

tion—a new way of envisioning Maui County.





What a Tax Cut Really This CPA will show

you "the way."





Sharpened banking knowledge turns produce business into gold

Page 6



Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

January 2019 · Vol 3 No 1 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY



Student Government? How teens benefit...



With a local twist, this young Filipino was Governor or our State **p7**



Rizal honored at this prestigious annual event

Victorino Takes The Reins of **Maui County**

To serve the People of Maui County

Alfredo Evangelista | Assistant Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE: On January 12, 2019, The Fil-Am Voice was granted the privilege of be-

ichael P. Victorino officially became Mayor of Maui ing the first media outlet to in- County on January 2, 2019. terview Mayor Michael Victori- The former Councilman beat Councilwoman Elle Cochran in the November General Election, after being the top see MAYOR next page

Honorable Maui County Mayor stands proudly by the Maui County Seal.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



CHARTS: Rates for Pre-TCJA & 2018

Single Filers								
	Pre-TCJA	2018						
Rate	Income Bracket	Rate	Income Bracket					
10%	\$0 - \$9,325	10%	\$0 - \$9,525					
15%	\$9,236 - \$37,950	12%	\$9,526 - \$38,700					
25%	\$37,951 - \$91,900	22%	\$38,701 - \$82,500					
28%	\$91,901 - \$191,650	24%	\$82,501 - \$157,500					
33%	\$191,651 - \$416,700	32%	\$157,501 - \$200,000					
35%	\$416,701 - \$418,400	35%	\$200,001 - \$500,000					
\$39.6%	More than \$418,401	37%	More than \$500,001					

Married Filing Jointly									
	Pre-TCJA	2018							
Rate	Income Bracket	Rate	Income Bracket						
10%	\$0 - \$18,650	10%	\$0 - \$19,050						
15%	\$18,651 - \$75,900	12%	\$19,051 - \$77,400						
25%	\$75,901 - \$153,100	22%	\$77,401 - \$165,000						
28%	\$153,101 - \$233,350	24%	\$165,001 - \$315,000						
33%	\$233,351 - \$416,700	32%	\$315,001 - \$400,000						
35%	\$416,701 - \$470,700	35%	\$400,001 - \$600,000						
\$39.6%	More than \$470,700	37%	More than \$600,001						

How the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 Affect You

Leizl M. Tabon, CPA

he New Year is upon us Individual and that means another tax season is just around the corner. As you may know, Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) on December 22, 2017, which took effect on January 1, 2018 and will impact your upcoming tax filing in 2019. While much of the voluminous tax bill is an attempt to clean up the current tax code after all of the bills previously enacted, there are some major provisions impacting individual and small business taxpayers. Here is a recap of the major provisions that could affect Maui residents.

Provisions

Tax Rate Changes

Under the TCJA, changes were made to the tax rates and the income levels where each of the brackets begin. The new rates and brackets compared to the pre-TCJA amounts are summarized as follows: (See Charts, left) No changes were made to the capital gains rates, which are still 0%, 15%, and 20%; however, the thresholds have been adjusted. The 0% rate will apply to capital gains

see TAX CUTS p.3







Mayor Michael Victorino gesticulates as he speaks with passion about the Mayoral journey set before him. Photo: Alfredo Evangelist

Mayor...

from p.

vote getter in the August Primary Election.

The first 100 days

New government executives are often judged on what they accomplish in the first one hundred days of their leadership. Victorino will be no different. He has three goals for his first one hundred days, with the first goal an ambitious one.

Victorino plans "to have a comprehensive plan for housing both affordable and regular. To really have a direction—a path for which this County is gonna follow." He hopes to "announce the housing plan that I've been working on so that people will have

an idea of what we're working on and \$125,000." I have benchmarks—where we're gonna go." where I say this is the max—so that

Victorino knows there are a lot of issues to tackle in dealing with the housing crisis. For example, where the units will be built. He wants the housing units which will be a combination of affordable rentals and affordable housing to purchase to be "located in areas where people work as much as possible."

Victorino also is concerned about the high cost of housing. He relays the story of the son of a friend who spends \$600 a month to rent half of a living room; divided in half by a curtain that goes across the length of the living room. "When I talk affordable I'm talking if it's a home, \$400,000 or less; if it's a condominium, three bedroom, \$250,000 or less; if it's a one bedroom, maybe \$100,000 and

\$125,000." I have benchmarks—where I say this is the max—so that people can afford to buy or rent. \$400, \$450, \$500 rentals would be like a studio, then the one bedroom, two bedroom, three bedroom, and incrementally go up. But three bedroom should be no more than \$1200 to \$1500 maximum."

Victorino is also keenly aware that the needs of the millennials are different. "They don't want that extra space. They don't want a mortgage. They want mobility. They want housing they can afford to live in."

Victorino understands that solving the housing crisis will require working closely with the State. "I'm going to work very closely with the State and their housing funds," he says. He also will work with the national housing program that is willing to help Maui build what is called "attainable housing." Victorino explains that "Without that basic need of housing, it makes it difficult for a lot of people to work here to live here." Victorino wants "to make sure that people can live here and thrive... not survive. I need public-private partnerships. All of us coming together. Working for one purpose to take care of our people."

Victorino's second goal for his first one hundred days are to ensure the confirmation hearings for his appointees are completed. This is the first year that all directors need to be approved by the Council. "Now obviously that's a Council issue," Victorino says, "But I want to be able to assist in every way possible." In explaining what he hopes the Council would use to evaluate his appointees, Victorino said "I would hope they are looking at three things: Number one. My administration is looking at customer oriented service. That's what we said and what we continue to say. And all my directors and deputy directors—that has been beaten down into them time in and time out. Because without that—you can be the smartest guy you can know everything about the job but if you can't take care of the customer, you accomplish nothing. The next thing that is important is that they look at the overall record and qualifications. Overall, including what the Council has put in. That's important. Thirdly, let the past go. Don't say 'Under Arakawa they did this.' Because that was a different administration. That was a different Mayor. That Mayor may have different takes on what he wanted done. I have my thing, my requests, my requirements." Victorino stresses how he has

implored his appointees to perform: "I've said that in the meetings. You will either do this and do it right for our people or you won't last with me. And I've said that to their faces."

two bedroom, three bedroom, and incrementally go up. But three bedroom should be no more than \$1200 to \$1500 maximum."

Victorino is also keenly aware that Victorino's third goal for his first one hundred days concerns the budget. His budget is due on March 25 and will be reviewed by the Council and finalized in late May/early June.

Relationship with the Council

Victorino describes his relationship with Council Chair Kelly King and the rest of the Council as "Good. I believe it's very good. It's not a 6-3 or 5-4 Council. It is ten of us working for the people of Maui County. It's going to be collaboration. Working together. Working for the betterment for the people of Maui County. Many of us will put our pride aside and look to work together for the people of Maui County."

Victorino believes the Council's priorities "follow very closely to what my priorities are: housing, infrastructure, economic development, protecting our resources." He believes he can work with the Council: "As long as we're getting the job done for the people. It's the results that count."

Taxes and Fees

Victorino does not expect to raise taxes or fees. "I'm going to try my best. Absolutely. I promise that I would look at no tax increases. I don't know until I see the final tax assessment"

As far as raising fees, Victorino explains "It will be really dependent on other factors. Sometimes there's other factors like regulations. The other thing is manpower or people power. Many times people want services but don't want to pay more."

Opening the Landfill on Sundays

At his public inauguration ceremony, Victorino announced the landfill will be open on Sundays. When questioned about it, Victorino explained: "We are talking about that right now. It's not yet a done deal. I am consulting with the unions." He explained he's met with the employees at the landfills and wants to address their concerns, especially about overtime. "We will work collaboratively. I made a commitment. I'm going to figure it out."

Victorino admits his announcement might have been premature. "Unfortunately, I think I made a mistake. I gotta be honest about it. Everybody's

see MAYOR p.4



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NCUA

Tax Cuts...

from p. 1

up to \$38,600 for single and \$77,200 for married filing jointly. The 15% rate will now apply to capital gains up to \$425,800 for single and \$479,000 for married filing jointly.

Despite talks of Obamacare repeal, the 0.9% additional Medicare tax and 3.8% net investment income tax enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act, remain unchanged. Additionally, the health care individual responsibility payment (more commonly known as the penalty for not having health insurance) was repealed effective January 1, 2019. If you were uninsured during 2018, you could be looking at a penalty of up to \$2,085.

Changes to Itemized and Standard Deductions

In order to pay for the tax cuts, Congress had to find other ways of raising revenue. The TCJA seeks to make up the revenue by limiting or eliminating deductions. Probably the most contentious of these provisions is the limitation of state and local taxes (SALT) deduction. Prior to the TCJA, there was no limitation on the amount of state income and property taxes deducted. Now the cumulative total of all state income and property taxes paid is limited to \$10,000 a year. Another limitation imposed is the mortgage interest deduction. Previously, you were able to deduct mortgage interest paid on up to \$1 million in acquisition debt and \$100,000 of home equity indebtedness. Under the TCJA, mortgage interest is only deductible on new mortgages (entered into after December 15, 2017) of up to \$750,000 of acquisition debt.

The TCJA also repealed miscellaneous itemized deductions. This category includes deductions for unreimbursed employee expenses, investment expenses, tax preparation fees, and safe deposit box fees.

Along with the changes made to itemized deductions, the standard deduction for each filing status has been nearly doubled (\$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for married filing jointly). As a result of these changes, it is estimated that a significant number of taxpayers that previously itemized, will now be claiming the standard deduction for 2018.

In addition to the reductions and limitations of itemized deductions, the TCJA has also eliminated personal exemptions. This amounted to \$4,050 per person claimed on the tax return.

Tax Credits

In order to reduce the impact of the personal exemption repeal, which mainly affected families, the child tax credit was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The current tax credit is refundable up to \$1,400 and the income threshold for claiming the credit has been increased to \$200,000 for single filers and \$400,000 for married filing jointly, thereby ensuring that more taxpayers are able to claim the full credit amount.

In addition to the child tax credit, Congress introduced the credit for other dependents, which allows for a \$500 nonrefundable credit for each qualifying person. A qualifying person would be any dependent that does not meet the definition of a qualifying child (e.g. a dependent parent).

All of the individual provisions of the TCJA are temporary and are set to expire on December 31, 2025. Absent any legislation extending the various tax provisions, everything with respect to individuals will revert back to pre-TCJA on January 1, 2026.

Business Provisions

Corporate Tax Rate

The simplest change enacted by the TCJA is the change to the corporate tax rate. The previous tax structure was a progressive tax structure (like the individual tax rates) with the maximum rate of 35%. The current tax rate is a flat 21%. Unlike the individual tax provisions, this change is permanent.

Section 199A Passthrough Deduction

Most small business are not C corporations; rather they are either a sole proprietorship or some type of passthrough entity such as an S corporation or LLC. In order to balance out the tax cut for C corporations, the TC-JA added Section 199A Qualified Business Income Deduction to the tax code.

While the C corporation tax reduction was the model of simplicity, Section 199A is anything but. The complexities of this law are numerous and has been the subject of discussion since the bill first came out. Additionally, the IRS has not yet finalized its guidance on this law, leaving many aspects of this code section up to interpretation.

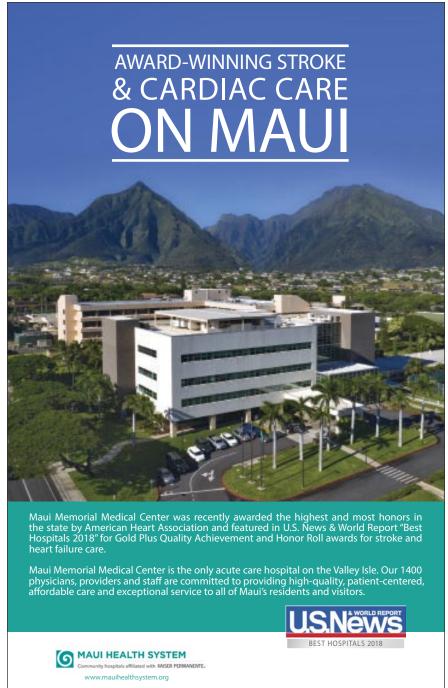
In its simplest iteration, the Section 199A deduction (also known as the passthrough deduction) allows for a 20% deduction on qualified business income from a sole proprietorship, S corporation, LLC, or partnership. The actual deduction taken is subject to numerous limitations such as type of business, taxpayer's taxable income, wages paid from the business, and the cost of assets owned by the business. Because of all of these limitations and factors, the calculation of this deduction will vary greatly from business to business. As such, it is important for small business owners to consult with their tax professionals to see how this deduction impacts them.

Other Business Provisions

Other changes enacted by the TCJA that business owners should be aware of are as follows:

 Entertainment expenses repealed: expenses related to entertaining clients are disallowed. This includes sporting events, concerts, and other amusement or recreation activities. It also includes dues and fees paid to any club organized for recre-

see TAX CUTS p.13







From the **Editor's Desk**

Tante Urban EDITOR & PRESIDENT • FIL-AM VOICE

Aloha Mayor Arakawa and Welcome **Mayor Victorino**



Mayor Alan Arakawa

ust a few weeks ago, the transition from Mayor Alan Arakawa to Mayor Michael Victorino was completed with the swearing in of Mayor Victorino on January 2.

Mayor Arakawa will perhaps be remembered as Maui's only three term Mayor. While the problems of homelessness and affordable housing are statewide, Maui was not left unscathed. There is no simple fix to these complicated problems.

Mayor Arakawa was very supportive and in attendance at many of Maui's Filipino community events. He was very approachable and understanding of the problems of small business owners like

Likewise, Mayor Victorino is also easy to talk to. He and his wife Joycelyn also attend and support many of the events of our Filipino community.

As our new Mayor, he deserves our support to continue to resolve the many challenges that we face



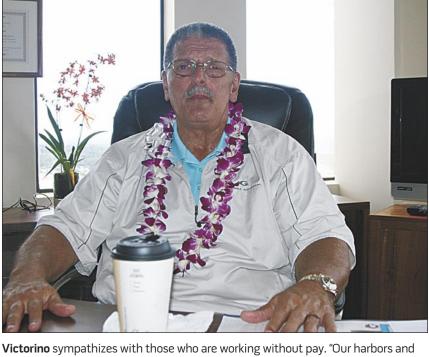
Mayor Michael Victorino

in our County. Yes the problems of homelessness, housing, the loss of jobs through the closure of HC&S and Maui Prince still exist. The Mayor and the Council will need to work together and be on the same page if we expect these challenges to be lessened. The sale of the HC&S land-and all the issues that come with it such as water will need the close attention of Mayor Victorino and the Council. We wish our elected officials success so that we as a community can continue to grow and Maui will be always no ka oi!

Finally, Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Don't forget to show your love to your special person. For me, I am always grateful to the love of my life, my wife Telly, who has been by my side in all my work and community endeavors.

Aloha! 🗰

TANTE URBAN | EDITOR



airports are being affected. Slowdowns. Many of our TSA guys are frustrated." PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Mayor...

from p. 2

been really cool about it. They said 'The first one hundred days, Mayor, we let you make a few mistakes but after that watch out.' It's not a honeymoon... just a grace period. We will make it happen."

Victorino espouses a servanthood approach: "We are here to serve," he says and promises to let the public know as quickly as possible.

Effects of the **Government Shutdown**

"It's starting to adversely affect us. It's more of an indirect manner. There's certain agencies that we need to report to now." Victorino stated "Our national park, Haleakalā, has been shut down. The rangers have been volunteering their time to be there. We have volunteers to clean up the restrooms. The Friends of Haleakalā National Park have been helping."

Victorino sympathizes with those who are working without pay. "Our harbors and airports are being affected. Slowdowns. Many of our TSA guys are frustrated. There are more sick calls. We saw that in the paper and it's happening here too. I'm not blaming anybody. I can't blame a worker who's going in day in and day out and not getting paid."

Victorino is set to go to Washington DC for a Conference of Mayors and hopes to "get a better update with what's happening with our Congressional leaders."

Victorino has also been in contact with local tourism officials. "I talked to Lisa Paulson last week. She said they're beginning to feel pinches with the TSA industry but not much more than that. At this point, it's more along the lines of status quo," Victorino explains. "But they're getting more of a hard time because as sick calls start to come in, it starts to have an adverse affect. Who do you call in next if he's sick and she's sick?"

Victorino is also mindful of being out in the Pacific: "Again, we're an island state. We depend on all these outside factors to bringing in everything. We don't have trucks, we don't have buses and we don't have trains bringing anything in. We need to

make sure those essential commodities as well as our economic base which is our visitor industry are as minimally impacted as possible."

Homeless

"We have many programs that we've been working on for many years. This is what I was talking about dealing with the state." One potential site is the old dormitories at the University of Hawai'i Maui College. "I've met with my housing people. The state has money they are willing to put in. Maybe we tear down and start all over."

Victorino understands the need to "continue to work with our churches, our nonprofits, people who are directly in that realm and help them help us find other solutions. I think it's time we address it unilaterally instead of being individuals. State, county, nonprofits. Everybody gotta come together. I think we all need to be on the same page in how we approach this."

Victorino explains "If we're the funding mechanism, then let us help fund it. If we are the policy then let's make the policy. But not try to be funder, policy maker, running the system, building the system. Maybe we trying too many things so maybe the other aspect is we need to start focusing on what we do best and help those to do what they do best do it."

Victorino is willing to try new things that others have tried. "There's a lot of models on the mainland that we can look at that have been working well." He points to the project by Duane Kurisu in Honolulu near the airport viaduct. "Not big houses but accommodating facilities," Victorino explains. "You have a day care center. You have a sundry store. You have a washerette. All one-stop shop. Everything in one place." Victorino says that you need to try to make all the necessary accesories and facilities and needs for services in one location-alluding to how the old plantation camps were villages where families had all their needs met, explaining the need "to make all the necessary accessories and facilities and needs for services all in one location. Build a little village there so they don't have to go anywhere. I think

see MAYOR p.10

Fil·Am Voice

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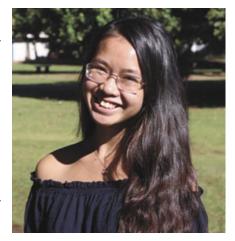
eadership, service, and engagement to their respected schools and fellow students are some of the core values of student government. These groups of exceptional individuals work as a team to make your high school experience memorable from organizing school assemblies to creating schedules for spirit week. Student government takes on a variety of responsibilities and focuses around student activities in order to make the high school experience of their fellow peers enjoyable. Student government works as a representative body which voices the concerns and interests of students. Participating in

student government provides an insight of the democratic system in which we are governed. Joining your school's student council will allow you to form a tighter bond and connection with your school community. You will not only learn new skills and have amazing experiences in which you'll meet new people but you will also have the opportunity to create a new network of people you can turn to in your future career.



Anna Mae Tumacder

"I decided to join student government because I wanted to experience what it would be like to be a leader within my peers and to also make students feel comfortable in our school," said Maui High School Junior Class Historian Anna Mae Tumacder. To her, the role of student government in high school is to share other students' ideas or concerns about the school to other students, teachers, or the principal. It influences the lives of students in high school by making them more comfortable with the environment and also their classmates. As a member of Maui High's Student Government, she's learned to take initiative and to be empathetic. Student council consists of a variety of personalities and working with a group of people with their own set of opinions can be difficult. However, Anna Mae is glad to be able to challenge herself through this learning experience. At times Anna Mae has a hard time balancing her life with extracurricular activities while also being a student. "I am able to balance student life, personal life, and being in an organization by just doing my work during school when there is time and doing work on my own time," she added. She advises that more students should take part in student government so they can learn more about their school community and to have a platform to advocate for certain issues teens face such as mental health and bullying.



Kylie Buere

Google Is Not Everything...

Leadership, Service, and Engagement

Ghenesis Jhay Balaan | Maui High School

Buere is the Senior Class President and also the Secretary for the Maui District Student Council. Kylie decided to join her school's student government because she's been in student government since the fourth grade. To her, the role of student government is to create a positive atmosphere at the school for all students. "As a student, we need a little fun to celebrate and create memories to make high school a little more bearable," she added. Participating in student government has taught her the importance of communication. Communication is a key necessity to make events and activities successful. Without a good communication network, planning can be stressful and overwhelming if not everyone in the council is working together to inform what has been done and what still needs to be done. "As a class president, I have been in situations where I had a hard time making decisions for my class. To resolve them, I would communicate with my council to know their thoughts and feelings. I would also lay out the pros and cons of the different choices," she



Nicole Buere

Nicole Buere is Maui High School's Junior Class Vice-President. She believes teamwork plays a vital role in making student government functional because in student government it is not all about you or individual tasks. You work as a team with the whole council in order to accomplish every-

thing that needs to be done. "Commu-student government comes with chalnicating and working as a team is what gets things done in this club," she said. Being in a leadership position, there will always be a lot of pressure on you from the school staff and students. "A lot of pressure is on you because if a certain thing doesn't go as planned, there will be a lot of trouble. One thing that is hard when it comes to planning events is that it's difficult to plan things that everyone would like because we're not the same person. We all have different interests and personality," she added. This is why teamwork is the most important lesson she's learned. They had to hear

> each others' opinions first and not disregard each others. Nicole advises students to take part in student government because it teaches skills they can use in their daily and future life.

> To Maui High School Junior Regine Udarbe, some of her fondest memories of her high school career

Maui High School senior Kylie comes from student government. She is currently serving as Junior Class Secretary. Student government allows students like her to make a positive impact at her school. "We created experiences for our fellow peers to enrich their time outside of class like prom," she added. Being able to plan events for her class and watching her peers come together as one in order to make a difference in her school community gives her a sense of fulfillment. Being part of an organization such as

lenges. However, by overcoming these obstacles at a young age you are able to develop important skills you will utilize in the future. Regine said, "My time in student government has made a huge impact of who I am today. It

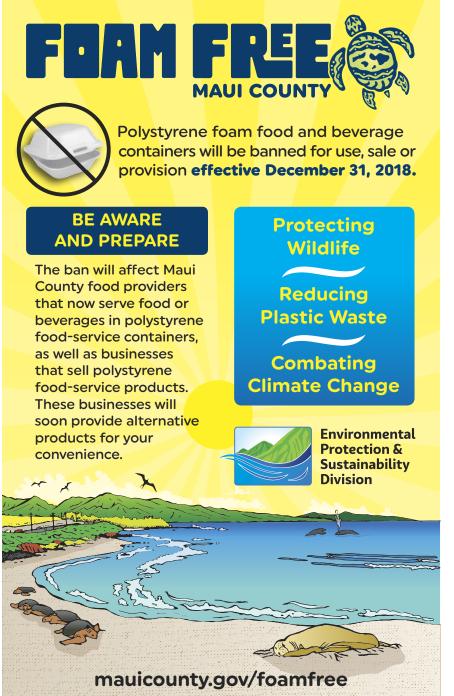


Regine Udarbe

gave me the opportunity to develop my communication skills, confidence, and friendships." Student government has allowed Regine to gain a clearer idea of what she wants to do as her future career because she'll be graduating from high school in about a year. She is grateful for the experience student government has exposed her to because she's learned skills vital for the next step to her future.

Student government is made up of outstanding students who are the voice of their fellow peers in school. They have the power to spread awareness to their community of their peers' interest and concerns. Teens who participate in this extracurricular activity

see GOOGLE p.8



Sakada Offspring



Silvestre and Naty Tumbaga at a Christmas party at King Kamehameha Golf Club.



University of San Francisco where her daughter, Leizl Tumbaga Tabon, graduated.

Natividad "Naty" Galindo Tumbaga

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF NATY TUMBAGA

ith the closing of Maui Land and Pineapple and HC&S (Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company), there are acres and acres of land on Maui that are not being used productively. It is very challenging to be a farmer because one is always at the mercy of the weather to receive a good harvest. It takes a lot of risks and determination to survive as farmers.

Natividad Galindo Tumbaga and her husband Silvestre are one of those successful farmers who had the determination to take the risks to go into farming.

Naty is the daughter of the late Fermin Galindo, a 1946 Sakada who worked for the Maui Land and Pineapple Company (Hāli'imaile Division). He was a pineapple planter and a truck driver until his retirement. Fermin was from Sinait, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. Naty's mother was the late Visitacion Galindo who immigrated to Hawai'i in 1965 to follow her husband. Naty and her sister Anita came along with her. Visitacion also worked at the Maui Land and Pineapple Company (Hāli'imaile Division) until she retired. The Galindos lived in one of the plantation homes in the quaint Hāli'imaile Village in Upcountry Maui.

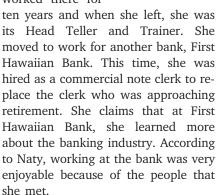
Naty was born on November 28, 1952 in Baranggay Cadanglaan, Sinait, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. She attended elementary school there until the fifth grade and moved to Manila and she was also originally from Sinait, Ilocos gious Gintong Pamana Award from graduated sixth grade from José Rizal Elementary School. When she was 12 years old, she moved to Hawai'i with her mother and older sister, Anita to be with her father, Fermin. Upon arrival on Maui, she attended seventh and eighth grade at St. Joseph School in Makawao. Following graduation, Naty attended Maui High School and graduated there in 1971. She took two years of Secretarial Science at Maui Community College (MCC), now known as University of Hawai'i Maui College and graduated there in 1973.

While in high school, during her summer vacation, she worked at the pineapple cannery in Kahului. While

attending MCC, she worked as a cashier at Ah Fook's Supermarket fulltime until she found a job at American Security Bank at the Kahului Branch as a teller in 1975.

After four years, she moved to

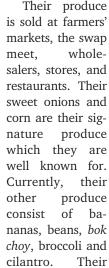
of Maui, N.A. in 1979. The Bank of Maui was located at the old Kahului Shopping Center. Working at the Bank of Maui, Natv learned the ins and outs of banking. Because it was a newly formed bank at that time, everything was done manually in the beginning. worked there for

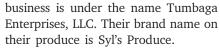


Naty's husband, Silvestre Tumbaga Sur, Philippines. In 1987, he started the Maui Filipino Chamber of Comtheir farm. He ran it alone with a few merce. At the 2011 Maui County Ag employees. He started it as a part-time Festival, they were voted as Grand business because he was still employed at Maui Land and Pineapple Co. at that time. That is where he received his experience with heavy equipment work.

Naty and Silvestre are a very ambitious couple. Prior to starting the farm, they tried to do other businesses like mobile car polishing, selling jewelry and house decorations. Farming was what Silvestre wanted to do because he found it very rewarding. Silvestre enjoys selling the fruits of their

According to Naty and Silvestre, the farming industry is very challenging with so many obstacles such as weather problems, pests and diseases that attack the plants. These problems are out of their control so they just work for a newly formed bank, Bank learn to deal with them, according to





Naty and Silvestre once owned a restaurant in Lahaina in 2000 but sold it in 2004. It was called the Blue Lagoon Bar and Grill at the Lahaina Cinema Center.

They are involved with the Chamber of Commerce and are members of the Farm Bureau from which they received several awards. In 1996, Silvestre was a recipient of the presti-Taste Education Fan Favorite. In 2013, they were awarded the Silver Award Best in Show Kā'anapali Fresh Festival by Maui No Ka 'Oi magazine. In 2014, they were recognized as Members of the Year by the Maui County Farm Bureau. Also, in 2014 they received the Gold Award Best in Show by the Maui No Ka 'Oi magazine. Naty and Silvestre are members of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Naty and Silvestre have two successful children.

Leizl Tumbaga Tabon graduated

from the University of San Francisco with a degree in accounting. She and her husband Steven Tabon are parents to Peyton and Briana (twins) and their sister Emily. She is a partner in Levin & Tabon, CPA in Kahului.

Alysha Tumbaga Stephenson graduated from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs with a degree in Psychology. She is currently employed with the State of Hawai'i as a Social Worker. She and her husband Chase are expecting their first child in March.

Some of Silvestre's co-workers and contemporaries were very skeptical when he and Naty quit their jobs to start their farm business. With their determination and brave risk-taking, they proved them wrong. With the knowledge that Naty gained from working at the banks and Silvestre's experience working at Maui Land and Pineapple Co., they harmoniously are able to work together as successful workers of the land to sustain all of us, providing us the fruits of their labor with vegetables and fruits that they raise.

The Tumbagas are successful farmers and thriving well. One must taste their sweet onion and sweet corn sometime. If you haven't tasted it yet, you should try it this year. You owe it to yourself. They are very addicting.

The Tumbagas wish all of you a blessed New Year! 🌞

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

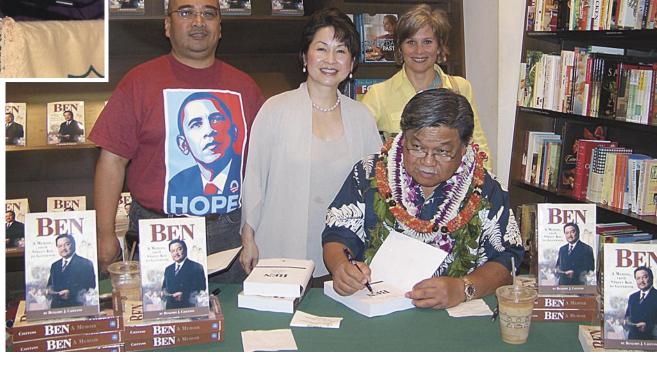
Cabalo of Hāli'imaile, worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Her dad was a 1946 Sakada. Lucy is currently a Realtor Associate at Peros Realty, the business her late husband Sylvester Peros, Jr. started 30 years ago, where her daughter Lianne Peros-Busch is now the Broker. Lucy devotes a significant amount of time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church as well as babysitting her grandchildren.



She Natividad "Naty" Galindo Tumbaga



In 1986, Cayetano spoke to members of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i. PHOTO COURTESY FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAI'I



Gil Keith-Agaran, Vicky Cayetano, and Kallie Keith at Cayetano's book signing. PHOTO: ALFREDO

Editor's Note: 2019 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the election of Benjamin J. Cayetano as the Fifth Governor of the State of Hawai'i and the first Filipino-American elected as the head of an American state. This is the first of a series of articles profiling Cayetano and his historic election and service. Versions of these articles appeared previously in The Filipino Summit.

ear the end of his eight years as governor, when people asked Ben

Cayetano about his place in Hawai'i history, the Governor who grew up in working class Kalihi responded something to the effect that historians would need to make that evaluation. At the time, historians at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa likely would not have remembered his administration fondly. In 2009, Cayetano intruded on any evaluations from the Ivory Tower, completing Ben: A Memoir, From Street Kid to Governor. A blunt, opinionated and extremely readable autobiography about his life and his time in office, the Governor assessed many of the elected officials, bureaucrats, business people and Hawai'i residents that he worked with or against over the years.

As a contributor to the late lamented Filipino Summit, another Maui Filipino periodical, I recounted snippets never knew. of my own memories and lessons from those years. Keep in mind that I was a supporter and admirer and eventually worked for Governor Cayetano during his two terms (1995-2002). As a sub-Cabinet appointee for the first six years, I escaped being included in the index of characters discussed in Ben. I was appointed to the State legislature the year the book came out by Republican who succeeded Cayetano as Governor, and some of my new colleagues who appeared in the index vented to me as the designated "Cayetano boy."

The Art of Counting

In the legislature, counting is the

LINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Benjamin Cayetano: First highestranking elected official of Filipino ancestry in the State of Hawai'i.

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

basic skill required. In the State House, you needed twenty-six of the fifty-one members to organize and elect the House Speaker. In the State Senate, you needed thirteen of the twenty-five Senators to elect the Senate President. In your committee, you need at least half the members to move a bill out of committee and then half the members of your chamber to vote the issue out.

Cayetano, during his time in the legislature, would be on both sides of organizational fights. In 1984, the State Senate had one of those postelection internal organizational struggles that only political junkies lovewhere one group proves they can count to thirteen better than another. The losing group usually gets labeled as "dissidents." Dissident from what, I

Cayetano and his closest allies handful of Filipino found themselves among the dissi- lawyers-deputy prosdents when fellow Democrats re-organized around a short-lived coalition with liberal Republicans.

Apolitical Beginnings

Earl Anzai and Clayton Hee once quipped that to know Ben Cayetano is to love him. Anzai was a longtime aide to Cayetano in the legislature and after law school would go to work at Cayetano's law firm. Hee served in the legislature with Cayetano before running for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs where he eventually became board chairman during the Cayetano Administration.

Unlike colleagues and supporters from his legislative days, I came to work for Governor Cayetano almost by happenstance.

I did not grow up in a politically active family.

I grew up in Pā'ia, next door to Santos DeSoto's livery stable on Luna Lane. I did not grow up wanting to be a political appointee or a government employee. The only Filipino names I recall in politics were Richard "Pablo" Caldito, Rick "Carabao"

Medina and Claro Capili. My family plantation and hotel folk-who managed to buy homes in lower Pā'ia and Kahului—had little time for campaigning. They did some occasional sign waving but mainly they just voted. I

... I worked

that summer

at Schutter

Cavetano

Playdon. At

the Schutter

of ten 1985

firm, four

summer

would tag along with his kinsman and kumpare Federico Pagdilao or his uncle Lloyd Labasan to campaign rallies but my dad was a loyal member of the ILWU Local 142. My grandfather, over shots of whiskey, would sometimes debate his friends about current issues after cooking for neighborhood parties.

I also knew of just a ecutor Artemio Baxa and private attorneys B. Martin Luna and Tony Ramil. But I wandered into law

anyway since I hardly wanted to admit to my parents that my pricey American Intellectual History degree from Yale College required a vocational degree as well.

Around the time I was finishing college, another Maui High School graduate named Alfredo Evangelista had just passed the bar and gone to work for noted criminal defense lawyer David Schutter. My parents

went to the same Aglipayan church as Alfredo's and suggested I ask him about legal internships when I got into the University of California at Berkeley law school. Despite a heavy night clubbing schedule—Evangelista had a VIP card for infamous Waikīkī disco Scruples-the young bachelor managed to submit my name to the firm's powers that be for a summer clerk-

As a result, I worked that summer at Schutter Cayetano Playdon. At the Schutter firm, four of ten 1985 summer interns were Filipino-Americans: Dwayne Lerma, Jerry Villanueva, Norma Doctor Sparks and me. The others were all networking at the William S. Richardson School. At the time, we could list nearly all the Filipino lawyers in the State and those in law can't recall if my dad Manuel Coloma school both at U.H. and in the bay

> area, as well as the handful of sitting Judges of Filipino background.

> Before entering Berkeley, I never focused on the fact that Cayetano was one of few Filipino the lawyers in the state—I grabbed the internship because David Schutter was a top trial lawyer. I knew and admired Cayetano only as the fiery State Senator with the Prince Valiant haircut. As a young man, I had a firm distrust of the old Ariyoshi machine so I liked people like Ben

who challenged the status quo.

Cayetano, to people who didn't know him well, appeared gruff, and even aloof. He would never be accused of being the usual glad handing, baby kissing politician. Even after twelve years in the House and Senate, and although he had developed into a fairly good legislative debater, in 1986 Cayetano would remain somewhat see CAYETANO next page

Filipino-Americans...

Cayetano...

guarded when meeting new peoplevery local in keeping his own counsel until he assessed where a person was coming from. For some, Cayetano waving a machete on the floor to punctuate his criticisms of then-Honolulu Prosecutor Charles Marsland formed their impression of the fiery young Filipino attorney. But he was good for a quote to the then-active Honolulu media covering the Capitol. Colorful and outspoken on the floor, Cayetano projected a dynamic image for local-born Filipinos. The Pearl City-Mililani Senator did not hesitate to offer his own strong views on issues that he had worked on.

To know Ben, is to love Ben.

In college on the East Coast from 1980-84, I had only fleeting glimpses of island politics. Freshman year, some tall 'Iolani-hahvahd grad named Mufi Hanneman came up to New Haven to watch with us Yalies how Eileen Anderson upset Frank Fasi in a Democratic primary. On a trip to D.C. with the Yale Political Union, I ran into then-Congressman Cec Heftel's office (the Hawaiian flag outside was a dead giveaway). Occasionally, my parents mailed some clippings about council elections.

My only vivid memory of Ben Cayetano that summer of 1985 was a four-legged race at the firm picnic. Ben was one of the senior lawyers to actually participate in the chance to make A activities. He did better than my team which fell for the first-but not the last time-just a couple of yards from the starting line. A then-rail thin Evangelista provided the middle legs flanked by senior partners Cayetano and Schutter.

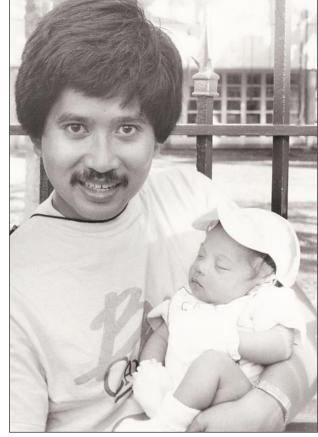
Initiation

Nevertheless, while working on Maui the following summer Evangelista called on me to campaign for "Uncle Ben" who had decided to run for Lieutenant Governor. By the start of 1986, a number of the dissident Democratic Senators decided to move on. The Board of Education appointed former teacher Charles Toguchi as school superintendent. Dante Carpenter ran for Big Island mayor. Neil Abercrombie ran for Congress when Cec Heftel announced for governor against Lt. Gov. John Waihe'e.

During the Chicago Bears Super Bowl, Ben mentioned to Anzai and Evangelista that he was mulling a race for higher office and needed a catchy slogan. The pair debated a number of possibili-

ties throughout the game. That Monday, Anzai and Evangelista taped "Team Cayetano" on the State Senator's door at the law firm.

Conventional political strategists advised the need for a "balanced" gubernatorial ticket so Chinatown odds makers touted the dissident Senator Cayetano as a possible running mate with Democratic frontrunner Heftel while former Honolulu Mayor Eileen



Alfredo Evangelista and his six week old son Christian campaigning for Cayetano. PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Anderson balanced a pairing with the darkhorse Lt. Gov. Waihe'e.

My only other campaign experience had been some canvassing for Gary Hart in New England and some volunteering for then-Lt. Gov. Jean King's challenge to da Ariyoshi Machine. I don't know if I would have actively campaigned for Ben if Evangelista had not coerced me into helping the Filipino Democrat. But my family liked the notion of a Filipino Lt. Gov. so my now retired parents, my grandfather, and my uncles and other relatives helped Evangelista's Maui relatives sweep and paint the headquarters on Lower Main Street. It didn't matter to the clan that Cayetano had never emphasized his Filipino roots and had been elected repeatedly from what people considered Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) legislative districts.

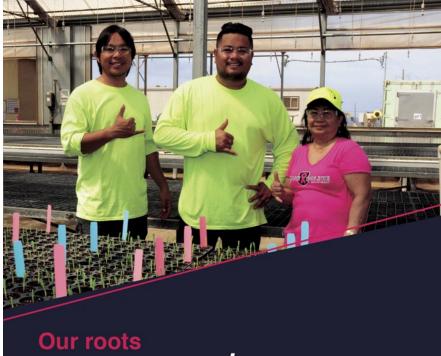
My father and my grandfather simply noted that a Filipino campaigning for the state's second highest elected post was an important symbol for our community. It also didn't matter to us that the Lt. Gov.'s office didn't have much to do other than to run elections and be Governor in waiting-not that prior holders of the office had been successful; except for Jack Burn's handpicked successor George Ariyoshi, Lt. Govs. William Richardson, Tom Gill, Nelson Doi and Jean King never became Governor (Gill and King actually lost primaries against sitting Democratic Gover-

The 1986 primary was the first active work that my family put into any campaign. That summer and into the fall, we took turns spending time on the phones and writing friend-to-friend cards. Evangelista and I also escorted Cayetano-in his now iconic blue and white outfitin the Makawao Rodeo Pa-

rade. We rode in the convertible while the candidate walked the route to shake hands with upcountry voters. Initially, Cayetano balked at walking the route behind the various pā'ū riders but he appeared to enjoy interacting with the Maui residents lining the parade route.

I wasn't home for the end of the Primary campaign but my parents recounted Ben quickly developed pretty good name recognition among the grassroots of the Filipino community. With some luck helped by the missteps of a candidate from another party, Cayetano upset the old guard favored Eileen Anderson. I was back at Berkeley in September when my parents called to tell me Ben had won. Although the team of conventional

see CAYETANO p.12



run deep

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Google...

are exposed to a variety of opportunities in school and beyond. However, their main role is to create a positive atmosphere in their schools and make their fellow students' high school career memorable and enjoyable. They work closely with their council made up of other students under the guidance of their teacher advisors. Through this experience they are able to expand their knowledge about the basic idea of the government structure of the United States and also open their mind to the world of politics. Being in such an organization allows students to develop skills, gain self-confidence, and overall become a better version of themselves. Because of student government, students are able to pave a path to their future through leadership, service, and engagement.

Google® Is Not Everything is a monthly column authored by high school students. The title of the column emphasizes that education is more than just googling a topic. Google® is Jerameelyn B. Ballesteros.

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This month's guest columnist is Ghenesis Jhay Balaan, a Junior at Maui High School attending its Culinary and Health CTE Pathway. He is a two-year member of Health Occupations Stu-



dents of America (HOSA) and served as its Council Treasurer in 2017–2018. Ghenesis hopes to become a respiratory therapist in the future. He is the eldest son of Benjamin V. Ballesteros Jr. and

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

This page's community photos highlight the Rizal Day Celebration on Dec. 30 at Maui Beach Hotel's Banquet Room, hosted by Maui Filipino Community Council.









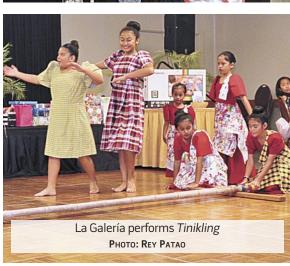






















Kwento Kuwentuhan

A Splashing Time with Whale Season on Maui

'Tis the season to bring out your binoculars and have a whale-of-a-time too!

Liza of "A Maui Blog"

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY LIZA PIERCE

thought it would be fun to talk about whales here at our little corner of Kwento-Kwentuhan.

Whale season on Maui is from December through April (or even May); the peak is around February and March. Humpback whales migrate to Maui to pass on their knowledge to the young and engage in nursing activities, calving and mating. Mothers nurse calves for almost a year. Calves do not stop growing until they are ten years old.

Humpback Whales have many interesting characteristics. Did you know that the female whales are larger than males? Did you know that an average whale heart weighs approximately 430 pounds or as much as three average human beings? Did you know that whales have hair? Did you know that whale songs travel great distances and can be heard across the world's oceans? And can continue for hours on end? Did you know whale songs are sung exclusively by males? Did you know that the spray from the blowhole can reach up to 15 feet high? Did you know that whales can grow up to 60 years old?

Whales are mysterious and it is not known why they breach or what their songs and sounds communicate. The name of the Humpback describes the motion it makes when it prepares to dive and arches its back.

It's fun to watch the Humpback Whales on Maui. Here are a few typ-

t's Whale Season on Maui and I ical humpback whale behaviors seen in Hawai'i. Next time you see whales on Maui, check out and see if they do any of the following moves:

Adults surface every seven to 15 minutes while calves must rise every three to five minutes to breathe. Adults can remain underwater for up to 45 minutes but usually last only up to 15 minutes. They can dive to a depth of 500-700 feet.

Breaching-Thrusting

A full breach occurs when whales thrust themselves out of water from the head all the way to the tail in an acrobatic display then make a large splash on the surface.

Tail Slap-Lobtailing

The whale lifts its tail out of the water into the air, swings it around then slaps it on the water's surface.

Tail Throw-Peduncle Slap

The peduncle is the part that connects to the tail. The whale throws its tail out of the water and slaps the peduncle on the surface of the water.

Pectoral Fin Slapping-**Flippering**

The Humpback slaps the water's surface with one or both fins simultaneously.

Head Rise or Spy Hop

The whale pokes its head out of the water for up to 30 seconds to





PHOTOS: BAZZA V. DUCK

take a look around.

Fluke Up Dive-A type of dive

The markings on the underside of the flukes (tails) are unique to each individual whale, like a fingerprint. The tail of the whale appears out of the water in an upward arch and slowly rolls underwater in conjunction with a dive.

Head Lunge-Head Slapping

The whales head lunges forward, raised above the water.

As we always say, "We are lucky to live on Maui." This place is a paradise on earth. Even the whales love coming here. 🙂 🌞

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

Liza is currently the Interactive Media Strategist with Wailea Realty

Mayor...

from p. 2

we gotta try. A lot of times people say no to something we haven't tried yet."

Victorino understands the need for different solutions: "Tiny houses, tiny villages. Make different groups of housing for different groups of people." He also understands how tough it is to deal with the "Not in my back yard" mentality. "I think if there's the toughest part of the equation, that's

Victorino is very sympathetic to the plight of the homeless. "My response to that has always been is they're humans just like us. We are one or two paychecks from being the same as they are. I understand that. So why don't we treat them with compassion? I know some people get upset—'Oh,

they're lazy, they don't work.' There is I used to because we've given them that group too. There is a group in services. We've given them a place to everything. It's a complicated situa- stay. We're helping them. And guess tion. There is no one fix for every- what, if you give them a helping erally support the project. thing. But we gotta keep moving in hand, you help them get out of it." different facets putting in those pieces of that puzzle until one day we will volved in the homeless issue for a long meeting rooms. I don't know if we make a beautiful puzzle. In other words we will get the answer to this. We will figure this out. We can't give up. We can't say 'Ah, we can't do any-

Victorino pointed to Wailuku town as an example. "Wailuku town is a hotbed of services and facilities for the mentally ill. More than any other place right there. People get upset and they tell me all the time, 'Mike, that takes away from Wailuku town.' I say 'You know I disagree with you.' I walk in Wailuku town everyday pretty much and it's a beautiful town. I don't see many homeless sitting around like

time. "Ka Hale A Ke Ola was built for need all that meeting facility but again that purpose," he explains. "It was a I'll take some time to look at it. Right transitional center to take you from now I want to get it started. When I poverty and other bad times and help you get into the workforce, get to be a productive citizen. I've been on that Board for thirteen years. I've seen the good things that they've done. Do they win every time? No. But if there's a hundred cases and I tell you right vantages to the Complex. "First of all now, a good sixty percent turns out we will upgrade all of our infrastrucpositive. Sixty percent is better than nothing at all."

Wailuku Civic Complex

The Wailuku Civic Complex has been in the planning stages for so

many years and the most recent version is expected to cost millions of dollars. But Victorino appears to gen-

"I think I like the idea of multi-Victorino has personally been in- faceted. I'm not so sure about the started on the Council back in 2007 we already had four or five different plans put together. We decided on a couple of them we were gonna move forward but then we got blocked."

Victorino explains he sees three adture—the water, electrical, sewer, in all of that area starting from High Street down along Vineyard across Church across Market and along Main.

Let's Talk Pinoy!



appy New Year! Naragsak Nga Baro a Tawen! Manigong Bagong Taon! Maayong Bagong! Malipayong nga Bag-ong Tuig! Magayaya ka ta bagu nga dagun! Masaplalang bayung Banwa! How was your Christmas? Did you get a lot of presents? How about your bagu (new) year? Did you do any of the traditions

Talk Pinay!

Dulce Karen Butay

like wearing polka dots, having coins strike of midnight? Well, I didn't do in your pockets or jumping at the any of those to make a difference this

year. I wore stripes so I will have bills and not coins, I had a variety of dollar bills in my pocket, and I lifted up my left foot at the strike of midnight to make sure that I step into the New Year with the right foot. Anyways, whatever you did, I hope it will bring you good fortune or good luck this

LAST TIME, MICHAEL set out to find Angel, as it plays out, he finds Rosie instead. What do you think will happen today when they all meet up together for the second time?

"Take me to Walmart first and then we can go to Ross'. We can surprise her and we can go cruising in your nice car. Woo hoo! Wait for me."

Rosie rushes inside the house. grabs a bag, heads to the car, raises her hand. "I call shotgun!"

"Uh, hold on, wait..." Michael stumbles after her.

Saturday afternoon at Walmart and you would think it would be a packed house but it is not. Ever since Target moved into the neighborhood, you can actually find parking now.

Michael looking for a stall in his normal area, the lane facing the front of the Walmart entrance. He slows his car's speed to a crawl, hoping he can score a good spot.

"OMG, Palito! There is so much parking in the other lane, why don't you go there instead?" Rosie complains and points with her bibig (lips).

"No, I like the sango (in front), these are my good luck parking stalls," Michael replies.

"Haha whatever, your luck is sitting right here."

Before she could finish her sentence, the first stall opens and Michael pulls right in. Michael looks at Rosie, points to his eye, sticks out his tongue, "Blaaah!" Rosie rolls her eyes in disbe-

Rosie walks slowly up and down the make-up isle with Michael following holding a shopping basket. "This is what we came here for? Make-up?" Michael whines impatiently. "Come on, you've been looking at the same stuff for like half an hour! It all looks the same shade of uz-zin (red). Please iust choose one and let's go."

Rosie says nothing, turns to him, points to her eye, sticks out her tongue, "Blaaah!"

"Aha, there it is!" Rosie yells as she Rosie: "You forgot your seatbelt". raises her hand in celebration.

"Lipstick? Seriously that's all we are buying? My gas is more expensive than this," Michael says throwing his hands out.

"You don't know how hard it is being a girl," Rosie explains as they

English	Pilipino	llokano	Cebuano	llonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Happy New Year!	Manigong Bagong Taon!	Naragsak a Baro a Tawen!	Maayong Bag-ong Tuig!	Malipayong nga Bagong Tuig!	Magayaya ka ta bagu nga dagun!	Masaplalang bayung banwa!
Lips	Labi	Bibig	Ngabil	Bibig	Bibig	Labi
Late	Nahuli	Naladaw	Ulahi	Nag ulihi ka na	Nadalita	Tawli
In front	Harapan	Sango	Naa sa atubangan	Sa atubangan	Arubang	Keng harap
Hands	Kamay	lma	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Smile	Ngiti	Isem	Ngisi	Yuhom	Gumigal o	Ayli (tawa)
Red	Pula	Nalabbaga	Pula	Pula	Uz-zin	Malutu
Last night	Kagabi	ldi rabii	Kagabi	Nag ligad gab i	Kagabi	Nabengi
New	Bago	Baru	Bag-o	Bag o	Bagu	Bayu
Hug	Yakap	Arakup	Gakos	Kupo	Gagap-pan	Kawul

leave the store. "But, hey now it's almost 5 p.m., hurry up Palito, your queen awaits."

MICHAEL: "If you didn't waste so much time looking for a nonsense lipstick, we could have been there early!" Rosie: "It's not nonsense. It's impor-

MICHAEL: "Whatever, it's useless then. And now we are driving behind this Prius and the person behind that wheel drives so slow like a turtle. Seriously?! Move it, people! Arggg! We are going to be nadalita (late)!

Rosie: "Palito, it's not useless! Take that back!"

MICHAEL: Yes it is, why do you need to buy that now of all times?

MICHAEL: "What?!"

Rosie: "Palito."

MICHAEL: "Grrrr, it's all because of that useless make-up! I can't believe

Rosie quietly stares down at the package.

They pull into the parking lot between Ross' and Safeway at 5:04 p.m. Michael parks in the stall directly right now, so he wanted to give this arubang (in front) of the bus stop, and gets out quickly. He can see a silhouette through the beaming sun in his eyes and his heart starts to thump. He rushes to the person standing there and she turns around. It's Angel.

Michael catches his breath, swallows, and stutters. "Ha, hai hai, Sorry, I hope you weren't waiting long," as he swings his arms. "No, not waiting for me long, or waiting for the bus long," he lifts his kamot (hands), and attempts a fake isem (smile). "But waiting for..." He pauses and stands awkwardly looking into the sky. "We would have been here a lot earlier but it's all because of this silly..."

Rosie jumps in between them, "Silly idea that Michael had to buy you a gift, he said it was really important and had to get it right now." She hands Angel the package.

Confused, Angel opens the bag and pulls out a pula (red) lipstick.

Rosie blurts out "Michael said he remembered you saying something kagabi (last night) about losing your favorite malutu (red) lipstick and that you couldn't afford a bayu (new) one

to you."

Michael turns to Rosie in horror.

Angel staring at the gift, looks up to Michael with glossy eyes and tears rolling down her cheek. She leaps in for a giant kawul (hug), knocks him off balance, grips him with all her might and weeps into his shoulder.

Michael quickly dissolving into thin air, looks toward Rosie. She points to her eye, sticks out her tongue, "Blaaah!"

Michael sure is thoughtful, don't you think? Could you imagine that Prius driving so slow? That never happens in real life. What do you think is going to happen next in the story?

Holidays came and went. Kids back to school. Vacation is over. Now, it's time to go back work. And so are you back to work learning some new Filipino languages? What will you do this year that is different from last year? This month's homework is to say "Happy New Year" everyday to someone new. Look at the table to say it in different Filipino languages. Teach them, and have them say it

see TALK p.15

Ating Kabuhayan

God: Present and Acting In Our Lives

The Rev. John A.H. Tomoso t

here is a side or perspective of theology that is public, i.e. out in the community; that is for all to hear. This public theology is about proclaiming the good news to a wide audience of believers and nonbelievers, with the believers not necessarily all Christian. As a priest, I use the Gospel to foster, to nurture spirituality, at whatever level it needs to be recognized and understood, in the lives of those who will listen to me. I find public theology in many areas of our community and it is useful in building community, culture and cultural

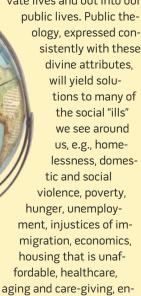
competencies, social equity, diversity and racial equality. Most importantly, public theology more often than not leads to transformative change in society and transformed lives, in relationships that you and I have formed.

I believe that public theology is for the well-being of all persons and because the environment is an ever-present concern, for the well-being of creation. At the inauguration of our new national, state and county governments, a public theology voice has gained its legitimate purpose, a legitimate "pulpit." A thriving community such as ours can take its purpose from secular public endeavors, while hearing, contemplating and discerning on divine invitations publicly expressed to a wide and diverse audience. As a priest, I am privileged to be able to bring the resources of spirituality and faith to the public places of Maui. Public theology allows for the nurturance of what is called, "the common good." In both the halls of faith communities, which are sometimes called churches, and in civic assemblies, which are sometimes called government, the "common good" is hailed as "mission" or "purpose" and "achievement" by folk who ascribe to and believe in the idea that all must be included, with no one excluded in a civic, cultural, social endeavor, and where all must derive a benefit.

At the inauguration of our governments, at all levels, voices, some of whom are clergy, are touting "the common good" as a means to call to mindfulness of where God is present and acting within our lives, under intentions and circumstances that involve people from all walks of life and from all social and economic circumstances. As a priest, it means that I can explicitly use the language of faith, sometimes, AND always to express caring, concern, compassion, understanding, patience and kindness. These are, after all, attributes of the Divine, of God, from which public theology finds its foundation, to firmly lead its way into the public squares, halls, arenas and audiences of our community.

So, as we inaugurate our governments, as new terms begin, my prayer is that we express and live with care, compassion and concern, understanding, patience and kindness, and aloha. My prayer, through my sense of public theology, is that we all carry these di-

> vine attributes into our private lives and out into our



vironmental preservation and sustainability, access to quality education, and more. Join me in expressing public theology, so that we can all take our place and do our part, to meet the ever-changing challenges and needs of our local, state, national and global communities. Public theology is everywhere and can be heard throughout God's great creation, this earth we call home. **

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 Soci-



ology) 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 serv-

ice 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.

Mayor...

We're going to upgrade because it's all part of the plan. So in other words where we need to upgrade, we're gonna upgrade cause we're gonna build. We need it because it meets capacity. That's the number one advantage. And we're gonna have to do that. That's going to be twelve, fifteen, eighteen million dollars to just do that and nothing else. So part of this rehabilitation of all of these infrastructure around Wailuku town. I think that's important."

Victorino's second reason to support the project concerns parking. "Parking is a real problem. It's always been and it always will be. Until we build enough parking there and that's the biggest area that we have and I believe we can have 300 to 400 spaces in that area if not more and I think that will be a big plus. I think we have 125, 150 spaces, so we can triple what we have right there."

Victorino's third reason to support the project is economic development.

"We are going to be the center of government, as well as our judicial system. Our courts are here. A high number of attorneys are around this area. So our government services as well as our legal system is based here. So we need the parking and that will bring more economic development. With parking also we could help 'Jao Theatre. Right now you have Wai Bar and some of the other small businessesthat are starting to thrive. Imagine if there's parking. I believe Wailuku right now needs one or two nice facilities for dinner, business dinner, family, whatever."

Victorino explained how the Civic Complex would provide additional facility space. "Having some more retail space along with what you have there already I think is good. I wouldn't oppose that and some meeting facility so that the people of Wailuku can have public facilities to rent for functions, for meetings, maybe even for small get togethers. Think about it. Cameron Center is overbooked. You look at the Velma McWayne Center that too is always booked or too big for a lot of functions. If you only have

Cayetano...

wisdom did not emerge from the primary, the Waihe'e-Cayetano pairing won the 1986 general election, and House had a little shake up among the

"The officials

who stand out

to the greater

public at large

inevitably are

take positions

- GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

those who

outside of

the norm."

Ben Cayetano was now the highestranking elected official of Filipino ancestry in the islands.

The New Dissidents

From my apartment in the Bay Area, I felt some pride that Ben had been elected but it wasn't at the top of my agenda. I wanted to finish my final year, pass the California and Hawai'i bar exams and get a job to repay my student loans. In retro-

spect, I think it ironic that Cayetano and his allies, in part, had sought other public service opportunities only when their continued contributions through the legislative process were blocked. I now realize the most skillful legislators serve many many years in the House and Senate, unknown to many outside of their own community. Many legislators are satisfied to lowing year. ** work hard for the interests of their Gil Keith-Agaran served in the districts and the issues they find per- Cayetano administration from 1995. sonally important, their ambitions 2002. He checked by the risk of losing an elec- joined the

The officials who stand out to the Democratic greater public at large inevitably are Party those who take positions outside of November the norm. Neil Abercrombie won the 11, 1987, 1986 special election for Heftel's seat three e but lost the Democratic primary to a months afyoung Mufi Hanneman; Abercrombie ter moving later won a Honolulu City Council seat before returning to Congress. served as Big Island mayor only to Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui in 2013.

lose to an unlikely opponent several years later.

Toguchi and Cavetano would be involved in most of the major public issues for the next sixteen years.

At the turn of the century, the State

majority Democrats-some up and coming legislative Majority gubernatorial

leaders-Scott Saiki, Brian Schatz, K. Mark Takai and Sylvia Luke-couldn't count to twentysix and were replaced with other members from the caucus. One of their colleagues, the great "dissident" Ed Case nearly won the 2002 primary against Cayetano's Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono. He

later won the rural

Oʻahu/Neighbor Island Congressional seat, lost a U.S. Senate primary, and in November 2018 won the Urban Honolulu Congressional seat. In 2013, Schatz was appointed to replace venerable Hawai'i U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouve, and Saiki and Luke re-took control of the State House. Takai would be elected to Congress the fol-

Hawai'i



home to the islands. Gov Linda Lingle appointed him to complete the term of Abercrombie would later re-take the the late-Rep. Bob Nakasone in 2009 Governor's office for the Democrats af- and Gov. Abercrombie appointed him ter the Lingle interregnum. Carpenter to complete the State Senate term of a hundred people and you take the Velma McWayne Center or even Binhi at Ani and put them in there, the place is empty. For four hundred, the place is full. So it depends on the size of your function—so I think having some additional space for that would be really good."

really believe that this will be a—if they can follow through—starting from planting to processing and sales in Maui and Hawaii. I think we got something there and every step of the way. They want to build a processing plant here. They want to make sure that what they grow they

Waihe'e Golf Course Improvements

Victorino provided a brief update on the progress of the Waihe'e Golf course rehabilitation "We're gonna look at repairing and even expanding the Waihe'e Golf Course to make it into a multi-faceted use facility almost like another community center but also used for golf and other golf functions. So you're gonna kill two birds with one stone. The new plans are being drawn up now. They have some preliminary plans." Victorino explains how the surrounding community has grown. "We have all these new communities out there. They need a community center as well as for the golf events."

New Lights

In conjunction with the Wailuku Civic Complex, Victorino noted how Wailuku town was dark and shared the plans to include lighting in Maui County. "Another thing we're working on is LED changing the halogen lights. We've already started in Wailuku Heights-it's done. You can see the difference in Wailuku Heights right down here to Sand Hills you see the difference. It's brighter. It's a brighter environment. They feel safer. It's so much brighter now. That's another thing we're going to try to complete by the end of this year—2019—is a complete changeover of the old halogen lights to LEDS's."

The changeover to LED lights will be for the whole County of Maui. "We put money four years ago to start this whole process. And finally last year the Council finally approved it. I'm the one who gets blessed. I'm able to implement it." Victorino notes that it's much brighter and nicer in Wailuku Heights where the first changeover was conducted. "It may take longer (than 2019) but that's our goal," Victorino cautions but explains: "If I no set goals, you know what, nothing will happen. If I don't get there, sometimes things happen but you will find me always trying to set deadlines/goals or something that is realistic also. I don't put this pie in the sky I going do it tomorrow. I want to put it where it's realistic."

Mahi Pono

The announcement by Mahi Pono in late December that it had purchased approximately 41,000 acres of HC&S for \$262 million dollars made the headlines. Subsequent news reports identified former Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui and Tiare Lawrence, who twice ran against State Representative Kyle Yamashita, as the face of Mahi Pono on Maui.

"Our first meeting was very, very cordial. A lot of information was shared between the two sides. Myself as the County and them as a business," said Victorino. "But the proof is in the pudding."

Victorino was quite positive however in Mahi Pono's plans. "I see many great things that can happen. I

they can follow through—starting from planting to processing and sales in Maui and Hawai'i. I think we got something there and every step of the way. They want to build a processing plant here. They want to make sure that what they grow they produce here they sell here. Maybe sell to O'ahu but not outside our state. That may still happen outside of the state but their whole plan is to keep it in the state. So that will create a multiple level of jobs not only farming not only delivery not only processing not only sales, marketing. Everything. We'll have scientific jobs for people who will be doing quality control. So hopefully we can start getting our young people ready for that because we've not had that. HC&S and all the big growers we had here was fresh fruit or fruitwhatever we grew-was shipped

For now, Victorino will remain cautious. "For me, that's what I'm really gonna judge them on multiple levels. What they've said they're gonna do: how they're gonna create jobs, mentoring programs, all the things we've talked about I'm excited to say 'It's good' but again the proof is in the pudding."

As far as Mahi Pono's time frame, Victorino explained: "I have no idea on that one. We really didn't even discuss the time frame. They're still in the very early stages of finalizing the purchase—what lands they're gonna get; what kind of water resources. So I don't want to comment in that area at this point. It is still too early. And I would give them six months to a year to finalize... at least have a conceptual plan. Because that will morph into other things. And they may change and they may want to do something else or different but it will stay in agriculture. Agriculture for which we can consume right here in our island and in our State."

Victorino describes his relationship with Tsutsui as "Very good. Shan and I go back when he used to coach Shaney and baseball way back when and I've known the parents and Hamais and all those families for thirty-forty years. We have a very good working relationship. But everything is not predicated. It's helpful when you have a good working relationship but it's still the proof in the pudding. I want to see results. We can be best of friends but if we don't get results, our friendship is still there, but I'm going to be on you on the other side because the people are waiting. The people of Maui County are waiting. They didn't elect me to this seat to twiddle my thumbs. I'm here to get the job done. To work together with the Council. With all the private, public sector, all the nonprofits and say 'Hey, this is not my island, it's not your island, it's our island and let's work together to make it work."

Victorino is mindful of the need for Mahi Pono to create jobs, especially jobs for Maui's youth. "My parents didn't want me to work in the sugar cane fields. They know how hard it was. They know how inconsistent it was. So they gave us a better quality of life like their parents gave to them 'cause their parents sac-

see MAYOR p.15

Tax Cuts...

from p. 3

ation or social purposes. Meals with clients or employees/coworkers are still 50% deductible if business was discussed during the meal.

- Net operating losses: any business net operating loss (NOL) generated after December 31, 2017 will no longer be allowed to be carried back to previous tax years. Rather, the NOL will be carried forward indefinitely and the deduction will be limited to 80% of taxable income.
- Excess business losses: the amount of business losses that exceed total gross income plus \$250,000 (\$500,000 for joint returns), will be disallowed and treated as a net operating loss and will be available for carryover under the NOL rules.
- Section 179 deduction made permanent: businesses are able to fully deduct the cost of eligible property purchased during the tax year. The maximum deduction allowed is \$1,000,000 on total purchases of \$2.5 million. For years after 2018, these limits will be adjusted for inflation.
- Bonus depreciation enhanced: for eligible property placed in service after September 27, 2017 and before January 1, 2023, businesses are able to take 100% bonus depreciation on new and used assets (the previous law only allowed for

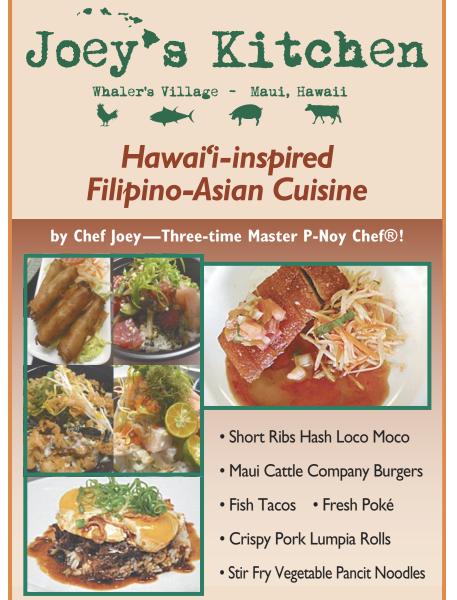
the deduction on new assets), thereby fully deducting the cost of the asset in the first year. The allowable deduction is reduced by 20% each year after 2022, with a full repeal after 2026.

For further clarification on what constitutes eligible property for Section 179 and bonus depreciation purposes, please consult with your tax professional.

This is a very brief outline of some of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provisions and is not meant to be construed as tax advice. Many of these provisions have other limitations and rules that could apply to your particular tax situation so it is very important that you meet with your tax professional to discuss specifically how these tax law changes impacts you.



Leizl M. Tabon, CPA graduated from Maui High School and the University of San Francisco with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration with an accounting major. She is currently a certified public accountant and partner at Levin & Tabon, LLP.



(808) 868-4474 At Whalers Village in Kāʻanapali

Around Our Community

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

This page's community photos highlight the Santo Niño Celebration on Jan. 21 at Wailuku Community Center, hosted by Santo Niño Club of Maui and Catholic Diocese



Louie Esguerra and friends tear up the dance floor PHOTO COURTESY ANN LARROBIS



Nilda snaps a selfie with company in tow PHOTO COURTESY PRUJE PALASAN SARBIDAS



A "Zumba-Charged Santo Niño evening. PHOTO COURTESY ELLEN ZAMORA



Louie Esguerra and friends spend a moment for this photo-op. "Money..." PHOTO COURTESY ANN LARROBIS



Fr. Jojo Alnas graces the event with his PHOTO COURTESY JANE CARREON



Angelina Abapo (left) and Nilda Francisco Fiori pay homage to Santo Niño PHOTO COURTESY NILDA FRANCISCO FIORI



Boom shaka-laka! These lovelies add grace and fire to the Santo Niño event PHOTO COURTESY ANN LARROBIS

Distribution Locations

Kahului

A&E Laundry

Badua's Maui Crepes & Grill · QKC

Bistro Manila

Christ the King Church

Clinical Laboratory

County of Maui - DMV

Cupie's

Da Shrimp Hale

Foodland-Kahului

Hairways

Hale Makua - Kahului

Island Grocery Depot

Kahului Laundromat

Krispy Kreme

LBC Remit Express

Maui Adult Day Care Center

Maui Beach Hotel

Maui Coffee Roasters

Maui Federal Credit Union

Maui Green Market

Maui Style Market

Maui Wow-Wee Maui's Kava Bar & Grill

North Shore Pizza

Pacific Fish Market

Paradise Supermart

Paradise Video

Plantation Grindz

RM Mini Mart

Rowena's Produce

Safeway - Kahului

Starbucks - Ka'ahumanu

Sunrise Food Mart

Tamura's

Tante's Island Cuisine

University of Hawai'i Maui College

Vidad's

South Side

A&E Oriental Foodmart

Elly's Formal

Foodland - Kīhei

Minit Stop - Pi'ilani Village

Monsanto

Phil-Mart Oriental

Safeway - Kīhei

Starbuck's Pi'ilani Village

Tamura's

Tante's Fishmarket

Times Supermarket

Tropical Marketplace

Farmacy Health Bar

Kamoda's Bakery

Makawao Public Library

Mixed Plate

Pukalani Superette

Starbucks - Pukalani

Wailuku

Blazing Steaks

Copy Services

County of Maui

Upcountry

Majestic Laundry

Makawao Fire Station

CAA Market Place

CAA Mini Mart

Discount Mini Mart

Foodland - Kehalani

Four Sisters Bakery

Golden Coin

Good Shepherd Church

Hale Makua - Wailuku

Home Maid Bakery

ILWU

J. Walter Cameron Center

JMA Imports

Kaiser-Maui Lani

Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista

Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center

Maui Coffee Attic

Maui Economic Opportunity

Maui Medical

Maui Memorial Hospital

Minit Stop - Main Street

Noble Travel

Playmakers Sports Bar

Promenade

Rosie's Lunch to You

Sabado Art Studio

Sack N Save

Fil·Am Voice

Safeway - Maui Lani

Starbuck's Kehalani

Tamura's

Tasty Crust

Tiffany's Bar & Grill

Westside

EC Food & General Merchandise

Foodland - Lahaina

Ilocandia Filipino Store

Java Jazz - Honokōwai Joey's Kitchen - Kā'anapali

Joey's Kitchen - Nāpili

Nagasako Variety Store

Nāpili Market

RVN Deli Kitchen Safeway - Lahaina

Starbuck's - Lahaina Cannery Mall

Times Supermarket - Kā'anapali

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Mayor...

rificed by coming from their countries here—an unknown place called Hawai'i and build their family there."

Victorino recalled how the sugar industry in its hey day had almost sixteen thousand workers thorughout the County, which had a population of forty-five thousand. "I don't know if we'll ever get to that ratio to population," said Victorino. "I don't think so. But if we get 1500, eleven, twelve, fifteen hundred, let's use that numberfifteen hundred as the high end and eleven hundred as the low end; that's a lot of jobs for a lot of people."

How the Victorino administration will differ from other administrations

Political pundits like to make comparisons. "Every Mayor and every administration had their benchmarks and some of the great things that they brought to this County through the years that they were in power," said Victorino. "So I don't talk bad about anybody else. You'll never get me to say anything bad. I'll say two things I'm really working hard to enhance. One: customer service. To make sure that when people come to County government they walk away feeling like they got served. That we did everything possible to help 'em. Will I solve every body's problem? No. Do I get every solution completed? No. And some take time. The people of Maui County deserve that. The people that are working within the County—the County employees—that's all that I'm asking of them. Do your job and do the best you can for the people, for our constituents, our clients."

Victorino understands his second goal will take time. "When we finally cross the threshold on this housing crisis and we really start to see the light at the end of the tunnel that there are units available for people to rent or own whether it's lease to own, rent to own or whatever forms you put out there and help them to be able to thrive... not just survive but thrive—be able to enjoy their family not work seven days a week, working two jobs every day. I did that. I worked three jobs for nearly twenty five years. I'm not complaining. It is what it is. We chose certain things; wanted certain things for our children: Catholic edu-

cation. That cost money. College. That cost money. We decided that was important to us. And we worked for it. Yet my children were never neglected. The children never roamed the streets doing nothing. My children had us there whenever they had a function: Boy Scouts, band, whatever, we were there to participate. Sometimes three or four hours sleep is all we got. But that's okay. Sometimes I pay for it today. You as a parent have to be willing to make some sacrifices but we as government must try to make your life as-give you the best quality of life possible. That's our responsibility. Not only having parks available and clean beaches and oceans and recreation and all that but government services that meet the needs of our people. And that's another thing that we gotta start looking how we provide government services. I don't know what changes need to be made but we're gonna have to. We can't keep up with these antiquated systems that takes forever to get something done. I'm referring to some of the paper work and the different steps that have to be taken whether it is permitting; whether it is getting the usage of one of our community centers. We've got to make it as convenient as simple but as thorough as possible."

Filipino members of Victorino's cabinet

"I went out and I asked for people to sign up. I can tell you right now and I cannot mention names but there were four or five Filipinos who I asked specifically I wanted to work in my administration. And their response to me any other year or any other circumstance I would love to," explained Victorino.

Victorino was proud to point to four Filipinos in his cabinet: May Anne Asuncion Alibin (Deputy Director of Finance), Rowena Dagdag-Andaya (Deputy Director of Public Works), Robert Rivera (First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney), and Michelle Yamashita (Deputy Director of Budget).

Victorino explained how a sevenmember blue ribbon committee did the initial screening and recommendations and that "ethnicity, gender, religion, and other areas were not considerations when I looked for directors." Victorino further explained that a lot of his choices were based on three things that came up during the discussee MAYOR last page

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Talk...

back to you.

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!). **

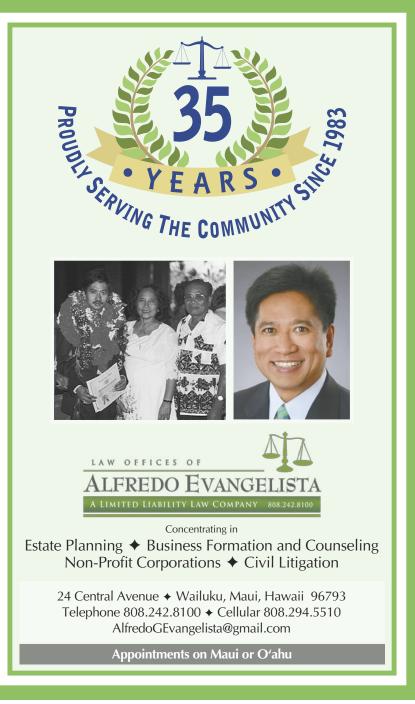
Dulce Karen Butay was graduated from Maui High School and earned her Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College and her Bachelors of Science in Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai'i -West O'ahu. She is currently the Ad-

Officer at the County Maui, Depart. ment 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 allexpenses 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





Mayor...

sion of a County manager. "One of the biggest things that came up in that conversation during that discussion of having a County manager was consistency and concurrency. Consistency that every time a new Mayor came in, you sweep everybody out and you bring everybody new." Victorino explained why he kept certain directors from the Arakawa administration: "I felt that some of these people were doing a great job and that I wanted to continue keeping them on. I brought in new directors so it wasn't all keeping everybody. Probably six return and five new."

Victorino further explained the choices he made: "You know I was trying to do the best job, to get the best people, into these various positions. And not to say Filipinos are not as good as anybody else. In fact some of them are outstanding citizens. And there will be more places in my administration as time goes on. I can see them coming in. So, forgive me at this point. I'm gonna have to let the process go through. The guys who are directors—let the Council have their shot at them. If for any reason the Council says no to somebody and there is a very valid and competent Filipino for a position that has been turned down by the Council, you damn better believe that I'm gonna consider that."

Victorino explained his long relationship with the Filipino community. "The Filipinos have been close to me community and I'm really sorry that it made a great impact on my life. My sweetheart, the former Basilia Idica.

and my wife for many years. We've worked hard with the Filipino community for many years. Not for any purpose other than always helping them out. That was long before I ran for Council. That was long before she had me run for Council. Her thirty two years at the IL-WU has been whatthe vast majority has been Filipinos. And she's always taken good care of them. I know the value of Filipinos. They're re-

sourceful, intelligent, hard-working group of people but again at this time it just didn't... never come up... none of them came up. I apologize for that. And if people get mad, I guess I will always make somebody mad no matter what I do but I'm going to be honest with you I will never lose faith with them and I will always be right there for them."

Support for Filipino community activities

As Mayor, Victorino promises to continue to support the various programs and needs of Maui's Filipino community. "I will be putting money in to do repairs for the Bahay Kubo. That's something I've already committed to and I will put money to that because that is an integral part of our



"I'm here for one purpose—serve the people." PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

got into such disrepair. I will put some County money towards that. I'm gonna put some more. In this budget I will put some money aside to help with the renovation and continued maintenance."

Victorino also promises to continue the tradition started by Mayor Charmaine Tavares and continued by Mayor Alan Arakawa of raising the Philippine flag during the whole month of October to celebrate Filipino-American History Month.

"I plan to support [the various Filipino events] in every way possible. I've always been a donator, I've always been there. You see me in almost all of these events. And not only political years but non-political years. I enjoy it. I think the Filipino culture like many of our other cultures have

grand children are Filipino-Michael's two children Kelsey and Aaron are of Filipino ancestry-so I have Filipino in my family. I have Hawaiian. I have Japanese. I get everything in my family so everyone is important. But the Filipino community—being largest at 27% of ethnic Filipino ancestry. But importantly, more they've been an important part of our history in all aspects through the labor movement now into modernization; they've been in

management; they've been in government. I respect the Filipino culture and Filipino community. I always enjoy working for them and working with them."

The new Mayor concluded "I'm here for one purpose—serve the peo-

Alfredo G. Evangelista is a graduate of Maui High School, the University of Southern California, and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law. He is a sole practitioner at Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, concentrating in estate planning, business start-up and consultation, non-profit corporations, and litigation. He has been practicing law for 35 years (since 1983) and returned home in 2010 to be with his family and to marry his high school



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