



**Be a Part of Fiesta Time on Maui**  
It's time to explore and engage in the delights our wonderful culture has in store this May!  
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Views on belief, life and faith are important when facing the realities of an awful tragedy.  
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# Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

May • Vol 1 No3 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

## inside



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# It's Fiesta Time...

Alfredo Evangelista

**F**ilipinos are a religious bunch. After the Easter celebration in the spring, Filipinos gather in their hometown for their town fiesta—usually on the feast of the town's patron saint. Folks from the city or *ili*, return back to their barrio to reconnect with families and friends. Here in Hawai'i, it's no different. Filipinos statewide celebrate the month of May as Fiesta month. Although there are certain Philippine fiestas that predate the Spanish conquest of the Philippines, many

of the fiestas have become Filipino Roman Catholic feasts. In the Philippines, *Flores de Mayo*, translated as “Flowers of May,” is celebrated during the whole month of May. *Flores de Mayo* is a religious festival in honor of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and marked with offerings of flowers to the Virgin Mary. On the last day of the *Flores de Mayo*, a religious procession—the *Santa Cruzan*—is held. The *Santa Cruzan* depicts the finding of the Holy  
**see FIESTA p.2**



Welcome to the Barrio Fiesta.  
PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Hawai'i Medical Aid in Dying Bill Deferred

...bill implicates profoundly private issues and calls on Hawai'i residents to reflect on their personal views and beliefs about life and faith and suffering.

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

**E**very year, a Roosevelt High School Participation in Democracy class emails various legislators commenting on bills being considered in the legislature—noting what they agree with and indicating where they disagree. Students usually email about bills that have been featured in local media coverage. This year only one student wrote about what was identified early on as one of the more controversial topics of the legislative session: the Medical Aid

in Dying bill, SB 1129. She emailed legislators: I would like to share my comments and concerns with Senate Bill 1129 SD2, relating to Health. The [House Health committee] recommended that this measure be deferred. I believe that this measure should be brought back because a medical aid in dying act that allows a mentally competent and capable adult resident with a medically confirmed terminal disease to voluntarily request a pre-see AID IN DYING p.5



Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee Vice-Chair Karl Rhoads, the principal author of SB 1129, during the Opening Day festivities.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

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25th Filipino Fiesta.  
POSTER COURTESY FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.



1972 Art display of Christ the King Catholic Club.  
PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Basketball Tournament info for the 48th Barrio Fiesta on Maui.



2009 Santa Cruzan.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



2011 Barrio Wear contestants.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

## Fiesta...

from p. 1

Cross by Queen Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, who ended the persecution of Christians. The *Flores de Mayo* is celebrated throughout the Philippines including Batangas, Bicol, the Ilocos regions, and even the Western Visayas.

While some of Hawai'i's Filipinos try to be politically correct and downplay the Fiesta's religious connections, one cannot escape the religious history of the Fiesta, especially when it's celebrated in May.

## O'ahu's Filipino Fiesta

On O'ahu, the Filipino Community Center will celebrate its 25th Annual Filipino Fiesta. Except for 2014, the Filipino Fiesta is always celebrated at Kapi'olani Park. This year's Filipino Fiesta will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Themed "And the fun continues..." the Filipino Fiesta began in 1993 when Eddie Flores, Jr. of L&L fame, decided to create a Filipino Fiesta to build awareness for the yet to be built Filipino Community Center. "We are very proud of the Filipino Fiesta because it showcases our Filipino history and culture. We want everyone to know that Filipinos come from different regions and every region has a different culture. Many locals think Filipinos are all alike but we

come from a country of over 7,000 islands and over 70 dialects," said Flores.

## The start of the Barrio Fiesta

Maui's Barrio Fiesta started as a one-day affair (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) on Sunday, May 31, 1970, as part of the Maui Filipino Community Council's Fiesta Filipina, whose general chairperson was the late Raquel "Nancy" Andres.

Andres and her co-chairperson, Greg Peros, with Maui Filipino Community Council president Paul Pladera providing oversight, set out to, as written by Andres, "bring Philippine culture and portray Philippine life in all its forms: traditional dances, enchanting music, and festive atmosphere. What are featured during the Fiesta give others an insight of what the homeland is like—full of gaiety, action, and color. For truly Hawai'i, as the melting pot, is composed of many cultures and Filipinos here in Maui should all be proud to give their contribution to the fullest extent."

"Manang Nancy wanted to spread the Filipino culture. She was the brains behind the Barrio Fiesta and asked me to be part of it," said Peros. "I was fresh out of the U.S. Army and I wanted to contribute to the Filipino community, which was at a crossroads

see FIESTA p.4



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## From the Editor's Desk

Tante Urban  
EDITOR & PRESIDENT • FIL-AM VOICE

# Fiesta

Maui celebrates and engages in one of our long held Philippine traditions—fiesta!



These young ladies participated in Vigan's fiesta, held in January of each year, and honor of St. Paul the Apostle. They are shown here holding plates of longganisa sausages.

PHOTO: TERRYTREKS.COM

Fiesta is a long held tradition of celebrating each community's special qualities. In towns and villages of every size, throughout the island chains, in both the Philippines and Maui, the full embracing of this activity is felt long before the event. Each family member looks forward to the fiesta in a unique way. For the children, it means playful interaction in a carnival setting and competition with peers in a variety of games. For youth, it features a few days set aside to look your best, to create a uniquely appealing fashion statement, different from everyone else, yet so attractive that it makes all heads turn for a deeper gaze, sometimes even hope for sparks of envy. For the women and men with culinary gifts, it provides a venue to show off their most unusual and delicious food innovations, which raise the bar on quality and originality. Musicians, dancers and singers also shine. An attitude of active participation is expected and understood by all.

Appreciation for the town's fiesta activities is demonstrated by the genuine effort given by its leaders to plan for what is historically most enjoyed. Many towns

begin with elaborate parades featuring floats representing different villages, school military squads, marching bands, energetic cheerleaders, often followed by enthusiastic crowds. Artistic talent shows up in lavish decorations, the result of many hands working together for countless hours. The queen and her court are chosen through a process of ticket sales over several weeks, culminating in a social box where the generosity of donors determines who gets the most dance—a highly anticipated activity, guaranteed to garner much needed funds for future activities, events and entertainment for the community.

Participation, appreciation, and celebration inspire the best in us. A unifying thread is the spirit of *Bayanihan*, of working as one for the betterment of all—that instill pride in being a Filipino. Let us each look back into our fiesta memory banks and smile again, as we relive those cherished moments from another time, which continue to fill our spirits with *mabuhay* and enrich our souls with warm, meaningful homeland connections. Three cheers to *fiesta! fiesta! fiesta!* ✱



In the 1974 Good Shepherd display booth, Catalina Evangelista demonstrates the art of spinning cotton while Raquel "Nancy" Andres looks on.

PHOTO COURTESY GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Fiesta...

from p. 2

with the influx of many immigrants from the Philippines. We wanted to share our rich culture with everyone, including the local Filipinos."

The event was advertised as a "Filipino Barrio Fiesta" and was co-sponsored by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. The committee purchased two advertisements (on page A2 of the May 23 and May 27, 1970 issues of the *Maui News*) and listed the events which would be held:

- Filipino Folk Dancing
- Philippine Handicrafts
- Simulated Cock Fighting
- Singing Contest
- String Band Contest
- Filipino Costume Contest—Ternos, Kimonas, and Barong Tagalog
- Sports Event—Sipa Sipa and Greased Pole Climbing
- Booth Contests
- Selection of Miss Barrio Fiesta 1970

The May 27, 1970 issue of *The Maui News* reported "A Barrio Fiesta is a celebration offering thanks to the patron saint of a particular 'barrio' or district for a bountiful harvest. It is a week long celebration in which there are sports events for the young and old." A demonstration of roasting pig (lechon) Filipino style, was being undertaken by the Filipino Cultural Club, according to the *Maui News*.

The first Barrio Fiesta was held at the War Memorial, on the grounds next to the War Memorial pool. Shirley Evangelista was crowned the Miss Barrio Fiesta and yes, there was a cock fighting demonstration. Participating organizations included Council of Political Action (COPA), Filipino Cultural Club, Kahului Catholic Club, and the 6th–11th Increment Filipino Association, among others.

In 1971, the Barrio Fiesta became a two day affair (Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16) at the War Memorial gym grounds. The Santa Cruzan procession began at the War Memorial baseball fields. "*Dios te salve, María, llena eres de gracia, el Señor es contigo*" was sung by participants during the Santa Cruzan.

By 1974, the Barrio Fiesta became a three day affair and the competition between the participating organizations increased. Elaborate booths depicting bahay kubos were created, with art displays in an entire room of each booth, the Miss Barrio Fiesta contestants raised thousands of dollars, and several Filipino folk dance troupes participated in a dance competition.

## The fiestas in the 1960s

But even before the 1970 Barrio Fiesta, several Filipino associations held a variety of fiestas. The *Maui News'* archives lists *Flores de Mayo* festivals in 1960, 1961 (held in Lahaina; Carmen Hufalar crowned *Flores de Mayo* queen), 1964 (Gloria Calma crowned *Flores de Mayo* queen), 1965 (held at St. Anthony), 1968 (held in Kahului), and 1969.

A *Pista Sa Santo Niño* was celebrated in Pu'unēnē in 1965 while the first Filipino Fiesta was reportedly held at Kā'anapali Beach Hotel in 1968. In 1969, the Filipino Cultural Club initiated a Filipino Fiesta night.

But it was the desire to bring all unit organizations of the Maui Filipino Community Council together that was the impetus behind the Barrio Fiesta. Andres, who arrived on Maui in 1969 after marrying Rev. Justo R. Andres, the associate rector of Good Shepherd Church, was a member of the *Saniatan ti Amianan* Philippine Folk Dance troupe that toured California and Hawai'i in 1964. Andres, who was a talented musician, became involved in Maui's Filipino community and had bright ideas but knew she needed the support of the old-timers. "It was Nancy's idea to start the Barrio Fiesta. She developed the concept and because she was new on Maui, she worked through some old timers to get it done," said Agrifina Cabebe, who would collaborate with Andres on many projects and activities.

## 48 Years of History

While the Honolulu Filipino Fiesta claims to be the largest, Maui's Barrio Fiesta has been in existence for forty-eight years. Flores admits he actually traveled to Maui to get some

see FIESTA p.7



**Fil-Am Voice**

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# Aid in Dying...

from p. 1

scription for medication to be self-administered to end their life in a peaceful, humane, and dignified way is necessary. This is because patients deserve to have the right to death with dignity and should be allowed to decide how much pain or suffering they are willing to endure.

One thing that should be revised in this bill is the requirement for a patient to have a confirmed prognosis of six or fewer months to live in order to voluntarily request a prescription for medication to be self-administered to end their life. I think that it should be revised to at least twelve or fewer months because this will allow the patient to have more time to rethink their choices and options. In addition, this will assist in making this option an equal opportunity to a larger group of terminally ill patients.

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee Vice-Chair Karl Rhoads introduced SB1129, modeled on the Oregon statute that has been in effect since 1997. Similar laws are now in effect in California, Colorado, Vermont and Washington. The issue in Hawai'i has been under discussion ever since then-Governor Ben Cayetano convened a blue ribbon panel to consider death with dignity issues.

Other bills proposing Medical Aid in Dying legislation were also introduced this session but the Senate

Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health (CPH) committee, the first Senate committee assigned the topic, chose to hear SB1129. CPH passed SB1129 in a Senate Draft 1 form which contained a number of amendments and noted "a recent poll [by proponents of medical aid in dying legislation] found that eighty percent of respondents were in favor of this end-of-life care option across all demographics, including ethnicity, age, economic status, and religion." A recent private poll by Pacific Resource Partnership confirmed that across most island demographics, medical aid in dying is not controversial. Filipinos remain a notable exception.

Under the Hawai'i legislature's process, a bill must be heard by at least one subject matter committee and voted on by the members in each of the two chambers before the sixty day legislative session ends in early May—getting three readings in the Senate and three readings in the House. The Judiciary and Labor (JDL) Committee took up and adopted additional amendments. After the full Senate debated and voted 22-3 in favor of the Senate Draft 2 version, the House received SB1129 SD2 for further consideration.

As the student noted in her email, the seven members of the House Health Committee decided against moving the bill forward this session and no vote was taken on the bill by



Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran with John Radcliffe, one of the proponents of SB 1129.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

the full fifty-one member House. A number of the Health Committee members indicated that the Senate Draft 2 was vague, lacked safeguards and was simply not worth spending more time on this year.

Obviously, this bill implicates pro-

foundly private issues and calls on Hawai'i residents to reflect on their personal views and beliefs about life and faith and suffering. This was reflected in much of the testimony submitted to the two State Senate com-

see AID IN DYING p.8

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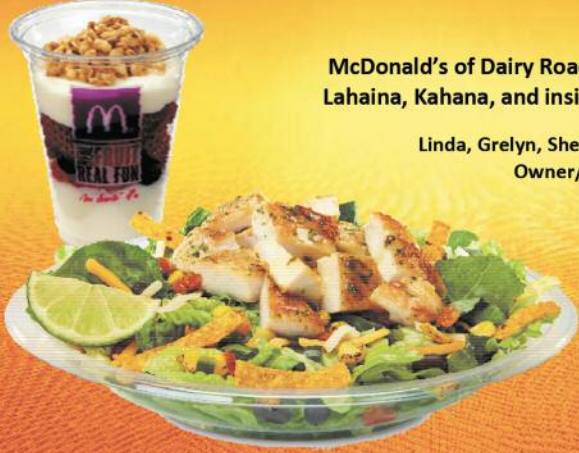
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Portions of the nipa huts were transported by truck.  
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Santa Cruzan.  
PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Fiesta...

from p. 4

ideas for the O'ahu Fiesta. "I came to Maui to see why Maui's Barrio Fiesta was so successful. I learned Maui's Barrio Fiesta was very successful because it had the support of Maui's Filipino community and they were very proud of the Barrio Fiesta," said Flores.

Maui's Barrio Fiesta had a real cultural village atmosphere because each participating organization created miniature nipa huts. O'ahu's Filipino Fiesta, however, rented tents for their food booths and sponsors.

Over the years, however, Maui's

miniature nipa huts disappeared for a number of reasons—the fire code, the inability to harvest bamboo, and the lost art of nipa hut-building that the Sakadas brought with them. In 2006, the year of the Filipino Centennial, the booths from the Maui Fair were used and bamboo façades were placed over the booths. "We wanted to make the 2006 celebration a very grand affair" said Florante Garcia, who chaired the Barrio Fiesta in 2006. "So we rented the booths from the Maui Fair and brought in a singer from the Philippines. The following year, we continued with the fair booths and the food vendors were happy with it." The old timers said it was nice but not the same as the good old days. For tax


reasons, in 2006, the Barrio Fiesta was transferred from the Maui Filipino Community Council to Binhi at Ani, which held a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status. In 2012, the Barrio Fiesta would be reduced from a three day affair to a two day affair.

But the costs of staging the Barrio Fiesta—rental of facilities, booths, tents, stage, etc.—led the Binhi at Ani Board of Directors to make a difficult decision. "We analyzed our expenses and found that we would save approximately \$5,000 in expenses if we moved the Barrio Fiesta," said Garcia, who became president of Binhi at Ani in 2014. So in 2016, the location of the Barrio Fiesta moved from the War Memorial soccer field to the Binhi at

Ani Center in Kahului and held on only one day. To some, the 2016 Barrio Fiesta was a bit disjointed—with the entertainment inside the hall and the food booths outside—and spacing was not at its best. But financially, it made sense. "In 2016, our revenues were positive," explained Garcia "compared to significant losses in 2014 and 2015, so it was the correct decision by the Binhi at Ani board."


## A renewed emphasis on culture

The 2017 Barrio Fiesta will return to two days on Friday, May 26, from 5 to 10 p.m., and Saturday, May 27, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The main see FIESTA p.11



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# Aid in Dying...

from p. 5

mittees considering this measure, and the often emotional and personal debate on the Senate floor. In other words, SB1129 SD2 was a measure considered in a very serious fashion. In the view of the key Senators who worked on the two drafts, the measure included important safeguards against misuse, coercion, or collusion. In reviewing and working on this measure, their aim was to ensure that the bill consistently and clearly set out procedures and safeguards.

The bill applies only to persons with a terminal disease and a prognosis of no longer than six months to live. Only patients of sound mind can request use of the medication after diagnosis by their attending provider and a second consulting provider with the specialty to confirm the terminal prognosis of the attending provider. Thus, the patient's medical prognosis must be confirmed separately by at least two medical professionals who are qualified to treat the patient's particular terminal disease.

In order to address concerns expressed by JDL committee members that the two Hawai'i licensed medical professionals—again who would both be qualified and trained to treat the patient's particular terminal illness—might be acting in concert or otherwise exerting undue influence over each other, Senate Draft 2 added the important safeguard that they have

not previously practiced together with respect to the patient's terminal illness. (section -1, p.3, lines 16–18). Opponents nevertheless continued to express concern that medical diagnoses can vary and anecdotally testified about patients who out-lived their physician's estimate of their life expectancy.

The JDL committee received testimony and information expressing grave misgivings from doctors and others who asserted that the Hippocratic oath barred physicians from participating in what they deemed as euthanasia or assisted suicide. Unlike in past years, the Hawai'i Medical Association was neutral on the bill. Other opposition came from residents who opposed the legislation from moral and religious standpoints—that all life remains precious and people should not end their lives unnaturally or prematurely. The Senate also heard from people who expressed concerns that this legislation might be used in the future to justify more generalized use of lethal prescriptions on the disabled community and others.

The bill under consideration, however, is limited to use by terminal patients with less than six months to live. Senate Draft 2 included safe-

guards that a qualified patient must be of sound mind and must apply for the medication without coercion by medical providers. SB1129 SD2 prohibits use by patients who are under duress or otherwise suffering from depression or other serious mental challenges.

Further, the bill includes safeguards to ensure that the patient is mentally and psychologically able to make an informed decision. If either the attending provider or the second consulting provider believe the patient may be suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder, or a depression causing impaired judgment, then Senate Draft 2 provides the patient must be referred to counseling and is explicitly prohibited from receiving life-ending medication while the disorder or depression continues to exist. (section -6, p.11).

This measure also required the attending provider to ensure that the patient is making an informed decision, including a requirement that the attending provider explain to the patient that alternatives such as palliative care, hospice care and pain control are available and may be feasible. (section -4, p.8).

The attending provider is also re-

quired by this bill to recommend that a patient notify next of kin of the patient's decision to request life-ending medication. (section -8, p.12).

The JDL committee also strengthened and updated the safeguards in this measure by further limiting one of the persons who may serve as a witness to a person with no interest in the patient's estate under any trust document, in addition to no interest under a will or by operation of Hawai'i's inheritance law.

Finally, the bill includes two statutory waiting periods, and provisions that the patient may rescind a request at any time and is of course under no obligation to take the medication. The bill provides that the attending provider must explicitly remind the patient that he or she always has an opportunity to rescind a request.

In sum, this statute presents a legal option to persons of sound mind who wish to deal personally with the final stage of their terminal illness in a manner that affords them comfort and dignity. It is a bill that requires Hawai'i residents to apply their own conception of the value of life and suffering and even their ultimate ends.

*Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran chairs the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee that worked on Senate Draft 2 of SB1129. To review the drafts and testimony submitted on SB1129 SD2, visit the Hawai'i legislature Website at [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure\\_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=1129](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=1129) ✱*


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# Street foods



Ooh... Balut!

They say “it’s more fun in the Philippines!” But of course, the Philippines will never be complete without street foods! Street foods are commonly seen on every corner or even an alley way in the Philippines. They are seen at town fiestas, in schools, parks, markets, in front of churches, and bus terminals. Street foods are everywhere! During our recent visit to the Philippines, we were exposed to some exotic street foods we haven’t had the courage to try in our previous visits.

After a long eleven hour flight, we finally got to Manila due to an afternoon traffic jam that our driver simply described as the “largest parking lot” in Asia. It took us several hours to get to our destination in Makati that is less than five miles from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). As we drove through the busy streets on our way to Makati, you can’t help but smell the sweet aroma of street foods—barbecue! And, we could hardly wait to try some of the more exotic street foods.

My wife and a friend who was traveling with us from Maui insisted on trying *balut*. My mission on the first day we were in Manila was to find *balut* for my wife to try. I jokingly told my wife why do you want to eat a partly hatched egg when you can enjoy a roasted duck or barbecue chicken. Not realizing that *balut* is normally available at early evenings, we were determined to find it in the old town of Intramuros, Manila, to finally satisfy my wife’s palette. After trying one, my wife’s expression was that of one somewhat amazed, along with a sense of finally having conquered her greatest fear—that of eating a



## Maui Pinoy

### FAVORITE FILIPINO STREET FOODS

Vince Bagoyo

partly hatched egg—*balut*!

If you want to try authentic Filipino foods, you don’t have to go to a fancy restaurant in the Philippines. You are better off with street foods—they are *onolicious* and cheap! And because street foods seem to be very popular, here is a list of some street foods in the Philippines that you must dare to try!

#### Balut

One of the first street eats you will be dared to try as soon as you step onto Philippine soil—*balut*—looks like your typical hard-boiled egg on the outside. What lurks within is no

see STREET FOODS p.10

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# Street Food Street Food Street Food

Isaw or barbequed chicken intestines; and any and all things “BBQ’d” are shown here lying on a bed of clean banana leaves.



## Street Foods...

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ordinary egg yolk but a 3-week old fertilized duck embryo. *Welcome to the Philippines!* There’s an art to eating *balut*. Start by cracking a small hole on the hollow end of the egg and sucking the *biota* (which is amniotic fluid, if you must know) before peeling half the shell off. Bite off the yellow part to introduce your tongue to the tex-

ture of boiled yolk mixed with cartilage, and as you remove the rest of the shell, try not to focus on the wings, beak, and other parts of the duckling that you may see. Closing your eyes is highly recommended! If you are ever in the Philippines you should definitely try it, it doesn’t taste bad at all!

see STREET FOODS p.12

My wife is shown here offering me **fish on a skewer**. With an almost child-like sense of adventure, she had definitely devoured the whole school.

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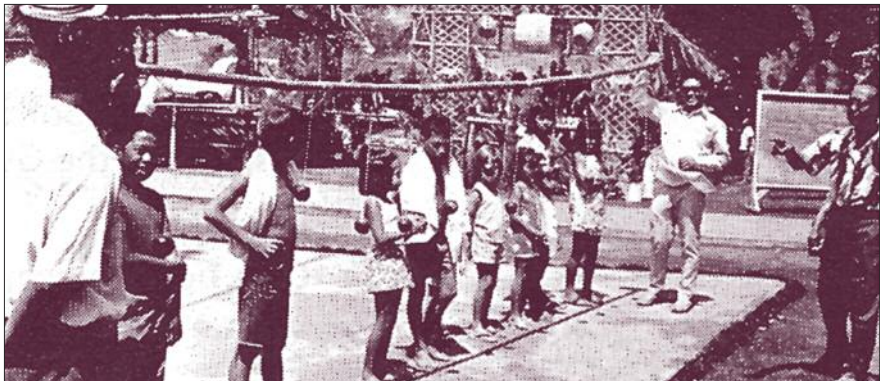




These participants pose for a shot during the 1970 Barrio Fiesta.  
PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Cockfight demonstrations were a part of the 1970 Barrio Fiesta.  
PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Many games for the kids were a feature at the 1970 Barrio Fiesta.  
PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Shirley Evangelista—the first Miss Barrio Fiesta.  
PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



The 1973 Good Shepherd Church Youth Choir booth.  
PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Fiesta...

from p. 7

stage will be outside near the Jehovah's Witness boundary, with food booths located outside.

"This year, the Board of Directors of Binhi at Ani is very excited about the Barrio Fiesta," said Nora Cabanilla Takushi, the new president of Binhi at Ani. "We have reconfigured the layout so the main stage will be outside so those who are purchasing food from the food booths can also enjoy the program."

Hungry folks will be able to feast (or take home) adobo, balut, bangus (marinated boneless), cascarn, chow fun, lumpia, miki, pansit, and more. Participating organizations include Al-alanians, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Ilocos Surian, Lahaina Filipino Catholic Club, Magsingal, and Maui High School ELL. Along with the food booths, there will be a farmers market ready to sell fresh vegetables and produce.

"The committee has worked hard to develop a great program," said Takushi. "The Barrio Fiesta will begin on Friday at 5 p.m. with the Opening Ceremonies, followed by a procession with the queens, a *Flores de Mayo* presentation, opening remarks, our Guest Speaker, Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui, and remarks by Mayor Alan

Arakawa." Friday night's entertainment will feature Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Filipino Folk Dance troupe, an International Fashion Show presented by Madelyne Pascua, the International Housekeeping Awards, entertainment by hotel employees, the introduction of the Little Miss Barrio Fiesta participants, and a Karaoke contest, with \$300.00 awarded to the first place winner.

"On Saturday, the Barrio Fiesta opens at 10 a.m. and the morning entertainment will begin with Tekniqlingz from O'ahu, followed by a Barrio Fiesta costume contest, with \$100 for first place and \$50 for second place for both males and females. The Veterans Memorial Service will be held at 12:00 noon with the Grease Pole contest at 1 p.m. The Grease Pole contest winner will receive \$300, with other qualifying participants sharing in the \$200-plus pot," said Takushi. "The Little Miss Barrio Fiesta will begin at 3 p.m., and the evening's entertainment will feature Dance International Foundation, Escrima, the crowning of the 2017 Miss Barrio Fiesta, the presentation of the 2017 Binhi at Ani scholarship awards, Tekniqlingz, and Zumba."

The Barrio Fiesta basketball tournament featuring twelve teams from Maui, and teams from O'ahu, Big Island, Kaua'i, and Lāna'i, will be run simultaneously, with games at both the

Wailuku gym and the War Memorial gym, according to Donnie Dadiz, the director of the basketball tournament.

## The Barrio Fiesta Experience

"But the committee is very excited about what's dubbed as 'The Barrio Fiesta Experience'," said Takushi. "Inside the Binhi hall, those who enter will be exposed to the various cultural groups within the Philippines. The 'Barrio Fiesta Experience' will feature a replica of a Bahay Kubo, built by the Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation, which is the organization leading the restoration efforts of the Bahay Kubo at the Heritage Gardens in Kepaniwai. And there will be seven cultural villages from some of the regions/provinces in the Philippines."

Those regions and the coordinators are:

- The Cordillera (Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, and Moun-

tain Province) village will be coordinated by Zaldy and Nita Ugalino.

- The Ilocos Norte village will be coordinated by Melen Agcolicol.
- The Ilocos Sur village will be coordinated by the Ilocos Surians, under the presidency of Romeo Guzman.
- The Pangasinan village will be coordinated by Telly Urban.
- The Metro Manila/Quezon village will be coordinated by the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation, under the presidency of Sharon Zalsos.
- The Cebu village will be coordinated by the Sto. Nino Association, under the presidency of Leizl Oandasan.
- The Mindanao region will be coordinated by La Galería: Compañía Baile Filipino, under the leadership of Lawrence Pascua.

"We will also have a Philippine Art display coordinated by renown artist

see FIESTA p. 20



# Street Food



Native to the Ilocos region, but prevalent in Manila and the Visayas, **Empanadas** are like a giant creative potsticker...  
PHOTO COURTESY OF FE ANN PADILLA SY



**Lechon**—a common sight.



This street food vendor lays out her produce with great care on clean banana leaves.

## Street Foods...

from p. 10

### Chicken Intestines BBQ or Isaw

One thing about Filipino street foods, nothing is wasted! *Isaw* is made from barbecued chicken intestines. The intestines are turned inside out and cleaned thoroughly (we hope!). They are grilled and skewered on barbecue sticks then dipped with spiced vinegar. This dish seems to be a very popular snack, especially to beer drinkers—or so I was told! It will definitely challenge your palette and it's worth a try!

### Ilocos Empanada

This is a snack native to the Ilocos region, hence the name—but I seemed to keep running into it in the various Manila markets, and even in the Visayan region. Inside, it's packed with sausage meat, carrots, green papaya, and a whole egg. And if you want to be a little more adventurous, you may want to add chicken and/or pork intestines to add more flavor to this famous dish. Once it's deep-fried and ready to eat, you need to do what you do with everything else in the Philippines—splash it with vinegar and local chili pepper, then enjoy this dish without worrying about calories! So, the next time you visit the Philippines, be a little bit more adven-

turous and support the local mom-and-pop vendors; dare to try the street foods that are abundantly available in almost every street corner of

our homeland. And you will definitely agree with the country's tourism slogan, that "*It's more fun in the Philippines!*" ✨

## Kwento Kuwentuhan



**Santa Cruzan** celebrated at Maui's 46th Barrio Fiesta back in 2015.  
PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

## Celebrating Fiestas—in the Philippines and on Maui

Liza of "A Maui Blog"

Here on Maui, May is celebrated as a month of festivities. Starting on the first of May, which we call May Day—also known as Lei Day—almost all the schools have their May Day celebration filled with flower lei, dances (mostly hula dances) and various cultural presentations. All these May festivities remind me of the fiestas in the Philippines.

Although fiestas are celebrated during various times of the year, the month of May seems to be the most festive time of the year in the Philippines, especially with the *Flores De Mayo* and *Santa Cruzan* celebrations. *Flores de Mayo*—Spanish for Flowers of May—is the May devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary that lasts for the entire month. On the last day of *Flores De Mayo*, a *Santa Cruzan* is held. *Santa Cruzan* is a Spanish

word for "Sacred Cross." *Santa Cruzan* is a fiesta where a ritual pageant is held. It honors the finding of the True Cross by Helena of Constantinople, known as *Reyna Elena* and Constantine the Great. I won't go into the details of the meaning behind these May fiestas as I know many of you already know. What I am curious about is if you have participated in the *Flores De Mayo* and *Santa Cruzan* where you're from. Share with us your experience. It's time for

**"The Spanish rule in the Philippines ... has taught the Filipinos to love fiestas of all types."**

*Kwento-Kwentuhan*. There are countless fiestas in the Philippines and these festivals are celebrated in honor of the different saints. The Spanish rule in the Philippines that lasted for many years has taught the Filipinos to love fiestas of all types. The fiestas are celebrated for different reasons. Some fiestas are celebrated to thank

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SENATE





**Lechon** is often the focal point during fiestas, and is served as a symbol of celebration and thanksgiving, among other favorite delicacies. Shown here is a lechon with the head wrapped in foil. Wrapping the head in foil yields a different heating result in the face and head area of the lechon.

PHOTO: JAKE BELMONTE



**Bobby Sales**, owner of **Plantation Grindz** in Kahului proudly flashes the *shaka* sign while he prepares his isle-renowned lechon on a spit. “Maui’s main source for your Lechon cravings!”

PHOTO: JAKE BELMONTE

## Fiesta With a Ring!

*Harvests from the earth’s bounty are shared to celebrate a loud and colorful festival influenced by the Spanish settlers.*

**Chef Joaquin “Jake” Belmonte**

In any culture, the word Fiesta is synonymous to Celebration. Filipinos like to have fiestas to celebrate Birthdays, Promotions, Graduation, Weddings, and Life Successes to name a few. Often times, *Lechon* is the focal point and is served as a symbol of celebration and thanksgiving, among other favorite delicacies.

Town Fiestas honoring Patron Saints date back during the the Spanish era when Christianity was introduced to The Pearl of the Orient Seas, named The Philippines. Fiestas were coincided to honor Christian Holidays specific to every town, which means there’s got to be thousands of Patron

Saints that are honored throughout the Philippines.

Harvests from the earth’s bounty are shared to celebrate a loud and colorful festival influenced by the Spanish settlers. It’s about food, music, and lots of fun!

One of my many favorites that my family always seem to have on our table is *Kare-Kare*. My sister Benilda inspired me to create a recipe as I have attempted to follow hers with a little bit of my personality. Please enjoy!

I chose to feature this dish classically made with peanut butter but I  
**see WITH A RING p. 20**



“Fiestas... are celebrated with food and lots of it,” said Pierce. Elizabeth Whitehead is shown here at the 46th Barrio Fiesta. Note, the puto in the display behind Elizabeth looks ready-to-eat.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

the patron saint for a good harvest. Some are celebrated to show how much the people love the saint, and some fiestas are celebrated to ask for blessings from the saints. In addition to my vivid memories of *Flores de Mayo* and *Santa Cruzan*, there are a few more fiestas I remember celebrating while growing up in the Philippines. In June, we celebrated St John’s Feast where the tradition is to pour water on someone else, as a symbol of baptism. That was fun! We also celebrated the Feast of St. Anthony, and I must admit—the thing that I remember the most about this fiesta is the food! Fiestas in the Philippines are always celebrated with food, and lots of it! Of course there’s *lechon*, *embotido*, *bibingka*, *suman*, *leche flan* and more. Hmm, remembering and writing all of these dishes’ names is making me hungry! I remember that during the feast of St. Anthony, everyone was invited to join the feast at our house. It was an open house invitation to join with us in our celebration.

Back to Maui; it is heartwarming to see that Filipinos here still carry on the fiesta tradition by organizing an event called “Barrio Fiesta.” The

48th Annual Barrio Fiesta will be held beginning on Friday, May 26 at 5 p.m. through Saturday, May 27 at 10 p.m. Maui’s Barrio Fiesta is the longest running Filipino Fiesta in the United States. It’s loads of fun and a great cultural experience. Don’t miss it. See you there! ✨



**Liza Pierce** of *A Maui Blog* is an Interactive Media Strategist in Hawai’i. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She’s been living on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a mother, a friend and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About Rainbows; End Alzheimer’s Advocate. Her life is full and exciting here on the island of Maui.

Liza is currently the Interactive Media Strategist with Wailea Realty Corp.

## Our June issue will feature graduates and graduations!

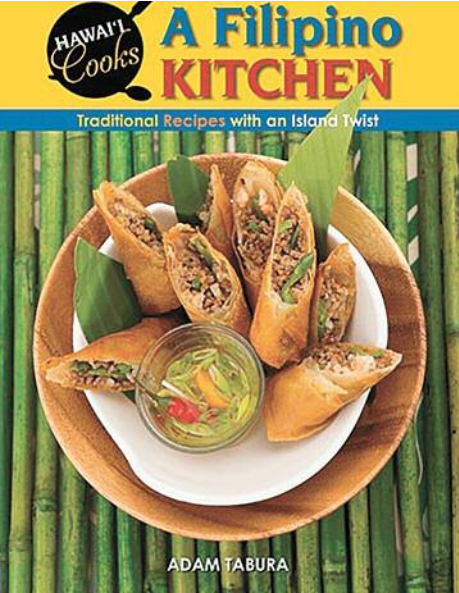
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I have contributed this recipe (shown below) to my good friend, Chef Adam Tabura’s cook-book, **A Filipino Kitchen** (shown above), that you can find at your local supermarkets. Included in this book are lots of simple and easy-to-make home-style recipes you can follow for your next fiesta.



Lamb Shank Kari-Kare

Lamb Shank and Vegetable Stew in Savory Roasted Almond Sauce

Ingredients

- 5 lbs lamb shanks
- 2 teaspoons sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 4 tablespoons cooking oil
- 8 garlic cloves, roasted
- 5 shallots, whole
- 1/8 cup achuete seeds, soak in water
- 2 tablespoons Dried Shrimp
- 4 tablespoons roasted almond butter
- 2 tablespoons toasted brown rice, powdered
- 3 each Baby Bok Choi, cut lengthwise
- 1 lb long green beans, 2 inch lengths
- 5 small eggplant, cut length-wise
- 1 lb Banana heart
- 2 tablespoons Shrimp Paste

Directions

- Season lamb shank pieces with sea salt and ground black pepper in a large braising pot.
- Sear all sides in medium-high heat until they are nice golden brown.
- Add enough water to cover 3/4 of the shanks.
- Bring to slow simmer for 12 hours or until tender.
- \*while it is slowly braising, you can prepare the following:
- Soak achuete seeds in water in water for 20 minutes.
- Squeeze seeds between your thumb and fingertips until the water turns red.
- Strain and set red water aside.
- Use oil for sautéing rest of ingredients.
- Heat oil in a skillet and sauté roasted garlic and shallots.
- \*Once the lamb shanks are tender:
- Add cooked meat and 2 cups of the liquid.
- (Save the rest of the broth for later use to adjust sauce consistency to a rich and smooth finish)
- Add dried shrimp and achuete water.
- Simmer for 15 minutes.
- Stir in roasted almond butter and toasted brown rice powder, bring back to simmer cook, stirring for 5 minutes.
- Add banana hearts, long green beans, eggplant, and baby Bok Choi.
- Cook 10 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring gently.
- \*Adjust seasoning and consistency if necessary.
- Serve with hot rice and shrimp paste, plain or sautéed as a condiment.

With a Ring...

from p. 13

wanted to substitute it with roasted almond butter instead, as a personal preference. Also, I tend to favor Lamb shanks as it is much leaner compared to the traditional use of oxtail. ✨



**Chef Joaquin ‘Jake’ Belmonte Jr.** is an alumni and a Culinary Lecturer at the University of Hawai’i Maui College, Culinary Arts Program. Chef Jake is also a Maui HS graduate and he has worked extensively in the Food & Beverage operation at Fairmont Kea Lani Resort in Wailea. He currently is the Vice President of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce; Facilitator of Hawai’i National Great Teachers Seminar; Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 68; and an active member of the American Culinary Federation. Chef Jake was recognized by the Hawai’i Hospitality Magazine as one of the 2008 Top 10 Rising Chefs of Hawai’i Under 40 and was the 2009 Chef Representative of the Hawai’i Visitor and Convention Bureau’s West Coast Marketing Campaign. Happily married with two children, Mr. Belmonte is also a Small Business Owner and Operator of Maui Lifestyle Healthy Choice, a premier healthy vending company. You may follow his blog at [mauilifestylefitnessmeals.com/blog](http://mauilifestylefitnessmeals.com/blog) or email him at [lifestylechefmaui@gmail.com](mailto:lifestylechefmaui@gmail.com), and connect professionally at [www.linkedin.com/in/jake-belmonte-0a277a39](http://www.linkedin.com/in/jake-belmonte-0a277a39).

Ating Kabuhayan

John A.H. Tomoso †



There are values that people of all ethnicities, living in Hawai’i, can understand and practice. The first one is **Aloha**. This value is about love. How can

we live without love? Closely aligned with love is compassion. There are many ways to express love and compassion in the way we live with each other. Another value is **Mālama**. So, if we have love and compassion, we must then care for each other. We see many reminders of how we should care for one another, especially when our community sponsors events or drives to support those who have needs that they, by themselves, can’t fulfill. I think this value leads directly into the next value I would like to cite, and that is **Laulima** or cooperation. Think about how your own family would not get along with cooperation, without each member caring that what they did or did not do, affected the other members.

One of the first values instilled in me, as a child, was that of **Hō’ihi** or respect. Daily, as we go about our lives, isn’t respect a reality that is as close up as each person we see and greet? Respect is the foundation of how we live with one another. I know that this takes patience, which is a value in itself. My kupuna would always remind me to **Ho’omanawanui**, to be patient. Patience starts with one’s self, with you, which is why I know patience is also seen as a virtue. The other day, I saw an act of generosity, by a very patient man, who was teaching perhaps, his grandchild to tie a shoe lace. This man was practicing **Loko-maika’i** or generosity. He was not only patient, but generous with his time and talent and then treasured the child in his actions and heart. Which leads me to discuss what I consider to be a value that encapsulates all values; that of **Pono**. This value is most often defined as righteousness. Throughout our community, we see signs, actions and talk about “being pono,” about being good, fair, kind, considerate and supporting of each other.

Our way of life is defined, I believe, by these values, which were passed down to us by Native Hawaiians, who now share Hawai’i, indeed Maui, with us. Just think of these values as “tools to live with;” to have a life and quality of life that is shared and satisfying. Yes, as **Kababayan**, we know how to share and be satisfied. Let’s take in these great Hawaiian values and make them our own. Look around and I think you will see that we have taken them in, probably since the time the first of us arrived here in this beautiful and rich and welcoming “Land of aloha.”

Have an idea or a comment or even a question, contact me at this email address: [atingkabuhayan@gmail.com](mailto:atingkabuhayan@gmail.com)

Until next time, take care! ✨



Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran in front of his church's food booth.  
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran with Ed Garcia.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Pinoy Pride at the Barrio Fiesta.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

My younger sister Velma reminded me the other night that I have not traveled to the Philippines for nearly fifty years—since I was eight years old. It was so long ago that Pope Paul VI still ruled in Rome and was visiting the Philippines while we were in country. A very secretive Richard Nixon was completing his first term as President of the United States.

And it was before Martial Law. So for me, like many of those who were born and raised on Maui, the Annual Barrio Fiesta has been key to my knowledge and experience of Filipino culture.

My mom Lydia Coloma, and my late father Manuel Coloma, would take my sister and me to events in the Fiesta Filipina—the Rizal days, the Miss *Sampaguita* contests, the Miss Maui Filipina and Mrs. Valentine pageants, the Terno balls, and other events put on by what were known as Filipino unit organizations. In fact, the events and unit organizations were the first clue that my friends and their parents came from all over the Philippines.

But it was the annual three-day Barrio Fiesta over Memorial Day weekend that kicked off the calendar as the school year ended. For some who are not familiar with Filipino culture, we Filipino men talk a good story but it's our women who actually run the show. So it's not surprising that the Barrio Fiesta exists because Nancy Andres came up with the idea and together with some men like Greg Peros and Paul Pladera ignored the

naysayers and moved forward on organizing a showcase of Filipino culture, a glimpse of the church festivals held throughout the Philippines each May. One person has noted the Barrio Fiesta echoed the Philippine village festivals celebrating the harvest and

grandparents, or our parents, or even some of us very recently, left when we came to Hawai'i. Our culture, as Filipinos, is rooted in faith, hope and love. Our fiestas commemorate and are rooted in religious traditions and values. The *Santa*

the Filipinos who helped build modern Hawai'i. That's a shame because without Filipinos in the ILWU Local 142, it's hard to imagine the 1954 Democratic revolution. When we recall the hope that brought the *Sakadas* to Hawai'i, the similar hope that continues to bring more Filipinos to Hawai'i, we realize that knowing our history and the connections between the life in the Philippines and the possibility of a better life here matters. This shared optimism remains an important part of how Filipinos regard themselves.

The Barrio Fiesta celebration is one way for us to include the rest of Maui's community into all things Filipino.

*Dios ti agngina. Maraming salamat po.* ✨

# Dinengdeng & Pinakbet

Putting Some Barrio back in the Fiesta  
Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

honoring a patron saint of the particular town. Over the course of almost five decades, the Barrio Fiesta became a weekend anticipated by both the Filipino and the greater Maui county community. As a child, I wondered what does the Barrio Fiesta signify? Don't get me wrong, after all, I've always asserted I'm "FBI"—Full Blooded *Ilocano*. Filipino-ness is a basic part of me. Now that I'm older and I'm willing to acknowledge that my grandparents and my parents have always had a lot more insight than me, I fully understand how the Barrio Fiesta adds to how we Filipinos, and Filipinos as heart, benefit from this annual exercise. The Barrio Fiesta continues to give us a glimpse of a life that our

*Cruzan* echoes the religious-historical beauty pageants held in many cities, towns and even small villages throughout the Philippines during the month of May. The most prominent commemorates the finding of the holy cross relic by Queen Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great. Being Filipino acknowledges that culturally we are people with a heritage of faith. At the Barrio Fiesta, we come together as a Filipino community to hold onto our roots. Many of us trace our family lines to grandparents or great grandparents who were *Sakadas*—contract workers brought here to work in the sugar or pineapple plantations. More recently, however, more and more have come to Hawai'i without such direct connection with



**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 Kahului. He practices commercial, civil and administrative law with Takitani Agaran & Jorgensen, LLLP in Wailuku.

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Sakada Offspring



Nora Cabanilla Takushi

Doris Saribay, Nichole Takushi, Nora Takushi, Max Molina, Ian Cabanilla, & Cora Molina in front of the Lahaina Filipino Catholic Club booth.



Craig & Nora with her mom, Pacita Cabanilla



Lahaina Catholic youth and seniors



Receiving award with husband Craig from Kalayaan Philippines-Hawaii International Sakada Centennial Huwaran 2006 Outstanding Men and Women



Craig and Nora with their three children—Kekoa, Nichole, and Kristina

Nora Cabanilla Takushi

Lucy Peros

Nora Cabanilla Takushi, the current president of Binhi at Ani, which sponsors the annual Barrio Fiesta, is a woman who serves her family well, her church with love, and her community with such dedication and enthusiasm.

Nora was born on December 1, to Florencio and Pacita Cabanilla of Alcala Pangasinan, Philippines. As a little girl in the Philippines, she always had someone to play with and be in company of all her *kakabsat* (siblings) and cousins. Nora’s parents owned fields of rice, peanuts, and corn. The workers would harvest and spread them out to dry. Nora and her *kakabsat* would help by shooin the birds away. Nora reminisces her earlier years in the Philippines, a simple life, playing in the rice fields, riding bike with her cousins, swimming in the river and telling stories with her family. “I remember when my *Inang*, my Mother, told us that we were moving to Maui, Hawai’i. I was joyful to know that we were going to be reunited with my older siblings and our *Amang*, our Dad. At the same time I wasn’t sure of this new place called Maui. It was my very first time traveling and riding an airplane. I was not afraid as I would be with my *Inang*, brothers, and sister. The thought of reuniting with our *Amang* and other siblings, was the exciting part of it all. This was the beginning of my journey.”

Nora’s uncle, Juan Cabanilla, Sr. was sixteen years old when he first arrived to Hawai’i. He was the first *Sakada* generation and shared the opportunity of Paradise with Nora’s father, Florencio Cabanilla. In 1966, Florencio arrived on Maui to labor the fields of Lahaina’s Pioneer Mill Company. Eight months later, Nora’s older siblings, Felix Cabanilla, Jose Cabanilla Sr., Doris Cabanilla Saribay and Essie Cabanilla Arruiza arrived to live with Florencio. They lived with Juan at Lahaina Pump Camp (Waine’e Village). Felix worked with Florencio and Juan at Pioneer Mill. Doris attended Maui Community College, while Jose and Essie attended

Lahainaluna High School. The following year, Nora, who was eight years old, along with her mom Pacita, brothers Ludy and Florentino, and younger sister Leonora Cabanilla O’Brien arrived.

“From the airplane window, I saw the island surrounded by water and lots of tall buildings. We spent the night at my cousin Arthur Cabanilla’s home. The next morning we rode a smaller plane to Maui. I remember seeing large areas of green fields, which was the sugar cane and pineapple fields. I thought I was back in the Philippines. The farther we drove, there was more sugar cane fields. That evening, we had a welcome party. Back then, new arrivals were introduced to the community. It was a big deal. There were so many families there to welcome us like the Sambraño, Encarnacion, Tabios, Badua, Pagador, Santella, Maquedang, Baraoidan, Tadeo, Asuncion, Cabrerros, Gomez, Villanueva, Simpliciano, Cabingas, Jacinto families and many, many more.”

Their family was complete and several years later, her sister Leilani was born.

Ludy, Florentino and Nora attended King Kamehameha Elementary School. Nora’s second grade teacher was Mrs. Murata, who asked Nora to introduce herself. “I stood up and did as she asked. The kids started laughing at me because of my Filipino accent and broken English. I hung my head with embarrassment.” Mrs. Murata walked over to me and gave me a big hug and said to me, “That is the proper way to introduce yourself. You did a good job, Nora.” Mrs. Murata became Nora’s inspiration to become a Teacher.

In 1977, Mr. Virgilio Agcolicol and the late Mr. Reynante Tagorda spoke with Nora’s parents about Nora participating in the Miss Barrio Fiesta Pageant. This was Nora’s first encounter with the Barrio Fiesta. “I remember the different Bahay Kubos made out of [bamboos] that the unit organizations built. It took about two weeks to build.

I was crowned Miss Barrio Fiesta Queen and one of the grand prizes was two round trip tickets to Disneyland, California; another gateway to much more opportunities. I fell in love with California and the big city. After graduating from Lahainaluna High School, I moved to California where I attended Los Angeles City College and California State University and earned my degree in Early Childhood Development. I worked five years at the Assistance League Daycare/Kindergarten.”

After living in California for over eight years, Nora returned home. She worked at Kapalua Preschool, Princess Nāhi’ena’ena Elementary and is currently at Lahaina Intermediate. Nora resides in Lahaina with her husband Craig Takushi, along with their children, Kekoa (Momi), Nichole (Christopher), and Kristina (Paulo) and their 5 grandchildren, Lolani, Aiden, Luke, Aubree, Austin, with another blessing on the way. “My children and grandchildren are my greatest achievements. In 2003, my daughter Nichole was also crowned Miss Barrio Fiesta under the leadership of Mr. Fred Dagdag. In addition, my daughter Kristina was also crowned as Miss Flores De Mayo. The following year, 2004, Attorney Don Guzman, UFCH President encouraged my daughter Nichole to compete in the Miss Teen Hawai’i Filipina. She won the title. The grand prize was two round trip tickets to the Philippines. My family was so excited that we prepared for a family reunion in the Philippines after thirty six years since I left there. My girls and I were privileged to visit my elementary school and distribute school supplies. We also distributed more supplies to the neighboring schools in Alcala, Pangasinan. We had fun riding the *carabao*.”

Nora’s involvement in the Filipino community was inspired by her sister Doris, a past president of the Lahaina Filipino Catholic Club. “I participated as a Sunday School Teacher, Youth Ministry Adviser and eventually followed in her footsteps as the President of the Lahaina Filipino Catholic Club,

Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs, and the Diocesan Congress of the Filipino Catholic Clubs as former President, 2015 and 2016. I was honored as a recipient of the following awards, Fr. Ernest Claes and Monsignor Osmundo Calip Awards, which is the most prestigious awards given by the Diocesan Congress.”

Nora further pursued her involvement in the Maui Filipino Community Council and served as Secretary, Treasurer, and a member of the Board of Directors. She has been involved with the Binhi at Ani for over ten years. Through her leadership and dedication as president of Binhi at Ani, this year’s Barrio Fiesta will return to its cultural roots, with the hope of sharing the rich Filipino culture with Maui’s residents and visitors. Through it all, Nora remains humble and grounded in her family, community, and church.

“My journey from the Philippines has blessed me and my entire family tremendously. I am humbled and most appreciative. My gratitude of being involved with my community and Filipino heritage is my sincere appreciation.” ✨

**Lucy Peros** is a retired school teacher, having taught for 32 years, 11 years at St. Anthony Grade School and 21 years at Waihe’e Elementary School. Both of her parents, Elpidio and Alejandra Cabalo of Hāli’imaile, worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Her dad was a 1946 Sakada. Lucy is currently a Realtor Associate at Peros Realty, the business her late husband Sylvester Peros, Jr. started 30 years ago, where her daughter Lianne Peros-Busch is now the Broker. Lucy devotes a significant amount of time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church as well as babysitting her grandchildren.





Around Our Community

If you have a photograph of a community event, please email to info@filamvoicemaui.com. Please include a short description, your name and contact information.



2016 Miss Maui Filipina Ashlyne Rosalin will crown her successor on May 13 at Binhi at Ani.  
PHOTO: RYAN PIROS



Bishop Larry Silva with members of the Lahaina Filipino Catholic Club.  
PHOTO COURTESY NORA TAKUSHI



Chef Jojo Vasquez (center), Executive Chef of The Plantation House is flanked by his fellow chefs after winning the Chef of the Year award from Maui No Ka Oi Magazine during the Annual 'Aipono Restaurant Awards Gala, as voted by his chef peers.  
PHOTO COURTESY ELIZA ESCANO VASQUEZ



Four contestants (Lynn Araki-Regan, Paula Diep-Rapoza, Young Shishido, and Vilma Loque) are vying to succeed Ms. Joyce Juhee Yang Harris on May 6 as the 2017 Mrs. Ambassador of Culture.  
PHOTO COURTESY MADELYNE PASCUA



Philippine Consulate General Gina Jamoralin, Mayor Alan and Mrs. Ann Arakawa, Philippine Airlines Area Manager Sol Solleza, Melen Agcolicol, and Mario Solleza at the Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.  
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Dance International Production Escrima Colored Belt awards.  
PHOTO COURTESY MADELYNE PASCUA



The 2017 Miss Maui Filipina contestants: Crystal Nartates (daughter of Rosalie Felipe), Kimberly Yap (daughter of Ernie Yap and Naomi Maitin-nara), Anianiku Holt Mossman (daughter of James "Ipo" Mossman and Puanani Holt-Kay), and Gabrielle Gutierrez (daughter of Crisanto and Lily Gutierrez).  
PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Philippine Airlines Area Manager Sol Solleza (center) with Miguel Agcolicol, Tournament Co-Chairperson Alfredo Evangelista, Melen Agcolicol, and Tournament Chairperson William Ruidas at the Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament  
PHOTO COURTESY BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Fil-Am Voice editor Tante Urban with his tennis gang.  
PHOTO COURTESY TANTE URBAN



The Easter Salubong at Christ the King Catholic Church begins with a procession.  
PHOTO: PAUL MADRIAGA PIGAO

Willie K, Arnel Pineda, Jesse Alpuro, Kristyn Alpuro and Lyn Alpuro at the Journey concert February 28 at the MACC.  
PHOTO COURTESY LYN ADZUARA ALPURO





Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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# What's Happening On Maui

## May

**1 DEADLINE FOR BINHI AT ANI SCHOLARSHIP** [www.binhiatani.org/images/PDF/BAA\\_Scholarship\\_Eligibility\\_and\\_Application\\_2016.pdf](http://www.binhiatani.org/images/PDF/BAA_Scholarship_Eligibility_and_Application_2016.pdf). Contact Frederick Dagdag at 280-3076.

**6 SECOND ANNUAL MRS. AMBASSADOR OF CULTURE PAGEANT** sponsored by Dance International Foundation. 5:30 p.m. Dinner followed by Pageant at Binhi at Ani. Contact Madelyne Pascua at 268-7352 for information.

**13 MISS MAUI FILIPINA SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT** sponsored by Maui Filipino Community Council. 6 p.m. at Binhi at Ani. Contact Marilyn Oura at 280-2057.

**18 KING KEKAULIKE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION** King Kekaulike High School. 6 p.m.

**19 BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION** War Memorial Stadium. 6 p.m.

**20 MAUI HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION** War Memorial Stadium. 5 p.m.

**21 LAHAINALUNA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION** Sue D. Cooley Stadium. 6 p.m.

**26 KIHEI CHARTER SCHOOL GRADUATION** 5 p.m.

**26-27 BARRIO FIESTA** sponsored by Binhi at Ani. Friday, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center, featuring Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Filipino Folk Dance Troupe, an International Fashion Show, the International House-keeping Awards, a Karaoke Contest with the winner receiving \$300. Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., featuring Tekniqlingz, a Barrio Wear contest with first place receiving \$100 and \$50 for second place, the Veterans' Memorial Service at noon, the Grease Pole contest at 1 p.m. with the winner receiving \$300, crowning of the Little Miss Barrio Fiesta in the afternoon, Dance International Foundation, Es-crima, the crowning of the 2017 Miss

Barrio Fiesta, the presentation of 2017 Binhi at Ani Scholarship awards, and Zumba. Contact Nora Takushi at 276-8861 or [ntakushi01@yahoo.com](mailto:ntakushi01@yahoo.com).

**27 SEABURY HALL GRADUATION** 10:30 a.m.

**27 KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS MAUI GRADUATION** 4 p.m.

## June

**9 ST. ANTHONY'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION** Student Center. 9:15 a.m.

**14 GINTONG PAMANA LEADERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BANQUET** sponsored by Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. 5:30 p.m. at Maui Beach Hotel. Contact Jeana Gamboa at 419-4090 or [2jeana808@gmail.com](mailto:2jeana808@gmail.com) or Sharon Zalsos at 359-1616.

## October

**2 PHILIPPINE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY** to kick-off Filipino-American History Month sponsored by Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation and County of Maui. 10 a.m. at

County of Maui Building. Contact Jake Belmonte at 283-6358.

**14 MISS TEEN MAUI FILIPINA** sponsored by Binhi at Ani. 6 p.m. at Binhi at Ani. Contact Michelle Santos at 264-0871.

**21 MAUI FIL-AM HERITAGE FESTIVAL** sponsored by Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation. At the Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Jake Belmonte at 283-6358 or Sharon Zalsos at 359-1616.

## November

**26 GRAND FINALE OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH** 10 a.m. Mass with Bishop Larry Silva and lū'au entertainment after the Mass. Contact Lucy Peros at 877-7045.

Please submit your community event by the seventh day of each month via email to [calendar@filamvoicemaui.com](mailto:calendar@filamvoicemaui.com).



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## Fil-Am Voice



What Do You Think?



Leni Robredo speaking in Carmona.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF RAPPLER



Bong Bong Marcos, son of the late President.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILSTAR.NET



Leni Robredo and Bong Bong Marcos; on opposite sides of the recent Vice Presidential race in the Philippines  
PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILSTAR.NET

What do you think...

of Marcos’ claims that election fraud by Robredo and Aquino’s Liberal Party caused Marcos to lose the Vice Presidency?

Fil-Am Voice Staff

In the May 2016 Philippine elections, Leni Robredo, who received over 14.4 million votes, was declared the winner over Ferdinand Marcos, Jr, who received over 14.1 million votes,. for the office of Vice President. Marcos filed a protest with the Philippine Supreme Court, acting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, claiming fraud.

Fil-Am Voice staff asked members of Maui’s Filipino community “What do you think of Marcos’ claims that election fraud by Robredo and Aquino’s Liberal Party caused Marcos to lose the Vice Presidency?”

**Alfredo**, 65 of Kahului, with roots in San Juan, Ilocos Sur: “I think the election was fixed. Robredo’s people did something to fix the election. I think Marcos should have won. I hope he continues with his appeal.”

**Divina**, 46 years old of Wailuku, with roots in Bataac: “I agree that there was fraud. What I heard on the news was they fixed the computer. Some of the votes by the domestic helpers in Hong Kong for Marcos were recorded for Robredo.”

**Elmer**, 62 years old of Lahaina, with roots in Ilocos Sur: “It was obvious that the PCOS machine was rigged. IT experts came out that they were paid to manipulate the machines.”

**Gemma**, 50 years old of Kahului, with roots in Badoc: “I don’t know. I’m not even keeping up with that.”

**Jun**, 39 years old of Kahului, with roots in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte: “Ferdinand “BongBong” Marcos’ claim that election was fraud and that causes him to lose the Vice Presidency is true. Those machines that count the votes were manipulated so Robredo will have more votes. As of April 17, Bongbong paid the 1st installment of 36 million pesos, which is about \$728,500, to recount the votes and still has to pay another 30 million pesos so it will be recounted nationwide. He wouldn’t waste 66 million pesos if he knows he wasn’t cheated.”

**Marilyn**, 64 years old of Kahului, with roots in Laoag City: “He should have won. If he won, he would have been a good example for the young Filipinos. He should not be condemned because of his father, the late President Ferdinand Marcos.”

**Ador**, 67 years old of Lahaina, with roots in Paoay, Ilocos Norte: “Just like what I heard, especially from members of the Iglesia ni Cristo that cast their votes in the Visayas, something when wrong with the counting. The votes for Marcos were gone.”

**Arnel**, 48 of Makawao, with roots in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, and Cagayan: “There were a lot of accusations towards the Liberal Party and I believe that the Marcos side already found out a lot of evidence that the machines were tampered with. I think the Liberal Party is holding back Marcos from going back to Malacañang. This goes back to the Marcos Aquino political dispute.”

**Danilo**, 56 years old of Kahului, with roots in Ilocos Norte: “To me, the election is done and elections are not perfect. Seems like the people have spoken.”

**Dolly**, 63 years old of Kahului, with roots in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte: “There’s definitely fraud in the winning of Robredo as Vice-president. The computers were programmed so that it will give Robredo extra votes. How would he get zero votes on some precincts? Bongbong Marcos would not have filed an electoral protest and willing to spend 50 million pesos if he believes that he wasn’t cheated. Let the recounts begin!”

**Gloria**, 64 years old of Wailuku, with roots in San Nicolas: "The PCOS electoral machines have been manipulated by the Robredo supporters to add 3 millions of votes in her favor. Yes, I believed there was a fraud! Recount is needed.”

**Melissa**, 38 years old of Kihei, with roots in Laoag City: “It was reported in the Philippine Newspaper that there’s 3.9 million votes for Marcos that were not reported in the official count. That is definitely a ground to recount and examine the ballots to make sure those are official ballots. These votes might have been added to Robredo when the power went off during the counting of the votes.”

**Teresita**, 60+ years old of Wailuku, with roots in Pangasinan: “I voted for him. I wanted him to win. I think there was fraud. Let the truth prevail, graft and corruption has to stop, restore peace in our motherland the Philippines.” ✨



Shown here is and image of the dreaded PCOS machine or Precinct Count Optical Scanner that was allegedly “hacked” in favor of the now-seated Vice President of the Philippines, Leni Robredo. Much controversy still swirls around the validity or questionability of the recent Vice Presidential pick of the Philippines.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF THEPHILIPPINEPRIDE.COM

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# BARRIO FIESTA SCHEDULE

...as of press time and subject to change

## Friday, May 26

- 5 PM** Food Booths opens  
Farmers' Market opens  
The Barrio Fiesta Experience opens  
Opening ceremonies  
Parade with color guard, officials, and queens  
Flores de Mayo presentation  
Invocation  
Singing of National Anthems and State Song  
Welcome by Nora Takushi,  
Binhi at Ani President  
Guest Speaker, Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui  
Remarks by Mayor Alan Arakawa
- 5:30 PM** Pabitin for Youth  
Pabitin for Adults
- 6 PM** Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Filipino Folk Dance Troupe
- 6:30 PM** International Fashion Shown presented by Madelyne Pascua
- 7 PM** International Housekeeping Awards  
Introduction of Little Miss Barrio Fiesta participants
- 8 PM** Entertainment by Hotel employees
- 8:30 PM** Karaoke Contest (\$300 for first place; 5 minutes maximum; maximum of 15 contestants)
- 9:30 PM** Philippine Airlines Drawing (must be present to win with proper identification; 18 years only; one entry per person per day)
- 10 PM** Closing

## Saturday, May 27

- 10 AM** Food Booths opens  
Farmers' Market opens  
The Barrio Fiesta Experience opens  
Brief welcome remarks by Nora Takushi,  
Binhi at Ani president
- 10 AM** Tekniqlingz
- 11 AM** Barrio Wear contest (male and female divisions; \$100 for first place; \$50 for second place)
- 12 PM** Veterans Memorial Service
- 1 PM** Grease Pole contest (ages 7 to 13; \$300 for first place; others to share in \$200)
- 2 PM** Barrio Fiesta Experience: Keiki Art Party
- 2:30 PM** Tekniqlingz
- 3 PM** Little Miss Barrio Fiesta
- 4 PM** Barrio Fiesta Experience: Sungka demonstration
- 5 PM** Barrio Fiesta Experience: Kulintang demonstration
- 6 PM** Dance International Foundation  
Barrio Fiesta Experience: Art Party for High School students and Adults
- 6:30 PM** Escrima
- 7 PM** Crowning of 2017 Miss Barrio Fiesta
- 7:30 PM** Presentation of 2017 Binhi at Ani Scholarship Awards
- 8 PM** Tekniqlingz
- 8:30 PM** Zumba
- 9:30 PM** Philippine Airlines Drawing (must be present to win with proper identification; 18 years only; one entry per person per day)
- 10 PM** End of 48th Annual Barrio Fiesta

The 2013 Lahaina  
Filipino Catholic Club booth.  
PHOTO COURTESY ELIZABETH WHITEHEAD



The 1974 Good Shepherd Church  
Youth Choir booth.

PHOTO COURTESY  
GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH.



## Fiesta...

from p. 11

Philip Sabado and his wife Christine. They will also host an art party for youth on Saturday afternoon and an art party for adults on Sunday evening” said Takushi.

“We’re very excited about this new feature of the Barrio Fiesta,” said Takushi,” and we couldn’t do it without our Barrio Fiesta Experience sponsors: HMSA, Monsanto, Alexander & Baldwin Foundation, McDonalds, and Philippine Airlines, who will be donating a number of airfares to the Philippines.”

## Towards the 50th Anniversary

In just two years, the Barrio Fiesta will be 50 years old. Though it has faced many challenges, externally and internally, the Barrio Fiesta has survived. Maui’s diverse community, including Filipino immigrants and local Filipinos, appreciates the multi-faceted culture that only a nation with 7,000 islands and over 70 dialects can offer. The Barrio Fiesta—the longest running Filipino Fiesta in the United States—continues to be the standard of sharing the rich Filipino culture. 🌟



# Mahalo!

To all the golfers, volunteers, donors, and everyone who helped make the 2017 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament of the Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation a huge success! Thank you especially to our sponsors and donors:

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