



**Alarming Youth Issue**  
What to do about rising youth e-cigs and vape use?!

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**Childhood: Analog or Digital**  
Is social media robbing "Gen-Z" of having a fulfilling childhood?

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**'Nando**  
Sakada Offspring Anita Fernandez' life examined has some very significant roots and stories.

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# Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

February 2020 • Vol 4 No2 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

**inside**



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## Hawai'i Legislature Acts to Stop A Growing Epidemic

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam



A sample of vape shops on Maui.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

**T**hey're everywhere. On Market Street in Wailuku. At the corner of Alua and Ho'okahi in the Wailuku industrial area. Even in a kiosk at Queen Ka'ahu-manu Center in Kahului. These "vape shops" sell electronic smoking devices (ESDs), which include e-cigarettes and

vaping devices. ESDs work by heating a liquid to produce a vapor cloud that users inhale into their lungs. The liquids used in ESDs can contain a high amount of nicotine—some brands' liquid cartridges contain as much nicotine as 40 cigarettes. They also contain thousands of other chem-

icals such as propylene glycol, flavorings and volatile organic compounds. Alarmingly, Hawai'i has the highest reported vaping rate among middle schoolers and the second highest vaping rate among high schoolers in the nation: 15.7% of middle schoolers and 25.5% of high

schoolers reported they have vaped. Manufacturers have created such alluring flavors as mango, lychee, and *ube* which specifically target and hook young Filipinos. The Hawai'i State Legislature led by Maui's state senators have decided to go fur-  
**see VAPE p.3**

## Childhood Memories ... Before the Internet

Vanessa Joy Domingo

**S**ome things happen in our lives that stay in our memory for a long time—in fact, they can end up being with us forever! Are there memories you cherish from when you were a child? As a teenager? Are the memories you hold on to the ones that have influenced your life the most? Do they pass through your mind like the wind breezing through or do they linger, making the seconds feel like hours?

I have memories from when

I was in the fourth grade. Our family took a summer trip to the Philippines. Although we frequently (almost every two years) traveled to the Philippines, it was the first time I understood the dollar could buy you a lot in this country. The excitement bubbled through me as we wandered in SM City Manila. Racks of shoes and clothing. I couldn't wait to go shopping. It was busy with people bustling through but I was wide-eyed at

**see MEMORIES p.2**



Happy moments from a trip to the Philippines: Eating at Jollibee with Mom (Juvy), Two-year old sister Allison-Jane, Dad (Danilo), Eight-year old sister Brenda-Lynn, and the rebellious Vanessa at nine-years old.  
PHOTO: VANESSA JOY DOMINGO

**FREE**



# Memories ...

from p. 1

the bright displays of every shop. I made a mental note of how much bigger this mall was compared to Queen Ka'ahumanu. My parents ushered my sister and I through the crowd. "We're going downstairs," they explained. We stepped on the escalator. I sit down on the step as the escalator lowers us. My sister joins me and we laugh. I ignore the warnings my parents give us. "Get up now, already, Vanessa." I pretend not to hear them. At the very last moment as I see the tile floor loom ahead of us, I get ready to stand and am suddenly met with the sinking realization I am unable to move. "Mom!" I scream—trying to grab onto the escalator railing to pull myself up. My shorts had gotten caught at the edge of the step. I was panicked, my nine-year old mind wondering if I was going to get smashed into the folding steps that slipped under the floor. The long line of mallgoers behind us wondered what was going on. The steps were struggling to move. My eyes brimmed with tears. Then suddenly, my dad hooks his hands underneath my armpits, pulling me up and pushing me forward at the same time. I am free. And still alive.



Joan Banaag at five years old with Mom and younger sister Christy at the at Hyatt Regency Maui in 1987.  
PHOTO COURTESY JOAN BANAAG

And still getting scoldings. I was probably the happiest that a person could be with a gaping hole in her shorts. A moment that seemed to last forever, was finally over. My parents bought me an oversized shirt to cover the hole. Pink, with a green hem. This Pokémon shirt ended up being one of my favorite ones to wear that year. Apologetic for what had happened, I make another mental note that day. Listen to what my parents say the first time around. Thinking about that memory makes me laugh. At times I do feel rebellious. My parents always told me to heed their warnings because they've had their share of lessons learned. But sometimes, it always takes a lesson learned the hard way for it to stick to you. As with every life moment, there is something to learn. "I remember my mom, Editha Banaag, being a single mother for almost 10 years before my dad, Mario Banaag, arrived from the Philippines in 1991," recalls **Joan Banaag**. "She raised two girls while working as a housekeeper at the Hyatt Regency Maui. Every year, my mom took us to the Christmas par-



Judith Hook when she was a high school senior with Grandpa Damian in 2000.  
PHOTO COURTESY JUDITH HOOK

ty at the Hyatt and ensured that we had the best time during the holiday season. I enjoyed playing with all the other kids and making new friends, some of whom I still talk to as an adult. Even though my mom was busy working a full-time job, she made sure that she spent quality time with us and that we were able to enjoy our childhood. It was through my mom's perseverance that I learned to be an independent hardworking woman. She has dedicated 36 years working for the Hyatt Regency in Kā'anapali." "There are many memories that I hold dear to my heart. I always looked forward to family occasions, summers, and the holidays when my grandpa Damian Cuello, Sr. would come to visit us from the island of Molokai. My grandpa was a very friendly man who knew how to have fun and make everyone laugh," said **Judith Hook**. "In fact, he had the most infectious laugh that would make you laugh along if you heard it. He was an exceptional cook who concocted delicious Filipino food for our parties. My favorite was his pork and peas recipe. I remember at parties he would try to dance *hula* while he balanced his drink on the top of his head. Grandpa loved to share stories at dinner and make us laugh. The story that he always shared was about his migration to Maui. In 1946, he braved the seas and rode on a ship to a new life on the island. Looking back, learning about my *Sakada* roots through my grandpa make me appreciate how he left his life in the Philippines to eventually bring my mom and dad to Maui. I'm glad a few of my friends had the opportunity to meet him. He was the coolest grandpa anyone could ever have.

**Trisha Pascua** points to a photo with her Dad at Disneyland. "Here's a picture from 1985 which makes me three years old with my father Daniel. We're at Disneyland and it was the first time I've ever been there. It was in fact my first trip to the mainland. It was me and my parents. I was young so I don't

recall much—but I do remember being excited to ride a big plane to get there and enjoying some of the rides we rode. I was afraid to get close to some of the costumed characters, but I was curious from afar. Experiencing everything was overwhelming and wonderful at the same time. And as I look at this photo, I see a little girl having the time of her life at Disneyland while showing the world a *shaka*. It also brings me back to how close I was with my father growing up. My mom worked night shifts so my dad and I would watch movies together, go night fishing, and take me shopping. I was my dad's *opihi*!" Other memories can bring us back to places where we feel most at home or happiest.



Three-year old Trisha Pascua with her Dad Daniel, circa 1985.  
PHOTO COURTESY TRISHA PASCUA

doors and having fun with friends and family were the best. I hope my son gets to experience growing up and having fun playing outside with his cousins just as I have." "In 1978, my family and I lived in Washington state for a year. I was 8 years old and we had just come from the Philippines," reminisces **Edward Garcia**. "When the snow fell, I was so excited to experience it for the first time. I never thought that I would be able to ever play in it. It was a dream come true. That day, my brothers and sisters and I played for hours. I never wanted to go back inside the house. I was amazed and didn't want the day to end. Living in Yakima, was so different from what I knew." While Garcia is reminded of his short time in Washington state, **Richard Bali Antone** remembers growing up in the plantation camp. "Living in Skill Village, I was always out and about playing outside with my cousins," said Antone. "We would always climb this Portuguese bread oven. Riding our bikes out there on the dirt road was an adventure. Surprisingly, I found out that the same oven that we used to climb on, was moved to the see MEMORIES p.4



Top: Grandmother Leonarda Renan and Grandfather Donato Herrera. Bottom: Beverly Domingo Nomura (3yrs), Jenilee Domingo Arrocena (5yrs), Mark Domingo (6yrs).  
PHOTO COURTESY BEVERLY DOMINGO NOMURA



Eight-year old Ed playing in the snow.  
PHOTO COURTESY EDWARD GARCIA



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E-cig liquid “juice” sold at a kiosk at the Queen Ka’ahumanu Center in Kahului  
 PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Sen. Roz Baker (5th from left) speaks at the protest at Hawaii’s State Capitol.  
 PHOTO COURTESY FLAVORSHOOKKIDSHI

# Vape ...

from p. 1

ther than the Trump administration’s announcement to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarette cartridges. The Legislature is considering the banning of menthol and tobacco flavors or flavored liquid nicotine sold in open tan systems at vape shops.

## Maui’s State Senators Lead the Ban

Senate Majority Leader J. Kalani English (D-Hāna, East and Upcountry Maui, Molokai, Lānaʻi and Kahoʻolawe) applauded the federal ban, saying, “I’m glad that the Federal

government has moved forward on a ban, but more needs to be done. By continuing our prioritization of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal #3 – Good Health and Wellbeing, the Senate is committed to ensuring that Hawai’i remains a leader on public health issues by helping prevent the next generation from getting hooked on e-cigarettes and other vaping devices.”

English and his colleagues have introduced several bills aimed at targeting ESD use. They have also introduced legislation to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco which has enticed so many Maui youth.

Senator Roz Baker (D-West Maui)

has seen first-hand how prolific ESD use has become throughout communities in Hawai’i, noting the middle schools and high schools which serve her district have become ground zero in the epidemic. As Chair of the influential Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee, Baker is hearing many of the bills which seek to deal with ESDs, vaping, and flavored tobacco.

Baker is a leader on tobacco use issues, having introduced a bill last session to ban flavored tobacco sales and to tax ESDs like traditional tobacco products. “Although I was disappointed we couldn’t get a flavored tobacco ban through last session, we must try again,” said Baker. “Too many kids

are getting hooked because of the predatory behavior of big tobacco companies. The health of our keiki depends on us taking action.”

Along with his two Maui colleagues, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran (D-Central Maui) has also co-sponsored SB2227 which is one of the more comprehensive bills attempting to regulate ESDs this legislative session. In addition to bringing ESDs within the traditional definition of “tobacco products” under state law, this bill would also allocate a portion of the tobacco tax to fund health education, prevention, and nicotine cessation programs for youth.

“Regulating e-cigs is important and see VAPE p.14



For farmers and their crops, water is a valuable and limited resource. In 2014, we set a goal: increase our irrigation efficiency in Hawai’i by 25% by 2020. Using precision ag tools and practices, we’ve been working to prevent water loss and conserve more water. We’re proud to say we’ve surpassed our goal and are continuing to improve how we farm every day.

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Maui Memorial Medical Center is the only acute care hospital on the Valley Isle. Our over 1300 staff and network of community providers are committed to providing high-quality, patient-centered, affordable care and exceptional service to all of Maui’s residents and visitors.

For more information, please visit [mauihealth.org](http://mauihealth.org).

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**Maui Memorial Medical Center**  
 MAUI HEALTH





From the  
**Editor's Desk**

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR & PRESIDENT • FIL-AM VOICE

## What Is Love?

For many of us, February is focused on LOVE. Throughout our life, the meaning of LOVE deepens with myriad connections, from childhood with Valentine lollipops, to teen years with a series of Valentine cards of loving words and for the very lucky, a long relationship built on mutual care with a best friend.

Perhaps it is time we consider LOVE in action, for more than the fuzzy feelings inside, it is a powerful force that springs us to act, to

sic self-care ensures healthy eating, exercise, passion for what matters most to us and ensures we have the physical strength, inner stamina and spiritual bonds that make us whole, caring beings. Care for oneself is required, in order to care for others, at the highest level of LOVE in action.

In the Christian faith, LOVE is best defined in *1 Corinthians 13:4-8* as a work of startling simplicity, that strikes the very heart of our being. LOVE is pa-

# LOVE IN ACTION

*Love is a verb*

do. Most recently, thousands who were inspired by Kobe Bryant demonstrated acts of LOVE. Folks from all walks of life gathered together to share their LOVE as they grieved, crying, holding each other, even strangers, with tears from every eye. These folks showed LOVE—caring in action. LOVE is more than what we feel; it is what we do. LOVE is a verb, and action, more than the name of our feelings.

True love is unconditional, given freely, with no expectation of anything in return. Interestingly, many discover in self-reflection that in order to truly love someone, something or even an idea, one must first take care of self, for without love of self, it is not possible to put LOVE into action. Ba-

tient. LOVE is kind. LOVE does not envy. LOVE does not boast. LOVE is not proud. LOVE does not behave rudely. LOVE is not self-seeking. LOVE thinks no evil. On this foundation, we can measure our love, using benchmarks of true love.

LOVE is permanent; it always overcomes and it always wins out in the end. LOVE will always persevere. So, let's remember that LOVE is a verb. In February and throughout the year, put LOVE into action, and master it well. ✨

*Vince Bagoyo*

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

## Memories ...

from p. 2

Sugar Cane Museum in Pu'unēnē a few years later. It's still there today."

Sometimes, our memories bring us back to the people that we feel most connected to—our friends. No matter how far apart we can be, memories can keep friendships going strong.

"One childhood memory?! Hmm? So many to choose from ...," said **Jenilee Domingo Arrocena** as she pondered her answer to my question. "Blue Angel! That was the nickname that I gave my first brand new car. A 2000 Honda Accord sedan, 4 cylinder, with manual transmission. Aside from the color of the vehicle, the car

got its name from the shadow casted from the passenger headlight. One night, I was passing the *wiliwili* trees on Mokulele Highway (Veteran's Highway as it's now called) I noticed that the headlight would illuminate an angel image on the trees. I didn't think it was from my car—yet it followed alongside me. I thought of it as my guardian angel watching over me. Therefore, the name Blue Angel was what it came out to

be. My car was designated the cruise car for our group of friends. Everyone wanted to go cruising in it. Blue Angel has gone to many places all over Maui. If you were to ask my friends, the BEST and FUN place that I always took them was to the Mākena 'roller coaster.' It was those up and down hills on the way to and from Big Beach. I remember taking them and one of us would yell 'Faster!' as we gained more speed to hit these double dips. I would see my friends in the rearview mirror putting up their hands and some of them closing their eyes and waiting in anticipation for the drops. All you could hear was screaming and 'Oh my God! We flew off the ground a little!' or 'My stomach! My stomach!' as they ached in pain and laughter. You bet we went back and forth on that road a few more times till we were over it or until there were too many cars passing by. Back then we didn't have many things to do. Smart phones weren't in the picture back in the late 90s to beginning 2000s. We just had our Nokia, Motorola Razor flip phone

or even pagers. We were into the car scene. Fixing up cars and even taking it to the drag races. Yes, my brother (Mark Domingo) insisted that I enter drag races with my Blue Angel. I'm not your average girly girl. I was my brother's assistant growing up. I did what boys did because it was much



Cousin Wayne Permito, Richard Antone (7 years old), Cousin Jaime Ribao, circa 1983.

PHOTO COURTESY RICHARD ANTONE

more fun than playing with Barbie and Ken dolls. Ha ha! Anyway, not much work was done to the Blue Angel except slapping on rims, adjustable coil-overs, cold air intake, body kit, cat back exhaust, sounds and a few cosmetic modifications. I entered the drag race on August 21, 2004. This was the first and only time that I would participate.

To my surprise, I placed. I was awarded first runner up. That's pretty good for a first timer, I think. Man, the adrenaline rush I felt in driving fast for a quarter mile. So exhilarating. Blue Angel went through

a lot but we had a good five-year run. In 2005 I got my brand-new BMW 330i and named it Dark Knight. That was a fun car to drive too. My husband drives it now. With my two boys. I needed to get a family car. A 2015 Toyota Highlander which I call Black Beauty. All I have now are just memories of Blue Angel, my best friends and

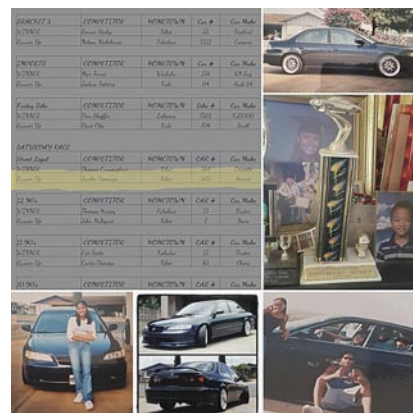
all the fun we all had. I can always count on my best friends no matter what. If I needed help, at least one of them is always there to come to the rescue in person or by text. We would be mass texting each other anytime on any given day, which is basically, every day. For Elisa and Jackie who

live on the west and east coast respectively, they can wake up to 200-plus texts from us Maui girls. That's the kind of friendship we have. An everlasting one. 'Til death do us part without the vows.

That's my friends."

**Vanessa Bulosan** remembers her best summer ever. "Summer of 1999 ... one of the most memorable summers ever! A summer full of late nights, early morning, fun filled weekends and friendship! Growing up I honestly didn't have much close friends but the summer of '99 was dif-

see MEMORIES p.6



Jenilee with her Blue Angel Accord, the results, her trophy and her friends.

PHOTO COURTESY JENILEE DOMINGO ARROCENA



Photo collage of Vanessa Bulosan and friends.

PHOTO COURTESY VANESSA BULOSAN



**Fil-Am Voice**

### LOCATION

24 Central Avenue  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i  
USA 96793

### CONTACT

Tel: (808) 242-8100  
Email:  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

### INTERNET

Web:  
www.filamvoicemaui.com  
Facebook:  
facebook.com/FilAmVoiceMaui

### Editor • Publisher

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

### Asst. Editor • Co-Publisher

Alfredo G. Evangelista  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

### Art Director • Co-Publisher

Lawrence Pascua  
graphics@filamvoicemaui.com

### Acct Executive • Co-Publisher

Sharon Zalsos Banaag  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

### Co-Publisher

Tante Urban  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

### Co-Publisher

Elizabeth Ayson, Ph.D.  
info@filamvoicemaui.com

### Contributing Writers

Elizabeth Ayson, Ph.D.  
Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
Sharon Zalsos Banaag  
Dulce K. Butay  
Vanessa Joy Domingo  
Alfredo G. Evangelista  
Gilbert Keith-Agaran  
Lawrence Pascua  
Lucy Peros  
Liza Pierce  
John Tomoso  
Tante Urban

### Distribution Manager

Paul Manzano

### Web Master

Nick Ponte

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Sakada Offspring

Can you imagine how a mother and a father feel when they say good bye to their five sons to go to an unknown place not knowing if they will ever see each other again? Can you also imagine how these five strong young men felt when they said good bye to their parents to come to Hawai'i as 1946 *Sakadas*? These brothers were: Mariano, Paulino, Marcelino, Valentine and Sesinando Sagayaga. Perhaps "courage" is the key word for both parents and their sons. As Bethany Hamilton, a shark attack survivor puts it, "Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you." Today, only one of the five Sagayaga brothers is still alive—Sesinando



Anita Fernandez

Anita E. Sagayaga Fernandez

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY ANITA FERNANDEZ

Sagayaga, who is now 95 years old. This month's *Sakada Offspring* is Anita Sagayaga Fernandez, one of the daughters of Sesinando. She was born on July 15, 1956 in Pu'unēnē, Maui, Hawai'i at the Pu'unēnē Plantation Hospital located at Hansen Road. The Sagayaga's first home was at Young Hee Camp near the Hongwanji Church. When Anita was five years old, her family moved to the 6th increment in Kahului. She attended Lihikai School on Ka'ahumanu Ave. located across the Maui Beach Hotel and then moved to the new Lihikai School on Papa Ave. in the 3rd grade. She graduated from St. Anthony High School. After high school, she ventured to California attending University of San Francisco earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. Anita is married to Clayton Fernandez. He works at Tri Isle Inc. as warehouse foreman. Their daughter Christina Parilla is a former pre-school teacher at Maui Economic Opportunity Headstart and at the Christ The King Child Development Center. She now owns a day care center. Christina is married to Dwight Parilla Jr. They have a daughter Amanda. Their son

Chad is an electrical engineer, working for the County of Maui, Department of Public Works. He is married to Mandy Santos. They have a son Luke. Anita's siblings are Charles, Nancy and Shirley. Charles is married to Rose Macadangdang. They have a son Chris and a daughter Kacie. Charles works for Maui Memorial Medical Center. Nancy is married to Michael Tanji. They have two stepchildren Mychal Tanji and Marisa Waits. Nancy works for the County of Maui Real Property Tax Division. Shirley is married to Jack Carlisle. They have three children Mitchell, Megan and Matthew. Shirley works in a dental office at Richard Roudebush Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. At Maui Memorial Hospital (1980–1990), Anita was a lab assistant. She performed phlebotomy duties and assisted technicians in preparing patients' samples for testing. In 1991–2011, she was Sanitary Chemist IV at the County of Maui Department of Environmental Management Wastewater Division Central Laboratory. She supervised the laboratory and performed different analytical testing on wastewater samples to comply with State and Federal regulations. The County of Maui began a reclamation program in recycling the wastewater by treating the wastewater in different processes to produce clean water safe for irrigation. Anita was awarded the Manager of the Year for County of Maui, Department of Public Works for 1999–2000. Anita is very active in the community. At Christ the King Catholic Church, she is involved in the Hospital, Charity Walk, People in Care Facility, Food Pantry and Eucharistic Ministries. At Kaunoa Senior Center, she is a member of the Advisory Council Board and



Sesinando & Dominga Sagayaga



Back: Chad, Mandy, Anita, Clayton, Christina, Dwight. Front: Luke, Dad-Sesinando, Amanda, Buddy (Dog)

volunteers in the office performing clerical duties. Baking is one of Anita's favorite hobbies and interests. She enjoys doing different crafts activities as well as watching softball and dancing hula. Most of all, she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and family. Clayton and Anita are involved in Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement. They attended their first encounter weekend in 2008, on their 27th wedding anniversary. They wanted to share their personal reflection regarding the weekend. "It is a special feeling, knowing God has blessed us to be together. We learned that our spouse is very special and not to take each other for granted. It is a celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. It is written in the Bible to love God and He says to love one another. Marriage is a holy relationship with each other

see FERNANDEZ next page

**Notice of Biennial Precinct and District Elections**

**MARCH 4, 2020 6:30–8 PM**

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i invites you to attend the 2020 Biennial Precinct/District Officers Elections and Election of Delegates/Alternates to the 2020 Hawai'i State Convention May 23/24 Sheraton Waikiki Hotel

**Biennial Elections Locations:**

**DISTRICT 8: Precincts 1–7** · LIHIKAI SCHOOL Cafeteria 335 S. Papa Avenue, Kahului

**DISTRICT 9: Precincts 1–4** · LIHIKAI SCHOOL Cafeteria 335 S. Papa Avenue, Kahului

**DISTRICT 10: Precincts 1–5** · PRINCESS NAHI'ENA'ENA Cafeteria, 816 Niheu Street, Lahaina

**DISTRICT 11: Precincts 1–4** · LOKELANI INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL Cafeteria, 1401 Liloa Drive, Kihei

**DISTRICT 12: Precincts 1–5** · KALAMA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL Cafeteria, 120 Makani Road, Makawao

**DISTRICT 13: Precincts 1–2** · HA'IKU SCHOOL Cafeteria, 105 Pauwela Road, Ha'iku

**Precinct 3** · HĀNA HIGH & ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Cafeteria, 4111 Hāna Highway, Hāna

**Precinct 4** · LĀNA'I SENIOR CENTER, 309 Seventh Avenue, Lāna'i City, Lāna'i

**Precincts 5–9** · KAUNAKAKAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Cafeteria, 30 Ailoa Street, Kaunakakai, Molokai

**NEW IN 2020!**

**Democratic Party Presidential Preference Poll (Primary) will be held by mail-in ballot. There will be walk-in voting option as well on APRIL 4, 2020**

**Locations on hawaiiidemocrats.org**

If you are a **registered member and voter** by February 18, 2020, you may:

- **VOTE BY MAIL** in the Presidential Primary
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**Maui County Locations:**

Lāna'i: ILWU Hall, 840 Ilima Avenue, Lāna'i City

Central Maui: ILWU Hall, 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku

West Maui: ILWU Hall, 840 Waine'e Street, Lahaina

East Maui: Hāna High & Elementary School Cafeteria, 4111 Hāna Highway, Hāna

Molokai: Kaunakakai Elementary School Cafeteria, 30 Ailoa Street, Kaunakakai

**For more information: hawaiiidemocrats.org**

This ad paid for by the Democratic Party of Hawai'i-Maui County Committee

P.O. Box 1182, Kula, HI 96790 · Stephanie Ohigashi, Chairperson



# Memories ...

from p. 4

ferent. I was introduced to a few new people from my brother and cousins. Who knew I would have grown so close to them! We really were YOUNG, WILD AND FREE! My friends Jen, Mj, Bernadette, Michelle and Ari were the girls I hung with and grew with that summer. We would spend nights going to eat out and cruise. Blasting music in Jen’s ‘Blue Angel’ or just drive around in Berna’s ‘Rootapootpoot’ cars! We would go ghost hunting at old Maui High School and stay out past 1 a.m. when all the ghosts came out! We would go hotel hopping to take a million and one pictures and just walk around acting like tourists. We would go to Wailea for ‘the roller coaster.’ These nights were endless! We would be out till 2 or 3 in the morning doing whatever came to mind. Of course, that summer was all about graduation parties so that was a big PLUS since they were all in high school and I was still in intermediate school. At graduation parties we got to eat and then dance. Afterwards, there would either be after parties or just like any other night we could cruise around wherever our heart desired. One thing I discovered that summer was a thing called ROOM PARTIES! Parents would rent a hotel room and we would all hang out or go swimming, nights were always so short but of course we had our daytime fun. Driving up to Rice park and sliding down the hill and cruising around the head of the island! Growing up with

these girls made me grow up a lot faster since we are five to six years apart. After a very fun filled summer, going back to school was so hard since they were the ones I was with the entire summer and they were in a different school. Summer of ‘99 was honestly the best summer! I only hope and pray that my kids would have the same memorable experiences that I had and will have friends like I do. Technology is a blessing and a curse but back in the day it was so much easier to have fun without cell phones interrupting everything!”

Do you remember what life was like before technology consumed our time? When you close your eyes and think of memories with your friends, can you vividly remember everything? The laughter, the noise, the music, the smell of good food. For all the moments that you don’t want to miss—birthdays, weddings, pranks, every celebration. Were you there or were you too busy being consumed by social media and technology? The sudden passing of legendary basketball player Kobe Bryant shocked the world. We were all blindsided by the lesson that you never know what can happen to you. To say I love you to loved ones, to cherish every moment and to be present and live life to the fullest. If you had to look back from today, would you be satisfied with the memories that you’ve created? Would you be satisfied with all that you have achieved in your life? Or would there still be more that you wish you could do and pursue with passion? Think about it. ✨

see MEMORIES p.14

## Sakada Offspring Cont'd from p. 5



Front: Dad-Sesinando Sagayaga. Back: Anita Fernandez, Shirley Carlisle, Charles Sagayaga, Nancy Tanji

# Fernandez ...

from p. 5

and with God. We pray that more couples may experience a Marriage Encounter weekend to enhance their marriage to be better. The weekend provides tools in communication and sharing one’s feelings which helps to enhance relationship and love for each other.”

Anita and her siblings are very caring of their 95-year old Dad, Sesinando Sagayaga, a 1946 *Sakada*.

I previously had the privilege to talk and listen to Sesinando’s interesting and informative *Sakada* story. Sesinando was born in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte on July 12, 1925. He left the Philippines on April 9, 1946 aboard the *S.S. Maunawili*, at Port Salomague in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. According to him, they climbed a ladder made out of rope to get on the *S.S. Maunawili*. Like many of the other *Sakadas*, he came to Hawai’i to find a better life for himself and his family.

Upon arrival at the Kahului Har-

bor on April 27, 1946, Sesinando and the other *Sakadas* were transported to Spanish B Camp in Pu’unēnē, a camp located by the old Holy Family Catholic Church. Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Co. (HC&S) provided all of their basic needs. Sesinando lived with several *Sakadas* in one house. Life at Spanish B Camp according to Sesinando was a very memorable one. It was a very closed knit community where they shared many things with one another like a big family. They shared such things as vegetables that they gathered from the field or from their backyard garden. They slaughtered pigs or cows and shared. Slaughtering in their backyard was allowable and legal in those days. How fresh the meats must have been!

After six months at Spanish B Camp, Sesinando moved to Young Hee Camp near the Hongwanji Church. He lived there until 1960 when the camps were being phased out.

While at HC&S, Sesinando first cut grass, joined the poison gang

see FERNANDEZ p.10

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Front: Dad-Sesinando Sagayaga. Middle Row: Dwight Parilla, Christina Parilla, Amanda Parilla (in front of Christina), Mandy Fernandez, Anita Fernandez, Shirley Carlisle, Megan Carlisle, Nancy Tanji, Kacie Sagayaga, Rose Sagayaga. Back Row: Chad Fernandez, Clayton Fernandez, Mitchell Carlisle, Jack Carlisle, Matthew Carlisle, Michael Tanji, Chris Sagayaga, Charles Sagayaga.





ILWU local 142 retirees and current members visited the Capitol on the opening day of the 2020 legislative session.  
PHOTOS: DANIELLE EVANGELISTA



For the first time in many years, both the House and Senate majority legislators are proposing a small package of four companion bills jointly drafted and proposed by their respective leadership. The “cost of living” package was spurred in part by a report from Aloha United Way on Hawai‘i’s ALICE households. ALICE stands for “asset limited, income constrained and employed,” describing our islands’ hardworking residents who have a job—sometimes several jobs—but still fall short of comfortably making ends meet. The report confirmed almost half of Hawai‘i’s households struggle to pay for six basic needs: housing, childcare, food, transportation, taxes and health care. Our ALICE population lives paycheck to paycheck without the ability for savings or to meet unexpected expenses like catastrophic illnesses. Based on the report, a family of four needs to earn roughly \$77,000 annually simply to survive.

The proposals will have critics. For example, in recent years, there has been a call to raise the minimum wage from the current \$10.10 per hour to \$15 or more. Legislation to do so failed at the end of the 2019 legislative session.

The joint package makes a minimum wage hike one component of attacking the ALICE challenge. Rather than attacking the issue only through wages, HB 2541 and SB3102 are written to provide more money to the pockets of working families from several sources. The companion measures include tax breaks for working-class people to create a fairer taxation system for those who are paying a higher percentage of their income to taxes. The proposals would make the earned income tax credit permanent and also refundable. Under this change, qualified families can get a cash refund of up to \$380 through this tax credit. The bills also increase and amend the refundable food/excise tax credit by

## DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

### Business of the Legislature Begins

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

basing the amount of the credit on a taxpayer’s Hawai‘i earned income, rather than federal adjusted gross income. These same bills also propose to raise Hawai‘i’s minimum wage to \$13/hour with more gradual changes so that Hawai‘i many small businesses have time to adjust.

The ALICE report also identified childcare as a major cost for households, especially one-parent families. SB3101 and HB2543 would expand access to pre-school and early learning programs by partnering with the private sector and taking advantage of existing public facilities for more sites. The measures adopt a public-private model to increase the capacity at existing private childcare facilities supported with public funds and develop new facilities for early learning programs for 3- and 4-year-old children where they are needed. Further, state-owned sites in rural areas and on all the university campuses will provide space to expand the number of early learning centers.

Another change proposed in the joint package would free the Department of Education (DOE) from school construction and repair responsibilities. SB3103 and HB2544 assign school-related construction projects with people who know how to build, maintain and repair facilities which will free the DOE to focus on its education mission rather than its build-ings.

Finally, to address the need for

housing, joint package measures SB3104 and HB2542 propose changes to state laws affecting development to accelerate housing development. A recent report from SMS for state housing agencies indicates the pace of home construction will not meet expected demand over the next decade. Many in Hawai‘i cannot afford to buy a home, especially when they compete with out of state investors with deep pockets. To address this issue, the state will identify publicly owned properties that can be used to develop 99-year leasehold units. Half of those homes will be reserved for working-class families earning 140 percent of the area median income (AMI). To spur housing development on O‘ahu in the Kapolei area, the state will dedicate approximately \$200 million in General Obligation (GO) bonds for needed infrastructure. The state will also invest \$75 million in GO bonds on the neighbor islands to defray affordable housing infrastructure costs and offer a General Excise Tax exemption for housing projects that meet the goal of 140% AMI or below.

While the package of bills was developed by legislative leaders and key committee chairs and described by the Governor in his January State of the State address, all the bills will still need to go through the same hearing process and floor votes as other measures. They can be amended based on the testimony that will be presented during the session. They can be rejected if testimony raises persuasive arguments against them.

But the package makes up only

four of thousands of bills being considered over the next several months.

I’ve introduced several bills this session—some suggested by community leaders and others by friends or family—to tackle both local and statewide concerns.

With some concerns being raised about an expected downturn in private sector construction and existing challenges in getting timely reviews by the State of pending projects, the Counties are asking for authority to hire their own qualified archaeologists. SB2680 and HB2663 would allow counties to take on some responsibilities of the state historic preservation division in processing projects, addressing the current backlog in those reviews. To help fund affordable housing, SB2694 and HB2387 would change tax credit allocations as an incentive for the private sector.

Closer to home, SB 2699 and HB1928 would shift State lands at Pulehenui into a community development district, allowing access to federal funds and aid that could help in moving projects for Hawaiian Home Lands, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and the Department of Public Safety in that area forward.

The Hawai‘i Tourism Authority recently reported over ten million tourists visited Hawai‘i last year, with a large chunk landing on Maui. Approximately three million visited our county. SB2696 and HB2719 would study the feasibility of assessing tourism green fees.

Along with funding in the Senate-House package to assist with infrastructure construction, SB2687 and HB1931 would amend the rental motor vehicle surcharge to increase avail-

see LEGISLATURE next page

***“I’ve introduced several bills this session—some suggested by community leaders and others by friends or family—to tackle both local and statewide concerns.”***



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Maui's State Senators (English, Baker and Keith-Agaran) during Governor Ige's State of the State address  
PHOTO COURTESY HAWAII STATE SENATE

## Legislature ...

from p. 7

able funding of roadway capacities in Maui County. With fuel taxes generating less revenue, the Department of Transportation needs alternative revenues to upgrade our roadways. At the request of the County, SB2686, SB2685, HB2648, and HB2649 would allow Maui County to adopt a GET surcharge for infrastructure projects just as Kaua'i and the Big Island counties have already done. In addition, SB2684 and HB2658 would allow the Maui County to regulate hosting platforms for vacation rentals. SB2674 and HB2388 would allow counties to adopt a County surcharge on the hotel

room tax.

With our changing agricultural landscape and the looming conclusion to the water disputes in the aftermath of sugar ending on Maui, SB2692 and HB2555 would authorize a partnership between DLNR-Forestry and Wildlife and the County of Maui to acquire the Nā Wai 'Ehā watershed and the ditch system and bring the area under public management and ownership. With the number of wildfires experienced on Maui over the last two years, SB2828 and HB2646 would look at maintaining plantation-era infrastructure, such as reservoirs, as assets to combat brushfires. With the closure of active agribusiness throughout the island, helicopters no longer have access to water sources in reser-

## Minimum Household Survival Budget

Hawai'i Average – 2016		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$859	\$1,272
Child Care	\$-	\$1,208
Food	\$305	\$1,011
Transportation	\$290	\$573
Health Care	\$196	\$728
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$214	\$584
Taxes	\$439	\$970
Monthly Total	\$2,358	\$6,421
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$28,296	\$77,052
Hourly Wage	\$14.15	\$38.53

*\*Since 1970, the FPL guidelines have been 15 percent higher in Alaska and 25 percent higher in Hawai'i as a simplified way to recognize the higher cost of living in these states than on the U.S. mainland.*

*Note: In each category, percent change in average of the changes for a single-adult and a four-person family, to give a broad sense of changes over time across Hawai'i's households.*

GRAPHIC COURTESY ALOHA UNITED WAY

voirs that might be closer to fires than the ocean. The bills would have the DLNR and Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency explore whether certain reservoirs should be maintained for public safety purposes.

A couple of bills address some gaps in our environmental laws. SB2663 and HB2382 would set standards for when updates of environmental disclosure documents are required for projects that have not been constructed by a certain period. SB2667 and HB2668 would put some teeth in existing laws requiring public shoreline access by ensuring that the accesses will be maintained. To follow up the recommendations of a task force on climate change, SB2671, SB2670, HB2384 and HB2383 would modernize real estate disclosures to recognize the future impact of climate change on certain shoreline properties.

Anyone who knows a college student on scholarship or financial aid knows NCAA rules severely limit what schools can provide them and how athletes can earn any extra money while enrolled and eligible for their sport. The Legislature will consider SB2673 and HB2665 which would establish the right of college student athletes to receive compensation for the use of their name, image or likeness. Other students, who are not on an athletic scholarship have no such bar-

riers from entrepreneurial activities while enrolled in school. The NCAA is re-looking at its policy barring any additional benefits to athletes, spurred by several states including California already passing laws to allow students to benefit from the notoriety and revenues they contribute to their school as athletes.

Over the next four months, the Legislature will debate these bills but there are many others that I have not included in this short column.

Maui has only nine legislators—three State Senators and six State Representatives. Making sure Maui's concerns are considered requires the Maui delegation to work well together while making sure our colleagues from O'ahu and the other Neighbor Islands understand how issues affect our com-

munities. We do have a blend of experienced and influential lawmakers and members who either chair or serve on some of the more important committees.

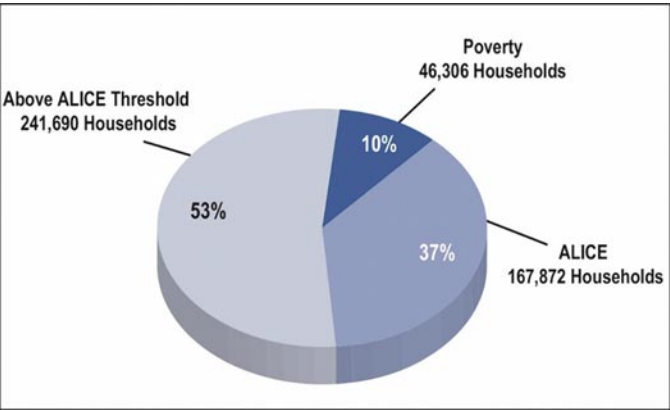
Each year, the fifty-one state representatives and the twenty-five state senators propose at the beginning of the session approximately 1,500 to 2,000 bills. Few people, including legislators, read through every bill introduced. Each session, only between 200 and 300 bills will make it through the four-month process—sixty floor debate days—to the Governor's desk.

see LEGISLATE p.16

***"We do have a blend of experienced and influential lawmakers and members who either chair or serve on some of the more important committees."***

## How Many Households Are Struggling?

Households by Income, Hawai'i, 2016



In 2016, 214,178 households (47%) lived below the ALICE Threshold  
10% lived in poverty and 37% were ALICE

GRAPHIC COURTESY ALOHA UNITED WAY





Whoa, January came and went. And now is the time for roses, balloons, teddy bears and chocolates from that special someone. The most important non-holiday, the Superbowl. I’m kidding! I’m talking about Valentine’s Day. This year’s February is a leap year. That means there’s an extra day for

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

us. An extra day to do chores, to catch up with sleep or to live life to the fullest. Whatever you do on that extra day, I hope you spend it wisely and

safely. Tell us what are going to do with that extra day. Share it at [www.facebook.com/filamvoicemaui](https://www.facebook.com/filamvoicemaui), we would all love to hear it. We might even include it in ours. Back to the life of Angel ...

ANGEL RESPONDS “My Lola (grandmother) used to tell me a banyan tree is like a family. Its core is the ancestors from generations past setting the solid foundation so that its offspring can grow, explore, find its own place to set its roots and set its own foundation for their offspring. This banyan tree is incredible.”

“Miss, I would like you to *umay ka* (come) with me,” a man told Angel.

A deep, deep cold chill ran down Angel’s spine. Flashes of thunder and lightning of horrific memories surge in her mind. Quickly she clinches onto Michael and runs behind him, peeking from through his armpit. With four rapid tugs on his shirt, she squeals and begins to tear. Desperately wanting to scream, she holds it in.

A dark-skinned man wearing a baseball cap stands in front of them. He stands probably five feet eleven inches. The angle that he so happens to be standing is in front of the nearest light, so all you can see is a silhouette of him. The outline of his body looks like David Bautista, the Filipino wrestling star, surely an intimidating monster. The man seems to get agitated by Angel’s reaction and starts to raise his voice and his *pidgin* (Hawai’i’s English slang language) comes out. “Eh! Lady, try *halika* (come)! Fast kine,” as he signals for her to follow him. Now completely overcome with emotion, Angel begins to cry and her breath turns into a hard quiver. She belts out a whine and jumps up and down directly behind Michael pulling and tugging on his shirt. Her woman rage-strength kicks in and she nearly sends Michael tumbling to the ground in a near Ronda Rousey judo move. Michael struggles to find his balance. “*Hindi! hindi! hindi!* (No! No! No!)” she yells. Even angrier the man starts to yell back. “Ey *f\*\*\*\*a*, I said try *mekeni* (come) real quick!” In an instant Angel pulls Michael so hard that he is sent tumbling to the ground. Shocked with how strong she is, sitting on the ground holding his knee, “What the heck?” Michael says. Now that Michael is on the ground Angel is standing directly in front of this animal of a man. She crosses her *braso* (arms) and before she is about to un-

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Car	Sasakyan	Lugan	Sakyanan	Auto	Kotse	Saken
Hand	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamut	Lima	Gamat
Run	Takbo	Taray	Dagan	Dagalan	Karela	Pulavi
Arms	Braso	Takyag	Lima	Gamat	Kamot	Braso
Knees	Tuhod	Tumeng	Tuhod	Tuhud	Atuk	Intud
Grandma	Lola	Apu baket	Lola	Lola	Lola	Apu
No	Hindi	Haan	Awan	Indi	Dili	Indi
Come	Halika	Umay ka	Duul dinhi	Magaabot	Umekataw	Mekeni
I love you.	Mahal kita.	Ay-ayaten ka.	Gihigugma ko ikaw.	Palangga ta ka.	Iddidu kattaka.	Kaluguran daka.

leash her supersonic scream, the man says “Ey! Is that your *sasakyan* (car)?” as he points to the *lugan* (car), a Honda Civic parked halfway on the street and halfway on the sidewalk. “Coz if it is, can you move it because my mom is in a wheelchair, you’re *f\*\*\*\*ing* blocking the walkway! You donno how fo’ park?”

In a moment of embarrassment, she looks at him, looks at the car, looks at Michael in disbelief. Her words are lost in a sea of emotions and all she can do is crouch down in the back of her knight in shining armor, who is still sitting on the ground by the way, caressing his ego. She just stares at the man with her mouth open but no words come out. As Michael dusts himself off and gingerly rises to one knee, looks at his frozen friend, turns to the man and says, “No, that’s not our car.” The man throws his hands in the air and turns around while shouting profanity towards the car. He quickly approaches another couple who instantly jumps back from his aggression. His words now muffled in the background.

Angel still crouching down, still frozen with eyes and mouth wide open, tilts her head to look up to Michael. She stands and musters an awkward grin and grinds her teeth, while raising one eyebrow saying “oops” without actually saying it, she shrugs her shoulders, then swings her arms. Taking a moment to check himself that all limbs are still there, Michael spots a scrape on his elbow. Angel puts tissue on it. “Sow-wee” Angel says with her bottom lip pouting

out. “Sheez, I didn’t know I was hanging out with She-Ra,” he says. Angel replies “Who is She-Ra?”

MICHAEL: She is a superhero that had a lot of strength.

Angel shrugs.

MICHAEL: She was around the time of He-Man.

Angel shrugs again.

MICHAEL: She’s like Wonder Woman.

ANGEL: Like Darna? (A Filipina heroine.)

Michael shrugs.

ANGEL: I’m not strong.

MICHAEL: What are you talking about? You threw me on the ground.

“Hmmmmmm, you’re just acting!” Angel giggles.

“No! You’re like freakishly strong,” as he re-enacts an over exaggerated UFC body slam.

Angel laughs and slaps him on the arm as she begins to walk away. Michael grins and rubs his arm. “Ouch.”

“I used to work in a nursing home once upon a time,” Angel revealed. “Some of the patients were bed ridden and needed lots of help to move around. I used to carry them from the wheelchair to their bed or vice versa. They were heavier than me. It was my job to help them do their daily tasks.”

They walk towards the Lahaina harbor. As they reach, they notice a group of young men hanging out near the restroom. One of them whistled to Angel as she walked past. They made

a bunch of comments and hollering dog sounds. She glanced toward them and glanced back. Michael paid no attention. They sat there and talked looking out into the water with boats floating. The group of young men came and surrounded them with their bikes. Michael noticing their presence, looked at the one young man. He was about 20, tattoos on his face holding a cigarette in one hand. He seemed like the leader of the crowd since he was doing all the talking. “Yo, how you doing baby girl?” Angel just sat closer to Michael. The young man said “Hey, is that your man?” She looked at him, then at Michael. They asked Michael, “Hey, is she your girl?” Michael dodges eye contact and looks to Angel.

What to do, what to do? What is happening here?

Have you ever been to the Lahaina harbor? Maybe it was to go on a boat? Was it to go to Lāna’i? Did you go fishing or snorkeling? Or was it for a 4th of July fireworks show? Find out and keep an eye out for my column every issue. I’m Dulce, helping you to master your Filipino Languages. Like always, let’s laugh, let’s *makinig* (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 degree 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 is now part of the Travel Club of Saladmaster and won an all-expenses paid trip to Cancun, Mexico with the love of her life, Paul Manzano. Butay has traveled to Texas, the Philippines and Thailand as one of the delegates from Island Healthy Solutions, a Saladmaster dealer here on Maui.





# Ating Kabuhayan

## Christianity and Addiction

The Rev. John A.H. Tomosot

Christianity has struggled with the topic of addiction, a part of our human condition because it has historically characterized addiction as simply a *sinful choice*. This has very often created barriers between Christians attempting to provide a theological contribution to the field of addiction treatment and with treating professionals. Therefore, we must continue to try to understand its impact on our society, in our community, both theologically and therapeutically.

According to the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction (NCADA) some 15,000 deaths annually can be attributed to alcohol abuse as well as an additional 15,000 deaths to illegal drug use, making alcohol and drug addiction one of the leading causes of preventable mortality in our country. The *Gallup Poll* has long suggested addiction is a common issue involved in most of the following social problems: murder and lawlessness, highway deaths, suicides, accidental deaths, injustices, hospitalizations, poor school performance and dropout, job absenteeism, child and spouse abuse, low self-esteem and depression.

In the late 1800s in our country, a religious experience was often viewed as the antidote for addiction. At religious revivals which were becoming very popular by the mid-1800s, many of those addicted were proclaiming that God took away their addiction. These same revivals provided an entrance for addicts into other social groups such as lodges, churches, tent meetings, missions, informal helping resources including, by the early 1900s, the emergence of self-help and higher power groups like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). I believe AA and other self-help/empowerment groups are by far the treatment of choice for many in an addiction. By the start of World War I, the emergence of an increasingly urban society significantly contributed to the increase in the numbers of Christian approaches to addiction recovery. In many cities, Honolulu included, areas where vagrants and destitute alcoholics made their homes were labeled Skid Rows. These areas were becoming major problems for government and civic leaders. Addiction, specifically chronic addiction was the primary problem. I think you will agree

with me addiction has been a serious public health problem for quite some time.

Professionals working in the field of addiction treatment and delivering treatment from a Christian perspective have struggled with how best to assist addicts. It is important to consider that many people dealing with addiction are also struggling in many other areas of life. As a Social Worker, I was trained to understand the need to advocate for and practice with an eclectic treatment approach that involves the contributions of many disciplines. This eclectic approach includes models of interventions strategies and approaches, modalities of intervention, organized conceptualizations of client problems or of practice settings, sets of practice principles, practice wisdom and even philosophies of practice. From the perspective of a Priest, I know the general



field of addiction treatment can include an understanding of the interaction of faith (Christianity) with addiction theory and treatment, placing emphasis on the contributions of pastoral care, spiritual counseling and prayer.

From this the idea of a *Theology of Addiction* can be derived. After all, theology in its limited sense refers to statements about God. A question arises; "Why would God allow addiction?" In its broader sense, however, theology also involves an understanding of humanity (ourselves) and its (our) relationship to God. This includes formulating a description and understanding of the human condition. Thus, a *Theology of Addiction* in this sense would involve a definition of addiction and how it fits into our understanding of what it means to be human in relationship with God. This column started out with the premise that addiction is rather simplistically thought of as a *sinful choice*. Historically, the excessive use of alcohol and other substances was a behavioral issue and categorized by many Christians as a sin. In the church, the natu-

see ADDICTION p.14

## Sakada Offspring

Cont'd from p. 6



Front: Macaria, Florence, Mariano. Back: Paulino, Marcelino, Canuto Yanos (Brother-in-Law), Valentin, Sesinando.

## Fernandez ...

from p. 6

(poisoned the weeds) and later the harvesting gang (collect and pile up the sugar cane stalks to be picked up by the harvesting machine). Then he joined the replant gang (replacing the dead sugar canes) (*agsugot*). He then joined the irrigation gang (*agpadanum*), directing the water flow to the fields. His main area to work was where the Assembly of God Church and Home Depot are today. That area used to be all sugarcane fields. He mentioned the late Julian Cabalo as his buddy in the irrigation gang. They were paid 43 cents per hour. If they worked more than 25 working days a month, they would receive 7 more cents as a bonus. He worked in the irrigation department until his retirement in 1987.

At the camp, a store boy would go around and take orders from the *Sakadas*. Their groceries would be charged from their paychecks.

With a big smile on his face, as if he is happy remembering the past, Sesinando enjoyed talking about their social activities at the camp. He said there were lots of dancing, social boxes in which the men could bid. They would pay for each dance. The money that's produced from these social dances are given to the queen contestants (*candidatas*) of their choice. Some of the men got carried away in dancing too much that at the end of the month, they had nothing or very little left on their paychecks.

Sesinando remembered that on October 1951, he decided to go back to Bacarra to marry a beautiful young lady by the name of Dominga Dolores Yanos whom he knew since childhood. He said this was the first time he set foot in Manila because as a child, he didn't have the opportunity to go there. With a twinkle in his eyes and with pride in his voice, he mentioned that Dominga was beautiful, loyal, and faithful that even though several young men in Bacarra wanted to court and marry

her, she waited for her Sesinando.

Upon arrival in Bacarra, "Nando" as he was fondly called, visited Dominga right away. Dominga and Sesinando corresponded with each other when he was in Hawai'i. They respected their tradition of *danon* where the parents of both children got together and did the marriage proposal and the wedding arrangements. The wedding ceremony was held in Bacarra and a grand reception was held at Nando's house.

Sesinando came back to Hawai'i on March 1952. Dominga followed him soon after. Their eldest child Anita was born under the care of the late HC&S doctor, Edward B. Underwood. As mentioned previously, Sesinando and Dominga were blessed with four very caring and loving children.

Sesinando was asked what his advice was to older folks like him and the younger ones. He said "To the old folks like me, I would say enjoy your grandchildren. When I was younger, I would tell them to go home to the Philippines and get married. To the young ones, I would say to them to get a good education for it is easier to find a better job. Education is the best inheritance that parents can give to their children." ✨

**Lucy Peros** is a retired school teacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Both of her parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 *Sakada*) and Alejandra Cabudoy Cabalo of Hali'imaile worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Lucy now enjoys retirement and has time to join other

seniors in the Enhance Fitness Program under the Department of Aging three times a week. She also attends the line dancing class and other activities at Kaunoa and joins other Waihe'e School retirees when help is needed at the school. Lucy also devotes some of her time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church. She enjoys writing and reading in her spare time.



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# Kwento Kwentuhan

## “It’s Our Turn!”

Jollibee, well known food service corporation from the Philippines, finally makes it’s debut on Maui.

Liza of “A Maui Blog”

“It’s Our Turn!”—This was the phrase that we heard repeatedly during Jollibee’s Grand Opening on January 24th. Our Art Director, Lawrence and I was there, among the crowds, cheering on and happy exclaiming “It’s Our Turn!” Oh, what a fun day it was!

It is a little difficult for me to write this article not because I don’t know what to say but because I have so much to share! There are so many angels I can share from. I had to pause and tell myself to simply share my story. After all, this is what this column is about ... “talk story” or as we say in the Philippines, it is *kwentu-kwentuhan*.

I first heard about Jollibee coming to Maui through my friend Kit Furukawa’s Instagram. That was back in 2017. She said she was looking at Maui Marketplace for a lease and she saw on the plat map a Smiling Bee 😊. That smiling bee looked very familiar and it was indeed the Jollibee Bee! Since then, I had been waiting! I grew up eating Jollibee in the Philippines. Their original store in Cubao, Quezon City was close to where I lived. I knew there were several Jollibee stores on O’ahu but I rarely fly to O’ahu so I missed Jollibee so much when I moved here to Maui!

Back to the Grand Opening, it was a huge success! Approximately 300 fans claimed their places in line at the new Kahului store even before the doors officially opened. (The store continued welcoming customers until late into the evening, ultimately serving around 5,000 customers on its first day of business.)

First-customer-in-line Frank Barbosa claimed his place before 5 p.m. on January 23—16 hours before the official opening. The 52-year-old father-of-two who resides in the Kihei region of Maui said he was first introduced to Jollibee through his kids, whose love for the brand was what initially encouraged him to give it a try. During his first-time eating Jollibee last April at the Ala Moana store—one of four Jollibee locations on the island of O’ahu—he quickly understood what the hype was all about.

Speaking of “hype,” one of my non-Filipino friends commented on our Facebook page that she felt Jollibee Maui’s Grand Opening Celebration was too much hype for a fast food chain. Needless to say, she didn’t think it was worth it. Gently and calmly, I replied to her comment with this:

“The thing is, it’s more than just the food. As many probably have noticed, it’s mostly Filipinos who are in line. Maybe about 98-percent. Yes we like Chickenjoy and Jolly Spaghetti, but that’s not really the driving force of this hype. It’s more about ‘Ethnic Pride’ (aka Pinoy Pride), ‘celebration of the humble beginning being success-

Jollibee poses with Yara Parilla, daughter of one of their local hires, Ruthzel Sarraga.  
PHOTO COURTESY RUTHZEL SARRAGA



First in line-Frank Barbosa.  
PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA



Jollibee welcomed all those in line  
PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

ful ... being inspired to persevere’ Add to that the nostalgia and sentimental feelings ... all is what the hype is about. I know for a non-Filipino, it is hard to understand, and I don’t expect you to. Just sharing my point of view.”

My friend Kit Furukawa said “The craze is a bit hard to explain and a bit hard to understand, but for those who do, like you (comment was directed to me), here’s a virtual affirmation nod and warm hug.”

Beth Dela Cruz, president of the Philippine Brands Group with the Jollibee Foods Corp. in North America, said “We realize that for many who have not returned home to the Philippines for a while, Jollibee is a comforting presence that feels like home.” I agree with her. That’s how I feel about Jollibee when I first entered its store on Maui.

As I mentioned earlier, I have a lot to share about Jollibee but I’ll stop here for now. And now my question is “Have you been to Jollibee Maui yet?” If not, what are you waiting for?

Jollibee Maui marks the brand’s

41st location in the U.S. as the chain progresses in its mission to grow to 150 stores in the United States by 2023. Other areas of focus in 2020 include Florida, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Nevada, Texas and California.

Yes, Maui, It’s Our Turn! ✨



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 lived on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a mother, a friend and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About Rainbow; End Alzheimer’s Advocate. Her life is full and exciting here on the island of Maui.

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



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Daniza Nono



Brianna Valentin



Victoria Blando

In 2016, Hawai'i became the first state to raise the legal age of sale for tobacco from 18 to 21 years old. This effort was made to prevent youth from the dangers of tobacco usage and nicotine addiction. Because of the advancement of technology, however, teens are now more exposed to modernized methods of smoking; these devices include e-cigs, vapes, pens, mods, and much more. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 19.5-percent of U.S. high school youth reported currently using any tobacco products as of 2017. An estimate of 8.1 percent of Hawai'i's high school youth has reported smoking through the use of e-cigs and vapes.

Because the brains of adolescents and young adults are far from being fully developed, they are more susceptible to the effects of the addictive substance—nicotine. When we delay the age of which they first experiment with smoking, we'll be able to reduce the risk that they'll be addicted to smokers in the future. Although some view these efforts as beneficial to the youth, others don't share the same opinion towards the subject of smoking. They argue it's unfair a person the age of 18 can go to war but cannot buy a pack of cigarettes. Another argument made is e-cigs are safer than traditional cigarettes; not all of them have nicotine. High school students directly affected by this nicotine epidemic think otherwise.

**Daniza Nono** begs to differ when people associate unfairness with raising the legal age to purchase smoking devices. When a person is serving their country, they are doing it for good. They are trained to help people; they've prepared to perform good deeds and altogether be a well-rounded person. "When you're smoking, you're not contributing to any of that. What you're doing is smoking, nothing more, nothing less. Those who want

to burn can wait," she says. She believes raising the age limit, even if it's trying to moderate the number of smokers in the future, will not work. "I want to think that it's taking us to a brighter future but I know when people want what they want, they'll do anything in their possession to get it. I don't think raising the age of smoking will solve anything. Only because I know there are ways to get specific products without going to a market, such as getting cigarettes from a family member or close friend. Vaping has been such a 'norm' around here in Hawai'i that it's no surprise that I see a couple of teenagers here and there vaping, clearly underage. Although, I've never seen a teenager smoke cigarettes. My thoughts for it all? I think that it's horrible that they have this sort of addiction to vaping but I am overall glad that they're not smoking."

*"...Vaping has been such a 'norm' around here in Hawai'i that it's no surprise that I see a couple of teenagers here and there vaping, clearly underage. ... I think that it's horrible that they have this sort of addiction to vaping ..."*

— DANIZA NONO

Daniza however is scared for the outcome of vaping as it's such a new thing that claims to help recovering cigarette addicts only to attract younger audiences that haven't smoked in their life. The Hawai'i State government establishing the legal smoking age to be 21 years old is a good start, for now, says **Brianna Valentin**. She believes we are not doing enough to inform fellow teenagers about the dangers of smoking. "I see a lot of people making fun of vaping ads, trying to get rid of the severe aspect and message they're conveying. So, if you can't beat them, join them. This might sound a bit counter-intuitive, but I think we should join the joke. We can use what they believe to be so funny and 'add more.' Such as memes, for instance, where they can have both a good laugh and serious message all tied in a hilarious Instagram post." Brianna believes it is very inappropriate and rude for anyone at any age to be smoking and vaping in public places,

especially when many elders, young children, and terminally ill people can be around and will suffer from someone else's selfish choice of being out in the open instead of a designated area. She believes the age 21 may or may not put us in the right direction for a smoke-free generation; even though the age limit is present, some young adults will not take care to pay attention to it. At that age, most if not all, teens will be going through adoles-

ing, whether it is vaping or cigarettes. Some instances could be through girls in the bathroom or friends hanging out. My thoughts are usually minimal, thinking that the possible reason for smoking is peer pressure or in search of feeling and looking 'cool.' I don't think less of the individual. I feel that the action is unnecessary and foolish. Raising the legal smoking age will hopefully aid us in the direction of having a smoke-free environment."

Hawai'i's high school youth are now beginning to understand why specific measures such as raising the legal age to purchase smoking devices were made. Although others argue it is unfair, some high schoolers think otherwise. They've experienced and witnessed how this nicotine epidemic has affected their schools and peers. This recently enforced law only means to give time for youth to grow out of unhealthy habits. This is a significant first step in encouraging future generations to be smoke-free. ✨

# Google® Is Not Everything... *Be Smart, Don't Start*

Ghenesis Balaan | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL

cence and start to rebel against the social norms that are created by society. When it comes to smoking versus alcohol, **Victoria Blando** believes the actions of both can share similar harmful effects. The practice of excessive drinking and daily smoking both cause addiction and self-harm, as well as putting others in danger, whether it is foolish decisions or second-hand smoke. "Both substances have proven to be dangerous to the body, short term, and long term. There is truly not one better or healthier than the other," she said. Victoria believes both these activities negatively affect the user but also those around them, whether it is through behavior or physical harm. She firmly believes the State of Hawai'i's actions in raising the smoking age to twenty-one was a good move. Moving the legal smoking age three years up can increase the chances of youth rethinking smoking. Victoria states the activities and actions we thought were supremely cool at age 18, can be severely different at age 21. "As a Senior in High School, I have been exposed to several accounts of underage smok-

ing, whether it is vaping or cigarettes. Some instances could be through girls in the bathroom or friends hanging out. My thoughts are usually minimal, thinking that the possible reason for smoking is peer pressure or in search of feeling and looking 'cool.' I don't think less of the individual. I feel that the action is unnecessary and foolish. Raising the legal smoking age will hopefully aid us in the direction of having a smoke-free environment."

Hawai'i's high school youth are now beginning to understand why specific measures such as raising the legal age to purchase smoking devices were made. Although others argue it is unfair, some high schoolers think otherwise. They've experienced and witnessed how this nicotine epidemic has affected their schools and peers. This recently enforced law only means to give time for youth to grow out of unhealthy habits. This is a significant first step in encouraging future generations to be smoke-free. ✨

**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 **Ghenesis Jhay Balaan**, a Senior at Maui High School attending its Culinary and Health CTE Pathway. He is a three-year member of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and served as its Council Treasurer in 2017–2018. Ghenesis aspires

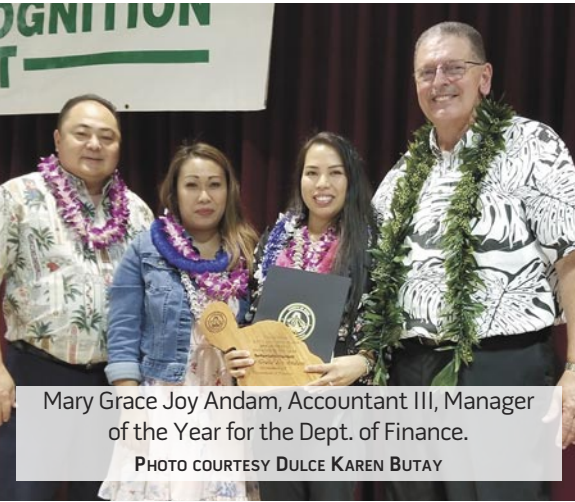


to become a respiratory therapist. He is the eldest son of Benjamin V. Ballesteros Jr. and Jerameelyn B. Ballesteros.



Around Our Community

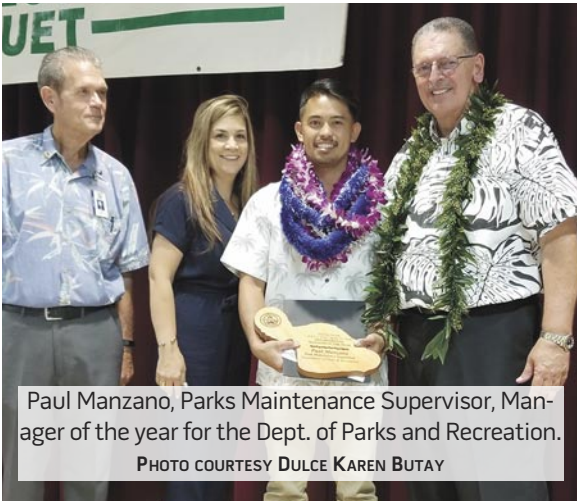
If you have a photograph of a community event, please email to [info@filamvoicemaui.com](mailto:info@filamvoicemaui.com). Please include a short description, your name and contact information.



Mary Grace Joy Andam, Accountant III, Manager of the Year for the Dept. of Finance.  
PHOTO COURTESY DULCE KAREN BUTAY



Santo Niño Celebration, January 2020.  
PHOTO: SHARON ZALSOS BANAAG



Paul Manzano, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Manager of the year for the Dept. of Parks and Recreation.  
PHOTO COURTESY DULCE KAREN BUTAY



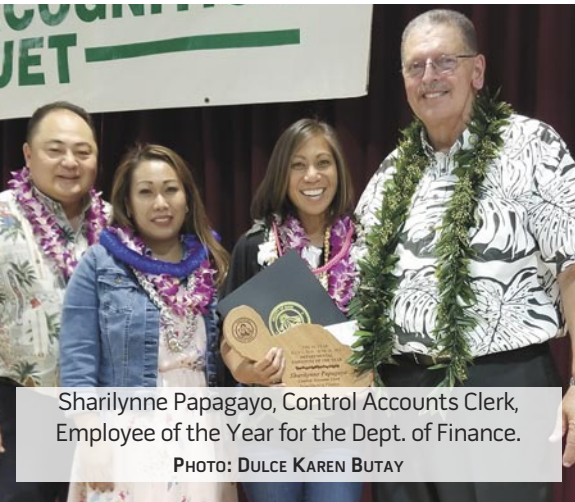
Knights of Columbus cooks BBQ Beef at Christ the King Church's Annual Bazaar.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Jan Pontanilla, Police Sergeant, Manager of the Year for the Maui Police Department.  
PHOTO: DULCE KAREN BUTAY



Knights of Columbus serves BBQ beef in chafing dishes at Christ the King's Annual Bazaar.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Sharilynne Papagayo, Control Accounts Clerk, Employee of the Year for the Dept. of Finance.  
PHOTO: DULCE KAREN BUTAY



Jason Salmo (in white) gets the crowd going at Jollibee's Grand Opening on Jan. 24.  
PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA



Scrips were sold by these beautiful ladies at Christ the King Church's Annual Bazaar.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



These ladies serving Pork Adobo at Christ the King Church's Annual Bazaar.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Ray Macapulay, County Building and Grounds Utility Worker, Employee of the Year for the Dept. of Public Works.  
PHOTO: DULCE KAREN BUTAY



Wow! Poke Bowls were just 10 scrips at Christ the King Church's Annual Bazaar.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Joseph McKellar (center) and his wife Megan Bagoyo McKellar at the Dr. Martin Luther King annual event.  
PHOTO: VINCE BAGYO, JR.



Cooks at Christ the King Church's Annual Bazaar.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Virgilio "Leo" & Virgie Agcolicol celebrate their 50th Anniversary at the Christ the King Church.  
PHOTO: REY PATAO



Addiction ...

from p. 10

ral response to addiction (all addictions) therefore, has been to preach against its abuse. Many passages of Holy Scriptures lend themselves to this approach with common ones often quoted being Proverbs 20:1; Isaiah 5:11; 1 Corinthians 5:11; and Ephesians 5:18. In contrast, most social work, mental health and medical professionals refer to addiction as a *disease*.

Although Holy Scripture certainly speaks of sin as brokenness, it also views sin in a much broader context of the human condition. Sin (any sinful choice) in this view is the brokenness that affects all of us and all of creation. According to this view, we are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners. We commit sins because we are often living as broken people. In the perfection of God, we were created to be one way but we find the reality of our existence and our choices to be different than what we were intended to be. Just as a car with its steering out of alignment can sometimes be driven straight but will frequently pull to the side, so we who are sometimes able to live correctly are always being pulled to the side and off course. St. Paul expresses this in the Letter to the Romans when he says: "For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want, is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me." (Rom 7:18–20, NRSV)

As a Priest, I believe as a condition that affects all of humanity, sin is the explanation for many of the problems—both personal and societal—we experience. It is not an easy explanation. Our sinful nature causes us to do things that are wrong but it can also account for physical illnesses and limitations like addiction. Sin is the disease; because of our broken condition as human beings, we sin. The evil we do and experience—even addiction—is a symptom of that disease. With this understanding of sin and addiction, from the perspective of faith, I think it is easy to reconcile the idea that addiction is perhaps a sinful choice, with

the perspective we are susceptible as human beings to the disease of addiction. I don't think this means individual actions or choices don't play a role in the development of addictions but these choices are a secondary cause in much the same way that failure to wash your hands can lead to the catching of an infectious disease.

The idea of our brokenness encompasses the disease model as well as addiction is understood as one of many diseases that we experience often in a broken world. So if addiction is the result of the brokenness in which all of humanity finds itself, then the church should resist seeing those in an addiction as suffering from a problem that the rest of us don't have. It is not a me vs. you or us vs. them problem. Not everyone is dealing with

addiction in their own life but we are all wrestling with the consequences of living in a sometimes addictive, broken and sinful world. Poverty, injustice, marital problems, diseases and a host of other issues should be viewed as manifestations of the brokenness of the human condition, sometimes

brought on by a sinful choice. Addiction is just one more result of this same condition. It is part of the struggle you and I must experience in this broken world as we journey to the perfection and sobriety of God. ✱

**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. In March 2019, Tomoso retired as the Executive Director of the non-profit Tri-Isle Resource Conservation



and Development Council, Inc., after a social work career that spanned 43 years of practice. His wife Susan recently retired as a 7th grade Language Arts Teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School.

have always revolved around food. Discovering how to cook opened another outlet for learning and enjoyment. She remembers baking with her mom, watching her aunties in the Philippines roast cashews over an open fire and eating sorbet cones in the hot sun in Vigan. She hopes to continue making food memories.



Memories ...

from p. 6

**Vanessa Joy Domingo** is a graduate of Maui High School and is currently attending University of Hawai'i Maui College. She is employed with Coldwell Banker - Wailea Village as a Realtor and is the 2018 Miss Maui Filipina. When she has free time, she loves to go fishing, go to the gym and practice aerial silks. Her fondest memories



Yard signs decorate Hawai'i State Capitol lawn in protest of e-cigs flavored liquids. PHOTO COURTESY FLAVORSHOOKKIDSHI

Vape ...

from p. 3

so is education," said Keith-Agaran. "Young people need to know the risks and dangers of vaping and we as a state need to do more to combat the vaping crisis."

On February 5, Senator Baker's Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health heard four bills relating to e-cigs: SB2227 (Relating to Electronic Smoking Products), SB2228 (Relating to Flavored Products for Electronic Devices), SB2231 (Relating to Electronic Smoking Products), and SB2904 (Relating to the Sale of Tobacco Products). All four bills passed out of committee with amendments.

As expected, supporting testimony for SB2227 came from the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the Hawai'i State Teachers Association, the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Primary Care Association, the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai'i Pacific Health, and Maui's Hui No Ke Ola Pono, among others.

Opposing testimony on SB2227 came from the Tax Foundation of Hawai'i, the owner of Volcano eCigs, and other individuals.

Youth Speak up

Several 7th and 8th grade students, many from Hāna, Maui submitted testimony which included the following statements:

- Vaping or smoking in any way makes your lungs look like a raizen and it could have some bad consequences like lung cancer and when it comes to vaps and the nicatin inside is really bad for kids. Flavors attract them more.
- I know that many kids other schools smoke tabaco because of the smell or the flavor like unicorn tears, cotton cand i don't know but i here that many kids like it to make them popular and just know that if people don't accept you for who you are then accept your self for who you want to be in the future that means no to smoke tabaco
- I think vaping companies are targeting kids mostly
- Tabacco can cause your lungs to collapse or can cause popcorn lungs

– vaping can lead to having vapor smoke in your lungs and can also cause yellow/rotten teeth along with tabacco

- Companies should not target children because its pretty much just ruing childrens lives. How dare you.
- I don't think tobacco products should be targeted to kids because they can die. Flavors attract kids more than adults. This is not ok.
- I think the tabaco company should not target us children because if us kids start vaping or smoking cigerettes there gonna get added to it and can't stop doing it also they will be doing it until they die. They will be dead because they were smoking sooo much of cierettes and vapes. Also, because they would be a bad examples for other children and other fucture generation that is coming into the would.
- I think that tobacco should not be targeting kids. Flavors attract kids. Tobacco companies flavor products so they can attract more people including children.
- I think tobacco should not be targeting children. Fun flavors attract kids like me. Elementary kids really like cotton candy flavor. Adults don't. Even menthol flavor is fun for teens. All of these flavors and advertising should not be available to kids, but they are. Please help us stop this problem.
- I think that its bad that the tobacco companys are targeting little kids by selling products that are pleasing to their liking. This is causing problems for these young kids like having health issue due to vaping. Several cases has shown us that it is taking their lives because of them using it. We need to take a stand and get it off the shelves for good. These products are dangerous for us students, so if it is banned for good, we will not have to worry about it any more. It will also not be so tempting when it is easily accessed to young kinds. Help save us from dying.

This sample of testimony from seventh and eighth graders is a cry for help.

**Maui's health professionals are also raising the alarm about ESD use in the community.**



BAHAY KUBO HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Work continues on the rehabilitation of the Bahay Kubo at Kepaniwai. To volunteer contact **Zaldy Ugalino** at 280-9086.

BINHI AT ANI

The 51st Annual Barrio Fiesta will be held on Friday May 22 (5 p.m. through 10 p.m.) and Saturday, May 23 (10 a.m. through 10 p.m.) at Binhi at Ani in Kahului. Contracts for food vendor booths (\$300), business vendor booths (\$200) and non-profit corporation booths (\$100) are being accepted on a first paid, first served basis. Space is limited so don't delay. After April 15, there will be a \$100 late fee applied. Sponsors for the various activities and contests are also being sought as well as volunteers. Contact **Nora Cabanilla-Takushi** at 276-8861.

During the Barrio Fiesta on May 23, the **Outstanding Housekeeper Awards** will be presented. Ho-

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

Editor's note: Send your community briefs to [info@filamvoice.com](mailto:info@filamvoice.com). This month's column was compiled by Assistant Editor **Alfredo G. Evangelista**.

tels are asked to nominate their outstanding housekeepers (male and female) by March 24. Contact **Lani Cabanilla** at 381-8595.

Also during the Barrio Fiesta on May 22, **Scholarship Awards** will be presented to graduating high school seniors and continuing college students who were previously awarded a scholarship. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2020. No extensions. Applications are available on-line or through your high school counselor. Contact **Essie Arruiza** at 276-5903.

The **Annual Fundraising Din-**

**ner** to raise funds for the Building Maintenance will be held on Saturday, August 22. Stay tuned for details but mark your calendars for an evening of awesome entertainment and food prepared by Maui's outstanding chefs. Hana hou!

MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce, led by President Sharon Zalsos Banaag, will hold its **February Business Mixer** on Wednesday, February 26 from 5:30 p.m. at the Leis Family Class Act at the University of Hawai'i

**sos Banaag** at 359-1616.

The **2020 Gintong Pamana Leadership and Scholarship Awards** will be held on June 17 at Maui Beach Hotel. Stay tuned for the nominations deadline.

MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

The **2020 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament** will be held on Saturday, March 28 at The Dunes at Maui Lani. Sponsorships (Platinum-6 players at \$1200; Gold-3 players at \$600; Team-3 players at \$450; Tee Sponsor at \$100) are be-

ing sought as well as donors and on-the-course volunteers. Contact Golf Tournament Chairperson **William Ruidas** at 837-8605 or Co-Chairperson **Alfredo Evangelista** at 242-8100.

Applications for the **Scholarship Programs** for graduating high school seniors on Maui and for college students enrolled at the University of Hawai'i Maui College are being accepted. Applications are available on line at [mauifilipinochamber.com](http://mauifilipinochamber.com) and are due no later than March 30, 2020. Contact Scholarship Committee Chairperson **Dominic Suguitan** at 872-6338.

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The **2020 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant** will be held on Friday June 19 at Maui Beach. The deadline to enter is March 31. The age requirements are between 18 and 27. Contact **Michelle Santos** at 264-0871.



The main sign at the protests the use of e-cigarettes and vaping products.

PHOTO COURTESY FLAVORSHOOKKIDSHI

Dr. Jeffrey Chester, an addiction specialist with Akamai Recovery Maui who cares for many local Filipino clients and families, warned of long-term dangers for adolescents saying "Priming an adolescent's brain with large doses of nicotine, I predict, will lead to other chemical dependencies, which likely will include alcohol, opioids, amphetamines/methamphetamines, cannabis, and cocaine." Chester also warned "It's not just water vapor. People aren't always aware of exactly what they are inhaling," noting other substances may be added without users' knowledge, including marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine or Fentanyl.

Carmen Cook, Program and Clinical Director with Akamai Recovery Maui, expressed concerns about the

effects of ESDs on family cohesion. "On one hand, adolescents will explore substances and rebel as they mature into adults. Trying to set appropriate limits will often backfire as adolescents resist their parents' limits or become more secretive of their use—so I think a lot of parents feel at a loss of what to do. It's causing a lot of conflict and pain for many families I treat," said Cook. That's why Cook believes so strongly legislative action is needed, describing the proposed prohibition on flavored tobacco sales as "a very important message to send, and we should not back down."

Dr. Colleen Inouye, who practices in Kahului,

agrees. "Hopefully, after the legislators saw what happened nationwide last year to many young vaping patients, they now realize the importance of legislation to prohibit the sale of flavored ESD products/tobacco statewide." Dr. Inouye encouraged community members to continue talking about the dangers of ESDs, saying "As a physician, I am only one person to tell my patient to stop using ESDs. The rest of my patient's community, like family and friends, need to do their part in helping my patients live to their fullest health potential."



Jeny Bissell

The Filipino Community Steps Up

To that end, members of Maui's Filipino community are encouraging all *kababayans* who are concerned about vaping and ESD use to continue to speak up, particularly the youth who are most affected.

Jeny Ramos Bissell, the Family Health Services Division Administrator for the State Department of Health in Maui, said "Successful legislation and enforcement of such laws have to start from grassroots and the community. Stories about children and youth hit the heart and soul of policymakers, providers and caregivers." Bissell adds others in the community should learn more, to arm themselves with accurate information about the vaping epidemic. "Education about environmental risks and protective factors is key to health, wellness, and behavioral change. Education through the children and youth is a gateway and a powerful path to their parents and caregivers."

It appears the message is working. A recent statewide survey by Ward Research, including respondents from Maui, found Filipinos in Hawai'i had stronger anti-tobacco attitudes than the general public. 93% of Hawai'i Filipinos surveyed thought vaping or ESD use was a major problem among school aged youth—6% higher than the statewide average—and 81% of Hawai'i Filipinos surveyed support the Legislature banning flavored tobacco, including menthol.

A Cry for Help

Will 2020 be the year the Legislature and the Governor listen to the words of the students? "Please help us stop this problem" and "Help save us from dying."



**Tyler Dos Santos-Tam** is a Honolulu-based business consultant and the descendant of Sakadas from Badoc, Ilocos Norte and Cebu.

Dos Santos-Tam serves as the Honorary Consul of Portugal in Hawai'i, Chair of the Honolulu Neighborhood Commission, and President of the Young Democrats of Hawai'i.

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



Legislature ...  
from p. 8

The governor will then decide whether to sign the bill into law, or allow it to become law without his signature, or disapprove or veto it.

In order to cull through all the bills proposed, House and Senate leaders assign bills by topic to committees and the committee chairs determine which bills to hear. You can expect that legislators on those committees will focus largely on the bills assigned to them but rely on colleagues working in other committee subject areas to advise on bills referred to those other committees. Legislators, like the general public, will concentrate their time and

AT-A-GLANCE: HAWAI‘I  
2015 Point-in-Time Data

GRAPHIC COURTESY ALOHA UNITED WAY

Population: 1,431,603 | Number of Counties: 4 | Number of Households: 445,900  
Median Household Income (state average): \$73,486 (national average: \$55,775)  
Household Survival Budget in Hawai‘i: \$28,128 for a single adult; \$72,336 for a family of four

Hawai‘i Counties, 2015		
COUNTY	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	% ALICE & POVERTY
Hawai‘i	64,201	55%
Honolulu	307,703	46%
Kaua‘i	21,862	43%
Maui	52,134	51%

attention on the measures they have an interest in or that people or others in their communities are following closely.

The local news media also can’t and doesn’t bother to report on every bill introduced. Instead, they will highlight what they think are impor-

tant or interesting in some way.

The Maui legislators will also be involved in reviewing the Ige Administration’s and the Judiciary’s supplemental budget requests as well as pursuing funding for projects and initiatives important for Maui Nui and our own neighborhoods and communities and our County. 🌺

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** grew up in Pā‘ia and Kahului while Pioneer Mill, Pu‘unēnē Mill and Pā‘ia Mill still operated. He represents Central Maui in the Hawai‘i State Senate.



Please use the legislative website to research what bills have been introduced and to track the topics that interest you. You should also feel free to contact the members of the Maui delegation if you have comments on issues or budget proposals.

**Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran**  
District 5 (Central Maui)  
Tel: (808) 586-7344  
Email: senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Vice Chair, Senate Ways & Means

**Sen. Rosalyn Baker**  
District 6 (South and West Maui)  
Tel: (808) 586-6070  
Email: senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Chair, Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

**Sen. J. Kalani English**  
District 7 (East Maui, Lāna‘i, Molokai)  
Tel: (808) 587-7225  
Email: senenglish@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Senate Majority Leader; Member, Senate Ways & Means

**Rep. Troy Hashimoto**  
District 8 (Wailuku)  
Tel: (808) 586-9444  
Email: rephashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Vice-Chair, House Transportation; Member, House Finance



**Rep. Justin Woodson**  
District 9 (Kahului)  
Tel: (808) 586-6210  
Email: repwoodson@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Chair, House Lower & Higher Education

**Rep. Angus McKelvey**  
District 10 (West Maui)  
Tel: (808) 586-6160  
Email: repmckelvey@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Chair, House Economic Development & Business

**Rep. Tina Wildberger**  
District 11 (South Maui)  
Tel.: (808) 586-8525  
Email: repwildberger@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Vice Chair, House Energy & Environmental Protection; Member, House Finance

**Rep. Kyle Yamashita**  
District 12 (Upcountry Maui)  
Tel.: (808) 586-6330  
Email: repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov  
CIP, House Finance

**Rep. Lynn DeCoite**  
District 13 (Ha‘ikū, East Maui, Molokai, Lāna‘i)  
Tel.: (808) 586-6790  
Email: repdecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Vice Chair, House Agriculture



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### Mahalo to the Fil-Am Voice Distribution Locations

**Kahului**

4-R Oriental FoodMart & Produce  
A&E Laundry  
Badua's Maui Crepes & Grill · QKC  
Christ the King Church  
Clinical Laboratory  
County of Maui - DMV  
Da Shrimp Hale  
Foodland-Kahului  
Hale Makua - Kahului  
Island Grocery Depot  
Kahului Laundromat  
Kelly's Mini Mart Fast Food  
Kelly's Superette, Inc.  
Krispy Kreme  
LBC Remit Express  
Maui Adult Day Care Center  
Maui Beach Hotel  
Maui Coffee Roasters  
Maui Federal Credit Union  
Maui Green Market  
Maui Wow-Wee Maui's Kava Bar & Grill  
North Shore Pizza  
Originz  
Paradise Supermart  
Pinoy Mini Mart  
Plantation Grindz  
Queen Ka'ahumanu Center  
Rexel Pacific Fish Market  
Rowena's Produce  
Safeway - Kahului  
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  
Tamura's  
Tante's Fishmarket  
Times Supermarket  
Tropical Marketplace

**Upcountry**

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

**Wailuku**

American Savings Bank  
Asian Mart & Fast Food  
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  
'Ohana Mini Mart  
Playmakers Sports Bar  
Promenade  
Sack N Save  
Safeway - Maui Lani  
Tasty Crust  
Tiffany's Bar & Grill  
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  
Times Supermarket - Honokōwai

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