



### Minimum Wage

The Pros and Cons are expounded upon.

Page 1



### Sacrifice is Key for Lent

How some church-goers are responding to the call.

Page 1



### Elizabeth Ayson's Life Looked At

Sakada Offspring expounds on the life of our avid Fil-Am Voice writer.

Page 6



# Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

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FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY

FREE

## inside



Romelyn Joy Tabangcura takes a look at DECA.  
p7



New Column highlights Noble Travel.  
p8



Cayetano Retrospective, 3rd in a series.  
p9

## Hawai'i's Minimum Wage

*Editor's Note: The Hawai'i State Legislature is currently debating an increase of the State's minimum wage, currently at \$10.10.*

### Workers need the "wages of decent living:" Please enact a true living wage

Ma Glodilet Rallojay

Raising the minimum wage in Hawai'i is one of the priorities in the legislature this year. On January 31st, 2019, our Junior Honors Seminar class attended the hearing at the state Capitol for Senate



Ma Glodilet Rallojay  
PHOTO: WILL CARON

### Let's Work Together to Lower Our Cost of Living

Sherry Menor-McNamara

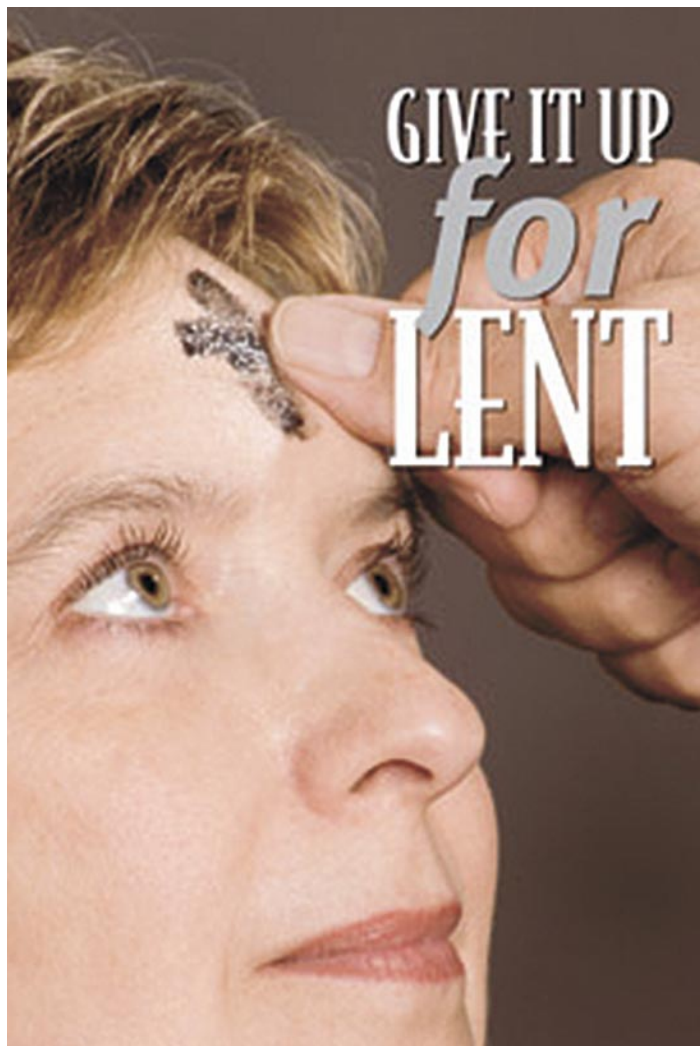
With a minimum wage increase at the forefront at the legislature, here's why the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i does not believe an increase will alleviate cost of living issues.

We support efforts to address the high cost of living in



Sherry Menor-McNamara  
PHOTO: TRACY WRIGHT CORVO

see WAGES p.3



## Give It Up For Lent!

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

**P**inapaitan. Dinuguan. Fatty foods. Beer. That's what sixty-four year old Elmer Tolentino is giving up for Lent. Besides, "it gives me gout," said Tolentino, who worships at Maria Lanakila Roman Catholic Church in Lahaina. "But it's hard to avoid the foods you love to eat and the beer you love to drink." Seventeen year old Kimberly Taroma, who worships at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wailuku, says "I'm giving up meat—all types: pork and beef. Every since I started judo, I cut out my meat so I could lose weight so I'm continuing that during Lent."

Food is a common thing to



Elmer Tolentino is giving up pinapaitan, dinuguan, fatty foods and beer for lent.

PHOTO: REY PATAO

give up during Lent. "This season of Lent, I commit myself to control my intake of rice," said sixty-nine year old Sat-

see LENT p.2

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Kimberly Taroma and Rose Anne Rafael cooking during Good Shepherd's Shrove Tuesday festivities.  
 PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Shandi Agpoon during Ash Wednesday services.  
 PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Sheena Garo and Rose Anne Rafael during Shrove Tuesday festivities at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church.  
 PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

## Lent...

from p. 1

urnina Balasan, who worships at Christ the King Roman Catholic Church in Kahului. "In a Filipino household, this is a staple food. As I do this, I have placed dollar value on each meal which means, I give it up, and donate its cash equivalent to help other people in need." Sixteen year old Shandi Agpoon of Good Shepherd is joining Balasan "I'm giving up rice," she says. "That's the one thing I eat every day."

Balasan's fellow parishioner, Charlene Yamashiro, intends to "give up foods that I love to eat or drink like dark chocolates and soda." Nineteen year old Sheena Garo, who worships at Good Shepherd is giving up soda. "My late grandma—83 years old who died a couple of months ago—influenced me because my family talked about how when she was young she drank so much soda. Soda is not good for you so it's best to give it up." Nineteen year old Rose Anne Rafael, also of Good Shepherd, says "I'm giving up coffee. I just want to feel more healthy by avoiding caffeine including sodas." Fifteen year old Kathleen Taroma, also of Good Shepherd, says "I'm giving up soda because it's unhealthy. I would normally drink two or three cans a day." "I'm giving up the energy drink Monster," says thirty-three year old Natasha Lau, also of Good Shepherd.

"I normally drink at least two a day. I don't need to drink Monster because it's not healthy."

In previous years, the Taroma siblings gave up junk food, soda, candy and watching TV while Garo gave up meat, playing video games, and candy. Rafael gave up meat while Agpoon gave up chocolate and Lau gave up alcohol.

"Fasting is an old religious practice traced even during the Old Testament time, it is used for the atonement of sins and in preparation for a coming feast," explains Fr. Jojo Alnas of Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church. "Fasting is a sense of sacrifice geared towards self discipline and to attain a higher value, the virtue of self restraint and the virtue of charity. As an individual who practices fasting, one's sacrifice is offered basically for the atonement of his or her sins and even the sins of others, that is why the act of fast has a penitential character of it. Hence, to fast is not a selfish act."

When I was growing up, my mother Catalina taught me that I couldn't eat meat on Fridays during Lent. As she did most of the cooking in the house, I had no choice but to follow and our choices were usually tilapia (fried or in a soup), sardines, or tuna. I really liked the tuna with long rice and onions. When Good Friday came around, I had to be very quiet, especially from noon until 3 p.m. and we

see LENT p.4

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For Minimum Wage

Bill 789, which we hoped would raise the current minimum wage from \$10.10 an hour to \$17 an hour. The state’s own Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism has studied what it takes to get by in Hawai’i and they tell us that a single person with no kids needs to make at least \$17 an hour to survive. Yet businesses are allowed to pay workers almost \$7 less than that per hour. How is that possible?

While my classmates and I were waiting for our chance to testify, we got to experience the inner workings of the legislature to get a bill passed, and we heard other people’s testimony. Some were plain and simple. Others were moving and powerful, and the stories stuck with me even after the hearing was over.

A tall, slim man testified about his work at the YMCA. He explained that raising the minimum wage would be very helpful both for his fellow workers and the community. The workers make possible the swimming lessons and all the other great programs YMCA offers. He talked about the 70-year-old grandfather who works in the maintenance department at the YMCA. He recalled the times that this grandfather borrowed money from him because he just needed a little extra cash to get by. He had been on the job for many years but was still struggling and would keep struggling unless we improved the minimum wage. The testifier was very aware of how embarrassing it was for this elderly man to borrow money from his young

colleague. His testimony made me think about my grandfather. He too is in his 70s, and it is tough for him to do a lot of things. So I can only imagine how hard this grandfather has to work to make a living for himself and his family. The other testimony that I found significant was given by a woman, who is an alcohol abuse and mental illness counselor who had traveled from Hawai’i island to attend the hearing. She narrated the story of a single mother who had committed suicide because she saw that as the only way to give her children a better life. After tirelessly working two jobs to support her kids, she felt she could no longer provide for them. She thought by committing suicide her kids would have a shot at a better life by being admitted to the foster system. This was a heartbreaking moment because this is really the reality we live in: that people have to work two full-time jobs just to survive and meet their most basic needs in this very expensive place we call home.

I think about my aunty on Maui who dreams of starting a family soon. She and her fiancé are both working two full-time jobs in Lahaina. Due to the ever increasing cost of living, they could no longer afford to live on their own and moved in with her fiancé’s family. In this type of reality, her dreams have to be put on hold. This is the story of many of my family members from Maui to O’ahu and many working families in Hawai’i. We came to Hawai’i in search of a better

Wages...

from p. 1

Hawai’i. Increasing the minimum wage, however, will increase the cost of doing business, which will be passed down to consumers.

Minimum wage is not meant to be a living wage, but a wage at which companies can bring in unskilled workers and afford to train them until they build their skill level and earn increases, rising to the level of a living wage. That is how businesses retain employees, especially in this tight labor market.

Living wage takes into consideration size of household and the cost of food, childcare, healthcare, housing and other necessities.

A hike in minimum wage also forces other wages within a company to increase. Otherwise, a more experienced employee will earn the same amount as a newly hired employee, creating an inequitable pay structure

Against Minimum Wage

and morale and retention issues. However, escalating costs will have a substantial impact which could hurt the very people we are trying to help.

Healthcare is another important consideration. Hawai’i is the only state in the nation requiring employers to provide healthcare to employees who work 20 hours or more per week. Employees pay 50% of the premium or 1.5% of their wages, whichever is lower, with business owners paying the difference and some choosing to cover the entire cost.

We all agree that cost of living issues need to be addressed, but we do not believe that raising minimum wage is the solution. Let’s work together to find ways to lower our cost of living and build a better business climate. ✱

**Sherry Menor-McNamara** is the President & CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawai’i

life and we find ourselves in the same predicament that we were in our home country.


I always knew how important raising the minimum wage was but I never realized the consequence of a minimum wage that does not allow people to even meet basic needs. That was the original intent of the minimum wage. In 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt noted that “no business which depends for its existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country.” He went on to explain that “by ‘business’ I mean

the whole of commerce as well as the whole of industry; by workers I mean all workers, the white-collar class as well as the men in overalls; and by living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level—I mean the wages of decent living.”

As part of the younger generation, we always hear that we will be the ones that will change the world one day. However, I will not be able to change the world or contribute anything of value if my financial struggle to survive consumes my energies


see WAGES p. 4

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## From the Editor's Desk

Tante Urban  
EDITOR & PRESIDENT • FIL-AM VOICE

# Our Voices Are Important



Spring is officially here. In Hawai'i, many things are happening during this time. For Christians, it is also the season of Lent during which we prepare for Easter Sunday.

It is also a time when new laws are being proposed, discussed, and passed at the Hawai'i State Legislature. One of the hot topics for this year is raising the minimum wage. This is an interesting and potentially conflicting topic for Hawai'i's Filipino community.

It was not so long ago that the last batch of *Sakadas* arrived in 1946 to toil in the sugar and pineapple plantations, many earning less than a dollar per hour while working under the hot sun. My dad Daniel was a *Sakada* and worked very hard for every dollar earned.

The children of the *Sakadas* were persuaded to study hard and earn a college education so we would not have to toil in the plantations. Our success would be their success, we were told. Many of us did exactly that.

The Filipino community continues to move forward and many are engaged in business like myself. The effects of raising the minimum wage will hurt many Mom and Pop stores as we continue to deal with other government regulations that makes it more difficult to stay in business.

But a sad reality is that many at the entry level positions are of Filipino ancestry. And how can we expect our children to stay in Hawai'i when wages are not enough to provide for their family?

Yes, there is no easy answer.

But part of it is to make sure that our voices are heard by our elected leaders. Even though the November elections ended four months ago, our elected leaders are making decisions that affect our lives and our future.

We have voices—let it be heard! ✱

TANTE URBAN | EDITOR



Fr. Jojo Alnas of Holy Rosary Church in Pāia elucidates on the topic of Lent.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

## Lent...

from p. 2

still could not eat meat until Easter Sunday.

I learned through Christian Education, held on Wednesdays at Good Shepherd and taught by Margaret Cameron and Jay Van Zwalenburg, that Lent was symbolic of the forty days that Jesus was fasting in the desert and being tempted by the devil. In those days, Christian Education included a lot of movies that focused on the parables. We also had time for arts and crafts, running around playing “steal base,” and worship led by Fr. Justo Andres, the Associate Rector of Good Shepherd.

“Lent is one of the oldest observations on the Calendar of the Church,” said Fr. John A.H. Tomoso, associate priest at Good Shepherd. “Like all Christian holy days it has changed over the years but its purpose has al-

ways been the same: self-examination and penitence, demonstrated by self-denial (giving up favorite things in life), in preparation for Easter.”

I think over the years, I normally tried to avoid meat on Fridays but sometimes it just didn't happen. A few years ago, I even gave up wine. It was not an easy task and I resorted to drinking more whiskeys and sugary drinks like mai tais and margaritas. Like Tolentino, beer is on seventy-two year old Yamashiro's “give up for Lent” list.

According to Tomoso, “Early church father Irenaus of Lyons (c.130–c.200) wrote of such a season in the earliest days of the church but back then it lasted only two or three days, not the 40 observed today. In 325, the Council of Nicea discussed a 40-day Lenten season of fasting but it's unclear whether its original intent was just for new Christians preparing for Baptism but it soon encompassed the whole Church.”

## For Minimum Wage

## Wages...

from p. 3

throughout the day. I am a full-time student and work part-time on the weekends. My hourly wage is a few cents higher than the minimum wage and it is not enough for me to live on. So I can imagine what it is like for workers with a family to support.

While I was a student journalist in high school, I interviewed a single mother who worked two jobs and was houseless. How could we let this happen? We have the highest cost of living in the United States so it is essential that we have this living wage now. It would undoubtedly help working families and enable young people like myself to consider the

possibility of staying and raising our families here in Hawai'i. One thing is for sure: the homeless encampments send a strong message: too many hardworking people are not earning the “wages of decent living.” I hope lawmakers get the message and enact a true living wage this year, one that is automatically adjusted as the cost of living goes up so. In this aloha state is it too much to hope for wages that will allow our friends, family members and neighbors to get by without the heartbreak and the constant struggle we heard so many testify to at the Senate hearing? It's past time for a living wage. ✱

**Ma Glodilet Rallojay** is an Honors student at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. She is a Political Science major.



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Rev. John Tomoso at Good Shepherd's *Ashes To Go* during Ash Wednesday, administers ashes on the sidewalk, making it convenient for those who are "on-the-go."  
 PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Lent began this year with Ash Wednesday on March 6 (which was preceded by Shrove Tuesday aka Mardi Gras aka Malasadas Day... and yes, due to illness, Sharon Zalsos Banaag, Dulce Butay and I canceled our annual Malasadas Challenge broadcast on Facebook). This year, Palm Sunday is on April 14, Maundy Thursday is on April 18, Good Friday is on April 19, Holy Saturday is on April 20, and Easter Sunday is on April 21.

Lent is always a difficult time for me because my dad Elias died on April 4, 2000 (less than three weeks before Easter), my maternal grandmother Margarita died on April 9, 1997 (a week and a half after Easter), my uncle Pascual died on March 24, 2009 and my "second Mom" Raquel Nancy Andres died on March 28, 2009 (some three weeks before Easter that year). But as Fr. Greg Johnson, my former priest at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in 'Aiea would preach "You have to go through Good Friday to get to Easter."

As a kid, I loved Easter because of hunting for Easter eggs. To this date, I recall winning \$20 for finding the special egg. When my kids, Christian and Danielle were young, we did the whole nine yards of commercialized Easter, even taking photos with the Easter bunny. I'm not sure my kids learned the rite of abstinence during Lent. My daughter Danielle was recently on Maui on a Friday and my task was to pick up dinner for her and four state Senators: Rosalyn Baker, Donovan Dela Cruz, Kalani English, and Gilbert Keith-Agaran. The Senators selected a plate that included fish from Da Kitchen. My daughter chose the kal bi plate—all rice.

But food isn't the only thing you can give up for Lent. Seventy-nine year old Naty Agdinaoay intends to give up "watching TV, attending parties, buying too much clothes, gluttony, self control" and hopes to "curb the anger and restrain all resentment and impatience so

as to overcome evil with good." The Christ the King parishioner hopes to "attain God's peace and rejoice in God's love."

Eighty year old Leo Asuncion, also of Christ the King, says "I'll be sacrificing some of my leisure time to visit family and friends who are patients in Hale Makua. Just seeing their smiling faces makes me want to visit them more often. I am also abstaining from desserts during Lent although it's quite a challenge however, I'll keep on trying."

Yamashiro explains her Lenten abstinence of food and drink: "I'm giving these up to build a better relationship with God and have less attachment to earthly things. I also need to be more compassionate and empathetic to an elderly neighbor and be more understanding and not frustrated with her dementia. Every morning I ask the Lord to give me strength to accomplish all that I want to do."

"Fasting is always intertwined with abstinence, alms giving and prayer," explains Alnas. "When one practices fasting, abstinence and prayer such person must be more charitable to the 'other' in terms of words and actions in order that the performance of fasting, abstinence and prayer is categorized as for 'show,' for people to see and receive praise of it, hence, one can share generously his time, talent and treasure to other people especially the poor and the needy."

And in this day and age of the internet, some have decided to forego social media. "For Lent, I am cutting down some time doing Facebooking," said sixty-eight year old Lucy Peros of Christ the King. "Facebooking is very addictive. In turn I will use that time to do more praying, meditating, reading religious books, e.g. books about saints, religious articles/stories, etc." ✱

**Alfredo G. Evangelista** is giving up rice for Lent—except on Sundays which is a Feast Day.

**Lucy Peros** contributed to this article.



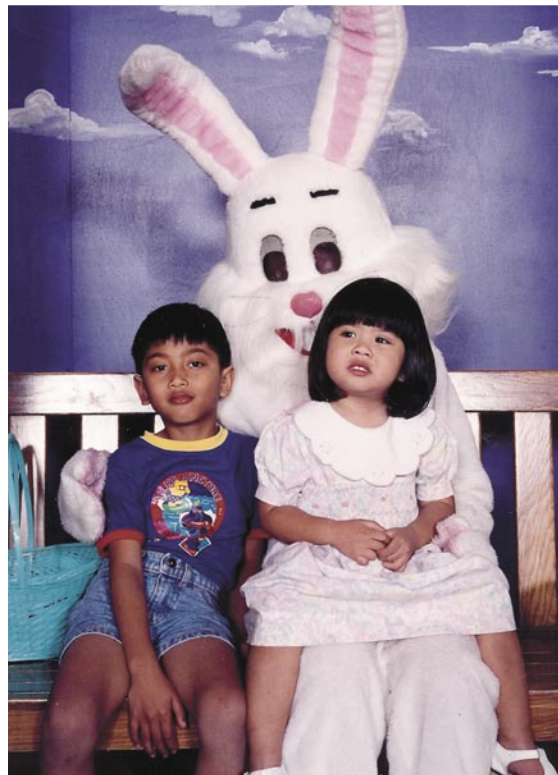
Leo Asuncion, a Christ the King parishioner is abstaining from desserts.  
 PHOTO COURTESY LUCY PEROS



Christ the king parishioner Lucy Peros (above) is giving up "Facebooking."  
 PHOTO COURTESY LUCY PEROS



Naty Agdinaoay (left) from Christ the King Church is giving up watching TV, attending parties, buying too much clothes and gluttony.  
 PHOTO COURTESY LUCY PEROS



Christian and Danielle Evangelista with the Easter Bunny (circa 1995).  
 PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Annual "Malasadas Challenge" on Shrove Tuesday aka Malasadas day in 2018 with Dulce Karen Butay and Sharon Zalsos Banaag at the Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista in Wailuku.  
 SNAPSHOT FROM THE FACEBOOK VIDEO OF THE ANNUAL MALASADAS CHALLENGE





L to R: Dr. Elizabeth Ayson, Tiburcia Ayson, Antonio Ayson, Gloria Ayson. Taken from Circle of Women Event, 1992, presented by the Maui County Committee on the Status of Women.

PHOTO: FELIX SANTIAGO



L to R: Antonio Ayson, Dr. Elizabeth Ayson, Tiburcia Ayson.

PHOTO: FELIX SANTIAGO

# Elizabeth Ayson, Ph.D.

*Editor’s Note: Many of The Fil-Am Voice’s staff have connections to Sakadas and the plantations. Although we generally hate to be the subject of the articles/columns, this month Lucy Peros begins a series on focusing on The Fil-Am Voice’s staff’s Sakada offsprings.*

Lucy Peros

Since she was in Kindergarten, this *Sakada* Offspring already knew she wanted to be a teacher. She received her teaching licenses in both Massachusetts and Hawai‘i. She not only became a teacher but also attained her Doctorate Degree in Psychology among other accomplishments. She is also an accomplished pianist and organist. She is none other than Dr. Elizabeth Ayson.

Elizabeth was born on January 15, 1942 in Baguio, Philippines. During her childhood, besides Baguio, she lived in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, Philippines until age 4, Pu‘unēnē, Maui, Hawai‘i from ages 5–13, and Happy Valley, Maui Hawai‘i from ages 14–18.

Elizabeth’s parents are Antonio Fartan Ayson (born June 13, 1910) and Tiburcia Coloma Ayson (born August 7, 1915), both from San Nicolas, Philippines.

According to sources, Antonio “Tony” Ayson came to Hawai‘i at age 16 and went to work in Waikapū, Maui upon his arrival around 1926 until his employers took him with them to San Francisco. There he worked for several years on the docks with the fishermen to bring in their daily catch.

Before the start of World War II, he moved to Seattle for better pay. When the war started, he decided to return to the Philippines where he worked for the armies, both the Philippine and American, as a mechanic.

At 30 years of age, Tony saw a shy beautiful young lady, a seamstress named Tiburcia Coloma. Tony was very persistent in pursuing to marry Tiburcia even though she was playing hard to get but she eventually agreed to marry him.

Not long after their marriage, the war reached San Nicolas and they were forced to evacuate to the mountains of Baguio where their daughter Elizabeth was born in an Igorot village in a thatched hut with a dirt floor. Two years later, their son Edmund Dante

was born, shortly before the war ended.

Life in the Philippines after the war was very hard. In 1946, the Aysons joined with the groups of Filipinos recruited to work at the sugar plantation in Pu‘unēnē, Maui. There, Tony was a mechanic in the tractor shop, fixing gigantic machines. Their daughter Gloria was born a year later.

Tony’s entrepreneurial spirit was nurtured in the plantation villages where he would sell basic goods from his vehicle, eventually opening a small store on his front porch. Moving to Happy Valley provided a larger space and also sparked his talent for building houses. Ambitious Tony attended the Maui Technical School formerly known as Maui Community College, now University of Hawai‘i Maui College. He passed his tests to be a licensed contractor and began his construction business.

Love for books and playing music played an important part of the Ayson family life. The Ayson children were very musically talented. They played piano, organ, trombone, French horn, viola, and even ‘ukulele. Tony and Tiburcia were very supportive parents. They were able to send all their children to college and universities and they were all successful in their chosen fields.

Edmund Dante Ayson, is an aeronautical/civil engineer, currently consultant for projects in the South Pacific and Hawai‘i.

Gloria Ayson, is a teacher of dance, music, and drama for all grade levels, K–6 in one school, Mililani, Hawai‘i. She is also a belly dance

performer/teacher in Europe and the Middle East. She is now retired.

Elizabeth Ayson attended Pu‘unēnē School, H.P. Baldwin High School, Class of 1960. She received her Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Education & Music Education from Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. From the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, she received her Masters of Education, specializing in Early Childhood Education. She received her Doctorate degree in Psychology from Union of Graduate School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

From a young age, Elizabeth was a very talented pianist and organist for Sunday services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, christenings etc. She played in churches such as Pu‘unēnē and Pā‘ia Evangelical church, and Wailuku Union Church.

Also from a young age, Elizabeth learned how to be a business woman. She was a cashier, stocker, buyer, inventory for her family store and traveling truck vendor in Pu‘unēnē. She was cashier and inventory manager for her family grocery store in Happy Valley. During the summers in 1954–56, she was the office clerk at the Pu‘unēnē School office. In the summers in 1956–60, she worked as office clerk at Baldwin High School, Vice Principal’s Office. During her college years, 1960–64, she even worked as a florist, campus representative, receptionist in a music office, and food service waitress at a school cafeteria as a part-time job. These employments were just stepping stones for Elizabeth’s employment later on in life.

Since she graduated from College in 1964, Elizabeth’s dream as a little girl

of becoming an educator became a reality. From 1964–65, she was a teller/clerk/window designer in Cambridge Savings Bank, in Massachusetts. From 1965–69, she was a teacher at Boston City Schools in Massachusetts as well. Then from 1970–77, she was teaching at Blanche Pope Elementary School in Waimānalo, O‘ahu. After that, she decided to move back to Maui and taught at Lihikai School from 1978–1980. In 1980–1983, she became a Vice Principal at Maui High School as well as at Lihikai School from 1983–1985. Then she became Principal of ‘Īao Intermediate School from 1985–2003. During the summers she worked as an Educational Therapist at Queen Lili‘uokalani Center in Honolulu from 1974–1976

Elizabeth wore many hats. Besides being a great educator, she is also a businesswoman, a writer, a publisher, and a consultant. She was an owner/manager of Taco Hut/Taco Lei/Pisa Pizza from 1980–1994. She was editor/writer for the *Fil-Am Observer* and presently co-publisher/writer for the *Fil-Am Voice*. She is a consultant—personal empowerment, professional development, community building, from 2003–present.

Since high school, Elizabeth received so many awards and prizes. She was the Salutatorian of her class of 1960 from Baldwin High School. Such a bright student, she received a full scholarship to attend Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois from 1960–64. In 1975, she attended a 10 weeks Summer Internship to study open education in Denmark, Sweden, Germany and England. In 2002, as a principal, she received the invitation from the Masters Group, a think tank in the D.C. area, to bring ‘Īao School students to Washington D.C. to perform chants and songs with Duke Ellington High School Choir and the National Symphony Orchestra, in the nationally tel-

see OFFSPRING p.16





Cassidy Matsuda



Roxanne Castillo



Althea Garduque



Yvonne Fulgencio

One of the largest clubs at Maui High School, DECA provides students with key leadership skills, goal setting, project management and financial skills. DECA stands for Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement. Originally founded in 1946, the club now has over 219,000 high school members in 3,500 schools worldwide. This business-oriented club provides students with community service projects, competitive events and educational conferences in hopes to prepare students to become college and career ready. Through these opportunities in which students can earn life-long skills, students at Maui High School are now aware and prepared for the business world.

**Cassidy Matsuda**, who has been part of DECA during most of her high school days says, “I think that DECA has prepared me for the business world because of all the skills I gained and things I learned. I learned business terms, spoke with professionals in the business field, and learned basic things like professional dressing and how to tie a tie. The experiences and knowledge I possessed will assist me in my future career in business.” On February 25, Maui High School DECA members traveled to O’ahu to compete against other DECA members from the State for CTSO, an organized convention where students from around the islands come together to participate in competitive events such as role play. Cassidy participated in CTSO for the first time and describes one of her favorite memories. “My favorite memory with DECA at CTSO was doing the role play with my partner and putting everything we’ve worked so hard for into our presentation. It was satisfying to hear everything we planned fall into place and see the smiles and nods on the judges faces. We didn’t make finals, but we were one of the six medalists in our category, and it was a great feeling knowing our hard work paid off.” Overall, Cassidy recommends students to join DECA because

“DECA is a great organization, not only for business students but for all students to learn about managing and preparing for their futures. We do fun activities and community service while forming friendships and creating memories.”

DECA teaches and exposes students to branches in finance, marketing,

# Google® Is Not Everything...

*DECA: A Great Business Beginning!*

Romelyn Joy Tabangcura | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL

hospitality and business management and administration. For Maui High School junior **Roxanne Castillo**, she expressed her love for DECA and said “After being exposed to DECA, my knowledge has highly increased about the economic world. Ways like learning the importance of having a business and being able to keep it stable.

*“I also learned that in the real world, you will need to always work hard in order to succeed.”*

– YVONNE FULGENCIO

Throughout being a part of DECA, it has made me realize that someday I might want to start my own business and be able to show others that I am capable of running a business, all thanks to DECA.” Roxanne also described what DECA meant to her. “To me, DECA stands for desire, effort, champion and ambitious. DECA is a club where many of us get to learn more about business and use our knowledge to succeed.” As a fellow member of DECA for three years, she encourages others to join because “there are many opportunities for one to be able to show others their many strengths, build new friendships, and be able to amaze others with what you learn from DECA.” When asked about her opinion on whether the minimum wage in Hawai’i should be increased or decreased, she stated that “Increasing minimum wage will affect our economy in a positive way. It will be beneficial to everyone. This is because most people tend to struggle with paying bills, supporting their families and buying things they need

or want. If the economy decides to increase the minimum wage, I think that will encourage more people to work so they can make money and feel accomplished.”

Junior **Althea Garduque** also expresses her opinions about the minimum wage in Hawai’i and says that “Increasing minimum wage would be very beneficial for parents and millennials such as teenagers because during this generation, teenagers and parents are trying to support their family, pay for bills and also pay for tuition for college. Increasing minimum wage would also encourage others to worker harder at their job and also encourage new people to apply.” When

asked if minors should have a lower minimum wage than adults, she believed that they should be paid the same amount because “although adults are older and have more experience, I believe that if minors and adults have the same job, they deserve to be equally paid the same despite age and experience difference.” Althea also participated in CTSO this year and made it to finals alongside her partner Kenneth Aquisalas-Reyes. She recommends other students to participate in CTSO because “if you like to compete with or against other students, learn or experience new things and consider using business as part of your future, CTSO would be a great experience for you.” When asked about her experience with DECA and how it has influenced her thinking of the economic world, she explains “Being in DECA benefits my knowledge in finance, marketing, hospitality and business management and administration because it helps me with real life situations such as investing my savings, learning how to start my own business and what I need to do to accomplish it and also learning how to be smart with my money. Being in this club would also help me short term and long term throughout my life.”

Maui High School senior **Yvonne Fulgencio** has been a part of DECA for four years. She believes that DECA is not just a club and encourages others to join because “Through DECA,

you will gain friendships, create connections, increase business knowledge, and at the same time make an impact on our community through our services. Not only will members earn rewarding events but also rewards that can be applied in the future.” Yvonne also competed in CTSO this year for the last time in her high school career and described her experience as being worthwhile because “From studying and practicing for the competition to the day of CTSO was such a journey. All my three years of attending CTSO has to be the most hardest yet but it has become one of my favorite memories. Through CTSO I learned that each person has to start from something and work their way up to what they want to accomplish. In addition, I also learned that in the real world, you will need to always work hard in order to succeed.” As the club president of DECA at Maui High, she highly recommends others to participate in CTSO because “not only will you learn how to prepare yourself but it will be a way to go beyond what you can do. Overall, it’s such a great experience and students will learn a lot from it.”

DECA continues to provide opportunities for students to learn about financial and time management, enhance leadership skills and challenge their abilities. Many students agree DECA has taught them crucial skills that can be used for the rest of their lifetime. This is why DECA is one of the largest clubs at Maui High and it will only continue to expand to prepare students to become the business leaders of tomorrow. ✨

**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 a registered trademark. This month’s guest columnist is **Romelyn Joy Tabangcura**, a junior at Maui High School taking part in Maui High’s



ACOM and Health Services pathway. She is a member of Health Occupation Student of America (HOSA) for 3 years and has competed in Human Growth and Development and placed top 3 at states. She is also a part of INTERACT, a service club that works around the community. She aspires to become a Pediatrician one day. She is a daughter of Romeo and Roselyn Tabangcura.



There's a lot of crazy reality shows on TV these days—including *Married at First Sight* on the Lifetime cable network. The reality show has the couple getting married without knowing each other at all and meeting each other only at the altar.

When Teresita Bustamante arrived on Maui on October 18, 1980 via a fiancée visa, she had already met her future husband John Noble. Six months earlier, John had traveled to the Philippines and was visiting Baguio and just so happened to stay at a hotel owned by Teresita's aunt. Teresita, who was working for the Department of National Defense after graduating from the University of Pangasinan with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce, majoring in Accountancy, was also living at the hotel. Love blossomed between John and Teresita.

Teresita was born in Mabini, Pangasinan. Her father Gil was the Vice Mayor and later the Chief of Police while her mother Vicenta Taoatao was a homemaker, taking care of the nine children. Teresita was the seventh child.

John stayed in the Philippines for twenty one days and over the next six months the two love birds would communicate by letters and very expensive long distance calls. A week after Teresita arrived on Maui, they were married and have been to-



Teresita B. Noble  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



This painting of John and Teresita Noble is a testament to their young love for each other.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



# Teresita Bustamante Noble of Noble Travel Finds Her Niche

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

gether ever since. The next year, Teresita began working at the County of Maui as a program accountant with the Department of Human Concerns, Office of Aging. In 1988, Teresita took a risk,

left her secure County employment and started a business—a travel agency. “My friend who owned a restaurant encouraged me to become his travel agent,” recalls Teresita. “But when I tried to register under him, I learned that he wasn’t a registered agent so I registered myself.” Teresita had to learn the ropes of being a travel agent all by herself. “There was no one to mentor me,” she explains. “So I learned how to be a travel agent on my own by dealing directly with the airlines.”

Teresita started as an outside sales agent for the airlines. “At that time,” Teresita explained, “Philippine Airlines would issue the tickets for all agents. Now, you have to be an ARC—Airline Reporting Corporation—licensed agent to be a consolidator and to be able to issue tickets.” Teresita earned her ARC designation in 1990.

Today, Teresita is the only consolidator on Maui for Philippine Airlines.

In other words, other travel agents on Maui cannot electronically issue airline tickets for Philippine Airlines and need to have a travel agent on O’ahu electronically issue their tickets. In Hawai’i, Philippine Airlines has four consolidators—Teresita on Maui and three on O’ahu. (When Hawaiian Airlines flew to Manila, Teresita was also a consolidator for Hawaiian Airlines.)

When Teresita started her business with just a thousand dollars, she didn’t know what to expect. “But I knew I wanted to help, especially newly arrived immigrants. Some of them were so helpless. I even interpreted for them, especially for immigration documents.”

Teresita really enjoyed helping others. “It’s really fun helping folks. That’s how I got to be involved in the community and my business grew. It’s very rewarding to help people. Plus I get to travel all around the world!” Teresita’s financial skills and reputation got her elected as Treasurer for the Maui Filipino Community Council, Binhi at Ani, and the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. Teresita’s skills led her to be the official travel agent for the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawai’i’s Annual Trade Mission to the Philippines for over fifteen years.

see RISK & REWARD next p. 13



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Science for a better life



Joan Andia reviews a tour group’s itinerary with Noble.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA





Inauguration  
PHOTO: GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN

My mom framed a photo from the first Cayetano Inaugural Ball. A beaming Ben Cayetano and Mazie Hirono pose amidst a small contingent from the Valley Isle.

My mother, more than me, can identify who made it over for the event: Bobby Baluran, Rose Gabuat, Fely and Vincent Dumayas, Dolores Cabebe, Norma Badoyen, Zachary Paz, Wes Wong, Raymond Ono, Ry and Marla Barbin, Elsie and Manabu Kimura, Bill Howerton, Ted Yamamura, Audrey and Anthony Takitani. In the twenty-five years since then, some are noticeably grayer or balder or heavier now. Some have now passed away.

One guy remains a mystery—someone’s date or someone who just happened to step into the photo.

It’s a winners picture.

One of those words associated with any political campaign is “credit.”

When someone wins, everyone wants to be associated with the victory.

When you lose, you don’t want those photographs lying around. My mom has an album full of people who can take some credit for 1994.

## Kicking Off

In the Spring of 1994, a rather worn Lt. Gov. Ben Cayetano flew in to Kahului Airport for a small coffee hour at a local trial attorney’s Ha’ikū home. I had been volunteered to drive him in my 1987 Nissan Sentra, a relic from law school in the Bay Area that I hoped would make it up to Ha’ikū and back to the airport in a timely manner.

These kinds of gatherings at private homes marked the early parts of any conventional local statewide campaign. As time got closer to the election, a candidate’s time increasingly was pulled away to larger, organized events.

But that March, you could still have an opportunity for smaller and more informal meetings. In fact, Ben had come over for a couple of coffee hours in the winter of 1993 when people didn’t even have the gubernatorial election in mind. Those were especially intimate talks.

As I briefed him on the two dozen or so people who would be at the event and talked about some of the issues in East Maui and the county, we pulled over on Hāna Highway so he could collect himself. A few would be supporters. Most had never met him and knew little about him other than his two-time election as John Waihe’e’s understudy—the first to serve two terms as Lt. Governor. I may have given him the impression that to the group, his years in the legislature and even his service as Lt. Gov. was akin to ancient history.

Ben had come in from the Big Island where he had had a grueling schedule—several meetings with community leaders and a number of coffee

# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

## A Cayetano Retrospective

*Benjamin Cayetano: First highest-ranking elected official of Filipino ancestry in the State of Hawai’i: 3rd in a series.*

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

hours. The Big Islanders explained they simply had more ground to cover. The Big Islanders always had more ground to cover. And I could see Ben was tired.

## Changing Drivers

During the two statewide races for Lt. Gov., the Maui campaign had been coordinated by Maurice Morita. (In 1986, Fred Evangelista had failed to convince Gladys Baisa, who was recommended by Elmer Cravalho, to be the Maui coordinator.) Morita, associated in some way with the teachers’ union, was perceived by me more as the youth soccer guy during the short time I had been home. But Maurice would not be continuing in that role because he was considering a change in his employment and residence.

The person that had been suggested to the Honolulu coordinators for the Maui spot was a forty-four year

old Wailuku lawyer, Anthony Takitani.

Tony, out of college, had been elected to the 1978 Hawai’i State Constitutional Convention and then to the State House of Representatives from one of the old multi-member districts. He was related on his mother’s side to the extended and business savvy Tavares clan and on his father’s side to the equally entrepreneurial Takitanis. His relative Hank had also served in the legislature. But in the reapportionment that created single member districts, Tony had been effectively gerrymandered out of his seat.

Instead of running against one of his House colleagues, Tony made a run against State Senator Gerald Machida, an HGEA leader, for a seat that included Molokai and Lāna’i. Tony lost in a close race. Machida would eventually lose his seat to Republican Rick Reed.

Tony went off to law school. After returning to Maui, Tony had not taken a prominent role in any political campaign until 1992. Instead, he focused on community affairs, his young family and his legal practice. But in 1992, Tony agreed to take on one of the easiest jobs in Hawai’i campaigns—coordinating on Maui with local lawyer Ry Barbin the re-election of U.S. Senator Dan Inouye.

However, Maui turned out to be the center of that campaign. Inouye faced a direct appeal to the Filipino voters by Republican challenger Rick Reed who had distributed a Philippine Christmas video featuring his then Filipina wife. Inouye also faced a primary challenge from County Councilmember and maverick Democrat Wayne Nishiki, a friend of Reed. Reed and Nishiki were also part of the Independents for Godly Government created by Chris Butler who led an off-shoot of the Hare Krishna sect. In a relatively bruising campaign for the senior U.S. Senator, Inouye handily survived both challenges despite some salacious mudslinging and Nishiki’s theatrical use of chains to protest the Democratic Party attempt to enforce censure rules for Wayne’s support of his old buddy Reed.

In truth, Ben knew Tony. They had served in the Legislature together briefly. In Tony’s losing campaign for State Senate over a decade before, Ben had campaigned on Lāna’i for him. Even though his Filipino legislative colleague worked the Pineapple Island with him, Tony lost Lāna’i where the ILWU held strong sway.

In 1994, Tony could joke that Ben did not show enough pull with the Filipinos there to offset Machida votes elsewhere in the district.

Local real estate appraiser Ted Yamamura also agreed to assist with logistics.

Since they both had fancier, roomier and newer trucks and sports utility

vehicles, the Spring coffee hour in Ha’ikū was also the last time I would be asked to do the driving.

## Building a Campaign

In the world of counting campaign credit, some people put a big value on being there at the beginning. Others argue that contributions at crucial times or in special ways matter more. Some folk make sure they’re there when the candidate comes in from Honolulu.

*“In a grassroots campaign... You’re aware of and welcome big names in the community who lend their influence. But you come to like and admire the zealots who man the phones, hit the streets to distribute signs and brochures, or handle all the sign waving.”*

In a grassroots campaign on the neighbor islands, you come to value the people who came down regularly to the headquarters. You notice the folk who came down just to eat campaign chili and shoot the breeze about the way things were done in the old days. But you appreciate the retirees and the others who put time in to answer phones, send out letters and work on the mundane tasks.

You’re aware of and welcome big names in the community who lend their influence. But you come to like and admire the zealots who man the phones, hit the streets to dis-

tribute signs and brochures, or handle all the sign waving.

A&B leased to the campaign, as is, the former Peggy’s and Johnny’s store in Kahului Shopping Center. With the help of Greg Endo, some of his buddies and a host of volunteers, the place was cleaned up, painted and air-conditioned. George Ito lent us the use of some tables he had constructed. The local group scraped together enough money to buy some plastic stacking chairs and someone donated some used computers and monitors.

County social worker John Tomoso took on organizing sign waving. Headquarters volunteers Manabu Kimura, Tony Arakaki and others made the daily phone calls to remind volunteers who had signed up for that task. John put together a schedule, carried the signs and t-shirts and selected the sites to reach the core Central Maui Democratic voting bloc. As the summer went on, others volunteered to handle sign waving in other parts of the island but John got the regular routine going.

Retired state legislator Herb Honda volunteered to visit all the senior citizen clubs. Herb methodically covered the lunch programs over the course of the summer with help from a few volunteers. Other retired legislators like Mark Andrews and Mamoru Yamasaki also pitched in with different constituencies. Even if they had not been close allies in the legislature, the former Valley Isle legislators decided to support Ben rather than semi-Mauian Jack Lewin.

A lot of our campaign material was handmade.

A bunch of us worked for several days on making yard signs by hand. It took several days: one day for cutting

see CAYETANO next page



# Kwento Kwentuhan

## What’s Your Social Media App of Choice?

Liza of “A Maui Blog”

Did you know that the Philippines has been tagged as the “Social Networking Capital of the World”? A study released by Universal McCann entitled *Power to the People* declared so. Are you on Facebook? Do you have an Instagram account? Chances are, most of you are on Facebook and have an Instagram account. Some are more active than others, nevertheless, many of us are participating and engaging on social media daily in our lives, in the Philippines and abroad.

Why do you think Filipinos are known for social media and social networking? Here’s why I think we are:

We Filipinos are social and relational. We put a high value on relationships. We take care of our family and we enjoy having friends. We are known for our close-knit relationships among family and friends. Social interactions are a basic part of our daily life in the Philippines as well as abroad (wherever we are). So when there are family events and occasions, we take photos and share them.

In addition, social media is used as a “tool for communication” with family and friends far away. It’s nice to talk to families abroad via Face-time instead of just hearing their voice via phone calls. It is also cheaper to use social media than to

pay a regular long distance phone call.

According to an article written by DataSpring, “Facebook is still the go-to social networking platform. Part of its success can be attributed to the efforts of mobile operators providing ways to access the app via mobile without incurring any charges, albeit with limited functions. Pair this up with a wide range of cheap smartphones available in the country and you’ve got yourself more potential users from a wider socio-economic demographic. This would explain the high mobile traffic with 93% of Facebook users accessing via mobile. This play at inclusivity has done Facebook a lot of good in conquering the Philippine market.”

Instagram is fast becoming the favorite app. Don’t we just love seeing



On my left is “Madame Donut,” owner of Donut Dynamite and avid user of Social Media—partly attributing to her wild success as an entrepreneur ‘goddess’ extraordinaire.

land Cuisine and it got hundreds of likes! In the comments, I was asked “where can we buy that?”

We can go on and on talking about Filipinos in social media but I thought it would be good to end our kwentu-kwentuhan this month by sharing who some of the Fil-Ams here on Maui who are on Instagram. It would be good to follow them and get connected too: @chef-wonder (the famous chef Sheldon Simeon of @lineagemau) @tantesislandcuisine-mau (yummy food posts!) @themadame-donut (the owner of famous @donutdynamite) @alfredo.evangelista (Attorney/President of Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, LLC) and @amauiblog (yours truly). Are you in Instagram too and your pro-

file is public? Let us know what your handle is and we will follow you! ✨ **Liza Pierce** of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media Strategist in Hawai’i. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She’s been living on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a



mother, a friend and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About Rainbow; End Alzheimer’s Advocate. Her life is full and exciting here on the island of Maui.

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



What is your “app” platform of choice when it comes to social media? The field of uses and application vary widely. Facebook and Instagram remain the popular choice among Filipinos.

Filipino Food photos on Instagram? The other day I posted a photo of halo-halo I was eating at Tante’s Is-

land Cuisine and it got hundreds of likes! In the comments, I was asked “where can we buy that?”

## Cayetano...

from p. 9

leftover and donated sheets of lumber (even reusing signs from retired politicians like Rick Medina), another day for whitewashing each sign and then another two days for hand silk screening the red, white and blue flag logo to allow proper drying.

Another group worked on putting the signs up at strategic spots throughout the island, including the task of asking the homeowners for permission.

Wes Wong and Fred Duldulao took on the task of budgeting for and feeding the volunteers.

### Walking and Talking

Canvassing, along with sign waving, had been the basic campaign tac-

tic for politicians in Hawai’i. A challenge for the campaign was getting support for walking from the campaign veterans. First term GOP Maui Mayor Linda Crockett Lingle was also up for re-election. Longtime council member Goro Hokama had decided to enter the race, drawing a lot of experienced campaigners into that tough county-wide contest.

As a result, the Maui group needed to develop our own cadre of workers. Without much money coming in from the main campaign on O’ahu, Tony and Ted had determined that we would canvas the entire island, or as much as possible with all the new agricultural subdivi-

sion communities and closed building complexes.

At some point, the campaign decided to walk the entire County house to house. We had groups that committed to one or two areas or one or two week-ends. The local unions promised us a couple of week-ends as well.

But there were a few who came almost every week, including the ferry trips to Lāna’i and Molokai and the long early drives to Hāna and Lahaina. They got t-shirts and a hot lunch and our gratitude.

Some of the younger members of the bar like Anthony Vierra, Herman Ling, Joseph Toma, Grant Chun, Craig

Nakamura, Joy Yanagida and Geronimo Valdriz would put in a Saturday morning then would go off to work or their other commitments. People from Tony’s and Ted’s offices and family members and friends were coaxed like Greg Endo, Bill Howerton, Mark Graven, Cindy Pojas-Smith and Sandy Canha. They would grouse but cover their assigned areas—as quick as they could get away with it.

Retired ILWU leader John Arisumi came with a band of predominantly female Filipino ILWU retirees from the cannery and the sugar plantation.

On an upcountry canvas, John came back steaming. Someone—no one would admit it—had given his group maps that started them on the bottom of one of the long slopes in Kula. Given the age of his people, he forcefully lectured us that we should have planned better. John ate and left.

see CAYETANO p. 12





The month of February was unusual to have a lot of rain, snow caps, and more rain in Hawai’i. I am probably still soaked from the last rainfall. How did you fare this “winter” season in Hawai’i? Even though the weeds grow, even though your shoes are muddy, and you can’t hang your clothes out to dry at the moment, I still think it is beautiful. There is a certain serenity in rain, a soothing vibration,

# Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

and a calm that forces you to slow down a bit, and even concentrate on things that you have taken for granted. In the Philippines, the month of

March is graduation month. From Elementary to High School, and even College, all kids are wrapping up their finals and parents are planning the fes-

tivities. Back here in Hawai’i, kids are just barely into their midterms in the 3rd Quarter. Do you have any family graduating? Can you still recite your Alma Mater? Join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/letstalkpinoy](http://www.facebook.com/letstalkpinoy) and shout out your High School Alma Mater, Hawai’i or Philippines, or both! Last time, our trio were on their way to Mā’alaea. Let’s take a look and see what they are up to next.

WHEN HIS GREEN *mata* (eyes) return from their trip back to sea level, dreadfully, she is there to greet him eye to eye, witnessing him obviously checking her out, and he painfully looks away. When he goes back for a second look, astonishingly, she is still gazing at him. She smirks, and then winks. It was here, at this moment, that the earth stopped spinning, time slowed and stopped for split-second. And just like a polaroid camera, a shutter sounds, and in this ripple in time, this perfect photo of Angel, in all her beauty, winking right at him, had been captured in his *futu* (heart) and mind forever.

They pull into the parking lot of the Mā’alaea Ocean Center, and hurriedly walked past the shops toward the back. “I know this great restaurant, I’m friends with the owner.” When they reach the front door, Michael asks the hostess, “Hi, it’s me, Michael. Is Tante here?”

“Yeah, I know who you are” the lady laughs. “You’re here like every other day, and no, the owner of the restaurant is not here. You just missed him. He and Telly have a wedding to attend to.”

“Oh, that’s ok. I was just gonna say ‘Hi.’ I’ll catch him next time. Can I order some *pagkaon* (food) to go?” Michael says while opening a menu and waving to the bartender.

He turns to Angel. “Order some *pagkain* (food), anything. It’s on me. Their *isda* (fish) is fresh but I love the fried *bangus* (milkfish).”

“I’ve been to Tante’s Island Cuisine in town. I like their *ikan* (fish) but today, I’ll have pancit... Mmmm.” says Rosie.

Angel looks at the menu. “Oh, I don’t eat out that much. That’s ok. I already ate.”

MICHAEL: “Oh, please *kuman* (eat) something with me.”

ANGEL: “I’ll just *kain* (eat) from your plate.”

Michael’s eyes widen. Turning flush red, he accidentally drops the menu on the ground.

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Nawom	Nawong	Muka	Lupa
Eyes	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata
Heart	Puso	Puso	Tutu	Puso	Futu	Puso
Beautiful	Maganda	Napintas	Matahum nga	Maanyag	Makasta	Malagu
Cold	Malamig	Nalamiis	Tugnaw	Matugnaw	Malam min	Marimla
Eat	Kain	Mangan	Kan-a	Kaon	Kuman	Kanan
Food	Pagkain	Makan	Pagkaon	Pagkaon	Kanan	Kapangan
Stairs	Hagdanan	Agdan	Hagdan	Hagdanan	Ad dan	Eran
Fish	Isda	Ikan	Isda	Abakan	Ikan	Asan
Come	Halika	Umay ka	Duul dinhi	Magaabot	Umekataw	Mekeni

“Hoy, *Palito!* You guys are going to share *pagkain* (food). You are sharing a plate of fried *bangus*? Oh my gosh, dragon breath! Hahaha,” Rosie shouts. The hostess laughs out loud and covers her mouth.

As soon as they get their *kapangan* (food), “Follow me,” Michael says to the two girls.

They walk down the *hagdanan* stairs, cross the street and head to-

ward the harbor. MICHAEL: “Watch your step. The *hagdanan* (stairs) is slippery.” In the parking lot, there’s a lot of parked cars. There are some young teens vaping next to their trucks. Most of the cars are empty. Michael finds a nice spot near the wall.

They sit there and eat. He opens his plate. Of course, it’s the fried *bangus*. He goes in for a bite and notices Angel staring at him. “Here,” as he offers her the plate. She sits in front of him, tilts her head, and opens her mouth suggesting he feeds her. He looks down at the *kapangan* (food), tries to corral a piece of fish.

His hands shake and the chopsticks slips. He attempts again and another ball of rice falls out and onto the ground. He has never fed a girl before and is completely having a breakdown right now. His nerves are so high that he drops his chopsticks and they vanish into the rocks. In fear, he looks up

and Angel, now hovering over him, grabs a piece of *abakan* (fish), a scoop of rice in her right hand, and feeds it to him. Michael chews in disbelief as Angel smiles at him, she licks her fingers, gets up and walks to the water. “Oh, it’s *maanyag* (beautiful) here Michael.” Angel runs and jumps onto the rocks, spreading her arms, closes her *mata* (eyes) and takes a deep breath.

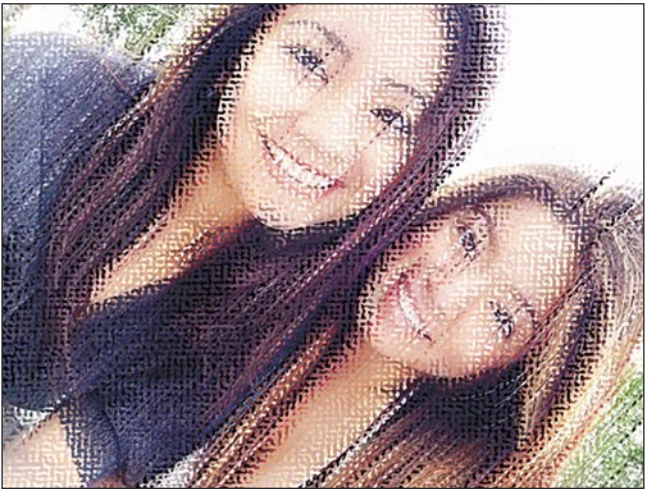
Rosie points, “Look, at how many people are in the water! Crazy. It’s already *marimla* (cold) and they still want to swim. Hmphhhh!” she blurbs.

ROSIE: “*Palito! Halika* (Come), take our picture!” She runs out to where Angel is standing.

Michael grabs his phone and begins his photo shoot with the girls. Shot after shot, they change into different poses and angles. “Ok, now water effect,” Michael says as they all laugh.

MICHAEL: “I want to see more attitude!”... There, that’s *maganda* (beautiful)!

Rosie walks a few steps. “*Duul dinhi* (Come)! This side so it’s different see LET’S TALK PINOY p.15



Michael grabs his phone and begins his photo shoot with Angel and Rosie. Shot after shot, they change into different poses and angles.



# Ating Kabuhayan



**Income** is more than just a paycheck or the residual of hard work. Income is an extension of the self...

## Income is More Than Just Income

The Rev. John A.H. Tomoso †

I watch my income statements every month. From them, I can plan how to pay my bills. “I owe. I owe, so it’s off to work I go,” goes the cute yet true dictum of a sing-song phrase! So, like you, I work for a living.

I think it is important to work at something you enjoy doing. A job that one doesn’t enjoy or hates means that the income derived from it won’t be worth the work put into it. The paycheck will mean little or nothing to your sense of self-worth and accomplishment. So, let’s look at income, the pay one brings home after the taxes are paid. Let’s look at it as a reward, in three ways.

First, income is derived from what one can reasonably accomplish through training, experience and leadership. A good job is seen as what one has been educated for, or practiced to learn a skill. In this way, the income derived is a reward for a job well done. Over the years, one gains experience that is rewarded, probably with better pay. With even more years in the same job, leadership in the workplace is bestowed on a more senior worker, because of his or her training, skill and experience, by others with less years of job performance. Yes, income can be from leadership bestowed and undertaken in the workplace. A retirement party, given by fellow workers, is truly a reward for years of training, experience and leadership in the workplace. Think about this the next time you are invited to someone’s retirement.

Second, income is an emotional reality. It can make one feel good about the self. It is about how one accomplishes what one sets out to do. I counsel friends and anyone who asks, to establish life goals that can make one feel worthy or worth it, as far as living a good life is concerned. A life goal will allow one to actually go beyond just the money (dollars and cents) income and also see relationships, social connections and spiritual rewards as very much a part of one’s income. Giving to charitable causes stems from seeing income in this varied way. Being generous to others, es-

pecially one’s own family and children, is another way the emotional reality of income is experienced.

Third, income can be something that is legacy-building; left behind after one has transitioned to the next life. I know of many who establish perpetual scholarships, in their name, from the income they gift to others. There are also ways, to bestow or bequeath income to schools, churches, institutions or non-profit programs. Such legacy-building is a reward to others because one is thankful for the life opportunities or experiences from which one derived a life well worth living.

So, income is more than just a paycheck or the residual of hard work. Income is an extension of the self; of living in relationship with others; of making this community better, stronger, richer and capable of being bound by a common thread of people who more alike than unlike, that leads to a shared quality of life. Income is about being rewarded for living an unselfish life and not just about “I owe, I owe, so it’s off to work I go!” ✨

**Rev. John A. Hau’oli Tomoso †** is a Social Worker and Episcopal Priest. He is a



Priest Associate at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wailuku and an on-call Chaplain at Maui Memorial Medical Center. Tomoso was

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



Heart & Soul: The 1994 campaign poster personally signed by Ben and Mazie that hangs in Catalina Evangelista’s kitchen.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

## Cayetano...

from p. 10

But the following week, he showed up with his group again.

By that time, we would scout the routes on the maps to make sure we started people going downhill as much as possible in Pukalani and elsewhere. Or the younger folks walked those areas ourselves.

Canvassing revealed some of the changes of the island’s demographics. In Ha’ikū, what had been long stretches of local-owned pasture between local homesteads had more residential-looking houses, reflecting the growing number of small subdivisions in the rural and agricultural areas. In Kula, we ran into a lot of fences and gates. In Kihei, the new townhouses posed a challenge to cover.

## Wrestling Bears, Bu, the Best and Fresh Start

Unlike the GOP which coalesced behind losing U.S. Senatorial candidate Pat Saiki, the Democrats did not line up uniformly to elect Ben. While Ben had a strong showing at the May party convention—climaxed by a demonstration on the floor by delegates supporting the Lt. Gov.—the party steadily moved towards another contested primary.

Jack Lewin, Waihe’e’s health director who had worked on Maui, threw

his hat in the primary ring. He seemed to be running against the bureaucracy but his themes didn’t build momentum with local voters. He had a group on the island who did a good job getting out his “Back Jack” bumper stickers.

Jack argued that as head of a department with one of the largest workforces, he had wrestled with the bear of large government. But while an interesting image, it didn’t register as well as Pat Saiki’s one note “Fresh Start” theme from the GOP side. As one old campaigner noted, if Jack was using DOH as an example of bad bureaucracy, Jack certainly had already had eight years to make a noticeable difference.

The other major opponent in the Democratic Primary was Kau’i Hill who was better known as the local comedian and activist Bu La’ia. It was Bu that garnered more of our attention than Jack because the younger people loved the anti-establishment bent of his humor. Some of the people helping us kept threatening to vote for Bu just to send a message. It didn’t matter if he was too young to get on the ballot or that he may have used his brother’s identity to do so. That was all a part of Bu’s attraction.

Unlike the Gill-Burns, Ariyoshi-Fasi and Heftel-Waihe’e battles, Jack never caught enough fire to stop Ben. His campaign on Maui had some letter writers but not much in terms of open

see CAYETANO p. 14





Shiel B. Leano assists a client.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Situated right before Happy Valley, Noble Travel has been a landmark for many years in Wailuku. Countless travelers on Maui have patronized Noble's business because of her and her staff's friendliness and professionalism.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Noble Travel Staff  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Risk & Reward...

from p. 8

teen missions, with government leaders such as Governor Linda Lingle, Lt. Gov Shan Tsutsui, and various County Mayors leading the missions.

When folks started making travel arrangements over the internet, many travel agencies could not compete and closed. But Teresita withstood what would be her biggest challenge to date. She estimates she only suffered a ten percent loss. "The loss due to the internet was minimal because a lot of my client base are senior citizens who need help navigating the reservation system on the internet," Teresita explains.

At her Market street office in Wailuku, Teresita oversees a well-run office with a full-time staff and two part-time staff: Sheila B. Leano, Winnie Calpito, and Joan Andia. She also has outside sales agents. "I've been lucky that I have good, honest and loyal outside agents," says Teresita. Her fifteen agents bring in about 20-percent of her gross revenues. Teresita's compensation is based on a certain percentage for each ticket sold.

With Southwest joining the Hawai'i market, Teresita says "It's healthy be-

cause it will be competitive and people will have a choice." If Southwest connects with Philippine Airlines and offers better rates, Philippine Airlines will contract with Southwest and many of Teresita's passengers (95-percent are Philippine Airlines passengers) will utilize Southwest to travel to Honolulu before boarding the Manila bound flight on Philippine Airlines.

Teresita doesn't expect to retire soon (and Philippine Airlines doesn't want her to retire). Her advice to those who want to enter the travel industry is a simple one: "You have to find your niche before you enter the industry. I'm lucky because we have the Filipino market."





**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 sweetheart, the former Basilia Ilica.

**"I'm lucky because we have the Filipino market."**

– TERESITA B. NOBLE


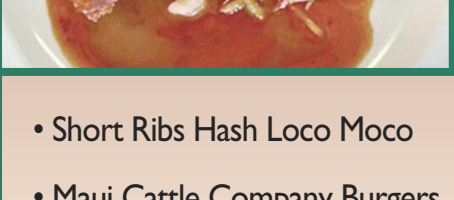





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Cayetano...

from p. 12

grassroots campaign. Jack lost by over 34,000 votes but apparently did garner support from those dissatisfied with the status quo of the party. Like others who lost a gubernatorial campaign, he moved to California after the election.

But Ben remained a decided underdog to Saiki and in some people’s mind to the third-party ticket of Frank Fasi and Danny Kaleikini. Mazie Hirono, a liberal firebrand from the State House won the primary as Ben’s running mate.

United Filipinos

When you campaign on the neighbor islands, you usually have a lot of freedom to schedule your grassroot events. What you don’t have is the candidate very often. We had Ben come over a few times for coffee hours hosted by people like Pundy Yokouchi, Ry Barbin, Ray Ono and Artemio Baxa and his late wife Lucy.

Ben also made it over for one large event before the primary and some coffee hours. After the primary we had Ben and Mazie just a few more times for larger gatherings at Kahului Shopping Center.

While Ben trailed Saiki in statewide media poll results, among Filipinos he somehow united the sometimes fractious community.

A politician once remarked that the words “United” and “Filipino” were overused. In early 1994, at one of the meetings of the United Filipino Coun-

cil of Hawai’i, a Motion was made, seconded, and carried to endorse the historic candidacy of Benjamin Cayetano for Governor. A month later, however, Zach Labez, the UFCH president who was not present at the earlier meeting and who worked for Frank Fasi, tried to maneuver a motion to rescind the endorsement. The motion was supported by Marcos loyalist Joe Lazo. But Fred and other Cayetano supporters including Teamster officials Julio Qui-cho and Rey Custodio reminded Labez of the two-thirds requirement to overturn the previous motion for endorsement and the Labez/Fasi/Lazo efforts failed. Even then, many O’ahu Filipinos were still lukewarm to Ben and a significant amount would volunteer for the Honolulu Mayor race featuring Jeremy Harris and Laoagueño Mito Ablan.

On Maui, Pablo Caldito, Pepito Raga-asa and Rafael Acoba helped to coordinate a large and enthusiastic Filipino group. It included old veterans like former councilmembers Rick Medina and Vince Bagoyo and other retirees. It also brought out people like Pablo Piano, Virgilio Agcolicol, Zachary Paz and Nick Casumpang. Even decidedly GOP candidates and activists like Dan-

ny Agsalog appeared at Cayetano events to lend support. Four years later might be different but in 1994, most Filipinos on Maui who participated in politics were united in Ben as a favorite son.

Unfortunately, with the media strategy and spending controlled on O’ahu, the Maui Filipino group’s ambitious plans for Filipino radio spots and other ethnic appeals was unlikely to be funded. As the designated bearer of bad news for the Maui campaign, I had to tell them “no” repeatedly. In retrospect, I could have been a little more diplomatic about it. But I was also the designated grassroots funding begger with the Honolulu headquarters—I got the bad news that the money had to be raised locally for almost all efforts as money got funneled into televised showings of Ben’s “Shoot for the Moon” spot.

In the end, however, the last big rally was an enthusiastic Mabuhay event that the group helped organize and finance.

Shooting the Moon

In 1994, the polls didn’t mean much to us working in the fields. We

got decent reactions walking door to door and signwaving. We saw more Lingle people than Saiki people during the months of campaigning.

Informally, the different island campaign coordinators had made predictions on the outcome. Given what we had seen and felt in walking the island, we expected to do well on Maui. The campaigners expected to sweep the neighbor island counties but worried about whether O’ahu would be a big problem.

On Maui, we didn’t look at the polls—media or internal.

But on election night, we had some doubt.

When the first returns indicated Ben and Mazie were ahead on O’ahu, we didn’t hesitate to declare victory. The party began in earnest because we were very confident that the election was over. Ben and Mazie got 134,000 votes while the best party pairing of Frank and Kaniela finished second. Pat and Fred Hemmings finished third.

We had had a part in electing the first Filipino Governor of any state in the union. ✨

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** served as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the first Cayetano Administration. He would later serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of Labor briefly, and then Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources in the second Cayetano Administration. He currently is the State Senator for Central Maui.

Assistant Editor **Alfredo G. Evangelista** contributed to this column.

Distribution Locations



Fil·Am Voice

Kahului

- 4-R Oriental FoodMart & Produce
- 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
- Kelly’s Mini Mart Fast Food
- 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
- Originz
- Paradise Supermart
- Paradise Video
- Plantation Grindz
- RM Mini Mart
- Rexel Pacific Fish Market
- Rowena’s Produce
- Safeway - Kahului
- Starbucks - Ka’ahumanu
- Sunrise Food Mart
- Tamura’s
- Tante’s Island Cuisine
- University of Hawai’i Maui College

South Side

- A&E Oriental Foodmart
- Bayer
- Elly’s Formal
- Foodland - Kihei

- Minit Stop - Pi’ilani Village
- Phil-Mart Oriental
- Safeway - Kihei
- Starbuck’s Pi’ilani Village
- Tamura’s
- Tante’s Fishmarket
- Times Supermarket
- Tropical Marketplace

Upcountry

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

Wailuku

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

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

- Starbuck’s Kehalani
- Tamura’s
- Tasty Crust
- Tiffany’s Bar & Grill
- Traje Farmers Market
- Wailuku Seafood Center

Westside

- EC Food & General Merchandise
- Foodland - Lahaina
- Ilocandia Filipino Store
- Island Oriental Food & Market
- 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 - Honokōwai

REV. 02.24.19



# Let's Talk Pinoy...

from p. 11

background.”

The girls go into vogue and runway model mode. Everyone is having a great time. And with every head shot, every pixel being engraved into his onboard storage, there is another picture of Angel. Another picture that he can keep forever. Her hair in the wind. Those beautiful hazel mata (eyes), and infectious laugh. Her angelic nawong (face)... He keeps thinking how perfect she is for him. The way she makes him feel....

“Wait, what is this feeling boiling up in my stomach? Why is my puso (heart) pounding? Why am I tingling? Why am I breathing so hard? My mata (eyes), why are my mata (eyes) dilated?” Right then, a big wave hits the rocks shooting salt water into the air barrelling towards them.

Michael speedily lunges over Angel and covers her as the water drenches his back and onto the ground. When he opens his eyes, there is Angel. Their muka (faces) are two inches apart. Her big glowing mata (eyes) piercing into his, as he holds her in his arms.

“Ahhhhhh!” Suddenly, someone screeches. Startled, they look over at Rosie, who is completely soaked. With a bitter rupa (face) looking at them. “Bastos!” she yells.

Looks like something's happening here or is it? When is the last time you went to Mā'alaea? Have you eat-

en at Tante's Fish Market? Have you had a drink at Beach Bums? An order of nachos at Carl's Jr.? Have you visited The Maui Ocean Center and their new 3D Sphere Theater - AquariumPlus? There's a surprising amount to do in Mā'alaea. If you haven't yet, you should make a trip out there.

So your homework this week is to eat with your hands for one meal. Filipinos traditionally eat with their hands and it is still very common today. But before you do that, make sure to wash your hands!

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

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



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Appointments on Maui or O'ahu



Offspring...

from p.6

vised concert on the West Lawn of the White House to commemorate the anniversary of September 11, 2001. The 'Īao Peace Team also performed in New York City at the Absynnian Baptist Church with the student choir and in Central Park at the national gathering of indigenous people. In 2002, Elizabeth received the Maui Seasons for Peace Hero Award. In 2012, she was invited to participate in Writers' Retreat in Hāna for veterans from across the nation, in a ten-day learning experience through meditation, conversation, healthy dining, nature walks and regular sessions of sharing, in circles facilitated by Maxine Hong Kingston, famed author and activist from San Francisco, California.

Elizabeth is also a very community oriented individual. She served for 25 years on the Board of Directors at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. She is a co-founder, officer, and Director of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. She is also the co-founder, officer, and Director of the Maui Seasons for Peace. She was the Secretary for District 12 Representative of the Maui County Democratic Party. She is a member of the Maui County Veterans Council. She is a member of the Maui Disabilities Alliance and she is the Treasurer and Director members of the Camp Can Do-Maui, wheelchair accessible camp in Olowalu



Rizal Day Celebration circa 1957. Leonora Castillo (queen), princesses seated, Elizabeth Ayson (right), Luisa Quiray (left). Standing are Pastor Pablo (center) and Ernesto Tesoro (left), Frank Casil (Miss Castillo's escort).

PHOTO: ALEXANDER & BALDWIN SUGAR MUSEUM

Besides being a very busy woman, she also has other interests such as: Advocate for the arts, children, world peace, civil rights, advancement of women, small business, support for veterans, Historic preservation of 'Īao Theatre, Old Maui High School, Wailuku Armory and 'Īao School. She is also po-

litically engaged in support of candidates at all levels of government. She is an avid reader of biographies and children's books. For relaxation, she enjoys playing the piano and 'ukulele, writing, folk dancing, choral singing, and gardening, especially orchids.

Elizabeth's four children are successful in their own chosen fields. Gavin Ayson-wright, her eldest son is a Social Worker in the Hawai'i State Department of Mental Health. He also works part-time at Marriott Resorts & Spa at Wailea as a Security Staff. He and his wife Malia have a daughter Siana. Malia is a caregiver (part-time) on call at their church. Her second son, Dylan Quirk is a firefighter in the Honolulu Fire Department. He and his wife Mahealani have two children, Ryan and Ka'ipo. Mahealani works at Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu. Simon Quirk is her third son. He is a firefighter in the Maui Fire Department. He and his wife, Megan have two children, Passion and Aiyana. Megan works at the front desk of the Orchid Fairmont Resorts in Waikoloa, Hawai'i. Ian Quirk is the youngest of Elizabeth's children. He is a Mortgage Officer in Honolulu. His fiancée, Aleina Chun is the co-

owner/chef-XO Restaurant in Kaimuki, Hawai'i.

From her heart, Elizabeth gladly and willingly shares her personal reflection: "Love blesses me each day in more ways than I can ever express. Joy and gratitude fill my heart every waking moment, and often in my dreams. Sadness and grieving are balanced with the beauty, grace and surprises of friendships old and new, and hope comes in encounters with smiling faces, quiet laughter, engaging conversations and warm hugs when least expected. Thus, I can begin each morning in wonder and curiosity and ask the question 'What can I do to help somebody today?' in the spirit of giving back in service for all the blessings in my life."



**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.





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