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FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JANUARY 6, 2018 ◆

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EDITORIALS

2017: A Rough Year for Immigrants; Great One for Community Events

To many scholars, particularly in liberal circles, they've held the belief that the U.S. is really a country run by corporate oligarchs and that the seat of the U.S. presidency is really a symbolic seat of power. In 2017, this notion proved to be way off the mark and Americans discovered that the presidency is far from important. It took the election of Donald Trump to the presidency for Americans to realize that a president is no mere figure head. Trump's orbit of power has proven so overarching in 2017 that most of the year's top stories were somehow connected to him.

The barrage of anti-immigrant policies -- Travel bans 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, the RAISE Act, the repeal of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) -- and increased hiring of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents, more arrests, massive deportations, the proposed building of the southern border wall, and dangerous scapegoating rhetoric have made 2017 a historically alarming year for immigrants. The immigrant community anticipated bad days ahead when Trump used anti-immigrant rhetoric in his campaign last year; what came as a surprise was how much influence Trump had just by using executive orders (EOs) to influence immigration. It is within Congress' jurisdiction to legislate immigration laws; but Trump has used every ounce of his executive power this year to target immigrants any way he could, and is being challenged legally every step of the way.

2017 is a year that tested democratic systems and balance of power. In the U.S., Congress basically has given Trump the green light to advance his right-wing agenda for fear of reprisal by Trumpers or by Trump himself. In the last days of 2017, Americans saw the real reason the GOP played silent conspirator to Trump; Republicans needed a "Trump" to push through the corporate donor-pleasing Tax Bill. Now that this has been accomplished, will the corporate powers pull the plug on the populist autocrat? That is the big question for 2018.

On the Eastern hemisphere of the world in the Philippines, Filipinos had their hands full dealing with their own, more sinister version of Trump, President Rodrigo Duterte, whose war on drugs is believed to have claimed the lives of over 7,000 people. President Duterte also declared in 2017 martial law in the entire island of Mindanao. Originally, it was believed to be a short declaration to squash a tiny uprising, but it has been extended for an additional year.

2017 had notable celebratory moments as well. Locally, the Filipino community came together for several successful events: the 120th Anniversary of Waipahu Town, the 25th Anniversary of the Filipino Fiesta, the well-attended Pasko events in December, and the seventh musical production of Doctors-On-Stage, "Downtrodden."

The Hawaii State Legislature and Governor David Ige made a historic move to pass the Kupuna Caregivers Program, the only one of its kind in the nation that assists working families care for their elderly with a \$70 a day stipend.

In other good news, Medicare remained untouched and safe amid talks of turning it into a privatized voucher system; and millions of Americans who get their insurance through Obamacare also saw the program kept intact with the legislative failure of Trump's American Health Care Act 2017.

Ongoing socio-economic problems -- Hawaii's homelessness, housing shortage, the national opioids crisis, gun violence -- also made headlines throughout the year. New assaults to the environment (converting millions of acres of preserved land in the U.S.), and a rise in racial division and hate groups presented new concerns. Misinformation from the White House and fake news in the age of digital media made headlines. The biggest threat of 2017 involved Trump in his unorthodox dealing with North Korea

FROM THE PUBLISHER

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2017 started with shock and fear for reasons we all know too well: Donald Trump was sworn into office and became the 45th president of the United States. It was a complete head-scratcher for more than



half the country; and to certain segments of the population like immigrants, Trump's election signaled turbulent times ahead, to say the least.

For our cover story this issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo presents the top stories of 2017 covered in the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. 2017 was such a challenging year for a core group of our readers (immigrants) that presenting the news and editorials had extraordinary importance this year. In our annual year-in-review, Quinabo highlights the issues and events the Chronicle covered that are most relevant to our Filipino community: an anti-immigrant Trump presidency, the barrage of anti-immigrant policies from the Travel bans, the proposed RAISE Act and the repeal of DACA, martial law in the Philippines, and many others. It was also a big year for Filipino events in our community as several annual events celebrated major anniversaries such as the Filipino Fiesta's 25th Anniversary. Doctors-On-Stage presented its seventh musical production, "Downtrodden." And once again this year, we've tackled ongoing issues our state continues to contend with -- the housing shortage crisis, homelessness, and updates on Honolulu's billion-dollars rail project.

Also in this issue, we have a Tax Reform Update provided by Bank of Hawaii detailing the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives, Senate, and signed into law by President Trump late last month. While the Tax bill passed, it was an unpopular legislation without bipartisan input. U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard explains why she voted against the bill twice in her Commentary this issue.

In our news section, many in our community stand to benefit from the new minimum wage increase law for the state. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2018, Hawaii's minimum wage increased to \$10.00 per hour. Speaking of wage increase, AARP Hawaii and AAUW Honolulu are putting on Work Smart workshops in Pearl City and Honolulu, designed to close the gender wage gap. The workshops will help women successfully negotiate salary, promotions and benefits. Many of us are hoping to improve our financial situation this new year. With unemployment in Hawaii at a record low (also covered in our HFN section), it just might be the right timing for our state economy to support wage increases.

On Philippine news, Aurora Victoria Herrera David of the National Alliance for Coalition Concerns (NAFCON) informs us of the dire situation in Mindanao in her Commentary "Stop the Killings! No to Dictatorship in the Philippines!"

Lastly, be sure to read our regular columns. Atty. Reuben Seguritan submitted "National Interest Waiver is Shortcut to Green Card" and Ilokano writer Pacita Saludes' "No Madanon Ti Panagmurdong Ti Tawen," among others. We are grateful to have excellent columnists who have been with us for years. Saludes' Ilokano Dayasadas has been one of our longest running and popular columns. Thank you Pacita, as well as all our columnists, for your years of commitment to our community.

I'd like to close by thanking our readers and supporters for allowing the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle to be one of your main sources of news. We look forward to 2018 and welcome your continued support. We wish all of you to have a Happy and Prosperous New Year! Until next issue, warmest *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

and their nuclear-building program.

2017 also saw the rise of a coalition of people from all walks of life fighting back against the Trump tide. In 2018, this coalition will continue the fight to protect common decency and stand for the true values of our country.

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EDITORIALS

Save Net Neutrality and the Free Flow of The Internet as We Know It

Given the importance of the internet, any major change to regulation is bound to be met with heated opposition. The Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) recent 3-2 vote to repeal net neutrality protections puts in peril the future of a free, fair and open internet. The controversial ruling could just very well change the internet as we know it. To say the least, it is potentially a big game changer.

What is net neutrality? Approved in 2015 by the FCC, net neutrality requires that internet service providers (such as Verizon, AT&T, Comcast) must treat all online content the same and cannot speed up or slow down traffic from specific websites or apps, nor can they put their own content at an advantage over rivals. Many in the online com-

munity welcomed net neutrality, claiming it gives smaller companies, upstart companies an equal playing field to succeed. So, not-so-popular websites, niche websites that cater to audiences from volleyball to coin collecting, from alternative news to educational forums (the list is endless), could potentially be stalled or even blocked should internet service providers decide to.

Jessica Rosenworcel, one of the five-member FCC who voted against the repeal, said "They (internet providers) will have the power to block websites, the power to throttle services and the power to censor online content. They will have the right to discriminate and favor the internet traffic of those companies with whom they have a pay-for-play arrangement and the right to consign all others to a slow and

bumpy road."

A concern is that the internet will become like cable TV where set packages are sold to consumers at higher prices with limited services. It could transform the internet industry into an exclusively big corporation-friendly industry; and once again like in so many other industries -- push out of the market, small businesses that can no longer compete on equal footing. Small companies do not have the assets or liquidity to pay internet providers for faster delivery of content.

Consumers could be charged differently by user, content, website, platform, application, type of attached equipment or method of communication. There are so many other ways that internet service providers can charge internet users beyond current services like what occurs in the cable industry.

What this repeal does is open the door to online discrimination; and cannot possibly be better for internet users and consumers.

Ajit Pai, the FCC chairman who is a former employee of Verizon (internet service provider) favored the repeal as a way to get government from "micromanaging" and claims net neutrality hampers investments and innovation. Pai was appointed by President Donald Trump. The 3-2 vote was bipartisan. Pai and Republicans at the FCC claim ending net neutrality will allow companies like Verizon and AT&T to provide faster, cheaper internet to consumers.

But without regulation to keep the internet environment competitive as it stands today, what's to keep internet providers from changing their minds as the environment increasingly change to their favor in the future?

of Chairman Pai and the other Republican commissioners, there are no longer any rules in place to stop internet service providers from changing the internet as we know it. They are now free to block apps, slow websites, or even limit access to certain kinds of content. The best way to move forward is to turn our tweets and our comments into action."

U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard tweeted: "#NetNeutrality protects us from corporate censorship of information online. The FCC must not roll back this rule. We demand an equal, open internet."

Legal challenge: Another option is for net-neutrality supporters to sue. New York is among the first states that have filed a lawsuit. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said, "The FCC just gave Big Telecom an early Christmas present, by giving internet service providers yet another way to put corporate profits over consumers." Other state attorney generals are considering joining a class action suit; Hawaii's attorney general Doug Chin should do the same.

Join consumer advocates and internet users in stopping the repeal of net neutrality. Call on your congressional representatives and senators to act before it's too late and the free flow of the internet is changed. A world where access to information (which the internet provides) becomes increasingly available only to those who can afford it undermines democracy. Kudos to U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz and U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard for opposing the rollback of net neutrality and fighting on behalf of consumers.

The fight moves to Capitol Hill and the Courts

The fight to save the freedom of the internet has not ended by the FCC ruling. Supporters of net neutrality are urging Congress to halt the repeal, a move that has a slim chance to succeed given the current Republican majorities in Congress, unless a few Republicans join Democrats. The Congress has 60 legislative days to act on the FCC ruling. If they don't, this issue is yet another signal for voters to change the political landscape in this year's mid-term election.

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, a member of the Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, said "Because

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii's Minimum Wage Goes Up to \$10.00 this Year

Hawaii's minimum wage will increase to \$10.10 per hour beginning on Jan. 1, 2018, announced the the Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR). The wage increase was made possible by Act 82, Session Laws of Hawaii (2014). This is the fourth and final rise in the minimum wage since 2015: from \$7.25 to \$7.75 on Jan. 1, 2015, and to \$8.50 on Jan. 1, 2016, and \$9.25 on Jan. 1, 2017. Previously, the minimum wage had stayed the same for eight years (\$7.25 Jan. 1, 2007—Jan. 1, 2015).

"The Legislature also created a new administrative process for wage law along with a new, minimum \$500 penalty to act as a deterrent, and both employers and workers should be aware of the requirements under the law," said DLIR acting Director Leonard Hoshijo.

The Payment of Wages and Other Compensation Law, Chapter 388, Hawaii Revised Statutes, details the requirements of paying wages. Workers should be aware of the following requirements for employers:

- The rate of pay should be

given at the time of hiring, along with the time and place of payment,

- Any changes to payment agreements require advance notice either in writing or in a posting at the worksite,
- Paychecks are due at least twice a month,
- Paychecks should be issued within seven days after the end of the pay period, and
- Full wages are due at the time of termination.

For more information about payment of wages in Hawaii go to the Wage Standards Division website at labor.hawaii.gov/wsd or call 808-586-8777.

Workshop on Asking for A Raise

Thinking about asking for a raise this new year? AARP Hawaii and AAUW Honolulu are putting on Work Smart© workshops in Pearl City and Honolulu aimed at closing the gender wage gap on Jan. 21 at the Pearl City Library, 1138 Waimano Home Road from

1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. and on Feb. 1 in downtown Honolulu at the AARP Hawai'i office, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1920, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The workshops give women skills to build confidence and successfully negotiate salary, promotions and benefits. Research shows

women working full time are typically paid 80 percent of what men are paid. In Hawaii, the ratio is 83 percent, according to a 2015 AAUW study. Registration is required for the workshops. Call 545-6007 or go online to <https://aarp.cvent.com/worksmart2018>.

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COVER STORY

2017 Top Stories; A Turbulent, Divisive Year

By Edwin Quinabo

Editor's Note: 2017 was a compelling year for news that dramatically impacted our country and our community. The following year-in-review of top stories was covered by the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle as cover stories, editorials or news.

#1

Trump is president: January 20, 2017, was a defining point in U.S. history, a day of reckoning when perhaps the greatest salesman of our generation, Donald Trump, became the 45th president of the United States. His election -- unequivocally the top news story of the year -- gave rise to startling populism that widened the rift between white America, particularly disenfranchised whites, and everyone else on the margin: women, blacks, immigrants, Latinos, Asians, Muslims, the LGBT community in the most divisive way unseen in decades. Prior to this TV reality star's ascent to the most powerful seat in the free world, there already existed stark socio-political polarization among wide sectors of American society; but Trump has taken this division and exploited it to new, dangerous levels that continue to unravel the fabric of national unity.

Trump has never stopped campaigning; never made a transition as his predecessors, Republican or Democrat, to become a president for "all the people" of the nation. But realistically, how could he? -- given the radical right agenda he ran on that is so far right-wing, that even the likes of the KKK and white supremacists feel safe in this political environment to come out of the shadows as the world saw in Charlottesville, Virginia.

His version of "Make America Great Again" has not been simple rhetoric. His initiatives are turning back progress, rolling back policies in attempt to recreate an America of the 1950s, and earlier, to a time with far less im-

migrants of color.

#2, #3, #4 Barrage of anti-immigrant policies: POTUS has used nationalism (America-first) as a blunt tool to hammer into the American psyche the legitimization of xenophobia.

Policy-wise, this translated to the creation of Travel bans 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 (and counting), the RAISE Act, and the repeal of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program which were all deeply troubling to immigrants and immigrant advocates. These controversial initiatives, all covered extensively by the Chronicle each as cover stories, collectively put a stamp on 2017 as the year of anti-immigration.

Travel Ban: Trump signed by way of executive order the first Travel ban on January 27. Shortly after signing it, chaos erupted as hundreds of travelers were detained by custom agents at U.S. airports. Many of the detainees had a legal right to enter the U.S. as green card holders or students and workers with U.S. visas. But they were sent back to their country of origin because their country appeared on Travel Ban 1.0 that prohibited admission to the U.S. all non-U.S. citizens from seven predominately Muslim countries -- Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for 90 days.

Trump claimed national security as the reason behind



the Travel ban, assuring the public that it was not a ban on Muslims. Immigrant advocate groups, the ACLU and states quickly sued the Trump administration. Hawaii joined those suing and cited that the Travel ban favored one religion over another in violation of the First Amendment, and that it denies protection of the law by discriminating based on national origin.

University of Hawaii professor Patricio Abinales worried about the scope of the ban. "I know the executive order only targets selected countries. But this could easily be expanded to other countries and broadly interpreted."

What Abinales and others feared turned out to be right as Travel ban 2.0 and 3.0 added and deleted countries from the list and expanded the time limitation from 30 days to indefinitely. Travel ban 1.0 failed in the courts and was rewritten to exclude legal visa-holding immigrants from entering the U.S. even if they are from banned countries. The U.S. Supreme Court granted that the latest Travel ban be in effect while the courts decide on pending legal challenges.

RAISE Act: While the

Travel bans received tons of press coverage, the introduction by the GOP and support by POTUS of the 2017 RAISE Act had the potential for far more sweeping consequences on immigration. The RAISE Act was stalled in Congress this time around; but it remains on Trump's "to-do" list and anti-immigration PACs (Political Action Committees) continue to put out advertisements against certain forms of legal immigration. What the RAISE Act proposes is to cut legal immigration by half; do away with immigration via extended families ties, the largest way of entrance into the U.S.; and emphasizes a merit-based points-system of entry where English proficiency is required and high levels of education. Curiously, the number of entry by this merit-based system would not be raised from current levels. So, the end goal is really to reduce legal immigration; and the Trump administration is deceptively selling immigration reform to the public as going after the best and quality immigrant candidates.

Trump called the RAISE Act, "the most significant re-

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, 2017...)

form to our immigration system in half a century,” adding “this legislation demonstrates our compassion for struggling American families who deserve an immigration system that puts their needs first and that puts America first.”

The Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect called the RAISE Act an “ethnic purity test that harkens to the worst in world history.”

The National Immigration Forum said the country is already projected to face a workforce gap of 7.5 million jobs by 2020. “Cutting legal immigration for the sake of cutting immigration would cause irreparable harm to the American worker and their family,” said Ali Noorani, the group’s executive director.

As if barring visitors from select countries via Travel bans and proposing to reduce immigration by 50 percent via the RAISE Act weren’t damaging enough to immigrants in 2017, the year also saw increased hiring of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents, more arrests and massive deportations of undocumented aliens. There is also the ongoing push for the building of a southern border wall which some critics believe is more symbolic of anti-immigrant sentiments than practical.

DACA rescinded: Arguably the most egregious attack on immigrants this year is the Trump administration’s rescinding of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) on September 2017. About 800,000 signed up for the DACA program which allowed undocumented immigrants who came into the country as minors (mostly as young children) to receive a two-year deferred action from deportation. Because DACA was scrapped by Trump, these individuals, often referred to as Dreamers, now face deportation unless Congress comes up with legislation to address this subgroup of undocumented.

Earlier in the year, POTUS suggested that DACA would remain intact and that Dreamers could breathe a sigh



Militants protesting Pres. Duterte’s martial law in Mindanao

of relief. At that time, Charlene Cuaresma, vice president of the Filipino American Citizens League said, “Rather than fixing and improving our broken immigration system, President Trump’s erratic positions and statements create tremendous fear, stress, confusion and mistrust for DACA students and their families. DACA students who are allowed to complete their college education stand to be an asset for their families and the economy with the likelihood of increasing their earning potential.”

Come September, Trump changed his mind, caved in to political pressure from his far-right base, and squashed the Dreamers’ dream of staying in the country by rescinding DACA. U.S. Senator Kamala Harris (D-Ca) said, “Every single day that we don’t pass the Dream Act, is another day these young people have to live in fear. Congress must pass the DREAM Act now.”

#5 Martial Law in the Philippines: The biggest news to come out of the Philippines in 2017 is the declaration of martial law. Gun battles erupted between Philippine government forces and the Islamist militant group Maute in Marawi City, Mindanao at 2 p.m., May 23. By evening the same day, the government said that 14 hostages were taken, including a Catholic priest, parts of the city of 200,000 were controlled by insurgents, including the Amai Pakpak Medical Center, City Hall, and Marawi City Jail. Other facilities -- the Dansalan College and Saint Mary’s Church -- were set ablaze. Residents throughout the city reportedly heard mul-

iple explosions. Marawi was under siege. At least 21 people have been reported killed in the initial violent outbreak. Within a few days casualties have risen as high as 200 dead and 70,000 residents displaced. On the same day of the insurgency, President Rodrigo Duterte declared at 11:30 p.m., martial law not just in Marawi City, but the entire Mindanao.

Urged on by Duterte, the Philippine Congress recently voted to extend martial law for another year in Mindanao to combat insurgent groups. The latest figure shows more than 1,100 people dead and half a million displaced. The number of fatalities and displaced skyrocketed in just seven months. While Philippine polls show that a majority are in favor of martial law in Mindanao; a majority do not support an expansion of martial law to other parts of the country.

#6, #7, #8 Senior issues: Like immigrant issues, the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle covered senior-related issues extensively in 2017, presenting cover stories on the Kupuna Caregivers Program, the proposed Physician Assisted Suicide bills at the State Legislature, and updates to Medicare.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program was a momentous victory for seniors and their family caregivers. The program, the only one of its kind in the nation, received mass support by the community and legislature. Governor David Ige signed HB 607 into law in July 2017, appropriating \$600,000 to establish the program. The program helps working families care for their elderly member by providing a \$70 a day stipend to go to-

wards adult day care, caregiving supplies, chore services, transportation, or respite help. To qualify for the program, caregivers must be working at least 30 hours per week and provide direct care to a recipient who is a U.S. citizen, 60 years of age or older (needing care), and not be covered by other comparable care services, government or private.

Given the shortage and high cost of private care home facilities and senior adult living centers, the Kupuna Caregivers Program provides Hawaii seniors the additional option to be cared for at home. The stipend makes this possible and eases some of the financial burden families must make to care for Hawaii’s elderly. The State’s Executive Office of Aging (EOA) is currently accepting applications.

Physician Assisted Suicide: Hawaii state lawmakers came close to passing a medical aid in dying or physician assisted suicide bill (SB1129) this year. It passed the full Senate but was deferred in the House Health Committee by chairwoman Rep. Della Au Bellati who had concerns over safeguards, record-keeping, and physician training to be able to prescribe for aid in dying. While the bill was put on hold this session, the bill is likely to be taken up next year.

Sen. Karl Rhoads, who introduced SB 1129, said the bill

will be alive next session. “It won’t have to start over. The House Health Committee could rehear it if they choose to. The language could be changed, but the current version has more safeguards than the Oregon law which has been in effect for 20 years. There are other tweaks that could be usefully made, but fundamentally the bill is fine as is.”

Medicare 2017: Medicare is perhaps the single-most important issue highly valued by seniors; yet it seems to be in constant danger. Prior to 2017, there were serious talks by Republicans of turning it into a privatized voucher system that would place a greater financial burden on the shoulder of beneficiaries. But 2017 was safe from any major overhaul; the program underwent slight increases in premiums, deductibles and copayments for some plans. That said, as late as December this year, with the passage of the GOP Tax bill that slashes corporate taxes and adds over \$1.5 trillion to an already massive national deficit, there are talks in the halls of Congress that Republicans’ next major move is to lower the deficit by making cuts to social programs, and possibly to Medicare and Medicaid.

#9 Housing Shortage and Homelessness: Hawaii’s unrivaled year-round sunny

(continued on page 10)



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COMMENTARY

Why I Voted Against the Partisan Corporate-Handout Tax Bill

by Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

Ovoted against the Republicans' tax reform plan, for the second time, which will raise taxes on millions of low and middle-class families, reward corporations and top wage-earners with permanent, massive tax breaks, and add over \$1.46 trillion to the national deficit. After requiring a re-vote in the House due to technical change requirements discovered by the Senate last night, the House passed H.R. 1 again today by a vote of 224-201.

This tax bill was written by and for lobbyists and the corporations who sign their paychecks, without consideration of the lasting impact it will have on low-income and

middle-class families who are struggling just to make ends meet - the reality for so many Hawai'i families and millions more nationwide. It should be no surprise that with this legislation, the top 1% in our country will receive over 82 percent of the tax benefit.

While industry giants see the largest corporate tax cut in American history made permanent, 86 million low and middle-class families will pay higher taxes in eight years than they do today.

In Hawai'i, where the average cost of a single-family home is well over \$700,000, lowering the mortgage interest deduction means many local families will find it even more difficult to achieve their dreams of homeownership in our home state, as the cost of living continues to rise.

As long as Congressional leaders continue to pass legislation rushed through for partisan political reasons, where lobbyists have more input in writing this legislation than many Members of Congress, with no effort whatsoever to enact true bipartisan reform, in the end, the American people lose. This legislation is a disappointment, and a lost opportunity to truly help millions of Americans in need."

Harmful provisions in the final version of the tax bill include:

Dismantling the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction, which will effectively raise taxes on those who will no longer benefit from the deduction. Under current law, the SALT deduction is unlimited, but this legislation limits the deductions of both individuals and couples up to only \$10,000, while allowing cor-

porations and pass-through entities to continue claiming the unlimited deduction.

Creating billions of dollars in environmentally harmful fossil fuel subsidies and tax loopholes while putting incentives for clean energy in jeopardy.

Permanently lowering corporate taxes rates to 21 percent-- the largest one-time corporate tax cut in US history--while making tax cuts for some middle class families temporary. By 2026, over 86 million low and middle-class families will pay higher taxes than they do.

Cutting taxes for the America's top wage earners by nearly three percent and raising the threshold at which that tax rate kicks in to \$500,000 for individuals and \$600,000 for married couples.

Laying the foundation for a \$136 billion cut to manda-

tory programs in FY2018 alone—including a mandatory \$25 billion cut to Medicare—to cover the offset of the \$1.46 trillion dollar increase to our national deficit. In Hawai'i, 245,000 people receive health-care through Medicare.

Reducing the limit on the mortgage interest deduction, further exacerbating the affordable housing crisis in Hawai'i.

Background:

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard has fought to protect the hard-earned paychecks of low and middle income Americans and against corporate tax breaks throughout her time in Congress. She voted against the Republicans' corporate giveaway tax bill in the House and called on the conference committee to serve and protect hardworking American families.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

State Judiciary Seeking Court Interpreters

The Hawai'i State Judiciary Court Interpreter Certification Program ("Certification Program") announced the 2018 court interpreter workshops for individuals who are proficient with English and a second language to become qualified to interpret in the Hawai'i State Courts. The deadline to register for the basic orientation workshop is January 31, 2018.

Offered only once a year statewide, the Basic Orientation Workshop (BOW) is the first mandatory event in the Certification Program. The BOW is a two-day seminar



that provides an introduction to court interpreting, ethics, and the role of the interpreter in court. Applicants must attend the BOW in order to become qualified to interpret in the Hawai'i State Courts.

The dates are O'ahu: February 24-25, 2018 (Sat./Sun.) OR March 24-25, 2018 (Sat./Sun.) Kaua'i: February

13-14, 2018 (Tue./Wed.) Maui: February 28-March 1, 2018 (Wed./Thu.) Kona: March 6-7, 2018 (Tue./Wed.) Hilo: March 15-16, 2018 (Thu./Fri.)

Court Interpreters service the courts as independent contractors and receive: compensation starting at \$25.00/hour with potential rate increases up to \$55.00/hour; roundtrip mileage reimbursement at \$.55 per mile; exemption from expired meter parking ticket while on assignment; and commuter time payment, if applicable.

Interpreters must be at

least 18 years of age, be authorized to work in the United States, and possess a Hawai'i General Excise Tax License. The Certification Program requires all interpreters to attend a two-day orientation work-

shop, pass a written English proficiency exam and basic ethics exam, and clear a criminal background check.

For more information, call the Hawai'i State Judiciary, Office on Equality and Access to the Courts (808) 539-4860.

Ninth Circuit Court Rules Travel Ban 3.0 Violates Immigration Laws

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Hawaii in *Hawaii v Trump*. The federal court upholds a nationwide injunction against President Donald Trump's revised travel ban, dated September 24, 2017, which seeks to ban immigration and many visitor visas for the citizens of six Muslim-majority countries. Because of a prior order issued by the Supreme Court, the travel ban will, however, remain in effect for the time being.

"Once again, Hawaii's

spirit of 'ohana prevails - that nobody gets left behind and nobody gets targeted for unfair discrimination," said Attorney General Doug Chin. "I have always believed that the rule of law, reinforced by Hawaii's values, will win the day. Make no mistake: our values of diversity and inclusion are America's values, and they will light the way even through our darkest of hours."

The court declared that the "proclamation functions as an executive override of broad swaths of immigration

(continued on page 7)

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WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Ten Most Common Errors in Filing Immigration Petitions

The USCIS should print at the beginning of each immigration form a checklist that must be complied with by petitioners to avoid the petition being rejected, returned, or the petitioner being asked to submit additional evidence. Here are the most common errors in filing immigration petitions.

1. Failure to sign the form. The Petitioner or preparer should place a tab or sticker "Sign Here" next to the line for signature.
2. Failure to remit to USCIS the filing fee or to remit the correct filing fee. Some petitions (such as Form I-90, Form I-131, and Form N-400) require a biometrics service fee, which must be added to the basic filing fee.
3. Failure to respond to every question or fill up every item. If the question is not applicable to petitioner or beneficiary, the petitioner should write "Not Applica-

ble" or "N/A". If the question calls for a specific answer like a number (How many times has the beneficiary been married?), the correct response is a number, like 1, 2, etc. Do not write "N/A". If the space is insufficient for an answer, attach a sheet of paper and write on the top the Form No. ___ ; Name of Petitioner; Page Number, Part Number, and Item number to which the answer refers.

4. Failure to submit required evidence and supporting documents to establish eligibility for the petition. The Instructions for each form specifies such evidence and supporting documents that are required. However, the list may not be complete.
5. Failure to submit all required USCIS forms to accompany the principal form. For instance, in a Petition for Alien Relative, the petitioner must file Form I-131. In addition, petitioner must file Form I-130A, Supplemental Information for Spouse Beneficiary; and two G-325 Biographic Informa-

tion forms, one for petitioner and one for the beneficiary.

6. Failure to determine whether the petitioner or the beneficiary is eligible for the benefit sought. For example, a lawful permanent resident or green card holder is not eligible to file a petition for an alien parent.
7. Failure to read or follow all the instructions for the particular form.
8. Failure to understand the question. For instance, there was a Filipino who answered "Yes" to the question in an Application for Naturalization: "Have you EVER claimed to be a U.S. citizen (in writing or any other way)? His Application was denied. He claimed that he thought the question was asking him whether he wants to claim to be a U.S. citizen.
9. Making false statements or misrepresentations in the application form. For instance, a woman misstated her age in an Application for Adjustment of Status by claiming she was born in 1970 but USCIS found her birth certificate show-

ing she was actually born in 1964. She was placed in removal proceedings. Her first lawyer asked for a fraud waiver, which in effect admitted that she committed fraud. The IJ denied the waiver request and ordered her deported. On appeal, her new counsel argued that the misstatement was immaterial because whether she was born in 1970 or 1964, she was more than 18 years old when she married her husband in 1998 and therefore was eligible to marry him. The new lawyer also charged the first lawyer as ineffective for admitting fraud. The case is pending appeal.

10. Failure to carefully read the Form and the response to every question or item, but simply relying on the preparer to answer every question correctly. For instance there was a petitioner who relied on a nonlawyer preparer to fill up her petition for her son. The preparer put an X before the box "Single, Never married." The petition was approved. When the beneficiary was interviewed at the U.S. Consulate, he said that he was

married and presented his marriage certificate so that his wife could travel with him. The consul asked him why his petition stated that he was "Single, Never married." He asked his petitioner mother who wrote to the U.S. Consulate that she had told the preparer that his son was married and that she did not know why the preparer put X before the box "Single, Never married." She said she did not read the petition before signing it. The consul denied the visa application for fraud or misrepresentation, saying the petitioner was bound by what was written on the petition, whether the petitioner read it or not.

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 inized United States citizen

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 3, NINTH CIRCUIT....)

laws that Congress has used its considered judgment to enact[,]” and noted that “[t]he Executive cannot without assent of Congress supplant its statutory scheme with one stroke of a presidential pen.” The court further explained in its order today that:

For the third time, Hawaii challenged the legality of the President’s efforts to bar over 150 million nationals of six Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States or being issued immigrant visas that they would ordinarily be qualified to receive.

- [The President’s] powers ... are not without limit. We conclude that the President’s issuance of

the Proclamation once again exceeds the scope of his delegated authority. The Government’s interpretation ... not only upends the carefully crafted immigration scheme Congress has embodied in the [Immigration and Nationality Act], but it deviates from the text of the statute, legislative history, and prior executive practice as well.

- The notion that the Proclamation is unreviewable “runs contrary to the fundamental structure of our constitutional democracy.”

The court also noted that: The Government argues that

the President, at any time and under any circumstances, could bar entry of all aliens from any country, and ... [not] even the Supreme Court itself—would have Article III jurisdiction to review ... we doubt whether the Government’s position could be adopted without running roughshod over the principles of separation of powers enshrined in our Constitution.

On December 6, 2017, the State of Hawaii argued in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in support of Hawaii federal district court Judge Derrick K. Watson’s order enjoining President Trump’s latest travel ban nationwide, based on Hawaii’s argument that the ban violates federal immigration laws.

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Greetings from the Management & Staff of the
Hawaii Filipino Chronicle

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Sakadas Honored at Philippine Consulate General in Hawaii

The Philippine Consulate General in Hawaii held its 3rd Sakada Day Celebration, honoring four sakadas: Tomas Agarpao Fermin Baguio, Fred Camero, and Flaviana Matute. The four came to Hawaii to work in the sugar and pineapple industries and eventually paved the way for Filipino migration to Hawaii. Sakada Day pays tribute to the Filipino migrants (sakadas) who came to Hawaii to work in medical, hospitality, tourism, construction, and other service professions.

To honor the 4 living sakadas, certificates were given to each sakada by the Philippine Consulate General, the Government of the State of Hawaii, the Offices of US Representative Tulsi Gabbard and Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell.

Attending the event were Hawaii State Officials led by Hawaii Governor David Ige and First Lady Mrs. Dawn Ige; Hawaii state legislators Senators Donna Mercado Kim and Will Espero, Representatives



Consul General Gina Jamoralin honoring sakadas, their families, and welcoming dignitaries and guests at the 3rd Sakada Day Celebration.



This year's sakada honorees with their families, Gov. David Ige and wife, Dawn, and Consul General Jamoralin during the sakada celebration at the Philippine Consulate General in Hawaii.

Romy Cachola, Ty Cullen, Gene Ward, Henry Aquino and Matthew Lo Presti; and Marshall Islands Consul General Neijon Edwards.

The 3rd Sakada Day celebration was also held in commemoration of the 110th year since the arrival of the first 15 sakadas to Hawaii on December 20, 1906.

Philippine Consul General Gina Jamoralin expressed her appreciation to Hawaii Govern-

nor David Ige and the Hawaii State Legislature for unanimously supporting the signing of the Sakada Bill that designated December 20 of every year as "Sakada Day."

The Sakada Day celebrations have become a statewide activity. The Filipino community in the Big Island, Maui and Lanao have their own Sakada Day celebration every year.

Governor Ige expressed appreciation to the sakadas and Filipinos, noting that they form the backbone of Hawaii's economy and culture. Filipinos, he

said, who make up the largest ethnic group in the state, are at the heart of Hawaii's tourism and health industries, bringing with them the Filipino values of family, hard work and perseverance, which contribute to Hawaii's development.

Tyler dos Santos-Tam, a fifth generation Sakada descendant and Hawaii's 2017 delegate to the annual Filipino American Youth Leadership Program (FYLP) also said a few words on what it means to be a sakada descendant for today's Filipino American youth.

Atty. Donnie Juan, Executive Director of the Filipino Community Center, closed the program with a speech on the Filipino community's efforts to make the annual Sakada Day celebrations possible. A rendition of an original piece, "The Sakada Song" by Marie Tedios, concluded the celebration.

The Sakada Day celebration was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC), Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO), the Filipino Community Center, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH), Aklan Cultural Society, Philippine Press Club of Hawaii, the Knights of Rizal (KOR) Hawaii Chapter, the Filipino Community Center and other sponsors.

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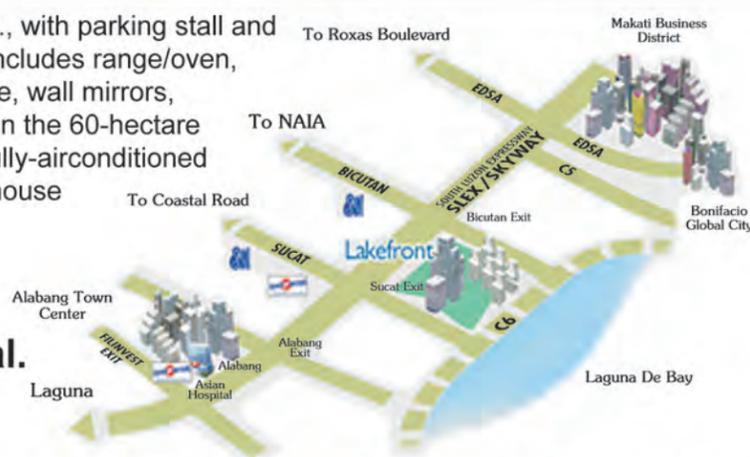
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TAX REFORM UPDATE

A Guide to 2017 Tax Cuts

Now that the 2017 Tax Cuts and Job Act has passed both houses of Congress and signed on December 22, 2017 by President Trump, the following are highlights of many of the provisions that will affect individuals, families, and, companies:

For individuals and families:

- Lowers individual taxes and sets the rates at 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35%, and 37%.
- Significantly increases the standard deduction from \$6,350 and \$12,700 under current law to \$12,000 and \$24,000 for individuals

and married couple, respectively.

- Continues to allow people to write off the cost of state and local taxes up to \$10,000.
- Expands the Child Tax Credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for single filers and married couples. The tax credit is fully refundable up to \$1,400 and begins to phase-out for families making over \$400,000.
- Preserves the mortgage interest deduction. For all homeowners with existing mortgages that were taken out to buy a home by December 15, 2017, there will be no change to the current mortgage interest deduc-

tion. For homeowners with new mortgages on a first or second home, the home mortgage interest deduction will be available up to \$750,000.

- Expands the medical expense deduction for 2018 and 2019 for medical expenses exceeding 7.5% of adjusted gross income; and rising to 10% beginning in 2020.
- Continues and expands the deduction for charitable contributions.
- Eliminates Obamacare's individual mandate penalty tax.
- Maintains the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Retains popular retirement

savings options such as 401(k)s and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

- Increases the exemption amount from the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT).
- Provides immediate relief from the Estate Tax by doubling the amount of the current exemption.

For companies of all sizes:

- Lowers the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% (beginning in January 1, 2018).
- *May offer qualified individuals a deduction up to 20% of qualified business income earned by businesses organized as S corporations, partnerships, LLCs, and sole proprietorships.
- Allows businesses to im-

mediately write off the full cost of new equipment.

- Protects the ability of small businesses to write off interest on loans.
- Retains the low-income housing tax credit.
- Preserves the Research & Development Tax Credit.
- Retains the tax-preferred status of private-activity bonds.
- Eliminates the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax.
- Modernizes our international tax system.
- Makes it easier for American businesses to bring home foreign earnings.

Source: Bank of Hawaii

This article is for general and educational purposes only. Consult your tax professional for further details.

COVER STORY (from page 5, 2017....)

weather, minimal land space, skyrocketing real estate, runaway rent prices, low affordable inventory, and lower waged, service-based economy all combine to create a statewide housing shortage and the nation's highest per-capita homelessness problem. Just how bad is Hawaii's housing crunch? The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism projected in a study that the state will need 64,700 to 66,000 new housing units for the 2015-2025 period. In the county of Honolulu alone, that demand is 25,847 for the same period.

Gavin Thornton, co-executive director of Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, said a \$2 billion housing development effort is needed. "It's going to require some pretty drastic action like that if you want to make some real progress," said Thornton.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU): The state, private sector, counties and community realize more must be done. The Chronicle reported on one program run by the City and County of Honolulu that can help to alleviate the housing shortage -- the Accessory

Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance. Administered by the City's Department of Planning and Permitting, Hawaii homeowners can apply for a permit to build an ADU unit on their property to be rented out. As its name suggests, an ADU is an accessory dwelling to the main house on a property or a second dwelling unit with its own kitchen, bedroom and bathroom facilities. The ADU may be connected to the main house or detached. Unlike the Ohana dwelling property that most residents already know about, ADUs are not restricted to occupancy of family members. Non-family members can live in an ADU.

Aiea resident Serafin Colmenares, health coordinator for the State Health Planning and Development Agency, believes ADUs can definitely help with Hawaii's housing shortage and high rentals. "I think it is a good idea. It enables extended families to live together and strengthen family cohesiveness. It also will help families to save money. It could also be an income opportunity for people who have extra space to rent out. As a homeowner, I would be willing to build an ADU. If I were a renter, I wouldn't mind living in an ADU in my child's house. This is especially beneficial for older people who live on fixed incomes," said Colmenares.

#10, #11, #12, #13 Community Events: 2017 was another year that the community came out with strong support for big community events. The Chronicle dedicated cover stories for the Filipino Fiesta, Doctors-On-Stage Production of "Downtrodden," Waipahu Town's 120th year anniversary, and the Pasko celebrations of the FilCom Center and Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) Hawaii.

Filipino Fiesta: This year's Filipino Fiesta marked its 25th year anniversary. To give a perspective of how long the fiesta has been around, 25 years ago George H.W. Bush (the first one) just lost the presidency to Bill Clinton. Since the inception of the Filipino Fiesta, it has been the biggest event for the Filipino community to come together and share its culture and pride with the rest of the state.

Doctors-On-Stage: Every two years, Doctors-On-Stage presents a musical production to benefit the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW), a non-profit organization which gives free medical and dental services to underserved immigrants and uninsured Hawaii residents. This year, Doctors-On-Stage presented "Downtrodden," the seventh musical production put together and performed by physicians, medical profes-

sionals, and their family and friends. Organizers said it was a record-breaking fundraising year for the event; and the production held up to its usual top caliber standard.

Current president of BCWW Dr. Russell Tacata said "Since BCWW continues to survive despite a lack of government funding, through Doctors-On-Stage, we are able to generate funds to continue our mission of service to immigrant and homeless individuals who cannot afford medical insurance."

Waipahu Town 120th Anniversary: On Saturday, November 18, thousands of Waipahu and residents across the island came together for one grand extravaganza, the event-of-events in Waipahu to celebrate the town's anniversary at August Ahrens Elementary School. Henry Aquino, Executive Director of WCA, said of the anniversary "this is a milestone that is momentous for our community. Waipahu has always been a place of rich heritage that is deeply rooted from our plantation past. To be a part of this celebration means a lot and gives all residents of today to look back and to see how far we've come."

The Waipahu Community Association and its collaborating partners Leeward YMCA, the FilCom Center and

(continued on page 13)



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FEATURE

Is It Time for Will Espero for Lt. Governor?

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

It's been 31 years since we had a Filipino in high office in Hawaii, and Senator Will Espero believes it is time we give another Filipino that honor. Ben Cayetano has the distinction of being the first Filipino American to serve as a U.S. governor, from 1994 to 2002. Before that, he was Gov. John Waihee's Lt. Governor, from 1986 to 1994. That's the office Senator Espero hopes to win in 2018.

Governor Cayetano appointed Espero to the state House of Representatives in December 1999, to fill the vacancy when Paul Oshiro resigned from office to take a position in the private sector. Espero had been the Executive Secretary of the City and County of Honolulu's Neighborhood Board Commission, a post Mayor Frank Fasi appointed him to in 1987, when Will was 26. He was the youngest person to serve in that position. In 2002, he sought the Senate seat, which contained 80% of his House district, and won. He has served as senator for the Ewa district since then.

Espero's upbringing was like many Filipinos whose fathers served in the U.S. military. Victor Espero, his father, is from Bacnotan, La Union, and dedicated 21 years in the U.S. Navy. Paulina Espero, his mother, is a licensed practical nurse from Santiago, Ilocos Sur. Espero was born in Yokosuka, Japan, one of his dad's early tours of duty. Will and his brother grew up living around the world wherever the Navy sent his dad. Besides Japan, Victor Espero's overseas tours included Naples, Italy, and Guantanamo, Cuba. Stateside, Victor was assigned to duty posts to Jacksonville, Florida; Athens, Georgia; Norfolk, Virginia; Vallejo, California, and Oak Harbor, Washington. Will graduated from Oak Harbor High School, then attended Seattle University, earning a Bachelor

of Science in Business Management in 1982.

In Victor's final tours of duty, his talent as a chef earned him a coveted spot cooking for the officers, including the admirals. After completing a career in the Navy, Victor and Paulina settled in California and became entrepreneurs. They put their skills and training to use and opened a restaurant and catering service, as well as a care home. Cooking up and serving meals for customers in a successful family eatery and food service required the family to work hard for long hours every day. Paulina and Victor decided to retire and enjoy their golden years, closed the businesses, and moved to Hawaii.

Will moved to Hawaii in 1982, after graduating from college. Working in the private sector for several years, he learned the very practical side of business in the finance and banking industry, property management, and local home development, and non-profit sector at the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii.

Will's chairmanship of the Senate committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, gave him face recognition to Hawaii residents. Whenever there were issues with the armed services or happenings in the prisons, reporters came to Will for comment. One of those military matters is an educational and memorial center at the site of one of the larger World War II internment camps, so that the lessons of history can be conveyed to generations without their own memories of it. If you drive up to Kunia, up to the stretch where Walmart is, the internment site is hidden away in the agricultural lands across Kunia Road. The ruins of the camp were discovered several years ago. For several years, Will pushed for an educational commemorative facility, finally succeeding in 2012 in obtaining funding for an advisory group on how best to present the lessons of WWII at the former internment camp.



Sen. Will Espero

Will introduced more than 100 bills in his 18 years in the Legislature. He has been a strong advocate and champion for affordable housing, ending homelessness, reforming law enforcement and the correctional system, building an aerospace industry in Hawaii, and supporting culture and the arts.

Will's close proximity to the homelessness problem and the military industry gives him a working knowledge of these two areas that so press on Hawaii. A Senate staffer once jokingly chided Will's younger son Jason for not dressing up in a suit and tie for the Legislature's Opening Day ceremonies. Jason responded, "I work with the homeless. This is good clothes." Will is well aware of the hardships faced by the homeless in trying to come back into the mainstream, thanks for Jason's daily efforts to help them. Elder son Sean is a captain in the Marine Corps.

The 2010 Census showed a remarkable shift in Hawaii's demographics. Filipinos surpassed Caucasians as the most populous ethnic group. Filipinos, like other East Asian nations, share a culture that puts emphasis on family, respecting elders, taking care of children, and being strong on marriage. Filipinos are notable for their self sacrifice and perseverance in less than favorable conditions. Filipinos

work hard, live frugally, and send their earnings to their families back home in the Philippines, in money and large boxes of food and other necessities. With the cultural characteristic of compassion, the majority of care homes on Oahu are operated by Filipinos, making consistently one of the best places for seniors in nationwide rankings. Tourism, our chief industry, rests on the humility of Filipinos, who are willing to keep the hotels clean for visitors, a dependence that snowballs to benefit for thousands of others whose jobs depend on those tourists. Filipino culture also places importance on education, resulting in high numbers of doctors and nurses and other professionals.

These positive cultural characteristics tend to keep us from elected office, not wanting to call attention to ourselves and working in direct interaction vocations. In the Judicial branch, only three Filipinos have reached appointment to the Hawaii State Supreme Court: Benjamin Menor, Mario Ramil, and Simeon Acoba. In the upcoming election for Lieutenant Governor in 2018, voter turnout will be a key factor, Will says. The Filipino community in Hawaii would be well served to unite for a common goal of electing someone of our culture to higher office. It is through helping our own to "reach the top" that our values and approaches can be put to good use in solving the problems facing our state.

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Dr. Jon Avery Go is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and underwent training at the Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence, Rhode Island which is affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

A Twitter Diet Not Among Trump Resolutions

the year, Trump recklessly made statements on his official Twitter account that call in to question his leadership, public trust in American institutions, and even trust in the very democracy which he is supposedly honor bound to defend and uphold.

To anyone who thought all Trump needed was time to get his presidential sea legs in a trial first year, well, the full year is just about up and Trump still thinks he's auditioning for a prime time slot on Fox News.

But the latest tweet about North Korea's Kim Jong Un shows Trump style is not ready for the world stage.

It was irresponsible and potentially dangerous.

<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/94835557022420992>

Donald J. Trump Verified account @realDonaldTrump North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un just stated that the "Nuclear Button is on his desk at all times." Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!

4:49 PM - 2 Jan 2018

Comparing size of buttons?

It's childish, school yard bully rhetoric unbecoming of a United States president.

But it's also disrespectful in a racist way. Trump is bigger and better? Because he's whiter and American? His "button" works?

It's a shameful, macho and belligerent tone that mirrors Trump's Access Hollywood pussy grabbing language that Trump dismissed as "locker room talk."

It surely isn't presidential talk.

Trump fans might say he's just "keeping it real."

Sure, if Trump thinks he's a right-wing talk show host, that's fine. Or a right wing columnist.

But he's more than that. He's not the commentator. He's the prime subject. He's in the most powerful position in the world. He's supposed to be the moral and political leader of everything.

Instead, he's none of that. He's our selfish divider-in-chief denigrating the office of the presidency and the image of the U.S.

In the Philippines, where North Korea is no joke, Trump's loose lips must be unnerving.

The RP has Duterte so maybe Trump's bombasts seem like nothing.

But how can you read Trump's anti-diplomatic tweets and not think we are closer to some kind of altercation with every utterance?

Surely, it helps to justify Duterte cozying up to China. The U.S. under Trump hardly

seems reliable. Can you blame Duterte for being so pro-China? In a selfish Trump world, it's the only thing to do.

Indeed, there's much in the first day tweets to indicate that we are in a new realm in world democracy when the very model for the Philippines and the world starts sounding as if it feels dictatorship may not be so bad.

In the other alarming tweet of the day, Trump called into question Hillary Clinton's top aide, Huma Abedin, with a loose and slanderous allegation, and then suggested be put in jail.

That's exactly what dictators do to political opponents.

Donald J. Trump Verified account @realDonaldTrump FollowingFollowing @realDonaldTrump

(continued on page 15)

Happy New Year to all you Filipinos in the immediate crosshairs of North Korea.

Take the attack drills seriously. The tweet rattling is getting crazy.

Just a few days into 2018 and we already know that among Donald Trump's resolutions was nothing about an end to his potentially dangerous habit of tweeting.

Trump's latest tweets continue to alarm anyone who feels the president of the United States should be without question the most trusted man in the world.

Instead, we begin the new year with more of what we hoped would end when Trump got a much needed, last minute legislative victory on taxes at the end of 2017.

But why should we have expected a new sense of grace and dignity from the lowballing Trump administration?

Trump's the indiscriminate and loutish president who feels he's above it all. Unfortunately, this is all we can ever expect.

In the first business day of

CROSSWORD by Carlito Lalicon

ACROSS

- 1. Ardor
- 5. Abstruse
- 9. Higher of two berths
- 14. Dalai _____
- 15. Related to the anus
- 16. Green
- 17. Checked out
- 18. Forum wear
- 19. Acknowledged
- 20. To a minimal degree
- 22. Grassy plain
- 23. Lemur of Madagascar
- 24. Artist's stand
- 26. Hack
- 29. Camp defended by a circular formation of wagons
- 33. Sweetened cream beaten with wine or liquor
- 38. Hesitant
- 39. Assortment
- 40. Cleaning implement for sweeping
- 42. All there
- 43. Eliminate
- 45. Howled
- 47. Vomiting
- 48. Shag rug made in Sweden
- 49. Red fluorescent dye
- 52. About to explode
- 57. Like some talk
- 60. Flattened
- 63. Certain école

DOWN

- 1. Fragrant resin
- 2. Stash away
- 3. Change, as the Constitution
- 4. Low point
- 5. Computer info
- 6. Carbon compound
- 7. American symbol
- 8. Level spot temporarily covered with water which subsequently becomes dry by evaporation
- 9. Dirty
- 10. Mattress consisting of a thin pad filled with straw or sawdust
- 11. Falafel bread
- 12. Equal
- 13. Change
- 21. Flexible mineral
- 25. Indicative of poverty
- 27. Superior
- 28. Seed vessel having hooks or prickles
- 30. Cluster bean
- 31. Sea bird

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57	58	59				60	61	62					
63						64				65			
66						67				68			
69						70						71	

- 64. Decorated, as a cake
- 65. Opening time, maybe
- 66. Soul (Hinduism)
- 67. Advocate
- 68. Grab (onto)
- 69. Larceny
- 70. Bungle, with "up"
- 71. Europe's highest volcano

- 32. Kind of organ
- 33. Achy
- 34. Cosmology matter
- 35. Citrus fruit
- 36. Unbound
- 37. Son
- 41. Propel, in a way
- 44. Characterized by violence or bloodshed
- 46. Cardinal
- 50. Hipbone
- 51. Bead material
- 53. Cooktop
- 54. Inclined
- 55. Join securely
- 56. Swelling
- 57. Bed board
- 58. Don't believe it
- 59. Climax
- 61. Millions
- 62. March time

(Solution will be on Chronicle's next issue)

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VILMA D. FUENTES, Doctor of Physical Therapy

LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

National Interest Waiver is Shortcut to Green Card

difficult process. However, the requirement to obtain the labor certification may be waived if the EB-2 worker can show that the waiver is in the national interest of the United States.

In 1998, a framework for evaluating national interest waiver petitions was established by the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The framework required that the petitioner showed: that the area of employment is of “substantial intrinsic merit”; that any proposed benefit from the individual’s endeavors was “national in scope”; and that the national interest would be adversely affected if a labor certification were required for the foreign national.

In a recent case, a new framework for adjudicating na-

tional interest waiver petitions was issued. The USCIS saw the need to create this new framework to avoid confusion and to simplify the requirements. The USCIS may grant a national interest waiver if the petitioner demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence: that the foreign national’s proposed endeavor has both substantial merit and national importance; that the foreign national is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor; and that on balance, it would be beneficial to the US to waive the requirements of a job offer and thus of a labor certification. If these three elements are met, the USCIS may approve the national interest waiver as a matter of discretion.

The USCIS explained that substantial merit and national

importance focuses on the endeavor that the foreign national seeks to undertake. It could be in the realm of business, entrepreneurship, science, technology, culture, health or education. National importance looks at the potential prospective impact and not at the geographic effect on the entire US. Hence, an endeavor that could employ US workers in a particular depressed area, can meet the national importance requirement.

As to the second requirement, the USCIS will look at different factors which include: the applicant’s education, skills, knowledge, and record of success in related or similar efforts; a plan for future activities; any progress towards achieving the proposed endeavor; and the interest of potential customers, users, investors, or other rele-

vant entities or individuals. The applicant is not required to prove that his plan will succeed, but that he is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor.

The third requirement seeks to balance the competing requirements of having the job offer, labor certification and the presence of qualified US workers, on the one hand, and the national benefits the US can obtain from the foreign national on the other. The USCIS may grant the national interest waiver when the foreign national’s contribution is sufficiently urgent to warrant waiving the labor certification 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

COVER STORY (from page 10, 2017....)

Hawaii’s Plantation Village coordinated a series of events celebrating Waipahu’s 120th year anniversary that culminated with the extravaganza at August Ahrens.

Pasko celebrations: The Filipino Community Center presented its 11th Annual Pasko sa FilCom. FAUW Pasko celebrated its 30 year or Pearl anniversary. Both events, free and open to the public, continued to share the Filipino Christmas tradition and culture with the entire state. Rose Cruz Churma, FAUW member and former President of the FilCom Center, said “These traditions define us—and it is important to pass it on, not only to Filipinos, but to share it with the rest of Hawaii’s diverse community.” The Pasko events continue to grow and is becoming (in popularity) the winter version of the Filipino Fiesta held in spring -- a kind of bookends annual celebration for the Filipino community.

#14 The American Health Care Act (AHCA) or Trumpcare Flop: The failure of AHCA was a huge disaster averted. This legislative misadventure showed Americans just how green the president

was in the way of pushing forward major bills, especially one that is as complex and far reaching as healthcare reform. Besides the president’s inapt leadership style, AHCA failed on substance. AHCA’s future spelled doom immediately after the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its analysis: 24 million Americans would lose coverage over the next 10 years—14 million in the first year alone; 2 million Americans with employer-sponsored coverage would lose it by 2020; 7 million would lose it over 10 years; higher premiums, higher deductibles, and more out-of-pocket costs; insurance premiums would skyrocket by 20% by 2019; \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid funding while giving rich Americans and corporations a \$592 billion tax cut. Besides the health insurance and pharmaceutical lobby, most Americans disapproved of AHCA. A Quinnipiac poll found just 17 percent of Americans approved AHCA; by contrast, 56 percent disapproved of it.

The AARP Hawaii said AHCA threatens the solvency of Medicare and would hurt

long-term care and in-home services for seniors. “The bill gives sweetheart deals to drug and insurance companies while doing nothing to lower the cost of health care or prescription drugs. Instead of this harmful bill, we encourage Congress to focus on protecting and improving Medicare’s benefits and financing; providing access to affordable quality coverage; preventing insurers from engaging in discriminatory practices,” said AARP Hawaii state director Barbara Kim Stanton.

#15 Opioid Crisis: The Chronicle tackled the opioids crisis in a cover story this year. It’s a statistic hard to believe but drug overdoses are now the leading cause of death among Americans under 50, according to a report by the New York Times. There were 65,000 total deaths nationwide from drug overdoses in 2016 alone. The explosion of opioid overdoses is driving up the rates of overall drug overdoses. The latest official stats from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) shows that in 2015 close to 30,000 people nationwide overdosed on prescription opioids. Dr. Tom Friedman, head of the

CDC, said of opioids “We know of no other medication routinely used for nonfatal condition that kills patients so frequently.”

The opioid drug problem is both a prescription and street drug problem. That is one reason it has mushroomed into the large-scale public health crisis of today. One way of combatting the problem, Hawaii physician Nestor Her-

ana said, “Prescriber education is vital in the solution to this epidemic. Physicians need to educate themselves in the proper manner to prescribe opioids. Overprescribing can be dealt with by learning how to prescribe opioids cautiously and rationally. Pain management can be part of a multifaceted comprehensive plan with emphasis on risk assess-

(continued on page 14)





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DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

No Madanon Ti Panagmurdong Ti Tawen

dateng ti Mannubbot, ket imalditmi ditoy ti kablaaw iti daytoy a warnakan. NARAGSAK A PASKUAYO AMIN manipud kadakami.

Naragsak a panagtitipon ti grupo ti ANNAK TI BADOOC idi Disiembre 9, 2017 iti pagtaengan ti Presidente ket nagsapata manen dagiti sumaruno a mangiturong ti ANNAK TI BADOOC. Dagitoy datiti pinagsapata ni Senador Will Espero. Presidente ket ni met laeng MARILYN VILLAR; Bise Presidente: JIM CARDENAS; Second Bise Presidente: IRINEO PAGAT; Sekretarya: CHERYL APUYA; Assistant secretary: ETTA MENDOZA; Tesorera: CEDES OASAY; KATULONGANNA: IRINEO PAGAT; Auditor: NENA CAJIMAT; Katulongannna: HERMI APUYA; Dagiti Direktor: CORA SINFUEGO, LETTY BALA, MAXIMA PAGAT, ANGEL MENDOZA, RODRIGO AGAPAY ken CHATO SINFUEGO; Dagiti Press

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Adu a salsala ken sagsagut ti naipaay a nangparagsak iti daytoy nga okasion iti pagtaengan ti Presidente idiyai Waipahu.

SUMARUNO A HENERASION

No intay taliawen kalman a naglabas
Tradision ken kultura anian a nagpintas
Fiesta ken Santakrusan anian a nagganas
Kankansion ken salsala makapasalibukag.

Barong Iluko bado a mangpataer
Pandiling ken kimono awan pumada't daeg
Us-usaren da Ilokano ken Ilokana
Mangipakita kinasimple't panagbiagda.

Ngem kitaem itan kabsat
Baro a henerasion nanglipat
Nakiting a shorts ken hanging a blouse
Ti suot ni Ading, balasang a nalapsat.

Anianto pay dadduma nga itden
Sumaruno a henerasion ke dumteng?
Mabalin a nakarkaronto manen
Ngem ti maar-aramid ita a panawen.

AGANUSKA

No nayanakka a nakarupay ken nababa
Kapuonan napanglaw, awanan sanikua
Dika agsimron, dimo pukawen namnama
Anusam ti rigat a dumalines kenka...

Dika agsangit, ep-epem dagita lulua
Dika agpulkok, pakirdem dayta rikna
Dika agsimron, anusam rigatmo a kumna
Umisemka tapno mabang-aran dayta kararua.

Dimo itulok a maabak dayta riknam
Gaput' rigat ken tuok nga inka malak-aman
No rigat ti lak-amem, ala anusam
Awagam tulong ti Apo a Nailangitan!

Ket kalpasantot' rigat ken adu a tuokmo
Lumag-anto met laeng nabantot a krusmo
Masupapakantot' nanam-ay a panagbiagmo
Dayta nalidem, nakurapay a kasasaadmo.

--Parupa a Daniw
BANNAWAG
Pebrero 3, 1947

COVER STORY (from page 13, 2017....)

ment and risk reduction. Having an exit plan is key before the start of any opioid therapy.”

Other Notable Stories of 2017 covered in the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle: President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drug campaign and extrajudicial killings; North Korea's nuclear program and the threat of war with the U.S.; funding for Honolulu's Rail; Charlottesville KKK and the rise of white supremacists; the U.S. exit from the Paris Accord; the new age of Media and so called "fake" news; a whistle-blowing year for sexual misconduct; the need to change the outdated Electoral College system; the Orlando and Las Vegas shootings and curbing gun violence; the religious right's power in the U.S.; saving the millions of acres of National Parks; the legal consequences of Joe Arpaio's pardon; the Trump-Russia investigations; support for small businesses; and the cultural war and national anthem controversies.

Panawen a panagtukeng tapno taliawen ti napalabas. Ania dagit naaramidan ken nakallalagip a bambanag a naitukit ken naibati a nakallalagip ita a tawen? Maysa manen nga askaw nga idadanon ti panungpalan.

Ti di masarkedan a marikna no madanon ti panakaiyanak ti Mesias isu a rambakan ti sangalubongan. Ti panagkikinnablaaw ti amin kas pangselebrar ti PASKUA. Ania ti naibati, nauneg wenno narabaw a tugot a maimarka itoy a tawen ti biag? Naliday, naragsak wenno saan a naragsak a biag?

Dagiti nadumaduma a grupo wenno pamilia saanda a malipatan ti di agtitipon a manglagip manen ti ida-

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WORK SMART© WORKSHOPS | presented by AARP Hawaii and AAUW Honolulu | January 21, 2018 | 1:30 - 4:00 pm Pearl City Library, 1138 Waimano Home Road | February 1, 2018 | 5:30 - 8:00 pm | AARP Hawai'i office, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1920 | For inquiries, call 545-6007 or go online to <https://aarp.cvent.com/worksmart2018> | Registration is required for the workshops.

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY & FIESTA AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS | JANUARY 27, 2018 | Anniversary Fiesta to be held at the FilCom Center's Courtyard, 4:00 pm.; Gala Dinner & Installation at the Filipino Community Center's Ballroom, 7:00 pm. | For reservations and further details, contact 888-674-7624 or 808-391-7678 or email pmahinfo@gmail.com.

OHANA MEDICAL MISSION-MISSION TO ILOCOS PROVINCES OF CABUGAO, SINAIT AND LIDLIDDA February 1-3, 2018 | For more information, contact 888-674-7624 or or 808-391-7678 or email pmahinfo@gmail.com.

THE TEKNIQLINGZ 10TH ANNIVERSARY KULTURA FILIPINO NIGHT GALA | Filipino Community Center Ballroom February 10, 2018 | 5:30 - 8:00 pm | Dinner and program seats are \$75.00 per individual until January 5, 2018. A group table of 10 rate is available at \$600.00 per table | For more information, please contact Gabe at (808) 232-1466 or visit www.tekniqlingz.org.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Filipino Group Affirms Territorial Sovereignty in West Philippine Sea

Advocates for the preservation of territorial sovereignty and development of the West Philippine Sea (WPS) had a symbolic installation ceremony of the Philippine flag in Masinloc, Zambales on December 9, 2017. The event was the culmination of the outreach and medical mission program of the National Youth Movement for West Philippine Sea (NYMWPS).

Global Chair and founder Dr. Celia Lamkin said that the symbolic installation should send a message that the area which China continues to claim as theirs despite the Hague Tribunal ruling definitely belongs to the Philippines and that it should be respected. "We would like to remind the Filipinos that the West Philippine Sea is ours, and we should not give

up that right," Dr. Lamkin said. The National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea (NYMWPS) Officers, members, volunteers, Scarborough Shoal Fishermen and Community members of Baranggay Poblacion, Masinloc, Zambales, Philippines, had symbolic installation the Philippine Flag at the West Philippine Sea (WPS) in Masinloc, Zambales, for the preservation of territorial sovereignty and development of the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

Lamkin added that Filipinos should work together to call on our government to uphold such right for the benefit of the fishermen whose livelihood depends on the bounties of the seas. "Our fishermen have been continuously deprived of access to a

territory that was ruled to be ours," she said.

NYMWPS has been advised by the fishermen that they are still being bullied by Chinese fishermen backed up by the Chinese Coast Guard whenever they sail out to the area. "We are no match to their fishing vessels so they always get the bigger catch, yet we are still deprived with the small share that we are hoping to get from the area," says one fisherman who opted to be anonymous.

Lamkin and her group are hoping that this development is the start of better things for the country's claim to the West Philippine Sea. "Ultimately, the victory of our West Philippine Sea is the victory of every Filipino," says Dr. Lamkin.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 12, A TWITTER....)

More Crooked Hillary Clinton's top aid, Huma Abedin, has been accused of disregarding basic security protocols. She put Classified Passwords into the hands of foreign agents. Remember sailors pictures on submarine? Jail! Deep State Justice Dept must finally act? Also on Comey & others

4:48 AM - 2 Jan 2018
<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/948174033882927104>

So if you were going to give Trump a clean slate for the new year, too bad. Trump seems intent on mucking things up on his own almost immediately.

Of course, Trump has established a pattern.

The Washington Post's Fact Checker column put Trump's misleading statements or lies at 1,950 for his first 347 days. Granted, politicians are allowed a certain leeway for statements that aren't ex-

actly on the nose. That's diplomacy and politics. But Trump takes his rhetoric to a new low. He's not even subtle. It's getting to the point where nothing he says can be trusted. In doing so, Trump is using up all the stored credibility and good will of his office.

The button may be bigger and it may work. But do we trust his finger?

If you had hope for 2018 being different, Trump's tweets clearly

suggests 2017 was no anomaly. Expect more of the same.

This is not a good thing for our country, no matter what your political leanings.

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. Listen to his podcast: *Emil Amok's Takeout* <http://emilamokstakeout.libsyn.com/web-site>

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(Sagot sa Krosword | December 16, 2017)

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