

HAWAII

# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ APRIL 6, 2019 ◆

## FILIPINOS OBSERVE THE CATHOLIC TRADITION OF LENT

COVER STORY PAGE 4



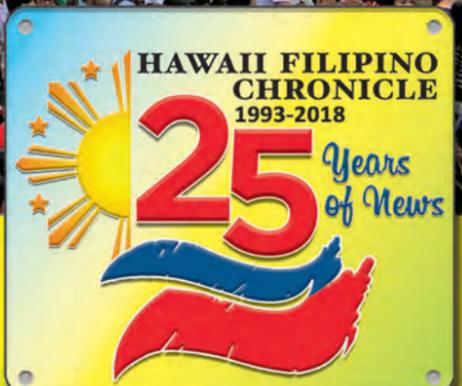
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**FEATURE**  
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HAWAII 2019

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## EDITORIALS

## Happy Easter to All

**W**

ith a majority of Filipinos identifying themselves as Roman Catholics – 81 percent in the Philippines and 65 percent Filipino-Americans – Catholicism is deeply interwoven as both a religious and cultural part of the Filipino identity.

Catholic religiosity is even more pronounced in the Philippines. According to Pew Research Center's 2015 Global Attitude survey, 87 percent of Filipinos consider religion to be very important in their lives. Of the 40 countries surveyed, the Philippines ranked 10th in religiosity.

It's common for newly arrived immigrants from the Philippines – where ever they might settle from Hawaii, to the U.S. mainland, to Canada, to Europe or the Middle East – to seek and find a sense of community at their nearest Catholic church. This is a powerful indicator of what Filipinos value and the “space” they see themselves belonging in the world community. The Church represents spirituality, security, familiarity, and a special kind of “community” that transcends race, politics or socio-economic status. Some Filipino Catholics have described the Church as a place where they feel closest to God -- like a home away from home.

## Lent

Given Filipinos' strong connection to their faith and Church, it's not surprising that many in our community continue to perpetuate long-held traditional practices of the Lenten season such as fasting, praying and attending masses during Holy Week.

Many Hawaii Filipino Catholics talk about fond childhood memories of Lenten practices; and their desire to pass on these traditions to their own children.

## Filipinos role in the Church

In Hawaii, Filipinos are a large presence in the local Catholic Church as active parishioners in their multiple Filipino Catholic Clubs and as clergy with an active Office of Filipino Ministry. Filipino priests – many who are recruited from the Philippines -- represent the largest ethnic group of priests in the state.

In the U.S. mainland, Filipino priests are also well represented in the Catholic Church. In the Diocese of San Francisco, there are over 52 priests from the Philippines.

Pope Francis appointed Auxiliary Bishop Oscar A. Solis of Los Angeles to Bishop of Salt Lake City in Utah, making him the first Filipino to made a U.S. Bishop and to lead a U.S. Diocese.

Tapping the Philippines (the third largest Catholic country in the world, behind Brazil and Mexico) for personnel is a suitable fit, especially to serve in communities with large Filipino populations.

Archbishop of Manila and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle's consideration as one of the frontrunners in the last conclave (meeting to determine the pope) was also a testament of the significant role Filipinos play in the Church. Cardinal Tagle, besides speaking his native Tagalog, is fluent in Italian, English, and proficient in Spanish, French and Latin (language proficiency is highly regarded in consideration for the papacy). Tagle is rumored to be a possible papal pick of the future and could be Asia's first ever Pope.

## Church in the modern world

Pope Francis and the Vatican itself admits to the challenges the Church faces in the modern world, in particular the glaring lack of leadership role women are allowed to have in the Church or the continued alienation of gay Catholics by conservative hardliners.

The growing secular-humanist movement that sees religion itself historically oppressive is also turning away Catholics born into the faith.

Within Christianity itself, the Church faces competition as Catholics in the U.S. join Evangelical Protestant denominations.

Even within the Filipino community there is a drifting away from Catholicism through the generations, not necessarily be-

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

It's commonly said that happiness is in the heart of the person who lives a balanced life – a life wherein the mind, the body, and the spirit are nurtured. It's common each Spring for Filipino Catholics to spend more time and effort than normally to nurture their spirits during the Lenten Season, which began on March 6 and lasts until mid-April.

For our cover story this issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo writes about the Catholic tradition of Lent, a 40-days period when Christians commemorate and reflect on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. He shares some of the popular Lenten practices in the Philippines (Pabasa ng Pasyon, Senakulo, Penitensya) and interviews local Filipino Catholics who talk about their fond memories of Lent growing up – how these practices (fasting, praying, attending Holy Week masses) have enhanced their relationship with God, enhanced family cohesion, and enhanced their faith in the Catholic Church. Given that an overwhelming majority of Filipinos worldwide are Roman Catholics, Catholicism is very much a part of the Filipino experience. The cover story also describes how Filipinos are a vibrant and large presence in the Catholic Church in Hawaii.

For our first of two features this issue, HFC columnist Seneca Moraleda-Puguan contributes a feature on Miss Philippines Hawaii 2019 Lauren Cabrera, who will be running in the Miss Hawaii Scholarship Pageant on June 15, 2019. Seneca writes that beauty pageants are not just about having a pretty face and perfect body, but also about having a great mind and powerful advocacy. The 24-year old Cabrera certainly meets this criteria. Added to this, she is a talented singer involved in theater and musicals. We wish Lauren Cabrera much success in the upcoming pageant and hope the Filipino community will come out to support her on June 15 at the Hawaii Theater.

We have a wonderful second feature this issue on writer-poet Elmer Omar Bascos Pizo who wrote “Our Shadows Behind Us,” published by Bamboo Ridge Press. The title of his book alone is evocative and universally relatable. HFC contributor Renelaine Pfister writes how Pizo, by accident (literally), got into writing. He survived a traumatic bus collision and at the recommendation of his doctor, Pizo started writing as a form of therapy. His book is about his experiences in the Middle East where he saw labor abuses as well as poems on the immigrant experience. Pizzo has lived in Ewa Beach for over 20 years. The public is invited to meet Pizo during two book launching events on April 25th and 27th. Get the details at [www.bambooridge.com](http://www.bambooridge.com).

Also, be sure to read the latest in our news sections, calendar of events, and regular columns. The Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls and Hawaii Filipino Healthcare are presenting the Molokai Community Health Fair on May 4-5, 2019 at the Mitchell Pauole Community Center in Kaunakakai. There will be free health screenings and consultations for attendees. The public is invited to this event.

Lastly, HFC columnist Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan writes “Cap-Subject H-1B Petitions for Fiscal Year 2020,” which is about how foreign nationals in certain professions can attain a temporary visa to work in the U.S. if hired by a U.S. company.

See also the details in our ad of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's essay contest, which is being presented as a part of the HFC's 25th Anniversary celebration. Multiple cash prizes and gift cards will be awarded. The winning essay and excerpts of runner-up essays will be published in the HFC. The deadline for submission of essays is June 1, 2019.

Thank you to our loyal readers and advertisers for your continued support. Be sure to remind your family and friends that the HFC is available online for free. Until next issue, warmest Aloha and Mabuhay!

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

cause of dogmatic differences or leadership style of the Vatican, but for many other reasons that have nothing to do with the Church.



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

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EDITORIALS

# Teenagers Should Have a Say in Addressing the Urgency of Climate Change

**“S**top denying the earth is dying.” This was the message youths around the world wanted to send lawmakers on March 15, as they skipped school to participate in one of the biggest environmental protests in history. Tens of thousands of youths in over 100 countries, including hundreds of high schoolers in Hawaii, took to the streets, beat their protest drums, and demanded action on climate policy.

Students expressed feelings of betrayal by older generations who they believe left the state of the world environment as fragile as it is today. They’ve chanted: “Denial is not climate policy.”

Besides U.S. cities, students rallied in Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, most of Europe – basically in countries in every continent.

To get an idea of how big it was, in Brussels alone, over 100,000 people protested; in France, more than 80,000.

**What do students want?**

The U.S. Youth Climate Strike, a coalition of kids

and teens throughout the nation, urges legislators to enact pro-climate legislation from moving away from fossil fuels and pushing for renewable, clean energy such as solar and wind energy-alternatives.

U.S. youth protestors are specifically calling on Congress to support the “Green New Deal” that aims to bolster jobs in a new eco-friendly economy.

In other parts of the world there were slightly varying demands. Students in India demanded their government tackle the problem of air pollution levels, which according to the World Health Organization, far exceeds safe levels.

In coastal cities along Europe, student protestors raised concerned over rising sea levels due to climate change triggered largely by greenhouse gas emissions.

United Nation’s Secretary General Antonio Guterres, said of the massive worldwide protests: “These schoolchildren have grasped something that seems to elude many of their elders. We are in a race for our lives, and we are losing. The window of opportunity is closing – we no longer have the luxury of time, and climate

delay is almost as dangerous as climate denial.

“My generation has failed to respond properly to the dramatic challenge of climate change. This is deeply felt by young people. No wonder they are angry.”

**How it all started**

College student activism has always been a long-standing tradition; but high school student activism is a unique sign of the times that has really taken off when students from Parkland High School in Florida passionately protested gun violence.

The response students had from the Parkland shootings, one of taking power into their own hands, inspired 16-year-old Greta Thunberg from Sweden to hold her government more accountable to climate change. She organized and lit a fire among high school youths around the world to become climate activists.

Three girls – Alexandria Villarsenor, Haven Coleman,

and Isra Hirsi – are largely responsible for the organized movement in the U.S.

**Scientists Warn**

The overwhelming consensus in the scientific community is that climate change is real. There is no denial debate there. Where gridlock remains is political, mainly one of jobs loss from industries that harm the environment and replacing them with environmentally-friendly sources of energy.

While politicians and industries weigh in on the cost-benefits, scientists warn that there isn’t enough time, many projecting the world has about 12 years to limit global warming or face irreparable damage. The burning of fossil fuels which emit carbon dioxide that traps heat in the atmosphere is the primary concern.

The earth is warming by 1.8 degree Celsius since 2015 and is on track for an increase of 4 degrees Celsius

that experts say would have far-reaching consequences for life on the planet.

**High School Activism, a Mixed Bag**

While some governments and adults have been supportive of high school students taking action of their future and a better environment (teenager Greta Thunberg has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize), others have been dismissive, even reject them taking time off from school to protest. High school student activists have been accused of being brainwashed, even used by environmental groups, as if high school youths couldn’t arrive at informed opinions of their own.

Supporters say high school students are more than capable of understanding the consequences of environmental damage. Some governments like in Scotland, even allow 16-year-olds to vote in some elections, and there is consid-

*(continue on page 6)*

**EDITORIALS: HAPPY EASTER TO ALL ...from page 2)**

Among them, a preference for inter-faith spirituality; a need for families to overwork (two jobs, multiple part-time jobs) in the modern economy that makes it difficult to be active in the Church; or simply the parent (usually matriarch) who led the family practicing Catholicism had passed on and no one in the next generation has taken on that role to lead religiously.

While the Catholic Church to some is painfully slow to change, there are many exemplary work it does that keep the faithful loyal to the Church. The Catholic Church is a leader in the faith community in helping migrants and immigrants.

Pope Francis has been the leading world figure bringing attention to the plight of migrants around the world at a time when immigrants worldwide face discrimination. The Church has taken upon itself to be the voice of migrants, reminding people that we are first one human race and our brothers and sisters’ keepers independent of political bound-

aries. The Catholic Church around border cities around the world actively assists migrants with food and shelter; and puts pressure on local governments to act humanly even though migrants are undocumented.

The nature of the world economy, that it is transnational, is a built-in system that fosters world migration. The Catholic Church is more than relevant in dealing with this modern crisis of migration that will continue as long as global-markets exist. The “universality” of the Church remains arguably the most compelling attraction to the Church.

During the Lenten Season, Catholics come together and put matters of the world aside. Catholics reflect on the life, suffering, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They reflect on God’s presence.

Happy Easter to all; and Catholic Filipinos would like to remind the faithful that Christ is risen.

## TALK STORY with Congressman Ed Case

Please come to any of my five April Talk Story community meetings throughout the First District for a personal update from me, to let me know of your thoughts and questions, and to ask for my office’s assistance with your own needs. Light refreshments served.

**Friday, April 5, 2019**

Time: 6:30-8:30PM  
Location: Central Middle School Cafeteria  
1302 Queen Emma Street, **Honolulu**

**Saturday, April 6, 2019**

Time: 9:30-11:30AM  
Location: Āina Haina Elementary School Cafeteria  
801 West Hind Drive, **Honolulu**

Time: 1:30-3:30PM  
Location: Farrington High School Cafeteria  
1564 North King Street, **Honolulu**

**Sunday, April 7, 2019**

Time: 9:30-11:30AM  
Location: August Ahrens Elementary School Cafeteria  
94-1170 Waipahu St, **Waipahu**

Time: 1:30-3:30PM  
Location: Campbell High School Cafeteria  
91-980 North Rd, **‘Ewa Beach/Kapolei**

**United States Representative Ed Case**

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# Filipinos Carry on the Catholic Tradition of Lent

By Edwin Quinabo

**L**ent is the time of the year when I feel closest to God," said Marline Corpuz, who grew up in the Roman Catholic faith and attends church regularly at Our Lady of Perpetual Help near her home in Ewa.

When feeling nostalgic of the church her family attended in her youth, Corpuz drives miles into town to Saint John the Baptist in Kalihi for mass services. She says that nostalgia comes most often during the Lenten season and Holy Week because she is reminded of her deceased parents who taught her the value of going to that church where she learned many of the Lent traditions.

This year Lent started on March 6 and concludes on April 18, just before Easter on April 21.

For non-Catholics unfamiliar with what Lent is, it's a time when Christians commemorate and reflect on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It lasts 40 days, beginning with Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Week on Maundy Thursday. It ends just before Easter Sunday because the 40 days period is said to be a time of prayer, fasting, and preparation before the celebrated resurrection of Christ on Easter.

"I have so many fond memories of Lent that my family practiced," said Corpuz. "In the mornings, my mom would light a long-stemmed candle that would burn down by midday. The next morning, she'd light another one. Just after dinner, we would have a moment of silent prayer as a family.

"My mother would retire in the evenings saying the rosary before an altar in the corner of her room where she'd have more candles, a crucifix, and a framed picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

"During Holy Week, she would have fresh flowers on the altar."

Holy Week is comprised of Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good

Friday, Black Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Special masses are available every day during Holy Week. To Catholics, Easter is the bookend to Christmas; and equal in importance. Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ; Easter celebrates His resurrection.

## Fasting

Fasting or eating less (or withholding from eating meats on Fridays) is the most common practice in observance of Lent. Some Catholics expand the concept of fasting of food to giving up a vice of something pleasurable. Catholics believe the idea is to give up something for 40 days that would cause a degree of suffering to remind the faithful how Christ had willingly suffered

for humanity's deliverance.

Rossi Peralta Patton, a Catholic from Ewa Beach, said she fasts the entire Holy Week and season of Lent, unlike some who only fast every Friday during the 40 days.

"I also attend mass during Holy Week, engage in personal and private conversations with God. I participate in the Station of the Cross, attend Ash Wednesday mass, and take part in the blessing of the Eucharist," she said.

"I was raised to practice, follow and obey the rules of the Catholic Church. My country, the Philippines, is predominantly Catholic and we are expected to follow these practices and values of our religion. In our schools, religion is a required subject, from grade



school to college."

She says, "During the Lenten season the rules of our household were strict growing up. We could not make loud noises, no partying, and no music especially on Good Friday. We could not shower after 3 p.m. There was less activity. We could only engage in activities related to the Church and Lenten season."

Catholics believe the reason behind inactivity and silence is to quiet the mind and feel God's presence.

## Pabasa ng Pasyon

Corpuz said: "During Lent there was always soft, sacred music playing at our home of beautiful Latin Gregorian chants or the Pabasa ng Pasyon, which is a chant, done in the style of an epic poem narrating the passion of Christ. My mom had a special cassette that featured the Pabasa na Pasyon chants in Ilokano.

"We all knew it was the Lenten season when she'd bring out that cassette," she said.

The Pabasa ng Pasyon in the Philippines is often done live in groups. People would take turns reading. On occasion, it is chanted, acapella, in a very solemn, mournful way. Usually, the person with the best voice would sing the part of the narrator.

The entire narration is a serious reenactment of Christ's last days on Earth done with simple musical artistry.

## Senakulo and Siete Palabras

In the Philippines, there are several other reenactments

of Jesus' death and resurrection: the Senakulo is a stage or street play that takes place in many barrios organized by local governments and sponsors; and the Siete Palabras (the reading of Christ's last words) is broadcasted over radio and television during Holy Week.

Holy Week is a big event in the Philippines. The older boomer generation who grew up there say it was typical for Catholics to take the entire week off from work. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are still national holidays in the Philippines.

Good Friday is not a national holiday in the U.S.; but it is a holiday in some states, including Hawaii.

## Penitensya

By far the most intense and dramatic practice during Lent is the penitensya or penance. In the Philippines it often involves self-mortification of the flesh such as hitting oneself on the back with leather straps or crawling, lying down, or walking barefooted on the hot pavement or concrete where these devotional practices take place.

Penitents undertake these severe acts as a way to ask for forgiveness for their sins or to express gratitude. The ultimate act of penitensya is the actual crucifixion of three chosen penitents.

The Catholic Church in the Philippines discourages physical penance and views these physical self-harming acts as superstitious expressions of folk Catholicism.

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## COVER STORY

(from page 4)

The most popular Penitensya reenactment of Christ's crucifixion takes place every Good Friday in the Barangay San Pedro in San Fernando, Pampanga, Philippines. It's an event known worldwide because of its extreme devotion.

**Salubong**

The solemn ritual practices end on Good Friday; and starting the next day (in the U.S. Easter mass begins on Saturday) Easter celebrations take on a completely different mood, to one of light-hearted jubilation.

Easter ritual celebrations that mark the resurrection of Christ can be found across the Philippines from big cities to small towns. One of the most popular Easter processions is called the Salubong that depicts the end of suffering by the removal of a black veil over the statue Mary.

In many Catholic churches around the world, the crucifix (main cross behind the altar) is covered with a purple drape throughout Lent then unveiled on Easter, symbolizing the resurrection. Fresh flowers adorn the churches on Easter, provided by the church and also brought in by parishioners.

**Catholicism and Filipinos**

A majority of Filipinos are baptized as Catholics. The Philippines is the largest Christian country in Asia and is the third largest Catholic country, behind Brazil and Mexico. The U.S. is the country with the fourth-largest Catholic population.

About 81 percent of Filipinos in the Philippines or about 76 million are Catholics. The percentage of Filipino-American Catholics is slightly lower at 65 percent.

In Hawaii, about 263,000 or 19.8 percent of the population are Catholic. There is no official number of how many of these Hawaii Catholics are Filipinos, but their large presence at every Catholic church in the state is undeniable.

Kelly Salvador of Pearl City, a Japanese who married a Filipino Catholic, converted to the faith so that her two daughters could be raised Catholic.

"It was important for us to attend church as a family, which is the main reason I

joined the Church. I was raised a Christian Protestant but religion was not a major part of my life until I joined the Catholic Church," said Salvador.

Her children were baptized Catholic, attended Sunday school, and received their sacrament of confirmation. "I saw and appreciated the religious values of my husband. Some of them are Filipino values, too. For me, the two – Catholic values and Filipino values – kind of overlap. I wanted to pass those same values on to my children since they are half-Filipino," she said.

In Hawaii, there are many Filipino Catholic clubs under the umbrella organization Diocesan Congress of Filipino Catholic Clubs (DCFCC).

There is also an Office for Filipino Ministries that assists in bringing over priests from the Philippines to work in Hawaii. It was founded by Father Henry Benedict Sabog, the first priest of Filipino ancestry ordained in Hawaii in 1960.

Today, at any given time there are between 30-50 priests of Filipino ancestry working in the state, the highest number among ethnic groups.

On the mainland, Pope Francis named Auxiliary Bishop Oscar Solis of Los Angeles as bishop of Salt Lake City in Utah. Solis is the first Filipino to lead a U.S. diocese.

"It is a tremendous blessing and a responsibility and a privilege to be of service to the local church in the United States of America, coming from the Philippines," said Bishop Solis,

a native of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, Philippines.

**How it all started**

Catholicism took root in the Philippines in the early 16th century when Spanish missionaries and colonists brought over their religion, beginning in Cebu.

Fray Alfonso Jimenez, known as the first apostle of the region, had travelled the Camarines region through the islands of Masbate, Leyte, Samar and Burias, Philippines.

Eventually, Catholicism landed on the main island of Luzon and the first Catholic church was founded in Manila. Evangelization spread north to the Ilocos, starting with Vigan.

The missionaries – mostly Augustinians, Franciscans and Jesuits – chronicled that the most difficult obstacle in their evangelization was the many varieties of languages and dialects throughout the Philippines.

Prior to the arrival of Catholicism, Filipinos (who were not called Filipinos back then) held a variety of polytheistic beliefs and localized forms of Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam, mixed in with Animism. Monotheism was also present in pre-conquest Philippines; some Filipinos worshipped Bathala, who was considered the creator deity.

In time, Bathala was replaced by the Catholic-Christian God; and the many animist spirit gods were replaced with the pantheon of saints of the Catholic Church.

An evangelizing strategy

**"During the Lenten season the rules of our household were strict growing up. We could not make loud noises, no partying, and no music especially on Good Friday. We could not shower after 3 p.m. There were less activity. We could only engage in activities related to the Church and Lenten season."**

— ROSSI PERALTA PATTON

was to convert the nobility, the datus, lakans, rajahs, sultans (indigenous community leaders) and their children. Catholic missionaries established schools where they'd teach Catholicism and the Spanish language to the children of nobility; then later Catholic schools were extended to the general population.

**Carrying on tradition**

Pope Francis said during his historic visit to the Philippines in 2015: "Filipinos everywhere are known for their love of God, their fervent piety and their warm devotion to Our Lady and her rosary. This great heritage contains a powerful missionary potential."

The heritage of being Catholic is one part of being Filipino, among many other inherited aspects of "Filipinoness."

Patton says "there are so many changes in our Church. Values have been taken for granted and old practices are no longer being observed by some. The younger generation do not observe the Lenten

Season the way we adults are accustomed to."

The conversion to evangelical Protestant, embrace of interfaith spiritualism, and preference for a more humanist-secular world – have all contributed to a drifting away from the Catholic Church and Catholic practices.

Families who remain Catholic often mention when the matriarch of a family passes on, it's not too uncommon that religious practices gradually slide along with regular church attendance. Many Catholics today admit to going to church only on Christmas and Holy Week.

Then there are still many others steadfast to the faith. "As a Catholic, we observe the practices and guidelines of the Roman Catholic Church, mandated not only by the Church but also by Pope Paul IV. I am proud to say that my children and grandchildren have been raised with the same values and respect I gained from my parents," said Patton.



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OPEN FORUM

# HDOT's Vehicle Miles Traveled Proposal Is Unfair to the People of West Oahu

By Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates

(Wai'anae, Mākaha, Mākuā, Mā'ili)

**I** am urging West O'ahu residents to make their voices heard at two upcoming meetings about the proposed Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) initiative being conducted by the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT).

The HDOT is looking into the concept of a road usage charge system to generate more funds for road maintenance. I want to clarify that I am against this road usage charge system. The road usage charge system would charge individuals a tax that would correspond with how many miles they drive each year. Because they drive so far every day, the residents of the

Wai'anae coast would have to pay the highest fees for this new road usage charge system.

The state's VMT plan would end a fuel tax of 16 cents a gallon on drivers and instead charge them on how much they drive. The state says because there is less revenue coming in as more electric vehicles use the roads, an alternative way to collect money must be found to help fund the upkeep of road-

ways and bridges.

Another issue I object to in the proposal is that it creates a lump sum charge.

Sixteen cents distributed over each gallon is more manageable than a fee of hundreds of dollars you would have to pay at once, especially with the current cost of living. I support the intent of trying to balance the deficit in funding for our roads, but this is not the way to do it."

The HDOT was awarded \$4 million from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to conduct a public demonstration of a road usage charge system.

As part of the study, drivers can provide their feedback, questions, and concerns to transportation officials at public meetings. For more information and community meeting locations go to <https://hiruc.org/>.

O'ahu Meetings:

- April 16 (location TBA, check [hiruc.org](https://hiruc.org/))
- April 17 (location TBA, check [hiruc.org](https://hiruc.org/))

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# BCWW and Hawaii Filipino Healthcare to Present Molokai Community Health Fair

The Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW) and Hawaii Filipino Healthcare, in cooperation with the Molokai Filipino Community Council (MFCC) will present the Molokai Community Health Fair at the Mitchell Paule Community Center, 90

Aiona Street, Kaunakakai, on Saturday and Sunday, May 4-5, 2019.

Free medical and dental services will be offered, including osteoporosis screening, physical therapy, mental health, spirometry, hypertension, diabetes, and cholesterol

consultations. Tips on incorporating healthy diet will also be available.

### Planned events:

May 4, Saturday, 6 p.m.-9:00 p.m. – Town Hall Health Lectures and Q&A, Karaoke, light pupus;

May 5, Sunday, 8 a.m. – 12 noon, Community Health Fair, free consultations; 1 p.m. -3 p.m. Mini Health Fair,

Kalaupapa.

For more information, call BCWW at 888-674-7624 or visit [www.bayanihanclinic-whawaii.org](http://www.bayanihanclinic-whawaii.org); or call MFCC President Benito Piros at (808) 553-5735.

BCWW volunteers include: Elizabeth Abinsay, MD, Ding Adora, Maria Adora, DMD, Vernon Ansdell, MD, Josephine Waite-Ansdell, MD, Carolina Davide, MD, Jay Flores, DPT, Sorbella Guillermo, MD, Perlita Lampi-

toc, MD, Tim Llana, Benilda Luz-Llana, MD, Imelda Joaquin, Nicanor Joaquin, MD, Edgay Manuel, MD APRN, JP Orias, Christopher Regala, MD, Ross Simafranca, MD, Charlie Y. Sonido, MD, Chona Sonido, Russell Tacata, MD, Arnold Villafuerte, MD, Dory Villafuerte.

Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free medical and dental services to the uninsured, underinsured, indigent and immigrant communities.

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# SSA Warns Public of Phone Scam

The Social Security Administration (SSA) and its Office of the Inspector General (OIG) warns the public of people falsely claiming to be Social Security employees in a fraudulent phone scam.

The SSA says calls can even “spoof” Social Security’s national customer service number as the incoming number on the caller ID.

“We urge you to always be cautious and to avoid providing sensitive information such as your Social Security number or bank account in-



formation to unknown people over the phone or Internet,” said Nancy A. Berryhill, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. “If you receive a call and are not expecting one, you must be extra careful – you

can always get the caller’s information, hang up, and contact the official phone number of the business or agency the caller claims to represent. Do not reveal personal data to a stranger who calls you.”

Social Security employees do occasionally contact people--generally those who have ongoing business with the agency--by telephone for business purposes. However, Social Security employees will never threaten a person or promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information.

### EDITORIALS: TEENAGERS SHOULD ...from page 3)

eration for them to vote in all elections throughout the United Kingdom.

While there is no talk of lowering the voting age to 16 years old in the U.S., soon enough they will be voting—and it’s clear that climate change is high among their priorities of

issues, as well as for the entire Millennial generation.

Since Parkland, high schoolers are more invested in their future and taking a stand. Their age shouldn’t be a distraction from the importance of the issues they raise --- in this case, that climate

change policies must be adopted.

It makes logical sense that teenagers, more than any other generation, ought to be concerned for the environment since they are the very ones who will be most effected by climate change in the future.

## CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

# Trump's April Fools' Presidency

Now that is called an "April Fools' Joke."

It's satirical, and even plausible on how the president, our narcissist-in-chief, during his morning cable news viewing time, might think of an important Supreme Court issue while doodling on scrap paper made up of last year's budget.

And at least 30 percent of the U.S. would believe in it.

I've always seen April Fools' Day as a satirist's national holiday. A time for jocular jesting.

Or it used to be. No more.

The last two years, Donald Trump has stolen April Fools' Day from journos in need of a laugh. He's branded the mainstream media and all those who disagree with him as "fake news." He's called the media, society's traditional fourth estate, "the enemy of the people." It's reported to be the Trump campaign theme. He's even threatened the free speech rights of shows like "Saturday Night Live." All while putting out his own news through his chosen right-wing conspirators.

It's taken the gentle humor of April Fools out of the day.

But what the heck, here's another one for you.

*Mueller Report to be released in mid-April to Congress and American public after first being translated into Russian. "After all they've been through with the election investigation, we owe a full translation to the Russians," said the President.*

Joke, yes? Or nyet? Russia probably already has the report.

Remember Helsinki? After 12 Russians were indicted by our own Justice Department for cyber meddling in the 2016 election, Trump stood with Putin on an international media stage and was asked to firmly reprimand Putin and asked that Russia never do it again. Trump actually said: "I have President Putin, he just said it's not Russia. I will say this. I don't see why there's any reason it would be."

Just another way that Trump has spoiled the April Fools' Fun.



El Prez has normalized the outrageous. He's made everything plausible now. Trump siding with Putin over his own intelligence agency?

That was in the summer. Look at the Trump Twitter feed on Sunday: "Our detention areas are maxed out and we will take no more illegals. Next step is to close the Border!"

Close the border? In the past, a president would be more circumspect and restrained before making such a statement.

All too real now.

Add to all that the real news occurrences.

Fox News refers to Central American countries as "Three Mexican Countries"? Ha-ha? But it really happened this weekend on the official propaganda tool of the White House. Does Fox or Trump still think of the Philippines as one of America's countries?

And then there are the ongoing top head scratchers of late.

Chicago prosecutors drop all felonies against accused hate crime perp and "Empire" Star Jussie Smollett?

Rich parents and celebrities rig system, pay hundreds of thousands to get kids into elite colleges?

I've always said the Smollett case, where the actor was accused of concocting a hate crime for personal gain, was cut from a Trumpian cloth. That an Asian American lawyer communicated with the Cook County prosecutor, who put in for special treatment for Smollett before recusing herself, is unfortunate. But it does reveal how a sense of privilege exists in America that cuts across ideological lines. Wealth, power, influence. Not

supposed to happen in a democracy.

In the college admissions case, rich people didn't think twice about paying hundreds of thousands in bribes for advantages they didn't deserve.

They just felt wealth entitled them. Among the entitled, at least one named Asian American businessman in California.

And how is any of that linked to Trump? Well, he is the self-serving, self-proclaimed billionaire who is the leader of the free world. He sets the ethical and moral tone of the country, leading by example, with friends like the convicted campaign chair Paul Manafort and personal attorney Michael Cohen. And yet despite all the investigations still in the offing from the Southern District of New York, Trump continues to see himself above the law. He spins the biased-Barr conclusions of the Mueller report as if he's totally exonerated.

What he should say is "I benefitted from Russia hacking our election! Hooray!"

It does give us the sense of America under Trump where our values of what's true or ethical are so totally out of whack we're getting used to the news shocks.

So given all the anti-immigration close-the-border talk

from Trump this week, here's another:

*Donald Trump proposes to tear down the Statue of Liberty and replace it with his own tower-size likeness holding a gigantic tiki-torch. "We don't need any huddled masses coming to our country. I am the American Scarecrow."*

See, too real to be an April Fools' joke.

And at least 30 percent of our country would think it's true and be all for it.

That's the problem when our leader is the most truth challenged president ever, according to the Washington Post's Fact-Checker. Whenever he tweets or opens his mouth, we're ready to be shocked.

It's what we've come to expect from the man who never really expected to win a real election and govern. All Trump rally wanted was to make his hotel deals and become the famous man in the world. Democracy was his reality show.

With that low standard, the joke is really on us, and our leader is the ultimate April Fool.

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

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# LAUREN CABRERA: MISS PHILIPPINES HAWAII 2019

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

It has been said that Filipinos are fond of three Bs: Basketball, Boxing and Beauty Pageants. Filipina beauties have been making a name in pageantry all over the world, including the universe. Representatives from the Philippines in different pageants more often than not make it to the top. Just last year, the Philippines proudly celebrated the victory of bagging the Ms. Universe Crown by Filipino-Australian Catriona Gray. She became the fourth Filipina who has won the most coveted title. It has been proven that the Philippines is a beauty pageants powerhouse.

The beautiful women who are joining these beauty pageants are showing to the world

that it is not just about having a pretty face and perfect body, it is also about having a great mind and a powerful advocacy. One of them is Lauren Cabrera, 24, who will be representing the Philippines in the Miss Hawaii Scholarship Pageant 2019 to be held on the 15th of June. Aside from being Miss Philippines Hawaii, she works in the entertainment department at Aulani a Disney Resort and Spa. She also teaches voice lessons, sings at weddings and she is a part of Allegiance, a theater production held at the Manoa Valley Theater from March 28th to April 7th.

*"I decided to run for Miss Hawaii because I've been searching for a platform in which I can bridge my talents and desire to serve the community and embody the change I*

*want to see,"* said Cabrera when asked about her inspiration in joining the Miss Hawaii Scholarship Pageant.

She added, *"When I went to college in the Bay Area, I examined and wrestled with the idea that people face issues every day as a result of educational inequalities, food injustice, immigration laws, incarceration, the list of issues goes on and on. As a singer who is involved in musicals, I've been privileged to see how art can really empower people to work towards bettering themselves and their communities. Through my year of service and goals of becoming Miss America, I would like to make a national impact by opening up opportunities for the youth for arts education, and by starting conversations regarding issues happening today. I want to inspire youth to grow in their talents to create positive impact."*

The victory of the Philippines in Ms. Universe and other international pageants has proven to Lauren that anything is possible and within her power, and she hopes to do the same for her community. Standing confidently on the stage along with all the pageant hopefuls requires a lot of preparation and hard work.

*"I am starting the process with a lot of mental preparation: building up my faith in God, faith in myself and my abilities, and working towards*



*mental discipline to keep a positive perspective and to build a consistent practice routine for my public speaking skills, singing for the talent portion, and my pageant walk,"* Cabrera said.

Lauren never dreamt of running in a pageant or becoming a beauty queen but according to her, she has always wanted to perform. When the door to pageantry opened up, she saw it as a way to broaden her horizons and take the next step in her career towards becoming a professional performer and activist through her art.

Indeed, winning the crown will open a lot of opportunities and will provide a platform to be able to fulfill goals and advocacies.

Lauren explained, *"With my platform of Activism through the Arts, I would like to provide the youth with the opportunity to find and hone in on their talents to better themselves and their communities. I plan on implementing this through my Passion Workshops and Youth Empowerment Fairs. On a national level, I would like to propose my Passion Workshops to the Department of Education as an accessible alternative to schools who do not have*

*funding for extracurricular programs. This program will make use of the non-profits, art programs, and activist groups that are already seeking active solutions for our community."*

Every candidate has something unique and beautiful to share but Lauren believes that her sense of faith and true desire to use this opportunity for the sake of her community will set her apart from the rest.

When she wins the crown of Miss Hawaii Scholarship Pageant in June at the Hawaii Theater, she will be the representative of the state in the Miss America Scholarship Pageant to be held in September. She is trusting that her fellow Filipinos will be behind her as she works on reaching the top and making the Philippines proud. She believes that the Filipino people are a people of faith, community and perseverance, and they know how to work tirelessly towards a goal. This makes her proud to represent the nation.

Lauren Cabrera is a woman who exudes beauty and grace, exhibits wisdom and compassion. From the words of Ms. Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach, she's confidently beautiful with a heart. Lauren will definitely be a force to be reckoned with.

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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!

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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.)

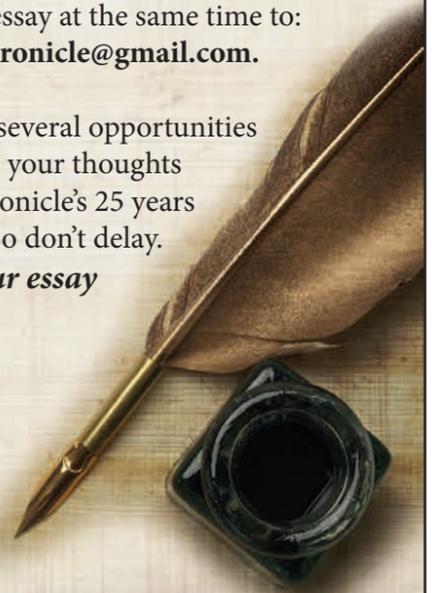
or merchandise from the Chronicle, community and essay contest sponsors. Winners will be notified and may pick up their prizes at the Chronicle office in Waipahu.

## DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2019

Please snail mail a hard copy of your essay on or before June 1. It must be postmarked by May 27 in order to qualify for the deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted. Hawaii Filipino Chronicle 94-356 Waipahu Depot Rd., Flr. 2, Waipahu, Hawaii 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.

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AS I SEE IT



By Elpidio R. Estioko

# Can the BBB Project of Duterte Stop People Seeking Work Abroad?

**T**he country's growing population and the favorable policies of the Philippine government has created more opportunities in the construction industry and have given more Filipinos better chances to work in the country instead of working abroad!

These are factors that prompted Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte to launch his landmark program, the Build, Build, and Build (BBB) project, to boost the construction industry and close the infrastructure gap... eventually leading to improved economy. The project seeks to accelerate infrastructure

spending and develop industries that will trigger robust growth, create jobs and improve the lives of Filipinos.

As I See It, this is also a move designed to discourage or stop skilled workers applying for work abroad. But, unless the pay locally is competitive with that in foreign countries and stable jobs workers can look up to in the long run, we can't stop skilled workers to leave the country and work abroad. To avoid this, pay should be competitive, must provide local incentives, and more or less, offer a stable job.

Well, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III claims that the government's BBB program would eventually generate jobs for repatriated overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). It was designed, according to Bello, "to modernize the country's infrastructure backbone by roll-

ing out 75 flagship projects worth \$36 billion in investments and would eventually generate two million jobs a year, or around 10 million jobs by the end of Duterte's term in 2022."

Gabriela Women's Party (GWP) Rep. Emmi de Jesus, on the other hand said that BBB is not a solution to the problems affecting OFWs as claimed by Bello. She explained that BBB jobs are "project-based, low-paying jobs which will not solve the woes of repatriated OFWs... It will only create temporary jobs even if there are many construction projects lined up. In 2-5 years, wala na ang mga trabahong ito," she pointed out. Well, de Jesus may have a point as far as the length of the project is concerned. That span of three to four years, somehow is equivalent to an OFW's contract, so I think that's

fine. If jobs run out, that will be the time they will have to apply for overseas work again. At least, they were given a chance to stay home, contribute to the country and be with their families for that span of time. So that it will not be a palliative solution, after four to five years, BBB's goal should be extended and similar work-generating projects should be launched to keep the momentum going.

This may not impact the state of Hawaii because, instead of skilled labor workers, Hawaii needs people to work at its many pineapple, coconut, and sugarcane plantations. They also need people to work in service-oriented establishments such as restaurants, eateries, and hotels. And... new Americans in Hawaii serve as everything from nursing aides to entrepreneurs... not skilled

construction workers.

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Director General Secretary Isidro S. La Peña thought this is a chance for his department to support the President's BBB project in training unskilled workers and retraining skilled workers needed by the program companies need. At present, there is a dearth of skilled workers because of the exodus of workers working abroad. TESDA can be the support arm to provide workforce training for employment.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), which is tasked to construct national roads, bridges, water resources projects and other public works, received a total budget allocation of P650.87B (\$12.9B) for 2018 – a 39%

(continue on page 11)



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FEATURE

# Elmer Pizo: A Debut Book of Poetry

By Renelaine Pfister

**O**n the day he returned to the Philippines from the Middle East, the bus Elmer Omar Bascos Pizo was riding in collided with another bus. The woman next to him died, as did five other passengers. Meanwhile, he suffered a concussion, and lost his short-term memory. At the urging of his neurologist, Mr. Pizo used writing as a form of therapy, though this wasn't his first attempt at writing.

Mr. Pizo came from a family of farmers, teachers, and religious leaders in La Union, Ilocos Sur, and Pangasinan. He earned an Agriculture degree in 1981 and eventually worked in the Middle East as a Greenhouse Agriculturist.

It was in the Middle East, where he and his co-workers suffered from labor abuse, that Mr. Pizo started writing a journal regarding his experiences, which turned into some of the poems featured in his new book of poetry, *Leaving Our Shadows Behind Us*.

Though Mr. Pizo is an admirer of poets such as William Carlos Williams, Wendell Berry, Edith Tiempo and Sid Hildawa, he was not trained in poetry; in fact, he was unaware that he was writing poems. He simply jotted down whatever he found significant, interesting, and painful. He wrote about every day life. He wrote from instinct.

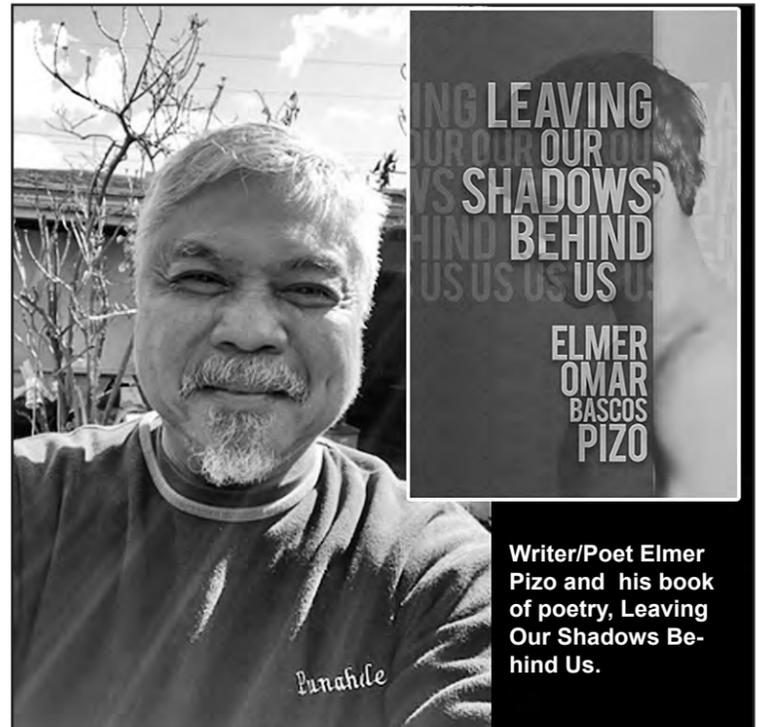
The abuse he encountered in the Middle East, and other abuses he suffered when he was young, became an impe-

tus in the creation of his art. But his subject matter is not limited to that.

We Filipinos will find a connection with Mr. Pizo's poems as they relate to the immigrant experience, other people's perceptions of us, and the lives we left behind in the Philippines.

Mr. Pizo is a Poetry Fellow at the 2000 Silliman National Writers Workshop in the Philippines and a Poetry Fellow at the Vermont Studio Center in February 2006. His poems have been published in several print and online publications in the United States and in the Philippines. The poet has been a resident of Ewa Beach for the last twenty-two years.

*Leaving Our Shadows Behind Us* is published by Bam-



Writer/Poet Elmer Pizo and his book of poetry, *Leaving Our Shadows Behind Us*.

boo Ridge Press, the voice of Hawaii's literary talents since 1978.

The public may visit [www.bambooridge.com](http://www.bambooridge.com) for information on his Book Launch,

which includes a Reading and Signing event on April 25th, Meet the Author Party on April 27th, and a reading at the Hawaii Book and Music Festival on May 4th.

(AS I SEE IT: CAN THE BBB...from page 10)

increase over 2017 – of which P613.2B (\$12.1B) is earmarked for the construction of various infrastructure projects. This boosts the construction industry even more, making the project more viable!

Despite these positive trends, however, there are recurring security and import challenges for construction materials such as cement and steel. To address this problem, the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP) is spearheading the creation of a construction road map.

Another major concern is the availability of skilled and unskilled labor for construction projects. Aside from the low inventory of skilled workers in the country at present, most of them are leaving the country to work abroad thus shrinking the numbers even more. In response, free government training programs are being offered in an effort to bolster the construction sector's workforce.

Key infrastructure projects under the BBB Program include: (a) the Subic-Clark Railway; (b) the North-

South railway projects connecting Los Baños, Laguna to Tutuban, Manila and Clark Freeport in Pampanga; and (c) a 1,500-hectare industrial park in Clark, Pampanga; and (d) an expanded Clark International Airport also in Pampanga, among others.

Consequently, TESDA and the Department of Public Works (DPWH), according to Lapena, met to discuss plan to fast track construction skills training. They have directed their respective regional directors to immediately start coordinating pending the memorandum of agreement between the two agencies that will officially seal the on-site training plan.

In an email release sent through his Public Information Officer (PIO), Secretary Lapeña said he initiated the talks lately with DPWH Secretary Mark Villar and came out with a proposal dubbed as the Program on Project-based On-site Learning of Skilled Construction Professionals (PPOL-SCoP). The proposal addresses applicable construction skills training in DPWH project sites, as a support program for the President's BBB

project.

Aside from the DPWH, Lapeña proposed that the on-site construction skills training must be in close partnership with the local government units (LGUs) and government-accredited construction companies.

Based on this proposal, each training will be different depending on the specific skills needed in the site. The training plan and curriculum will be developed by TESDA and the in-company trainers, construction superintendents, supervisors, and lead men to better prepare the trainees for work.

TESDA's proposal is in line with Republic Act No.

6685 which makes it mandatory for contractors to hire at least fifty per cent unskilled and thirty per cent skilled workers from bona fide residents where government infrastructures are being constructed. Bringing the training near these residents can encourage them to attend the free training and acquire construction-related jobs.

Since TESDA is also gathering information on the employment status of the 83,649 graduates in 2017 and the 234,546 graduates in 2018, they can simultaneously address the challenges on unemployment and skills mismatch, one of the Agency's thrusts under Secretary

Lapeña's supervision.

Everything is in place, but just like what I mentioned earlier and the concerns of Rep. Emmi de Jesus, in order to stop the exodus of workers abroad, local pay under the BBB project should be competitive, i.e. within the level of OFW's compensation, in order to entice skilled workers to stay and work here. Besides, whatever little deficit in pay will be compensated by workers being with their families and need not be away from them.

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



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# Supporters of Kupuna Caregivers Program Push for Continued Funding

Supporters of the Kupuna Caregivers Program rallied at the Hawaii State Capitol to push for two measures (HB 467, HD1, SD1 and SB 1025, SD1, HD1) that would provide continued funding for the program.

The first-in-the-nation

program of its kind, the Kupuna Caregivers Program became law in 2017. It provides assistance to caregivers who take care of an aging loved one as well as work full-time outside the home.

Currently, the program funds up to \$70 a day in services that working family

caregivers need in order to stay active in the workforce while also caring for their kupuna at home. Services that the program provides include adult day care, home care aides, transportation and meal services for up to five days per week. To qualify for the program, caregivers need to provide care for kupuna age 60 or older, who

need help with at least two activities of daily living, and are employed outside of the home for 30 hours or more per week.

“This program is an innovative approach to the issue of long-term care, and it has received national attention because it’s a different model,” said Pedro Haro, Hawaii Advocacy Director for

Caring Across Generations. “Providing a little bit of assistance to family caregivers and allowing elderly to age at home can potentially save the state millions of dollars by preventing more costly interventions, such as sending family members to care facilities or hospitalizations due to inadequate care during the day.”

## Public Invited to Free Personal Finance Conference

AARP Hawaii invites the public to attend a free “Finance Your Future Conference” on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii from 8 a.m. to noon.

Topics presented at the conference include living on a budget, planning for increased health costs, understanding

Social Security, estate planning, smart investing, financial planning for a 100-year-life, the new realities of work, and understanding Medicare.

This year’s theme is about planning for and paying for a 100-year life. With better healthcare and healthier lifestyles, chances are increasing that you will live to be 100, especially in Hawai‘i which has the highest average lifes-

pan of any state in the country.

“People need to prepare for retirement or risk being unable to retire. This conference will help you secure the kind of retirement that will give your choices,” said Barbara Kim Stanton, AARP Hawai‘i State Director.

Register online at [aarp.cvent.com/fiance4-6](http://aarp.cvent.com/fiance4-6) or by calling 1-877-826-8300. AARP membership is not required. Parking will be validated at the Japanese Cultural Center.

## Rat Lungworm Disease Case Confirmed on Hawaii Island

A second case of rat lungworm disease (angiostrongyliasis) contracted on Hawai‘i Island has been confirmed by the Hawai‘i Department of Health (DOH).

The individual is a resident of North Hawai‘i and is the second person from Hawai‘i County to test positive for angiostrongyliasis in 2019, bringing the statewide total to two cases this year.

Health officials learned recently about the adult resident of North Hawai‘i, who became ill in January. Laboratory testing though DOH’s State Laboratories Division confirmed the individual’s infection in late February. The individual was hospitalized for a short time and has since recovered.

Disease investigators conducted a detailed investigation to learn more about possible sources of infection. The exact source of infection could not be identified, but investigators learned the individual had a home garden on their property. It is likely the individual accidentally consumed a slug or snail while eating produce from their garden.

“In Hawai‘i, we need to

treat all slugs and snails as if they are infected with the parasite that causes rat lungworm disease, and this means washing all produce no matter where it comes from, whether it’s from the grocery store, the farmer’s market or grown in our own home gardens and yards,” said Health Director Bruce Anderson. “Washing all produce carefully and thoroughly using clean, running water is the most effective way to remove unwanted slugs or snails from fresh fruits and vegetables.”

DOH will host a community meeting in North Hawai‘i in late April to provide residents in the area with information about rat lungworm disease and how they can protect themselves. Health officials and experts on prevention will be on hand to answer questions and share information. The meeting is tentatively scheduled at the North Kohala Public Library for Monday, April 22, at 6 p.m. More details about the event and will be shared with the public at a later time.

## Hawaii Community Health Centers Receive Federal Funding

Fourteen community health centers in Hawaii will receive federal funding totaling \$28,750,365, announced U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, a member of the Senate Ap-

ropriations Committee.

“Community health centers offer an affordable and accessible outlet for thousands of people across our state to receive care they might not otherwise

be able to,” said Senator Schatz. “This funding will give these centers the resources to continue providing comprehensive health services to Hawai‘i families where they are needed most.”

Community health centers provide comprehensive, high-quality primary health care services to medically underserved individuals and families. The community health centers receiving funding are Kalihi-Palama Health Center on Oahu, \$3,518,386; Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services on Oahu, \$2,922,712; Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center on Oahu, \$3,510,777; Community Clinic of Maui, \$1,885,839; Waimanalo Health Center on Oahu, \$2,031,688; Molokai Community Health Center on Molokai, \$1,292,131; West Hawai‘i Community Health Center on Hawai‘i

Island, \$2,505,787; Hoola Lahui Hawai‘i on Kauai, \$1,369,194; Hana Health on Maui, \$1,367,995; Koolauloa Health Center on Oahu, \$1,710,765; Waikiki Health on Oahu, \$1,742,347; Ha-

makua-Kohala Health Centers on Hawai‘i Island, \$1,497,992; The Bay Clinic on Hawai‘i Island, \$1,724,793; and Lanai Community Health Center, \$1,669,959.



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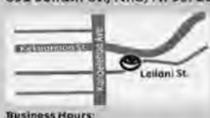
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LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

# Cap-Subject H-1B Petitions for Fiscal Year 2020

**T**he H-1B program allows companies located in the US to hire foreign nationals for certain occupations which require a bachelor's degree or higher. The jobs may be in the science, engineering, teaching, health and legal professions. The H-1B visa is a nonimmigrant temporary work visa.

There are 2 caps, namely regular cap and the advanced degree cap. The quota for the regular cap is 65,000 petitions in a year. The annual quota for the applicants with a US advanced degree is 20,000.

Since it is anticipated for there will be a lot more petitions than the USCIS can approve for the 2020 fiscal year, a lottery will be conducted.

There are important things to remember when filing the H-1B petition in order to ensure that it is accepted and hopefully approved by the USCIS. First, make sure that the H-1B petition is filed from April 1 to April 5, 2019; Second, use the correct edition of form I-129 Petition for a Non-immigrant Worker.

Another important thing to remember is that all payments through check or money order must be dated, signed and in the correct amounts. The current base filing fee for the I-129 petition is \$460. There's an additional ACWIA fee of \$750 or \$1,500, depending on the number of full time employees and \$500 fraud prevention fee. The payee must be indicated as "U.S. Department of Homeland Security". It is advisable to have individual checks for each filing fee. This is to make sure that in case one of the amounts is incorrect, the

application pertaining to that incorrect filing fee will be denied but not the rest. For example, if the amount for the premium processing fee which is \$1,410 is incorrect, the petition itself can proceed but it will not be under premium processing anymore.

Premium processing will be offered in a two-phased approach during the FY2020 cap season so USCIS can best manage the premium processing request without fully suspending it as in previous years. The first phase will include FY2020 cap-subject H-1B petitions requesting a change of status and the second phase will include all other FY2020 cap-subject petitions.

A lot of times the petitions are denied because it was filed at the wrong office of the USCIS. There is a list on the USCIS website on [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov) which enumerates the filing addresses for I-129 petitions.

The form I-129 itself must be completely filled out and

signed and dated by the applicant company. Make sure that all of the required information is provided and all of the boxes are appropriately checked. If an item is not applicable, "N/A" should be placed. The earliest start date that the foreign national can have is October 1, 2019. Furthermore, the petition end date should match the date on the Labor Certification Authorization (LCA) expiration. Other information must also match the LCA. These are the title, salary, and worksite location.

If a US degree is required for the job or title, it should be awarded by March 31, 2019. However, the USCIS has allowed H-1B petitions for foreign nationals who have completed all requirements for a US degree but the degree has not been conferred yet. For these applications, documents must be included to show that the foreign national has completed all degree requirements. These official documents must be issued by the Dean or Registrar or Department Head of the school. The foreign national can also be granted the H-1B visa even if he is not currently completing a US degree, as long as he can show that the education and/or experience that he already has is equivalent to a US bachelor's degree. A foreign national who

is in the United States under the F-1 nonimmigrant student visa will be able to remain in the country if he is currently working on Optional Practical Training (OPT) and has timely filed a cap-subject H-1B petition and change of status request. Students whose OPT was valid at the time of filing the H-1B petition will remain in valid status and can continue to work through September 30 while the petition is pending or if it is approved. If the student's OPT has expired at the time of the H-1B filing but he is still in a valid grace period, he will receive an automatic extension of his duration of status (D/S) admission. However, he can not extend his OPT anymore because it has already expired.

Lastly, the USCIS will deny all multiple petitions filed by the same employer for the same foreign national. However, the USCIS will accept petitions filed by related employers (parent company and subsidiary) for the same person for as long as they are for different positions and based on the business needs of each company and not duplicate petitions.

**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

### April Is Sexual Awareness Month in Hawaii

**O**n April 12, 2019, Governor Ige officially will proclaim April 2019 "Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Hawaii" and recognize 14 community members and organizations who are making a difference in Hawaii by encouraging healthy relationships, teaching youth about consent, and how power dynamics impact consent.

These include: Barbie-Lei Burgess, Wai'anae Neighborhood Place; Jan Fukada and Ke'alapualoke Fukuda, Hawai'i State Department of Education; Lorrie Kanno and Officer Anson "Kaipo" Paiva, Weed and Seed Program Hawai'i; Gina Kaulukukui, Kaua'i Police Department; Cathy Kapua, Kua'ana Project; Cyril Lopez, Jr. and Jennifer Makuakane, Ka'u Middle and High School; David Matlin and Nick Rolovich, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Athletics; Captain Romuel "Roy" Nafar-

rete, U.S. Navy, PACFLT SA-PRO; Gregg T. Waki, Waiakea High School; and the Maui Sexual Assault First Responders.

The Department of the Attorney General, Department of Health, and the Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault are partnering to raise public awareness about sexual violence and support initiatives that work to prevent sexual violence in our communities. Hawaii's effort is part of a nationwide campaign.

This year's SAAM theme, "I Ask, encourages and empowers everyone, no matter the scenario, to ask for consent, listen, and accept answers without pressuring or coercing another."

"Sexual violence has no place in our communities," said Attorney General Clare E. Connors. "I commend every effort to raise awareness of the problem and I am encouraged that so many are promoting the value and importance of healthy human relationships."

According to the 2015 and 2017 Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1 in 12 high school students (8.5%) who dated or went out with someone in the previous 12 months experienced sexual dating violence. Anyone can experience sexual violence, including children, teens, adults, and seniors. We encourage everyone to stand against all forms of sexual violence by attending a local SAAM proclamation during the month of April:

\*Kauai Mayor's SAAM Proclamation/Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month, Monday, April 1, 2019, 1:00 p.m., Kauai County Office Building Rotunda

\*Maui Mayor's SAAM Proclamation, Monday, April 8, 2019, 10:00 a.m., University of Hawaii Maui College

\*Honolulu Mayor SAAM Proclamation and City Council Certificate Ceremony, Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 1:00 p.m., Honolulu Hale, City Council Chamber (3rd Floor)





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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Vasper Is Keynote Speaker at Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Business Mixer

The Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce will discuss “Finding and Hiring Talent in Today’s Hawaii Labor Market” at its upcoming business mixer on Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 p.m. at Tante’s Fish Market located at the Ma’alaea Harbor Shops, Wailuku.

The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$20 per person for members and \$25 per

person for guests. Heavy pupu will be served.

The evening’s keynote speaker will be Mike Vasper of Hawaii Employers Council. Vasper is a Senior HR Consultant. He joined HEC with over 20 years of human resources experience in the healthcare, retail and staffing industry for small and medium locally owned businesses as well as large national corporations.



Mike Vasper

He supports HEC members with HR best practices, compliance issues, document

and policy review, and training programs on topics such as discrimination and harassment, ADA, performance management, and supervisory skills.

Vasper earned his BA in Economics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is a member of the local and national chapters of the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM) and holds the SPHR and SHRM-SCP designations. He has taught classes for PHR and SPHR certifica-

tion and is an active member of the Hawaii Healthcare Human Resources Association (HHHRA).

The event is sponsored by Trinity Environmental Solutions, Maui Federal Credit Union and Tante’s Fish Market. To RSVP for the event or for more information about the business mixer and Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce, please email [mauifilipinocc@gmail.com](mailto:mauifilipinocc@gmail.com) or call Sharon Zalos Banaag at (808) 359-1616.

## MAINLAND NEWS

# US Urges Philippines to Let Maria Ressa ‘Operate Freely’

WASHINGTON — The United States on Friday urged the Philippines to quickly resolve a case against arrested journalist Maria Ressa and allow her and her news site Rappler to “operate freely.”

A State Department spokesperson said the United States was “concerned” about the arrest of the prominent critic of President Rodrigo Duterte and called on the Philippines to respect freedom of the press.

“The freedom of expres-

sion is a cornerstone of any truly democratic society and a fundamental freedom recognized by both the United States and the Philippines,” the spokesperson said.

“Maria Ressa is a highly respected and experienced journalist.

“We hope these charges will be resolved quickly, in a way that fully respects the freedom of expression, allows Ms Ressa and Rappler to continue to operate freely, and is consistent with the Philippines’ tradi-



Maria Ressa

tion of a free and independent press.”

After being arrested last month on different charges and

then freed on bail, Ressa was rearrested on Friday on charges that she and her colleagues at the news site violated rules on

foreign ownership of media.

The arrest -- and fears that she was targeted for her coverage -- have sent shockwaves through the media scene in the Philippines, which historically has been vibrant and unafraid to question leaders.

Rappler has reported extensively, and unflatteringly, on Duterte’s deadly narcotics crackdown that has claimed thousands of lives and which rights groups say may be a crime against humanity. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

(Sagot sa Krosword Blg. 3 | March 16, 2018)

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**77TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARAW NG KAGITINGAN OR DAY OF VALOR** | April 7, 2019; 3:00 - 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

**PMAH FOUNDATION'S 5TH ANNUAL BOWLING FUNDRAISER TOURNAMENT** | April 13, 2019; 3:00 - 6:00 PM | Aiea Bowl | For more details call: Rosalo Paeste, MD at 223-3065 / 671-1634 or email: rosalo.paestemd@gmail.com

**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 Bagaioisan 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

**PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN HAWAII (PWAH) PRESENTS FILIPINIANA BALL 2019** | August 30, 2019; 6:00 PM | Hibiscus Ballroom, Ala Moana Hotel | Call details call: Letty Saban: 255-9429, Lina Mercado: 382-7751, Carlota Ader: 797 4381, Mimi Gozar: 312-0778

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**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**

**Hawaii Residents Encouraged to Participate in Census Count**

Governor David Ige said the state's population rate has been undercounted in the last few Census counts and he encourages all residents to complete the Census questionnaire which will be sent to them on April 1, 2020.

"It is very important that our population count is accurate. Census data will be used to distribute billions of federal dollars to states and communities each year during the coming decade," said Gov. Ige.

The Governor announced the formation of the Hawai'i Government Complete Count Committee (HGCCC), which will coordinate state and county government ef-

orts to count Hawai'i's population in 2020. The committee is charged with increasing awareness about the importance of being counted; organizing state resources effectively and cost-efficiently to promote the count; and improving the response rate for the 2020 Census questionnaire.

The establishment of the committee also represents an important partnership between Hawai'i

and the U.S. Census Bureau which will conduct the 2020 Census.

In support of the Hawai'i Government Complete Count Committee, Gov. Ige and Lt. Gov. Josh Green have proclaimed April 1, 2019 -- 2020 CENSUS DAY in Hawai'i. Gov. Ige and Lt. Gov. Green encourage every Hawai'i resident to participate in activities related to the 2020 Census, which includes participation in the count.

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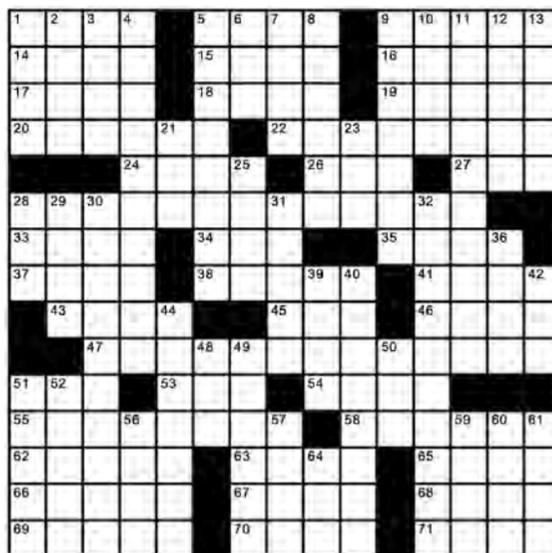


**CROSSWORD** No.4 by Carlito Lalicon

**ACROSS**

- 1. Boris Godunov, for one
- 5. Mountain
- 9. Used a broom
- 14. Sharpen
- 15. Small buffalo
- 16. Irritation
- 17. Bit
- 18. Laugh at with contempt
- 19. Spurious wing
- 20. Ride a snowmobile
- 22. Smart alec
- 24. Unit of length
- 26. Beer
- 27. Casual attire
- 28. Former Senator from Pangasinan
- 33. Sister of your father

- 34. Bull's mate
- 35. Dwelling house
- 37. Be silent
- 38. Put to rest
- 41. Willingly
- 43. Eliminated urine
- 45. Bard's "before"
- 46. Battering wind
- 47. In an educational manner
- 51. Black cuckoo
- 53. Jerk
- 54. Gulf V.I.P.
- 55. Offered
- 58. Amino
- 62. Large cat
- 63. Advertising sign
- 65. Clownish



- 66. Shoelace tip
- 67. Expensive
- 68. Body of poetry
- 69. Verse
- 70. Affectedly creative
- 71. Auto damage

**DOWN**

- 1. Not that
- 2. Crybaby
- 3. Voting "no"
- 4. Admitted anew
- 5. Highly decorated earthenware
- 6. Single
- 7. Denials
- 8. Airport area
- 9. In a spare manner
- 10. Weaken

- 11. Of or relating to or at an equator
- 12. Beat
- 13. Pester
- 21. Black gold
- 23. According to
- 25. Carbon compound
- 28. Backrub response
- 29. Witty remark
- 30. In an unseeing manner
- 31. Young hooter

- 32. Generalized
- 36. Confess
- 39. Opera song
- 40. Social class
- 42. Slightly insane
- 44. President Rodrigo R. \_\_\_\_\_
- 48. Inferior dog
- 49. "To do" list
- 50. Game with matchsticks
- 51. Fragrant oil

- 52. Whinny
- 56. Adjudge
- 57. Big game
- 59. Back of the neck
- 60. Knowing, as a secret
- 61. Dermatologist's concern
- 64. Cereal grain

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

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