

HAWAII

# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JANUARY 26, 2019 ◆

## GOVERNMENT SHUTS DOWN OVER BORDER WALL

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**Nancy Pelosi**  
*Speaker,  
U.S. House of Representatives*

**Mitch McConnell**  
*Majority Leader, U.S. Senate*



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## EDITORIALS

# The Government Shutdown is a Trump Political Stunt

**O**ne of the most biting tweets to describe the government shutdown came from Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) who wrote: “Trump airlines? Shut down. Trump casinos? Shut down. Trump steaks? Shut down. Trump university? Shut down. Trump magazine? Shut down. @realDonaldTrump kept his promise to run our government like he ran his companies: shut down, w/unpaid workers & blaming everyone but himself.”

Americans had hoped when Trump got elected that his tough deal-making style could have come in handy in international negotiations. Not in a government shutdown. But the shutdown in many ways keeps in step with the Trump administration’s entire term to date – his leadership style that pits Americans against fellow Americans for his “perceived” political gain.

The temporary government shutdown is completely unnecessary and could have been avoided. Instead, thousands of Americans, federal workers, and government contractors have been held hostage to politics.

Trump continues to believe that his tough-on-immigrants stance is still a winning message. This is what the shutdown is all about: attempting to keep his campaign promise of building a wall to keep his supporters on board for election 2020. The impasse on funding is perhaps less about a dollar figure to Trump and more about a “show” to his base.

Building a border wall for security started as a campaign gimmick from a candidate who really never thought he’d really win. The wall was never a real answer to stop illegal migration or drug trade as most experts say. Trump himself perhaps knew this from the start. Just as he knew that President Barack Obama was born in the United States, but he decided to play the xenophobia-racist card anyway. And is still doing it.

Trump has never stopped campaigning and made a transition as other presidents to become a leader for most Americans, whatever side of the fence Americans are on politically.

If he had Americans best interest in mind, especially fellow Americans who work hard to keep the government running and safe, Trump would not have used Americans as political collateral in this shutdown.

There are other plausible motivations behind the government shutdown. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the border wall has nothing to do with border security, but is instead designed to distract the country from the various scandals dogging his administration.

“I don’t even know if the president wants the wall. I think he just wants a debate on the wall...He keeps increasing the amount of money; increasing the amount of beds; increasing the obstacles to finding a solution — because I don’t think he really wants a solution,” said Pelosi. “I think he loves the distraction that this is from his other problems (multiple legal investigations).”

## Kudos to Hawaii Delegation

Senators Mazie Hirono, Brian Schatz and Reps. Tulsi Gabbard and Ed Case have all been working to help government workers. The Hawaii delegation helped to pass the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act that ensures federal employees who are required to work during the government shutdown are given full back pay once the shutdown has ended.

Sen. Schatz also led a group of 22 lawmakers in introducing new legislation to protect federal workers and their fam-

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**T**he government shut down is one of those fast developing news usually best left for the dailies due to the time factor. But whether or not the government reopens before this issue’s publication date, we felt this event had to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

For our cover story this issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo reports on how federal government workers and contractors have struggled from this political impasse and how local politicians have responded to this unnecessary hardship. Historically, both parties have temporarily closed government briefly to iron out spending gaps, but not in the way President Donald Trump has used closing the government this time as a weapon for bargaining. And worse yet, for such a lengthy duration, the longest ever in our nation’s history.

Read the ugly politics behind the partial government shutdown in our cover story and why many are dubbing it as a political stunt exercised by the president. Is the impasse really about funding for a border wall? Or could there be other motivating factors? These are the questions explored. Political analysts say how curious that the president is now taking a stand on funding for a border wall when he could have easily done it during the two years that the GOP held control of both the House and Senate.

In local Filipino news, our readers interested in learning Ilokano or one of the Cebuano Visayan dialects, can now sign up for language instruction with LAING Hawaii and the United Visayan Community of Hawaii. The twin language classes will be held each Saturday, 1-5 p.m. from February to April. Get the details on how to sign up for this special program for the community.

In other news, if you haven’t already heard, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard is running for president in 2020. In mainland news, the Chicago Filipino community is hosting the Asian American Coalition for Chicago Lunar New Year Gala, a black-tie event and the largest annual Asian-American event in the U.S. Midwest.

In our Legal Notes column, Atty. Reuben Seguritan contributes his article “Proving Good Moral Character for Naturalization.” There is no definite list of qualities an immigrant must possess in order to have met the good moral character requirement. He writes the general standard for good moral character is that of the average citizen of the community and does not require the highest degree of moral excellence. In fact, contrary to popular belief, an immigrant who has been on probation, parole or received a suspended sentence is not precluded from establishing good moral character. The USCIS examiner decides this requisite on a case-by-case basis.

Also, read Matthew Mettias’ open forum on the “Value of School in Educational Development.” We’re pleased to welcome Matthew to our staff as a contributing writer. He is an honors graduate of Punahou School, gap year student at Stanford University, and head of several local and international projects and business ventures.

Lastly, HFC columnist Seneca Moraleda writes about the Chronicle’s anniversary and gives us some highlights through our 25 years. If you missed the news from our last issue, the HFC is offering a scholarship to a student pursuing a journalism degree. It is our way of giving back to the community and the profession we hold dearly. The deadline to submit your application is April 1, 2019. For requirements and more details, visit [www.thefilipinochronicle.com](http://www.thefilipinochronicle.com) and see our ad.

Thank you to the community for supporting us through our journey. Until next issue, warmest *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

ilies from losing their homes, falling behind in paying bills during shutdown.

“While the President and Senate Republicans struggle to get their act together, real people are suffering,” said Sen-



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EDITORIALS

# U.S. Supreme Court Should Rule Against Extreme Gerrymandering

**T**he U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) has decided to hear arguments this March on two cases involving gerrymandering that could have sweeping repercussions on future elections.

Gerrymandering is a term to describe manipulation of district boundaries to optimize results. It's a devious tactic that political parties employ by carving districts according to race or political affiliation to attain a favorable outcome in elections.

What gerrymandering ultimately does is deprives voters of having a fair election. It undermines state local races and larger federal office races.

SCOTUS will have an opportunity to develop standards for states to follow when drawing district lines and to determine if extreme gerrymandering violates Americans constitutional rights. Or SCOTUS could hear arguments, and do nothing.

No one really knows how justices will decide. In 2004, conservatives like Chief Justice John Roberts suggested the courts steer clear from such political disputes; while liberals like Justice Elena Kagan be-

lieved the courts should be able to set standards to combat gerrymandering.

Justice Anthony Kennedy (now retired) was the swing vote who sided with conservatives over not establishing standards, but also left open the suggestion that the First Amendment's right of association could serve as the foundation of ruling against gerrymandering.

With Kennedy gone, new Justice Brett Kavanaugh becomes the x-factor. SCOTUS could be more aggressive in finally bringing clarity to this issue, or come up with what it did, basically a non-decision.

## The Two Cases to be heard in 2019

### 1. *Rucho v Common Cause*

Voters and voting rights group Common Cause sued North Carolina claiming the 2016 congressional district maps were unconstitutional because it was drawn by Republican legislators in what amounted to intentional dilution of electoral strength of individuals who opposed Republicans. Common Cause lawyers went on to say this violated non-Republicans' First Amendment on the basis of punishing them for their political beliefs.

In 2017, SCOTUS upheld a lower court's ruling in North Carolina that their districts were gerrymandering on the basis of race. North Carolina was forced to redraw their maps. Now, this time in this case, racial animus is not called into question, but gerrymandering based on political beliefs.

### 2. *Lamone v Benisek*

In this case, the reverse is happening: Republican voters in Maryland have sued that Democratic state officials diluted Republican votes and were in violation of the First Amendment.

### Pressing Issue

In both examples, gerrymandering has been allegedly used by both Republicans and Democrats. It is in the best interest of both parties that there is greater clarity in the law of what is and isn't possible when drawing district lines.

In some states there is greater fairness where an independent commission or board is tasked with redistricting while in other states politicians decide the boundaries. This is where SCOTUS could have a federal standard for all states.

Should SCOTUS or the U.S. Congress not take action on this issue, it would be giving a green light for politicians to continue to entrench their party unfairly; or even worse, embolden them to become even more egregious.

How so? With cutting-edge technology more readily available and the use of "big data" and statistical tools, the ability to engineer districts with precision could be even more problematic.

If gerrymandering is not put in check, there could be greater entrenchment by a political party without even having a majority of the votes. So much for accountability and respecting the true will of the majority of voters in such a situation.

If it gets to this point when districts are drawn that allow parties to maintain control of power even with a minority vote, really there is no such thing as a fair election. Voter turnout, as low as it is now, could be even worse if Americans lose faith in

the election process.

The legislative branch of government has failed to curb gerrymandering, instead, opting for partisan control over fairness. Clearly, politicians in this case, cannot be relied upon to ensure fairer elections when holding onto power is at stake.

As a constitutional responsibility to uphold checks and balances, the judicial branch of government must step in and do what is right on this issue. American voters deserve a better and fairer election process.

It is said that SCOTUS historically is known to be above politics. This was never an accurate assessment. What they've been is painfully slow to react to what's already been accepted by a majority of people. They usually catch the ride off political winds late; and what it would usually take is a storm to get them moving.

Most Americans already understand the unfairness and dangers of gerrymandering as a matter of common sense. It's time that SCOTUS do something definitive.

### THE GOVERNMENT...from page 2)

ator Schatz. "Right now, thousands of federal workers and their families are struggling to pay rent and make ends meet. It's absolutely unacceptable. Our bill will protect federal workers and make sure they aren't harmed because of a political stunt."

Sen. Hirono and Rep. Gabbard joined hundreds of furloughed federal employees who are members of more than 20 labor unions at rallies to call on the president and Majority leader Mitch McConnell to end the shutdown.

Sen. Hirono also said she would donate pay she receives during the partial government shutdown to food banks across Hawaii as a show of solidarity with federal workers in their time of hardship. Rep. Case said he elected not to get paid until the shutdown ends as federal workers.

### Longest Shutdown

This 2019 government shutdown is the longest in the nation's history.

Trump wants his base to remember his tough stance to push through a border wall with the shutdown (which suddenly became more imperative when Democrats took control of the House...as opposed to easily pushing it through when the GOP had total control two years prior).

Americans should grant the president his wish and remember the 2019 shutdown. But not for the reasons he'd want. Come 2020, voters should remember how fellow Americans faced financial hardship, uncertainty and insecurity. How Americans were susceptible to losing their homes and defaulting on loans. And how the president hurt fellow Americans unnecessarily.

He has done all this for all the wrong reasons -- for ego, as a political stunt, to please his base over the best interests of the nation, and to distract from legal investigations.

Remember the 2019 government shutdown voters.

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## COVER STORY

# Workers Face Hardship in Partial Government Shutdown

By Edwin Quinabo

**L**iving from paycheck to paycheck is common for many Americans these days, especially for Americans living in expensive cities like Honolulu where inflation outpaces wage by a mile.

*Suddenly when that paycheck stops coming in, it's a frightening feeling.*

*For 800,000 federal workers and thousands of private contractors doing business with the federal government, that day of panic came when federal spending for key government agencies expired on December 21.*

*The result: a partial government shutdown as President Donald Trump and lawmakers could not come to agreement on passing a budget.*

*The official shutdown started January 14 and is the longest in the nation's history.*

Right after the holidays, federal government workers received their last paycheck on December 31. Some agencies have shutdown completely until the government reopens. Other agencies deemed essential remain open and workers show up every day knowing that they are not getting paid until the shutdown ends.

A single mom working for the IRS talks about struggling to get food on the table for her family. She has been serving her family canned foods and stretching whatever savings she has to pay for essential bills. Her emergency savings of \$1,000 is quickly dwindling.

A married couple, both federal workers, talk about looking for temporary employment but they say no one

likes to hire temporary workers. They are using their credit cards for food, have looked into filing for unemployment (uncertain they'd qualify), and have resorted to just staying home to avoid spending any money.

A janitor who works at a federal facility on contract says not only is he not getting paid during the shutdown, but will not receive any back pay once the shutdown is over.

For those who rely on services from the federal government, their lives have also been impacted. A woman whose son has a rare disease said the clinical trial for a potentially life-saving treatment is in the final stages of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

review and approval. They hoped to start that life-saving treatment early 2019. But the FDA is part of the shutdown and any delay could be a matter of life or death for her son.

Senator Mazie Hirono addressed the Senate chamber floor on the shutdown and gave an example of a federal worker living in Waikiki who had to take out a very high interest payday loan just to make ends meet.

"The situation is inflicting unnecessary pain on the government contracting community and small businesses that rely on the day-to-day operations of the federal government, not to mention to the millions of Americans who request government services," said Hirono.

"Most of us live in the real world where paychecks are needed to keep a roof over our heads and food on the table. Growing up, my mother was the sole breadwinner for 3 kids. It would have been unthinkable for our family to miss even 1 paycheck from her low wage job. When the President says he can relate to the hundreds of thousands of families going without a paycheck, who does he think he's kidding?"

"One person who can enable the Congress to end the shutdown is Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. All he has to do is bring up the bills the House sent us last week – the same bills that passed the Senate last Congress – to keep the government open.



No one needs to remind Senator McConnell that the Senate is part of a separate and equal branch of government. The Senate can and should act without the President's consent – consent he is currently withholding unless he gets his vanity wall."

Workers have expressed anger and say their unnecessary hardship is due to bad politics.

## Why the shutdown?

The impasse: to build a southern border wall or not.

President Trump is demanding \$5.6 billion in federal funds to go towards the start of building a border wall between Mexico and the U.S.

The new Democratic-controlled House voted to pass appropriation to reopen the government without funding for the wall that Trump requested. But they agreed to fund \$1.6 billion for border security.

The exact appropriation approved by the House was the same that the GOP-led Senate had earlier passed which Trump was willing to sign.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R) then told the press Trump would not shut the government down and that the president was "flexible."

But suddenly, Trump demanded border funding and said he would veto the bill unless funding for a wall was included in the budget.

Political insiders point to

criticisms Trump received by conservative media and political pundits that influenced the president to change his mind.

It seemed like the perfect political opportunity to take a stand with the new Democrat-controlled House.

Trump cited the same rhetoric of needing to stop the flow of illegal immigration and drugs coming from Mexico. Even claiming there is a crisis.

But political analysts point out that if a real crisis existed, why didn't the president demand border funding in the two years that Republicans controlled both the House and Senate.

Political experts also say Trump's so-called crisis is not based on facts. Illegal immigration has been in steady decline for years; the vast majority of drugs are smuggled in legal ports of entry and a border wall would not change that.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) 2018 National Drug Threat Assessment reports most smuggling is through legal ports of entry – not in the vacant parts of the border that the wall would occupy.

Politicians and residents in border cities call Trump's crisis a manufactured crisis; and the shutdown is a show to appeal to his political base. It's an attempt to make good on his 2016 presidential promise to build a wall; and posturing for

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COVER STORY

(from page 4)

the 2022 presidential election. The latest development is Trump proposed an immigration deal to end the shutdown that includes temporary protections for “Dreamers” in exchange for wall funding, but Democrats dismissed it. The offer would have only granted three years of protection for “Dreamers.”

**Effects of shutdown**

Rep Tulsi Gabbard said “Our national parks are filling with trash, our Coast Guard members are working without pay, being told they should hold garage sales or start baby-sitting to help pay for the bills while the government is shut down. Food stamps for tens of millions of Americans are at risk. Low-income housing subsidies are impacting over 340,000 elderly and disabled veterans who depend on that rental assistance. The safety and security of our country is at risk.”

She called on Senator McConnell and the president to pass the bipartisan legislation lawmakers have already passed and reopen the government.

How pervasive is the effects of the shutdown? A Reuters/Ipsos poll found that nearly four in 10 adults in the U.S. say they are either personally affected by the partial government shutdown or they know someone who is.

Federal departments of agriculture, commerce, justice, the interior, transportation, housing and urban development, environmental protection, have all been fully or partially shutdown.

National security – a main reason why Trump claims to be holding his ground on this issue – is compromised during the shutdown as airport TSA, Homeland Security, and the FBI all are operating less than full force.

The real estate market is also experiencing a short-term lull as veterans and thousands of Americans seeking federal housing, mortgage and other federal program wait for loan review and processing.

Bank of America economists issued a statement, “In addition to the direct drag to

government consumption, we could see indirect effects from a temporary slowdown in consumption due to weaker spending from furloughed workers and delay in business investments from policy uncertainty.”

Economists agree the longer the shutdown, the more impactful it will have on the economy, and could have long-term harm as in the government’s handling of the debt ceiling which will be an issue come March.

The White House admitted that the shutdown will negatively impact the economy as each week passes. It estimated the shutdown would cost 0.13 percentage points every week for the work left undone by furlough employees and federal contractors.

In Hawaii, more than 2,700 federal employees are either on furlough or working without pay. Many of them took part in a “silent march” at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport to call for an end to the shutdown.

**In the Meantime**

While the country waits for the government to reopen, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act, a legislation that ensures federal employees who are required to work during the shutdown are given full back pay once the shutdown ends.

Senator Brian Schatz, who cosponsored the legislation, said “Our federal workers shouldn’t suffer because the President and Republicans in Congress don’t know how to govern. These workers keep our country running, and they deserve the pay they have earned.

“I hope we can quickly get this through the House and to the President so that the men and women who serve our country get fully compensated.”

On the House side, Hawaii Representatives Gabbard and Ed Case joined their colleagues in passing the bill.

“This measure at least gives workers some assurance of eventual payment,” said Case. “Although it does not

ing to relieve the cash flow hardships of so many.”

Case said, “This is no way to govern. We have many major disagreements on major issues like ensuring health care for all to work through, and if we set the precedent of shutting down the government over every dispute, then we would have a government that operates in erratic starts and stops.”

Senator Schatz also introduced new legislation that would protect federal workers and their families from foreclosures, evictions and loan defaults during a government shutdown.

Modeled after the Servicemembers Relief Act, the legislation will prohibit landlords and creditors from taking action against federal workers or contractors who are hurt by the government shutdown and unable to pay rent or repay loans. The bill would also empower federal workers to sue creditors or landlords that violate this protection.

“People who took an oath to serve their country as federal employees should not have to worry about being evicted, having their car repossessed or going further into debt because of a government shutdown,” said Tony Reardon, President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU).

The NTEU is one of two federal employees’ unions (the other: American Federation Government Employees) that sued the Trump administration over the shutdown.

The National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFEE) joined thousands to protest at the White House. “We want

**“This is no way to govern. We have many major disagreements on major issues like ensuring health care for all to work through, and if we set the precedent of shutting down the government over every dispute, then we would have a government that operates in erratic starts and stops”**

— U.S. REP. ED CASE

to send a very strong message — that this is not about politics, it’s about getting people back to work,” said Brittany Holder, a spokeswoman for the NFFE.

**Who’s to Blame?**

Most polls show Trump is losing in the court of public opinion over the shutdown. A Reuters/Ipsos poll found that 51 percent of the public blame Trump while 34 percent blamed Democrats in Congress, and six percent blamed Republicans in Congress.

According to a HuffPost/YouGov survey, disapproval in handling the shutdown was highest for congressional Republicans (29 percent), followed by Trump (14 percent) and congressional Democrats (9 percent), the remaining did not have an answer.

Statistics Portal, which gathers poll stats from multiple polling sources, also has Trump on top as the source to blame with 50.8 percent and Democrats at 34.3 percent.

Opinion over the border wall, Pew Research Center’s

survey found a majority of Americans (58 percent) continue to oppose the border wall; while 40 percent favor building one.

A huge 88 percent of opponents of a wall said it would not be acceptable for Trump to get his requested funding.

A Quinnipiac University survey concluded that most Americans believe the wall would be a waste of money and would not secure the southern border wall.

**Could the Wall and Shutdown be distractions?**

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the border wall campaign has nothing to do with border security. “I don’t even know if the president wants the wall. I think he just wants a debate on the wall. And he’s having some difficulty with it.”

She also accused Trump of preventing a border deal by shifting his demands over the course of the weeks-long negotiations.

“He keeps increasing the amount of money; increasing the amount of beds; increasing

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# The Value of School in Educational Development

By Matthew Mettias

It is a common misconception among high school seniors, teachers and parents that what college a student attends after high school is the ‘make it or break it’ factor of that student’s success in the job market.”

Quoted above is the opening statement of a Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (HFC) article I previously wrote. Its title? “Where You Go to College Does Not Determine Your Success in Life”. Today, exactly two years later from the inception of this op-ed, I still hold the same belief; nonetheless, with time, I have also grown mature enough to acknowledge another dimension in the American pursuit of higher education.

This summer our wonderful HFC publisher and manager editor, Mrs. Chona Sonido requested this of me:

“I would like to ask you to write an article about the value of higher education, why do we need to go to college and pursue higher education.” Although, initially, the idea of writing such an article appeared a simple task, after much contemplation I was stumped. Here is one reason why: it is common tradition in the United States for our high school graduates to immediately matriculate into college in the hope that they fortuitously secure stable and profitable jobs. And although many millennials may suggest various, and by many means noble, alternatives to attending college, the conservative method stands tried, tested,

and true...

Let us set one thing straight: education and self-development are universally important and valued recognized qualities; although attending college is simply one method of receiving a proper education, it is by far the most reliable. An abundance of quote-unquote “free time,” although seemingly harmless, can pose a number of hidden and unexpected threats. One such danger of not attending college (or any level of academia for that matter) is lack of focus, direction, and motivation... or what experts refer to as “disruption of academic momentum.”

According to a scholarly journal titled “Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis” (Attewell, Heil, Reisel, March 2012), “... an undergrad-

uate’s initial academic course load and progress set a trajectory that strongly influences subsequent degree completion.” In simpler terms, the authors of this academic journal suggest that a student’s decisions, both academic and non-academic, strongly influence whether or not that same student will receive a college degree in the first place. Other excerpts from the article apply the importance of “academic momentum” in more relatable contexts.

For instance, ask yourself this: If you were given four months of “free time,” what would you do with those nearly 3,000 hours? Unfortunately, chances are not much. Here is why...

Universally, your brain will subconsciously associate your newfound freedom with a “vacation” – a “break”. If

you agree, I don’t blame you. “Leisure when available” has become the new American motto. With little to no motivation or direction, how do you expect to enlighten yourself with knowledge equivalent to that of a college graduate? Although plausible and brave, the idea of learning independently over a long duration lacks practicality (a library is an excellent location to learn for minimal costs, but without accountability – due dates, meetings, etc. – how do you expect to maintain unconditional focus while not being taken captive by distraction?)

In the end, the choice to continue or not to continue schooling has its own set of benefits and drawbacks; ultimately, it is a choice only you can have to make. A choice only you can live with.

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### Rep. Tulsi Gabbard to Run for President



Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard announced on CNN’s “The Van Jones Show” that she is running for president.

Prior to the announcement, Gabbard made stops in both Iowa and New Hampshire and looked into hiring digital staff and speechwriters that indicated a possible run for president. She has also authored a memoir set to be re-

leased in May.

Gabbard said she was running “has to do with an issue that is central to the rest — war and peace.”

Other reasons she cited were healthcare, immigration reform, clean water and air, criminal justice and special interest influence in Washington.

Hawaii Democratic Party of Hawaii Chair Keali’i

Lopez said, “We’re proud to see a candidate from Hawai’i poised to enter the presidential race and add to the discourse on the important issues facing our country.”

“Our residents are feeling the very real impacts of President Trump’s policies, and it should be every Democrat’s top priority to replace this dangerous administration. Today, working families across our state and country

are missing paychecks and facing financial crisis. This critical presidential election is our opportunity to restore compassion and civility to the White House.

“Congresswoman Gabbard’s entrance in this race is an opportunity for Hawai’i to continue its rich history of contributing to the diversity of the Democratic Party and be a part of important conversations in the year ahead.”

(COVER STORY: WORKERS...from page 5)

the obstacles to finding a solution — because I don’t think he really wants a solution,” Pelosi said. “I think he loves the distraction that this is having from his other problems (multiple investigations).”

Democrats are in support of border security but believe money could be spent in more effective means besides the billions of dollars building a wall would require. Hiring more border security personnel and using better high technology to monitor borders they believe are smarter, more effective ways.

NTEU president Anthony Reardon said the greatest obstacle to our nation’s border

security is the Department of Homeland Security’s inability to fill the thousands of border agent and officer vacancies, which were authorized by Congress.

Another costly obstacle not being discussed much is acquiring private lands to build the wall. Sixty-six percent of the land along our southern border is privately owned. A wall would greatly impose on the property rights of these American citizens.

#### Bad Precedent

Since the modern congressional budgeting process in 1976, there have been a total of 17 government shutdowns.

A majority of them were “spending gaps.” Most of the disagreements in budgeting that led to partial shutdowns were over spending in defense, public works appropriations considered “wasteful pork,” concern over the national debt, or use of Medicaid dollars.

Most of the spending gaps were quickly settled and shutting down the government was not used as a drawn out political tool like what this shutdown is presenting itself to be.

Is this an acceptable trend? Americans will decide come 2020. After all, many believe this is what the shutdown is mostly about, politics, and less to do with national security.

### Pulitzer Prize Journalist to Give Lecture on Media in the Age of Trump

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ellis Henican will be giving a lecture “Confessions of an Enemy of the People: Media in the Age of Trump” on Wednesday, January 30, 7 p.m., at the UH Manoa, Architecture Auditorium.

Ellis Henican is a New York Times bestselling author and a popular cable-news pundit. He is also the voice of Stormy on the hit Cartoon Network series Sealab 2021. His dozen books include TRUMPITUDE: The Secret Confessions of Donald’s Brain.

The event is free but registration is recommended. For registration, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/better-tomorrow-speaker-series-ellis-henican-confessions-of-an-enemy-of-the-people-media-in-the-age-tickets-55040677147>

Sponsors include: Better Tomorrow Speaker Series, Hawai’i Community Foundation, Hawai’i Publishers Association, Scholars Strategy Network, Society of Professional Journalists Hawai’i Chapter, UH Mānoa Alumni Relations, and UH Public Administration Program.

WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel S. Tipon

# Immigration Processing Delays – Causes, Effects, and Relief

**A**fter a night with friends celebrating Manny Pacquiao's decisive win over Adrien Broner, I went to bed late only to be awakened early the next morning by a call from a client complaining that his immigration petition for his wife had not been approved. He had waited for two years after his marriage in the Philippines before petitioning his wife. I told him that he had waited this long and asked why he could not wait longer. He said he missed his wife and could not wait any more. "Did you visit your wife since you were married?" I asked. "No", he replied.

"How long will I have to wait before it is approved?" he asked.

"I do not know."

"Why not?," he insisted.

"Even God does not know," I told him.

"Why not? God knows everything."

"Why don't you ask God," I told him.

"I do not go to church."

"I will go to church today and will ask God," I said.

At noon, the complaining petitioner called again. "Did you ask God?," he asked.

"God helps those who help themselves." I replied.

I told him certain relief available which is discussed below.

"Many Christians ask God for help, but then expect God to do everything Himself. They excuse this by pointing to the fact that God will provide according to His will and in His timing. However, this is not a reason for inactivity. As a specific example, if you are in need of a job, ask the Lord to help you find a job - but then be active in actually looking for a job. While it is in His power to do so, it is highly unlikely that God will cause employers to come looking for you!" <https://www.gotquestions.org/God-help-themselves.html>

According to Biblical

scholars, the quotation "God helps those who help themselves" is not in the Bible but it was uttered by Benjamin Franklin in Poor Richard's Almanac in 1757. The Bible teaches the opposite. "For You have been a defense for the helpless" Isaiah 25:4.] <https://www.gotquestions.org/God-help-themselves.html>

## Causes of Immigration Processing Delays

The Obama administration and the Demoncrats are responsible for immigration processing delays. They want to have more Demoncratic voters. Birth rates are falling. The alternative is to bring more aliens to come to the United States. They want open borders. The illegal aliens are expected to become so grateful that they will vote Demoncratic. Many aliens have been voting according to reports. Demoncrats now control California. Gone are the days of Republican Governors like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Pete Wilson. The Democrats diverted immigration officers to process DACA and DAPA applications of illegal aliens instead of processing the immigration petitions of citizens and immigrants for eligible relatives and fiancées.

Now the Demoncrats refuse to enact an appropriations bill to fund the government if President Trump insists on building a wall on the southern border to prevent illegal aliens and illegal drugs from coming to the United States. What happened? There is a partial shutdown of the government. [Do you really care? Has it affected you?]. The Demoncrats and the corrupt and liberal media blame Trump.

How can Trump be blamed? Congress enacts the laws – including the appropriations law. The House of Representatives has not enacted an appropriations law. The President executes the laws. What can he execute if there is no law to execute? Trump cannot shut down the government. It is partially shut down because there is no appropriation for the salaries of non-essential personnel.

[If these personnel are non-essential, why are they employed at all? Why are we spending hard-earned tax money to pay for "non-essentials"?]

## Effects of Immigration Processing Delays

In the immigration field, the effects of immigration processing delays can be significant. The wife left behind abroad could meet another man and have an affair with him. In one case, a man had petitioned for his wife. When the wife arrived she was pregnant. The man had not seen his wife for more than two years. He knew how to count and was certain the child his wife was carrying could not be his. He wanted to have his wife deported. But the wife had a permanent resident card. It would be difficult to deport her. She is not a priority job for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

In another case, an alien beneficiary of an immigration petition arrived excited to meet his wife who had petitioned for him. His wife did not meet him at the airport. His relatives who met him said that she had a problem and could not meet him. He was finally told that his wife had given birth to a child by another man and was now living with him. The alien hired a Caucasian immigration lawyer whom you sometimes see on television. The alien was placed in removal proceedings because he did not file a petition to remove conditions on residence before the 2-year period of his conditional residency expired. The Caucasian lawyer could not do anything. He did not even re-

turn the money paid to him. The alien came to us. We saved him from deportation and got him a green card and citizenship. He is now happily married.

Due to processing delays, if the petitioner dies before the beneficiary's petition is approved, the petition dies with him. If the petitioner dies after the petition is approved, it is difficult if not impossible to get humanitarian reinstatement. See my article "Humanitarian reinstatement of dead petitioner's petition – is it a farce?" It is in my son Noel's website. <https://www.bileckilawgroup.com>.

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rc=1&ved=2ahUKEwjnod246\\_3fAhWWFjQIHTEVC0cQFjAAegQICxAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bileckilawgroup.com%2Fcourt-martial-defense-blog%2F2017%2Fno-vember%2Fwhat-s-up-attorney-humanitarian-reinstatement-of%2F&usq=AOvVaw-0bw0iWKQjxmvUjo5mmQtvj](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rc=1&ved=2ahUKEwjnod246_3fAhWWFjQIHTEVC0cQFjAAegQICxAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bileckilawgroup.com%2Fcourt-martial-defense-blog%2F2017%2Fno-vember%2Fwhat-s-up-attorney-humanitarian-reinstatement-of%2F&usq=AOvVaw-0bw0iWKQjxmvUjo5mmQtvj)

## Relief for Immigration Processing Delays

1. Ask the Demoncrats to enact an appropriations bill to provide funds for the government including the \$ 5.7 billion for the border wall. This will not benefit Trump. It will benefit you. The government will resume functioning. Immigration adjudicators will return to work to process your petition

2. Write your U.S. representative and senator to follow up your petition. Attach a copy of the receipt showing that USCIS received your petition.

3. Tell USCIS that you

will file a mandamus petition to compel USCIS to act on your petition. You must be prepared to carry it out otherwise if you are just bluffing and you do not file the petition forthwith they will ignore you. I have done this and it works. If your lawyer bluffs and does not carry it out, immigration authorities will not believe him anymore. Remember the boy who cried wolf.

4. Meanwhile, visit your wife who is abroad otherwise if she is attractive she might meet a glib tongued playboy who will crow "cock a doddle doo" and you will become a cuckold.

**ATTY. TIPON** has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. His current practice focuses on immigration law and appellate criminal defense. He writes law books for the world's largest law book publishing company and writes legal articles for newspapers. Listen to *The Tipon Report* which he co-hosts with son Noel, the senior partner of the Bilecki & Tipon Law Firm. It is the most witty, interesting, and useful radio program in Hawaii. KNDI 1270 AM band every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. Atty. Tipon served as a U.S. Immigration Officer. He co-authored the best-seller "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Atty. Tipon has personally experienced the entire immigration process. He first came to the United States on a student/exchange visitor visa to study at Yale. He returned to the Philippines to resume practicing law. He came again to the United States on a non-immigrant work visa to write law books, adjusted his status to that of a lawful permanent resident, and became a naturalized citizen. Atty. Tipon was born in Laoag City, Philippines. Tel. (808) 800-7856. Cell Phone (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: [filamlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:filamlaw@yahoo.com). Websites: <https://www.hawaiiimmigrationattorney.com>, <https://www.hawaiiimmigrationattorney.com>, [www.bileckilawgroup.com](https://www.bileckilawgroup.com). This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No attorney-client relationship is established between the writer and readers relying upon the contents of this article.



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# Regala Takes Over Reins of PMAH

By Renelaine Pfister

**D**r. Christopher Anthony Tolentino Regala, a solo practitioner and owner of Ear, Nose & Throat Clinics of Oahu, LLC, Wahiawa & Aiea, HI, is the newly elect president of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH). He will lead in 2019 Hawaii's premier medical organization and work with its affiliates the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW), the Oahu Medical Mission (OMM), and the PMAH Foundation in serving the Filipino community.

Dr. Regala brings to the PMAH family of physicians a solid background in medicine, business and community service. He trained and studied at some of the world's top universities, including doing his internship in general surgery at Stanford University where he chose to specialize in otolaryngology (ear, nose, & throat); and spent two years as a fellow at Boston University. He opened his medical business in 2005; and is a fixture at community service events. He is also currently an Assistant Clinical Professor at the UH-Manoa's John A Burns School of Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health.

As with all past presidents of PMAH, Dr. Regala will bring to the table his own unique leadership qualities that stem from his personal experiences and background. He was born in the Philippines but raised in the Midwest U.S., in the state of Wisconsin. His father was a physician and mother a nurse. Both his parents were strong believers in community service and after his father's passing, his mom became a Catholic nun. Interestingly, he chose to do his bachelor's education not in Biology or any science-related discipline, but in Spanish.

PMAH is in capable hands under Dr. Regala for yet another year to continue their invaluable service-oriented projects. He says he plans to grow the

organization and incorporate existing and new ideas from members.

Dr. Regala will be sworn into office at PMAH's 41st Anniversary and Installation of Officers on February 2 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

The following is a Q&A with Dr. Regala.

**HFC: How does it feel to be leading the premiere professional organization for Filipino doctors in Hawaii?**

**REGALA:** I am incredibly humbled to take on the role of president of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii. It is an organization that I have great respect for because it does so much, not only for Filipino doctors, but for our patients, both those here in Hawaii and those who are served in medical missions through the Ohana Medical Missions. Being a member of an organization like the PMAH allows me to interact with other like-minded physicians to have an even bigger impact on the health of the patients of Hawaii and beyond than I would be able to do by myself.

**HFC: What are your roles and responsibilities as PMAH president?**

**REGALA:** My main role is to help our board of governors organize and run the events that we have scheduled throughout the year.

**HFC: What will be your top priorities during your term?**

**REGALA:** We have several exciting events planned. In March we have a bowling tournament to benefit the PMAH Foundation which supports educational endeavors for students interested in and studying medicine. The Molokai Community Health Fair is in April. We have our annual continuing medical education conference at the Four Seasons in Koolina over Memorial Day weekend. In August, Ohana Medical Missions will be going to a medical mission to Cebu and Davao. In October we will be holding a

golf tournament to benefit Ohana Medical Missions. Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls will hold a health fair in Waipahu in November.

**HFC: How would you describe your leadership style?**

**REGALA:** The PMAH is full of very talented people with great ideas. As a leader I want to encourage and facilitate these great ideas. I try to maintain an open door policy to these new ideas.

**HFC: What is the number one challenge facing the PMAH? How do you plan on addressing this challenge?**

**REGALA:** We are a very diverse group with many differing opinions on the direction of the organization. The challenge is to consolidate these differing opinions and focus on having the greatest impact to reach our goals.

**HFC: PMAH has undertaken numerous philanthropic activities. Why is giving back to the less fortunate so important for the PMAH?**

**REGALA:** I feel as a physician it is a privilege to care for our patients. It is our responsibility to care for those of us who are less fortunate.

**HFC: Tell us about your background—your family, where you hail from, where you received your medical training, the road that led you to this point in your life and career.**

**REGALA:** I was born in Cebu City and am the youngest of six siblings. My family moved to Maryland when I was one year old. I grew up in Wisconsin from age 5 all the way through medical school, going to college and medical school at the University of Wisconsin.

I did my internship in general surgery at Stanford University where I decided to specialize in otolaryngology (ear, nose, & throat). I then spent two years as a fellow at Boston University. I spent a year do-



Dr. Christopher Regala

ing research at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden where my research was presented in the Nobel Forum. I completed my residency at Drew University in Los Angeles and after residency opened my practice here in Hawaii.

**HFC: Who was one of your early role models in life? How did that person impact you?**

**REGALA:** My parents instilled in me a deep sense of the responsibility in serving those who are less fortunate. My father was a physician and my mother a nurse. When I was in college, my parents were planning on becoming medical missionaries in Africa. Unfortunately, my father became ill and passed away. My mother later became a Catholic nun and still continues her life of service.

**HFC: Why did you choose to become a doctor?**

**REGALA:** I had always had an interest in science and medicine. When my father passed away, I met many of his former patients and it was then that I saw how rewarding it can be to help patients heal. This was instrumental in pursuing a career in service.

**HFC: What are the challenges and the rewards of being a doctor?**

**REGALA:** As a solo

practitioner, I have to balance the complexities of running a business as well as keeping up with advancements in medicine, and managing one's time to maintain balance with personal life. Practicing medicine I am continuously presented with new problems every day. The biggest reward is the appreciation patients have for the care you provide.

**HFC: If you were not a physician, what career path would you have chosen?**

**REGALA:** I'm not sure. I was actually a Spanish major in college. I also spent a lot of time working in research labs. I found working with patients to be much more rewarding, however.

**HFC: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

**REGALA:** I, along with my wife and ten year old son, enjoy spending time outdoors-- surfing, hiking, and camping. I also enjoy cooking, photography, and travel.

**HFC: When your term is done, what legacy do you want to leave behind?**

**REGALA:** I want the PMAH to continue to grow. We need to incorporate the wisdom and experience of our previous leaders with new ideas to reinvigorate the organization.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Governor Ige Gives State Address and House Speaker Calls for Support of Struggling Families

The Hawaii State Legislature commenced this month and Governor David Ige gave his 2019 State of the Address highlighting his proposals for Early Childhood Education, affordable housing and the Transit Accommodations Tax.

“More than ever, we need to take control and shape our own destiny through education and innovation. And we need to protect those things which mean the most to us—our natural resources, our way of life, our values, and our children’s future,” said Ige.

“The road ahead remains clear and so do the reasons why we need to press on with the progress we’ve made over the last four years: in transforming our schools with a new education blueprint that is school and community based; in reshaping our economy using technology to drive innovation; in addressing homelessness in a compassionate way; and in short circuiting the underlying cause of homelessness by building more affordable homes.”

The governor called for the creation of a universal, statewide high-quality public preschool system as a long-term goal.

“I am proposing to the Department of Education that we look at our elementary schools in a whole different light. That we reinvent our elementary education by making early learning an integral part of our children’s overall elementary curriculum. That’s what good beginnings are all about.

“That’s why I am proposing to the DOE that we restructure those schools presently composed of Kindergarten through grade 6 to pre-K through grade 5.”

Grade six in those schools would then become a part of our middle schools, where the added classes could be more easily and financially accommodated.

On homelessness, Ige mentioned the homeless population has gone down for two consecutive years for a total reduction of 18 percent.

“This includes decreas-



Gov. David Ige

es in every county, as well as decreases in key homeless subgroups, such as families, children and veterans. We have also seen an increase in people exiting homeless programs to permanent housing,” said Ige.

The governor also proposed to relocate OCCC. “For several generations now, the community of Kalihi has, with little protest, hosted OCCC in its own back yard. While it is not the primary reason to relocate Oahu’s outdated jail, the chance to revitalize the community of Kalihi by using that vacated space to create new economic and social opportu-

nities is another good reason to relocate OCCC.”

He said he will also be submitting legislation to bring the state’s minimum wage “closer to a real living wage.”

## Speaker Saiki Addresses the House

Speaker of the House Scott K. Saiki told the 51 members of the House of Representatives that with the financial difficulty with which many families in Hawai‘i are struggling, the Legislature must reaffirm its policy-making role, listen to others who are affected by its work, and be prepared to compromise.

“As we already know, regular people are having an increasingly difficult time making ends meet and the divide between those with and without resources is growing,” said Speaker Saiki. “We need to re-examine wage disparity, while also considering the impact on those who pay wages, and especially small businesses that, unlike other states, provide medical insurance and other benefits to

their workers.”

The Hawai‘i Constitution gives the Legislature the authority to approve the state budget, appropriate public funds, and to enact laws, Saiki said.

“This is how the Legislature sets policy for our state. No other branch has this authority. At times, the Legislature has abrogated this role to the executive and judiciary branches,” he said. “But to fulfill its constitutional purpose, we need to reassert the Legislature’s policy-making role.”

When crafting legislation, the Legislature needs to “view circumstances through the lens of those who are impacted by them,” he said.

In this 60th year of statehood, many things have changed in Hawai‘i, bringing benefits and challenges, he said.

“The House will continue a progressive course in a pace that is appropriate and best for all of Hawai‘i’s people. And remember that what sets Hawai‘i apart from all other states and Washington, D.C. is that we govern as a family,” Speaker Saiki said.

## Sign Up for Ilokano or Cebuano Visayan Classes

Are you interested to learn Ilokano or Cebuano Visayan? The community can now sign up for classes being offered by a newly organized not-for-profit group, the LAING Hawaii, and the United Visayan Community of Hawaii. The language courses will be held each Saturday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. beginning in February and will run through April this year.

LAING Hawaii will conduct the Ilokano instruction; the United Visayan Community of Hawaii will teach the Cebuano Visayan.

The Ilokano component of the course was designed and implemented by Dr. Aurelio S. Agcaoili, the current program coordinator for Ilokano at UH Manoa. The Visayan language instruction will be headed by Richard Angcog

and Isobel Mahimer

LAING Hawaii was put together by graduates of the Ilokano Language Acquisition and Immersion for the New Generation (iLAING), a community language program put together by the Philippine Consulate General, the Filipino Community Center, the Candonians of Hawaii, the United Laoagueños of Hawaii, and the University of the Hawaii at Manoa Ilokano Language, Literature, and Culture Program. The Ilaing Program was supported by the Etrata Foundation, the Philippine Airlines, Western Union, and many other donors.

LAING Hawaii, evolving from the foundational vision of iLAING, envisions to be the not-for-profit organization to offer alternative ways for heritage language access in the

state. At its initial run this year, and in cooperation with the University of Hawaii Ilokano Program, it will begin to offer the first two Philippine languages of diaspora in Hawaii, Ilokano and Cebuano Visayan.

United Visayan Community of Hawaii, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, has its own social hall in Waipahu put up in 1948. It is one of the oldest civic and cultural organizations organized by Visayan immigrants from the Philippines.

For those interested to learn Ilokano and/or Cebuano Visayan, contact Rebecca Maria Goldschmidt (lainghawaii@gmail.com) or Catherine Tagalicud Taylan (808-482-1461) for Ilokano and Richard Angcog (808383-3691) and Isobel Mahimer (ispoma@yahoo.com 808-2777124) for Cebuano Visayan. Other details of the language programs are also at the LAING Hawaii website <https://lainghawaii.wordpress.com/> and Facebook @lainghawaii.

## MAINLAND NEWS

# Rep Gabbard Introduces Bill to Ensure Retirement and Disability Pay for Veterans

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Gus Bilirakis introduced the Retired Pay Restoration Act that would ensure veterans can receive the military pension they’ve earned as well as VA disability compensation. Under current law, veterans receiving 40 percent or lower rates of service-connected disability compensation are not eligible for full retirement and disability benefits. The Retired Pay Restoration Act would correct this error and allow veterans receiving 40 percent or lower rates of service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay and veterans’ disability compensation or combat-related special pay.

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, Founder and Co-Chair of the Post-9/11 Veterans Caucus said: “Our veterans have dedicated their lives in service to our country, and should not be penalized for that service due to a bureaucratic rule. Retirement benefits and disability benefits are two different things, and one should not be counted against the other. Under current law, hundreds of thousands of veterans are being shortchanged, failing to receive their full retirement and disability benefits they have earned. This is ridiculous and cannot be allowed to continue. Our bipartisan legislation will correct this and ensure that our veterans receive the benefits they’ve earned and deserve.”

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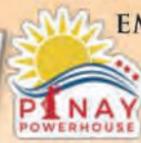
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PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

# THE HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE'S HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

**O**It started with a vision—to bring about a more unified local Filipino community in Hawaii at a time of division and chaos. Unity was the intention in mind when co-publishers Dr. Charlie Sonido and wife, Managing Editor Chona Montesines-Sonido created the inaugural issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle.

*“It was an issue on the situation surrounding President Marcos’ exile. It was an issue to unify Filipinos,”* Montesines-Sonido said.

Furthermore, the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle was created for Filipino immigrants to learn about their new country and for non-Filipinos to learn about the Filipino culture.

According to Dr. Sonido, *“We wanted a reputable local Filipino newspaper where immigrant Filipinos learn not only about what is happening in the Philippines but also about Filipinos in Hawaii or on the mainland. At the same time, we wanted non-Filipinos and local-born Filipinos to have a better understanding of the Filipino culture and experience.”*

And for 25 years now, not only has it been raising awareness among its readers about the latest issues on politics and business, healthcare and immigration; the Chronicle has been making a mark in the community, touching lives and making a difference.

Let’s take a look at the highlights and major milestones that the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle has attained in the past 25 years.

**October 1, 1993.** The first issue (inaugural issue) of the Chronicle rolled out of the press and distributed via mail to 20,000 Filipino households.

**October 1, 1994.** The Chronicle opened its free distribution outlets where one can just pick up a copy of the newspaper for free.

**May 16, 1997.** Chronicle

was granted an interview by Loida Nicolas Lewis, America’s Top Business Woman who is a Filipino immigrant in her N.Y. office. She is the Chair and CEO of TLC Beatrice, LLC, a \$2 Billion multi-national company, one of America’s largest companies. Mrs. Lewis was also the first woman who is of Filipino ancestry to pass the New York bar without having studied law in the U.S.

**October 16, 1998.** Chronicle conducted the first Political Poll Survey in the Filipino community that landed them

TV interview and mainstream media coverage.

**June 1, 2001.** Chronicle was able to get an interview with Josie Natori, a Filipino-American high fashion designer & the CEO & Founder of the Natori Co. in N.Y. She is the first female VP in corporate finance on Wall Street.

**October 1, 2005.** The Chronicle was published on a weekly basis providing readers with more frequency distribution of the newspaper.

**April 29, 2006.** The Chronicle, through the efforts and business advocacy of its

publisher and managing editor, was awarded by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the Journalist of the Year in the City & County of Honolulu. This is the first time that a Filipino newspaper was awarded such award.

**November 12, 2011.** The Chronicle published a supplement on the APEC Summit that was held in Honolulu from November 7-12, 2011. The Chronicle was given media pass to this prestigious event attended by dignitaries and heads of state like Pres. Barack Obama, Pres. Noynoy Aquino

and leaders of other countries. Media were well screened so it was an honor for the Chronicle to have been given a media pass to cover the event.

These, and many more milestones have been reached by the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle over the years but it was not without a fight. There were many challenges along the way. Financial setback, and the rise of digital and social media were and still are the major problems being faced by the publishers.

*“In our 25 years of existence, I remember posting an income only for 5 years and the rest of those years were losses. People don’t realize the amount of money, time and*

*(continue on page 15)*



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AS I SEE IT



By Elpidio R. Estioko

# Changing of the Guards: Goodbye 2018, Welcome 2019!

**T**he year 2018 just ended and we were left with putting a period in our life's activities and started welcoming year 2019. I just hoped we ended the year 2018 with a positive note and now looking at 2019 as a year of hope!

As we weigh in to both the end and the beginning of the year, let this be our stand on the issue: For positive events and developments in our life that happened in 2018, let's cherish them and let them shine to light our activities for the year 2019. For our negative experiences, let's not forget them but remember them as reminders for us to do better and to amend our lives this year.

Looking back, December, as the super month of the holidays, is the time to connect and reconnect with families, not only up to the 4th degree of consanguinity but beyond... up to our distant relatives, to our friends, and to the community whom we are already part of as our extended family... just like my new family - the staff, stakeholders, and executives of Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (HFC). I'm reminded of our new Milpitas Mayor two years ago Richard "Rich" Tran (he was re-elected last November 6) who made it clear during his inaugural speech on December 13, 2016 and re-echoed it during his 25-minute swearing-in speech on December 18, 2018) that residents of Milpitas are his family, just like our termed-out FilAm Mayor Jose Esteves did during his 12 year-term as mayor of the city.

My daughter Tweety and

her husband Jonathan from Oahu, Hawaii joined us this Christmas for family holidays. The following day, they passed by Delano, CA to visit Jonathan's grandparents before heading to Las Vegas, Nevada where Jonathan's parents are. Then, they were back in Milpitas on the 22nd to attend more Christmas family gatherings.

On Saturday, December 22, my wife Delia and my children Paul, Jayson, May, Tweety, son-in-law Jonathan and May's boyfriend Steve attended the Christmas party tendered by our old-time friends Eric and Tiffany Aquino in their home in Hayward, California.

On the 24th, we held our family Christmas party at our home in Milpitas and did the traditional Christmas dinner boodle fight style and exchange of gifts. Our son Jojo and his family (wife Alvi and

daughters Kayla and Bibay) joined us via Face Book chat and our eldest Gigi and her husband Eric called us all the way from Sydney, Australia. Thanks to the internet which broke physical barriers that enabled us to be together on the air on Christmas day!

We had lunch on December 25, 2018 with Andy and Heather Evangelista in their house in Milpitas and in the evening, we attended the Estioko family Christmas party with my nephew Al and his wife Wilma hosting the gathering at their residence in San Jose, California. On the same evening, we celebrated the 81th birthday of my sister-in-law Ermina (married to my brother Romy) and remembered the birthday of my twin siblings Mar from Toronto, Canada and Leo from Bakersfield, California.

The year 2018 was great for me and for my family. It was excellent... considering that I was able to keep my

house; maintain my job; provided food on the table; kept the family together; my wife and I plus all my children and two grandchildren were able to travel to Hawaii together; and successfully held the wedding of my daughter Tweety to Jonathan in June (June bride). To me, it was the wedding of the century because it gathered close friends and immediate relatives at the church wedding ceremony up to the reception in the Golf Course Club House and reuniting all my children and grandchildren who came all the way from Sydney, Australia and Jacksonville, Florida after 10 years, the last time we were complete as a family.

By now you know that traditionally, as we left year 2018, we made our new year's resolution promising to do an act of self-improvement or something slightly nice, big or small, for 2019! The tradition dates back to religious origins,

*(continue on page 13)*

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Philippine Economy to 'Rebound Slightly' in 2019 — United Nations

By Ian Nicolas Cigaral  
Wednesday, January 23, 2019

**M**ANILA, Philippines — The Philippine economy is expected to “rebound slightly” this year, the United Nations said, adding that public spending on infrastructure will continue to fuel growth.

In its “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019” report, the UN forecasts the Philippine economy to expand 6.5 percent this year from an estimated 6.3 in 2018.

For 2020, the UN pegged Philippine gross domestic product growth at 6.4 percent.

If realized, the international body’s projections would fall below the government’s downwardly revised target of 6.5-6.9 percent for 2018 and 7-8 percent goal for 2019 and 2020.

“Growth will be mainly driven by strong government spending and infrastructure

investment,” the UN said.

The Philippines experienced a rapid increase in consumer prices last year amid food supply bottlenecks, higher excise taxes on several goods and surge in the cost of oil imports. Inflation spiked to a near-decade high in September and October before it started to cool down.

In a bid to fight capital outflow and keep inflation in check, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has lifted its policy rate by a cumulative 175 basis points since May 2018.

But red-hot inflation and surging borrowing costs have sapped consumer spending, which has traditionally been the driving force behind growth in the Philippines, and crimped economic growth to a three-year low of 6.0 percent in the third quarter last year.

“The economy faces the



This file photo taken on Dec. 20, 2018 shows traffic in Manila, Philippines. The Philippine economy is expected to “rebound slightly” this year, the United Nations said, adding that public spending on infrastructure will continue to fuel growth. The STAR/Edd Gumban, File photo

risk of persistently high inflationary pressures, prompting a more aggressive stance on monetary policy tightening, thus further constraining private consumption,” the UN said.

Widely known as the “Build, Build, Build” program, the Duterte administration plans to supercharge economic growth by upgrading the country’s dilapidated infrastructure, which policy-

makers qualified as one of the reasons why the Philippines had lagged behind its Southeast Asian peers for so long.

Spending on infrastructure and other capital outlays grew 43.6 percent year-on-year to P62.9-billion in November 2018 from P43.8 billion in the same month in 2017. However, it was 33.3 percent lower than the P94.4 billion spent in October.

This brought January-No-

vember 2018 infrastructure and other capital outlays to P728.1 billion, which was equivalent to 93.9 percent of the P775.369-billion programmed for 2018.

“Public spending on infrastructure is likely to remain strong in most countries, as Governments continue to focus on easing critical structural bottlenecks and expanding productive capacity,” the UN said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

(AS I SEE IT: CHANGING OF THE ...from page 12)

but the concept, regardless of origins, is geared towards reflecting upon self-improvement every year. This, to me, is the reason why we resolve to do something at the start of the New Year.

As we left and said goodbye to year 2018, we are faced with the New Year and are hoping that we have more opportunities to come as the New Year rolled and ushered another year for us. I am optimistic the New Year will give us better options, wider chances, more opportunities, and a lot of positive challenges. It’s these challenges that propel us to make resolutions to make sure we hurdle those challenges. But... most New Year’s Resolutions fail! Despite this, we do it anyway!

Okay, reflecting on what happened to our resolutions in the past, I would like to refer you to a study made in 2007, conducted by Richard Wiseman from the University of Bristol involving 3,000 people, which showed that 88% of those who set New Year resolutions fail. Well, if

that is the case, why is there still a need for a New Year’s resolution? With almost everybody breaking their promises immediately after making them, and after jumping when the clock strikes 12 midnight of December 31, 2018 during the countdown, the issue now is: Do we still have to make a New Year’s resolution for 2019? With the rate of failure so high, do we still have to make one?

Based on my experience, most people say yes because making a New Year’s resolution is crucial to our life. If we make one, we set a goal which we aspire to attain. On the other hand, if we don’t... there’s no goal, at all, in our life as we navigate another year.

So, to make our life for 2019 more meaningful, it’s not too late for us to set up a goal – make a New Year’s resolution, if you haven’t done one yet!

That being said, what then is the most important and very meaningful resolution you will make? While there are popular goals or resolutions

people go for, to me, the most important, should be to keep the family together. If your family is one, united, and well-connected – maintain it by all means! If there’s a lot of disconnections, dysfunctions, hatred, disrespect, and misunderstandings – pick up the pieces and put them together because the family is the main concern of Christmas and the holiday season. So with that, let’s make and nourish this year’s resolution to greater heights. Make the family the center of our heart, the center of our life, the center of our existence. In fact, make it the center of everything we do in life without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion!

By the way, the same study showed that the most common reason for participants failing their New Year’s resolution was setting themselves unrealistic goals (35%), 33% not keeping track of their progress and a further 23% forgetting about it. About one in 10 respondents, the study further showed, claimed they made too many resolutions.

Does that make sense?

Check this out - as to success rate, the study mentioned better chances of achieving one’s resolutions when we engage in goal setting (a system where small measurable goals are being set instead of big and ambiguous ones; such as, a pound a week, instead of saying “lose weight”); when we make our goals public and get support from our friends; and when we talk with a counselor about setting goals and new year resolutions.

So, if only we can set up realistic goals, items that are attainable and easy to comply... we may have a better success rate in accomplishing our resolutions.

But, the reality is, with or without a New Year’s resolution, we can do a lot of good things in our life. If we can make our New Year’s goals and can commit to these resolutions, our life will even be more meaning and purposeful... it will have a pathway we can follow and a goal we can claim, as we live the New Year 2019 to the very end. We

have a charted future, so to speak!

The question lingers: Is there a need for a New Year’s resolution? Definitely, yes! The issue is setting up and going for realistic goals, instead of never-thought-of random goals. If only we can set up specific and attainable goals, things that are simple and easier to comply... we may have a better success rate in accomplishing our New Year’s resolutions.

If we can make our New Year’s goals and can commit to these realistic resolutions, our life will be full of achievement and a lot of things we can nurture and look forward to.

Now we can say goodbye to 2018 and ended the year with a bang... Then let’s welcome 2019 and embrace the New Year with hope and added enthusiasm for a better year!

A Very Prosperous New Year to all!

For feedbacks, comments... please email the author @ [estiokoelpidio@gmail.com](mailto:estiokoelpidio@gmail.com).

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# US Stops Issuing New Work Visas to Filipinos

By Pia Lee-Brago

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

**M**ANILA, Philippines — Filipinos would not be issued two types of US work visas until Jan. 18 next year, due to concerns over human trafficking and overstaying raised by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

In a notice issued over the weekend, the DHS said the Philippines had been dropped from the list of countries eligible for H-2A/H-2B work visas.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the Philippines is ready to work with the US in addressing the issues.

Malacañang is not ruling out an appeal, but said it would rather let the DFA work it out first with the US embassy.

H-2A visas are given to foreign agricultural workers in the US, while H-2B visas are granted to skilled and unskilled workers. The restriction took effect last Jan. 19.

“In FY 2017, DHS estimated that nearly 40 percent of H-2B visa holders from the

Philippines overstayed their period of authorized stay,” the DHS said in its notice published in the Federal Register.

Also stricken off the list were the Dominican Republic and Ethiopia.

Among US diplomatic posts across the globe, the US embassy in Manila issues the greatest number of T-derivative visas (T-2, T-3, T-4, T-5, T-6), which are reserved for certain family members of principal T-1 nonimmigrants (victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons).

The US embassy in Manila issued approximately 40 percent of the total T-derivative visas issued worldwide from 2014 to 2016.

A recent review of certain T-1 status recipients, whose spouses were issued T-2 visas in the same period, showed approximately 60 percent trafficked to the US on H-2B visas.

“DHS and DOS (Department of State) are concerned about the high volume of trafficking victims from the Philippines who were originally issued H-2B visas and the po-



tential that continued H-2B visa issuance may encourage or serve as an avenue for future human trafficking from the Philippines,” the statement said.

“DHS and DOS also believe that these overstay and human trafficking concerns are severe enough to warrant removal from the H-2A visa program as well,” it added.

“The Philippines’ continued inclusion creates the potential for abuse, fraud and other harm to the integrity of the H-2A or H-2B visa programs,” it pointed out.

The DFA reminded Filipinos abroad, particularly those in the US, to follow immigration rules and avoid staying beyond what is allowed by their visas.

“As visa issuances are a country’s prerogative, the DFA notes the concerns that led the DHS to arrive at its decision,” the DFA said in a statement.

“Nonetheless, the Philippines is open to the possibility of working with the United States in addressing these issues, as it has previously done so with similar concerns involving the Filipino community there,” it said.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said there is a need first to know whether there is basis for the US move. “If we can see that there is no basis, then we will ask for a reconsideration – but that’s the job again as I said of DFA and the US ambassador,” he said.

“Now, with respect to this

particular issue, let us wait and let us have the DFA as well as the ambassador to the US take care of that initially, because that’s their turf,” he said.

“If that is the law in the US and if there were violations then we have to respect if they have basis for that. We will only react if our workers are being mistreated, maltreated or being discriminated against but if they violated laws of the US, then they have to face the music,” Panelo said.

On the issue of human trafficking, Panelo expressed the opinion that the Philippine government cannot intervene in the way the US tackles the matter.

Asked if the Palace shares the opinion of the DHS that the Philippine government is not doing enough to address human trafficking, Panelo said on the contrary, the administration is doing its part in enforcing anti-trafficking measures.

“What we can do is to do our own controls here,” he said.

Panelo added there are other countries where Filipinos can look for greater opportunities. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## MAINLAND NEWS

# Filipino Community Hosts AACC 36th Annual Lunar New Year Gala

**C**HICAGO--The Filipino American community will host this year’s Asian American Coalition of Chicago (AACC) Lunar New Year Gala on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 5:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare, 9300 W. Bryn Mawr, Rosemont, IL. The black-tie event is the largest Asian-American event in the Midwest and will mark the beginning of the Year of the Pig with the theme “One World. One Vision.” The gala is an opportunity for Asian Americans to come together, take a stance of unity and promoting and celebrating diversity.

Every year a different

Asian community takes turn hosting the Lunar New Year Gala. The Filipino American community hosting this year is led by Aurora Abella-Austriaco, partner at Valentine, Austriaco & Bueschel, P.C.; past president of the Chicago Bar Association, Past President of the Illinois Real Estate Lawyers’ Association and Commissioner for Illinois Courts Commission. She serves as Chair of the AACC Lunar Gala.

“In keeping with the traditions of the Lunar New Year, the Filipino Asian American community is excited to host the event this year. The AACC gala aims to bring all

Asian-American communities under one roof to collaborate and engage on issues and opportunities impacting Asian-Americans in the U.S.,” said Austriaco. “Additionally, the gala is a great platform to promote diversity among Asian Americans while showcasing their traditions, cultures & heritage.”

The annual celebration Gala includes reception, exhibit booths, dinner banquet, keynote address, awards, and entertainment.

Filipino-American Television personality and restaurateur Billy Dec, Marc Rita and other celebrity emcees from major TV networks have also been invited to serve as emcees for the evening.

### Awards Ceremony

AACC recognizes two outstanding awardees, one of Asian descent and one of non-Asian descent, who have made exceptional contribution to the Asian American community. This year, AACC’s most prestigious Pan Asian American Ping Tom Memorial Award will be presented to Tina Tchen, partner at Buckley Sandler and former Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama.

The Grand Asian American Sandra Otaka Memorial Award will be presented to ABC7 Chicago. This is the first time in the history of AACC that an entity or organization is receiving the Sandra Otaka Memorial Award.

Past celebrations have

brought together more than 1,200 guests including Asian American community leaders, dignitaries, elected officials, corporate sponsors and the City’s movers and shakers.

Tickets are available individually for \$95 or \$950 for a table of ten. For information on ticket purchase, please email Chris Hernandez at [CHernandez@mbfinancial.com](mailto:CHernandez@mbfinancial.com).

Asian American Coalition of Chicago (AACC) founded in 1983, is represented by over 16 cultures including the Bangladeshi, Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Nepalese, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Thai, and Vietnamese American communities. The Asian Lunar New Year Celebration helps celebrate these rich heritages and diverse histories.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

# Trump Shutdown Proves President Hates America



**A**ny federal workers out there? Believe me, I feel for you.

And I'm sorry you don't have a wall around the president to protect you from this new U.S. phenomenon: the payless pay period.

Zero point Zero-Zero is a triple-placeholder that does not compute as a fair wage for honest work.

I have two close Filipino American friends in Washington who are hanging in there.

They work in the federal government, so I shall protect their identities.

One is luckier than the other. Friend No.1's job is with one of those departments that got appropriated in the fall. Nine other departments, like Interior, are caught in this shutdown. So Friend No.1 has a check. Friend No. 2 is in the latter category.

"Today was my first missed paycheck," said No. 2. "One paycheck is doable. But I'm hoping we'll get our next paycheck on Jan.25."

I'm hoping too. But judging how the president refuses to budge on a wall, I'd say it's unlikely.

That is, unless President Shutdown comes to his senses.

Here's one thing we've learned. It's hard to negotiate with a congenial liar. Trump said he'd own the shutdown.

Then he didn't. He said Mexico would pay. Then he tried to weasel out of that (sorry, I should be more respectful to weasels than to compare them to a sitting truth-challenged president).

Friend No. 2, a highly-educated federal worker, had this opinion of the President Shutdown's tactics: "It's a ridiculous way to have a policy argument! POTUS can't get something appropriated via Congress so he shuts down the government? Apparently, he can't win on the merits of an argument, so he has to hold the wages of 800,000 workers hostage."

Friend No. 2 was just getting started.

"[Trump] seized on an elegant and powerful symbol during the campaign—the wall," No.2 said. "But like Mario Cuomo said, 'You campaign in poetry, you govern in prose.' Trump boxed himself in with something so blunt and unworkable. Now he looks like a chump to his base for not being able to cough it up."

Well, Trump was the least qualified person to ascend to the presidency. And now we know how he bankrupted a slam dunk like his Atlantic City casinos, where the house always has an edge. Unless it's run by Trump.

I say he's looking for a fig leaf big enough for his ego. But who's going to throw him one first?

Some Republicans are suggesting a fake emergency court delay that gives

Trump an exit plan to open up the government. Some are suggesting a deal involving funding for DACA, but the same white nationalist base he's trying to placate hates DACA more than a wall.

A wall is a wall. DACA recipients are real persons of color. The base will never go for it.

This past weekend, we saw the kind of DACA deal Trump wants. It's only temporary relief, continues xenophobic policies, and still includes funding for a wall.

Meantime, he doesn't care that America is literally coming apart during the government shutdown with things like food inspection and aviation safety most at risk. The shutdown has a great trickle down that any Republican tax cut. It's impacting far more than the 800,000 federal workers whose paychecks are being held hostage.

It's hard to see anyone but the Republicans forcing Trump to be reasonable. They should have leverage on Trump, but don't want to impose their will on the president.

Republicans need to revolt and push to re-open

government for the country's good. I know conservatives must be conflicted. They are getting to live their "No government/Small government" fantasy. So anything Republicans have done is sort of half-hearted—besides voting themselves a tax cut that will raise the U.S. Treasury Department's estimate of the federal deficit in FY2019 to more than \$1 trillion.

At some point, keeping the government closed will be more costly than anything a border wall could possibly prevent. That should motivate Republicans to have a heart-to-heart with the man New York Times columnist Tom Friedman just called an "ignoramous" on cable news. Right now, everything seems misplaced. The GOP Senator Tim Scott is and other fellow members of Congress are concerned about Republicans' silence on Iowa Congressman Steve King and his racist remarks.

They all ought to be more concerned with silence over Trump. He's wrecking America.

Pelosi and pals have a little ways to go before they reach "a pox on both houses" territory. If they don't budge—and why should they—it re-

mains Trump's tantrum until further notice.

And that means more pain ahead.

The longer President Shutdown is unmovable, the more our federal workers—a good deal of them Filipino Americans—are the real victims.

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I have often called my show "Spalding Gray meets Ferdinand Marcos." My dad is from Marcos' home town and he tells the story of how he came to the U.S. in 1928. He bypassed Hawaii and came straight to California. That may have been his big mistake.

EMIL GUILLERMO is a veteran journalist and commentator. He was on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser, and a columnist for the Starr-Bulletin. Twitter @emilamo

**(PERSONAL REFLECTIONS: THE HAWAII....from page 11)**

efforts put in trying to maintain and keep afloat a community newspaper," Mrs. Montesinos-Sonido explained.

Dr.Sonido added, "Surviving in the digital age with the Internet as the main medium of communication has made financial challenges even greater. Print media, in general, has been in significant precipitous

decline since the advent of social media. Even the most popular and established newspapers either have closed shop or cut back tremendously to survive. For HFC, it was a labor of love that started it, and it is still a labor of love that continues to sustain it. "

Indeed, labor of love has started it all. Labor of love

has sustained it. Labor of love will carry it through the next years and decades that it will continue to exist. The future is undoubtedly uncertain, but as long as there are readers who will continue to support it, the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle will remain an advocate and a voice for the Filipinos in Hawaii and the mainland.

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FEATURE

(Editor's Note: This is the second of a three-part series.)

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIVORCE

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

## Part Two – Children

**P**For couples with children, the issues of child support and custody are often stress producing. The parent with whom the children will live loses the help of a partner in driving the children to school, activities and doctor's appointments; supervising homework and daily routines; and the plain tasks of household chores and grocery shopping. It is difficult being a single parent. For this reason, the Hawaii courts, in their mandatory "Kids First" seminar, try to remind the non-custodial parent to be supportive of the other parent and make the effort to ease the responsibilities of raising children in a one-parent home. These are the main issues relating to children that must be addressed in the divorce decree.

### Child Support

Couples fight about child support sometimes, thinking that if they refuse to pay, they don't have to, but this is not true. Child support is mandatory, because the parent with the children needs the money to house and feed the children.

While the paying spouse is often resentful about parting with his or her spending money, he or she has to keep in mind that with more money, the custodial parent can afford a safer or better home for the children to grow up in, better food to eat, and more activities to benefit the children. Child support is for the children to benefit with decent housing, meals, schooling, clothing, and activities. In situations where a parent is so obstinate that they quit their job, the law imputes income at the prior levels or what that parent would or should be earning, and calculates child support nonetheless.

By federal law each state developed child support guidelines worksheets (CSGW) to standardize the amount of child support paid per child in that state. The computation is based on each parent's gross income from all sources, the cost of medical insurance, the cost of child care, and the time share ratio, and nothing else. "Normal" time sharing by the non-custodial parent includes up to 143 days, anticipating that the children will be on weekend visitations and the parents will equally share vacation and holiday time with them. Parents can always agree to an amount higher than figured by the CSGW.



Each parent's gross income from all sources and the monthly payments for child care and medical insurance are entered into the worksheet, and the calculations are automatically done, factoring in the standard of living allowances for that state. The CSGW give predictability and conformity

on this issue to divorcing parties. With information from paystubs, W-2s, or most recent tax returns, a spouse's lawyer can input these into the CSGW and know how much child support will be paid by one or received by the other. This calculation assumes that the children live with one of the parents (the custodial parent) and support is paid by the parent the children don't live with (the non-custodial or obligor parent).

The CSGW also can calculate support in situations where each parent has at least one of the parties' children living with them (split custody), or the children live a

significant portion of the year (half / half) with each parent (extensive time). Exceptional circumstances are rarely invoked, but are reviewed for determining support in excess of ordinary needs. It is granted in rare situations, such as for disabled children or those with medical conditions requiring extraordinary medical expenses. Remarriage, heavy debt, and travel for visitation are not exceptional circumstances, but private school can be.

The CSGW is signed by both parents and accompanies the order for pre-decree relief while a contested divorce is in process, and with an updated

(continue on page 17)

## KROWORD

Blg. 1

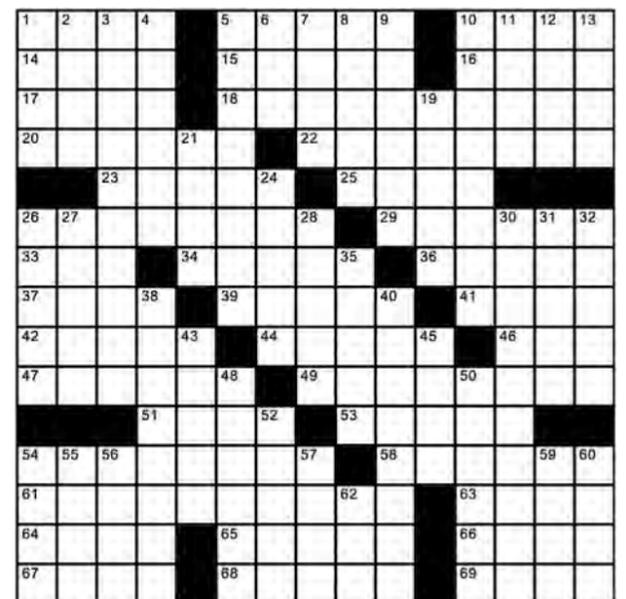
ni Carlito Lalicon

### PAHALANG

1. Isang uri ng kamang-lupa
5. Nang sa gayo'y
10. Sibat
14. Patak ng tubig na nagmumula sa himpapawid
15. Pasak
16. Pesteng sumisira sa kahoy
17. Bulalas ng damdamin na galing sa dalawang salitang 'ina ko'
18. Bugnutin
20. Itakad
22. Poklor
23. Punggi
25. Supling
26. Pamamaga ng dila
29. Gisa
33. Bigas na natira na kinain ng mga daga
34. Balot
36. Kaisipan
37. Ahedres
39. Sukal
41. Unyon
42. Bilin
44. Anib
46. Mayroon
47. Bayaan
49. Bulaylay

### PABABA

1. Kaisipan
2. Ningas
3. Tinggal
4. Niyari
5. Atay-atay
6. Aspile
7. Pagkamasamang amoy o lasa
8. Palandangan
9. Hilahod
10. Pailalim
11. Ningas
12. Katawagan sa "kuya" o "ate"
13. Payag
19. Tiyuhin
21. Balat-ulo
24. Pamitik
26. Gatla
27. Lusaw



51. Talaguhitan
53. Ketongin
54. Deretsa
58. Dalingsil
61. Iwi
63. Dahon
64. Pagtungong pataas
65. Pandikit na yari sa arina
66. Dait
67. Kalawa
68. Binga
69. Yunit ng timbang o bigat

28. Alirang
30. Murahin
31. Bigat na ipinapatong sa isang bagay
32. Awit na pampatuloig sa sanggol
35. Busel
38. Maton
40. Lalabintaunin
43. Kilates ng ginto
45. Apaw
48. Pang-abay na pamanahon
50. Palakad
52. Naglalawa sa pagkabasa
54. Garil
55. Upos
56. Karangalan
57. Alay
59. Isang uri ng halamang butil
60. Anyo
62. Bagwis

(Ang sagot ay ilalabas sa susunod na isyu ng Chronicle)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

# Proving Good Moral Character for Naturalization

**O**ne of the requirements for naturalization is that “the immigrant must be a person of good moral character.” The immigrant must possess good moral character for the entire period of continuous residence required prior to filing for naturalization, and from the time of filing the naturalization application through the administration of the oath of allegiance. The standard for good moral character is that of the average citizen of the community and does not require the highest degree of moral excellence.

There is no definite list of qualities an immigrant must possess in order to have met the good moral character requirement. But the law does set forth certain classes of persons generally ineligible to show good moral character. “Permanent bars” to good moral character are if the immigrant has been convicted

of murder, aggravated felony or persecution, genocide, torture or severe violations of religious freedom. If the immigrant is convicted of any of these crimes, then he does not meet the good moral character requirement and hence, cannot file for naturalization under any circumstance.

A conviction of other certain crimes will prevent the immigrant from filing for naturalization for a specific period on the ground that he does not possess good moral character. This is known as “conditional bars”. These bars are triggered by specific acts, offenses, activities, circumstances, or convictions within the statutory period for naturalization, including the period prior to filing and up to the time of the Oath of Allegiance. An offense that does not fall within a permanent or conditional bar to good moral character may nonetheless affect an immigrant’s ability to establish good moral character. These crimes included under conditional bars are one or more crimes involving moral turpitude, aggregate sentence of five years or more, controlled sub-

stance violation, imprisonment for 180 days or more, false testimony, prostitution, smuggling of a person, polygamy, gambling, habitual drunkard, failure to support dependents, adultery and unlawful acts. US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) examiner could also find that the immigrant does not possess good moral character because of an act or conduct not enumerated in the law and policy manual.

The USCIS examiner decides applications on a case-by-case basis whether an immigrant has the requisite good moral character. The examiner will look at the prior conduct and acts of the immigrant and also his record, statements in the naturalization application and testimony provided during the interview to assess the application. If the immigrant has committed acts or his conduct might show that he does not have the requisite good moral character, the immigrant must include evidence in the application that he has reformed. This can be shown through completion of probation, community involvement, educa-

tional achievements, employment history and family ties. The immigrant must clearly show that the good and positive qualities now outweigh the past negative acts or conduct. Furthermore, if the immigrant was not convicted of the crimes, whether they are included in the list, the immigrant must make an argument in the application that arrests without convictions do not render him removable or inadmissible to the US. Another defense would be that although the immigrant was arrested for an included crime, he did not commit the said crime. However, if the immigrant participated in a diversion program or agreed to a stay of adjudication in return for dismissal of a criminal charge, this will be considered a bar to the finding of good moral character.

A ground that is not explicitly stated in the law that can bar a finding of good moral character is the failure to comply with the selective service registration requirement. In the US, all men aged 18 to 26 are required to register for selective service. If the immigrant who is under 26 years of age knowingly and willfully refuses to register then he would be denied naturalization. However, the USCIS must give the immigrant a reasonable opportunity to register as long as he

is still below 26. If the immigrant is 26 to 31 years old and failed to register, his application will also be denied, unless he can show that his failure to register was not knowingly and willfully done. The immigrant can overcome this burden by a preponderance of the evidence. If the immigrant is over 31 years of age, then the failure to register for service is outside the 5 year period for good moral character. However, the USCIS will look at the other acts and conduct in order to determine if the immigrant has good moral character.

An immigrant who has been on probation, parole or received a suspended sentence during all or part of the statutory period is not precluded from establishing good moral character. However, the application will not be approved until after the probation, parole or suspended sentence is completed. Even if the criminal conviction record or non-drug offense related criminal record is expunged, these convictions can still be used by the USCIS to deny the application on the ground of lack of good moral character.

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

**FEATURE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIVORCE...from page 16)**

one for the decree when the divorce concludes. If the support payments are to be taken out of a parent’s paychecks, then the judge also signs an Order for Income Assignment that directs the employer to take out the money from the paycheck and send it to the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) to be transmitted to the custodial parent. If the parents are on relatively good terms after the divorce, they can choose to have support paid directly from one parent to another. In that situation, the employer again withholds the child support from the obligor parent’s paycheck and deposits it directly into the bank account of the custodial parent, and the parties must do their own recordkeeping.

The CSEA opens cases either by court order or request of a parent. It receives child support payments from

an obligor parent’s employer and transmits it to the custodial parent. Most importantly, it keeps the record of those payments. If child support arrears are \$500 or more per year, the parent can ask the CSEA to collect using such means as intercepting tax refunds owed to the payor parent and transmitting it to the custodial parent. CSEA is located in the state office building in Kapolei, a few blocks from the Family Court. All child support payments go through the CSEA unless the order states otherwise. Even if parents start with a direct payment order, this can be changed at any later time to go through CSEA.

Child support can be modified by either the CSEA or the Family Court after the decree when there is a significant change or circumstances, such as a parent getting a higher paying job, or after three years

of the existing order. Either parent can request the CSEA or court for a hearing to change the amount of the support payments.

**Education, Life Insurance, and Health Insurance**

The parents can agree to any arrangement they deem to be in their children’s best interests. Usually the primary caretaker pays for the children’s educational expenses (tuition, fees, books, supplies), unless the decree states otherwise. Payment of private school expenses by a parent can be considered by the court as an exceptional circumstance in determining the amount of child support paid.

Life insurance is not mandatory, but is often ordered, as a back-up for child support in case the payor parent dies before the child support obligation

(continue on page 18)





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FEATURE

(FEATURE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIVORCE...from page 17)

tion ends (while the children are still minors or after graduation enrolled in post-graduation education). Parents can agree to the amount of coverage. The non-custodial parent will be the one providing the life insurance for the minor children.

The divorce decree must state which parent provides health insurance for the children. Both parents can provide for their children if they wish, with one coverage designated as primary (first payment of expenses) and the

other as secondary (balance of expenses). Expenses that are not covered by insurance are usually shared either 50/50 or in the child support ratio found in the CSGW.

**Child Support After High School Graduation**

Child support continues for each child until the child turns 18 and stops their education after high school. This means that for children born from January to May and turn 18 during their senior year of high school, child support ends the

month he or she graduates. If the child is born from June to December, child support continues after graduation until the child turns 18. If the child continues his or her education on a full-time basis after high school graduation, however, child support continues even during school breaks until the child completes his or her education or reaches age 23, whichever comes first. Post-high school education can be vocational or trade school, or college or university. Examples of vocational or trade school are those that prepare the child for a “blue collar” job, such as automotive repair, nurse’s aide, computer hardware, plumbing, carpentry, or dental or medical assistant. After a child turns 18 and studies at a university, living away from home, the court can order that support be paid directly to the child.

**Tax Exemptions**

Generally, the custodial parent takes the tax exemptions for the children and is entitled to all deductions, credits, and refunds relating to those exemptions. If the child support and other expenses paid are substantial, however, the court may order that the payor parent is entitled to the exemptions.

**Custody and Visitation**

Upon filing a divorce, if children under the age of 18 are involved, both parents are required to attend a “Kids First” seminar to guide them

about the importance of preserving, as much as possible, the emotional well-being of their children during and after the divorce. Divorces will not be granted before the parents’ attendance. Children also must attend at the same time in a separate room, to help them understand and deal with the break-up. The court schedules the parents to attend the seminar. Parents can choose to attend at either the Family Court in Kapolei or the Honolulu courthouse on Punchbowl Street.

The primary caretaker is often the sole legal custodian and physical custodian. Physical custody means the parent the child lives with mainly. Legal custody refers to major decisions, such as the school the child attends, doctors the child has, and so forth. Giving sole legal custody to the

parent with physical custody makes it easier as only one parent has to sign to register the child for school, summer school, school break camps and other activities, and undergo medical treatment, without the other parent’s signature.

Courts prefer that the parents agree on custody and visitation. Parents should decide which vacations, holidays, and birthdays are spent with each parent; how children will be picked up and dropped off; contingency plans for changes in scheduling in case a parent cannot spend their usual time with their children or pick up or drop off as scheduled, and so forth. Parents can agree to any reasonable time-sharing schedule they believe is in the best interest of the children.



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(Solution to Crossword No. 20 | January 5, 2018)

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**PMAH 41ST ANNIVERSARY & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS** | February 2, 2019; 5 PM | Hilton Hawaiian Village, Tapa Ballroom | RSVP: By E-mail to [pmahinfo@gmail.com](mailto:pmahinfo@gmail.com) or by calling 888-674-7624 by January 15, 2019

**FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII (FCCH) FILIPINO ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR** | March 23, 2019; 6 PM | Ala Moana Hibiscus Ballroom | For

more details call: Rose Galanto- 688-4458, Vanessa Tan Kop - 441-0509

**OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) PRESENTS THE MISS OAHU FILIPINA 2019** | June 1, 2019; 6 PM | Marriot Waikiki Beach Resort | For more details call: Calvin Bagaoisan- 266-4334, Maricelle Redona-295-5233, Raymond Sebastian - 799-6080

**FILIPINO NURSES ORGANIZATION OF HAWAII (FNOH) EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARDS** | August 10, 2019; 6 PM | Hilton Hawaiian Village Resorts Coral Ballroom | For more details call: Lolita Echauz Ching- 387-7635, Luanne Long- 754-0594

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**MAINLAND NEWS**

**Asian Group Condemns Trump Over Border Wall**

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Asian American Advancing Justice, an affiliation of five civil rights organizations issued a statement condemning President Donald Trump over his demand of a border wall.

“We strongly condemn the President for throwing a temper tantrum over an unpopular and unnecessary border wall. Unfortunately, the House caved to the President’s racist



demands. We call on the Senate to reject this attack on immigrant communities.

President Trump is not in touch with the American people. Approx-

imately 69% believe a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico is either not a priority at all or not an immediate priority. In addition, 57% of people believe that Trump should compromise on the border wall to prevent gridlock.

We must not feed this administration’s white supremacist agenda at the expense of people’s livelihoods. We call on Congress to listen to the will of the people and stand firm against Trump’s latest tantrum.”

**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**Palace: We Have to Respect if US Has Basis for Banning Filipino Workers**

By Patricia Lourdes Viray  
Tuesday, January 22, 2019

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government would have to respect the decision of the United States if it has basis for removing Filipino workers from its eligibility list, Malacañang said Tuesday.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has banned issuing temporary work visas for new Filipino workers seeking jobs in the country until Jan. 18, 2020.

Filipino workers will no longer be granted H-2A and H-2B visas due to high overstay rates.

“If that is the law in the US and if there were violations then we have to respect if they have basis for that. We will only react if our workers are being mistreated, maltreated or being discriminated against but if they violated laws of the US then they have to face the music,” presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a televised press briefing.

The DHS, as well as the US De-



Sec. Sal Panelo

partment of State, raised concerns about the high volume of trafficking victims from the Philippines who were originally issued H-2B visas.

The continued issuance of H-2B visas might encourage human trafficking from the Philippines, the DHS said.

Data from the US Embassy in Manila showed that 60 percent of T-1 nonimmigrants or certain victims of a severe form of human trafficking were identified to have been trafficked to the US

through H-2B visas.

The US government, however, did not provide figures on the supposed rising number of human trafficking victims from the Philippines. According to Panelo, the Philippine government has not yet received such report from the US Embassy in Manila.

Panelo only noted that the US government must have conducted its own investigation into the human trafficking issue.

“If their investigation yields that there was a violation, I don’t think we can interfere with that. What we can do is to do our own control here so that trafficking victims from here would not be able to go there,” Panelo said.

The Malacañang spokesman further added that it would be the Department of Foreign Affairs and US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim who would handle the matter.

The US Embassy in Manila has yet to issue any comment on the directive of the DHS to temporarily ban Filipinos from the

H-2A and H-2B visa programs.

The DFA, on the other hand, reminded Filipinos abroad to follow immigration rules and avoid overstaying as allowed by their visas.

“Nonetheless, the Philippines is open to the possibility of working with the United States in addressing these issues, as it has previously done so with similar concerns involving the Filipino Community there,” DFA spokesperson Elmer Cato said.

Asked how the Philippine government would console Filipinos planning to work in the US, Panelo said there are other countries where they can seek job opportunities.

“Until they lift that, what we can do is first we need to know whether there is basis for the decision. If we can see that there is none then we will ask for reconsideration but that’s the job of the DFA and the US ambassador,” Panelo said.

“As soon as we receive the report then we will make a move officially,” he added. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))



# Hawaii Senior Medical Group



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