



Our Kalooban

John Tomoso encourages all to live their "spirit" this Holiday Season.

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Love Story Winner

Read the winning tale of our Sakada Love Story Contest.

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Chef Jake

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Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

March–April • Vol 1 No2

FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY

FREE

inside



Filipino Foodie, Vince Bagoyo shows us proper foods to eat for Lent!

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Does Duterte's policies on the war on drugs make him a murderer?

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Kalooban: The Filipino in Spirit and in Religion

John A.H. Tomoso

With the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, which this year is on March 1, and then the celebration of the Solemnity of Easter on April 16, religion will play a large role this month and next in our Filipino community. The Philippines is the only Christian country in Asia and that was the result of the Spaniards bringing Catholicism to the country when Ferdinand Magellan first landed (and was killed) in Cebu in 1521. But the first religion

that was introduced to the Philippines was Islam, which was introduced in the 14th century to the southern Philippines—Sulu and Mindanao. The vast majority of Filipinos are still Roman Catholic, with some estimates over 85%. And despite the Spaniards and later the Americans' efforts, there is still a sizeable Muslim population in southern Philippines. Our *Kalooban*, the embedded spirit of the Filipino, our "spiritual essence," is alive and well, in its various forms.

When the first Sakadas arrive see KALOOBAN p. 2



On Easter Sunday, Christ the King Church celebrates *Salubong*, a reenactment of the Risen Christ's meeting with Mother Mary.

PHOTO COURTESY PAUL MADRIAGA PIGAO



PHOTO COURTESY: HAWAII JUDICIARY

Mario Ramil: A Justice for the People

Celebrating the Life of Associate Justice Mario Ramil, JUNE 21, 1946–JANUARY 30, 2017

Alfredo G. Evangelista & Gilbert Keith-Agaran

A storied career

Justice Ramil's story is a great immigrant's story. Born in Quezon City, Philippines in 1946, Ramil and his family moved to San Francisco when he was ten years old. In 1972, Ramil received his Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University Hayward. Three years later, Ramil earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of California Hastings College of Law.

Justice Ramil moved to Hawai'i and in 1975, joined the State of Hawai'i Department of Attorney General where he made life-long friends and began his career

in public service. At that time, three other notable young Filipinos served as Deputy Attorneys General: Chris Pablo (assigned to the Department of Taxation), Abelina Shaw (assigned to the Department of Health), and Robin Campaniano (assigned to the Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i). All four became politically active, contributed to the Filipino community, and become experts in various fields: Pablo in Health, Shaw in Government, and Campaniano in Insurance.

"When I met Mario in person the day he started at the AG's office, we discovered we had both attended a meeting

of Filipino attorneys in the Bay Area earlier that year. He was a recent law graduate and I was still in law school. We recalled we were both optimistic the meeting would start the formation of a bar association that could be very effective, and also helpful to us. However most of the meeting was focused on the debate of whether the organization was to be called the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California or the Pilipino Bar Association of Northern California. Years later, when Mario was an Associate Justice, he was asked to speak to that organization, I can't remember what they

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FREE



As part of its 85th Anniversary celebration, Christ the King Church held its annual bazaar where Flo Labuguen, Christine Gumpal, Judy Moniz, and Lucy Peros were in charge of registration.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



At Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Easter Sunday services includes baptisms.

PHOTO COURTESY: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Kalooban...

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rived in Hawai'i in 1906, they brought Catholicism with them. *Anak*, the Maui Filipino Centennial Book, has a chapter on Religion titled "In God We Trust" that covers the role religion played in the lives of Filipinos in Hawai'i. On Maui, many Churches have a significant number of Filipino parishioners. This extends to not only to Roman Catholic churches but also many Protestant churches. Three Maui churches have or will celebrate significant anniversaries, anniversaries that contribute to the nurturance of *Kalooban*.

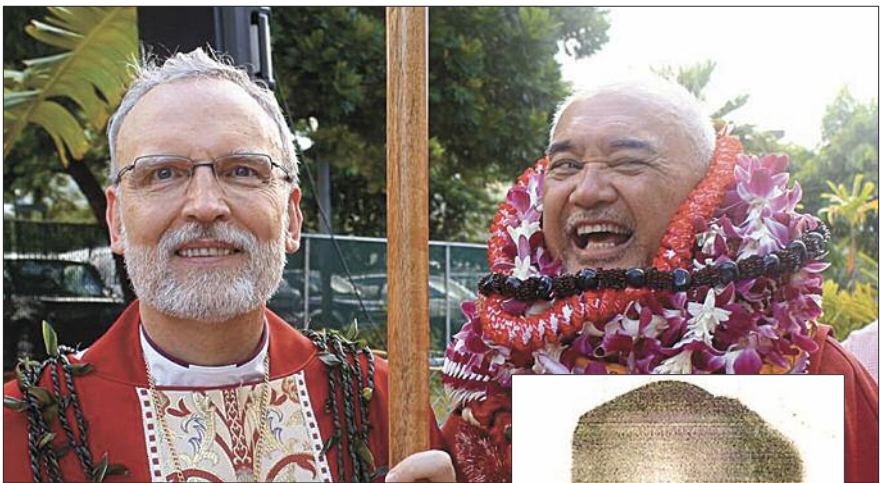
On August 28, 2016, Maui Evangelical Church in Kahului celebrated its 50th anniversary. Maui Evangelical was dedicated on August 27, 1972 after several former members of the Puunene Filipino Evangelical Church came together with others to build Maui Evangelical Church on Hina Avenue in Kahului. At the 50th anniversary, the Church's multipurpose Community Hall was dedicated in honor of the late Rev. Walter Baloalao, who served as pastor for over thirty nine years. Baloalao was well-known throughout Maui and intermittently pastored other churches. He often spoke of *Kalooban*, as the indigenous spirit and life of the Filipino, shared with our friends and neighbors.

On November 26, 2017, Christ the King Catholic Church will celebrate its 85th anniversary. Christ the King was blessed by Bishop Stephen Alencastre, SS.CC. on October 30, 1932, The Feast of Christ the King. Over the years, the church grew with the addi-

tion of a school in 1955, a Convent in 1961, a Cafetorium in 1963, an expanded Rectory in 1969, and a major renovation of the church in 1981. On July 1, 2004, Christ the King Parish was given to the pastoral care of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, from the Order's Philippine Province. From that point on, the Pastors have been from the Philippines. It can be said that the expression of *Kalooban* has taken on new meaning in this large parish.

On February 26, 2017, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church concluded its celebration of its 150th anniversary. On February 25, 1866, the Rev. George B. Whipple who had arrived from Minnesota the prior week, conducted the first Anglican Liturgy in Wailuku. A church was later built on land donated by King Kamehameha and Queen Emma. Ministry to Filipinos at Good Shepherd began in September 1959 with the Rev. Timoteo P. Quintero, from the Philippine Independent Church, holding monthly services. In 1965, with the arrival of Rev. Justo R. Andres, Filipino ministry became "full-time", until Fr. Andres left in 1983. Today, over 70% of the parishioners are of Filipino ancestry. *Kalooban*, especially with the younger generations, has taken on new meaning and expression, often a blend that is from the multi-cultural milieu that is Hawai'i.

There are many other faith communities here on Maui, an ecumenical array that provides a spiritual and religious home to Maui's Filipino community. Filipinos are a very spiritual people and I know that *Kalooban*, our spiritual essence and way of living has positively affected our way and quality



John A. Hauoli Tomoso was ordained to the priesthood by the Rt. Rev. Robert L. Fitzpatrick, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i.

PHOTO COURTESY: GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Macario Tomoso arrived on Maui in 1910.

PHOTO COURTESY: JOHN TOMOSO

of life here on Maui. We are all the better because of it.

My own spiritual journey, so far, is circuitous yet clearly one that leads me to God. I grew up Catholic, practicing the Faith while attending Catholic Schools through college. Now, after discernment and a formation and education program that lasted four years, I was ordained a Priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i in July 2016. Currently, my liturgical, pastoral and education assignments take me throughout Maui and Hawai'i Nei. Also, in my continuing practice as a Social Worker, I have come to a new understanding that my *Kalooban*, positively affects how I engage my various clients.

Even though I was born and raised

here on Maui, I believe other *Kababayan* from away can understand my own experiences as a Filipino. It took me a while to put these traits to word, but, let me now cite what I think are the traits that Filipinos, both here and abroad, can relate to. First, we are oriented to our family, to each other in intimate living conditions and relationships. It is with those we know and love that we find our center and focus, our security and stability, our sense of belonging and worth. Second, we give and accept being friendly, hospitable and kind to each other. We especially do this by sharing food, by eating together. Third, we are sensitive and compassionate to and with each other, when it comes to under-

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From the Editor's Desk

Tante Urban
EDITOR & PRESIDENT • FIL-AM VOICE

My Faith Shaped Me

With your support, we'll continue to shape and uplift the spirit of our community.

In this issue we focus on religion and its influence on our lives, inside and outside of church. To be clear, the evolution from being religious to becoming spiritual is a personal and lifelong journey. Each of us undergoes this primary experience in our own way, determined by the circumstances into which we are born, and enhanced or diminished by the defining moments along our walkabout. Perhaps more significant is each one's awareness of self, as we give meaning to the moment. Let me share with you my reflections on my ongoing journey.

The importance of church life during my early childhood cannot be overstated. I am a son of a devoted Catholic mother. I was taught early in life to value my Catholic faith. I was baptized and raised as a Catholic. As a young boy, I remember my mother praying the Novena early in the morning. She always took me to church on Sundays and I became an Altar server. Throughout my youth, I remember that as a family we could not eat meat during Holy Week, especially on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday before Easter. For those who are believers in the Catholic religion, we learn that Jesus died for us and gave up His flesh on our behalf, and as a result, as Catholics we are not allowed to eat meat until Easter. My mother always served us vegetables and fish throughout the Lenten season.

When I migrated to Hawai'i in 1968, I immediately attended college in Hilo and continued going to church while living there. In no time, I found a job as a dishwasher and began to work part time.

Then I realized that the focus of my life was going to school full time and working part time. Church became secondary. I became too occupied with work and school. Even though I was not attending church regularly, I still prayed by myself in my rental unit. I have always believed and trusted in God in everything that I do.

After graduation from college, I began working at hotels and restaurants, using my skills in the kitchen as a cook. My hours were very unpredictable as I held two jobs, back to back. From then on, working full time consumed my time daily. As I reflect on my earlier years through the present, I have not consistently gone to church on Sundays, but nevertheless, I am who I am today because of my belief in God and the teachings of the Catholic Church, no matter if I go to church or not. The combination of my parents' training grounded in their religious beliefs and the teachings of the church laid the foundation for what is good in me today. In conversations with many others, I have learned that a similar foundation for a positive perspective in adult life is attributed to these same roots.

With gratitude and on behalf of our staff and publishers, our warmest thanks go out to our advertisers, distribution centers, contributors and readers for your encouragement and many positive comments. With your support, we work hard to move forward to accomplish our mission to uplift the spirit of our community and to enhance our collective spirituality, both inside and outside of church. ✱



Priscila Baloalao and her daughter Shani Leah Baloalao Moroles and son James Eric Baloalao were present during the dedication of Maui Evangelical's multi-purpose hall in honor of Pastor Walter Baloalao.

PHOTO COURTESY:
MIGUEL MORALES,
MAUI EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Kalooban...

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standing how and what we can all, at times, suffer and endure in life. We have empathy for each other. Fourth, we respect and thrive on authority, often seeing those in charge and in leadership as heroes or worthy of emulation. Lastly, we are, deeply spirit-oriented and spiritual. We learn, from a very young age, to foundation all that we know and experience, through our senses, emotions and personhood, upon realities, spirits that we don't necessarily see but can feel, from deep within ourselves. All five of these traits were taught, even bestowed on me through my relating to my elders. I can remember growing up and being told stories about how all living things are somehow sacred and manifestations of the divine; that God was very much surrounding who I was. My *kalooban*, my spirit was embedded in me, from a very early age, and I still relate to others in the intimate, sensitive and socially-oriented ways of my elders. I became a Social Worker, in part, because I was raised to relate to and have abiding respect for all things, for all people.

Filipino traits, ways of being, relating and living, translate themselves into how I believe we then relate to God. We probably all know what this is. Simply, it is how we live with the divine, with God, who created everything, including ourselves. Surrounded by all that God made, I can think of three major ways in which Filipinos live out their *kalooban*, turning their spirit into religious beliefs and practices. First, we develop a deep sense of prayer; of talking to and communicating with God. Second, we cultivate this deep sense of divine and sacred communicating, into

prayer for each other. Third, we look for and nurture prayerful support from each other, including from the sacred institutions we attend and belong to, the most important of which is the church.

A Filipino priest I knew while in college, a visiting Philosophy Professor, Fr. Tino, told me that his own sense of "being a Filipino" was made solid by the fact that everything about himself, both physical and spiritual, was an interwoven mat, which he called *kalooban*, i.e. the very reality and essence of the Filipino spirit. Explaining himself more, he discussed with me how he thought that to pray was to live thankfully and humbly; that God hears us all the time; that we help others hear God and that in prayer we support and, in a spiritual way, become one with each other. I really liked this priest, Fr. Tino. He taught me a phrase, which I did not hear growing up, but which made sense to me, from the first time I heard it. It was "*Bahala na*," "Leaving it to God," so as to find peace of mind.

Thinking of the tremendous difficulties my grandparents had to endure to come to Maui, back in 1910, I feel that they must have, indeed said, more than a few times, "*Bahala na!*" And, coming to a new land, a new island, they must have surely related, spiritually and religiously, to what they were seeing around them. In getting used to a new land, a new way of life, they embedded their spirit and their sense, experience and knowledge of the divine, of God in what surrounded them; the people, who were not all Filipino and in the signs and reality of nature. They took their Filipino traits (the five I described at the beginning of this article) and endured, thrived and succeeded, weaving their own mat, their *kalooban*, that still is

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"My *kalooban*, my spirit was embedded in me, from a very early age, and I still relate to others in the intimate, sensitive and socially-oriented ways of my elders."

— JOHN A.H. TOMOSO

Corrections to January–February 2017 Issue

We hate to make mistakes but it happens and we do appreciate your calling it to our attention.

In "Filipinos Eye Increased Political Clout...", Alikia Atay's mother, Fely Bantilan, has roots in the Philippines.

In "What Do You Think," Conrado has roots in Bantay, Ilocos Sur.

All emails were incorrect in our

previous issue, but the correct email addresses are now shown left, in our masthead, and throughout this whole current issue.

Please email your corrections to info@filamvoicemaui.com. Thank you and Maraming Salamat Po! ✱



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Mario Ramil...

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called themselves,” recalled Campaniano.

Deputy Attorney General Ramil advised the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). His most significant accomplishment was his representation of Hawai'i at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and his testimony before committees in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to save Hawai'i's Prepaid Health Care Act of 1974 from being preempted by ERISA, the federal law which governs pension and health plans in private industry.

The mentorship by Agsalud

At that time, DLIR Director Joshua Agsalud became Ramil's confidant and mentor. Politically active in the rising Hawai'i Democratic Party, Agsalud recruited Ramil, Campaniano, Pablo, and Shaw to be part of FFA (Filipinos for Ariyoshi). “Chris, Mario and I would always talk about what we could and should do for the Filipino community, and for Hawai'i as a whole,” said Campaniano. “Our discussions started from our days in the AG's office and would continue for the rest of our lives.”

When George Ariyoshi won the Governor's office, he appointed Ramil in 1984 as his Insurance Commissioner. According to Campaniano, who followed Ramil as Insurance Commis-

sioner, Ramil took over an underfunded and overwhelmed unit and quickly gained the trust and confidence of state legislators, as well as his fellow commissioners. During his tenure, Ramil substantially rolled back insurance rates against the wishes of the insurance companies. Ramil also took decisive action by naming himself as receiver of Financial Security Insurance Company (FSIC) when FSIC failed to pay claims in a timely fashion. Ramil also sued the owner of FSIC and related companies when he discovered they had misappropriated and misapplied FSIC's funds and assets.

In 1987, Agsalud left DLIR to become Executive Assistant of newly elected Governor John Waihee and Ramil became Labor Director. Waihee, in a statement to the Star Advertiser, said he appointed Ramil because “He was very pro-consumer, pro-people and pro-little guy.” Ramil's Professional Biography described his duties as DLIR Director as an administrator and enforcer of Hawai'i's labor laws, overseeing over 800 employees and a budget of approximately \$175 million from state and federal funds. In his capacity as Director, Ramil also served as a Hearings Officer in contested cases, lobbied for the state administration at the legislature, interacted with employers and unions, and handled employee grievances filed by unions.

Ramil would serve as Labor Director until 1991 when he entered private practice with the Honolulu law firm of Lyons, Brandt, Cook and Hiramatsu.



Ramil and his Judicial Assistant Elaine Yamashita with Dumlao.

PHOTO COURTESY JAMESNER DUMLAO

Making the List

The death of Justice James Wakatsuki in late 1992 created a vacancy on the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Ramil made the list of six but Waihee selected Sharon Himeno, the wife of his Attorney General. When the State Senate rejected Himeno by a 17-7 vote, Waihee had ten days to select from the original list. There was considerable pressure from women's groups to appoint a female. Less significantly, there was also pressure from the Filipino community due to the dearth of Filipino judges. Behind the scenes, Agsalud lobbied Waihee to appoint his

protégé and succeeded.

During the Senate confirmation process, Ramil spoke about his experience and what was needed on the Supreme Court: “I have been involved in politics, there's no secret about that. But I made rulings against my friends when I was insurance commissioner. People understand that's how you have to operate. My experience as insurance commissioner, as well as director of labor, are very relevant to the Supreme Court. We must have a Supreme Court with a human factor, with compassion and sensitivity. I also agree that the analytical side is very

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Mario Ramil...

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important, as is integrity.” The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments unanimously approved Ramil’s appointment and Ramil was subsequently confirmed by the entire State Senate.

A Part of History

When Ramil was sworn in as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawai’i on May 13, 1993, he became only the second Supreme Court Justice of Filipino ancestry in the country, the first being another Hawai’i Associate Justice, Benjamin Menor, who served from 1974 through 1981. Retired Associate Justice Simeon R. Acoba, Jr., who was appointed to the high court in 2000 and retired in 2014, said “Mario never forgot his roots and how fortunate it was that he had been appointed to the highest court in the state.” Ramil and Acoba would serve on the court together for two years. “It was not lost on us that it was the first time in the history of Hawai’i that two justices of Filipino ancestry were serv-



Ramil with (back row) Campaniano, Amy Agbayani, Eddie Flores, Jr., and Governor Linda Lingle during a reception honoring Philippine President Corazon Aquino.

PHOTO COURTESY: ROBIN CAMPANIANO

adamant that a different reading would be ‘contrary to the underlying object and purpose of the constitutional provision’ and ‘meaningless.’” Current Hawai’i Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald expressed his sadness upon Ramil’s passing. “He was an outstanding justice who made a lasting impact on the Supreme Court, and a warm and caring person.”

Former law clerks spoke of his intellect, his compassion, and his support and mentorship. “Justice Mario Ramil was a bright, extraordinary man and jurist. I, along with his fellow law



In 2014, the Filipino Community Center honored Justices Ramil (with wife Judy) and Acoba (with wife Carolyn).

PHOTO COURTESY: THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

law clerk from 1999–2000, echoed Araki-Regan’s sentiments: “The honor of clerking for Justice Ramil was an invaluable experience and, in many ways, the highlight of my legal career. I’m forever grateful to Justice Ramil for his mentorship and his friendship. He was a principled man whose effective advocacy was not measured by the volume of his voice but the compelling nature of his reason and his intellect. He urged me to thoroughly vet things from multiple points of view but particularly through the lenses of common sense, the common good, and the perspective of the common person. The responsibility of getting it right extended beyond just the parties litigating the case but to Hawai’i as a whole. How we went about applying the law to the facts reflected our underlying democratic values. He was a compassionate man whose character was uncommon.”

Dumlao recalls how Justice Ramil often fondly reflected on his opinion in *Konno v. County of Hawai’i*, which dealt with the issue of privatization. Justice Ramil wrote: “We emphasize that nothing in this opinion should be interpreted as passing judgment, one way or the other, on the wisdom of

privatization. Whether or not, as a policy matter, private entities should be allowed to provide public services entails a judgment ordinarily consigned to the legislature. Our decision today merely applies the civil service laws of this state to the example of privatization at issue in the present appeal. As we have discussed above, privatization involves two important, but potentially conflicting, policy concerns. On the one hand, privatization purportedly can improve the efficiency of public services. On the other hand, privatization can interfere with the policies underlying our civil service, i.e., elimination of the spoils system and the encouragement of openness, merit, and independence. Given the importance of these policy concerns and the potential conflict between them, clear guidance from the legislature is indispensable... Privatization may, or may not, be a worthy idea; we do not, and indeed should not, express an opinion in this regard. But if privatization is attempted by the government, it must be done in accordance with the laws of this state.”

Scott Arakaki, a past president of the Honolulu Filipino Junior Chamber of Commerce and who served as Ramil’s law clerk from 1994–1995, (and whose law firm Ramil later became Of Counsel to several years after his retirement) remembered Justice Ramil for “being thoughtful about how the Court’s opinions would affect legal precedence and work in the real world.” Arakaki said he recalls one opinion that Justice Ramil really was proud of: *Bumanglag v. O’ahu Sugar*, a worker’s compensation case. *Bumanglag*, who did not complete high school, immigrated from the Philippines at age 37 and a year later, began working with O’ahu Sugar. Seventeen years later, *Bumanglag* suffered a back injury, received workers compensation benefits, and got injured again. *Bumanglag* saw many doctors, including several doctors selected by the employer. The Labor Board ruled *Bumanglag* was permanently and totally disabled and O’ahu Sugar appealed. O’ahu Sugar argued that *Bumanglag*’s age, limited education, and limited transferable skills constituted odd-lot factors which would essentially reduce O’ahu Sugar’s responsibility. Ramil dismissed O’ahu Sugar’s arguments:



At the Filipino Community Center gala event, Ramil was presented by Governor John Waihee (third from right), shown with officials from the Filipino Community Center and legislative leaders.

PHOTO COURTESY: THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

ing at the same time on the Supreme Court. We felt this was a reflection of the progress that the Filipino community had made in so many other areas.” In 2014, the Filipino Community Center honored Ramil for his public service during the Center’s annual Bayanihan celebration. Acoba was also honored that evening.

On the Supreme Court, Ramil served as the Assignment Justice, responsible for reviewing and assigning appeals to the Intermediate Court of Appeals and to the individual Justices of the Hawai’i Supreme Court.

Writing Opinions, Concurrences, and Dissents

As an Associate Justice, Ramil authored opinions in all areas of the law. Acoba said Ramil’s greatest impact was in the area of labor law. “Mario believed strongly in the right of collective bargaining and the worker’s right to bargain. He wrote a particular statute violated the Hawai’i Constitution because the Hawai’i Constitution protected the right ‘to engage in negotiations concerning... wages, hours, and other conditions of employment’.

Jamesner Dumlao, a past president of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawai’i and who served as Ramil’s law clerk from 1995 to 1996.

Jamesner Dumlao, a past president of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawai’i and who served as Ramil’s



During his retirement, Ramil would join law clerks Scott Arakaki and Bryan Andaya (extreme right) and friends in the annual Filipino Chamber Foundation golf tournament.

PHOTO COURTESY: BRYAN ANDAYA

Mario Ramil...

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Supreme Court’s primary function was to develop the law by issuing formal opinions that had legal binding effect. Ramil wrote that when there was an unpublished opinion and the justice who wrote a concurrence or dissent which would then not be published, the justice is “impeded in presenting his or her perspective of the law to interested parties.” Ramil cautioned that “we must be careful to never silence a justice.”

Ramil’s convictions, sense of justice, and empathy for the less fortunate will never be silenced because his opinions are part and parcel of Hawai’i’s law.

Just call me “Mario”

But more than that, Justice Ramil will be missed for just being “Mario”.

Acoba said he was liked by everyone and had a subtle sense of humor. Ramil’s former law clerks spoke of his hosting bbq’s at his house. Campaniano recalls how he, Pablo, and Ramil would support each other and urge each other to “be the best that we could be in hopes that we would lead the way in our respective fields.”

When Ramil last visited Maui in late June 2016 with Campaniano, Ramil was in high spirits and enjoyed a dinner in Kaanapali with fellow former insurance commissioners and a second dinner in Kahului—a Kamayan



Despite the constant trash talking during golf matches between Ramil and Iwase, Ramil managed a hole-in-one at Mililani Golf Course.

PHOTO COURTESY RANDY IWASE

style dinner at Tante’s with old and new friends. The old friends reminisced about golfing together and enjoyed the food prepared by Tante’s.

Golf became Ramil’s sport. (While at the Attorney General’s office, Ramil starred on the AG’s softball team called Robin’s Hoods alongside future Supreme Court Justice Robert Klein and future Public Utilities Commission Chairperson Randy Iwase, among others.) Ramil’s passion for golf was well known. When he retired from the Department of Labor, he was gifted with

a driver that was manufactured in Japan and Ramil, on stage after accepting the gift, demonstrated his swing.

As a golfer, Ramil recorded two holes in one, and traveled to Ireland, Scotland, the Philippines as well as California and Arizona. Campaniano recalls that during the Ireland and Scotland trips, Ramil and State Representative Isaac Choy would engage in intense, head to head wagering over their rounds of golf, with the winner pocketing one euro. In retirement, Ramil would engage Iwase in weekly trash talking filled golfing matches. Iwase witnessed one of Ramil’s hole-in-ones a few years ago at Mililani Golf Club, hole #3. Iwase and Ramil weren’t sure if there was a hole in one. “Us two old futs couldn’t see what happened to the ball so we rushed to the hole and yes, a hole in one!”

– RANDY IWASE

Campaniano said Ramil always looked forward to playing in local Filipino golf tournaments such as the State Fil-Am and the Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation, during

which Ramil would mostly unsuccessfully try to beat Filipino Chamber past president Buddy Gendrano.

Integrity and Principled

Former Governor Benjamin Cayetano, who would occasionally golf with Ramil and always lose to Ramil, said: “Mario was a good friend, a good man who dedicated his life to serving Hawai’i’s people. His soft-spoken, humble nature and sharp intellect earned him the respect of all who knew him. As only one of three Filipino-Americans who served on the Hawai’i Supreme Court, Mario understood the importance of his role for the Filipino community. He did not disappoint, having served with honor and distinction. He will be missed.”

Acoba (also a golfer that Ramil consistently beat) called it a very sad day when Ramil passed. “It was truly a privilege to serve with Mario, but more so to know him. He was a sincere, dedicated, and principled colleague. Working with someone closely, especially on issues that may be controversial or intensely contested reveals the measure of a person. Justice Ramil must be measured as a courageous and independent jurist who deserved the respect of all.”



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Alfredo G. Evangelista is a graduate of Maui HS, the University of Southern California, and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law. He is a sole practitioner at Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, concentrating in estate planning, business start-up and consultation, non-profit corporations, and litigation. He has been practicing law for 30+ years (since 1983) and returned home in 2010 to be with his family and to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Basilia Idica.



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran is a graduate of Maui HS, Yale College, and Boalt Hall School of Law, the University of California at Berkeley. He practices commercial, civil and administrative law with Takitani Agaran & Jorgensen, LLLP. He is currently a State Senator for Central Maui and is chairperson of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee. He previously served in Governor Benjamin Cayetano's administration (where he was the first Filipino appointed as Chairperson of the State Land Board) and Mayor Alan Arakawa's administration.



In 1993, the authors, along with Campaniano (back row, left), Pablo (back row right), and Wilfredo Tungol (back row 3rd), helped to lobby the State Senate to confirm Ramil's (seated front center) appointment to the Supreme Court of Hawai'i.

Our June issue will feature graduates and graduations!

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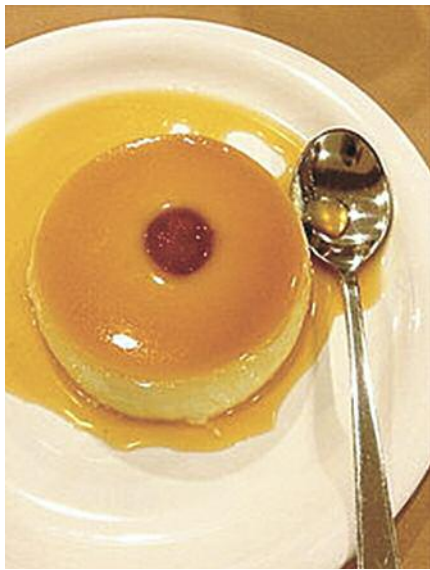
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- Liquid Garden**
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- Edible Hawaiian Islands presents Live Chefs' Challenge**
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Cassava Bibingka Cake



Leche Flan

Maui Pinoy

MY FAVORITE PINOY DESSERTS DURING HOLY WEEK!

Vince Bagoyo

I can't begin to tell you how excited I am to write about my favorite Filipino dish—*da Pinoy* desserts! As a side benefit of covering this subject matter, I'm able to have a taste of some of my favorite desserts. It has been a practice among many Filipino-practicing Roman Catholics to abstain from eating meat every Fri-






day during Lent and the entire Holy Week. It is not recommended to eat pork, chicken, beef and other types of meat during this time of the year. I remember quite well—my parents practiced this long-held taboo during the Lenten season. Growing up in the Philippines, this tradition wasn't much of a sacrifice since we were not able to afford to buy meat anyway. And we rarely ate meat until we migrated to Hawai'i, where we saw an over-abundance of all kinds of meat—just go to Costco or Safeway and you'll know what I mean. In the Philippines, Holy Week or *Semana Santa* is a big deal so for the entire week many Filipinos commemorate the sacrifice, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ culminating with Easter Sunday for some festive activities. Most Filipinos who migrated to Hawai'i brought with them this cultural and spiritual tradition of not eating meat during the holy week. The good news, however, is that


you can always consume your favorite *Pinoy* desserts during Holy Week without feeling guilty or worrying about calories. So, in the absence of meat during this period of Lent—it doesn't stop the Filipinos here in Hawai'i to prepare their favorite *Pinoy* desserts. We all know that every province in the Philippines has their own specialty of desserts—and this article of *Pinoy* desserts lists a few of my favorites that remind me of the homeland, and more importantly, reminds me of *Nanang's* home-cooked desserts. Here are few of my favorite Filipino sweets. What about you? What are your favorite *Pinoy* desserts?

1. **Cassava Bibingka Cake** (Filipino Coconut Cake)—this by far is my favorite Filipino dessert. I love this dessert so much that I find myself begging one of our Ilocano friends from Laoag City to bring this dessert at our weekly Bible study sessions. Well, you may be thinking—what about the calories of this dish—who cares about calories when you are enjoying your

favorite *bibingka*. This dessert is a thin, unfrosted cake made with cassava flour and cream of coconut. Every time we have a family gathering, we always have *bibingka*, and most often you will see this dessert at many Filipino parties here on Maui. This is a must and expected dessert dish at every Filipino party here at home. According to a recent comment from an online Filipino recipe journal, "cassava flour has an interesting texture. It is very fine, but has a bit of grit to it. Once it's cooked the starches explode (not really, but they do something magical) and the cake becomes spongy and sticky like a cross between jello bars and pudding." For the non-Filipino food aficionado, this is a must try dessert.

2. **Leche Flan** - if I had to rank my favorite *Pinoy* dessert, *leche flan* is definitely my favorite. **see DESSERTS p. 12**









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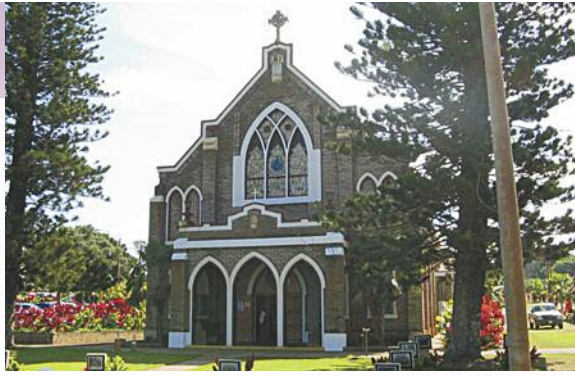


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7:30 AM..... Sun.

5:00 PM..... Sat.

Reconciliation / Confession Schedule

4:30–5:00 PM.... Sat. - Also by appointment

Clergy and Staff

Rev. Cipriano Alnas
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

John Costales
COORDINATOR

Cyrilla & Felix Pascual
RCIA PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Vergel & Almie Lonzaga
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Schedule of Mass

Holy Monday..... Wednesday · 6:00 PM

*Holy Tuesday Mass for the sick

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday..... April 9 · 7:30 AM

Paschal Triduum

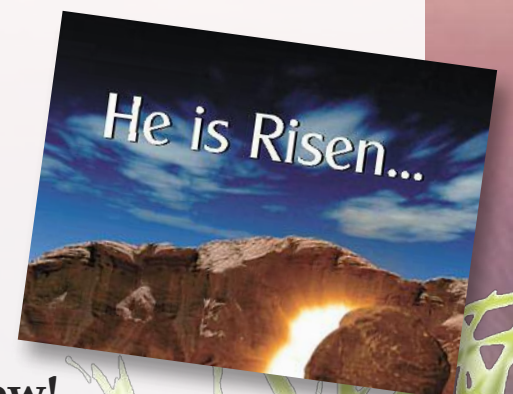
Holy Thursday: Last Supper..... 6:30 PM

Good Friday..... 3:00 PM

Easter Vigil (Saturday Night)..... 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday..... 7:30 AM

Easter Egg Hunting for kids to follow!



from p. 10

3. **Suman** (Filipino Rice Cake with Coconut) - a favorite dessert with the Ilokanos in northern part of Luzon. It consists mainly of 3 ingredients: sweet rice, coconut milk, and brown sugar or molasses. Some serve it with toppings, some don't. This rice dessert, *suman*, is popular during New Year celebrations in the Philippines, because many Ilokanos believe that if you consume as many sweet treats as you can handle during this time, the coming year will be a good one. I guess; we can always find good excuses to have *Pinoy* desserts anytime of the year!

A close-up photograph of three square-shaped fried fish balls resting on a white ceramic plate. The fish balls are coated in a thick, glossy, brown sauce. A silver metal fork is placed on the right side of the plate, partially overlapping the fish balls. The background is a textured, olive-green surface.

Suman

Vince Bagoyo, Jr. is the President and Owner of V. Bagoyo Development Group. He was graduated from Chaminade University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Political Science and Business Administration. He earned a Masters of Public Administration (Government Finance) from California State University, Long Beach. Bagoyo has served in govern-



Halo-halo

Company. He is currently the Vice President of the Maui Memorial Medical Center Foundation and was the Chairperson of the Maui Filipino Centennial Celebration Coordinating Council. His wife Jennifer is an RN at Maui Memorial Hospital. 🌸

A wide-angle photograph of the interior of a large church during a religious event. The nave is filled with a large crowd of people, many of whom are holding up yellow flowers or garlands. A priest in a red vestment is walking down the central aisle, followed by a person in a white robe. The altar area is ornate, featuring a large central archway with a statue of the Virgin Mary and Child Jesus, and several side altars with statues. The church has high ceilings with exposed wooden beams and large windows with decorative frames. The overall atmosphere is one of a significant religious gathering.

Palm Sunday service in the Philippines.

PHOTO COURTESY: RAMON F. VELASQUEZ

What are your childhood Easter memories?

Liza of "A Maui Blog"


May I ask you a question? When you think back on your childhood memories, what comes to your mind when I ask you to recall your Easter Memories?

Growing up in the Philippines, my memories of Easter revolve around a solemn event we refer to as “Holy Week.” Here is what Holy Week celebration was to us.

- would also feast on various fresh picked fruits from our grandparent's trees; *Bayabas* (guavas), *Santol* (not sure what it's called here), and *Kaymito* (Star Apple).

- During Holy Week, we participated in religious rituals like bringing “*palaspas*” to church on Palm Sunday, putting ashes on our forehead on Ash Wednesday, and Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. I also recall not eating meat on Good Friday. The interesting thing about not eating meat on a Good Friday was that we feasted on seafood. And since seafood such as prawns, crabs and fish are my favorites, I didn’t mind not having meat at all.

- I remember all the television channels all played movies based on the Bible and other religious movies on Monday, Thursday, Good Friday and Black Saturday. The regular programming was




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What's more recognized as the week of Celebrating Easter in the western world is known as Holy Week in the Philippines. For most believers, it is also known as the Lenten Season. It is a season for spiritual cleansing, and you bet, other than seeking for spiritual healing, it is absolutely the time for fasting and praying. What is being practiced is what would reflect one's religious belief, and yes, this is a serious time about recognizing one's spirituality.

Meanwhile, what's fascinating is that most Filipino-Americans tend to celebrate Easter by following what other cultures do, and that is to have a feast on one of the most celebrated food events on a busy Sunday in most Maui hotels and restaurants, raved to be the Easter Brunch. Displays of lavish international delicacies are showcased on grandiose buffet tables. What's alarming is that no one is limited on what we can pile on our plates, and how much can we stuff in our bellies. So what is being commemorated? Is it a moment of cleansing or

Easter Season... To Feast or To Fast?

feasting?

Well, as for the Philippine customs and traditions, religious beliefs are highly regarded. The week begins on Palm Sunday, and the peak of the occasion are Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Black Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Throughout the week, it is not recommended to eat meat, so no pork, chicken, or beef as suggested. Harvests from the ocean's bounty, and seasonal fresh vegetables are favored at this time of the year.

Growing up from the central plains of the country where rice is cultivated as the number one crop in the region where my family lived in Gerona, Tarlac, I remember vividly how my mother Soledad and my aunt Dolores would plan for the festive occasion with lots of food, but my attention would particularly be drawn to a glutinous rice cake known as the "Suman

Bulag." I wasn't quite sure how it got its name, but I know the word Bulag means "Blind". Until recently, while conversing with my Mom, brother and my sister, I learned that it was named *Suman Bulag* because of the fact that it is so easy to make, that anyone can do it blindfolded.

This delectable rice cake wrapped in banana leaf is very enjoyable to eat, as it is paired with two Suman in one. They are bound by a string together, so it's like buying two for the price of one. Eating it can be a mess, but it doesn't matter. Dipping every bite with sugar and freshly grated coconut is part of the fun. From time to time, my Mom would still make it on special occasion, and we plan on making it this Easter with my kids. It seems very simple to make, so here is a recipe I am sharing just in case some of you are willing to give it a try and have it as part of your spread this Easter Season.

Aloha & Mabuhay! ✨

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 or email him at lifestylechef-maui@gmail.com, and connect professionally at www.linkedin.com/in/jake-belmonte-0a277a39.



Liza's Family; Estrella, in the Philippines.

PHOTO COURTESY: LIZA PIERCE

temporarily cancelled.

- The radio shows aired the "Seven Last Words" on Fridays.
- I also remember watching "passion" plays. That's where and how I learned about the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. I remember attending services where senior ladies sang Bible verses and prayers—they call that "pabasa."
- One religious tradition or ritual I wasn't particularly fond of was the flagellation or whipping of oneself. I didn't like seeing the blood. I also didn't like the mock crucifixion on the cross.
- On Sunday there was a "Resurrection" celebration—there was a procession we called "Salubong," where the statue of Jesus and Mother Mary meet each other as a symbol that Jesus Christ rose from the dead.
- How about Easter bunnies and Easter egg hunts? No, I had not heard of them until I came here to Maui in 1994. I am not kidding, I do not have any childhood memories of Easter bunnies and Easter egg hunting. And I do not think I was deprived. In fact, I think I am better off not having celebrated Easter with an Easter bunny as the central theme. Back then, it

was all about family and faith in God.

How about you? What are your memories of "Holy Week" or "Easter Sunday?" And how do you celebrate it now?

Feel free to share it with me at info@filamvoicemaui.com.



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. ✨



Suman Bulag, bound in string then boiled.

Freshly Grated Coconut



Suman Bulag Recipe

Ingredients

- 2.5 lb glutinous rice
- 3 tbsp vanilla
- Banana leaf, 8x8 inch squares
- Twine for tying
- Granulated Sugar for dipping
- Grated coconut meat for dipping



Pure Sugar Granules for Dipping

Procedure

1. Soak glutinous rice with 1 gal water mixed with vanilla for an hour.
2. Drain water.
3. Scoop 3 tbsp of rice and put on the banana leaf.
4. Roll the banana leaf and fold both sides.
5. Take two rolls and tie together leaving enough room for the rice to expand.
6. Put the the rolls into a big pot. Pour water enough to cover the rolls and bring to a boil.
7. Add water whenever required making sure that water level is higher than the rolls.
8. After one hour, open one roll and check if rice is cooked. Bring back to the pot if needed. Remove from pot if done.
9. Let it cool, then serve with white sugar and grated coconut.



Left to right: Brower, Woodson, and Rhoads with his wife.

Religion and politics—usually topics to avoid at family holiday gatherings. But faith and religious values and upbringing certainly remain important to many people, including members of the Hawai'i state legislature. A national report recently surveyed the professed religions of the U.S. Congress. Hawai'i's four member delegation sported two Buddhists (US Senator Mazie Hirono and Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa), a Jew (US Senator Brian Schatz) and a Hindu (Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard).

I asked my colleagues in the legislature whether they attend church services regularly and what role, if any, their religious faith plays in carrying out their legislative duties.

Representative Tom Brower (Waikiki) grew up Roman Catholic and attended Catholic grammar school and high school. Romy Cachola, a Kalihi Representative, is also Roman Catholic and regularly attends Sunday Mass and "Holidays of Obligation."

Representative Justin Woodson (Kahului) is a non-denominational Christian who attends church regularly, and who has hosted church services at his home and other locations.

Senator Karl Rhoads (Nu'uanu-Downtown-Kalihi) remains a member in good standing of Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in the area where he used to live. He did not switch to a local church when he moved to Hawai'i in part because Sligo was one of the few Adventist churches that ordains women. Having spent some time living in England, he occasionally attends services at St. Andrew's Cathedral, an Episcopal Church.

New Hanalei representative Nadine Nakamura claims two religions—Tenrikyo (from birth) and Christianity (Episcopal). She regularly attends All Saints Episcopal Church on Kaua'i. "My dual religions (East and West) both instill the awareness of treating everyone as brothers and sisters, to be mindful of the needs of others, especially the least fortunate, and to use the gifts we are given to make a difference."

My own family tradition is Aglipayan (Philippine Independent

Catholic Church) and my parents had me baptized into the Episcopal Church. However, they enrolled me at Doris Todd Memorial Christian Day School in Paia, and I grew up attending the Baptist Church affiliated with my school. Throughout college and law school on the mainland, I attended services at either American Baptist Churches or non-denominational congregations.

Returning home, I was a regular at First Baptist in Honolulu, joined and served at Four Square churches in

serves there are some overlapping and common themes with various religions that all religious people perceive as good. "These perceptions of good, where there is consensus, stretches across all types of people, believers and non-believers alike." Consequently, he believes, "It can be appropriate for a legislator's faith, along with other factors to impact decisions facing the legislature." Cachola simply notes, whether his own faith plays a part in legislative decision making, depends on the issue, and he leaves it at that.

Dinengdeng & Pinakbet

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Kapolei and Calvary Chapel in Wailuku before returning to my family roots in the Episcopal Church.

The place of our personal religious beliefs in our public service reflects how we view faith and our role as elected officials.

While Brower has attended many church services in his life, he says his relationship with God has evolved. "I still believe in the God of the Bible," Brower asserts, "But I've become less traditional in my practice." He considers himself spiritual—turning inward—being introspective, reflecting on his thoughts and actions, always seeking advice, wisdom and luck from what he describes as a Higher Power. "I am always in constant conversation with myself and God," he says.

Brower notes, "As legislators, we have to consider the social impacts of our decisions on a wide variety of people, so I tend to be more objective and practical. I'm not necessarily here to represent my personal or religious feelings; I represent my constituents who elected me. For controversial issues, I try to balance my personal feelings with theirs."

Woodson, on the other hand, ob-

What commandment is the first of all? Jesus answered, The first is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God, the Lord is one: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. The second is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Those ideas remain at the heart of my own faith and my general approach to issues that come before me at the legislature.

During the Special Session to consider Same Sex Marriage in 2013, the House of Representatives voted 30-19 in favor while the Senate voted 19-4 in support. Undoubtedly, some of the votes were cast because of personal religious convictions or those expressed by their constituents. This session, one possible challenge for legislators will be whether to join other states in allowing medical aid in dying-- another issue with strong religious and moral concerns expressed against adoption of the proposal.

Brower would caution against placing so much emphasis on religion: "It's not wise as it tends to be rigid (some people interpret the Bible very literally) and potentially divisive." Philosophically, Brower expresses some skepticism whether traditional religion can achieve the goal of making the world better, "not because God created an imperfect system, [but] because of man's imperfect interpretation or his own bias of God's will."

So while Legislators bring differing individual experiences and background to elected office, all take their duty to consider every issue seriously. How an individual legislator applies personal values and faith on issues depends on many factors. But a common theme is the value of trying to improve the quality of life and opportunities for our neighbors. And that's one of the rewards of both public service and an abiding faith. As Rep. Nakamura puts it, "[My faith] guides me in appreciating my many blessings in life—family, friends and community, and my good health." ✱



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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Deacon Patrick Ronald Constantino

Lucy Peros



Deacon Patrick Constantino

One of Maui’s well-known Roman Catholic Deacons is Deacon Patrick Ronald Constantino. He was born on May 6, 1943 in Pu’unēnē, Maui, Hawai’i. His parents were Francisco and Felisa Cabacungan Constantino who were part of the Sakada influx from Bacarra, Ilocos Norte. Deacon Pat graduated with the Baldwin High School Class of ’61. He received his degree in Accounting from Maui Technical School which became known as Maui Community College and is currently called University of Hawai’i Maui College. He also received a Management degree from CUNA Mutual School at UCLA as well as a Business Administration Degree from American University.

After graduation, Deacon Pat held several employment. He was once a pin boy at the Maui Bowling Center, a dish washer at Maui Palms Hotel and Maui Beach Hotel, grocery boy at the A&B Super Market, Accountant at Music Sales, Inc., Account Clerk at MDG Supply, Inc., Assistant Sergeant of Arms at the State House of Representatives, and Manager and Assistant Treasurer at the Kula Community Federal Credit Union. At the County of Maui, he was the Executive Assistant to Maui’s first Mayor, the late Elmer F. Cravalho, and became the first Filipino appointed as County Treasurer, and Risk Manager and Grant Administrator. He was also a Board member of Maui Factors, Inc. and the Maui



Deacon Patrick Constantino and Cora Constantino

Hog Producers. Deacon Pat was a very active member of the following organizations: St. Anthony Filipino Catholic Club, Maui Democratic Party, and Maui Young Democrats. He was the first Filipino to attend the Democratic Party Convention in Chicago, Illinois. He was the Chairman of the Maui Immigration Services Committee. He was the President of COPA (Council of Political Associates), and President of the Fil-Am Civic Club. He was a member of the Board of Directors of both the Maui Filipino Community Council and the United Filipino Council of Hawai’i. He was also a board member of the Maui Catholic Charities and the Kula Community Federal Credit Union. He was the Spiritual Director of both the Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs and the Diocesan Congress of Filipino Catholic Clubs.

Besides being so active in the community, Deacon Pat is also very active and involved in the religious community here on Maui. He is involved in the Diaconate Advisory Committee, the Deacon Council, Marriage Encounter (which helps married couples to have a loving and more solid married life), Engaged Encounter (which helps engaged couples to prepare for committed married life), Youth Encounter, and CHOICE, which was the Young Adult Program for 18 to 38 years old, single and married young adults. They had weekend live in retreats to focus on their self and others and God, which were held at the Mauna’olu College Campus and Maui Land

and Pine dormitory in Makawao. Because of his involvement with Marriage Encounter, Engaged Encounter, Youth Encounter, etc., Deacon felt God’s calling for him to become a Deacon. With the encouragement and support of Fr. Thomas Choo, Pastor of St. Joseph Church at that time, Deacon Patrick was accepted into the Diaconate Program of the Catholic Church.

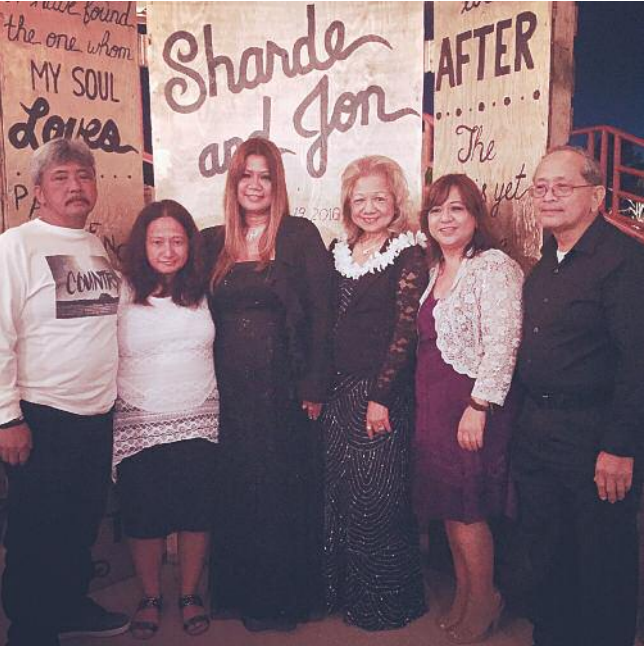
Deacon Patrick was ordained as Deacon in the Catholic Church on June 18, 1987 by the late Bishop Joseph Ferrario. He was assigned as Deacon to the following parishes: St. Joseph Church, Makawao (1987 to 1995); Holy Rosary, Pā’ia, St. Rita, Ha’ikū, and St. Gabriel churches (1995–2009), (as Administrator for the three parishes), Holy Rosary Church, Pā’ia (2009–2016), and St. Joseph Church, Makawao (2016 to the present).

Deacon Pat is married to Cora Bio Constantino. They have four children: Cary Constantino, a retired Maui County Board of Water Supply working foreman, Darlene Cachola, an Executive Secretary in the Office of Clergy, Diocese of Honolulu, Pamela Cravalho, a Supervisor at the Division of Taxation, State of Hawai’i, and

Jamie Kaiali’ili’i, a Pizza Hut Baker and Secretary of Holy Rosary Church. Deacon Pat has a sister, Norma Constantino Visitacion.

With all of the successes and accomplishments that Deacon Pat received, he is a friendly down to earth and humble servant of God. He said that his reflection in life is: “To grow old with my wife Cora and enjoy our family, grand and great grandchildren and the beautiful friends we have made through the years!” ✨

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.



Left to Right: Cary Constantino, Jamie Kaialiili, Pamela Cravalho, Cora Constantino, Darlene Cachola, Deacon Patrick Constantino

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A Maui Sakada Love Story

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Amidst our flood of entries, one has emerged victorious...
Congratulations Christine Sabado!

Sabado Family: A Tribute

A Sakada Love Story of Severina "Paning" and Felix "Feliz" Sabado.

By Christine Sabado

In the misty Nu'uanu Valley, as I held her frail hand she looked up and spoke in a whisper: "Hidden in the tall grasses a two headed snake spoke and told me that I would live on many islands, and have many children." I smiled and sat to hear her story as the clouds gathered in the valley. She would pass soon, but not till she had told me her stories.

I am her daughter in law, married to her youngest son. I am blond and come from a family of doctors. This was all new to me.

It was at this time in the early nineteen hundreds that as a young beautiful Filipina walked near her village of Dolores Abbra. The snake rose and saw her eye to eye and spoke to her and predicted her life. That spurred the young Severina, known to all who loved her as "Paning" to leave her homeland at the tender age of fourteen." It must have been a painful choice to choose a life in a distant land, but when a snake speaks, and at that, a two headed snake; who could refuse?

When the young Severina left her village at such a tender age she was strong and determined and had a plan in place. The recruiters had been set out to the Northern Provinces to find sturdy hard workers. The main requirement was that they could handle the long arduous hours in the Hawaiian sun. Once signed up the rules were set. On the voyage to Hawai'i in the early 1920s, only married women were allowed to travel from the Philippines. Her resolve to sail to Hawai'i was so strong that she lied about her age and already being married. She traveled with an uncle who posed as her husband to accomplish her goal and the strange prediction.

After all, hadn't the two-headed snake told her this was to be her future? Perhaps her family was more willing to release her, knowing that once she was in the new land, she would have a family member she could rely on.

Upon her arrival in Hilo Hawai'i, the young Paning was told by her "Kabalayan" (town mates) of a man who would soon be returned to the Philippines. The plantation rules were strict; any Panggolo; (troublemakers) were routed out soon after arrival. The man she was told about was constantly in trouble because of his drinking and fighting. His skill was the Filipino stick fighting known as "Escrima," of which he was highly skill-ed. With two sticks, one in each hand he was renowned. His fighting, combined with drinking proved to be his return ticket to the rice fields of Ilocos Sur.

But no one wanted to impose such a harsh punishment after that long voyage. Things happen in a tight community, and somehow Papa's people from the mountain village, found fellow Filipino's from the same voyage that were from young Paning's village and a plan was hatched and set in motion. They united with a cause and pleaded with the young Paning; "You can help! Just one time; meet and marry this man, then 'pau' you can go your way, and he can stay here." She would be allowed to annul or divorce him after that, or so

they said. Somehow, as fate would determine a deal was struck.

So in the quite town of Hilo, Paning met Felix or 'Feliz,' (as they pronounced his name) just once, per the arrangement at the small Hawaiian church alter. Papa was always meticulous in his appearance, with a beige or white fedora hat on his head tilted to the right at a slight angle. He dressed well and wore a colorful aloha shirt; always buttoned to the top button, with the sleeveless white 'Camiseta,' a knit under shirt.

As the divine would deem the two were married and she chose to stay with him for life; twelve children later, how could she not? He was a charmer with a hearty laugh, not unlike their sons. She was one of those women with a silent power and a rare beauty that could always turn heads as she passed. Full of energy, Papa

loved to walk, and was always on the move to somewhere. Their first children were girls, Magdalena and Loretta; the third child was the boy, they named Santi. Papa held great affection for his village, "Santi," was a shortened version for "Santiago." In the early days the 'camps' had special names for the settlements; Manila camp, Spanish camp, and then Maunaloa Camp on Molokai.

Plantation life for this growing family was a flow from camp to camp as they traveled from island to island, as predicted. Wherever they went there was always family

or cabalayan, town-mates, to help them settle in. They never stayed very long and were like roving gypsies. Soon, after a raucous night, a move to the next camp would become necessary. The marriage and children in Hilo did not resolve Papa's wild ways, and in time his drinking would take the family to the next camp or island.

Then Mama had a dream and saw Papa all in white. From the hat to shoes, he was all white, and seemed to glow. You see she had found the "Way of Salvation" Church and she followed her instinct. You see she was very sensitive to her dreams, and even with money so tight she bought him all these clothes, and laid them carefully out on the coistsone and said: "Now these are all yours, if you attend church just once with me! "Aiya" with large eyes he agreed, after all he loved to look good! That was it! He was saved and later became a devoted member, who always dressed in white, and always carried his Bible, who loved to sing in harmony with her.

The 'Budidik,' Philip, the youngest is my husband, the artist, who came from this accidental union in Hilo that was forever bound in devotion and love. Their love never wavered! ✨



Christine (left) and Philip Sabado. Please call us at 242-8100 to claim your Grand Prize

"His skill was the Filipino stick fighting known as 'Escrima,' of which he was highly skilled."

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Around Our Community



Members of the Knights of Columbus (from left Benjamin Acob, Jimmy Paet, Henry Parilla, Rudy Balinbin, William Piano, and Joe Gage) barbecued the steak at the recent Christ the King bazaar.
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Dance International Foundation hosted an ESCRIMA exhibition and workshop.
PHOTO COURTESY: MADELYNE PASCUA.



After the Misa de Gallo at St. Theresa in Kihei, Bishop Larry Silva poses with the St. Theresa Filipino Catholic Club Choir under the direction of Choir Directors Joy Fontanilla and Marsha Pascua, Pianist-Anne Durham.
PHOTO COURTESY: MELINDA PIANO



Mayor Alan Arakawa (center) and flanked by the Miss Hawai'i Filipina and the Miss Maui Filipina installed the officers and directors of the Maui Filipino Community Council, including President Elmer Tolentino (far right) at the Rizal Day Program.
PHOTO COURTESY: RM PRODUCTIONS

Maui celebrated with artist Philip Sabado during the unveiling of "Maka Hiapo," his art pieces that were commissioned by Kaiser Permanente that are now being displayed at the Neo-natal section of Kaiser Hospital in Moanalua, O'ahu.
PHOTO COURTESY: CHRISTINE SABADO.



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.



The Sto. Niño Club of Maui recently hosted the annual Santo Niño Festival.
PHOTO COURTESY: SHARON ZALSOS.



Miss Hawai'i Filipina 2016 Amelia Laborte assists with the ribbon cutting during ceremonies of the Turnover of the Clean Water Project, a joint project of the Rotary Club of Lahaina together with Rotary Clubs in the Philippines.
PHOTO COURTESY: AMELIA LABORTE



During the Opening Day festivities at the Hawai'i State Legislature, members of the ILWU paid courtesy visits to various legislators, including Central Maui State Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran.
PHOTO COURTESY: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

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For Filipino-American based nonprofit organizations, free events, benefits and fundraisers only. Up to 60 words plus high resolution photo will be accepted. Email calendar@filamvoicemaui.com (type "Calendar" in subject line) Deadline for submissions is noon one month prior to publication. Events will be published on a space-available basis, giving preference to nonprofit events, free events, benefits and fundraisers. **Businesses** and other for-profit event representatives should contact: **633-7084**.

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March

5 ORIENTATION FOR INTERESTED CANDIDATES FOR 2017 MISS MAUI FILIPINA 12 Noon. Contact Michelle Santos at (805) 264-0871 or Dolly Perreira at (808) 283-1605 or email mfccinfo@gmail.com.

11 DEADLINE TO ENTER AS A CONTESTANT (representing the different cultures of Hawai'i) for the Second Annual Mrs. Ambassador of Culture Pageant sponsored by Dance International Foundation. Contact Madelyne Pascua at 268-7352.

31 DEADLINE FOR ENTRY FOR MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT [on April 22 at Kahili Golf Course]. www.mauifilipinochamber.com Contact Bill Ruidas at 873-8605 or Alfredo Evangelista at 242-8100.

31 DEADLINE FOR MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP www.mauifilipinochamber.com Contact Richard Mina-toya at 385-0088.



Tante Urban · Editor

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April

1 ESCRIMA WORKSHOP and Colored Belts Testing by the Supreme Grand Master of Doce Pares, Inc. (Cebu, Philippines). 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Christ the King Church Hall. Sponsored by Dance International Foundation. Contact Madelyne Pascua at 268-7352.

22 MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT Kahili Golf Course. Shot gun start at 7 a.m. Contact Bill Ruidas at 344-5251 or Alfredo Evangelista at 242-8100.

24 DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS FOR GINTONG PAMANA LEADERSHIP AWARDS sponsored by Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. Download applications www.mauifilipinochamber.com or contact Jeana Gamboa at 419-4090.

May

1 DEADLINE FOR BINHI AT ANI SCHOLARSHIP www.binhiatani.org/images/PDF/BAA_Scholarship_Eligibility_and_Application_2016.pdf. Contact Frederick Dagdag at 280-3076.

June

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.

November

26 GRAND FINALE OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE 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.



Fil-Am Voice

Kalooban...

from p. 4

used by me and all my living relatives.

Like all indigenous peoples, Filipinos have knowledge about the natural world and environment that surround them and live with. Our *kalooban*, I believe, binds us, even as one, with everything and everyone with live with. My native Hawaiian side tells me that all of nature is a manifestation of the divine, of God. The understanding of my Filipino side, imbues me with a sense that divine power, God, resides with everything and everyone around me. I suggest that our *kalooban*, allows, even compels us to see everything and everyone as being a part of the sacredness of God. As such, I know that as we relate to this sacredness, we can relate to the fact that we should celebrate it, especially with each other. Filipinos like to celebrate and I don't know of any Filipino parties that are not at least a little bit festive.

Kababayan, I know that our spirit, as Filipinos, means that we live with and relate to each other as if God is watching and living with us too. We

live with and relate to each other to find meaning in what we see, in how we live and work, in how we learn, in how we see the divine and God in just about everything. So, Fr. Tino gave me a rather philosophical way of understanding *kalooban*. He said that I should find spirit, the Filipino spirit, "...in every image, in every symbol, in every story, metaphor, allegory, in every ritual." He went on to say, and I have never forgotten this, that every Filipino is "the combination of all of these expressions, as God is with and in us". To this I add, as we express our *kalooban* and practice our religion, and weave our own Maui and interwoven mat of Filipino spirit, "*Bahala na!*" *Kababayan*, during this holy season of the Church and especially at the Great Festival of Easter, be at peace and find it in each other and in everything. ✱

John A. Hau'oli Tomoso is a Social Worker and Episcopal Priest. He is a Priest Associate at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wailuku and an on-call Chaplain at Maui Memorial Medical Center. Tomoso graduated from St. Anthony Jr./Sr. High School in Wailuku and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology from the College of St. Thomas in St.



Paul, Minnesota, where he met his wife Susan, who is a 7th grade Language Arts Teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School. Tomoso received his M.S.W. from the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 1977. He retired from the civil service in our County Government, as the Maui County Executive on Aging in 2008 and is currently the Executive Director of the non-profit Tri-Isle Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. If you have any thoughts, comments or questions, you may email Tomoso at atingkabuhayan@gmail.com. ✱



PHOTO COURTESY: UPI



Testimonies were given in Manila, on Jan. 26 during a senate investigation into the death of South Korean businessman Jee Ick-joo. Duterte's police chief, Ronald dela Rosa, said the breakup of anti-drugs units was necessary to rebuild them, but it could disrupt the progress of the campaign.

PHOTO COURTESY: REUTERS

What do you think of President Rodrigo Duterte’s war on drugs?

Fil-Am Voice Staff

During his campaign for president, Rodrigo Duterte promised to get rid of drugs within six months. His War on Drugs has faced scrutiny because of the deaths that were characterized as “extrajudicial killings.” The Duterte administration, however, said those deaths were defensive and legally carried-out in the line of duty by the National Police. After a Korean businessman was recently killed by the National Police, President Duterte suspended the National Police’s enforcement role in the War on Drugs.

Fil-Am Voice staff asked members of Maui’s Filipino community, “What do you think of President Rodrigo Duterte’s War on Drugs?”

Angela, 17 years old of Kahului, with roots in Pinili, Ilocos Norte: “I think it’s good he is doing it. It’s good for the Philippines because he is the only one that is doing something about it.”

Aris, 41 years old of Ha’ikū, with roots in Palawan: “I think it’s very admirable that he has such a strong desire to abolish drug abuse in his country. However, not having a thorough, long term plan on how he is going to address the drug problem can lead to mass hysteria and more vigilante actions. This could cause more harm to innocent by standers rather than the actual drug lords themselves. With no proper due process, this fight against drugs will get out of hand.”

Bety, 50 years old of Wailuku, with roots in Pampanga: “I think he can do it. He has a strong belief in himself. Whatever he says, he can do.”

Cora, 75 years old of Pā’ia, with roots in Natividad, Pangasinan: “Well, I don’t know if he’s doing it the right way. When I listen to the news, instead of interrogating the people, they just kill them inside their houses! So I don’t agree with that. But if they do it the proper way, I don’t mind it. Just yesterday, I listened to the news and they did it again. People are being shot in their house, kids accused of drug possessions.”

Eliza, 78 years old of Kahului, with roots in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte: “I don’t know what’s going on in the Philippines because I don’t have the Filipino Channel but my son is thinking of getting it for me.”

Emi, 66 years old of Lahaina with roots in Santiago, Ilocos Sur: “I like what he is doing—tracking down drug dealers. The sad part is that a lot of high officials and political figures are involved. It’s about time that a President of the Philippines would stand up to it. Duterte should not stop until the real source and of all these people are caught.”

Erna, 71 years old of Lahaina, with roots in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte: “In the beginning Duterte’s war on drugs was a good agenda. But now, there are way too many killings, and the “big and powerful” people are still out there.”

Eugenia, 59 years old of Wailuku, with roots in Badoc, Ilocos Norte: “It’s a hard question to answer. I’m torn with what the media is reporting because hearing from my co-workers that it’s peaceful and they are not afraid. But for me, I’ll never go and visit because I’m afraid.”

Jeniffer, 40 years old of Kahului, with roots in Manila: “Drugs is one of the biggest problems not only in the Philippines but all over the world. It’s a disease that every country’s been fighting. My point of view with President Rodrigo Duterte’s War on Drugs in the Philippines is it’s about time that somebody has to do something about it. In my past thirty years of living in the Philippines, only now that I’ve see changes. Previous presidents didn’t really do good in fighting the drug issues. In fact, it was worse because politicians are tolerating it and most of the time they were the ones behind all of these drug issues in the Philippines. Only Duterte had this issue turn 360 degrees around. It’s about time that a President should do something about it and have to use the iron fist. People may have different opinions about this. But in my own opinion, he has done an excellent job on cleaning the drugs in the Philippines. People who are into drugs whether they are user, seller, or perpetrator, they all know that it’s wrong and bad and they also know the consequences. President Duterte gave them a chance to come out and surrender and clean their names and themselves. Some did but some didn’t. So let’s not blame President Duterte for those people who got

killed during the buy/bust operations.”

John, 21 years old of Kahului, with roots in Candon City, Ilocos Sur: “I support his campaign because from what I know, he only targets/kills drug users/pushers. According to a Filipino news that I watched (TV Patrol), once a person is convicted of drug use, police will make the person sign a waiver stating he is guilty of drug use and won’t do it again. If the person who signs the waiver gets caught using drugs again, I think, that’s the time they make action of the person’s consequence. Right now, there is no proof that Duterte is the main reason behind these “extra judicial killings” but from what I know, most of the people in the Philippines are okay with it because like I said, they only target drug addicts—not innocent people.”

Jojo, 41 years old, of Pā’ia, with roots in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte: “The war on drugs, I personally agree to go against illegal drugs. But the manner how it has to be done should be looked into, the ones perpetuating that area are the ones being punished. There should be the law process and due process should be given as well.”

Jorge, 50 years old of Kīhei, with roots in Loyola Heights, Quezon City: “The end never justifies the means. You can’t trample on basic human rights protected by laws in the name of eradicating a social problem or building a better society... In other words even a drug dealer or a suspected one deserves the chance to defend themselves in court, not just be gunned down because he’s a known “bad guy” or worse, his name just showed up on some list.”

Josephine, 33 years old of Wailuku, with roots in Manila: “It is immoral, unjust and indecent. How can a nation’s leader condone the murder of ‘alleged’ criminals without due legal process? This ‘war’ is a human rights violation, and fundamentally un-Christian—“Thou shalt not kill.” It is a massacre, with no protection for law-abiding Filipinos from these extremely fascist measures.”

Karen, 38 years old of Kahului with roots in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte: “I don’t agree on the extrajudicial

killings but I agree on fighting the war on drugs. It got out of hand so I guess, the president has to do what he has to do. And if it takes extrajudicial killings then so be it.”

Michelle, 21 years old of Kahului with roots in Pangasinan: “I agree with what he’s doing with the drug war and I really admire what President Rodrigo Duterte’s doing about the drug war because comparing to the last President they didn’t really find the drug users and those big drug dealers which a lot of politicians now and police as well found using drugs since President Duterte became President.”

Nita, 58 years old of Wailea, with roots in Banaue, Ifugao: “The place is so clean now. A lot of improvements, especially the airport. It’s very safe.”

Rheena, 34 years old of Wailuku, with roots in Paoay, Ilocos Norte: “Six months is too short of a time frame to combat a problem that has been going on for years. Drugs ruin lives. But on the other hand there must be better communication with all parties involved.”

Rick, 58 years old of Lahaina, with roots in Pangasinan: “I just spent nineteen days in the Philippines and had a lot of very lengthy discussions/debates with family members and friends who are very much in tune with politics in the Philippines. Most of the people I talked to support President Duterte’s war on drugs. We are outside looking in through the eyes of the media, a media that I believe is anti-Duterte. Most of us who are outside the country do not have a sense of how drugs have destroyed the lives of many Filipinos, especially the marginalized, and something has to be done.”

Roshelle, 18 years old of Kīhei, with roots in Isabel and Ilocos Norte: “LOL I honestly don’t know. I don’t pay attention to Duterte. But I guess the war on drugs is good ‘cause it’s getting rid of the drug dealers and the bad people.”

Victor, 59 years old of Waikapū, with roots in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte: “To me, he will continue to do killing on the war of drugs as long as he will be the president. I agree with his War on Drugs.” ✨



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