

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ MARCH 8, 2014 ◆

HEEDING THE VOICE OF ANTONIO OPOSA JR. — RENOWNED ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE AND ATTORNEY

COVER STORY
PAGE

4



CANDID PERSPECTIVES

WHERE DO FILIPINOS
FIT IN UNDER NEW
"GENE THEORY"

3



IMMIGRATION GUIDE

REMEDY FOR
CONSULAR VISA
DENIAL OR INACTION

7



HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

HFWC TO CELEBRATE
60TH ANNIVERSARY AND
40TH ANNUAL TERNO BALL

10



CELEBRATING **21 YEARS**
OF EXCELLENT CHRONICLING
OF FILIPINO NEWS AND EVENTS!

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE
94-356 WAIPAHU DEPOT RD., 2ND FLR.
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 9661

EDITORIALS

Why Preserving the Philippine Environment Matters

It's no secret that the Philippines is 1 of the world's 17 "megadiverse" countries, especially when it comes to discovering new species. The Philippines also boasts the highest number of endemic species in the Indo-Malayan region. These endemic species are living jewels and irreplaceable components of the Philippines' awesome environmental heritage. Among recently discovered species are 29 rodents, two bats, four birds, 44 reptiles, 29 amphibians and over 160 plants.

The Philippine government is finally realizing that protecting the environment literally pays for itself. The biodiversity in the Philippines is an economic advantage considering the earning potential from ventures such as ecotourism, bioprospecting, and scientific research. The country's unique plant and animal species can be a global attraction to tourists and scientists, and ultimately good for long-term economic development. To boost tourism, the government is pushing local natural attractions and telling the world about its rich biodiversity. At the same time, officials are alerting tourists about the urgency of protecting the Philippines' environment.

Much of the environmental awareness in the Philippines today can be traced to the efforts of renowned environmental activist and lawyer Antonio "Tony" Oposa Jr. In 1993, Oposa filed a lawsuit to stop the destruction of the Philippines fast-disappearing rain forests. He raised the notion of "intergenerational equity"—an idea that natural resources belong to people of all ages and that if adults were to consume all of the country's resources, they would be stealing from future generations. The Philippines' Supreme Court ruled in favor of the children, a decision that continues to resonate two decades later. Oposa has also campaigned to curb over-fishing and the use of blasts and cyanide in the Visayan Sea.

As for protecting the Philippines' natural resources, the government needs to empower local communities and stakeholders. Mechanisms such as conservation agreements, training on sea/forest guard patrolling and management planning could help local stakeholders awaken to their roles as stewards of the environment. In fact, a healthy environment results in a more stable climate, fresh water supply, nourishing oceans, reliable food sources and ultimately, a better life for all Filipinos—now and into the future. Isn't that what we all want?

Why Shouldn't "America the Beautiful" Also Be Sung In Tagalog

Superbowl 2014, the highest rated show ever in U.S. history which brought in 111.5 million viewers, will be remembered for three things: the whipping Seattle Seahawks handed to the Denver Broncos in a one-sided 43-8 rout, the amazing half-time concert by Hawaii's own, Filipino-Puerto Rican Bruno Mars, and finally one commercial that is still being debated in social media and conservative news programs.

A Commercial of Our Time

This one commercial encapsulates the cultural, political and social transformation in the United States. To millions of minorities and immigrants around the world who have made the U.S. their home, this commercial brought tears of joy and a feeling of acceptance in this country. To millions of others with conservative sensibilities and prejudices against the tides of a rapidly changing

FROM THE PUBLISHER



Ready or not, construction on the City's \$5.4 billion dollar fixed rail project is expected to ramp up, especially now that the last legal challenges have been dismissed in court. The columns and guideways that are being laid in East

Kapolei will soon reach Farrington Highway in Waipahu, and then proceed east towards town. With traffic expected to worsen, it would be to your advantage to stay informed of lane closures. A good place to start would be to regularly attend the West Oahu Farrington Highway Rail Business & Community Group meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of each month at Waipahu High School's library at 6:30 pm. Representatives from the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit (HART) and the contractor, Kiewit, will be on-hand to answer any questions you may have. In case you're wondering, the next meeting is scheduled for March 12th.

Our cover story for this issue was written by Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand who submitted a fascinating profile of environmental crusader extraordinaire Antonio "Tony" Oposa Jr. He was recently in Honolulu to teach a three-week long course entitled "Philippine Environmental Laws in Action" as part of the University of Hawaii-Manoa law school's environmental law program. The public also had a chance to meet Mr. Oposa up close and personal at a "talk story" session held at the FilCom Center. For more on the Philippines' premiere environmental advocate, please turn to page 4.

On page 10, we shine the spotlight on the Hawaii Filipino Women's Club which is celebrating its landmark 60th Anniversary on March 8th at the Ala Moana Hotel. The celebration includes the 40th Annual Terno Ball and the ever-popular Ms. Terno and Mr. Barong Tagalog contests. That same evening, six women will be recognized for achievements in their respective fields. All six honorees are excellent role models for Filipino youth. Congratulations and best wishes to the honorees and to the Hawaii Filipino Women's Club for continued success!

Lastly, you may have heard that FilCom Center president Rose Churma recently resigned from her position. She will be traveling to the Philippines to deal with family obligations and explore potential areas of interests. Her resignation caught many people by surprise. Nevertheless, we thank her for effective, albeit brief, leadership that resulted in more activities and programs for the FilCom Center. We will have more about Ms. Churma and her resignation in our next issue.

In closing, we hope that you will take time to read the other stories and columns that are included in this jam-packed issue. As always, we invite you to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com with any story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii's dynamic and vibrant Filipino community. Our sincerest thanks to all of you for reading and faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle—the state's leading Filipino newspaper!

Until next time... *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido



Publisher & Executive Editor
Charlie Y. Sonido, M.D.

Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors
Dennis Galolo
Edwin Quinabo

Contributing Editor
Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.

Creative Designer
Junggoi Peralta

Photography
Tim Llana

Administrative Assistant
Shalimar Pagulayan

Columnists
Carlota Hufana Ader
Sen. Will Espero
Grace F. Fong, Ed.D
Emil Guillermo
Ruth Elynia Mabanglo, Ph.D.
Ron Menor
J.P. Orias
Pacita Saludes
Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.
Charlie Sonido, M.D.
Emmanuel S. Tipon, Esq.
Felino S. Tubera
Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

Contributing Writers
Clement Bautista
Teresita Bernales, Ed.D
Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D.
Linda Dela Cruz
Fiedes Doctor
Danny De Gracia, II, MA
Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand
Amelia Jacang, M.D.
Caroline Julian
Federico Magdalena, Ph.D.
Deborah T. Manog
Maita Milallos
Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D.
Lilia Q. Santiago, Ph.D.
Glenn Wakai
Amado Yoro
Philippine Correspondent
Greg Garcia

Big Island Distributor
Grace Larson
Ditas Udani

Maui Distributor
Cecile Piro

Molokai Distributor
Maria Watanabe

Advertising/Marketing Director
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives
Carlota Hufana Ader
J.P. Orias

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. It is mailed directly to subscribers and distributed at various outlets around Oahu and the neighbor islands. Editorial and advertising deadlines are three weeks prior to publication date. Subscriptions are available at \$75 per year for Oahu and the neighbor islands, continental U.S. \$80, foreign country \$90. Copyright 2006-2014. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone (808) 678-8930 Facsimile (808) 678-1829. E-mail filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Website: www.thefilipinochronicle.com. Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

www.thefilipinochronicle.com
www.efilipinochronicle.com



MEMBER, SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

(continued on page 3)

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Where Do Filipinos Fit In Under New "Gene Theory"



What is the genetic make-up of Filipinos in Hawaii? After generations, it could be Native Hawaiian, African American, Chinese, Japanese, white, Puerto Rican.

And if someone brags about being pure bred Filipino, what does that mean? All Ilocano? Part Tagalog? Visayan? Can you really be as pure as your ancestral archipelago?

I bring up the question because there seems to be a new theory out there that tries to understand why people do or don't succeed.

And if you think it's about race, that's so 1960s.

Are you ready for geneism? The coinage is mine, but it's not my theory.

Our problems go deeper than race. It's our genes.

The idea belongs to Gre-

gory Clark, a professor at UC-Davis who published a huge essay in the New York Times Sunday Review section (Feb. 24) that's sure to get those in the diversity battle buzzing.

According to Clark, there's a simple reason people are where they are in the social ladder and it has nothing to do with winning or losing the fight against racial discrimination.

No, the map of our life is all in our genetic makeup. The DNA of success is pre-determined. In other words, upward mobility, success, all the good things in life are all about your genes.

And not just your Calvin Kleins or your Gloria Vanderbilt (although those would be good genes, indeed).

The theory as advanced by Clark is you can't fight your genes. Period.

Oh, sure, individual effort still counts for something. But Clark says this boldly: "Our findings suggest, however, that the compulsion to strive, the talent to prosper, and the ability

to overcome failure are strongly inherited. We can't know for certain what the mechanisms of that inheritance is, though we know that genetics plays a surprisingly strong role. Alternative explanations that are in vogue—cultural traits, family economic resources, social networks—don't hold up to scrutiny."

So says Clark. But here's how he comes to his conclusion. He looked at surnames. He claims to have looked at "reams of data on surnames in Chile, China, England, India, Japan, South Korea, Sweden and the U.S. going back for centuries. It's a purposefully diverse and large sample size to thwart those appalled by his conclusion.

"To a striking extent, your overall life chances can be predicted not just from your parents' status but also from your great-great-great grandparents," writes Clark. "My colleagues and I estimate that 50-60 percent of variation in overall status is determined by

your lineage."

Even with the inevitable rise and fall of high status families, Clark believes the process of equaling out can take "10-15 generations (300 to 450 years), much longer than most social scientists have estimated in the past."

How's that for an all-encompassing, game-over shutdown defense against racial equity advocates.

If you believe in Clark, it's pretty easy to simply say, "Sorry, can't help you. Have you checked out your genes? You're a loser."

In the U.S., Clark used two indicators for status: the names from the American Medical Association's directory of physicians and registries of licensed attorneys.

I'm not sure if I buy the idea that doctors and lawyers alone are a decent benchmark of success. For example, such limited data may actually undercut the idea of a rising black middle class (small business folks/ well paid government workers) that we've seen because of affirmative action in the last 40 years.

But Clark even has Filipino names in the mix. If you're a doctor with a last name Dizon, you are among the high status surnames. At 15.4 doctors per 1,000 you're right up there with the Dr. Wangs (19.5), and Dr. Katz (21.0). But surprisingly dwarfed by the South Asian doctors, like Dr. Shetty (118.1), Dr. Agarwal (117.3), and Dr. Gupta (110.9).

It's an interesting academic theory. But one to be wary of, especially after a splash in the Times.

Like other theories in the past, Clark's controversial take is similar to ideas on bell curves, brain/organ/body size, or other socio-biological attempts to explain who's successful and why.

Ultimately, however, they are only used to try to "scientifically" explain why minorities are inferior to others.

This approach doesn't make Clark's views racist necessarily, but his findings could be used in racist ways.

Beware.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award winning journalist and commentator.

EDITORIALS (from page 2, WHY SHOULDN'T....)

triotic homage, and very pro-America, a value that conservatives hold as sacrosanct.

The bulk of the vitriol conservative Americans expressed was aimed at the song being done in other languages besides English.

A typical comment: "This is America. Use English or get out."

"I can't believe our second most patriotic song was sung in the language of terrorists."

Republican former Rep. Allen West explained why he was upset about the commercial: "The last thing any of us should want to see is a balkanized America. Furthermore, it has to be of concern that we have Americans who lack the resolve to take a stand for our borders, language, and culture."

Conservative radio host Glenn Beck said: "Why did you need that to divide us politically? Because that's all this ad is. It's in your face, and if you don't like it, if you're offended by it, you're

a racist. If you do like it, you're for immigration. You're for progress."

Michael Patrick Leahy, another conservative personality, said "America the Beautiful" is a deeply Christian patriotic anthem. He criticized the commercial for depicting a gay couple. But the irony is that the author of the lyrics to "America the Beautiful," Katharine Lee Bates, was a lesbian who was in a life-long relationship with her partner.

What's really at work here

It's obvious there is more to conservatives' hatred of a patriotic song being sung in languages besides English. There is a sense that the America conservatives grew up with is slipping away: that their culture, their political power are now being challenged by so-called "outsiders."

It wasn't enough that these Americans of color were being patriotic in the commercial. Even if the entire song was done only in English, it's likely that

these conservatives would still be fuming simply because too many minorities were being featured in the ad singing "their" patriotic song, during one of "their" most "American" days, the day of the Super Bowl.

Conservative Americans still have a lot of growing up to do and face the reality that minorities collectively are close to becoming the new majority, and will soon be, even with conservatives' attempts at thwarting immigration reform. What this means is that culturally America will also reflect greater diversity -- that includes different languages besides English spoken in many places, even on commercials. This is already taking place in major cities across the country.

This Coke commercial is the beginning of similar ones to follow. It's progressive and depicts a new America, like it or not, conservatives.

It's imperative that minorities participate in the cultural battle in the news media and on

social media to show their support for Coke for their courageous depiction of an America united, celebrating multiculturalism. Kudos to Coke executives for such a meaningful piece of

artistry.

This controversy is really more than just about a commercial -- it's about corporate America recognizing the diversity of their customers.

Chinese Cuisine
590 Farrington Hwy
Kapolei Marketplace

Book Your Party Now!

692-9880 200-300 Capacity

ALL YOU CAN EAT! Crab Legs & Mayonnaise Shrimp Dinner Buffet
Prices starting at **\$11.95 per person**

COVER STORY

Antonio "Tony" Oposa Jr.: Environmental Crusader Extraordinaire

By Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

On February 1, 2014, Antonio "Tony" Oposa Jr. returned to the Philippines after spending two-and-a-half weeks in the islands as a visiting professor of the Environmental Law Program of the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law. Over a period of three Saturday mornings, he taught a course on "Philippine Environmental Laws In Action." He also accepted an invitation to visit the Fil-Com Center for a community "talk story" which focused on responses to climate change. Lastly, he addressed scholars as well as the general public in a colloquium on the "Share the Road Movement" in the Philippines.

On February 17, news media in Manila buzzed that thousands of Share the Road Movement advocates, both young and old, took to the streets of Manila, walking and biking for 30 minutes from Rizal Statue in Luneta Park to the Philippine Supreme Court building by Padre Faura Street. The walk brought attention to a petition that was filed with the Supreme Court that day. Oposa intimated about this development while he was in Hawaii. He said that the petition is by and on behalf of the "careless people of the

Philippines" which he asserts makes up 98 percent of Filipinos. The petition asks the highest court in the land to issue a "writ of kalikasan (nature)" requiring the government to implement, devise and implement a road-sharing scheme for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to solve the perennial traffic congestion, inefficient mass transport systems and worsening air pollution in Metro Manila and major urban centers.

The reform sought is based on a Philippine-codified principle stating that "those

who have less in wheels must have more in roads." A "writ of kalikasan" is legal remedy crafted by the Philippine Supreme Court to give teeth to the constitutional right of Filipinos to "a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature." It is called upon whenever a party or parties find their rights being violated or threatened.

Vintage Oposa and New Reactions

The petition submitted by Share the Road movement is vintage Oposa, who is all about changing mindsets. He thinks "outside of the box" in using the law to enforce existing laws. He stresses the common sense and the obvious. His focus is environmental CPR (action to conserve, protect, and/or restore land, air, and/or water) and he practices thoughtful deliberation of evidence and not a knee-jerk reaction to anything "environmental."

What's different this time is an advocacy movement with his students at the helm, not him. In contrast to the 1990s when "even his shadow abandoned him," government leaders today are thanking Oposa despite the fact that these very same leaders who are identified as culprits or respondents to the petition. For



Antonio "Tony" Oposa Jr.

example, Jessa Agua of PhilStar online, reports that the Philippine Secretary of the Department of Public Highways is supporting the advocacy by marking March 30 as National Sharing the Road Day.

Making of an Environmental Crusader

Oposa was born in Manila in 1954 but grew up on the idyllic Bantayan Island and Cebu in the Central Philippines. One can say that it was the natural environment of Bantayan that challenged and made him essentially one with nature.

He earned a college degree in business administration from De La Salle University and a law degree from the University of the Philippines. As a young man, he was clear about wanting a career that involved the environment. In the early 1980s, however, environmental law was a new field of study and was hardly an area in the practice of law. But he found kindred spirits abroad when he attended the University of Oslo in Norway and then Harvard University where he earned a Master's degree in Environmental Law.

With the support of his

family and mentors, Oposa immersed himself in his passion on all fronts. He was duly recognized with several awards, including the 2009 Ramon Magsayay Award and 2008 Environmental Law Award from the Washington, D.C.-based Center for International Law Award. Labeled by the media as the Nobel Prize of Asia, the Ramon Magsaysay Award recognizes those who have the "RM spirit" or greatness of spirit and transformational leadership in Asia. Oposa was saluted for his "path-breaking and passionate crusade to engage Filipinos in acts of enlightened citizenship that maximize the power of the law to protect and nurture the environment for themselves, their children and generations to come."

On All Fronts

The international community's attention was drawn first to Oposa, the lawyer. Alarmed at the disappearance of Philippine forests at a rate that would leave no forests for children to enjoy in the future, Oposa sought to reverse the trend by suing the government. The case, *Oposa v. Factoran*, was a class action

(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

**BOARD CERTIFIED
FELLOWSHIP-
TRAINED
EYE SURGEON**

**Same Day
Appointments
Available**

Hawaii Medical Center West • St. Francis Med. Plaza West
91-2139 Ft. Weaver Rd. # 202 • Ewa Beach

677-2733

**FREE Parking / Next to The Bus Stop
Staff speaks TAGALOG & ILOCANO**



- COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE
- CATARACT SURGERY
- GLAUCOMA
- DIABETIC EYE CARE
- PTERYGIUM
- MACULAR DEGENERATION
- LASIK VISION CORRECTION
- ADVANCED CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION
- SUNGLASSES, EYEGLASSES & CONTACT LENSES

COVER STORY

(from page 4, **ANTONIO ...**)

lawsuit that asked for the government to stop giving out more timber licenses to loggers. It argued for children's and future generations' constitutional rights to a healthy environment that was being threatened by rampant logging and deforestation. To make a long story short, the lower courts did not know what to make of a case that included a future generation for a plaintiff. Oposa nevertheless persevered especially with the untested concept of "inter-generational equity." The 1993 Philippine Supreme Court opinion, written by then Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., affirmed Oposa's position that the interest of future generations should be protected. The decision became the legal basis of what is now known as the Oposa doctrine.

The world also took notice in 1999 when he led the case to save the dying and polluted Manila Bay. The case took 10 long years to argue but the Court eventually directed 12 government agencies to clean-up and rehabilitate the bay. It is reported today that the Manila Bay is much cleaner and that fish and marine life are thriving.

The awards also recognized Oposa, the front-line law enforcer. During the community "talk story" at the FilCom Center, Oposa said that the results from the Visayan Sea Squadron are particularly consoling. The Squadron educated fishermen about illegal fishing and the harmful effects of dynamites and cyanide fishing. The Squadron patrolled parts of the Visayan waters, an area which has been assessed by one scientist (Dr. Kent Carpenter who graduated from UH with a Ph.D. in zoology) as the epicenter of marine biodiversity in the world. Some of those caught in illegal acts were not fined nor imprisoned but instead were required to restore the marine ecosystem that they damaged.

Then there is Oposa, the author and founder of the non-profit called Law of Nature Foundation. He published two books that complement each



Atty. Oposa with a UH law professor and former student



A teaching moment at UH for Atty. Oposa on the subject of bamboo and its capacity



Atty. Oposa with attendees at a January 28, 2014 colloquium sponsored by the UH Environmental Law Program

other—"The Law of Nature and Other Stories" which is a storytelling book, while "A Legal Arsenal for the Philippine Environment" is more of a legal reference. The first book will soon be digitized for broader distribution, while the second has been in the hands of judges, lawyers, teachers and others.

Towards the Right Actions

Oposa likes to provoke minds, win hearts and teach with action. He even likes to get everyone to sing. His UH law students lavished him with praise.

"Completely different. Most engaging, lively, entertaining class ever," a student in her third year of law school said of the three Saturdays spent with Oposa.

Another student chimed in: "There's more storytelling. His stories were personal and that made them more powerful. For example, with a landmark case, one realizes that there was a time when something was impossible. But he showed that the impossible can be accomplished. He was willing to make the attempt to make the impossible, possible."

A third one stated: "I use to think that only environmental advocacy groups like the Sierra Club can start changes. I realize now that even I, on my own, can initiate change."

Oposa was in Hawaii when he learned that Environmental Law will at last be a required course in all schools of law in the Philippines. He recalls that this was first initiated in 2008. It was welcomed news, however, Oposa notes that it can also backfire, particularly when students learn environmental law to defend clients who want to be on the opposite side of environment.

The first "training of train-

ers" for schools will take place in April in the School of the SEA in Bantayan Island. Oposa founded the School of the SEA (Sea and Earth Advocates) as an experiential learning center about the laws of nature. It is a place that provokes minds and wins hearts. Guests young and old can discover fish, turtles and other sea creatures and enjoy what nature has to offer. It is also a place where the laws of nature are internalized through house rules. For example, house rules include "no watches" and "no lights at night." These rules help bodies and minds re-tune back with nature's sense of time. Guests are also asked to practice zero waste living and are required to draw their own bath water from the artesian well and to bring back with them any trash that they bring onto campus.

Learning Lab for Native Ingenuity

More recently, the School of the SEA has become a real-life learning lab about the consequences of nature's law. In 2008, after a typhoon and storm surge destroyed the school structures, Oposa acted on the new reality of more and stronger typhoons. He led the rebuilding of the main

house some 100 meters inland and away from the shoreline. They dug a man-made lagoon between the shoreline and the house as response to potential storm surge.

Oposa also designed an evidence-driven "climate change house." The house was two-stories high but its ground floor was open. It had plant boxes around its windows. The roof was concrete and flat to accommodate a water tank and edible gardening. An old-fashion well was kept at the bottom and was protected from storms. When Typhoon Haiyan struck last year, the climate change house was the only school structure that was unscathed. The artesian well and the plant boxes provided

immediate water and food.

Oposa has accepted the reality of global warming and is focused on adaptation.

"I don't call it climate change anymore. I call it climate crisis," Oposa said during his FilCom Center talk. "*Yung typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) na dumating, may mga anak at mga apo pa iyan na kailangang paghandaan,*" Oposa drills down in a folksy way. "*Ang dating nila ay parang suntok ni (Manny) Pacquiao na sobrang malakas at sunod-sunod ang bira,*" he continued.

"But in every crisis, there is an opportunity. Filipinos will adapt because we have our native ingenuity and resiliency," he exhorted.

Personal Injury Asbestos Mesothelioma

We can help you get justice.



Loreto M. Vilorio, Paralegal



- Auto Accidents
- Industrial Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Help you get to medical appts.
- Home and hospital visits
- Help with insurance forms
- Help you with legal forms
- Help with car and towing

If you've been seriously injured in an auto or industrial accident, please call Loreto M. Vilorio at our Waipahu office. He has over two decades of experience working with attorneys to help injury victims understand their rights and insurance procedures. We speak fluent Tagalog and Ilocano at our Waipahu office and treat every client like family. There is no charge for an initial consultation and no fee if there's no recovery.

GARY GALIHER

GALIHER DEROBERTIS ONO
ATTORNEYS AT LAW / LAW CORPORATIONS

Call 24 hours Office: 676-5665 Cell: 227-2333

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Councilmembers Menor and Pine Honor Alyshia Shimizu

City Councilmembers Ron Menor and Kymberly Pine presented an honorary certificate to beauty pageant contestant Alyshia Shimizu for perseverance in the face of adversity and for her courageous stance against bullying. The presentation was made during the Council's meeting on February 19, 2014.

Shimizu, 19, made headlines when she contracted flesh eating bacteria in 2000 at the age of 5. The disease forced her to undergo 28 surgeries and years of physical therapy. She overcame the physical challenges but found that the bullying and taunting from classmates proved much more difficult to deal with.

Shimizu's positive outlook

on life helped her to deal with her peers' cruel remarks. She even enrolled in karate to gain more self-confidence and later entered beauty pageants. During these beauty competitions, Alyshia found that she wasn't alone when it came to being bullied. She used her platform as a beauty pageant contestant to speak out against bullying.

Entering beauty pageants presented difficult challenges for Shimizu since she could no longer hide the physical issues that she wrestled with for many years. Nevertheless, Shimizu overcame her fears and competed in the Miss T.E.E.N. Hawaii pageant and in 2012 was named Miss T.E.E.N. Ewa Beach. She is also the reigning Miss T.E.E.N. Ala Moana Hawaii USA and competed in the Miss Hawaii Collegiate America pageant held earlier this year.

"I commend Alyshia for her remarkable poise, grace under pressure, ability to rise above life's difficulties and for courageously speaking out against bullying," says Councilmember Pine.

Shimizu is also an ambas-



Alyshia Shimizu (holding framed certificate) is honored by the Honolulu City Council. (top row): Councilmembers Stanley Chang, Carol Fukunaga, Ann Kobayashi and Breene Harimoto. (bottom): Austin Shimizu, Councilmembers Menor and Kymberly Pine, Annette Shimizu, Alex Shimizu and Anthony Shimizu.

sador for Shriner's Hospital, which delivers the highest quality of care to children with orthopedic and neuro-musculoskeletal conditions. Not surprisingly, she is eyeing a career in the medical field and wants to continue being an inspiration to help others gain the confidence they need in order to fulfill their dreams.

Councilmember Menor describes Shimizu as an "amazing young woman."

"While Alyshia's recovery

is nothing short of miraculous, the manner in which she has positively dealt with the cards that life dealt her has been equally impressive," says Councilmember Menor. "Her story has touched many people across Hawaii and also inspired scores of young people to believe in themselves and to rise above whatever obstacles that come their way. We extend our best wishes to Alyshia and her family for continued success."

Waikiki Spam Jam Set for May 3

If you love the delectable luncheon meat known as spam, the 12th Annual Waikiki Spam Jam may be just for you.

Scheduled for May 3, 2014 from 4 pm to 10 pm along Kalakaua Avenue in Waikiki, the Waikiki Spam Jam has quickly become one of Hawaii's most popular food festivals. More than 24,000 people turn out for the Spam Jam each year. Organizers credit its popularity to the great food and entertainment all served in a family-friendly atmosphere. Attendees also enjoy the various arts, crafts, food and activity booths, while the public and Hawaii businesses collect spam and other food items for the Hawaii Foodbank.

The Hawaii Foodbank is

the only agency in the state that collects and distributes mass quantities of both perishable and non-perishable food to 250 member agencies as well as food banks on Oahu, the Big Island, Maui and Kauai.

"While the Spam Jam Festival provides a fun and family-friendly activity, more importantly it benefits those who are most in need in our community—the elderly, families with children and the less fortunate who, without the support of the Hawaii Foodbank, would go to bed hungry every night," says Barbara Campbell, vice president of Outrigger Enterprises Group, one of the festival's main sponsors.

Additional sponsors include Waikiki Beach Walk, Hawaii Tourism Authority and Queen Emma Land Company.

Abercrombie Solicits Public Input on Climate Change

After meeting with President Barack Obama and other governors on climate change and other issues, Gov. Neil Abercrombie is asking Hawaii residents for ideas on how the federal government can better support state and local efforts in climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

The public can provide input via an online form at <http://governor.hawaii.gov/climate-change-task-force-survey/> or at <http://governor.hawaii.gov>. The first round of input must be received by March 10, 2014.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to share Hawaii's unique needs, challenges and innovative solutions, while advising federal officials on what kind of support is needed and what would be most effective here in the islands," says Gov. Abercrombie. "Members of the president's task force agree that this is the challenge of our time. We must work together to prepare for and mitigate impacts."

According to State Sustainability Coordinator Jacqueline Kozak Thiel, the public's recommendations will be considered by the task force for the final presentation to President Obama.



Gov. Abercrombie listens to group reports and preliminary workshop outcomes at the Resilient Hawaii Forum.

The public will have another opportunity to share recommendations and discuss next steps for addressing climate change at the second Resilient Hawaii Forum, a free and open session scheduled for March 12, 2014 during the Pacific Risk Management Ohana (PRiMO) conference at the Hawaii Convention Center. The governor is convening the forums this year to engage Native Hawaiian organizations, natural resource managers, the military, tourism officials, agricultural representatives, researchers and other stakeholders to create a climate change roadmap for Hawaii.

For more on the conference, visit <http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/PRiMO/Pages/index.aspx>.

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



**Board-certified
ophthalmologist**
U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer,
Philippines
San Marcelino, Zambales
1988 to 1990
Tagalog and Ilokano spoken

SPECIALIZING IN:

- CATARACT AND LASER SURGERY
- COMPLETE EYE CARE
- EYEGLASSES AND CONTACT LENSES
- CATARACT • GLAUCOMA • PTERYGIUM SURGERY

WAIPAHU MEDICAL CENTER

94-307 Farrington Highway, Suite B7a
Waipahu, HI 96797
808-678-0622

IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel
Samonte Tipon

Remedy for Consular Visa Denial or Inaction

What if the consul does not act on the request to reopen or motion to reconsider for an unreasonable length of time? Can the applicant's petitioner and the applicant go to court and if so which court?

A Mexican applied for a visa at a U.S. Consulate abroad based on an approved I-130 petition filed by his daughter. The U.S. Consulate denied the Mexican's visa application. He and his daughter filed a petition in U.S. district court for an order compelling Department of Homeland Security and Department of State officials to act on his Form I-601 (Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility) and his letter requesting reconsideration of the denial of his Visa Application and Alien Registration form.

The district court denied the petition on the ground that the doctrine of consular nonre-

viewability deprived the court of subject matter jurisdiction to review the consular official's discretionary decisions. They appealed to the Court of Appeals.

Exceptions to Consular Nonreviewability

The Court of Appeals said: "Federal courts are generally without power to review the actions of consular officials. *Li Hing of Hong Kong, Inc. v. Levin*, 800 F.2d 970, 971 (9th Cir. 1986). However, at least two exceptions to this rule exist. First, a court has jurisdiction to review a consular official's actions "when [the] suit challenges the authority of the consul to take or fail to take an action as opposed to a decision within the consul's discretion." *Patel v. Reno*, 134 F.3d 929, 931-32 (9th Cir. 1997). Second, the court has jurisdiction to review a consular official's actions when "a U.S. citizen's constitutional rights are alleged to have been

violated by the denial of a visa to a foreigner" without a "facially legitimate and bona fide reason" for the denial. *Bustamante v. Mukasey*, 531 F.3d 1059, 1060 (9th Cir. 2008)."

The district court correctly concluded that neither of the exceptions to the doctrine of consular nonreviewability applied to the denial of Form I-601. The consular official was required only to accept or reject Form I-601 and he rejected it. Thus, the exception for failure to take action did not apply.

However, the district court erred in finding that the doctrine of consular nonreviewability applied to the consulate inaction on the request for reconsideration because the "facially legitimate and bona fide reason" did not apply to the request for reconsideration since the consulate took no action on the request and thus the "fail to take action" exception applied.

The regulation, 22 CFR §

42.81(e), provides: "If a visa is refused, and the applicant within one year from the date of refusal adduces further evidence tending to overcome the ground of ineligibility on which the refusal was based, the case shall be reconsidered. In such circumstance, an additional application fee shall not be required."

Once this is done, consular officials have a duty to reconsider a case and must take action. Because 22 C.F.R. § 42.81(e) imposes a nondiscretionary, ministerial duty to reconsider the denial of a visa application when the applicant adduces further evidence tending to overcome the ground of ineligibility, the district court has subject matter jurisdiction under the Mandamus Act where the government fails to comply with the regulation. See 28 U.S.C. § 1361; *Patel*, 134 F.3d at 931. Moreover, because the consulate's attention to requests for reconsideration

(continued on page 14)



easy access to more affordable health insurance.

Whether you're an individual or a family, the Hawai'i Health Connector has a team of trained and certified partners to help you compare quality health insurance plans from different companies, so you can choose the one that's right for you.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY

HawaiiHealthConnector.com/Malusog | 877-628-5076

Hurry, open enrollment ends on March 31st.

Or contact one of our community partners directly:

Helping Hands Hawai'i
2100 North Nimitz Highway
Honolulu, HI 96819
(808) 440-3862

Honolulu Community Action Program
(808) 203-7647

Institute for Human Services
546 Ka'aahi Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 447-2846

Ko'olauloa Community
Health & Wellness Center
54-316 Kamehameha Highway
Hau'ula, HI 96817
(808) 293-9216 (Hau'ula)
(808) 293-9231 (Kahuku)

Kōkua Kalihi Valley
Comprehensive Family Services
2239 North School Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
(808) 791-9400

Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i
924 Bethel Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 527-8066

Pacific Gateway Center
83 North King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 851-7010

Waimanālo Health Center
41-1347 Kalaniana'ole Highway
Waimanālo, HI 96795
(808) 954-7113

HEALTH & FAMILY

US APPROVES PILL CAMERA TO SCREEN COLON

By Matthew Perrone | AP

WASHINGTON — A kinder, gentler approach to one of the most dreaded exams in medicine is on the way: U.S. regulators have cleared a bite-size camera to help screen patients who have trouble with colonoscopies.

The ingestible pill camera from Given Imaging is designed to help doctors spot polyps and other early signs of colon cancer. The Food and Drug Administration cleared the device for patients who have had trouble with the cringe-inducing colonoscopy procedure, which involves probing the large intestine with a tiny camera embedded in a four-foot long, flexible tube.

The Israeli company's technology, developed from missile defense systems, uses a battery-powered camera to

take high-speed photos as it slowly winds its way through the intestinal tract over eight hours. The images are transmitted to a recording device worn around the patient's waist and later reviewed by a doctor.

While Given's wireless, image-beaming system may sound like science fiction, it's actually more than a decade old. In 2001, the company received FDA approval for a similar device used to get a close-up view of the small intestine.

At that time, analysts expected Given's approach to grow into a direct competitor to traditional colonoscopy. But company studies found that images taken by the mini-camera were not quite as clear as those from the in-office procedure. As a result, the company has pursued a more limited market for its device: patients who have trouble undergoing standard colonoscopies.

The FDA on Monday cleared the company's PillCam Colon for patients who have experienced an incomplete colonoscopy. Given estimates 750,000 U.S. patients are not able to complete the procedure each year, due to anatomy issues, previous surgery or various colon diseases.

Even with this limited indication, analysts estimate the new pillcam could grow to sales of over \$60 million in North America by 2019, with room for expansion as the technology improves. MorningStar analyst Debbie Wang said the company has shrewdly positioned the device as another tool in the gastrointestinal specialist's kit, rather than a direct competitor.

"Given's management understands that the traditional colonoscopy is the gastroenterologist's bread and butter right now," Wang said. "So they didn't want to do anything that would position this as a



This undated image provided by Given Imaging, shows the new bite-size camera to help screen patients who have trouble with colonoscopies. The Food and Drug Administration cleared the device for patients who have had trouble with the cringe-inducing colonoscopy procedure, which involves probing the large intestine with a tiny camera embedded in a four-foot long, flexible tube | AP Photo/Amanda Lee Myers

substitute."

Wang notes that Given's PillCam costs \$500, significantly less than the roughly \$4,000 rate for colonoscopy. Eventually, she thinks doctors may use the device to attract adults who avoid regular screenings due to fears of pain, embarrassment and general discomfort. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines currently recommend regular colonoscopies beginning at age 50 and continuing through age 75, though most U.S.

adults don't follow the recommendations.

In December, Irish medical device firm Covidien said it would buy Given for about \$860 million. Given Imaging, headquartered in Yoqneam, Israel, markets seven lines of medical devices and surgical supplies, including pillcams to screen the esophagus and small intestine.

Pillcam Colon was previously approved in 80 other countries, including in Japan, Europe and Latin America. (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii Extends Aloha to Philippines: Aloha Medical Mission in Tuguegarao City

by Deborah Tolentino Manog

It's been 15 years since my first and only visit to the Philippines when I was a little girl. This month, I was blessed with the opportunity to return to my ancestral homeland and give back to my Filipino community through the Aloha Medical Mission.

A few days prior to my departure, I met with the main coordinators of the mission and

veterans of the AMM's international humanitarian services, Rev. Alex Vergara and Dr. Lisa Grininger who had planned the mission for over a year. Preparations included connecting with the Cagayan Valley Association of Hawaii, Kapolei Rotary Club, Philippine National Red Cross, Rotary Club of Tuguegarao and the city's political and medical leaders.

As I arrived at the airport for the red eye flight, the check-in line for Philippines Airlines was packed with people. Resembling a page from a "Where's Waldo?" book, I spotted luggages, few and scattered, bearing the same white, square stickers that were stuck on mines. Emblazoned on the stickers with bold blue letters was "Aloha Medical Mission." My heart beat faster and my palms began to sweat. Was I really about to fly to the Philippines and spend over a week with a bunch of strangers? What if they don't like me?

Just then I was tapped on the shoulder by my colleague Bobby Bergonio who was almost hidden beneath the camera equipment, lights and tripods that our instructor insisted we bring. At that point, I remembered that the mission was about the people in the Philippines we would be helping, and all my



Hundreds of people lined up on the first day of the mission

prior worries disappeared.

After a flight delay, a grueling 11-hour non-stop flight, six-hour layover in Manila and yet another flight delay, we finally touched down in Tuguegarao City. The next morning we awoke before dawn for a briefing during breakfast and group introductions. Out of a group of over 20 volunteers, I discovered that not everyone had a medical degree. Besides doctors and nurses, volunteers had backgrounds in accounting, engineering, computers and ministry.

At 16 years old, Jaime Hatler was the youngest AMM

volunteer. She originally wanted to come to the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan ravaged the country and decided to accompany her mother and pediatrician, Dr. Maggie Smeale on the trip.

Heather Postema, a registered nurse and a first-time AMM volunteer, mentioned that she joined the mission on an impulse. She was recruited by another volunteer who was a patient of hers at a Hawaii hospital.

"I thought she was going to ask for more pain meds but in-

(continued on page 9)

CATCH US ON THE WEB!

"WE'RE NOW READ BY MILLIONS OF FILIPINOS AROUND THE GLOBE."

Go to **efilipinochronicle.com** or **thefilipinochronicle.com** and see how the face of business is changing!

We are also on KWHE-TV 14

ESSAY



By Anonymous

Former British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli once said, “Change is inevitable, change is constant.” For myself, change is something that I’ve always been at odds with. On one hand, I grapple with change because it takes away the familiar, the comfortable. On the other, I openly accept change because it can usually better a situation. As human beings, we must accept the fact that change is something that happens everyday

and try to make the most of it; or we can stand by idly and passively adapt to change as the world spins along on its seemingly incoherent way. As a senior in high school, I felt compelled to re-examine my life before moving onto college. For me, this meant looking at who I was becoming as a person and at the relationships I had chosen to forge. Sometimes one must recognize that the person you are becoming is no longer compatible with the “strangers” who once were your closest friends.

Last year, I went through a

major pruning period with certain classmates. I slowly distanced myself from a group of friends I had associated with since middle school, mainly because I realized they were turning into people I could barely recognize. The morals they once righteously upheld no longer meant as much to them. My peers were slowly starting to leave me “behind” as they delved into increasingly risky behavior, mistaking my intransigence about substance abuse as mere innocence and naivety. Honestly, I couldn’t believe it—these people were the ones whom I had trusted for the majority of my formative years. They were the ones who had sung with me in three-part harmony and had promised me “forevers” with unbreakable “pinky swears.” But now they were becoming unrecognizable. Self-anointed as weekend warriors, they coyly bragged about empty conquests and pointedly asked if anyone

could remember what had actually happened.

It wasn’t that I no longer cared about my former friends, rather my own values were evolving into a more mature direction. And yet, I didn’t quite know how to express this to others without feeling intimidated. But that is now changing as I realize the impact of having discovered that I have an attention deficit disorder. As a consequence, my greatest challenge this year involves recognizing that I am not the same “persona” I thought I was and indeed am much stronger and more certain in my convictions. I am no longer an insecure follower but emerging into a higher level of self-confidence, buttressed by new knowledge about myself as a student with a correctable learning disability.

When I was diagnosed with ADHD last summer, I felt a shroud lifting as I began to understand my inability to focus in my studies and asserted my-

self with my overbearing friends. I realized that much of my past behavior was not driven by a wanton disregard for doing things responsibly, but that I was continuously distracted by a complex syndrome of misperceived synapses involving my attention span.

So now, I am more able to focus on my studies and much less confused by the antics of my peers. My journey is not so much a matter of moving from darkness into light, but one of piercing a veil of understanding about who I am as an individual. Once, I was struggling to do the right thing, but now am suddenly empowered to actually do it and to do it quite well. Change begins in the mind with the way we see our most intimate self and continues in life in the way we relate to others. Knowing who we are is the key to effective self-change and liking who I am is my new and very special key to happiness.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 8, HAWAII...)

stead she made me promise to come on this mission to the Philippines and I’m glad I said yes,” Postema said.

On the first day of the mission, Bobby and I were faced with our toughest challenge yet—safely crossing the street. We were in the heart of Downtown Tuguegarao, where the streets are narrow and bustling with colorful and aggressive tricycles. We looked left, right then left again. If we took too long to cross the street, the drivers would speed towards us and stop to ask if we needed a ride. After a deep breath, we took our first, independent steps into the street. I tried to stroll along, as if I wasn’t petrified with each stride but Bobby grabbed my hand and pulled me along as he dashed across the intersection. I exhaled. We made it.

After my heart rate dropped back to normal, I noticed the near-chaotic scene in front of me. Hundreds of people were gathered in front of the entrance to the parish hall as local volunteers tried to settle down the crowd and organize the masses. Across the street, volunteers were still moving boxes from the hotel to the hospital and meeting the

local hospital staff. Volunteers Donald Wocasek Jr. and Vernon Vergara even fixed a broken cautery machine that was essential for major surgeries.

“The first day was definitely a little bit hectic, just sorting everything out, but I’m definitely having a good time,” said Shaun Lampe, registered nurse and first-time volunteer with AMM.

And he was right. By the second day, everyone pitched in wherever help was needed, whether the task was to act as a translator, run to the hardware store and buy scissors, distribute medicine packets or just to hold a patient’s hand during surgery.

As documenters of the trip, Bobby and I tried to shoot footage of every aspect of the mission. We recorded video behind the usual closed doors of the operating room, talked to a patient before and after surgery, and interviewed several AMM volunteers as well as some of the hospital’s doctors and nurses.

Lampe was impressed by the local staff and how well they worked together with the mission’s volunteers. “They’re so awesome, they’re happy to be here and they’re real good, they really operate as a team,”



Chronicle staff writer Deborah Manog (middle) with fellow AMM volunteers

Lampe said.

Early in the week, everyone could feel the camaraderie growing between the volunteers.

“Look at us—we just knew each other for a few days but we have that attachment with each other because we have a common goal, to serve the people” said Lolita Ching, registered nurse and AMM board member.

Although Dr. Edmund Chong had been on previous medical missions, this was his first time with AMM. He didn’t know any of the volunteers but felt immediately welcomed as part of the group.

“I’m not sure if it’s because of the Filipino culture or what, they tried to be very inclusive. I felt very comfortable fairly quickly,” Chong said.

As I met more and more



Dr. Amelia Jacang and several AMM medical volunteers care for a newborn baby

people throughout the week, my heart grew fonder for this community, who I felt were “my people.” I met two children with tumors on their forehead, the latter of whom was also deaf and abandoned by her mother. I witnessed a grown woman cry as she sat up on the operating table after her surgery. I spoke to nurses who were not getting paid but worked full time anyway for the experience. I heard a baby’s first cry as he came into the world through an emergency cesarean section. I even heard a man say in his native Ibanag tongue to one of the mission’s doctors, “if you did not come, I would have died.”

I also witnessed a man

write his name for the first time after his hand was crushed by a textile mill machine. After he was fitted with a prosthetic arm, he made the motion of eating with his new arm and said, “I feel whole again.”

By the end of the mission, I was emotionally and mentally drained but it didn’t bother me because I was just happy to help them.

Dr. Rebecca Sawai described her first medical mission as a “reset button for your values.”

“To help people who have so little with what little I can do seems to make a big difference,” said Sawai. “And I think it would make a lot of people feel really worthwhile.”

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii Filipino Women's Club to Celebrate 60th Anniversary

by HFC Staff

Diamond is the traditional gift given to celebrate a 60th Anniversary. For members of the Hawaii Filipino Women's Club (HFWC), the past 60 years spent promoting Filipino culture and traditions and forging lifelong friendships have been priceless.

The HFWC will celebrate its landmark 60th anniversary on March 8, 2014 at the Ala Moana Hotel. The evening will also include the highly-anticipated 40th annual Terno Ball—an elaborate fashion show featuring the evolution of the *terno* (traditional Filipino dress) from its mixed Spanish and Chinese origin to its incorporation of contemporary Western design influences. The highlights are the Ms. Terno and Mr. Barong Tagalog contests, in which garments worn by women and men, respectively, will be judged.

The HFWC, which currently has 28 active mem-

bers, was formed 50 years ago to perpetuate Filipino culture and traditions, promote the terno and to provide personal development for its members. At the time, the Terno Ball was started to showcase the national formal costume of the Philippines. Men were also allowed to show off the corresponding men's national costume, and the Terno Ball eventually became the HFWC's sole scholarship and community service fund-raising project.

Terno Ball

The key feature of the terno is its large, domed "butterfly" sleeves. Criteria for judging includes specific rules for sleeves such as:

- They must be upright, not tilted, and resting properly on the shoulders.
- They should be approximately 10 inches wide and 10 to 12 inches tall.
- The hem of the sleeve should not pass below the elbow and be no more



than an inch above the elbow.

- The distance from the shoulder to the top of the sleeve should be approximately 2 to 3 inches high.

"With the Terno Ball, we perpetuate our Filipino culture," says HFWC president Letty Saban. "We all know that the terno is the national attire for the women of the Philippines and therefore it is important that we take pride of showcasing the Terno ball annually."

The Terno Ball raises

funds for HFWC's numerous community service projects, which include the Feed the Hungry Program at the Institute of Human Services for Women and Families, the Hawaii Food Bank, the Aloha United Way, Filipino Community Center and other charitable organizations. Members are also involved with Kalaupapa Community Outreach projects, Shelters for Abused Women, Child and Family Services, Liliha Library and the Katipunan Club of the University of Hawaii, to name just a few.

SIX HONOREES

The event will also honor six women who will be recognized for achievements in their respective fields. They include: Kristian Lei, Gladys Agsalud, Dr. Aida Ramiscal Martin, Dr. Cecile D. Sebastian, Edna Alikpala and Chona Montesines-Sonido. The honorees were selected on several criteria, including the length of their staying power in business or profession; growth of their business or profession; innovativeness of their services or products offered; and their involvement and/or contributions to the community.

According to Saban, the honorees are ideal role models for Filipino youth.

"Our young generation surely needs a role model to guide them in their quest for success in the future," she says. "Young people naturally look up to someone who is successful with the hope and determination to follow in his or her footsteps."

For more details on HFWC's 60th anniversary or 40th Terno Ball, please contact Letty Saban at 255-9429.

Meet the Honorees

Kristian Lei | Arts & Entertainment

Kristian is Hawaii's premiere Broadway vocalist and one of Hawaii's most loved entertainers. Born in Cebu and raised in Waianae, Kristian always had a passion for all genres of music. She burst onto the Broadway music scene when she won the role of "Kim" in the production of Miss Saigon in Germany. After her European stint, Kristian made numerous show-stopping appearances in New York, Los Angeles, the Philippines and here in Hawaii.

Kristian also founded Honolulu Broadway Babies, a non-profit organization which supports developmentally challenged individuals. The HBB produces Broadway Review Concerts with Principal Broadway/Musical artists from around the globe as stars, with the mission to build and support continuing education for those with infirmities.

When not performing on stage, Kristian teaches voice control and stage presence to youth from Oahu and Hilo.



Gladys Agsalud | Business Entrepreneurship

For the past two decades, Gladys, who is the owner of Casablanca Bridals and Formals, has dressed up brides and bridesmaids with elegance and beauty. She launched her business in 1992, catering mostly to Japanese customers and stocking designer dresses from lines like Christian Dior and Helen Morley.



Born in the Philippines, Gladys's passion for fashion began at the age of 9 when she designed dresses for her dolls. She later earned her Bachelor's degree in psychology and a Master of Science in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii-Manoa.

Gladys also serves as a member of the advisory committee for Honolulu Community College's Fashion Technology Program. She gives back to the community by providing specialized internships for students to give them hands-on experience in the fashion and business fields.



Dr. Aida Ramiscal Martin | Education

Dr. Ramiscal-Martin is a retired State Department of Education teacher and well-respected community leader. In 2007, She was recognized as one of the Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA) and inducted into the Filipino American Hall of Fame in Chicago, Illinois.

She was awarded the Hawaii State Teacher of the Year in Adult Education in 1987 and listed in the "Who is Who in American Education" in 1989. She was also selected as a Progress Awardee in the field of education by the United Filipino Council of Hawaii in 2008.

Believing that knowledge is power and sharing one's blessings is the key to progress, she has established the Annual Dr. Aida Ramiscal Martin's Scholarship for students in the UH Philippine Language and Literature Program. She earned her Doctor of Education degree from the University of Hawaii-Manoa.



(continued on page 12)

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

CHONA SONIDO — ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR FOR JOURNALISM

By Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.



Writing for the *Hawaii Filipino Chronicle* (HFC) over the past decade or so on a variety of topics has been a personal and intellectual delight. Much of this is due to Chona, the paper's publisher and managing editor, but more about her later.

After having been in a "confinement" of sorts in academia for more than 40 years at various universities, but mostly at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, I found that much of the real world lies in the vast expanse of humanity and society beyond the hallowed halls of academe. In a not-so-quiet retirement, I have carved a new space for myself in the field of what I might call "academic journalism."

Both academe and journalism are vibrant forms of cultural and social expression which complement each other in articulating and understanding the human condition. Books and volumes of knowledge written on the basis of fundamental research are essential for new ideas and ways of thinking that have profound implications for the future of humanity. But they have to be simplified, interpreted and communicated to the masses of people in the outside world to help them shape their own lives with meaning or purpose. This is where responsive and responsible newspapers, magazines, commentaries and publications help to fill the void.

As U.S. President Thomas Jefferson said in 1787, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without

newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter." Underlying this statement by one of America's greatest presidents is the human faith that the judgment of a free people as expressed in popular publications like newspapers is "more trustworthy than the dictates of an elite." Incidentally, the famous president is credited with the concept of Jeffersonian democracy based on the will of the people, which underlies much of political philosophy over time.

My personal interest in journalism dates far back in time as a struggling undergraduate English major at the University of the Philippines. Though being an English major at the time meant mostly studying American and English literature, there were requirements like Journalism 10 and 11 that prepared us for future jobs, which would require fluency or expertise in reading and writing. These two genres are like peas in a pod. One is indispensable to the other.

Meeting Chona Sonido, who has turned the *Chronicle* into one of the most respectable and substantive ethnic publications in Hawaii, has been a sobering experience as far as my forays into academic journalism are concerned. I haven't really known her that long but I feel as though I have known her for some time. Pleasant, respectful and professional in her demeanor, as well as elegant to boot, she has shaped the direction and philosophy of the *Chronicle* along the best traditions of journalism that I have indicated above.

It is no surprise therefore that the Hawaii Filipino Women's Club (HFWC) has chosen her the 2014 Woman

Achiever in Journalism in the annual Achievement Awards dinner of the organization. The well-deserved honor is overdue.

I will not repeat the honors and accolades that have been heaped upon Chona over the years for her productive and successful work in evolving the first weekly Filipino newspaper in the state to date, which comes out with amazing efficiency and regularity. Neither do I claim her to be a close friend of mine because in reality I have a distant but healthy respect for her work ethic, commitment to excellence without being driven and openness to the world of ideas. There are not that many people anymore in this rough-and-tumble world who are so focused and dedicated to perfecting or strengthening their craft. Chona is one of these rare species still floating around.

What we have shared over the years is a search for ideas that excite the popular imagination and are therefore worth exploring and writing about. And many of these ideas spring from issues of the day that impact people in the streets on the gut level. Issues like social justice, equality, poverty, corruption, immigration, elderly, women, youth, family, homelessness, human and natural disasters, and so on. Chona is quick to pick any one of these ideas as a possible narrative worth telling. She doesn't hesitate to tell me what I might write about, and I don't hesitate to tell her as well what might be worth writing about instead. Beyond the facts, what insights on a deeper level can be generated? You need this kind of dynamic to produce a story of substance that will unravel itself to the reader's satisfaction. We've had long and drawn-out conversations about possibilities. She has



2014 Woman Achiever in Journalism awardee Chona Montesines-Sonido with Dr. Belinda Aquino

been in a way a sounding board for my own doubts, anxieties, hesitations, irrelevancies and other quirks occasioned by the uncertainties and intricacies of writing as an art form. Readers usually think writing is easy. In fact it is extremely hard and at the end of every story, there is always a nagging doubt whether it was clear, understandable and meaningful.

Chona is quite adept at simplifying issues so they become clear and logical, rather than unnecessarily complicated. She reminds you of what every writer must have as an organizing principle, that "clarity is all." That's what newspapers and journalism are all about—cutting through the complexity to separate the wheat from the chaff. She has a hands-on approach to complex issues and has assembled a competent staff and a team of writers who have their respective talents to bring to the fore as far as coming out with a reputable publication is concerned.

Chona's experience in the world at large—including business, education, medicine, humanitarian projects, volunteer programs and a host of other community initiatives has fashioned her into a well-rounded journalist. In a sense, she knows what the real world looks and feels like. And she understands people at all lev-

els. I've never seen her in a foul mood even when confronted with deadlines and all kinds of pressure.

I guess what I'm trying to say by way of ending is that, more than just being experienced in the real world with all its nuances and subtleties, Chona has, most of all, an excellent temperament and equanimity for her job, which could be tedious and unrewarding if you don't know how to handle it. Maybe this is largely due to the fact that she had internalized this ethos early in her life by majoring in psychology.

On this happy note of her having been named as this year's Woman Achiever of the Year for Journalism, let it be said that indeed, Chona gives journalism a good name.

DR. BELINDA A. AQUINO, an academic and a journalist, is Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii-Manoa where she was Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and founding Director of the Center for Philippine Studies before she retired. Aquino is a previous awardee of the HFWC Women Achievement Award in Higher Education and Social Science. She writes articles, commentaries and features for the *Hawaii Filipino Chronicle*, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, *On-line Forums*, and other international publications.

LEADERSHIP STYLE

Women Leaders Serve With Aloha

By Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02)

O recently had the privilege of speaking at the Women's Leadership Summit in Waikiki where businesswomen and community leaders from Hawai'i, California, Japan, and across the Pacific gathered to share ideas, lessons learned, network, and be inspired. It was an honor to talk story about how we can lead with aloha and the importance of servant leadership in every sector of our community - in politics, business, education, and so on.

The aloha spirit that guides me, and the experiences I value most, have taught me the importance of service and finding common ground as we bring people together and work toward true progress and solutions. By working together every day with this mindset, we can overcome obstacles and deliver results.

One thing that I hear from people quite often is that they don't know how they can be of service, they don't feel qualified or that they have anything to offer. The reality is, there is so much that each of us can uniquely bring to the table and contribute to make our community stronger.

It doesn't matter what a "traditional" position of leadership may look like or appear to be. We need servant-leaders in every sector of our community. True progress in our communities only occurs with each of us taking a personal sense of responsibility to lead by example and be servant-leaders in our own lives and in our work.

For example, a business owner acting as a servant-leader understands that being "the boss" means truly caring for her employees, valuing their work, and creating a culture that empowers her team, inspiring them to go above

and beyond in their own work. Once you start to treat your team, your customers, your colleagues, or your constituents with true respect and sincerity, and not as just "another number," you will experience the positive effects of servant leadership and inspire positive action and change in those around you.

In any situation, remain focused on finding or creating new opportunities for service that enable you to overcome the obstacles placed before you, and persevere in serving a higher purpose outside of

yourself.

It's important for each of us to define success. In practical terms, this can be different things to different people based on what they're trying to accomplish. However, in a deeper sense, we can achieve true success and achieve real reward and happiness by working as servant-leaders and caring for those around us. See what we can do for others, rather than what others can do for us, and we will collectively build a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

This philosophy of leading with aloha is something that has been instilled within us since we were kids, growing up in Hawai'i. Putting it into practice as leaders in our community is a simple mindset shift that happens every day, and begins in our own hearts.

If you want to be successful, take action within the context of being of service to others, and the rest will fall into place as you seek to achieve your goal. Lead with respect, care, and through your own example. This is a path to fulfillment that will never fail you.

PICTORIAL NEWS

STUDENTS OF NOTE



Louis Blake Sarmiento of Siliman University in the Philippines (middle) and Julia Crowley of Cornell University were among 82 graduate students representing 34 universities and 24 countries from around the world who presented research papers at the 13th Annual East-West Center International Graduate Student Conference held February 14-15, 2014 at the East West Center. Sarmiento's paper was entitled "Difference in Work Values Across Generations Among Siliman University Employees" and Crowley's paper was called "Motivations for Clean Solid Waste Management Systems: A Comparative Analysis of Sarat, Solsona, and Vintar in Ilocos Norte." With them is moderator Aaron Rom Moralina.

Meet the Honorees (cont. from page 10)

Dr. Cecile Sebastian | Medicine and Dental Care

Dr. Sebastian runs a successful comprehensive dentistry practice, which emphasizes cosmetic dentistry and implants. She opened her practice in 1995 after obtaining her degree from Northwestern University's Dental School.

Her career has been distinguished by her constant giving back to the community. She co-sponsors the Future Dentists Symposium, an annual, free event for junior and senior students in high school. The symposium features speakers from the dental community who promote careers in dentistry. Dr. Sebastian also partners with the Hawaii Food Bank for food drives and provides free informational talks on dental health to many community groups.

Dr. Sebastian was recognized as one of the Best Dentists from 2005 to 2010 by Honolulu Magazine and as one of the Best Cosmetic Doctors of America.



Edna Alikpala | Community Service and Volunteerism

For her extensive service with the FilCom Center, Edna has earned the moniker "Volunteer for All Seasons." As a selfless, hard-working volunteer, Edna has been described as someone who is always ready and happy to assist.

She has also devoted countless hours of volunteer work in various capacities for community groups like the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, the Filipino Association of University Women, the Filipino Women's Civic Club, the



Philippine Celebrations Coordination Committee of Hawaii, the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, Oahu Filipino Community Council, Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission, the Filipino Business Women's Association and New Hope Christian Church.

In 2009, Edna retired from the City & Country of Honolulu's Department of Parks & Recreation, where she worked as a secretary for 30 years.

Chona Montesines-Sonido | Journalism

Chona is the publisher and managing editor of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle—the state's only weekly Filipino community newspaper. She and her husband Dr. Charlie Sonido launched the paper in 1993.

The Chronicle is a vital source of information, viewpoints and opportunities to gauge the pulse of the local Filipino community. Its independent Primary and General Election polls have time and again correctly predicted which candidates Hawaii's Filipinos support. The paper boldly reports investigative news stories and keeps its readers up-to-date on key issues affecting the Filipino community.

In recognition of Montesines-Sonido's monumental work as a journalist and Chronicle's journalistic excellence, Chona received the 2006 U.S. Small Business Administration Journalist of the Year award and certificates of recognition from the Honolulu City Council, the State Legislature and the Office of former Gov. Linda Lingle. She is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists—the nation's largest and most respected journalism organization dedicated to encouraging the free practice of journalism and stimulating high standards of ethical behavior.



LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Widespread Support for TPS for Filipinos

Obama administration for TPS designation.

The USCIS in its letter to the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) last December stated that they would “continue to monitor the situation in the Philippines and are actively engaged with the Department of State and other agencies.”

Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate submitted its second letter early this February reiterating its request to designate the Philippines for TPS. Efforts have also been made by over 200 Filipino-American organizations across the US including the Catholic Church urging the U.S. government to grant TPS to Filipinos.

Temporary Protected Status is a humanitarian form of relief granted by the United States government to noncitizens who are in the U.S. and who are temporarily unable to return to their countries safely due to conditions in the country such as armed conflict, violence, and environmental

disasters. TPS is a “blanket form of relief” which provides a safe haven for aliens who are not eligible for asylum or refugee status.

A TPS status grants eligible applicants temporary authorization to remain and work in the U.S. for a set period of time. It may be extended if the conditions in the country do not change. TPS does not lead to permanent residence.

The decision to grant TPS lies with the executive branch of the federal government. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Department of State, has the authority to designate a foreign country for TPS. Congress does not have to vote for the designation under this process.

Congress, however, may also issue TPS through legislation. When the TPS statute was enacted in 1990, it also granted TPS to nationals of El Salvador in the U.S. Last November, H.R. 3602, the Fil-

ipino Temporary Protected Status Act of 2013 was introduced in the 113th Congress. The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security by the House Judiciary in January 2014.

The bill, sponsored by Congressman Al Green of Texas, would provide 18-month temporary protected status to Filipino nationals. Under the bill, an applicant must satisfy the following: (1) continuous physical presence in the U.S. since November 8, 2013; (2) admissibility as an immigrant and; (3) timely registration for TPS with DHS.

Countries currently designated for TPS are El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria. There are over 300,000 TPS beneficiaries in the U.S. Data from the USCIS showed that El Salvador has the highest number of nationals currently benefitting from temporary protected status (212,000), followed by Hon-

duras (64,000) and Haiti (60,000). Sudan has the least number with only 300 nationals registered for TPS.

Honduras and Nicaragua were placed under TPS in 1999 after the devastation of Hurricane Mitch. El Salvador was granted TPS designation after earthquakes in 2001 and the most recent, Haiti, after the earthquake in 2010. These countries were granted temporary protected status after a natural disaster.

Similarly, the destruction in the Philippines brought on by Typhoon Haiyan, which has killed more than 6,000, displaced 4 million and affected in total 16 million people, calls for TPS designation. It will assist thousands of Filipinos while rehabilitation is underway and will without doubt serve its humanitarian purpose.

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

More than 100 days have passed since Typhoon Haiyan ravaged many parts of the Philippines and the country is still suffering from the devastation. The scale of the destruction prompted members of both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives to submit requests to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to offer temporary protected status (TPS) to Filipino nationals in the U.S.

This was followed by a letter-petition joined by over 140 organizations appealing to the DHS to issue TPS for Filipinos. On December 16, 2013, the Philippine government formally requested the

SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

Your Spouse May Be Covered by Social Security

By Jane Yamamoto-Burigsay

If you have a spouse who does not earn an income or who earns less than you do, your spouse (including a same-sex spouse) may be entitled to Social Security spouses' benefits based on your record.

Social Security can be an important financial asset for married couples when the time comes to apply for retirement benefits. In many cases, one spouse may have earned significantly more than the other, or may have worked longer. Or it could be that one spouse stayed home to raise the children, care for elderly family members or manage the household while the other focused on a career.

Whatever your situation, Social Security will look at all possibilities to make sure both spouses receive the maximum

Social Security benefits possible, whether based on each spouse's earnings record or the higher wage-earner's record.

Your spouse can apply for benefits the same way that you apply for benefits on your own record. He or she can apply for reduced benefits as early as age 62 or for 100 percent of the full retirement benefits at “full retirement age.” Not sure what the full retirement ages are? To learn your and your spouse's full retirement ages based on birth year, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm.

The benefit amount your spouse can receive at full retirement age can be as much as one half of your full benefit. If your spouse opts for early retirement, the benefit may be as little as a third of your full benefit amount. Note that benefits paid to your spouse do not decrease your benefit amount.

If you have already reached full retirement age but continue to work, you can apply for retire-

ment benefits and request to have the payments suspended until as late as age 70. This would let you earn delayed retirement credits that will mean higher payments later but still would allow your spouse to receive a spouse's benefit.

People can also apply for spouse benefits based on the earnings record of an ex-spouse or deceased spouse if married for at least 10 years. Spouses can consider a number of options

and variables. We make it easier to navigate them. A good place to start is by visiting our benefits planner at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners. Take note of the “Benefits as a Spouse” section.

If you are ready to apply for benefits, the fastest, easiest and most convenient way is to apply online. You can do so at www.socialsecurity.gov/apply-online and complete your application in as little as 15 minutes.

Due to a U.S. Supreme Court decision, we now are able to pay benefits to some same-sex couples. We encourage people who think they may be eligible to apply now. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/same-sex-couples. Whether you receive benefits on a spouse's record or your own, rest assured we will make sure you get the highest benefit for which you qualify. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Build A Rock® Solid Future

LIFE • AUTO • ANNUITIES

Tel. 808-935-1948
Ditas Guillermo Udani
Premier Agent
The Prudential Insurance Company
of America
CA State Lic#OD90884
www.freditas.udani@prudential.com



“I'll help you build your financial future on a strong foundation.”

Prudential Financial
Growing and Protecting Your Wealth

Insurance and annuities issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark NJ and its affiliates.
“Availability varies by carrier by carrier and state.”

0153198-00002-00 Exp. 12/2/10

kwhetv 14

OCEANIC CABLE,
CHANNEL 11

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

For a Christian TV Station.

Broadcasting experience preferred but not required.
EEO Employer.

Send resume to: dkanyuck@lesea.com

BROADCAST ENGINEER

For a Christian TV Station.

Minimum 3 yrs experience in TV broadcasting.
EEO Employer.

Send resume to: mkemmerling@lesea.com

LOCAL AND NATIONAL INSPIRATIONAL PROGRAMMING

- SUPERIOR LIVING
 - Pacific Revival Center
- HIS HIGHEST PRAISE
 - Dr. Adrian Yuen
- VOICE OF ZION
 - Lyons Welch
- TAP IN, NOT OUT
 - Jay Amina
- WORD OF LIFE
 - Art Sepulveda

SPORTS

Hawaii TV Bowling
HPU Basketball & Volleyball

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION

Go For It • Real Life 101 • NASA •
Ultimate Choice • Zone

BOOK'EM DANO
HAWAII 50

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
7 PM
THE BEST OF HAWAII
TV CLASSICS

For advertising, call
Tel: 538-1414 (office) • 255-4085 (cell)
or email: dkanyuck@lesea.com

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Senate Commends Pinoy Olympic Skater Michael Martinez

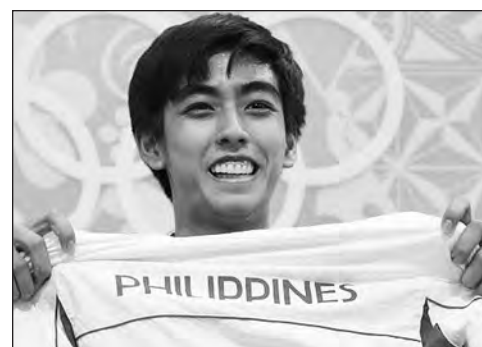
by Louis Bacani
Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - The Senate has adopted a resolution commending 17-year old Olympic skater Michael Martinez for bringing pride to the Philippines with his achievement in the recent Winter Olympics.

Senate Resolution No. 505, which was filed by Sen. Vicente Sotto III last week, praised Martinez, the first skater from Southeast Asia to qualify for the Winter Olympics in Russia.

Martinez is the lone Philippine representative who served as the country's flag bearer during the opening ceremony of the Sochi games. He finished 19th overall with a total score of 184.25.

"Despite his family's limited financial resources and a severe asthma condition, Martinez pursued his dream by developing his skills in figure skating



Filipino Olympic skater Michael Martinez

in various shopping mall skating rinks in the country," the Senate resolution said.

"Martinez' achievement has brought pride, recognition and honor to the country and to the Filipino people," it added.

Meanwhile, the Senate also adopted resolutions commending Ariella Arida and Bea Rose Santiago for their victories in their respective beauty pageants last year.

Arida was crowned Third Runner Up in the 2013 Miss Universe tilt while Santiago won as Miss International. (www.philstar.com)

Pacquiao Begins Sparring, Takes on Unbeaten Prospect

from www.philstar.com
Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - Manny Pacquiao started sparring in General Santos Tuesday, trading leather with undefeated lightweight Lydell Rhodes for four rounds.

According to a report by veteran scribe Ronnie Nathanielsz, Pacquiao's adviser Michael Koncz described the Filipino's first day of sparring at the Pacman Wild Card Gym as "a tremendous workout."

In the same philboxing.com report, Koncz added that Pacquiao "looked



good" against Rhodes, who sports a professional record of 19-0, with 9 knockouts.

Rhodes was reportedly a former fighter of Floyd Mayweather Sr., father of consensus pound-for-pound boxer

Floyd Jr.

Pacquiao fired off his training as early as Monday, making good on his promise to work hard to avenge his loss to Timothy Bradley when they square off again on April 12 in Las Vegas.

The rematch will be for Bradley's WBO welterweight title.

IMMIGRATION GUIDE (from page 7, REMEDY...)

that fall within 22 C.F.R. § 42.81(e) is legally required, that action may be compelled under the Administrative Procedure Act.

The U.S. Court of Appeals affirmed in part, vacated in part, and remanded the case to the district court. *Rivas v. Napolitano*, No. 09-56843, 03/28/13 CA9

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines.

He is originally from Laoag City and Magsinlal, Ilocos Sur. Atty. Tipon specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. He served as an immigration officer and co-authored "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. His radio program airs Thursdays at 7:30 am on KNDI 1270 AM. He can be reached via mail at: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813, by telephone at (808) 225-2645 or by e-mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. For more on Atty. Tipon, go online to: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Day 2: Erap, Truckers Won't Budge on Ban

by Jose Rodel Clapano
Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - Both Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada and truckers stood firm in their positions and refused to budge on the daytime truck ban imposed by the city government of Manila.

"Nobody is above the law. We (city government) are only thinking of the interest of the majority. We are only implementing the law. You (truckers) must understand what is good for the majority," Estrada said yesterday in a television interview. "They can protest whenever they want, but we will not bow down to them," he added.

Truckers' groups are asking Estrada to suspend the implementation of the daytime truck ban in the capital because it has disrupted the flow of cargo. They have been on a truck holiday since Monday to protest the ban.

Albert Suansing, director of the Confederation of Truck-

ers Association of the Philippines, said that while the piling up of shipping containers at the ports was saddening, truckers are forced by circumstances to keep their trucks idle because the small window time for hauling cargo in and out of Manila made taking trips a losing proposition.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chairman Francis Tolentino, truckers groups, Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista, Pasay City Mayor Antonino Calixto and Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez met at the MMDA office yesterday to figure out a way to resolve the conflict over the ban.

They urged Estrada to allow the implementation of the truck ban without apprehensions for 15 working days.

Since Quezon City, Pasay City and Parañaque City are adjacent to Manila, they are affected by the ban as some of the roads in these cities are being used by trucks along



their routes.

Estrada said he is ready to face the truckers in court.

He also said that the Department of Trade and Industry, MMDA and other government agencies cannot dictate on the Manila City government about the reforms it wants to implement in the capital, like the daytime truck ban.

He welcomed MMDA's creation of a committee to study the ordinance.

"But they cannot dictate on us. The mayor, the city council have the full control over the city," Estrada told The STAR yesterday in a telephone interview.

He also suggested that the Philippine Port Authority open its huge lands and allow these to be used as parking areas of trucks.

The daytime truck ban runs from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., giving truckers a window period from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Trucks carrying oil products and perishable goods are exempted from the ban.

"At least by 10 a.m., the students who are studying in Manila, the teachers and employees who are reporting for work in Manila, are already in their schools and offices. And by 9 p.m., the students, teach-

ers and employees are already in their houses," Estrada explained, noting that the issue is just a matter of accepting reforms for the benefit of the greater number of people in Manila.

"There is one incident where a patient who was being rushed to the hospital did not make it because the ambulance carrying the patient cannot penetrate the Delpan Bridge because of the large volume of trucks that are parked there," he added.

Estrada also reiterated that the daytime truck ban is only experimental. If it is found to be detrimental to the economy, the Manila City government "will be more than willing to revise it."

But he dismissed as baseless the claim of truckers that the daytime truck ban is affecting the national economy.

"We are actually losing P2.5 billion daily or roughly P876 billion every year because of traffic in Manila. They (truckers) should stop being selfish," Estrada said.

(www.philstar.com)

Phl to Pursue Arbitration Amid China's Call for Bilateral Talks - Palace

by Louis Bacani
Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - The government will proceed with the arbitration case on its maritime dispute with China, which has renewed calls for bilateral talks following the water cannon incident in the Panatag Shoal.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said this on Wednesday, adding that the Philippine government preparing for the submission of a memorial or written pleading that will serve as the country's formal statement regarding China's maritime claims.

"So essentially, the memorial is already being prepared. While I can tell you generally that it will contain the position of government when it comes to this, I cannot delve into



specifics," Valte said at a televised press briefing.

"I think we have already made a solid case before the international community," the Palace official added.

The Philippines, through the Department of Foreign Affairs, filed a formal protest on Wednesday against China for reported incidents of harassment on Filipino fishermen in parts of the disputed West Philippine Sea.

The latest incident was on January 27, when Chinese Coast Guard vessels fired water cannons at Filipino fishermen to drive them away from the Scarborough Shoal, locally known as the Bajo de Masinloc or Panatag Shoal.

But China simply rejected

the protest and pressed anew its "indisputable sovereignty" over the disputed territories.

Malacañang said there was nothing new with China's statement.

"Essentially, it was a reiteration of the nine-dash line over the West Philippine Sea, as well as the adjacent waters," Valte said.

China is claiming virtually the entire South China Sea through its nine-dash line, prompting the Philippines to file an arbitration case before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

The arbitral tribunal has asked the Philippines to submit its memorial or position paper on the sea dispute by March 30.

(www.philstar.com)

visit our websites @
www.thefilipinochronicle.com
and
www.efilipinochronicle.com
and enjoy the e-copy of
the hawaii-filipino chronicle!



Dr. David Mai MD | Dr. Sharon Takayasu OD | Dr. Michael Bennett MD
& Camara Eye Clinic Staff

We are humbled and honored to carry on
the tradition of the CAMARA EYE CLINIC

**Camara
EYE
Clinic**

Restaurant Row
500 Ala Moana Blvd Tower 5 Suite #300
Honolulu HI 96813
Phone: (808) 533-0177

MAINLAND NEWS

U.S. Senate Advances Veterans Bill

The U.S. Senate has advanced the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014 (S. 1982), a bill that authorizes wide-ranging services and programs that support veterans and their families.

The omnibus bill includes language identical to the Filipino Veterans Promise Act, a bipartisan bill co-introduced in May 2013 by U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa and U.S.



Senator Dean Heller (R-Nevada).

"The language in the Senate's Veterans bill is identical to the Filipino Veterans Promise Act, a bipartisan bill I in-

troduced with Senator Heller, which would give our Filipino veterans the opportunity to verify their service with military historians in order to receive the benefits they

rightfully earned," says U.S. Rep. Hanabusa. "This action is long overdue and I will continue to encourage the House Republican Leadership to bring my bill to the floor for consideration so we can properly honor their valor and service to our country."

The Filipino Veterans Promise Act mandates that the Department of Defense work with the Department of Defense to open the "Missouri List" and review the process for identifying Filipino veter-

ans who fought alongside American soldiers during World War II and to determine their eligibility for veterans' benefits.

After World War II, the U.S. Army created the "Missouri List" based on individuals who came forward after the war to receive healthcare. The list has been the sole document used by the military to verify those who served alongside U.S. troops in the Philippines. It is possible that some Filipinos who fought were not added to this list and would therefore be ineligible for veteran benefits.

U.S. Rep. Royce Tours Typhoon Devastation on Leyte



The U.S. Congress delegation met Pres. Aquino in Malacañang

U.S. Rep. Ed Royce, chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, recently toured typhoon-ravaged Tacloban in the Visayas. He led a bipartisan delegation of eight members of Congress on a tour of the city and surrounding towns.

Royce reiterated his sup-

port for helping to rebuild areas devastated by the typhoon.

"I am committed to helping the people of the Philippines during this difficult time. The American people share many common values with the people of the Philippines and it was an honor to visit with so many of the brave people of Tacloban," he says.

To date, the U.S. has provided \$86 million in typhoon aid to the Philippines. Before returning to the U.S., Royce and the delegation met with Philippine President Benigno Aquino at Malacañang Palace, where they discussed U.S.-Philippines security cooperation and other issues. The visit marked the second meeting in 13 months between the two leaders.

In related news, GMA Network's Kapuso Adopt-A-Bangka Project has donated 100 *bangka* (fishing boat) to the fishing community of Bantayan Island in Northern Cebu. The donation provides long-term livelihood opportunities for families affected by the typhoon.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Blackout Hits Entire Mindanao Grid

by Louis Bacani
Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) still does not know the cause of the power outage that hit several areas in Mindanao on Thursday.

Lawyer Cynthia Alabanza, NGCP spokesperson, said they have no "concrete information" yet on the cause of the widespread blackout that started at 3:53 a.m.

She said the entire Mindanao power grid being affected is "very unusual,"

making it difficult for them to speculate on the cause of the power outage.

In its Twitter account, the NGCP posted an update, which showed that power has been restored in the cities of General Santos, Zamboanga, Pagadian, Cagayan de Oro and parts of Misamis Oriental.

Alabanza said they will be focusing on probing the cause of the power failure after restoring electricity in the affected areas.

However, she said the NGCP cannot yet commit to bring back power in a few hours or within the day. (www.philstar.com)

Faster Economic Growth Not Possible Sans New Power Investments: Official

from www.philstar.com
Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - A growing economy by 8 percent would be difficult without new investments in the power sector, a senior government official said today.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said that while the country's power supply is sufficient to cover its needs until next year, more investments are needed to ensure that the Philippines' power requirements beyond 2015 are met.

"The number one binding constraint in achieving 8 to 10 percent economic growth is power. While the government is already ad-

ressing this, we have to invest much more," said Balisacan.

"We have enough (power) up to 2015 but not enough to really make you comfortable because the reserve is still thin," he added.

Balisacan said ensuring power supply is key to sustaining the growth of the manufacturing sector which can generate more jobs.

Last year, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth reached 7.2 percent despite the series of calamities that struck the Philippines. The Philippine Statistics Authority said the services and industry sectors boosted the country's economy.

This year, the government is targeting to grow GDP by 6.5 to 7.5 percent.

BALIKBAYAN BOXES
LBC HARI NG PADALA
GRACE LARSON
BIG ISLAND AGENT of LBC
211 MAKANI CIRCLE
HILO, HI 96720
808- 640-1540
808-960-6006
Fax: 1-866-663-1453
raven_reuboni@yahoo.com

www.lbcexpress.com

PARALEGAL SERVICES
IMMIGRATION SERVICES
INTERPRETING SERVICES
(Tagalog, Visayan & Ilonggo)

GRACE MANIPOL-LARSON
Paralegal / Interpreter

www.allparalegalservices.com

TRAVEL

Isla Mujeres, Mexico: Near Cancun But a World Away

By Amanda Lee Myers | AP

ISLA MUJERES, Mexico — A half-hour ferry ride from the nonstop party that is Cancun sits an island seductively named Isla Mujeres, or Island of Women.

Less than 5 miles long (8 kilometers) and just a half-mile (.8 kilometer) wide, the tiny Mexican island is an oasis that caters to every set except the rowdy students sowing their oats across the bay. They most certainly would get bored.

Frankly, there just isn't that much for them to do on the island. For everyone else, that's kind of the point.

The escape begins as soon as the cab from the airport drops you off at the dock, where there is, of course, a bar. Grab a couple beers and relax until it's time to board.

Some hotels, such as the idyllic, Italian-themed Villa Rolandi or the perfectly located Avalon Reef Club, will cart you directly to their doors. For others renting a house or staying at a budget hotel, ferries go to the island's main pier downtown.

Try to find a spot on the back of your ferry in the open air to enjoy the view and fresh sea-salt air as Cancun and its thumping music fade slowly away. It's the perfect introduction to your new temporary home in the Caribbean.

Once you arrive, first things first. Get to a beach. Now. Don't worry about where you'll eat, don't worry about unpacking, just throw on that bathing suit and get out there. You'll never forget your first sunset in Isla.

At some point in the first couple days, you'll want to rent a golf cart, the most popular mode of transportation on the island, along with scooters. The cheapest options — roughly \$40 a day — will be

downtown and include carts styled like Jeep Wranglers and pink Cadillacs.

The next few days depend on how much energy you can scrounge up amid the seductively slow rhythm of the island.

My plan had been to go swimming with whale sharks, play with dolphins, go on a few runs along the ocean, maybe hop over to Cancun for a day trip.

None of that happened. Like I said, island rhythm.

My boyfriend and I would wake with the sun around 6 a.m., eventually wander out to the private beach at our hotel, Villa Rolandi, sip our hot mugs of coffee and stand up to our knees in the warm-enough water as we listened to the ocean and stared in the sky.

The rest of the day would include some combination of lying in the sun, reading, napping, eating fresh lobster, drinking beer and swimming in the turquoise waters of the Caribbean.

Outside of the private beaches at house rentals and hotels, there are public beaches on the southern side of the island, facing Cancun, with calm, beautiful waters but not a lot of sand or space.

There's the popular and sprawling North Beach on the tip of the island near the tiny, quaint downtown, excellent for people-watching or finding a game of beach volleyball, if you're into that sort of thing. This beach has the closest thing to a party vibe you'll find on the island.

For a calmer experience, head to the easternmost section of North Beach at the end of a tiny road called Zazil-ha. You'll find just a handful of people lounging on beach beds for a modest price or on a towel in the sand for free. Everyone seems to have such a content, sleepy look on their face here, it's almost comical.

The water is calm, shallow



The view of Cancun across the bay from the southernmost point of Isla Mujeres, also known as Punta Sur, where visitors can walk on developed trails amid dramatic cliffs to the very tip of the ocean.

AP Photo/Amanda Lee Myers

and heavenly. It's easy to forget everything here.

During one of my days at this beach, I got a blissful, hour-long massage about 10 steps from our lounge chairs. Walking to get a bucket of water to wash the sand off my feet before the massage was the most strenuous thing I did that day.

At some point amid the endless, intoxicating relaxation, we found the energy to drive our golf cart the Punta Sur, or South Point, at the southernmost tip of the island. Once there, pay a nominal fee to explore Garrafon Natural Reef Park, a series of paved trails that lead to the very edge of the ocean.

The park's designers have managed to make it feel like you're standing in the middle of the wild ocean. It's humbling and beautiful.

Other popular activities on Isla include swimming with whale sharks, docile, beautiful and enormous creatures. That may very well be a once-in-a-life, unforgettable experience, but it's a minimum of \$125 U.S. dollars per person, takes up an entire day and some lose their stomachs on the two-hour boat ride it takes to even reach waters deep enough for the sea creatures. The season runs from June 1 to Sept. 15.



Others swim with dolphins, a much easier and slightly cheaper feat on Isla, though it also requires breaking away from the near-irresistible, do-nothing vibe that permeates the island. The swim will cost at least \$100, but it's conveniently located in water just 50 feet from Isla's beach.

Between January and September last year, Isla Mujeres saw 227,540 visitors, accord-

ing to statistics kept by the Mexican state of Quintana Roo. Cancun had 3.2 million visitors in the same time period, proving that Isla is still a well-kept secret.

Or maybe that it simply doesn't appeal to the partying masses who swarm Cancun. Those less interested in bottomless blue cocktails and grinding in clubs until the break of dawn prefer it that way. (www.philstar.com)

LEEWARD OAHU REHAB SERVICES

- Work and No-Fault Related Injuries
- Reconditioning
- Orthopedic Evaluation and Rehabilitation
- Neck Pain
- Back Pain

(808)671-5928

VILMA D. FUENTES

Registered Physical Therapist



PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



DAYASADAS

By Pacita Saludes

Ballaigi Ti Masagrap No Nadalus Ken Napudno Dagiti Wayat

Segun ti paliw ken obserbasion dagiti manag-paliw dinmabilang dagiti dalapus ti saan a nasayaat a panagtimpuyog. Dagiti dadduma a makakita ti kinasayaat ti nairusaten ti sabali kayatna met nga ipakita a nasarsariwawet a mamagballaigi. Awan ngamin ti di mayat nga agrimat ken agballaigi tapno mabigbig.

Ballaigi Ti Masagrap No Nadalus Ken Napudno Dagiti Wayat

Adu dagiti agkuna a napa-paay dagiti rusatna gapu ti kinadawel ti panawen. Mamati tayo kadi iti dayta? Awan ti masao a nadawel ti panawen no dayta met laeng ti gubuy dagita a pangedeng.

Saan a nakappapati ngem pudno no alubugen ti pasamak ken aramid. Mabalina a kamali wenno nairanta. Kas iti napasamak itoy met laeng a panawen. Kuna ti maysa a pareha iti daytoy nga aldaw dagiti agayan-ayat. Naragsak a panagballaigida ta naragsak ti tinartarigagayanda a panaglantip. No alubugen, saan a nadalus ti panaglantipda ta iti likud dagiti naragpatda a naibartay iti kadagiti sabali agpadpada nga adda agsagsagaba ti kinasutil dayta a ballaigi. Naragsak kadi dayta?

Sabali pay a pasamak no utoben, saan a nabal-laigian ti naambin a makaragpat ti ballaigi ti nakaplano ken nangirusat ti naserbi a banag a balabala ti sabali? Lagipen a dayta a wagas ti mangpusi ti natulad naadaw laeng a naragpat manipud iti sabali a nangiwayat.

Nupay no kasta agbalin kuma ti tawen 2014 a

nataba a ganagan a mam-agsantak ti nabalbaludbod nga arapaap dagiti managgarapaap. Horay? God Bless everybody!

Kunada a kurang kano ti aldaw ti bulan ti Febrero. Agkurang kano ti kapannunutan ken balabal dagiti naiyanak iti daytoy a bulan. Mamati tayo kadi?

Adu dagiti naiyanak ken nagasgasat kaili, saan kadi? Ikkatentayo ti inugma a panunot ta baliwantay a panunoten ti nalaslasbang a paspasamak babaen dagiti makita a maramid iti agdama. Naimbag a gasat tayo! Siputan ket ituloy dagiti nasaysayaat nga aramid a pakaragsakan. Ituloy ti mangarapaap ti naragragasak ken nalanglangto a masakbaya. Di kadi maliklikan ti agdidinnuprak? Ken agbibinnatu? Kayatmi nga ibaga, uray tignay dagiti mata laeng kunada adu ngamin ti maimaldit dagiti mata a balikas, pudno kadi?

KAGIMONGAN A PAGGARGARAWAN

Mariribukka nga agpangadua no dadduma Ket saan a magawidan ti nakaro a panagmanga Pannakaimatang kasungani a kannawidan ken langa Nagkaadu a kapampanunutan ti maidasar Panagduadua ti sumken no damo ti umarang

Indegan ti anasaas ti panawen iti aglawlaw Matmatan ti nabursi, nagduduma a kolor sangalubongan Adda kayumanggi, puraw, mahogany ken duyaw Pagsisinnublaten ida a matmatan tapno dika maulaw

Kas ti aweng ti gitarra no kalbiten agduduma Masapul a danggayan a kompasan amin ida Adalen tunggal addang annadan ti agkamali Ta naalas a makita no makitadaka a maisupadi

Agus ti dalluyon dika gamden a supangen Amangan ta maitibkolka ket bulon ti mairarem No agtunglabka a madlaw katkatwaandaka laeng Managpaliw a kagimongan indaka baddeken.

Adu ti agparang a nakalaylayog Nga agtakder ti konkreto nga apog Agtalek iti bileg tumengna a natibker No agnerbios alisto met a madaleb.

Bilangem dagiti anniniwan dika papadisi Ipakitam a nabiskedka puonmo di mapuri Bileg ta pangngeddeng ipamatmatmo ketdi Nga llokanoka a pinatibker ti paria ken marunggay

MAINLAND NEWS

Lawyers: Gay Marriage a Detriment to Children

O KLAHOMA CITY — Lawyers who are appealing a federal judge's ruling that overturned Oklahoma's ban on same-sex marriage said in a court filing Monday that legalizing gay marriage would harm children, undermine society and make traditional marriages unstable.

The Alliance Defending Freedom cited courts and anthropologists, saying children are better off in a home with a mother and a father. It said traditional couples would be less likely to marry, or stay together, if marriage became a genderless institution not focused on procreation.

US District Judge Terence Kern ruled last month against Tulsa County Court Clerk

Sally Howe Smith, whose office refused to grant a marriage license to two women who wanted to marry. Monday's appeal is the first step in the process ahead of an April 17 hearing before the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver.

In its court filing Monday, Alliance said marriages should be about children, not adults.

"Marriage encourages mothers and fathers to remain together and care for the children born of their union," the group's 93-page filing said. Severing the link, it said, "would powerfully convey that marriage exists to advance adult desires rather than serving children's needs."

Citing a court opinion from

(continued on page 19)

philstar.com
The Filipino Global Community

*shines even brighter
for the Filipino Global
Community*



Join us as we journey into a new home!



Log on to www.philstar.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HAWAII FILIPINO WOMEN'S CLUB 60TH ANNIVERSARY & 40TH ANNUAL TERNO BALL • SATURDAY • March 8, 2014 • Ala Moana Hotel • Contact: Letty Saban. 589-2525 or 255-9429

SANTANIANS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII-USA INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS • SATURDAY • May 24, 2014 • Ala Moana Hotel, 6:00 PM • Contact: Julius Soria @ 722-9958

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED- HARD WORKING LABORER in an up and coming Seafood company. Great hours especially with the holidays nearing. Please inquire @ **808-842-3474**

GLOBAL NEWS

Pope Makes First Overhaul of Vatican in 25 years

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis on yesterday announced the first major overhaul of the Vatican's outdated and inefficient bureaucracy in a quarter-century, creating an economics secretariat to control all economic, administrative, personnel and procurement functions of the Holy See.

Australian Cardinal George Pell, one of Francis' core eight cardinal advisers and a sharp critic of current Vatican governance, was named prefect of the new office. He reports to a new 15-member economy council made up of eight cardinals reflecting various parts of the world and seven lay experts.

Francis was elected pope a year ago on a mandate to reform the Vatican after docu-



Pope Francis

ments stolen by Pope Benedict XVI's butler revealed the Holy See bureaucracy to be a dysfunctional, Machiavellian world of petty turf battles, corruption and political intrigue.

Pell, the outgoing archbishop of Sydney, was remarkably candid about the 2012 leaks scandal, saying it showed a failure of governance under Benedict.

"Problems there have

been, problems there are, and this is one factor that has to be addressed as the new pope comes into office," Pell told The Associated Press just days before Francis was elected in March 2013.

"It would be useful to have a pope who can pull the show together, lift the morale of the Curia (Vatican bureaucracy), and strengthen a bit of the discipline there and effectively draw on all the energies and goodness of the great majority of the people in the Curia," Pell said in what could now be seen as pitch for his new job.

The new structure, the Vatican said, is intended to simplify and consolidate existing management structures, and improve oversight, internal controls and transparency — and provide more support for the Vatican's works for the poor.

It's the biggest reshuffling

of the Vatican's internal organization since Pope John Paul II in 1988 issued the apostolic constitution, Pastor Bonus, the blueprint for the Holy See's various congregations, pontifical councils and offices.

The changes appear to significantly diminish the scope of the Secretariat of State, which previously had administrative control over the Holy See while also handling diplomatic relations. The new Secretariat of the Economy's name suggests some sort of parity with the Secretariat of State — and in the official announcement, Francis said that the heads of the two secretariats are to work together.

The leaks scandal appeared aimed at discrediting

the then-Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, blamed for many of the Vatican's administrative shortcomings under Benedict. Bertone has since retired and been replaced by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, an experienced Vatican diplomat.

The new economics body covers the budgets, financial planning and administration of the Holy See — the central governing structure of the Catholic Church — and the 44-hectare Vatican City State in central Rome which includes the profit-making Vatican Museums and Vatican's post office. (www.philstar.com)

FOR LEASE OFFICE SPACES

AVAILABLE IN
132, 230, 262, 524, 515, 530, 1,060 SQ.FT.

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF WAIKAPU

NEAR BUS STOP

EASY ACCESS TO THE FREEWAY

For more information, please call
RENTAL MASTERS
@ 678-8930 or 284-4185

MAINLAND NEWS (from page 18, LAWYERS...)

1888 — 19 years before Oklahoma's statehood — Alliance said marriage "is the foundation of the family and of society, without which there would be neither civilization nor progress," and cited a 1978 ruling that said traditional marriage was "fundamental to the very existence and survival of the (human) race."

Sharon Baldwin and Mary Bishop, who had applied for the marriage license, issued a statement Monday night saying Alliance's brief relies "on outdated and debunked science as far as saying that children need both a mother and a father."

"(W)e believe they're wrong that marriage is only about children. While many couples who wish to marry, both heterosexual and homosexual, want children, many others are infertile, are elderly or simply do not want children," they said.

In his ruling, Kern said Oklahoma, by enforcing the ban, violates the US Constitu-

tion's Equal Protection Clause because it precludes same-sex couples from receiving an Oklahoma marriage license.

"Exclusion of just one class of citizens from receiving a marriage license based upon the perceived 'threat' they pose to the marital institution is, at bottom, an arbitrary exclusion based upon the majority's disapproval of the defined class," he wrote. "It is also insulting to same-sex couples, who are human beings capable of forming loving, committed, enduring relationships."

Oklahoma's Republican governor, attorney general and other elected officials blasted the ruling. Kern immediately stayed the effects of his ruling, anticipating an appeal.

Alliance's brief Monday said that, over time, marriage would lose its distinction as the place where heterosexual couples traditionally have children and instead be regarded as merely an option.

"Without the stability that

marriage provides, more man-woman couples would end their relationships before their children are grown ... and more children would be raised outside a stable family unit led by their married mother and father," the group wrote, predicting an increase in the divorce rate.

Byron Babione, senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, said 76 percent of Oklahoma voters expressed what they thought was best for children and society, referring

to the amendment vote.

"Marriage expresses the reality that men and women bring distinct, irreplaceable gifts to family life, especially for children who deserve both a mom and a dad," Babione said in a statement Monday night.

Kern's ruling was one of several in the past few months to strike down or void part of such a ban.

A similar appeal out of Utah is being heard by the 10th Circuit. Utah state attorneys

filed their opening arguments earlier this month, saying the optimal environment for raising a child is with a mother and father. A federal judge there had ruled in December that the voter-approved ban was unconstitutional. More than 1,000 gay couples got married in Utah before the US Supreme Court granted a stay in the case, halting the marriages during the appeals process. Oral arguments in the Utah case are scheduled for April 10. (www.philstar.com)

**Call Rey-Cel Travel
For The Lowest Fare
To Manila. (808) 871-6251**



**Listen To KPMW
The WILD 105.5 FM
(808) 871-6251**

Request call (808) 871-6933

Energetic young individual who can speak Ilocano and Tagalog (bilingual) to be a disk jockey of a radio station. Computer literate, radio experience, or will train. Fax resume to 808-871-5670.





Thank You for Making Us #1

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

- MOST WIDELY READ AND CIRCULATED FILIPINO NEWSPAPER IN HAWAII
- MOST EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OVERALL
- MOST QUOTED BY THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA
- MOST ISSUE-ORIENTED, UNAFRAID TO TACKLE CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS
- MOST EXTENSIVE PHILIPPINE NEWS
- MOST EXTENSIVE HAWAII FILIPINO NEWS
- MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND UP-TO-DATE LEGAL ADVICE
- THE ONLY FILIPINO NEWSPAPER CONSISTENTLY PUBLISHING IMMIGRATION GUIDE
- MOST AUTHORITATIVE MEDICAL AND HEALTH TIPS
- MOST EXTENSIVE POLITICAL COVERAGE
- MOST EXTENSIVE ELECTION COVERAGE
- BEST ELECTION POLL COVERAGE OF THE HAWAII FILIPINO COMMUNITY
- MOST POIGNANT INTERVIEWS
- MOST LITERARY ARTICLES: POEMS, ESSAYS, AND SHORT STORIES
- BEST COVERAGE OF SOCIAL EVENTS WITH NEWS AND COMMUNITY PHOTOS
- BEST RESULTS ACCORDING TO ADVERTISERS
- OUTSTANDING IN CONTENT, STYLE AND FORMAT
- MOST POPULAR FILIPINO NEWSPAPER
- FIERCELY INDEPENDENT, RELEVANT AND FAIR, WORKING TOWARDS THE BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY
- MOST TIMELY HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS COVERAGE
- MOST FREQUENTLY CIRCULATED
- BEST SOURCE OF FILIPINO NEWS FOR MAINSTREAM MEDIA
- AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, EVERY ISSUE HAS THOUGHT-PROVOKING EDITORIALS

