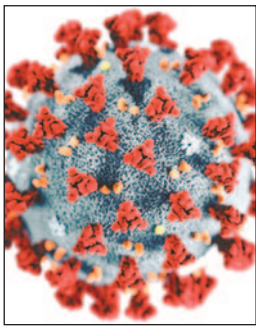


**We All Benefit Together**  
Stand up and be counted ... it's right for Maui County!

Page 1



**Help to Prevent and Mitigate**  
COVID-19 needs everyone's attention.

Page 1



**Democracy Under Fire**  
Editor Vince Bagoyo, Jr. speaks on what *We the People* need to be wary about to keep our nation's unity in check.

Page 4



# Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

March 2020 • Vol 4 No3 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

## inside



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## Stand Up And Be Counted

*National Census Day is April 1*

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

In 2010, the U.S. Census determined Filipinos constituted the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i (25.1% of Hawai'i's total population) behind Caucasians, increasing by 24.1% since the 2000 Census. In Maui County alone, there are over 44,900 Filipinos (29.0%) that contribute daily to Maui's economic success. For the Filipino community, the question is will the numbers continue to rise, considering approximately 3,500 immigrate to Hawai'i

each year from the Philippines. By participating in the 2020 Census, you can ensure a more accurate count.

For the 2020 U.S. Census, National Census Day is April 1, 2020—the reference date used to count. With a tag line of “Count Me In!” the 2020 Census is unique as folks will be offered the opportunity to respond online as well as by mail,

telephone, and in person.

**Don't worry**—your online responses will be encrypted to maximize confidentiality. And there will be no questions on citizenship, banking or finances.

“This year, we're counting on everyone in Maui County to stand up and be counted in the 2020 U.S. Census,” said Mayor Michael Victorino during his State of the County address.

see CENSUS 2020 p.3



Mayor M. Victorino



Sen. G. Keith-Agaran



Sen. R. Baker

## The Corona Virus

*A public health situation constantly changing.*

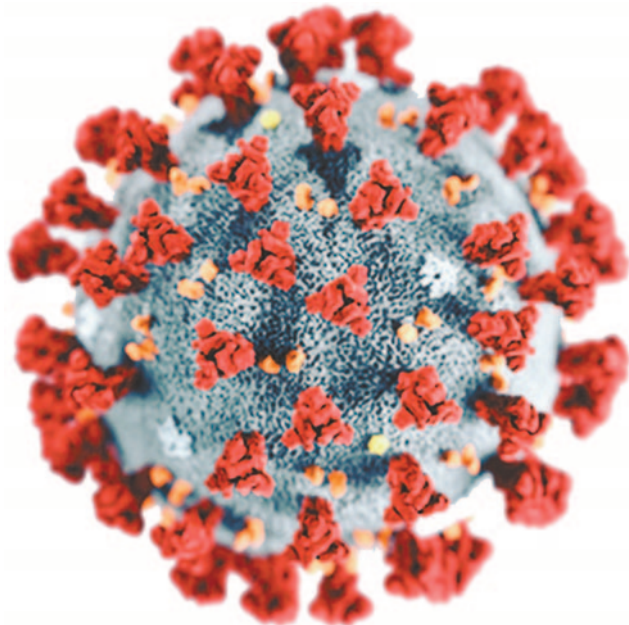
Vanessa Joy Domingo

Since its debut in December 2019 in Wuhan, China, the Coronavirus has taken the world by storm. To date, there are over 60 countries that have confirmed COVID-19 cases, with a growing number located in the United States. Hawai'i and Maui are already beginning to show the effects of the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) explains Coro-

navirus Disease 2019—COVID-19 as an “outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected internationally.” The disease is believed to be originated from a large seafood and animal market in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China—where many of the early pa-

see COVID-19 p.2



FREE



# NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

## What You Need to Know

Coronavirus is a type of virus that causes diseases of varying severities, ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory disease. A novel (new) coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that hasn't been identified before in humans.

### How is it spread?



Through coughing and sneezing



Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands



Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands



Because novel coronavirus is new, we are learning more each day about the transmission patterns and incubation periods



People who have traveled to or from **Wuhan City or Hubei Province, China** since **December 1, 2019**, could have been exposed to the virus. Seek medical care if you traveled to Wuhan or Hubei and develop a fever and cough or respiratory symptoms within 14 days of your return.

### What are the symptoms?



Fever



Cough



Difficulty Breathing



Severe Illness

### How can I protect myself when I travel?

#### Travelers going outside the US

- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

#### If you traveled to Wuhan or Hubei and feel sick

- Stay home and avoid contact with others
- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Don't travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash.

If you think you may have been infected with novel coronavirus, call the DOH Reporting Line at (808) 586-4586. This document was produced by the State of Hawaii Department of Health, adapted from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.



## COVID-19 ...

from p. 1

tients were located. This information suggests the disease was spread from an animal reservoir. As more cases appeared with people that did not have direct animal contact, however, it was suggested the disease was also spread person-to-person. Within months, the world watched as the news announced the numbers of cases increasing.

Governor David Ige is gathering available resources to monitor and respond to the potential threat of COVID-19 and has already declared an emergency. "Protecting the health and wellbeing of Hawai'i residents and visitors is a top priority for the state. We have launched a robust monitoring and response effort and I'm very pleased with the way various federal, state and county government agencies are working together to address this potential threat.

address this potential threat.

Mayor Michael Victorino in an earlier statement said: "The Office of the Mayor receives daily updates from the Governor's Office and DOH, which are actively preparing for the possible cases with help from the County of Maui and other state and federal partners including the medical community in Hawai'i. We urge everyone to remain vigilant and take precautions against the spread of illness, including the flu. These steps include washing hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water; covering your mouth with a sleeve or a mask when coughing or sneezing; and staying home when ill. We also are encouraging families to prepare a plan and consider what measures they can take to prevent the spread of illness within their home. Residents should prepare a kit similar to those used during hurricane seasons, including a 14-day supply of food, water and other necessities. Additionally, the DOH recommends a three-month supply of any needed medication and suggests keeping a copy of their prescriptions in case they run out of medication. The



Governor David Ige

PHOTO: DALLAS NAGATA WHITE - OWN WORK, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=37332640>

*"We have launched a robust monitoring and response effort and I'm very pleased with the way various federal, state and county government agencies are working together to address this potential threat."*

— GOVERNOR DAVID IGE

County of Maui and our partners are prepared to respond to COVID-19 to safeguard the health and safety of Maui County's residents and visitors." Like Ige, Victorino has also declared an emergency.

State Senator Gil Keith-Agaran (Senate District 5 - Wailuku, Waihe'e, Kahului) agrees with the Mayor. "Hawai'i needs to prepare like any other state. In a world where travel is more accessible than ever, any city with a major airport is as likely an entry point as Honolulu. Hawai'i can be bypassed by international travelers coming to the United States and we see only a fraction of the people flying in to visit our country. I am generally confident in the ongoing efforts by Health Director Bruce Anderson and

see COVID-19 p.4



Mayor Michael P. Victorino



Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran



DOH Director Bruce Anderson

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The County of Maui encourages each resident to participate in the U.S. Census 2020, April 1–May 31 online, by telephone, by mail-in or in-person responses. NO questions on citizenship, banking or finances will be required, and the County benefits in that each response adds +/- \$1,500 per person per year on Maui, Lānaʻi and Molokai for safety net programs, roads, public transport, Medicaid, and schools.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

## Census 2020 ...

from p. 1

dress. “This count will decide the distribution of billions of federal dollars. That’s why it is important to be counted.”

Federal funds on Maui help with a variety of educational programs such as Head Start, Section 8 housing, Community Development Block Grants, airport improvements, various road and bridge projects, and assistance for the Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Census data is also used to determine the number of seats each State has in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as setting the boundaries for congressional, state legislative and school districts.

“An accurate count is essential for local communities—especially rural

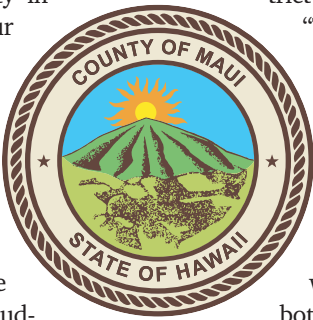
communities like much of Maui Nui,” explained State Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran (Senate District 5 - Wailuku, Waihe’e, Kahului). “The federal government uses the census to determine how much in federal funding will be available for Maui County in many areas, including our local schools, health clinics like Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center, and roadways. The census helps determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, block grants for community mental health services, the school lunch program, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.”

“It is also important to know that

the information from the census can only be used in aggregated form to help identify where vital community services are needed for example for kūpuna and keiki alike,” added State Senator Rosalyn Baker (Senate District 6 - South & West Maui).

“The census provides data about our country’s population size as well as a detailed picture of the changing characteristics of our communities. That information helps us determine where we need to spend both federal and state resources. Funds for many many programs are allocated based on census data. It is so important that everyone stand up and be counted in 2020.”

On Maui, the US Census Bureau’s  
see CENSUS p.15




## Ilokano

“Ti gunglo tay nga Filipino ditoy Maui ket masapul nga makiparticipar tapno mairaman tayo ti Census para ti tawen a 2020. Nasken ken nasisita nga maibilang tayo, agsipud ta apektaranna no mano ti pundo nga awaten ti lokal nga gobyerno nga aggapu iti federal nga gobyerno. Dagitoy nga pundo nga aggapu ti federal ken makatulong ti Maui para kadagiti pagadalan ken eskwelaan ti annaktayo, ti aeropuerto, ti Medicaid, ken dadduma pay a programa. Makatulong pay daytoy a mangpaneknek a ti gunglo tayo a Filipino ket bumilbileg ken kadaklan nga ethnic a grupo ditoy Hawaii. Saan kay nga madanagan ta saan yo nga ilanad ti kinataom, no ana ti citizenship mo, wenno aniaman a banag a makaseknan ti gatad ti kwartam, wenno ti numero ti social security.”




Dulce Karen Butay



## Empowering Our Youth

As a long-time supporter of STEM education in Hawaii, Bayer is proud to celebrate and encourage students and teachers in our local communities. Our Life Sciences Scholarship program is designed to help high school seniors with their college education. The Science Education Fund assists local schools with equipment and tools to enhance their science curriculum. We’re also proud to support robotics programs, science fairs, school field trips, and STEM-related community events that empower our youth – our islands’ future. Visit [hawaii.bayer.us](http://hawaii.bayer.us) to learn more.

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Science for a better life



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUPS

Monthly classes at Maui Memorial Medical Center provide education, encouragement, and valuable resources to help keep you and your ‘ohana healthy.

**Diabetes Support**  
Second Wednesday of every month | 5:00 to 6:00 PM  
Multi-Purpose Room

**Alzheimer’s Support**  
Third Tuesday of every month | 5:00 to 6:00 PM  
Nutrition Education Room

**Stroke Support**  
Third Wednesday of every month | 5:00 to 6:00 PM  
Multi-Purpose Room

**Total Joint Seminar**  
First Monday of every month | 5:00 to 6:30 PM  
Maui Memorial Medical Center Outpatient Clinic

**Bariatric Seminar**  
Last Tuesday of every month | 4:30 to 7:30 PM  
Nutrition Education Room

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



Maui Memorial Medical Center  
MAUI HEALTH





## From the Editor's Desk

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



There have been threats to our U.S. democracy of late—threats like misinformation, voter apathy and too much money in politics.

# The Greatest Threats to Democracy

Democracy in America is not perfect but offers the best framework for our government and continues to inspire people across the world. Today, we face a national crisis as the extremes of partisanship divides us and the interests of political parties is placed above the welfare of our citizens. We acknowledge using extreme partisanship as justification for surrendering democracy puts our nation and democracy in peril.

Perhaps most urgent is the sharp contrast between the two groups in their belief about climate change and immigration reform. On climate change, there is a strong and intense warning from the global community of scientists who give us only ten years to turn around the direction of conditions impacted by human habits now being felt by all, including floods, pollution, food shortages, loss of

arable land and protective forests and tons of debris in our oceans.

On immigration, the practice of migration has existed from the beginning as a basic human right. From the first nomads to the modern traveler, the inherent call to adventure and exploration is witnessed daily. Immigration, however, is not a call to adventure and instead, is most often a difficult decision reached against a sea of resistance, for many who seek a better life for their families or tragically, a need to flee situations of oppression or even worse, persecution from power mongers. In the context of America's history as a democracy, a ban on immigration can only be perceived around the world as un-American, an action that defies what is most precious to the free world, the freedom of choice that defines the highest ideal of democracy.

see DEMOCRACY p. 6



Twin 1 took a photo of this poster at her workplace.  
PHOTO COURTESY TWIN 1

## COVID-19 ...

from p. 2

his Department of Health (DOH) professional staff to both prepare and to work closely and collaboratively with the federal agencies and our local hospitals and doctors. If DOH requires additional resources, the legislature will be able to provide an emergency appropriation while we are in session. After May, the Governor can use his emergency authority to prioritize funding in the state budget as needed. DOH is providing almost daily updates on the status of COVID-19. It's important that people get their information from official sources and not on rumors. I hope everyone pays attention to the information shared by the Department of Health and understands that if COVID-19 spreads that it will take a community effort to get us through this. My office will continue to provide updates as we receive them. Please contact my office via email at [senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov) to get on the email list to receive the updates."

The Legislature is quickly moving to approve Ige's request for \$10 million in emergency funding for COVID-19 prevention and mitigation. The request provides the Department of Health \$6.6M, Department of Transportation \$2,788,750; and the Department of Defense \$1,180,000.

Maui and the rest of the State have already experienced a number of effects including a run on toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and wipes; cancellation of some events such as the Maui Matsuri Festival in May; and airlines offering liberal cancellation policies. More is expected each day.

Employees in the hospitality industry will be affected as reservations are canceled and visitors carrying the virus such as the tourist from Japan who visited both Maui and O'ahu as well as cruise ships stopping in Hawai'i with tourists unknowingly

carrying the virus.

Twin sisters who wish to remain anonymous and are identified here as Twin 1 and Twin 2, are on the forefront of the virus—one working for a luxury resort and the other working as a flight attendant. With public concerns running high, these sisters still find enthusiasm with their work.

"I feel that we can be prepared as much as we can be. I think with the precautions my employer is providing, we can be prepared," states Twin 1. She reflects on how the resort had recently welcomed a group of guests from China. With the spout of news on COVID-19, some of her co-workers were concerned. The hotel's management, however, did their best to keep their employees at ease by providing hand sanitizers at every entry point and email and print updates on safety practices to prevent

sickness. They have been able to keep Lysol and sanitizing wipes within arm's reach. As an employee at the "front-of-house" and frequently in the eyes of the public, Twin 1 and her co-workers have not been authorized to wear face masks. Some employees that work "back-of-house" have been observed wearing masks. Despite risks of daily exposure to guests, Twin 1 still enjoys being at work. "I love my job. I picture myself retiring here and I do not see myself doing anything else."

Flying high in the skies—Twin 2 expresses her concerns with global travelers that make their way in and out of Hawai'i. "You can never be too safe or prepared," she advises. "As a flight attendant, we are at the front line of any communicable disease outbreak. We are attentive to what's happening around the world starting with the most recent information and what to look out for." Unlike her sister's employer, the airlines have provided additional masks for passengers and allow the crew on duty to utilize mask and gloves throughout

see COVID-19 p.13



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The *Fil-Am Voice*, a newspaper focusing on issues concerning our Filipino American community here on Maui, is published every month. ©2020 Fil-Am Voice Inc. All rights reserved. The *Fil-Am Voice* is valued at \$1 per issue. One complimentary copy per person is available at islandwide distribution locations. Multiple copies may not be taken without the permission from the *Fil-Am Voice*. **Disclaimer:** The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Fil-Am Voice, Inc. Any assumptions made within these articles are not reflective of the position of Fil-Am Voice, Inc.



Sakada Offspring



Benjamin "Ben" M. Acob



Nenita, Micah, Ben, Joshua and Lucy.



Grandpa Esteban and Joshua Acob.

American author, salesman, and motivational speaker Hilary Hinton “Zig” Ziglar once said “Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for.” This quote best describes this month’s *Sakada* Offspring, Attorney Benjamin “Ben” Acob.

Benjamin M. Acob

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY BENJAMIN ACOB

Ben is married to Nenita E. Sajor Acob, a USDA Rural Development Specialist. They have two sons, Joshua Acob and Micah Acob. Joshua graduated from the University of Washington, with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Art in Accounting. He is a CPA Audit Manager with Trust Bank in North Carolina. Joshua is married to Lucy Rosado Acob. They have a two-month old baby Benaiah. Micah attended the University of Hawai’i at Maui College, Liberal Arts Degree and is currently attending the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. He works for FEDEX while attending school full time. Ben graciously shared his experiences when he came to Hawai’i as a young child. He mentioned that as a newcomer, he was a shy student because he didn’t know anyone. There was an incident when he was at a store, a classmate tried to talk to him and Ben said to him in English, “Sorry, I don’t speak English.” Ben was placed in the sixth grade because he thinks it was the policy of the school to bring a foreign student back a grade to give him time to understand and speak English. But once the school saw he

was advanced especially in Math, they made him skip 7th grade the following year and went to the 8th grade. Because of this transition, he became more confident and he was able to have more friends. This was the time when he found his best friend Elvis Pascua, who became his best man when he got married and a Godfather to his son Joshua. Elvis now lives in Las Vegas and they always get together whenever the Acobs go there.

During his freshman year in high school, a few students kept on telling Ben that he will be 98 the following year. He ignored them because he didn’t know what they meant. He came to find out they wanted him to participate in wrestling in the 98 pounds division. Ben did and that’s when he realized what he did at home working in the garden, carrying two five-gallon buckets in the morning and in the afternoon for almost a quarter mile to feed the pigs, helped him. This is also where he saw what a supportive adult can mean to a child. His coach Carl Zarembo, told Ben after he won his

see ACOB next page



Ben and Nenita Acob.

Ben was born in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, Philippines on November 1957. He came to Hawai’i at age 12 under a student visa. He attended East Central school (1–4), PTA Intermediate School (5–6), Laupāhoehoe High and Elemen-



Nenita and grandson Benaiah Acob.

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# From the Editor's Desk Cont'd from p. 4

## Democracy ...

from p. 4

Closer to home, the effects of division at the local level brings gridlock in State and County government resulting in the failure to address the critical issues working families must face daily. Among these are an increase in domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness, and the need for decent housing, to name the few at the top of the list. The more positive past practices of compromise and moderation are now replaced by politics of *my way or the highway*.

In our quest for solutions, we examine the most significant threats to our democracy. ONE is misleading information (often known as *fake news*) especially in this age of easy access to information at any time of the day or night. Somehow, social media has become the main source of information and news, even as we often witness how easily it is misused. TWO is voter apathy because many of our citizens do not understand that our freedom is linked to responsibility and the

failure to vote encourages our leaders to enact their own agendas. To reverse voter apathy, people must register to vote and educate themselves to become informed voters. Most of all, if every voter gets to know the candidates better, they will not need to rely on social media where information is often shared by individuals and groups in a partisan way. THREE is the negative effect of too much money in politics and the clear evidence of how government's purpose of being *for the people* has been subverted by money.

As we face today's many challenges—locally, nationally and globally—a united effort is required to address them, whether it be coronavirus, the census count that is underway, income inequality, or the housing crisis. Partisanship or extreme views and policies can only lead us to a *not too perfect union*. ✱

*Vince Bagoyo*

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



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## Sakada Offspring Cont'd from p. 5



Joshua, Lucy, Benaiah Acob

## Acob ...

from p. 5

first match, “You are a tiger.” Ben didn’t know what Mr. Zarembo meant at that time, until later in high school and Ben appreciated him so much. Ben was Hawai’i Island’s champion in his weight class for the next three years. Around the same time, Ben learned how to play basketball without formal instructions and just by playing with friends. Although he did not play for the school or the Menhune League, Ben participated in the adult league while in college and the little knowledge and experience playing would come to be a big part of his later years. “I believe my teachers responded well to me because I was a good student, behaved well, although rascally at times,” added Ben.

Ben had a wrestling scholarship offer to go to Arizona State University. Because he was on a student visa and had no guidance on what to do, Ben remained on Hawai’i Island and attended the University of Hawai’i at

Hilo. His student visa needed to be extended because it ended with his high school graduation. Ben has no regrets for not enrolling at ASU because it was at UHH that he met the love of his life Nenita Sajor, whom he married after his graduation. Ben believes that UHH is where he learned that not having means is not necessarily a disadvantage. Because he was on a student visa, he could not work. During his early years in college, he did not have a car and he relied on family friends and the bus. That meant staying on campus from 8 a.m. to sometimes the evening when he had evening classes. That meant studying in the library as much as he needed to and playing basketball in the gym with other students. Those are very memorable years he says. Later, he met Nenita on campus where their love started to grow. In 1981, Ben graduated with two majors, Psychology and Sociology with high honors.

Nenita and Ben married in 1981. Nenita is a Maui girl. So, Ben and Nenita moved to Maui. Ben worked

see ACOB p.8



Grandpa Esteban, Grandma Lorenza, and Joshua Acob.





Alfredo was baptized at Holy Family Catholic Church in Pu'unēnē on October 26, 1958.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

**A**lfredo G. Evangelista, one of the few Filipino community lawyers in private practice on Maui, turns sixty-two this May.

Apo Alfredo is only three years away from being eligible for Medicare but he's now eligible for some senior discounts at local stores.

To put it all in perspective, some facts.

In 1958, when Old Man Fred was born in Central Maui Memorial Hospital, Hawai'i was still a U.S. Territory. Hawai'i became the 50th State in 1959.

Dwight Eisenhower lived in the White House.

Locally, Maui still boasted several healthy Sugar Mills and Pineapple

Canneries. Pā'ia and Pu'unēnē still made up two of the larger communities on the island.

Approximately 16,000 workers participated in a 126-day sugar strike, the longest industry-wide strike.

Local folk knew Kanahā Park as NASKA (Naval Air Station Kahului).

You celebrated weddings and birthdays and baptisms at the Pā'ia Club House, the Pu'unēnē Filipino Club House or the Pu'unēnē Haole Club House—County community centers did not exist.

Maui High School's campus in Hāmākuapoko would not be abandoned for another fourteen years, and

# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

## 1958 ... things have changed since then.

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

the "new" campus was still sand dunes in the Central Maui plains.

Elvis showed up for U.S. Army service two months before.

For the first time in 26 years, the government raised the price of a U.S. postage stamp from \$0.03 to \$0.04. A first class stamp is now \$0.55.

The federal government also created NASA and initiated Project Mercury. The U.S. Space Force's insignia would not become the fictional Starfleet's logo for another eight years.

In the world of sports, the New York Yankees pounded the Milwaukee Braves in the World Series.

The Baltimore Colts featured the forward pass to beat the New York Giants in the NFL Championship—there was no Super Bowl. The San Francisco 49ers missed the NFL play-offs that year and this year's champion Kansas City Chiefs would not be created until two years later as the Dallas Texans of the

American Football League.

The St. Louis Hawks won the NBA series over the Boston Celtics.

The California Golden Bears won the Pac-8 Conference title and a trip to the 1959 Rose Bowl Game. USC went 4-5-1 under Coach Don Clark; John McKay would not become Head Coach for another two years. Pete Carroll was seven years old.

The big starlets at the time included Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, Jayne Mansfield, Sophia Loren, Doris Day, Annette Funicello and Lana Turner. South Pacific is filmed in the islands, starring Mitzi Gaynor and Rossano Brazzi.

In the islands, Trans Pacific changed its name to Aloha Airlines.

In 1958, LEGOs, Skateboards, Crayola Crayons '64' with built-in sharpener, and the Hula Hoop became available for the first time.

Sixty-two years later, Fred Evangelista still needs quite a few mulligans to golf less than twice his age. ☀



Evangelista (right) golfs with high school classmates Alejandro Lazo, D.C. (left) and David Anzai, O.D. (second from right) along with the Westin Nanea team during the 2019 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament sponsored by the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The 2020 Golf Tournament will be held on March 28.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran practices law in Wailuku. He's younger than Manong Fred.



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Ben, Nenita and grandson Benaiah.



Four generations of Acob family through Ben's dad. Left to right: Lito (Ben's brother), Chris (Lito's son), Judith (Lito's wife), Micah, Nenita, Joshua, Ben, Severa (Ben's mom) Lorenza (sitting, Ben's grandma), Benjamin (Ben's dad), Mayrose (Ben's sister), Tony (Ben's brother), Josie (Ben's sister), Lita, (Tony's wife) and Yvette (Tony's daughter).

Acob ...

from p. 6

for the Hyatt Regency Maui full time as a graveyard shift front desk clerk. Other part-time jobs included a dishwasher at Apple Annie's restaurant, a cashier for three different shops, a tax preparer and a room service worker for the Royal Lahaina Hotel. While working for the Hyatt Regency Maui, Ben befriended Paul Petro, the Securi-

ty Department's Executive Director. He was a retired police captain. He would ask Ben if he could see himself working for the hotel the rest of his life. He also told Ben he thought there were not enough Filipino lawyers.

Ben thanks Mr. Petro for awakening his desire for another career at that time. Ben told Mr. Petro that he read a lot of books and admired the fiction lawyer character Perry Mason and that at one time he thought maybe he could become a lawyer.

That idea started Ben and Nenita conversing about him going to law school. It was such a big decision for both Ben and Nenita to tackle because their son Joshua was just two years old which meant leaving the two of them on Maui with her family. Nenita was a very supportive wife.

Ben sent out applications to mainland colleges and the William Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He got accepted by the mainland colleges but Ben opted to attend U.H. Mānoa so he could be closer to Joshua and Nenita.

After graduation from law school in 1987, Ben was hired as a law clerk by then Prosecuting Attorney Joseph E. Cardoza who later became a very respected and honored judge. A few months later, Ben became a full-fledged Deputy Prosecuting Attorney when he passed the bar exam. Receiving that great news was a very memorable moment for Ben. Unable to focus at work because of such great news, Ben asked to go home early and just give his family hugs. Being such a religious man, Ben stopped at Maria Lanakila Catholic Church in Lahaina to thank the Lord for all the blessings that He has bestowed upon him and his family.

Ben first opened his first private office in 1991 when a new Prosecuting Attorney was appointed. He enjoyed helping a lot of Filipinos because he was able to speak fluent Ilokano. When another Prosecuting Attorney was appointed in 1995, a former co-worker recruited Ben to go back to the office of the Prosecuting Attorney. Being in private practice is not easy and knowing the benefits working for the government, Ben soon relented to the recruiting pitches. In 1996, Ben rejoined the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney in the Felony Screening Division. Soon after, then Prosecuting attorney Richard T. Bissen, now a very respected and revered judge, appointed him

to become his First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, the second in command. Ben is deeply grateful to Judge Bissen for giving him the opportunity to be in the position which would be an important qualification and experience in getting appointed to be the Prosecuting Attorney by Mayor Charmaine Tavares from 2007 through 2010, making Ben the first Prosecuting Attorney of Filipino Ancestry in the County of Maui.

After his term as a Prosecuting Attorney under Mayor Tavares, Ben decided it was a good time to restart his private practice and help more people with their legal problems. It has been ten years since then and having re-



In 2004, Atty. Ben Acob was a Progress Award recipient in the Law and Jurisprudence category, sponsored by the United Filipino Council of Hawai'i.

ceived their most recent blessing in the form of their first grandchild in December 2019, Nenita and Ben are getting ready to retire to be able to be closer to him in North Carolina.

Ben is a community/church-oriented person. He is member of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Maui County Bar Association, Hawai'i State Bar Association, Knights of Columbus at Christ The King Catholic Church, Co-Chair for Lector Ministry, Worship

see ACOB p.10



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## A horizontal row of illustrations. On the left, two figures in traditional Indian attire: a man in a turban and a woman in a sari. Next to them is a group of seven children in modern clothing, including t-shirts, a sweater, and a dress. On the far right is a man in a dhoti and a woman in a sari, both in traditional attire.

# Let's Talk Pinoy!

to stock up on Emergen-C and drink plenty of water during sick season. How do you deal with the common

cold? Do you drink vinegar? There's a lot of health benefits of vinegar and even has a lot uses. In my household,

Let's visit our friends Angel and Michael and see what's going on with them this week shall we?

| English    | Pilipino      | Ilokano   | Cebuano    | Ilonggo   | Ibanag      | Kapampangan |
|------------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Stands up  | Tumayo        | Timmakder | Tindog     | Magtindog | Taddak      | Talakad     |
| Hug        | Yakap         | Arakup    | Gakos      | Kupo      | Gagap-pan   | Kawul       |
| Face       | Mukha         | Rupa      | Nawom      | Nawong    | Muka        | Lupa        |
| Hands      | Kamay         | Ima       | Kamot      | Kamut     | Lima        | Gamat       |
| Happy      | Masaya        | Naragsak  | Malipayon  | Masadya   | Magayaya    | Matula      |
| Beautiful  | Maganda       | Napintas  | Gwapa      | Maanyag   | Makasta     | Malagu      |
| Handsome   | Pogi          | Nataraki  | Ambongan   | Mabuo     | Guapo       | Masanting   |
| House/Home | Bahay/Tahanan | Balay     | Balay      | Balay     | Balay       | Bale        |
| Dog        | Aso           | Aso       | Iro        | Ido       | Kito        | Asu         |
| Stop!      | Tigil!        | Sardeng!  | Paghunong! | Untat!    | Magimmmang! | Patugut!    |

Michael enters a flashback. It was his 9th grade and he was at the Baldwin homecoming game against Lahainaluna. He came to see Leila who was actually the sophomore duchess. Michael grew a crush on her when she accidentally bumped into him at the library water fountain. Since then he had been secretly following her around school. He knew her schedule and where she lived. Tonight, he was going to get front row seats to watch the dances. He sat on the far side of the bleachers and when he realized Leila was to perform on the opposite side, he got up and bolted to the *Mauka* side. Once he reached there, he was out of breath and stumbled on his own feet and fell down in front of everyone. There he sat, with hundreds of his classmates all now laughing at him. He turned to see if Leila saw him and he was horrified to see that she too was hysterically laughing also. Everyone knew him now as "Michael learns to cry" for the

had a problem that they couldn't help me fix. Girls were another story. There were so many that I really liked in school but I never ever approached them. I have so many regrets. In college, I remember crushing on this one girl who sat two seats to my right in Math class. I would glance over towards her throughout the day, every Monday and Wednesday during our 2 p.m. class. I never once talked to

Angel whines and looks straight at Michael with helpless eyes.

As Michael looks up, he can see Angel and as they lock eyes he can make out the words "Help me."

her. I am too shy. I can't muster enough courage. I used to get bullied and teased in school. Kids used to take my backpack and throw it into the rubbish can. I would sit back and allow them to do it. Eddie would come

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A portrait of State Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, a smiling man with a shaved head, wearing a yellow and green patterned Hawaiian shirt, with his arms crossed. The photo is set against a white background and is partially framed by a teal border on the right side of the flyer.



# Ating Kabuhayan

## The Census in Bible History

The Rev. John A.H. Tomosot

“In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.” (Luke 2:1–5, NRSV)

This Gospel passage is about the Holy Family participating in a census. We see in it a journey and a process, with an authoritative and legal procedure involving everyone in a time and place. We see in this passage a duty which everyone in a locality or jurisdiction was bound by law to participate in and fulfill. Given the fact the 2020 U.S. Census is now upon us, I think it would be an empowering exercise to look at how this Gospel passage can inspire and motivate our legally prescribed participation in this year’s census.

If the Holy Family journeyed to Bethlehem which was their place of origin, can we recall where our census journey has taken us? Life is a journey



Joseph and Mary are depicted traveling to Bethlehem here in this 1475 painting done by Flemish artist Hugo van der Goes and housed at Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence, Italy

Growing up on an island also recalls my paternal grandparents’ journey from an island far, far away—Cebu. As a child, I was regaled with stories of the hometown from which their immigrant experience as a couple began. In going to Bethlehem from Nazareth to be registered, it is noted that Mary was already “expecting a child.” My paternal grandparents probably started their family before coming here.

Moving forward to the 2020 U.S. Census, think of how all the pregnant women on our island who bring their expectancy to their participation in the 2020 U.S. Census, thus affecting and changing the numbers as the data is being counted. Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the time of the Roman Census, contributing to the change in the numbers. Think about how the births at our own Maui Memorial Medical Center will contribute to the 2020 U.S. Census with governmental thinking and action in a way like that of Roman Government thinking

and action at the time of Jesus’ birth!

In this time and place on Maui, with immigration policy thrust into the limelight, the 2020 U.S. Census is a social, political, economic, educational and environmental barometer, so to speak, of how further government policies and action will unfold. Certainly, the “immigration” of the Holy Family to Bethlehem caused government policy and action to unfold. Undoubtedly, at the conclusion of the 2020 U.S. Census, there will be social, political, educational and environmental changes in our shared civic life, both quantitative and qualitative. The Gospel words “there was no place for them in the inn” causes one to ponder how to come up with a solution to the current homeless population in our midst. The time for the Census in this place of Maui has a solution, many so-

see CENSUS p.14



Emperor Caesar Augustus (left) and Quirinius, governor of Syria (right) during the time of the first registration.

that takes us from place to place, from relationship to relationship, from experience to experience. Our country is made of immigrant experiences from which we derive relationship and sense of place. Think of this year’s Census as one that nurtures all our relationships, especially those within the family. If I could access previous census records in which my family on both sides have participated in, what a story of journey they would tell.

Growing up on an island, a sense of place is easily nurtured. The Holy Family’s journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem recalls for me, our own family journeys from Kahului to Pu’unēnē, from Ha’ikū to Pa’uwela, from Wailuku to Lahaina, from Kihei to Mākena; to and from anywhere on this island and beyond, where family resided and were invited; where relationships were fostered and emotions allowed and expected to be expressed.

## Sakada Offspring

Cont’d from p. 8

### Acob ...

from p. 8

Ministry, bread-making, malasadas baking ministries (Christ The King Church), Self-Help Center Legal volunteer and Volunteer Legal Services Hawai’i.

Ben has several hobbies: making new friends on Facebook and personally meeting them, making videos, traveling, planting fruit trees and vegetables, and cooking.

Throughout the years of serving the community, Ben received several awards including the *Gintong Pamana* Leadership Award, Rizal Day Award, and numerous certificates of appreciation.

When asked if he recommends young students to go into law, Ben said he would recommend young students to put serious thought, self-evaluation, and research into it. “A student needs to really think about why they want to become a lawyer because it involves a lot of investment in time, energy, and money to go to law school and then pass the bar examination. Lawyers work a lot and handle stressful situations so one must have a good work ethic as well as the ability to think clearly in stressful situations.

Luckily, there are many areas of law that one may practice but not unlimited. There are areas that require them to be in the office and do mostly paperwork. There are areas where one would need to meet a lot of people and if they are not a people person, that area would not be for them.

If one likes to do litigation, they must like advocating for their clients in court or in other forums most likely against other lawyers advocating for their own clients. Many lawyers end up as government or public officials. Many people have quit law after having found out that it is not for them.” Ben also added that a law degree opens more doors than without one even if ultimately, the person does not practice as a lawyer.

Ben’s *Sakada* connection is through his grandfather, Esteban Acob who came to Hawai’i as a 1946 *Sakada* from Bacarra, Ilocos Norte. He worked for the sugar plantation and settled in ‘O’ōkala, Hawai’i Island and worked for the Laupāhoehoe Sugar Company. He originally worked in the sugar fields, then in the sugar mill. He lived at the Mill Camp in ‘O’ōkala which was next to the sugar mill. Ben’s grandmother, Lorenza Acoba Acob had some part-

see ACOB p.14

## Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Cont’d from p. 9

you with a girl before!” Uncle Ray giggles. “You are *pogi* (handsome) like me and she is *maganda* (beautiful). What’s wrong with that?”

“Uncle, please *untat* (stop),” Michael says while grinding his teeth.

“Ahem!” Uncle Ray clears his throat.

“Uncle, this is Angel,” as she peeks out from behind him, she gives a simple hand wave.

Uncle Ray grabs her *kamay* (hand) and pulls her into a giant *gagap-pan* (hug). “Mikey’s first girlfriend! I’m so *magayaya* (happy)! Your dad will be *masaya* (happy) but your mom will be more *naragsak* (happy). Welcome to the family!” Nearly crushing her with a massive *yakap* (hug), Michael prys her away. “Uncle *magim-mang* (stop), please *magim-mang* (stop), you’re embarrassing her!”

As he lets her go, he raises his *lima* (hand) and wipes his eyes. “Uncle, are you freaking crying? Sheez, come on! Go! Please you’re embarrassing me!”

“Welcome to the family Angel! You have so many more people to meet. Oops, I have said too much, haven’t I? Here, take this,” handing out a business card to Angel. “This is my card, I have my number there. You can call me anytime you need

help. Remember, you are part of the family now.” He gives a smirk smile to Angel.

Find out and keep an eye out for my article every issue. I’m Dulce, helping you to master your Filipino Languages. Like always, let’s laugh, let’s *making* (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.



# Mag Kamayan Tayong Lahat

A new trend has captured the way we eat, for Filipino-Americans and others. It's the best, "hands down!"

Liza of "A Maui Blog"

**K**amayan is a Filipino word that translates "by hand." Recently the term *Kamayan* refers to a Filipino Feast in which you eat a variety of food at a communal table, without utensils. You eat without the use of forks, knives or spoons.

A typical *Kamayan* meal features a table covered in smooth, waxy banana leaves as a natural substitute for plates and placemats. What's on the leaves is a spread of Filipino dishes, fruits and vegetables, including fried fish, chicken barbecue, chopped *lechon*, fried *lumpia*, shrimp, squid, roasted vegetables such as eggplant and okra, and fruit such as mangoes. Usually in the middle of all this yummy food is rice and *pancit* noodles but those can be spread on the side too. And not to forget the sauces in small containers spread around (*patis*, vinegar with *sili*, *lechon* sauce and *atchara*). The arrangement of the spread varies but is always an "Instagram Worthy" photo. 📸

For some non-Filipinos, *Kamayan* may look savage or unsanitary but if you do your research about using hands when eating you will find there are many health benefits to this practice or tradition of eating with your bare hands. I will not discuss in detail all those benefits here because that is not what the focus of this article is about, but let me mention a few general benefits: 1) *Kamayan* bonds people—connects and build relationships with family and friends (friends old and new). I mentioned Instagram earlier—but the truth is you can only do social media before you start eating because once you start eating, you can't touch your phone anymore. The focus will be on the food and the people around you. 2) *Kamayan* is a sensory experience—your eyes enjoy the colorful arrays of food, the various food flavors are a feast on your palette, you smell the aroma of the dish, and yes, you feel the texture of the food as well. 3) *Kamayan* makes eating more fun—people are more relaxed and the atmosphere is conducive to laughter during *kwen-to-kwentuhan* (conversation and storytelling).

Now the question is, Where can we experience *Kamayan* on Maui? For many Filipino families, it happens in their home during special celebrations or a weekend family gathering. The good news is there are now some restaurants on Maui who offer *Kamayan*: Star Noodle @star.noodle with Chef Abby Ferrer @abby\_ferrer on the Westside and Originz Maui @originzmaui in the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center in Kahului.

If you are not familiar with *Kamayan*, here are some basic guidelines:

1. This should go without saying but wash your hands.
2. Try to eat mostly with one hand, keeping the second hand clean for drinking.
3. When taking food, use your fingers to pinch the food into a clump at your fingertips (don't let it settle onto your palm).
4. After taking a bit of *ulam* (the meat or vegetables) and rice with your fingers and thumb, use your thumb to push the food into your mouth.
5. *Have fun!*

Ready for a *Kamayan* dinner? Let's go! ✨

**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.



The *Kamayan* dinner they offer at Originz at the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center is a great introduction if you've never tried it.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA


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



*Kamayan* dinner shown here was hosted by our Fil-Am Voice Asst. Editor, Alfredo Evangelista and his wife Bessy.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

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Daniza Faith Nono



Sebastian Montero-Quemado

Senior year: a time in high school where hundreds of students spend their last year taking in school lessons and making new memories one last time. Although senior year may come to an end, it is also the start of a new beginning as seniors move on to further their education by heading off to college in various universities ranging from community colleges to private schools. College is an exciting time where students go on to achieve their goals and aspirations. As they head on towards tomorrow, they cherish and share their experiences they’ve collected over the past four years onward to the next class of aspiring college bound seniors.

**Aubrey Santiago** shares her thoughts about attending college and her plans after high school. “I grew up knowing that college was my main

goal after high school. College is greatly valued in my family and having an extended education, beyond high school, would be very beneficial for careers and work in the future. I believe that gaining new and great opportunities after high school, most especially through going to college, would be an easy transition for some individuals. I am planning to attend college and work to gain more experiences and relationships with organizations to further my knowledge and skills.” She goes on to say that after graduating high school she plans to attend the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. “I will be majoring in Medical Technology and plan to minor in an

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area coequal to my overall career goal of being a pediatric healthcare provider. After obtaining my bachelor’s degree, I hope to either go on to get my Master’s degree, specializing in Pediatrics at UH Mānoa or move on to gaining a Ph.D.” Like most students, Aubrey has completed scholarships in hopes to fund her college education. She says “Applying for scholarships were, honestly, very stressful and time consuming, though the work and many hours that are put into filling out scholarships is all the more rewarding. When I first started applying, it was hard to gather my thoughts and schedule the time to write my essays, Letters of Recommendations, and request for school transcripts. Though, as I applied for more, it became easier to upload all my information, seeing that it took less and less time to finish an application. Scholarships are a great way to attain money and funds for not only college but also work after high school. There are many different scholarships for different student backgrounds, skills, and interests. I encourage students to apply for scholarships because it will not only lessen the financial distress that some may have or not but also help students to go out of their comfort zone, having to do interviews, ask for Letters of Recommendations and more. Subsequently, this will aid people in opening doors towards their goals and aspirations.”

**Bradley Domingo**, an aspiring Secondary Math teacher says “I plan to go to college at UHMC to get my Associates Degree, then either transfer to UH Mānoa or Washington State University.” He strives to become a Secondary Math teacher because “I want to help students in the future understand math. My friends ask for help all the time when it comes to math, and it makes me happy seeing them smile once they understand it. I honestly want to see the same expression when I become a teacher one day.” Bradley is part of the Maui High AVID program that prepares college bound students to succeed after high

school. Bradley says his experience in AVID has “brought me one step closer to my dreams and aspirations. Without it, I don’t even see myself being extroverted. It taught me to come out of my comfort zone and gave me the little push I needed.” In order to aid in achieving his dream, he has applied for the Free Application Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and believes he has benefited from the government based program because “my family is able to provide and what the government is able to give through work-study; a type of job at a college that’s able to pay for your education and it’s fitted to your schedule.” Although college can bring an abundant amount of self-improvement and career exploration, it can also be challenging for students. Bradley says that the three characteristics that he believes are needed to succeed after high school are “effort, time, and planning. When doing anything in your life, it’s important to give the most effort possible because it shows that you take pride in that particular subject. Giving all your time shows that you want to put your life into it meaning, nothing is distracting you or pulling you away from it. Lastly, planning is probably the most critical because when you’re not following a schedule, it throws you off and you can’t get anything done on time.”

**Daniza Faith Nono** plans to attend Pacific University Oregon and stay there for eight years in order to complete her Ph.D. in Psychology and Neuroscience to become either a Clinical Psychologist, Psychiatrist, or Therapist. She explains, however, that “I think college is the biggest gamble and investment in your life. You never really know if your outcome is what you previously predicted. That being said, I still plan to go to college, Pacific University Oregon. College may be a gamble but you can still steer it as you go and make your chances broader. A complete education to me is important as it shows that you’re willing to understand a subject more, creating depth, interest, and experience.” In order to one day achieve her career goals, Daniza has applied to many scholarship applications. She explains her experience with applying for scholarships as “the most stressful thing to complete in my life. Not only are you completing 8–10 pages worth of information but you’re also given a time limit and date of completion. But



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that's no matter though since they do help you reflect on what you've done during High school and it helps with paying tuition, which is what I really need as well as much of others, knowing that lots of families here work double maybe even triple jobs to make ends meet." As for FAFSA, she says that her experience with applying was "stressful not for me but for my parents. They had to find their past filed taxes, dig through mountains of paper and stress about something that didn't even give me anything. Yeah, you heard that right. I wasn't able to get a single dime since my parent's income is 'too much,' even though the state average income here is way higher than the income there on the mainland. It was only beneficial when it came to scholarship applications since it was a requirement." Although preparing for college comes with many challenges, Daniza leaves the next class of seniors with thoughtful tips and suggestions to prepare for the college application process. "To all of the upcoming seniors applying to college, start early. I understand if you're busy and can't get around doing them but I promise it'll be much better to do it when things are a bit busy, than when everything is bursting into flames. When applying to colleges, you have options to either send in an essay or an extra LOR. If they give you this option, do it. You get a better chance of explaining why this way is what on your resume or transcript. Lastly, don't stress. Don't worry if you don't get into the college of your dreams, there are plenty out there that give out the same curriculum!"

**Sebastian Montero-Quemado**, an aspiring food scientist says my "plan after high school is to attend a four-year college on the mainland which I'm still deciding on and to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Food Science. After college, I intend to work on the mainland for some months and then move back to Maui to work somewhere else in the food production industry." Transitioning from high school to college can be tricky, Sebastian says "it's going to be different from high school since I'm going to be surrounded by a diverse community of different races along with being surrounded by individuals coming from different states and countries." On the other hand, his experience in high school has taught him fundamental characteristics which are vital in order to succeed in

college. He explains "my top three characteristics that are needed to succeed after high school is Confidence, to allow you to enter a new world of *adulthood* as an individual. Sociable, to allow you to communicate and meet new individuals on creating a new bond since everybody is potentially going on their own ways from their original set of friends. Lastly, you need Teamwork because you need it to help you work with new individuals again on creating a bond and standard towards success since we're genuinely set to work with new faces and to complete a task as a team." To the upcoming seniors, Sebastian advises students to "set a plan on which college you aspire to be into the colleges that are your safety, just in case you don't get accepted to your dream school. Also, look into universities that are within the W.U.E. system since it allows you to not pay the Out-of-State Tuition. Plan on taking the SAT and ACT early so you'd reach the requirements for whatever college you're going to. Finally, apply to as many scholarships you could possibly find to reduce your cost of going to college."

As senior year comes to an end, thousands of seniors across the nation remain hopeful and optimistic as they go on to the world and go after their goals and aspirations. High school may be coming to an end but it has taught all of us to never give up and keep going. As the class of 2020 strives for success, future generations of seniors are ready as the class of 2020 leads the way to a better and beautiful tomorrow. ✨

**Google® Is Not Everything** is a monthly column authored by high school students. The title of the column emphasizes that education is more than just googling a topic. Google® is a registered trademark. This month's guest columnist is **Romelyn Joy Tabangcura**, a senior at Maui High School. She is the current president of Maui High HOSA-Future Health Professionals (second from the right in the photo), which recently returned from the HOSA CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organizations) with 16 medalists, including a first place finish by Tabangcura in Human Growth and Development. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, a prestigious organization of students who show scholarship, leadership, service and character. Romelyn aspires to be a Nurse Practitioner one day. She is the daughter of Romeo and Roselyn Tabangcura.



# COVID-19 ...

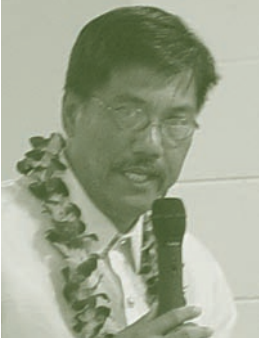
from p. 4

their scheduled flight shifts. With the current events, the airlines have welcomed Hawai'i Department of Health Epidemiologist Dave Johnson into the Crew Resource Office to provide informational sessions on COVID-19 and other pertinent information to airline employees.

The idea of travelling appears to be frightening for most people throughout the world as they observe the news of the virus' havoc. Airlines such as Delta, United, and American eventually suspended travel to mainland China and Hong Kong due to travel concerns. Considering the recent news of South Korea's spike of 1,766 confirmed cases of the virus, Hawaiian Airlines announced on February 26 that they would temporarily suspend their five-times-weekly nonstop service between Honolulu and Seoul due to the Coronavirus Outbreak. Service will be suspended from March 2nd through April 30th and resume on May 1st from Honolulu, and May 2nd from Seoul. Delta Air Lines has also confirmed that they would terminate all flights between Seoul and Minneapolis until April 30th.

During a recent trip to Las Vegas, The *Fil-Am Voice's* Assistant Editor Al-

fredo Evangelista and his wife Basilia observed the following: on the airlines, many passengers brought wipes to clean their seats; the flight attendants came around to pick up the disposed wipes; the flight attendants wore gloves when distributing food and beverages; after each use of the bathroom, a flight attendant would spray the restroom; not too many passengers wore masks but some had some fancy and color coordinated ones; at the Aria hotel, an employee was wiping the escalator handrails; more folks are washing their hands in the bathroom; and many of the Las



Vince Bagoyo, Jr. - Editor, Fil-Am Voice

Vegas hotels had only cold water in the bathrooms. According to Evangelista, there also appeared to be less tourists, especially visitors from Asia. Interestingly, not too many folks in the casino were observed to wear masks or wipe the slot machines prior to play. Evangelista spoke to several Las Vegas retail employees who confided that some of the full-time

hotel employees were placed on part-time status.

The *Fil-Am Voice's* Editor, Vince Bagoyo, Jr. observed: "We need to brace ourselves for the impact of the Corona virus. Besides the physical impact, expect the economic impact on our working families. There may be major layoffs on the horizon if this

see COVID-19 next page

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# CALICO

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Census ...

from p. 10

lutions embedded in its process and procedure. Growing up on Maui, I don't remember seeing homeless folk on the roads. Perhaps they were hidden. But the fact that I never saw any probably meant that there were places for them to be. Remembering that Jesus was born in a stable, I pray that in this time and current place of Maui, there are places for all of us to be housed, to be fed, to be nurtured, to be loved.

It has been estimated that the Holy Family's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, their journey to "be registered" (counted) took about 10 days. The 2020 U.S. Census has a beginning and an end. The Gospel records that the Roman Census at the time of Jesus' birth was basically about taxation. The 2020 U.S. Census is about so much more, including information and data that can and will affect the churches and faith communities around us. The historical record of the Roman Census probably confirms that the Gospel writer of Luke had erroneously put it at the birth of Jesus. Nonetheless, the decision Joseph made to return to the family home in Bethlehem was about having his newly betrothed wife Mary being able to give birth within familiar surroundings, with family members

around. I think that all Census processes and procedures are really about family and how it is important to have family around and to know that they are safe and nurtured and capacitated to live a life worthy of its giftedness by God. May the 2020 U.S. Census be for you and your family, a journey of investment of care and concern of those you love, up close and personal! ✨

**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.

Acob ...

from p. 10

time jobs during the latter part of her life but was a homemaker the rest of the time. She had a green thumb and raised the most beautiful fern plants with flowering anthuriums and roses under them. She also made the most beautiful and warmest blankets made of patchwork.

To pay tribute and gratitude to his grandfather who was instrumental in bringing him to Hawai'i, Ben said "I am very lucky and grateful that my grandfather came to Hawai'i as a Sakada although that meant leaving his family. When he came to Hawai'i, I had not been born yet and so I did not know him. I did know my grandmother, however, who came to Hawai'i and joined my grandfather twenty years later, in 1966. Soon after that, my grandparents brought me to join them on a student visa and at the age of twelve, I came to Hawai'i. My grandfather was a very hard worker and was able to provide for a family of four working for the sugar plantation and supplementing our means by raising pigs, chickens, and planting vegetables. I am thankful that he made me help with every chore that needed to be done including gardening which I try to practice to this day." Ben continued: "I feel so lucky and grateful because of all the millions of people in the Philippines, I am one that was given a chance to come to the United States and make a better life than what I would have had in the Philippines. Through social media and friends on Facebook, I know life is still very hard for the majority of people in the Philippines. Millions go to work abroad leaving their family as did the Sakadas except that these OFW's (Overseas Filipino Workers) are only contracted for every two years or so, paid very little compared to what someone in the United States

can earn doing the same job, don't have the same benefits as we do in the United States, sometimes work twelve or even more hours, seven days a week, and suffer physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and too many times even death at the hands of their employers. Through their industriousness, some go back to the Philippines, are able to open their own business and become very successful."

Ben finished his personal reflection with these words: "I am always grateful to our God for all of the blessings that He has bestowed upon me including my career as a lawyer, my beautiful family, my wife who has supported me while going to law school, my church community, all the good friends, the gift of life, and most recently a grandchild at last. God has truly given me time, talent, and treasure. For my gratitude, I hope to help the less fortunate to the extent that I can. Not only in the United States but the really less fortunate in the Philippines where I was born. I will feel complete going back to my origins, knowing who I am and the place where I came from." ✨



**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 Hāli'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.

COVID-19 ...

from p. 13

virus is not contained. As we all know, for Hawai'i/Maui, 75% of our local economy is dependent on the visitor related industry. With airlines cancelling/cutting down on flights and corporate events being cancelled, it will soon impact Maui's visitor industry and resulting to layoffs. There are signs based on the recent volatility of the Dow and NASDAQ for the past week—it's worse than the 2008 recession." Bagoyo explained: "I'm concerned on the virus' impact on our Filipino workers who are dependent on the visitor industry. During the 2008 recession, many lost their homes because we were not prepared for the potential economic change on our standard of living. I believe many economists recommend having savings of at least six months to 'ride out' a potential economic downturn."

Public health nurse Jeny Bissell of the State Department of Health reminds us to stay positive: "We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world, clean air, clean water, great outdoor living spaces, access to fresh fruits, vegetables, fish and healthy options. These are all protective factors available to us that should be part of our activities of daily living that keeps our immune system strong and healthy. We must remember that germs including viruses and bacteria are everywhere. There are good bacteria and there are bad bacteria. These germs become bad when they are taken out of their natural environment into an unknown environment."

Bissell also forwarded the following statement from the Department of Health:

"The Department of Health is committed to sharing information as it becomes available. People are urged not to spread misinformation or inaccurate statements that are not

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## Tagalog

“Tayong mga Filipino sa Maui ay dapat makisali at mabilang sa 2020 Census. Ito ay importante dahil ang ating pondo na manggagaling sa Federal Government (Federal funds) ay apektado o maapektuhan. Ang “Federal Funds” ay nakakatulong sa Maui para sa eskwelahan, airport, Medicaid at iba pang programa. Makakatulong din ito na ipaalam at konpirmahin na ang komunidad ng mga Filipino ay lumalago at tayo ang pinaka malaking lahi (ethnic group) sa Hawaii. Huwag kayong mag-alala, hindi naman kailangan na sabihin and inyong pagkamay (citizenship) at hindi rin kailangin ang importasyon tungkol sa inyong kabuhayan or “social security number.”



Liza Pierce

## Census 2020 ...

from p. 3

representative is Dr. Leo Caires. Mayor Victorino also formed a Complete Count Committee led by William Snipes, one of his assistants. The committee members are: Leah M. Belmonte (Governor’s Maui Representative), Shirley Blackburn (Maui Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce), Bevanne Bowers (Non-profit Directors Association), Debbie Cabebe (Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.), Amanda Coutsis (Maui Chamber of Commerce), Kathleen Dimino (Department of Education), Sherry Duong (Maui Visitors Bureau), Stephanie Ohigashi (University of Hawai’i Maui College), Lisa H. Paulson (Maui Health/Kaiser), and Wayne Wong (Maui Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce). County representatives include Gladys Baisa, Darlene Endrina, Kay Fukumoto, Pili Naho’oikaika, Brian Perry, Ryan Piros, Chris Sugidono, LoriAnn Tshako, and Terryl Vencyl.

Snipes also serves as Mayor Victorino’s representative to the State Complete Count Committee, which meets monthly. Snipes said the Maui committee has “conducted outreach to community groups via Akakū television, radio, social media, print advertising and in-person presentations.”

“... for every person who is not included in household responses, we lose more than \$1,500 per person per year for ten years until the next Census.”

– MAYOR VICTORINO

“We want to ensure that Maui gets the most dollars we can from the distribution of federal money,” explained Victorino. “In 2016, Maui received its share of the \$3.7 Billion allocated to the State. But for every person who is not included in household responses, we lose more than \$1,500 per person per year for ten years until the next Census. That’s money left on the table that could have gone toward safety net programs, roads, public transport, Medicaid, and our keiki’s schools.”

So stand up and be counted! And don’t worry, you will not disclose your citizenship, your financial information, and your social security number. ✨

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

(1976), the University of Southern California (1980), and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law (1983). He is a sole practitioner at Law



Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, concentrating in estate planning, business start-up and consultation, nonprofit corporations, and litigation. He has been practicing law for 36 years (since 1983) and returned home in 2010 to be with his family and to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Basilia Tumacder Idica.

## Visayan

“Mga kababayan, kinaangalan kitang mga ka-pamilya, amigo o kababayan diri sa Maui na maka-apil sa karong 2020 Census. Labis kayo kaimportante ning Census aron maka kuha ta sa atoang kuarta na gikan sa pondar sa Federal. Pagnakabalo na ug pila ta diri sa atong komonidad, maka kuha ang atong mga eskuelahan, atong airport, Medicaid at daghan pa na pundar para sa atong mga programa. Bali tabang ni para sa atoang pang-unlad. Dayon pod, ipahibalo nato na kitang mga Pilipino diri sa Maui, sa Hawaii kay patuloy padako sa atoang komunidad. Ayaw mong kabalaka kay ang inyohang mga citizenship ug financial ug social security kay dili maapektohan.”



Sharon Zalsos Banaag

confirmed, and keep updated and informed on the situation. Everyone can help prevent the spread of respiratory illness with these everyday actions.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from illnesses, including COVID-19. Keep in mind that supplies are limited and we need to make sure there are enough masks for our front-line health care workers. If you are sick then wear a mask to protect the people around you.
- Prepare for the possibility that people may want to stay home or may be asked to stay home to prevent the spread of illness.
  - o If you have daily medication needs, have more than a week’s supply on hand and have as much on hand as your insurance will allow you to have.

- o Not everyone can afford to stock up on supplies or has the space to store them, but anything you can arrange in advance means one less inconvenience or one less trip to the store while you are sick.
- o Make family plans for the possibility of school or day care closures. Do some contingency planning in advance at the family level.
- Sign up for public notifications at [health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates/](https://health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates/).

The situation of the COVID-19 virus will constantly change. It’s important however to get accurate information and not rely on Facebook or any other sources that are not credible. For the most up-to-date information, visit the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and the State of Hawai’i Department of Health:

- [health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019/](https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019/)

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

- [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/novel-coronavirus-china](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/novel-coronavirus-china)

- <https://hidot.hawaii.gov/coronavirus/>

Stay well and safe. ✨

**Vanessa Joy Domingo** is a graduate of Maui High School and is currently attending University of Hawai’i Maui College. She is employed with the County of Maui - Department of Management, IT Services and 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. She is currently preparing for the Mrs. Hawai’i Filipina Pageant and hopes to best represent Maui this year.



Jeny Bissell - Public Health Nurse  
PHOTO COURTESY JENY BISSELL

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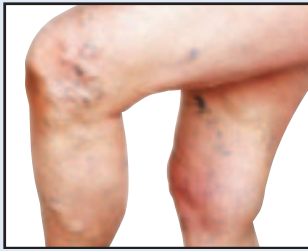
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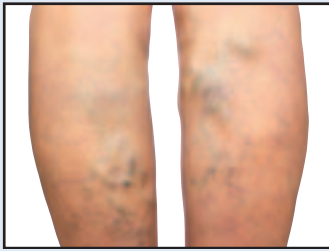


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