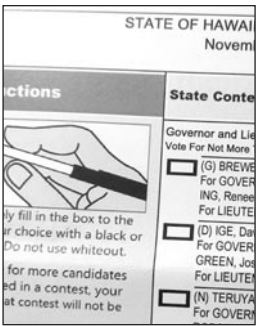




To Serve and To Be Served
This woman served our Country with great pride. Thank you Veterans!
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Election Turnovers
Our elections analysis reveals a lot about our collective state of mind on keeping Maui 'da bes.'
Page 1



A Servant, a Vet, a Community Leader
This Sakada Offspring is a household name when it comes to Community Service on Maui.
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Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

November 2018 • Vol 2 No 11 | **FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE** • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | **FREE**

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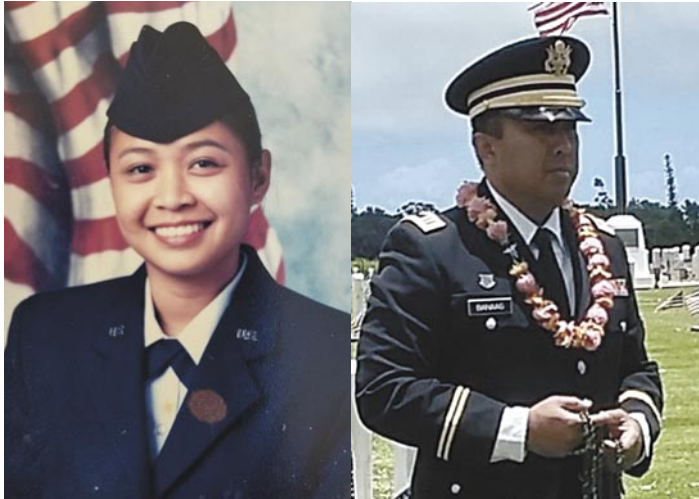
Maui Pinoy explores the heart and soul of home-prepared dishes
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Honoring Maui's Filipino-American Veterans

Sharon Zalsos Banaag

In May 1998, as the reigning Miss Maui Filipina, I gave a farewell speech to an audience of over six hundred and fifty people who were attending the 1998 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant being held at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center's Castle Theater. I told the audience how excited I was to be joining the United States Air Force and leaving for Basic Military Training later that year. I flexed and made the audience laugh and reassured all of them that I would not shave my head as Demi

Moore did in the movie *G.I. Jane*, which was released earlier that year. The audience burst into laughter. Armed with excitement, enthusiasm, hope, and having been raised by a very strict Filipino mother, I was ready for the military. It's twenty years later and the dust has now settled from the 2018 election season storm. Many are ready for the upcoming holiday and retail season that starts with Thanksgiving, features Black Friday and Cyber Monday, see **VETERANS** next page



Sharon Zalsos Banaag and Aris Banaag.



Both having been in the U.S. Military Forces brings deeper meaning to Sharon and Aris' marriage.



Mayor Elect Michael Victorino



Incumbent Councilwoman Kelly King expected to be the next Council Chair

The debates over the impact of the midterm election results began as soon as the winners were projected and as the results were finalized in the weeks following. Locally, Maui elected a new Mayor and provided six new members to the County Council (and in the Primary election, Mauians picked new State Representatives for South Maui and Wailuku).

Maui County Races

The County of Maui results perhaps surprised some people with mixed results for

#Huli2018 candidates and establishment candidates.

Maui Mayor

Voters elected former Council member and Board of Education member Mike Victorino, 27,057–22,078. Victorino led West Maui Councilwoman Elle Cochran from the first printout of the absentee mail and walk-in ballots, 13,381–8,660. The 2018 election further confirmed the split between voters in 2014 who supported County regulation of agricultural pesticides and those associated with

BY THE NUMBERS: #HULI2018 SPLIT

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Assistant Editor Alfredo G. Evangelista

more establishment, status quo concerns. In some recent elections, establishment candidates have taken leads from the early printouts, reflecting mainly ballots cast by absentee mail or absentee walk-in and then watched as Election Day ballots eroded those leads. The same pattern followed this year. By the second print-out, counting votes from ten of the thirty-four Maui County precincts, Victorino had expanded his lead, 17,859–11,907. In the third report, Victorino's lead was still 26,227–20,956. Victorino would capture all eleven of the Central Maui precincts, five of the six Upcountry precincts and Lāna'i and Molokai. Victorino won twenty-two of the thirty-four precincts in beating Cochran. Cochran won four of the five West Maui precincts and three of the four South Maui precincts but could not close the gap built by Victorino from the early voting. Victorino will be installed as Mayor on January 2, 2019. "I am grateful to the widespread support we received from the Filipino community," said Victorino, who promised to continue the tradition of raising the Philippine flag at the County building during the month of October celebrated statewide as Filipino-American History Month. "I look forward to working with Maui's Filipino community and meeting many of its

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FREE

Veterans...

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and culminates with Christmas and the New Year. But for me, the most important holiday is Veteran’s Day, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of each year.

I am an American Airman.
Guardian of Freedom and Justice,
My nation’s sword and shield,
It’s century and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.
- U.S. AIRMAN’S CREED

In 1998, I signed to serve the U.S. Air Force for four years active duty. My basic military training was at Lackland, Air Force Base (AFB) in San Antonio, Texas while my specialty training was at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi. Basic Training is not easy by any means. Not everyone is cut out for the military. Growing up in an environment where discipline was the order of the day, however, made Basic Training bearable.

In those months spent in training by the best Air Power in the world, I realized what I was capable of. I experienced the power of perseverance and strength in the midst of personal trials and challenges. I was a little on the heavy side when I entered the service. 130 lbs. at 5’ 2" in height. I couldn’t finish one push up and I barely jogged two miles in thirty-five minutes. To pass basic training, I had to run two miles in no more than twenty minutes, complete twenty-seven push-ups in one minute, and complete fifty sit ups in one minute. Knowing full

well that I did not want to spend any more additional time in Basic Training if I washed out because of a failed physical training, I did twenty push-ups and fifty sit-ups before my head hit the pillow each night. This was the case for the next five weeks. I would add ten more reps to each form every week. When the sixth week came, it was do or die for me. I finished my run at 18.5 minutes (yes, barely passing), did over fifty push-ups in one minute, and another sixty-five sit ups in one minute. Small victory. Thanks to having to march everywhere every day, my weight dropped from 130 lbs. to 109 lbs. in less than six weeks. What’s up KETO Diet?! Then again, I was also only nineteen years old.

After the necessary training, I was sent to McChord AFB in Tacoma, Washington as my permanent station. When I arrived on a cold, rainy night on January 7, 1999, I was greeted by a lady Senior Airman with short red hair. Big smile and smelled like cigarette smoke. Seattle was freezing and wet that night. I thought the city could be pretty if I could only get pass the cold. I started to miss Maui. I wanted to go back home to my family and enjoy my nice warm bed in my nice room. Ah, the exciting four years of active duty in the Armed Forces begins!

When opportunities came my way, I made sure I grabbed a hold. Very rarely would I let any pass me by. I

volunteered for events and met so many people. I even auditioned to sing the National Anthem at the 1999 Air Show at the McChord AFB. I got the part of course and I sang that beautiful song in front of a 100,000-plus crowd, covering the entire flight line runway, while two airbornes parachuted down from a helicopter holding the U.S. Flag for all too see. It was a sight to behold. I also learned how to network and make connections. I left the main personnel (HR) squadron and transferred to a squadron (made up of 350 plus personnel). I moved to the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, where I worked for the Commander Support Staff. Because my job was behind the desk and no room for adventures really, I made it a point to volunteer to cross train and learn other specialties. I took short trips with our guys and learned about dropping supplies to training areas in Washington. Sorry, I can’t name the areas.

The morning of September 11, 2001 changed our world forever. It was a typical 5 a.m. routine for me. Brewed coffee, tucked in my black t-shirt in my battle dress uniform then known as BDU (or camouflage green), and I was just about to lace my boots when I saw the first plane hit one of the towers. News replayed in disbelief and confusions. I was confused. I thought it was fake until the second plane hit. Then everything moved

slow for me. I called my Dad right away. It was 5:30 a.m. in Washington State so you can just imagine what time it was back in Pā’ia, Maui. I woke my Dad and asked him to turn on his TV which he did. He didn’t go back to sleep. I reported to our base which was a twenty two minute drive away. Everything was turned upside-down. It was no longer a typical day. This was the beginning of war.

I finished my four-year active duty and was honorably discharged. I fulfilled my commitment. Because I was only a permanent resident at the time, I was not held to the same requirement of an automatic four years of reserve time after active duty. I was free to be a private citizen. This was the time when then-President George W. Bush signed a law allowing uniformed personnel to earn their path to citizenship if they served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The country needed soldiers. Prior to my discharge in September of 2002, I already began my application papers for U.S. citizenship. I was sworn in as a citizen of the United States, the country I served, to earn my right of passage. I always felt that earning my citizenship was the way I wanted to pursue to be an American. The easier route would have been to apply as a green card holder but my way meant a lot more to me.

Today, my husband, Captain Aris Banaag, and I celebrate Veterans Day together as a military family. My husband is currently serving in the Army National Guard. I am humbled every day to know I am in partnership with a soldier. He is an incredible leader in his own right. He has been with the

see VETERANS p.4

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Huli...

from p. 1

members at the various upcoming events.”

Maui County Council

Kaua’i and Maui remain the only Counties where all registered voters can vote for each member of the County Council. While all Kaua’i Council members serve at large, Maui’s Charter requires each of the nine members to live in one of nine geographic communities, maintaining representation for smaller rural areas. In the past, many voters chose to not vote in the races for seats outside of their particular community. This year, a group of council candidates, along with Mayoral candidate Elle Cochran ran as a slate and urged voters to #VoteAllNine.

The Council races marked an electoral milestone as women candidates won six seats on the nine-member County Council: incumbent Kelly King (South Maui), incumbent Yuki Lei Sugimura (Upcountry), former Council member Alice Lee (Wailuku), Tamara Paltin (West Maui), Natasha Kama (Kahului) and Keani Rawlins-Fernandez (Molokai). Four of the women were also part of the #VoteAllNine Coalition which included Hāna winner Shane Sinenci.

For the first time in almost twenty years, the County Building will not have Alan Arakawa’s presence. Voters rejected three-time Maui Mayor Arakawa’s attempt to stay in office by re-taking his old Kahului Council seat in favor of Kama, a minister and Faith Action for Community Equity (F.A.C.E.) advocate. Kama previously did not prevail in races for the State House and Wailuku Council seat. Kama trounced Arakawa, 28,454–17,580, winning every precinct. Kama led from the start, 12,562–8,157, foretelling a disappointing night for Arakawa. In the second printout, her total increased 16,796–11,127, and then, in the third report, 27,191–17,013.

“The Maui County 2018 Election was one in which the voters of this County should be proud of,” said Kama. “They collectively voted for their Mayor and nine council members believing that what we said we meant.”

“It has been a pleasure to serve you all throughout the years,” Mayor Arakawa said. “Maybe come say Hi to me if you see me and Ann having lunch at Tante’s or anywhere else in the community.”

Maui voters treated two other former Council members more kindly. Mike Molina will return to the Ha’ikū seat given up by Council Chair Mike White and Lee, former Council member and housing department head, took the Wailuku post held by Pino-Waiian Alike Atay, 23,656–21,225. While Atay held the Wailuku seat, voters in that district favored Lee 5,484–3,761. Similarly, Kahului voters provided Atay little *Mabuhay*, giving Lee a 4,017–2,228 margin. Atay captured South Maui, West Maui and parts of Ha’ikū-East Maui but could not overcome the margins built by Lee in winning twenty of the thirty-four precincts. Lee also won Upcountry

5,101–4,428 which she represented on the Council in the 1990s. Atay’s sole term on the Council had been nagged by controversies involving one of his Council aides and campaign spending allegations. Lee led from the first printout, 12,012–8,338. She expanded the gap in the next report, 15,797–11,556. Lee kept her lead in the third report, 22,917–20,180, with thirty-three of the thirty-four precincts reporting.

“I feel very excited at the prospect of serving our residents once again as a Council Member,” said Lee. “My goal is to bring back a sense of unity and collaboration to the County Council. Our problems are too large to be left unattended due to the distractions of divisiveness and personal agendas.”

Molina followed a similar route as Lee, capturing the Central Maui precincts and getting enough votes in the rest of the County to beat back Furtado, 24,170–20,412. The amiable former teacher led after the initial report, 11,819–8,425 and held on his lead in the third report, 23,399–19,423.

“My family and I were very pleased with the election results,” said Molina “and I would like to thank everyone for giving me the privilege of serving on the Maui County Council again. I believe by working together and respectfully with my Council colleagues, Mayor Elect Victorino and our citizens, we will do many things to keep our community strong both now and in the future.”

Kamalu Carroll fell short in her bid to succeed her father Bob Carroll for the Hāna seat which Sinenci won in his second try for the post, 23,573–19,412. Sinenci showed strength throughout the County, dropping only twelve precincts to Carroll. Carroll did sweep the four Kahului precincts 3,274–2,575. Sinenci offered a version of the Henry Ford quote on success to reflect his feelings on the elections: “Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress and working together is success!”

Molina and Sinenci were the only men who prevailed against their women opponents. Paltin, former Mayoral candidate and County lifeguard, crushed *Pinoy* candidate Rick Nava for the West Maui seat, 38,368–14,534. Sugimura will remain as the Upcountry member by handily beating educator Hannibal Starbuck, 27,250–17,218.

“I am humbled and grateful and know the Filipino community vote was a big part of my success,” Sugimura said. “My work continues. Please call me if I can help you.”

Longest tenured member Riki Hokama kept his council seat, surviving a strong challenge from Lāna’i resident Gabe Johnson in a rematch of their 2016 election, 22,414–20,433. Hokama took the eleven Central Maui precincts 9,466–5,131. Johnson won South Maui 3,670–2,729, West Maui 2,883–2,354, Upcountry 4,574–4,474 but could not overcome the early margin built by Hokama from early voting and Wailuku and Kahului. Johnson also captured the East Maui-Molokai-Lāna’i communities, 4,150–3,447 including Lāna’i narrowly, 407–390.

“We appreciate the support received” said Hokama “and we will

continue to serve Lāna’i and the county as best as can.”

King easily won a second term as the Kihei Council member, taking thirty-four of the thirty-four precincts. King led all council candidates in the number of votes received, smashing Zandra Crouse: 30,855–11,979.

“The election clearly showed voters want change and are expecting leaders to focus on shared goals and values,” said King, who many expect to be the next Council Chair. “I am excited to get past the struggle for control that often permeates the current council and move forward in service to the community with an emphasis on transparency, collaboration and fairness.”

The Molokai race may have settled the balance of power between expected old guard Council members and the #Huli2018 group as Rawlins-Fernandez won the rematch with Council member Crivello. While Crivello narrowly led after the early voting, 10,206–9,106, and the second report, Rawlins-Fernandez overtook her in the 9:38 p.m. printout, 20,988–19,931. With only one precinct left to report, Crivello could not make up the difference. Election Day ballots powered the challenger to a comfortable victory. In the second printout at 8:08 pm, Crivello’s lead narrowed 13,567–12,500. Rawlins-Fernandez touted her law degree and MBA as important points, noting no other Council candidate held either credential. Crivello was Molokai’s choice but the sixteen precincts

throughout the County won by Rawlins-Fernandez—including South Maui 3,687–2,688, and Upcountry 4,871–4,117—provided Rawlins-Fernandez with a 22,049–20,583 victory. The Ha’ikū precinct alone provided a 2,287–1,015 gap.

The election again displayed the ideological gaps between the working class-union urban neighborhoods of Central Maui and on Lāna’i with the South Maui, West Maui and the more rural communities. The eleven precincts in House Districts 8 and 9, with a total turnout of 16,507 voters, generally favored the old guard candidates: Victorino, Lee, Crivello, Hokama, Molina and Sugimura. However, the Wailuku precincts favored Kama and Sinenci while three of the four Kahului precincts voted for Arakawa and Carroll. South Maui (District 11: turnout 8,108), East Maui (District 13: turnout 8,789) and West Maui (District 10: turnout 6,529) voted #Huli2018. Molokai and Lāna’i precincts generally supported establishment candidates, although Lāna’i narrowly favored Johnson, and both islands favored Kama. The Upcountry precincts (District 12: turnout 10,546) generally supported the slate of challengers but favored their former council member Lee, the likeable Molina and their current council member Sugimura. The large Ha’ikū precinct (13–02), with 2,053 of 7,203 registered voters casting ballots on the Election Day, provided heavy support for the #VoteAllNine slate: Cochran

see HULI p.8



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From the Editor's Desk

Tante Urban
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A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Veterans

On the 11th day of the eleventh month each year, America celebrates Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military veterans who served.

It is an important holiday because it reminds us that “Freedom is Not Free” and we depend on our armed forces to protect us from outside forces. Our military also plays an important role in serving the community during natural disasters and other events.

I cannot claim to have family or close friends who served in the U.S. military but I admire and respect all of them for their sacrifices. There are many Filipinos who have admirably served our country and I join the rest of the country in saluting them.

Yet, the sad truth is that we often do not take care of our veterans when they return. Yes, our community celebrates Veteran’s Day with picnics, parties, memorial services, and even an occasional parade. On Maui, the War Memorial Stadium Complex was dedi-

cated in 1965 to honor Maui’s veterans.

But many of our Veterans suffer from government red tape, insufficient medical care, post traumatic syndrome disorder, and sadly, they constitute a significant portion of our homeless population. For years, the service locations to Veterans on Maui have been fragmented—you go to one place for something and another place for something else. After many years, a one-stop center for Veterans is in the plans and we hope it will be finished with due speed. We hope our newly elected Mayor, Council, as well as state and federal officials will work with haste to pay attention to Veterans issues.

As we gather around the table later this month to give thanks, please take a moment to remember and thank all of our Veterans.

✱
Tante Urban

TANTE URBAN | EDITOR

Veterans...

from p. 1

military for over twenty-six years. He served in both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army. It is such a blessing to understand and speak the same military language that my husband now speaks. Having experienced it myself, I can understand and relate to this part of his world.

As a member of the National Guard, he was recently deployed to the Big Island to assist during the Kīlauea volcano eruption. Earlier, the National Guard was also called to Kaua’i to assist in the Kaua’i North Shore flood recovery. Other members of the military assist the community in so many ways such as Tropic Care Maui County which since 2011 has provided free medical, dental and vision care in the summer.

Military personnel continue to be active in the community once they retire and receive “Veteran” status. Many Maui Filipino-American veterans came back to Maui to make a difference. One such island boy is Vince Bagoyo, Jr. He joined the Army National Guard from 1971 to 1977. Bagoyo is president and owner of V. Bagoyo Development Group LLC. He served as Vice President of Castle & Cooke, Inc. on Lāna’i from 1993 to 2003. He helped direct the strategic planning of Lāna’i’s commercial and residential development, transitioning from a predominantly pineapple industry into a world-class vacation destination. He also served as a Maui County Council member from 1991 to 1992; as Director of the County of Maui’s Department of Water Supply from 1984 to 1990; and as a Director of Housing and Human Concerns from 1982 to 1984. He served on the Department of Health Environmental Advisory Council, Hawai’i Community-based Economic Development Board, Maui Community College Provost Advisory Council, Kiwanis Club of Maui (President 1986–1990), and Maui Homeless Shelter Fundraising Committee, among others.

In Maui’s Filipino community, Bagoyo served as President of the Maui Filipino Community Council in 1992 where he helped in the planning and negotiations with Alexander & Baldwin for the donation of the land where the Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center now stands. Bagoyo became the first President of Binhi At Ani and he chaired the Maui Filipino Centennial Celebration, coordinating a yearlong event and festivities in 2006.

Virgilio “Leo” Agcolicol is another Maui Filipino American veteran. Agcolicol was drafted to serve the U.S. Army in March of 1969. He married the love of his life Virgie Agcolicol in January of 1970 and deployed to Vietnam shortly right after. He was out of the service by 1975. Agcolicol arrived in Hawai’i in 1967 and worked at the sugar fields farmed by Wailuku Sugar Company. Shortly

thereafter, he worked for Central Pacific Bank where he worked his way up the corporate ladder and retired after a 40+ year career. He was the first Filipino to serve on the Maui Arts and Cultural Center Board (since 1997), the Maui Memorial Hospital Foundation (2000 to 2002), the J. Walter Cameron Center Board (since 1995), and the Salvation Army Advisory Board (1994 to 1996).

Agcolicol is very active in the Filipino community and served as President of the Maui Filipino Community Council from 1979 to 1981. He was heavily involved when the Council pushed for reforms of the controversial treatment and conditions of farmer trainees from the Philippines. Agcolicol has twice been named the Outstanding Member by the Council. He remains ever so dedicated to maintaining the positive image for the Filipinos in the community both on Maui as well as in the State of Hawai’i. Agcolicol served as president of the United Filipino Community Council from 1982 to 1984. He also was president of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce and received its Gintong Pamana Award in 1996. Agcolicol was also known in the radio world with his pro-



Virgilio “Leo” Agcolicol

gram *Liwliwa Iti Agsapa*, which had a running span of 40 years! He was the familiar voice for the morning commuters off to work at the fields or to commercial centers throughout the islands. To this day, Agcolicol still very much enjoys serving as a master of ceremonies and engage audiences for local events and private parties.

Another Maui *nui* veteran was the late Rogelio “Roger” Evangelista. Evangelista was a disabled Vietnam veteran. He was also the president of the Maui County Veterans Council and served on the State Advisory Board on Veteran Services. You may well have seen him sign waving on the side of the streets or highways. For years, he advocated for countless issues concerning the lack of the appropriate services to our veterans right here on Maui. Evangelista was vocal in his dismay with the Maui VA Clinic’s staffing issues back in 2008. Make no mistake however, Evangelista’s countless efforts also paid off in some areas. Evangelista brought the military to be part of the yearly Barrio Fiesta celebration held during the Memorial weekend. The Veterans Memorial Day Service at the Annual Barrio Fiesta includes a special service honoring the prisoners of war and all our fallen who gave the ultimate sacrifice and never made it back home. Evangelista fought to keep this annual tradition in memory of our fallen military service men and women.

Another milestone for Evangelista was seeing his efforts pay off when Maui County finally opened the Maui Veterans Highway or Route 311 (formerly Mokulele Highway). The highway runs south through the isthmus of Maui from the town of Kahului and nearby Kahului Airport, Maui’s

see VETERANS p.9



Fil-Am Voice

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Love, Scandal etc. by Ate Mora

9th in a series

Editor’s Note: This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, businesses, places, events, locales, and incidents are either the products of the author’s imagination or used in a fictitious manner. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

Maria could not believe it. Instead of Elena next to her on her way to San Francisco, it was Francisco, the son of Junior, her deceased lover and benefactor and the Mayor of Diliman City.

What are you doing here, Francisco? Why are you here? Where is Elena?

Maria was so confused. Right before she and Elena had plotted a way for Maria to go to San Francisco to complete her studies, she had convinced herself that she needed to leave the Philippines and be as far away as possible from the Mendoza family.

Maria had confessed to Elena that she felt something for Francisco but Maria had not confessed everything. Now Francisco was seated next to her on a thirteen hour flight. There would be no avoiding Francisco.

Maria, Elena told me everything, said Francisco. She confirmed there was a spark between us and I couldn’t

let you go. I know this might sound trite but ever since I first met you, I’ve been head over heels in love with you. Yes, I know about you and my Dad but that’s all in the past. We all have a past in our lives—some of which we may not be very proud of. But I believe that God had our lives crossed for a reason—to be together forever.

Maria could not believe what she was hearing. She was infuriated that her best friend had violated her trust and told Francisco how she felt! Yet she could not deny her feelings for Francisco anymore.

Francisco, I don’t know what to say. So much has happened between your family and me. What do you mean by you can’t let me go? I’m supposed to be enrolling at the University of San Francisco next week. What are you going to be doing in San Francisco? How long will you be staying? This is so crazy!

Just as Francisco was going to respond, the flight attendant made the final announcement:

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. If you have not done so, please fasten your seatbelts and pay attention to the monitor for a security briefing as we have closed the doors and we are enroute to San Francisco—The City by

the Bay. We also have a special guest with us tonight, the Honorable Mayor of San Francisco, Mayor Rick Chin. Please help me to extend a Mabuhay to Mayor Chin.

It had been sometime since Maria had flown and she always got nervous. Francisco sensed Maria’s nervousness and extended his hand to her to hold and Maria did.

Maria held on to Francisco’s hand tightly. She felt comfortable and protected—and she didn’t want to let go. Francisco placed his right hand on her upper arm and Maria instinctively leaned into him, looked up to him, and suddenly, Francisco turned towards her face and kissed her and she kissed him back.

Francisco, I have strong feelings for you. I can’t deny them. But I don’t know how this will work. I mean with my history with your Dad, what do you really think of me? I don’t want to be your plaything. I really want to have a new life—away from my past but if you’re part of my life, my past will always be there.

Francisco knew those were valid questions. Ever since he had learned of his father’s indiscretions with Maria, he battled daily with his feelings for Maria. But every time Maria had

dropped in to visit him, his feelings only grew stronger. They had developed a friendship but had never really addressed the situation with his father. Francisco had sought counsel with Monsignor Cadabana who counseled Francisco to be patient and to listen to his heart for no one was perfect.

Maria, I know it may be hard to believe but it the past does not matter. What’s important is that if you are willing, I want to have a future with you. I want you to be my wife. I’ve decided to leave the Philippines to be with you and to handle all of the Mendoza business and charitable affairs from San Francisco. I’ve taken care of everything including our new home in The Presidio Heights. But only if you will be my wife. So in a long winded way, I’m asking for your hand in marriage.

With that, Francisco, unbuckled his seat belt, quickly went on one knee and whipped out a ring.

Francisco, get back in your seat. I don’t know what to say but yes, I love you and I want to be your wife as long as you accept me for who I am and that you promise we will make a new life together.

Francisco smiled and placed the engagement ring on Maria’s finger.

see SCANDAL p.14



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all of the support we have
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Greg's Police Department Photo.



Silvestre Peros, Sr.



Greg's Basic Training Group Picture. Greg 2nd Row, 1st from the Left



Greg & Petra Peros with Grandsons. L to R: Cameron Henderson, Paxton Andes, Jarred Peros, Jeremy Peros, Cole Henderson

Gregory Torricer Peros

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEROS 'OHANA

Author Charles B. Rangel once said: “Veterans are a symbol of what makes our nation great, and we must never forget all they have done to ensure our freedom... Honoring the sacrifices many have made for our country in the name of freedom and democracy is the very foundation of Veterans Day.” Many of our *Sakada* Offsprings have served in the United States Military. One in particular is Gregory Torricer Peros. He was born in Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur, Philippines on November 14, 1944. His parents are

the late Silvestre Peros, Sr. and Herminia Torricer Peros. Greg is married to Petra Domingo Peros, a retired Housing Specialist at the County of Maui. Greg and Petra have three successful children: Gregory Patrick “Jay” Peros, Peggy G. Peros Andes, and Pamela Peros-Henderson. Gregory Patrick “Jay” Peros graduated from St. Anthony High School and Southern Oregon University with a Bachelor in Business Administration/Marketing. He is presently the General Manager of Maui Beach Hotel. He is married to Lorelle Solanso

Peros. They have two sons, Jeremy and Jarred. They live in Kahului, Maui. Peggy G. Peros Andes graduated from St. Anthony High School, the University of Portland with a Bachelor in Business Administration/Accounting and from Chaminade University with a Masters in Business Administration. She is presently employed as a Physician Recruiter for Hawai'i Pacific Health/Straub Medical Center. She is married to Paul Andes. They have a son, Paxton. They live in Waipahu, O'ahu. Pamela Peros-Henderson, LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker), graduated from St. Anthony High School, the University of Portland with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Political Science, the University of Hawai'i with a Masters of Social Work and Benedictine University (Lisle, Illinois) with a Master of Science in Business Organizational Behavior and a Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior. She is employed at Georgia Outreach and as an Individual and Family Therapist. She is married to Corey Henderson. They have two sons, Cole and Cameron. They live in Richmond Hill, Georgia.

God's time, their baby boy, Sylvester, Jr. was born as soon as they reached Santo Domingo on January 3, 1951. Later that same year in 1951, Silvestre, Sr. returned to Hawai'i to work. The Peros children began their school years. Greg attended elementary school in Santo Domingo. He attended Ilocos Sur High School in Vigan until he was a Junior. In 1960, the family moved back to Hawai'i except Aurea who was already married. However, she was able to re-join the family several years later. Greg enrolled at Baldwin High School. He graduated in 1963 then attended Honolulu Business College on O'ahu, majoring in accounting in 1965. Right after graduation, he was drafted into the United States Army. However, after talking to an Army Recruiter, Greg decided to volunteer and served for three years. Greg did his basic training at Fort Ord, California. After his basic training in January 1966, he went to school at the United States Army Finance School in Fort Benjamin Harrison, in Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1966, he was assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia where he was stationed until January 1968. He was then sent to Germany and assigned to Southern European Task Force in Vicenza, Italy. In October 1968, he returned to the United States, at Fort Hamilton in New York where he was honorably discharged. Upon returning home from the military, his first civilian job was a Bank Teller at the then American Security Bank, Wailuku Branch. He later worked as a Sales/Clerk at a Furniture Store. He also worked at the County of Maui Immigrant Services Division and County Finance Department. While working at those various jobs, Greg got involved in the Filipino Community and met the leaders in the Community such as the late Nancy Andres, Aggie Cabebe, Leo Agcolicol, Atty. Antonio Ramil, the late Cirilo Sinfuego, and many others. This was the time when the planning of the first Barrio Fiesta began and he was very happy to be asked to be a part of the Filipino Fiesta Steering Committee. That was almost 50 years ago and the Barrio Fiesta will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary next year, May 2019. Since then, Greg has been very active in the community and held offices not only locally but statewide. He is a past president of the United Filipino Council of Hawai'i, a past president of the Maui Filipino Community Council,

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Greg's Children (Above).
Left to right: Peggy Andes, Gregory "Jay" Peros, and Pamela Peros-Henderson.



Greg's immediate family (below); front row left to right: Aurea Tagorda, Herminia & Silvestre Peros Sr., Nenita & Rogelio Evangelista. Back row left to right: Anna & Jesse Peros, Precila & James Peros, Petra & Greg Peros, Sylvester Jr. & Lucy Peros

a past president of the Lānaʻi Community Association, and a past Vice President of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. He is the current president of the Santo Domingo Association of Maui.

Greg is not only very active in the community but is also active in the church, specifically, Christ The King Catholic Church in Kahului. At Christ The King, he is a past Pastoral Council Chairperson, Lector, Extraordinary Minister, Outreach Networking Ministry, and a Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Ministry.

When Greg was working in the County Immigrant Services Division, he was asked numerous times by police personnel to assist in felony case investigations as an Ilokano interpreter. Each time Greg assisted with interpreter services, he would be asked to join the police force. After a year or so of assisting as an Ilokano interpreter, Greg finally became interested in doing police work. He applied for a police officer position and after he passed the required examination, he was hired.

Greg started Police Recruit Training in April 1976 with 12 other men. One of his fellow recruits was an Air Force veteran. He mentioned to Greg about the Veteran GI Bill and classes at the then Maui Community College. Greg followed the advice and using the GI Bill, enrolled at the college taking evening classes and majoring in Criminal Justice. After about eight years, Greg completed the required credits to graduate and received his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice.

In 1978, Greg was assigned to serve on Lānaʻi for one year. He and his wife, Petra decided that the whole family should move to Lānaʻi for the whole year. They rented their house on Maui and they lived in one of the houses designated for police officers on Lānaʻi.

The whole family got involved in the Lānaʻi Community. His son, Jay became a member of the Lānaʻi Youth

Baseball League and other community affairs. So Greg decided to extend his assignment there on Lānaʻi. Lānaʻi has a very large Filipino population and so they joined the Filipino Association and Greg even became their association's president soon after joining.

During his term as President of the Lānaʻi Filipino Association, with the four Filipino groups—Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, and Visayan—they were able to work together and organized a mini Barrio Fiesta using bamboo to build *Bahay Kubos*, very similar to Maui's Barrio Fiesta. The family also enjoyed fishing and hunting with their friends while they were on Lānaʻi.

However, in 1984, Greg and his family decided to move back to Maui. After three months of being back on Maui, he got promoted to Sergeant and Greg was assigned to go to Molokai. He and his wife decided Greg would go to Molokai for the one year assignment and Petra would stay home with their children. At that time, their son Jay was attending St. Anthony High School and their two daughters, Peggy and Pamela were attending Kahului Elementary School. Greg came home almost every week on his days off to be with his family. After eleven months on Molokai, Greg came home using the 12th month as his vacation.

Greg worked in the Wailuku Patrol for a few years, then in 1988, he requested to be transferred to the Criminal Investigation Division. He served about three years as a Detective.

In 1991, the Hawaiʻi State Law Enforcement Officials awarded Greg "Officer of the Year," Maui County Police Department. Greg and Petra went to Hilo where he received his award during their convention.

Greg was promoted to Lieutenant several years later. He retired in 1999. As a retiree from the Police Department, he is still very active and trying to give back to the community and

see OFFSPRING p.16

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Finding and making balance in this highly-polarized political atmosphere...



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

sometimes think some politicians both locally and in Washington, D.C. no longer value the basics of civic engagement. The current normal in politics is polarization—they and us, liberal or conservative, progressive or old boy, environmentalist or developer, business owner or union member, poor or wealthy. Moreover, whichever end of the ideological spectrum you're on, self-righteous talking past others and *ad hominem* arguing, especially on the various social media platforms now available, is expected.

Over the last twenty-five years at least, many of our elected officials and their supporters have moved away from understandings developed over time—polite and respectful debate, the wisdom of incremental progress and the value of compromise. In the past, new legislators—at whatever level—would take some time to learn the legislative process, to work within the committee structure, and to conscientiously address district concerns.

In other states and at the local county level here, term limits have increased impatience with the slow but purposely designed legislative process. Throughout our nation's history, legislators of whatever party went to State Houses and Congress believing that the best way to serve their constituents, and their country, was to work honestly with their political opponents. Undoubtedly, some ideas moved along at a snail's pace. In truth, historic legislative has seldom passed without consensus-building, log-rolling and horse-trading. From Lyndon Johnson's success with the Civil Rights laws to Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal reforms, and even Joe Farrington and Jack Burn's work on Statehood for Alaska and Hawaiʻi, bills became law through politicians who skillfully moved through the legislative process with members of both parties. Now a major bill like Obama Care (or the Affordable Care Act) passes only with Democratic votes in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The great social upheavals from race and civil rights has narrowed the ideologies in the two major parties—it's now rare to find the endangered Liberal Republican or the vanishing Conservative Democrat. Increasingly

litmus tests are applied and a person is blithely labeled as a corporatist or a RINO (Republican In Name Only).

Many, perhaps understandably, now run with more populist impatience than in the past and without any inclination for forming bipartisan alliances or even working with the more conservative or progressive members of their own caucus.

Instead, they prefer to "raise hell" or "drain the swamp."

So the fact that eight of the newly elected Maui Councilmembers did a joint sign waving after the General Election was a good sign. Perhaps the nine-member County Council will bring more civility to local politics.

I'm honored to represent Central Maui. I started as a "selected" Representative and Senator—appointed by Governors Lingle and Neil Abercrombie to my legislative offices—before I was "elected." I'm very conscious that public service is a privilege. I also have a real job. Legislating is part-time and not my full-time job—I continue to practice law in Wailuku with my law partners Tony Takitani, Dave Jorgensen and Joe Wildman. Senator is just a title and not my primary role. I'm a husband, a son, an uncle and an active member of my church and our community.

In the 29th Legislature of the State of Hawaiʻi, which ran from 2017 to 2018, the Hawaiʻi State Senate had no Republicans among the twenty-five members. For many of my ten years in the seventy-six member legislature, the GOP has never had more than seven members. Yet I did introduce a number of bills on behalf of Republican colleagues and as a committee chair heard and moved some of their proposals. Perhaps I'm out of touch. I still think that sometimes the other party may have a good idea, too. Not often, perhaps but sometimes. ✨

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran grew up in Pāʻia and Kahului during the long end of the Plantation economy. He has represented Central Maui in the Hawaiʻi State Senate since 2013. Previously, he served as the State Representative for Kahului from 2009–2012. A Valley Isle native, he holds a Bachelor's degree in American Intellectual History from Yale College and a Juris Doctorate from Boalt Hall School of Law, the University of California at Berkeley. He is a partner in the Wailuku law firm of Takitani Agaran Jorgensen & Wildman, LLP. He worked in the Administration of Governor Ben Cayetano from 1995–2002.



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Maraming Salamat Po to the Maui Filipino Veteran's who have served our Country with Pride and Honor!

Huli...

from p. 3

(1,444), Sinenci (1,356), Paltin (1,439), Atay (1,324), Kama (1,476), King (1,491), Furtado (1,394), Starbuck (1,245), Johnson (1,209) and Rawlins-Fernandez (1,292). In contrast, Lahaina Civic Center (10–05), with an Election Day turnout of 1,427 voters, provided less overwhelming support for the #Huli2018 slate: Cochran (802), Atay (608), Rawlins-Fernandez (573), Johnson (631), Sinenci (619), Furtado (644), Kama (792), Starbuck (508), Paltin (911) and King (833). All districts supported Sugimura, Paltin and King over their opponents.

“This election year we saw some changes in our community. Whether they are good or bad changes is something we will all find out in the future,” Arakawa notes. “I hope that no matter who made it past the General Election and got into office, they realize one thing: serving the public is not the same as running for office.”

Kama who will replace Arakawa in January explained “We said we would work with whoever gets elected to make Maui County a better place of all. We said that we wanted to make sure our people had shelter that their paychecks could afford. We said we were going to take care of our ecology, because it is our economy. We said give us a chance, and they did. Now, it is up to us to do it. That everything we now do is for our constituents and the newly elected Mayor and Council are now, We, and not Me.”

But Arakawa suggests that the newly elected officials be forewarned about the challenging realities of governing: “When you’re in office you have to tell people sometimes that they’re wrong; they don’t have all the facts; or that the law is not on their side. There’s no magic wand you can wave as a mayor or council person to change that.”

He observes further, “The trouble is, the people who elected you don’t like to hear the word “no.” They expect you to act on the complaint about their neighbor’s house being out of code or built without the right permits but they don’t want you to apply that same standard to their house or their friends.”

“It doesn’t work like that,” Arakawa warns. “You can help your friends through the county process but you can’t shortcut it or eliminate it for them without others getting upset about the unfair treatment. Guidance and education about county laws and codes are fine. Ignoring laws and codes is not.”

“So be ready to say no and get ready to have some fair-weather supporters turn their backs on you,” he concludes. “Such is the life of public service.”

Lee, who had a sabbatical of twenty years from elective office, is raring to go: “I look forward to working with all nine members to find the best solutions possible for all of our residents. I will encourage each member to contribute in a spirit of cooperation and sincerity.”

Hawai’i Governor and

Lt. Governor

Governor David Ige with his running mate Josh Green easily won reelection statewide over their Republican challengers Andrea Tupola and Marisa Kerns, 244,814–131,604. The Democrat ticket of Ige-Green won every precinct in Maui County, 32,059 (64.5%)–14,625 (29.4%). The Green and Nonpartisan tickets garnered 6.1% of the Maui votes.

State Legislature

Unlike the U.S. Congress, where every State regardless of population is guaranteed two U.S. Senators (so small population States like Hawai’i, Alaska and Wyoming have as much clout as New York, Texas and California), Hawai’i allocates State Senate seats by population.

Locally, continued Democratic control of both chambers of the legislature was never in doubt, with most seats already decided in the August Democratic Party Primary. Only three legislative races continued to the General Election (West Maui House, West Maui/South Maui Senate and East Maui-Molokai-Lāna’i House). Roz Baker (South and West Maui) and J. Kalani English (Lāna’i-Molokai-East Maui) will return to the State Senate while Lynn DeCoite (East Maui-Molokai-Lāna’i) and Angus McKelvey (West Maui) won reelection to the House. Baker easily defeated Green Party candidate Melissah Shishido, 8,911–4,337. McKelvey, with 3,673 votes, defeated two opponents, Republican Chazen Marten (1,318) and Green Party Jen Mather (1,137). DeCoite won another term by turning back perennial Green Party standard-bearer Nick Nikhilananda, 5,787–2,296. The Maui House delegation will also include veterans Kyle Yamashita (Upcountry) and Justin Woodson (Kahului). Newcomers will be Troy Hashimoto (Wailuku), who was appointed to replace former House Speaker Joe Souki at the end of last session, and Tina Wildberger (South Maui). In short, Maui voters kept the all-Democrat delegation intact for the session that begins in January.

The State Senate did lose two Filipino legislators—Will Espero who resigned midterm for his unsuccessful run for Lt. Governor and Brickwood Galuteria who lost a reelection bid in the Democratic Primary. Returning Filipinos are Donna Mercado-Kim, Lorraine Inouye, Donovan Dela Cruz, and Gilbert Keith-Agaran. In the House, Rida Cabanilla successfully won her old seat and will join Filipinos Ty Cullen, Henry Aquino, Della Au-Belatti, Joy San Buenaventura and Romy Cachola, who all won reelection. The Republicans did reduce the Democratic Majority to twenty-four in the twenty-five member State Senate and maintained five seats in the fifty-one member House.

U.S. Congress and National Races

Ever since the 2016 Presidential election, the current President’s panoply of critics has pointed to 2018 as an important milestone in national repentance. The polls, for the most part, foretold change in favor of the opposition party. But the voters (especially rural voters in Missouri, North

Dakota and Indiana) spoke otherwise with regard to the U.S. Senate.

Re-taking the Senate was always a tall-order given the number of seats the Democrats were defending but Democrats were very optimistic about forging a majority in the House. Hawai’i’s delegation remained Blue. Outspoken Mazie Hirono won another term in the U.S. Senate while nationally ambitious Tulsi Gabbard returns for another term. Hirono, who made a national mark as a member of the Judiciary Committee hearings on Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court, easily defeated Republican Ron Curtis, 276,133-111,977. Maui County favored Hirono, 37,628 (76.8%)–11,347 (23.2%). Gabbard easily bested GOP Brian Evans, 153,132–44,816, with Maui County totals of 39,775 (82.1%)–8,685 (17.9%). Former U.S. Rep. Ed Case moves to the Urban Honolulu seat that Colleen Hanabusa vacated, keeping the all-Democrat Hawai’i delegation intact. While Election Night results suggested a modest majority, as counting continued, Democrats ended up gaining more seats than any midterm since the post-Watergate election.

Nationally, Democrats also posted gains in Governorships and State legislative chambers. Democrats added seven governorships, recouping some of the losses sustained in 2010 and 2014 and picked up hundreds of state legislative seats.

Same Day Registration

This was the first election where same day registration was allowed at the polls and a surge did occur at certain polling places on Election Day which resulted in some delay in the process. Maui County Clerk Danny Mateo reported an additional 987 voters took advantage of the opportunity. “I’m a little surprised at the high number even though our office had gone out to register voters at many events and locations. It’s exciting that people are coming out to register,” said Mateo, who will retire at the end of December 2018 to pursue other opportunities. Mateo has served the County for twenty-two years, with ten and a half years on the Council and five years as County Clerk. “I am surely looking forward to Maui County being a County wide all-mail voting in the future. I believe it will help increase voter participation, making the voter process a lot easier by mailing the ballots to all registered voters in Maui County. It will also alleviate some of the Clerk’s office in recruiting volunteers because we hire 500 workers to assist on election day.”

Turnout

For Maui County, 96,721 were registered to vote. The total voters were 48,461 or 50.1%. Of that amount, 22,638 voted at the polls (23.4%) while 25,823 voted via absentee (26.7%).

A comparison of four years ago (versus a comparison of two years ago which included a presidential race) shows an increase of 9,394 of total registered voters (from 87,327 to 96,721) or 10.75%. The total number of voters increased from 46,005 to 48,461 (2,456) or 5.3%. Those who voted at the polls (24,578 in 2014)

decreased by 1,485 or 6% while those who voted via absentee (21,427 in 2014) increased by 5,955 or 27.79%.

Statewide, the total registration of voters was 756,751, with 52.7% or 398,657 voting. Of that amount, 23.1% or 175,120 voted at the polls versus 29.5% or 223,537 voting via absentee.

Four years ago, the total Statewide registration of voters was 706,890, with 52.3% or 369,642 voting. Of that amount, 25.5% or 180,535 voted at the polls versus 26.6% or 189,107 voting via absentee.

Blank Votes—Coulda? Woulda?

Voters continue to leave certain races and ballot questions blank. Blank votes may reflect “None of the above” or “Don’t know enough” or, while all Maui County residents can vote in all Council contests, a choice to not weigh in on representatives for other communities. Regardless, in close races, blank votes play a role.

On Maui, the largest number of blank votes was for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs At-Large Trustees, with 73,535. Another 18,807 voters left the OHA O’ahu Trustee blank and 13,130 voters left the Maui Resident Trustee blank.

For the Maui Mayor race, 1,302 voters left that race blank while 1,177 voters left the Governor’s race blank. There were 1,483 blank votes for the U.S. Senate race and 2,004 blank votes for the U.S. Congressional District II race.

In the state legislative races, 1,381 voters left the Baker-Shishido race for State Senate blank while only 397 voters left the McKelvey-Marten-Mather State House race blank and 698 voters left the DeCoite-Nikhilananda State House race blank.

But for the Maui County council races, thousands of voters did not vote.

Races where the blank votes were greater than the margin of victory:

- Rawlins-Fernandez over Crivello (Molokai) - 7,814 blank votes in a race decided by 1,466 votes;
- Hokama over Johnson (Lāna’i) - 7,589 blank votes in a race decided by 1,981 votes;
- Sinenci over Carroll (East Maui) - 7,459 blank votes in a race decided by 4,161 votes;
- Molina over Furtado (Makawao-Haiku-Paia) - 5,857 blank votes in a race decided by 3,758 votes; and
- Lee over Atay (Wailuku-Waihee-Waikapu) - 5,559 blank votes in a race decided by 2,431 votes.

Races where the margin of victory was greater than the number of blank votes:

- Paltin over Nava (West Maui) - 7,645 blank votes in a race decided by 13,734 votes;
- King over Crouse (South Maui) - 7,611 blank votes in a race decided by 18,876 votes;
- Sugimura over Starbuck (Upcountry) - 5,968 blank votes in a race decided by 10,032 votes; and
- Kama over Arakawa (Kahului) - 4,408 blank votes in a race decided by 10,874 votes.

The large number of blank votes in
see HULI next page

Veterans...

from p. 4

international airport, to Kihei, a distance of approximately seven miles. Yes, folks, this is now a reality so please, if you haven't already, start calling the highway by its new name, the Maui Veterans Highway.

Another Evangelista has taken over in place of Roger. The young Chelsea Ann Fernandez (Evangelista), who is married to Army veteran Joey Fernandez. Together, they have three, beautiful children, Shae-la Ann, 19 years old, Joey Jr., 10 years old, and Colby, 8 years old. Chelsea was born and raised in Hilo and moved to Maui in 2005. She entered the United States Army Reserve in March 2001. She enlisted as a 51B, carpenters/masonry specialist, joining the 411th Engineers, Combat Battalion unit in Hilo. Like many others who enlist in the military, Chelsea had the desire to see and experience the world. Another perk that appealed to her was the thought of having her education paid for by the military.

Chelsea's family has a long history of the military service. Continuing on this family legacy to serve in the armed forces was a no brainer. Beginning with her grandfather who served in the Korean War 1950–1953 while other family members served in the Vietnam War 1955–1975 and the Gulf War in 1990–1991.

Chelsea's basic training began in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. She went on to train for her Military Occupation Specialty ["MOS"] at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Mississippi. She was deployed with the 411th unit while attached to the 1st Calvary division stationed in Baghdad Iraq in 2004. Her platoon served a separate mission in Sadr City for a few months.

When Chelsea was asked what advice, she would give her younger self, she responded, *"I don't think I'd say anything to my younger self. Although there were rough times I've faced over the years, I think those things helped shape me into the person I am today and made me into a stronger person. If I had to do it all again, I think I'd*

want to go the exact same way it went." For our current younger generation, this is what our veteran Chelsea advises: *"To those who are thinking about joining the military, even if you just have a little bit of sparked interest in joining, join. And while you're in, do all the training that you can. If there are extra courses, job trainings or schools, take those opportunities and complete them. And if given the opportunity to lead, take it. Those skills that you will gain will help you so much when you decide to finish your military career and go back into the civilian workforce. If you'd like to gain skills, want the opportunity to serve others and the desire to do something great to uphold the values that we uphold in the military through our warrior ethos: I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade then you should be joining our ranks!"*

It is incumbent upon each of us to teach the next generation to honor all those who answered the call of duty, served and fought to protect and defend the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

"I am an American soldier.

I am a warrior and a member of a team.

I believe I served the people of the United States."

- U.S. ARMY SOLDIERS' CREED

Having earned my path to American citizenship, I continually work to protect and defend this incredible nation. This beacon of hope, justice and pursuit of happiness. I love what America stands for and I love my fellow warriors past and present. I will forever be a member of an elite group of men and women who provide a blanket of security for our people's way of life. Being a veteran is a badge of honor I wear proudly each and every day of my life.

But there are those who served our country who never received full Veteran status. Sherman Baisa served in the Army National Guard from 1961 to 1966. He was part of the 29th Infantry Company C., based right at Kahului Armory, next to McDonald's

in Pu'unē Avenue. He is the son of Cirilo Ranesis Baisa of Badoc, Ilocos Norte and Rachel Lahela Kikiwi of Kaupō, Maui.

Baisa entered the Maui Police Department in 1966. But unfortunately in those days, if you joined the police ranks, you couldn't keep serving in the Army National Guard. There was no law protecting the employment security of our weekend soldiers. After working with the Maui Police Department for fourteen years, he stayed in the County and worked for the Department of Water Supply for the next



Chelsea Ann Fernandez (Evangelista) on deployment.

eighteen years and retired. Due to an older regulation, Baisa, although he served in the Army National Guard, was not afforded veteran status. His older brother Freddy, who served for over twenty years in the Army National Guard, also did not qualify for Veteran status.

Although a recent law was signed giving official veteran status to National Guard members who served twenty years or more, this new law still doesn't qualify Sherman (or his 90 year old brother Freddy) to veteran status, as most of Sherman's time from the Army National Guard was spent right here on Maui and annual training on O'ahu.

Another group of forgotten Veterans are the 260,000-plus brave Filipino soldiers who fought side by side Americans during World War II. When World War II broke out, then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a presidential order which called the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the Armed Forces of the United States, promising full veteran benefits to Filipinos for their service of

fighting side by side Americans to defeat the Japanese. But after the war, Congress passed the Rescission Act of 1946, which cancelled President Roosevelt's order and the Filipino Veterans, who were U.S. Nationals, were disqualified from receiving the same rights, benefits, and privileges as others who served under the U.S. Armed Forces. The rationale provided by the U.S. Congress in 1946 was that the United States gave the Philippines two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) after the war. Although Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvest Act in 2009, providing for a one-time lump sum of \$15,000, for the surviving veterans who are U.S. Citizens, and a \$9,000 lump sum settlement for non-citizens, it was not enough. Eligible people had one year from the time of passage of the bill to file claims and only \$198,000.00 was set aside for these payments. My Lolo was from Southern Philippines and he was not notified in time to meet the one-year time limit.

Although Congress decided in 2016 to award the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor to these Filipino veterans, in my humble opinion, it was too little, too late.

Despite our country's shortcomings, especially with respect to Veteran's issues, when called to serve, I would do so again in a heartbeat. When I see or hear any dishonor made to our flag or our nation's song, it is a knife that pierces straight into my heart, as if a personal attack on what I help build. But it is also a reminder to me, that it is those very same acts of unkind and at times, disrespectful gestures that makes America truly great.

Freedom is real and it is not biased. **Sharon Zalsos Banaag** is a past president of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce (three terms) and has her own marketing business: Kalona International LLC. She's also an ACN Independent Business Owner. A former Miss Maui Filipina, Sharon played the lead in MAPA's presentation of Miss Saigon. A graduate of Maui High School, Sharon is employed with the County of Maui and a proud Veteran of the United States Air Force. ✨

Huli...

from p. 8

Council races persisted despite a campaign by both establishment candidate supporters and the #Huli2018 coalition to inform and urge people to vote all nine of the respective council slates. Voters, however, continued to leave certain races blank. Wailuku and Kahului voters, for example, tallied the largest number of blank votes in the Molokai, Lānaʻi, West Maui and South Maui races while South Maui recorded over a thousand blank votes in each of eight council districts and 939 in their own region.

BLANK VOTES BY REGION:

WAILUKU.....	9,672
KAHULUI.....	6,484
LAHAINA.....	10,068
SOUTH MAUI.....	12,851

UPCOUNTRY	10,929
EAST MAUI/MOLOKAI/LĀNAʻI	9,867
Hmmm. Coulda?? Woulda??	

Ballot Questions

On the Ballot questions, money was certainly political speech. Given the advertising dollars against both the State Constitutional Convention and the Investment Property Tax Surcharge for Education Constitutional Amendment, the rejection of both proposals was not unexpected. Although the Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled against including the Education Con Am, the results were still tallied with Maui County rejecting the question.

Two of the three Maui Charter proposals passed—voters rejected having claims filed with the Corporation Counsel rather than the County Clerk, 21,880–19,559 but approved higher penalties for illegal rentals, 26,045–19,048, and expanded use of the Open Space Fund, 30,389–14,456.

Reflecting on the results for Maui's Filipino community, Mayor Arakawa observed, "I've always listened to our Filipino community and our newly elected officials should as well. As long as Filipinos continue to fight for what they want they will have the ears of our elected officials. For example, the Filipino community has wanted a new Kahului Community Center for a long time now, so let the new mayor and new council know that remains a priority for you."

With the midterm elections completed, people on the "losing" end of things might well be lamenting the lack of turnout of like-minded voters. As political scientist and analyst Larry J. Sabado from the University of Virginia observes, "Every election is determined by the people who show up." President Abraham Lincoln wryly noted, "Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn

their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."

In short, not voting is effectively also voting to give those who do cast ballots more influence over the results.

Or if you prefer a more local approach: **If you neva' vote, no can dat one!** ✨

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran represents Central Maui in the Hawai'i State Senate. He is currently in the middle of his four-year term and did not appear on the ballot this year.

Alfredo G. Evangelista majored in Political Science at the University of Southern California (B.A. 1980) and received his Juris Doctor in 1983 from the UCLA School of Law. He is licensed to practice in all the state and federal courts in the State of Hawai'i (1983), the Supreme Court of the United States (1989), and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (1990).

Kwento Kuwentuhan

Visit Philippines

What’s the same, and what has changed?

Liza of “A Maui Blog”
ALL PHOTOS COURTESY LIZA PIERCE

Filipino-American friends, when was the last time you visited the Philippines? How was your experience going back to our native land?

Perhaps, the following questions are more appropriate to ask...

Were you born in the Philippines or did you migrate to the USA from there?

If you moved to the USA, when did you first come and when was the last time you visited?

If you were born in the USA, have you visited the Philippines yet? If so, when was your first time and what were some of your first impressions?

Whether you were born here in America or if you migrated from the Philippines, if you haven’t been to (or back to) the Philippines recently, I highly recommend that you do. It is good to connect to our roots and our culture and I believe that the best way to experience that is to visit and experience Philippines firsthand.



Driving in Manila has not changed and in my opinion, has become more challenging. When in the Philippines, leave the driving to the local professionals.



I’m proud of my 86-year-old Tatay who still goes out and has meaningful interchanges with those he frequents with when strolling about town. Although showing respect for our elders is a part of our Filipino culture, my Tatay has earned that respect just by the way he treats others.

With that said, I am actually here in the Philippines as I write this article. A lot has changed since I moved to Maui from the Philippines; some are good, some not. Nevertheless, there’s progress.

It was four years ago when I last visited and it’s wonderful to be back to visit Tatay (my dad) and my family here. I can go on and on sharing about my Philippines visit but since I have limited space, let me share with you these three insights I have been musing while I am here. These are my personal perspectives—feel free to let me know if you agree or disagree. (Note that the sharing below is focused on the Metro Manila area. Our islands and provinces have a

more relaxed experience in terms of traffic and shopping malls.)

1. **Driving in Manila is not for the weak.** - When I left Manila in 1994 it was already a fact that you had to be brave to drive in Metro Manila. The roads are crowded and drivers are aggressive. Merging seems to be an impossible task if you are a polite driver. On this visit, it became even more apparent that driving in Metro Manila is not for the weak. Not only do the drivers have to watch for other cars and trucks, the recent popularity of motorcycles used as a mode of daily transportation made driving on Metro Manila roads even more complicated. There’s a swarm of motorcyclists zipping in and out, finding its way through the traffic. Though most of them wear helmets, their bodies are unprotected and you definitely have to watch for them when you drive. My recommendation? Let your experienced Filipino drivers do the driving when you visit, it’s not worth the risk driving yourself.
2. **Respect and care for the elders is a beautiful thing**

- and it is naturally practiced here.** - My Tatay is 86 years old and still active. His favorite thing to do is go to McDonald’s and Jollibee and talk story with the people there. While visiting him, I went with him to visit the McDonald’s and Jollibees he frequents and to my delight, most of the staff there know him. Many of them call him *Tatay* as a form of respect. It is very heartwarming to hear them talk to him respectfully and as I have observed, it’s not exclusive to him. People here do respect elders and that’s a valuable part of our culture.
3. **Filipinos love to eat and shop. There is an abundance of places to eat and stores to shop.** As we already know, some of the largest Malls in the world are found in the Philippines and these malls
- see BUMALIK p.15

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OMG, the food in the Philippines is always to die for! *Pritong* Tilapia was one of the dishes served at a restaurant called “Recipes.”



Hi guys welcome back. Did you go to the Maui Fil-Am Heritage Festival? How about that back-to-back entertainment? Wasn’t it cool? The performers were amazing. How about Halloween, what were you dressing up as? Time flies by so fast, and we are now in November. Thanksgiving is just right around the corner. What’s on the menu this

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

Thanksgiving? For sure, *lechon* is on the menu at my house. *Lechon manok*. And what about Black Friday? Where

are you shopping this post Thanksgiving dinner? I’ll be at the Lahaina Outlets at midnight so I will see you there

if you are going. How about Cyber Monday? Not your thing? Me too. In last month’s article, Angel had one of the worst mornings and we revealed a secret in her life. If you missed it, go back and get a hold of last month’s issue or read it on facebook at www.facebook.com/letstalkpinoy to catch up. Today, we go back and see what Michael is doing.

AS MICHAEL FINISHES UP brushing his teeth, he looks at the mirror, and stares at himself. “Who are you? What are you doing in your life?” He stands there for a minute and started to let the *danum* (water) run. He was about to wash his *mukat* (face) when he heard his *Nana* calling him.

“Michael, *kaon na ta!* (let’s eat)”

“Ok *Nana*, *umayakon*. (I’m coming)”

Michael comes down the stairs. The second to the last step creeks because he used to jump on it everyday so he knows to skip that one.

The kitchen at *Nana’s* house does not have great natural light but she makes up for it by putting a lot of lamps. The *dulang* is one of those fancy tables that have detailed carvings all over it. The chairs are now bare but she kept the factory plastic on them for close to twenty years. “I always used to complain that it is sticky. I was such a brat,” Michael whispers.

Michael doesn’t visit *Nana* much these days. Work has kept him busy but she is always so happy to see him when he does come over. Every morning, *Nana* cooks breakfast and it is a feast and today is no different.

In the *lamesa*, there is *Tortang Talong* which is double eggplant and Michael’s favorite. Tomato and green with scrambled eggs, with just a touch of salt for taste. *Magnolia’s* red hot dogs with cheese sit next to the sliced spam, always a family favorite. Today, *Nana* fried some rice. No, it is not your typical fried rice that is rice with peas, carrots, *shoyu* (soy sauce) and sausage. The Filipino fried rice was simply cooked with oil and garlic topped with a pinch of salt. The bottom of the fried rice is crunchy and it’s the best part. We all used to fight over it. There’s also *bagoong* (salted fish sauce) with tomato and onion on the side. And Michael’s favorite, *Jufran* Banana Sauce (Filipino Ketchup).

“There were so many good times that we had as a family here on this very *kan’anan*,” Michael said to himself.

“We all learned how to pack pork and vegetable *lumpia* on this *lamisaan*. I remember dad and I would play cards for hours. Till this

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Table	La mesa	Lamisaan	Kan’anan	Papag	Kayu	Dulang
Breakfast	Almusal	Pam-migat	Pamahaw	Pamahaw	Kuman	Dulang
Yes	Oo	Wen	Kurug	Hu-o	Oo	Oo
Name	Pangalan	Nagan	Ngalan	Ngalan	Ngagan	Lagyu
Water	Tubig	Danum	Tubig / Pamubo	Tubig	Danum	Danum
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Mukat	Lupa / Arap	Nawong / Dagway’	Goya / Nawong
Let’s eat	Kain na	Mangan tayon	Kaon ta	Kaon na ta	Kumain ittam	Mangan tamu
It’s delicious	Masarap	Naimas	Lami ni	Ay kanamit	Nasinga	Manyaman
Girlfriend	Kasintahan	Nobia	Amiga	Noby	Noby	Noby
Beautiful	Maganda	Napintas	Matahum nga	Maanyag	Makasta	Malagu

day I am still the *Pipito* champion (Filipino card game) of the house.”

Nana would cook a big *almusal* (breakfast) for everyone, but she wouldn’t eat much for herself. She is a frail old lady but has energy for days. Today, her *almusal* is *Love’s* Sweet bread dipped in her coffee. On the counter, sits three bottles of *San-ka*.

“*Nana*, when did you start drinking this stuff,” Michael asks.

“Long time already, *Folgers* is expensive. You like?” *Nana* replies.

“Opo.”

Nana was born in the Philippines, but she speaks *pidgin*. *Pidgin* is Hawai’i’s special dialect of English. But *Nana’s pidgin* is with a Filipino accent.

“Sometimes I think it makes her jokes even that much funnier,” Michael says to himself, grinning.

NANA: “Michael, do you have *noby* (girlfriend)?”

Michael avoided the question, instead, he replied to her, “*Nana*, this *tortang talong* is *naimas!*”

NANA: “Hoy Michael, I am asking you if you have a *noby*. I know that the

tortang talong is *manyaman!*”

Michael smiles, “No *Nana*, *awan pay nobia*”

NANA: “Boyfriend?”

With a shocked face Michael turns to his grandmother, “Haha, no! Never!”

NANA: “You know Auntie Jan?”

MICHAEL: “Yah.” (Auntie Jan isn’t really related to Michael but most locals refer to women who are older than they are and around their mother’s age, “Auntie” out of respect.)

NANA: “Auntie Jan’s son has a boyfriend and I thought maybe.”

MICHAEL: “No, no, no *Nana*, No! I like women! There is this one!” Michael laughs.

NANA: “What’s her name? *Malagu*?”

Michael, red from ear to ear. “Angel” Michael whispers, turning away in embarrassment. “Very *maganda*...”

NANA: “*Ana’t apelyido* (last name) *na*?” Michael gasps and thinks “Shucks, I didn’t get her last name.”

MICHAEL: “*Nana* stop. She’s not my *noby* yet.”

NANA: “Okay, not your *nobia*. Tell me her last name. I will find out who is her parents. Let her come to Jayb’s

first birthday at *Binhi At Ani* Tuesday night. All your brothers, sisters, and cousins they are all married, and they will be there. Only you, always bring nothing. It’s so embarrassing. You bring her.”

MICHAEL: “But... ”

NANA: “Don’t talk back to me, it’s only dinner. Just bring her. You tell me her last name, I will tell her parents.”

MICHAEL: “No, please don’t. I am not a kid. I can do it myself. I will visit her *lola* later.”

NANA: “Who is her *lola*?”

Michael drops his hands like a child. “Stop.”

Nana hugs and kisses him.

Michael says, “*Umuna-ak pay Nana*.” (I’m going first.)

Ah, breakfast at grandma’s. You can’t beat it. My *Nana* used to make this *Igado* (pork) but without liver and it was so good. My grandpa also made his best *caldo* (beef soup), unfortunately nobody learned how to do it. How about you? What does your childhood breakfast look like and who prepared it for you? Tell us your story at *Fil-Am Voice’s* facebook page at [see TALK p.15](#)

Ating Kabuhayan

Thank the Veterans Around Us

A choice and willingness to sacrifice their lives and livelihoods were made for us!

The Rev. John A.H. Tomoso †

My Dad was a Veteran and so was my younger brother. I also have uncles and cousins on both sides of my family who are veterans as well. I've always admired those who join the military. I grew up when the Vietnam War was being fought and our country had a draft. Family members and friends were being drafted and leaving every week. Some even "joined up." I remember thinking these were men; some very young, who were leaving the comforts of home and all that was familiar for the unknown world of the Army, Navy, Marines or the Air Force. The journey to becoming a veteran starts with the unknown; the sense of not knowing anything that lies ahead.

I had a cousin who wrote to my dad while he was in boot camp. My dad loved to write letters and everyone in the family knew that if they wrote to him, he would always write back. Anyway, my dad let me read this cousin's letter. From its contents, I was struck by the absolute courage it took him to leave home at 19 and join the Army. I was also struck by how scared he was. There was one line in the letter that has stayed with me to this day. My cousin wrote "You know, I don't know if I'll ever come home, as I've heard that many are dying in the war." I pondered the idea of death, that joining the military, especially in a time of war, means that death is an ever-present reality. The journey to becoming a veteran is filled with stories and experiences of being scared, of death and dying; of those who were "here today" but then "gone to-morrow."

Early in my career as a social worker, I was on an assessment team with a group of case managers and social workers who worked with me to come up with care plans for veterans who returned from service and who were now disabled. There was one particularly unfortunate case of a veteran who was injured, not in combat but at a base, soon after he was sent on a combat mission. The injury was very catastrophic with about a year's work of rehabilitative medical treatment and allied health therapeutic regimes. I remember the case presentation asking the team to assess the "genuine guilt" the veteran had and the expressed disappointment he had about "never being able to fight." What the team came up with was a care plan that focused on the restoration of self-esteem and self-worth for this veteran. Eventually, the veteran was reintroduced to his former career and, among other resettlement realities, obtained employment in a career he had known before being drafted. In speaking with me, he said (and I remember his words) "I am half the man I was but I'm now more than the man I was when I went into the Army." The journey to becoming a veteran is filled with challenges that bring up one's doubts and fears that must be overcome.

All too often, there are Veterans who return in a coffin. It is then up to the surviving family members to make sense of the loss, often chaos that literally surrounds the coffin. I was once a chaplain to a family whose only son was killed in combat. The parents and siblings were really beside themselves and kept asking "How can this be?" I helped them, through many discussions and much praying, that the loss of their son and brother was something that they had to "fill the void" by living for themselves and for him. Eventually, the parents sat with me just before the Funeral to inform me they had decided to start a scholarship fund in their son's memory. I asked them what this fund was for. They said it was for the education of the children of veterans killed in combat. The mother informed me while shedding tears that their son loved children and that he wanted to be a teacher once he got out. The journey to becoming a veteran is for survivors to understand that a "loss" is an opportunity to "fill a void."

Kababayan, I want to encourage you to think of the veterans among us. They have had the courage to leave us and join the military; to quite emotionally and with selflessness sacrifice their livelihoods and lives so that we could continue to live in freedom. This gives us the opportunity to put back, sometimes without them, what has been taken away. The journey to becoming a Veteran begins with a family's, even a community's understanding, that Veterans are on a journey of a lifetime, and that we must be with them on the journey, for a lifetime, meaning forever! ✨

Rev. 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!

Top 10 Mistakes Caregivers of Dependents with Special Needs May Make When Planning

Elsa Agdinaoy-Segal

Last year, I was given the opportunity to learn more about special needs planning from a partner of my firm, Kirk Barth. He is a Certified Financial Planner and holds a Special Needs Planner title with our firm. Last month we spoke at a Learning Disabilities & Achievement Hawaii (LDAH) conference for our Maui community at UHMC.

The part that resonated the most with the attendees were the Top 10 Mistakes Caregivers of Dependents with Special Needs May Make When Planning....

1. Disinheriting your dependent with special needs

Many people with special needs rely on government benefits to help provide food, shelter, and medical care. If you have been advised to 'disinherit' your dependent, remember that these public benefits provide no more than 'bare bones' necessities.

2. Having assets in your dependent's name

In order to qualify for government benefits, such as Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a person cannot have more than \$2,000 in assets, in most states. If you leave funds or convertible assets directly to your dependent with special needs, they may have to be 'spent down' in order to qualify for these important benefits. Assets in your dependent's name are subject to predators (who are attracted to those with limited capacity) and creditors. In addition, they are open to law suits, bankruptcy, and spendthrift situations.

3. Relying on your other children to take care of their sibling with special needs

You may be thrusting a moral obligation on one sibling to become the future caregiver of their sibling with special needs. Shouldering this type of burden can cause resentment. If the sibling without special needs gets married, would taking care of their brother or sister interfere in their lives? Will the spouse understand?

4. Leaving money to your other children to support their sibling with special needs

Closely related to the above... What if the sibling without special needs dies, gets divorced, sued, goes bankrupt, or just mismanages the funds? The funds may be lost forever. There is also no accounting here, and money can be used for other purposes by a spouse or child.

5. Having a 529 College Savings Plan or UTMA account or Savings Bond

in your dependent's name

If these total more than \$2,000, your dependent with special needs may be ineligible for government benefits.

6. Failing to Communicate Your Plan to Family Members

The best laid plans can 'blow up' because they are not communicated to immediate and extended family members. A well-meaning but uninformed relative may leave funds directly to your dependent. This may undo all the hard work and expense you have gone through in setting up a plan. A plan is only as good as its weakest link and communication and reviews are for many, the keys to success.

7. Failing to fund your trust properly

A special needs trust without assets is useless to your loved one with special needs. Any asset you wish to put into the trust requires a change in title or ownership. For example, if you want life insurance or retirement plans to pay into the trust when you die, you must be sure you've completed the proper owner and beneficiary designation forms.

8. Having the wrong kind of trust

There is more than one type of special needs trust. A common mistake is having a 'payback' provision (where the state can recover its expenses upon the death of the dependent with special needs) when it is actually unnecessary. A payback trust (OBRA '93 Trust) is used only when the trust is funded with the assets of the dependent with special needs. A third party trust is funded with assets from someone other than the dependent with special needs and does not require payback to the state. Any leftover assets can go to your named beneficiary.

9. Having the trust created by an inexperienced attorney

There are many types of attorneys and many types of estate planning attorneys. Having a special needs trust set up properly requires specialized expertise. There are only a handful of attorneys who understand the process and ramifications. If the trust is not set up properly your loved one with special needs may be deemed ineligible for government benefits—and you will not be here to advocate your intentions. The state can deny coverage for essential services if the assets in the trust are considered to be 'available' to the dependent with special needs.

If your friend is an attorney and offers to author your trust, ask them

see KA-CHING p.14



Maui Pinoy

PLEASURE PLATES

Lutong Bahay - Part I Home is where the heart is

Sharon Zalsos Banaag

If home is truly where the heart is, it is no wonder that nothing beats a home cooked meal. Although not everyone may be experts in the kitchen like Chef Isaac Banca-co of Andaz, Maui or Chef Joey Macadangdang of Joey's Kitchen, everyone can certainly stumble their way in the kitchen. Of course, everyone swears by their Mom's version of any recipe or dish. Ever had an argument with a friend or spouse about whose Mom cooks the best *adobo*? Do you have a friend who swears their Thanksgiving turkey is the best? Or ever had a quarrel with a spouse because your home cooked meal is not as good as their Mom's? Ok... too far.

I asked folks in the community "What is your favorite dish and who prepares it best?" and here's the responses:

Virgilio Agcolicol, Kahului: "Palabok, my wife cooks it."

Aris Banaag, Ha'ikū: "My dad's chicken *adobo*."

Daphne Stohlmeir, Kahului: "Dinuguan by Tess I would kill to have it again. It was really good, kase hindi madugo. May sabaw konti parang version nila sa province. I also like Crispy Pata, Adobong Pusit. I like certain adobos, they're not created equal and Massy makes a really good pinakbet. Tenderloin gamit niya. Your pansit and adobo were really good too."

Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Kahului: "Balatong & Kamatis stew that my grandmother Laureana Agaran would cook from mung beans shelled by rolling a coke bottle over the beans and then slow boiling the beans with some sliced cherry tomatoes from the backyard garden. She would finish the dish with some homemade chicharon and perhaps a dash of Wesson oil near the end. My favorite dish is roast pork in gravy cooked by Bernard Paet—the pork is soft and the gravy just slightly salty—over a bed of rice."

Ann Quito, Kihei: "Pork *adobo* by



Despite the "the bad breaks" that society grades complex carbs, making your own bread makes a cost difference in your meal planning, and you control what goes in.

PHOTO: SHARON ZALSOS BANAAG

my mother. She's in the Philippines. The dry kind then the next day I fry it again OMG I love it. It can stay in the fridge for a week."

Marie Marcol, Kihei: "Pig feet *adobo* by dad and pansit and biko by mom."

Jackie Tanaka from Ha'ikū: "Hmmm I like most traditional Filipino foods e.g., pansit, lumpia, mongo beans, pinakbet and other Filipino vegetables. My sister makes good pinakbet and one of our aunties makes the best lumpia. I really don't have a favorite Filipino dish or other ethnic dish—I love food! I do enjoy curries."

Conrado Cortez, Wailuku: "Dinardaran made by my mom. Yummy. Overall favorite dish. Breaded teriyaki from the old Cupies."

Of all the comments made regarding favorite dish, only two mentioned having favorites made from a diner. Perhaps it could be attributed to the fact that it wasn't until recently, most meals were enjoyed from home. Eating out was a rare occasion for many families. In my husband's immediate family for instance, when he was growing up they almost never went out to eat, not even McDonald's. Budget was tight and there were almost no such thing as left overs, no food went to waste. Fast forward to the present, most of us enjoy dining out more frequently than ever before. Is it due to convenience or is it because it's more economical to eat out these days than it was before?

Does it pay to be your own chef?

Today's daily routine for families on Maui and across America is all the same: rushed. Too little time to prepare and cook meals at home and too much time and money spent dining out or grabbing food to go. While this provides a quick fix for our exceedingly busy schedule, what is the true cost of skipping cooking at



home?

Planning what meals to cook for a week for instance will require a little time off our already busy schedule. But for the sake of this article, let's do the breakdown:

- Finding 15 minutes, a piece of paper and pen and jot down the week's schedule for the family. List the breakfast, home lunch and dinner for the entire week.
- Have a budget for the week's list for instance \$200 or less per week and stick to it.
- Finding 1 ½ hours in a week to shop for the week's meals.
- Another extra 10 minutes to unload and put away the groceries.
- Set aside ½ hour to prep for the next day's meals for the family.
- Set aside 1 ½ hours cooking a pot of something for home lunch for the week or so. Example: A pot of chili, pot roast, spaghetti, lasagna, or if you're in a Filipino household, cook a pot of *adobo*, nilaga or sinigang beef soup, *afritada*, etc Cool down and pack individually in small containers for lunch. This way, you can just grab what you need in the morning before you rush to work.
- Set aside 45 minutes to prepare breakfast for the family or less if it's just for you and your spouse. Sit down and start the day together.

On the flip side of this though, it is much more convenient for most working couples to grab a quick breakfast and snack at a 7 Eleven or Minit Stop, \$7.50 each morning (small chicken plate, drink and a snack). Plus \$9.50/plate lunch comes out to \$17/per day just for breakfast and lunch. In a week is about \$85. For 2 people comes out to \$170. We have 4 children and if they eat breakfast in school, it will cost them around \$2/meal per child totaling \$8



Home made bread

PHOTO: SHARON ZALSOS BANAAG

Home made *pandesal* with a side of stew. The sky's the limit when it comes to being creative with meals made at home with love.

PHOTO: SHARON ZALSOS BANAAG



The kids are none-too-crazy about leftovers.

PHOTO: SHARON ZALSOS BANAAG

meal ideas quickly? Or if you're like my children, they're not too excited about having what we had for dinner for lunch the next day and beyond. Here are just some ideas for your weekly meal planning.

Breakfast Sampler?

Not IHOP's (International House of Pancakes) breakfast sampler menu. If you can guess what *Tapsilog* is, it is safe to say that you either grew up in the Philippines or a Filipino household outside of the Philippines. Any guesses? All your guesses

see MAUI PINOY p.15

What's Happening On Maui

Calendar Fil-Am Voice 2018-2019

Please submit your community event by the seventh day of each month via email to info@filamvoicemaui.com

November

- 12 VETERANS DAY**
(Federal and State Holiday).
- 14 ANNUAL MEETING OF MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Tante's Fishmarket Restaurant & Bar in Mā'alaea. Registration and no-host cocktails at 5:30 p.m. followed by Annual Meeting, including nominations and election of 2019 Board of Directors. Free to all members and \$25 per person for guests. RSVP by email to info@mauifilipinochamber.com or call Jan Paa at 357-2303 or Elsa Agdinaoay Segal at 276-6946
- 17 MOBILE CONSULAR OUTREACH**
held by the Philippine Consulate General at the Maui County Business Resource Center in Maui Mall (70 E. Ka'ahumanu Avenue #B9, Kahului). Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. By appointment only. Unless you have an appointment, the Philippine Consulate will not be able to accommodate you. Appointments are made (free) online at philippineshonolulu-maui.eventbrite.com. One ticket per client.
- 18 ANNUAL MEETING OF MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL** Maui Waena Intermediate School cafeteria. Contact President Marilyn Oura at

- 280-2057.
- 22 THANKSGIVING DAY**
(Federal and State Holiday).

December

- 10 MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLIDAY PARTY** "White Christmas" Tante's Fishmarket Restaurant & Bar in Mā'alaea. No-Host Cocktails 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$50 early bird (Pay by November 21). \$65 at the door. Contact Kauanoë Batangan at kauanoë.batangan@gmail.com or 298-1379.
- 16 MISA DE GALLO MASS** at Christ the King Catholic Church. 6 a.m. Contact Lucy Peros at 877-7045 or 269-1602 for more information.
- 17 MISA DE GALLO MASS** at Christ the King Catholic Church. 5 a.m. Contact Lucy Peros at 877-7045 or 269-1602 for more information.
- 18 MISA DE GALLO MASS** at Christ the King Catholic Church. 5 a.m. Contact Lucy Peros at 877-7045 or 269-1602 for more information.
- 19 MISA DE GALLO MASS** at Christ the King Catholic Church. 5 a.m. Contact Lucy Peros at 877-7045 or 269-1602 for more information.

- 20 MISA DE GALLO MASS** at Christ the King Catholic Church. 5 a.m. Contact Lucy Peros at 877-7045 or 269-1602 for more information.
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- 23 MISA DE GALLO MASS** at Christ the King Catholic Church. 6 a.m. Contact Lucy Peros at 877-7045 or 269-1602 for more information.
- 24 MISA DE GALLO MASS** at Christ the King Catholic Church. 5 a.m. Contact Lucy Peros at 877-7045 or 269-1602 for more information.
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY** (Federal and State Holiday).

- 30 ANNUAL RIZAL DAY CELEBRATION** and Installation of Officers and Directors of Maui Filipino Community Council. Maui Beach Hotel. 5:30 p.m. \$45. Join the Filipino attire contest (Barong Tagalog for males and Maria Clara for females). Contact Maui Filipino Community Council President Marilyn Oura at 280-2057.

January

- 20 56TH ANNUAL FEAST DAY CELEBRATION** held by the Santo Niño Club of Maui. Mass will be celebrated at Christ the King Church at 3 p.m. followed by Dinner/Entertainment at 5:30 p.m. at Wailuku Community Center. Nine Nights Novena prayer will begin on January 11, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Christ the King Church. Contact President Tessie Soto at 205-4574 or via email to Tessotto@yahoo.com.

Psst...

from p. 5

This ring has been in my family for years. Before my grandmother died, she gave it to me and said to give it to the person who will steal my heart... and that's you.

Maria was still uneasy. After all, there was one more secret that she had kept from everyone—including Elena. But she knew she had to tell Francisco.

Francisco, there's one more thing I need to ask you. Is the place we're going to live in large enough for a nursery and a ya ya?

Francisco was shocked and didn't know what to say. I thought you weren't impregnated by my Dad? I always knew that was impossible because he was sterile.

Maria knew she had to finally tell Francisco the truth.

Francisco, what I'm about to tell you will be another test to see if you can really love and trust me. But listen carefully and don't judge me.

Maria proceeded to tell Francisco how she had learned Francisco had participated in an exclusive Sperm Bank that was housed at De La Salle University and how she had secretly injected herself with his sperm. As Maria told Francisco her story, Francisco kept holding her hand. After Maria had told Francisco everything, Francisco reached over for Maria's other hand.

I'm so happy I'm going to be a father. You really don't know how long I've been thinking about starting a family with you. I'm so happy. I love you Maria. ✨

Editors Note: This is the final story in the series

Ka-Ching...

from p. 12

if they have any experience in this area. Additionally, beware of trusts offered in 'packages' or 'online'. In these cases, you may truly get what you pay for.

10.Dying intestate (without a will or trust)

Everyone has a will because even if you didn't create it, your state has one for you. A portion goes to your spouse and another portion goes to your children. Dying without a will may cause your child with special needs to receive over \$2,000. This may cause them to lose government benefit eligibility. Due to the complexity of federal and state laws, you may need to seek advice from your own legal counsel who can work with your other advisors to help you plan for the future of your dependent with special needs. ✨

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Provided by **Elsa Agdinaoay-Segal**, registered representative of

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Agdinaoay-Segal was graduated from Hawai'i Pacific University where she received a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis on Human Resource Management. In 2009, she earned the Chartered Retirement Plans SpecialistSM designation (CRPS®). Agdinaoay-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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IN PRIVATE PRACTICE



Another dish on the list at Recipes is Kare-kare. You can get any kind of food at the malls but I choose Filipino food all the time.

Bumalik...

from p. 10

are filled with shops and restaurants. I am not much of the shopper but I love going out to eat while I visit here. Of course I choose the restaurants which serve Filipino food because those are the ones I missed the most but the truth is there are restaurants for every food you crave. Last night for dinner we went to this restaurant called Recipes and we had *Sinigang na Bangus*, *Kare-kare*, *Binagoongan Baboy*, *Crispy Tilapia* and more. Is your mouth watering

yet?
I hope my sharing inspired you to visit the Philippines soon. We'd love to hear about your experiences and insights too. You may email us at <http://filamvoicemaui.com/contact/>.
✱

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.



Maui Pinoy...

from p. 13

will be printed on next month's print. Just joking. Okay, a *Tapsilog* is actually a known local breakfast in Manila. The breakdown of the word is *tap-si-log*: **Tap** is for *tapa*—a thinly sliced beef marinated in salt, pepper and/or soy sauce preferably overnight or longer. Traditionally dried under the sun and stored in the refrigerator until ready for cooking. **Si** is for *sinangag*—a Filipino version of fried rice. This is a good use for day old rice. In a hot wok, add cooking oil, minced garlic and salt, add a little water to rice and crumble up and add to the hot wok along with the rest of the ingredients. **Log** is short for *itlog* or egg. If you order *tapsilog* in the menu, expect to see on your plate a combination of sliced beef, fried rice with sunny side fried egg garnished with tomato slices. Another breakfast combination is *longsilog*. Can you guess this one? Simply omit the *tapa* on the plate and replace it with *longanisa* or Filipino sausage. You can come up with more combinations for this Filipino breakfast combo. The next time you see this on the menu, you will know exactly what to expect.

This is only one example of *lutong bahay* or home cooked meal that we can enjoy in a traditional Filipino home setting. While a typical American breakfast consist of bacon, eggs and toast, a Filipino diet is a little heartier. Other ways of exploring your kitchen limits and expanding your "*lutong bahay*" menu is to bake your own bread? Unfortunately, these days, bread gets a bad rap from media and health magazines. Bread has been labeled under the "bad carbs" or complex carbohydrates and should be avoided. If you make your bread from your own kitchen however, you control the ingredients and your family can enjoy fresh baked bread hot out of the oven.

It's simple enough these days to find an easy recipe to follow online (I love Google for this). I tried several recipes until I found one that was simple to follow and I have been replacing ingredients to specific healthier ones of my choosing as well as adjust the measurement of sweetener. For instance, follow the recipe for "The Best White Sandwich Bread" recipe straight from Google. Not original, but it works for me.

Ingredients:

- 6 ½-7 cups of unbleached all-purpose flour
 - 2 ½ teaspoons salt
 - 1 ½ tablespoons instant yeast
 - ¼ cup sugar
 - 2 ¾ cups very warm water
 - ¼ cup neutral flavored oil
 - Butter for top of loaves, optional
- *For the rest of the recipe please send us a message and we will be happy to share.

Once I perfected the 2 loaves of bread, a friend suggested I replace the regular cooking oil with that of Extra Virgin Olive Oil or EVOO. And so, I did. I also replaced the sugar with honey and the unbleached flour with wheat flour. The result, a much healthier version of the bread that my family has been enjoying for the last few weeks. I also tweaked the recipe again and combined unbleached flour with wheat, and added just a little bit more honey. Although it does take at least 2.5 to 3 hours to prep and bake—the result—happy smiles from my children's faces. They get to enjoy fresh baked bread every week and I get to keep a few more dollars in my wallet. Everyone is happy.

There are so many different meals we can prepare at home and be as creative as we want to be. It also makes economical sense. When we take the time to cook for our family, each meal is stamped by tender love and care. When the family enjoys,



When we take the time to cook for our family, each meal is stamped by tender love and care. When the family enjoys, the meal prepared together, it solidifies the family bond even more.

PHOTO: SHARON ZALSOS BANAAG

the meal prepared together, it solidifies the family bond even more. In this day and age of technology and fast-paced world, we should strive to keep this particular family tradition alive. One of the best perks for home cooked meals is the memory that will last long after it has been consumed and many times, long after the person who prepared it live. ✱

Sharon Zalsos Banaag is a past

president of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce (three terms) and has her own marketing business: Kalona International LLC. She's also an ACN Independent Business Owner. A former Miss Maui Filipina, Sharon played the lead in MAPA's presentation of Miss Saigon. A graduate of Maui High School, Sharon is employed with the County of Maui and a proud Veteran of the United States Air Force.



When planning out your meals, always keep in mind that "home is where the heart is."

PHOTO: SHARON ZALSOS BANAAG

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Talk...

from p. 11

www.facebook.com/letstalkpinoy.

Another day comes, and another day goes. Another issue has been completed, and on to the next one. You stay here, I will go first. Your homework is to say "*Umuna-ak pay*" (I will go first). You say this when you are leaving a get-together of any sort.

Anyways that's all I have. Keep an eye out for my article every issue. I'm Dulce, helping you to master your Filipino Languages. Like always, let's laugh, let's listen, and Let's Talk Pinoy! *Hanggang sa muli!* (Until next time!) *Ingat!* (Take care!). ✱

Dulce Karen Butay was graduated from Maui High School and earned her Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College and

her Bachelors of Science in Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu. She is currently the Administrative Officer at the County of Maui, Department of Finance. Butay is a licensed Resident Producer of Life Insurance with World Financial Group and an Independent Consultant of Saladmaster. She recently became part of the Travel Club of Saladmaster and won an all-expenses paid trip to Cancun, Mexico with the love of her life. Butay recently returned from a trip to Texas as one of the delegates from Island Healthy Solutions, a dealer of Saladmaster here on Maui.



Mahalo

“Mahalo for your support and allowing me to work on your behalf as a council member. My love and support for Maui Nui lives on. Looking forward to the next chapter in my life to continue to support the Voice of the People.”

- ELLE COCHRAN



ELLE COCHRAN

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Sakada Offspring



Herminia & Silvestre's 60th Wedding Anniversary Tagorda, Evangelista, Peros Families with children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and inlaws.

Offspring...

from p. 7

church. He is still working as a Registered Court Interpreter, a Realtor with Peros Realty Company and a businessman as President of GPP Imports Inc., which imports Philippine products.

Each of Greg's three children were asked to write, say, or share a message, their thoughts, or even memories about their Dad:

Gregory Patrick "Jay" Peros: "During the summer of my sophomore year since there was no school, I thought I could stay up late and sleep in. However, that wasn't the case! Dad came into my room and he said, 'Wake up, you're going to work.' I didn't quite understand but when Dad said something, you listened and you followed instructions—you never talked back. I didn't have any prior warning about having to go to work so for me this was out of the blue. I got up and Dad drove me to Maui Pine. I applied and I started early the next day. I thought, 'Wow, I must have done something wrong.' Later on though, I came to understand that what he wanted to teach me was the meaning of hard work and the importance of an education. Dad, I can't even begin to express how grateful I am for everything you've done for me. You are a positive figure in my life and have increased my self-confidence. By example, you taught me the importance of giving back to our community. You were always patient as I was growing up and like any kid I needed to be corrected at times. Looking back, I can see that you are way more patient with your grandkids than you were with us, your own kids—haha. Thank you for all that you and Mom do for all of us! Love, Jay, Lorelle, Jeremy, and Jarred."

Peggy Peros Andes: "Dad has always been strict with us. Now that I have a son of my own, Paxton, I realize it is because Dad (and Mom) just wanted the best for the three of us—they wanted us to be good people

with good values and high morals. Thank you Dad for your endless amounts of love and support, even when I probably don't deserve it. And thank you for working so hard, for being a role model and showing us what success looks like. There are not enough words to describe how grateful I am to you (and Mom). We love you, Paul, Peggy, and Paxton."

Pamela Peros-Henderson: "Dad truly lives life driven by his core values: Values of Faith, Family, having integrity and a strong work ethic, service to others and striving for better all of what he and Mom have instilled in my brother, sister and I. It is within these values that I attribute to the Filipino heritage. Values that I saw

in other Sakadas such as my grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Dad's love and pride for his culture and the Filipino Community is shown through his many years of involvement in building, preserving and upholding the culture and community. Thank you Dad and we love you, Corey, Pamela, Cole, and Cameron."

Absolutely priceless. ✨

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.



Plaque given to Greg as Officer Of The Year in 1991.



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