

Impact of the Pinoy Vote

What have we achieved as a Filipino voting block?

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The End of an Era

Sugar's last harvest is covered here on the Valley Isle.

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Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

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inside



Filipino Foodie, Vince Bagoyo shows us great Filipino culinary delights! p.7



A Sakada Dream Come True. Our collective "American Dream." p.13



Marcos; a hero? See what our Fil-Am's thoughts are on this matter. p.15

Filipinos Eye Increased Political Clout As Fastest Growing Segment of Hawai'i Population

Susan Halas



Record Filipino community participation at the annual Maui Fil-Am Heritage Festival hails a non-scientific testament, by inspection, of the growing Filipino population here on Maui.

Filipinos are the fastest growing ethnic minority in Hawai'i, due to continuous immigration from the Philippines and high birth rates in the Filipino community. The 2010 census showed that Filipinos surpassed Japanese as Hawai'i's largest ethnic group. In 2000 they were the third largest ethnic group and represented 22.8% of the population, but more recent data indicates they have become the largest Asian ethnicity in Hawai'i. The 2010 census

showed about 25.1% residents were all or part Filipino, a number estimated at 342,095. About 70% of Hawai'i's Filipino population live on O'ahu. Hawai'i's total population was about 1.42 million according to 2014 estimates.

In Maui County the numbers are also substantial. The 2015 County Data Book gives the county's total population in 2014 as a little over 163,000; of that number almost 28,000 self-identify Filipino. **see POLITICAL CLOUT p. 2**

Pau Hana

Alfredo Evangelista

In plantation lingo, the end of the work day. But for the 675 employees of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S), Alexander & Baldwin's announcement on January 6, 2016 that it was shutting down its Pu'unēnē mill and farm operations by the end of 2016—the closure of the last remaining sugar plantation in Hawai'i—pau hana meant the end of their jobs and an uncertain future.

For Maui and the rest of the state of Hawai'i, the closure of HC&S marked the end of King Sugar and an end to the plantation era. For much of the 19th and 20th Centuries, Hawai'i plantations dominated the islands. To support the labor needs of the sugar and pineapple fields, the plantations over eight decades brought thousands of contract farm workers from China, Japan, Portugal, Puer-

to Rico, Korea, and the Philippines. In time, those immigrants and their descendants came to make Hawai'i their home and developed a lifestyle out of plantation paternalism that allowed these workers, including Filipinos to own their own homes in Dream City and elsewhere. Plantation wages—hard won through union actions and earned in the fields and factories, would also allow those same workers to send their children to college. For the Filipinos, the last of the larger groups of contract workers brought to Hawai'i, plantation work allowed many Filipinos to support their families back in the Philippines. It also allowed many Filipinos to bring their family members to Hawai'i to start a new life.

Ironically, December 20, 2016 marked the 110th anniversary of the arrival of the first Sakadas but in deference



This Tournahauler, driven by Fermin Domingo, hauled the last load of sugar cane to the mill. PHOTO COURTESY: MICHAEL ROSS

to the plight of the 675 HC&S employees, local Filipino community groups planned no grand celebration.

"I was shocked. I had student loans over \$40,000 so I had to start looking for another job," said Roman Valle, 22 of Wailuku. He joined HC&S in May 2014 as an Internal

Combustion Engine Apprentice after graduating from Baldwin HS in 2012 and receiving a Diploma in Automotive Light Duty Diesel from Wyotech in Sacramento.

Like many other HC&S workers, Roman's family's roots in HC&S go way back.

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ipino or about 17%. The number is potentially higher because it does not take into account those who are of mixed racial ancestry. Lānaʻi, with a current population of a little over 3,000, has a concentration of Filipinos estimated between 45% to 60%.

Although none of the standard references break out the ethnicity of the various Maui neighborhoods or towns, the 2015 County Data Book does show the percentage of enrollment for various local schools for the school year 2014-15. Elementary schools with high Filipino ancestry enrollment include: Kahului Elementary (50%), Nahiʻena-ʻena-Lahaina (47%); Lihikai-Kahului (43%); Pōmaikaʻi-Kahului (35%); Kihei Elementary (29%) and Waiheʻe (25%). Middle schools are: Maui Wae-na-Kahului (55%); Lahaina (36%); Lokelani-Kihei (26%) and ʻĪao-Wailuku (24%). High Schools: Maui High (52%); Lahainaluna (36%) and Baldwin (24%). Multi-level schools: Lānaʻi (51%).

Only a Few of Filipino Ancestry Presently in Office

Given their strong representation in the population, there are surprisingly few Filipinos presently elected by Mauians. In the 2016 elections only three candidates of Filipino ancestry were in the winner's column. Alike

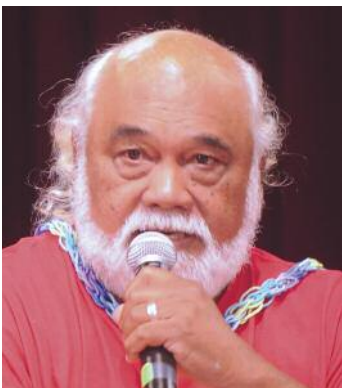
Atay, Don Guzman, and Gilbert Keith-Agaran—the latter, both lawyers, were re-elected. Guzman represents Kahului on the Maui County Council. In the General election he was the second highest vote getter in the county wide race with a total of 30,764 votes. Council members elected in 2016 will serve a two year term beginning in January 2017.

Gil Keith-Agaran (D), another notable Filipino, was re-elected to a four year term representing State Senate District 5 which includes Kahului and Wailuku and other parts of Central Maui. In the upcoming legislative session beginning in January 2017 he will serve as chair of the important Judiciary and Labor (JDL) committee.

Filipinos Eye 2018

Conscious of a growing numerical base in the population, some predict that in 2018 there will be more candidates of Filipino ancestry to represent the views of this segment of the community. Among those mentioned as possible future candidates are Kari Luna-Nunokawa, Neldon Mamuad, Kit Zulueta, Leah Belmonte and Sharon Zalsos.

Luna-Nunokawa serves as a Maui



Three Mauians of Filipino ancestry were re-elected. Don Guzman (left) retained his seat on the County Council, Alike Atay whose mother is Fely Bantilan from the Philippines gained a Council seat and Gil Keith-Agaran will go back to the State Senate where he chairs the Judiciary and Labor Committee.

based constituent representative for U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz. She is the daughter of the late Martin Luna, a prominent Filipino-American attorney. She currently works at UH Maui College.

Mamuad is a former radio personality and a former co-chair of the Guzman campaign. He presently heads MAUIWatch, a local digital news and information service. Although he does not rule out seeking political office, he is currently more interested in the media side of public affairs.

Zulueta, outgoing president of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce, works as Communications Director for the Maui County Council. She is not presently considering elected office.

Leah Belmonte is the Maui liaison for Hawaiʻi Governor David Ige. She is the daughter of Leon Bolosan, who headed Ige's Maui campaign in 2014.

She is married to Jake Belmonte, former vice president of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce.

Zalsos is the incoming president of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. She is employed by the County of Maui in the Office of Economic Development. From time to time she has mentioned an interest in seeking elected office.

A number of other Maui Filipinos hold appointed or staff positions in county government. These include: Danny Agsalog - Director, Department of Finance; Herman Andaya Jr. - Chief of Staff for the Office of the Mayor; Rowena Dagdag-Andaya - Deputy Director Dept. of Public Works; Rod Antone and Ryan Piros respectively the county's Communications Director and Deputy Communications Director; and Robert Rivera - First Deputy for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. 🌟



More women than ever before ran for public office in 2016. This year the Maui County Council will have four women members: Elle Cochran, Stacy Crivello, Yuki Lei Sugimura and Kelly King.

Trends and Surprises in the 2016 Election

The elections of 2016 saw more women candidates than ever before. Tulsi Gabbard, who was re-elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 2nd Congressional district, led the Democratic ticket on Maui County

where she received 41,046 votes.

State Rep. Lynn DeCoite of Molokai was re-elected to a two year term representing State House District 13 including East Maui, Molokai and Lānaʻi.

Women also played a large role in county level elections. Two of the three of new faces on county council

are women. They are: Yuki Lei Sugimura representing Up-country and Kelly King filling the South Maui Seat. In addition, Elle Cochran was re-elected to the West Maui seat, and Stacy Crivello was re-elected to the Molokai seat, so beginning in 2017 four of the nine council members will be women—the largest number ever to serve on that body.

Other women candidates who also ran in 2016 elections included: Napua Greig-Nakasone, Tiare Williams, Shay Chan-Hodges, Deidre Tegarden,

Trinette Furtado, Stacey Moniz, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and Vanessa Medeiros.

The Power of the Slate

One new development in the 2016 elections was the emergence of the "Ohana Coalition," which fielded a full slate for every open seat. The group publicized their preferences widely.

The slate was an outgrowth of the 2014 election when anti-GMO legislation was on the ballot. The initiative, placing the moratorium on genetically modified crops, won an upset victory at the polls that year, but was later overturned by the courts.

The same forces supporting the anti-GMO legislation came back in 2016 election determined to make their voices heard by backing candidates

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From the Editor's Desk

Tante Urban
EDITOR & PRESIDENT • FIL-AM VOICE

Tuloy Po Kayo

Please come in, join us, and engage in our Filipino community dialogue...

A warm welcome to you, our readers from Maui and elsewhere. We hope you will enjoy the launching of *Fil-Am Voice*, our monthly publication to keep you connected to what it means to be a Filipino in our local community, and also in other places around the globe, where Filipinos live and contribute the best of us to humanity.

channel our individual and collective gifts and talents to be of higher and greater service to others? What must we change in order to more successfully guide our youth? How do we instill a shift in priorities for parents, who choose to take on a third job instead of giving that time to enjoy and care for their young ones? What must we do to dramatically



Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

Here we will share our continuing history. The past was driven by hope for a better life that brought our ancestors from the comfort of the homeland to America, as seen in the trials and challenges faced by those who answered the recruitment calls for laborers. The present is a witness to the many, resounding triumphs of their children, known as the *Sakada* legacy. The future opens before us. We are at another threshold, yet only a glimpse into the dreams of our youth, as they embark on unseen, still unfolding pathways, to forge their impact in a new world of Filipino-Americans.

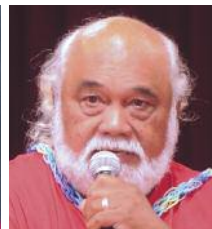
As we think together about our past and analyze our presence in today's life stream, we must identify our contributions to society in terms of how and what we can do better. How can we offer and

modify the collage of faces on campuses across our islands, so that Filipinos are found as often in classrooms, studios, administrators' offices, counseling teams, on-stage, and libraries, as they are in food service, office services, and the maintenance of grounds and buildings?

We are hopeful that you will include your voice in our future publications, that something in these pages will touch your heart and spirit, and that somewhere in the words and visuals, will awaken a stirring inside, of pride in being Filipino and American.

Finally, should you have any issues, concerns, ideas, or questions for us to consider, and celebrations you wish to share with our community, please feel welcome to contact any staff member.

Until next time, our warmest *mabuhay* to all of you. ✨



The newly formed "Ohana Coalition" made waves this year by running a slate of candidates for every open seat. Endorsed Ohana candidates who won were: Don Guzman, Elle Cochran, Aliko Atay and Kelly King. All four were elected to the council.

Political Clout...

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rather than advocating issues. Among the Ohana endorsed candidates were incumbents Cochran and Guzman. Both were re-elected, running #1 and #2 in total votes received for the nine county council seats. She got 31,970; his total was 30,764. Ohana candidates Aliko Atay won a tight race for the Wailuku council seat, and endorsed candidate Kelly King upset incumbent Don Couch to take the South Maui council seat.

nal victory over former council member Dane Kane by only 809 votes. The November tally was Atay 23,322 and Kane 22,513. Kane had come in first in the primary, but in the general Atay, endorsed by the Ohana Coalition, came from behind to beat Kane on the final print out.

Likewise Ohana endorsed candidate Kelly King upset incumbent Don Couch in a very close race for the South Maui council seat. King's votes totaled 23,641; Couch received 22,592, giving her a winning margin of 1,049.

Primary Election - Aug. 2016

Total registration: 91,138
Total turnout: 26,993 (29.6%)

General Election - Nov. 2016

Total registration: 93,912
Total turnout: 52,972 (56.4%)

Some Tight Races in the Primary

County Managing Director Keith Regan, a close ally of Mayor Alan Arakawa, was a first time candidate for the open Wailuku county council seat. He was bumped out of contention in the primary by Ohana Coalition candidate Aliko Atay, who pushed ahead to beat Regan with a slim margin of 337 votes.

Also in the primary, first time Ohana endorsed candidate Tiare Williams (D) lost to incumbent Kyle Yamashita in the race for State House District 12 (Upcountry). Yamashita held on with a narrow lead of 322 votes.

At least one race expected to be close was not close at all: Incumbent Kaniela Ing won easily over Deidre Tegarden. Ing received a convincing 2,117 votes vs 1,219 for Tegarden. Ing won the State House primary for District 11 representing South Maui.

And Some Equally Tight Races in the General

Not content to narrowly make it onto to the general election ballot, Aliko Atay squeaked out a narrow fi-

Elections 2018 Already Shaping Up

The winners in 2016 have not even begun their terms, but speculation has already begun about who will be running 2018.

Getting the jump on others, Elle Cochran announced in December she will be running for Mayor. Others reportedly eyeing the county's top job include Don Guzman, Shan Tsutsui, Mike Victorino, and Keith Regan. The next election cycle will also feature a race for Hawai'i governor, pitting incumbent David Ige against as yet unannounced opponents. A contest for the US Senate seat presently held by Mazie Hirono will also be part of the next cycle. ✨

Susan Halas

is a long time Maui reporter covering Hawai'i politics. Her parents and grandparents were well known residents of pre-war Manila. Her father, the late Morton "Jock" Netzorg, was born in Naga City, Bicol in 1912.



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HC&S Farm Managers: (L-R) Chris Benjamin, Rick Volner, Jr., Frank Kiger, Richard Cameron and Steve Holaday. PHOTO COURTESY: GIL KEITH-AGARAN

Pau Hana...

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Roman’s paternal great grandfather, Emiliano Valle, worked at HC&S. And Roman’s maternal grandfather, Jose Delos Santos, also worked at HC&S.

In Roman’s department, there were about thirty mechanics; half of them employed at HC&S for over ten years. Most of them were laid off throughout 2016. Roman knew the numbers and knew the scarcity of jobs so he left in March 2016—giving up all his transition benefits and found a job as a field power generation technician with a Maui company. Three months later, Roman became a Field Equipment Mechanic at Bacon Universal in Wailuku.

Roman’s dad, Roland Valle, decided to stay till the end.

On December 12, the end became real when the last Tournahauler, driven by Fermin Domingo, brought the last load of sugar cane to be processed. Roland, and the 370 remaining HC&S employees, together with former employees, retirees including 1946 Sakada Silvestre Baggao, and government and ILWU officials, were on hand to witness the last haul. Baggao, now 89 years old, quietly absorbed all the festivities and was interviewed by the television stations. Baggao was happy the retirees were being recognized but sad knowing the mill was closing.

For the rest of December, the feeling of sadness continued. Two days before Christmas, the Pu’unēnē mill stopped its operations. And a day before the end of 2016, 350 employees were laid off.

Roland, 45 years old, will receive a much needed severance package as his wife is a student at the University of Hawai’i Maui College and he has a daughter in high school and a daughter in grade school. The closing of a mill is not new to Roland as he began as a Millwright (mechanic, welder, machinist) at Pā’ia Mill and moved to Pu’unēnē when the Pā’ia Mill shut down in 2000. Roland became an electrician and eventually became the Power Plant Electrical Supervisor. Fortunately, Roland has a job lined up in the hotel industry in the same field but is still worried about providing for his young family.

Steve Castro, the Maui Division Director of the International Longshore-

men and Warehouse Union (ILWU), estimates that as of press time, twenty-five percent of his union members were able to find replacement jobs. 2016 was not a great year for ILWU as the Mākena Beach and Golf Resort announced on March 29 that it was closing on July 1, laying off some 350 workers. “This year has been a year of uncertainty with the closure of HC&S and Mākena Beach,” said Castro. “It’s been devastating for these workers. Some of those losing their jobs are husband, wife, and children in the same household.”

ILWU has been doing everything it can to assist its members. “Working together with HC&S, we were able to obtain our union members additional benefits,” Castro said. “The effects bargaining team, led by ILWU president Donna Domingo and the ILWU negotiating committee, were able to secure additional benefits such as two additional days of severance pay for a total of eleven days. Plus the union secured seven months of additional medical coverage.”

Governor David Ige used the ILWU union hall in Wailuku on June 17 to sign into law certain bills that would assist displaced HC&S and Mākena Beach and Golf Resort workers. Normally, unemployment benefits last twenty-six weeks but the law added thirteen more weeks. Governor Ige also signed another law which provided funds to assist job training of displaced workers.

Displaced HC&S workers are also eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), which provides federal funds to workers who lost their jobs due to foreign trade, as announced by United States Sen. Brian Schatz in March. While each displaced worker’s benefits will be different, the types of benefits include training, income support, job search and relocation allowances, wage subsidies, employment and case management services, and health coverage tax credits. To access their TAA benefits, HC&S employees need to contact the Workforce Development Division One-Stop Office at 2064 Wells Street, Suite 108 in Wailuku (telephone 984-2091).

Despite the closures shrinking his union membership from some 6,000 members to about 5,200, Castro emphasized the focus should be on the workers. “I’m proud of the ILWU team

see PAU HANA p. 6



1946 Sakada Silvestre Baggao, now 89 years old, was interviewed by the television stations. PHOTO COURTESY: MYRNA BAGGEO BREEN

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led by Donna Domingo,” said Castro “and most proud of our union members for their hard work and dedication. The working people of Maui has changed our community and HC&S workers have historically come from a diverse workforce and they all contributed to Maui County.”

While Castro’s main focus is on the workers, many speculate on what will replace sugar on Alexander & Baldwin’s 36,000 acres.

Rick Volner, HC&S General Manager, has mentioned efforts to transition some acreage to pasture to provide more ranch lands to raise local beef, and continuing efforts to identify bio-fuel crops. He asserts that A&B envisions many smaller farms growing a variety of crops but identifying specific plantings and the farmers to work the land has been slow.

The continued and future use of the 36,000 acres will also depend on the availability of water. HC&S relied on ditch water diverted and transported from East Maui streams for its Central Maui farmlands. Some lands both owned and leased in the Pu’unēnē and Waikapū area were fed by waters delivered through the ditch system created by the privately owned Wailuku Water Company, that was created after Wailuku Sugar and Wailuku Agribusiness Co. closed.

In mid-December, the state Board of Land & Natural Resources extended revocable permits for East Maui Irrigation, a subsidiary of Alexander & Baldwin, to continue to divert water from

East Maui streams where the diversions are located on public lands. The Land Board, however, capped the diversion quantity at 80 million gallons per day, down from 160 million gallons per day, and placed other conditions on East Maui Irrigation. In addition, the 2016 legislation that allowed the Land Board to even consider an extension limited the number of annual extensions.

For the Pu’unēnē and Waikapū sugar lands, the State Commission on Water Resource Management (the Commission) has been holding a contested case hearing to determine water use allocation for various existing and new user applicants, including HC&S, kuleana owners and others, and to determine whether any of those applicants are entitled to appurtenant water rights. Further complicating the water situation, recently the administration of Maui County Mayor Alan Arakawa announced it would be pur-

suing the purchase of Wailuku Water Company’s diversion and delivery system and some of its watershed holdings for \$9.5 million. Whether the Wailuku Water Company diversion and ditch system is operated by the County of Maui—which relies on the ditch system for a good portion of the potable water for its residents, and pays Wailuku Water \$250,000 a year—or remains in private hands, the Commission ruling will determine how much water is returned to the Nā Wai ‘Ehā streams, and which users are entitled to water allocations.

While there are many issues yet to be resolved, a lawsuit against HC&S brought by three Maui residents to stop the cane burning was settled. This divisive issue spilled over onto social media after some involved in the cane burning issue said they were going to do a “happy dance” after HC&S announced its closure. In this day and age of instant news on the internet, concerns have been raised about the proliferation of rats, dust plumes, and whether Alexander & Baldwin would try to develop the lands zoned agricultural. But Alexander & Baldwin designated approximately two-thirds (27,294) of its acreage as “Important Agricultural Lands” which under State law places greater restrictions with regard to changing land use designations or zoning.

Beyond the HC&S jobs, the land, water, and the environment, HC&S’ closure also impacts the local community that worked with HC&S. For example, businesses such as Maui Chemical and Paper Products depended on HC&S for their own sales. Further, HC&S was a training ground for many trades which augmented or substituted for more formal apprenticeship programs. For example, Maui Electric would routinely hire electricians that apprenticed with HC&S.

Although the proverbial writing was on the wall for the eventual closure of HC&S, this final year of sugar still provided a shock to many that the plantation way of life was finally ending. Many took to social media to simply express their sadness and memories, or in some cases, optimism about the opportunities that may come, or to simply celebrate the end of a polluting, paternalistic and anachronistic business structure.

Maui’s Filipino community faces multiple challenges. It’s a community built on the sacrifices of the Sakada pioneers in the sugar and pineapple industries, farm workers that took a risk to come to Hawai’i for a better life for their families. But it’s also a community with a significant portion al-

ready disconnected from plantation life.

Since the creation of planned communities like Dream City and the closure of the camps, Maui has been transitioning to a post-agricultural society. Pineapple downsized and then almost completely ended—as it did on Molokai and Lāna’i—in the last twenty years. Drought and processing challenges have been problematic for local cattle ranchers. The effort to modernize and re-purpose the Kahului Cannery did not pencil out and so passed the opportunity for a summer job to save money for college.

Sugar, of the large-scale agribusinesses, held out the longest on Maui thanks to the largely contiguous nature of the HC&S acreage, but it is now gone together with the hundreds of jobs and opportunities it provided.

Some have called the tourist industry as the next plantation—providing hundreds of jobs for Maui residents—but the closure of the Mākena Beach Resort and the conversion of other hotel rooms, is a reminder that nothing is set in stone.

The other remaining leg of Maui’s economy is construction which provides another substantial source of training and jobs for various trades but when the economy goes down due to forces not within the control of Hawai’i businesses or the government, construction slows. Maui also does not have the same amount of military investment as O’ahu, Kaua’i and Hawai’i Island or the facilities that bring military personnel into the community and economy.

The Sakadas advised their children and grandchildren to go to school and study hard to avoid the back breaking work they did. Many Sakada offspring took their advice to heart... and many youngsters will continue to follow a career path towards science and technology. But the somber reality is Maui in the near term does not and probably will not offer them working opportunities to use their educational success at home. The Maui Research & Technology Park simply cannot provide the volume of jobs that the sugar and pineapple industries provided. What industry will provide jobs so the people of Maui will be able to afford to buy their own homes, send their kids to school, and yes, contribute to the well-being of the community?

No one can sugarcoat the impacts of the HC&S closure on Maui’s community. Residents, businesses and government will indeed be affected by the last **pau hana.** ✱
Gilbert Keith-Agaran contributed to this article.



On December 12, the smokestack was still blowing smoke but a few days later all smoke stopped.
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Maui Pinoy

PLEASURE PLATES

Vince Bagoyo

If you happen to be craving authentic Filipino comfort food to remind you of the Homeland, Maui is now the home of many excellent Filipino restaurants that will reward your cravings in so many ways. Too often we hear from our Filipino friends and families how they miss their Lola/Lolos' home-cooked Filipino dishes. It's been over three years since our Nanang passed away and oh, how we miss our favorite dishes like *pinakbet*, *balatong* (monggo beans), *sinigang* (shrimp and/or fish soup), not to mention our favorite Filipino



At Tante's Island Cuisine, try their Bangus, Kare Kare, and Seafood Combo with Shrimp and Mussels—a wonderful *sforzando* for any connoisseur's palate!
PHOTOS: LAWRENCE PASCUA

dessert *sinuman* (sweet mochi rice). Every time our three daughters come to visit Maui from the mainland one of their first stops is a Filipino take-out restaurant to get their fix of *pinakbet*, *adobo pusit* (squid) and a side order of *halo-halo*. Funny thing is I find myself, doing the same thing; looking for Filipino dishes that brings back memories of our Nanang's home-cooked meals. Many have said that Spanish colonization and Chinese merchants were the early influence in Filipino cuisine and the uniqueness of traditional Filipino food was inspired by the melding of Spanish and Asian cultures.

Common stews like *kare-kare* oxtail stew with locally grown mixed vegetables and flavored with creamy peanut butter and *alamang* (shrimp paste) or *pork adobo* are given the Filipino treatment by improvising with local ingredients, such as palm vinegar, a spoonful of brown sugar, or a startling amount of garlic. The results are complex flavor profiles ranging from sour, to sweet, to salty resulting one powerful kick to the taste buds. Those who are unfamiliar with Filipino cuisine will be introduced to new flavors and for those who are craving a taste of every region in the Philippines, memories will be brought

back. The beauty of Filipino cuisine is that it allows room for improvisation, much like its culinary history. We are so fortunate to have our own Filipino chefs who have opened restaurants on Maui and are introducing Filipino cuisines into the mainstream of our island's culinary experiences. In this first issue of Maui *Fil-Am Voice*, we profile two chef-owned Maui Filipino restaurants that have caught the eyes and palates of foodies like myself. These Filipino chefs are updating Filipino dishes from traditional to contemporary creating an undeniable buzz in Maui's food scene.
see PLEASURE PLATES p. 8



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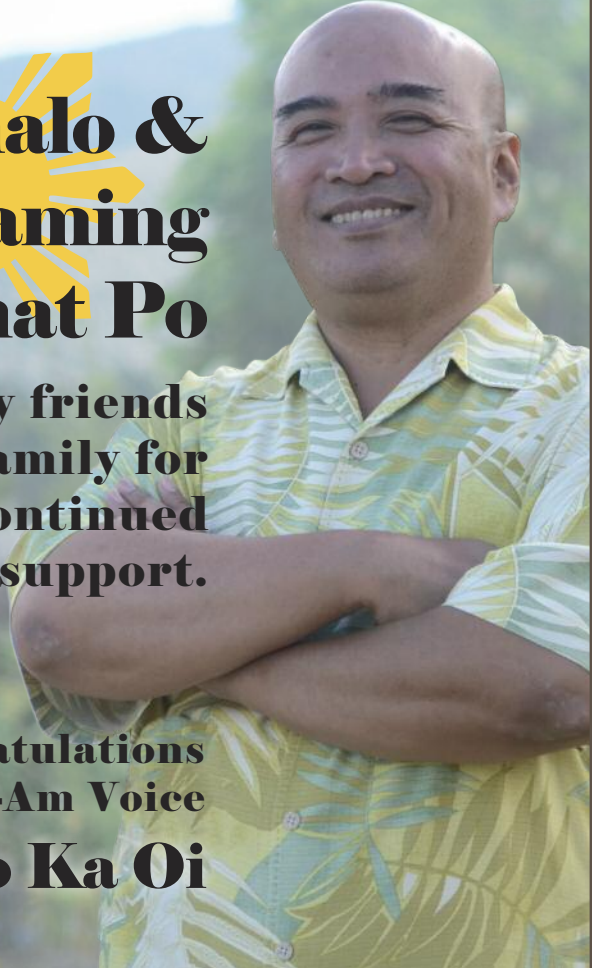
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Pleasure Plates...

from p. 7

Tante’s Restaurant

opened over fours ago by chef-owner, Tante Urban, a well-known and respected entrepreneur within the culinary circles in the of State Hawai’i. He has been in the culinary business since 1968 and was inspired by his father to enter to culinary school at Hilo Community College. According to Tante, it is his destiny to be in the restaurant business and his passion is to experiment with and perfect Filipino dishes that will challenge the palates of local residents and visitors alike.

Located at the heart of Central Maui, Tante’s is a favorite of many local residents. Willie K, a world renowned singer and composer, along with his wife Debbie, is a frequent visitor to the restaurant and his favorite dish is Tante’s signature dish: *Sari-Sari*. According to Willie K—this dish is very special to him because “it reminds me of my childhood growing up in Waimanalo in the island of O’ahu, surrounded with Filipino *Tatas* and *Nanas* who always shared this special *sari-sari* dish, is simply amazing and unforgettable.” What makes this dish unique and special are the ingredients that Tante uses. Fresh locally-grown vegetables like okra, pumpkin, long beans, green peas, and squash (*Tabungaw*), tempered with *alamang* sauce bring its unique flavor will make you go back to Tante’s Restaurant again and again just like Willie K.



Joey’s Kitchen features their Pancit, Shrimp Lumpia, and Adobo Fried Rice—this gem can be found at the Whaler’s Village in Kā’anapali.

PHOTOS: VINCE BAGOYO

Tante’s Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner every day with a wide menu selection that melds Hawaiian, American, and Filipino dishes and flavors. And yes it is reasonably-priced. Be prepared to be personally greeted by chef-owner Tante and his very warm hospitality that makes you feel you are a part of his family!

Joey’s Kitchen


is creating lots of buzz in the West Maui culinary scene. Joey Macadang-dang recently opened his second restaurant located at Nāpili Shopping

Center. His first restaurant opened over a year ago at the heart of Whaler’s Village in Kā’anapali Resort and is frequented by mainland visitors and local residents alike. Joey did not go to any culinary school; he learned his craft in the kitchen starting as a dishwasher, moving up to a busboy until he was offered to be a cook helper at Roy’s. Ultimately he reached a pinnacle in his culinary career becoming Roy’s executive chef for 20 years. He first learned to cook at home at a young age, reading lots of cook books. He has always had the passion to be in the culinary arts and loves to experiment and perfect traditional cuisine by infusing Asian, Chinese and Hawaiian flavors and herbs. Joey’s dishes are one of kind with amazing aromas and a sophistication that will make you want more.

Joey’s signature Filipino dishes, at the Whalers Village location are the pork adobo fried rice, pancit, and lumpia. These dishes represent the heart of Filipino cuisine and are often served at many local restaurants, par-

ties, and special occasions. These three signature dishes by Joey’s Kitchen are the ultimate comfort food, brought by the *Sakadas* who immigrated to Hawai’i during the plantation era. What make these dishes special are ingredients that you will find in many Filipino dishes; namely, fresh ginger, garlic, sugarcane vinegar, and locally-grown fresh vegetables. To add aroma and flavor to the dishes—*patis* (fish sauce) is a must! These three Filipino dishes personalized by Joey’s culinary creativity have exciting layered flavor, a homey feel, and familiar spices that always bring back memories of the homeland. If you want to experience “five star” dishes at a “one star” price—you must try Joey’s Kitchen at Whaler’s Village or Nāpili Shopping Center. You will be amazed at the freshness and the quality of each dish. Joey’s advice to young Filipinos who wish to enter the culinary profession? Be humble; learn and study hard to perfect your dishes, read lots of culinary books; and listen to your customers... ✨





Tante Urban · Editor

Questions, Comments, Concerns, Contributions, Conundrums?

Write a letter to the Editor!
Email editor@filamvoice.com

For a Nutritious 2017 Lifestyle, Eat More Heirloom Superfoods

Chef Joaquin Belmonte

New year resolution you say? Whether your goal is to eat healthy, be more physically active, live a balanced lifestyle or simply to just get fit and healthy; considering a native superfood to your daily food intake can help you achieve just that. For most, we are familiar with this term Superfood, described as food with supernatural health benefits.

While some associate superfoods with high-end and costly products and supplements, you should know that a lot of locally sourced superfood fruits and vegetables can be found in our neighborhood backyard and grocery stores. You don't have to shop at mega-brand stores to become healthier and fit. Let us refresh ourselves with these superfoods that are common here on the islands and now a natural produce, farmed locally.

entire plant can be eaten and the highly nutritious, and high in protein and essential amino acids, vitamins, minerals, phytonutrients and anti-oxidants. This plant is considered to be anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and anti-fungal. It can be eaten raw and added into green smoothies or cooked in a healthy vegetable based dish. With someone's creativity, it is now produced in a flour form and used as a natural ingredient in some baked goods and pastries.

cholesterol levels and improves bone and heart health. It is also a good source of energy and tastes unique! Perfect to add in smoothies or even dessert.

is supposed to slow down the aging process, prevent wrinkles and improve the skin. Hmmm, the secret is out! Saluyot—"The fountain of Youth."

Jumpstart the New Year 2017 by adding more fruits and vegetables is a great first step in having a healthier lifestyle. Adding your intake with superfoods doesn't have to be hard and ridiculously expensive. Make wiser choices by replacing traditional snacks with locally grown fruits and vegetables. A healthy, big green salad with lean proteins for lunch to substitute a heavy lunch is the smart way to go. And to start your morning, make a breakfast smoothie or a green juice to kick off your day fresh and renewed. Let us move together in living a happy and balanced lifestyle. Have a Healthy New Year! ✨



Saluyot

JUTE

An incredible source of calcium, iron, vitamins A, B, C and E and antioxidants, Saluyot is used for its super power to help with headaches, digestive problems, inflammation, diarrhea, constipation and ulcers. In addition, its beta-carotene can help improve eyesight. Because the plant is rich in antioxidants and vitamins C and E, it



Chef Joaquin "Jake"



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Atis

SWEETSOP, ALSO KNOWN AS SUGAR APPLE

A very well-known fruit from grandma's and grandpa's backyard, this relative of the Bayabana, another superfruit is said to prevent asthma through its rich Vitamin C content, lower blood pressure through its source of potassium, energize the body through thiamin, keep the bones strong with magnesium, lower cholesterol with its niacin content, help maintain thyroid health with copper and improve heart health through its high content of Vitamin B6. One of my favorite tropical fruit growing up!



Marunggay

MORINGA

Known as the 'miracle tree', it is consumed because it is claimed to treat hypertension, rheumatism, cancer, arthritis, skin disorders, joint pains and several others. As we know, the



Parya

BITTERMELON

Also called bitter gourd. According to research, this bumpy-skinned superfood is rich in vitamins, minerals and other healthy compounds that can improve your health for the better. Bittermelon is particularly rich in vitamin A, vitamin C and folate, as well as potassium: a mineral vital to kidney health. It's also packed with phytochemicals that not only affect how your body stores energy and lower blood sugar levels, but may even prevent against cancer tumors from resurfacing. Both the fruit and the seed can be used to make medicine, and are recognized at treating stomach and intestinal issues ranging from colitis to GI distress to worms. Topically, it has been used for centuries to treat deep skin wounds.



Bayabana

SOURSOP

This tropical fruit is not as sweet as the other superfruit, Atis, but rich in nutrition. It helps to prevent anemia, migraines, constipation, leg cramps, urinary track infections, pregnancy complications, water retention, lowers

Happy New Year!

From the

Fil·Am Voice

Ating Kabuhayan

John Tomoso



Welcome to "Our Way of Life." I've chosen this title for my column as I believe we share a quality of life, here on Maui that is so unique. We are fortunate and blessed! I was born and raised on this island,

with my paternal grandparents having come to Maui in 1910. Yes, our family is now four generations strong on Maui! The maternal side of my family is Native Hawaiian, so we've been here forever! As I write this, I am thinking about how I grew up. I was never called "Filipino." My siblings and I never thought of ourselves in this ethnicity, although we knew and we learned everything our elders taught us about our cultural heritage. You know, come to think of it, none of my contemporaries had such ethnic labels. But we did eat each other's food! Growing up on Maui, in the halcyon days of my youth, was a veritable feast of food, all kinds of food. The dishes were served and we knew what each other's favorites were. It seems that we were always eating. No one was hungry and we all sat down to share "whatever" with each other; I still remember how each family's table was set differently. I especially remember the old style oiled paper (later plastic) table coverings.

We shared much more than food. We shared play things, hand-me-down clothes, fruits, snacks, baseball cards, oh and comic books. We also shared experiences, stories, events, performances, music and parental discipline. Actually, we shared everything. Maui was very small when I was growing up; maybe thirty thousand people lived here then. Sharing, I think, was a way of life. I still like to share and I hope this column will be something that I share with all of you. You've heard of the saying "Sharing is caring"? Well, I care deeply for this island; this community we share.

Kababayan let me tell you that the greatest thing we share is our "way of life." I want make sure that our daily experience of life on Maui reflects the excellence of our fair weather, of the beauty that surrounds us, of our way of easily relating to and caring for each other, no matter who we are or even where we come from. I was fortunate, even blessed, in being born and raised on Maui. The way "us kids" were never alone and how there was always at least one responsible, even disciplined adult, in charge of anything and everything we were doing, left an impression on me. And so, I especially want to contribute to the reality of the dictum that "It takes a whole village to raise a child." As we go about our lives, our way of life, let us make sure that no child is left alone, or hungry, confused or abused, or left to "go it alone."

So, let me say that this column will be about how we share, and care and live with each other. It will be about those everyday experiences that make us want to pause and say "Ah ha, that's our way of life!" It will be about those diverse, cultural, social, qualitative and even emotional realities that give context to the relationships, and experiences, that make up our way of life. Have an idea or a comment or even a question, contact me at the email address for this column: atingk-abuhayan@gmail.com

Until next time, take care! ✨

Dinengdeng and Pinakbet

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

The late Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel observed: "Without memory, there is no culture. Without memory, there would be no civilization, no society, no future." December, as the last month of the year, always brings a mixture of holiday, cultural and festive celebrations interspaced with solemn commemorations.

On the first weekend, I helped crown the 64th Chrysanthemum Festival Queen. The long-running cultural event annually raises funds for scholarships awarded by Maui's Sons and Daughters of the Nisei Veterans. The festival also celebrates the Valley Islanders who served in the famed 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The following week, I had the honor to attend Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 75th Anniversary ceremonies. Seated at a pier across from the Arizona Memorial, we remembered the sacrifices and loss of life that day which ushered in the United States entry into World War II, and which would move Hawai'i towards Statehood two decades later. Sitting near the front row of Pearl Harbor survivors, I couldn't help but also acknowledge the eventual passing of what people call America's Greatest Generation.

Locally, Maui is also in transition.

With the looming July 1, 2017 switch to management by Kaiser Permanente's Maui Health Systems, our local public hospital facilities continue to provide important health care services locally while implementing the existing master plan of physical improvements—replacing the old elevators and renovating rooms. December saw the long-awaited blessing and re-opening of the renovated and expanded Oncology Department of Maui Memorial Medical Center. The improvements were funded by the proceeds of the annual Willie K Foundation Golf Tournament and State capital improvement project appropriations.

I also swore in the new officers of several local organizations at their annual luncheons and attended the opening of the youth flag football league using the new Central Maui Regional Park fields. At the annual end-of-year Rizal Day celebration, I judged a Filipino attire contest while wearing my new Mele Kalikimaka Aloha Shirt. Winter events that recall common histories or mark new beginnings.

But the rather quiet closure of HC&S operations overshadowed most of the events in the month leading up to the start of the 2017 Legislative Session.

Like many in my community, plantation work brought my family to the islands. Sugar formed the common cultural DNA shared by my Filipino,

Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiian and *Hapa* classmates at Doris Todd and Maui High. In truth, we lived through other sugar and pineapple closings but sugar marking a final end in our own community seemed different. It did mean no more black snow of small kid times and no more familiar pungent smells drifting to town on the winds. And just looking out the window of your flights home to Maui at the largely ratoon and harvested landscape starkly made the end of large-scale farming apparent.

Of course, I have few illusions. Plantation days weren't all reservoir swimming and tilapia fishing or tournauler inner tubes as local

kid trampolines. My parents went to bed early and awoke before dawn—my mom still does. Red HC&S pick ups would pick up the *hanawai* gang from our Kahului neighborhoods for the drive to the assigned fields. Just looking at my dad when he came home, I had no doubt he led a hard, dusty life—but there was also dignity in his face and the face of his co-workers. It was also a life that some in my generation chose for themselves, following in their parents' and grandparents' footsteps. But I understand why my dad and other sugar workers wanted their children to have other choices about our futures.

The Agaran *Sakadas* came to Hawai'i when sugar still ruled. My grandfather Lino and his cousin Teodoro, "Doro," arrived on Maui on April 5, 1928 while brother Juan, "Uncle Johnny,"

landed on the Big Island in November 1929. Uncle Toribio came earlier to either Kaua'i or Lāna'i. The dates and places differ depending on which of the cousins tell the story. All four are gone now.

In our family folklore, my dad Manuel Coloma arrived in 1946, recruited as an Ilocano strikebreaker. As remembered, he signed an ILWU card on the boat, joining strikers upon disembarking at the port. That strike won, dad worked the Maui sugar fields spreading out from Pā'ia town's edge as an irrigator for nearly forty years.

A proverbial Ilocano—a stoic, frugal, careful man—he married Lydia Agaran, a woman from his old *ili*. A softspoken father, he stepped in only when my exasperated mother was *pau* with my sister Velma or me. We lived at various camps but the clean, plain cabin in Orpheum Camp near Pā'ia Mill stands out most in my memory, even more than the little tract house they purchased in the 12th Increment in the early '70s.

After the war, my Papa Lino moved to O'ahu. He adopted and raised me. When he retired in 1967, my grandmother, Papa and I moved back to Pā'ia. In those days, there were no Filipino caterers, so Papa got invited to parties because he could cook for large groups. He fried pork chunks dipped in flour and scrambled eggs with a sweet



... my dad Manuel Coloma arrived in 1946, recruited as an Ilocano strikebreaker. As remembered, he signed an ILWU card on the boat, joining strikers upon disembarking at the port.

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sour sauce for dipping, *pancit* the Ilocano way, a dry but tasty *dinardaraan*, pork and peas or pimentos, pork adobo, lightly fried chicken and chicken long rice.

At gatherings at the Pā'ia Club or Pu'unēnē Filipino Club House or the Baldwin Park pavilions, he would launch into those formal Filipino tarantellas inspired by some kind of Spanish flamenco. In my child's eye, I still picture the steps and the arm movements as he swirled across the floor with various partners.

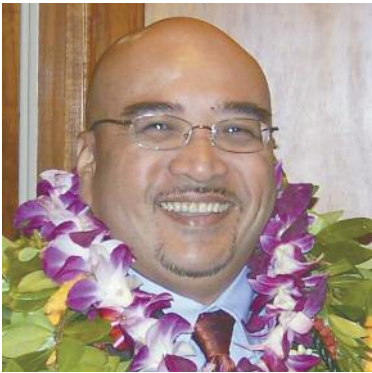
These memories are also part of the legacy of my family.

Throughout my life, Maui's countryside has been shifting away from sugar (and pineapple). Family-owned independent pineapple fields and pastures in Ha'ikū subdivided into two-acre Gentlemen farms. That familiar experience where you and your high school pals would spend summer months making some real money at the Cannery or in the fields no longer common. At one time, Pā'ia and Pu'unēnē—with their smoking sugar factories—were among Maui's largest company towns. But while I was away at college, Pu'unēnē town disappeared into Central Maui sugar fields and big box parking lots. Pā'ia converted to windsurfing hostels and vacation rentals, fashion shops, Mana Foods and quaint eateries. Pā'ia Mill stands dead on Baldwin Avenue. The camps are largely gone or redeveloped.

The end of sugar marks the end of a local touchpoint of common understanding. But rather than cavalierly focusing abruptly and insensitively on what's next, I can't help but appreciate

the flesh and blood folk who lived through plantation days. So it feels strange how quiet it's been after the initial stories about the closure.

I purchased a t-shirt marking the last harvest. Others bought a Hana Hou hat. Some cane fields have simply been abandoned rather than harvested. But our community needs to remember and stand with the people in those memories: the ILWU irrigators and planters and harvesters and the factory workers and mechanics and machinists and their families, and the businesses who relied on plantation business as suppliers and vendors. The uncertainty of this last closure hits them directly. I find this loss personal. And only time will tell what Central Maui's landscape will look like in the future. ✨



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran serves the Central Maui communities in the Hawai'i State Senate, where he chairs the Judiciary and Labor Committee. Sen. Keith-Agaran graduated from Maui High School and lives in Kahu-lui. He practices commercial, civil and administrative law with Takitani Agaran & Jorgensen, LLP in Wailuku.

Filipinos in the 29th Legislature

When the 29th Hawai'i Legislature convenes for the 2017 Regular Session of January 18th, 6 of the 25 Senators and 5 of the 51 Representatives will bring family-ties to the Philippines. In subsequent issues of the Fil-Am Voice, I will be providing some updates and thoughts on significant bills and issues being debated that affect Maui County and the Filipino community.

Here's a short list of the Fil-Am legislators and their roles in the upcoming session.

State Senate

Brickwood Galuteria: Majority Caucus Leader; Vice Chair, Hawaiian Affairs Committee; Member, Ways and Means Committee.

Will Espero: Majority Floor Leader; Chair, Housing Committee; Member, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee, Higher Education Committee, Education Committee.

Donovan Dela Cruz: Majority Whip; Vice-Chair, Ways and Means Committee, Transportation and Energy Committee; Member, Education Committee.

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran: Chair, Judiciary and Labor Committee; Member, Higher Education Committee, Housing Committee.

Lorraine Inouye: Chair, Transportation and Energy Committee; Member, Ways and Means Committee, Water and Land Committee.

Donna Mercado Kim: Chair, Government Operations Committee; Member, Judiciary and Labor Committee, Water and Land Committee.

State House

Ty J.K. Cullen: Vice-Chair, Finance Committee

Romy Cachola: Special Sub-Committee on Unfunded Liabilities

Della Au-Belatti: Chair, Health Committee

Henry J.C. Aquino: Chair, Transportation Committee

Joy San Buenaventura: Vice-Chair, Judiciary Committee

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A Maui Sakada Love Story

CONTEST

If you were toying with the idea of entering our love story contest but didn't get a chance, guess what? You're in luck!

Because we wanted to include all of you writers with awesome writing chops out there who has a compelling story to share about your parents or grandparents who came here before you, and had an interesting love story to share. We

decided to extend our deadline to Feb. 7, 9 p.m. Submit a short story of 1000 words or less (with a photo of the subjects). The theme is "A Maui Sakada Love Story."

All entries must be emailed to eatalna@aol.com by our new dead-

line, 9 p.m. on February 7.

1st Prize is a \$300 value donated by Tante Urban of Tante's Island Cuisine. 2nd Prize is \$200 donated by Elizabeth Ayson, Ph.D. 3rd Prize is \$100 donated by Alfredo Evangelista of Law Offices of

Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company.

So, on your mark, get set, write! Good luck to all on your entries. In the mean time, Elizabeth Ayson's story below—its sure to whet your desire for inspiration!



Unfortunately, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawai'i, beginning World War II with the United States, and invading the Philippines...



Upon arrival in the mountain village, Tony befriended the Igorots who took pity on him and invited them to seek protection in one of their thatched huts with a dirt floor.



Elizabeth Ayson

Let Me Call You Sweetheart

A Sakada Love Story of Antonio Fartan & Tiburcia Coloma Ayson.

Elizabeth Ayson

Tony was only eight years old when his father passed, leaving him the heavy responsibilities of being the "man of the house." He grew up in Laoag, on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. Although he loved school, he stopped attending classes in order to help with household duties and the maintenance of their small farm. At the age of fifteen, he departed the homeland to work on a farm for a Japanese couple in Waikapū, Maui. Soon after, he moved again, this time to San Francisco, where he worked with fishermen on the docks. Before long, he took off for Seattle, for better employment in nearby farms, which he liked much better. Most of his earnings went to his family.

At the urging of his family, Tony returned home to find a wife. On the other side of the bridge from Laoag to San Nicolas, he saw Tiburcia for the first time as she sat at home, sewing clothes for neighbors. In his heart he knew immediately that she would be the love of his life. However, he was not prepared for her extreme shyness, as she seemed unwilling to even look at him, much less to talk at all. Her sister and two brothers patiently encouraged her to at least have a conversation with him, as he visited their home regularly.

After a very long two-weeks of visits, they met accidentally in the village market, where she had ac-

companied her sister to sell the vegetables from their garden, in exchange for other goods. As Tony bartered with the two sisters, Tiburcia became more comfortable and afterwards began to talk with him at her home. The courtship led to marriage, much to the relief, gratitude and joy of both families.

Unfortunately, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawai'i, beginning World War II with the United States, and invading the Philippines soon after. His wife pregnant with their first child, Tony packed the two-wheel cart he had built, and evacuated on foot to Baguio, pulling the

cart and precious cargo behind him. Upon arrival in the mountain village, he befriended the Igorots who took pity on him and invited them to seek protection in one of their thatched huts with a dirt floor. Baby Elizabeth was born here with the help of the village midwife, and other helpful women. After a few months, it was time to return to their home and awaiting families. The trek home, with baby and mother in the cart, was made more treacherous because of check points enroute, manned by Japanese soldiers, some friendly, but most not. Having an infant traveler

on board gave everyone a clear reason to be compassionate, and Tony thanked the angels for this blessing that saved their lives more than once along the way.

Home again, Tony became a valued crew member in both the Philippine and American armies, as a skilled heavy equipment mechanic. For almost four years, he worked hard on jeeps, trucks, tractors, cars and became a familiar and beloved figure on military sites in or near his town. Sometimes the soldiers came to his home to share meals during their off duty hours. Baby Elizabeth's early

contact with these soldiers gave her a foundation of trust and comfort with non-family folks who carried her on their shoulders and brought sweets. Then the war ended.

Next came the recruiters from the plantations from Hawai'i looking for laborers to grow their crops of sugar cane and pineapple. Tony was excited about signing a contract, but Tiburcia was absolutely against it. This disagreement tested their commitment, and was ultimately resolved when Tony's love for his wife and growing family won her over, now that they also had a son. Joining the thousands

contracted for Maui, they arrived in June, 1946, with four-year old Elizabeth and two-year old Edmund. Gloria was born the next year.

Tony became a mechanic at the Pu'unēnē Mill, repairing vehicles used by the Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company, or HC&S. They lived in Camp 13, from which Tony commuted on his bicycle, fortified by the food in his kaukau tin, prepared lovingly by his wife, who it turned out, had two super green thumbs. Tiburcia sewed clothes for her family, and also for neighbors who soon heard about her amazing artistry with her hands and a foot-pumped sewing machine.

Exhibiting his entrepreneurial leanings, Tony opened a small store on the front porch of his house in Spanish B, taking his children with him in the afternoon, to sell basic goods in the villages, in the truck he had put together from salvaged parts of different vehicles. Many had no vehicle to drive, and were happy to wait for Tony to buy their bread, canned goods, rice, eggs, vegetables and fruits in season, grown by Tiburcia, who also took in laundry and sewing repairs to add to the family income.

Tony and Tiburcia lived together and loved each other for the rest of their lives, sharing in the challenges and rewards of profound commitment to their marriage, as proud Filipino-American citizens. ✱

"Elizabeth was born here with the help of the village midwife..."



Caroline Rafanan at her Nursing Graduation



Caroline and her son Lance at his Doctorate of Pharmacy Graduation



Claudio Rafanan, Caroline's father

Sakada Offspring

Caroline Rafanan Cabanting, daughter of Sakada Claudio & Erlinda Rafanan lives "the dream."

Lucy Peros

1980. She earned her Bachelors of Science in Nursing at the U.H. Mānoa Outreach in 1987. She became a registered nurse at age 20. She worked at Maui Memorial Hospital from 1980-1990. She transferred to Maui District Health Office, Department of Health in 1990. From 1990-2001, she was with the CMCP PHN, Case Management Coordination Program, which provided nursing case management services to the high risk, vulnerable elderly population. In 2001-2012, she was a district public health nurse. From 2013-August 2016 Caroline was a public health nurse Assistant Supervisor in Maui County. At age 56 in August 1, 2016, she retired after 36 years of nursing service to the State of Hawai'i.

The following very inspiring reflections were shared by Caroline: "I decided to become a nurse in my Junior year of high school. This would be my way of helping people and giving back to my community. Becoming a nurse at an early age forced me to deal with the realities of life. At age 20, I cared for patients dealing with pain, fear and loss as well as those who were terminal. I recognized how fragile life was and the value of compassion for those suffering. Public Health Nursing has

broadened my understanding of the needs of people in our community. I learned about promoting cultural diversity, health care equity and advocacy for the disadvantaged, displaced, and disabled. The coping, problem solving, team building and leadership skills have helped me deal with the challenges in my personal life as a single parent. While raising my son, Lance, as a single parent, I kept to the values that were important to me: First, always be respectful and compassionate to others. Second, be thankful for everything that you have been blessed with. Third, give back to show appreciation for what you have been given. Fourth, to those that much is given, much is expected. Fifth, when doing something, do your best. Sixth, *pono*—do what is right."

Today, Caroline's son Lance, a St. Anthony High School Graduate of the Class of 2007, U.H. Mānoa Grad in Biology, just received his Doctorate in Pharmacy from U.H. Hilo, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy. He is one of the three Filipino Pharmacy graduates from Maui of the Class of 2016. Congratulations to the late Grandpa Claudio, Grandma Erlinda, Mom Caroline especially to Lance. A *Sakada dream came true.* ✨

Although many of our Sakadas have gone now, they will live forever in the hearts of their offsprings. They had dreams, dreams for a better life for themselves and their family. One of these offsprings is Caroline Rafanan Cabanting. She is the daughter of Sakada Claudio Rafanan and Erlinda Rafanan who originally came from San Julian, Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. She was born in San Julian on September 18, 1959.

Caroline and her mom Erlinda arrived on Maui on August 1961 and first lived with the Soberano family in

Spanish B Camp in Pu'unēnē. She grew up in Kēōkea and Pukalani because her dad worked at Kula Sanatorium—now Kula Hospital—until 1974 when her family moved to Kahului.

Caroline was a very bright student. She attended Kula and Makawao Elementary Schools, and Maui High School; Class of '79. She received scholarships like the Kahului Filipino Community Association, Maui Filipino Community Council, and Mayor Elmer Cravalho Scholarship. She received her Associates Degree in Nursing at Maui Community College—now UHMC—in



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Fil-Am Voice



Former President Ferdinand E. Marcos has been labeled a murderer, a thief, and a dictator by his opposition. But many still regard him as a successful Philippine president with many achievements and praise given to his credit. President Marcos is shown here with former U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz in 1982

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA



Hundreds protested with this large banner on August 14, 2016 at Rizal Park. Current Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte would not be moved, having ordered the burial of the late former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

PHOTO: NEWSOK

What Do You Think?

Fil-Am Voice Staff

Ferdinand E. Marcos, the 10th president of the Philippines (December 30, 1965 to February 25, 1986), died in exile on September 28, 1989 in Honolulu. In 1993, then-president Fidel V. Ramos, who headed the Philippine Constabulary under President Marcos, allowed the Marcos family to fly his remains to Batac, Ilocos Norte, where it remained on display.

During his campaign for president, Rodrigo Duterte promised the Marcos family he would allow President Marcos to be buried at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* (Heroes Cemetery) in Taguig, Philippines. On August 7, 2016, President Duterte issued the order to allow Marcos' burial. After a delay, on November 8, 2016, the Philippines Supreme Court, by a vote of 9–5 with one inhibition, dismissed seven petitions filed that sought to prevent the burial of President Marcos. President Marcos was buried on November 18, 2016.

Fil-Am Voice staff asked members of Maui's Filipino community "What do you think of President Ferdinand Marcos being buried at *Libingan ng mga Bayani* (Heroes Cemetery)?"

Arnel, 48 years old, of Makawao with roots in Cagayan and Ilocos Sur, and Ilocos Norte: “If you go back, way back, as we know the Philippines was a very safe and a very respected country—always in the top three among Asian countries. Knowing that he was a veteran and he has done so much for the people of the Philippines, it is worth it for his country and his countrymen that he would be buried at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*.”

Claro, 64 years old of Kahului, with roots in Ilocos Sur: “It’s good to me because he’s finally buried where his family wanted him to be buried.”

Conrado, 53 years old of Wailuku with roots in Bantay, Ilocos Norte: “I think it’s a good idea. While people may not have agreed with how he led, he was a great leader and he should be remembered at home and not at some foreign land.”

Danny, 56 years old of Wailuku with roots in Sinait, Ilocos Sur: “Marcos de-

serves to be buried there as a military man. He was a very good senator. He was a very good President of the Republic until he declared martial law. That is where the disagreements started. To the opposition he is a dictator and a human rights violator. To some of us he was still a hero. He was a hero for not allowing Philippines to become communist which the leftists wanted. So for us who didn't want communism he was a hero all the way. The left never and didn't understand that. So for me he deserves to be buried there."

Elmer, 58 years old of Kahului with roots in Ilocos Norte. “It doesn’t affect me. I don’t agree or disagree.”

Flory, 55 years old of Makawao with roots in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte: "It's good. He deserved to be buried there."

Irene, 41 years old of Kahului with roots in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte: “It’s about time. The criteria to be buried in *Libingan ng mga Bayani* is either a soldier who fought for the country or was a President. He met both criterias. His accomplishments as a President is not even included in the reasons why he should be buried there. He is not only a hero but the best President Philippines had.”

Jeffrey, 61 years old of Wailuku with roots in Pangasinan: “Not in favor.”

Kit, 31 years old of Wailuku with roots in Baguio City, Bataan, and Quezon City, “Marcos is not a hero. Heroes fight for freedom, not torture and murder 70,000. Heroes fight for justice, not fabricate fake stories and deny stolen, ill-gotten \$10 billion wealth. Blatant lies and manipulation are not heroic acts. I support him being buried, but not at the Heroes Cemetery. The hasty burial ‘like a thief in the night’ was a slap and piss in the face for the families victimized by his tyranny, including mine, and a poison for future generations’ morals.”

Leo, 73 years old of Kahului with roots in Paoay, Ilocos Norte: “They should allow him. You cannot just think of what happened during Martial Law. I’m not saying it didn’t happen”



Protesters that day give a clear and unified “thumbs down” with regard to President Rody Duterte’s decision. PHOTO: NEWSOK



Hero...

from p. 15

pen, but that’s what is to be expected during those times. The late president was not like Duterte. It is unfortunate that it took this long to give him this opportunity.”

Lilia, 58 years old of Pā’ia with roots in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte: “It’s good thing, good for him. He is finally able to rest in peace. A new beginning for the Filipino people. The Marcos family can begin the process of healing while the country can in turn begin moving towards recovery from years of bad blood, negativity, finger pointing and such. The leaders who followed the Marcos administration to me didn’t prevent ‘kurakot’. By this new administration allowing the late president to take his place in the *Libingan Ng Mga Bayani*, proved that the new leadership is ready to bury the past and pave the way for the country to now move forward.”

Lina, 74 years old of Kihei with roots in Ilocos Norte: “I agree but they should have buried him a long time ago. If they couldn’t bury him there, they should have buried him in his home town. They shouldn’t have waited that long.”

Magdalena, 78 years old of Kahului with roots in Paoay, Ilocos Norte: “I am in favor of him being buried in the Heroes Cemetary because for me he has done good things for the country, the Philippines. There could be some-

thing he had done that is not good but overall I do believe that he has done more good things plus if he had done bad things we are supposed to be forgiving each other so we should be able to forgive him and have him buried at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*.”

Melen, 50 years old of Wailuku with roots in Badoc, Ilocos Norte: “Hallelujah. It’s about time. He deserves it.”

Ricky, 59 years old of Kahului with roots in Laoag and Bangui, Ilocos

Norte: “I have no response.”

Romeo, 54 years old, lives in Wailuku with roots in Sinait, Ilocos Sur. “I agree that he should be buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Because in his term, I knew it was a long term, but look at the results of the administrations after him. Do you have any improvements? No. I think he deserved to be buried there. With his accomplishments during his term although at the end there is a lot of controversy but the thing is they’re only accusing him. There is no proof that

he was doing the wrong thing. It is so sad he passed away before he could prove he didn’t do those things.

Salvie, 62 years old of Wailuku with roots in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte: “He’s a hero. He deserved to be buried in the Heroes Cemetery.”

Sigrid, 57 years old of Wailuku with roots in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte: “Even though he did what he did in the past, that’s in the past. He’s still a president and a hero so he should be buried there.” ✨



Imelda Marcos, former first lady to President Ferdinand E. Marcos is handed the folded Philippine flag, as daughter Imee looks on.

PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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