

HAWAII



FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

♦NOVEMBER 2, 2019♦

HFC TO AWARD FIL-AM LEADERS & ORGANIZATIONS AT ANNIVERSARY GALA

COVER STORY PAGE 4



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AND
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FILIPINO AMERICAN
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BATAAN



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EDITORIAL

HFC Awardees Exemplify Selfless Service that Builds a Stronger Community

In the course of 25 years, the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle has reported on and made genuine connections with many individuals who have spent a lifetime making a difference. Much too often, individuals who give generously to their communities go unrecognized for their efforts. So it's laudable that the HFC owners and staff have decided to share their 25th Anniversary celebration by recognizing outstanding members in our community.

These individuals (HFC Excellence awardees) have excelled in various fields – from medicine to law, politics to academia, media to entertainment, culture to community service. Not only have they made their mark in their respective professions, but they've simultaneously worked as community-builders on their spare time with passion to commit to something larger than themselves.

Through each stage in life, no one does it alone but depends on others apart from family. These HFC awardees represent that helping hand. They're that attorney who does pro bono work for the underprivileged; that doctor who volunteers on medical missions to help the sick and poor; that academic who educates our youths in the classroom and gives them skills to succeed in life; that public servant who helps to run government for the overall benefit of society; that community leader who keeps us engaged by working on community events where fellowship and bonds are renewed; and that cultural expert who keeps our people interested in our Filipino heritage, history, and language.

How does community-building work? It means service, participation and interaction. HFC awardees have put in tireless time, energy, ideas, knowledge, and often money to keep our community thriving. They have invested of themselves to benefit others. And it is our relationships with them and each other that make us empowered.

Concrete examples of some HFC Excellence awardees' community-building efforts: President and CEO of House of Finance, Inc. Roland Casamina has engineered his knowledge and network to help raise funds for the building of the Filipino Community Center; physician-volunteers of both the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW) and the Ohana Medical Missions, Inc. dedicate their expertise and hard work to help the medically underserved and uninsured; and Owner of Group Builders, Inc. Lito Alcantara has provided labor and construction for the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls Health Services.

All of them know of each other's work, some have collaborated on projects; it's charitable interconnectedness in action. And the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle over the years has worked with and publicized both their charitable and professional contributions to our community. This is how community-building works. Remove one part then suddenly our community is that much less stronger. Add another helping hand in this chain, the work continues and gets done.

Now here we are nearing the night of the Gala and Awards Banquet, about to come full circle and celebrate all our life-time accomplishments with the community we all love dearly. It's not just about patting ourselves on the back, but about showing the younger generations what community-building looks like in the hope that they can carry on the torch and do remarkable, selfless work when their time comes to make a difference.

The HFC awardees have exemplified this belief that personal achievement must also include progress and prosperity for those around us; in other words our ambitions are much

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

O

ur community is much stronger when more helping hands work together to uplift each other. This has always been true. Sometimes help can come in the unlikeliest of places and from people you wouldn't necessarily expect. What's also true is that good deeds are interconnected. One person might have a unique skill; and a second person another skill. Put the two together, and multiply that then suddenly there is this power unleashed in the form of community-building. Our community's grandest projects have followed this pattern; perhaps the greatest example is in the building and continued support of the Filipino Community Center. And there are many others.



For our cover story this issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo writes about the HFC Excellence Awards that will be formally handed out at the HFC 25th Anniversary Gala and Awards Banquet on Nov. 23 at the Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Ballroom. Recipients of the HFC Excellence Awards have been selected for their lifetime contributions to our community as well as their work in their respective fields from medicine to law, to education and culture, and so on. They represent the spirit of community-building and giving. Alongside the cover story is a write-up of the 35 (in total) outstanding Filipino individuals and organizations who will receive our HFC Excellence Award. Congratulations to our awardees; and thank you for your contributions to our community. We are pleased that you and your family and friends will be able to celebrate with us our milestone 25th Anniversary.

Also in this issue, HFC contributor Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand contributes an article on some of the community events that occurred around the state (Maui, the Big Island, Kauai, and Oahu) during October's Filipino-American History Month (FAHM) or also often referred to as Filipino-American Heritage month.

We also have a news feature on Fil-Am actress Sienna Aczon who will star in a fantasy action film "DEVATHA: The Awakening," which will premiere in Hawaii theaters and the film festival circuit worldwide in the Spring 2020. Sienna is an award-winning actress. She is a local talent who graduated from Punahoa School.

HFC contributor Raymund Llanes Liogson informs us of the Knights of Rizal-Aloha letter-writing contest open to Hawaii residents. Participants are asked to answer: "If Dr. Jose Rizal (Philippine national hero) were to write to the Filipino women today, both in the Philippines and abroad, what would he tell them given the current realities and development? Get the details of this fascinating and educational contest in our news section.

Be sure to also read our columns section, including HFC columnist Elpidio Estioko's "Veterans Should Be Remembered Every Day" and HFC columnist Atty. Reuben Seguritan's "Courts Block New Public Charge Rule." Seguritan's article comes as good news for our community. A U.S. court on October temporarily stopped the implementation of the "public charge rule" (pushed by the Trump Administration) that would have prevented persons who use public benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps or housing assistance from getting a green card or U.S. permanent residence status.

Lastly, thank you for your continuing support. We hope you will be able to attend our 25th Anniversary Gala and Awards banquet. Contact us at 808-678-8930 for details. Until next issue, warmest *Aloha* and *Mabuhay*!

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EDITORIALS

Social Media Is Being Politically Weaponized



s democracy and our election system being compromised on social media?

In international journalist Maria Ressa has a dire warning for Americans, citing what happened in the Philippines could very well be in store for the United States. She said the coordinated manipulation and spread of lies on social media are not just a phenomenon to Philippine elections.

"What is happening to the Philippines is a warning to democracies around the world. More than three years ago, lies laced with anger and hate began to systematically tear our democracy apart in the Philippines. They split open the fracture lines in our society, eroded trust in our institutions, created and inflamed ideas of 'us against them,'" said Ressa.

Sounds familiar?

Cambridge Analytica whistleblower Christopher Wyle told Ressa that the Philippines was used by the company as a "petri dish" for testing tactics used for behavior modification, among them, to disseminate propaganda and manipulate voter opinion.

Cambridge Analytica was a political consulting firm that used data mining and other high-tech techniques to sway elections. Owned by political conservative billionaire Robert Mercer, the company closed following its Facebook data scandal. But other related companies still exist.

The Philippines was second only to the U.S. that had



the highest number of compromised Facebook accounts in the Cambridge Analytica scandal. Ressa asserts that social media manipulation was in part responsible for the election of President Rodrigo Duterte.

American Elections compromised

Like in the Philippines elections, the Robert Mueller investigation revealed election meddling, specifically that the Russians launched a sophisticated cyberattack that used social media to sow division in the U.S. and to prop up the 2016 presidential campaign of Donald Trump. Thirteen Russians were indicted by special counsel Mueller on charges of an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 election by creating fake accounts that pushed divisive issues on social media.

American intelligence experts say the weaponization of social media to influence elections is ongoing. Russians and others are still trying to buy ads on social media, have computer bots manipulate data

and target sites, spread lies and disinformation, even hack search engines to hide candidates' profiles.

What Social Media is doing to combat the problem

The problem is so widespread that the U.S. Congress has been asking social media company executives for answers. Facebook executives said already the company removes some objectionable content before people report it. Twitter is also committed to developing automated tools that would delete content without an actual person making a complaint.

Both Facebook and Twitter pledged to better protect their social media platforms in the 2020 elections and beyond; and told Congress of aggressive efforts to root out foreign intrusions aimed at sowing divisions in American democracy.

Twitter's CEO Jack Dorsey said "We aren't proud of how that free and open exchange has been weaponized and used to distract and divide people, and our nation. We found ourselves unprepared

(EDITORIAL: HFC AWARDEES...from page 2)

more fulfilling when they are broad and benefit both our own and others' needs.

In this spirit of mutual support, we hope that our community will show their gratitude for this well-deserving group by attending the HFC 25th Anniversary Gala and Awards Banquet on Nov. 23 at the Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Ballroom.

Congratulations to all our HFC awardees: Abner Undan, Dr. Amelia Jacang, Ariel

Flores, Dr. Anthony Guerrero, Dr. Aurelio Agcaoili, Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, Dr. Carolina Davide, Bernadette Baraquito, Judge Catherine Remigio, Dr. Cecile Sebastian, Danny Villaruz, Edith Doctolero, Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii, Jeoffrey Cudiamat, Kristian Lei, Chef Joel Navasca, Lito Alcantara, Rev. Larry Estrella, Margarita "Dayday" Hopkins, Maribel Apuya, Melody Calisay, Norman Arancon, Ohana

Medical Missions, Inc., Pacita Saludes, Philip Sabado, Filipino Association of University Women, Judge Randal Valenciano, Reynard Graulty, Roland Casamina, Peter Aduja (posthumous awardee), Romy Cachola, Rosalinda Malalis, Chef Sheldon Simeon, Associate Justice Simeon Acoba, and Judge William Domingo.

Mabuhay to these leaders. Thank you for all that you've done toward the betterment of our community.

and ill-equipped for the immensity of the problems we've acknowledged."

He added: "Abuse, harassment, troll armies, propaganda through bots and human coordination, misinformation campaigns, and divisive filter bubbles — that's not a healthy public square. Worse, a relatively small number of bad-faith actors were able to game Twitter to have an outsized impact."

Social media companies are working on using artificial intelligence (AI) to address political misinformation but it is in the early stages. They say AI works well for some things but when it comes to understanding the subtleties of language and when it's hate speech or abuse, machines still have a lot to learn.

Facebook is going after "inauthenticity" or fake accounts. Twitter is focusing on analyzing behavior patterns to find suspicious activity. The companies have made policy changes, and have caught and banned malicious accounts over the past year.

Common Sense

Until social media companies get a handle on the situation and are able to curb the spread of propaganda and false information, social media users must use common sense and educated judgement over content they come across.

For example almost any large newspaper online are bombarded by fake social media posters under the comments section. Some posters are fake, duplicate accounts from politically radical individuals called "troll armies;" while some are campaign-driven by political propaganda entities that have far more nefarious goals than to make a simple comment.

Common sense tells the social media user that what is being posted in the comments section under a politically charged article may not represent popular opinion; or when these posters cite facts they may not be accurate but deliberate misinformation. Social media users should always consider the source of what is posted online.

The U.S. government and social media executives are in the right direction and must continue working together to find solutions to safeguard our elections and democracy.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg gave an honest assessment of the consequences of free and open communication streams. "I wish I could tell you we're going to be able to stop all interference, but that wouldn't be realistic. There will always be bad people in the world, and we can't prevent all governments from all interference. But we can make it harder. We can make it a lot harder. And that's what we're going to do."



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COVER STORY

HFC to Award Outstanding Individuals and Organizations in the Filipino Community

By Edwin Quinabo



ach day people are empowered to change their communities. The Filipino community has no shortage of smart, energetic, charitable, courageous individuals who do just that -- making a positive impact for others to benefit.

The owners and staff of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (HFC) will honor a total of 35 Filipino individuals and organizations with the HFC Excellence awards on the newspaper's 25th Anniversary Awards and Gala night on Nov. 23, 2019 at the Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Ballroom.

Awardees were chosen for both their stellar accomplishments in their respective fields – law, medicine, government, business, education, entertainment, and so on – as well as their work as community-builders, as leaders working to uplift the Filipino community.

Chona Montesines-Sonido, publisher and managing editor of HFC, calls the awardees “unsung heroes” because they quietly give without expecting anything in return. She said, “We are recognizing them to promote the good work they have done and so that they can serve as role models to our youth.

“We’ve decided to recognize these awardees to bring awareness to certain values that we also believe in with our newspaper. These awardees share our newspaper’s mission goal of building, empowering, and advocating for our Filipino community.”

Sonido said HFC has set up an Excellence Awards

Committee comprised of leaders in our community and HFC staff members to select the awardees. Members researched individuals and made recommendations to the committee on who should receive an award specific to a category like medicine or culture.

“Some of the awardees have worked with our staff and writers on some projects so we know very well what they’ve done in the community. It isn’t like a contest where you choose only one person per category. So, in some categories there are more awardees than others. The selection is based on the nominations of our staff and the awardees’ merits,” explained Sonido.

Mylene Reyes, President of the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW), will be accepting the award on behalf of FAUW, which was one of the organization-awardees. FAUW will receive the “Outstanding Achievement in Community Service Award” specifically in the preservation and perpetuation of Filipino arts and culture.

“FAUW has been in existence for 32 years and has been engaged in promoting and strengthening Filipino heritage in Hawaii. To be recognized by a distinguished publication as the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is a source of pride and motivation for all our members to continue our work,” said Reyes.

She mentioned just a few of FAUW’s programs like Letters To My Parents Contest, poetry readings, and book publications. “All of them aim to amplify the voices of today’s Fil-Am youth in the landscape of harsh discrimination, racism and prejudice.”

FAUW has collaborated with the Honolulu Museum of Art’s Doris Duke Theater to host the Filipino Film Festival, an ongoing project since 2014. Recently, they’ve assisted Farrington High School’s ELL Students in book publishing. They’ve held lectures, exhibits, and present an annual Filipino Christmas traditions event at the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA).

“Advancing and elevat-



ing pride and image of the Filipinos are forefront on my personal agenda in hopes that one day, no Filipino youth will ever utter the words, ‘shame to be Filipino,’ ” said Reyes.

“Thank you to the publishers and staff of the HFC for being the genuine eyes and ears of the Filipino community. The longevity of the HFC is a testament to the excellence in journalism that prevails in every issue of this widely respected Filipino newspaper,” she said.

Roland Casamina, President and CEO of House of Finance, is receiving the Excellence award in Finance. His company has been in the top 20 largest residential lenders on Oahu for multiple years, according to Pacific Business News. House of Finance does all types of loans from personal, car, and commercial. Its primary focus is on residential financing.

“I started in the finance industry in 1976 and enjoy doing the same until today. It’s not so much about the finance industry or about how much money we can make, but it is so rewarding when I’ve made a difference in the people’s lives, when I see their smiles because we’ve put them into

their dream home,” said Casamina.

Casamina is also one of the founders of the Filipino Community Center and served as its first president. He raised over \$14.5 million in over 12 years, earning him the title of President Emeritus. The FilCom Center even has a Casamina Ballroom named in his honor.

“The Filipino Chronicle has done a great service for our community. To reach 25 years in any business entity is a milestone,” said Casamina.

Rey Graulty has been selected to receive the HFC Excellence award in Politics. He is a former judge of the Circuit Court, former state senator and representative, former State Insurance Commissioner and attorney.

“There was no prouder moment than being elected to the Legislature for the first time – someone not born and raised here, and to receive the approbation of my neighbors and the people I sought to represent. It took every ounce of my ability and energy to reach that point. All that came after really flowed from that accomplishment,” said Graulty, who was born in

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COVER STORY

(from page 4)

Manila and arrived in Hawaii in 1972. He worked for the late Senator Daniel Inouye before he decided to run for public office the first time.

On his contributions to the Filipino community, he said "everything I've done in both my personal and public life was to give honor to my Filipino heritage and to rise from my humble beginnings. I was born under a lucky star and hopefully my good fortune and any of my accomplishments have been reflected in the standing that Filipinos in Hawaii have gained and continue to gain in our diverse, multi-ethnic society."

"Public service has been an important value to me. I am the only person in Hawaii today who has served in all three branches of government – as a state legislator, as State Insurance Commissioner, and as a Circuit Court Judge. I would venture to say that none of this might have happened had I not been of Filipino ancestry. I am conscious of this and have never turned down an opportunity to be of service to the community," said Graulty.

Bernadette Baraquito, creative director and executive producer of Living Local TV, is the HFC Excellence awardee in the Media category.

"This award came a surprise to me. It has been a fruitful journey working in the

media business for nearly 25 years, but it also feels nice to be recognized for this kind of achievement at this time in my career – especially during the silver anniversary of a news organization that continually celebrates our heritage and culture," said Baraquito, who was also a reporter and anchor for KHON2 News in the late 1990s and currently a broadcast journalism instructor at UH-Manoa's School of Communications (besides her work with Living Local TV).

In 2004, Baraquito founded her own production company and launched one of the first "100% Original, 100% Local" programs on Oceanic cable TV. She said LIVING LOCAL WITH THE BARAQUIOS quickly ranked among the top-rated entertainment TV shows statewide and is still on the air today on Hawaii News Now affiliate K5. The magazine show has also aired on broadcast channels KHON-TV, WB Network and the Coastal TV Network in California.

On the Filipino community, Baraquito said she enjoyed covering numerous stories on Filipino fiestas and cultural practices, artists and musicians of Filipino ancestry (Tia Carre, Jasmine Trias, Lea Salonga, Kristian Lei, Augie T, Lanai and the late Andy Bumatai to name a few) and local neigh-

borhoods with Filipino populations like Waipahu, Kahuku and Hawi on the Big Island.

She recalls being interviewed by the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle in the late 1990s shortly after being promoted from reporter to anchor on KHON2 News. "It was surreal to be recognized as one of the only Filipino anchors in local broadcast news at the time. Most recently, HFC has launched a new journalism scholarship that could help benefit our UH students and local graduates. Looking back, I am grateful to know that HFC has always been there to document the positive stories of our Filipino community and to support the future generations of Filipino journalists," said Baraquito.

The honorable District Court Judge William Domingo of the First Circuit will receive the Excellence Award in Legal Practice. He has tried more than a hundred jury trials in the entire gamut from traffic to white-collar corruption, conspiracies, and violent crimes. He was named as one of Hawaii Super Lawyers in the area of criminal defense for 2008-2010.

"I am very honored to accept this award on behalf of my family and the many mentors who have blessed my personal and professional life," he said.

"For 30 years, whether in

government service or private practice, I strove to work hard and effectively and ethically represent my clients. I found that having an open mind and a sympathetic ear puts people at ease and that working as a team gets the best results.

"I have had the privilege of serving the people of the First Circuit as a District Court Judge for the last four years. It has been the fulfillment of my legal career. I continue to keep following my moral compass never forgetting that I am a public servant."

He recalls how he got reconnected to his Filipino heritage. "My pride in my culture was nurtured and enhanced during my college years at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Taking Ilocano language classes led to my involvement in Operation Manong headed by Dr. Amy Agbayani. I also began taking classes by Professors Belinda Aquino, Teresita Ramos and Ricardo Trillo. I was hooked, taking every Philippine/Filipino related class I could find, eventually earning a degree in Philippine Studies.

"I took leadership positions in Filipino organizations serving as president of Filipino Students' Association at UH; president, Filipino Law Students Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law; co-founder, board pres-

ident, Sariling Gawa Youth Council; president, Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association."

He says his children have continued what he has done and also serve the Filipino community. All of them are actively involved in Sariling Gawa and his daughter Jessica was the president of the Filipino Law Students Association and is currently the president of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association.

Judge Domingo recalls that when he was sworn in as judge in 2015, he and his mother were featured on the cover of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. "It was the perfect vehicle to thank and acknowledge my family and those that helped me attain my position.

I am truly grateful that there is a publication of the highest caliber taking the pulse of the Filipinos in Hawaii and sharing our achievements with all of Hawaii.

Ariel Flores, DPT, is one of several medical professionals selected to receive an HFC Excellence award. "I am both honored and humbled by this recognition for my work and contributions to our community."

Flores is a physical therapist and owner of an outpatient orthopedic physical therapy practice. Besides his PT work, he has participated in sever-

(continue on page 6)

SPECIAL FEATURE

HFC EXCELLENCE AWARDEES

(Editor's Note: This is an abbreviated version of an original full-length compilation written by our staff in the HFC 25th Anniversary Souvenir Book that will be available at the HFC Anniversary and Awards Gala.)

ARTS

Phillip Sabado

Sabado was born and raised in Mauna Loa. After serving in the army, he began studying at the Honolulu Museum of Art to pursue his interest in design and painting. Soon after he completed his art program in Honolulu, he interned at the Bishop Museum learning from the great historical archives and working under celebrated artist-historian Herb Kane. His passion and commitment would then take him to continue his studies at the premier Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. Sabado worked within illustration and design in Los Angeles as a Senior Art Director for the Bristol Meyers Corporation. At that time, he became one of the top 50 illustrators in the US. In 1984, he returned to Hawaii and explored a career in fine arts over the next 20 years. He has been commissioned to do many public and private murals and is celebrated within the collector community. He considers murals as a very effective means of communication—such that these murals have become an intrinsic part of many Hawaii structures.

Sabado's art studio can be found in Wailuku, Maui.



BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Melody Calisay

Calisay started as an academic, having obtained her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Agriculture from the University of the Philippines Los Baños in 1976 and 1984. Calisay came to Hawaii to pursue doctoral studies. In 1996, she obtained her Ph.D. in Agriculture with majors in Agronomy and



Soil Science. Immediately after, the Hawaii Department of Health hired Calisay as their Coordinator and Remedial Project Manager. She also assisted various state, county and city government agencies in applying for federal grants.

Twenty years ago, Calisay founded East-West Marketing, Inc., an Oahu-based importer and wholesaler of dry good products from the Philippines. The company supplies goods to all Filipino and Asians stores on Oahu, Lanai, Kauai, Big Island, Maui and Molokai.

Currently, Calisay still works full time with her job at the State while part-time in East-West Marketing. Aside from providing jobs and a piece of home to Filipinos in Hawaii, she also hires essential employees from the Philippines whose status can be eventually converted to a US green card permanent alien status.

CONSTRUCTION

Anacleto "Lito" Alcantara

Alcantara is founder and president Group Builders, Inc., the largest finishing contractor in the state of Hawaii. He grew up in a poor farming family in the small town of San Vicente in Ilocos Sur, Philippines. He earned a scholarship at Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila and earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1960. He worked as an Assistant Project Engineer for the Manila Railroad Company and was awarded the model Assistant Project Engineer. For nine years, he ventured out as the owner of the Alcantara Construction Company. In 1972, Alcantara migrated to Hawaii where he started as a janitor for Acoustic Insulation & Drywall, Inc. and worked his way up becoming its Executive Vice President.

When the company was sold in 1979, Alcantara started Group Builders, Inc. which became the first Filipino company included in the top 250 companies in Hawaii and the first Filipino construction company to make Hawaii's Top 20 general contractors, per Hawaii Business magazine. The company has consistently stayed there ever since. In 2008 and 2009, the company was named one of Hawaii's Best Places to Work.



(continue on page 6)

COVER STORY

(HFC TO AWARD....from page 5)

al Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW) fundraising activities. BCWW (another HFC organization-awardee) provides free medical and dental services to immigrants and marginalized Hawaii residents.

"Although Filipinos are a major ethnic group in Hawaii, I feel like they are still discriminated against especially in the areas of healthcare and employment. Certain medical professionals do not have patience to listen to their Filipino patients. This could result in Filipinos not receiving the best care possible," said Flores. One of his goals is to be that medical professional who can work with Filipino patients to ensure that they get the best medical care they deserve.

Flores said of the Filipino Chronicle, "Through the years, my opinions have been sought on various topics that the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle covered. It is amazing how a fledgling periodical 25 years ago, could become a major

publication in the State of Hawaii. HFC has tackled many relevant and controversial topics that have not only affected Filipinos in Hawaii, but also the rest of the U.S. and the world."

Dr. Aurelio Agcaoili will be receiving an HFC Excellence award in Higher Education. He is the program coordinator of the Ilocano Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and president of the Nakem U.S. chapter, an academic-based global organization that promotes the Ilocano language and culture.

"I have not found any dichotomy between what I do in the classroom and what I do for the community for the reason that my classroom extends to the community in much the same way that community concerns get into my classroom, as well," said Agcaoili, who has taught in Honolulu, the Philippines and Los Angeles. "I have helped formed citizens that are engaged, committed, conscious of their social obli-

gations. Many of my students are accomplished in the sense that they are now in pursuit of the greater good."

Social justice is important to Agcaoili who has witnessed and participated in two People Powers revolutions in the Philippines. He has also done work as a journalist. "I've found the moral courage to write about immigrant rights, the plight of the oppressed and the poor, the unevenness of our access to resources, the closing of the door to those who want to partake in the American dream," said Agcaoili.

The HFC Excellence Awardees

The distinguished group of awardees are Abner Undan, Dr. Amelia Jacang, Ariel Flores, Dr. Anthony Guerrero, Dr. Aurelio Agcaoili, Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, Dr. Carolina Davide, Bernadette Baraquio, Judge Catherine Remigio, Dr. Cecile Sebastian, Danny Villaruz, Edith

Doctolero, Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii, Jeffrey Cudiamat, Kristian Lei, Chef Joel Navasca, Lito Alcantara, Rev. Larry Estrella, Margarita "Dayday" Hopkins, Maribel Apuya, Melody Calisay, Norman Arancon, Ohana Medical Missions, Inc., Pacita Saludes, Philip Sabado, Filipino Association of University Women, Judge Randal Valenciano, Reynard Graulty, Roland Casamina, Peter Aduja (posthumous awardee), Romy Cachola, Rosalinda Malalis, Chef Sheldon Simeon, Associate Justice Simeon Acoba, and Judge William Domingo.

gural winner (plus an additional \$1,000 if recipient maintains a 3.0 GPA or higher).

Mahalo to our Sponsors

Sponsors of the HFC 25th Anniversary Awards and Gala night include: Charlie Y. Sonido and Chona Montesines-Sonido, Primary Care Clinic of Hawaii, Dr. Ray Romero of Westshore Neurology, LLC., Mark Chui, CPA & Christopher Chui, Esq., MD Rejuvenation Center/Dr. Sorbella Guillermo and Edgar Manuel, APRN, Roland and Evelyn Casamina, House of Finance, Drs. Antonio Tan and Elisea N. Singson, Bank of Hawaii, Dr. & Mrs. Nicolor & Imelda Joaquin, Michael McMann, M.D., LLC/ McMann Eye Institute, First Hawaiian Bank, PMAH Foundation, Cecille & Rey Piros, Richard Pecson dba Pecson & Associates, Belinda Aquino, Ph.D., Josephine De La Torre Waite-Ansdell, Abner Undan of Trees of Hawaii, and James & Beth Hoban

(AWARDEES....from page 5)

Alcantara has chaired annual trade missions of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce. His company provided labor and construction for the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls Health Services which provides free medical treatment to new immigrant families who don't have medical insurance.

CULINARY ARTS

Chef Joel Navasca

Chef Navasca has more than 30 years of experience in the food service industry. He migrated to Hawaii from Cebu, Philippines. He started as a dishwasher and worked his way up in different restaurants and companies such as Perry Boy's Smorgy, Wong's Family Byron Restaurant Group, American Classic Cruise Lines and Stuart Anderson Cattle Company. Eventually, he teamed up with Big City Diner to open their last three restaurants.

Navasca is a strong promoter of the Filipino cuisine in Hawaii. He believes that Filipino food can be marketable and popular and should be at the same tier as any other Asian cuisines. In 2014, he opened the first branch of Tiamo's Restaurant in Ewa Beach. He received the highly lauded 2018 Best of Hawaii Critics Award from Star Advertiser.

Chef Navasca is also a great mentor. He trains future chefs in his restaurants to gain hands-on knowing in the kitchen, dining experience and the Hawaii food industry.

Together with his son, Ian Navasca, Chef Joel has helped launch the Treasure Box Studio, a non-profit organization that aide youths to find inspiration through the art of dancing.

Chef Sheldon Simeon

Born in Hilo, on the Big Island, Chef Simeon acquired his love for cooking from his parents. His path led from Hilo High to the Culinary Institute of the Pacific, onto an internship at Walt Disney World. Upon returning to Hawaii, Sheldon attended Maui Culinary Academy.

Chef Simeon competed in the 10th season of Bravo Network's Top Chef: Seattle, making it to the finals, and winning Fan Favorite. He returned to the show again in 2017 for season 14: Charleston, once again winning Fan Favorite.

In 2016, Chef Simeon opened up his very first solo restaurant, Tin Roof, in Kahului, Maui, where he serves up local dishes in take-out bowls. In Fall 2018, Chef Simeon opened his second solo project, Lineage, also on the island of Maui. In 2019, Lineage was named a James Beard Award semifinalist for "Best New Restaurant."

Chef Simeon's other awards and accolades include 2013 Maui News Maui's Best Chef, 2014 FOOD & WINE Magazine's People's Best New Chef for the Pacific & Northwest, 2014-2015 Hawaii Magazine's Top 5 Best Hawaiian Chefs and 2019 Maui Time's Best Chef.

DENTISTRY

Dr. Cecile D. Sebastian

Dr. Sebastian has a clinic on Bishop Street where she provides quality patient care with expertise in cosmetic, implant and neuromuscular dentistry. She has received numerous awards and recognition such as Star Advertiser's



Best of Hawaii Award in General & Cosmetic Dentistry (2018-2019), Honolulu Magazine's Best Dentist (2005-2019), Better Business Bureau of Hawaii's Torch Award for Business Ethics, Network and others. She founded the non-profit organization, Smiles for Success in 2013, as well as the Hawaii Future Dentist Symposium in 2008.

Dr. Sebastian provided free dental services at Donated Dental Services and Give Kids a Smile, sponsored by the American Dental Association for an annual free dental screening for children. She is a Hawaii Food Bank Healthcare Coalition member and an Aloha Medical Mission volunteer. Her professional affiliations include the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, American Dental Association, Hawaii Dental Association and Honolulu County Dental Association.

Dr. Sebastian graduated in B.S. Biology at Purdue University and Doctor of Dental Surgery at Northwestern University Dental School.

ENGINEERING

Jeffrey Cudiamat

Cudiamat founded Structural Hawaii, Inc. (SHI) which provides architectural and engineering services all in one firm. Cudiamat made two "40 under 40" lists: Pacific Business News, 2010, and Professional Remodeler, 2012. Hawaii Council of Engineering Society named him "Young Engineer of the Year" in 2009. Filipino-American League of Engineers & Architects honored him as "Engineer of the Year" in 2008. He received the Superior Achievement Award for Navy Public Works in 2003 and 2004. Hawaii State Jaycees awarded him as its Outstanding Chapter President in 2004 and Outstanding Individual Development Director in 2006. SHI was #19 on Pacific Business News' Hawaii's Fastest 50 in 2009. Filipino Chamber of Commerce named him its 2008 "Young Filipino Entrepreneur."



A former chief engineer for the City and County of Honolulu, he holds structural engineering, civil engineering, and contractor's licenses. This year's President-Elect for the Filipino Chamber of Commerce, he is affiliated with Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii, American Public Works Association-Hawaii chapter, Filipino-American League of Engineers & Architects, Waikiki Business Improvement District, Government & Utility Task Force, Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies, Board of Water Supply and Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute.

Cudiamat earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering with Honors from the University of Southern California in 1996.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kristian Lei

Lei is an international singer-songwriter, producer, director and theater performer. She starred in many roles such as Kim from Miss Saigon in Germany, Princess Nala and Rafiki in the Festival of Lion King in Hong Kong Disneyland and TiMoune in the Actor's Actors Inc. Philippine Tour of Once On This Island. She also had her own show called Kristian Lei Show in the Disney



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SPECIAL FEATURE

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Cruise Lines. As a recording artist and composer, she released two albums 2008's Take My Hand and 2013's On A Personal Note.

Lei is the founder of the non-profit organization Honolulu Broadway Babies and JETH School of Continuing Education and Performing Arts, which is dedicated to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She founded it to honor her younger brother Joshua Earl T. Hegwood, who lives with Cerebral Palsy.

When she is not performing, Lei is a professional and feature film vocal coach. She had clients such as Fox Studios, film Empire of the Sun, Hawaii-based all-girl band Crimson Apple and Hollywood stars Zac Efron and Aubrey Plaza. She received multiple awards such as one of the 2011 Hawaii's Ten Outstanding Young Filipinos, State of Hawaii's 2014 Outstanding Woman Achiever in Entertainment and KHON 2's 2015 Top 5 Influential Filipinos in Hawai'i.

EDUCATION

Rev. Larry Estrella

Estrella was principal at Ma'ili Bible School from 1981 to 2016. A handson servant, he not only strove for the school's accreditation, but he also taught every grade and coached its sports teams as well to fill the needs when the school was short-handed or on a tight budget. Thanks to his efforts, children and the youth have had the opportunity to be educated in a solid Christian environment.



In addition, he co-founded and helped run supportive programs such as the annual summer Camp Kupono and the annual Praise Festival of the American Association of Christian Schools. Since his retirement from education in 2016, he now serves as the Senior Pastor of Calvary Independent Church in Wahiawa.

Estrella was born in Wailuku, Maui, then went to school in Waianae, Oahu from elementary to high school. He graduated from high school in 1976. He then traveled to Greenville, South Carolina to attend Bob Jones University where he earned a degree in Church Administration with a minor in English in 1980. He was ordained in 2010.

Dr. Aurelio Agcaoili

Dr. Agcaoili is the program coordinator of the Ilocano Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is also the president of the Nakem US Chapter, an academic-based global organization that promotes Ilocano language and culture. He's a strong proponent of language justice and equality in Hawaii and the Philippines. He was a freedom-fighter during the Marcos regime in the Philippines.



He has written several volumes of one of the most comprehensive English-Ilocano dictionary. He's extremely passionate about disseminating cultural and historical literacy to local-born-and-raised Filipinos in Hawaii. He's also knowledgeable of the cultural politics in the Philippines. In fact, Nakem is all about that, an academic think-tank that globally promotes language justice and equality in the pedagogical arena. As a writer and a poet, he's active in promoting Filipino diasporic literature in the US. He authored essays written both in Ilocano and English. He also directs the Ilocano Drama and Film Department at the university.

Norman Arancon

Arancon is an Associate Professor of Horticulture at the UH Hilo and was recently named as the Chairman of the college's Performing Arts Department—a good combination of science and art. Born and raised in the Philippines, he received his Master's and Doctorate degrees in Environmental Science from Ohio State University (OSU). Prior to graduating at OSU, he finished a post-graduate degree in Agricultural Studies at University of Queensland in Australia. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Crop and Social Science from Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan in the Philippines, where he began his teaching career at the age of 21. In 2008, Arancon joined UH-Hilo's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management as a research assistant professor before being tenured as an associate professor in 2013. Despite his role as chair of the Performing Arts department, he plans to continue to teach horticulture.



He received the 2015 Excellence in Teaching Award and 2013 Chancellor's Special Recognition Award from the UH Board of Regents.

FINANCE

Roland Casamina

Roland Casamina is president and CEO of House of Finance, Inc. (HOF) which has been in the top 20 largest residential lenders on Oahu, according to Pacific Business News. Founded in 1995, HOF has consistently ranked among the top 20 largest residential lenders in the State of Hawaii since 2010. From 1976 to 1995, Casamina was the Vice President of International Savings and Loan (ISL). When ISL closed, he launched the HOF.



Casamina received the 2004 Presidential Award of Honor from President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at the Malacañang Palace in Manila. Given once every two years, the President of the Philippines bestows the award on deserving individuals who made significant contributions for the betterment of Filipinos in the Philippines and throughout the world.

In 1992, Casamina founded the Filipino Community Center and served as its president. He raised over \$14.5 million in over 12 years, earning him the title of President Emeritus. The Fil-Com Center had its grand opening in 2002, with the Casamina Ballroom named in his honor.

The Shidler College of Business at the University of Hawaii inducted Casamina into its Hall of Honor for 2014. He established a \$50,000 endowed scholarship at the UH Shidler College. Kalayaan International recognized Casamina for his achievements with the 2006 Business and Finance of the Year and the 2003 Leadership Award. The United Filipino Council of Hawaii awarded him the 1997 Business/Investment & Finance of the Year. Hawaii Jaycees named Roland its 2008 Man of the Year. The United States Jaycees recognized

him as the 1986 Outstanding Young Man of America.

Casamina earned his degree in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii in 1976.

FLORIST

Edith Doctolero

Doctolero is owner of Sunrise Leis and Flowers, a local flower shop located in North King Street, Kalihi. They're a retailer and a wholesaler. Their products can be found in most Foodland and Sack N Save stores within the islands of Hawaii.



Right after earning her degree in Elementary Education from the University of Manila, Doctolero immigrated to Hawaii and started working at a lei stand in Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. In 1988, she opened Sunrise Leis and Flowers.

Doctolero said her business is always open seven days a week to keep with the work and demand. She said it took a lot of sacrifices to keep the flower shop running. For Doctolero, it takes patience and perseverance to keep the flower shop business going. And 32 years later, Sunrise Leis and Flowers still operates in its original location.

Born and raised in Ilocos Sur, Doctolero's mother taught her how to create flower arrangements. Her company have received multiple awards including the 2018 Best Florist in Honolulu from Better Business Bureau.

LANDSCAPING/ARBORIST

Abner Undan

Undan is Chairman of the Board, President and Treasurer of Trees of Hawaii, the largest tree trimming company in the state. The company, a family owned business, has 55 employees across Oahu and Maui. Undan started as a groundskeeper for Trees of Hawaii in 1976. He is certified as an arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture. He is a member of the Honolulu Mayor's Arborist Advisory Committee, and an Advisor and Past President of the Hawaii Society of Urban Forestry Professionals.



Undan received many distinguished awards for his work, including a World Achievement Award in 1994 from the Philippine Government, a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002 from the USDA Forest Service, State of Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources, the Community Service Recognition Award in 2002 from the Honolulu City Council, and the Filipino Entrepreneur of the Year in 1999 from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, among others.

He earned his degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of the Philippines Los Baños in Laguna, Philippines.

LAW AND JUSTICE

Association Justice Simeon Acoba

Associate Justice Simeon Acoba was appointed to the Supreme Court of Hawaii In May 2000. He served until his retirement in 2014. Before his appointment to the Supreme Court, he was an associate judge on the Intermediate Court of Appeals, a circuit court judge, and a per diem district court judge. Judge Acoba served as a lecturer at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the UH-Manoa. He has been a member of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. He was the founding chair of the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission. Appointed by the President of the Bar, Acoba is co-chair of the Hawaii State Bar's Judicial Administration Committee.



A few of his awards include: the 2013 recipient of the National Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence from the American Judicature Society, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Filipino Community Center, the Golden Gavel Award and the President's Award from the Hawaii State Bar Association, the Fellow of the Pacific Award from Hawaii Pacific University and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the UH Founders Alumni Association.

Judge Acoba earned his bachelor's at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa in 1966 and graduated from Northwestern University School of Law in 1969.

JUDGE WILLIAM DOMINGO

Governor David Ige appointed William Domingo as District Court Judge for the First Circuit in 2015, a recognition of his excellence as a litigator. As a lawyer, he was Grand Jury Counsel for the First Circuit Court, Hawaii State Public Defender, and an Assistant Federal Public Defender, and then as a solo practitioner. He has tried more than a hundred jury. He was named as one of Hawaii Super Lawyers in the area of criminal defense for 2008-2010.



Judge Domingo lectures in evidence at the William S. Richardson Law School. He is a member of the Judiciary Committee on Equal Access to the Courts and of the Attorney and Judges Assistance Program, and the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Barriers to Access to Justice / Hawaii Access to Justice Commission. He is a past president of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association. He was the founder and past president of Sariling Gawa Youth Council, Inc., past president of the Kalihi YMCA, past president of the Susannah Wesley Community Center, and mock trial coach of Farrington High School.

Judge Domingo received his Juris Doctor from the William Richardson School of Law in 1985. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Philippine Studies in 1979.

Judge Catherine Remigio

Remigio is a Circuit Court Judge for the First Circuit (Oahu), appointed by Governor David Ige in February 2017. In her former role as Deputy Chief Judge/Senior Family Court Judge, she developed policies, practices, and priorities for Family Court of the First Circuit; trained and supervised 10 full-time Family Court judges and up to 15 Per Diem judges. As a Family Court Judge, she presided over cases in the Juvenile Division including the Perma-



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SPECIAL FEATURE

(AWARDEES...from page 7)

nency and Imua Kakoa (foster care) court programs. She was also the Administrative Judge for the Truancy Court Collaboration Project. She also was assigned to the Domestic Division, overseeing Family Court cases and chairing Committees to develop updated Child Support Guidelines and Family Court Forms, and served on the Civil Unions Committee and Kapolei Working Group Committee. Judge Remigio was a deputy public defender and practiced law as an Associate with Stirling & Kleintop and a partner at Bryant & Remigio. In the Judiciary, she was appointed to be a Per Diem District Court Judge, Circuit Court Grand Jury Counsel, and Arbitrator for the Court-Annexed Arbitration Program.

Judge Remigio graduated with a B.S. in Foreign Service and Certificate in East Asian Studies from Georgetown University in 1987, then earned her J.D. from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1992. She is a member of the California and Hawaii Bars.

Judge Randal Valenciano

Valenciano served in all three branches of government. From 1990 to 2002, he held elected office as a Kauai County Council Member. Since 2007, he has served as the Circuit Court Judge for the Fifth Circuit (Kauai & Niihau). He is also the Chief Judge, Administrative Judge and Senior Family Court Judge for the Fifth Circuit. Before this, he served in the Executive Branch as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kauai and started his law career as a Deputy Public Defender on Oahu for the State of Hawaii. Before his appointment to the Circuit Court, he had a private practice as a partner in Valenciano & Zenger and later as a sole practitioner in the Law Offices of Randal Valenciano. His professional memberships include the Hawaii State Trial Judges Association, State of Hawaii Public Defender Council and Kauai Bar Association.

He received the Award of Excellence from the United Filipino Council of Hawaii and Kauai Filipino Centennial Award.

Valenciano earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Washington Law School in 1983 and his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Oregon in 1980.



MEDIA PRODUCTION

Maribel Apuya

Apuya is an award-winning filmmaker known for her series of short films, The Sakada Series which won an "Award of Merit" from the 2018 Impact DOCS Awards. It also won the Best Documentary Short at the 2018 Honolulu Film Awards, Heritage Award at the 2018 DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon and the Silver Award at the 2018 Spotlight Documentary Film Awards.

The former Miss Oahu Filipina and Miss Hawaii Filipina, Apuya is a graduate of University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she was both a Presidential Scholar and a National Science Foundation Scholar. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and Political Science. She then spent a decade in New York City training in theater performance and studying storytelling. Apuya attended the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater, a two-year acting conservatory, and worked with renowned theater companies such as SITI Theater, Shakespeare & Company and the Linklater Center. She is an alumnus of UCLA's Professional Program in Screenwriting.

Currently, she's pursuing a Master of Fine Arts focusing on Screenwriting at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), where she was granted the Chancellor's Distinguished Fellowship Award. She is currently a teaching assistant of Screenwriting at the UCR.



Bernadette Baraquito

In January 2004, Baraquito launched Just A Girl Productions, LLC where she is the owner and manager of. She is also the Creative Director, Executive Producer and Host of weekly TV magazine show, Living Local TV. Aside from that, she teaches and trains journalism students in her Media Design & Production courses at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa (UHM). She is also the communications consultant and video producer for the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu Office for Social Ministry & Office of Religious Education.



In 2007, Small Business Hawaii named her the Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Her show Living Local TV received 18 Classic Telly Awards for Outstanding TV Program in multiple categories. Her TV program with UHM journalism students, UHMTV, won four Telly Awards. She also won three Telly Awards for Outstanding Religious/Spirituality Programs.

Baraquito studied Communications at Seattle University then earned her Bachelor's in Journalism with Honors and minor in Music, in 1996, from UHM. She earned her Master's in Communications, with High Honors in 2017, also from UHM.

MEDICINE

Dr. Anthony Guerrero

Dr. Guerrero is the first professional of Filipino ancestry named Chair in a University College of Medicine, not only in the State of Hawaii but in the whole country. He is currently the Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) at the University of Hawaii of Manoa (UHM) since 2014. He is also a UH-JABSOM professor teaching in the Department of Psychiatry and Pediatrics. He also works as a child and adult psychiatrist at Kapiolani Behavioral Health Service and University of Health Partners of Hawaii.



He obtained his secondary education from St. Louis High School, Honolulu as a class valedictorian in 1988. In 1991, he graduated with a Biology degree from (UHM) with highest honors. At age 22, he graduated from UH-JABSOM in 1994 which was then followed by his residency at the UH Integrated Combined Pediatric/General Psychiatric/Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Residency Program.

He has authored numerous books, articles, book chapters, peer-reviewed books and publications. He has also been guest editor of various scientific journals and papers presented in various international conferences.

NURSING HEALTHCARE

Rosalinda Malalis

Rosalinda Malalis is the CEO of Nightingale Case Management, Inc. which provides consultation, care and education to caregivers, staff and residents of elderly patients.



Right after graduating from San Juan de Dios School of Nursing, Manila in 1968, Malalis immediately began her nursing career as an operating room nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in New Jersey and a staff nurse for the Neurology Department at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York. She moved to Hawaii in 1991 where she worked as a staff nurse between the medical and surgical unit at St. Francis Medical Center in Liliha. She then transferred to the Ewa Beach location of St. Francis Medical Center where she worked in the Cardiac and Intensive Care Unit. Later, she worked at Pali Momi Medical Center as a charge nurse in 33 Bed Cardiac Unit. After years of working as a registered nurse in multiple hospitals in Honolulu, she and her husband Eugene began Nightingale Case Management.

She received multiple awards such as Pali Momi Medical Center's 1996 Nurse of the Year, Filipino Nurses Organization of Hawaii's 2002 Nurse of the Year, Filipino Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Filipino Entrepreneur of the Year, the Senate's Filipino 2011 Entrepreneur of the Year and International Nurses Association's 2012 Top Nurse Case Manager.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Ariel Flores

Flores is a physical therapist and the co-owner and Chief Physical Therapist at Waipahu Therapy Center since 2003. He has 30 years of experience in his field, working on the mainland and in Hawaii for various medical centers. He earned his degree in Physical Therapy in 1991 from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines and a Master's in Business Management at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati. While studying, he became an assistant professor at Saints John and Paul Colleges in Makati. Flores has multiple Physical Therapy licenses from Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, California and Hawaii.



In 2014, he earned his doctorate in Physical Therapy from Utica College in New York.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Romy Cachola

Born and raised in Ilocos Sur, Philippines, Representative Romy Cachola represents District 30 which consists of Sand Island, Mokaeua, Kapalama and Kalihi Kai on Oahu. He was first elected to the Legislature in 1984 where he served for 16 years until he was elected to the Honolulu City Council. After 10 years as a councilmember, he was elected to serve as a State Representative of District 30 in 2010.



Cachola has chaired the House Tourism Committee, transforming the often-overlooked legislative panel into a major player the earmarked hundreds of millions of dollars in the State budget for various initiatives and projects that boosted Hawaii's biggest economic machine.

In 2000, Cachola jumped into the Honolulu City Council race and won. One of his early accomplishments was brokering a deal for a land swap between the City and a private developer. He termed out in 2012 and successfully ran for the State House where he is working on a bill to address Hawaii's \$14 billion unfunded liability for the Employee's Retirement System.

For the past four decades of his public service career, Cachola has introduced and passed legislation that provided much-needed funds for various projects that benefited Filipino community groups, schools and non-profit organizations.

Reynard Grafty

Grafty was born in Sampaloc, Manila and received his elementary and high school education at the Ateneo de Manila University. Shortly after his 20th birthday, he left the Philippines to attend college in upstate New York. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and History from the State University of New York at Albany in 1970 and graduated magna cum laude.



In 1972, he arrived in Hawaii as an Army Lieutenant stationed at Schofield Barracks. Upon completion of his Army assignment, he worked as a life insurance agent with Equitable Life before being selected to attend the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. He worked for the late Senator Daniel Inouye in Honolulu. He ran for the State House in the Kalihi-Moanalua-Salt Lake area and was elected in his first try. After four years in the State House, he left politics to concentrate on his legal career. He started his own law practice in Grafty, Evangelista & Quiban—a firm specializing in labor law. He returned to politics in 1992 and served four years in the State Senate as Judiciary Chair, and in 1997, he was appointed by Governor Ben Cayetano to serve as State Insurance Commissioner. Governor Cayetano subsequently appointed him to the Circuit Court bench where he served as a criminal trial judge for 10 years. Governor David Ige appointed him to the Hawaii State Ethics Commission in 2015 and reappointed him this year for another four-year term.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD FOR POLITICS & PUBLIC SERVICE

Peter Aduja

Aduja was born and raised in the small town of Salindieg in Ilocos Sur, Philippines. In 1927, he came to Hilo, Hawaii at age 8 with his family when his father was assigned to Hakalau Plantation as a contract laborer for the Hawaii Sugar Planter Association.



He graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1944 with a degree in Government and History. Aduja was then drafted into the military. He was assigned to the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment, which participated in the Philippine Liberation campaign under General Douglas MacArthur.

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SPECIAL FEATURE

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At war's end, Aduja returned to Hawai'i. He taught at Na'alehu Intermediate, but then he went to law school at Boston University on the G.I. Bill, earning his degree in 1951. In 1953, he became the first attorney of Filipino ancestry admitted to practice in Hawai'i. He opened his first law office in Hilo. In 1954, Aduja became the first Filipino-American elected to public office in the Territory of Hawai'i and the entire United States. He represented Hilo in the Hawai'i Legislature from 1954 to 1956 and then Kaneohe from 1966 to 1974. He was a Deputy Attorney General from 1956 through 1960. In 1960, he became the first Filipino-American appointed as District Court Magistrate for the First Circuit Court in Hawai'i. He served there until 1962. He was a delegate to the Hawai'i Constitutional Convention in 1968.

Aduja served in many community organizations, including veterans' organizations, Filipino organizations, the Red Cross, and Salvation Army, among others. In 1986, he received a Merit Award from the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i. Aduja had resumed his law practice in 1962, this time in Kalihi, where he continued until November 2006 when he passed away.

PUBLISHER'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Pacita Saludes

Saludes is a life-long creative writer, poet, short storyteller, essayist, playwright and columnist who writes in Ilocano. Born and raised in Ilocos Norte, Saludes spent her academic years studying and teaching in the province of Abra. She finished her high school education at Colegio del Sagrado Corazon in Bangued then received her degree in Education, Major in English and Minor in Science at the Divine Word College of Bangued. In 1970, she migrated to Hawaii with her family. In Hawaii, she organized GUMIL Hawaii in 1972 and acted as president for more than 30 years. She also has written for several newspapers and magazines. Currently, Saludes writes for the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. She is also a highly recognized literary writer and playwright. She has written plays and directed them for annual programs of GUMIL Hawaii and Fiesta ti Kailokuan of AKA. She also edited and co-edited books that were published by GUMIL Hawaii. She also served as an announcer and program host for multiple radio stations.

Saludes received an award from the late Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos for her role in preserving Ilocano culture and arts in the state of Hawaii. She was an Outstanding Writer of the Year of GUMIL Hawaii for several years. Among other awards she received: United Filipino Council's 2001 Progress Award in Arts and Entertainment, and the 2002 City and County of Honolulu's award for the preservation of culture and arts through drama presentations.



UNSUNG HEROES

Dr. Amelia Jacang

Dr. Jacang is an accomplished board certified pediatrician and a Fellow with the American Academy of Pediatrics. She has received distinguished awards from the Philippines Medical Association of Hawaii in 2009 and the Hawaii Filipino Women's Club in 2007. Governor George Ariyoshi appointed her to the Board of Health in 1979 and the Drug Selection Board in 1985. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, St. Francis Health Care System Board, Hawaii Medical Association, Honolulu County Medical Society, and Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii, which she has served as past president. Dr. Jacang has been a member of the Ohana Medical Mission and was formerly a board member of the Aloha Medical Mission. She is part of the Filipino ministry of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, was president of the Filipino Women's League and of Annak Ti Batac Hawaii.



Dr. Jacang earned her M.D. in 1963 from the University of East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center in the Philippines. She served her internship at Kuakini Hospital, her pediatric residency at New York Polyclinic Hospital and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, then completed her fellowship in pediatric pharmacology at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Carolina Davide

Dr. Davide is a board-certified physician in Family Medicine in private practice on Oahu. She trained in the Philippines doing her internship with the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center in Quezon City, and a residency in Family Practice at the Metro Cebu Community Hospital in Cebu City. In the U.S., she completed her internship and residency in Family Practice at the University of Illinois at Chicago – Christ Hospital.



Dr. Davide was elected as President of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii, Vice President of both Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls and the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii Foundation. She was a member of the Board of Directors for both Ohana Medical Missions, Inc. and Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, and of the Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii. She is a member of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii, American Medical Association, and American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Davide earned her M.D. from the Cebu Institute of Medicine in Cebu City in 1983 and her B.S. in Biology from the University of the Philippines Los Baños in Laguna in 1979.

Margarita "Dayday" Hopkins

Hopkins has more than 40 years of experience as an Agricultural Economist. She has conducted surveys and research projects on the agricultural economics of different places such as Nueva Ecija, Makati City and Cagayan de Oro in the Philippines, Kuwait, Alabama and Hawaii.



She authored or co-authored papers in international journals and symposia proceedings. From 1976 to 1979, she moved to Auburn, Alabama, where she became a research associate for the Department of Fishers and Allied Aquaculture at Auburn University. She then moved back to Makati, Philippines

where she was an assistant professor at Central Luzon State University. From 1982 to 1985, Hopkins went to Kuwait as a Marketing Specialist and Economist for the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. Finally, Hopkins moved to Hilo, Hawaii in 1988 where she worked as the Economic Development Specialist for the Department of Research and Development for the County of Hawaii for 23 years. Hopkins also taught undergraduate courses in farm management, agriculture economics. Currently, Hopkins is an agricultural economist consultant for Day2 Resources LLC since 2012.

Hopkins received multiple awards including the Congress of Visayan Organizations' 2004 Lapu-Lapu Award, United Filipino Council of Hawaii's 2008 Progress Award and the University of Hawaii at Hilo's 2009 Outstanding Filipino Leaders Award.

Danny Villaruz

Villaruz is the President and CEO of Villaruz Financial Services LLC, which helps clients find and secure the financial services, products, and strategies. He is also a real estate salesperson with Oahu Realty. He was Senior Accountant for the Hawaii Department of Health, Family Health Service Division, and Senior Field Tax Auditor for the Department of Taxation. In San Francisco, California, he was a Field Auditor with the Office of the Inspector General, Region IX, for the Department of Housing & Urban Development. He was President of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii, Oahu Filipino Community Council, Santanians Association of Hawaii; Chair of the Council of Past Presidents for the Oahu Filipino Community Council and on the Committee on Constitution & By-Laws for the United Filipino Council of Hawaii; Treasurer of the Coalition of Filipino Solidarity; Commander, Deputy Commander, and also Auditor of the Knights of Rizal, Hawaii chapter. He has chaired and volunteered on seven medical and education missions to the numerous towns in the Philippines with the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii. He is an Institute of Human Services volunteer feeding the homeless and hungry.



Villaruz earned his Master of Business Administration a Hawaii Pacific University and his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at the Philippine School of Business Administration in Manila.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION—Community Service

Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls

Founded in 1997, Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW) is the only organization that gives free medical and dental services to legal immigrants including the marginalized in Hawaii. Established by the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH), the BCWW is a non-profit community-based healthcare project. They also collaborate with the Hawaii State Department of Health's Lanakila Easy Access Program.



When a federal law was passed in 1996 barring Medicaid benefits from 800 to 1,000 immigrants who were already enrolled in the QUEST program, PMAH (under the leadership of Dr. Charlie Sonido) initiated BCWW on April 17, 1997. In October 1997, the first official project included volunteer dentists to provide emergency dental care to patients. It later expanded to offer specialized services such as physical examination for school and employment, counseling services, dental and other services. BCWW conducts community health fairs in Honolulu and reaches out to other islands for consultations with free donated-medicines, practical health demonstrations and education.

BCWW gets its funding for its project from the funds raised by Doctors-On-Stage productions, a thematic musical production choreographed and performed by talented doctors with their family and friends.

Ohana Medical Missions Inc

Founded in 2009, Ohana Medical Missions Inc (OMM) is the missionary arm of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH). The organization has gone to 14 medical missions covering 85 urban and remote cities and towns, serving a total of around 90,000 patients in the marginal population of the Philippines. From Ilocos Norte and Tacloban to Samal Island and Dagupan, these places are usually chosen by the mission sponsors from communities in Honolulu. The mission sponsors also facilitate working relations with local government officials, barangays and the business sector of the area.



For the past 10 years, OMM went to two calamity medical missions: Typhoon Juan in 2010 and Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Two weeks after Typhoon Haiyan hit eastern Leyte and northern Cebu, 50 volunteers went on a calamity mission in these affected areas. With the financing help from PMAH and various community donors, the calamity mission served an estimated 6000 Haiyan survivors. OMM also established two clinics in eastern Leyte to provide follow up medical care to its communities. In addition, OMM biennially visits two below poverty lines foster areas: Bagong Silang, a squatter-relocation area in Caloocan City and Payatas, the dumpsite district of Metro Manila.

In addition to donating medicines and medical supplies, OMM set aside funds for humanitarian gifts such as rice and canned goods for those who are in need. When the opportunity arises, transportable medical machines are donated to the deserving medical organization and hospitals in the Philippines.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION—Culture Promotion

Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii

Organized in 1980, the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSOH) brings together individuals who care about preserving and learning more about the Filipino history and experience in Hawaii. In 2006, it launched the digital archive center, efilarchives.org, to fill the void in materials that are needed to develop an awareness and appreciation of Filipinos in Hawaii. The virtual archive now contains documents that are collectively priceless—from Ilokano poems to rondalla music, from old books and newspapers to family photos and records.



The FAHSOH inspires pride and a sense of contribution to community through exhibits

(continue on page 13)



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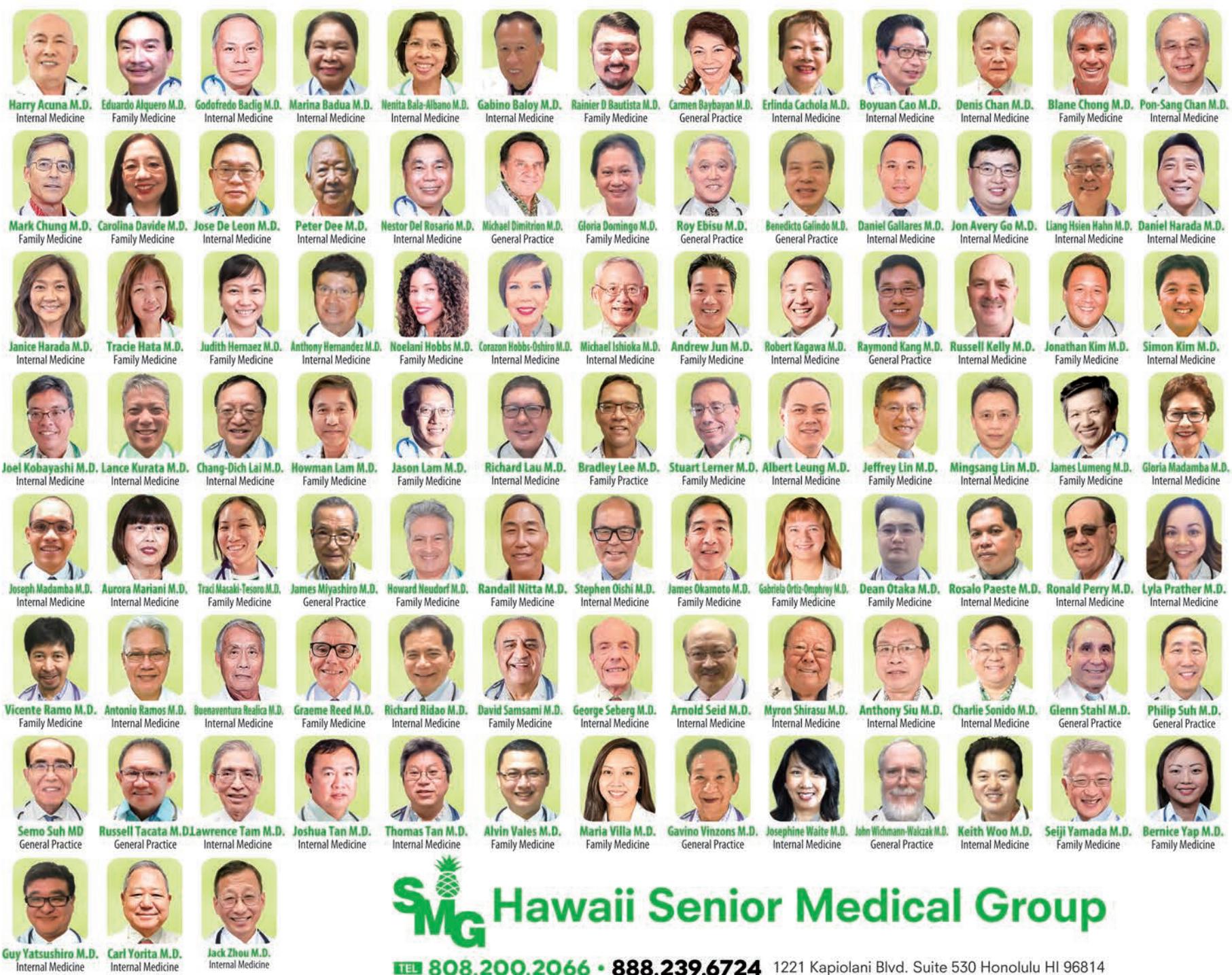
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được các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí. **한국어 (Korean):** 무료 언어 지원 서비스를 받으려면 위의 번호로 전화하십시오. **Tagalog (Tagalog - Filipino):** Tawagan ang numero sa itaas upang makatanggap ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. **Русский (Russian):** Позвоните по номеру, указанному выше, чтобы получить бесплатные услуги перевода. **Kreyòl Ayisyen (French Creole):** Rele nimewo ki pi wo la a, pou resevwa sèvis èd pou lang ki gratis. **Français (French):** Appelez le numéro ci-dessus pour recevoir gratuitement des services d'aide linguistique. **Polski (Polish):** Aby skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej, proszę zadzwonić pod wyżej podany numer. **Português (Portuguese):** Ligue para o número acima indicado para receber serviços linguísticos, grátis. **Italiano (Italian):** Chiamare il numero sopra per ricevere servizi di assistenza linguistica gratuiti. **Deutsch (German):** Wählen Sie die oben angegebene Nummer, um kostenlose sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zu erhalten. **日本語 (Japanese):** 無料の言語支援サービスをご要望の場合は、上記の番号までお電話ください。

فارسی (Farsi)

برای دریافت تسهیلات زبانی بصورت رایگان با شماره فوق تماس بگیرید.

Diné Bizaad (Navajo): Wódahí béis̤h bee hanií bee wolta’ígíí bich’íí hódiílnih éí bee t’áá jiik’eh saad bee áká’ánida’áwo’déé niká’adoowoł. **العربيّة (Arabic)**

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KAKATALK

2019 Filipino-American History Month and Beyond

By Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand



hen a new co-worker from Europe asked me why there are so many Filipinos in

Hawaii, I was reminded that we all need to continue educating ourselves about our history here and find ways to share that with others.

October, of course, has become a festival of Filipino-American history events. Formally, October is Filipino-American History Month.



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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2008 Hawaii State Legislature passed a bill, HB 3343 HD1, designating the month of October as Filipino-American History Month. The bill was passed unanimously by the House and Senate and signed into law by the Governor on April 15, 2008. The legislation was introduced by then State Representative Joey Manahan (D29-Sand Island, Kalihi Kai, Kapalama) and members of the Filipino Caucus. According to the signed law, the month of October shall commemorate the contributions of Filipino-Americans to the history and heritage of Hawaii and the United States.

The website of the Filipino Americans National Historical Society (FAHSOH) adds that a Filipino American History Month in October commemorates the first recorded presence of Filipinos in the continental United States. This occurred on October 18, 1587, when "Luzones Indios" came ashore from the Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza and landed in California's Morro Bay. In 2009, U.S. Congress recognized October as Filipino American History Month in the United States. Various states, counties, and cities in the U.S. have established proclamations and resolutions declaring observance of Filipino American History Month."

Like in previous Octobers, there were events and activities undertaken by different organizations across the islands

and the United States.

I note that Maui kicked-off again with a flag-raising ceremony featuring the Philippine national flag. The community also celebrated with the Annual Maui Fil-Am Heritage Festival last October 12, an event that drew residents and tourists who have an affinity for Filipino culture.

On the Big Island, the Hawaii Community College hosted the 31st annual Pamantasan Conference last October 18. The conference dedicated one entire track on history. Still, the Pamantasan gathering remained steadfast in its mission of advocating for increased representation of Filipino-Americans and Philippine courses in higher education, as well as to the recognition of Filipino achievements. Dr. Kevin Nadal keynoted and paid tribute to Filipina women by referencing the month also as FilipinA-American HER-story month. He announced that the FANHS Biennial Conference will be held on July 15-18, 2020, in Honolulu, which should offer more opportunities for local island residents to attend such a national gathering. Nadal told his audience that each one's story is part of history. He exhorted those who do not know their family history to ask their parents or grandparents for stories, including how they came to Hawaii. He advocated for Ethnic Studies in every campus, explaining that it has been

through this course that past students first heard and appreciated Filipino-American history and struggles.

On Kauai, two films by Stephanie Castillo were shown at the Kukui Grove Center last October 23. They are the "An Untold Triumph: America's Filipino Soldiers" and Remember the Boys, A Story of Hawaii Filipino Soldiers in World War II." These films were completed in 2006 and 2007, respectively. Stephanie Castillo has apparently started a film called "Hanapepe Massacre Mystery" with a target completion of 2024. The film is about one of the darkest times of labor history, the Hanapepe Massacre of September 9, 1924. In 1924, at the height of labor-management conflict, 16 Filipino sugarcane workers were massacred but little has been written and said about it. The whereabouts of the bodies have been a mystery. However, various mainstream media outlets broke the news that a research team might have located the remains of the 12 in the cemetery facing the Hanapepe Bay.

On Oahu, the FAHSOH featured "Makibaka:Huwag Matakot!", a video account of a long struggle against eviction by some 31 Filipino families of then Ota camp in Waipahu. The long but successful struggle took place in the 1970s amidst the displacement of tenants in Chinatown (1972), Kalama Valley (1970), and Waiahole-Waikane (1973) and others. The protesting residents were able to keep their homes and their cultural practices, including raising vegetable backyard gardens. Interestingly, for its October monthly meeting, the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW), featured a talk by Angel Ramos on the topic of "Garden to Table" heritage of Filipino sakada families.

As for me, this year's further understanding of our Filipino-American history came earlier and focused on ones that can be divisive if we do not learn how to confront them with aloha and community healing in mind. Foremost in my mind is the need for the decolonial lens in understanding our history and our connection with the Kanaka Maoli's struggle to protect the Mauna Kea. More exploration on this is required.



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NEWS FEATURE

SIENNA ACZON: A FORCE TO RECKON WITH IN “DEVATHA: THE AWAKENING”

Sienna Aczon will be the first Fil-Am actress to star in a fantasy action adventure film in “DEVATHA: The Awakening,” premiering in Hawaii theaters and the film festival circuit worldwide in the Spring 2020.

Aczon says she is excited this film is getting a chance to be told starring a Fil-Am.

“I hope fellow Filipinos can watch DEVATHA and feel empowered to pursue their art, or whatever their craft is, seeing that the lead role is Filipina-American. The entertainment industry has a long way to go until true diversity is fulfilled, but I’m hoping that my work can help to propel the Filipino community forward.”

Aczon is also featured on the DEVATHA soundtrack’s “Get Back Up” with hip-hop artist Treyvon Love. The soundtrack will be released digitally a week before the

movie is released.

The storyline of the film: the life of Milati (Sienna Aczon) as a high school girl whose life turns upside down after a visit from A’djudan (Manuel Baez), a mystical monk, who prophesizes that she is the reincarnated Goddess that will save the world from the Seven Deadly Sins Beings. Milati has to make sense of all of this while dealing with her overprotective aunt, school bullies, and an underground organization called True Order under the leadership of a Being named Envy.

This feature film will be the first installment of modern day epic “DEVATHA”. Written and directed by Edo Natasha and co-directed by Quantae Love, the multi-film series will be a modern-day interpretation of mythology and religious epics.

A Filipina-American actor/singer born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, Aczon is a two-time Hawaii State Theatre Council Po’okela Award

recipient. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York and the British American Drama Academy in London, England, she studied experimental and classical theatre before being cast as a lead role in the feature film.

Sienna started performing at a young age through acting in school and community plays, and singing in the church choir. She graduated from Punahoa School. In college, she landed lead roles in the school’s theatre and film programs including the titular character of Lorca’s “The House of Bernarda Alba.” She also studied classical theatre and Shakespeare.

After finishing her degree, Aczon returned home to Honolulu where she acted in “Empowering People of Color Hawaii’s (EPOCH) “Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo,” and short film “Mama’s Wish” (dir. Shaniwa Aguilar), which was later featured at the 2018 Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF). Offstage, she tried her hand at assist-directing—it was



through this that Aczon met Quantae Love and Edo Natasha of Devatha, and was cast as the lead Milati.

For additional information about SIENNA ACZON visit:

siennaaczon.weebly.com or @miss.sepa on Instagram.

For additional information about DEVATHA visit: @devathamovie on Facebook and Instagram.

(AWARDEES....from page 19)

(e.g. Arts as a Weapon: Cartoons of Corky Trinidad), publications (e.g. Unbending Cane: Pablo Manlapit: A Filipino Labor Leader in Hawaii), forums (e.g. Street Kid to Governor), workshops and videos (e.g. Hawaii Masters of Eskrima) and others. FAHSOH makes it possible to see how the community is organized in its totality—from the past to the present, from the ordinary to the larger than life, from arts to politics and more.

The organization is currently led by Clement Bautista and Gina Vergara-Bautista.

Filipino Association of University Women

The Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) is a non-profit organization established in 1987 that promotes and strengthens Filipino identity in Hawai‘i through initiatives in culture, the arts, and education. Since 2014, the FAUW collaborated with the Honolulu Museum of Art’s Doris Duke Theater to host the Filipino Film Festival. It also has held poetry workshops and literary readings since its inception in 1987. Recently, they assisted Farrington High School’s ELL students in book publishing and elevated the students’ voices by organizing poetry readings at the Hawaii State Library on May 2019.

Lectures and panel discussions are also staples with the organization. In 2016, the historian Ambeth Ocampo’s lectures titled Marcos Diaries, Mukhang Pera and Rizal in Dapitan were held in various venues. In March 2016, the FAUW launched Baro at Habi—Visual Clues to the Filipino Culture—a three-week exhibit held at the Hawaii State Library and the book launch of PINAY: Culture Bearers of the Filipino Diaspora—the latest publication of the group. Among its other publications are Timek Iti Agtutubo, Mabuhay to Aloha, Filipina and Kayumangi Presence. It also released DVDs on Filipino folk tales.

FAUW members were also trained to serve as docents to the Philippine and Renaissance galleries at the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA). Co-sponsored with Reiyukai America, the Letter to my Parents Contest and ‘Ohana Art Contest are held every year. The project encourages Hawaii’s young people to strengthen family relationships.

The FAUW participates in the BOH Family Sunday at HoMA and recreates the Christmas traditions of the Philippines such as parol-making and others.



Congratulations to Roland Casamina, House of Finance, for his achievement in the area of Finance and making a difference in the community!



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AS I SEE IT



By Elpidio R. Estioko

With their undying service to the country filled with solemn

pride in their heroism without any reservation, veterans should not be remembered only for one day. They need to be honored and remembered every day!

Yes, that's how veterans should be remembered and revered... not a day or two although November 11 is reserved as Veterans Day, a federal holiday (previously known as Armistice Day) observed annually, not only in the United States but in many other countries throughout the world. In the United States, it is a day that honors all men and women that have served as military veterans in the United States Armed Forces.

I've always respected our veterans because they sacrificed their lives, including their families, as they pledged and served the country during their tour of duty.

Veteran's Day 2019 is also the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended

Veterans Should Be Remembered Every Day

World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918. Veterans Day 2019, however, should not be mistaken with Memorial Day – Veterans Day celebrates the service of all United States military veterans while Memorial Day honors those who died while in military service.

The history of Veterans Day dates back to a very significant number - the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 - when an armistice between Germany and the Allied nations came into effect, bringing an end to World War I. On November 11, 1919, Armistice Day was proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson and commemorated United States' veterans who served in World War I for the first time. In 1926, the United States Congress officially recognized November 11 as the end of World War I and declared that day as the anniversary of the armistice.

In the year 1954, Armistice Day officially became known as Veterans Day and from then on, became a holiday honoring American veterans of all wars. In 1968, the Uniforms Holiday Bill made an attempt to move Veterans Day to the fourth Monday of October which bill took effect

in 1971. But that change lasted only a few years, and in 1975 Congress moved the date back to November 11, effective as of 1978. The change caused a lot of confusion as many states disagreed with this decision, so in 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law which stated that Veterans Day would, again, be observed on November 11 from 1978 onwards to present.

Traditionally Veterans Day 2019 is viewed as a time of honor and remembrance. Annually, an official wreath-laying ceremony is held each Veterans Day at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery (in Virginia), while parades, church services and other celebrations are held throughout the United States. In many places the American flag is hung at half-mast. A period of silence lasting two minutes may be held at 11am. Additionally, many schools choose to mark the occasion with special assemblies or other activities.

The Hawai'i Island Community will be honoring our Military Veterans on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 10:00 AM. at the 2019 Hawaii Island Veterans Day Parade. The parade's theme, "Celebrate Service", focused on the increased

involvement of veterans and the community to serve those in need.

Held in downtown Hilo last year, the parade has grown into one of Hawaii's largest Veterans Day parades. This event can only be held with the generous financial and volunteer support of local businesses and individuals. Our committee members are all volunteers who give their time and effort to support and organize the Hawaii Island Veterans Day Parade because of its importance in recognizing our Hawaii Island veterans and their families and working with the community to help many more.

I planned to celebrate the day in my classroom by assigning students to various activities. My planned options are inviting veterans to speak before the class and share with them their experiences and insights. This worked so well last year so it will be fun.

Another is for them to interview a veteran and report to class what they gathered. Again, this will give the whole class a chance to learn the virtues and core values these veterans lived for which they can emulate. Just like in the past, this also worked so well that

the values of integrity, respect, responsibility, courage, patriotism, and sincerity propped up for students to appreciate, learn and live by.

Well, others were given options to do such as visiting a veteran and spending a day with them and their families. These immersion activities will also introduce the students to the life and virtues of the veterans.

Or, they can lay wreaths and flowers to the tombs of veterans as a sign of respect and remembrance to their service to the country.

At this point, I would like to recognize my colleague-veteran Denis Marks, US Army and my son Em 7 John Edward Estioko, US Navy, now a resident of Jacksonville, Florida married to Alvi Tesoro Estioko, RN, with children Kayla, 16 and Bibay, 14.

Thank you for your service to the country!

Let's join the 2019 Hawaii Island Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.

See you there, folks!

ELPIDIO R. ESTIOKO was a veteran journalist in the Philippines and an award-winning journalist here in the US. For feedbacks, comments... please email the author at estiokoelpidio@gmail.com).

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

KOR-Aloha Chapter Launches Letter-Writing Contest

By Raymund Llanes Liongson

On February 22, 1887, when the Philippines was still under the Spanish colonial rule, Dr. Jose P. Rizal sent a letter to the women of Malolos (Bulacan, Philippines), exhorting them to be courageous and strong in character. Beside his two popular novels, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, this letter remains to be one of the most critical and rousing writings of Rizal, denouncing bigotry and blind faith and stirring up the women to be independent, principled, and valorous.

If Rizal were to write to the Filipino women today, both in the Philippines and abroad, what would he tell them given the current realities and development?

The Knights of Rizal-Aloha Chapter is sponsoring a letter-writing contest that invites all Hawaii residents to write an imagined letter to the Filipino women. The contest is divided into two categories: youth (13-24 years old) and adult (25 years old and over). Entries must be in English, between 1,000 to 1,500 words submitted in Word document, double-spaced. All entries should be sent as an attachment via email okor.aloha@gmail.com no later than January 15, 2020. Awarding of prizes will be

on February 22, coinciding with the 133rd anniversary of Rizal sending his letter to the women of Malolos, the venue of which will be announced at a later time.

A three-member panel of judges composed of established writers and authors will be formed to judge the entries. The contest criteria are as follows: content and relevance to the theme, 40%; originality, 25%; voice and style, 25%; and mechanics, 10%. Prizes for each category (youth and adult) are first place, \$300; second place, \$200, and third place, \$100. All winners and participants will receive a certificate of achievement and participation, respectively. Entries may also be eligible for inclusion in a future publication.

For inquiries, contact Raymund Liongson at (808) 381-4315, rliongson@gmail.com; Jun Colmenares, (808) 838-9775, juncolme@yahoo.com; Fred Magdalena, (808) 956-6086, fm@hawaii.edu; or Jun Suela, (808) 228-0665, sue-la-arch@hawaii.rr.com.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

In case you didn't know, Filipino Americans were among the lynched in the U.S.

And since October is Filipino American History Month, it's definitely worth noting, especially now that the president has used the term.

It was in a tweet last week where Trump tried to link it with impeachment---to better communicate his own sense of victimhood.

You mean Trump was victimized like the Kurds whom he abandoned when he withdrew troops in Northern Syria?

Was Trump victimized like the families he ripped apart when he stripped mothers from their children at the border as people sought asylum?

No, those are serious things the president actually did.

Don't let the use of "like" fool you. Those aren't metaphors.

The president's use of lynching is a metaphorical crime, but one still worth correcting. Trump was essentially saying he was like a person of color. Was this a delayed example of empathy? Or was this some demented ploy for minority voters?

His tweet referring to lynching showed no irony.

Invoking the term is straight out of the Clarence Thomas playbook. You'll recall when sexual harassment came up during his confirmation hearings, Thomas fought back at his accuser, Anita Hill, and declared the process a "high-tech lynching."

Even though Hill was credible, Thomas—the affir-

On Lynching—Trump's Inadvertent Filipino American History Lesson; Plus, a Word on Tulsi

mative action recipient from Pin Point, Georgia turned conservative jurist—still had an ounce of credibility as a person of color. The mere mention of lynching was a showstopper.

Trump, however, is no person of color. Unless orange counts.

Still, it's interesting how Trump could be so figurative to describe the impeachment process, and yet so literal in his own defense.

Despite the rough transcript, statements from his chief of staff, and the current damning testimony of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Bill Taylor, Trump continues to insist that no "quid pro quo" exists, as if the specific absence of the Latin phrase instantly exonerates him.

A "nothing burger," as he would say, but an inappropriate metaphor given the actual phone call Trump had with Ukrainian President Zelensky involving U.S. military aid in exchange for dirt on a political opponent.

Trump's "perfect" and "beautiful" call? It is painful to watch Trump's ongoing insistence and defense of a lie.

That's called wanting to have your metaphor and eat it too.

It only shows that Trump will do or say anything to avoid eating what many see is his just desserts—impeachment cake.

But saying "lynching" crosses the rhetorical line.

It's such an odd metaphor for Trump, a man with ample rope and in control of a cheering mob of bullies ready to pounce.

A Trump rally of his base has more in common with modern lynching than you think. A controlled mob led by a mobster would smell as sweet?

Historically, lynching was used to intimidate and communicate fear in the hearts of people of color.

From 1882 to 1968, there were 4,743 lynchings, according to the NAACP, with roughly 75 percent of them African American.

Here are a few Filipino ones.

JIM CROWPINO IN CALIFORNIA

The late San Francisco State University history professor Dawn Mabalon wrote about how the white migrants from the South and Midwest came to California

in the 1920s and 1930s and brought with them the tactics of racial terror.

In her groundbreaking history, "Little Manila is In the Heart" (Duke University Press), Mabalon spoke of the anti-Filipino incidents throughout Northern California: "On June 14, 1930, after it was claimed that he had been seen with white girls, the mutilated body of Robert B. Martin, a local lumber worker and Filipino veteran of World War I, was found hanging in a tree in Susanville, a hundred miles north of Stockton."

Many lynchings weren't reported in the mainstream media at the time. But they were reported in the ethnic press, specifically, a Filipino newspaper in the Central Valley known as Three Stars. In August 1930, the paper reported a contractor driving north of Stockton in Lodi who saw two Filipinos hanging from a tree and one burned body propped against a tree trunk.

The incident coincides with a national revival of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s, with one rally in Stockton drawing more than a thousand people. Mabalon cites an incident where the KKK

burned down a house that killed a two-year-old Filipino boy.

Just a few overlooked bits from Filipino American history.

WHY THE VIOLENCE?

The reason for the violence was clear: Filipinos were seen as threats to the mostly white workers in the fields. Coming to America as colonized nationals, the Filipinos weren't traditional immigrants. They were the competition in all aspects of life from the workplace to the bedroom.

It was also the so-called Roaring '20s, a gilded age of prosperity.

If you're taking part in the good times, no problem.

If not, you're resentful of everything standing in your way. Filipinos included.

It brings to the fore the irony of Trump's choice of the word lynching.

In exploring Trump and racism, New York Times op-ed columnist David Leonhardt recently cited Andrew Cherlin, a sociologist at Johns Hopkins.

Cherlin's work examines Trump's appeal to working class whites in 2016. He writes that Trump's "mas-

(continue on page 17)


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PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

LEARNING FROM THE BARRETTOS

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan



earning from the...what? Are you serious?

You might ask.

Yes, you read it right. Learning

from the infamous Barretto sisters whose feud has become a national interest, it involved the President of the Philippines. They have become talk of the town that their presence in social media has reached humongous heights. I'm no fan of the Barrettos or show business in general but I must admit that Gretchen, Marjorie and Claudine Barretto are some of the most beautiful faces in Philippine showbiz.

I am not here to delve into the details of the family feud. There are so many more important issues that the nation

and the world are facing that should be discussed and far more newsworthy. Why write about this seemingly trivial matter?

Following the dispute among the Barrettos made me realize important things about life. Their family is just a reflection of what's happening in many families, not just in the Philippines but also around the world. Their story is the story of many. The only difference is, the dysfunctionality of their family is in full view for the world to see while ours is hidden.

Every single family is imperfect. Every family has disputes and unresolved issues. Parents and children have misunderstandings. Sibling rivalry is normal. But at the end of the day, family is family. We love



CLAUDINE & GRETCHEN VS MARJORIE

each other, encourage one another and lay our lives for each other.

But with the Barrettos, this is simply not the case. Pride takes over. Self comes first before the other. Family is just a word that doesn't exist in their reality. And it's saddening and heartbreaking. The Barrettos have the most beautiful faces, they have the fame and wealth that are to be envied but they are broken, empty and hurting. They have become an object of ridicule and mockery. But who are they to blame? They grew up in a family where love is missing, favoritism exists, and division thrives.

Looking at them, it makes me want to fight more for my family and raise my children in love so they would learn to love. I told myself to never show partiality and favoritism toward my children, instead love them equally. The Barrettos make me want to forgive my brother who has hurt our parents in ways he'll never know and love my siblings and protect them the best way I can. Just like what Lilo said in the animation 'Lilo and Stitch', "Ohana means family. Family means nobody

It's easy for us to say that people should just take high roads, do what well-adjusted people do, but sometimes you got to think how unfairly deep those wounds are for the sisters. But such is public life, such is showbiz life. Imagine the most emotionally hurt person that you personally know, and throw that person into a world where fantasy and reality blur, and everything goes haywire.

I started this essay of sorts with the premise that I'm—and probably you, too—a shameless fan of showbiz. Showbiz magnifies insight, that much I know. But take away the glamour, the awards, the shows, the adoring mobs, and the Barrettos don't really have that much in common with us who have lived lives behind closed doors, with us who didn't have food galore but had loving families and friends. You see three women who grew up before us, but never had the chance to grow up. Three women we loved to varying degrees, but never really knew love the way most of us do. Take away the showbiz and the Barrettos evoke the sadness of why it's important for people to see their families, to have well-adjusted lives, to know love and to be loved.

Marjorie was right to ask: when could Gretchen start healing so that she can stop hurting everybody? Of course, healing takes time. But think about it: when you live and laugh and love before the people, in all your glory in the silver screen and the idiot box and everything in between, healing never happens. The hurting happens far more often.

Imagine the Barrettos for a second. Forget the memes, the excess of media coverage, the Instagram stories. They are who they are: hurt people.

And hurt people hurt people.

My friend is right. Hurt people hurt people. So let's not be quick to judge but instead have compassion on the sisters. And let's hope that there will be healing and reconciliation, and for their broken family to be made whole. Isn't this our prayer for our families too?

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LEGAL NOTES

**By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan**

On October 11, 2019, the United States District Courts for the Southern District of New York, Eastern District of Washington and Northern District of California temporarily stopped the implementation and enforcement of the Final Rule of the US Department of Homeland Security entitled "Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds". This is known as the "public charge rule". Two of the injunctions are effective throughout the United States.

The definition of "public charge" is a person who is primarily dependent on the government for subsistence, either by receiving public cash assistance or long-term institutional care. The public charge rule

Courts Block New Public Charge Rule

would make it a lot easier for the government to deny green card applications because the applicant used public benefits in the past or is currently using public benefits.

The blocked public charge rule states that persons who used or are using public benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps, welfare and housing assistance or those deemed likely to use these public benefits in the future, will not be granted green cards or US permanent residence status, even if they are not primarily dependent on the government or in long-term institutional care. The Rule also requires the submission of a new form, namely, Form I-944, Declaration of Self Sufficiency and makes changes to the Form I-485 Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status for all applicants for permanent residence.

USCIS Acting Director Ken Cuccinelli said before the case was decided that, "Long-standing federal

law requires aliens to rely on their own capabilities and the resources of their families, sponsors, and private organizations in their communities to succeed. An objective judiciary will see that this rule lies squarely within long-held existing law".

The public charge rule would consider a totality of circumstances in assessing green card applicants based on a list of positive and negative factors. Negative factors include being unemployed, not completing high school and lacking proficiency in English. Assets, personal debts, and credit score are also taken into account. Judge Daniels who penned the New York decision stopping the public charge rule, said that "It is simply offensive to contend that English proficiency is a valid predictor of self-sufficiency."

The Court decisions prevent the USCIS and the Department of Homeland Security from implementing the rule even if it has a stated an

effective date of October 15, 2019. They also cannot require the submission of Form I-944, Declaration of Self Sufficiency from applicants, nor make changes to other government forms pertaining to the past or current use of government assistance such as food stamps, Medicaid, welfare, and housing assistance.

Critics of the Trump administration applauded the court decisions. They said this public charge rule seeks to discourage immigrants and their family members from accessing food and health care, even when they are entitled to these benefits. There were numerous reports of a significant decline in enrollment for federal nutrition programs for pregnant women and children beginning last year when the rule was first proposed. It is likely that people abandoned health, nutrition and housing programs out of fear or confusion of the public charge rule. They added that the public charge rule discriminates against people

from developing countries and will jeopardize the health of children when their families avoid the use of nutritional and health programs because of the rule, even when some of them are US citizen children.

It is estimated that the public charge rule would affect about 1.2 million applicants annually, including about 500,000 who are already in the country. Immigration experts said the public charge rule would disproportionately affect applicants from Africa and Latin America and deny their green card applications because they used public benefits.....

The case is still ongoing. The government is expected to appeal the decisions in order to implement the public charge rule.

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

(CANDID PERSPECTIVES: SENATE DEMOCRATS...from page 15)

ONE WORD ON TULSI GABBARD

Her announcement to not seek re-election for Congress to concentrate on her second-tier role for President.

Desperation? (A "Fail big and not go home" strategy?)

Practical? (Well, she has no shot of winning her seat, maybe she has a chance for a balancing veep as a moderate to Bernie or Liz?)

Audition? (She went on Fox before the announcement to denounce the impeachment. Is she trying for a job as the next Hannity?)

She's playing both sides against the middle. Let's go with the first word. Desperation. When you're less than 1 percent chance of winning the presidency is better than failure in a House race, one looks better on the resume than the other.

EMIL GUILLERMO is a veteran journalist and commentator. He was a member of the Honolulu Advertiser editorial board. Listen to him on Apple Podcasts. Twitter @emilamok.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Chamber Accepting Applications for Grants for Health-related Initiatives

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is seeking grant applications for funding of health-related initiatives on Oahu. The Chamber is trustee of the Public Health Fund (PHF).

Through the PHF, the Chamber provides grants to non-profit organizations that are implementing meaningful public health education and research projects, with a

preference for projects that require collaborative effort and for which funds are not available from other sources.

"For nearly 100 years,

the Public Health Fund has allowed the Chamber to make a direct impact on some of Hawaii's most pressing healthcare challenges," Sherry Menor-McNamara, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii President &

CEO said. "We look forward to continuing this work in 2020 and encourage all eligible Oahu organizations to apply for funding."

Organizations must apply for funding by December 15. Interested applicants can download an application at <http://www.cochawaii.org/public-health-fund/> or email phf@cochawaii.org.



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Q & A

CFO Secretary Francisco Acosta Visits Hawaii for UGNAYAN sa US, To Discuss Ways to Strengthen the Filipino Connection

By Jim Bea Sampaga

Secretary Francisco "Nick" Acosta was a former Philippine Court of Appeals Associate Justice. He served the second-highest judicial court in the Philippines for more than a decade. In 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte appointed Sec. Acosta as the new chairperson of the Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO).

Last month, Sec. Acosta visited Honolulu for a week as part of the CFO's UGNAYAN Series where he discusses ways to strengthen Filipino connection and participation with local Filipino leaders and community. Hawaii Filipino Chronicle sat down with Sec. Acosta at the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu for a one-on-one exclusive interview discussing his endeavors in the first year of his term as chairperson of the CFO.

HFC: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself? Why did you pursue law?

Acosta: I graduated from Saint Louis High School in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. I took up both my pre-law and law degrees at San Beda College in Manila. I took the bar examinations in 1971 where I passed it. I initially went into law practice specializing in litigation, partly in corporate law. I also teach political law and legal ethics. I am a two-time bar examiner and I was with the judiciary, the

Court of Appeals, for more than 10 years. I retired at the age of 70. One year later, President Duterte appointed me to this present position as the chairperson of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

I initially wanted to be a priest. I applied twice for the seminary but I was rejected because of their suspicion that I may not be able to finish my priesthood. Then, I wanted to be a soldier but a family doctor examined me and came up with the finding that I'm not physi-

cally fit to be a soldier. So I have no choice but to be a lawyer and follow the footsteps of my father who is was a former judge. I've been a lawyer ever since.

HFC: As a former Court of Appeals Associate Justice, how can you relate your previous position in your current position now as the chairperson and secretary of CFO?

Acosta: The only thing that I brought into this position is my discipline of study, knowing what I'm doing and for the first time in my life, initially I thought I didn't know what I was getting into, I didn't know why the president appointed me in this position because I never applied for it. But after completing a one year cycle in this position, I am starting to realize why I am here and find the satisfaction and gratification of somehow identifying with our modern-day heroes and contributing something for their interest and welfare.

HFC: Since your appointment in August 2018, what are the programs that you have established in CFO?



What are your accomplishments so far as the chairperson of the commission?

Acosta: When I assumed office, I have to study what the commission is all about, its functions and mandates so that I precisely know if I'll fit on the job. Fortunately, I have some assistance from able and honest employees within the organization to guide me as well as from some well-meaning friends. I also availed the services of the Development Academy of the Philippines.

I was advised to hit the ground running because I have a lot of grounds to cover. I had to strengthen the organization and see how we can expand present projects and enter a few projects that we can embark on.

It would be modesty on my part to say that I've accomplished something and it will be a false modesty also on my part to say that I've not done anything. I believe there are things that I have done so far. I have worked for a bigger budget so we can fund the under-served activities that we have.

Another initiative that I'd like to undertake is that there should be a Filipino Center where there is a large concentration of Filipinos abroad. In the strategic plan that was made for our commission, this project was highly recommended. It happens that Hawaii has a Filipino Community Center and I've been talking to its founder, Mr. Roland Casamina, when I arrive here a few days. We had a long discussion about the Fil-

ipino Center and I'm looking forward to a continuous dialogue with him. I know that our government will support the idea of having a Filipino Center where it will be a one-stop-shop for Filipinos abroad. It will be a cultural center and a museum where our fellow Filipinos are most welcome.

HFC: There are quite a lot of Filipino government agencies that handle and serve Filipinos abroad and it causes quite a confusion. Just to help clarify it to our readers, what exactly is the role and function of CFO?

Acosta: We, in CFO, are mandated to devise programs for the welfare and benefits of permanent migrants. Of course, we have the umbrella department that oversees everybody which is the Department of Foreign Affairs. I would say that our president has adopted the one-colonel approach in solving any of the problems. All agencies having to do with the interest and welfare of the migrants, will have to work together to accomplish the objective of protecting and promoting the interests of our kababayans abroad.

HFC: What are the main challenges that Overseas Filipinos are facing right now? How are you addressing those issues and challenges?

Acosta: The biggest concern right now regarding our migrants is illegal recruitment and human trafficking which

(continue on page 19)

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UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST FUN DANCE | November 16, 2019; 6:00 - 11:00 PM | Pagoda Hotel Ground Floor | Dinner ticket: \$40.00. Contact: Baybee 753-5616; Joe Lim

(Q & A: CFO SECRETARY FRANCISCO ACOSTA...from page 18)

all departments of the government are working together to prevent. The problem of human trafficking is a universal problem. It has become a very lucrative business. How is it addressed? Through the collective efforts of our government agencies which have organized the advocacy committee of which the CFO is the chair.

We have a 24/7 action hotline, which is 1343, where we receive reports of illegal trafficking and recruitment or suspicion of these activities which we immediately transmit to our law enforcement agencies.

Another concern is interracial marriages especially cultural and language barriers affecting them. It's very gratifying to discover that although many of our kababayans suffered unexplainable hardships, they were able to survive. They are now helping their fellow countrymen who are new to this because migration still continues. That's why I give my admiration to the Filipino communities abroad and I always repeat that the spirit of bayanihan still prevails.

HFC: Your visit here in Hawaii is part of the UGNAYAN sa US, a Filipino Overseas outreach visits by the CFO. What exactly is the UGNAYAN Series all about?

Acosta: We do this in order to support and empower our Filipino organizations abroad so that we can engage with the next generation of Filipinos. Many of them may have already lost their Filipino citizenship because they gained the citizenship of the country of their residence but they are still Filipinos. I would like to encourage you that the pride of Filipinos should be nourished and strengthened, go there and engage in your country and I know that once you'll have sufficient and ample knowledge, you will be proud that you are Filipino.

Currently, we have a program that will interest the Filipino Youth abroad called the Youth Leaders in Diaspora (YouLeaD). We organize a group of Filipino youths from a particular area and we bring them to the Philippines for immersion, even for a short period of time. The purpose is to entice our youth and interest them in continuing their engagement with their country.

HFC: You mentioned earlier that you've met with Filipino community leaders here in Hawaii. Will you also be speaking with young Filipino leaders in Hawaii?

Acosta: We'll be going to the University of Hawaii where I hope I'll be able to meet young Filipinos and hear their concerns. In that way, we can better hone the YouLeaD program. I hope with the guidance of Filipinos abroad, especially the youth, they can contribute when it comes to our youth programs.

HFC: The Filipino youth in the Philippines is working hard to earn a degree and a job that won't require them to look abroad for jobs and become an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW). In theory, we might have fewer OFWs in the future and we all know that OFWs are a big part of the Philippine economy because of the amount of money they bring in to the country through remittances. In your opinion, how will the declining number of OFWs in the future affect our economy?

Acosta: It will be a very good sign that our economy has already reached the level where we can keep all our citizens in our country. This is the reverse of migration. I'm sure that we will be able to do it and it will not be very long. I am very confident about that. I would like to see it in my lifetime.

HFC: Regarding OFWs issues such as abuse cases and mass layoffs, what is the CFO's role in these kinds of situations?

Acosta: We have what we call the assistance to nationals which is administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs. Those situations do happen to permanent migrants but they are very rare.

HFC: During President Duterte's fourth State of the Nation Address, one of the top priorities is establishing the Department of Overseas Filipino Workers. What is your opinion about it?

Acosta: Its purpose is to provide more access and maximize the services that can be granted to

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WRITER'S NOTE: The interview transcription was condensed and edited for clarity. If you wish to know more about the one-on-one exclusive interview, please visit CFO's Facebook page where they live-streamed the whole interview.



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