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◆ SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 ◆

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EDITORIALS

Filipino Workers—the Model Employee

More companies the world over are discovering a well-known secret that many Filipinos already know for themselves—*pinoys* make excellent employees. For decades, Filipinos have ventured overseas to work as unskilled domestic helpers, factory workers and entertainers. They have also filled the ranks of professional and skilled positions in medicine, engineering, science and other fields. To date, over 12 million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in 200 countries around the world remit \$25 billion to the Philippine economy each year.

There are several reasons for foreign employers' preference for Filipino workers. First and foremost is the fact that many of them are college-educated and trained. There are hundreds, if not thousands of college graduates each year who are unable to find suitable employment in the Philippines and opt for better paying overseas jobs in which they are over-qualified for. It is not uncommon for Filipinos with master's degrees to work overseas as nannies, caregivers or restaurant employees.

Second is Filipinos' excellent command of the English language, having been exposed to English early in their elementary school years through college. It is this English-speaking, comprehension and writing ability that puts them a leg up on foreign competitors who are not as skilled in English as most Filipinos are. Third, Filipinos are extremely loyal, hard working and industrious, often holding down two or even three jobs and even volunteering to work on holidays. Admittedly, this Filipino work ethic is driven by a desire to provide a better life for their respective families. They do not just work for themselves but for people back home who rely on their hard-earned money. During a typical eight hour shift, Filipino workers go dutifully about their tasks until completion. Filipinos take pride in their work, rarely complain and always do their best.

Fourth, Filipinos are adaptable. They quickly adjust in whatever new environment they find themselves in and fit in extremely well with their co-workers from other ethnic groups and the community. Last but not least, despite the pitfalls and problems back in their home country, Filipinos continue to rank among the world's happiest people, according to a 2014 Gallup Poll. Add these factors up, and it's easy to see why Filipino employees are the preferred workers of choice for foreign companies and employers. Some may see the Philippines as a poor and corrupt country but the truth is its people are rich when it comes to talent and a positive attitude.

Kim Davis—Doing the Right Thing?

Most of us by now have heard of Kim Davis, the Kentucky court clerk who refused to issue gay marriage licenses despite a court order. She was found in contempt, thrown into jail and only recently released. For Davis, issuing gay marriage licenses ran counter to her religious convictions, so she refused to do so. You may not agree with her, but then again how many of us would have the courage to stare down the intense social pressure and media attention and accept the punishment?

Since Davis refused to issue the marriage licenses, she was basically left with two options—disobey the law or resign from her job. There were people in the Bible like Daniel and the Apostles who continued to pray and preach the Gospel despite orders from those in authority not to. Civil disobedience was Scripturally-justified in these two instances particularly since the protagonists were instructed to deny their faith. But unlike Daniel and the Apostles, Davis wasn't forced to deny her faith, especially since she had a "way out." She could have resigned her \$80,000 a year job—painful as it would be—and leave the matter in God's

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Rain, rain go away... I don't know about you, but I can hardly wait for the cooler, drier weather to return. Unfortunately, weather forecasters expect the humid and wet conditions to linger, and the end of hurricane season is still a few months away. On the plus side, the heavy rains have turned Oahu's scenery nice and green.

Our cover story for this issue focuses on the Filipino employees at Kuakini Health Systems, which celebrated its 115th year in Hawaii this year. Founded as a Japanese charity hospital in 1900, Kuakini has about 1,100 employees, of which 20 percent are Filipinos who work in just about every department from management to nursing to maintenance and housekeeping. Contributing writer Fiedes Doctor interviewed several Filipino employees who spoke candidly about the challenges they faced in working for Kuakini. One common denominator is their tremendous work ethic. Filipinos are known to arrive early, put in a good day's work and rarely call in sick. Please turn to page 4 for more on Kuakini's thriving Filipino employees.

We'd like to welcome aboard U.S. Rep. Mark Takai, who has penned the first article for his column "Aloha From the Hill." U.S. Rep. Takai will be providing us with the latest news from Congress that affect Hawaii and the Filipino community. The Chronicle warmly commends him for his efforts to support Filipino veterans of World War II. In fact, the very first bill he introduced as a congressman was the bipartisan Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act. To read his column, turn to page 9.

This issue also includes our special Community Health Supplement. In it you'll find an interesting cover story about the sharp increase of child obesity cases in Hawaii and the U.S., along with several Ask-a-Doctor columns on a wide range of topics including eye care, lowering your cholesterol level, family medicine and anemia. The information was provided by several Filipino physicians, so please take some time to read the informative and useful columns in this Health Supplement.

Lastly, we invite you and your family to attend the First Annual Leeward Community Health Fair happening this Sunday, September 20 in Waipahu from 10 am to 4 pm., followed by the newest Broadway musical production "Journey" by Doctors-On-Stage at the FilCom Center from 6 pm to 8 pm. Please see the ads on the back cover page in this issue or call 841-4195 or 671-3911 for more information. Hope to see all of you there!

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

hands. There are some places that Christians simply can't work in and expect to not break any of God's laws—such as a strip club or abortion clinic. But to remain at a job in which you refuse to perform the duties that you were hired to do but still make a salary is a matter of integrity. You cannot take money while refusing to work—so it is best that you step down.

For Christians, the ultimate example of civil disobedience is Jesus who lived during the Roman occupation of Jerusalem—one of the most brutal and unpopular regimes of the time. Yet, he didn't lift a finger in opposition to the Roman government, even commanding His disciples to "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." Instead, He submitted to God's will and died on a cross. In much the same way, it is up to Christians to work within the law and seek God's will through prayer and fasting—rather than making a political statement. The right strategy is to trust God and not in our reasoning. After all, His ways are always higher than ours.



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CANDID PERSPECTIVES

New Twists in California Bakery Trafficking Case



By Emil Guillermo

If you've followed the case of that \$1 million dollar trafficking lawsuit in California involving the bakeries of Ana Moitinho de Almeida, her husband Goncalo and now her father, Philippines Social Security head Juan Santos, here's the latest with the initial court date this September.

Ana Moitinho de Almeida and her husband have fled the U.S. Will she return? Like MacArthur, she says she will. But it's unclear.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs in the civil suit—11 workers who made claims that include trafficking, immigration visa abuses and labor violations at the L'Amande Bakeries in California—filed statements in court recently that say the Almeidas have told their attorneys to “stand down.”

Attorney Laboni Hoq of Asian Americans for Advancing Justice told the court the Almeidas left the country prior to August 4th and instructed their lawyers to cease defending the lawsuit.

As reported in this column, the Almeidas have also been in the process of selling and transferring their assets—two bakeries, a home and an apartment building—a strategy that would put any assets out of reach of the court. The strategy seems to have included the Almeida home being transferred to Ms. Almeida's father, Juan Santos, by foreclosing on his own daughter.

If the Almeidas have no intention of returning to the U.S., the result could be a default judgment against the Almeidas who seem to be doing all they can to be judgment proof.

But when asked about her plans, Ana Moitinho de Almeida was adamant about returning to defend the suit.

“I am now in the Philippines for a holiday but have every intention to return,” Almeida wrote in an e-mail to me. “However, since the bakeries are now closed, my return trip will now be determined by our lawyers who will let me know when I am needed back. I am hoping though that this will be in a month or thereabouts.”

Opposing attorneys, however, are under the assumption based on her lawyers' representation to them that the Almeidas are defaulting.

“Because the Almeidas have stopped defending the case in court, they essentially concede to liability on our claims and entitle us to a default judgment against them,” said attorney Hoq.

But the Almeidas may have changed their minds after the court recently denied a motion by the workers to attach the Almeida assets to the suit.

The denial was based on the court seeing the plaintiffs' wage and hour claims as not meeting a standard of being “fixed and ascertainable.”

The court also acknowledged that the Almeidas had produced evidence in rebuttal. But the denial of the motion to attach assets was limited and did not evaluate the evidence in terms of the merits of the

overall case.

The ruling did appear to give the Almeidas some confidence. But there was still some hesitance when I asked Ms. Almeida more specific questions about returning to the U.S. to defend the case.

“Although I am happy about the courts finding with regards to a denial (of the workers') intention to attach the assets, our financial position remains unchanged. Even if we would like to defend the case aggressively (and we do), without funds, it becomes really difficult,” Ana Moitinho de Almeida said in her e-mail. “It is my biggest wish to see this case till the end, as I've said many times. Unfortunately, financial realities dictate that unless we find funding somehow, we may not be able to do this.”

Is she, as they say, having her *bibingka* and eating it too? That might explain why the Almeidas have taken an odd approach to clear their name: Facebook.

Last time I checked, Facebook is not an official court of law. And it's still unclear how Facebook as evidence should be treated. It has to be verified and vetted for authenticity and relevance. And until that happens, it's just hearsay.

But Facebook is where the Almeidas have continued to post pictures they feel are counter to the employees' claim

that they were underpaid, abused and trafficked while employed at the Almeida's now shutdown L'Amande Bakeries.

“We have taken to Facebook because it is the only way we can defend ourselves in the public's eye,” said Ms. Almeida. “We have the evidence to prove every single false claim they have made. What have they given the public but tears and self-serving statements? ... Your claim that we have opted for Facebook instead of the court of law is entirely false. We have prioritized our presentation of evidence to the court above all else. We have adhered, respected and followed the rules of court and will continue to do so. We have posted but a drop of what we have on FB.”

Yet, as Ms. Almeida says, she may or may not come back based on her finances. It's hard to imagine that the daughter of one of the Philip-

pinas' wealthiest and powerful business families is pleading poverty here and on a budget. But that's what it sounds like.

I've always said the court will decide who is telling the truth. The first court date is set for the latter part of September, unless the Almeidas decide to default and stay in the Philippines for good. But that's an odd strategy if you think you've done nothing wrong.

It strikes me as far better for the aggrieved workers and the Almeidas both to let an impartial judge decide the truth. That's the American way. Unless as an elite, you prefer the way things work in the Philippines.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist and commentator who writes from Northern California. He recently won the 2015 Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice from the Asian American Journalists Association.



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COVER STORY

Thriving in Hawaii as A Filipino Employee

By Fiedes Doctor



How do you thrive in a multicultural workplace when English is not your first language and America is not your first home?

Filipino employees from the Philippines who work at Kuakini Health System have drawn strength and inspiration from values passed on by parents or culled from their experiences. Backbreaking labor at a farm in the native country or exposure to politics and death threats taught them the importance of hard work, education, humility, loyalty, and faith.

Twenty-percent of Kuakini's more than 1,100 employees are Filipinos, in full- and part-time positions. They are in almost every department working jobs such as a nurse, a housekeeper, a maintenance person, a chef, or an accountant. Many have been with Kuakini for more than 30 years. They mesh well with the organization's culture of *ohana* (family), compassion and caring.

As Kuakini celebrates its

115th year in 2015, we celebrate its Filipino employees who, along with the rest of the Kuakini Health Care Team, help move its mission forward. The following are some of their stories and the values that influence them to thrive at Kuakini and in life. They are just a few of the many Kuakini Health Care Team members whose personal and cultural values impact their daily lives.

Passion and Hard Work

Francisca Tapat is nearing retirement but her daily enthusiasm as a Charge Nurse in the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) of Kuakini's Geriatric Care has not waned over the past 35 years.

"I didn't notice the years pass by. If you love your work, the years go by fast," she said. "I love to interact with the residents and their families."



(L-R) Jovencio Luga, Francisca Tapat, Jocelyn Ignacio, Lenie Alvarez and Pedro Paeste in Kuakini Foundation's "Trees of Life" corridor.

Francisca joined Kuakini as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1980 and was promoted to Charge Nurse after two years. She currently supervises five employees who make sure the residents are cared for and their needs are met. Constant communication with family members is one of her top priorities. She likes to provide updates and assure them that their loved ones are receiving quality attention and care.

"I see them as my own, that's why I put my best in what I do. I love them like they are my family," she said. "I care from the heart."

Francisca inherited this passion for excellence from her parents Pio and Consuelo who constantly reminded her to love what she does. If you do good with what you love to do, you will succeed, they had told her. They also taught her the value of hard work.

Growing up in a farm in Ilocos Sur, Francisca's weekend activities included waking up at 5 in the morning to work on the farm. She also helped in her family's salt-making business. On weekdays, she walked several miles to go to school.

Work was something she was so accustomed to doing that she started working as a

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) in a health care center two days after she arrived on Oahu in 1973. Her bachelor's degree in Nursing from the Philippines helped her quickly get a job.

"I came from humble beginnings. Hard work is part of who I am. That has made me what I am today. If I didn't study hard, I would not get a degree and I would not be able to make my life better."

Loyalty and Gratitude

Jovencio "Jun" Luga arrived on Oahu when he was a teenager and was a "special guest," not an immigrant. His father, Jovencio, was one of the late former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos' bodyguards and the U.S. government had sent them an invitation to come to America. This was during the height of the historical People Power Revolution in 1986 when over 2 million Filipino civilians, political, military and religious groups demonstrated on the streets and protested against the Marcos regime. Within two weeks, Jun and his family fled to Hawaii.

Jun joined Kuakini's Cardio Pulmonary department in 1991 after getting his degree in Respiratory Therapy from

Kapiolani Community College. He worked on the evening shift until he was promoted to Senior Respiratory Therapist in 2000. When he became the department manager in 2013, Jun's responsibility expanded to managing the Pulmonary Therapy, Pulmonary Laboratory, Cardiac Services, and Sleep Center areas.

"I didn't really aspire to become a manager, but for me, accepting the position meant being grateful for the opportunities that Kuakini gave me," he said. Loyalty, gratitude and adaptability are the values that brought him the opportunities he has today, he said. "I am loyal to Kuakini because I am grateful."

Jun's father was the model for loyalty. He watched him protect Marcos during his two-decade presidency. "He (Jun's father) had a choice to stay in the Manila but he did not. All the way to the end he served President Marcos," Jun said.

His mother, Erlinda, was a model for showing gratitude. Back in the Philippines, she gave school supplies and other gifts to their *yaya* (nanny). The nannies would

(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, **THRIVING**)

send the gifts to their siblings, who they help put through school. Her interactions with them taught him to be grateful, he said.

Exposure to politics helped him develop the ability to adapt to different situations and people. Coming from a political family with a fair share of death threats, and being president of the Youth Council at the age of 18, Jun met challenges head on.

"Being involved in politics taught me to adapt. As a manager, when I was asked to present our department's score card to fellow Kuakini employees, I just did it," he said. "I try and solve the problem first before I ask questions. I also lead by example. Whatever I ask from my staff, I have to be willing to do it."

Humility and Caring

Lenie Sabale Alvarez briefly left Kuakini after she was hired as a supervisor of the Environmental Services department in 2003. She had wanted to return to the hotel industry which started off her career as a young 18-year-old immigrant in the late 1980s. After three months in her previous job, however, she re-joined Kuakini in 2005.

"I missed the people, I missed the aloha spirit," said Lenie. "We are like one *ohana*. That's what I missed the most so I came back."

Kuakini is known for its friendly and family-oriented culture. Lenie's department is particularly close to home because 80 percent of the more than 80 employees under her supervision have a Filipino background.

"I am able to relate to them. I speak to them in the Filipino language (on the side) if necessary and if it helps them do their job better and easier," she said. "There are things that are hard for them to communicate – like their own feelings – but they are able to express themselves in Filipino because I understand the language."

Lenie calls her older employees *manong* or *manang* to show respect. She asks about their families and how their

day is going. "I get to know them as people, not just workers. I try to understand where they're coming from. I want them to feel comfortable with me and be able to open up," she said. "Taking care of people is like taking care of your family."

Lenie supervises employees who are responsible in various facility maintenance tasks such as housekeeping, linen and laundry, groundskeeping, transport and painting services.

Her father, Marianito, served as her inspiration and role model. While growing up in Anabu Imus, Cavite, Lenie saw him sacrifice his time to bring neighbors to the hospital. That meant a loss of income for him as a jeepney driver but it did not matter. He would stop what he was doing to help other people, she said. Her dad helped everybody in their community.

Focusing on other people also developed humility in Lenie. "I help everybody who needs help. People take advantage sometimes, but I help anyway. It's all about the people. Taking care of others combined with humility equals success."

Success for her means enjoying her work, being contented with her life and praising God for her blessings.

Education and compassion

Jocelyn Ignacio was only 7 years old when she came to Hawaii with her family in the mid 1960s but she can speak, read and write in Ilocano, thanks to the *Bannawag* (Ilocano) magazines her mother shared with her.

This special skill made her a sought-after translator in her school and community, starting from elementary school all the way through college. She translated for new immigrants who were not fluent in the English language. Currently the Patient Care Coordinator (PCC) for the Makai 4 nursing unit, Jocelyn continues to serve as a translator for Kuakini's patients.

Almost half of Jocelyn's life was lived in the plantation village in Kunia. Her parents

were farmers in the Philippines and became plantation workers for Del Monte in Hawaii. She saw them work hard and a lot of times, she said they "never really had a chance to progress." She also witnessed the Filipino elderly struggle to communicate their needs, especially regarding their health.

"I noticed that there were a lot of elderly people that didn't speak the language, and whenever there were health issues, they looked up to someone with education. Many didn't have any college education and reached only the sixth grade," Jocelyn said. She checked their blood pressures and accompanied them to their doctors' appointments while she was in college.

This made Jocelyn see the importance of education and motivated her to pursue Nursing as a career. In 1982, Jocelyn finished her Associates Degree in Nursing at the University of Hawaii, then received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing in 1986, and, in 1989, she finished her Master's Degree in Nursing. Jocelyn was the first in her family to finish a Master's Degree program.

"In order to succeed and have a better life, you should go to school. If you seek knowledge and assistance, nothing is impossible," said Jocelyn. "I wanted to help my people. I wanted to be a role model for others."

Jocelyn joined Kuakini as a Registered Nurse in 1982 right after she finished her Associate's degree. She has held several positions at Kuakini as a Nurse Clinician (1986), a Clinical Nurse Specialist (1989), and is currently a Patient Care Coordinator (1991 to present).

"I try to be a role model for the staff. Hard work transcends to the employees if they see their manager working hard."

Faith and Determination

Pedro "Pete" Paeste is a chef in Kuakini's Dietary Services department. His experience includes cooking for guests at Chez Michel and

Mariposa restaurants, and Halekulani and Sheraton hotels. He cooked for Bill Gates and was in one of celebrity chef Rachel Ray's shows. But it has not always been easy. He had to overcome several obstacles to realize his dreams.

Pete arrived in Hawaii at age 7 in the 1970s, and started cooking at the age of 8. He grew up wanting to go to culinary school. His parents Pedro and Antonia did not encourage a culinary degree, however, especially when they relocated from Hawaii to the hub of technology – Silicon Valley in California. To compromise, Pete majored in Marketing and Nutrition in college.

At the age of 24, Pete came back to Hawaii. He loved the islands and really wanted to be a chef. He told his parents that he "would die trying." He held several managerial positions until at age 31, he decided to enroll in Kapiolani Community College's Culinary Arts Program. But after graduation, he faced another hurdle.

"I applied everywhere. No one wanted me because I had no experience," he said. The challenge pushed Pete forward. He left for Guam to intern at a Japanese restaurant. After a year, he came back in 1997 and sent out another round of applications. This time, all the high-end restau-

rants wanted to hire him. In 2000, Pete left the restaurant business and joined Kuakini as a supervisor for the Dietary Services department. He wanted to cook healthier food and understand a healthier diet, he said. After five years, he left Kuakini to work as a sous chef for Halekulani. He came back to Kuakini in 2010.

"Kuakini is one of those last places where it feels like family. It's a tight knit community and everyone knows everybody. I know almost 80 percent of all the employees," Pete said. "A lot of the people that work here have the same values. It's like the Filipino culture – we share. It's good to have family at home and family at work. If you come and work, might as well enjoy each other."

Besides determination and passion, Pete said faith, believing in Jesus, and prayer, instilled in him by his parents, helped him overcome his many challenges.

"Where I'm at now is because of my upbringing. Seeing them face struggles and tribulations has made me to not take things for granted," he said. "If you work hard enough at something you like doing, you'll get it. You have to try to do your best. You have to not be afraid to fail. Failure is just another stepping stone for success."

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COMMENTARY

Politicians Are Failing Us on the Economy

By Lee H. Hamilton

A couple of months ago, the Congressional Budget Office issued a sobering report on the U.S. economy's long-term prospects. Not to put too fine a point on it, we're headed for the fiscal rocks.

Federal spending accounts for about 20 percent of the nation's GDP, the budget analysts note; if current trends continue, that will rise to fully 25 percent by 2040. Revenues will not keep up — they'll amount to only 19 percent of GDP.

Here's what the non-partisan CBO has to say: "Mainly because of the aging of the population and rising health care costs, the extended baseline projections show revenues that fall well short of spending over the long term, producing a substantial imbalance in the federal budget. As a result, budget deficits are projected to rise steadily and, by 2040, to raise federal debt held by the public to a percentage of GDP seen at only one previous time

in U.S. history — the final year of World War II and the following year." We face a fiscal crisis of historic proportions.

Our presidential candidates can talk all they want about American prosperity and world leadership, but without a firm fiscal base it's just hot air. Unless we can stabilize the debt and put the country on a path of sustainable economic growth with prosperity evenly shared, we'll have no firm economic base for all those lofty goals to rest upon.

This means tackling a host of complex problems. We have to get long-term debt under control. We have to preserve Social Security yet find a solution to rising entitlement spending, which will be a key driver of federal spending for decades to come. We have to deal with health-care costs, which pose the same challenge. We have to invest in skills, education, and infrastructure without breaking the bank. We have to craft a simpler, fairer, less intrusive tax policy that promotes economic efficiency and is conducive to long-term growth.

The people who have to do all these things are politicians who, thus far, have been unwilling and unable to take these obvious challenges head on. The problem is not with the system itself. Similar barriers have been overcome repeatedly in the past, with reforms in Social Security in 1983, taxes in 1986, and repeatedly in budget agreements.

Rather, the problem is that our leaders are divided between those who want to cut spending and those who want to boost taxes in order to expand government's role. Yet it's impossible to solve our problems by finding new revenues or cutting spending alone. Without doing both, we face a weakened future. It is unreasonable and unacceptable to try to continue our present course of trying to muddle through.

There's a reason that you don't hear much talk about this in Washington. Americans themselves want it all — lower taxes without significant cuts in federal spending. But here's the problem: Almost 60 percent of federal spending is accounted for by Social Security,

Medicare and defense and national security. Add the 7 percent of the budget that goes to interest on the national debt, and there's little room for significant progress without painful and difficult legislative action.

Political leaders should grasp these realities and act now. But they have not, so it's up to Americans to pressure them to do so. True, nothing will happen without presidential leadership. All issues will have to be on the table, because the pain needs to be shared broadly. And progress will require the adroit bipartisan participation of congressional leaders.

Instead, those who believe in a single path assure us that we need only wait until the next election and they'll get the

forces they need. This is a pipedream. The electorate is too evenly divided and too volatile to sustain complete control by one side over several elections.

So really, it's up to the American people to demand action. We have to create the political will that drives our leaders to deal with these difficult economic problems — that leads them to tackle entitlements, health costs, investing in the future, and tax reform. The question is whether our political leaders are up to the task before our economy runs out of time.

LEE HAMILTON is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University; Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

State Reports Progress in Clearing Kakaako Homeless Camp

Gov. David Ige's Leadership Team on Homelessness is reporting significant progress in the State's efforts to deal with the homeless in Kakaako. In early September, another 13 people moved out of the Kakaako encampment, bringing to 56 the total number of homeless campers who have transitioned away from the area into homeless shelters around Oahu since August 7, 2015.

The 13 individuals included two families, one couple and four single adults who were transported by a City bus to the Lighthouse Emergency Shelter in Waipahu where they will receive needed services and temporary housing.

"This collaborative effort

between the state, city, federal government and a variety of service providers is the primary reason we are seeing such progress," says Scott Morishige, Gov. Ige's coordinator on homelessness. "As we move more families and individuals out of shelters and into permanent, supportive housing, we are making room for those currently on the streets who will now begin their own transition."

To date, a total of 10 families have moved out of Kakaako, representing one-third of the 31 homeless families in the area. During August 2015, 36 people successfully transitioned out of the Institute for Human Services (IHS), Next Step and Lighthouse shelters into permanent housing.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Can Stepchild Obtain Derivative US Citizenship?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Edson was born in Mexico in 1987. Both of his biological parents are Mexican nationals. When he was 12 years old, his mother married a U.S. citizen. The following year, Edson's stepfather filed a Petition for Alien Relative on Edson's behalf. Edson was admitted to the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident. His stepfather did not adopt him.

Later Edson pled guilty to domestic violence, was granted probation, but violated

its terms and was sentenced to two years imprisonment. He was placed in removal proceedings for his conviction of domestic violence.

He argued that he was a U.S. citizen because he derived citizenship from his stepfather under 8 USC § 1431(a), which provides that a child born outside of the United States automatically becomes a citizen of the United States when all of the following conditions have been fulfilled: (a) at least one parent of the child is a citizen of the United States, whether by birth or naturalization, (2) the child is under the age of eighteen years, and (3) the child is residing in the United States in the legal and physical custody of the citizen parent

pursuant to a lawful admission for permanent residence.

The Immigration Judge denied his claim and ordered him removed. The BIA affirmed. The Court of Appeals also affirmed on August 24, 2015, holding that Edson did not derive citizenship from his stepfather, because he was not his "child" but a "stepchild." The court explained that the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) contains two definitions of "child". One applies to immigration-related provisions and explicitly includes stepchildren. 8 USC § 1101(b)(1). The other applies to citizenship and naturalization provisions and does not explicitly include stepchildren. 8 USC § 1101(c)(1). 8 USC § 1431(a) falls under the citizen-

ship and naturalization provisions. The court noted that the BIA correctly relied on the principle that "a negative inference may reasonably be drawn from the exclusion of language from one statutory provision that is included in other provisions of the same statute" to conclude that Congress's omission of stepchildren from § 1101(c)(1) was intentional. *Acevedo v. Lynch*, No. 12-71237 (9th Cir. 08/24/15).

RECOMMENDATION: When the alien mother of an alien child marries a U.S. citizen, the U.S. citizen stepfather should consider adopting the alien child in order to confer derivative U.S. citizenship on such child. The provision of 8 USC § 1431(a) applies to

a child adopted by a U.S. citizen parent if the child satisfies the requirements of § 1101(b)(1).

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 specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: 900 Fort Street, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness at the time of publication. No attorney-client relationship is established between the writer and readers relying upon and/or acting pursuant to the contents of this article.)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Philippine Consulate Issues Call For Living Sakadas

With the 1st Sakada Day Celebration fast approaching, organizers and leaders in the Filipino community have issued a call for any and all living sakadas to contact them and be duly recognized.

The sakadas will be honored at the 1st Sakada Day Celebration, slated for December 20, 2015 at the Hawaii State Capitol at 3 pm. The event was made possible with the signing of House Bill 604

by Gov. David Ige, which designates December 20 of every year as "Sakada Day." The special day is set aside to recognize and honor the achievements and courage of the first Filipino sakadas to Hawaii.

Any living sakadas who arrived in Hawaii up to last wave of immigration in 1946 are encouraged to contact May Mizuno (741-4503); Amelia Casamina-Cabatu (282-2033); Sam Acosta (306-1428); or Dr. **L i n d y A q u i n o**

(lindyaquino@gmail.com) to be included in a special roster for the event. Organizers are also asking those who may know the whereabouts of a living sakada to contact them.

S a k a d a s will be asked for their full name, date of birth, date of arrival in Hawaii and name of plantations where they were em-

ployed, their address, telephone number and any supporting documents.

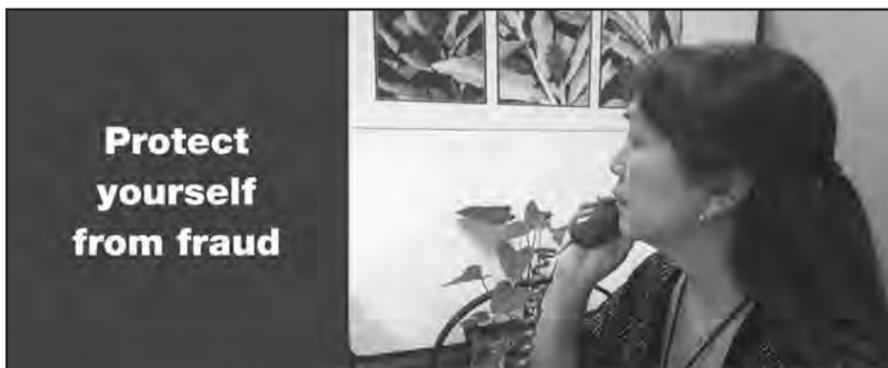
Please call the Philippine Consulate at 595-6316 for more information on the event.

Councilmember Elefante Unveils Proposal to Streamline Bus Fares

Honolulu City Councilmember Brandon Elefante has introduced a new bus fare option which he says will help to streamline daily fares for all City bus riders.

His proposal also promotes a distinctive Hawaiian souvenir bus pass that includes Hawaiian places, art and graphics. The bus pass will allow for discounted advertising rates for businesses along the bus and rail lines, providing economic opportunities and business development possibilities for businesses in transit corridors.

Elefante represents Council District 8, which includes lower Aiea, Pearlridge, Waimalu, Newtown, Pearl City, Seaview, Crestview, Waipio Gentry and Waipahu.



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PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

When Will Daddy Come Home?

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

“W

hen will daddy come home?”

This is the resounding question asked of my 6-year-old niece to my sister-in-law.

Every single day, she awaits the coming of my youngest brother who has been away from his family for more than a year now. He works as a wait staff in a big hotel in the U.S. She would make letters and drawings for her daddy to see when he comes home. She would complain to her mom whenever she sees classmates being fetched by their dads. Sometimes, she throws tantrums. At times, she'll remain silent and refuse to speak.

My brother often has Skype conversations with his family but my niece, with her innocent mind, cannot grasp why her dad has to be away from their family. She longs for the day she can play piggyback with daddy again. She misses him badly.

This is very heartbreaking but a very common occurrence in Filipino households. In fact, my mother, my two younger brothers, my sister

and I are all working outside the Philippines. My husband also experienced growing up without a father who worked in Saudi Arabia for several years.

I was 17 when my mother left to work in the U.S. so she could give us a better life. I asked the very same question my niece keeps asking—“When will my mother come home?”

But unlike my niece, I was old enough to understand why she had to leave. With four children to raise, she had to make a difficult choice. Her salary as a teacher in the Philippines wasn't enough to provide and send her kids to school, so she quit her teaching job and worked as a nanny to American kids. She took care of kids not her own so her own children could have the best that life can offer.

At the age of 23, I left for the United Kingdom and worked as a cleaner in a big hotel in the evening and wait staff in a restaurant in the morning. Before leaving, I worked as a staff for the Press Office of President of the Philippines but my salary wasn't enough to sustain my needs and so I looked for a better opportunity.



There are thousands of Filipino children like me and my niece who might be asking the same question, who are growing up without a parent or both just to escape poverty and hoping for greener pasture.

When I was in London, I made a lot of Filipino friends who shared their life stories with me. I witnessed some of them shed tears as they saw images of their growing kids over Skype or in Facebook. It must have been very hard for them but they knew in their hearts that it was the right choice to make. They only wanted the best for their children.

Thousands and thousands leave the country each day and become Overseas Filipino Workers or OFWs. Many serve as nurses, nannies, teachers, chefs, wait staff, caregivers, seamen, factory workers, architects, doctors and so much more.

Filipinos are excellent employees. We easily adapt to

the culture and environment we are in. We speak English very well and easily learn another language. We are willing to take jobs that are outside our profession. We are prepared to do anything even if it takes dirtying our hands. The changing of the seasons, the reproach of foreign employers, homesickness and nostalgia are nothing compared to the passion we have for our loved ones. Our love for our families motivates us to persevere.

We are a people of sacrifice. We are survivors. We flourish where we are placed.

I remember one of my bosses telling me when I worked for Harrods in London, “You Filipinos are a happy bunch.” It is true. We manage to always put a smile on our faces even if things get tough. We still serve wholeheartedly and with joy even if our hearts are breaking.

They say that Filipinos are everywhere. Our race contributes greatly to the

workforce in many foreign countries. In doing so, many Filipinos make a good name not just for themselves, but also for the Philippines.

I commend every Filipino who has the courage to go abroad, work diligently and excellently, sacrificing for their families. It makes me proud to see Filipinos being loved and praised by foreign employers and customers for their service, dedication and hard work. It amazes me when companies prefer to hire Filipinos because of their skillful hands and work ethics.

But at the same time, my heart breaks for the family members who are left behind, enduring separation from their loved ones. It pains my heart to see wives away from their husbands and young children growing up without a mother or a father figure at home.

I hope that there will be more job opportunities in the Philippines so parents or family members won't have to leave home anymore. I long for the day that no family will ever be separated because one parent has to leave for the hope of a better life for the family. Will this be a reality or will this just be a dream? I don't know.

But one thing I know, hope still exists.

It is my prayer that when my niece asks the question, “When will my daddy come home?”...she will receive this beautiful answer—“Daddy's home!”



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ALOHA FROM THE HILL

Congressional Delegation Goes to Bat for WWII Fil-Am Vets



By Cong. Mark Takai

Hawaii's Congressional Delegation is working hard to bring real results back to the islands. From securing federal resources, to fighting against harmful policies, the delegation is committed to improving the lives of all Hawaii residents. This effort includes initiatives that are important to Hawaii's Filipino community. I wanted to provide a quick update of legislative activities and how they will affect Hawaii.

The very first bill that I introduced in Congress was the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act. This bipartisan bill is cosponsored by my colleague Congressman

Joe Heck from Nevada. This legislation would lift limitations on immigrant visas and restrictions for children and family members of surviving Filipino World War II veterans. Our surviving Filipino veterans deserve to live out their years surrounded by family members, a reality that has been denied to them for far too long.

This issue of Family Reunification is one that the Hawaii Delegation and Congress as a whole have sought to address for years. In fact, I wrote a letter and was joined by the entire Hawaii delegation and over 20 other members of Congress, to ask the president to use his executive authority to reunite the Filipino American World War II veterans and their families. I am extremely pleased to announce that the recently announced interagency



recommendations to streamline the U.S. Immigrant Visa System incorporated portions of my bill to create exemptions for children of Filipino World War II veterans to be able to immigrate to the U.S. This is the first significant step towards fulfilling our moral obligation to the families of Filipino service members who bravely served alongside our forces in the

Pacific.

Another piece of legislation currently being championed for Filipinos is a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino veterans of World War II. This bipartisan legislation includes cosponsors such as the Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, and every member of the Hawaii delegation. I am pleased to see Filipino veter-

ans finally receive the recognition they deserve. Approximately 250,000 Filipino soldiers fought alongside U.S. forces, it is long overdue that they be honored for their service. The awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal is one of the highest civilian honors that our country can bestow. It is my hope that the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal will hopefully begin the process of repaying our debt to the brave soldiers of the Philippines.

There are concerted efforts being made to obtain national recognition for Filipino and Filipino-American World War II for their instrumental wartime service to the U.S. I am proud to play a role in these efforts and to be an advocate on behalf of Hawaii's citizens. I look forward to continuing to serve you in Congress and encourage everyone to reach out to my office for any assistance with federal issues.

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

Kung mayroon kang Medicaid at Medicare A at B, tumawag upang matutuhan pa ang tungkol sa mga plano ng UnitedHealth Dual Complete™ (PPO SNP). Kumpara sa Original Medicare, ang mga planong pangkalusugang ito ay nagbibigay sa iyo ng mga karagdagang benepisyo at mga katangian na maaaring makapagpabago sa iyong buhay, kabilang ang:



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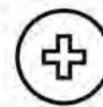
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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Sacred Hearts to Honor Distinguished Alumnae

Two Filipina graduates of Sacred Hearts Academy will be honored at the school's Scholarship Fund Gala set for October 2, 2015 at Sheraton Waikiki beginning at 6:30 pm.

The first is Marianne Bueno Olson, a member of the Class of 1988. She attended Georgetown University and earned a Bachelor's degree in International Economics with a minor in Asian Studies and later graduated with her Juris Doctorate with a concentration on International Business Transactions from George Mason University's School of Law. She currently works as a senior special counsel with the Securities Exchange Commission.

The second Filipina is Class of 1985 member Elsa Menor McGehee who earned a Bachelor's degree in Communications from the University of Hawaii and a Juris Doctorate from the William S. Richardson School of Law. She later joined the law firm of Lockwood & Hartley as an associate attorney and was promoted to a partnership position. The family law firm changed its name to Hartley & McGehee, LLP, and works to assist clients in resolving family legal issues.

For more information on the event, contact the school's Director of Development Emily Torres at 734-5058 ext. 333 or email her at: etorres@sacred-hearts.org.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Poe-Chiz Tandem Vows to Lead Gov't with Compassion

by Rosette Adel
Thursday, September 17, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - Presidential and vice presidential candidates Sens. Grace Poe and Francis "Chiz" Escudero on Thursday promised to lead government with compassion when elected.

In his vice presidential bid announcement, Escudero said he is accepting the role of the second highest post in the country since he believes in his running mate's leadership and capability to establish a government with compassion they dubbed "Gobyernong may Puso."

Like Poe, he also cited Poe's father, the late Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ) in his vice presidential bid.

"Ito po ay tinatanggap ko dahil buo ang tiwala at paniniwala ko sa mga katangian at kakayahan ni Senator Grace. Tulad ng kanyang ama na si FPJ, nasa tamang lugar ang puso ni Senator Poe," Escudero said.

"Naniniwala po ako na, bilang pangulo, si Senator Grace Poe o "GP" ay magtatatag ng isang "GP" o Gobyernong may Puso," he added.

Escudero said their leadership will prioritize the poor in need, laborers, overseas Filipino workers, and other members of society.

The senator added that "Gobyernong may Puso" will ensure equality of rights and will find ways on how to lower prices of electricity and goods.

"Sa pagyaman, o pag-asenso, sa edukasyon o pagkakataon, sa seguridad o kapayapaan, sa kalayaan at kalisugan,



walang dapat maiwan na Pilipino o sulok ng Pilipinas," Escudero said.

Escudero reiterated the points mentioned by Poe in her presidential announcement on Wednesday including issues on Metro Manila's traffic. He also mentioned the passage of the Freedom of Information Bill.

To implement their promises, Escudero sought help from the Filipino people.

"Hindi namin ito kakayanin ni Senator Grace ng kami lamang. Kailangan namin ang tulong ng bawat isa sa inyo... ng bawat Pilipino!" Escudero said.

The senator said the Filipino will be included in their party called "Partido ng Pilipinas."

Escudero is a long time friend of running mate Poe. He also served as the campaign manager of FPJ and Poe during their respective presidential and senatorial bids.

On Wednesday, Poe officially declared her presidential bid at the Bahay ng Alumni, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City while Escudero's announcement was held Thursday morning at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan. (www.philstar.com)

EDUCATION

THE ADVANTAGES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

By Sheryll Bonilla



Hawaii Technology Academy



Hawaii Technology Academy



Myron Thompson Academy NCPCS

The youngster nearby me in the pool informed me that he was home-schooled and recently moved here from Virginia. “Hawaii Technology Academy (HTA),” he said. His mother told me they tried Myron B. Thompson Academy but enrollment was closed by the time they applied. HTA is a State Department of Education charter school, one of the options parents can choose when they want a non-traditional public school for educating their children. Like MBTA, it is a blended homeschool, where students learn their lessons at home and classes are held at the school one day a week so classmates can socialize and get to know each other. The school provides all of the books in the curriculum. Online access connects the students with their teachers and each other, and is used for distance learning.

The Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network (HPCSN) is the umbrella organization for this branch of the DOE. Its executive director is former State Representative Lynn Finnegan. She is a believer in charter schools, having sent

both of her children to one nearby her old stomping grounds. There are currently 32 schools statewide. Myron B. Thompson and Hawaii Technology Academy are the two schools offered on each island, thanks to its online education approach. The schools tend to be on the smaller side, giving students a chance to know their classmates better and be better acquainted with their teachers.

The schools take on the nature of their founders, with beliefs and a mission shared by the parents who enroll their children. The diversity in these is reflected in the approach they take toward education and the classes offered. Halau Lokahi on Oahu, for one, was well known at the State Legislature. The blue t-shirted students were a familiar sight as they testified on bills each year. The school’s hands-on philosophy wasn’t limited to participating in the democratic process. To teach respect for nature, students went out on canoes into the ocean, gaining an appreciation of the beauty and power of the land and sea, and learning survival skills as well.

The Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences Public Charter School on the Big Island has a campus set on 11

acres of agricultural land. Surrounded by the lush greenery of Pahoia, its focus is on the arts, environmental stewardship and sciences. Its learning-by-doing approach gives students the chance to take electives such as yoga, surfing, agriculture, aikido, construction, aquaculture and bee keeping. About 500 students are enrolled in this school, which also offers Advance Placement (AP) courses.

Connections, also on the Big Island, has probably one of the most school photos a school could have. Students line up on the pathway and from the aerial shot, make up a silhouette of a turtle. Its focus is also environmental stewardship and the sciences. It’s located in Hilo.

A third school on the Big Island, this one on the west side in Kailua-Kona, earned the distinction of being recognized by the George Lucas Educational Foundation, as well as Intel and Scholastic’s Schools of Distinction Award, and was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School. Its vision is to “cultivate critical thinkers who are able to solve real world, complex problems” and produce “productive, responsible citizens who value stewardship and collaboration within the community.”

Charter schools bring to the education scene the opportunity to be creative in methodology. Such schools have more flexibility in their curriculum and how it is brought to life for students. As with public schools, attendance is free but parents may be asked to pay fees for the extra costs that come with a non-traditional school. Parents must apply to the schools and schools have the ability to select who they enroll or disenroll. Because these are charter

schools, students can come from any neighborhood, even if they don’t “live in the district.” This adds to the variety of backgrounds the student body comes from and makes for a cosmopolitan blend.

The state’s Public Charter School Commission oversees the creation of the schools and monitors the performance and legal compliance of the schools after these are founded.

(Photos used in this article is from www.hawaiiarterschool.com)



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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Chiz Defends Poe Against David's Tirades



Sen. Chiz Escudero

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero lashed out at defeated senatorial candidate Rizalito David for accusing Sen. Grace Poe of dragging other foundlings into the issue concerning her citizenship.

"In the first place, it was David who brought up the foundling issue since he started his campaign against Sen. Grace last month. It was

also David who raised the issue before the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET) and made a general statement that foundlings like Sen. Grace are stateless and could be denied of their right to a citizenship," Escudero said.

Escudero accused David of backtracking from his generalized statement on foundlings and is now insisting that the disqualification case "is personal to Poe and does not affect other foundlings."

"This was not the first time David backtracked on his issues against Sen. Grace. Earlier, he also agreed to drop the residency issue in the petition he had filed against her due to a rule requiring the filing of disqualification case based on residency within 10 days from proclamation of the candidate," Escudero said.

He added that family law expert Katrina Legarda was right when she pointed out that

David's petition was a clear form of discrimination against abandoned children.

According to David, Poe as a child had no known parents at birth, which the law classifies as a "foundling." Poe was abandoned in a church in Jaro, Iloilo province, before being adopted by late action star Fernando Poe Jr. and actress Susan Roces.

Escudero, who is a lawyer, said that Poe is a natural-born Filipino citizen because under the 1987 Constitution, international law and domestic laws, a foundling in the Philippines is

presumed to have Filipino biological parents.

"To say that a foundling like Sen. Grace cannot be considered a citizen of the Philippines is a violation of an individual's basic and alienable human right to bear a nationality from birth," Escudero said.

At the same time, Escudero also questioned David's motives for engaging Poe in a political discourse considering that the Senate Electoral Tribunal had already given due course to his petition.

"The petition was given due course and Sen. Grace al-

ready faced him at the tribunal. I don't understand why he called for a press conference against Sen. Grace, unless his motives are purely political," Escudero said. "If indeed political, who is behind David? Why is he engaging Sen. Grace in a political discourse outside the SET?"

Earlier, Escudero said that some presidential contenders could be using David to pressure Poe against running for president.

He added that the David petition was a clear harassment, noting that nobody questioned Poe's citizenship and residency during the last two years that she was senator.

Binay Spokesman Blasted for Calling Senate a 'Kangaroo Court'

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero blasted attorney Rico Quicho, spokesman for the political affairs of Vice President Jejomar Binay, and accused him of disrespecting the Senate by calling it a "kangaroo court."

"He forgets that the daughter of the vice president, Sen. Nancy Binay, is a member of the Senate which he is calling a kangaroo court," Escudero said. "His lack of civility and respect for the Senate as an institution is appalling and unbecoming of a lawyer."

According to Escudero, he did not make a particular reference to the vice president when he praised Sen. Grace Poe for attending the proceedings at the Senate Electoral

Tribunal (SET) and facing her accuser. He said such display of bravery by Poe is a true mark of a leader.

Escudero also asked Quicho to verify for himself the number of times an invitation was extended to the vice president to present his side in the allegations of corruption and illegal transactions involving several overpriced projects in Makati City leveled against him by his former vice mayor and close aides.

Despite several attempts to invite him to appear before the Senate and face his accusers, the vice president chose to ignore the Senate probe, Escudero said.

"He cannot claim that their camp was not given the chance to be cross-examined.

They were given all the opportunities to give their side of the story in the Senate. But what did the vice president's camp do? They chose not to participate.

"It was the vice president who turned a blind eye to all these allegations. Not once did the public—who deserves to know the truth—hear him rebut point by point these charges of corruption. Not in the Senate, not in any forum that he had attended," Escudero said.

"A true leader respects the institution. A true leader faces his accusers because he has nothing to hide. And that's what exactly Sen. Grace showed when she attended the SET proceedings and faced her accuser."

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

When Retroactive Adoption Is Valid for Immigration Purposes

There are several ways to bring an adopted child to the U.S.

If the child habitually resides in a country outside of the U.S. that is a party to the Hague Convention which took effect in the U.S. on April 1, 2008, the Hague process must be followed. There are currently 92 countries, including the Philippines that are parties to the Convention. Forms I-800A and I-800 are used in order to adopt.

The orphan (non-Hague) process applies to adoptions in non-Hague countries. The process requires the filing of Forms I-600 and/or I-600A.

Another process is the family-based petition route. An adopted child would be considered a “child” for immigration purposes if the adoption took place before the child turned 16 and the adopting parent had legal and physical custody of the child for at least two years. The adopting parent may file an immigrant visa petition (Form I-130) for the child to bring him or her to the U.S.

What if the adoption decree was entered after the child’s sixteenth birthday but made retroactive to a date before the child turned 16? Is it valid for immigration purposes?

In a recent case, the beneficiary was born in China and entered the U.S. as a nonimmigrant visitor when she was

nearly 14 years old. The beneficiary’s paternal aunt filed a petition to adopt the beneficiary in Hawaii two months before the beneficiary’s 16th birthday.

The State court judge issued the adoption decree after the beneficiary’s 16th birthday but the effective date of the decree was made retroactive to the date the petition was filed or two months before the beneficiary’s 16th birthday.

When the petitioner naturalized, she filed an immediate relative visa petition for the beneficiary as her adopted child. Although the petition was initially approved, the District Director revoked it, finding that the adoption did not occur before the child turned 16.

The rule established by the

Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) in two previous cases was that a retroactive adoption decree was not valid for immigration purposes.

In the first case, the beneficiary was already 18 years old when the adoption was initiated and the adoption decree was made retroactive to date 12 years prior. The BIA ruled that the adoption was invalid for immigration purposes.

The BIA came to the same conclusion in a subsequent case where it also did not recognize as valid for immigration purposes an adoption decree as being effective as of the date it was entered nunc pro tunc or with “retroactive legal effect.”

The age restriction, according to the BIA, was put in place by Congress to prevent

abuses and deter adoptions entered into for the purpose of circumventing immigration laws. The previous rule that the BIA established in the prior cases, however, was too rigid and did not consider the interests of family unity.

The BIA found the need to balance the interest of Congress to foster family unification and established a new rule, finding that as long as the adoption was initiated before the child’s sixteenth birthday and the State which entered the adoption decree expressly permitted the decree to be dated retroactively, the adoption may be recognized for immigration purposes.

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

MAINLAND NEWS

Passport Awareness Month 2015

September is Passport Awareness Month and officials from the U.S. Department of State have launched an “Apply Early” campaign for U.S. citizens thinking about renewing their current passports or applying for the first time.

The Department is expecting an increase in passport ap-

plications through 2018 and encourages travelers to submit passport applications well ahead of their planned travel dates in order to avoid delays receiving their travel documents. Typically, applicants receive their passports more quickly when applying between the months of September to December.

First time applications—both children and adults—must appear in person at designated U.S. post offices, public libraries and other passport acceptance facilities. Routine service takes 4-6 weeks while expedited service is 3 weeks but costs an additional \$60. The Department is offering weekend hours at passport agencies

throughout the country on select Saturdays during September and October as an added convenience for people to apply or renew early.

In 2007, the Department experienced an unprecedented surge in passport applications, issuing over 18 million passports as a result of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. Nearly 10 years later, those passports are beginning to ex-

pire and the Department has been experiencing increased demand for renewals. The Department issued 14 million passports in 2014 and the demand is expected to continue through 2018.

For more information on how or where to apply, go online to: Travel.State.Gov/ApplyEarly or call the National Passport Information Center toll-free at 1-877-487-2778.

Anakbayan-USA Condemns Massacre of Lumad Leaders

Activists from Anakbayan-USA held a national day of action September 4, 2015 to condemn the brutal murders of Lumad leaders on September 1. The group called for the immediate pullout of Philippine troops from indigenous communities, dismantling of paramilitary groups and an end to President Benigno Aquino’s counter insurgency program called “Oplan Bayanihan.” The action also called for the ending of U.S. military aid to the Philippines.

“We demand justice for all

the victims,” says Yves Nibungco, Anakbayan-USA national chair. “This massacre is part of the series of killings and other human rights violations across Mindanao aimed at displacing indigenous communities to pave the way for multinational corporations to plunder the resource-rich region.”

Shot to death were Emerito Samarca, Dionel Campos, and Bello Sinzo. The Lumad people have been victims of ongoing human rights violations by paramilitary groups Alamara Magahat and Bagani Forces

and the 36th Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Surigao del Sur province in Mindanao.

The national day of action was held in several major cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Seattle and San Francisco. Activists held candlelight vigils in Seattle and San Francisco to honor the victims. Various Filipino student organizations gathered in front of the Malcolm X Plaza at San Francisco State University.

A second group—GABRIELA USA, a grass-

(continued on page 15)

DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE. TAKE CARE OF YOUR LEGAL MATTERS WHILE YOU CAN AND DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Start collecting your ex-husband's retirement pay.
- Write a will before the state picks who gets your stuff.
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- Agree on who inherits what before your 2nd marriage.
- Become your adult disabled child's legal guardian.
- Protect government benefits with a special needs trust.
- Change your power of attorney after the divorce.



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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Pinadayawan Ti Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii Dagiti "2015 Parents of the Year" Ken "The 1st PCFH Trailblazer Awardee"

Kas ti tinawen a rusat ti PCFH, napadayawan dagiti lima a 2015 "POTY" Nominees" idi Agosto 21, 2015, 6:00pm iti Empress Restaurant iti Honolulu. Isuda Teofilo ken Orpinia De Aquino, Bonifacio ken Lorena Guieb, Arthur ken Trina Pascual, Jorge ken

Blandina Retuta, Alex ken Marianne Vergara.

Mapagwadanda amin a nagannak ken napatanor dagiti annakda babaen ti pannakagun-odda kadagiti adal a nagduyusanda. Napili da. Bonifacio ken Lorena Guieb nga "Parents of the year 2015". Addaanda ti tallo nga annak a lallaki - ti inauna ni Eduard a nagraduar iti Unver-

sity of Hawaii at Manoa iti B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering, ni Melvin nagraduar iti Woodburry University in Los Angeles, CA with a B.S in Architecture with minor in Business. Ni Roland, naggraduar a Magna Cumlaude idia Creighton University Omaha, NE with BS degree in Biology ken nursing. Agnaedda ita idia

Northern California.

Da Bonifacio ken Lorena ket aktiboda a miembro ti St. Filomena Church - adda iti Building Committee ni Bonifacio ket Eucharistic Minister ni Lorena.

Maysa kadagiti kalakayan a Filipino a matalek ken managserbi iti kumonidad ni Apo Lito Alcantara napadaywan met iti daytoy a rabii a 1st

PCFH Trailblazer Awardee. Mapagtamdan kadagiti amin a rusat ken tignayna, baknang, nangato ti saadna a a rumbeng a padayawan. Napakumbaba ken natakueg ti tignay ken pannakilangenna kadagiti kadarsaanna. Saan a nakababain a paglailoan kadagiti pagkurangan ken kasapulan a makiddaw iti kabaellanna.

Congratulations Brother Anacleto "Lito" Alcantara manipud kadagiti "KAKAIL-IAM".

NI ILOKANO *Daniw ni FMC*

Awan Ilokano a di aggagar
Nga umay agdindinamag a lugar
Iti ania man a pamuspusan
No mabalin ikalikagumdat' umay

Sadino man a lugar ken disso
Iti intero a lubong adda latta ni
Ilokano

Gapu't kinaanus, kinagaget awan
makapada

Dagiti Ilokano tuntunenda naraniag a
masakbayanda.

Ditoy Hawaii ni Ilokano maysa
kadagiti karegtaan

Daytat' pakapnekan iti anep wenno
tarigagay

Ta no pirak iti intay pagsasaritaan
Ammona a salimetmetan inna masa-
pulan.

Uray ania a pagtrabahuan ni Ilokano
isu't kaaduan

Karigatan, kapudotan, tudo ken angin
dina iginggina

Gapu't kinaanep tarigagay agnanayon
latta
Ni talugading, kinasaririt di maudi
ania man a banag.

Ni Ilokano ingget salukagna
Ta sakripisio agriing uray ania nga
oras

Ti regget a makalung-aw iti karigatan
Ling-et ken pigsa iparukpokna tapno
gin-awa maragpatna.

Saan a managinkukuna ni Ilokano
Serkenna uray ania a langa ti trabaho
Saan a mabain a nanumo
Karkargaenna ti kababalin ni Ilokano

Nupay itan adda metten mabain a
mabibi
Kayatna a lagtuen ti tangatang
Tapno ipakitana laeng a nasaliwanwan
Kasta la ti biag kaarruba dikay mas-
masdaawan

MAINLAND NEWS

Schatz Internship Program Accepting Applications



The office of U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz is accepting applications for the annual Schatz Seniors High School Internship Program.

Currently in its third year, the internship provides a hands-on learning opportunity about the U.S. Senate, creates a forum to share issues and information and encourages students to be leaders at school and in the community. Interns will work with outreach staff, identify issues of interest in their schools and communities and attend special events.

The internship runs from October 2015 through April 2016 and interns must commit for the full term. Public, private, charter and homeschooled seniors are encouraged to apply. Students must have a GPA of 2.5 or better and their own email accounts. Interns will be selected based on community involvement, diversity of interests and life experiences, and demonstrated leadership.

Applications are available online at: www.schatz.senate.gov and must be submitted no later than September 18, 2015. For additional information, call 523-2061.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MRS. ILOCOS SURIAN CORONATION AND DINNER PROGRAM | October 24, 2015 | HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE HOTEL & SPA | Theme: Keeping Ilocano Tradition alive..... Four finalists representing Cabugao, San Juan Lapog, Sto Domingo and Vigan will be competing for the MRS ISAH 2015 crown. Part of the proceed will be used for the ISAH Medical and Homecoming Mission December 2015 to the participating town of Ilocos Sur. Donation for the event is

\$75.00 | Contact Loida Yamamoto @679-9540; Danny Villaruz @778-0233

FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S KIMONO BALL AND FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD | November 14, 2015 | ALA MOANA HOTEL, HIBISCUS ROOM | Contact: Nancy A. Walch @778-3882

GLOBAL NEWS

Sea Row Clouds China Leader's US Visit

WASHINGTON – The continuing construction of airfields on disputed reefs in the South China Sea by China may strain a White House meeting between President Barack Obama and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, The Washington Post reported.

It said new satellite images, ahead of Xi's Sept. 24 state visit to the US, show China taking new steps to lay down what appears to be a 1.4-mile military runway on Zamora (Subi) Reef and putting the finishing touches on a 2-mile

airfield in Panganiban (Mischief) Reef in the Spratly islands chain. Subi was a once-submerged shoal that Beijing built up into an area suitable for a military base.

Although the US urged China to stop work in disputed territory and Beijing saying in August that it halted the reclamation, the satellite photos taken for the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) show that the construction continues.

China is claiming almost all of the South China Sea, including the West Philippine Sea, while its

neighbors – Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan – have rival claims.

The Post said images of new construction by China comes as political criticism over Xi's visit is mounting in the United States.

Several Republican presidential hopefuls have said the state dinner with Xi should be canceled because of disagreements over the South China Sea, human rights issues, cyberspace hacking and theft of intellectual property. (www.philstar.com)

(from page 13, ANAKBAYAN-USA....)

roots-based alliance of progressive Filipino women's organizations in the U.S.—also expressed outraged at the killings.

“We mourn with the wives and children and our hearts are heavy

knowing that they have lost an integral part of their families due to the intensifying state repression in Mindanao, particularly in areas populated by indigenous communities,” says Valerie Francisco, chairperson of GABRIELA USA.

According to Francisco, extrajudicial killings, gross violations and attacks on community leaders and human rights defenders have intensified during the final months of President Benigno Aquino's administration.

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- Filipino Leisure Hour, Hosted by Bonnie Pascua**
- Fil-AM Music, Hosted by Felina Quebral**
- The Sabado Filipino Program, Hosted by Alex Sonson**
- Only Yesterday, Hosted by Revelyn Jacinto**
- Kumusta Kadaraan, Hosted by Pat Bolo**
- Edna, Benny & Friends (Filipino Drama)**
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- Talkers and Thinkers (Wednesday 6:00-7:00PM)**
- Great Awakenings (Wednesday 8:00-8:30PM)**
- Moments with Mufi (Friday 5:00 – 6:00PM)**
- Sons & Daughters of Thunder (Sunday 9:00 – 10:00AM)**

ETHNIC PROGRAMS

- Monday: Vietnamese (9:00-10:00PM)
- Wed.: Chuukese (8:30-9:30PM) Tongan (9:30-Midnight)
- Thursday: Samoan (9:30-Midnight)
- Fri.: Okinawan (6:30-8:00PM); Cantonese (8:00-10:00PM)
- Sat.: Pohnpeian (2:00-3:00PM) Mandarin (4:30-5:30PM)
- Laotian (5:30-7:00PM) Marshallese (7:00-8:30PM)
- Sunday: Hispanic (2:30-5:30PM)

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