

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ FEBRUARY 20, 2016 ◆

# FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE WONDERS OF MALUNGGAY

COVER STORY PAGE

# 4



PHOTOGRAPHY: JdL



OPINION

**SIZING UP THE 2016 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES**

**3**



NEWS FEATURE

**CAREGIVING EVENTS BRING HOPE TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS IN HAWAII**

**9**



LEGAL NOTES

**K-1 FIANC(E) VISA UNDER SCRUTINY**

**13**

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE  
94-356 WAIPAHU DEPOT RD., 2ND FLR.  
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HONOLULU, HI  
PERMIT NO. 9661

## EDITORIALS

## The Changing Face of Waipahu

**W**aipahu has over the years experienced monumental change, beginning with the closure of its beloved Oahu Sugar Plantation and idyllic way of life. One casualty was the iconic Arakawa's General Store which closed in 1995 after nearly 90 years of business. Old-timers vividly remember the store on Waipahu Depot Road and its radio ads that ended with the *cockle-doo-dah-doo!* of a rooster. A trip to Arakawa's was like stepping back in time to when life in Hawaii was simpler and more relaxed.

There have been telltale signs of economic revitalization of "old" Waipahu, particularly with the opening of a light industrial business park, expansion of the YMCA and a new Filipino Community Center on several acres of former sugar mill property. However, much of the once vibrant "old" Waipahu is still recovering from the sugar mill's closure.

Fortunately, community groups such as the Waipahu Community Association (WCA) and the Waipahu Community Coalition (WCC) have focused on community building efforts and drug and substance abuse prevention through various programs and activities. There are also several annual festivals and events that help to bring the community together, such as Taste of Waipahu, Christmas Parade and more recently, the Great *Malunggay* Festival, which is currently in its second year. Events such as these go a long way towards maintaining community cohesion and instilling a sense of belonging for Waipahu's multi-ethnic residents.

The latest change to have hit Waipahu is no doubt the City's elevated rail system along its main arterial road. The massive project will rise several stories into the air and forever alter the face and landscape of Waipahu. The two transit stations for Waipahu are envisioned to attract housing and commercial development opportunities such as shops, entertainment, restaurants and office space all within convenient walking distance. The fixed guideway system, when completed, will connect Waipahu with the City of Kapolei to the west and with the Primary Urban Center to the east. If rail ultimately delivers on its promise, historic "old" Waipahu will receive the economic kick start it has long waited for.

## Time Limits in Public Housing Make Sense

**A** bill that limits the number of years tenants can stay in the State Public Housing Program to five continues to inch forward at the State Legislature. Those who agree to the restriction will be given priority and have their monthly rents frozen instead of being adjusted to their income levels. Supporters say House Bill 2638—Relating to Public Housing is meant to encourage tenants to be more fiscally-prudent and start saving for their housing needs. At the same time, opponents question the wisdom of moving tenants out when the state currently faces a severe shortage in not only the number of affordable housing units for rent but also jobs that pay decent wages.

The way the system is set-up, there is no urgency for tenants to seek higher paying jobs, since rent is directly tied to income level. Not surprisingly, entire families have stayed put and grown children routinely join them as vacancies arise. This multigenerational public housing mentality has in no small way contributed to the 13,500-plus people on the statewide waitlist for state and federal public housing. And with the turnover rate at a measly 4 percent annually, something needs to be done.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER



lection season rhetoric is ramping up in the U.S. and also in the Philippines. Earlier this month, the Philippine presidential election officially kicked off with the five leading candidates—Vice President Jejomar Binay, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Senator Grace Poe, former Interior and Local Government Secretary Mar Roxas and Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago—all hitting the airwaves and campaign trail to woo voters. Observers say this election is crucial since it will determine not only who succeeds President Benigno Aquino III but whether he or she will carry on anti-corruption measures and other reforms that he set out to. In future issues, we will provide our readers with updated information on the Philippine elections which take place on May 9.

On a much lighter topic, our cover story for this issue is about the 2nd Annual Malunggay Festival (see page 4) which is fast becoming a tradition for the Filipino community. The fun-filled barrio fiesta-style celebration focuses on the venerable *malunggay* plant and is scheduled for April 2, 2016 at August Ahrens Elementary School from 10 am to 5 pm. Organizers expect this year's festival to be even bigger and better than last year's and hope to attract Filipinos from not just Waipahu but Kalihi and other communities with a large percentage of Filipino families. For sponsorship information or more details on how to volunteer or be a vendor, contact Festival organizer Al Simbahon at 256-2755.

In other news, you've probably heard of the Zika virus which is suspected of causing a deformity known as microcephaly, or babies born with abnormally small heads. It is believed that Zika is spread by mosquitoes in much the same way as dengue fever. Rather than contribute to public hysteria, let's do what we can to help stop the spread of infectious diseases by mosquitoes by taking simple preventative measures like emptying pails and buckets and eliminating standing water in our backyards. Please turn to page 8 for more on what our elected and federal officials are doing to address this latest concern.

In closing, we encourage you to read the many informative columns and articles in this issue. Feel free to email us at: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com) with any story idea, suggestion or concern you may have.

Until our next issue...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

The majority of public housing tenants are the least educated, lack the necessary skills for higher paying jobs and are more likely suffer from poor health. At the same time, there are tenants who initially qualified for public housing but now earn more than the threshold levels. These higher earning, able-bodied residents should be coaxed to leave, given the acute shortage for housing, particularly among the homeless. Audits are needed to uncover who they are.

This is a highly-charged issue for the housing industry and low-income advocates. The bottom line is that housing assistance is not an entitlement nor is it intended to be lifelong assistance from government. But at the same time, let's also realize that families have varying problems and earning capacities and may need more time to cope with their own housing needs. We need to accept the fact that assistance to low-income families should be limited and fairly distributed—and that is only possible by limiting the time families can receive housing assistance.



## HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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 Llena

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.  
Cong. Mark Takai  
Emmanuel S. Tapon, 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.  
Caroline Julian  
Raymund Li. Liangson, Ph.D.  
Federico Magdalena, Ph.D.  
Deborah T. Manog  
Maita Milallos  
Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D.  
Renelaine Bontol-Pfister  
Seneca Moraleta-Puguan  
Lilia Q. Santiago, Ph.D.  
Jay Valdez, Psy.D.  
Glenn Wakai  
Amado Yoro

Philippine Correspondent:  
Greg Garcia

### Neighbor Island Correspondents:

Big Island (Hilo and Kona)  
Grace Larson | Ditas Udani  
Kauai  
Millicent Wellington  
Maui  
Christine Sabado  
Big Island Distributor  
Grace Larson | Ditas Udani  
Kauai Distributor  
Amylou Aguinaldo  
Nestor Aguinaldo  
Jimmy Illoreta  
Maui Distributor  
Cecile Piro  
Molokai Distributor  
Maria Watanabe  
Oahu Distributor  
Yoshimasa Kaneko  
Jonathan Pagulayan

Advertising/Marketing Director  
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives  
Carlota Hufana Ader  
J.P. Orias

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. and is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone (808) 678-8930 Facsimile (808) 678-1829. E-mail [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com). Website: [www.thefilipinochronicle.com](http://www.thefilipinochronicle.com). Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

U.S. SBA SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST AWARDED  
MEMBER, SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

OPINION

# Sizing Up The Presidential Candidates: The Extremes vs the Moderate Clinton

By Edwin Quinabo

**S**ome Americans may be surprised that a self-proclaimed socialist, a billionaire reality TV star and a Tea Party Cuban American would be in the mix to be leading in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections.

Three of the five candidates – U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, businessman Donald Trump and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz – all are in serious contention to win over moderates former Sen. Hillary Clinton and the relatively unknown U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio.

Clinton is the only marquee political name on the roster of leading candidates; and taking into account her gender, a Clinton win would be historical. In fact a win by any of the leading candidates would be historical – that is how unique this 2016 race is turning out to be.

Who would have also thought that there would be so much ethnic diversity in the Republican Party's top tier contenders: two Cuban Americans and a Black American – all of whom are outpacing the typical White Anglo Saxon old guard establishment that had owned the GOP since the birth of the Republic. The GOP establishment's race horse, Jeb Bush, had all the big cat Wall Street money thrown his way at the outset, but his remarkably poor single-digit showing will soon have the establishment anointing another candidate with fresher legs.

The reality is American politics has been moving to the extreme right and extreme left over the past decade or more and it should be no surprise to see the rich variance among candidates for president in terms of ethnicity, gender, and political doctrine.

## Sanders the "not" so socialist giant

Aside from Trump, the



American media's headline fodder in this presidential race, the candidate who is beginning to turn a lot of heads and deserving so is Sanders.

Normally, a self-proclaimed socialist immediately conjures up negative associations with Mao, Stalin, Communist Russia, the Vietnam War and a sleuth of other hall of fame tragic leaders or events involving doom and dictators.

But the fact is Sanders' brand of socialism is a misnomer, and more akin to European and Canada's current model of socio-economic governance. Know this and get it straight: Sanders is not advocating government ownership of private industries as classic socialism would have. Central to Sanders' political brand, however, is his illumination of the current class tension in American life and hardships of the working people much as Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels did in their writings and musings of European class struggle in the 1800s.

Sanders' socialism is really "progressive Democrat" politics, nothing sinister as the label is commonly associated with. His socialism is really an extension of the idealism that President Obama once had prior to getting elected into office. As such, Sanders is drawing in record-crowds wherever he campaigns as Obama once did, and is fast becoming the candidate of choice particularly among young adults, as Obama also did. The Vermont senator already is the clear favorite among progressive Democrats and his recent success is having a pulley affect on Clinton's moderate brand of politics toward center-left.

This time around, Hilary knows better than to alienate the liberal wing of the Democratic Party as she had done in the past, and to project an image of herself as being less of a Wall Street Democrat as what she really is and more as a fighter of the average Joe and Sue.

The most apt description to characterize the difference between Clinton and Sanders is – Clinton as president would be more like the Obama who got elected; and Sanders as president would be more like the Obama before he got elected.

For example in policy, Hilary would defend, maintain and perhaps expand Obamacare slightly; Sanders would build upon Obamacare and attempt to transform it into a single-payer system, a true universal health care system that Obama only dreamt of achieving.

And while Clinton caved in to popular opinion at the time, as moderates often do, and supported the U.S. invasion of Iraq; Sanders has been one of the chief critics of American policy in the Middle East and the establishment's war on terror.

Make no mistake, Clinton is very much a pillar of the modern American establishment who has helped to enable the income gap between the rich and middle class to widen. She is a true blue Wall Street champion. Sanders has been fighting for reforms of the Federal Reserve and supportive of fairer industry competition by looking after mid to small size businesses. If elected, he seeks to level the business playing field further by making the "too big to fail" industry giants pay their fair

share of the American tax burden that small to mid-size companies have been bogged down with.

share of the American tax burden that small to mid-size companies have been bogged down with.

It's way too early to forecast a winner.

But it's also well into election season to know where the candidates stand and guess what kind of president some of the leading candidate would be.

Should Hilary win, expect more of the same politics as usual.

Should Sanders win, ex-

pect the unexpected, a modern era of FDR brand policies if Democrats win back Congress in the midterm elections.

On the Republican side, should Cruz win, expect more of the Bush years, but a lot more in terms of radical right-wing policies, unapologetic right-wing radicalism. Should Trump win, expect attempts of having a new reign of what a modern dictator is capable of. Who can really predict what someone would do like Trump when he says he would have Muslims register themselves with the government as Jews were required under Nazi Germany. Be afraid.

## Do You Need Help With Medicaid and Medicare?

I will help you understand Medicaid as well as Medicare Parts A, B, C & D. It can be very confusing but I can assist you with any questions or concerns you may have.



Vance Kobayashi  
Certified Agent

There is never a fee for my service.

Call 780-7989 Today!



1585 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1020  
Honolulu, HI 96814

(808) 780-7989 vkobayashi@sbchi.com

- Protect:
- 1 Your car.
  - 2 Your house.
  - 3 Your bank account.



Guy Matsumoto, Agent  
94-849 Lumiaina Street, Suite 104  
Waikale Professional Center  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
Bus: 671-7888  
guy@guymatsumoto.com

Save an average of \$825\*  
Protect yourself with America's #1 car and home insurance company.\*\*  
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.\*  
Call me today at 671-7888



\*Average annual per household savings based on a national 2012 survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm.

\*\*Based on A.M. Best written premium.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL  
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL  
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL, State Farm Lloyds, Dallas, TX

## COVER STORY

# 2nd Annual Malunggay Festival to Highlight Wonders of Beloved Filipino Plant

By Dennis Galolo

**L**ove is much sweeter, as the old saying goes, the second time around. The same may hold true for Al Simbahon and organizers of the Great Malunggay Festival and Parade 2016, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 2 at August Ahrens Elementary School from 10 am to 5 pm.

According to Simbahon, a long-time resident of Waipahu, community leader and youth ministry director at St. Joseph Church, the “Malunggay Festival 2.0” promises to be even bigger and better than last year’s event.

“We’re looking forward to the second version of this exciting community celebration,” Simbahon says. “We will experience wonderful Filipino and other delicious ethnic foods, a variety of vendor products, a parade, excellent entertainment and of course, *malunggay*.”

Helping Simbahon with the planning and organizing are volunteers from the community, St. Joseph and the

Waipahu Community Association (WCA)—a non-profit group that works to enhance the economic, social and cultural vitality of Waipahu.

“They (WCA) was very open to the idea of bringing the *Malunggay Festival and Parade* to Waipahu,” Simbahon says. “They play a very important role in recognizing the many diverse cultures that make Waipahu so very special. The WCA is very much appreciated by all due to their unending community involvement, interest and commitment.”

In addition to soliciting involvement from the WCA, organizers have included the venerable Hawaii’s Plantation Village (HPV), located in his-

toric Waipahu town. HPV is a living outdoor history museum that tells the story of life during Hawaii’s sugar plantation era. The Village includes restored buildings and replicas of plantation structures such as houses of various ethnic groups and community buildings.

HPV will host a reunion for former employees of the now defunct Oahu Sugar, Ewa, Waipahu and Waialua sugar plantations. A wall will be on display filled with memorabilia and old family photos featuring the beloved *sakadas*.

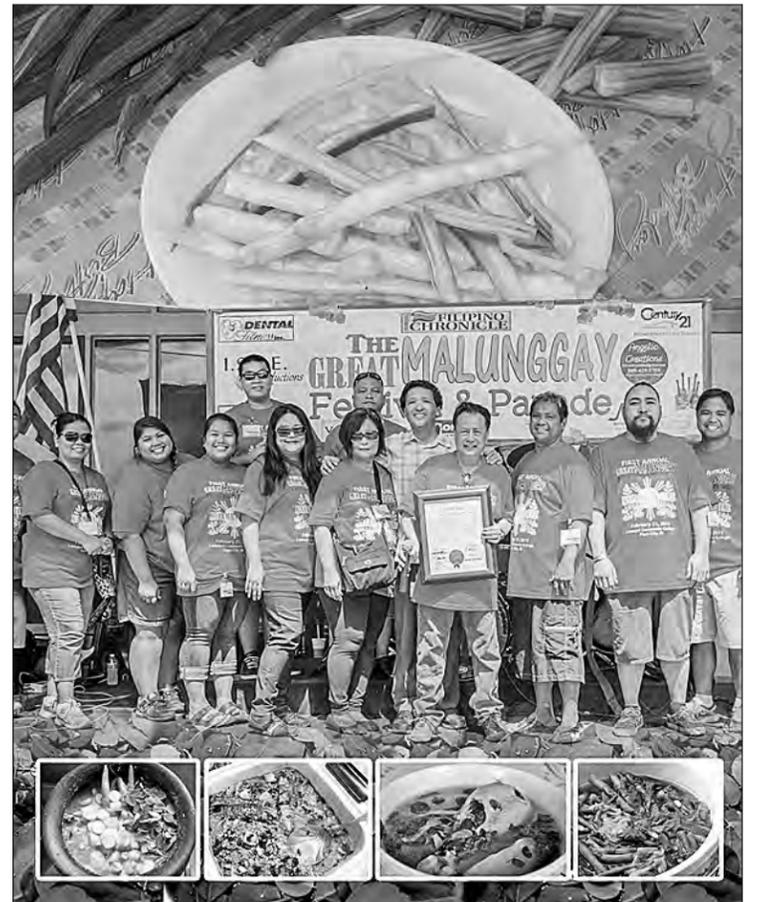
“It’s meant to allow our plantation family and friends to gather to ‘talk story’ and reminisce about the good old days,” Simbahon says.

A special presentation and the recognition of Hawaii’s Plantation Village volunteers will also be held.

## Why Malunggay?

The festival is Simbahon’s brainchild. One of his ambitions has always been to bring the Filipino community closer together. He initially envisioned a small parade commemorating the Filipino culture with the *malunggay* tree as the unifying symbol.

In venturing to Hawaii from the Philippines in search of a new life, the *sakadas* brought with them their precious *malunggay* seeds, not knowing the medicinal and health benefits that scientists today now recognize. Once



thought of as a “poor man’s vegetable,” *malunggay* is prized for its nutritional and medicinal value. A study reported by the Los Angeles Times showed that ounce-for-ounce, *malunggay* has the calcium of four glasses of milk, the Vitamin C of seven oranges and the potassium of three bananas. *Malunggay* also has properties that can protect against harmful microorganisms, lower blood pressure and cholesterol, prevent damage to the liver, and help people with bronchial asthma.

Decades later, the sugar plantations in Waipahu and Ewa that hired the early *sakadas* faced closure, threatening the way of life for the families and descendants of these pioneering Filipinos. Simbahon saw a need to draw affected families and the Filipino community closer together.

“We lost our sugarcane, but not our *malunggay* tree, which we see planted island-wide and throughout the state,” says Simbahon, who was determined not to lose

Waipahu’s roots and plantation culture. “I dreamed about a parade on old Waipahu Street, with people on both sides of the street waving branches of the *malunggay*, cheering on the *Malunggay Festival Queen*, her Royal Court and of course, the parade.”

## A Smashing Success!

For Simbahon, the dream finally became a reality. Last year’s event, which was held on the campus of Leeward Community College, drew over 1,500 people and 40 vendors. The barrio-fiesta style celebration included live entertainment, song and dance contest, good food, door prizes, food and crafts.

Waipahu resident Kristine Cabudol decided to attend last year’s Festival after hearing about it via advertisements at St. Joseph’s Church.

“Who would have ever thought there would be a *Malunggay Festival*? I was interested in giving it a try and seeing what it had offer,” she says.

(continued on page 5)

## BALIKBAYAN BOXES

## LBC HARI NG PADALA

### GRACE LARSON

BIG ISLAND AGENT of LBC

**211 MAKANI CIRCLE**

**HILO, HI 96720**

**808-640-1540**

**808-960-6006**

**Fax: 1-866-663-1453**

**raven\_reuboni@yahoo.com**

**Drop-off Your Balikbayan Boxes at Two Big Island Courier locations!**

Come visit us at our Authorized Partner locations:

**HILO WAREHOUSE**  
831 Leilani St., Hilo, HI 96720

Business Hours:  
Monday to Friday  
8:00 am - 10:00 am or 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Sundays at 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**KONA**  
73-4776 Kanalani St. Unit #12  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Business Hours:  
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Sundays only

**CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR PICK-UP!**

**Grace Larson**  
(808) 640-1540

**Joy Luea (Kona)**  
(808) 937-0663

**We Like To Move It**

(800) 338-5424    www.LBCexpress.com    /LBCexpress    @LBCexpress

www.allparalegalservices.com

COVER STORY

(from page 3, 2nd ANNUAL...)

Photography: JdL



Cabudol ended up staying for nearly the entire event, soaking in the sights, sounds and music. In between enjoying the kid-friendly activities, demonstrations and parade, she and several members of her church family lent a helping hand at a few of the vendors' booths.

She hopes that news of the *Malunggay* Festival will spread via word of mouth to Kalihi and other communities with a large concentration of Filipino residents, as well as other ethnic groups.

"What's good about events like the *Malunggay* Festival is that it's a good place to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. We're so busy with our lives and caught up with the modern world that we don't take time to appreciate our beautiful culture. It's a very humbling experience to be able to go back to your roots and where you came from."

For Waipahu resident Ruffalyn Villanueva, last year's festival was a family affair. She, her daughter, mom, brother and cousin spent several hours at the festive event and later met up with several relatives.

"It reminded me of family gatherings where we're all together, enjoying each other's company and chatting the time away," she says. "It had a very family-oriented atmosphere."

Villanueva sampled a variety of cuisines offered by various vendors, including Filipino dishes that incorporated *malunggay*. She is looking forward to more creative *malunggay* dishes at this

year's festival and sees room for improvement.

"Last year was the first Festival, but I think it was a great start. One improvement would be to have more vendors each year as the festival continues to grow," she says.

Villanueva says her entire family is looking forward to the next festival.

One vendor who will make a repeat appearance at this year's event is Da Bolalohan Barbeque Grill. According to events coordinator Merrill Rillamas, the 1st *Malunggay* Festival was a smashing success.

"We were very satisfied with the results," says Rillamas. "We actually sold out of the chicken *malunggay* soup that we served. It was a first time event that not a lot of people knew about. We were at a hidden location at last year's event but we were still overwhelmed."

Rillamas says they sold about 300 servings of chicken *malunggay* soup. This year, they will prepare more entrees featuring *malunggay*, as well as desserts like *malunggay* with puto and *malunggay* cupcakes.

"With *malunggay*, you can pretty much do anything," he says.

Da Bolalohan Barbeque Grill will also serve steak and shrimp, hamburger steak, loco moco and brisket. And with longer hours and a better location at this year's *Malunggay* Festival, Rillamas says they will prepare more food this time around.

Da Bolalohan Barbeque Grill is a fixture at local food festivals including Taste of

Waipahu, Taste of Kalihi and other block parties. Their signature blue lunchwagon can be found daily at the Waipahu Festival Marketplace.

**Engaging Our Youth**

Simbahon says there will be more direct and hands-on involvement by Filipino youth and young adults at the 2nd *Malunggay* Festival from the Katipunan Filipino Student Club at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, Timpuyog Organization and the Sariling Gawa teens and young adult group. They will be co-beneficiaries of this year's festival. Each group will hone their en-

trepreneurial skills through various booths and host fundraisers for their respective clubs.

Rouel Velasco, former *Sariling Gawa* Youth Council president, says volunteering at community events such as the *Malunggay* Festival contributes to college students' personal as well as professional development.

"They start to see the world beyond themselves and on a much larger level," Velasco says. "In Hawaii, the community is an extension of our family, so when they get involved in these events, they connect with everyone in the

community—from the elders to the children. It's a beautiful cycle."

In addition to a financial benefit, these college students also learn the importance of responsibility and teamwork by being involved in the planning and operations of their respective booths, says Simbahon.

"Best of all, they become more aware of the Filipino culture," he says. "The emphasis on them being 'the future' will eventually dwindle as the years pass. That's why it's important for young Filipinos to be involved and taught about our culture and traditions NOW."

**LEGAL NOTICE**

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: ADOPTION OF PATRICK JACOB ACE

NO.: 106 of 2015

**TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS**

TO: Joseph M. Umali

You are notified that the above Court has set a hearing on the termination of your rights as a natural parent of PATRICK JACOB ACE before the Honorable T.A. Kreiger, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania at 2:00 p.m. on March 16, 2016 in Courtroom No. 11 at the Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania at which time and place you may appear and be heard if you so desire.

Seth A. Tongchinsub, Esquire  
Bassi, Vreeland & Associates, PC  
111 Fallowfield Avenue  
P O Box 144  
Charleroi, PA 15022  
724-483-5502

## OPINION

# Devil's Advocates

COMMONSENSE By Marichu A. Villanueva

**B**arring any last minute hitches, all is set for the first of three presidential debates taking place this Sunday. All five of the six presidential candidates in the coming May 9 elections have confirmed their attendance to this event to be staged at Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro City in Misamis Oriental.

The second debate in the Visayas will be organized by The STAR, TV5 and BusinessWorld at the University of the Philippines-Cebu on March 20. The third debate will be held in Luzon jointly led by ABS-CBN and Manila Bulletin at the University of Pangasinan on April 24.

Under the supervision of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), the first round of presidential debate has been organized jointly by television network GMA 7 and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Through their respective official representatives, the five presidential

aspirants committed their participation to no less than Comelec chairman Andres Bautista.

The five presidential candidates are, namely, Vice President Jejomar Binay from the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA); Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago from People's Reform Party (PRP); Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte from the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban); Sen. Grace Poe (independent); and Mar Roxas of the Liberal Party (LP).

Actually, there were six presidential candidates already printed out in the official ballots to be used in the coming election. Unfortunately, one of them, the late OFW Family Club Rep. Roy Señeres succumbed to cardiac arrest a few days before he could officially withdraw from the presidential race. So the name of Señeres remains as one of six presidential candidates of choice in the official ballots as printed.

Nonetheless, the greatest show on earth dubbed "Presidential Debate 2016" is still on.



The two-hour presidential debate will be aired live by GMA-7 as well as carried in their respective online streaming from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. this Sunday. It will be on a two-moderator format – one male and one female – to act as emcees.

The holding of the presidential debate comes after a long while it was not held in the most recent previous elections. The last time Comelec conducted one was during the May 1992 presidential elections when there were seven candidates. Sen. Santiago was one of them but she lost the presidential race eventually

won by former President Fidel Ramos.

During his radio program over DzBB, news anchor Mike Enriquez related their last meeting held at GMA-7 headquarters in Quezon City to finalize the details of the presidential debate. Each of the official representatives of the five presidential candidates was asked by the Comelec chairman if his or her principal would participate in the debate.

As they were seated across the table, the last one asked was from the camp of Sen. Santiago, Enriquez noted. Everyone inside the conference room broke into loud applause, he recalled, when Santiago's representative declared she would participate.

She may still be recuperating from lung cancer but the 70-year-old senator remains feisty and is not backing out from any fight. So from the current crop of candidates, it will be a walk in the park for Santiago when she joins anew the presidential debate.

This is the first time a presidential debate is being held outside Metro Manila. And in fact, it will be held for the first time in Mindanao, Bautista cited. As approved by the Comelec, three town fora are currently being conducted by organizers to "help crowd-source the questions to make sure that the concerns of the Mindanaoans are asked during the debate."

For Mindanao, the Comelec pre-selected the subject matter of this Sunday's presidential debate, including agriculture development; poverty reduction/asset creation and re-

distribution; Charter change; and peace and order.

From among the five presidential candidates, Duterte has arrogated to himself the title of the only genuine Mindanaoan who represents the interests and sentiments of the people from southern Philippines.

So it is rather uncanny for the mayor of Davao City to threaten anew not to join the upcoming presidential debate for flimsy reason. Duterte warned he would not join the debate in Cagayan de Oro if the local press there is not given a fair share in the coverage. He hurled this based on reports of the Cagayan de Oro Press Club's threat to boycott the Comelec-sanctioned debates after the poll body limited the local press coverage.

Duterte had earlier declined to participate in the debate while the disqualification cases against him were still pending before the Comelec. He changed tune after the Comelec dismissed all four DQ cases against him.

For a tough-talking Davao City mayor, he found again another reason to obviously skirt, if not try to avoid a face-off in particular with Roxas who appears to be his favorite whipping boy from among his fellow presidential candidates. It is fast becoming a habit for Duterte, or so it seems, to throw tantrums if he would not have his way.

The Comelec chairman announced he was told by GMA-7 and PDI that organizers of the event have ironed out with the local media their differences on the number of representatives

(continued on page 7)

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Hawaii's Economy On Track

The State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) recently released its first quarter 2016 Statistical and Economic Report which shows Hawaii's economic growth rate unchanged from its previous forecast.

"We are pleased that Hawaii ended 2015 with historical high levels for labor force, employment and job count, and are excited to see the trend continue in 2016," says DBEDT Director Luis P. Salaveria. "The state's unemployment rate was the sixth lowest in the nation and the economic fundamentals remain positive."

In 2015, 9,500 non-agriculture payroll jobs were added to the economy, representing a 1.5 percent increase. Healthcare and social assistance were next at 1,900 jobs, followed by construction at 1,800, retail trade at 1,700 and the food and beverage industry at 1,600. However, federal and state governments each lost 500 jobs in 2015 as compared to 2014.

Hawaii's unemployment rate in 2015 averaged 3.7 percent and was the lowest level since 2007. Unemployment claims in 2015 decreased by 18.4 percent. The trend continued

in January 2016, with initial unemployment claims down 31.4 percent from the same month in 2015.

In 2015, the state saw a great year for the construction industry. The contracting tax base, an indicator for construction completed, reached \$6 billion during the first three quarters of 2015, representing 16.3 percent increase from the same period in the prior year. The construction industry had the highest job growth among all the industries statewide in 2015 at 5.7 percent.

Visitor arrivals reached a record 8.6 million visitors in 2015 and visitor spending increased 2.3 percent to \$15.3 billion. DBEDT expects visitor arrivals to increase 1.9 percent to \$8.8 billion in 2016.

Personal income is projected to grow at 4.8 percent in 2016. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Hawaii's personal income grew by 4.7 percent during the first nine months of 2015. With a lower inflation rate caused by lower oil prices, Hawaii consumers benefited from a stronger purchasing power.

The full report is available online at: [dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/qser/](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/qser/).

CANDID PERSPECTIVES

# My Favorite Monkey in the Year of the Monkey



By Emil Guillermo

**W**hen it comes to Chinese New Year, everyone loves to celebrate and say “Gung Hay Fat Choy.”

Happy Lunar New Year everyone, may your life be a red envelope filled with good fortune! Every 12 years, monkeys rule. But looking back, 2004 seemed like a mixed bag dud—Facebook launched, Google released G-mail and George W. Bush beat John Kerry.

2016? As an Asian American of Filipino descent, I take this as a special year. The Lunar New Year begins on February 8, the birthday of my father, who came to the U.S. from the colonial Philippines as a “national,” a special status that made him neither fish nor fowl.

My dad skipped the

sakada period and went straight from Ilocos to the U.S. When he came here during the 1920s, he didn’t need any papers. He wasn’t a Philippine national. And he definitely was not a U.S. citizen. He was a second-class colonized American “national.”

Filipinos—so special because they weren’t. In San Francisco, Filipinos like my dad found comfort on the edge of Chinatown on Kearny Street, where they formed Manilatown. Their Asian-ness gave them common ground with the Chinese, particularly when it came to eating, drinking and gambling.

But the mostly male population of Filipinos often ventured out into the city and the rest of the state. Not only did they take jobs few whites wanted, they started taking their women too.

That was the thrust of a white male-led Filipino exclusion movement that came complete with violence and drove down the numbers of

Filipinos entering the country from a high of around 11,000 in 1929 to 1,300 in 1932.

During that time, the epithet of choice was clear. They called us “monkey.” Through my father, I know what it’s like to be not good enough because we weren’t white. We were sub-human.

So when I hear that it’s the Year of the Monkey and that it starts on my dad’s birthday, well, that bit of karmic coincidence is just cause for celebration.

I’m looking forward to a good year. And if I can have a good year, maybe DeMarcus Cousins, with all his monkey baggage, can too. Although truthfully, playing for the lowly Sacramento Kings makes it highly unlikely. When he started in the NBA, Cousins was just a high schooler from Mobile, Alabama who went to Kentucky, played one year and then jumped to the pros for \$7 million.

He showed why it’s not a bad idea to finish four years of college. He might have been able to take an Asian-Ameri-

can history course. At the start of the month, Cousins objected to the Kings having a t-shirt giveaway featuring a monkey in the team’s purple colors on the day that kicked off Black History Month.

Cousins found it offensive. Surprisingly, some people agreed, like Marques Johnson, a former pro who is now an NBA broadcaster in Milwaukee.

“Good move Kings. Year of Monkey Tees on 1st day of Black History Month not a good look. Thanks DeMarcus,” Johnson tweeted.

This kind of thing shows how ignorance can spread on social media. And what do you know, the Kings front office folded.

The team removed the t-shirts to placate King DeMarcus. The Kings should have instead sat down with Cousins and explained that the Year of the Monkey is important to the largest Asian minority in the state, the second largest minority group after Latinos (African-Americans are third) and a big part of the fan base in Northern California.

The Kings then should have explained that the monkey is no slur, not in the Lunar New Year context. And that even Asian-Americans like Filipinos, who know the general term as an epithet, still consider the Year of the Monkey not as a source of ire, but as a cause for celebration. Instead, the Kings were bullied by a star of their own making.

Since the \$7 million paid to Cousins in 2009 to go pro, the Kings are into the player for a whopping \$15.8 million for this year alone. That tends to cloud judgment.

The big loser? Diversity, the truth and anyone who wants a purple monkey t-shirt. Shame on the Kings and Cousin.

It’s easy to tell the difference if your monkey is a slur or cause for celebration.

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, California.

**OPINION (from page 6, DEVIL’S....)**

to be allowed inside the venue. So there should be no more reason for a no-show by Duterte.

Participation in this event though will not be compulsory but an empty chair will be left for a candidate who will not appear during the debate. This was a settled agreement with us media representatives when we started the organizational meeting with the Comelec on the holding of the presidential debates.

As early as September last year, the Comelec convened

the first meeting and discussed the proposed revival of the presidential debates that Bautista initiated with designated representatives of the national media and officials of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas (KBP).

We had several more meetings to carefully prepare and lay down the nitty-gritty to complete the forthcoming presidential debates. As they say, the devil is in the details. The media’s role here, as always, is to play devil’s advocates in these debates. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

**visit our websites @**  
**[www.thefilipinochronicle.com](http://www.thefilipinochronicle.com)**  
**and**  
**[www.efilipinochronicle.com](http://www.efilipinochronicle.com)**  
**and enjoy the e-copy of**  
**the hawaii-filipino chronicle!**

## GARFIELD LAW GROUP

FULL SERVICE IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM

**Free Immigration Consultations Offered Now!**  
**Libre Nga Konsultasyon Maipanggep Ti Imigrasyon!**  
**Libreng Konsultasyon Tungkol Sa Imigrasyon!**



**ONLY IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

- Removal and Deportation Defense
- Family-based Immigration/Waivers
- Citizenship and Naturalization
- Business/Employment Visas
- Investor Visas
- Political Asylum
- Obama Executive Action Advice



Top Washington DC immigration law firm has opened an office in Honolulu and is offering **FREE immigration consultations** with founding partner, David Garfield. Please call or email for an appointment.



**HONOLULU OFFICE**  
 Topa Financial Center  
 Bishop Street Tower  
 700 Bishop Street, Suite 2100  
 Honolulu, HI 96813

**WASHINGTON DC OFFICE**  
 1634 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
 Washington DC 20006

**CALL: 808-439-8555**

EMAIL: [davidg@garfieldlaw.com](mailto:davidg@garfieldlaw.com) VISIT: <http://garfieldlaw.com/>

## COMMENTARY



By Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

## A Filipino Tragedy

love. Raising ten lovely children was her major achievement in her lifetime. She was a woman unlike any other. What a loss!

Unfortunately, Mama Chit dies recently in a car accident that ended her beautiful life. The saddest thing is that, she died and did not deserve the way she died. It couldn't have happened to the best woman you ever knew. In any case, she's at peace at last in a place where there is not only redemption but eternal serenity.

The unfortunate thing about this whole episode was that her youngest son also died of natural causes at the same time period after a long illness. The double tragedy is hard to take because it takes a lot of courage to cope with one untimely death, let alone two in the same family. This leads us to think if there is really justice



Mrs. Conception "Conchita" Dalupan Sebastian (R) with daughter Cecile Sebastian, DDS (L) who is a practicing dentist in Honolulu.

in life. It's a sad thought but nobody knows the answer.

Her survivors celebrate her passing instead of grieving. Dr. Cecile Sebastian, a prominent dental surgeon and well-loved community leader, says her mother was ideal in every sense. Regarding her mother's passing, Cecile said that she shared even in death

her penchant for compassion with the rest of humanity.

You see, on the same day of the accident, the other car involved in the collision had a baby who was thrown out of the car upon impact of the collision but the child survived! Do did the father.

Dr. Sebastian was reminiscing her mother's "intervention" in the baby's survival. It was as though, according to Cecile, her mother was saying, "God, take me instead of this little child who still has so much more time to live and live for." Her wish was granted.

That was just the kind of human being she was, according to Cecile. In any case, it's really quite unfortunate that she died in the tragic accident.

But she really, really did not deserve the way she died.

The other dimension of this accident was that Mama Chit's other daughter Carmella and her husband who were in

that fateful car accident were also hurt and in critical condition. Happily, they have recovered and are now in a non-critical recovery stage. Again, it can be surmised that Mama Chit had a "hand" in this redemption.

This cycle of unfortunate events reminds us of the English poet John Donne, who wrote Meditations XVII, summarizing the essence of existence, "No man (woman) is an island unto itself," Donne wrote. It captures what Mama Chit was all about. She was connected to the whole of humanity. She always had the broader picture in mind.

On another related dimension, we have lost a great wonderful woman, but we can find comfort in the fact that she is finally at peace somewhere in another realm watching out for everybody as she had always done in her lifetime.

She is gone but her spirit and legacy live on.

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### City Program Offers Tax Relief for Property Owners

The City is reminding the public of its property tax credit program that helps homeowners reduce their property taxes by providing them with a credit against their property taxes based on a percentage of their income and their age.

Those who qualify are entitled to a tax credit equal to the amount of taxes owed for the 2015-2016 tax year that exceed 3 percent to 4 percent of the titleholders' income, depending on age. Keep in the mind the following eligibility requirements:



- Homeowners must have a home exemption in effect at the time of application and for the subsequent tax year.
- Any of the titleholds must not own other property elsewhere.
- The combined income of

all titleholders cannot exceed \$60,000.

"While we have several homeowners receiving this credit, mostly seniors, we believe there are many in the community who are not aware of this program and we would like to reach out to these homeowners," says Fusao Nishibun of the Division of Treasury, Tax Relief Section.

To apply, fill out an application at any satellite city hall, or visit the Treasury Division at Honolulu Hale at 530 South King Street, Room

115. The application deadline is September 30 of each year and applicants must file annually to be eligible for the credit.

For additional information, contact Nishibun at 768-3204 or via email at [fnishibun@honolulu.gov](mailto:fnishibun@honolulu.gov).

### Feds Discuss Zika Threat, Dengue on Big Island

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Dr. Thomas Frieden and U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) recently discussed efforts to combat the threat of Zika and dengue fever on the Big Island.

At a U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee hearing, Sen. Schatz called for quick approval of additional funding to address both threats. He also urged Frieden to coordinate with state and local governments to improve mosquito control programs to help stop the spread of both dengue and Zika.

Schatz and 45 Senate Democrats also co-signed a letter to President Barack Obama

urging a coordinated interagency response plan to address the spread of the Zika virus at home and abroad. The letter called for the president to take a number of new actions, including taking the Zika virus into consideration in his fiscal year 2017 budget request.

Hawaii has had over 250 confirmed cases of dengue since September 2015, mostly on Hawaii Island. Zika, like dengue can be transmitted by mosquitos. Zika has been spreading throughout the Americas and linked with neurological ailments such as paralysis and devastating birth defects. The CDC has issued its highest alert level for Zika, while the World Health Organization has declared it a global health emergency.

## Build A Rock® Solid Future

LIFE • AUTO • ANNUITIES

Tel. 808-935-1948  
Ditas Guillermo Udani  
Premier Agent  
The Prudential Insurance Company  
of America  
CA State Lic#OD90884  
[www.freditas.udani@prudential.com](http://www.freditas.udani@prudential.com)



"I'll help you build your financial future on a strong foundation."

 **Prudential  
Financial**  
Growing and Protecting Your Wealth

Insurance and annuities issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark NJ and its affiliates.  
"Availability varies by carrier by carrier and state."

0153198-00002-00 Exp. 12/2/10

NEWS FEATURE

# CAREGIVING EVENTS BRING HOPE TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS IN HAWAII

By Major General Tony Taguba (Ret. U.S. Army)

**M**y father was a soldier in the 57th Infantry Regiment, which served with the U.S. Army in the Philippines during World War II. I'm the second of seven children. My dad was a strict disciplinarian when we were growing up. It wasn't until many years after his military service that I came to understand the sacrifices he made as a military veteran, and I was happy to be able to join my siblings in caring for our mother who passed away from cancer and for him when he developed dementia during the last years of his life. My parents lived in Wahiawa, Hawaii.

Now that I'm retired, I've made it a mission to promote better understanding of two important issues: preparing to care for elderly parents and bringing recognition and benefits to Filipino veterans who served our country during the war. There are probably fewer than 17,000 remaining alive today, and their numbers are dwindling.

While these two issues occupy much of my time, my purpose for coming to Hawaii in March is to draw attention to the growing needs of family caregivers, and encourage individuals and families to plan for their own care and for the care of their loved ones. Working in cooperation with the AARP Hawaii state office, I'll be speaking at caregiver conferences in Hilo (March 10) and Honolulu (March 12). I'll also be speaking at a "talk story" gathering at the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu (March 11).

I speak from my own family's experience in caring for both my mom and dad, when I say that many adult children don't have a plan in place to support their parents when the

time comes. My message is simple: don't wait for a crisis to start planning to care for your older parents. That's what my siblings and I did, and I'm hoping that people can learn from my experience and take immediate steps today that will take some of the stress out of being a caregiver.

Here's my advice:

- **Start the Conversation.** Many people wait until a crisis occurs before they talk to their parents about their preferences, wishes for health care, or the details of their finances. If you wait until a fall, accident, or serious diagnosis, big decisions may be driven by false assumptions of what your parent's want.
- **Form your Team.** No one should approach the emotions and responsibilities of caregiving alone. While other family members are likely sources of support, don't overlook friends, colleagues, clubs and faith-based organizations as resources too.
- **Make a Plan.** Putting together a caregiving plan now will help you respond more quickly and effectively should the need arise. It can also provide peace of mind. A plan helps everyone get on the same page and keeps the focus on what's best for your parents.
- **Find Caregiving Resources.** Look around your community for available resources to help you with medical needs, counseling, adult and senior services, caregiving support groups, legal support, in home care services, veterans' benefits, and health insurance information on Medicare, Medicaid, and long-term insurance.



During a visit to Hawaii on behalf of family caregivers last year, Gen. Tony Taguba joined AARP Hawaii in a courtesy call to Gov. David Ige. Pictured from left to right are Gen. Taguba, AARP Hawaii State Director Barbara Kim Stanton, Gov. Ige, and AARP Hawaii State President Gerry Silva.

• **Care for Yourself.** As a caregiver, it's easy to forget about your own needs. But keeping up your energy and maintaining your health and physical fitness are critical in order to care for your loved one. It's as important to make a plan to take care of yourself as it is to create a caregiving plan for others.

It's also important to be an advocate for yourself and the person you care for. At the Hawaii state legislature this year, AARP Hawaii is part of a coalition of caregiver advocates working on a measure that would allow patients to designate a family caregiver when a loved one is admitted to the hospital. The proposed bill – also known as the CARE Act – would require hospitals to give all inpatients the opportunity to have the designated caregiver instructed, prior to discharge, in the tasks needed to keep them safe

when they go home. This proposed bill is meant to help caregivers with training and education on some medical and nursing tasks at home, and prevent costly unscheduled hospital or doctor visits.

I'll be sharing more about caregiving at each of the following events, which are intended to share information and resources to help make your caregiving responsibility a little bit easier. I hope to see you at these events, and talk stories with you on caregiving.

All events are free and open to the public:

- **Thursday, March 10** (9 a.m. – noon) – Hilo Hawaiian Hotel  
Register online at [aarp.cvent.com/care3-10](http://aarp.cvent.com/care3-10) or call toll-free 1-877-926-8300
- **Friday, March 11** (5:30 – 8 p.m.) – Philippine Consulate in Honolulu  
Register by calling 808-545-6008
- **Saturday, March 12** (9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.) – St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church, Mililani.  
Register online at [aarp.cvent.com/care3-12](http://aarp.cvent.com/care3-12) or call toll-free 1-877-926-8300

*(Ret.) Major General Tony Taguba is an AARP Community Ambassador and Chairman of the Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM), a non-profit organization committed to mentoring and professional development of military and civilian leaders. He served in the U.S. Army for 34 years on active duty.*

**CATCH US ON THE WEB!**

**"WE'RE NOW READ BY MILLIONS OF FILIPINOS AROUND THE GLOBE."**

Go to [efilipinochronicle.com](http://efilipinochronicle.com) or [thefilipinochronicle.com](http://thefilipinochronicle.com) and see how the face of business is changing!

**We are also on KWHE-TV 14**

**Call Rey-Cel Travel For The Lowest Fare To Manila. (808) 871-6251**

**Listen To KPMW The WILD 105.5 FM (808) 871-6251 Request call (808) 871-6933**

**Energetic young individual who can speak Ilocano and Tagalog (bilingual) to be a disk jockey of a radio station. Computer literate, radio experience, or will train. Fax resume to 808-871-5670.**

SOCIETY PAGE

# PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII GALA INSTALLATION

January 23, 2016 | Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel & Resort  
By Chona Montesines-Sonido



Past Presidents of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) were recognized and acknowledged during the event.



2016 PMAH Officers posed for a photo while waiting to be installed.



Rep. John Mizuno, Dr. Jon Graham, Consul General Gina Jamoralin, Dr. Jerald Garcia and May Mizuno.



2016 Ohana Medical Mission Officers, Board of Directors and Advisers taking their oath of office. Consul General Gina Jamoralin officiated the installation of officers.



PMAH President Dr. Michael Castro and Pres-Elect Dr. Josephine Waite.



Drs. Emma Avilla, Alpha Rival, Jerald Garcia and Ray Romero received awards from outgoing president Dr. Carol Davide for their outstanding services to PMAH.



▲ Representatives Romy Cachola and John Mizuno and Senator Will Espero presented an award to Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls for their outstanding humanitarian services to the community. Dr. Nicanor Joaquin, outgoing President of BCWW and outgoing PMAH President Dr. Carol Davide received the award.



◀ Doctors and their spouses shown with family and friends performing a line dance led by Dr. Zita Bristol.



2016 Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls Officers and Directors were also installed during the event. ▼

**The Filipinos of Kauai Dream of A Place for All, A Gathering Place for Everyone to Enhance Cultural, Educational and Social Programs as well as Promote Cross Cultural Exchange in Our Multi-Ethnic Milieu.**



Please help us in this monumental undertaking. We humbly ask for your support and generous donations. All donations are tax deductible. To make a contribution, please call 808-645-0257 or go to our website at [kauaiphilippineculturalcenter.org](http://kauaiphilippineculturalcenter.org)

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS DREAM A REALITY!**

**xoom**  
A **PayPal** Service

**NEW!**

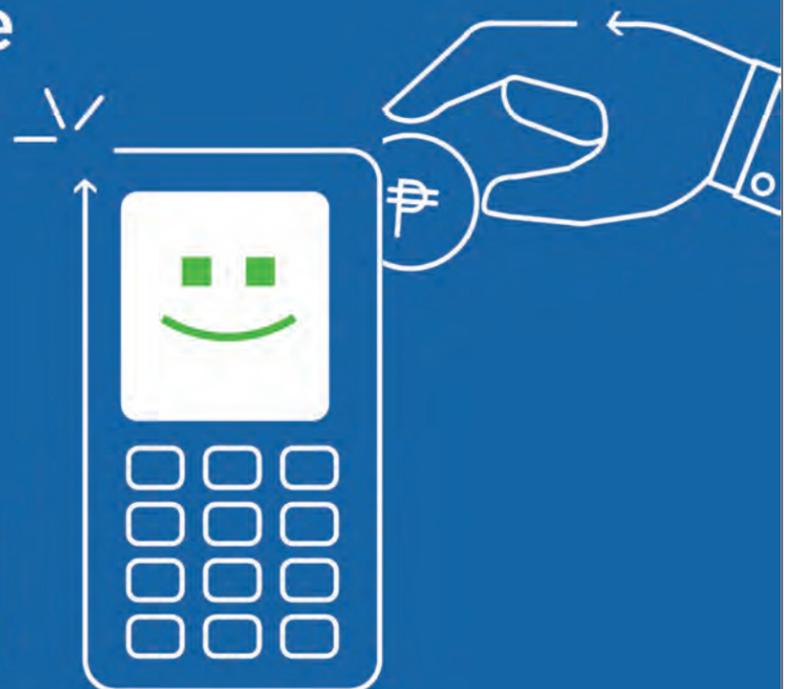
**Introducing instant mobile loads from the US to the Philippines!**

Delight your loved ones and send a load for only 99¢. Send as little as P150 to any carrier in the Philippines. What are you waiting for?

Visit [xoom.com](http://xoom.com) and send a load today!



Globe



Xoom, the stylized Xoom, the stylized "X", and Regaload are trademarks and/or registered trademarks and trade dress of Xoom Corporation in the United States and elsewhere.



PASTOR David E. Sumrall

with PASTOR ALISHA SUMRALL

## The Gospel.

Learn It.  
Believe It.  
Live It.  
Preach It.

**Starts August 17, 2015**

**Monday to Friday**

**6:00 - 6:30 AM**

**KWHE TV 14**

Oceanic Cable Channel 11  
Hawaiian Telcom TV Channel 14

1188 Bishop Street, Suite 502, Honolulu, HI 96813  
Tel. (808) 538-1414

www.cathedralofpraisehawaii.com • www.facebook/cop.hawaii

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Amid Controversy, Arum Clueless on Pacquiao-Bradley 3 Viewership

by Dino Maragay  
Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016

**M**ANILA, Philippines – Top Rank Inc. chief Bob Arum said he is unsure whether the recent controversy surrounding Manny Pacquiao will influence reception for his upcoming fight with Timothy Bradley.

Arum was asked by Mitch Abramson of RingTV.com whether

the controversy surrounding Pacquiao's statement on same-sex couples will have an effect on the pay-per-view performance of the Bradley bout this April.

"I have no idea," was Arum's reply.

Pacquiao is set to have his swan song against Bradley and will focus on politics, eyeing a seat in the Philippine senate.

But his recent inflammatory remark that people in same-sex relations are "worse than animals" have earned the ire of many parties, including showbiz and even international sports personalities.

Pacquiao has since apologized for the comment, but the damage has been done.

As part of the negative backlash on Pacquiao, Nike on Thursday dropped the boxer from its roster of athlete endorsers.

Arum, for his part, isn't ruling out



Manny Pacquiao and Timothy Bradley face off during a press conference at the Beverly Hills Hotel in California to promote their April 9 (April 10 Manila time) fight. | Top Rank photo

the possibility that the controversy will fuel interest in the fight. He cited how US presidential candidate Donald Trump still gets support despite his controversial nature.

"I mean we live in a country — look at the number of people who support Donald Trump and the (expletive) that he says. Who knows anymore? How can you make a prediction (on the PPVs)?" continued Arum, who also said he opposes Pacquiao's views on gay marriage.

The veteran promoter added that he has spoken to Pacquiao's adviser Michael Koncz regarding the issue, aware that Pacquiao has already apologized.

Arum said it's the apology that matters now.

"He [Koncz] said that Manny was contrite and he apologized. And he did make an apology and that's it. What else can you do?" ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

# Report: China Deploys Missiles in Contested South China Sea Island

by Patricia Lourdes Viray  
Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016

**T**he State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) recently released its first quarter 2016 Statistical and Economic Report which shows Hawaii's economic growth rate unchanged from its previous forecast.

MANILA, Philippines - China has deployed a surface-to-air missile system to one of the contested islands in the disputed South China Sea, according to a report.

Fox News obtained civilian satellite imagery from ImageSat International which shows advanced missile launchers and a radar system on Woody Island.

This proves that China is militarizing the islands in the disputed sea and intensifies tensions in the region, according to the report.

The imagery dated February 14 showed two batteries of eight surface-to-air missile launchers which appear to be the HQ-9 air defense system.

The HQ-9 has a range of 125 miles

(continued on page 15)

LEGAL NOTES

# K-1 Visa Under Scrutiny



By Reuben S. Seguritan

**E**arlier this month, news broke out that 14 innocent civilians were killed in a company party in San Bernardino, California. As a result of the mass shooting, the K-1 fiancé(e) visa process is being looked into because Tashfeen Malik, a Pakistani citizen, and one of the terrorists who carried out said shooting came to the US on a K-1 visa and later became a lawful permanent resident.

Several members of the US Congress have expressed concern over the fact that Malik was able to obtain her K-1 visa despite giving fingerprints and other information that were checked and cross-referenced

against US immigration, terrorism and criminal databases. As a result, the USCIS is now looking into enforcing stricter guidelines.

The US government has a stringent process currently in place to ensure that marriages are made in good faith and is not 'sham marriage' or 'fake marriage'. Under the program, the two people involved—the US citizen and his foreigner fiancé(e)— must genuinely love each other and have the sincere intent to get married within 90 days of the fiancé(e)'s arrival in the US. Both of them must be legally free to marry at the time a fiancé(e) petition is submitted to USCIS by the US citizen sponsor and must remain so thereafter. The couple must have met in person within the past two years. Proof of the relationship must likewise be shown.

Once the USCIS approves the K1 visa petition, it is for-

warded to the National Visa Center where background checks are performed on the foreigner fiancé(e). The NVC will forward the petition to the Consulate that will conduct the interview. During the foreigner fiancé(e)'s interview before the Consulate, he/she is required to show proof of their intent to get married like pictures, letters, travel and hotel records and instant messages to the interviewing officer. Even during this stage, an application can be turned down if it cannot show enough proof of the relationship's genuineness. In addition, it can be turned down on account of the foreigner fiancé(e)'s police or criminal record. The foreigner fiancé(e) also has to undergo a thorough medical examination.

Upon arrival in the US, the couple has 90 days to get married otherwise the foreigner fiancé(e) can be deported. When he/she applies for Adjustment of Status, they

also have to show proof like pictures and joint documents. This is another step the couple needs to hurdle as it usually takes another six months before the 'green card' will be released, if at all.

The foreigner wife/husband has to go through another round of fingerprinting and facial recognition and another round of interview by the USCIS before the 'green card' is approved. Questions like "Do you seek to engage in terrorist activities while in the US or have you ever engaged in terroristic activities?" need to be answered.

From 1989 to 2014, 512,164 K-1 visas were given following these layers of processes placed to ensure that nobody thwarts the security measures of the United States and to ensure that the couple are really who they purport to be.

It is also important to note that depending on which country the fiancé(e) is from, the process can be even more

daunting. The Philippines, for instance, has the largest K-1 visa applicants with over 7,228 Filipinos entering the US in fiscal year 2014, but at the same token, it also has the most difficult process. US citizens often go to the Philippines to meet their fiancé(e) because it is logistically hard for Filipinos to obtain a tourist visa to the US to visit the American fiancé(e).

Needless to say, while we want our borders secure and free from anybody who wishes to cause harm, it is not fair to single out a particular type of visa. US citizens must likewise be free to marry foreign spouses of their choosing. And while more scrutiny and additional screening for the K-1 visa is inevitable, holders of K-1 visa have obtained the privilege to be on American soil by following a long and difficult process.

**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](http://www.seguritan.com)

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Chiz Alarmed by High Cost of College Education

**P**hilippine Sen. Chiz Escudero lamented the death of a college student from Bicol who took his own life after allegedly losing his scholarship, saying no student should be pushed to this situation because of the prohibitive cost of education in the country.

According to news reports, Jessiven Lagatic, a fourth year student from Central Bicol State University of Agriculture, committed suicide on February 11, after his scholarship was taken away from him and was forced to pay school fees amounting to P7,000.

The leading vice-presidential contender says this is a reason why "Gobyernong may Puso" intends to put an additional P20 billion to the state universities and colleges' (SUCs) budget to subsidize free tuition in all public colleges and universities across the country.

According to the League of



Sen. Chiz Escudero

Filipino Students (LFS), Lagatic was the fifth education crisis-related suicide under the Aquino administration. In 2013, Kristel Tejada, a student from the University of the Philippines-Manila committed suicide because of the school's "no late payment policy." Last year, Rosanna Sanfuego from Cagayan State University, Nilna Habibun from Zamboanga Sibugay and Jhoemary Azaula from Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology also took their own lives because they were unable to pay their school fees.

Escudero, former chair of

the Senate Committee on Finance, says the total allocation for 114 SUCs under the 2016 national budget is P47.4 billion. He also vowed for the full and effective implementation of the student financial assistance program under Republic Act No. 10687, which was enacted in October 2015.

Unlike the typical scholarship program, Escudero says the program covers all students, not only those with honors or with exemplary scholastic records.

Data from the Commission on Higher Education shows that of the 3 million college freshmen in the 2011-2012 school year, only 21 percent, went on to complete a four-year course and graduate in 2015.

Although there are existing student financial assistance programs for tertiary education, these programs served only 60,240 college students in 2011, or 1.97 percent of the 3 million students who enrolled that year.



**Homework Is What I Do Best!**  
**JESSIE R. KOPPEL, RA, SRES**

- Experienced & Trusted Realtor since 1987
- Senior Real Estate Specialist
- Experienced Residential and Commercial Sales and Leasing
- Member of Muscular Dystrophy Assoc. and ALS Ohana Hawaii
- Fluent in Tagalog & Visayan Language

**Locations LLC-Diamond Head Office**  
**Cell: 808-222-0224**  
**Direct: 808-738-8971**  
**e-mails: [jrkoppel@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jrkoppel@hawaii.rr.com); [jessie.koppel@locationsllc.com](mailto:jessie.koppel@locationsllc.com)**

**IMPORTS GIFT SHOP & MINI-MART**  
**82 Ala Malama Street**  
**Kaunakakai Hawaii 96748**  
**PHONE NO: 553-5734**

• Baskets, Lauhala Mats	• Quilts & Notions
• Books, Notecards	• Refreshments
• Fine & Fashion Jewelry	• Seashells
• Groceries	• Shoes & Accessories
• Handbags, Hats	• Sport & Dress Clothing
• Hawaiiana	• Surfing Line
• Jewelry Repair, Resetting & Resizing	• Surfwear & Surfboards
• Molokai Arts, Crafts, Supplies	• Sundries
• Philippine Products Dried & Frozen	• T-shirts, Sweatshirts



**ONE STOP SHOPPING!**

**OPEN 7 DAYS**  
**8:30 AM - 6:00 PM**



By Senator Will Espero

# Statewide 2016 Law Enforcement Reform Bills

reform, I have introduced thirteen bills that will address a number of issues relating to statewide law enforcement agencies. In recent years, more police have been in the news for misconduct and criminal behavior, and some have been sent to prison for their misdeeds. In a recent re-

port to the Hawaii Legislature, an unprecedented 17 Honolulu police officers were fired last year due to various reasons which included domestic violence, theft, sexual assault, physical assault, and pornography. Some are appealing their termination.

One bill of particular sig-

nificance is SB 2755 which would establish a statewide standards and training board responsible for any county our state law enforcement officer who carry firearms and wear a badge. The bill is co-sponsored by a majority of the Senate with 17 senators.

While the great majority

of our law enforcement officers abide by a high ethical and professional standard, there is room for improvement. Improved civilian oversight, professional standards, transparency, accountability and public trust are areas which these bills will strengthen if passed.

## STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT REFORM BILLS INTRODUCED IN 2016

**SB2191** | ESPERO, RUDERMAN, Baker, Nishihara | Establishes exceptions to the offense of obstructing government operations and the offense of violation of privacy in the second degree for a person making a video or audio recording of a law enforcement officer while the officer is in a public place or the person is making the recording while in a location that the person has the right to be; provided that the person is not physically interfering with the officer's duties. Establishes one-party consent exception for a person who intercepts a wire, oral, or electronic communication that involves a law enforcement officer when the person is not a party to the communication; provided the person is in a location that the person has the right to be or the law enforcement officer is in a public place and the person is not physically interfering with the officer's duties.

**SB2192** | ESPERO, BAKER, KEITH-AGARAN, NISHIHARA, Shimabukuro, Slom, L. Thielen | Appropriates funds as a grant-in-aid to each county for the purchase of body-worn video cameras and law enforcement vehicle cameras to be used by each county police department; provided that no funds appropriated to a county shall be expended unless matched dollar-for-dollar by the county.

**SB2193** | ESPERO, BAKER, KEITH-AGARAN, NISHIHARA, SHIMABUKURO, Kim, L. Thielen | Defines "person in custody" as used in the offense of sexual assault in the second degree and third degree to mean a person who is stopped by or under the control of a law enforcement officer for official purposes.

**SB2194** | ESPERO, BAKER, NISHI-

HARA, Kim, Shimabukuro, L. Thielen | Requires each county police department and all state departments and agencies having law enforcement divisions or law enforcement functions to report crime data annually to the department of the attorney general for transmission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

**SB2195** | ESPERO, NISHIHARA, Baker, Galuteria, Inouye, Shimabukuro | Requires the state sheriff division to submit yearly reports on sheriff and deputy sheriff misconduct to the legislature. Requires county police departments and the state sheriff division to post those reports on their public websites.

**SB2196** | ESPERO, L. THIELEN, Baker, Shimabukuro | Establishes the law enforcement officer independent review board within the department of the attorney general to investigate deaths while in law enforcement custody and shootings involving a law enforcement officer where an individual is injured. Appropriates funds.

**SB2197** | ESPERO, BAKER, KIM, NISHIHARA, L. THIELEN, Shimabukuro | Requires all state departments, state agencies, and county policy departments employing law enforcement officers to report annually to the legislature on specified information concerning firings, forced resignations, alleged criminal activity, grievances, and incidents of a sexual nature.

**SB2303** | ESPERO | Requires the director of transportation to provide ninety days written notice to the legislature and attorney general prior to conferring police powers upon designated employees, agents, representatives of the department, and private contractors. Requires persons providing or hired to provide armed security services at air-

ports to provide proof of proper education, experience, training, and credentials as determined by the sheriff division prior to hiring. Requires the director to report annually to the legislature, no later than January 10 of each calendar year, stating the number of individuals conferred police powers in the immediate preceding calendar year, the location where these individuals work, and the number of individuals having police powers who continue to work in that capacity at the end of that calendar year.

**SB2304** | ESPERO, BAKER, NISHIHARA, Keith-Agaran | Requires the department of the attorney general to implement and maintain a public database of all law enforcement officers who have been terminated from their law enforcement positions, or forced to resign due to criminal activity, improper behavior, or misconduct. Requires the county police departments, the department of public safety, the department of transportation, and the department of land and natural resources to report all terminations or forced resignations of law enforcement officers to the attorney general within 30 days.

**SB2305** | ESPERO, INOUE, NISHIHARA | Requires all law enforcement officers to retire upon attaining sixty-five years of age with certain exceptions. Requires all volunteer law enforcement officers to retire from volunteer law enforcement officer duty upon attaining sixty-five years of age. Exempts the mandatory retirement age of law enforcement officers as an unlawful discriminatory practice.

**SB2635** | ESPERO, GREEN, Dela Cruz, Galuteria, Kidani | Specifies that no property shall be forfeited unless the owner or interest-holder of the property has been convicted of a covered offense

and the State has met its rebuttable presumption for forfeiture. Requires the State to show by clear and convincing evidence that a claimant's interest in the property is subject to forfeiture. Limits the authority to recover attorneys' fees and costs to a prevailing claimant only. Requires half of any forfeited property and sales proceeds to be deposited in the general fund of the State to support the judiciary.

**SB2755** | ESPERO, BAKER, DELA CRUZ, GALUTERIA, GREEN, HARIMOTO, IHARA, INOUE, KIDANI, NISHIHARA, RUDERMAN, SHIMABUKURO, L. THIELEN, WAKAI, Kim, Kouchi, Riviere | Establishes a law enforcement employment standards and training board responsible for developing statewide standards for employment and training for county and state law enforcement officers who carry firearms and wear a badge. Provides for a public comment period during the development of employment standards and training, with an implementation date of July 31, 2019. Appropriates funds by establishing a special fund.

**SB2756** | ESPERO, GREEN, Dela Cruz, Galuteria, Kidani | Specifies that real estate shall only be forfeited in cases in which the covered offense is chargeable as a felony offense under state law and related to the manufacture, sale, or distribution of a controlled substance in violation of chapter 329. Requires that a real estate owner receive a copy of a pre-seizure hearing notice by certified mail on two separate occasions. Requires the State to show by clear and convincing evidence that a claimant's interest in property is subject to forfeiture. Limits the authority to recover attorneys' fees and costs to a prevailing claimant only. Requires half of any forfeited property and sales proceeds to be deposited in the general fund of the State to support the judiciary.

FOOD & LEISURE

# WE KNOW SUSHI, MISO & RAMEN, BUT WHAT IS WASHOKU?

By Julie Cabatit-Alegre

**M**ANILA, Philippines – Wagyu, miso, dashi, sushi, sashimi, ramen... chances are, you would be familiar with at least three or more, if not all, of these Japanese terms. Here's one more you might want to add to your list: washoku.

Simply stated, washoku refers to traditional Japanese cuisine. It is a social practice based on "an essential spirit of the Japanese," on their culture and tradition, with emphasis on the beauty of nature in its presentation, the use of fresh ingredients in season, and focus on a well-balanced and healthy diet. In 2013, washoku was registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

In line with its efforts to promote traditional Japanese cuisine, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) held a cooking demonstration at 9501 Restaurant in Quezon City. Billed the "Taste of Japan in Manila," it featured celebrated Japanese chef Machiko Chiba. Based in New York and Tokyo, chef Machiko is also a cook-



Host David Celdran, Akiko Chiba, chef Machiko Chiba, and ABS-CBN Publishing's Christina Lopez and Mark Yambot

book author as well as food columnist. She writes for the Art Cooking section of the Shukan New York Seikatsu News Press, where she provides healthy and easy recipes.

In New York City, chef Machiko teaches cooking at the Nippon Club Culture Center and gives cooking demonstrations at Stony Brook University, Williams-Sonoma and the French Culinary Institute. She regularly hosts washoku PR events abroad in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and other government offices of Japan. Chef Machiko is also an inventor of award-winning products such as Cook-Zen and Kikurage Essences, for

which she has been granted patents worldwide.

At the cooking demonstration hosted by recognized TV personality David Celdran, chef Machiko used typical Japanese ingredients in preparing the different dishes. Her daughter, Akiko, a concert pianist based in New York, served as her interpreter.

Green beans and fried tofu, Japanese eggplants and green chili, Japanese clams, spareribs as well as Japanese roast beef, were among the dishes prepared by chef Machiko using her very own Cook-Zen, an innovative cooking pot designed especially for use in microwave ovens. She even did her own spicy version of our Pinoy pork adobo. And for dessert, she served Baked Apple. Red delicious



Green beans and fried tofu



Japan meets the Philippines: Special spicy pork adobo served over rice



Some of the ingredients chef Machiko used at the cooking

Fuji apples from Japan are among the most popular varieties in the market.

An advocate of "good food and good health," chef Machiko's recipes are simple, capitalizing on the freshness of the ingredients ideally picked in season when the produce are at their best so you are able to capture their natural taste. She makes use of unique Japanese ingredients such as dashi, a Japanese stock made from dried kombu or sea kelp that is the base of many Japanese dishes such as miso soup and noodle broth for that distinct umami flavor.

To steam the Japanese clams she used Japanese sake, although white wine may also be used. For her Special Spicy Pork Adobo, she used Japanese rice vinegar, soy sauce, chili pepper and Yanninjan, a Korean hot paste. And for the spareribs, she used Kagome, Japanese tomato ketchup with small vegetable pieces.

There is much one can learn about a country and its culture through its food, not only through its authentic flavors but also through the rituals surrounding its preparation as well as its traditional ways of presentation. MAFF aims to promote a better appreciation of Japanese cuisine among Filipinos by highlighting authentic recipes and the use of authentic Japanese ingredients. "Taste of Japan in Manila" did just that. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

**PHILIPPINE NEWS** (from page 12, REPORT ...)

and is closely similar to Russia's S-300 missile system. It poses a threat to airplanes, civilians or military flying in the near the area.

The missile system arrived over the past week as the images showed that a beach on the island was empty on February 3.

Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims on Woody Island in the Paracel Island chain, the same group of islands where a US Navy destroyer sailed close to a few weeks ago.

US Navy guided-missile destroyer Curties Wilbur recently sailed within 12 nautical miles of Triton Island in the Paracel Island chain.

China vowed "conse-

quences" for the action which "violated Chinese law" and was a "deliberate provocation."

The discovery of Chinese missiles in the contested island comes as US President Barack Obama hosts the 10 leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in California.

Obama and the Southeast Asia leaders called for a peaceful resolution of the maritime disputes in the region as they concluded the summit.

According to Fox News, the Pentagon is watching the developments in the South China Sea closely.

"The United States continues to call on all claimants to halt land reclamation, con-

struction, and militarization of features in the South China Sea," a US Defense official told Fox News.

President Benigno Aquino III also underscored the importance of upholding the rule of law and peaceful resolution of territorial dispute during the US-ASEAN Leaders Summit.

China has been building artificial islands in the Spratly Group of Islands in the West Philippine Sea.

The Philippines earlier filed an arbitration case against China before the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands. The international tribunal is expected to come out with a decision by May. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## GOLDEN CUT

BOUTIQUE | JEWELRY | HAIR | NAIL

**Full Service Salon.**

**Come for Beauty Need Head to Toe.**

- Eyebrow Tattoo
- Lash Extension, Lash Extension Extra fabulous, Color Lash Extension, Lash Extension Refille
- Make Up for any occasions
- Nails Spa- Manicure, Pedicure
- Gel Nails w/ Booster & Designs
- Special Haircuts
- Highlights, Color, Color Retouch, Rebonding, Straightening, Hair Gloss and all your hair needs
- Up do for all occasions!

Fine Jewelry 14K, 18K, Gold, Pearls, Diamonds (70% Off).  
Personalized Jeweledries and Accessories.

Check Our New Arrivals of Women's Shoes, Casual & Evening Wear

**HOLIDAY SPECIALS ON JEWELRIES.**

**We PAY CASH for your Old, New and Broken Jeweledries.**

## GOLDEN CUT

94-050 Farrington Hwy, Waipahu, HI 96797  
Phone (808) 677-7532

TRAVEL

# THE OTHER SIDE

by Chit U. Juan

**M**ANILA, Philippines – Almost everyone thinks of Baguio as a destination when summer starts. But have you ever visited the other side of the mountain? After many years I took a trip to the eastern part of Northern Luzon –specifically Nueva Vizcaya. It used to be just a stopover on our way to Tuguegarao, Cagayan; Kalinga or Banaue, Ifugao. This time we decided to stop in Nueva Vizcaya and make it our homebase for three days of coffee seminars and trainings.

We found a nice tourist inn called Gamponia's Resort

in Bambang, on the road to Dupax del Sur just off Maharlika Highway. It's a small boutique inn with friendly staff and clean comfortable rooms. You can ask them to cook breakfast of fried smoked fish, local longganisa and eggs.

After checking in you can visit the oldest church (est. 1776) and the oldest acacia tree, as our DOT fold out guide informed us. True enough, just three kilometers from the resort was the town of Dupax del Sur and the oldest acacia tree. Nice photo opportunity.

The next day you can drive up to Asipulo, Ifugao, a short two-hour drive up the mountains. You can also choose to just stay in Lagawe for coffee at the Ifugao Kape

roasting facility and then head to Banaue, for just another half an hour's drive. View the rice terraces and then head back to Bambang.

From Bambang you can drive on the third day to Kasibu, a small town up in the higher elevations where coffee grows. The view is awesome! There you will see the town nestled between two mountain ranges and with rice fields in between. For a while you may think you are in Bali, Indonesia. But you are here in our own beautiful country.

I cannot get an overdose of all the greenery. All I know is that all that green made me think that coming to this side is way better than inching your way up to Baguio and inching your way around in the crowd.



Asipulo, Ifugao, a short two-hour drive up the mountains.



The oldest acacia tree stands majestically beside the oldest church San Vicente de Ferrer.

Kasibu, Bambang, Dupax del Sur...all these towns are beautiful. You see lots of green and the prices are much more affordable than the very busy

town of Baguio. It's a tourist haven as it is pristine and quiet, cool and beautiful. Give it a try. Drive to the other side this summer. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Programs Readied for Displaced OFWs

by Mayen Jaymalin  
Thursday, February 11, 2016

**M**ANILA, Philippines – Falling oil prices may cost Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) their jobs, and the government is preparing to absorb those who decide to return home for good.

Programs are in place to

allow returning OFWs to choose between local employment or livelihood opportunities, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said yesterday.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said the DOLE also has enough funds for repatriation and other forms of assistance that can be given to OFWs who may be affected by plunging



crude oil prices.

She said her office is collaborating with the private sector, including Coca Cola FEMSA Philippines, to develop programs and initiatives geared for employment matching, livelihood enhancement and technical or business training for returning OFWs.

"This agreement indicates that convergence with the private sector is important. Partnerships in laying down concrete programs and services for returning overseas Filipino workers who intend to be locally employed or to set up their own livelihoods, or to enhance their knowledge and skills through technical training, could produce positive results and great impact," Baldoz said.

Baldoz said DOLE recognizes the importance of giving

OFWs sufficient and meaningful opportunities for local employment and livelihood to encourage them to stay in the country permanently.

"We just have to pin down which of our respective programs can be identified as possible areas of collaboration, develop OFW-tailored programs and services and direct these to OFWs for their own choosing," Baldoz explained.

Once these employment and livelihood programs are identified, Baldoz said DOLE would enroll them in the Assist W.E.L.L. program, which is the agency's convergence assistance program for OFWs welfare, employment, livelihood and legal concerns.

She added that DOLE is also pursuing similar collaborative agreements with other private sector partners, such as

the Philippine Plastics Industry Association, Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors, Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines, Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, Aerospace Industries Association of the Philippines and Ayala Land.

As for repatriation, Baldoz said DOLE has enough funds for the purpose and that it can also seek the help of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) if funds would not be enough.

OWWA chief Rebecca Calzado said government agencies, like DOLE and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), are continuously monitoring the situation in Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East.

"In case there will be displacement, the affected workers cannot return immediately because they will have to process their exit visas which will take some time. So, we are already discussing possible assistance the government will have to provide while they are still abroad," Calzado noted. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))



**Michael A. McMann, M.D.**

**BOARD CERTIFIED FELLOWSHIP-TRAINED EYE SURGEON**

*Same Day Appointments Available*

Hawaii Medical Center West · St. Francis Med. Plaza West  
91-2139 Ft. Weaver Rd. # 202 · Ewa Beach

**677-2733**

**FREE Parking / Next to The Bus Stop**  
**Staff speaks TAGALOG & ILOCANO**



**McMANN EYE**  
INSTITUTE

- COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE
- CATARACT SURGERY
- GLAUCOMA
- DIABETIC EYE CARE
- PTERYGIUM
- MACULAR DEGENERATION
- LASIK VISION CORRECTION
- ADVANCED CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION
- SUNGLASSES, EYEGASSES & CONTACT LENSES

TECHNOLOGY FOR DAILY LIVING

# ELECTRICITY AND FOOD WASTE

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

**E**ver eaten at Los Angeles International Airport while waiting for your flight or on the flight itself? Did you throw away your leftovers? If you did, did you know that you helped provide electricity to LA?

LAX Airport used to send more than 80,000 tons of food waste to Los Angeles landfills each year. The sheer volume puts a strain on resources for where to dump garbage. The Los Angeles World Airports and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works conducted a pilot program over a decade ago to try to slow it down to help lengthen the "lifespan" of the landfill. An initial demonstration had LAX sending 50-75 pounds of throw away food three times a week to the nearby Hyperion plant. That's where the transformation takes place.

A giant In-Sink-erator, yes, the small version of which most of us have at home for the food we throw away in the sink, grinds up the food into tiny particles. Water is added to create a slurry, which then



goes into an anaerobic digester that breaks down the yucky, smelly goop into methane gas. The gas is piped into a set of turbines that generates electricity for the people of Los Angeles. The solid waste that remains is used as fertilizer for airport landscaping. The wastewater generated is re-used to irrigate landscaping.

So, let's count the benefits.

1. Food waste diverted from landfills, thereby extending the life of landfills and reducing the pressure to find more places for these.
2. Eliminating garbage disposal fees for food ven-

dors and airlines.

3. Electricity that can run the airport.
4. Fertilizer for airport landscaping.
5. Irrigation for airport landscaping.
6. Reduced operating costs for fertilizer, irrigation, garbage disposal fees, and electricity bills!

Los Angeles City Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas championed the pilot program. He had the vision to seek federal funding and to ask the Los Angeles Sanitation Bureau and Department of Public Works to seek all possible uses

of food wastes and encourage the airports to set up the study. Transporting food waste to far-off landfills is costly and this use of converting it to electricity was a true time-saver and budget saver.

It didn't cost much either. The grants paid for equipment such as tanks, pipes and a biomass system. The 80 airlines and the catering businesses brought in the food waste. No additional labor was hired to transport the waste. The Hyperion power plant where the food waste was taken to is literally across the street from the airport. The demonstration project proved so successful that LAX adopted it and a permanent program was put in place.

If Los Angeles International Airport and its food vendors can cut their operating costs – food waste disposal fees, electricity, landscaping fertilizer, landscaping irrigation – it may be worthwhile for Honolulu International Airport to look into the idea as well. The Sand Island wastewater treatment is a short distance away, and can be engineered to take on the slurry – methane – turbine power generation. Perhaps Hawaiian Electric can figure out how to collaborate with both to help Oahu divert landfill by turning it into clean electricity for our island.

The benefits to Oahu are promising. Any community that has undergone the NIMBY battle for additional landfills knows that diverting waste helps keep the land scenic and reduces the pressure on the City to find sites. The state could save on landscaping soil enrichment costs, landscaping irrigation costs, and electricity bills. The airlines and airport food vendors could save on not having to pay (so much or at all) garbage disposal fees. Hawaiian Electric could reduce our electricity rates by having homegrown fuel sources that give cleaner air. It's an idea worth checking.

## MAINLAND NEWS

### Los Angeles Unveils Logo for 2024 Olympics Bid

**L**OS ANGELES — Los Angeles has unveiled its logo for the city's bid to win the 2024 Olympics, displaying it on a digital screen on the 30th floor of a downtown skyscraper shortly after sunset on Tuesday.

The logo is a figure of a soaring angel with outstretched arms and legs illuminated by the rays of the sun, which emanate from a point of light at the figure's heart in a palette of purple, red, orange and yellow, colors often seen in the city sky at sunrise and sunset. The city's slogan for the bid is



"Follow the Sun."

Broadcast online, the ceremony was attended by Mayor Eric Garcetti, LA

2024 chairman Casey Wasserman, retired Olympic champion swimmer Janet Evans, who is LA 2024 vice chair and director of athlete relations, and USOC chief marketing officer Lisa Baird.

"No one does imagination as we do in the city of Los Angeles," Garcetti said.

Three-time Olympian Thiago Pereira of Brazil, who lives and trains in Los Angeles in preparation for swimming in his home country's Olympics this summer, endorsed the city's bid.

"What I most love about Los Angeles is no one has to be an American to feel at home," Pereira said. "Los

(continued on page 18)



Dr. David Mai MD | Dr. Sharon Takayesu OD | Dr. Michael Bennett MD & Camara Eye Clinic Staff

We are humbled and honored to carry on the tradition of the CAMARA EYE CLINIC



Restaurant Row  
500 Ala Moana Blvd Tower 5 Suite #300  
Honolulu HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 533-0177

## PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

## WHAT LOVE IS?

by Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

**L**ove fairy tales. When I was young, I was smitten by the possibility of being rescued and swept off my feet by a prince charming and eventually having our happily ever after. I thought love was just having strong feelings and emotions towards someone. I thought it was all about romance.

But I was wrong.

As I grew up, life has given love a different meaning.

Love, instead of feeling, became action. Love, was no more an emotion, it is a decision.

When my husband and I were on our courtship season, it was all about "kilig" - exchanging romantic text messages all day, Skype-ing all night, sending gifts to each other, and going out on dates. We always put our best foot forward to please the other.

Marriage changed my concept of love.

Being married for two years now, we still do the

things we used to do. But as we get to know each other better each day and everything about our identity gets exposed, I realized that loving is not easy.

My husband and I are a huge contrast. For one, I am a woman and he's a man. We have opposing preferences and opinions. We do things differently. He is a scientist and I am an artist. He is reserved while I am outspoken. He is an introvert and I am the opposite. He is very administrative while I am carefree. Misunderstanding between us is inevitable. Disagreements are certain.

Despite our differences, we have learned to accept each other. Instead of fighting over our differences, we used them to complement each other. And when we don't agree about certain things, we listen to each other's views. When troubles come our way, we remind ourselves of the vows that we uttered before the altar on our wedding day, to stand by each other and always forgive, no matter what. Knowing our

roles in the relationship also helped us sustain our relationship. As his wife, I understand that he is my leader and I am his supporter. I submit to him and honor his decisions, even if at times I don't agree with them.

Marriage taught me that **love is putting the other above myself. It is choosing everyday to honor, respect and accept my husband as the person God has created him to be, regardless of his shortcomings and weaknesses.**

When I entered motherhood, it has given me a different perspective on love.

I am now a mother of a four-month old baby girl. She is teaching me every minute of everyday what love is.

I love my daughter very much but for now, she cannot reciprocate this love. All she does is eat, cry, sleep, poop and pee all day. She can be irritating at times. When she's hungry, she gets impatient. When she's sleepy, she's fussy. All she thinks about is herself. But I love her just the same. Love is giving, even if it means los-

ing sleep and sacrificing my personal desires.

Motherhood has taught me that **love is patient and selfless. It requires death to self, laying down one's life for another so that person can live. It is about giving and not receiving.**

My daughter reflects the person that I am - impatient, bratty, and selfish. But I am loved. My parents loved me the same. They were patient with me and they gave me their best so I can be the woman I am now.

Being a mother gives me a revelation of the kind of love God has for His child- selfless and unconditional. I am underserving of His love but He loves me still.

Love comes in different forms- love between spouses, love towards a sister or a brother, love between a parent and a child, love for a friend - all of these require giving of time, of service, of encouraging words, of precious gifts and assuring touch.

Whenever I find loving difficult, I always go back to the Word of God, which perfectly defines what love is.

*Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy or*

*boast. It is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.*

**Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.** (I Corinthians 13: 4-8)

This is love. God is.

I am able to love because I am loved first.

On the 14th of February, my husband surprised me with a candlelit dinner at home to celebrate Valentines Day and our 2nd wedding anniversary. Our daughter was there to witness it. Though she could not comprehend anything yet, we prayed that she gets to experience love in its truest sense. We prayed that someday she will have a man who will stay by her side, partner with her, take care of her, pursue her... love her more than we can ever love her, love her with the kind of love her Father has for her. We also declared that she grows up to be a woman who loves selflessly, a testament of God's love for His bride, His people.

May our daughter Callie learn what love is. learn what love is.

## MAINLAND NEWS (from page 17, LOS ANGELES....)

Angeles is open-minded. Los Angeles is based on acceptance, not just tolerance. There's something here for everyone."

Wasserman called the logo "a fresh take on our historical imagery."

Garcetti used the occasion to boast that 97 percent of the proposed venues for the city's bid are already in place.

"This will be an Olympics that will change our lives," he said. "All we're asking is the opportunity to host it."

The mayor, who delivered some remarks in Spanish and French, pointed out the panoramic views of the city's 2024 proposed venues, coastline and mountains from the office building. Also below were long ribbons of white and red lights clogging

the region's freeways with rush-hour traffic.

A short film featuring the city asked people what they will be doing in 2024. Among those featured were Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant, actress Jessica Alba, comic actor Will Ferrell, four-time Olympic champion diver Greg Louganis and Evans.

The ceremony was followed by a screening of the upcoming film "Race," which tells the story of US track star Jesse Owens and his preparations for the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

Los Angeles, which hosted the Olympics in 1932 and 1984, is competing against Budapest, Paris and Rome for the games. The International Olympic Committee will choose the host city in September 2017.

**philstar.com**  
The Filipino Global Community

*shines even brighter  
for the Filipino Global  
Community*



Join us as we journey into a new home!



Log on to [www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII OFFICIAL 2016 TRADE MISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES** | February 16-21, 2016 | \$1,398 per person. Tour includes air and ground, hotel accommodation, meals, business meetings and more. Optional extended tour to Cebu available at an additional cost | Contact: Sam Acosta @ 306-1428 or email: samacosta@employeebenefitservices.com

**ALLIANCE OF RESIDENTIAL CARE ADMINISTRATORS 15TH BIENNIAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS GALA NIGHT** | March 5, 2016 | 6:00 - 11:00 PM | DERUSSY BALLROOM, HALE KOA HOTEL | Contact: Ramon Sumibcay @ 489-7148

**HELPING HANDS HAWAII 11TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER** | March 10, 2016 | 5:30 PM | TAPA BALLROOM HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE, Cocktails & Live Hawaiian Music at 5:30 PM ; Dinner & Program at 6:30 pm; RSVP by February 29, 2016 | For more information, contact Jan

Harada, President & CEO at 440-3820 or at jharada@helpinghandshawaii.org

**SARILING GAWA YOUTH COUNCIL'S 36TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE CAMP** | March 19-21, 2016 | YMCA CAMP ERDMAN IN MOKULEIA FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS; COST: \$140.00 per person | Contact Rouel Velasco, rouel.velasco@sarilinggawa.org/218-0833 for more information.

**ANNUAL TERNO BALL, HAWAII FILIPINO WOMEN'S CLUB (HFWC)** | April 30, 2016 | 6:00 PM | ALA MOANA HOTEL, HIBISCUS BALLROOM | Contact Nelly Pongco Liu @ 228-7808 or Carlota Ader @ 688-3215

**FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS** | July 16, 2016 | 6:00 PM | TAPA BALLROOM, HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE | Contact: Bernadette Fajardo @ 342-0890

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**BIG ISLAND COOK POSITION**

Must know Pork Adobo. Will train the rest. Great pay / benefits. Apply @ Paradise Pizza, Waikoloa Beach Resort.

**FRUIT/VEGETABLE CUTTER (FT/PT)**

Paid Vacation+Overtime Possible Super Foods, Inc. 3209 Ualena St., 834-1541

**JANITORS PART TIME | TOWN | DAYS \$8 HR**

Full time utility esp strip/wax floors, clean carpets, windows 6AM-2:30 PM or 7PM-3AM | \$9- \$11 hr Dr Lic & US Citizen helpful but not needed Call 8451955| 9-4PM M-F

**DRIVER & PROCESSION ROOM WORKER**

- Clean abstract required for driver.
- Competitive pay, medical, dental, vision, & 401k
- profit sharing benefits.

**Application hours:**

**10am-3pm, Mon-Fri**

**Apply in person at:**

**KOHA FOODS**

**500 Alakawa St. #104**

**Honolulu, HI 96817**

**HELP WANTED Full time & Permanent**

**LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE Entry Position**

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

Ilocano/Eng. speaking; farming experience; Knowledge of plants ; Experienced with some power tools; Quality conscious ; Team Player

**BENEFITS:**

Medical/Dental/Vision HMSA coverage - fully paid Paid Holidays (15), Vacation Pay, and Sick Pay Annual Raises and Annual Bonus

**COMPENSATION:**

Start \$11 - \$12/hr; Opportunity for advancement

**LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE Experienced Professional**

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

Ilocano/English speaking; Irrigation Repair & Controller Knowledge; Commercial/Industrial experience; Knowledge of Herbicides; Pesticides, and Fertilizers; Knowledge of plants; Experienced with tools, equipment & machines; Team Player; Quality Conscious; Industry References; Valid Drivers License

**BENEFITS:**

Medical/Dental/Vision HMSA coverage - fully paid Paid Holidays (15), Vacation Pay, and Sick Pay Annual Raises and Annual Bonus

**COMPENSATION:**

Start \$14 - \$16/hour depending on industry knowledge, experience, & capabilities

**CALL 721-6520**

**MAINLAND NEWS**

**U.S. Senate Urges Obama to Address Zika Virus Spread**

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) was among 45 Senate Democrats who co-signed a letter to President Barack Obama urging a coordinated inter-agency response plan to address the spread of the Zika virus both at home and abroad.

“As the dengue outbreak continues to impact communities on Hawaii Island, we need more aggressive action to contain it and to stop the threat of Zika, another mosquito-borne virus that is devastating dozens of countries around the world,” says Schatz. “By increasing funding for critical government research and response programs, we can make real progress toward mitigating the impact of the Zika virus abroad and preventing its spread to Hawaii and the U.S.”

The letter calls for the President to take a number of new actions, in-

cluding taking the Zika virus into consideration as the Administration coordinates and allocates resources in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY16, and moves forward with the president’s upcoming FY17 budget request and subsequent amendments. Additionally, Senate Democrats are urging President Obama to:

- Direct the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to identify key gaps in international and country-level responses and disseminate information at appropriate border crossings and airports.
- Ensure that federal agencies work with state and local partners to develop a cohesive national strategy for the monitoring, identification and reporting of domestic Zika infections.
- Direct HHS and the Department

of Homeland Security to develop educational materials to inform travelers regarding the risk of Zika virus exposure.

- Ramp up research efforts to better understand the link between the Zika virus, microcephaly, Guillain-Barré Syndrome and other public health impacts and accelerate rapid diagnostic and vaccine development.
- Encourage federal agencies to coordinate, collaborate and share information with their international counterparts.

The Zika Virus is transmitted by the Aedes aegypti species of mosquitoes, which are also found in the U.S. The symptoms of Zika are mild but when pregnant women become infected, the effects can be devastating. Zika has been linked to microcephaly in developing fetuses, which can lead to below-average head size, developmental difficulties and brain damage.

**GLOBAL NEWS**

**Remains of 13 Pinays in Iraq Hotel Fire Repatriated**

MANILA, Philippines - The remains of the 13 Filipinas who died in the Capitol Hotel fire in Erbil, Kurdistan region, Iraq were repatriated to the Philippines on Saturday, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

The Philippine embassy in Baghdad, which is also negotiating with the employer for more financial assistance to the victims’ families, facilitated the return of the OFWs



who worked as massage therapists in a spa located at the hotel basement. All 13 died of suffocation.

The DFA also found that only four of 13 were active members of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administra-

tion (OWWA) as it appeared that they were deployed to Erbil through irregular recruitment channels. Only the families of the OWWA members are entitled to the benefits provided by the agency for such cases.

DFA and OWWA officials received their bodies at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, and transferred six to the domestic terminal for onward shipment to their families residing in Mindanao.

The formalities covering the shipment of remains of the victims to Mindanao were completed early Sunday morning.

Their employer, the DFA said, paid the cost of shipping the human remains from Erbil to Manila and offered to should-

der the funeral costs of 12 victims after one of the families opted to use funeral insurance.

It added that the embassy is working on repatriating two OFWs employed in the same establishment but were on their day off when the incident happened.

The Kurdistan regional government gave assurance that a thorough investigation of the fire will be conducted and its result shared with the Philippine government.

(www.philstar.com)



**CHARLIE Y. SONIDO, M.D. INC.**

*wishes to announce the association of*



**RAINIER DENNIS D. BAUTISTA  
M.D.**

Diplomate, American Board of Family Medicine

in the **Primary Care Clinic** of Kauai, located at  
4366 Kukui Grove Street, Suite 202, Lihue, Kauai, HI 96766

Tel No. (808) 246-3800 | After hours: (808) 988-2188

*"Our mission is to serve the health needs  
of the Filipino community in Kauai."*

