

HAWAII

FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ DECEMBER 6, 2014 ◆

'TIS THE SEASON CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN HAWAII



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EDITORIALS

Pasko! Sa FilCom's Offers New Twist

It is refreshing for the Filipino Community Center (FilCom) to reach out and include more organizations in the planning of the 8th Annual *Pasko! Sa FilCom* which is perhaps Hawaii's largest and most authentic Filipino Christmas celebration. For the first time, organizers included non-Filipino community groups and individuals in the planning and implementation of this major community event. Organizers of this year's *Pasko!* went a step further and included an educational fair and immigration status workshop.

Purists may second-guess the FilCom's decision to involve non-Filipinos and include secular events for *Pasko!* but perhaps this approach could inject new blood into the various events held by the community each year. Complaints of seeing the same faces year in and year out at the various beauty pageants, inaugurations, anniversaries and other celebrations is nothing new. If the FilCom's efforts don't pan out as expected, they can simply be discontinued next year—but at least attempts were made to involve and attract more individuals who normally would not attend events such as *Pasko!*

Kudos also to the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) for holding its *Pasko!* celebration at the Honolulu Museum of Arts which attracts a greater cross section of the community. FAUW has made tremendous strides in sharing our Filipino culture and traditions with the wider Hawaii community. FAUW's efforts and that of FilCom is perhaps a sign of ethnic maturity in that the Filipino community is willingly taking steps to extend beyond its normal confines and also involve non-Filipinos in Christmas and other celebrations. After all, we should begin to see ourselves as not only being Filipino *per se* but as active, productive and contributing residents of Hawaii—who just happen to be Filipino.

But at the same time, let's also not lose sight of our Filipino identity as well as our many uniquely Filipino traditions. The Japanese community does this with the pounding of mochi to welcome in each new year. In much the same way, Filipinos should not only observe *Noche Buena* and other Filipino Christmas traditions but also pass them down to succeeding generations. Such traditions connect us to our past, bind us closer to our families and leave an indelible reminder of who we are and where we came from.

Low Gas Prices to Benefit Holiday Shoppers

Falling gas prices are welcomed news for Hawaii motorists who have traditionally paid among the highest in the nation to fill up their vehicles. The average price for a gallon of regular-grade gasoline on the mainland, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA), is about \$2.77—well below prices in Hawaii. Locally, the cheapest gas can be found at Costco for \$3.41 per gallon, which is still high compared to mainland prices, but significantly lower than the \$4.35 that we were paying earlier this year.

Overall, the lower gas prices have boosted consumer confidence and are leaving the public with more spending money for other goods. According to some estimates, the average household is expected to see annual savings of \$120 for every 10-cent drop in the price of gas—a substantial amount for many local families who are struggling to make ends meet.

The drop in gas prices could not have come at a better time for holiday shoppers such as teens, college students, middle- and low-income shoppers, and other budget-conscious con-

FROM THE PUBLISHER

The big news of late is the appointment of Filipino-American Nani Coloretti who was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate as deputy director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She holds the distinction as the highest-ranking Fil-Am to serve in President Barack Obama's administration. We hope to interview her, so look for more on Coloretti in a future issue of the Chronicle.



If you haven't yet noticed, it's really beginning to look a lot like Christmas—the favorite time of the year for many Filipinos. In between Christmas parties and hectic shopping, you may want to take a break and bring your family to a relaxing concert, parade or other celebration. If you don't know which events to attend, read this issue's cover story which focuses on the various upcoming Christmas events in town. To find out more, read "Hawaii Prepares for a Magical Christmas" on page 4.

In other news, the filing period for those interested in running for their neighborhood board is now open. Serving on the board is a great way to not only make a difference in the community but to also kick-start a political career. Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell formerly served as a member of the Manoa and Kaimuki boards. If serving as a neighborhood board member interests you, turn to page 11 to find out how to submit your application.

Also in this issue, Dr. Lindy Aquino introduces us to Lina Barnachea Mercado, owner of Lina B. Flowers Shop, who was named the 2014 Filipino Business Woman of the Year by the Filipino Business Women's Association (FBWA). Congratulations to Lina for this distinction!

Lastly, to help you deal with the added stress and overeating during the Holidays, I suggest that you turn to page 14 for "Holiday Health Tips." You may end up enjoying this season more than you thought you would—if you can minimize the stress that often accompanies this hectic time of the year.

That's all for now. In closing, we encourage our readers to provide feedback, story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii's dynamic and vibrant Filipino community. Please drop us an email at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

sumers who are most likely to use the savings for Christmas gifts and other holiday-related expenses. At least that's what retailers are hoping for in the coming weeks as the shopping season kicks into high gear. Some analysts have predicted a 4 percent to 5 percent rise in holiday sales, for a whopping \$616.9 billion in total sales this Christmas season.

However, some economists are cautioning that lower gas prices are a mixed blessing. While consumers may be enjoying extra spending money in their pockets, lower gas prices could signal danger in the long run. Experts say a weaker global economy and a stronger dollar could hurt the U.S. economy by reducing exports, employment and spending. And all that, in turn, could outweigh the economic benefit of cheaper fuel. And environmentally, lower gas prices are expected to encourage more oil use, which would lead to greater carbon dioxide emissions. For the time being, though, Hawaii's consumers are grateful that their hard earned money can be stretched a little bit further. Let's enjoy the cheaper gas prices while they last.

Publisher & Executive Editor
Charlie Y. Sonido, M.D.

Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors
Dennis Galolo
Edwin Quinabo

Contributing Editor
Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.

Creative Designer
Junggoi Peralta

Photography
Tim Llana

Administrative Assistant
Shalimar Pagulayan

Columnists
Carlota Hufana Ader
Emil Guillermo
Ruth Elynia Mabanglo, Ph.D.
Ron Menor
J.P. Orias
Pacita Saludes
Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.
Charlie Sonido, M.D.
Emmanuel S. Tison, Esq.
Felino S. Tubera
Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

Contributing Writers
Clement Bautista
Teresita Bernales, Ed.D
Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D.
Julia Crowley
Linda Dela Cruz
Fiedes Doctor
Danny De Gracia, II, MA
Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand
Amelia Jacang, M.D.
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Seneca Moraleta-Puguan
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Philippine Correspondent
Greg Garcia

Big Island Distributor
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Ditas Udani

Maui Distributor
Cecile Piro

Molokai Distributor
Maria Watanabe

Advertising/Marketing Director
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives
Carlota Hufana Ader
J.P. Orias

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OPINION

Obama, A Lincoln to Millions of Undocumented Immigrants? Who Qualifies for Immigration Relief?

NO LIMITATION
by Ted Laguatan

President Obama's recent Executive Order legalizing millions of undocumented immigrants will mark him in history as a great President. Undocumented immigrants are the modern day slaves in American society. In constant fear, living in substandard conditions, paid low wages for backbreaking work, subjected to all kinds of abuse and exploitation - they contribute so much to American society. They produce food with their agricultural sweat, build houses and other buildings, clean them, make clothes in sweatshops, wait on restaurant tables, wash plates, care for children, care for the elderly and provide other valuable services.

The situation of undocumented immigrants today is

eerily very similar to that of the slaves during the time of President Abraham Lincoln. Most legislators are against legalizing undocumented immigrants who have lived and worked here for years. Many have U.S. citizen children. During Lincoln's time, most legislators were also against passing any law freeing the slaves. Realizing this, like President Obama today, Lincoln resorted to using an Executive Order to free them.

The greatness of Lincoln is his willingness to do what is morally right and listened to his heart rather than pander to the often unholy demands of the majority as most politicians are apt to do.

President John F. Kennedy faced the same situation when he pushed for the passage of civil rights laws which would end segregation and provide equal rights for all Americans. Job, housing and other kinds of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, national origin and religion

would be forbidden. The majority of Americans were also against this legislation. But the assassination of Kennedy brought much public sympathy which caused Congress to approve the very important Civil Rights Act of 1964 which ended much misery and resulted in better lives for millions.

It is to Obama's credit that he has courageously signed this Executive Order on November 20, 2014 which benefits millions of undocumented immigrants - despite widespread strong and virulent opposition. It is unfortunate that the Republicans who control the House of Representatives have made the immigration debate a partisan issue. They admit that the nation's immigration system is broken but has done absolutely nothing to correct the situation. Many pander to their anti-immigrant constituencies who hatefully mouth all kinds of demonizing untrue statements against undocumented immigrants. Some Re-

publicans even threaten to file a lawsuit against Obama. Some even call for impeachment. They will not prevail. Like Lincoln, Obama has the force of moral authority on his side.

Evil is a mystery. Why were there more people than not in Lincoln's time who did not want to end slavery and were blind to the misery of the slaves? Why did they not see the slaves as fellow human beings? Why did millions of Germans hail Hitler and closed their eyes and hearts to the terrible mass tortures and murders inflicted by the Nazis on millions of Jews and other minorities? Why do most Americans not see undocumented immigrants as human beings just like them just wanting a better life for themselves and their children and going through terrible risks and sacrifices to come to the U.S.? Why don't they who also are immigrants or descendants of immigrants - want to give undocumented immigrants the

opportunity to eventually be citizens just like them? This is a nation of immigrants, made great by immigrants and children of immigrants.

Exceptional leaders who have changed the world for the good of all understand that for a nation to be great and stable - its laws must conform to moral laws. They do what is right rather than what is popular knowing there often lies darkness in the hearts of many. But they often pay a high price. Lincoln, Kennedy, Jesus and others of like mind were all murdered. Obama ought to increase his security.

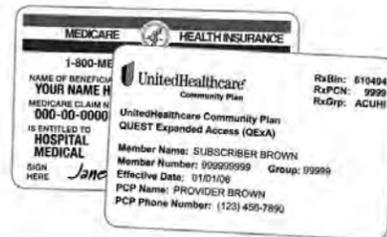
Which undocumented immigrants benefit from Obama's Executive Order?

1. More will qualify under the expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Those who came to the U.S. before turning 16 and who were present since January 10, 2010 or before qualify under

(continued on page 10)

Binibigyan ako ng aking planong pangkalusugan ng higit pa sa aking inaasahan.

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COVER STORY

HAWAII PREPARES FOR A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS

By Chona Montesines-Sonido

While the mainland has suffered from a recent blast of frigid temperatures, the Aloha State managed to evade much of the chill. The weather in paradise was still nippy by Hawaii standards, forcing some to don sweaters and blankets, but the cooler temperatures were a welcomed change for most kamaaina.

Typically cooler weather for Hawaii, which usually arrives in late November or early December, means only one thing—Christmas is right around the corner. The Holiday Season is *THE* favorite time of the year for many Hawaii residents, particularly the young or young at heart. It's not uncommon to see families put up Christmas lights and other decorations as soon as the last piece of Thanksgiving turkey is gobbled.

Christmas Celebrations in Hawaii are different from the mainland. For obvious reasons, there is no winter wonderland or chestnuts roasting on an open fire. But then again, where else in the world, other than in Hawaii, can a person spend the morning snowboarding down the snow-covered slopes of Mauna Kea and then paddling out to sea to catch some waves in the afternoon? And in Hawaii, Santa in his aloha shirt rides in an out-

rigger canoe instead of a sleigh.

Local Christmas Celebrations

In Hawaii, there are joyous Christmas concerts, community parades and colorful displays for all to enjoy. One of the more popular events is Honolulu City Lights—a dazzling display featuring a 50-foot tall Norfolk pine tree and brightly decorated trees, wreaths and other exhibits on display in the courtyard of City Hall.

During the first week of December, Santa's elves began preparing the numerous displays—large and small—for the Honolulu City Lights celebration scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2014. The festivities kick off at 4 pm, with food booths and keiki rides available to the public on the municipal lawn. The tree lighting ceremony starts at 6 pm with the Electric Light Parade beginning near Aala Park and ending

at Kawaiahao Church.

Veteran TV journalist Emme Tomimbang will emcee the Tree Lighting Ceremony beginning at 6 pm, followed by the official lighting of the Christmas tree by Mayor Kirk Caldwell at 6:30 pm.

The thousands who are expected to crowd Honolulu Hale and the civic center grounds will be treated to a free holiday concert held by Tom Moffat Productions. Headlining the lineup will be local entertainer Willie K, the Sounds of Aloha Barbershop Chorus, the keiki from Joan S. Lindsey's Halau and Ka Pa Nani O Lilinoe, Maunaloa, and Hawaii singer Ciana Pelekai from America's Got Talent.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Honolulu City Lights. The public is advised to arrive before 5pm to take advantage of the free parking in civic center parking structure.

Pasko sa FilCom

The following day on December 7, the Filipino Community Center (FilCom) in Waipahu will hold the 8th annual "Pasko! sa FilCom" from 3 pm to 7 pm.

Pasko! sa FilCom is one of Hawaii's largest and most authentic Filipino Christmas celebrations. This year's theme is "Pagkakaisa sa Diwa ng Pasko" (Unity in the Spirit of Christmas). Over 12 community organizations were a part of the planning for the event.

"The theme was selected because from the outset, FilCom planned to have Filipino and non-Filipino community groups and individuals come together to plan and implement a major community event," says Clem Bautista,



event co-chair and member of FilCom's Board of Directors. "Except for the task of the FilCom Programs Committee to coordinate meetings and publicity, no single organization dominated the planning, and all participants took charge of their own portion of the event."

In addition to a *parol* contest, choral contest, tabletop Christmas tree decoration contest and a *sungka* challenge, this year's *Pasko!* will offer food demonstrations and musical presentations by various community groups and individuals.

A new event is a University of Hawaii College Fair organized by the UH Office of Multicultural Student Services. Officials from various UH campuses, the UH Richardson School of Law, UH College of Education, UH Center for Philippine Studies and the UH Ilokano and Filipino Language Departments will be on-hand to answer questions about educational opportunities. The fair will be from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Prior to the college fair, a workshop on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

(DACA) will be held from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. According to Bautista, families will receive the latest information on opportunities and policies for undocumented students.

Participating vendors include AARP, FMS Hawaii, Valley of the Temples, Western Union, Calvin Alonzo, OD Inc., Purium Health Products and Creations in Catering.

Bautista encourages the Filipino community to come out and enjoy the event.

"Christmas is the most special event of the year to many Filipinos from the Philippines," he says. "*Pasko sa FilCom* is a family-oriented and focused event bringing some of that special flavor of the Philippines to Hawaii. Both Filipinos and non-Filipinos can experience and re-experience the culture of the Philippines by participating in this celebration."

Paskuhan Sa Konsulado

Another event for the Filipino community to take note of is "*Paskuhan Sa Konsulado*," which is sponsored by the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu and

(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, HAWAII...)

scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2014 from 5:30 pm to 9 pm at the consulate grounds.

For the first time ever, "Paskuhan Sa Konsulado" is being organized in partnership with the five major Filipino umbrella organizations in Hawaii—the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii (PCCCH); the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO); the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH); the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH); and the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC).

Organizers chose December 16th since it coincides with the start of "Simbang Gabi," a Filipino traditional and devotional 9-day novena mass in preparation for Christmas Eve. This year's Christmas party will start with a celebration of the Holy Mass to be followed by a cultural Filipino entertainment program and traditional "salusalo" of Filipino food.

The evening will also include the lighting of the *parols* or Filipino Christmas lanterns. Consulate officials have requested the unit organizations to bring their own *parols*, which will be hung and displayed on the Consulate's lanai through January 6, 2015.

According to Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin, Filipinos look forward to Christmas and events such as "Paskuhan Sa Konsulado" because it affords them the time to reflect on the year that was, to thank the Lord for the blessings that they received this year, and to think of how they can improve themselves.

"For Filipinos, Christmas means time well-spent with our family and loved ones," says Jamoralin. "The Christmas season is meaningful, especially to our Overseas Filipino Workers because they miss their families and the Christmas traditions back home."

The Consulate advises those interested in attending the "Paskuhan Sa Konsulado" to RSVP with either the PCCCH, COVO, FCCH,



UFCH or OFCC.

Washington Place Christmas

Those who have yet to visit Washington Place, the official governor's residence, may get a chance to do so by attending a Christmas Open House on Friday, December 19, 2014 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The St. Andrew's Cathedral Choir directed by John Renke will perform a program of Christmas music from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Visitors will be taken on a guided stroll through the 167-year-old home to learn more about the occasion on Christmas Eve in 1858 that sparked the time-honored custom in Hawaii. The Christmas trees of Washington Place, including a tree reminiscent of the 1858 tree decorated by Mary Dominis for the children of Honolulu, will be on view along with another uniquely "Hawaiian" Christmas tree that honors the beneficiaries—the children of the Queen Liliuokalani Trust in the Glassed Lanai of Washington Place.

The Washington Place Christmas Open House began in 1858 by Mary Dominis, widow of Washington Place builder Captain John Dominis, who hosted a magnificent party for 100 of Honolulu's children and their parents.

The open house is sponsored by the Washington Place Foundation, which is requesting a \$5 donation that will go towards preservation and programs for the historic home. Free parking will be available at the State Department of Health (Kinau Hale Building) parking lot by entering off Miller Street. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 586-0248 before December 18, 2014.

Pasko! Celebration

at Museum of Arts

On Sunday, December 21, 2014 the Honolulu Museum of Arts will host "Pasko! A Filipino Christmas Celebration" from 11 am to 5 pm. Located at 900 South Beretania Street, the museum is partnering with the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) for a festive Filipino-style Christmas celebration. The event is part of the Bank of Hawaii Family Sunday, which is held on the third Sunday of each month at the museum.

"We are really glad that we have been invited back to the Museum, which attracts a great cross section of the community," says FAUW's Pepi Nieva. "And Filipinos can enjoy the sights and sounds of a Filipino Christmas."

The museum's halls will be decked with *parols*. Atten-

dees will be able to make *parols* at any one of the event's art activity stations, and also learn how to wrap gifts in coconut leaves and filigreed paper, which are customarily used to wrap rice cakes and desserts.

Children can play traditional Filipino games, try on Filipino costumes from different regions and receive candy while learning how "mano po" or respectfully greet elders like *ninong* and *ninang* (godparents) who give gifts during the holidays.

The festive event will also have display tables set for *Noche Buena*, a family feast held after Midnight Mass. The tables will be adorned with decorative shells, brass and hand-woven materials from the Philippines. A fashion show will showcase traditional Filipino ternos and Maria Clara dresses.

The youth orchestra Banda Kawayan will be performing on bamboo instru-

ments and the Tekniqlingz Dance Crew, which combines traditional and hip-hop styles in their unique rendition of the *tinikling* bamboo dance.

The Meaning of Christmas

For all of the glitz and glamour of the season, some like Imelda Gasmen have remembered the true meaning of Christmas.

"Christmas is a very special season for giving and sharing as we celebrate the reason for this season, the birth of the most important gift of all, our savior Jesus Christ," she says.

For Nieva, Christmas is also a time for family and friends.

"It's a wonderful time to celebrate with music, lights and decorations in the spirit of hospitality and generosity so deeply-valued by Filipinos," she says. "It's my most favorite time of year when all the memories of Christmases past come alive again."

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COMMENTARY

What Lies Ahead for 2015

By Lee H. Hamilton

Given all the words and images devoted to the midterm elections over the past few weeks, you'd think the results had told us something vital about the future of the country. In reality, they were just a curtain-raiser. It's the next few weeks and months that really matter.

The big question, as the old Congress reconvenes and prepares to make way for next year's version, is whether the two parties will work more closely together to move the country forward or instead lapse back into confrontation and deadlock. I suspect the answer will be a mix: modest progress on a few issues, but no major reforms.

Overall, the deep frustration Americans feel toward

Washington will likely continue. Especially since, despite the urgent problems confronting us, the House leadership has announced an astoundingly relaxed 2015 agenda that includes not a single five-day work week, 18 weeks with no votes scheduled and just one full month in session—January.

Still, there is hope for at least a modicum of progress. The president wants to enhance his legacy. More politicians these days seem to prefer governing to posturing. The Republican Party may have won big in the elections, but it still cannot govern alone. It will need Democratic votes in the Senate and the cooperation of the president. And both parties want to demonstrate that they recognize they're responsible for governing.

Congress faces plenty of

issues that need addressing, which means that skillful legislators who want to show progress have an extensive menu from which to choose. Trade, health care, terrorism, responsible budgeting, rules on greenhouse gas emissions... All of these are amenable to incremental progress.

Which is not to say that progress is inevitable. President Obama acted to halt deportations of millions of illegal immigrants, though he did so without Congress. His action could unleash unpredictable consequences. Meanwhile, the new Republican Senate is almost certain to give the president's nominees a hard time. While GOP senators are unlikely to want to appear too tough on Loretta Lynch, the nominee for attorney general, the gloves will almost certainly come off for nominees who must negotiate hearings after her.

Yet indications of what next year may be like have already begun to emerge. Bills with a relatively narrow focus

that enjoy bipartisan support—boosting agricultural development aid overseas, funding research into traumatic brain injuries, giving parents with disabled children a tax break on savings for long-term expenses—either have passed the “lame-duck” Congress or stand a good chance of doing so.

In the end, 2015 will see a mix of small steps forward and backward. There's little chance of a minimum wage increase and it's unlikely the budget will be passed in an orderly and traditional manner. Similarly, significant and difficult issues like major entitlement and tax reform will prove hard to budge and comprehensive immigration reform is a near impossibility. There will be no knockdown punch on Obamacare but we'll see plenty of efforts to chip away at it.

On the other hand, Congress can probably manage to avoid a government shutdown and it faces decent prospects of expanding and protecting our energy boom, promoting fast-track trade authority and funding key infra-

structure needs. Defense spending will not be further reduced.

The parties on Capitol Hill are highly suspicious of one another. Incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said the right things about wanting more openness, a more traditional process and more ability on the minority's part to offer amendments but he'll be under great pressure from members of his caucus to make life hard for Democrats. Similarly, Democrats in the Senate, still fuming over what they view as obstructionism from Republicans over the last several years, will face pressure to make life as hard as possible for the new majority.

Yet here's the basic truth—divided government does not have to be dysfunctional. It can be made to work and if incremental progress on small issues is the way to get started, then let's hope Congress and the president pursue that course.

LEE HAMILTON is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Ige Takes Oath of Office

Flanked by his wife Dawn, David Ige was administered the oath of office by State Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald as Hawaii's next governor on December 1, 2014.

And with that Ige became Hawaii's eighth governor since statehood. His running mate, Shan Tsutsui, was also sworn in as lieutenant governor.

In his inaugural address entitled “Honoring the Past and Charting a New Tomorrow,” Ige urged viewers to get more involved in government affairs.

“As I prepare to take over the reigns of your government, I ask each of you to join me in the process of governing,” he said. “I ask you to find your voice and use it to not only choose your elected officials but to shape the issues that will shape our lives. Join me in dreaming the dreams, setting



the path and doing the hard work necessary for the sake of all of us in Hawaii.”

The 57-year-old Ige served in the State Legislature for nearly 30 years and most recently chaired the powerful Senate Ways and Means Committee. He defeated incumbent Neil Abercrombie in the Democratic primary and went on to beat Republican James “Duke” Aiona and Independ-

ent candidate Mufi Hannemann in the November General Election.

Ige listed his priorities as nurturing a sustainable economy; taking a more active role in growing small business; diversifying the economy, tackling the lack of affordable housing, poverty and homelessness; and collaborating with business, labor, community groups and public workers.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Obama Immigration Amnesty – Highlights and Lowlights

the President’s signature on which these are based? Is USCIS implementing “executive initiatives” without a written executive order signed by the President but simply based on a speech?

Highlights

Here are the 5 initiatives in the USCIS’s own words with the link to the USCIS website so you can read them yourself instead of relying on misleading or slanted articles:

- 1) Expanding the population eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to young people who came to this country before turning 16 years old and have been present since January 1, 2010, and extending the period of DACA and work authorization from two years to three years | <http://www.uscis.gov/migrationaction#1>
- 2) Allowing parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who have been in the country since January 1, 2010, to request deferred action and employment authorization for three years, in a new Deferred Action for Parental Accountability program, provided they pass required background checks | <http://www.uscis.gov/migrationaction#2>
- 3) Expanding the use of provisional waivers of unlawful presence to include the spouses and sons and daughters of lawful permanent residents and the sons and daughters of U.S. citizens | <http://www.uscis.gov/migrationaction#3>
- 4) Modernizing, improving and clarifying immigrant and nonimmigrant programs to grow our economy and create jobs | <http://www.uscis.gov/migrationaction#4>
- 5) Promoting citizenship education and public awareness for lawful permanent residents and providing an option for naturalization applicants to use credit cards to pay the application fee | <http://www.uscis.gov/migrationaction#5>

Analysis

The Obama executive action or initiative has been criticized on two basic grounds: (1) policy, and (2) process.

Policy: Immigration reform should be based on what is in the national interest. The “initiative” grants amnesty to about 5 million illegal aliens. This is not in the national interest. It rewards lawlessness. It punishes the law abiding because citizens and lawful permanent residents who have petitioned their alien relatives will have to wait longer as they

are shunted aside. Remember the analogy we described of theater patrons with tickets waiting for the doors to open and then a lawless band breaks into the line and are allowed first inside the theater. It diverts immigration personnel from their regular duties of processing legitimate petitions in order to handle applications by amnestied aliens. It will demoralize USCIS personnel who have been working hard to uphold the law and grant benefits to the law abiding but now will have to work to grant benefits to the lawless.

America should be welcoming into the country the best and the brightest from around the world in order to make this country great. Are the amnestied aliens the best and the brightest? The amnestied aliens will compete with U.S. citizens and lawful permanent alizens for jobs. Since these aliens will generally accept lower wages than the prevailing wages, they will displace U.S. citizens and lawful permanent aliens. These amnestied aliens

(continued on page 10)

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

On Ferguson and Justice

ple of color, Asian-Americans included.

You want justice? Sorry, justice is somehow harder for us. We do get pain and are forced to live with that, until somehow the nothing that we get from the system sinks in and is forced to make sense. And then we must live with the hollow words “Nothing can bring him back.”

I feel for Michael Brown and his family. I wish the process worked for people like us in this country. The disenfranchised by skin color, by language or accent, by pocket-book, by neighborhood.

Maybe it will be different some day.

It was especially hard for our family on Thanksgiving, a day that would have been Stephen’s 27th birthday. But we still have hope. In spite of Ferguson.

If you haven’t yet, I suggest you go over the grand jury testimony of Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson to get a

sense of how justice worked in the case that has become America’s obsession. You can start anywhere. But I was taken by Wilson’s “confession” to his police sergeant as he gets back to his squad car.

“I had to kill him,” Wilson said. “He grabbed my gun. I shot him. I killed him.”

Had to kill Michael Brown? After Brown ran away? After you saw he was unarmed? Wilson’s own words are pretty revealing about law enforcement in a polarized society.

The transcript makes Wilson sound like an inexperienced greenhorn, not ready for prime time. At best, he was just a white man with a badge, who felt disrespected by two black men he saw walking down the middle of the street.

Wilson seemed to have a special fancy for Brown, who had responded to him with an obscenity. It all went downhill from there.

When the protectors of the

community are seen as the enemy, and the people of the community are seen by the protectors as the enemy, we’ve lost all chance for justice.

In fact, from the time Wilson saw Brown to the time he was dead, Wilson says it was maybe a minute or less. That tells you how quickly justice is lost in America.

The transcript reads like a modern urban tragedy. Wilson was in his squad car. He called Brown over. Wilson said he didn’t see any weapons but that Brown had his hands up. Wilson implied it wasn’t a sign of surrender. Wilson described Brown as a “demon” who was preparing to hit him on the head. Indeed, Wilson later showed off red marks on his head and face.

Still, did he have to shoot at an unarmed man? After the second shot, Brown ran away. Wilson got out of the car. He called for help, but pursued anyway.

Wilson told Brown to get

on the ground. But Wilson said Brown had his right hand under his shirt and started running at him.

“At this point I started backpedalling again, I tell him get on the ground, get on the ground, he doesn’t. I shoot another round of shots. Again, I don’t recall how many it was or if I hit him every time. I know at least once because he flinched again.

“At this point it looked like he was almost bulking up to run through the shots, like it was making him mad that I’m shooting at him. And the face that he had was looking straight through me, like I wasn’t even there, I wasn’t even anything in his way.”

Wilson said he feared he would be tackled.

“And when he gets 8-10 feet away, I look down, I remember looking at my sites and firing, all I see is his head and that’s what I shot. I don’t know how many, I know at least once because I saw the last one go into him. And then when it went into him, the de-

(continued on page 15)

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HEALTH & FAMILY

TOP HOLIDAY HEALTH TIPS

CONSUMERLINE By Ching M. Alano

While we're busy making our Christmas list and checking it twice, here's a list you may want to add to your list of lists: your holiday health tips/supplements (as can be gleaned from www.mercola.com).

- **As you decorate your Christmas tree, remember your omega-3s.** Experts say that the best source of omega-3s is krill oil, but how do you know it's licensed to krill? Of course, you want one that's certified by the Marine Stewardship Council because that means that the way the krill is harvested and handled is sustainable.
- **Let whey show you the way to good health.** Mercola, however, cautions everyone to pick one that's made from pasture-fed

cows' milk and is free of chemicals, added sugars, and artificial sweeteners. And get the whey protein concentrate and not the isolate to get the full nutritional benefits.

- **Go for probiotics. And the best way to get probiotics is to eat fermented foods.** Don't like fermented foods? You can always take a probiotic supplement, but make sure it contains *Lactobacillus acidophilus* DDS-1.
- **If you're over 25, here's something for you: ubiquinol.** It's difficult for the body to absorb CoQ10, which has to be converted to a more natural form (or ubiquinol). CoQ10 is one of the most powerful antioxidants in the body, and as we age, it's harder and harder to convert it to ubiquinol.



- **If you are taking statins (to lower cholesterol), it's vitally important that you take a CoQ10 or ubiquinol supplement because statins can decrease your levels of CoQ10.**
- **Ask for astaxanthin, one of nature's most powerful fat-soluble antioxidants.** It's extremely difficult to get it from one's diet — look for a high-quality astaxanthin supplement.
- **See to it you take your Vitamin C.** It's the most widely used vitamin supplement, but note that a high dose of Vitamin C can cause digestive problems.
- **Go loco over coco.** Use your coconut oil (which, luckily, we have an ample supply of). Coconut oil, which comes from the "tree of life," is one of the best sources of saturated fat as medium chain triglycerides (MCTs), which is a good fat. Try to get a good part of your diet from fats like avocados and coconut oil. Apart from breast milk, coconut milk is nature's abundant source of lauric acid (about 50 percent), which is converted into a compound that's got antiviral and antimicrobial properties.
- **Think green.** Like our

mothers always tell us (I suppose their mothers tell them the same thing): Eat your vegetables. But if you don't get the recommended servings like most people, you can either juice your veggies to get the nutrients or take a high-quality greens formula.

- **To keep up with the stresses of the holiday season, fuel up with multivitamins.** As you may find yourself traveling and not eating right, pack your multivitamins to keep your body going. Partner this with Vitamin D, one of the most important nutrients you should get.
- **It's A-OK to complement your multivitamin that should come with Vitamin D.** Such as with Vitamin K2 to support your bone health.

While caught in the frenzy of taking care of all the holiday preparations, don't forget to take care of your body, too! Happy, healthy holidays! (www.philstar.com)

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OPINION (from page 3, OBAMA...)

DACA. The prior date requirement was arrival in the U.S. on or before June 15, 2007. Those qualified under DACA will be allowed to stay, be given renewable employment authorization for three year increments and allowed to travel under certain circumstances. The age limitation of younger than 31 in order to apply has been removed. There is now no age limit for otherwise qualified applicants. Applications will be accepted for new applicants around three months from the date of the Executive Order.

2. Those who have been residing in the U.S. since January 1, 2010 and are parents of U.S. citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents as of November 20, 2014 who are not serious criminals or national security risks - are eligible to have Deferred Action Status. They will be allowed to stay and be granted renewable 3 year employment authorization increments. It's not clear yet whether travel abroad under certain circumstances will be allowed. Applications will be accepted around six months from the date of the Executive Order.

3. Provisional waivers which allow certain aliens to be able to wait in the U.S. before they leave to get their immigrant visa abroad have now also been extended to adult sons and daughters of U.S. citizens and adult sons and daughters and spouses of Lawful Permanent Residents. Previously, these provisional waivers were only available to spouses and minor children of U.S. citizens. The "extreme hardship" requirement to qualify will also be clarified to make it more understandable and reasonable. These provisional waivers apply to those who cannot adjust status in the U.S. because they overstayed for 180 days or more or entered as crewmen or without inspection.

Spouses, minor children or parents of U.S. citizens who entered legally may adjust even if they overstayed and do not need these provisional waivers.

4. Talented, highly educated, excep-

tional individuals who are eligible will be afforded more opportunities to apply for non-immigrant and immigrant visas - to grow the U.S. economy and create more jobs.

Obama's Executive Order will benefit around 5 million undocumented immigrants. Another estimated 6 to 7 million who do not have U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident children and who did not come to the U.S. before the age of 16 but nevertheless have been living in the U.S. for so many years - are left without any benefits or reliefs. When confronted with this issue during his speech in Nevada the day he signed the Executive Order, Obama assures those left out that he is not blind to their predicament and that he is not yet finished in fixing the nation's immigration problem.

Let's hope that Obama's Executive Order initiative pushes Congress to pass an encompassing humanitarian immigration Bill that really fixes the nation's broken immigration system and gives all undocumented immigrants a chance to be legalized and eventually also become U.S. citizens. If not, Obama should issue another Executive Order to further fix the system.

From these undocumented immigrants and their children will come great Americans who will make this a greater and better country for all - just like previous immigrants before them.

ATTY. TED LAGUATAN is one of only 29 lawyers continuously officially certified for 25 years now by the California State Bar as Specialist-Experts in U.S. Immigration Law. He authored a book on Immigration Law and has won landmark cases. His law office handles US Immigration Law worldwide. He also has recovered huge sums for clients in accident injuries and wrongful death cases. For communications: San Francisco area, 495 Hickey Blvd. Ste. 516, Daly City, Ca 94015 Tel 650 991 1154 Fax 650 991-1186 Email laguatan-law@gmail.com Cut and paste this important information for reference.

IMMIGRATION GUIDE (from page 7, OBAMA IMMIGRATION...)

will demand health care benefits and social services.

As a newly-arrive immigrant wryly observed. We had to undergo a medical examination, submit an affidavit of support, birth certificate, police clearance, and other documents to prove that we had a bona fide relationship with the person who petitioned us, but these are not required of the aliens given amnesty.

Process: Making immigration laws is exclusively vested in Congress. The President's duty is to enforce the laws passed by Congress, not make the laws himself. The excuse that previous Presidents, including Republicans, granted amnesty is a gross misrepresentation. The previous presidents simply implemented the amnesty laws enacted by previous Congresses. Assuming that previous presidents granted amnesty, two wrongs do not make a right. (Or as Mr. Wong, a Chinese I met in Las Vegas joked

"Two Wongs do not make a right.")

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: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813, by telephone at (808) 225-2645 or by e-mail: filamlaw@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

Neighborhood Board Candidate Filing Period Opens

Oahu residents interested in running for a seat on their local neighborhood boards are urged to apply online at: www.honolulu.gov/nco. Registration forms are also available at the City's Neighborhood Commission Office located at Honolulu Hale Room 406 or by calling (808) 768-3717. The deadline to

apply is February 20, 2015.

Candidacy is open to Oahu residents who will be at least 18 years of age by February 20, 2015.

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell says serving on a neighborhood board is an opportunity to create real change in the community, build a legacy and network with other

leaders.

"No one knows a neighborhood better than the people who live in it," says Mayor Caldwell who served on both the Manoa and Kaimuki neighborhood boards."

Those who voted in the 2014 primary or general elections are automatically registered to vote in the 2015

Neighborhood Board elections. Others may register by submitting a Neighborhood Board voter registration form online at: www.honolulu.gov/nco. Voting begins April 21, 2015 and ends May 15, 2015. Elected board members serve a two year term, starting in July of 2015.

The Neighborhood Board System is the only government

sponsored civic engagement system in the Hawaii. While they are advisory, board activities may include study and review of capital improvement projects and zoning concerns. They may also conduct educational programs on governmental decision making processes and establish community goals, objectives and priorities.

Ige Names Salaveria to Head DBEDT

Gov. David Ige has announced the appointments of six additional members of his cabinet and two deputy directors. These appointments are subject to confirmation by the State Senate.

"We are committed to finding the best and brightest in our community to serve as effective leaders in state government," says Gov. Ige. "These appointments show a variety of talented and dedicated individuals from both the public and private sectors, who have decided to work together to create a better Hawaii for future generations."

Among the appointees is



DBEDT Dir. Luis P. Salaveria

Luis P. Salaveria, who has been named director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT). In October, Salaveria received a Progress Award for government service by the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH). The Progress

Awards recognize Hawaii residents of Filipino ancestry for excellence and accomplishments in their respective fields. Salaveria is also a member of the Filipino Community Center's Board of Directors.

He brings more than 20 years of public and private sector experience and most recently served as the deputy director of finance where he assisted the director of finance in the planning, design and management of the annual \$12 billion operational and \$3 billion capital improvement budgets of the State of Hawaii; managing the State Treasury with more than \$3 billion in assets; con-

ducting general obligation and revenue bond issuances; introducing and implementing fiscal and economic legislation and policies; conducting public affairs and stakeholder outreach; and administering the operations of all divisions and attached agencies (Employee Retirement System, Employer Union Trust Fund, Public Utilities Commission, and Public Defenders Office) of

the more than 300-employee department.

Several directors and deputies from the administration of former Gov. Neil Abercrombie have agreed to continue serving as heads and deputy directors of their respective departments as holdovers. Among them is Jade Butay, who will continue as deputy director of the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR).

UH Prof Discusses Hip-Hop Artist Bambu

University of Hawaii-Manoa Ethnic Studies Professor Roderick Labrador delivered a lecture entitled "Los Angeles, Philippines: Toward a Transpacific Politics and Poetics in Bambu's Musical Autobiography" on December 3, 2014 at Hamilton Library.

Labrador's seminar was the finale of the Fall 2014 UH Faculty Lecture Series. He examined the ways that Bambu, a second-generation Filipino-American rapper from Los Angeles, constructs his life narrative throughout his mixtape, Los Angeles, Philippines.

Bambu's counterstory challenges majoritarian stories while simultaneously reinforcing and critiquing the operations of race, gender, sexuality,



class, nation and empire in U.S. society. He is a well-known, prolific and respected Asian-American member of the independent hip-hop scene and was formerly one-third of the pioneering Filipino-American rap group Native Guns. With its self-conscious, self-referential style similar to Chuck D's "Autobiography of Mistachuck," Labrador's lectured worked as a musical autobiography that connected individual and collective memory, narrative and engagement with the everyday world.

Labrador's research and community work focuses on

race, ethnicity, class, culture, language, migration, education, hip-hop and cultural production in Hawaii, the U.S. and Philippines. He hosts "Inside the Ethnic Studies Studio" in which he and his students conduct interviews, workshops and forums with local, national and international hip-hop artists on the Manoa campus.

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FEATURE



by Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

Lina B. Mercado: Flowers Are Her Business

The Filipino Business Women's Association (FBWA) held its annual dinner on November 22, 2014 at the Dole Cannery Auditorium to honor its 2014 Filipino Business Woman of the Year, as well as the 31st "Kimonon Ball," a yearly tradition of the association since its founding in the early 1980s.

The FBWA was founded by Filipino businesswoman Carmelita Jean Abut Lumauag, who along with her husband Phil started a small restaurant called Mabuhay Cafe in Chinatown during the early 1960s.

Lumauag was named the Filipino Business Woman of the Year in 1984. Since then, there have been 25 other Filipinas who have graced the annals of the FBWA as "Business Women of the Year," including its outgoing President, Maria F. Etrata, and incoming President,

Nancy Atmospera-Walch.

FBWA's honoree for 2014 is Lina Barnachea Mercado, owner of Lina B. Flowers Shop in the heart of Chinatown.

The Subject is Flowers

Mercado exemplifies the well-known values of hard work, independence, resourcefulness, resiliency, common sense and strength of character that Filipino women are well-known the world over.

Mercado's shop opened its doors on March 26, 1986 and became a full-service florist a year later at 179 North Beretania Street. The shop operated out of that address for many years until 2001, when Mercado moved her business to its present location at 1195 River Street also in Chinatown.

Business grew steadily over the years with loyal clientele and has flourished to a point where she occasionally runs out of flowers to sell. Mercado's shop is a favorite for customers who rush in to buy flowers, leis, floral

arrangements and wreaths for weddings, graduation ceremonies, beauty pageants, funeral services, birthdays, retirements, showers and other occasions. When it comes to decorating ballrooms and auditoriums for special events, Mercado is also in demand.

Starting the business all by herself initially, she was soon joined by family members to help operate this delicate enterprise. She now has two full-time employees and from 5-10 individuals at a time depending on the volume of work needing extra help. How Mercado is able to accomplish so much in her modest quarters is a tribute to her ingenuity and creative work ethic.

Education and Work Experience

Mercado's career has spanned many years of preparation marked by diversity and practical work experience in various institutional settings.

She earned a Certificate in Flower Design from Honolulu Community College. She then traveled to Japan to undertake a six-month training in "Ikebana," the signature Japanese-style of flower arrangement. Knowing how intensive and meticulous the Japanese system is, this training gave Mercado a head start and the know-how on the art with flowers.

Mercado's suppliers of flowers come from as near as the Big Island in Hawaii to far away places like California, Thailand and Ecuador. She

meets increasing demands for her merchandise and sees to it that she has no shortage of flowers at peak seasons. Availability of the merchandise is key to her business.

Her other work experiences also contributed to her increasing repertoire of business skills. She worked as a cashier at the Marriott Restaurant at the Honolulu International Airport and later at the Honolulu Country Club. She managed sales at various lei stands at the airport and sold leis at UH-Manoa graduation ceremonies, where she once made over \$7,000 in sales in a single day.

Her other jobs involved being an administrative secretary at the office of the Disabled Veterans of America and as a hairdresser at Shears Plus Beauty Salon.

Her energies seem boundless. As if dealing with sensitive flowers was not enough, she found time to branch out into another side career—the travel business. She opened Balikbayan Travel Service on March 26, 1999—the same date as that as the opening of her flower business a decade earlier.

Early Education and Family Life

Born and raised in the Ilocos region, Lina attended the Divine Word College in Vigan, Ilocos Sur and obtained an Associate of Arts degree as a medical secretary. When she arrived in Hawaii, she attended Cannon

Business College and took business management courses.

She was probably instinctively headed for a business career as she also attended Trendsetter Beauty College in the field of cosmetology. It involved training in hairdressing, make-up, nail polish and other beautification skills.

Her inclination towards the creative arts readily shows in the fields that she later chose to pursue. But it was flowers that fascinated her the most.

Mercado is married to Mario Membrere Mercado. Her family includes two children: Carolyn, who is married to Clyde Rimando, is an R.N. and runs her assisted living care and coffee shop; and Randy, who works for Alaska Airlines and runs a care home business with his wife Gigi Salvanera, a physical therapist.

Community Service

Mercado has been an active member of several community organizations and has served in various capacities as vice president, director, treasurer, and a member of the Santanians Association of Hawaii, Ilocos Surians of Hawaii, Filipino Business Women's Association, Filipino Women's Civic Club, Hawaii Association of Filipino Travel Agents, San Juan Association of Hawaii, Bloomnet International FTD, Flowershop Network and 1-800 Flowers.

As a service to the Filipino community, Lina B. Flowers

(continued on page 15)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Who Will Benefit From Obama's Immigration Plan?

Some 5 million immigrants stand to benefit from the President's "Immigration Accountability Executive Actions" announced last November 20. Following his announcement, memoranda were released providing additional directives and explaining in more details his executive action on immigration.

DAPA

The President, through the program known as Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA), extended eligibility for deferred action to parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.

Applicants for deferred action under this program must meet the following criteria: (1) have as of November 20, 2014 a son or a daughter who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; (2) continuous residence in the U.S. since before January 1, 2010; (3) physical presence in the U.S. on November 20, 2014 and at the time the application requesting DAPA is submitted; (4) no lawful status as of November 20, 2014; and (5) not removal priority under the new policy and not have any other characteristics that would make deferred action inappropriate.

Applicants will also undergo a thorough background check of all relevant national security and criminal databases. If approved, deferred action will be granted for three years. Beneficiaries will also be granted work authorization.

The program is expected to protect from deportation around 4 million undocumented immigrants. The USCIS is set to begin accepting applications in about 180 days from November 20, 2014.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is also directed to identify persons in custody who may be eligible

under the program. ICE will also review removal cases of individuals who will qualify and seek termination of those cases.

Expanded DACA

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program launched in 2012 will be expanded. Under the original program, individuals who were under 31 years old on June 15, 2012 and entered the U.S. before June 15, 2007 under the age of 16 were eligible to apply. The revised program eliminates the age cap of 31 which means that so long as the applicant meets all the criteria, the current age of the applicant would not matter.

The revised program also moves the eligibility cut-off date when an applicant must have been in the U.S. from June 15, 2007 to January 1, 2010.

Around 1.2 million individuals were eligible under the original DACA. The revised program is expected to cover an additional 270,000 immigrants. Applications under the new DACA program will be accepted starting around late winter and the DACA recipients will be granted deportation relief and work permits for 3 years.

Expanded Provisional Waiver

The provisional waiver program will also be expanded to include the spouses and children of lawful permanent residents, as well as the adult children of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents. Under the original program announced in January 2013, only spouses and children of U.S. citizens were eligible to apply for provisional waiver. The USCIS will also provide guidance on the definition of "extreme hardship" and the factors to be considered in determining whether the "extreme hardship" standard has been met

Modernizing Visa System

Included in the President's executive action are directives

for modernizing and streamlining the visa system. An estimated 200,000 skilled workers will be benefited. The USCIS and the State Department were directed to improve the system for determining when green cards are available to applicants each fiscal year.

In addition, the USCIS was also directed to change regulations so as to provide stability for beneficiaries of employment-based petitions more specifically ensuring that visa petitions remain valid when beneficiaries change jobs and clarifying "same or similar" job to allow beneficiaries to change jobs without fear of voiding their approved petitions.

A new regulation providing work permits for H-4 dependent spouses of H-1B visa holders who are in the process of obtaining green cards through employment will be published soon by the USCIS.

The Optional Practical Training (OPT) program will be expanded to include more degree programs and increasing the length of time foreign graduates pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) professions, can spend on OPT status.

The USCIS was also directed to clarify regulations by which immigrant entrepreneurs can obtain national interest waiver.

The USCIS was also instructed to propose a program allowing the grant of parole to inventors, researchers and founders of startup companies, who have been "awarded

substantial U.S. investor financing or otherwise hold the promise of innovation and job creation through the development of new technologies or the pursuit of cutting-edge research". These are only a few

of the President's directives and instructions to improve the nation's immigration system.

.....
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





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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



ILOKO
By Amado I. Yoro

DISIEMBRE MANEN TI PANAWEN, LUBONG

Ket di maliklikan ti panawen a maluom
Madlaw ti naglaok a salemsem ken da-
gaang
Ti tapok ken bagiing lansangan ken ka-
panagan;
Dagiti pumusay-rumusing a bulong iti
talon –
Wen, Disiembre manen ti panawen,
Lubong
Ti pulso ken giteb agbukar a parbangon:
Paskua ! Ungto, iliw ken segga: sam-it ti
tarimbangan.

Katibok manen ti ragragsak, nasaranta a
pasala
Inaugorasion, ngayed ken anag ti ko-
ronasion: mutia
A pusaksak ken bang-ar; kayaw ken
natarnaw a parupa
Ti tarigagay a tinubay ti nabia a sirmata

Dagiti malem ta inawendati ulimek ti
sardam
Kasingin ti talukatik kampanario a
mangyeg ti inanam
Nataltalged ti orasion, tukayenna dayta
kaunggam
Sanktuarario dagiti malem – talinaay ‘ta
kararuam.

Maysa a lagip ken kinapudno iti tengnga
ti sibilisasion
Nupay ammok a diakto latta maawatan
ti pagteng: ti daton
Iti saklot iti ginaramian iti ruar iti
sililibay a siudad
Ken bang-i ti pinagayan iti sakaanan ti
natalna a kannag
Di matiliw ti raniag ngem marikna ti sal-
ibukag
Kappia! Talingngengen ti pakinakem a
dinto maumag.

Madlaw latta dagitoy, Lubong, ket
manen
Dagiti isusuknal iti altar a daga; iti sinan-
Belen
Maysamaysa mangsegged ti kandela; aw-
itda ti palma
Wenno rosas: Bethlehem ! Bethlehem !
Bethlehem
Biagen ti misterio ti Pannakaipasngay,
O, Bethlehem:
Bara ti ayat; Silaw a silulukat a
barukong.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Single Mom Reunited with Family After Maltreatment in Saudi



MANILA, Philip-
pines - A single
mother, who was
forced to leave her young boy
last April to work as domestic
helper abroad, was finally re-
united with her family on
Wednesday after the Office of
Sen. Cynthia Villar helped in
the processing of her travel pa-
pers.

Kristine Alcaide, 30,
broke down in tears shortly
after she met her mother and
seven-year-old son at the air-
port. She was subjected to
verbal abuse and maltreatment
in Saudi Arabia.

Alcaide recalled her or-
deal before Villar during a
courtesy call. She said she
worked about 20 hours a day,
serving a family of nine in
Saudi.

During the seven months
of her stay there, Alcaide said
she was barely given proper
food and had not enough sleep
because of the heavy work
load assigned to her. At one
time, she suffered heavy
bruises on her feet after a large
plank of wood, from a bed, fell
on her while she was cleaning
the room.

Being a lone helper in the
house, Alcaide said she usu-
ally took her meals at 3 p.m.
and a second one at past 9 p.m.

After the Ramadan sea-
son, she said her employers
locked her up in a room for a
week because they did not
want her to leave the house or
possibly escape.

"Bumili po sila ng noo-
dles, bale seven days po,
pitong noodles din. Bale sa
isang araw, isang beses lang
ako kumakain," she said.
They had also rationed her
with bread and tea bags for her
meals.

Kristine worked at a
restaurant in Manila before

she went abroad to work as
domestic helper. She said she
needed more income to be
able to raise her son, which
prompted her to seek opportu-
nities in Saudi Arabia.

As a domestic helper, she
was promised \$400 per month
but got only about P68,000
after seven months. She re-
ceived her salary only upon ar-
rival in the country,
transmitted by her employer
via remittance agencies. "They
did not give me my salaries,"
she said in Filipino.

Alcaide has established
communication with her
mother who resides in Las
Pinas during her first month of
work there. It was during the
exchange of text messages that
her mother, Neneng, learned
of her daughter's sad ordeal.

It was at this point that the
mother sought the help of the
Overseas Workers' Welfare
Administration and the re-
cruitment agency. The family
also sought Villar's help last
month, which helped sped up
the processes that allowed
Kristine to go back to the
country as soon as possible.

Villar lauded the embassy
staff in Riyadh for the speedy
action on Alcaide's case. She
expressed hope that the gov-
ernment will be able to help
more distressed overseas Fil-
ipino workers after the budget
for legal assistance was raised
from P 30 million to P 100
million under the budget of the
Department of Labor and Em-
ployment.

Villar said the government
cannot turn a blind eye on the
cases involving overseas Fil-
ipino workers, whose remit-
tances reach as much as \$25
billion annually. There are 12
million Filipinos working
abroad, the senator noted.

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PASKO! SA FILCOM: PAGKAKAISA SA DIWA NG PASKO (UNITY IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS) • SUNDAY • December 7, 2014 | The Filipino Community Center | 3:00-7:00 PM | For more info, call FilCom Center@ (808) 680-0451 or email filcom@filcom.org or visit www.filcom.org

PASKUHAN SA CONSULADO, A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION • TUESDAY • December 16, 2014 | Philippine Consulate Grounds | 5:30-10:30 PM | For more info, call Jeff de Mesa @ 595-6316 to 19 ext. 105.

FILIPINO ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (FAUW), PASKO! • SUNDAY • December 21, 2014 | Honolulu Museum of Arts | 11:00 AM-3:00 PM | FREE Admission courtesy of Bank of Hawaii's monthly family Sunday | For more information, please contact Pepi Nieva at pepinieva@hotmail.com.

TARLAC MUTUAL CLUB, ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY & CORONATION OF MOTHER OF THE YEAR • SATURDAY • December 27, 2014 | FilCom Center | 5:00-11:00 PM | Contact Armando Celestino @ 779-2166 for more info.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Tacloban Evacuation Underway for Hagupit

by Helen Flores
Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - This time, no one is taking any chances.

Communities were evacuated, schools were suspended and a ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum was moved to Manila as areas along the path of what is believed to be another super typhoon began moving out of harm's way yesterday.

How to keep Super Typhoon Yolanda survivors still living in tents safe is another problem facing Tacloban City officials as a new, powerful cyclone threatens to bring giant waves ashore, possibly on the weekend.

Vice Mayor Jerry Yaokasin said about 500 families were still living in tents more than a year after waves up to 23 feet tall driven ashore by Yolanda (Haiyan) destroyed their homes.

The 500 and some 3,000 other families housed in temporary shelters are the priority in case the city government orders a mandatory evacuation, he said.

Residents of coastal villages and landslide-prone communities were told yesterday to move to designated evacuation areas, as Typhoon Ruby (international name

Hagupit) barreled toward the Visayas with winds of up to 140 kph and gusts of 170 kph. Hagupit is Filipino for lash or whip.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said it is on red alert in anticipation of Ruby's onslaught.

"The red alert means we will have full manning at the operations center. All member agencies will send focal persons and representatives for the purpose of coordination," NDRRMC executive director Alexander Pama said.

Tacloban City Mayor Alfred Romualdez, who also chairs the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, issued an executive order suspending classes today until Saturday at all levels in public and private schools as well as work in all government institutions, except those involved in relief and rescue operations.

Classes at the University of the Philippines Visayas-Tacloban College will resume on Tuesday next week.

More than half of the 7,350 deaths from Yolanda devastation were in Tacloban City.

Ruby is hovering over Palau islands and is expected to pick up strength before hitting eastern Philippines on Saturday.

"Definitely we will now strictly enforce forced evacuation," said Yaokasin. "We have no more excuse, we have gone through Yolanda, and to lose that many lives, it's beyond our conscience already."

As of yesterday afternoon, there was no indication that Ruby would be as strong or stronger than Yolanda, according to Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) weather forecaster Aldczar Aurelio. But while Ruby is weaker than Yolanda's 250 kph winds, it is expected to bring 3-4 meter high storm surges, topple houses made of light materials and uproot trees.

He added there was a 75 percent chance the typhoon would hit land.

"We are on a worst (case) scenario," Landrico Dalida Jr., PAGASA deputy administrator, said, adding there was a 25 percent chance Ruby may veer north and miss the Philippines as it heads to Japan.

PAGASA spotted the center of the typhoon at 1,278 km east of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur at 4 p.m. yesterday, packing winds of 160 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 195 kph. Hagupit was forecast to move west-northwest at 30 kph. (www.philstar.com)

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 8, ON FERGUSON....)

meanor on his face went blank, the aggression was gone, it was gone, I mean, I knew he stopped, the threat was stopped."

To me, this testimony raises many questions. Did Wilson have to kill Brown, who despite a hand under a shirt, never showed a weapon?

After the initial tussle in the car,

when Brown ran away, why did Wilson have to pursue? Didn't sound like good police work to me.

The grand jury simply had to decide if there were enough facts to charge Wilson with any of these four crimes: first-degree murder, second-degree murder, voluntary manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter.

FEATURE (from page 12, LINDA....)

offers special rates when an occasion employs her services. She usually donates bouquets for beauty queens or winners of different contests or competitions in the commu-

nity and provides leis to visiting dignitaries from the Philippines at the Philippine Consulate General or in other venues.

Mercado makes for a fascinating subject considering how much

she has accomplished by dint of hard work, perseverance, creative instinct and the good old Ilokano virtues of simplicity, frugality, self reliance, determination, humility, pride and dignity in her culture.

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BELINDA "LINDY" ANCHETAAQUINO, is Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she was Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies for many years and also the founding Director of the Center for Philippine Studies. She originally came from the City of San Fernando, La Union in the Ilocos region in Northern Philippines.



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