

www.thefilipinochronicle.com

HAWAII

FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ MAY 14, 2016 ◆

New Program Boosts Number of Filipino Public School Teachers

LANDAS NG TAGUMPAY



COVER STORY PAGE

4



WHAT'S UP ATTORNEY?

7 FILIPINO WWII VETS' FAMILIES CAN COME TO U.S. BEGINNING JUNE 8, 2016



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

11 SET FREE: THE STORY OF SARAH BALABAGAN-SERENO



PHILIPPINE NEWS

12 DUTERTE FORMS TRANSITION TEAM; NOY APPOINTS OCHOA



CELEBRATING **23 YEARS** OF EXCELLENT CHRONICLING OF FILIPINO NEWS AND EVENTS!

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

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

EDITORIAL

Increasing the Numbers of Filipino Public School Teachers

A little known program called *Landas ng Tagumpay* (Pathway of Success) is working to increase the numbers of Filipino teachers in Hawaii's public school classrooms. The program is a partnership between Leeward Community College's Associate in Arts in Teaching (AAT) Program and the University of Hawaii-Manoa's College of Education's Tinalak Filipino Education Advisory Council.

The first batch of 14 students was recognized at a recent ceremony at LCC and provided with scholarship stipends to prepare for the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators exam—a key requirement for admission to a four year Bachelor of Education degree program. *Landas ng Tagumpay* is crucial in fulfilling the Filipino community's collective desire to produce more public school teachers of Filipino ancestry. Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in the state and second largest student group in public schools, yet Filipinos represent about 6 percent of all public school teachers.

Due to lack of resources and financial support, a good number of Filipino students who graduate from public schools initially attend community colleges. Some who transfer to the flagship Manoa campus encounter difficulty for various reasons. This is where *Landas Ng Tagumpay* comes in. Led by administrators Erin Thompson and Niki Libarios, the program helps LCC students of Filipino ancestry who have completed their AAT to transfer seamlessly to the UH College of Education. The program also provides students with on-going counseling and support to ensure that they take the applicable courses, graduate with a degree and ultimately obtain their license to teach in Hawaii.

These 14 students are treasures that *Landas ng Tagumpay* nurtures and supports. The goal is for these young teachers to return to teach in the communities where they were raised, such as in Leeward and Central Oahu, where the need for teachers is great and where there is a sizeable Filipino population. Hopefully, these young teachers will in turn inspire the next generation of Filipinos to consider a career in teaching. *Mabuhay* to *Landas ng Tagumpay* for its efforts to boost the numbers of Filipino teachers and also living up to its literal meaning as a "pathway of success" for future generations of Filipino teachers—one student at a time.

Primary Election System Broken and Voters Should Demand Change

As the door comes to a close to one of the most high-octane, vile and shocking Primary Elections ever, one area that a few candidates of both political parties can agree on is that the Primary Election process needs reform.

Donald Trump called it a rigged system. Bernie Sanders complained that it favored Hilary Clinton even before the Primary contest begun. According to a recent Reuters/ Ipsos poll, more than two-thirds of American voters want the process changed.

One National Primary Election Day

If we have one General Election, it makes perfect sense that we also have one Primary Election. The time difference in months that states vote has a biased effect and favors well-known and established candidates. Some states hold their Primary Election too

FROM THE PUBLISHER

It's all over but the shouting in the 2016 Philippine elections, in which Rodrigo Duterte has won the presidency. The official results have yet to be declared but Duterte's main rivals have already conceded the race. He has since reached out to his opponents in a plea for healing and reconciliation. Duterte faces a monumental task ahead in dealing with the nation's long-standing ills of poverty, poor infrastructure, pollution and corruption. The coming weeks and months will be interesting as he assembles his cabinets and begins the process of rebuilding. Let's continue to pray for the Philippines and its leaders.



Our cover story for this issue is about a new program that aims to increase the numbers of public school teachers who are of Filipino ancestry. This program is called *Landas ng Tagumpay*—a Tagalog phrase that means "Pathway of Success." The program is a partnership between Leeward Community College (LCC) and UH-Manoa that assists LCC students of Filipino ancestry who have completed their Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) and are looking to transfer to the UH College of Education for a four-year degree. *Landas ng Tagumpay* continues to provide these students with counseling and mentoring until they graduate and receive their professional teaching licenses. For more on this outstanding program, please turn to page 4 for our cover story.

Speaking of outstanding, applications are being accepted for the 2016 Rizal Youth Leadership Institute scheduled for June 18-19, 2016 at LCC. If you have or know of an outstanding young person between the ages of 13-25, please encourage him or her to attend. They will learn valuable leadership skills and about Philippine national hero Dr. Jose Rizal and his teachings and ideals. Turn to page 7 for more details on how to register for this event.

Please take time to read the many informative and inspirational articles we have for you in this issue, including the story of Michelle Tagorda who has been reappointed to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents (page 6) and Sarah Balabagan-Sereno, who was set free from prison and is now an inspirational speaker, Christian recording artist and advocate for human trafficking victims (page 11).

Lastly, don't forget to drop by Kapiolani Park this Saturday, May 14th for the 24th Annual Filipino Fiesta and Parade and 4th Annual Flores de Mayo. Hope to see you there.

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

early, even before candidates are able to get their platforms or names known.

In the case of Sanders, his campaign could be characterized as nothing short of a meteoric rise. Not only has he raised more money than all major candidates combined, that feat is even more remarkable when considering that most of his donors are individuals who made small contributions. His popularity from single-digit support a year ago to a near virtual tie in popularity with Clinton in the last quarter of the Primary Election season apparently just wasn't fast enough under the current system.

It's fair to speculate that the previously unknown Sanders could have won many of the states where he lost to Clinton early in the Primary Election if there was more time for voters to digest his political message. By the time Sanders' campaign started to gain traction, it was too late to catch up to the behemoth lead Clinton had already established.

For Trump, marquee name-recognition gave him instant equal footing or an advantage to any well-known politician so his

(continued on page 3)

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

Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors
Dennis Galolo | Edwin Quinabo

Contributing Editor
Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.

Creative Designer
Junggoi Peralta

Photography
Tim Llana

Administrative Assistant
Shalimar Pagulayan

Columnists

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

Contributing Writers

Clement Bautista
Teresita Bernales, Ed.D
Rose Churma
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. Liongson, 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 Aguinado
Nestor Aguinado
Jimmy Iloreta

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. Website: 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

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Philippine Presidential Campaign is Just Like America's—We're All at a Crossroads

voted in that one?

It's ironic that the last one to have a majority was a dictator. And just wait, we may be there again. In the final hours before the vote, the "D" word has been mentioned again and again. Only this time it targeted the front-runner Duterte. Which makes him double-D dangerous. He'll say anything and play to the crowd.

Sound like someone you know? Donald Trump? Or make that Donald Drumpf, the original name before the Donald's grandparents anglicized it.

In many ways, Drumpf and Duterte are political doppelgangers. He's a popular tough guy who doesn't mind a salty joke. Duterte told a rape joke and his numbers went higher. Drumpf wants to wall off his "bad guys." Duterte wants to go after them.

Duterte's a tough guy who promises law and order. But he'll do so in extra-legal ways, which means he's willing to dispense with the law. Human Rights Watch connects him with the Davao Death Squad

which is linked to more than 1,400 deaths. And it's not just criminals, drug lords and gang members. Innocents have died in Mindanao, including more than 100 children. This is all connected to the man who is likely the next president of the Philippines.

My colleague Rodel Rodis, who is a supporter of Mars Roxas, sees this scenario. Duterte's promise to include three Communists in his cabinet may not fly with the anti-Communist military.

If there is a coup and Duterte is deposed, oh my golly are we in Ilocano heaven? The likely vice president is Bong-Bong Marcos, son of the dictator. And the pendulum has swung back in time. Everything old is new again.

Are we at a crossroads? It really just sounds like we are in reverse when it comes to just about everything in democracy. In America, the gains of civil rights in the 1960s are being eroded. Affirmative Action is seen as a bad word. We've

gone from yes to no in 50 years. Immigration rights won in 1965? Trump wants a wall. Family unification? Sister preferences? Gone.

Voting rights? There's a move to make it all harder to have your say. This isn't a trend just in the Philippines. But you lucky dual citizens. All 263,316 of you in the U.S. You get to double dip in democracy and vote here and there. If you care.

But just because you're eligible doesn't mean you will. In the eight-state region represented by the Philippine Consul General in San Francisco there's just 46,583 registered voters. We'll be lucky to see a 20 percent turnout among duals.

Too bad our political clout doesn't match our economic clout. Remittances from the U.S.? The San Francisco Consulate tells me that number is \$10 billion-plus, which is more than a third of the total remittances to the Philippines worldwide.

And do we have any political muscle? Not much. And so

here we are. We all have relatives back home. But the duals can feel the pressure the most this year—especially if they vote.

As one person told me, "I care about the Philippines. I still have family there." Well, me too.

How does the Philippines end up now? How does America end up in June?

This is as crazy scary an election time as I've ever experienced. And not just for the Philippines, the democracy built from America's colonialism, but from the model itself.

We're all at a crossroads, where there's always a deal with the devil. We must resist that in the name of the greater good. We must not lose sight of that as a hallmark of any democracy.

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.

Did you vote? Are you a dual? Or just dueling?

By time you read this, the Philippines' Presidential election will be over. But the problems won't be. I think that's fairly certain. Call it the leverage of Philippine Democracy, where so little can control so much.

As I write, the Social Weather Station poll looks like this—Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, 33 percent; Sen. Grace Poe, 22 percent; Sen. Mar Roxas, 20 percent; Vice President Jejomar Binay, 13 percent; Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, 2 percent.

If Duterte even gets that much, it will still be less than a majority. In 1992, Fidel Ramos won with 23 percent. And of course, the last one to win a majority was Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, with more than 53 percent of the vote. But who knows how many dead people

EDITORIALS (from page 2, THE PRIMARY...)

campaign wasn't affected as a typical Washington, DC outsider. But the unfair bias still holds true that relatively unknown "outsiders" face a built-in disadvantage particularly if the primary election voting is staggered.

Another point—the flawed staggered voting system also gives early voting states too much influence over later-voting states. Voters who are unfamiliar with the lengthy Primary Election process oftentimes lose hope and are swayed to question their first-choice candidate's viability after their first-choice candidate loses a few early races. They instead opt to vote for their second choice candidate who appears to be better positioned to win. Having one national Primary Election can solve many of these built-in biases.

Implement a Popular Vote, Nix Caucuses and Super-Delegates

The current primary has a widely mixed system—caucus, closed, semi-closed and open. We have different state rules that ultimately undermine a truly democratic process, specifically in those states that hold caucuses or closed primaries for only registered party members. Added to this system is the unfair creation of super-delegates, who are usually politicians and union or corporate leaders who can vote for whomever they decide, even contrary at times to the majority vote of the states they represent.

Having caucuses and super-delegates gives disproportionate power to a few who can steal elections from voters, especially in close races. The

better and fairer option is to have all primaries open to all registered voters across all political parties with the candidate who earns the popular vote named the winner. Having one national primary day to vote should prevent strategic cross-over party voting. Super-delegates should be abolished and delegates ought to be required to vote for who wins the state's popular vote.

What this particular Primary Election illuminates is the need to change an outdated system. In previous primaries where it was clear who the majority winner was, the intricate rules never got much attention. Now that many voters have been able to scrutinize the process more thoroughly in this Primary, we know better that changes must be made.

ADVERTISE NOW AND SEE HOW THE FACE OF BUSINESS IS CHANGING!

No matter how small your ad, it gets our readers attention!
CALL 678-8930 OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE @
www.thefilipinochronicle.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

State Farm™

*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

1005002.1

COVER STORY

Landas ng Tagumpay: Developing Filipino Teachers to Educate Future Generations

By Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand | Photos by David Fry

Diane Ramos and Jewel Clemente are clearly excited about teaching. Both are currently enrolled in Leeward Community College's Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) Program. To become elementary education teachers in Hawaii, they need to go further and earn the appropriate Bachelor of Education degree (BEd) elsewhere.

"It took one teacher to help me realize that I could excel in math," recalls Ramos about her interest in teaching. "My teacher stayed after school every day to help me excel. I ended up doing so well in class and earned good grades. I know now that I was good in math but I did not see it until she helped me overcome whatever it was that was preventing me from being good at math."

Clemente has a similar love for teaching.

"I come from a big family and I like teaching my younger siblings," Clemente says.

"I also love teaching in church."

Ramos, Clemente and 12 of their peers have enthusiastically committed to become teachers. The others are Ashley Badua, Brandon Aurelio, Brittany Nao, Dannah Mari Hidalgo, Faith Pascua, Heather Gamata, Jaimy Valerio, Jewel Clemente, Mary-Anne T. McMillin, Nicole Andres, Pamela Escalona, Rolly Cabitin Jr., and Staci Shimamoto.

For progress in their AAT degrees and commitment to pursue their Bachelor of Education degrees, the 14 students were honored individually and collectively during a Landas ng Tagumpay award ceremony held May 3, 2016 at the Leeward Community College's



LCC students of Filipino ancestry who completed their AAT degrees and are transferring to the UH College of Education are honored during the Landas ng Tagumpay award ceremony held May 3, 2016.

brand new Education or 'Imi 'Ike Building.

Each student also received an incentive scholarship or stipend (\$100 to \$150) to help defray the cost of preparing for and taking the PRAXIS CORE Exams on Reading, Writing and Math—a key requirement for admission to a Bachelor of Education degree program.

Teachers, friends and family members witnessed the short lunchtime ceremony. Four distinguished guests also took the time off from their busy schedules to congratulate the students. They were Dr. Manny Cabral, Leeward Community College Chancellor; Dr. Don Young, University of Hawaii-Manoa College of Education (UHM COE) Dean; and Honolulu City Councilmembers Brandon Elefante and Ron Menor.

Dr. Niki Libarios and Professor Erin Thompson served as event emcees and facilitators. Libarios is director of the UHM COE Office of Student Academic Services, while Thompson is an Associate Professor and Counselor with LCC's AAT Program. Both are the leaders behind *Landas ng Tagumpay*—a Tagalog phrase that literally means "Pathway of Success." It is a title of a joint project by LCC's AAT Program and UH-Manoa's

College of Education Tinalak Filipino Education Advisory Council (UHM COE Tinalak). The intent of the project is to produce more Filipino teachers for Hawaii's public school classrooms. The project is funded by an Initiative for Diversity Access Equity Success (IDEAS) grant from the UHM Student Excellence Equity and Diversity (SEED) Office. The joint project is also strengthened by an articulation agreement between the two partnering campuses.

According to Libarios, research suggests that more Filipinos are attending university campuses and community colleges. For various reasons, Filipino students enrolled in the UH Community College system experience challenges when transferring to the flagship Manoa campus for a four year degree.

The *Landas ng Tagumpay* project is about intervening where research suggests interventions should be made. It specifically hones in on a student's seamless transfer from the LCC AAT program to the UHM COE BEd program. It aims to ensure that Ramos, Clemente and others can successfully complete their AAT degrees, be admitted to the UHM College of Education, graduate with a Bachelor of Education degree of their

choice and obtain their license to teach in Hawaii.

The project's key components are meant to overcome two identified obstacles. The first is financial hardship, especially for Filipino families that have lower per capita incomes or are economically disadvantaged. The second is a lack of support that is due to various reasons.

The project's first component is direct financial support for the cost of preparing, taking and passing the PRAXIS CORE exams. The second component is guidance and support so that students can progress effectively and graduate in a timely manner. Guidance entails monitoring of students' progress starting from their AAT degree through completion of their BEd.

Monitoring is done through required on-going academic advising and mentoring appointments. Guidance and advising on a regular basis assure students that they are taking the courses that are applicable towards their desired degrees, working towards meeting College of Education admission requirements and establishing a relationship with a visible Filipino faculty role model in the COE who also came from LCC.

(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 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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



Business Hours:
2:00 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 f /LBCexpress @LBCexpress

www.allparalegalservices.com

COVER STORY

(from page 4, LANDAS ...)

Impact

The May 3rd award ceremony emphasized the positive impact of the Landas ng Tagumpay project and illuminated aspects that may or may not have been planned at the onset.

Dr. Young reflected on the capacity of the UHM COE to respond to a community need and how the project has increased that capacity. The College has 2,000 students, half of which are graduate students.

“This is historic and the first time that we’ve had funding to provide awards for these 14 students who have expressed interest in going into education,” he says. “We prepare students to become teachers as well as educational leaders and researchers.

“We are also trying desperately to increase the number of Filipino teachers. We have a need statewide. We have made reasonable progress but this is going a long way towards reaching our goals.”

Libarios cited statistics

from the project’s fact sheet and highlighted the need for education research results and evidence-based approach to achieving change. The fact sheet showed that Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaii and the second largest group in the State Department of Education (DOE), representing 20 percent of the student population. However, Filipino teachers only make up 6 percent of the DOE teaching profession and a mere 7 percent of the student population in the UHM COE, which is the primary producer of teachers for the DOE.

“Hence, Filipino DOE teachers and Filipino COE students are severely underrepresented, and do not reflect the community being served,” Libarios said.

Mr. Cameron Rivera, the LCC AAT Program Student Success Specialist, specifically pointed out how the project aims to place homegrown teachers out in the Leeward community.

“It is a project that tells students that there are oppor-

tunities for those who want to teach in their communities,” Rivera said.

The need for Filipino teachers is particularly great in Leeward Oahu and its large and fast growing Filipino population. It is also home to many of the largest public schools in the State. According to the latest State DOE student enrollment report, the largest schools are Campbell, Mililani, Waipahu, Farrington, and Kapolei for grades 9-12 ; Mililani, Kapolei, Waipahu, Kalakaua and Kaimuki for grades 7-8; and August Ahrens, Holomua, Ewa, Waipahu, and Maili for grades 1-6.

The project also reinforces the value that Filipinos place on education. Councilmember Menor said that his father, the late Justice Benjamin Menor, emphasized that education is a key to success and provides opportunities for Filipino students. Teachers contribute significantly to that success, he said.

Chancellor Cabral and Councilmember Elefante re-



L to R: LCC Chancellor Dr. Manny Cabral, UH-Manoa College of Education Dean Dr. Don Young and Councilmembers Ron Menor and Brandon Elefante during the Landas ng Tagumpay Recognition Ceremony for 2016 scholars.



Dr. Niki Libarios, director of the UHM COE Office of Student Academic Services, and his father Ernie Libarios, a former LCC counselor, are often referred to as two of the best Filipino educators in Hawaii.

called with fondness their days as classroom teachers. They told the audience that classroom teaching was one of their most rewarding experiences and assured the future Filipino teachers that they will find the teaching profession very personally fulfilling.

Ernie Libarios, who recently retired as an LCC counselor after more than 46 years, highlighted the project’s impact on the community. He said that attending the award ceremony and the Landas ng Tagumpay project are ways to support the students.

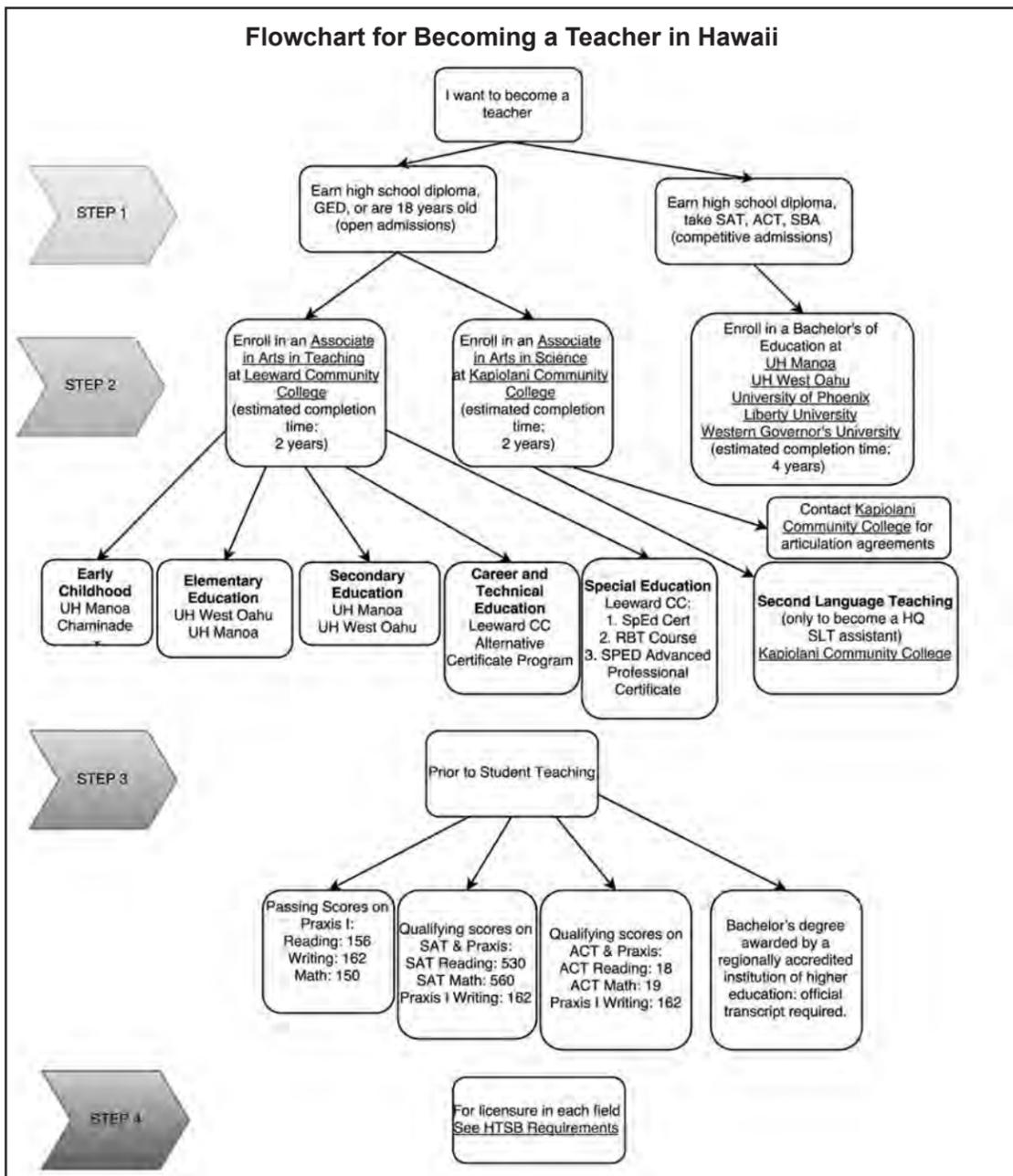
“The ceremony and project foster a sense of community that the students need in order to succeed,” he says. “They need to relate with each other so that they can feel the force of support. It is important that they look not only at

the people on the bottom but also at the top so that they can aspire and achieve further.”

Finally, Ms. Bobbie Martel, who coordinates the LCC AAT program, says the students are amazing and have exceeded all expectations. The project has reassured her that change is coming to the community and that change will happen one student at a time.

Exploring Beyond

The Landas ng Tagumpay project is a viable solution to Hawaii’s teacher shortage and also addresses social justice issues in classrooms. The 14 participating students are leading and clearing the success pathway or Landas ng Tagumpay for others. The community cheers them on and their mentors led by Erin Thompson and Niki Libarios.



visit our website@
www.thefilipinochronicle.com
 and enjoy the e-copy of the hawaii filipino chronicle

Tagorda Reappointed to UH Board of Regents

By Dennis Galolo

Big Island born and raised Michelle A. Tagorda has been reappointed to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents (BOR). She and retired State Supreme Court Associate Justice Simeon Acoba are the only two regents of Filipino ancestry on the board.

Tagorda was appointed in 2014 as a student regent to a two-year term ending June 30, 2016. Her seat and three others were up for renewal and drew over 400 applications. A selection committee screened applicants for their experience, qualifications, skills, understanding and personal pledge to invest significant time to serve as a regent.

The committee recommended Tagorda for reappointment and she was recently confirmed by the State Senate to another two-year term beginning July 1, 2016.

Selection committee chair L. Thomas Ramsey says Tagorda and the appointees offer "exceptional and comple-

menting skills that will further strengthen board governance and synergy, serve as a tremendous resource for the university and its president, and help guide and focus the institution's strategic directions in teaching, research, and community service."

Although Tagorda graduated in May 2015 with a master's degree in public health, state law allows her to continue serving as a student regent. She is currently the Summer Bridge Coordinator, Health Careers Opportunity Program for UH's Office of Student Equity, Excellence & Diversity.

The BOR is the governing body of the university and consists of 15 members. Representation includes seven from the City and County of Honolulu; two from Hawaii County; two from Maui County; one from Kauai County; two at-large, and one UH student. BOR members serve voluntarily and are not paid.

Early Life

Tagorda was born in Hilo and graduated from Keauu High School where she ran track, played soccer, competed in science fairs and actively



UH BOR member Michelle Tagorda (wearing lei) with Agnes Malate, State Sen. Lorraine Inouye, State Sen. Will Espero, Amy Agbayani and Charlene Cuaresma at her State Senate confirmation hearing on April 5th.

participated in student government, civic club, math league and National Honor Society activities.

She credits her parents, who are immigrants from Ilocus Sur and La Union in the Philippines, for instilling in her the values of hard work, humility and the importance of a good education.

"My parents always told my brother and me that the most important thing that they could give us was an education and that they could rest easy knowing that we gained the skills to not only survive but to live as productive contributors to our society," she says. "I am

thankful for the values that were rooted by my parents in the Philippines, brought across the Pacific and passed on to my brother and me here in Hawaii."

Tagorda developed a passion for service while attending UH as an undergraduate student. She volunteered as a New Student Orientation Leader, Access to College Excellence peer mentor, a peer advisor at the Pre-Health/ Pre-Law Advising Center and a member of the Campus Center Board.

She decided to further dip her toes into the university pond by running for the BOR. After two years as a student re-

gent, she has since plunged into the deep end, fully immersing herself in the governance and management of the university—from overseeing policies, discussing strategies, and planning for the future of higher education in Hawaii.

"My time as a regent has been a culminating experience where I was able to provide the student perspective, to apply knowledge learned through my academic engagement in student affairs, to learn about the complex system that is our university, to discuss issues, and to ultimately give back to the university that has provided me so much," she says. "In my role as a regent, it is our responsibility to oversee the integrity of the financial, physical, and resources of the university."

Proposed Tuition Hike?

UH officials recently concluded public hearings statewide over a proposed 3-year, 2 percent annual tuition beginning in the Fall 2017 semester. The hearings were an opportunity for officials to explain the rationale for a tuition hike as well as for students and

(continued on page 15)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Ige Signs Heat Abatement Bill for Public Schools

With the hot summer looms looming, public schools will be welcoming the addition of air conditioning, heat abatement measures and related energy efficiency measures provided for under Senate Bill

3126 (Act 47).

Signed by Gov. David Ige, the bill allows for an emergency appropriation of \$100 million to cool classrooms across the state.

"Our students and teachers deserve safe and comfortable

learning spaces so students can thrive," Gov. Ige says. "We will cool classrooms in energy-efficient ways, starting with the classrooms that need it most."

Classroom conditions during 2015 were particularly sti-

fling, forcing school administrators to consider canceling classes on particularly hot days. A teacher at Kalaheo High School measured his un-airconditioned classroom in August and found that it topped out at 108 degrees Fahrenheit.

There are more than 15,000 public school classrooms statewide in buildings that are over 50 years old and with aging electrical systems can't support new air conditioning.

Nevertheless, parents like GiGi Jones appreciated the efforts to cool classrooms.

"This means safety, most importantly for our students and for our teachers," says GiGi Jones, whose four children attend public schools.

"It's a great first step in getting the environment we need for both teachers and students."

Three of the top schools in dire need of air conditioning are located in neighborhoods with many Filipino families—Ewa Elementary, Ilima Intermediate and Campbell High School, which are all located in Ewa. The schools are on the State Department of Education's priority list.

Lawmakers at the bill's signing ceremony hailed the measure and called it great day for public school students and teachers.

"I think this is definitely a win for every single one of us, every single community," says State Sen. Jill Tokuda, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

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



"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

WHAT'S UP ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Filipino WW II Vets' Families Can Come to US Beginning June 8, 2016



Here is some very good news for Filipino World War II veterans' family members who are beneficiaries of approved family-based immigrant visa petitions.

On May 9, 2016, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that beginning June 8, 2016, these beneficiaries will be given an "opportunity to receive a discretionary grant of parole on a case-by-case basis, so that they may come to the United States while waiting for their immigrant visa to become available." When the visa become available, they may adjust their status under existing immigration laws.

"Parole" allows an alien to physically enter the U.S. for a specific purpose. A person who has been "paroled" is not considered to have been "admitted" to the U.S. but remains an "applicant for admission." DHS, as a matter of discretion, may issue an Advance Parole document authorizing an alien to appear at a port of entry to seek parole into the U.S. The document may be accepted by a transportation company in lieu of a visa as an authorization for the holder to travel to the U.S. The document does not serve as a passport. See Instructions to Form I-131.

This policy, according to USCIS, "will enable many eligible individuals to provide support and care to their aging veteran family members who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents." "In limited cases," said USCIS, "certain eligible relatives will be able to seek parole on their own behalf when their Filipino World War II veteran and his or her spouse are both deceased."

USCIS will review each case individually to determine whether authorizing parole is appropriate. When each indi-

vidual arrives at a U.S. port of entry, U.S. Customs and Border Protection will also review each case to determine whether to parole the individual.

Effectivity

USCIS emphasized that it will not accept applications under this policy until June 8, 2016. USCIS said that it strongly encourages eligible individuals interested in requesting parole under the FWVP Program do so within 5 years from June 8, 2016.

Forms and Procedures

Information about the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program—including guidance on eligibility, the application process and where to file—is available in the revised Form I-131 instructions and the Federal Register notice published on May 9, 2016. Here is the link to the Form I-131 instructions: <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/i-131instr.pdf>

Here is the link to Form I-131: <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/i-131.pdf>

Background of Parole Policy

On May 9, 2016, USCIS issued a notice in the Federal Register, the Daily Journal of the U.S. Government, saying that "More than 260,000 Filipino soldiers enlisted to fight for the United States during World War II. Estimates indicate that as many as 26,000 of these brave individuals became U.S. citizens and that there are 2,000 to 6,000 Filipino-American World War II veterans liv-

ing in the United States today. This parole policy was previously declared in the White House report, Modernizing and Streamlining Our Legal Immigration System for the 21st Century, issued in July 2015. "The Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program honors the thousands of Filipinos who bravely enlisted to fight for the United States during World War II," USCIS Director León Rodríguez said.

(This writer drafted the bill that granted U.S. citizenship to certain Filipinos who served honorably in active duty status during World War II. It was introduced in the U.S. Congress by then Rep. Tom Campbell, Republican of Palo Alto).

As U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents (LPRs), these veterans may petition for certain of their family members to come to the United States.

USCIS pointed out that "With the exception of "immediate relatives" (i.e., parents, spouses, unmarried children under 21 years of age) of U.S. citizens, as provided in INA § 201(b)(2)(A)(i), 8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)(i), the number of family-sponsored immigrant visas that are available in any given year is limited by statute. See INA §§ 201(a) and (c), 202(a) and 203, 8 U.S.C. 1151(a) and (c), 1152(a) and 1153. These statutory limits have resulted in long waiting periods before family members may join the petitioning U.S. citizens or LPRs in the United States and become LPRs themselves. For certain Filipino American family

members, this wait can exceed 20 years.

The "legal authority for this parole policy comes from the Immigration and Nationality Act, which authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to parole into the United States certain individuals, on a case-by-case basis, for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School

and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: American Savings Bank Tower, 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2305, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. 808 225 2645 E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.



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

**Camara
EYE
Clinic**

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

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

Thoughts as Solar Impulse 2 Bid Aloha

by Carolyn W. Hildebrand

On April 21, Solar Impulse 2 left its temporary home of nine months, the Kalaeloa Airport in Oahu, and resumed its mission to go around the world and demonstrate the use of clean technology in achieving the impossible. The next leg, which will be over when this is published, will take about three days over the Pacific Ocean and to Moffett Airfield in the heart of Silicon Valley in California.

There was plenty of symbolism when Solar Impulse 2 was cleared to fly again on a day before the world marked the 46th Earth Day. Nature's timing was not lost to Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg, who lead the Solar Impulse 2 project and alternately pilot the single-seater aircraft.

"The signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (by 171 countries, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York) takes place on Earth Day," Piccard, who was piloting the Hawaii to California trip, remarked. "This is something extremely important because the historic signing will not only be protecting the environment but it is launching the clean technology revolution. To address climate change, the world has to implement clean technology... Clean technology is not only technological but logical."

The idea is imaginable.



Solar Impulse on display at an April 2nd event that was open to the public.

Solar Impulse 2 captures the sun's energy during the day and fly throughout the night on batteries.

The solution is smart-intensive. As its communications team puts it, the Solar Impulse 2 is a concentration of clean technologies -- a genuine flying laboratory. The plane is made of carbon fiber that has 72 meter wingspan (lengthier than a Boeing 747-81 of 68.5 meters) and only 5,100 pounds in weight (likened to a family car). The 17,248 solar cells, that are built into the wings, power four batteries (38.5 kilowatt hour per battery). These, in turn, power the four electric engines (17.5 horsepower each) and the propellers with renewable energy.

"We hope its passage here will leave an impression," commented Claude Vanzella, one of the ground crew members who was on hand to greet the thousands during the April 2 "open hangar" event.

It did.

"I find it impressive. It

tells you that you can get to great lengths, especially with technology." That's according to Gregory Cantero, a 17-year old student from James Campbell High School and Kalaeloa-Civil Air Patrol volunteer.

"Impressive. We came because this might be last time to see this airplane. It is traveling back to Dubai eventually. Hopefully it will make it all the way." That thought came from Nicholas Farin, a 75 years old resident from Aina Haina.

It was clear to those who came that clean energy is for the present generation and not only the future's.

"It is a fascinating project because of the forward-looking impact that it can have not only for transportation but for others." That's from Laverne Garfield, a part-Filipino retiree from Makakilo.

"Fabulous! The world is moving!" shared Tamara Petrovik who sells solar air conditioners in the islands. "It is getting there. It is just taking little slower," she reassured



Crowds gather to glimpse the Solar Impulse 2 before its departure.



Flight leaders Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg with Campbell High School student and Kalaeloa-Civil Air Patrol volunteer Gregory Cantero (inset).

about solar air conditioners to solve hot school classrooms here.

The impressive human resource dimension was also noted.

"This requires many disciplines -- human relations, structural materials, energy management, communication, fiscal, flight support, ground support, and more," Zeenat Mian pointed out. Mian is a current Honolulu resident who earned her Aeronautic Engineering degree from the University of Manchester. Their efficiency is one you wish for operations in Hawaii, she said. "It brings the best of cultures," she concluded about different mindsets such as those ascribed to French-Swiss (visionary) and German-Swiss (engineering).

Solar Impulse 2 implementation is a 14-year journey and counting. It currently involves over 100 team members and 400 entities around the world. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle then asked what thoughts Piccard and Borschberg wanted to share with Hawaii leaders who are also navigating a long journey of clean energy by 2030.

"Clean energy is the most beautiful challenge that humankind can do," Piccard remarked. "When you have ambitious goals, you need to motivate a lot of people. Communication is important and to include people into this move to the future.

You have to show how it is profitable for everyone, how everyone will benefit from it. It cannot be something for nature alone because it will not work; If protection of the environment is expensive, it will not work because people will not do it.

What is fantastic in an island, energy is imported. If energy is produced onsite, it is cheaper. It creates jobs. It creates independence. It creates social wealth. These are what should drive authorities... Since Solar Impulse 2 arrived, some politicians told us that they should consider being more ambitious. I am sure that Hawaii can make it before 2030 because technology is available and it is profitable." He concluded.

To follow the Solar Impulse 2, visit www.solarimpulse.com

(Part 2 in a future column)

Call **REY-CEL TRAVEL**
for The Lowest Fare
to Manila



Tel #: (808) 871-6251 Fax #: (808) 873-6252



Office.
For Advertisement
(808) 871-6251

Request Line
(808) 296-1055

BIG ISLAND MEMORIES by Grace Larson

CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY BIG ISLAND STYLE

Filipinos across Hawaii celebrated Mother's Day in different ways—from simple family picnics to sumptuous five-star brunches. No matter the celebration, the important thing was spending time with mom and telling her how much she is loved and appreciated. The following photos show how Big Island residents celebrated Mother's Day 2016.



Nora Flores, 90, who is the mother of Pat Doctor and a member of Hilo Visayan Club, poses with her celebratory cake at the Aupuni Center conference room in Hilo.



A 68-year-old mom celebrates Mother's Day and her birthday in the Philippines. She keeps in touch with her six adult children via Skype and video calls.



(from left): Ced Hwang, Jason Benjamin, Mother Jackie and Marilyn Meris, Mother Marissa and her daughter Margeux Benjamin (partly hidden at the back), Joy Escalante (mother of 5 kids), Ma. Lourdes Bagamasbad (wearing flower print blouse), Maribel Nakamori and Marilyn Dacanay (mother of Jackie) pose for a group photo.



Big Island moms Florencia Balagot (purple), Marlene C. Roark, Emerita Mikul, Leticia Valdez (blue shirt), and Vilma Gulling (black top) enjoy a toast on Mother's Day.



Glory Caelestes (brown jacket) with daughter Sam Verlinden pose happily in a beautiful tulip garden during their trip to Keukenhof, Netherlands.



Analyn D. Rakos and daughter Yvette share a tender Mother's Day moment.



Atty. Rose Bautista (brown short sleeve top) consoles an unidentified mother (wearing beige top) who lost her daughter Aracelie Hoffman in a tragic murder case in Leilani Estates in Paho. Pictured with her is her brother (wearing lei) and friends.



Fely Himoya (seated right) with newlywed daughter Mrs. Ching Himoya Cogo.



A group of young mothers-at heart spend a relaxing day on Coconut Island in Hilo. (from left): Emily Cameron, Jenalyn Lafuente, Toni Leonard, Liz Lim, Emily Palallos Dalmacio, Eurica Otero (birthday celebrant) and Mary Cobile.



Pamela Ybanez with her 14-month-old daughter Sofie.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Youth Invited to Attend 2016 Rizal Youth Leadership Institute

Organizers of the 2016 Rizal Youth Leadership Institute are inviting Hawaii's young people to attend the two-day leadership seminar designed to propagate the ideals and teachings of Philippine national hero Dr. Jose Rizal.

The event, which is scheduled for June 18-19, 2016 from 8 am to 4 pm at Leeward Community College's student lounge, is free and open to all youth, ages 13 to 25, regardless of ethnicity. Interested participants are encouraged to

register online at: www.rizalianohana.weebly.com no later than June 5, 2016.

The event is jointly organized by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter, the Rizalian Youth Council (Kabataang Pangarap ni Rizal or KAPARIZ), and the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu, in cooperation with the Philippine Studies Program of UH-Leeward Community College.

Invited speakers include Philippine Consul General Gina Jamoralin, Dr. Belinda Aquino, Karla Ramo, Randy Cortez, Dr.

Patricio Abinales, Dr. Patricia Halagao, Clement Bautista, Dr. Serafin Colmenares Jr., Dr. Raymund Liongson, and Kit Zulueta. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided. A t-shirt, conference bag and materials will also be given upon check in, and a certificate of participation will be awarded to the attendees upon completion of the two-day seminar.

For more information, please contact Raymund Liongson (381-4315), Mario Palma (397-8626), or Jun Colmenares (838-9775).



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

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

USCIS to Implement Filipino WWII Veterans Parole Program

Beginning June 8, 2016, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will allow certain Filipino World War II veteran family members who are beneficiaries of approved family-based immigrant visa petitions an opportunity to receive a discretionary grant of parole on a case-by-case basis, so that they may come to the U.S. as they wait for their immigrant visa to become available.

An estimated 2,000 to 6,000 Filipino-American World War II veterans are living in the U.S. This policy will enable many eligible individuals to provide support and care to their aging veteran family members who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.

“The Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program honors the thousands of Filipinos who bravely enlisted to fight for the U.S. during World War II,” says USCIS Director León Rodríguez. “This policy will allow certain Filipino-American family members awaiting immigrant-visa issuance to come to the U.S. and be with their loved ones. For many, it will also allow them to provide support and care for elderly veterans or their surviving spouses.”

With the exception of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, the number of family-sponsored immigrant visas available by country of origin in any given year is limited by statute. These limits

result in long waiting periods before family members may join petitioning U.S. citizens or permanent residents in the U.S. and become permanent residents themselves. For some, this wait can exceed 20 years.

Under the policy, certain family members of Filipino World War II veterans may be eligible to receive a discretionary grant of parole to come to the U.S. before their visa becomes available. In limited cases, certain eligible relatives will be able to seek parole on their own behalf when their Filipino World War II veteran and his or her spouse are both deceased.

Under the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program, USCIS officials will review each case individually to determine whether authorizing parole is appropriate. When each individual arrives at a U.S. port of entry, U.S. Customs and Border Protection will also review each case to determine whether to parole the individual.

Legal authority for this parole policy comes from the Immigration and Nationality Act, which authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to parole into the U.S. certain individuals, on a case-by-case basis, for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.

For more information about USCIS and its programs, please visit www.uscis.gov.

City Selects U.S. VETS for Housing First initiative

The City’s Department of Community Services (DCS) has selected U.S. VETS’ proposal to provide permanent supportive housing to 100 households experiencing chronic homelessness on Oahu through the Housing First model.

In February, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to spend up to \$2.2 million to provide permanent supportive housing to a minimum of 100 households experiencing chronic homelessness in one year.

U.S. VETS Chief Operating Officer Darryl Vincent looks forward to working with the City to provide permanent housing opportunities via the Housing First Increment II grant.

“It takes a collaborative effort to address and end homelessness and U.S.VETS’ ongoing partnerships with the City, State and the community bring us one step closer to addressing and ending homelessness,” he says. “Our job is not com-

pleted until every person in Hawaii has a home.”

Housing First Increment II builds on the success of the City’s existing Housing First initiative with IHS. From November 2014 to October 2015, IHS provided permanent supportive housing to 176 individuals in 115 households experiencing chronic homelessness, including 35 children in 20 families. IHS is keeping those households housed and supported in year two of its partnership with the City. With the addition of the U.S. VETS initiative, the City will serve a minimum of 215 households through Housing First.

U.S. VETS’ proposal includes commitments from partner agencies to assist in the implementation of its Housing First program, including the Kalihi-Palama Health Center, Legal Aid Services of Hawaii, the University of Hawaii-Manoa Center on the Family and Helping Hands Hawaii.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

SET FREE: THE STORY OF SARAH BALABAGAN-SERENO

by Carlota Ader

A former domestic helper who was condemned to die in a far off Middle Eastern land for the death of her elderly employer is now spreading the message of God's love and forgiveness.

She is Sarah Balabagan-Sereno—inspirational speaker, Christian recording artist and advocate for human trafficking victims and Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). In 1995, she was sentenced to death via firing squad by the United Arab Emirates government for killing Almas Mohammed Al-Baloushi, 85. She claimed it was in self defense as he allegedly tried to rape her. She was 14 at the time.

Her case drew widespread, international attention as many powerful allies in the Philippine government and elsewhere began calling for her release. She was literally the poster child for abused and mistreated OFWs in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Balabagan-Sereno's life was ultimately spared. She was released from and sent back to the Philippines but not before spending a year in prison and receiving 100 lashes. She came to know Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior in 2003 and now serves through her powerful testimony and songs. Sarah Balabagan-Sereno sang and shared her powerful testimony at an evangelistic concert held April 22, 2016 at the Filipino Community Center.

Over 300 people attended the concert, including Philippine Consul General Gina Jamoralin. The event was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Fellowship of the Pacific.

In an exclusive interview with the Chronicle, Sarah Balabagan-Sereno not surprisingly advises Filipino women to think twice before applying abroad as a domestic helper, particularly in the Middle East. Instead, she says that the Philippine government offers a



Sarah Balabagan-Sereno during her April 22, 2016, concert at FilCom Center.

program that will send women to school for a better education and training for their future.

Balabagan-Sereno also offers a peek into her amazing life story. Her responses have been edited for space and clarity.

Q: Welcome to Hawaii! Have you been here before?

A: This is my first time to Hawaii and I'm very excited to be here to meet new friends and community leaders as well as members of the different Baptist congregations.

Q: Tell us your story of how you went to the United Arab Emirates and the life you lived there.

A: I was 14 years old when I applied to work in the Middle East in the United Arab Emirates. We are very poor growing up in Sultan Kudarat, Magindanao on Mindanao where I was raised with Islamic beliefs and in a Muslim upbringing. I convinced my parents to give me their blessing because I wanted to help lift my family out of poverty. The recruiter was our relative so my application was granted within a month's time. I flew to Manila and stayed for one night before heading to the Middle East. While getting ready to board, I was given my passport which listed my age as 28. There was no time to complain so I accepted it because I really wanted to help my family. It was May 29, 1994 when I left for the United Arab Emirates.

Q: You stabbed your employer in self defense. Why did you stab him over 30 times?

A: My employer was a widower with four sons so they were all men except for me. My work load was difficult. I was the only one serving them all, from cooking to cleaning the house, doing yard work and washing the clothes. There was no washing machine so I washed clothes by hand.

From my very first day I was sexually harassed by my employer who touched my shoulder, my butt and later of-

fered money and jewelry but I refused. When I told his sons what he was trying to do to me, the more he got mad. I ran away and fled to the next door neighbor where there were two Filipino women also working as domestic helpers. When he found out that I was there, he told these women that he would file a case against them and have them deported back to the Philippines. I know that these women had families to support back home, so I decided to return to my employer.

After I returned, he got

more violent and started to hit me and punish me for no valid reason. It was July 19, 1994 when he attempted to rape me while holding a knife. At that point I decided to die rather than be raped by him so when I yelled for help. He then choked me and dropped the knife. I knew that if I could reach the knife, I will have a good chance to stab him and so I grabbed it and started stabbing his stomach. But he choked me harder so I stabbed him more until he was dead. They said I stabbed him 30 times but actually it was not that many because they counted even the small wounds.

Q: What was life like in prison? Were you mistreated?

A: I was isolated for two weeks in jail where I saw a number of Filipina women who were older than me and who were also raped, abused and mistreated. It seems like they were forgotten. But the Philippine government decided to help me because of my age.

I consider myself lucky because the Philippine ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and other high rank-

(continued on page 12)

GARFIELD LAW GROUP

FULL SERVICE IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM

Free Immigration Consultations Offered Now!
Libre Nga Konsultasyon Maipanggep Ti Imigrasion!
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 VISIT: <http://garfieldlaw.com/>

Duterte Forms Transition Team; Noy Appoints Ochoa

by Edith Regalado
Thursday, May 12, 2016

DAVAO CITY, Philippines – Winning presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte has named the members of the committee that would take charge of ensuring a smooth transition as President Aquino steps down on June 30.

Duterte spokesman Peter Laviña said he is one of the members of the transition committee, along with campaign manager Leoncio Evasco, assistant campaign manager and Duterte executive assistant Christopher Go, former agriculture secretary Carlos Dominguez and lawyers Salvador Medialdea and Loreto Ata.

Aquino, in a statement, said he has informed Go that an administrative order is being

readied through which he would designate Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. as head of the outgoing administration's transition team.

"I further offered that the Cabinet stands ready to brief his team on any and all of their concerns. Lastly, we are committed to effecting the smoothest transition possible," the President said in a statement.

Dominguez, Duterte's high school classmate and head of his campaign finance committee, is expected to be named to the Cabinet of the new administration. Medialdea and Ata are personal lawyers of Duterte.

His camp had initially created four committees to handle overall transition, selection of officials, creation of a policy group and arrangement for his

inaugural ceremonies.

Earlier, Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said Duterte is assured of taking over a government that is in good shape.

"Our people have spoken and their verdict is accepted and respected," Coloma said.

The administration's standard-bearer, Manuel Roxas II, has already conceded defeat to Duterte.

Coloma also denied allegations from the camp of vice presidential candidate and Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. that the government was cheating for administration vice presidential bet Camarines Sur Rep. Leni Robredo.

He said the Commission on Elections (Comelec) oversees the automated election system and the "executive

branch has no part in this process."

Laviña, meanwhile, said the strengthening of the peso was an indication of the market's growing confidence in the coming administration.

"We view this as a positive response and expression of vote of confidence by the market on the clear outcome of the elections with Duterte leading the presidential race," he said.

"Rest assured the stock and financial markets will be protected under his presidency and he will provide business the right atmosphere to prosper without sacrificing the general welfare of the people," he said.

Full support

Speaker and reelected Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., for his part, has vowed congressional

support for a Duterte administration as the latter is poised to lead the country to "exciting times."

"We in the House, to the extent that the law or Constitution allows it, want to give all our support that we can for the success of this administration. We know fully well that a successful administration, especially from a person like him who is very apolitical in all respects, is meant to help the ordinary people," Belmonte said.

In the wake of divisiveness, he said it is now time for Filipinos to unite and focus on nation-building.

The congressman said lawmakers – particularly those from the administration – have accepted the decision of the people to overwhelmingly choose Duterte over Roxas. (www.philstar.com)

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW (from page 11, SET FREE ...)

ing officials in the country helped me. My case was sensational to them and they visited me quite often in prison. But the UAE government decided to execute me by firing squad but my case was appealed several times. The final verdict was a year sentence in prison and 100 lashes. It was almost a month before I could not sleep on my back or on my side. My upper body was colored in black from the beatings but I

endured the pains because I wanted to go home to the Philippines and be with my family once again.

My experience in jail gave strength to the other prisoners. They treated me very well because they knew I was younger than them.

Q: Describe the emotions you felt when you were finally set free.

A: It was a great feeling.

When I arrived at the airport, I was shocked to see a crowd of people young and old waiting for me. I was surprised with their warm welcome. I was treated like a celebrity as people were shouting my name. I saw myself on the front page of newspapers and members of the media were asking for interviews and photos. The hospitality of my countrymen was unbelievable. I know that it was God's will that I was spared from death. For me, it was new life and new beginning for the better.

Q: How difficult was it to adjust to a normal life?

A: Viva Film made a movie about my ordeal and paid me money which I gave some of to my mom and brothers to support their daily expenses. Although I finished up to fifth grade level education only, I took the high school test for seniors and passed. I then went to college at AMA University and took mass communication.

I also had a chance to enter the music industry and did a lot of public speaking. By doing all these things, I was able to help others cope with their problems and encouraged youth to be strong and to remain in control of

their emotions. My traumatic experiences really opened a lot of hearts and minds to the importance of respecting yourself.

Q: How did you get involved in singing?

A: I've been singing since childhood. My traumatic experience in the Middle East gave me the initiative to sing and express my feelings through songs that I wrote. Through training, I developed my singing as well as my career. My first film album is entitled "BuhayKulungan" (Life in jail), which I wrote while in jail.

Q: How did you deal with the trauma of your experiences? Do you have recurring nightmares and if so, how do you deal with them?

A: Sometimes you don't feel the trauma right away. It may take 2-3 years for it to manifest. I thought it would not affect me. After two years, I began to feel the effects because the government did not refer me to a psychologist, psychiatrist or counselor after I came home. I became a single mom at the age of 18. I was singing then but fell into depression especially when I would get flashbacks of my experiences.

Q: What was the turning point in your life?

A: It was when I came to the U.S. in 2011. I met June Serono at a Baptist Church in California and two years later, we got married. We have a son together and five children in total. June is not only my husband but also my partner in ministry. We continue to spread God's love to everyone. No matter what we do, we do it for the love of God.

Q: Many other Overseas Workers have similar experiences of physical and mental abuse at the hands of their employers. What is your advice to them?

A: Don't be ashamed to ask help and never lose hope. Be strong and always pray to Him. No matter what hardships you may encounter, accept it and find a way to solve it. Focus in the right direction and you will never regret it. God is good!

Q: What legacy do you want to leave behind once your time on this earth is over?

A: To bring up my kids to trust in God and to have faith in Him. He has proven his power and love towards me.

(Associate editor Dennis Galolo contributed to this story).



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

LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

H-1B Processing After Cap is Reached

degree exemptions.

The lottery for the advanced degree came first and those not selected became part of the random process for the 65,000 limit. All rejected petitions will be returned along with their filing fees.

The USCIS will continue to accept and process petitions that are filed to extend an H-1B status, to change the terms of employment of an existing foreign worker with the same US employer, to transfer an H-1B worker to another US employer and to allow current H-1B workers to work concurrently in a second H-1B position.

It will also accept cap exempt H-1B petitions such as those filed for alien workers

who will work at an institution of higher education or a related or affiliated nonprofit entity, nonprofit research organization, or a governmental research organization. Third party petitioners that are not qualifying entities may claim cap exemption if the beneficiary will work at a qualifying institution.

J-1 physicians who have obtained a Conrad 30 waiver are also cap exempt.

Meanwhile, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) has expressed concern over the huge disparity between the demand for alien skilled workers and the mandated cap that Congress has provided. AILA President Victor Pradis Nieblas said that “ar-

tificial limits established more than a generation ago are again hobbling the economic potential of this great nation.”

Nieblas further said “Why do we continue to artificially limit this program? In a reasonable system, market demand should factor into how many business visas are granted, and indeed, demand for H-1B visas slowed when the economy took a downturn. But each year that we cap these visas when demand outweighs supply, all we’re doing is creating obstacles to economic growth. We’re losing out on shared prosperity for no good reason.

“The United States is one of the most important economies in the world, but its full potential is going unreal-

ized. We live in a wireless world, but our visa system is a relic from the days of dial-up modem. It’s long past time for Congress to lead on this issue and reform the H-1B program in a way that addresses the needs of American businesses, US workers and our economy. Congress must bring our immigration system out of the last century and into this one.”

The H-1B petition is used by most US companies to hire skilled alien workers to fill up skill gaps in the local labor supply.

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

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recently announced that the H-1B cap for fiscal year 2017 has been reached. Over 236,000 petitions were received during the filing period that ended on April 7.

It conducted a computer-generated random process or lottery on April 9 to select the petitions that met the 65,000 cap for the general category and 20,000 for the advanced

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Tight VP race: Academics Engage Online Over ‘Trends’ in Quick Count

by Janvic Mateo
Thursday, May 12, 2016

The issue, which has gone viral on social media, began when David Yap — a professor of statistics at the Ateneo de Manila University — claimed on Wednesday that he has discovered patterns on the votes that came into the transparency server of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV).

Antonio Contreras, professor of political science at the De La Salle University, followed up with a claim that there were signs of electoral fraud based on the trends on the votes received by Camarines Sur Rep. Leni Robredo and Sen. Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.

“They say that the entry of returns are randomized. However, if it is randomized, how come the marginal increases in the numbers are almost uniform every one percent,” said Contreras.

Yap initially posted some of his findings, including allegations that the lead of Marcos had been dwindling by 40,000 per 1 percent starting the 80 percent mark.

He has since deleted his posts, saying he would no longer post his findings on social media but would be willing to share it to the camps of the vice presidential candidates.

“I will allow my analyses to be discussed, reviewed, and deconstructed by any and all camps for the sake of impartiality. I will let the results of the analyses come out sober and even-tempered to avoid sowing confusion and discontent,” he added.

Contreras, however, continued with his analysis, including an argument on the supposed excuse that Robredo overtook Marcos after votes from her bailiwick came starting late Monday night.

The lead of Marcos went as high as one million in the partial and unofficial tally before he was overtaken by the Camarines Sur lawmaker around 3 a.m. on Tuesday.

Experts elaborate data

After the publication of the posts of Yap and Contreras, several academics have pounced in on the discussion and offered their respective analyses on the supposed trend.

Carmela Lao — who recently made headlines after graduating with top marks at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — discussed the nature of randomness of the election returns, which she said is a crucial statement to which Yap hinged his argument of electoral fraud.

“The entry of returns is NOT mathematically randomized,” said Lao.

“In this case, they probably meant nondeterminism. But the entire analysis afterwards assumes mathematical randomization, that is, each precinct return had an equal chance of being submitted at each time, when this is not the case, and therefore as in mathematics, if one of your assumptions is incorrect, your entire argument thereafter falls apart,” she added.

In another post, statistician Adrian Mendoza refuted the correlation between the cumulative difference between the votes of Robredo and Marcos and the cumulative percentage of polling precincts that have transmitted their election returns.

“Directly correlating the two without checking for co-integration is CARELESS and

SPURIOUS. In other words, the linear relationship established may be mostly traced to the time effect and not due to any underlying factor,” he said.

“Although we have limited

data points, it may be safe to say that the ‘clean progression’ claimed elsewhere using the wrong data is fraudulent and misleading,” added Mendoza.

(www.philstar.com)



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; jessie.koppel@locationsllc.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 Refill
- 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 Jewelleries 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 Jewelleries.

GOLDEN CUT

94-050 Farrington Hwy, Waipahu, HI 96797

Phone (808) 677-7532

NEWS FEATURE

Gintong Pamana Award to Honor Six Maui Filipinos

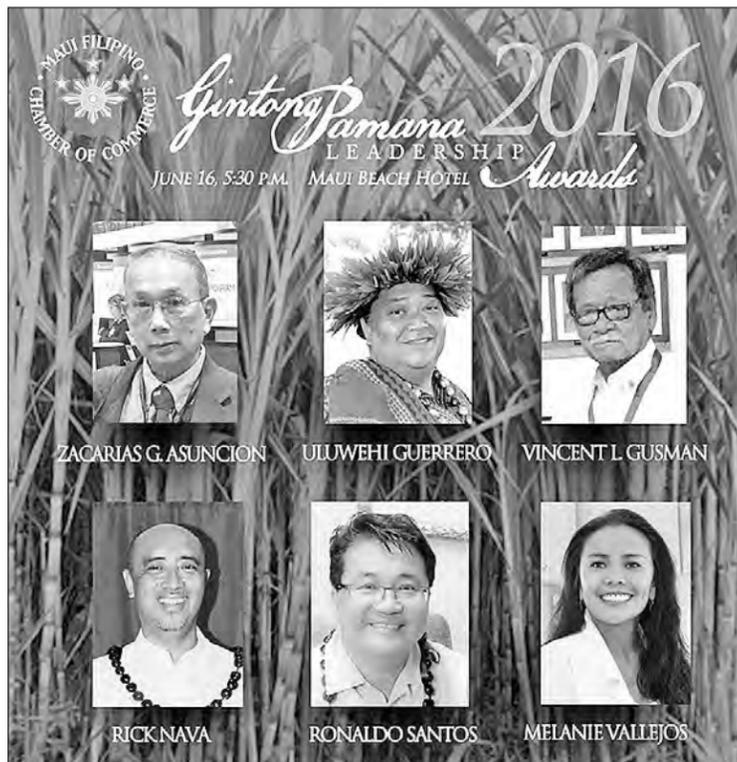
By HFC Staff

Filipinos on the Valley Isle will honor six outstanding recipients with the Gintong Pamana (Golden Heritage) Leadership and Scholarship Awards scheduled for June 16, 2016 at the Maui Beach Hotel beginning at 5:30 pm.

The prestigious award is presented yearly by the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce to distinguished Filipinos for their leadership skills, outstanding performance in his or her career, and giving back to their community. A special award will also be given to one of the recipients that evening.

“The awardees have demonstrated dedication in their respective fields—from health care, culture and the arts, hospitality and community service,” says President Kit Zulueta said. “We hope you can help us honor them at our awards night as it promises to be a special night for all.”

The awardees are:



Zacarias G. Asuncion

Asuncion retired to Pukalani in 2006 after a distinguished career as a surgeon on the mainland. Although licensed to practice in Hawaii, he instead volunteers for various medical causes. As a member of the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society of America and Doctors Without Borders, Asuncion has joined numerous medical missions to the Philip-

ines, including helping victims of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in Leyte.

Uluwehi Guerrero

Born in Wailuku, Guerrero has enjoyed an illustrious 36-year career as a kumu hula and a multi-awarded Hawaiian music recording artist. He has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City, Tokyo Dome and other prestigious venues. He continues to teach hula,

chants and language in the perpetuation of culture and traditional music across Hawaii.

Vincent L. Gusman

As leader of the Maui Masonic Lodge, Gusman recruits and mentors Filipinos into the organization on the principles and values of hard work. His humanitarian work as a freemason includes coordinating the Shriners Hospital Outreach Clinic, which provided over 200 Maui children with orthopedic burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip/palate treatments last year.

Rick Nava

In addition to running his own socially responsible media company, Nava serves in numerous community organizations including the Rotary Club of Lahaina, West Maui Taxpayers Association, Maui Filipino Community Council and the Maui Chamber of Commerce. Most recently, Nava helped to establish the Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation, whose goal is to restore the Philippine cultural pride display “bahay kubo” at the Kepaniwai Heritage Gardens in Iao Valley.

Ronaldo Santos

As the food and beverage manager at the Marriott’s Maui Ocean Club, Santos has been a valuable member of the hotel’s management team for over 20

years. He makes sound business decisions and leads by example. Going above and beyond his work duties, Santos also directs and coordinates his team’s participation in community events including the Visitor Industry Charity Walk, Children’s Miracle Network and American Red Cross.

Melanie Vallejos

Vallejos is a renowned dentist on Maui who been recognized as “Best Dentist” by Honolulu Magazine for five straight years (2012-2016). Inspired by the Filipino values of her late father Miguel Vallejos, she is a leader in numerous community development projects including the tri-agency Aloha House/Maui Youth & Family Services and Malama Family Recovery Center, which help Maui families overcome the impact of drugs, alcohol and untreated mental illness.

Also that evening, the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation will award scholarships at \$1,000 each to select high school seniors and \$1,000 to a recipient from Maui Culinary Academy at the University of Hawaii Maui College.

Tickets are available online at: www.mauifilipinochamber.com/gintongpamana or by calling event chair Jeana Gamboa at 419-1617.

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

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

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

ONE STOP SHOPPING!

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UNITED PANGASINAN OF HAWAII 48TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE | May 14, 2016 | PACIFIC BEACH HOTEL GRAND BALLROOM | Tickets & Information: Cely Villareal - (808) 778-2481 or (808) 689-4911

FILCOM CENTER'S 24TH ANNUAL FILIPINO FIESTA & PARADE | May 14, 2016 | KAPIOLANI PARK, WAIKIKI | For details, contact 808-680-0451

STROKES OF BRILLIANCE, HOSTED BY PHIL SABADO, CO-SPONSORED WITH MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | May 26, 2016 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | KAUNOA SENIOR CENTER, 401 ALAKAPA PL., PAIA, HI 96779 | Contact: (808) 270-7308

MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER'S GINTONG PAMAMA'S LEADERSHIP AWARDS BANQUET | June 16, 2016 | MAUI BEACH HOTEL. | Contact: Jenna Gamboa at (808) 419-1617

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

SANTANIANS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII-USA INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS | July 16, 2016 | 6:00 - 11:00 PM | HIBISCUS BALLROOM, ALA MOANA HOTEL | Contact: Dr. Julius Soria (722-9958); Amy Quides (255-6380); Aurora Garcia (722-3150) or email santaniansofhawaii@gmail.com

FILCOM CENTER'S BAYANIHAN GALA DINNER 2016 | October 14, 2016 | 6:00 PM | SHERATON WAIKIKI HOTEL | Contact 808-80-0451 for more information

PASKO SA FILCOM | December 4, 2016 | FILCOM CENTER | Contact 808-680-0451 for details.

MAINLAND NEWS

Report: 2 Million California Households Hire Domestic Workers

Amid a rising demand for domestic work and an unprecedented elder boom, a new report from the UCLA Labor Center has found that an estimated 2 million households in California hire domestic workers for childcare, house cleaning and home care services.

The report, "Profile, Practices and Needs of California's Domestic Work Employers," was based on 501 randomly-dialed phone surveys throughout the state and is the first comprehensive study of domestic work employers. It illustrates the dependence of Californians on domestic work and that the industry still lacks standards normally implemented in other workplaces be-

cause the work is happening inside the home.

"In our survey, we found that 49 percent of employers didn't research or look up information when they devised the terms of employments like pay, hours, and benefits," said Saba Waheed, research director at the UCLA Labor Center and co-author of the report. "The lack of clear standards leads to wide variations in work and pay arrangements. Furthermore, according to our study, employers value domestic work and need more support."

Among key findings in the study include: 54 percent of Californians hire domestic workers for housecleaning support; 27 percent hire for homecare support; and 19

percent hire them for childcare support. It also found that the profiles of employers cut across racial ethnicity, class, gender and occupational lines. Specifically, while more than 50 percent of employers identify as white, 43 percent are Latino, African American, Asian American and other races.

"Everyone from the CEO of the company to the person serving the food hires domestic workers," Waheed said Wednesday, May 4, during a presentation of the report at the UCLA Labor Center in Los Angeles.

However, of domestic worker employers, 44 percent were found to be in low-income households, while 75 percent of childcare employers are from low-income households. (www.asianjournal.com)

FEATURE (from page 6, TAGORDA....)

the public to provide their input.

The BOR is expected to receive a final recommendation from the administration and take action at a public meeting scheduled for June 2016. Tagorda says many students are opposed to paying more tuition but realizes that funds are needed to address the \$503 million backlog in deferred campus maintenance. Raising tuition is one of the most difficult decisions regents must make, so Tagorda won't decide until hearing from both sides of the issue.

I want to hear what the UH administration recommends after it completes its public meetings, solicits comments and analyzes what resources they get from the Legislature," she says. "Providing a quality education costs money and those costs escalate along with the cost of most other things."

The BOR also requested a \$5 million budget appropriation from the State Legislature for the finan-

cially-ailing struggling UH Cancer Center. The Legislature denied the funding, which will force the BOR to explore alternatives, Tagorda says.

Higher Education for Filipinos

Tagorda would like to see greater representation of Filipino students at the university level. As of the Fall 2014 semester, there were 19,507 students at UHM, of which 1,628 were Filipino—or about 8 percent of the student body. Tagorda says access to higher education is all too often a barrier for students in underserved communities. She herself came from a small town but was able to attend college thanks to support from her teachers, coaches, mentors and family.

To encourage more Filipino students to pursue higher education, Tagorda says more services and avenues such as mentoring, academic advising, first-year programs, trans-

fer workshops and service projects are needed. Philippine culture and language classes also go a long way towards helping Filipino youth to feel a sense of connection to the community and to discover their heritage as well as themselves.

"To support student success, it is important to recognize the background and needs of our Filipino students to provide adequate services to meet those needs. A campus culture of diversity and inclusivity creates a richer learning environment for all," she says.

In her current position as a Summer Bridge Coordinator with the Health Careers Opportunity Program, she helps students from disadvantaged backgrounds on their pathway towards pursuing a health career. She wants to continue serving and giving back to my community by promoting opportunities such as higher education.

"The past almost two years has

CLASSIFIED ADS

DRIVER WANTED (FT/PT) FRUIT/VEGETABLE CUTTER (FT/PT)

Regular HI driver's license & Clean abstract req'd

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

BIG ISLAND COOK POSITION

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

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

ABANDONED

Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has apparently been abandoned for over 60 days on the property of: Parker Marine 1260 Richard Lane Honolulu HI 96819 (808)721-1000. **The vessel is described as: 35' sloop sailboat, Hull ID CHL036270779.** Application for title will be made in accordance with Section 200-51 of the Annotated Code of Hawaii, Natural Resources Article if this vessel is not claimed and removed from the above property within 10 days of this notice and all back fees paid.

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

gone by so quickly and I feel like I am just getting my feet stabled," she says. "I want to continue working with students and understanding their experiences relating to access and success."

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."*

xoom

A **PayPal** Service

The #1 online money transfer company
to the Philippines just keeps getting better!

Now it is even easier for your loved ones to receive their money.

- Instant cash pick-up at any of LBC's 1,200 locations
- Instant deposits to any RCBC and Landbank accounts

Download the app and send money in seconds!
Xoom. Stop waiting in line. Xoom it online.



LANDBANK



Speed of service is subject to processing and verification systems availability and good funds availability. May not be available for all transactions. Xoom also makes money when it changes your U.S. dollars into a different currency. Xoom and its logos are Xoom's trademarks. Licensed as a money transmitter by the Banking Department of the State of New York. PayPal and the PayPal logo are trademarks of PayPal, Inc. Apple and the Apple logo are registered brands of Apple Inc., registered in the United States and other countries. App store is a service brand of Apple Inc.