.

Areas where Hawaii could help to offset the high cost of living would be to improve en-

(continued on page 6)

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COVER STORY

(from page 5. **INCUMBENTS** ...)

ergy prices and increase real wages.

#3 Unemployment

Third on HFC's ranking of the issue is unemployment. Unemployment figures have always been the least revealing of statistics to assess. Even at the peak of the modern recession, at least locally, unemployment figures were not that bad holding within single-digit. But local residents were hurting, and felt differently from those rosy numbers.

Critics have always questioned the accuracy of the data collection process, and claim unemployment figures do not take into account a sizable population under the radar of the State Department of Labor, which tracks unemployment rates. These rates are determined as residents register with the department of labor while they look for work. But many unemployed stop looking for work, decide to go back to school, receive cross-industry training, work as independent contractors, or simply opt out of registering.

Hawaii's unemployment is the 7th lowest among all states in the nation. In 2013, the unemployment rate averaged 4.7%.

According to that statistic, the impression is that jobs and opportunities in Hawaii are abundant and much better than most other states on the U.S.

mainland. But ask most local residents if they believe that is true, it would be hard to find a favorable consensus.

In 2013, DBEDT says 9,600 jobs were added in the private, non-agricultural sector; 2,500 added in the construction industry; followed by 1,750 added in food services; and 1,575 added in other service jobs. Both federal and state government jobs experienced losses in 2013.

The Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawaii says the job numbers are not a source of cheer, explaining that while unemployment rates have fallen, it is because a large number of people have been exiting the labor force, and only marginal gains actually have been made in generating new employment.

Besides the overall inventory of jobs available, Hawaii residents continue to express concern over the lack of diversity, and the lack of quality jobs from which to choose from. Retail and service types of employment make up a large sector of the job inventory locally, but has proven to be low-paying. How to attract better quality jobs to our islands has been the talk of discussion over decades and running, but little has been achieved toward accomplishing that goal. One obvious byproduct of this failure, is the continued exodus of Hawaii residents to the mainland for better job opportunities.

RANKING ISSUES IN THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY**#4 Low wages**

Low wages received 3 percent in the HFC poll. Workers got a big boost this 2014 legislative session when the state Legislature and Gov. Abercrombie raised the minimum wage in Hawaii. The minimum wage has stood at \$7.25 per hour for the past seven years. The increase will be to \$10.10 an hour by January 2018.

Whether or not jobs will be lost and benefits reduced -- the old argument used repeatedly whenever raising the minimum wage is debated -- the community will have to wait to see the effects of this new law. In the meantime, the most vulnerable sector of workers will have some relief from the state's high cost of living.

While many Hawaii residents play wage catch up, there are other sectors in the state whose personal income grew 4.1% in 2013, higher than the national growth rate of 3.6%. Measuring personal income includes total earnings from wages, but also investment interest.

Other Concerns

Anti-development sentiments in the past have been centered on "keeping the country, country," or activism movements aimed at curbing development around Oahu's peripheries.

Much of today's land development anxiety is focused on Kakaako, 600 acres right in the heart of Oahu's urban area called Kakaako Community Development District. On the beach side, concerned citizens fear that Kakaako's shoreline

will transform into another Waikiki where beach access will be minimized and private parking will become too expensive. They believe locals will no longer frequent the area besides those who can afford to live there, similar to how locals tend to avoid Waikiki. On the mountainside, critics believe developers are intent on maximizing space and not properly leaving aside enough land for parks and schools. Another criticism is that runaway luxury condominium development could not sustain the current infrastructure and tax payers are concerned that they would have to foot the bill to make improvements for these developers.

Over the next 15 years, Howard Hughes Corps. plans to build 22 high-rise towers on its 60 acres in Ward Village. Kamehameha Schools plans to build seven throughout its 29 acres. OHA, Alexander & Baldwin, and others also have major projects planned. Critics believe the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA), which regulates development in Kakaako, is not adequately taking into consideration public concerns over density and quick to green-light development.

It's expected that Kakaako will have more than 30,000 residents by 2030. Critics believe many of these residents would be wealthy investors because most of the new development do not include sufficient affordable units, which ultimately would do little to alleviate Oahu's affordable housing shortage.

Filipino Voters Profile

The snapshot of the Filipino voting population hasn't changed much according to the 2014 HFC poll. A majority of respondents claim to be Democrats (52.8 percent), followed by the usual self-identified independents (27.4 percent), Republicans (12 percent), and others (8.8 percent) who have no loyalty to political parties but vote based on who is running at the time.

The overwhelming majority of Filipino voters are long time residents who have lived in the state longer than 10 years, or were born here. Just as in the general voting population, the older age groups are much more inclined to be registered to vote. HFC poll respondents' largest age grouping was in the 46-55 and 56-65. As usual, the senior block, 66 and over, is a large voting force as well. Women outnumber the men in this poll 63.8 percent to 36.2 percent. Respondents (50 percent) believe too much government intervention is the major cause of many of the problems in our nation and state, followed by poor leadership (41.3 percent), our political and economic system (5.3 percent), and others (3.4 percent), such as corporations having too much influence, and greed.

THE HFC POLL was conducted from July 1 through July 10 and targets only registered Filipino voters. For greater accuracy, pollsters conducted a larger sampling of neighborhoods with a higher concentration of Filipino residents. 140 respondents participated in this HFC poll. It has a margin of error of 4 percent.



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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Justice Sabrina McKenna to Give Keynote Address OLA to Host 7th Annual Hawai'i Conference on Language Access

By Serafin Colmenares Jr., Ph.D.

The Office of Language Access will be hosting its 7th Annual Hawai'i Conference on Language Access on August 6-8, 2014. The first two days will be held at the Pikake Room of the Neal Blaisdell Center, while the third day (a full-day workshop on cultural competency) will be held at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i.



Justice Sabrina McKenna

The theme of this year's conference is 'Ike 'Āina: Language Access and Cultural Literacy. The conference will look at why cultural literacy (defined as knowledge of one's culture and the culture of others) is necessary to ensure effective communication and improve language access particularly for Hawai'i's diverse limited English proficient (LEP) population. The conference will highlight Hawai'i's varied cultural traditions, discuss cultural and linguistic nuances and issues, and look at ways to promote intercultural understanding

On day 1 of the conference, August 6, the opening keynote speaker will be Associate Justice Sabrina McKenna of the Hawai'i State Supreme Court. She will address the question: why is cultural literacy important to language access? A graduate of the University of Hawai'i's William Richardson School of Law, Justice McKenna was appointed by Chief Justice Ronald Moon to the state District Court in 1993, and by Governor Ben Cayetano to the Circuit Court in 1995, where she presided over criminal, domestic violence, and civil calendars before serving as Senior (Chief) Judge of the Family Court of the First Circuit. She was appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Hawai'i Supreme Court effective March 3, 2011.

Justice McKenna has chaired and served on numerous boards and commissions, and currently co-chairs the Hawai'i Supreme Court's

Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts, and is on the board of the Judiciary History Center. She previously co-chaired the Committee on Court Interpreters and Language Access, in which role she oversaw the creation and implementation of Hawai'i's court interpreter certification program. She lectures extensively and has received various honors, including the Hawai'i Friends for Civil Rights' Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Friends Award (2011), the University of Hawai'i Distinguished Alumnus Award (2009), the WSRSL Outstanding Alumnus Award (2009), and the Hawai'i Women Lawyers Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award (2006).

Also on the first day of the conference, a special keynote address will be given by Dr. Evan Adams, Deputy Provincial Health Officer for Aboriginal Health, Ministry of Health, British Columbia, Canada on "Language Access, Cultural Literacy & Canada's First Nations."

Dr. Dennis Andrulis, Senior Research Scientist at the Texas Institute of Health and Associate Professor at the School of Public Health, University of Texas at Austin, will give the closing keynote address on day 2, August 7, entitled "Literacy in Health Care: Integrating Literacy, Language and Culture to Improve Quality of and Access to Care for Diverse Populations."

On Day 3, August 8, a full-day workshop on cultural competency entitled "Closing the Gap: From Cultural Bump to Cultural Congruence" will be



conducted by Ira Sen Gupta, executive director of the Cross Cultural Health Care Program based in Seattle, Washington State.

The 3-day conference and workshop will feature about 30 speakers and panelists. Other topics that will be covered include: Cultural Awareness, Cultural Sensitivity and Cultural Competency: Tools for Overcoming Barriers and Building Bridges to Effective Language Access; 'Ike 'Āina – Culturally Based Indigenous Literacy; Hawai'i's Language Roadmap Initiative; Filipino Culture from the Perspective of Three Philippine Languages; Understanding East-Asian Cultures; Latino Cultural Traditions and Linguistic Barriers; Linguistic and Cultural Nuances Among the Peoples of Mainland Southeast Asia; Language Access and Cultural Literacy Among Pacific Islanders; Language, Literacy and Cultural Challenges Among ELL in Schools; The Mangrobang Case; Understanding Deaf Culture; and Cultural Tradi-

tions and Linguistic Barriers: Insights from Social Service Providers in Hawaii.

As in the previous years, attendees are expected from all sectors, including: government, business/private; non-profit; and academia.

Presenters and participants are service providers, interpreters, students, and various other community members.

The conference is jointly sponsored by the Office of Language Access and the City & County of Honolulu. The cultural competency workshop on Day 3 is being co-sponsored by the William S. Richardson School of Law of the University of Hawai'i.

The conference is free but registration is required and limited to 300. For more information, please call the Office of Language Access at 586-8730 or visit its website at www.labor.hawaii.gov/ola.

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NEWS FEATURE

Filipino Researchers Discuss Food Sovereignty, Pesticides Use

By HFC Staff

Dr. Romeo Quijano and Gilbert Sape are in Hawaii to speak on farming and agriculture issues and the health and environmental impacts of pesticide exposure and genetically modified crops.

Quijano and Sape will be speaking with local farmers, farm workers and families on Kauai, Oahu, Maui and the Big Island through July 29, 2014. Quijano is a physician and professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the College of Medicine, University of the Philippines Manila. He is also president of Pesticide Action Network Philippines and former co-chairman of the International POPs Elimination Network. Sape is the former coordinator of the Food Sovereignty and Ecological Agriculture Programs at Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Asia and the Pacific, which is committed to the struggles of rural women, agricultural workers, peasants, indigenous peoples and other small food producers.

Both speakers will equip audiences with the knowledge and tools they need to empower themselves as stakeholders in the farm and food movements, as well as a renewed sense of communal resiliency. Their visit is coordinated in collaboration with Pesticide Action Network, the Hawaii Center for Food Safety, and Hawaii SEED, with support from CERES Trust.

Quijano and Sape took time to answer several questions posed by the Chronicle. Their responses were edited for

space and clarity.

Q: Please explain what genetically-modified foods are and any risks associated with them.

Quijano: Genetically modified (GM) foods are food crops that have been artificially created using genetic engineering, a method that forcefully and randomly inserts genetic fragments of DNA from one organism to another, usually from a different species. There are numerous risks involved in the creation of GM foods. The procedure itself is highly mutagenic and can disrupt the recipient organism's gene ecology. This disruption can create potentially toxic and allergenic proteins, silencing or activation of other genes (including cancer genes), and many other largely uncharacterized and unpredictable effects which could include disruption of the endocrine and immune systems. The use of antibiotic marker genes can also lead to the spread of antibiotic resistance in infectious diseases which can render life-saving antibiotics useless. The expressed toxic protein that is supposed to kill the insect considered as a plant pest can also kill non-target beneficial insects and harm exposed human populations with potentially serious consequences on health and the environment.

Q: Can you say with certainty that GMOs are safe for human consumption?

Quijano: I can say with certainty that GMOs are not



Dr. Romeo Quijano and Gilbert Sape

safe for human consumption.

Q: Are pesticides used in growing genetically-modified crops? If so, what is the extent of potential harm to the public's health and the environment?

Quijano: Pesticides are used in genetically modified crops. The extent of potential harm to the public's health and the environment is devastating. The use of pesticides resulted in widespread environmental pollution and extensive poisoning of wildlife and human populations. The marginalized sectors in the Third World are the most vulnerable. Most pesticides are acutely toxic and can cause death, disability, organ dysfunction, incapacitating symptoms and various other illnesses. Depending on the degree and circumstances of the exposure, the health effects may be mild, moderate or severe. The adverse effects of pesticides may manifest only after months or years of exposure. These long-term effects may occur even with low levels

of exposure. The weight of scientific evidence shows that even low levels of exposure to pesticides can cause serious immune, endocrine and metabolic disorders, neurologic effects, reproductive anomalies, cancer and other chronic diseases in animals and in humans. Chronic illnesses and death rates are higher in areas with high pesticide usage compared to those living in areas with low pesticide usage.

Q: The Big Island already produces genetically-engineered papayas that are resistant to a certain ringspot virus that nearly wiped out their production. Are those papayas safe for human consumption? Is this not one instance that GMOs are beneficial?

Quijano: Those papayas are not safe for human consumption. The risks are similar to the risks mentioned above in relation to genetically-modified corn. The procedure is highly mutagenic and can disrupt the recipient papaya's gene ecology. It is likely that the GM crop will be treated with pesticides, which increases human health risks.

There also is evidence that interfering RNA, the small virus inhibiting RNA molecules elicited by the transgene, may be fatal to rodents, an indication of potential human toxicity. When genetic engineers create a viral transgene, they introduce an entirely new DNA version that carries a potential risk. It becomes available for recombination with a totally new spectrum of organ-

isms and can transfer to human gut bacteria. Once transferred, our own bacteria may produce viral proteins inside our intestines over the long term, potentially weakening our defenses against viral infection and attacking fundamental metabolic processes. If GM plants do generate new plant viruses, the infected plants create viral proteins. These may be toxic or may increase our susceptibility to viral infection. Plants that are infected by viruses may have altered levels of anti-nutrients, toxins, and allergens and may be more susceptible to mold infestation. All of these may affect the health of the consumer.

Q: For a Third World nation like the Philippines, what are the advantages, if any, of growing genetically-engineered crops?

Sape: I don't see any advantages. Genetically-engineered crops were introduced in the Philippines and other Third World countries by agrochemical corporations under the pretense that it would intensify food production and therefore solve hunger and malnutrition. This is false. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization validated the fact that the world produces enough food and the problem is that people don't have access, which means people don't have purchasing power. This is true in the Philippines. Local farmers produce enough to feed everyone. The problem is most don't have enough economic power to buy food. Therefore, the problem is income and not availability.

Q: To what extent should the government regulate genetically-modified foods?

Sape: The government should fully regulate it to protect the country's biodiversity and human health. In the Philippine context, the introduction of GE violates the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which the Philippine government ratified in 1993. The CBD says, "To respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

St. Marianne's Remains to Return Permanently to Hawaii

St. Marianne Cope is returning to Hawaii to stay. The remains of Hawaii's second saint, which were unearthed from her Kalaupapa resting place in 2005 and enshrined in Syracuse, New York, in preparation for her beatification that year, will come back to Hawaii later this month to permanently reside at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in Honolulu.

Bishop Larry Silva will welcome the remains on July



31, 2014. A formal ceremony and Mass will follow.

The remains are the full collection of the saint's bones sealed in a 48-by-20-by-12 inch metal box. In the cathedral, the box will be placed upright in the existing koa and

glass display cabinet that now holds a small reliquary with a relic of St. Marianne.

St. Marianne will be the only American saint whose remains will be enshrined in a cathedral, the mother church of a diocese.

Since 2005, her remains have been enshrined in Syracuse in St. Anthony Convent Chapel at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, the religious congregation to which St. Marianne belongs.

The motherhouse is closing and moving to a new location, which is one of the reasons the remains are being relocated.

St. Marianne Cope arrived in Hawaii in 1883 from Syracuse with six companion sisters to care for natives with Hansen's disease. Shortly afterward on Maui, she opened Malulani Hospital, now called Maui Memorial Medical Center, and the Kapiolani Home for the healthy children of leprosy patients.

In 1888, she went to

Kalaupapa to run Bishop Home, a complex of cottages for female patients. Since then until today, approximately 65 Sisters of St. Francis have served in Kalaupapa as nurses and health care workers.

St. Marianne died at age 80 in Kalaupapa in 1918 and was the only Sister of St. Francis to be buried there. She was beatified at the Vatican on May 14, 2005. Pope Benedict XVI canonized her a saint on October 21, 2012.

New Consul General Begins Term

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu welcomed the arrival of Gina A. Jamoralin on July 15, 2014 who began her term as new consul general. She succeeds Julius D. Torres who left for the Philippines last April after two-and-half years as top diplomat at the Consulate.

Jamoralin previously served as executive director and assistant secretary of the

Office of American Affairs of the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs from September 2012 to July 2014. She was also the director for trade and economics at the Office of United Nations and International Organizations and special assistant to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Senior Official.

She was previously assigned to the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, Japan from

2006 to 2012 and to the Philippine Embassy in Bucharest, Romania from 1996 to 2003. She earned her Master's of Business Administration from McGill University in Tokyo, her PhD in economics from the University of Santo Tomas, her Master's of Public Administration from the University of the Philippines and her Bachelor's degree in economics from UP.

NEWS FEATURE (from page 8, FILIPINO...)

local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity." GMOs have the potential to wipe out traditional and indigenous variety of seeds and therefore, are a threat to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Q: Do you support requiring GMO labeling? What are the pros and cons of labeling vs.

not labeling genetically-modified foods?

Quijano: GMO labeling should be required. Consumers have the right to know what they are buying, eating or using. The introduction of and exposure to GMO foods carries such a potential impact that people have the right to be informed. Even with conflicting claims of safety and harm, at the very least, labeling is an im-

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

**Aquino Faces Impeachment
 Over US Defense Deal**

by **Camille Diola**
 Thursday, July 24, 2014

MANILA, Philippines — President Aquino faces another impeachment complaint, this time for the supposed unconstitutionality of the Philippines' recently forged defense agreement with the United States.

The impeachment complaint, signed by left-wing groups and party-lists, was filed Thursday before the House of Representatives. It argued that Aquino allowed the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) without the approval of Congress.

The complainants, which include representatives from the Gabriela Women's Party-list, ACT Teachers Party-list and Bayan Muna, said that EDCA is by nature a treaty, as it allowed foreign forces to establish bases in the country—a move which requires Congress' ratification.

"However, the President passed it off as a mere executive agreement and bypassed entirely the Senate and the House of Representatives," ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. Antontio Tinio said in an inter-

view over ANC on Thursday.

American Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg, however, defended criticisms on EDCA, a key part of the US' agenda to modernize its Asia-Pacific alliances as the Obama administration pivots its foreign policy to the region.

"EDCA does not represent new bases, [as American troops] will be in Armed Forces of the Philippines' facilities with access to Filipinos," Goldberg said on Wednesday in an interview over Radyo Singko.

"We don't think this crosses the line or anything and we're not interested in new bases," he added.

Goldberg explained that the US can neither afford having new military bases around the world, even in the Philippines, its longtime defense ally.

A separate group has petitioned the Supreme Court to declare the EDCA unconstitutional weeks after it was signed in April this year. The high court, however, has not released a resolution on the matter. (www.philstar.com)

**New AFP Chief on Military
 Coup: So '80s**

by **Alexis Romero**
 Thursday, July 24, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - Soldiers won't start an anti-government uprising despite the issues confronting the Aquino administration, the chief of the 125,000-strong armed forces said Thursday.

Armed Forces chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Catapang said the era of military adventurism is over as soldiers are now professional and focused on their duties.

"I think there is none (military adventurism) because it's hard to be involved in such things. Our soldiers are focused on their job," Catapang told reporters during his visit to the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

"We experienced that during the 1980s and we're done with that. We have bigger problems," he added.

Catapang, a former member of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement that fought the Marcos dictatorship, said he is confident that soldiers won't be swayed in case some politicians persuade them to join coups.

"We are doing rounds and we are explaining (the issues). We are open to our soldiers," the military chief said.

The Aquino administration is being

hounded by a controversy that stemmed from the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP), key portions of which were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

The program made headlines after Senator Jinggoy Estrada claimed that senators who voted to impeach Chief Justice Renato Corona, an appointee of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, were given P50 million in additional funding.

The Budget department justified the release, saying the funds came from DAP, which seeks to promote economic activity and hasten the delivery of social services.

DAP releases came from the overall savings of the national government, which included unprogrammed funds generated from windfall revenue collections and unreleased appropriations from slow-moving projects.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court unanimously declared key portions of the DAP unconstitutional, saying they violated the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers.

President Aquino has repeatedly claimed that there is nothing wrong with the implementation of the program but his explanation did not deter some groups from filing impeachment complaints against him. (www.philstar.com)

YOUTH PROFILE

MUSIC CONNECTS TODAY'S TEENS

By Deborah Tolentino Manog

Nineteen-year-old Arshiel Calatrava's love for music began when she was only three years old and had already memorized songs to sing on the karaoke machine. The first song she sang was "Ben" by Michael Jackson when she was a child growing up on an island near Davao City in the Southern Philippines.

She reminisces about the simple days watching her grandmother milk cows and sitting on a sandy shore watching the colors of the sky dance as the sun set away into the night. When she was eight years old, she came to Hawaii, where her love for singing blossomed.

Since then she has done many local performances in the state and even performed acts with the late Don Ho and the Society of Seven Waikiki.

"It (performing) feels like magic," said Calatrava, who recently auditioned for Broadway's The Lion King in February.

Out of around 500 people

who showed up to audition on the first day, Calatrava made it all the way to the last round.

"There's seven productions around the world that are full and if it happens that there's an open spot then there's the possibility they'll call," said Calatrava. "I'm just hopeful that they'll call one day."

As much as she loves performing, it's even more important for her to complete her college education. She is currently working towards her bachelor's degree in nursing from Hawaii Pacific University.

"I'm the first person to actually go to a university and I want to be the first one in my family to graduate and have a college degree," said Calatrava, who strives to be a role model to her young nieces and nephews.

The Farrington High School graduate is proud of her school and the state's public school system. She believes that she received a broad education after meeting and working with other students from all walks of life.



"It (public school education) helped me to understand where other people come from and be able to make friends and connect with them," said Calatrava.

She believes her alma mater provided her with an education that included real life situations and knowledge that she will be able to take with her and apply to any situation.

Although education is her main goal right now, she keeps her fire for music ablaze in her heart.

"I just want to succeed in what I set out to do," said Calatrava. "Finish school and hopefully make it out there (as a singer) someday."

Like Calatrava, 18 year-old Andrew Ines has also grown up loving music.

His grandmother began teaching him to play the piano when he was a little kid and he grew up going to Church every Sunday and watching his dad sing and play instruments with the choir.

He started learning to play the guitar at St. Anthony School in Kalihi even though it was too big for his hands to

fully grip its neck.

"I was little so my fingers couldn't reach," said Ines.

Eventually he moved on to the ukulele and has since learned to play a total of seven instruments, including the cello, violin and drums.

He has been singing for Mass at Maryknoll High School since his sophomore year and continues to worship through song at Church.

Ines was born in Hawaii and has attended private, Catholic institutions all his life. He will continue to do so when he enters Chaminade University as a freshman this Fall. He believes the schools he went to really shaped him into the person he is today.

"I always keep my Faith and God with me all the time. It (private school) helped me get out of when I used to be shy all the time," said Ines.

His shyness made it difficult for him to socialize and make friends with people he just met. Music taught him to relax his jitters and helped him learn to be himself while the intimate class sizes of private schools made the setting more

comfortable for him.

"You know everyone in your graduating class and you know of everyone in the entire school," said Ines.

He hardly misses a Sunday Mass and considers himself lucky to live within a stone's throw of his Church. He believes that the phrase "Let go and Let God," along with his family, friends and music, is what's kept him constantly moving forward.

Ines says music is the reason he was able to power through his senior year without falling prey to the symptoms of senioritis. In fact, he chose to do his high school senior project on the effects of music on a student's study habits. Through research and his own experiments, he found that music indeed helps people to focus.

Ines dreams of teaching high school statistics but also hopes to teach music one day. He knows many people who try to self-teach themselves to play instruments and he wants to help them improve their skills.

"So that they can love making music even more," said Ines.

Right now he isn't so worried about the pressures that come with transitioning into a new school filled with new people and a beacon of fresh opportunities. He's excited to break away from the shy shell that people see on the outside because he's actually very easy to talk to.

"It'll be a whole new world so I can remake myself," said Ines. "Now I can be the full-fledged Andrew."

MAINLAND NEWS

Journalist-Activist Detained at Texas Airport

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, filmmaker and immigration rights activist Jose Antonio Vargas was detained in McAllen-Miller International Airport after attempting to board a flight to Los Angeles. He traveled to the border area in Texas to document the ongoing humanitarian crisis unfolding along the nation's southern border as tens of thousands of minors flee escalating violence in their home countries in Central America.

Kaya: Filipino Americans For Progress, a grassroots founded to politically empower the Filipino-American community, says Vargas' detention



highlights the daily struggle undocumented immigrants go through in America and the need for a comprehensive immigration reform that would provide a pathway to legal status for the millions of immigrants placed in limbo by the nation's broken system.

Vargas and other immigration rights activists traveled to McAllen, Texas to provide hu-

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FEATURE

SECOND-HAND CLOTHES LAST FOREVER

by Lulu Fang-asan

O grew up wearing second-hand clothes. We regularly received packages of them from our aunt in Hawaii when we were kids, so our parents did not have to buy clothes for us. I guess this was one thing that made us different from the other kids.

I remember dad buying my sister Lita and I new dresses on two occasions. The first time was when he bought us identical green dresses with large striped pockets on both sides in front. The pockets were so extraordinarily large that you could actually put a regular notebook in them. I remember my sister and I wore them on the day a bunch of us kids went to harvest very young mango fruits (not bigger than half of my thumb) from the tree behind the elementary school building towards Balingawan.

Because we had large pockets, we were designated as the baggers of the loot. There were designated climbers and designated catchers. As baggers, we had to stand there as the catchers put the teeny weeny mango fruits inside our pockets. Should the “semana” come, we could just pretend that there was nothing going on. After all, the fruitlets were safely concealed



Lulu Fang-asan (top row, far left) and sister Lita (far right) in a family portrait.

in our pockets.

The “semana” did come but I don’t remember if we were caught along with the others in the group. What I recall is that one or two of the boys were spanked in public at the village square we called Kamarin.

The second time was during a fiesta in Guinzadan. The dresses had floral prints—mine was blue and my sister’s was light green. Both were accented with matching satin stripes running through slits on the ruffles adorning the front side of the dresses. I thought my sister’s was prettier than mine so I did not love that dress so much. It did not love me so much too in return. It became old soon after it was washed for the first time. It looked a lot older than the second-hand clothes we received from Hawaii.

At times, it felt so good wearing something that was

different. When I was in grade two, a queer pair of short pants came in one of the packages. It was light red and my mom called it hot pants. It had a flap in front that made it look like you were wearing a skirt. No one else in the village had that kind of pants. It was just me! After some time, however, I saw a movie star on the Bannawag cover wearing a similar one. I think it was Chanda Romero, but hers looked too small for her. I think it was about the same size as mine. I thought it looked awkward that she also had on knee-high leather boots. Was she holding a rifle in that picture? I vaguely recall but I think she was.

“Never mind,” I consoled myself, “it is a movie star who had the same shorts as mine.”

I was in grade three when another queer pair of pants arrived. It had white and blue stripes and stars all over. Boys only wore khaki or dark pants then, so clearly it was for girls. But then the zipper was in front! Girls’ pants had the zipper on one side, never in front. The Monday after the package arrived, I saw the pants laid

neatly on the bed together with a checkered polo. Auntie Pelagia chose the clothes we wore from day to day and that morning she chose the queer pants. I wanted to protest. I didn’t like to wear pants with the zipper in front. But we couldn’t complain. We were supposed to wear what she prepared for us, so I grudgingly put on that queer pair of pants, very careful not to show her I was pouting.

I felt that the zipper was actually waving for attention. “Hey, look! I am a zipper and I am in front!” My polo was long enough that it actually covered the zipper but it felt like the zipper was peeping out of the overlap. The last button of my polo was some four or five inches from the hem. I had to hide the zipper. There must be a way to keep the polo securely closed down to the hem! Then I noticed that my polo had some buttons that were not really fastening anything like the ones at the tip of the collar. I tore off one of them and sewed it at the bottom edge of one flap. Then on the other flap, I made a slit big enough for the button. We only learned how to sew a buttonhole in sixth grade so at that time it was just a slit that I made, not a buttonhole. And I did all this at the back of our house so Auntie Pelagia wouldn’t see what I was up to. That day, I went to school confident that nobody knew the zipper of my pants was in front. And I acted like the zipper of my pants was on the side and not in front.

During recess, together with my playmates, we climbed the santol tree before Baket Kalingan’s house in Balingawan to get some small

green fruits not bigger than my big toe. We played ‘catch me if you can’ and ‘binnatan’ (supposedly baseball but our ball was some stones wrapped in paper and used cellophane and tied all around with strips from a banana stalk). We had another round of ‘binnatan’ after classes in the afternoon before I hurried home to gather grass for the rabbits.

While changing into my grass-gathering clothes, it was then that I noticed, to my horror, that my polo was no longer buttoned down to the hem and that the zipper of my pants seemed to be sticking out. Fiber strands were hanging loose from where the slit used to be. I hated that day. I hated Auntie Pelagia for making me wear the queer pants. And I hated the pants too. I prayed that it would be torn beyond repair so I wouldn’t have to wear it again.

Unfortunately, second-hand clothes that come in big boxes last forever. The last I saw of it was when that queer pair of pants already became a doormat. I must have been in high school already and by that time, girls’ pants had their zipper in front.

LULU FANG-ASAN is a professor of development communication at Benguet State University in the Cordillera region of the Philippines. She attended St. Louis University in Baguio City for her primary and secondary education degrees, Mountain State Agricultural College (now BSU) in Benguet for her bachelor’s in agriculture, and Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand for her master’s in human settlements development. She attended the 2014 World Indigenous Knowledge Conference for Education held at Kapiolani Community College and has relatives on Kauai.

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PICTORIAL NEWS



◀ **ASSUMING COMMAND**—Ken Canete, son of local physician Dr. Danilo Canete, recently assumed command as Commodore of Tactical Air Control Group One, based in San Diego, California. Dr. Canete attended the Change of Command ceremony held in San Diego on June 25, 2014. Ken Canete is a graduate of Punahou School and completed the ROTC program at UC-Berkeley. He completed flight school in Pensacola, Florida and flew missions in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan aboard carrier based A-6 Intruders and EA6B Prowlers. He was in Rome, Italy for the last three years as U.S. Navy liaison to the Italian navy and returned to Coronado, San Diego, where he currently lives. He and his wife Roanna have two boys—Trey, 6, and Tristen, 5.

LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Supreme Court Rules Against Aged-Out Beneficiaries

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 9 that the automatic conversion provision under the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA) does not benefit most derivative beneficiaries of family based preference petitions. For thousands of immigrant families especially Filipinos hoping to be reunited with their aged-out children, this would mean more years, even decades, of waiting.

The case involved Rosalina Cuellar de Osorio who was a beneficiary of an F3 petition filed by her U.S. citizen mother. When the petition was filed in May 1998, her son was thirteen years old.

A visa became available to

her in November 2005. During that time, her son had already aged out and could no longer apply for an immigrant visa with his mother as a derivative beneficiary. In 2006, de Osorio filed an F2B petition for her son and requested that her son retain his 1998 priority date.

Under the CSPA, the government delay in processing a visa petition is taken into account in calculating a child's age for immigration purposes. If the adjusted age of the child is 21 years or older, the automatic conversion clause of the CSPA allows the petition to "automatically be converted to the appropriate category and the alien shall retain the original priority date issued upon receipt of the original petition."

De Osorio contended that her son was entitled to benefit from the automatic conversion

clause and retain his initial 1998 priority date since he was a derivative beneficiary of an F3 petition who aged out. The USCIS denied the request.

De Osorio appealed to the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals which decided in her favor. The court ruled that the CSPA provides for the automatic conversion of the petition and priority date retention of derivative beneficiaries of all family based preference petitions. The Government appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Government contended that the language of the CSPA law is ambiguous and the decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) in the 2009 case of Matter of Wang should be given deference. In that case, the BIA ruled that the automatic conversion provision only applied

to derivative beneficiaries of F2A petitions.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 vote, sided with the Government and reversed the decision of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. There was no single majority opinion as the five justices who accepted the BIA's narrow interpretation were split as to the legal rationale for the decision.

However, the majority agreed that there is an ambiguity in the law. Justice Kagan who wrote the plurality opinion explained that where the statute is unclear, the court must defer to the interpretation of the agency. She further stated that, "Were we to overturn the Board in that circumstance, we would assume as our own the responsible and expert agency's role. We decline that path, and defer to the Board."

The ruling is a disheartening to immigrant advocates who contend that our immigration system should unite families, not separate them. Without doubt, this will have a harsh impact on countries with long waiting period caused by the problem on visa backlog. The waiting period differs depending on the category and the country of chargeability; it can be decades for some countries such as Mexico and the

Philippines.

The F4 category for the Philippines, for example, has a cut-off date of November 15, 1990 as shown in the June 2014 visa bulletin. The Court's ruling would mean that a derivative beneficiary from the Philippines who is waiting with his parents under the F4 category would not be credited for the more than two decades of waiting for a visa number. When a visa finally becomes available to his parents, he would have to go at the back of the visa line and start from the beginning under a new family-based preference category.

A bipartisan coalition of current and former U.S. Senators filed a legal brief with the Supreme Court explaining that the language of the CSPA is clear; the automatic conversion and priority date retention provision benefits all derivative beneficiaries of family based preference petitions. With the Supreme Court's ruling that the CSPA law is ambiguous, it is now up to Congress to pass a law in a language that clearly and unambiguously expresses its intent.

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Troops Step Up Effort vs ASG Activities

by Roel Pareño
Monday, July 21, 2014

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines - The military said intensified monitoring and strong coordination with stakeholders will be a potent strategy to subdue the Abu Sayyaf and its cells from staging abductions in the south and borders of Sabah.

Lt. Gen. Rustico Guerrero, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, said the strategy will be part of the continuous pursuit operation to pressure the militants who are

still separately holding about 10 kidnap victims, including six foreigners, in Sulu.

Guerrero said the intelligence driven operation will keep the militants on the run and will prevent them from staging kidnappings.

Newly installed Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Pio Catapang has revealed that the military is implementing the pre-emptive strategy as a measure against the spate of kidnapping activities of the Abu Sayyaf group.

"That is what we are implementing now based on our previous plans and his (Cata-

pang) current guidance," Guerrero said following the series of abductions staged by the Abu Sayyaf locally and in the border of Sabah.

Guerrero said there will be changes of their strategy as they pursue the plan to out-manuever the Abu Sayyaf group that has created cells to operate outside Sulu and transfer all their prospective victims.

He said ground intelligence units are also working closely with their counterpart in the Philippine National Police (PNP) to thwart the militants from conducting kidnapping activities. (www.philstar.com)

MAINLAND NEWS (from page 11, JOURNALIST...)

manitarian assistance to refugees and to document the crisis unfolding brought about by the inability of the government to respond to this problem effectively. Upon arriving at McAllen-Miller International Airport, he was detained by Border Patrol but later released with a notice to appear before

an immigration judge.

Vargas' experience is all too common among undocumented immigrants who are subjected to being treated like common criminals and forced to unlawful searches and indefinite detentions. Kaya stands with Vargas and other victims of these inhumane policies and

calls for these rules to end.

The current influx of minors from Central America to America has reached emergency capacity. Vargas' detention underlines how broken and ineffective the U.S. immigration system has become. It is more important now than ever before to pass comprehensive immigration reform.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Ang Makulay na Buhay Pag-ibig ni Imelda

LIVE FEED By Bibsy M. Carballo

It would be completely unbelievable for those living outside the Philippines that the Marcoses are still around after leaving the country in the wake of the 1986 People Power Revolution. These thoughts came to mind upon reading about the album on which was based the musical Here Lies Love which told the story of Imelda Marcos for the first time in the US in 2013. It is now 2014 and Imelda (Meldy) is still at it, with the public insistent on hearing her story.

We have always been drawn to the story of Meldy and the numerous other allegations about her that have been transformed into legends. It reached a point when one could no longer tell which is which, what is what — what is legend and what is real. We are certain that Meldy likewise, like us, couldn't separate the grain

from the chaff.

Here Lies Love is a concept musical made in collaboration between David Byrne and Fatboy Slim on the life and legends surrounding the former First Lady of the Philippines. The album features 22 guest vocalists and was released on April 6, 2010 under Nonesuch Records and Todo Mundo in several formats, including a deluxe double-compact disc set with a DVD of music videos from the album, plus a 120-page book. The album was adapted into the musical that premiered in 2013 at the Public Theater in 425 Lafayette Street, New York City

We are certain that Here Lies Love the book will make even larger sales (paging National Book Store) if translated in Filipino. The title of the album comes from a statement of Imelda that she would like "Here Lies Love" to be inscribed on her tombstone when she dies. So, how about



"Buhay Pag-ibig ni Imelda"?

The studio album features mostly guest female singers including Florence Welch, Allison Moorer, Nellie McKay, Cyndi Lauper, Tori Amos, Martha Wainwright, Natalie Merchant, Sia Furler, Santigold, Charmaine Clamor, Nicole Atkins and Kate Pierson, among many others. The only male vocalists are Steve Earle and David Byrne himself. Here Lies Love was performed live four times before the album was released. It was first presented at the Adelaide Festival of the Arts in Australia and also performed live at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Going back to our suggestion of doing Filipino versions, it would also be great for an establishment like the Viva Entertainment Group to consider producing the Here Lies Love musical. With its litany of artists under contract, it would be a cinch for Boss Vic del Rosario to have Filipinos known internationally to sing new songs written by our numerous talented composers. As a final note, the title of the project and album will likewise need to be Filipinized.

To those who do not know the real story of Imelda, some facts need a brief retelling. She was born Imelda Romualdez in Manila, went to a Catholic girls' school in Tacloban, won a competition as Miss Manila, caught the eye of a brilliant politician Ferdinand Marcos, married Marcos after a whirlwind courtship of 11 days and became First Lady to Marcos in 1965. But to get there was not that easy since the family had to struggle financially with Imelda pawning whatever jewelry her parents had kept.

As her husband climbed

the country's political ladder, Imelda cared for the couple's growing family. They eventually had three children together: Imee, Irene and Ferdinand Jr., also known as Bongbong. Marcos was elected president in 1965, and Imelda, with her beauty and poise, met the world's most famous leaders who were always mesmerized by her beauty and charm. These included US president Lyndon Johnson, Cuban leader Fidel Castro, Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi. She spearheaded numerous beautification and developmental projects as governor of Metro Manila in her espousal of "The True, the Good and the Beautiful" which became her battle cry. And lest we forget, she built the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Her daughter Imee won the post of governor of Ilocos Norte in 2010, while Bongbong was elected to the country's senate that same year. Imelda, however, continues to face legal challenges regarding funds allegedly taken from the Philippine government. The Marcoses are said to have amassed around \$10B during their time in power.

(www.philstar.com)

NEWS FEATURE (from page 9, FILIPINO...)

portant mechanism to provide the freedom of choice to the consumer and help track any potential harm. The claims of those who oppose labeling say that it will result in more expensive food products, cost the government a lot of money and would not provide any health and safety benefits. Such claims are overly presumptive, illogical and spurious. Consumer products apart from GMOs are already required by law to be properly labeled and companies have complied without complaining of having to increase prices because of the required labeling. Labeling information belongs not to the government nor to corporations, but to the public. It cannot be unreasonably kept from citizens. Regulatory officials do not create information for corporations but for the benefit of the public they serve, as part of the legitimate and rou-

tine discharge of the government's duties. Information is generated with public money by public servants paid out of public funds and they are already doing so for thousands of categories of consumer products. It is absurd to say that information should not be provided about the true identity of a product because it will cost the government lots of money.

Q: Why should Filipinos care about whether they are consuming genetically-modified foods?

Sape: We should care that what we consume could be potentially dangerous to our health. We should care whether we are eating GMO foods or not. It is our fundamental right to know. It is our fundamental right to access safe, nutritious and culturally-appropriate food.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII, INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS • SATURDAY • August 23, 2014 • Filipino Community Center, Waipahu | 6:00 PM • For more information, contact Bea Ramos-Razon at 778-6291 or Melody Calisay at 224 9535

KAPAMPANGAN • SATURDAY • September 12, 2014 • Halekoa Hotel | 6:00 PM • For more information, contact Arturo Luna @ 233-8498

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB OF HAWAII, MISS MARIA CLARA AND MR. BARONG CONTESTS • SUNDAY • September 13, 2014 • Prince Hotel | 6:00 PM • For details, contact Bernadette Fajardo at 342-8090

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GLOBAL NEWS

China Not Solely Responsible for Sea Tension -US

MANILA, Philippines — The tense contest over maritime areas in the South China Sea is not the doing of only one country in the region, a United States Department of State official said.

Michael Fuchs, the second top policy maker for Asia Pacific, said in an influential Washington-based think tank over the weekend that "no claimant is solely responsible for the state of the tensions."

He said that the behavior of claimant states over small features in the sea attract attention from the rest of the world.

China has overlapping

claims over the East and South China Sea with the Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, Brunei and Malaysia.

"It's because the way in which countries pursue their claims speaks to whether future disputes will be handled by the threat and use of force on the one hand or the rule of law on the other," Fuchs said.

"It speaks to whether the same rules will apply to all claimants – big and small alike," he added.

Fuchs explained that nations inside and outside the region including the United States if tensions spiral and misreadings and misinterpreta-

tions rule over the key waterway.

Also read: United States: We are not outsiders in Asia

The official, however, singled out China's series of provocative actions such as its pressure on the "long-standing Philippine presence at Second Thomas (Ayungin) Shoal" and its restriction on Scarborough Reef, called Bajo de Masinloc in the Philippines.

"A pattern of provocative and unilateral behavior by China has raised serious concerns about China's intentions and willingness to adhere to international law and standards," Fuchs said.

Washington has pushed for peaceful management of disputes and recently brought up the issue in the Strategic Security and Economic Dialogue in Beijing last week, he said.

"US concerns are also regularly expressed at the highest levels to other claimants, and we consistently encourage all claimants to clarify their claims and base their claims on land features in the manner set out under the international law of the sea, as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention," Fuchs said.

He also reiterated the US'

call for parties to use diplomatic means including arbitration to address the sea dispute.

The Philippines has filed its case stating its claims on zones and reefs challenging China's so-called historical position before the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Fuchs also encouraged parties and others in the ASEAN to expedite a "meaningful" and binding code of conduct governing the disputed waters.

(www.philstar.com)

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I also learned with opportunity comes obligation. To help others, to give back, and to represent Hawai’i well.

Later, I learned from Senator Inouye the lessons of humility, loyalty, and never forgetting who you serve. And that leadership is grounded in the fundamentals of earning the people’s trust each and every day.

As your Senator, I will work tirelessly to protect your Social Security and Medicare, strengthen our economy and create jobs and to protect the jobs we already have, like the 800 jobs we saved at the HC&S mill on Maui.

I will continue to fight to fulfill the promises made to our Filipino Veterans of World War II, and for immigration reform that helps reunite families.

I will keep working to provide opportunity and hope for our young people, so that they can get a good education, find good jobs and raise families here in the Islands.

Our values are what have always made Hawai’i special, and we must never lose them. Our aloha spirit, our care for others, our willingness to stand up for what’s right, our melting pot cultures, and our mutual respect.

I thank you, and humbly ask you for your vote.”

– Colleen Hanabusa



Don’t forget to vote, Saturday, August 9th!

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– Governor Ben Cayetano

