



**Love Is...**  
Fil-Am Voice takes a look at what Filipino-Americans say what they think love is all about. What is your definition?  
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**Please Break Glass!**  
Are you ready for Hawai'i's next real emergency?  
**Page 1**



**Our Fearless Editor Gives Love His Priority**  
Tante Urban has taken his Valentine's day observation to a new level: call it a "ritual."  
**Page 4**



# Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

February 2018 • Vol 2 No2 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

## inside



This critter has caused the demise of "singlehood" of many. It's okay, double-up!  
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This sakada's offspring is a vivacious, loving wife and mother.  
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Not a KFC endorsement, but how creative are we when it comes to romance?  
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## WHAT IS LOVE?

Alfredo G. Evangelista

Love is in the air every sight and every sound." It's February—the month of Love. Almost everywhere, there is a constant reminder that Valentine's Day is celebrated worldwide on February 14. Most stores (and don't forget Amazon) have something for your Valentine—flowers, balloons, teddy bears, cards, candy, wine, gifts—all sort of sweet nothings designed to make your loved one happy. Restaurants have pre-set Valentine's Day menus with reservations booked weeks, if not months, in advance.

Movie theaters boast of new love-themed movies such as this month's number one movie "Fifty Shades Freed" while cable TV has a couple stations (Hallmark, LMN) devoted to love, playing such movies as "My Favorite Valentine" and "Very, Very Valentine." Hotels and airlines encourage you to take a trip to Vegas while Facebook is awash with photos, movies, and little blurbs about love.

John Paul Young's rendition of *Love Is In The Air* got me to thinking about Love

see LOVE IS p.2



Fifty Shades of Freed—boasted by movie theaters nationwide.  
PHOTO COURTESY DESTRUCTOID.COM

## ARE YOU PREPARED?

Emergency Alert. Ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawai'i. Seek immediate shelter. This is not a drill.

Alfredo G. Evangelista

**THIS IS NOT A DRILL.** On Saturday, January 13, 2018, at 8:06 a.m., the State of Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) sent Hawai'i into panic mode as smart phones throughout the state received an inbound missile alert. Folks scrambled wherever they were that morning, not sure what to do, and certainly not prepared for a missile attack from North Korea.

My wife Basilia and I were at Waiehu Beach, near the Waihe'e Golf Course, picking up drift wood for a camp fire

that evening. My wife's daughter called her and asked if we received the text that we were under attack. We hadn't and then in a second, it came on both of our Verizon cell phones. "This is not a drill" said the text.

"Damn that Trump," I thought. "He finally got North Korea so pissed with all that 'My button is bigger than your button' stuff that North Korea decided to make Hawai'i an example." According to earlier news reports, if North Korea launched a missile, we would

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FREE





Randy, Nennette and family.  
PHOTO COURTESY RANDY CRUZ

# Love Is...

from p. 1

and what it really means. Yes, love is different for everyone, every gender, every age, every station in life. And yes, for those of us of the Christian faith, the ultimate Love—*Agape*—is God's love. Randy of Randy's Catering takes to heart God's love: "The three greatest words are Faith, Hope, and Love but Love is the greatest and it's biblical as you refer to John 3:16. 'For God so LOVED the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have an everlasting Life.' It's simple... by flesh if I'm happy... and by spiritual by obeying the commandments of God."

Even the often quoted “Love is patient, love is kind,” passages from St. Paul’s letter (I Corinthians 13) has sometimes been incorporated into Valentine’s Day commercialism. But for me and my family, music is always a key component of love and the memories associated with songs are part of what fosters our deepest affections.

My wife Basilia's favorite love song is *Eternal Flame*. "Do you feel my heart beating? Do you understand? Do you feel the same? Am I only dreaming? Is this burning an eternal flame?" Yes, it captures the time line of our romance from high school sweethearts, through a break-up, and eventually, our second marriages to each other.

My son Christian, 31 years old, will wed his girlfriend Carolyn Dunlea, 30



Alfredo (right) and Basillia Evangelista.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

years old, in October. His favorite love song is *La Vie en Rose* by French chanteur Edith Piaf (a song whose English lyrics include “I thought that love was just a word they sang about in songs I heard; It took your kisses to reveal that I was wrong, and love is real”). Their first wedding dance will be to that song. “One of the first things we did as a couple was to go to a concert at George Washington University with someone singing Edith Piaf songs,” he explained. My twenty-six year old daughter Danielle says her favorite love song is *At Last* by Etta James (“At last my love has come along. My lonely days are over and life is like a song, oh yeah”). Danielle explains “Her voice is timeless. When she belts the first few notes, I just melt away.” Me thinks it’s because she has found true love in her boyfriend Andrew.

True love. Everyone talks about it. But how do you define it?

Thirteen year old Leilani says “Love is an affection that you feel for someone” while fourteen year old Czarina



Christian (right) and Carolyn.  
PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTIAN EVANGELISTA

like a war. It's easy to begin but hard to stop." Jingo says "Love is an intense feeling or affection you can feel for someone. It's unexplainable. It's just within you." "Love is having fun conversations with your loved one" says Madelyne. "Love is the constant, never ending challenge to create a home worth coming back to," says Eugenia while Alex says: "Love is a lot of things: Love of God. Love of my family. Love of my wife. To be together forever until death do us part. That's Love for me."

Of course, everyone has a different definition of Love. But how do you know it? What tells you you're really in love?

“How do you know you’re in Love? You know when you’re in Love if you can’t get that other person out of your mind, you’re daydreaming about the future with this person, suffer from sleeplessness and loss of appetite and the crazy thing is that, you catch yourself smiling for no reason. Your day is not complete if you don’t see, hear,

**see LOVE IS p.5**

see LOVE IS p.5

#MauiFCU80years

# 80 LUCKY GIVEAWAYS

To show our appreciation on our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are selecting 80 lucky social media followers to win exciting prizes!

**1. LIKE + SHARE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA** 

- Find @MauiFCU on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get the details about the raffle. You don't have to be a member of Maui FCU and no purchase is necessary to win - we just really want to thank you!

**2. THAT'S IT.**

- If selected, we'll contact you via social media for details how to redeem your prize. Starting on Feb. 12, we will pick 10 lucky winners every Monday, and 20 winners for the last week before Maui FCU's annual meeting on March 25.

\* must be a resident of Hawaii.  
\* Lucky winners can only win once.

  
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Gen. **Vern Miyagi** resigned after the false alarm which may effect Gov. Ige's chances to be re-elected again.  
PHOTO COURTESY LONGVIEW NEWS JOURNAL



Congresswoman **Tulsi Gabbard**, who swiftly appeared on national TV that Saturday morning to say it was a false alarm, endorsed Ige's opponent, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa.  
PHOTO COURTESY GETTY IMAGES



**Herman Andaya, Jr.**, the new Administrator for the Maui County Emergency Management Agency demonstrates how to use Maka'ala.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



"Out of all this, people now are paying attention to emergency preparedness," said Andaya.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



# Prepared?...

from p. 1

have fifteen minutes.

## Fifteen Minutes

We guessed we were more than fifteen minutes away from our residence in Waikapū so we decided to drive from Leisure Estates in Waiehu to my sister's house in Wailuku Country Estates. And yes, I was in panic mood. I searched the radio for news. The only acknowledgment was Danielle Tucker on 104.7, who was hosting her Saturday golf show; she also had no information. I noted in my mind the sirens were not blasting. Over the next twenty minutes, family and friends would be texting. Some had learned from other sources—that it was a false alarm.

It would not be until 8:45 a.m., some thirty-nine minutes later that the official text to cell phones was sent that it was a false alarm.

Folks were livid that it was a false alarm. Gov. David Ige, retired Army Maj. Gen. Vern Miyagi and the rest of the staff failed to quell the public's anger as to what they initially claimed a human error. But later investigations revealed many mistakes, cover-ups,

and yes, the employee who made the human error now claims he actually thought we were under attack.

The aftermath caused Miyagi's resignation, termination of one employee, suspension of another employee, and the resignation in lieu of discipline of another employee... and yes, who knows how this will affect the governor's race. Several days later, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard who swiftly appeared on national TV that Saturday morning to state it was a false alarm, endorsed Ige's opponent, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa.

"Out of all this, people now are paying attention to emergency preparedness," said Herman Andaya, Jr., the new Administrator for the Maui County Emergency Management Agency formerly known as the Civil Defense Agency. After a three hour civil

service examination and interviews by the Fire Chief, Police Chief, the Kaua'i Administrator, and the State Administrator, Andaya was selected from among fifty persons who applied for the civil service position. Andaya served as the Mayor's Chief of Staff from January 2011 and previously served as the Special Assistant to the Chancellor at the University of Hawai'i



**FEMA** offers brochures to help with your emergency preparedness.  
PHOTO COURTESY HERMAN ANDAYA, JR.

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## From the Editor's Desk

Tante Urban  
EDITOR & PRESIDENT • FIL-AM VOICE



Tante and Telly Urban share their Valentine's Day ritual.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

## It's February!

The month of love.

Valentine's Day is celebrated worldwide and lovers exchange gifts and tokens of their love.

All of us in the hospitality industry try our best to make Valentine's Day special for everyone. If you came to my restaurant on Valentine's Day, we had a couple of great specials for you.

I'm a firm believer that Valentine's Day is a special day because Valentine's Day is a Love Day. It is one of the days that we show our love and appreciation to the one person we love.

My personal Valentines ritual:

1. Wake up early before my wife.
2. Prepare coffee and breakfast.

3. Greet my wife—Good morning, Happy Valentines Day, *baket* (my love).
4. Coffee and breakfast in bed.
5. Get ready to work.
6. Buy 3 roses for wife.

*"Last July, my wife Telly and I celebrated our 27th wedding anniversary. I feel blessed to have my wife Telly as my partner in life and in work. I couldn't do it without her. I am truly blessed."*

— TANTE URBAN

7. Casual Lunch with wife.

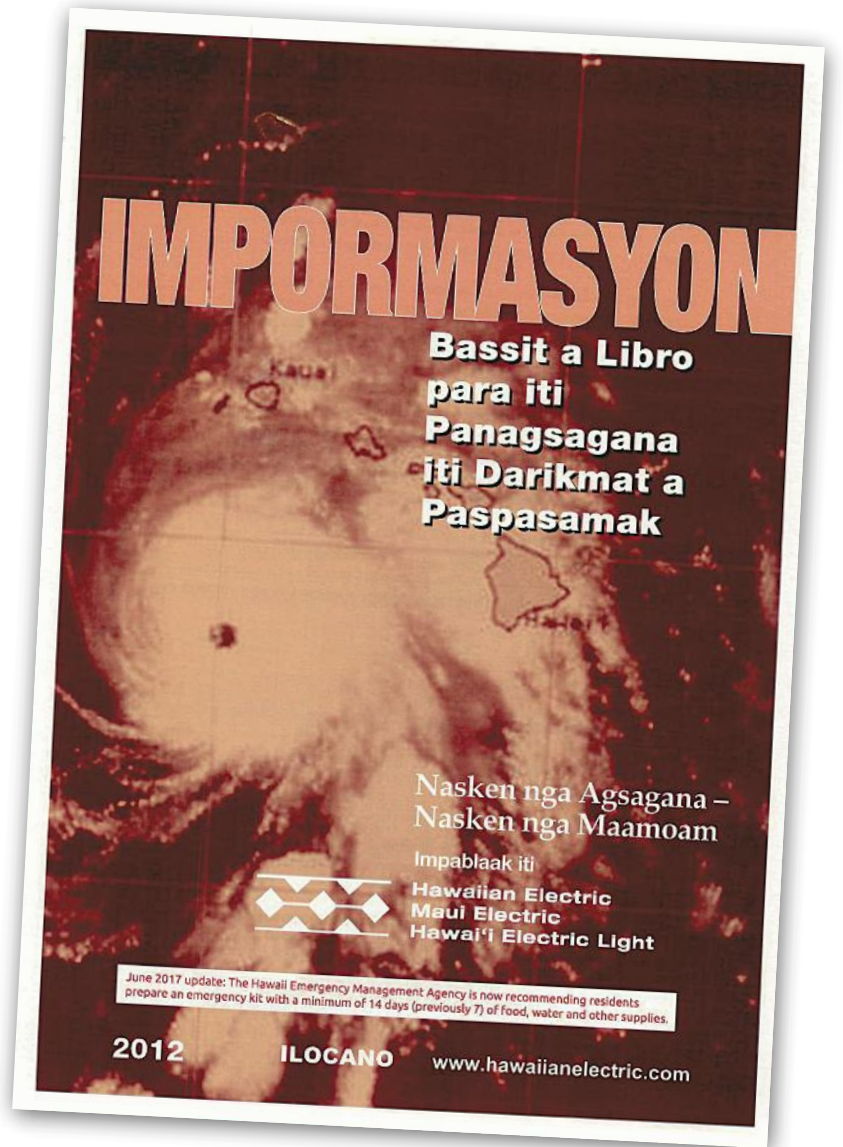
8. Special romantic dinner with wife.

Last July, my wife Telly and I celebrated our 27th wedding anniversary. I feel blessed to have my wife Telly as my partner in life and in work. I couldn't do it without her. I am truly blessed.

I hope that you too are blessed in love and life and that you took some time to wish your sweetheart, a Happy Valentine's Day! ✨



The Hawai'i State Department of Health has flyers in different languages including Ilokano ("Agaramid Ti Emergency Kit") and Tagalog ("Gumawa Ng Emergency Kit") specifying what needs to be in your emergency kit.  
IMAGES COURTESY HERMAN ANDAYA, JR.



Hawaiian Electric, Maui Electric, and Hawai'i Electric Light have produced a brochure in Ilokano titled "Impormasyon."  
IMAGE COURTESY HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC

## Prepared?...

from p. 3

Maui College (3 years) and as Deputy Director of Housing & Human Concerns (4 years).

"I was at the park with my family and we were walking the dog," said Andaya. "We rushed back to the house and within five minutes I was at the Emergency Operations Center at the basement of the County Building. Managing Director Keith Regan and I were first on the scene and within minutes the staff were present. We went through the protocols and received confirmation after approximately fifteen minutes that it was a false alarm. Once we confirmed the false alarm, we were able to send an alert through Maka'ala."

Maka'ala is Maui County's free Emergency Alert program that residents can subscribe to at [www.mauicounty.gov/emergency](http://www.mauicounty.gov/emergency). A subscriber selects the type of alerts to receive (tsunami, hurricane, earthquakes, etc.) and the ways to receive the alert (text, email, phone).

"People know us when it comes to an emergency but it's more than that," said Andaya. "There are four phases: preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation." According to Andaya, to be prepared, one needs to do three things: 1) create an emergency kit; 2) make a plan; and 3) be informed. "We know people don't have an emergency kit because whenever there's a warning, folks go to the stores and that's too late," said Andaya. "Make a plan with your fam-

see PREPARED? p.10



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Madelyne and Ray  
PHOTO COURTESY MADELYNE PASCUA



Eugenia and Mark  
PHOTO COURTESY EUGENIA SITTS

## Love Is...

from p. 2

talk to the other person,” says Dulce.

“I knew I was in love because I felt secure, at peace,” said Elayna. “I felt like the best version of myself when we were together.”

Madelyne explained: “I knew it was LOVE when my husband of thirty four years this year, May 5, courted me back in 1982 when he traveled from Mānoa (UH) to Waipahū early in the morning (weekdays) to pick me up to attend mass at St. Joseph Church before he brought me to Waipahū High School. Being that he was not a Catholic at that time, he followed my faith. I knew it was Love when he spent thirty minutes talking with my grandmother every time he picked me up on a date. I knew it was Love when he ate my oxtail adobo that was only simmering for just thirty minutes. I knew it was Love, when he showed so much respect to my family.”

“I close my eyes and have the sweetest smile when I start to reminisce,” says Emerenciana. “It started all one summer night when we attended my cousin Rose’s birthday at her Mom’s house. We had a good time together and mingled with my cousins and friends. As the celebration was getting over, suddenly I ask myself is ????? Please Lord give me a sign. THE question was still hanging in my mind as we drove back to his place so I started asking Joe serious question about our relationship, a little misunderstanding that ends ... in a very serious commitment. Minutes later inside the house Joe gets down on his knee and pops the question to me ‘Will You Marry me?’ with

his hand holding the ring. ‘I know this is not the way I planned to propose to you,’ Joe says, ‘Let me assure you. If you will give me the chance to Love and to be with you forever. Will you marry me?’ My heart beat so fast, filled with joy, and the only word I uttered is ‘Yes!’ After several years of living together as husband and wife, I can say that Joe is my True Love. I show him everyday how I love him.



Emerenciana and Joe  
PHOTO COURTESY EMERENCIANA KUZARA

He may not be perfect in others’ eyes but he is my True Love. I thank the Lord above for He blessed me with a wonderful husband—my True Love.”

And Love sometimes is a second chance. Alarming statistics indicate half of marriages result in divorces. Not a great testament to love and that we sometimes assume is the basis of our marriage institution. But some may argue that marriage the second time around is better....

“They always say that Love is sweeter and better the second time around,” said Jingo. A lot of people have been married and they try and fail again. The good thing is that you learn a lot from your first relationship and you get better every day.”

“What’s different the second time around? The first time you fall in Love, it’s like a fairy tale,” explains Dulce. “Then you realize that it’s not

all magical after all. That is why you try to make a difference the second time. The difference the second time around is that you know that fairy tale doesn’t really exist, reality does. You will try to have less drama, be more realistic and pick your own battles to win the war. And that’s the beauty of falling in Love again, you become smarter and wiser.”

After a failed marriage, Eugenia explained how she knew Mark was the right man: “I knew that he was IT when he first went to Mama Isca who was 70 something years old and he introduced himself and about two minutes later, they were laughing!!! So he made a special connection; not only with me and the kids but most espe-

cially grandma!!!”

Sometimes, Love can lead to what may seem to be an illogical act. “I jumped on a flight with ten minutes notice to be with my future hubby,” said Sharon. As Jingo explained, “Everybody is stupid when you talk about Love. When you’re in love, you don’t use your brain, you use your heart.” Dulce shares that she took an assignment in Lahaina, which is not her area, just to see her love, Paul. “One time when I dropped off some architectural supplies for him to borrow, I completely forgot I had to drop off my daughter Kate to her piano lessons. And since Mom didn’t agree with him moving in with me at Mom’s

see LOVE IS p.10



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# Kwento Kuwentuhan

## This Is Our Love Story

The love story of my husband and me.

Liza of “A Maui Blog”



This is our love story—the love story of my husband and me. It’s semi-true. The only difference in real life and imagination is that **I believe God put us together, not Cupid.** Cupid is just an imaginary addition to the story because you know. It’s Valentine’s Day. 😊

### June 2, 1991

Another day. It’s time for another mission. Who will I be matching today? I want this one to be a challenge. Last match I did was high school sweethearts. That was nice and easy. I want to do something different today...

There! That gal... right there. Oh, that’s Liza. I know her. I had struck her before. It was a bull’s eye—love at first sight. But it didn’t end into a “happily ever after.” She resisted. Something to do with her “commitment,” she said. Something about “love is more than emotion... that it goes beyond.” Ah... looks like she’s ready for another love... let’s see...

There! That guy... right there. He’s got what Liza is looking for. Same belief, same passion. Hmm... this might be the one. But from the looks of this... this is going to be a challenge. **They have a lot of differences.** Hey, this is the challenge I was thinking about.

Cupid devised a plan. But his power is limited—circumstances have to align. And one day, it did!

### September 1991

Perfect! A mission team was formed at Hope Chapel and Bradley is going.

This is perfect timing! Now I just have to wait until their paths cross... The



October 19, 1993 was our special day when we got married (left). My husband and I took a photo (right) in our kitchen recently in 2016.

PHOTO COURTESY LIZA PIERCE



waiting for a letter from Bradley. She waited... and waited... and waited. The letter never arrived. It got lost in the mail!

Darn it! Who stole that card? **Who stole the card!** This is making me upset!

Bradley couldn’t wait any longer. He called... he asked... Liza didn’t know what to say... she didn’t get the letter... and when she heard of the proposal, she was speechless!

### October 19, 1993

Oh, it’s a lovely day... a special day. There she is—the bride. She’s beautiful as she walks down the aisle to her groom waiting at the altar. Mission accomplished.

Cupid smiled, flapped his tiny little wings and flew away for another day. ✨

**“Darn it!  
Who stole  
that card?  
Who stole  
that card!  
This is  
making me  
upset!”**

– CUPID

time has come. They meet! Ready aim shoot!

The church mission is for two weeks, but it’s only two days that Bradley and Liza worked together. They spent the time ministering to the poor. It was their passion to help others just as Jesus helped them.

Two weeks went by fast. Nothing romantic happened. Goodbyes were said.

Rats! What must I do? Think! Think!

### January 1992

Liza wrote to Bradley and asked him for a copy of the photo he took. Bradley wrote back.

This is good... this is really good.

Bradley and Liza continue to write each other. Their correspondence grew, their friendship grew deeper. They got to know each other more. Phone calls—letters—lots of letters back and forth.

I think it’s time for reinforcements. Ready... aim... shoot!

Bradley wrote a letter to Liza telling her about the story of Isaac and Rebecca. Liza wrote a letter to Bradley telling him of the story of Rebecca and Isaac. They mailed their cards. The cards crossed over the ocean... from Maui to Philippines... from Philippines to Maui.

When they received the mail, they knew they were meant for each other.

Lovely! Just lovely! This is working out. Now it’s time for the proposal...

Bradley sent a beautiful card with his proposal to Liza. He mailed it and waited patiently for her response.

He waited... and waited... and waited. In the meantime, Liza was



**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 Rainbow; 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.



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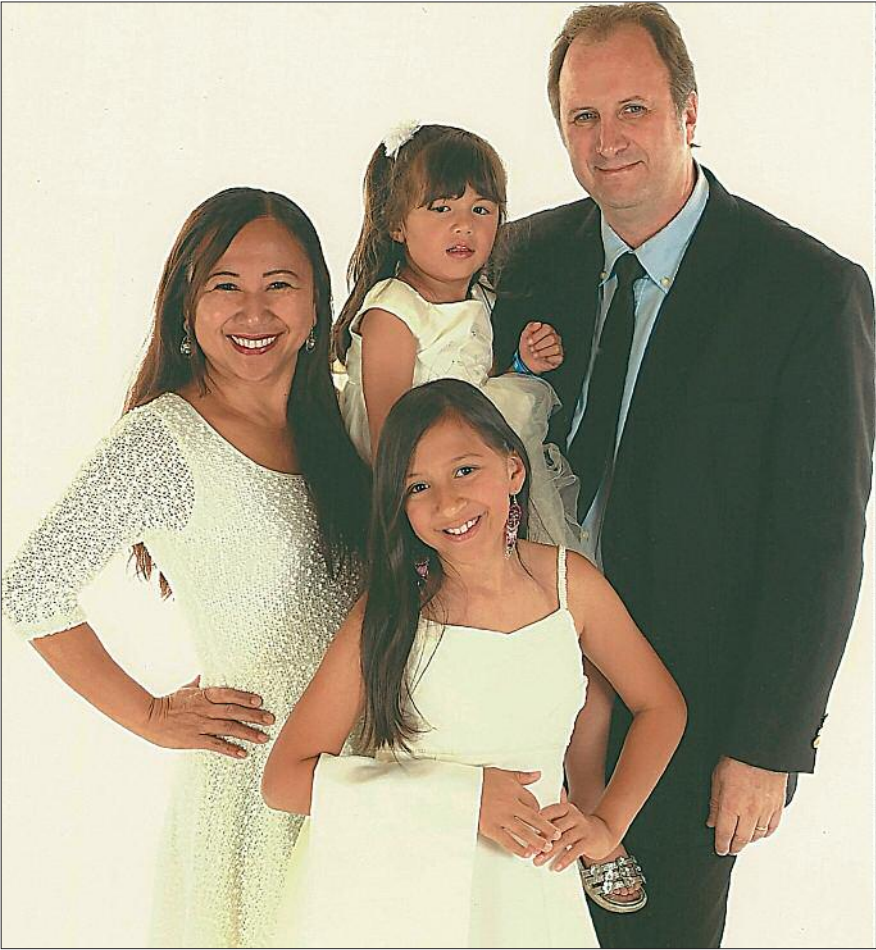
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Maria Domingo Thomas

Maria Thomas (left) poses with her family: Jeffrey (right), and daughters Elizabeth (bottom) and the youngest, Faith.



# Maria Domingo Thomas

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY MARIA THOMAS

This featured Sakada Offspring is very vivacious and friendly, a loving wife, a caring mother and a down to earth young woman. She is none other than Maria Domingo Thomas. She was born in Santa Rosa Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. Her parents are Mariano and Florentina Domingo, both retired. Mariano retired from HC&S and Florentina retired from the Hyatt Regency Maui Hotel. They are both currently living in Kahului.

Maria is married to Jeffrey Thomas, a dentist at Family Dental Center in Kihei. They have two beautiful daughters, Elizabeth (age 11, 6th grade at Maui Waena) and Faith, (age 7, 1st grade at Pomaikai Elementary School.

Maria’s uncle, Juan Domingo (deceased), and her Auntie Rosalina Domingo were instrumental in bringing her whole family to Hawai’i. In appreciation to her uncle and aunty,

Maria had this to say about them: “I feel much obliged for their kindness, a love, support and all that they have provided for our family and future generations.”

Maria lived in Santa Rosa, Laoag City for 12 years. She attended Balacad Elementary School and moved to Maui in 1982. She attended Kahului Elementary School (7th – 8th grade) and Maui High School. At Maui High School, she was a member of the Keywanettes Club, Science, Aquarium/Terrarium Club and Leo Club. While attending

the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, she was a member of the Fil-Am Club and Philippine Languages & Cultural Club. She graduated from Argosy University with a Masters Degree in Professional Counseling.

For her community involvement, Maria dances with Dance International under the direction of Madelyne Pascua. She also belongs to Christ The King Church and serves as a Lector. In addition, she also belongs to Alpha Delta Kappa (Professional Growth Development Chairperson).

Maria worked in the Hawai’i Job

*“Her favorite quote that she shared at the pageant was, ‘The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart.’”*

– LUCY PEROS

Corps. She is presently employed by the Department of Education as their Behavioral Health Specialist/Counselor. She also worked at Princess Nāhi’ena’ena School, King Kamehameha III School, Kahului School and is currently at Pōmaika’i School

At the first Annual Mrs. Ambassador of Culture Pageant, Maria represented the Filipino Culture as Mrs. Ambassador of Faith. Her favorite quote that she shared at the pageant was, “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart.” It was a quotation by Helen Keller. She modeled Filipino outfits during the pageant and other events like the Little Miss Barrio Fiesta Pageant, Maui Mall, and at the Queen Ka’ahumanu Center for cultural events.

In 1998, Maria participated in the Miss Maui Filipina pageant and became the 2nd runner up. In the past, she performed at the Maui Fil-Am Heritage Festival with Dance International Production.

Maria’s self reflection, hopes and dreams for a better Maui and better world is: “Finding peace and joy in each other (love, love, love)-Maui and the world would be a better place if we can only love and accept one another as we are.”

Maria truly and beautifully represents the new generation of Filipinas of the Sakada Offsprings. ✨

**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.



## Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation to Host Robert Martin for Income Tax Seminar



Robert W. Martin has been professionally preparing income taxes for 52 years. He operates his own income tax preparation business and teaches two classes at the University of Hawai’i Maui College.

PHOTO COURTESY ROBERT MARTIN

The Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation will be hosting Robert W. Martin for an income tax seminar on Friday, February 23, 2018. The event will be held from 6–7 p.m. at the University of Hawai’i Maui College, Ka Lama Building, Room 103.

Mr. Martin will speak on the general topic of income taxes and answer specific questions related to the 2018 tax season. Tax filing can seem especially difficult this year due to confusion surrounding the recently passed Tax Cut and Jobs Act, which represents the most sweeping tax changes in decades. Most changes went into effect on January 1, 2018, and therefore will not affect the current tax season,

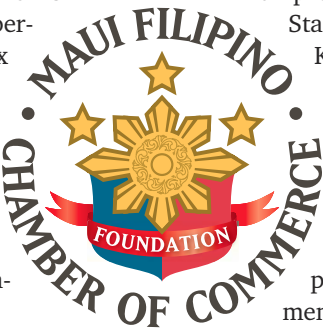
though some provisions may impact filings for the 2017 tax year.

Mr. Martin has been professionally preparing income taxes for 52 years. He owns and operates his own income tax preparation business and teaches two classes at the University of Hawai’i Maui College titled “Principles of Accounting” and “Individual Income Tax Preparation.”

Mr. Martin received his bachelor’s degree from Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL, and earned his MBA from Golden Gate University in San

Francisco, CA. He is active in the Maui community as a member of the Masonic Lodge and is the founder of a non-profit organization called Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids.

The event is open to Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce members at a cost of \$10 per person and to the general public at \$15 per person. Light refreshments will be served. For more information about the tax seminar, call Aris Banaag, the Foundation’s Education Committee Chair, at (808) 870-6134.

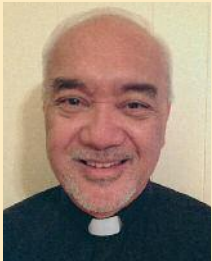




# Ating Kabuhayan

## Love is a way of life!

Rev. John A.H. Tomoso †



I start this month's column by quoting Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 13:4-7), using the NIV translation: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of

wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres." I like this translation because it speaks to a way of life, of love, that we all can understand and, perhaps, easily get into and make our very own! You've probably seen this biblical quote on quite a few Valentine's Day cards, maybe even one that you've given to your loved one. Thus, I know that this quote is a popular one and helps us to understand the importance of love in our lives.

Paul, the writer of this letter, shared his belief that individuals are inspired by the Holy Spirit. He often, in the churches and communities addressed, understood that individuals had a hard time expressing what was revealed to them; they could not find the words that could clearly express what they felt and believed. For us, isn't "expressing love," at least with words, hard to express? I know that more often than not, I also have a problem with expressing my love with actions! So, here comes Paul with his now famous and much-loved verses defining, probably for all time, what love is. In these verses, I believe Paul wants us to, calm down, perhaps even slow down, be clear, take a deep breath and have a lasting and enduring understanding of the importance of love in our lives.

Think about these things: Why would love need to be **patient**, especially when **patience** takes us out of ourselves and connects us to others? **Kindness**, treating others as you would want to be treated, needs to be expressed through being "calm, cool and collected." Having no **envy** and not being **boastful** means to be humble. Doesn't humility lead to not being **proud**, and putting yourself above others? Didn't our grandparents, certainly our parents tell us to be **honorable**, to make our relationships mutually acceptable and satisfying? To think of others first, is certainly not **self-seeking**. What do you do if you're feeling "selfish"? Many things, especially with our current political climate, and government policy issues can easily anger us. Yet, Paul clearly states that love is "**not easily angered**." Have you "turned the other cheek" and not kept a "**record of wrongs**?" I know revenge to be a way of life for those who do. Do you understand **truth** to be the antidote to **evil**? In more ways than one, truth does "set one free!" Can we learn to allow the truth to overcome all that is false, not good and that can, if allowed to run amok, call you?

The ending of Paul's definition of love, speaks to our human need to be **protected** and **trusted** and to have **hope** and to **persevere**, out of love, in all that we do. I know that one can never have the last say about what love means. However, *Kababayan*, let's believe in it, these things revealed to us, yes, in and by the Holy Spirit, and act accordingly, out of our need to be human and to be human in relationship with other humans. One more thing, buying that Valentine's Day card or gift has always for me been about understanding and putting into practice what Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. I wish you love, in all its ways, now and forever!

Have an idea or a comment or even a question, contact me at this email address: atingkabuhayan@gmail.com So, until next time, take care! ✨

**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 was graduated from St. Anthony Jr./Sr. High School, the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota (Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology) and Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Masters of Social Work). In 2008, he retired from the civil service as the Maui County Executive on Aging. Tomoso is currently the Executive Director of the non-profit Tri-Isle Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. His wife Susan is a 7th grade Language Arts Teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School.

## Ka-Ching!

# Are You Indispensable?

Elsa Agdinaoy-Segal

Perhaps you're frequently told—by colleagues at work, family members, or friends—that they don't know what they'd do without you. Of course, it makes you feel important. But perhaps you're being given a bit of a back-handed compliment. Any good manager can tell you that the secret to a smooth running and successful operation is delegating authority.

Maybe you make the world's best *bibingka*. And after you're gone, your kids will sit around for decades, reminiscing about what a *bibingka* Mom used to make. But wouldn't it be even better if you had given them the

rent or mortgage, utilities, minimum payments on credit cards, car payments, and anything else you pay on a regular monthly basis. Then add bills you pay less frequently, such as a yearly trash fee, car insurance, or association dues. Also list items you pay on an as-needed basis, like repairs or yard cleanup.

Create a calendar. Mark down the deadlines for each bill and when you usually pay them.

Create a notation. Mark down how you usually pay each bill: by check, cash, credit or debit card? In person, by mail, electronically?

Provide physical access. Do you have files kept in a desk

have him or her sign onto your online accounts. Go to the bank together and open the safe deposit box. Make sure the bill statements are understandable to both of you.

And remember, turnabout is fair play. If your partner or spouse handles all or some of the bills, then perhaps you are the one who needs training. If handling the finances is not your regular job but suddenly fell to you, would you know what to do?

This month, vow to share information, and step through the process of handling your financial business with someone you trust. Even if you go back to your routine division of labor, you'll undoubtedly have become more organized in the process and you'll have gained peace of mind, knowing that in unexpected circumstances, your affairs can be managed smoothly. That's better than being indispensable any day.

## Making Finances Indispensable

While completing this process, you may come to recognize a newfound appreciation of the intricacies involved with managing your financial affairs. Now may be a good time to take a second look at your finances and long term plans and involve your backup in the process. Guidance from a qualified financial professional can help you think about the best ways to plan for the future and manage your money. To learn more or access helpful materials, speak with a local financial professional. ✨

Provided by **Elsa Agdinaoy-Segal**, a financial representative with MassMutual Pacific, courtesy of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual). Lic. #357268. Agdinaoy-Segal was graduated from Hawai'i Pacific University where she received a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis on Human Resource Management. In 2009, she earned the Chartered Retirement Plans SpecialistSM designation (CRPS7). Agdinaoy-Segal has nine years of experience in the financial services industry. She is the mother of two children, Joshua and Lily, and married to Brandon Segal, a deputy prosecuting attorney with the County of Maui.

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When Mom's *bibingka* cannot be duplicated, it's a sad outcome. If Mom shared the recipe with her children, the legacy of her induplicable bibingka can live on and be enjoyed. Similarly, you should also have someone within your family know fully how your financial plans are to be handled, if in case you can no longer be its handler.

PHOTO COURTESY ASIANINAMERICAMAG.COM

recipe and they could continue making it for themselves instead of simply dreaming about it?

How much more important are your financial records! Whether you are the only adult in your household, or share responsibilities, think for a moment. If someone had to take over for you in an emergency, would they be able to keep your affairs running smoothly? Here are some points to consider:

Identify your "backup team." In most households, there's a division of labor. While that's an efficient system for day-to-day operations, cross-training is important as well. Your spouse or partner should know what you know, and vice versa. If you are the only adult in your household, enlist a trusted family member or friend with the necessary information. If you share a home with a roommate, an elderly parent, or another person unwilling or unable to handle your finances, you might also need to go outside of your household to find your "backup team."

List your bills. Start with

or filing cabinet? Your backup person will need to know where these are located. Do you have a safe deposit box? Ditto for the keys. Are you the only account holder for your bank accounts? Consider adding your backup person so that check-writing and other transactions may be performed by him or her. Do you keep the business cards of preferred service people? Are they all in one place and is it clear who does what?

Prioritize. If money were tight, which bills would get paid before others? Consider this question and talk it over with your backup person. Also think about what you would do with an unexpected windfall: save it, invest it, donate it to charity, or pay off a debt?

Practice. Don't just talk about dealing with your finances. You may think you know how to do a thing but actually having to do it flushes out all the possible problems. So guide your family member or friend through the process. With your assistance,





# Dinengdeng & Pinakbet

Our ongoing immigration debacle: How the “RAISE” Act will negatively affect family-based immigration.

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Immigration as cheap labor is central to the Filipino story in Hawai’i. Much attention in the national debate has been on providing relief to people who were brought illegally as minors—the so-called Dreamers. Anecdotally, Filipinos may form a substantial number of Dreamers in Hawai’i, so there’s certainly some local interest in reaching a solution.

The other main themes of the national debate—favoring workers with certain skills and knowledge and abandoning family unification as a central idea—gives me pause. And knowing how Hawai’i’s Filipinos have immigrated to America, should give the entire community pause.

My family hails from the Badoc-Pinili region of Ilocos Norte—Napu

and Puzol. Over the early part of this year, my Texas-born spouse travelled the coastal provinces with my mom hosted by various members of my extended clan. My wife laughs when I recall my last visit to the Philippines preceded the first Martial Law period during the visit of Pope Paul VI. We took a bus from Manila to Puzol—I don’t know if there were flights to Laoag at that time. My wife’s trip showed her the modest, rural, farming roots of my family.

The story of *Sakadas* in Hawai’i rarely notes the role of racism nowadays. But Asians historically have been treated as “other” when it comes to American immigration. There were Chinese Exclusion Acts, wartime caricatures of the Japanese, and open prejudice against the Fil-

“The story of *Sakadas* in Hawai’i rarely notes the role of racism nowadays.”

– GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN



My family hails from the Badoc-Pinili region of Ilocos Norte—Napu and Puzol. Family reunification remains the largest category for applicants to get “lawful permanent residence” in the United States and accounts for approximately two-thirds of total permanent immigration to the U.S. annually.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

ipino stewards, cabin boys and musicians who found their way to America.

The arrival of fifteen plantation workers aboard the *S.S. Doric* on December 20, 1906 marks the formal beginning of Filipino migration to the islands. The Hawai’i Japanese community will be commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first plantation laborers from their native land. There’s some suggestion that the sugar barons looked to the Philippines as a source for workers in part because the Japanese were drifting towards union organizing.

by Republican lawmakers and supported strongly by the current U.S. President will impact the major avenue for Filipinos. The most radical proposal, the Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment (RAISE) Act would make dramatic cuts to legal permanent immigration. While people are skeptical about RAISE moving forward this year, there have been few vocal champions in the minority party’s leadership to support the existing policy favoring family-based immigration. During the 2013 debates, Hawai’i’s Senior U.S. Senator Brian Schatz and U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono (who herself was an immigrant) emphasized the historic role that family unification has played in immigration.

RAISE makes deep cuts to family-based immigration and creates a points system for the selection of immigrants coming through employer sponsorship. The shift from family unification will fall hardest on U.S. residents seeking to bring in relatives from countries like the Philippines where many come from the same modest, rural towns that produced Hawai’i’s *Sakadas*.

Family reunification remains the largest category for applicants to get “lawful permanent residence” in the United States and accounts for approximately two-thirds of total permanent immigration to the U.S. annually. The other ways are employment-based immigration, refugees and asylum seekers, and diversity-based immigration (or the so-called lottery). \*See green chart at lower left.

Family unification allows a citizen to petition for “immediate relatives” or sponsor certain relatives. Immediate relatives include non-native spouses and unmarried minor children (aged 21 or under), orphans adopted, and the parents of U.S. citizens. Immediate relatives have no numerical ceiling or quota.

Family sponsorship, in contrast, has  
see IMMIGRATION p.11

## Top ten countries of immigration through family reunification, 2001

### Country of Origin

Total immigrants to the U.S. (2001)

Immigrants entering through the family reunification program (2001)

Family reunification as a percent of total immigration (%)

<b>All Countries</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>Colombia</b>
.....1,064,318	.....70,290	.....16,730
.....675,178	.....30,157	.....14,884
.....63.44%	.....42.90%	.....88.97%
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>Jamaica</b>
.....206,426	.....35,531	.....15,393
.....196,234	.....24,112	.....14,536
.....95.06%	.....67.86%	.....94.43%
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>Dominican Republic</b>	<b>El Salvador</b>
.....53,154	.....21,313	.....31,272
.....40,863	.....20,969	.....13,932
.....76.88%	.....98.39%	.....44.55%
<b>China, P.R.</b>	<b>Haiti</b>	
.....56,426	.....27,120	
.....33,202	.....16,356	
.....58.84%	.....60.31%	

(Source: INS Statistical Yearbook, 2001 compiled by Migration Policy Institute: Ramah McKay, Family Reunification (May 1, 2003) at [https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/family-reunification.](https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/family-reunification))

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Love Is...

from p. 5

house, we went ahead and bought a house together without telling Mom and then we moved in together while she was in Texas with my two daughters.”

True love can be seen by what you share with your partner. In his editorial, Tante describes his romantic Valentine’s Day ritual with his wife Telly. In this month’s “What Do You Think” feature, folks share their ideas of a romantic Valentine’s Day celebration.

But last year, I witnessed the ulti-

mate expression of love and a song. 90+ year old Pedro Macadangdang softly sang “Dungdungwen kanto unay unay” to his dying wife of 63 years, Remigia. Although it was a moment to cry, it was also a moment to appreciate true love. ✨

**Alfredo G. Evangelista** came home in 2010 to be with his family and to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Basilia Idica. Their Valentine’s celebration started with watching “Fifty Shades Freed” and ended with an exchange of gifts, a delivery of two dozen roses and chocolate, and dinner at Spago’s in the Four Seasons.

9th Annual Water Conservation Poster Contest and 2nd Annual Source Water Protection Video Contest



The theme for for the Water Conservation Poster Contest is “Use Water Wisely” as shown in the above graphic, whereas the theme for the Source Water Protection Video Contest is “Clean Water, Everyone’s Business.”

**THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY** is currently holding its 9th Annual Water Conservation Poster Contest open to Maui County students from grades K through 8 and 2nd Annual Source Water Protection Video Contest for high school students in public, private and home-schools.

The Water Conservation Poster Contest is designed to encourage our young artists to express their own ideas in relation the chosen theme. We invite students to use their artistic talents to celebrate drinking water and to promote water conservation

will be featured in the Department of Water Supply’s Water Conservation Calendar for 2019.

The Source Water Protection Video Contest is open to Maui County high school students (Grades 9-12). The purpose of this contest is to provide our youth (in a group of 3 or 4 or individual) with an opportunity to learn about source water protection and to utilize their creative talents to produce a 1.5 to 3 minute long video showcasing the importance of protecting our ground and surface water sources, which our residents and visitors depend on for drinking water and other important uses. The theme for this year is “Clean Water, Everyone’s Business.”

Entry forms and contest rules and guidelines are available at [www.maui-water.org](http://www.maui-water.org). Entries must be received by March 16, 2017. For inquiries, please call 463-3110. ✨



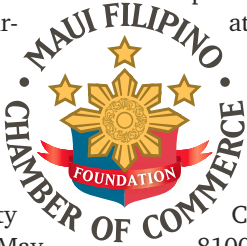
“Use Water Wisely” is this year’s theme. Roughly the same amount of water exists on earth today as when it first formed on the planet. Our community’s increased demand for water and periods of drought make it critical that we all do our part to conserve water. Winning entries

Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Golf Tournament Date Set for Sat., April 21



These gentlemen had a blast, who played in last year’s Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. Get involved... Play with us!

**HAVE FUN AND HELP** to raise funds for the the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s scholarship program by participating in their Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. Tournament will be held on Sat., April 21, 2018 at the Dunes at Maui Lani. It’s for a good cause and will include fantastic prizes, great fellowship, a tasty luncheon and the prized “Mayor’s Cup” to be won. Form your team and submit your application with payment by March 15th for an early bird drawing. Application deadline is March 31, 2018. Sponsorship is available at Platinum (\$1200), Gold (\$650) or Team (\$450). You can also participate by becoming a Tee Sponsor at \$100 or by donating door prizes in cash or in kind. For more information call Bill Ruidas, Golf Tournament Chairperson at (808) 873-8605 or Alfredo Evangelista, Co-chairperson at (808) 242-8100. Check out [www.maui-filipinochamber.com](http://www.maui-filipinochamber.com) for details about this golf fundraising and the Chamber’s calendar of events for 2018. Get involved, give and have fun. ✨



Prepared?...

from p. 4

ily. Many times, cellular service will fail. Tell your family where to go. For example, if your home is destroyed, where do you go? For me, in case of an emergency, we meet at Grandma’s house.”

“Now, we’re getting requests to do presentations,” said Andaya, who will be making such a presentation to the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce on March 21 at Tante’s Island Cuisine. “One thing we also learned was to change the language from ‘seek shelter’ to ‘go indoors’ because there’s no fall-out shelter on Maui. You have roughly ten to fifteen minutes to go inside. On Maui, there were some reports of stores turning away people from staying inside and we’re working with these businesses to educate them what to do.”

Education will continue to play an important role in disaster preparedness and there are many materials in print and on the web. The Maui Emergency Management Agency has a flyer titled “Are You Prepared” while MauiReady.org developed “An Emergency Preparedness Workbook for Maui County Residents.” The Hawai’i State Department of Health has flyers in different languages including Ilokano (“Agaramid Ti Emergency

Kit”) and Tagalog (“Gumawa Ng Emergency Kit”) specifying what needs to be in your emergency kit. HEMA has an “Emergency Plan” flyer that each family can complete as well as an “Are You Ready?” brochure. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has brochures for businesses, people with disabilities, older Americans, pet owners as well as an Emergency Supply List. The United States Department of Agriculture has developed a brochure titled “Keep Your Food Safe During Emergencies: Power Outages, Floods & Fires.” Not to be outdone, Hawaiian Electric, Maui Electric, and Hawai’i Electric Light have produced a brochure in Ilokano titled “Impormasyon.”

“We must be vigilant and alert,” said Andaya, who knows the password to his Twitter account. “We need to continue to pay attention to emergency preparedness.”

Indeed, are you and your family prepared? ✨

**Alfredo G. Evangelista** is a graduate of Maui High School, 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).



# Immigration...

from p. 9

four categories with caps on the total numbers allowed: (1) Unmarried, adult children; (2) Spouses and unmarried children of U.S. permanent resident aliens (“green card holders”); (3) Married children; and (4) Brothers and sisters. The total number from any one country is also limited. After Statehood, the Filipino workers sought to bring family to Hawai‘i. They did so generally through family unification provisions. My grandfather lived most of his 96 years in Hawai‘i.

He “ordered” his unmarried daughter—my mom. His cousins also petitioned for their family members. After my parents married, they ordered my father’s brothers and their families, and some of the cousins she was raised with in the provinces. Each of the people who made it through the process then scraped and saved at their jobs to afford bringing other relatives to the islands. The relatives who came to Hawai‘i took the entry-level laborer jobs, including field jobs, that no longer appealed to the children of *Sakadas* and other Hawai‘i residents. The family unification process often means waiting for many years. Family

unification is what actually introduced me to first cousins—most of the “cousins” I grew up with in the islands were actually second or third or very distant members in the chain of relationships that makes up my extended clan. And while we had some professionals—a smattering of nurses, lawyers and engineers, most of my family both in Hawai‘i and in the Philippines were farmers like my grandfather and father. As Congress begins “debate” on immigration, I hope someone remembers that most immigrants—Asian or not—came over because a relative petitioned for them. And many of those

forebearers would not qualify under the more narrow categories for immediate relatives being proposed. ✨ **Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** practices law in Wailuku. He represents Central Maui in the State Senate.



## Distribution Locations | Fil·Am Voice

### Kahului

A&E Laundry  
Badua’s Maui Crepes & Grill · QKC  
Bistro Manila  
Christ the King Church - Lucy Peros  
CJ’s Oriental  
Clinical Laboratory  
County of Maui - DMV  
Cupie’s  
Da Shrimp Hale  
Foodland-Kahului  
Hairways  
Hale Makua - Kahului  
Island Grocery Depot  
Kahului Laundromat  
Krispy Kreme  
LBC Remit Express  
Maui Adult Day Care Center  
Maui Beach Hotel  
Maui Coffee Roasters  
Maui Federal Credit Union  
Maui Green Market  
Maui Style Market  
Max’s Restaurant  
North Shore Pizza  
Pacific Fish Market  
Paradise Supermart

Paradise Video  
Plantation Grindz  
RM Mini Mart  
Rowena’s Produce  
Safeway - Kahului  
Starbucks - Ka’ahumanu  
Sunrise Food Mart  
Tamura’s  
Tante’s Island Cuisine  
University of Hawai‘i Maui College  
Vidad’s

### Kīhei

Elly’s Formal  
Foodland - Kīhei  
Minit Stop - Pi’ilani Village  
Monsanto  
Phil-Mart Oriental  
Safeway - Kīhei  
Starbuck’s Pi’ilani Village  
Tamura’s  
Times Supermarket  
Tropical Marketplace

### Westside

Foodland - Lahaina  
Ilocandia Filipino Store  
Java Jazz - Honokōwai

Joey’s Kitchen - Kā’anapali  
Joey’s Kitchen - Nāpili  
Nagasako Variety Store  
Nāpili Market  
RVN Deli Kitchen  
Safeway - Lahaina  
Starbuck’s - Lahaina Cannery Mall  
SW General Merchandise  
Times Supermarket - Kā’anapali

### Upcountry

Farmacy Health Bar  
Kamoda’s Bakery  
Majestic Laundry  
Makawao Fire Station  
Makawao Public Library  
Mixed Plate  
Pukalani Superette  
Starbucks - Pukalani

### Wailuku

Blazing Steaks  
CAA Market Place  
CAA Mini Mart  
Copy Services  
County of Maui  
Discount Mini Mart  
Foodland - Kehalani

Four Sisters Bakery  
Golden Coin  
Good Shepherd Church  
Hale Makua - Wailuku  
Home Maid Bakery  
ILWU  
J. Walter Cameron Center  
JMA Imports  
Kaiser-Maui Lani  
Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista  
Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center  
Maui Coffee Attic  
Maui Economic Opportunity  
Maui Medical  
Maui Memorial Hospital  
Minit Stop - Main Street  
Noble Travel  
Playmakers Sports Bar  
Promenade  
Rosie’s Lunch to You  
Sabado Art Studio  
Sack and Save  
Safeway - Maui Lani  
Starbuck’s Kehalani  
Tamura’s  
Tasty Crust  
Tiffany’s Bar & Grill



Around Our Community



In the Philippines—Miss Hawai'i Filipina **Kimberly Yap** (center) joined representatives of the Rotary Club of Lahaina, including **Rick Nava** (right).  
PHOTO COURTESY RICK NAVA



Miss Hawai'i Filipina **Kimberly Yap** with school children in Davao, where her father is from.  
PHOTO COURTESY RICK NAVA



Miss Hawai'i Filipina **Kimberly Yap** in Davao distributing sewing machines for the Bajao Tribe, Obu Manuvu tribe and the prison for the women.  
PHOTO RICK NAVA



The **Marian Club** pose during a break from their Pancit booth at the Christ the King Bazaar.  
PHOTO ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

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The scripts line at the Christ the King Bazaar.  
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**Carmelita Fuchigami** and friends pose at the Poke Bowl booth during the Christ the King Bazaar.  
PHOTO ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



A Despedida party for **Nick Manzanillo** (center, with lei) and his family.  
PHOTO PAUL PIGAO





50th birthday celebrant **Guiller Evangelista** sings and plays the guitar while Aunty **Iola Balubar** leads the hula along with **Rheena Campbell** and **Melanie Evangelista**.  
PHOTO ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



**Virgie Pasalo** and **Dolores Garcia** burn last year's palms to create ashes for Ash Wednesday during the Shrove Tuesday celebration at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church.  
PHOTO BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Ash Wednesday services at Christ the King Church.  
PHOTO PAUL PIGAO



Friends gather to wish Happy Birthday to **Nida Salaguinto** (2nd from left) of JMA Imports.  
PHOTO PAUL PIGAO



**Perfecta Cabalce** (left) and friend man the hot coffee booth (right next to the ono malassadas) during the Christ the King Bazaar.  
PHOTO ALFREDO EVANGELISTA




**Danny Castillo** celebrates his 60th birthday.  
PHOTO PAUL PIGAO




**Christine Gumpal** and *Fil-Am Voice* columnist **Lucy Peros** selling scripts at the Christ the King Bazaar.  
PHOTO ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



**Leo Agcolicol** and **Donnie Cortez** man the Knights of Columbus booth at the Christ the King Bazaar.  
PHOTO ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



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# What's Happening On Maui

## Calendar Fil-Am Voice 2018

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

### February

**23 INCOME TAX SEMINAR** presented by Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation featuring Robert W. Martin. 6 p.m. at University of Hawai'i Maui College, Ka Lama Building, Room 103. \$10 for Maui Filipino Chamber members; \$15 for guests. Contact Aris Banaag at 870-6134 for more information.

### March

**21 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** presented by Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation featuring Herman T. Andaya, Jr. 6 p.m. at Tante's Island Cuisine. Contact Aris Banaag at 870-6134 for more information.

**31 DEADLINE FOR MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP** Download scholarship application at [www.mauifilipinochamber.com](http://www.mauifilipinochamber.com). For more information, contact Richard Minatoya at 385-0088.

### April

**1 EASTER SUNDAY**

**21 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT** sponsored by Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The Dunes at Maui Lani. Contact Tournament Chairperson Bill Ruidas at 344-5251 or Tournament Co-Chairperson Alfredo Evangelista at 294-5510.

**21 MISS MAUI FILIPINA SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT** sponsored by the Maui Filipino Community Council at the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center in Kahului. Contact Maui Filipino Community Council President Marilyn Oura at 280-2057.

**28-29 PHILIPPINE CONSULATE MOBILE OUTREACH ON MAUI** Contact the Maui County Immigrant Services Division at 270-7791 for more information. The newly issued passports will be good for ten (10) years.

### May

**19 MAUI HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

**22 BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

**24 KING KEKAULIKE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

**25-26 49TH ANNUAL BARRIO FIESTA** sponsored by Binhi at Ani. Contact Nora Takushi at 276-8861.

**26 KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS MAUI GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

**26 SEABURY HALL GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

**27 LAHAINALUNA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

### June

**2 ST. ANTHONY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

**13 GINTONG PAMANA LEADERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS** sponsored by the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. For more information or sponsorship opportunities call Jeana Gamboa at 419-4090.

### July

**7-15 2018 AMBASSADOR'S TOUR: MANILA-CEBU-BOHOL** For more information contact Teresita Noble at 244-4609.

**19-23 WORLD ESCRIMA KALI ARNIS FEDERATION (WEKAF) TOURNAMENT** at Lahaina Civic Center. Contact Madelyne Pascua at 268-0686.



## Scholarships Available from the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce

SEVERAL SCHOLARSHIPS are available for Maui residents who will be pursuing higher education next year, the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation announced.

The foundation will present at least five \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors who will be graduating in 2018; and at least one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a current student at the Maui Culinary Academy at University of Hawai'i Maui College.

"A mission of the Foundation is to promote the pursuit of higher education," said Jeana Gamboa, president of the Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation. "We believe these scholarships will help today's children to become skillful, well-informed, and active citizens of tomorrow."

The deadline for scholarship applications is March 31, 2018. High school candidates will be selected based on their grade point average (30 percent); standardized test scores (20 percent); activities, awards, honors and employment (15 percent), a brief essay (20 percent), financial need (10 percent) and letters of recommendation (5 percent). The selection criteria for Maui Culinary Academy students will be the

applicant's grade point average (25 percent), the applicant's activities, awards, honors and employment (25 percent), a brief essay (25 percent) and a letter of recommendation (25 percent).

The Foundation raises funds for the scholarship program through its annual golf tournament, which is scheduled to take place April 21, 2018, at The Dunes at Maui Lani. Four different levels of sponsorship are available: Platinum (\$1,200 for six golfers), Gold (\$650 for three golfers), Team (\$450 for three golfers) and Tee (\$100).

The scholarships will be presented during the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce's Gintong Pamana Leadership and Scholarship Awards banquet on June 13, 2018 at the Maui Beach Hotel. The recipient or a representative from his/her family must be present to accept the award. Sponsorship packages are now available. Contact Jeana Gamboa at (808) 419-4090 on how you can be a sponsor for or participant at this event.

Applications for the various scholarships are available online at [mauifilipinochamber.com/scholarship/](http://mauifilipinochamber.com/scholarship/) and must be postmarked by March 31, 2018. ✨



Kimberly Taroma, Miss Barrio Fiesta 2017 (above).



Elizabeth Thomas, Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2017 was crowned by Jia Garcia, 1st runner-up.



Taps, is played for the Veteran's Memorial Service at last year's Barrio Fiesta.

## 49th Annual Barrio Fiesta in May

**DON'T MISS THE 49TH ANNUAL BARRIO FIESTA**, brought to you by Binhi At Ani, which will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 25-26, 2018 at the Binhi at Ani Maui Filipino Community Center, located at 780 Onehe'e St., Kahului, (across from Maui Waena Middle School). Festivities begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday, with festivities ending at 10 p.m. on both nights.

There will be amazing Philippine cultural entertainment, fantastic food, games and basketball tournament held concurrently at various

court venues on Maui. Also, there will be the crowning of the 2018 Miss Barrio Fiesta, and the Little Miss Barrio Fiesta Pageant. Other special features at this auspicious event will include "The Barrio Fiesta Experience," which will include regional exhibits, cultural village displays and booths, and cultural entertainment as well. Saturday will include Veterans Memorial Service. The traditional greased pole contest, other fun games for kids will take place and more...

Contact Nora Takushi at (808) 276-8861 for more information. ✨





# What Do You Think?

During the month of February, love is definitely in the air. Although Valentine's Day has been commercialized to become another Hallmark card commercial, Filipinos believe in true love and in making their loved one feel extra special on Valentine's Day.

Fil-Am Voice staff asked members

brate Valentine's Day. Of course he didn't cook the food, it was pre-ordered but he picked our favorite Thai dishes. He popped a sparkling cider and poured into our glasses and we had a toast for our love and our future. Our view? It was overlooking Kahului, a spectacular view from Kula. He downloaded love songs on his

jog in my memory is the countless meals my husband and I have shared with our daughter, from the time she was five falling asleep in front of her plate of Macaroni and Cheese to this past Christmas break, when she gushed about her post-graduate college plans. It also reminds me of all the times my husband and I have snuck out to the cozy Steakhouse to get some time away from our chatty daughter, just to relish in some quiet time together and prime rib.

So, Outback Steakhouse isn't exactly romantic but my ideal Valentine's Day isn't lovey-dovey.

I don't want to feed each other spaghetti and listen to slow jazz—I want to remember all the memories I've made with my family for the past 23 years. That's how I'd like to spend the day of love."

**Marjorie** of Wailuku, with roots in Badoc, Ilocos Norte: "Valentine's Day is just a regular day for me and my hubby, we don't usually go out so I wouldn't know the answer."

**Nikki** of Kihei with roots in Dalaguete and Maribago, Lapu Lapu, Cebu: "The most romantic way to celebrate Valentine's Day is time with your significant 'other' who will give you a gift chosen 'from the heart.' Also, it would be in a place high up top, like a mountain where I could see the lights of all the places below. It would be quiet, and a place where I'd feel free, at peace, and could feel the joy in his heart."

**Olivia** of Wailuku with roots in Bantay, Ilocos Sur: "For me, the most romantic way to celebrate Valentine's

presses how meaningful it is for you to devote precious time to someone so precious to you."

**Ulfeo** of Kihei with roots in Davao City, Mindanao, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte and Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte: "Live to love and love to live—everyday is Valentine's Day. Since I am born under the zodiac sign of Leo, being romantic runs in my blood. For me the most romantic way of celebrating Valentine's is to spend quality time with your loved ones and one of the easiest ways to do that is to get them involved in whatever you do, like set up a dinner date and avoid any distraction like surfing the net, browsing your phone or chatting with someone. In other words, stay focused and let her feel that it's about her. And one last thing, give her a special Valentine's card that you made from scrap with your own words and expression of your honest and true intentions. Women love it when you remember some details of how and when you met and other things that you both shared. All these I'm sure will be the best and romantic way to celebrate Valentine's Day. My song request is from Joe Mari Chan: You're my girl my woman my friend."

**Virgie** of Wailuku with roots in Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur: "The most romantic is to *not* celebrate on the actual Valentine's Day. The restaurant meals are less expensive and the eateries are not crowded when we go out the day before or after. We make ourselves feel more special."

**Zhelle** of Kahului with roots in Solsona, Ilocos Norte: "I think the best

# What Do You Think...

*... is the most romantic way to celebrate Valentine's Day?*

Fil-Am Voice Staff

of Maui's Filipino community "What Do You Think is the most romantic way to celebrate Valentine's Day?"

**Aiza** of Kahului with roots in Newagac, Gattaran, Cagayan: "I think spending it with your loved one near a river, and swimming with him is romantic. Bring some lunch; tons of food and books in a basket as well."

**Ariel** of Kahului with roots in Bacarra and Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte: "I feel that the most romantic way to celebrate Valentine's Day is whatever your heart desires for you and your other half. The best option is to make a home-cooked meal, but if it's outside, definitely choose a restaurant with good reviews on romantic ambiance and nice views."

**Aris** of Ha'ikū, with roots in Palawan and Bukidnon: "Do something out of the ordinary. Something that's not so cliché. Pick flowers instead of ordering them. Give the flowers before or after Valentine's day. Do something every month, instead of it having to only be on *one* day. Show your love that they mean so much more than just *one* day!"

**Don** of Kahului with roots in Manila, Palawan, Iloilo, Santa Catalina, Ilocos Sur and Cagayan: "The best way to celebrate Valentine's Day is to celebrate your relationship with your spouse, friend, and or significant other. Do something that you did on your first date... Can you remember that first moment, rekindle the memory and have fun doing it?"

**Dulce** of Kahului with roots in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte: "The day before Valentine's Day, my beau told me that we will have a dinner date at 7:30 p.m. I asked where would it be so I could dress properly but he didn't respond. On the eve of Valentine's Day, he picked me up in a red truck. (We live together but he was out and about that day.) I thought I was over dressed because we were using the truck to go out. I asked him if I could go and change my dress but he said it's perfect, I don't have to change clothes. We drove to Kula and then he pulled over on a vacant lot. He told me to wait for a few minutes before I got out of the truck. He then said, it's ready. I came out of the truck and I was surprised to see a table set for two. He set the dinner table with white cloth, white plates, silverware, and folded napkins. There's also champagne glasses, a candlestick and a vase with three long-stemmed red roses in it. This, so far, is my ideal romantic way to cele-

phone which we listened to while we were eating, and sang and danced after we ate the strawberries dipped in white chocolate from Safeway. I am always cold when I'm outdoors but he was prepared with a blanket and extra sweater for me! He really planned it well!"

**Ettenna** of Pā'ia with roots in Sinait, Ilocos Sur: "If it happens to be our day off, my husband and I will go to the beach. At the same time my hubby will go fishing. He's retired already but I'm still working. We may decide to go out for dinner on the 18th since that's our 17th year wedding anniversary. We live by ocean side, our house is 100 meters from the ocean, it's a village we call Dadalaquiten Sur in Sinait, Ilocos Sur."

**J. Leilani** of Kahului with roots in Olongapo City, Subic Bay, Zambales: "Unexpected sunset walk and talk on the beach ending with a surprise picnic basket full of my favorite treats and wine."

**John Patrick** of Kihei, with roots in Gonzaga, Cagayan: "For me, the best way to celebrate Valentine's Day is cooking for my girlfriend her favorite meal. Have a romantic dinner at home."

**Jovy** of Kahului, with roots in Badoc, Ilocos Norte: "I would rather not go out on the day of Valentine's. Restaurants and places to go will be packed with all the other couples celebrating. I also feel that service will not be as good because of the high volume of customers. Personally, a good Valentine's date would be staying at home and I prepare a 3-4 course meal for my lady."

**Marilyn** of Kahului, with roots in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte: "To me a romantic Valentine is a candle light dinner for two at home, a dozen roses, two New York steaks on the grill, a bottle of red wine, and a dessert from Foodland and that's an inexpensive Valentine."

**Marites** of Kahului with roots in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental: "A dinner at Outback Steakhouse with my husband is my idea of a romantic Valentine's Day. So maybe a dinner at a steakhouse franchise doesn't evoke the usual images of love. A ceiling lamp replaces slow burning candles, free refills of bread are brought instead of oysters, and photographs of jeeps and kangaroos replace Renaissance art on the walls. It's the anti-aphrodisiac establishment. But what the restaurant does



No, this is not a KFC advertisement. Rather, Fil-Ams have original ideas on what makes Valentine's Day "romantic." Most move away from the usual flowers, balloons, expensive dinners out and trappings, and lean toward acts of originality, warmth, 'genuine'-ness and family.

Day with my love is having a picnic at the beach in the afternoon while watching the sunset; listening to our favorite music with our most favorite food and drink, and talking about what our futures will be."

**Sheena** of Kahului, with roots in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte: "The most romantic way to celebrate Valentine's Day is to show acts of service while spending quality time with not only your partner but everyone that surrounds you. Achieving a way to make someone's day by offering to cook dinner for example, speaks love and respect. For an individual to be able to take action and think about how can one bring positivity in another person's day is meaningful. In the busy days of life, spending quality time with the people you love ex-

way to celebrate Valentine's Day, or in a romantic way, is to celebrate it with the people you love of course. For me, I don't really celebrate it romantically; a simple dinner and a movie will already be okay for me. But if you think about it, or imagine how we girls want to be surprised from the person we love and love us, specifically from our boyfriend, of course, we want candles in our room, rose petals on our bed, balloons, and a big teddy bear, and home made dinner cooked by our boyfriend or loved ones. But if they don't know how to cook, maybe take our order from a restaurant, and watch our favorite show or movie on Netflix® together. Home is the best romantic way to celebrate Valentine's Day, because that's where we all share our love." ❄️



# The Voice of the People

Maui 🌺 Kaho'olawe 🌺 Lāna'i 🌺 Moloka'i

Vote **ELLE COCHRAN** for Maui County Mayor!

Issue Highlight:

## HOUSING SOLUTIONS

### ELLE COCHRAN'S HOUSING PLAN

#### Redefine "Affordable"



The County of Maui currently uses HUD formulas to dictate what is affordable, and the numbers don't work for our local residents. I will set Maui County appropriate affordability requirements that will reflect what our hard-working residents can pay for rent or mortgage.

#### Increase Density Allowances

Under my administration, the Planning Department will work with the Council to amend zoning codes to allow for cluster housing, urban infill, tiny homes and fourplexes where appropriate.



#### Construction on County-owned Land



I have identified County-owned land in South, West and Central Maui that are perfectly suited for affordable housing projects. Under my administration, instead of waiting for for-profit developers to dictate what is possible, the Housing Department will set higher standards for workforce housing, and bid-out construction of home and apartments on those lands, at prices that our local workforce can actually afford.

#### Crack Down on Illegal Vacation Rentals

Vacation rental regulations are not being enforced. Unchecked growth means that we have 10,000 vacation rentals in Maui, most of them illegal. That's a 25% increase in one year, 7,000 of them are single family homes. Enforcement of existing regulations is a fast and cheap way to bring thousands of illegal short term rentals back onto the rental market, providing immediate relief to residents who can't find affordable rentals.

#### Managed Appreciation of Affordable Units

Affordable homes that have been built with subsidies or exemptions should not be flipped into market rate homes after 8 to 10 years. They can appreciate, but in a way that insulates them from the volatility of the investment property market. We keep them affordable for longer, and they are a step up for more than one family.



#### County Funded Infrastructure

Road, water and sewer improvements are paid by the developer, and those costs get passed on to residents through rent or the cost of a home. My administration will work with developers of 100% workforce housing to help fund off-site infrastructure improvements that will support affordable housing, keeping construction & home prices low.

#### Bring Construction Costs Down by Streamlining Permitting Process

Bold leadership can bring various departments together to better organize our permitting processes with solutions such as:

1. Creating a one-stop shop that allows permits to be approved in one place, and in many cases, one day.
2. Allowing for independent third-party plan review.
3. Creating a pre-approved catalogue of building plans.

**Bold leadership, action, common sense funding priorities and creativity to solve Maui's housing crisis**

**ACTION, NOT TALK.**

**#Elle4Mayor #ElleCochran**



Receive Elle's Newsletter

Email: [info@elle4mayor.com](mailto:info@elle4mayor.com)

### Travel Journal:

## Badoc, Ilocos Norte, Philippines

I had the opportunity to travel to the Philippines with other county officials.\*

In each area I stopped in I enjoyed the sights, sounds, cuisine and history of each area we stopped.

Each month I will highlight one of the areas we visited and share some of my favorite memories from the trip.

*\*Group photos do not indicate endorsement.*



I visited the Juan Luna Shrine in Badoc, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. The shrine is the ancestral house of Philippine artist Juan Luna, a painter, sculptor and a political activist of the Philippine Revolution during the late 19th century.



The purpose of our visit to the municipality of Badoc was to formalize Maui County's sister city relationship with the town. In this photo, I am holding a ceremonial 'key to the town', which signifies the friendship and welcoming spirit of the people of Badoc, Ilocos Norte.



**ELLE COCHRAN**  
[elle4mayor.com](http://elle4mayor.com)



Though time was limited, I made sure to pay visits to the beautiful churches in the Philippines. This is Vigan Cathedral in Vigan, Ilocos Sur. The historic town of Vigan was declared a part of the UNESCO World Heritage site in 1999.



Receiving a plaque of appreciation from then-Vice Mayor Maria Valdez of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, to commemorate the sister city relationship of the town with Maui County. San Nicolas is a progressive town that has consistently been recognized by the local government for its excellence in governance.

**ELLE** [elle4mayor.com](http://elle4mayor.com)

**ELLE COCHRAN**



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