

HAWAII

# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ MARCH 2, 2019 ◆

# FILIPINA ATTORNEYS TO HOLD POWER CONFERENCE IN HAWAII

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## EDITORIALS

## Filipina Attorneys: Don't Miss Out on Attending Pinay Powerhouse III

**O**n 2016, Christine Mari Palma Start, deputy public defender in Solano County, California came up with an idea of bringing together Filipina attorneys from across the nation to learn from and support each other in an annual conference-type setting. She had just finished her life coach certification and was sworn in as president of the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California (FBANC).

After seven months, Start and her attorney colleagues launched the Pinay Powerhouse Collective, a committee within the National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA), which became responsible for presenting what is known as the Pinay Powerhouse Conference series. To date, there has been two conferences; a third Pinay Powerhouse will take place this month in Honolulu.

The format of Pinay Powerhouse has been a rousing success. Reputable Filipina leaders from various fields of law – business, government, immigration, public service, the court's system – are invited to speak and take part in panels where they talk about their expertise in their fields.

But what many attendees find most interesting is hearing these high-powered attorneys' personal experiences, how they got started, their obstacles, the steps they've taken to succeed. The conferences certainly cover topics of the law and its application; but also "real-life" stories of the work-culture where law is practiced, which is particularly meaningful for law students or newly-licensed attorneys.

What's unique and perhaps what fuels inspiration at these conferences is that all these established attorneys are Filipinas. The speakers, organizers, and attendees share similar backgrounds (many being the first in their families to become a lawyer); and in some cases, have faced similar challenges precisely because of their sex and ethnicity. Yet, they've found ways to persevere and advance in their careers.

One attendee of a past Pinay Powerhouse conference said it was the first time ever for her to be in a room filled with Filipina attorneys as herself. Another said going to the conference is like being a part of a sisterhood.

All professional organizations offer something of value for their members – in most cases opportunities for networking, expanding contacts and clients. But there's that extra special bonding that members of minority organizations share like no other. Their need to advocate for their often underserved community is what draws them together, a kind of shared hunger for justice.

The fact that they are underrepresented in a profession in which great things can be accomplished as in the field of law serves as motivation to foster burgeoning professionals to also be in a position of power and accomplish great things. Mentoring – both finding mentors, then becoming a mentor – has the effect of changing lives.

The National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA) estimates there are about 3,000 to 6,000 Filipino-American lawyers. From that, perhaps nearly half of them are women. The numbers show while there are many Filipina attorneys who have reached top levels in their field, there is still room for improvement. Events like Pinay Powerhouse serve as catalysts toward this end.

Hawaii's Filipina legal community – practicing attorneys and law students – are fortunate to have Pinay Pow-

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**F**ilipina attorneys and law students will have the opportunity to attend a powerful conference to be informed and inspired, and to network with colleagues like themselves at the upcoming Pinay Powerhouse Conference III, on March 29-31, 2019, at the Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach.

For our cover story this issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo gives us all the details of this very important event hosted by the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association and other Filipino bar associations in the U.S. It will feature in two panels highly accomplished Filipina attorneys in various fields of law. Josephine Parry, a former Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary for a past Fortune 500 company, will be the keynote speaker. Past participants have raved about the conference-series. They've talked about enhancing their knowledge of the law and being a part of a sisterhood. Organizers believe this Hawaii event will be as meaningful and moving. We hope many of you in our community can support this important event.

Speaking of attorneys, HFC's Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq. writes about the English literacy and history test immigrants wanting to become U.S. citizens must pass. Immigrants are tested on their ability to read, write and speak words in ordinary usage in the English language. This article is a simple guide of what is expected in this test. What many immigrants do not know is that there are a few exemptions for not taking this test. If you are an immigrant 50 years of age and have lived in the U.S. for more than 20 years, it's possible for you to file for an exemption. Find out what the other exemptions are in the article.

Also in this issue, HFC frequent contributor Rose Cruz Churma gives a book review on "Rock Solid: How the Philippines Won Its Maritime Case Against China." The book, written by Marites Danguilan Vitug, a bestselling author and currently editor-at-large of Rappler, details the historic maritime case that the Philippines won over China in 2016 at the United Nations Convention of Law of the Sea.

Lastly, we've included a special Chronicle Pulse of Hawaii Filipino Chronicle contributing writers sharing their fond memories of our newspaper, as part of our 25th Anniversary observance. I am so grateful to our staff of excellent writers. And joining us starting this issue is Melissa Martin, Ph.D., who will be our newest contributing writer. She is an author, columnist, educator and therapist. This issue she submitted an OP-ED entitled "Newspapers R Us Because Humans R Us." Welcome aboard Melissa.

Thank you always to our loyal supporters. Spring is fast approaching later this month; it's known as the season of new beginnings and rebirth. Happy Spring to all. Until next issue, warmest *Aloha* and *Mabuhay!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

erhouse come to the state. Kudos to the national organizer, the NFALA, and local hosting affiliate the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association (HFLA) for presenting the conference. It takes hard work and tireless hours to put an event of this magnitude together. We encourage organizations to consider being a sponsor and members in our community to register for the event. Visit PINAYPOWERHOUSE3.COM for details. Mabuhay Pinay Powerhouse supporters; and welcome to our beautiful state.



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EDITORIALS

# The National Debt is Exploding; But Mums the Word for Republicans

**R**emember when the national debt mattered? When Republicans were up in arms over government overspending? When Sen. Ted Cruz held an overnight marathon speech in the U.S. Senate chamber protesting Obamacare and how expensive it would be if expanded?

Fellow conservative fiscal hawks Sens. Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, and even conservative religious figure Pat Roberts, stood in the 21 hours 19 minutes theatrical performance which also threatened to shut down the government back in 2013.

Newsflash: the U.S. public debt just recently hit \$22 trillion – the highest it has ever been, according to the Treasury Department. The staggering debt is largely due to the massive corporate tax breaks (\$1.5 trillion) pushed forward by Republicans while President Donald Trump continues to spend with reckless abandon.

What happened to all the fiscal conservatives protesting practically every social program the Obama administration put forth? They penny-pinched all the way, citing exorbitant government spending over and over again.

Yet, President Trump wants to spend billions for a vanity wall while the debt is at a record-breaking high and tax revenues low; and Republicans remain silent. Crickets.

The civilian Trump said four years ago if the national debt topped \$21 trillion by the end of President Obama's term, "Obama will have effectively bankrupted our country."

With the debt currently at \$22 trillion, what does it say of Trump's performance? –especially since he campaigned on dramatically reducing the country's debt. He said in 2015: "When you have \$18-19 trillion in debt,

they need someone like me to straighten it out."

Instead, what Trump did was increase spending; and Republicans want to increase military spending by a mind-blowing \$80 billion. For perspective, that would be enough to pay for free public higher education, something that progressive Democrats want – but Republicans call it a pipe dream, and dismiss it for being way too expensive.

The politics is transparent and ugly.

The national debt matters to Republicans when it comes to programs like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, healthcare spending; but there always seems to be enough money for the defense budget, and now, their new "urgent" concern of stopping illegal immigration.

If cutting spending – one-half of dealing with the annual deficit—is apparently a low priority at this moment; what could Republicans have been thinking by dramatically reducing tax revenues with the tax cuts – the other one-half affecting the annual deficit?

Their logic: trickle-down economics.

Republicans are banking that the hefty tax breaks will trickle down to spending, and in turn increase tax revenues. But the Congressional Budget Office already is predicting that the economy will not grow over 2 percent a year on average; and it would take the economy to grow 3 percent annually for this "trickle down" effect to take place.

### How does the national debt affect you?

The economy is getting a temporary boost from the recent tax cuts. But economists say, that boost will eventually go back to average rates of growth and should spending and the debt remain at their current trajectory, it could lead to rising interest rates.

That means higher inter-

est rates for credit cards and loans, which have a direct impact on most Americans.

Federal debt also reduces the amount of private capital for investments, which hurts economic growth and wages. The CBO projects, growing debt would reduce the income of a 4-person family, on average, by \$16,000 in 30 years.

When the government finally decides it must get a handle on the emergency-level debt, it will resort to less spending that will impact economic growth. Raising taxes would be the eventual course of action to pay down debt.

### Time for a reality check

The government cannot continue to rack up debt as if real money is monopoly money. Both political parties are not willing to make necessary cuts because no one wants to be the parent saying, "no, you can't have this or that." No one wants to be the bad guy and lose reelection.

Trump is doing everything possible to raise the GDP and show economic growth. But really, he is accomplishing this on credit and debt. Obama also did the same, but arguably, he had no choice to get the country out of the second greatest depression the nation faced which he in-

herited upon being elected.

At some point, just as the average American does when budgeting his own personal finances – the government must prioritize spending.

An American earning \$50,000 a year would not be able to live the lifestyle of a millionaire. Creditors would not allow that. The U.S. government's creditors (including itself) eventually would find it impossible, too.

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# Pinay Powerhouse III Empowering Filipina Attorneys

By Edwin Quinabo

**P**eople should be treated as equals before the law, regardless of sex – this was the message behind “On the Basis of Sex,” a biopic of U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg that hit the big screen late last year.

In 1956, the young Ginsburg was one of only nine women admitted to Harvard law school in a class of 500. Harvard was founded in 1636, but it would take hundreds of years later in 1950 before it began admitting women to its law school.

The film touched on gender discrimination, being a minority in the legal profession, and balancing motherhood and career – real-life obstacles most female attorneys encountered in the mostly all-male, all-white legal profession of the ‘50s-‘70s.

Times certainly have changed as women today make their mark in large numbers at the upper rungs of law. But challenges remain for professional women in the workplace; and women of color in particular are still fighting for empowerment, fighting to flourish in the field of law.

While the number of Filipino women practicing and entering law is growing, Filipina attorneys are still trailblazers with many saying they are the first woman in their entire extended families to become a lawyer. The National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA) estimates there are about 3,000 to 6,000 Filipino-American lawyers.

Filipina attorneys want to change that number. They’re networking. They’re making their presence known; and mentoring aspiring Filipinas to join their ranks.

## Pinay Powerhouse III

Just as the pioneering Ginsburg was saying just by her presence at the halls of Harvard in the ‘50s, “that, we, women are here, claiming this space,” -- Filipina attorneys are doing the same across the nation, saying with their presence, “We are here. We exist. We are claiming the space -- it is ours.”

Pinay Powerhouse III, “Shine on,” a conference for empowering Filipina attorneys, will take place on March 29-31 at the Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach.

Atty. Joanne Badua, a member of the Hawaii Execu-

tive Committee helping to put together Pinay Powerhouse III, explains some of the challenges women attorneys face today and why an event like this is needed.

“Female empowerment is evident such as Cardi B becoming the first solo woman to win the Best Rap Album at the Grammy’s, and Sandra Oh making history as the first Asian woman to host the Golden Globes. However, the American Bar Association (ABA) in 2018 did a study and found that women’s experiences differ from men’s and affect women’s longevity in the law.

“The study found those in organizational leadership need to understand the importance of retaining women lawyers, who leave their profession because of stereotypes and burdens female lawyers face compared to their male counterparts.

“This includes 81% of 1,300 female respondents being mistaken for a lower-level employee (0% for men), 60% leaving firms because of caretaking commitments (46% for men), 54% were responsible for arranging child care (1% for men), 39% were responsible for cooking meals (11% for men), 34% leave work for children’s needs (5% for men),” said Badua.

She calls Pinay Powerhouse a safe space for those that

identify as a woman and Filipina, and support the mission and purpose of advancing Filipina women in the legal field.

She says there are many professional development conferences, but Pinay Powerhouse is unique because it specifically focuses on “creating and owning space for Filipina women to support each other to succeed in the legal profession, and advocate for Filipina American interests.”

Kayla Ganir, a senior at Seattle University and Kamehameha Schools graduate, talked about how Pinay Powerhouse II conference gave her much needed inspiration.

“Ever since I was a child, becoming a lawyer has been my dream. I have no attorneys in my close family relations, and very few friends who are also interested in law. So I’ve found myself feeling alone.

She said the support she received from PP2 gave her the self-confidence she needed to validate and affirm her ambitions. “I no longer feel alone. I feel capable. It was overwhelmingly inspiring to witness the success of so many powerful Pinay attorneys who have achieved that which I only dream of achieving.

“I have a community that will support and lift me up when I feel hesitant and intimidated. PP2 couldn’t have said it better: there needs to be more women of color in the law profession,” said Ganir.

A few of the esteemed past

speakers of Pinay Powerhouse conferences include Nani Coloretti, highest ranking Filipino American in the U.S. federal government during the Obama administration as the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and Lorna Schofield, first Filipino American in the history of the U.S. to serve as an Article III federal judge.

Another Executive Committee member attorney Rebecca Gardner also attended Pinay Powerhouse 2 in Los Angeles, California. “I took a leap of faith to attend the conference. I was nervous. I was not sure if I’d be accepted. I’m an ‘other’ -- only half Filipina. And my brand of being a lawyer is not typical. I didn’t know if I was wasting my time and money - and worried that I would walk away feeling inadequate -- an outsider.

“To the contrary. I was embraced, with open arms, by this amazing, intelligent, eclectic, energetic, effervescent, beautiful, and inspiring group of women. And to feel a sense of belonging with these ‘sisters-in-law’ -- who all wanted to see me succeed -- along with every other attendee of this conference, it was all just so empowering.”

Gardner said she grew up in a very Caucasian rural area. “No one knew what I was exactly, nor could they find the Philippines on the map. I trudged the path through law



PP1 attendees at the inaugural conference in San Francisco, California gather around the lobby of the host firm, Perkins Coie, after a day filled with sisterhood formed from engaging discussions in two panels and intimate breakout sessions. Photo by Rex Vincent Photography (@rexvincentpolito)

## PINAY POWERHOUSE III COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY 3.29.2019

Meet & Greet with Chief Justice of Hawaii Supreme Court and Hawaii Filipino Judges (Time TBD)

5:00 PM – Pinay Powerhouse III Luau - Opening Reception and Fundraiser

### SATURDAY 3.30.2019

7:30 AM - Breakfast/Registration

9:00 AM - Panel I. BRIGHT SPOTS:

Pinay-Powered Social Justice Achievements

10:30 AM - Breakout Session

12:30 PM - Lunch & Keynote Address

Josephine T. Parry, former VP, GC & Corporate Secretary for Novell, Inc. and former VP, GC & Corporate Secretary of Tandem Computers, past Fortune 500 companies

2:30 PM - Panel II. RAIN AND SHINE: Using Pinay Power to Bring Business & Prestige to Your Practice

4:00 PM - Breakout Session (Yellowtail Room)

6:30 PM - Reception (Stingray Room)

### SUNDAY 3.31.2019

Morning hike

Aloha BBQ

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**COVER STORY**

(from page 4)

school and became a member of the Hawaii and New York State bars. I faced the challenges that these identities bring. It meant so much to see and know that I was not alone, and that I was supported.

”There are so many of us across the country -- seeking to make the best of ourselves, our careers, our communities, our families, our friendships -- and our identities as Filipinas. I accepted my role as a member of the executive committee. It is my great hope that I can express my gratitude for what this conference did in my life by helping it happen in the Aloha State, my home,” said Gardner.

**Top-notch Panelists**

As Ganir and Gardner drew inspiration from speakers of Pinay Powerhouse II, this year’s conference will also have top attorneys in various fields of law.

Josephine Parry, the keynote speaker, entitled her address “Don’t Shrink, Shine: Claiming Space in a White Male-Dominated Profession & Practice Area – Reflections from a Pioneering Pinay Powerhouse.”

She will speak on the Shine Theory (this year’s theme), the term coined by Ann Friedman and Aminatou Sou which describes a commitment to collaborating with rather than competing against other people—especially other women.

Parry will also discuss a range of other topics: qualities that make an effective leader; bad habits to let go of; sources of inspiration; promoting self - how to ask for raises; resilience - how to stay inspired while facing adversity, burn-out, jadedness; traversing troughs - how to keep yourself up and bounce back after a blow in your career; and assimilation (or not) - as a female and Filipino.

Atty. Parry is former Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary for Novell, Inc. and former Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary of Tandem Computers, past Fortune 500 companies.

**Panel I and II**

Pinay Powerhouse III will have two panels, both of which could go toward continuing legal education.

The first panel features four prominent Filipina lawyers who are leaders in multiple social justice initiatives and have careers in public service. The panel will focus on strategies for positive social change.

**Panel 1, Bright Spots: Pinay-Powered Social Justice Achievements**, will feature the following topics and attorneys: Immigrant Rights by Jerilynn Gonzales Abrams of Gonzalez Gonzalez & Gonzalez Immigration Law Offices; Gender and Race Equity by Jennifer Rose, Director of University of Hawai’i Office of Institutional Equity; Human Trafficking by Jennifer Sta. Ana, US Dept of Labor; and Filipino Veteran Advocacy by Abelina M. Shaw, 1st Filipina Chief of Staff to Mayor of Honolulu, HI; advocate for WWII Filipino veterans through FilVetRep Region 11 Congressional Gold Medal.

Besides their specific topic, panelists will also address how being a Filipina empowered them in their work and some of the challenges they’ve encountered.

The second panel is composed of four prominent Filipina lawyers in private and government sectors. They will discuss strategies for fundraising, business, and brand development.

**Panel 2, Rain and Shine: Using Pinay Power to Bring Business and Prestige to Your Practice**, will feature attorneys speaking on: Building Your Litigation Practice by Carolyn E. Sieve, Partner for Constangy Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP; Politics and Private Practice by Della Au Belatti, Hawaii House of Representatives, District 25; Banking, Compliance, Government Relations by Faith Lleva Anderson, Senior VP/General Counsel for American Airlines; and Path from Private Practice to Judgeship by Hon. Darolyn H. Lendio, District Judge of the First Circuit.

According to the ABA:

“Women constituted a mere 16 percent of equity partners in U.S. law firms in 2009—unchanged from 2008 and barely up from 2006... Almost half of firms have no women among their top 10 rainmakers; another third have only one woman among their top 10... Rainmakers tend to be better compensated and are more likely to hold positions of power. It also makes them more marketable should they choose to switch firms. ‘If women attorneys have any hopes of achieving a longer life span in the modern law firm, they must learn to generate business.’”

**Enthusiasm for the conference and for the Filipino legal community**

Angelica Zabanal, a litigator at Duane Morris LLP, FBANC co-director of community outreach and co-chair of the women’s committee, and graduate of UH-Manoa’s -William S. Richardson School of Law, will be attending the Hawaii conference.

“I am really excited to come back to Hawaii and to share the sisterhood I have found with my fellow Pinay Powerhouses with my home,” said Zabanal.

She attended Pinay Powerhouse I and it was the first time, she recalls, being in a room full of pinay attorneys like herself for the very first time in her life.

That experience convinced her, she says, “to leave the sidelines, step up and become more involved in my local Filipino bar organization, FBANC.

“There is nothing more powerful than this kind of sis-

terhood, remember my sisters in law, and knowing that I’m fully supported,” she said.

Zabanal points to statistics that show there is still a need for more representation of Filipinas in the legal profession. “According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Filipinos and part-Filipinos constitute approximately 23 percent of the state population, yet as a Filipina lawyer from Hawaii, I did not see that ratio reflected in the legal community of Hawaii.

“It is incumbent upon us sisters-in-law to share this spirit of community and inspire others to know that we are here, and that they have a seat with us if they so desire,” she said.

If you would like to claim your space in this sisterhood, be inspired and learn invaluable information, organizers invite you to claim your seat and attend this moving event. For registration and rates, visit [www.pinaypowerhouse3.com](http://www.pinaypowerhouse3.com).

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By Melissa Martin, Ph.D.

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**N**orth America, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, Antarctica. Humans live, work, and play on the 7 continents. Humans sail the seas. Humans fly the skies. And humans read online newspapers.

"The newspaper is a greater treasure to the people than uncounted millions of gold," declared Henry Ward Beecher.

All free countries on the planet with a printing press and the internet are able to connect to share words, ideas, and daily happenings. People read newspapers around the globe because humanity experiences tragedies and

December 10, 2018, marked the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Every human is entitled to the freedoms listed in the Universal Declaration "without distinction of any kind such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." Online newspaper stories expose and celebrate human



rights around the globe.

Prior to the World Wide Web, we watched the evening news on television or listened to the radio for current information about citizens in other countries. Now, we can read what journalists, reporters, and columnists from all races, ethnicities, and cultures write. We can read their local stories. We can read about their communities. On a local, regional, national or global scale, humans can tune into newspapers any-

time on planet Earth.

According to a 2015 World Press Trends Survey, global newspaper circulation revenue made history by exceeding advertising revenue for the first time. Why? Many newspapers are diving into digital technology.

"What are the news headlines today?" According to the World Association of Newspapers World Press Trends report, more than half of the world's adult population read a newspaper each day—more

than 2.5 billion in print and more than 600 million in digital form.

The World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers, or WAN-IFRA, is the global organization of the world's press. It derives its authority from its global network of 3,000 news publishing companies and technology entrepreneurs, and its legitimacy from its 80 member publisher associations representing 18,000 publications in 120 countries. [www.wan-ifra.org](http://www.wan-ifra.org). The countries of Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, from US cities Abilene (Texas) to Zanesville (Ohio), we can peruse online newspapers. Stories connect us—because we are humans. Long live online newspapers! Newspapers R Us because Humans R Us.

**MELISSA MARTIN, Ph.D.**, is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in Ohio. [www.melissamartinchildreauthor.com](http://www.melissamartinchildreauthor.com).

## OPEN FORUM

# Workers Need the "Wages of Decent Living" Please Enact a True Living Wage

By Ma. Glodilet Rallojaj  
UH-Manoa Student

**R**aising the minimum wage in Hawaii is one of the priorities in the legislature this year. On January 31st, 2019, our Junior Honors Seminar class attended the hearing at the State Capitol for Senate Bill 789, which we hoped would raise the current minimum wage from \$10.10 an hour to \$17 an hour. The state's own Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism has studied what it takes to get by in Hawaii and they tell us that a single person with no kids needs to make at least \$17 an hour to survive. Think about that: \$17 an hour is what a single person needs just to survive. Yet businesses are allowed to pay workers almost \$7 less than that per hour. How is that possible?

While my classmates and I were waiting for our chance to testify, we got to experience the inner workings of the legislature to get a bill passed and we heard other people's testimonies. Some were plain and simple. Others were moving and powerful, and the stories they told were the ones that stuck with me even after the hearing was over.

A tall, slim man testified about his work at the YMCA. He explained that raising the minimum wage would be very helpful for his fellow workers and also the community, because, without them, there would not be safety swimming lessons and all the other programs YMCA offers the community. What stood out to me in his testimony was his account of the 70-year-old grandfather who works in the maintenance department at the YMCA. He recalled the times that this grandfather borrowed

money from him because he just needed a little extra cash to pay his bills. He had been on the job for many years but was still struggling and would keep struggling unless we improved the minimum wage. The testifier was very aware of how embarrassing it was for this elderly man to ask to borrow money from his young colleague.

His testimony made me think about my grandfather. He too is in his 70's and it is tough for him to do a lot of things. So I can only imagine how hard this grandfather has to work to make a living for himself and his family.

The other testimony that I found significant was given by a woman, an alcohol abuse and mental illness counselor who had traveled from Hawaii island to attend the hearing. She narrated the story of a single mother who had committed suicide because she saw that as

the only way to give her children a better life.

After tirelessly working two jobs to support her kids, she felt she could no longer provide for them as they needed. She thought by committing suicide her kids would have a shot at a better life by being admitted to the foster system. This was a heartbreaking moment because this is really the reality we live in: that people have to work two full-time jobs just to survive and meet their most basic needs in this very expensive place we call home.

I think about my aunty in Maui who dreams of starting a family soon. She and her fiancé are both working two full-time jobs in Lahaina. In this type of reality, her dreams have to be put on hold.

I always knew how important raising the minimum wage was, but I never realized the consequence of having a

minimum wage that does not ensure that people can survive. That was the original intent of the minimum wage.

In 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt noted that "no business which depends for its existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country." He went on to explain that "by 'business' I mean the whole of commerce as well as the whole of industry; by workers I mean all workers, the white collar class as well as the men in overalls; and by living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level—I mean the wages of decent living."

As part of the younger generation, we always hear that we will be the ones that will change the world one day. However, I will not be able to change the world or contribute anything of value if my financial struggle to survive consumes my energies throughout the day. (continue on page 7)

OPEN FORUM

# Let's Work Together to Lower Our Cost of Living

By Sherry Menor-McNamara  
President & CEO  
Chamber of Commerce  
Hawaii

**W**ith a minimum wage increase at the forefront at the legislature, here's why the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii does not believe an increase will alleviate cost of living issues.

We support efforts to address the high cost of living in Hawaii. Increasing the minimum wage, however, will increase the cost of doing business, which will be passed down to consumers.

Minimum wage is not meant to be a living wage, but a wage at which companies can bring in unskilled workers and afford to train them until they build their skill level and earnings increases, rising

to the level of a living wage. That is how businesses retain employees, especially in this tight labor market.

Living wage takes into consideration size of household and the cost of food, childcare, healthcare, housing and other necessities.

A hike in minimum wage also forces other wages within a company to increase. Otherwise, a more experienced employee will earn the same

amount as a newly hired employee, creating an inequitable pay structure and morale and retention issues. However, escalating costs will have a substantial impact which could hurt the very people we are trying to help.

Healthcare is another important consideration. Hawaii is the only state in the nation requiring employers to provide healthcare to employees who work 20 hours or more per

week. Employees pay 50% of the premium or 1.5% of their wages, whichever is lower, with business owners paying the difference and some choosing to cover the entire cost.

We all agree that cost of living issues need to be addressed, but we do not believe that raising minimum wage is the solution. Let's work together to find ways to lower our cost of living and build a better business climate.

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### Creative Lab Hawaii Hosts 2019 Ideation Program

The state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism's (DBEDT) Creative Industries Division (CID) invites creative entrepreneurs to apply for the 2019 Creative Lab Hawaii (CLH) Weekend Ideation program that will focus on cultivating opportunities for indigenous storytelling on global platforms, which includes three months of

follow on mentorship.

Creative Lab Hawaii (CLH) Weekend Ideation Program: From Shorts to Long Form Content – A Program for Indigenous Storytelling, June 1 and 2, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach.

The free CLH Ideation Weekend workshop caters to creative entrepreneurs who look to explore ways in which

they can execute a story they're committed to telling. Those who have a written idea, concept, or fully developed short—and are interested in taking the next step to create a plan for

their project—can learn strategies to maximize their time, creative and financial resources. In addition to the two-day workshop, participants will benefit from the guidance

and support of a three-month coaching program.

The deadline to apply is March 31, 2019. To be eligible for the program, participation in one CLH Information Session BEFORE the program application deadline is required.

**OPEN FORUM: WORKERS NEED...**...from page 6)

I am a full-time student and work part-time on the weekends. My hourly wage is a few cents higher than the minimum wage, and it is not enough for me to live on. So I can imagine what it is like for workers with a family to support.

While I was a student-journalist in high school, I interviewed a single mother who worked two jobs and was houseless. How could we let this happen? We have the highest cost of living in the

United States, so it is essential that we have this living wage now. It would undoubtedly help working families and enable young people like myself to consider the possibility of staying and raising

our families here in Hawaii. One thing is for sure: the homeless encampments send a strong message: too many hardworking people are not earning the "wages of decent living."

I hope lawmakers get the message and enact a true living wage this year, one that is automatically adjusted as the cost of living goes up so. In this aloha state is it too much to hope for wages that will allow our friends, family members and neighbors to get by without the heartbreak and the constant struggle we heard so many testify to at the Senate hearing?

It's past time for a living wage.

## MAINLAND NEWS

### House Passes Universal Background Checks for Guns

**W**ASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, which would require background checks for all firearm sales, including those sold at gun shows and online. The bill, HR 8, also prohibits firearms transfers by a person who is not a licensed dealer. However, it does exclude "gifts to family members and transfers for hunting, target shooting, and self-defense," according to the House Judiciary Committee website.

The House passed the bill on a 240-190 vote. Eight Republicans crossed the aisle to vote with the Democrats, while

two Democrats — Reps. Jared Golden of Maine and Collin Peterson of Minnesota — voted with Republicans against the legislation.

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, who voted to pass the Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8), said: "97% of Americans support universal background checks for gun purchases. The passage of this bipartisan common-sense legislation is long overdue to help save lives and make our communities more safe."

This is the first gun control bill that Congress has considered in nearly 25 years.

The background checks legislation goes to the



GOP-controlled Senate where it faces stiff opposition, and President Donald Trump — who has strong backing from the National Rifle Association and other gun rights groups — has vowed to veto the bill if it ever reaches his desk.

### COURT INTERPRETERS WANTED

The Hawaii State Judiciary is seeking individuals who speak English and another language, as well as certified sign language interpreters to become court interpreters. Interested applicants must attend one of the mandatory workshops to become a court interpreter. Oahu: Feb. 23-24 or March 23-24 at Ali'iolani Hale (Supreme Court Building) in downtown Honolulu; Kauai: March 5-6 at Pu'uuhonua Kaulike Building (Kauai Courthouse) in Lihue; Hawaii island (Hilo): March 14-15 at Hale Kaulike (Hilo Courthouse). Registration forms are available on the Judiciary's website and from the Office on Equality and Access to the Courts at 808-539-4860.



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**Be good at life.** 

## CHRONICLE MEMORIES

## WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT WRITING FOR THE HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE?

## ■ TERESITA BERNALES

Being a member of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Contributing Writers staff is both an honor and a privilege. It's an honor to be part of this group of highly accomplished community-minded individuals who have made a name for themselves in their respective professions.

Sharing knowledge, information and expertise to the audience who have been loyal readers of this ethnic newspaper is a way of giving back to the community. This community has nurtured and enabled us to reach the apex of our professional careers. By way of print media, specifically the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, we are able to share our knowledge and involve our community in a symbiotic relationship.

We help identify and bring to light information or issues important to our citizens. We raise their consciousness level that moved them to further actions such as fund-raising drives in times of calamities in the Philippines and other worthy causes. We do information sharing on the grass root level, creating relationships, bonding and engagements between our local people and government. When we move a person or a group to worthy involvement, we become the voice, the facilitator to positive action for a common good.

I relished reporting on Medical Missions. The opportunity to be a mission participant and share "on-the-ground" to our readers is a more than storytelling. It leads to more individuals and organizations getting involved to bring the mission to their towns, villages or cities. Recruitment of volunteers for various phases of preparing and executing a medical mission: pre-planning, fund-raising, public relations, tasks and implementation, etc. becomes a natural outcome of good reporting.

Specific themes that centered on celebrations of the year, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, June Weddings, etc. are a source of delight. I try to reflect on my own experiences and share my thoughts. It becomes more of a conversation with a friend as I share my personal stories. On general topics such as Health Issues, Government, State of Media, Ethnic Media, etc, I do some research and decide on what will be valuable information for the readers and the impact of the information to be shared.

I refer to opinion snap shots as Public Listening. This important segment of an article allows the reader to know how the community think and feel about issues and what is important to them. This public conversation or dialog connects the media and the community, feel the pulse and the general feeling around a topic. I like to stay positive and talk about what is right so that the community can also see that there are good things going on. This may lead to action where they can do even more on what has made their community good.

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle will continue to serve an important role in providing a familial connection to and for the Filipino community. As mainstream media provides a broad spectrum of news and ideas, the readers of HFC will continue to reach for ethnic papers that specifically address their interests and needs. I foresee a bright future for HFC while mainstream publications are suffering a decline in readership. There is a strong bond of loyalty and mutual recognition that connects ethnic media and its audience, in common terms, perceived honesty and advocacy. As long as this bond is nurtured, Hawaii Filipino Chronicle will thrive. I'm proud to be part of this publication.

## ■ LINDA DELA CRUZ

Wearing full scrubs, a skullcap, and shoe coverings while observing a heart surgery done by Dr. Francis Duhaylongsod of Kaiser Permanente is one of the most treasured experiences I've ever had. Being in the Kaiser Permanente Moanalua hospital operating room with the staff, looking at the pulsating pumps of the state-of-the-art machines, observing Dr. Duhaylongsod in action for a Hawaii Filipino Chronicle article is something I'll never forget.

He was saving someone's precious life, and I was sharing a snapshot of his life's work with others through the article. This article is one of my favorite all-time pieces I've written in my journalism career which now spans more than 20 years in print, radio, online, and to my present job at KHON2 television news. It holds a special place in my heart because of the rare opportunity to witness this life-saving procedure which is a normal day for Dr. Duhaylongsod. The most precious gift of life was given to his patient so the patient could enjoy more time with family and friends.



Being a contributing writer of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle since 1999 has allowed me to write about inspirational people of Filipino heritage in Hawaii and on the mainland.

Each story I've done for the Chronicle is precious to me. I've covered stories on the homelessness, divorce and politics. What I've enjoyed most is doing profile stories on people such as actress Liza Lapira, women's advocate Irene Natividad, Pulitzer Prize winning reporter Alex Tizon of the Seattle Times, and Hawaiian Room hula dancer Kauai "Rita" Santana. I've also done feature articles on fellow Hawaii journalists such as TV news reporter Cindy Paliracio, Honolulu Star-Bulletin sports reporter Randy Cadiente, and the late Honolulu Star-Bulletin cartoonist Corky Trinidad.

My heart is full of joy because my connection with my Filipino heritage has been deepened thanks to the opportunity to write for the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. The reach of the Chronicle goes well beyond the Filipino community.

## ■ GRACE FONG

Congratulations to the Hawai'i Filipino Chronicle on its 25th anniversary. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a contributor to the Chronicle for almost 10 years, providing articles for its Family Corner series. Through this series, the University of Hawai'i's Center on the Family provided the Chronicle's diverse audience with a wealth of information on raising young children and promoting healthy family well-being. It was exciting to be able to discuss topics such as building a stronger family, guiding your infant, toddler or preschooler, kids in the kitchen, common childhood health concerns, learning games for children, and so much more. Our partnership allowed us to reach so many people, and it is a partnership that we truly appreciated and valued. Here's to many more years of the Hawai'i Filipino Chronicle.



## ■ CAROLYN HILDEBRAND

Chona, as publisher, wants Filipino stories that are told not only by data and statistics but also through interviews. So, in writing for the HFC, I often leaned on my ability to analyze statistical data but had to go beyond my comfort zone to interview people of different backgrounds and hear their stories.

One early memory about this was an assignment to write on the poorest of the poor among Hawaii's Filipinos. The research led me to the I.H.S. shelter for women and children on Kaaahi Street. Then, houselessness was not yet a crisis here. We also assumed that Filipinos provided a roof for each other no matter what. Long story short, a Filipina shared her story of how she lost everything including her family because of meth. She said that she got hooked on ice because her boyfriend said it will help her lose weight! It was a story that needed to be written with empathy.

I have a smile in my face whenever I remember what I had to do to give voice to environmental stories. To let the local community know more about Tony Oposa Jr., I requested to be a participant-observer in his environmental law class. The Oposa doctrine is one that every Filipino should know about. In 2016, Hawaii hosted the International Coral Reef Symposium and the IUCN World Congress. I attended many presentations to bring key messages to readers. One of my real regrets has been keeping the drama to myself and not writing an article about the IUCN World Congress' failure to pass a resolution to declare a Marine peace park in the contested South China Sea.

With Chona's formula, I am filled with memories of stories that had led me to research and approach many subjects in new, and hopefully, empowering ways.



## ■ JENNY QUEZON

Writing for the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle for five years helped me to appreciate the effort that goes into some of the newspaper's features, cover stories, and the all-encompassing current events, as well as sharing good photographs that are worth a thousand words, as they say. Your timely semi-monthly publication motivated me to attend more community events in order to fulfill my assignment for the "society page." *Mahalo nui loa* for the opportunity to be part of your contributing writers team, as well as to the editorial staff including Dr. Charlie Sonido, Mrs. Chona Sonido, Edwin Quinabo, Dennis Galolo, and others.

Writing is the window to the soul. Expressing one's self and summarizing events as well as sharing my love of group photos are very satisfying. HFC gave me the drive and opportunity to upgrade my God-given skills, take notes from professional photographers to improve my interest in capturing priceless images as part of attending community events. *Maraming Salamat po, Mahalo Nui Loa, and Dios ti Agnina!*



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**BOOK REVIEW**

# How the Philippines Won Its Maritime Case Against China

By Rose Churma

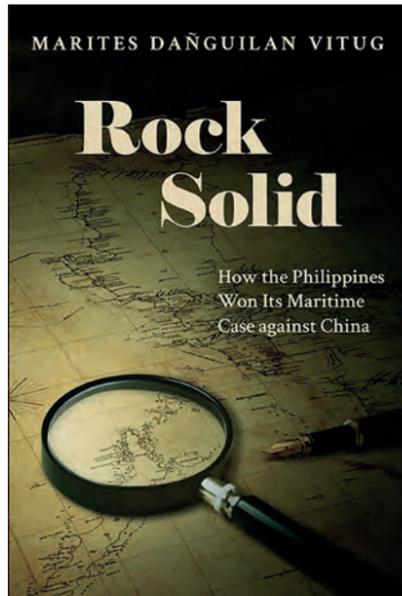
*Rock Solid: How the Philippines Won Its Maritime Case Against China.* Marites Danguilan Vitug. Ateneo de Manila University Press. Quezon City. 2018; Softcover. 315p

On July 12, 2016 the Philippines won its historic maritime case, when it filed a complaint against China at an UNCLOS (United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea) tribunal in light of China's expansive claim over the South China Sea.

In this stunning victory, the Philippines won on both jurisdiction and merit—but treading its case based on history and on the Law of the Sea that had been forged by 167 states and implemented for years. Ironically, China was one of the signatories of UNCLOS but chose to reject the judgement of international law.

After about two decades of diplomatic dialogues and consultations, the Philippine government was forced to seek a third-party arbitration. Former Ambassador to the US, Alberto del Rosario in his speech in 2017 noted that “as early as 2011, Justice Antonio Carpio correctly foresaw the unilateralist path on which Beijing would embark in its attempts to control the South China Sea and advised the use of international law as the best and most peaceful means of securing the Philippines’ position. In fact, Justice Carpio spoke at the University of Hawaii’s Richard-

(continue on page 12)



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By Elpidio R. Estioko

## Are Americans Overworked, No Time to Enjoy Life?

this idea based on cold statistics, pointing out that most Americans, again Filipino Americans included, only earn an average of 14 vacation days a year. Compared to our Italian counterparts, they earn 42 days a year; French, 37; German, 35; and Canadians, 25 days. As to the Japanese – long considered the most overworked or workaholic people on earth – they earn an average of 25 vacation days a year.

So, statistically speaking, Hyman is correct! In fact, many people believe that Americans are overworked and are considered “workaholics” because of their short vacation hours earned on a yearly basis.

This, however, was negated by a recent research showing that Americans are spending less time at work and more time at leisure.

In his article “Upwards

Leisure Mobility: Americans Work Less and Have More Leisure Than Ever Before,” commenting on the recent research conducted concludes that since the mid-1960’s, the amount of time that the typical American spends working fell by almost eight hours a week. On the other hand, the time spent on leisure activities rose to just under seven hours per week.

The research by Sherk challenges the popular perception that the average American is overworked and does not have enough time to enjoy life. The research attests to the fact that Filipino Americans plan yearly long vacations to the Philippines and Europe, even if they have to file leave without pay. Filipino Americans look to attend family reunions, alumni homecoming, visit sick family members, go for nostalgia trips; even “therapy” trips or

“ego boasting” trips.

Only last month, about 25 FilAms who were graduates of three high schools in Urdaneta, Pangasinan, attended the first-ever The Global Urdanetanians (TGU) -sponsored Multi-High School Homecoming on February 1 – 3, 2019 held at the Urdaneta City Cultural Center. Many of the attendees were not back home for years but found a way to go home and visit their long-lost friends in high school and walked the memory lane together. Thanks, by the way, to TGU president Yvonne San Juan-Sera for spearheading the homecoming project from three high schools in Urdaneta, an activity never thought of to be a very successful project ever. The Southern California-based TGU non-profit organization was ably supported by TGU-Urdaneta members of the organizing committee headed by Dr. Belinda San Juan; TESDA Cabinet Secretary Ret. Gen. Isidro Lapena;

Ret. Gen. Jess Fajardo; Dr. Clare Adalem; Dr. Fe Ranada; Ramil San Juan, Engr. Elpidio Angeles, Jr.; and UCHS Batch ’65 President Minda Ventanilla Tomines, among others.

In fact, when you meet a longtime friend, their first statement is, “I just came from the Philippines... you know...” full of bragging rights! Sometimes, going home for vacation has become a status symbol for FilAms... that the more they are able to go home for vacation, the more they are in to the circle of friends and among relatives.

FilAms from Hawaii, most of the time, go home to the Philippines to visit their relatives. I have an uncle who hails from Oahu, HI and when he and his family went home to the Philippines last year, he was welcomed by relatives with a lot of fun fare ... and the whole barrio celebrated with them.

(continue on page 12)

## Chronicle readers can win \$250, other prizes in special essay contest

### “Why do you read the Chronicle now? Why should we continue reading the Chronicle in the future?”

As part of the year-long celebration of our 25th year in publication, the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is sponsoring a special essay contest where readers can personally express the impact of our newspaper in their lives and on Filipinos in Hawaii.

In an era dominated by online media, traditional print publications seem to be fading. But some community newspapers like the Chronicle are surviving and thriving after 25 years-because of readers like you!

Now you have a chance to tell us and everyone why you read our newspaper and why people should continue reading it for the next 25 years and into the future. You could win \$250 or other prizes for your essay.

Download the official entry form and template from our website at [www.thefilipinochronicle.com](http://www.thefilipinochronicle.com) and enter now to win! Or you can call our office at 808-330-8981 or 808-678-8930 to send you an official entry form.

### SUBMISSIONS INFORMATION

- The essay must be between 400-700 words, typed and double-spaced, using the official entry form and template from our website.
- Judging is based on originality, creativity and

composition. Chronicle staff members will choose their favorites with the publisher/editor selecting the final winning entry. The full winning essay and excerpts of runner-up essays will be published in a summer edition of the newspaper with their accompanying photo.

- Only one essay entry per person is accepted. All ethnic and age groups are welcome to enter. Relatives of the Chronicle staff are ineligible to participate in this essay contest.
- All entries become the rights of the Chronicle for use in publication and promotions. They may be edited for clarity and space.

### PRIZES AND PUBLICATION

Three grand prize winner of \$250 will be awarded to the reader who has submitted an essay that best answers the above questions. There will be one winner from High School (ages 15-18), one from College (ages 19-26) and one from Adult (ages 27-70) entry submissions. Winning entries will be published in full in a summer edition of the Chronicle. Runner-up essays will be excerpted as well.

All those who submit essays are eligible to win additional prizes, such as gift cards (restaurants, gas, stores, discount services, etc.)

or merchandise from the Chronicle, community and essay contest sponsors. Winners will be notified and may pick up their prizes at the Chronicle office in Waipahu.

### DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2019

Please snail mail a hard copy of your essay on or before June 1. It must be post-marked by May 27 in order to qualify for the deadline. Late admissions will not be accepted. Mail to the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, Fir. 2, 94-356 Waipahu Depot Road, Waipahu, HI 96797.

In addition, please send an email copy of your essay at the same time to: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com).

There are several opportunities to win just for your thoughts about the Chronicle’s 25 years and beyond. So don’t delay.

**Enter your essay today!**



## CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

# Every American Should Be Embarrassed by Trump This Week

Mind you, after this week, it's a diminishing status, but he is still the president.

And as Americans, it would be unpatriotic to not root for the guy. But Wednesday in America, Thursday in Asia, was not good for the Donald.

He's flying back to Washington without a deal. And flying against time, he'll gain back some. But he can't re-live the day.

The damage is done.

Leaving North Korea empty-handed will go down as one of the president's biggest missteps—although there are too many to count, along with all the thousands of lies in just the first two years. For this trip, the big American went to Vietnam with that “leader of the free world” status, and essentially gave Kim Jong Un everything he wanted.

Credibility. Friendship with the West. Everything that has eluded Kim in the past because the “good guy” nations have isolated him as a brutal dictator of the highest degree. Kim's only way to respectability has been burgeoning nuclear capability.

But Trump doesn't understand. He sees Kim and only sees markets to sell to. A place for a hotel, some Trump brands, a place to make money.

This is why a businessman is a lousy politician/world leader. The subtlety of nuclear diplomacy? Trump only sees dollar signs.

And like a rookie pol, our apprentice president has taken the nuclear bait. Not once. But twice. The first time provided a photo op with a look to the future. The second time this week can be called just one thing—a complete utter failure.

We already had a sense that it was not going to go well. Trump and Sec. of State Mike Pompeo hardly seemed on the same page. In fact, reports said the preparation for the summit was lacking if one were to anticipate a big victory—North Korea's agreement to a verifiable denuclearization.

Prior to the trip, Trump seemed to put a lot of weight on his “love” for Kim, and the letters Kim wrote to him.

Does the MAGA president sound like an international patsy yet?

From Trump's grand pronouncement of love, I suggested the only worthy photo-op of Kim/Trump2 would be the two, side by side, Gaga/Coo-per style singing, “Shallow.”

Karaoke night, right?

Trump would have left with something then. A nar-

cissistic selfie. But instead, as most of the U.S. was asleep, the president announced there would be no deal. North Korea wanted all sanctions lifted, and the U.S. wanted more denuclearization.

The dream of a Nobel Peace Prize kind of agreement was not happening, not like an episode of “The Apprentice.”

But the winner? Undoubtedly Kim, who gets everything he wanted. He doesn't want to de-nuclearize. He only wants the courtship and the look of being with the “Leader of The Free World.” Kim got that. And keeps his nukes and his dictatorial control.

At the hastily called press conference to announce the collapse of the talks, Trump tried to spin it. You have to walk away from a deal sometimes, right? But he would rather walk away from the press on this occasion. He answered just one question on Cohen's testimony in DC, and of course, clung to Cohen's statement that he couldn't show collusion.

But Cohen did implicate Trump in at least four crimes that even Fox News said were potential felonies. They include lying about knowledge of a Wikileaks dump of Hillary Clinton's emails. That would show the president lied under oath in his written answers to Special counsel Robert Mueller. Cohen also said Trump knew of that infamous Trump Tower meeting with the Trump campaign and the Russians, another item Trump had previously denied under oath. And then there's the matter of the \$35,000 check written to Cohen that Trump signed while in office. The hush payment landed Cohen in jail. It may be a campaign violation for Trump.

All bad. Impeachable? Possibly.

But Kim watches the news. He knows he's dealing with a compromised Trump.

And when two liars get together, watch out.

Trump didn't call on many U.S. media at the conference, but did let my friend David Nakamura of the Washington Post ask a question, though Trump probably thought Nakamura was just another

“Asian media” guy.

Nakamura asked Trump about the oft-forgotten Otto Warmbier, the American student who was jailed and brutalized in a North Korea prison for more than a year before he was released to the U.S. near death. He later died and his family has sued. But there's been no strong reaction from Trump. Just like Kashoggi's death. Just like Putin's election tampering. So did Kim say anything about Warmbier? Did he know about the case?

And then Trump showed his inelegance.

“I don't believe he knew about it,” Trump said. “He (KIM) knew the case very well, but he knew it later. Got a lot of people. Big country. And in those prisons and those camps you have a lot of people. Some really bad things happened to Otto. Some really, really bad things. And he tells me he didn't know about it and I will take him at his word.”

That's the LOTFW. A shameful defender of Kim, the dictator and human rights violator. Do we really take him at his word?

Duterte. That's your cue. You can continue to get away with murder. And martial law?

Trump has giving a green light to all autocrats and dictators. Kim played Trump. So have the Saudis. And Putin.

But all good Americans know this can't stand. There's a window available between now and 2020.

Filipino Americans who love Trump need to review the events of this week. It's not too late to jump ship.

Even most die-hard Republicans know there's no defense for Trump. Those at this week's hearings didn't even bother protecting Trump, choosing to go after Cohen as a liar. But there's a better con than Cohen. And this week in the talks with North Korea, he has exposed himself as an embarrassment to all freedom loving people who believe in democracy.

**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

**O** know Hawaii folk are nervous about the nuclear threat of North Korea.

You're all closer than the president in D.C.

So don't you think he should have taken the Kim-Trump 2 Summit in Vietnam, a little more seriously?

After the talks failed, President Trump has exposed himself.

Trump doesn't deserve to be POTUS. The presumed “Leader of the Free World” or LOTFW, is actually acting a lot more like a WCL. “World-class loser.”

Or as his former personal attorney and fixer Michael Cohen said under oath, “He is a racist. He is a con man. And he is a cheat.”

An RCMC?

Let's just go with loser, for now.

As for the “world class” bit, Trump earns that because he took his unprepared self to a “summit” across the globe to North Korea, giving up the only thing he has—his status as said leader of the free world.

(CHRONICLE MEMORIES...from page 8)

## ■ CLEMENT BAUTISTA

For nearly two decades I wrote for the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Working with the staff has always been gratifying and, often, even inspiring for allowing me to critically explore my cultural roots and expound on topics important to the Filipino community.



From my first assignment reporting on Custom and Creativity, an exhibit by Cordillera artists and curated by photojournalist, Art Tibaldo, to writing on OFW remittances, I was able to reconnect with the Philippines by researching background materials. I often concluded with many unresolved concerns, such as how Cordillera culture persists beyond art, crafts and ceremonies or if OFW remittances encourage perverse incentives for local level governmental corruption.

One rewarding article more pertinent to our Filipino community in Hawaii was on the 2006 hotel

strikes. Several hotel managements formed a public relations coalition, called the Laulima Council, to sway public opinion against the strike.

By invoking Hawaiian terms and concepts, the Council tried to divide the public by portraying hotel workers and their union, UNITE HERE, as anti-tourism. My article tried to identify two supply-demand relationships in the tourist industry and to emphasize their differences.

“The price of being a laborer is the price of living. A tourist pays – the laborer gets paid. What is being ‘bought’ is not a lifestyle, a bit of sunshine or an exotic experience...it is life itself. What is being decided in the current negotiations between the Laulima Council and UNITE HERE is the price of life.”

I also addressed Hawaii's dreaded but misunderstood “brain drain” which is merely understood as sending our so-called “best and brightest” away. Instead, I pointed out its root cause as the opportunities lost to locals and taken by non-locals, a problem in the discriminatory distribution of resources and opportunities.

*Salamat po!*

## Public Invited to Consumer Fair

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) will commemorate National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) by hosting a free Consumer Education Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 6 in the courtyard of the King Kalakaua Building at 335 Merchant St. The building is the location of the downtown Honolulu Post Office and metered parking is available for the public.

“The purpose of NCPW is to promote consumer education by providing free information that will help protect people’s privacy, manage their money and debt, and



avoid identity theft, frauds and scams,” said DCCA Director Catherine Awakuni Colón. “We encourage residents to attend the free fair as a one-stop-shop for consumer resources. We will have representatives from over two dozen government and non-profit agencies available to answer questions.”

Consumers can pick up their free copy of the Consumer Guide to Healthcare Providers and Military Consumer Fraud Guide. These booklets focus on issues relating to consumer rights regarding healthcare issues, basic consumer issues, and what to do if consumers need to file complaints.

## AARP Hawaii Is Accepting Applications for Community Grants

Nonprofits and government entities are invited to apply for AARP Hawaii’s 2019 AARP Community Challenge grant program. The grant program, which is now in its third year, is part of AARP’s nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which aims to make communities great places to live for everyone.

Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to several thousand for larger projects.

Since 2017, AARP has awarded 217 grants through the



Community Challenge to non-profit organizations and government entities representing every state and U.S. territories.

The application deadline is Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 11:59 p.m. ET, and all projects must be completed by Monday, November 4, 2019. Applications must be submitted through [AARP.org/CommunityChallenge](http://AARP.org/CommunityChallenge).

### BOOK REVIEW: HOW THE PHILIPPINES WON...from page 9)

son School of Law in 2015 at the invitation of then UH Law professor Diane Disierto and shared a compelling presentation of how China has slowly increased its military presence in the disputed maritime areas and presented solid arguments in support of the proposed litigation.

The book consists of four parts. The first—“The Present and the Past” opens with the winning announcement and retraces the contemporary history behind the Philippine claims starting during the late 1960s during Ferdinand Marcos’ term. The second part “Factors that Matter” gives

some context to the case and delves into the three issues that affected the dispute: the security alliance of the US with the Philippines, the role of ASEAN in easing tensions in the region, and the international treaty UNCLOS. The third part called “Main Actors” describes the people who contributed to the Philippine victory, while the fourth called “The Case” presents the key arguments, twists, nuances of the issues being litigated. The fifth aptly named “Epilogue” covers the post victory developments beginning with Rodrigo Duterte’s ascension to power as the re-

public’s president on June 30, 2016.

In the opening paragraph of the “Epilogue,” the author describes the evening of July 12, 2016 as journalists gathered at the press room of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) waiting for then Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay to give the first official reaction to the Philippines’ sweeping victory.

“A hushed silence descended on the room as Yasay stood before the podium to read a prepared statement which was to be carried live on national TV. He appeared morose with no trace of a smile on his face.”

The Philippines chose to

downplay this euphoric moment—a reflection of Duterte’s views that China was going to help the Philippines grow the economy—that it would put the country in an “awkward position” because the Philippines needs a lot of things from China. The Duterte government took a defeatist stance despite the gains the Philippines received from ruling—a maritime area larger than the total land area of the country and very rich in resources, because this president felt that the Philippines was “helpless” in the face of China’s perceived power.

The book is well researched and detailed in its presentation of the issues that

surrounded the case, which is expected of Marites Danguilan Vitug—who has a list of well-written and thoroughly researched books to her name. The back cover describes her as “one of the Philippines’ most accomplished journalists, winning awards and public recognition for her reportage on justice, politics and security. A bestselling author, she has written several books on Philippine current affairs. She is currently editor-at-large of Rappler.

The book is available in digital and hard copy format via Amazon. Copies are also available locally at Kalamansi Books & Things; direct inquiries at [kalamansibooks@gmail.com](mailto:kalamansibooks@gmail.com).

### (AS I SEE IT: ARE AMERICANS...from page 10))

A family friend who has been in the US working for 10 years, once said that: “I need to accumulate enough leave days to be able to go home to the Philippines this December. I should go on paid vacations because I can’t afford leaves without pay.” They really have to make sacrifices to be able to attain their goal... their planned vacation even for a longer period of time.

Another friend, however, said, “I will go on a 3-week vacation to the Philippines with or without pay! I need it...and my family needs me!” emphasizing the importance of vacation to our native land after so many years of ab-

sence. It also suggests that FilAms, regardless of their jobs in the US, work... even for a longer period of time, to be able to go home to the Philippines for vacation.

In fact, not even the consequence of losing a job will prevent some Filipino Americans to go home for vacation to visit their loved ones and close friends. I have a lot of friends, who went home and after coming back to the US, lost their jobs. They don’t regret it, all they do is look for another job in their return. After all, FilAms are flexible and can take any kind of job to survive. Some even have to borrow from their 401-K, or

apply for a loan before or after the much needed vacation.

Others, when they lose their jobs, that’s the time for them to go home for vacation. They get their separation pay or apply for employment benefits after losing their jobs to be able to finance their vacation.

Leisure time is inherent to FilAms! Yes, I agree... many are workaholics, but they also need vacation time... at all costs!

They are workaholics, alright, but they also need vacation time!

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



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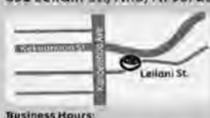
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LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

# English Literacy and Knowledge of History

**O**ne of the requirements for naturalization is passing the test for English literacy and knowledge of history and government of the US.

Immigrants are tested on their ability to read, write and speak words in ordinary usage in the English language. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) examiner will determine the English speaking-ability of the immigrant-applicant. The immigrant must be able to read one out of three sentences without extended pauses, omitting or substituting a content word, or making a pronunciation or intonation error that would interfere with the meaning of the sentence. To pass the writing test, the immigrant must be able to write out one of three sentences that is understandable and readable to the USCIS officer as written. Minor grammatical errors, including misspelling, improper punctuation, or capitalization or short word omissions are not reasons to fail the immigrant, unless the errors would prevent understanding of the meaning of the sentence.

Some immigrants are exempt from the English-language literacy and basic knowledge of US history and government requirements. They are immigrants who are physically unable to comply due to permanent disability. The disability must be the kind which would prevent the immigrant from learning to speak, read or write or understand the English language and/ or fundamentals and principles of US history and government and not merely because of advanced age or general incapacity to learn. Examples of immigrants under this exemption are those who are blind or deaf or those with developmental disability or permanent mental impairment.

Exempt immigrants must submit with the N-400 application an attestation from a licensed medical doctor or osteopath or licensed clinical psychologist to support their claim of disability. The doctor or psychologist completes Form N-648 Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions and this is submitted with the N-400 form. The medical report must show how the medical professional arrived at the diagnosis of the anatomical, physiological or psychological impairment and explain how the condition affects the immigrant's ability to function and conclude that the

immigrant's condition severely impairs his ability to learn or demonstrate knowledge of English and / or history and government. The report must also state that the disability has lasted or is expected to last a year or more and that the disability was not due to illegal drug use.

Immigrants who are more than 50 years of age and who have resided in the US for more than 20 years as LPRs as of the date of filing the application may be examined in their native language instead of English. If the immigrant is more than 55 years of age and has lived in the US for 15 years as LPR as of the date of filing the application he may be examined in his native language as well.

Immigrants are also required to pass an oral history and government examination, even if exempt from the requirement of speaking English. This test is conducted during the scheduled interview of the immigrant. The immigrant must answer 6 out of the 10 questions correctly on US history and government that would be asked. An interpreter may be used to administer the test if the person is exempt from the English language requirement. The USCIS examiner is instructed to phrase the questions and subject matter that is apt for the immigrant's education, background, age, length of residence in the US, opportunities available and efforts made

to acquire the requisite knowledge and any other factors.

Some immigrants are likewise exempt from taking the knowledge of history and government test. These are immigrants who are physically or developmentally disabled or have mental impairments which prevent them from learning and answering questions on US history and government. Immigrants who are over 65 years old and have been LPRs for more than 20 years can receive "special consideration" concerning the exam.

If the immigrant fails the

exam, he will be given a second opportunity to pass the tests within 90 days after the first examination. The immigrant may request an extension for good cause. However, if the extension is granted, the USCIS will no longer be required to render a decision on the naturalization application within 120 days from the initial interview.

**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)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Chamber of Commerce Hawaii: Proposals to Increase Minimum Wage Would Hurt Hawaii Businesses & Economy

**H**ONOLULU – The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii raised concerns with four proposals to increase Hawaii's minimum wage in hearings at the State Capitol Thursday. The Chamber asked lawmakers to consider the impact these bills would have on local businesses' ability to continue to create jobs, survive in a high cost of living state and pay for benefits currently offered to employees.

From the Chamber's testimony:

"The passage of these bills would seriously harm local businesses, the state economy, job creation and, potentially, the very employees it is trying to help.

"As a direct result of the significant proposed increase in the minimum wage, some businesses may have to cut back hours, reduce benefits or limit the hiring of new employees. Increasing the minimum wage will also

greatly affect job opportunities, especially for new, unskilled workers. In addition to traditional adult workers changing industries, young adult workers also often receive their initial work experience by starting at unskilled jobs."

The Chamber submitted testimony on SB 789, SB 1248, HB 96 and HB 1191. The testimony also requested that lawmakers consider Hawaii's high mandatory health care costs under the Prepaid Health Care Act.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Philippines Protests Washington Post Article on Drug War

By Pia Lee-Brago  
 Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019

**M**ANILA, Philippines — The Philippine embassy in Washington has protested a Washington Post article on unlawful killings and victims of the Duterte administration’s war on drugs, saying it “seeks to discredit the Philippines in the eyes of the international community.”

“We take strong exception to the article entitled, ‘This is Manila’ that appeared on the front page of the Washington Post on 25 February 2019,” the embassy said in a statement.

“It is disappointing how this article hides behind the guise of journalism to advance an agenda that seeks to discredit the Philippines in the eyes of the international community,” it said.

The item focused on the killing of Ferdinand Jhon Santos, 44, who worked at a trucking company. His death was believed to be related to the war on drugs as Santos’ body was found floating under a bridge in Tondo on Jan. 14.

It also said that the dead man’s legs and arms were bound with rope. His head was wrapped in packing tape. Chains coiled around his body and were padlocked to a pail filled with concrete.

“Whether the deaths are mostly related to Duterte’s war on drugs is unclear. But what connects them all is a kind of numbed silence,” the article said. “Since President Rodrigo Duterte rose to power more than two years ago, the death toll from his war on drugs has kept climbing. Authorities report that more than 5,000 ‘drug personalities’ have been killed in police operations around the country.”

Human rights groups believe the death toll could be four times that, with many cases either going unreported or carried out in the shadows by government-backed hit squads.

“His is a portrait of one more life broken – and one more death left unexplained – in a city with many such stories,” the article read.

Contrary to what its title hopes to provoke, the embas-

sy said: “The article paints a picture not of Manila, but of a hasty generalization that has no foundation in reality.”

“Unsurprisingly, the article fails to mention that majority of the Filipino people continue to back their government in the fight against illegal drugs,” the embassy said, citing the latest Social Weather Stations survey that shows eight in 10 Filipinos are satisfied with the government’s anti-illegal drugs campaign.

It also cited a Pulse Asia survey that puts public support for the campaign at 77 percent among Metro Manila residents.

“Reduced criminality is a major driver of public support,” the embassy said.

According to data of the Philippine National Police (PNP), total crime volume has gone down from 675,816 in 2015 to 473,068 in 2018 or a decrease of 30 percent.

“In particular, the incidence of focus crimes such as homicide, physical injury and rape has shown a marked decrease during the same period. The PNP believes that

there is a strong correlation between illegal drug use and focus crimes,” the embassy said.

From January 2016 to December 2018, the embassy noted that 9,102 erring police personnel were meted disciplinary penalties including dismissal from service, demotion, suspension, forfeiture of salary, reprimand, restriction and withholding of privileges. More than 7,000 received warnings, bringing the total number of disciplined personnel to 16,391 or eight percent of the entire police force.

“As a nation that cherishes freedom, democracy and justice, and as a responsible member of the international community, the Philippines upholds the rule of law and human rights in all its endeavors,” the embassy said.

“We will continue to engage in sincere, constructive and evidence-based dialogue with our international partners in the pursuit of common goals and mutual interests,” it added.

While many cases like the 44-year-old man remain

unresolved, the Washington Post article said that doesn’t stop human rights advocates and families of the victims from believing the killings were done in the name of the police and the war on drugs.

“Extrajudicial killings always happen under this bridge,” said one resident. “This is Manila.”

According to the article, rights groups estimate that there have been at least 20,000 killings and drug-related deaths since 2016 around the country, a rate well below some of the world’s most dangerous places in Latin America and the US “but is among the highest in Southeast Asia.”

It said that summary executions are often characterized by bound limbs, taped faces, cardboard signs that read “I am a drug addict” and, in cases like Santos’, bodies dumped in the city’s waterways.

The article said the method is eerily reminiscent of Duterte’s campaign promises to dump drug pushers in Manila Bay to “fatten all the fish there.” ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

(Sagot sa Krosword Blg. 2 | February 23, 2018)

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**THE 5TH ANNUAL, GREAT MALUNGGAY FESTIVAL AND PARADE** | March 16, 2019; 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM | Fil-Com Center, Waipahu | Contact Al Simbahon at isle\_productions@hotmail.com for more details

**FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII (FCCH) FILIPINO ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR** | March 23, 2019; 6:00 PM | Ala Moana Hibiscus Ballroom | For more details call: Rose Galanto at 688-4458, Vanessa Tan Kop at 441-0509

**77TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARAW NG KAGITINGAN OR DAY OF VALOR** | April 7, 2019; 6:00 PM | Filipino Community Center in Waipahu | For more details call: Ms. Ma. Romina Bautista at 808-595-6316 to 19 ext. 112 or email: pcghonolulu.culturalsection@gmail.com

**CONSUMER EDUCATION FAIR** | MARCH 6, 2019; 10:00AM - 1:00 PM | King Kalakaua Building | Visit <http://cca.hawaii.gov/blog/2019-ncpw-consumer-fair/> for more details

**OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) PRESENTS THE MISS OAHU FILIPINA 2019** | June 1, 2019; 6:00 PM | Marriot Waikiki Beach Resort | For more details call: Calvin Bagaoisan at 266-4334, Maricelle Redona at 295-5233, Raymond Sebastian at 799-6080

**FILIPINO NURSES ORGANIZATION OF HAWAII (FNOH) EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARDS** | August 10, 2019; 6:00 PM | Hilton Hawaiian Village Resorts Coral Ballroom | For more details call: Lolita Echaz Ching at 387-7635, Luanne Long at 754-0594

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**MAINLAND NEWS**

**Senator Hirono Reintroduces Child Care for Working Families Act**

Senator Mazie K. Hirono reintroduced the Child Care for Working Families Act, which seeks to expand access to high-quality, affordable early childhood programs for working and middle class families.



Representative Bobby Scott (D-Va.), chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, introduced a companion bill in the House of Representatives with Representative Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (CNMI-AL) and 96 House members. “Child care is foundational

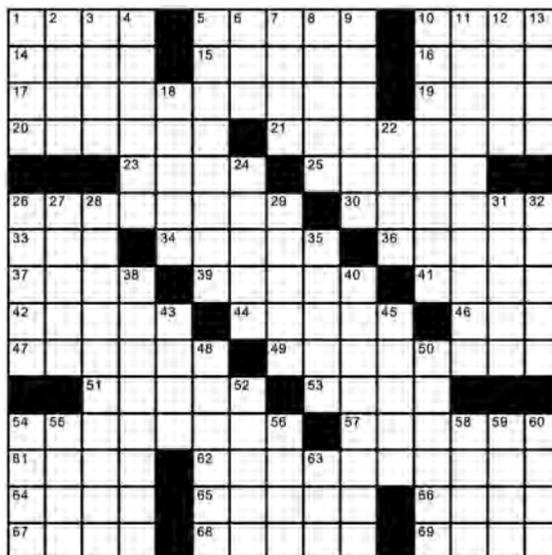
for future academic and social success, yet remains unaffordable and unavailable for many working and middle class families in Hawaii – who face

the highest cost of living in the country,” Senator Hirono said. “At nearly \$700 per month, child care is the second highest household expense after housing for most families – surpassing the amount they spend on food, utilities, transportation or health care. The Child Care for Working Families Act represents a long-term investment in our keiki to ensure that every family can access high-quality, affordable early learning and child care programs.”

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  23. \_\_\_ - CBN News
  25. Chess pieces
  26. Carrier to Tokyo
  27. Former Senator from Negros Occidental
  33. Defecated
  34. Make lace
  35. Be bombastic

39. Second-year student, for short
40. Lyric poem
43. Angry
44. Dined at home
46. Hour div.
47. Large number
48. Capital of Misamis Oriental
52. Boy
55. Assembled
56. British bathroom
57. French soul
58. Eve’s grandson
60. North wind
65. Background music for a film
68. Beauty pageant wear
69. Excellent



- DOWN**
1. Mass of ice floating at sea
  2. Gulf V.I.P.
  3. South American monkey
  4. Garbage collector
  5. Religious vow of chastity
  6. “Aladdin” prince
  7. Pant
  8. Inter
  9. Lower part of a duet
  10. Capital of Zambales
  11. Roman sandal
  12. Kind of wrench
  13. 1972 Derek and the Dominos hit
  18. Spirited horse
  19. Intestinal parts
  24. Photograph
  27. She, in Italy
  28. Injection
  29. Record
  30. Body of good conduct
  31. Skeleton
  32. Crop up
  36. To be played with the bow
  37. Eye drop
  38. Edible root
  41. Call
  42. Exalted

70. Big zero
71. Pertaining to yolk
72. Touch down
73. Cluster bean

45. Saint’s day
49. Characteristic carrier
50. Discordant
51. End of the world
52. Flock
53. Prenatal test, for short
54. Stick-on
59. Ancient colonnade
61. Crosspiece
62. Brother of Jacob
63. Slave girl of opera
64. Cicatrix
66. Annoy
67. Raggedy doll

(Solution will be on the next issue of the Chronicle)

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