



**Future Looks Bright**  
Leaders face new normal heading into the New Year but it needs a return to normal governance.

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**‘The General’ Leads a Life of Honor and Respect**  
Agrifina “Aggie” Terredanio Cabebe.

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**Judge Alfred Laureta’s Life & Legacy**

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# Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

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inside

## 2021 Outlook



2021 looks bright. Come together in oneness!  
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We welcome our new columnist Errol Buntuyan, M.D. who examines the COVID-19 vaccine.  
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Support Local: helping our local economy to rebound.  
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*Island Officials and Community Influencers.*

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Alfredo G. Evangelista,**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

New Year 2021 exploded with the usual persistent weeks of literal evening fireworks shows—loud, disruptive displays scaring family pets and keeping residents with allergies indoors, as much as effectively chasing away any bad spirits lingering from the prior year. 2020 upended ordinary ways of living, especially trying to stay in business or on the job or simply maintaining family and social ties. While the quick development of effective vaccines may restore some normalness by the Fall, September still seems a long

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The US Capitol is now barricaded.  
SCREEN SHOT: GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN



PHOTOS COURTESY CABEBE 'OHANA

## Agrifina Terredanio Cabebe A Remarkable Life to Celebrate

June 23, 1928 – December 14, 2020

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

Folks called Agrifina T. Cabebe in different ways: Aggie, Mrs. C., Ninang, Comadre, The General, The First President of Binhi at Ani and The Mother of Filipino Folk Dance on Maui, to

name a few. Her life was anything but ordinary; her family defined her life as one of exploits because Aggie was daring and her life consisted of bold feats. “Many of the things that Mom did were not what

everyone else did,” recalled her son Raymond. “Aggie obviously had a long life and it was far from ordinary. In fact, it was quite remarkable.” No one can dispute Aggie Cabebe’s life was remarkable

despite challenges along the way. Agrifina Terredanio was born in Pā’ia to Damaso and Marcelina Alvaro Terredanio. Raymond said it was tragic

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FREE



way off. This winter also began the slow slouching towards the end of the tumultuous administration of the 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump. Hawai'i predictably voted for former Vice-President Joseph Biden but Trump did improve noticeably his support in the islands. Locally, voters elected one new County Council member and re-elected the remaining Council incumbents and the entire Maui legislative delegation. While at press time, the fallout from the insurrection disrupting the ministerial certification of the Electoral College vote by Congress on January 6th is far from clear (the FBI recently warned of "armed protests" at all 50 state capitols and the U.S. capitol for the week leading to the Biden Inauguration on January 20th), locally elected officials and community influencers appear more optimistic about the coming year.



Gov. David Ige

The state remains under amended and re-issued emergency proclamations from Governor David Ige, with Maui Nui local rules from Mayor Michael Victorino. The lockdowns and limits on business operations and gatherings depressed Hawai'i's economy as the State unemployment rate remains among the largest in the na-

tion. The testing requirements and mandatory quarantine for travelers severely hampered the main economic engine of transpacific tourism and economists expect little growth in the near term.

But Ige notes, "I'm very optimistic about the outlook for Hawai'i's economy. There is a lot of interest in Hawai'i as a travel destination right now. I think COVID-19 has strengthened Hawai'i's brand of being a safe and healthy place to visit. It will be a challenging recovery period but we can do it if we continue to work together." The State Council on Revenues raised the projection for the last half of 2020 but reduced the expected rate of growth for 2021—in short, the State Legislature and the Governor must still deal with a more than billion dollar shortfall in the State general fund budget.



Jade Butay

State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation Director Jade Butay, one of only two Ige Filipino Cabinet members, concurs with his boss' assessment: "With the advent of the safe travels program and the lifting of the mandatory quarantine for arrivals, tourism has increased, albeit in much smaller numbers than in the recent past. However, this indicates demand for travel to Hawai'i remains. It is probable that the demand for travel will continue to increase as vaccinations make people more comfortable with travel." Conse-

quently, Butay thinks "While the pandemic has had an enormous impact on the state, current trends and developments present a clear path to recovery. The roll-out of the new vaccines is especially promising as this represents a concrete step towards containing the pandemic permanently. While it will take time to inoculate enough people to totally stop the spread of the virus, the vaccine offers the promise that the virus will be contained soon rather than at some indeterminate time in the future. This has been a boost to business and consumer confidence and offers encouragement to plan for a future more akin to what we experienced before."

Further, Butay recognizes the efforts throughout the local and business community in adapting to the restrictions, "Delivery options, telecommuting, wearing masks in public, social distancing and other lifestyle changes have become the 'normal.' These adaptations have allowed many businesses to maintain some level of operations."



Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez

Maui Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, the only Councilmember of part-Filipino ancestry and recently tapped to remain Budget Committee chair by her colleagues, commented, "I feel cau-

tiously optimistic for our County's capability to maintain a level of self-sufficiency for our operations of public services such as utilities, infrastructure maintenance, emergency services, and social services in this new year." Wailuku State Representative Troy



Rep. Troy Hashimoto

Hashimoto noted Maui's greater economic dependence on tourism added to the COVID-19 imposed challenges locally: "We all have made sacrifices over the last ten months but I have seen the strength of our communities' spirit and I remain optimistic about our future ... My hope is that the worst is behind us and things can only get better."

One example of a business being optimistic is Cafe O'Lei. Dana Santibanez and her family took over The Mill House restaurant at Maui Tropical Plantation which closed during the pandemic. The new restaurant Cafe O'Lei at The Mill House will be open for lunch and dinner from Tuesdays through Saturdays and will feature many Cafe O' Lei favorites and several new items as well. At the blessing held



Blessing of Cafe O'Lei at The Millhouse. PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Kāwili album cover designed by Arne Ratermanis. Photo by Nicholas K. Lum.

on January 8th, Santibanez explained the family's business forecast: "In hard times, there will be opportunities and we need to find them."

Another new business venture involved the release of Kāwili, an album of 13 songs: 11 Ilokano, Tagalog and Visayan folk songs re-imagined as Hawaiian language *mele* and two well-known Hawaiian *mele*—*Aloha 'Oe* which is still performed at funerals in Ilocos—taken back by returning *Sakadas*—and Hawai'i Aloha, the Ilokano rendition. Local attorney Lance Collins is a co-producer of the album and explained, "while Hawaiians and Filipinos share connections in history, material culture and cultural practice, those connections have been limited by racial hierarchies and settler colonial logics established by long-shuttered sugar plantations, yet still continue to live on through the residue of those policies." According to Collins, the pandemic caused delays in the project and necessitated changes in some of the artists. But the project which benefits the Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic at the William S. Richardson School of Law and the Ilokano Language and Literature Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa pushed through. "We decided not to further delay because we don't know when the pandemic will end," explained Collins.

Ige also noted "more and more of our residents are getting their vaccinations and we will continue to aggressively administer the vaccines as we receive them." As a result, Ige "believe[s] the visitor industry will have a better year this year than last and the distribution of the vaccines brings us closer to getting back to a new normal in 2021."



Mike Rembis

Recently, Maui Health announced the expansion of their COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic to include Hawai'i residents that fall within the CDC identified Phase 1A and Phase 1B vaccine prioritiza-

tion timeline. "We are excited to offer this life-saving vaccine to Hawai'i residents," said Mike Rembis, Maui Health chief executive officer. "It is critical we do everything we can to help vaccinate as many of our residents as possible to help stop this virus from causing additional harm." The Vaccine Clinic, located at the main lobby of Maui Memorial Medical Center will be open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and has begun accepting online appointments for

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Best wishes for a Happy 2021!

BayerCropScienceHawaii @Bayer4CropsHI

Science for a better life







Touring with Good Shepherd Church Filipino Youth Choir in 1976. PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Aggie Cabebe with Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant contestants. PHOTO: MICHELLE SANTOS

Dancers in Maria Clara dress at Testimonial Dinner for Aggie Cabebe in 1999.

PHOTO: CABEBE 'OHANA



Aggie Cabebe celebrates her 90th birthday. PHOTO: CABEBE 'OHANA



Aggie Cabebe dancing Binasuan at the Maui Palms Hotel in 1969. PHOTO: CABEBE 'OHANA

# Cabebe ...

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Aggie's birth parents both passed away at young ages. She and her siblings were raised by the Palos family, initially living in Corn Mill Camp which was at the border between Pukalani and Makawao. When Aggie was about thirteen years old, they moved to Hāli'imaile. The family's job was to do laundry for the bachelors.

Aggie attended Makawao Elementary School and Maui High School at the Hāmākuapoko campus, playing saxophone in the band. In those days, students would take off a year of high school to work to help the family. Raymond said Aggie, however, didn't return to Maui High School and later earned her GED, received stenographer training, learned shorthand and typing and landed a job at Maui Pineapple Company, from which she retired after forty-three years.

In 1948, Aggie married Rafael Cabebe at the Church of the Good Shepherd. (Rafael became president of the Maui Filipino Community Council in 1959.) The Cabebe's loved to dance. Aggie and Rafael enjoyed ballroom dancing and with a group of like minded friends formed a dance club meeting regularly at Leo Polo's house. (In 1957, Leo Polo became the first president of the Maui Filipino Community Council.) They called themselves the "Polo Dance Club."

Aggie's legendary journey into promoting Filipino folk dance began in the 1950s when she watched a Filipino folk dance performance by Aurelia Viernes on Maui. Viernes was an exchange student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, who later started the Filipiniana Dance Academy of Honolulu. Aggie began traveling to Honolulu countless times to learn dances from Viernes.

Initially, Aggie shared her talents with her kids (Raymond claimed he danced for the money while Marcia was very graceful) and their friends, then with other groups in schools, churches, and communities with countless dancers that continued even though she could no longer dance herself.

Aggie formed the Maui Saniatas and they began performing at various locations including the Maui Palms Resort and the Maui Beach Hotel. Among those who performed with her dance troupe were Nita Duldulao and

Pauline Agres while the younger dancers—the Maui Saniatas Keiki—included Bernard, Wilburt and Lee Barbero, Jason Paranada, the Romero girls, the Duldulao girls and others.

"She paid meticulous attention to detail to make sure everything like costumes, music, dance moves, meanings were culturally authentic," said Raymond. "This was not just for the dance as you witnessed it but to pass on to future generations of Filipinos."

On a personal note, I and many other youth at Good Shepherd Church learned about Philippine culture from Mrs. Cabebe. In 1972 when I was still in eighth grade at Kahului School, I was part of the Good Shepherd Church Filipino Youth Choir and back then the male voices were changing. The director of the Youth Choir, Manang Nancy Andres, sought out her friend and fellow community activist, Aggie Cabebe, to teach us Filipino folk dances. We started with a few basic dances and entered the Filipino Folk Dance contest at the 1974 Barrio Fiesta and won first place with our performances of Rogelia, Binatbatan/Sakuting and Ba-o/Maglalatik. We learned more dances and by learning the dances, we learned more about the culture of the Philippines.

Practices were initially held at Mrs. Cabebe house at the corner of Hina and Kamehameha Avenue. The music was loud and energetic and one time even woke up Tata Cabebe who was so inspired by the music he began dancing a bit with us, smiling until Mrs. Cabebe ushered him back into the house.

Later, as the group grew from about a dozen to more than 25, we moved to the church's parish hall. We learned Igorot dances, Muslim dances, the Spanish era dances, and dances from various parts of the Philippines: Ilocos, Pangasinan, and the Tagalog regions. We brought in Wayne Mendoza and Sabino Geronimo from the Pearl of the Orient in Honolulu as special dance instructors.

Mrs. Cabebe would always patiently lead and teach us the dances. She was very, very, very patient. One time, we were not paying attention—giggling and teasing each other—we didn't have cell phones at that time so we couldn't text or go on Facebook. Mrs. Cabebe was not angry at all—she maintained her cool but Manang Nancy was so angry at us for not paying attention she slammed the piano and threatened to stop the dance instruc-

tion and let Mrs. Cabebe go home. We were obviously very scared of Manang Nancy and fell silent but Mrs. Cabebe did not bat an eye lash and said, okay let's take it from the beginning. And yes, we silently followed Mrs. Cabebe's lead. Through Mrs. Cabebe's patience, we learned enough dances to perform monthly at the Nāpili Surf Resort and traveled to Honolulu to perform at Shriners Hospital and Lāna'i for their Rizal Day program. We would perform dances requiring skill and timing like Singkil, Tinikling, Maglalatik, Pandango Sa Ilaw, and my favorite—Bangko—where I learned if I fell off sometimes, it would make it look like a more difficult dance. All for a bit of showmanship!

In the fall of 1975, a statewide

Philippine Dance workshop was held at Leeward Community College. Mrs. Cabebe and Mrs. Pauline Agres brought three of us—Daniel Ilica, John Mario Sevilla, and myself as dancers for the Maui Saniatas to be part of the Pamana ng Lahi conference. The three of us were supposed to be housed cheap—at the Downtown YMCA—but after one look at it, Mrs. Cabebe said no way and brought all of us to the luxurious Ala Moana Hotel, and Mrs. Cabebe took care of all expenses and made sure we were safe.

But the most memorable trip for the Youth Choir was our Summer of 1976 trip to the West Coast. Mrs. Cabebe was specifically assigned to see CABEBE p.9



Maui Health is now offering the COVID-19 Vaccine based on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) vaccine prioritization timeline, which now includes health care workers, frontline essential workers and adults ages 75 and older. For more information, to register for the vaccine, or to check if you qualify as an essential worker, visit [mauihealth.org/covidvaccine](https://mauihealth.org/covidvaccine).

Maui Memorial Medical Center  
Maui Memorial Outpatient Clinic  
Kula Hospital and Clinic  
Lāna'i Community Hospital

  
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#THISISOURSHOT





## From the Editor's Desk

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

# Welcoming the New Year

Enjoy you, so others can, too!



Hello 2021!  
PHOTO: VINCE BAGOYO, JR.

I believe we all agree 2020 was wild and crazy with the pandemic we now want to forget. I don't know about you but I certainly will not miss year 2020: social distancing, face coverings, no visits with family, no dinners with friends and associates, no vacations with loved ones, no hugging or shaking hands, even impersonal Zoom instead of face-to-face meetings, just to name a few.

Now we are in 2021, I am hopeful more than ever brighter days are ahead. Actively presented with a gift of new leadership in government, our nation and the world watches hopefully as we look towards the inaugurations of soon-to-be President Joseph Robinette Biden and Vice-President Kamala Devi Harris, who show every day their model of teamwork with undeniable intention to create a leadership team reflecting the diversity of our increasingly wider spectrum of Americans—in color,

creed and love. And the new incoming Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate gives us some sense of normalcy. I am hopeful the policies they will advance will address many of the needs of our people, not just for the few and privileged.

Let's all say farewell—*sayonara, adiós, good-bye, adieu* and *aloha 'oe* to 2020 and give our loudest welcoming shoutout to 2021. Are you ready to ring in the New Year with undaunted excitement for and unabashed anticipation of a new beginning? I am definitely ready! Now we all look forward to a new year with unlimited opportunities and creative possibilities and a safer future on the horizon, with the new vaccines and unprecedented cooperation across the continents, unified in prevention measures to combat COVID-19. Humanity comes together with determination to work globally and nationally in order to decrease the spread of the virus and move

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## 2021 ...

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the identified groups.



Mayor Mike Victorino

Maui saw a recent spike in the number of COVID-19 cases, causing Mayor Michael Victorino to reduce the size of social gatherings from ten folks not in the same household to five. Restaurants were also limited to one-third of their capacities. The increase in COVID-19 cases also caused schools in the Maui-Baldwin-Kekaulike District to continue virtual classes rather than shift to planned blended instruction.



Jamie Yap

said Jamie Yap, principal of Maui High School. "We have learned to not get too ahead of ourselves in planning since the direction of the pandemic changes quickly."

The Maui Interscholastic League also announced a cancellation of all the 2020 fall sports such as football and basketball. "Maui High expects to eventually hold all sports, fundraisers, dances and competitions based on safety," explained Yap. "Some events may be virtual, some may have to be cancelled and others might be postponed for a safer time. These decisions are driven by the pandemic. Our [mauihigh.org](http://mauihigh.org) website and social media pages are always up-to-date with information about happenings at MHS."

The need to be flexible is paramount. "The Maui High Sabers are resilient and flexible and have learned a lot in 2020 about how to adapt to the current challenges," said Yap. "We will continue to do so throughout 2021. Distance learning is going well for most and has forced everyone to teach and learn in new ways. Many of the skills we have learned will be useful when we come back to campus."



Rep. Justin Woodson

have confidence that the approved COVID-19 vaccinations will ultimately lead to businesses reopening which will lead to more business activity over the course of the year." Rawlins-Fernandez cautions, "With this pandemic, we've learned a lot about how our government tended to place all our taxpayer eggs in one tourism industry basket and that prioritizing only one industry over all else is not

a sound nor stable investment strategy. The result has been an astounding number of residents who find themselves unemployed and worried about the future of their job stability."



Chris Rabang

Chris Rabang, general manager of Westin Nanea Ocean Villas, described the hotel's outlook and growth as slow and steady. "While we are nowhere near the occupancies of the same time last year, we are still half full and was able to bring a majority of our associates back from furlough. The safety of our associates and our guests will continue to be a major priority and focus for us. We have modified our resort and restaurant offerings to be consistent with State and County mandates, as well as our corporate guidelines," said Rabang. He understands changes must be done to stay in business. "Like many other businesses, we have to remain open to change and think about how we do business different. Unfortunately, some of those decisions may include ceasing certain offerings indefinitely. Across the board, from luggage assistance to cleaning rooms to food & beverage, it's just a different business model. At the end of the day, we will need to provide genuine experiences and provide authentic service in spite of the limitations in offerings. I have always said that you can have a comfortable bed, in a great room, with an amazing view of the ocean ... but it's the people that make the difference and will keep our guests returning. I am blessed to be working with a team of associates that share this belief and will go out of their way to providing this genuine and authentic experience—in a safe way!"



Emerita Cortez

But the outlook for Maui's Filipino community organizations' various events may not be as rosy. "Due to the pandemic, there has been many restrictions with activities and projects we originally arranged and planned for," said Emerita Cortez, president of the Maui Filipino Community Council. Initially, Cortez did not anticipate cancelling the 2021 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant but a Facebook post noted the cancellation.

"While it remains a fluid situation, the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce intends to continue with our planned annual events," said Rabang, newly installed president of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. "While we are hopeful that we will be in a better place as the year progresses, potentially we will need to postpone the Golf Tournament from the spring to the summer. While we would love to hold the Gintong Pamana Leadership and Scholarship Award Event in person, we may need to do that as a virtual event if there will still be limits on gatherings and

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# Maraming Salamat Po!

To the Sponsors of A Bayanihan Christmas ...  
celebrating the Christmas Season, Sakada Day and Rizal Day



HOSTED BY



Chelsea Guzman



If you missed it, you can still watch it on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/BinhiaAtAniFilipinoCommunityCenter](https://facebook.com/BinhiaAtAniFilipinoCommunityCenter)

## Mahalo

### to the Donors for the Christmas #BayanihanFoodDistribution

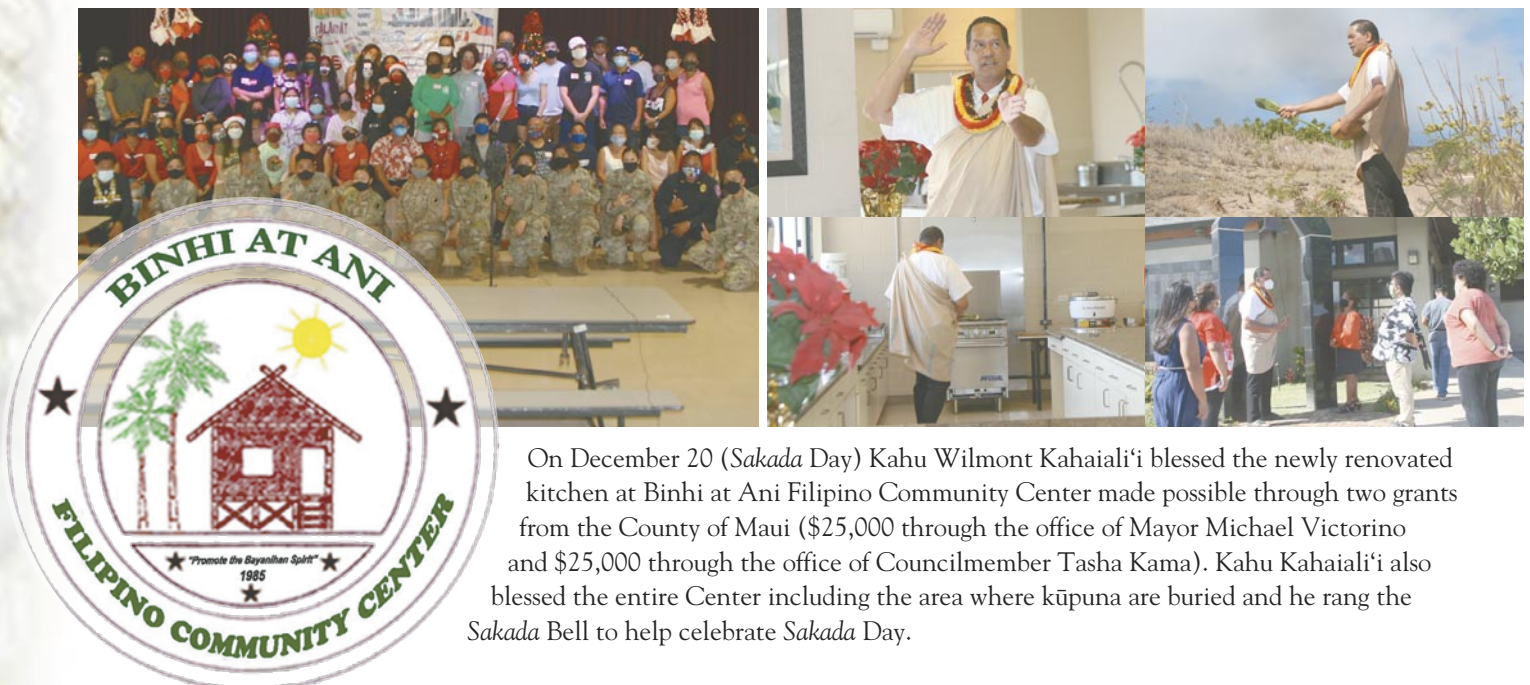
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## Thank You Volunteers

Through December 2020, together we raised over \$42,000 and distributed 6,033 food boxes including 5,404 plate lunches, 1,000 turkeys, 55,422 canned goods, 62,694 pounds of produce, 3,029 bags of rice, 10,577 packages of noodles, 2,221 dozens of eggs, 3,868 loaves of bread/pan de sal, 6,200 McDonalds certificates, 15,769 beverages, 21,702 snacks, 2,106 containers of spaghetti sauce, 4,500 Maui Gold pineapples, 720 gallons of milk, 1,968 boxes of mashed potatoes, over 2,500 dragon fruit, and other miscellaneous items such as toilet paper, coffee, goat cheese and masks.

### The January 2021 (9th) #BayanihanFoodDistribution

will be held on Saturday, January 23 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center.  
Stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates. #SharetheBayanihanSpirit



On December 20 (Sakada Day) Kahu Wilmont Kahaiali'i blessed the newly renovated kitchen at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center made possible through two grants from the County of Maui (\$25,000 through the office of Mayor Michael Victorino and \$25,000 through the office of Councilmember Tasha Kama). Kahu Kahaiali'i also blessed the entire Center including the area where kūpuna are buried and he rang the Sakada Bell to help celebrate Sakada Day.



# From the Editor's Desk

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Love 2021!  
PHOTO: VINCE BAGOYO, JR.

more quickly into establishing again a world order through friendships among stable economies, inviting productive work forces and shared responsibilities to mitigate the disturbing, urgent signs of climate change to save the planet for yet unborn generations. Yes, together we can triumph once more over trials and challenges in our continuing history of success against tribulations we face one at a time and most of all, when we have done our best to work collectively as one people.

Let us usher in the arrival of 2021 on a warm welcome mat of optimism and inspiration!

More than ever, we understand the need to treasure time with family. Traditionally, the most common New Year's resolutions are: lose weight; eat healthier; save, save, save money; recycle; and discover exotic places for vacations. These types of resolutions are more inward ideas centered upon oneself. Perhaps, we can and want to move in a different mode, one that is focused outwardly on the needs of others and how we can better contribute to the greater good because we acknowledge that improving the welfare and daily life of the most needy will simultaneously upgrade circumstances for all in our communities and ultimately, the world.

## Here are a few ideas to consider for 2021:

- Demonstrate daily both intentional and random acts of kindness.
- Be a volunteer in special causes that assist the less fortunate.
- Mentor someone who needs your guidance and encouragement.
- Become the person who is known to have a listening ear.
- Share what you have freely to bless others more frequently.
- Choose to be with people who see greatness and potential within you—even when you don't see how amazing you are.
- Extend forgiveness quickly and love those who have wronged

you.

- Be grateful for God's many blessings in your life.
- Inspire others to be the best that God intended them to be.
- Nurture your gardens—first family and friends, then fruits, vegetables, flowers, shrubs, trees, other plants.
- Give attention to your environment—home, neighborhood, widest reach.
- Always look for the good in every heart.
- Be quick to give thumbs up and *shaka* signs to the positive efforts of young people, as a visible guide to help them stay on the right and healthy paths of growing up.
- Be willing to look deeply and warmly into the eyes of children, especially the ones who openly yearn to be loved and held close.
- Give a smile to everyone you meet, every time you can, on every day.
- Do the things you think you cannot do.
- Be open to the next, yet unknown adventure.
- Enjoy you—so others can, too.

In the Bible, the Book of Acts reminds us how the early church came together into oneness to help each other and to lift each other up. They were unified with joyful hearts to serve others in need. Throughout the Book of Acts you see a passion for unity and togetherness and not as much for individuality—truly caring for each other. Let us all be that community who inspires, encourages and acts habitually and cheerfully as the hands and feet for those in need and less fortunate. Let this be our New Year's resolution for 2021! HAPPY NEW YEAR! ✨

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

## 2021 ...

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social distancing.”

In 2020, Binhi at Ani hosted celebrations as virtual events. The pandemic forced Binhi at Ani to postpone last year's 51st Annual Barrio Fiesta from May to September and eventually it was held as a virtual event in October. “We could not stop the continuity of the Barrio Fiesta



Melen Agcolicol

after 50 years so we ventured into the world of virtual events and we used the opportunity to update the community of our ongoing projects and needs,” Binhi at Ani President Melen Agcolicol said. “We also created a new event—A Bayanihan Christmas, during which we celebrated three events—the Christmas season, Sakada Day and Rizal Day. We're thankful for our sponsors, donors and the production team for two successful virtual events.”

Agcolicol hopes to have the Barrio Fiesta in May but recognizes it may be modified if COVID-19 continues to cancel events. “We're very concerned if the Center will remain closed. We're looking at creating a Saturday Market at Binhi beginning in the spring as another revenue source. That may also give our community organization partners an opportunity to make up for revenues lost due to a virtual Barrio Fiesta. We're trying to think ahead and outside of the box,” explained Agcolicol.

“We also have to undertake a new program—Project Kuleana—where Binhi finally will undertake its responsibility of caring for the *iwi* located on its grounds. We're really excited about this project,” said Agcolicol. “Like the Kāwili album release, we're learning more about the interconnection between our Filipino culture and the Hawaiian culture. Kahu Wilmont Kahaiali'i gave us an excellent history lesson when he blessed our renovated kitchen and the rest of the Center. We want to do more but it all depends on what happens next with COVID-19 and its reported mutations.”

Cortez is hopeful. “With the newly developed vaccination for this virus, I am hopeful and optimistic for a better year. It is evident that there have been struggles in Hawai'i's economy which has impacted our community. Returning to normalcy is something that we could all look forward to.”

“I believe we are seeing the beginning of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic,” Woodson asserts. Woodson thinks the global and national dissemination of the vaccine will also afford Central Maui businesses to fully reopen, allowing people to go back to work and provide for their families.

State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services director Cathy Betts, the other Filipino in the Ige Cabinet, faces the daunting task of protecting the State social safety net as needs continue to grow. She notes the importance of maintaining “a level of hope and optimism.” She highlights



Cathy Betts

the Consolidated Appropriations Act passed by Congress at the end of December will bring a new round of relief to assist Hawai'i's families. Betts points to a need to also focus on DHS' internal and technological capacity to continue to meet the rising need in applications for services and benefits. At the moment, she does not anticipate cutting contracts with DHS' community providers or non-profit partners. “We are hopeful we will be able to maintain continuity of needed services,” she says. “However, I know that our non-profit partners are struggling to make ends meet without more federal aid. These are organizations that are truly on the front line, serving those most in need and we are committed to working with them to help navigate this time together.”

Despite the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center itself losing \$7,000 in revenues each month since the pandemic, Binhi at Ani undertook an ambitious program in May—the #BayanihanFoodDistribution. “We're very proud Binhi undertook this program despite our own needs,” explained Agcolicol. “We joke how it started as Marilyn Oura's dream and became a nightmare of hard work and ultimate dedication but thanks to our community partners such as the County of Maui and Maui Foodbank and our hundreds of volunteers, we raised over \$42,000 and distributed 6,033 food boxes which included 5,404 plate lunches, 55,422 canned goods, 62,694 pounds of produce, 15,769 beverages, 3,029 bags of rice, 1,000 turkeys, 10,577 packages of noodles, 2,221 dozens of eggs, 6,200 McDonalds certificates, 21,702 snacks, 4,500 Maui Gold pineapples, 2,500 dragon fruit, 2,106 containers of spaghetti sauce, 1,968 boxes of mashed potatoes, 720 gallons of milk and other miscellaneous items such as toilet paper, coffee, goat cheese and masks.”

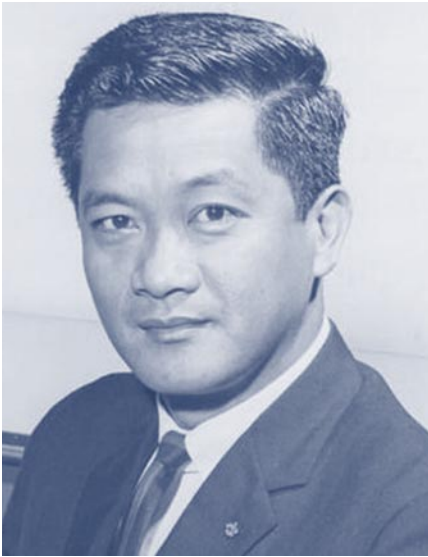
Agcolicol said Binhi will continue to embark on new programs. “In February, we will launch our weekly #BayanihanFeedingProgram where different teams will prepare lunches for senior citizens.” Agcolicol notes how Binhi has been blessed for not thinking of itself but taking steps towards really serving the community. “Out of the blue, folks call us up to volunteer to assist—even those who are visiting from Seattle and San Francisco. We still need donations to help with our own projects so we had to initiate Take-Out Tuesday as our own fundraiser to meet our monthly expenses. It's not easy with all the protocols.”

The “new normal” indicates social distancing protocols and mask wearing will still play important roles for the near future. Residents can expect additional changes in how government provides services and businesses interact with customers.

“I'm really proud of our public servants who choose to work for the State of Hawai'i,” Ige says. “Virtually everyone has had to change what they do and how they do it in light

see 2021 p.13





U.S. District Court Judge Alfred Laureta  
PHOTO: HAWAII STATE ARCHIVES

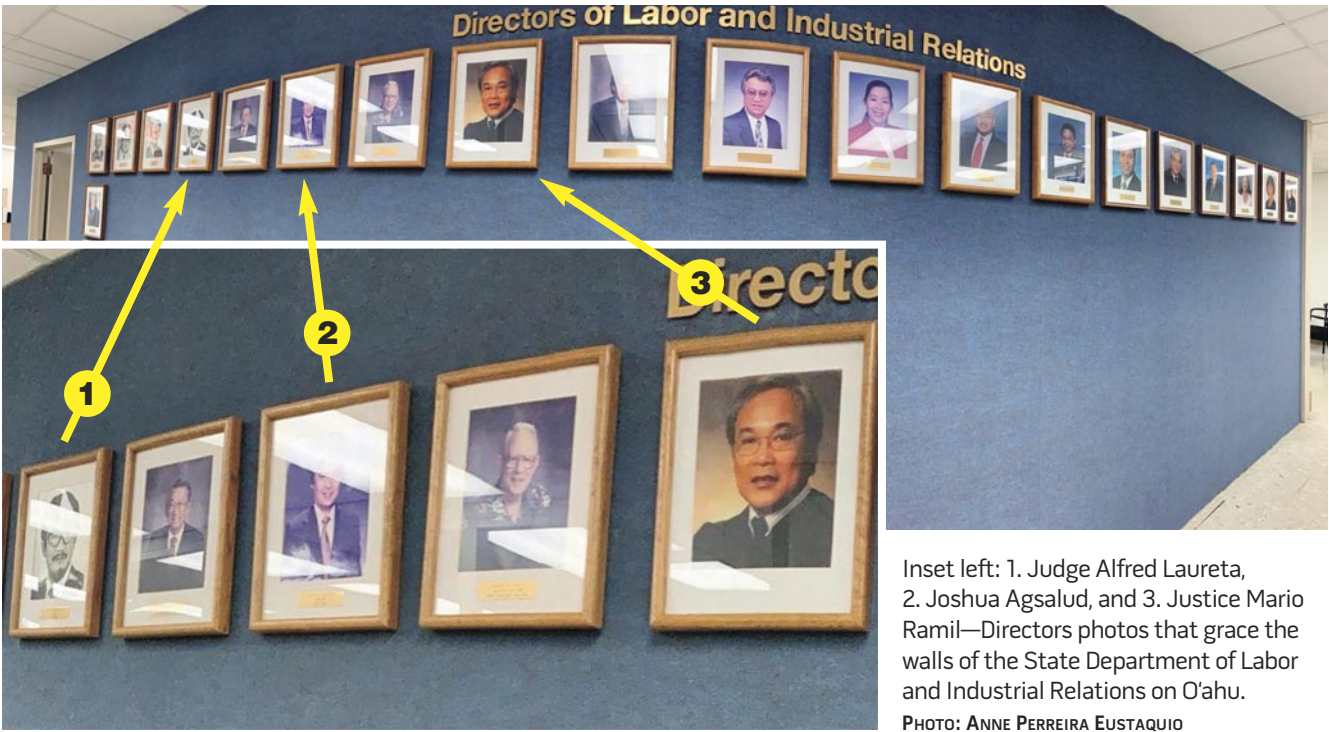
Photographs of past Directors of the State of Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations line the walls of a conference room at the Princess Ruth Ke'elikōlani building in Honolulu. One includes a strikingly handsome young lawyer named Alfred Laureta. While that room is not readily open to the public, it's a suitable memorial for Laureta, a Hawai'i Filipino pioneer remembered as humble, amiable and down to earth. For many, Laureta also remains an inspirational example of early Statehood leaders, even as he himself attributed so much of his indi-

# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Judge Alfred Laureta's life and legacy honors our shared Filipino ancestry and community.

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

vidual accomplishments to community support. Small kid time, emcees at Filipino events often recognized prominent members of the Maui community in attendance. Local *Pinoys* got an added boost by describing them as "the first Filipino" to serve as such-and-such or appointed to this or that. For example, Richard Caldito was the first Filipino County Councilman in the U.S., Jose Romero was the first Filipino doctor on the island or Claro R. Capili, Sr. served as the first acting Mayor of Filipino ancestry. The young man born in 1924 at what was called Banana Camp on



O'ahu's Ewa plains could not have envisioned the many firsts he would earn on the state and federal levels. In fact, when Governor Jack Burns appointed Laureta in 1963 as Labor Director, Al won the distinction of being the first Filipino-American appointed to a gubernatorial Cabinet level position anywhere in the United States. Laureta's appointment blazed the trail for, in former Governor Ben Cayetano's view, "guys like him"—local-born children of workers from Asia, the Azores and other

places recruited to work in Hawai'i's sugar and pineapple plantations. Hawai'i Governors—Burns, Ariyoshi and Cayetano—would later add other talented Filipino directors like Joshua Agsalud, Mario Ramil and Leonard Agor to that conference room wall.

When Al Laureta graduated from Lahainaluna High School in the early 1940s, Hawai'i was entering a great transitional period in the midst of a global war. The only child of immigrant Filipino parents with little formal education, Laureta's academic prowess got him notoriety. His parents divorced when he was young and he would be raised by his dad among the "single men" in Maui's plantation camps and went to Makawao Elementary. Known for his good humor, Laureta always had a good story. As Kaua'i's *The Garden Island* news noted in a 2019 profile, Laureta recounted at his first judicial appointment in 1967, the role of his father's co-workers: "The single men looked on me as their responsibility, encouraging me to do well in

school ... My report card became community property." Laureta would be one of the few Filipino students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa which reflected the reality of the time. Most island Filipinos came from the plantations and were hard-pressed to afford higher education for their children. Al would work his way through UH, earning tuition with the "good money" made at summer Pineapple Cannery jobs. Laureta, like many in the generation that came of age after World War II, came to understand education was key to elevating the socio-economic status of his ethnic community and other groups from the plantation. While he earned an education degree in 1947,

Laureta wanted to go to law school. In *The Garden Island* profile, Laureta recalled, "At that time in the history of Hawai'i, there were no professional Filipinos in any kind of business." Professions, he thought, generally required getting a mainland graduate degree. Laureta recalls a priest named Osmundo Calip took an interest in his dreams and convinced prestigious Fordham University Law School to enroll him. (Calip was a former Philippine army chaplain who would organize a statewide network of Filipino Catholic clubs.) Laureta also noted among the groups providing him with support was a local Japanese organization that previously awarded Hawai'i

see DINENGDENG & PINAKBET p.10



Excerpted from Maui Filipino Community Council Fiesta Filipina Souvenir Program: "Maui Filipino Community leaders attended the Testimonial Banquet honoring Judge and Mrs. Alfred Laureta at the Ilikai Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii. Pictured from L-R: A.B. Sevilla, Pepito Ragasa, Councilman Richard Caldito, the Honorees, Monsignor Osmundo Calip, Claro Capili and Consul General Trinidad Alconcel of the Republic of the Philippines."

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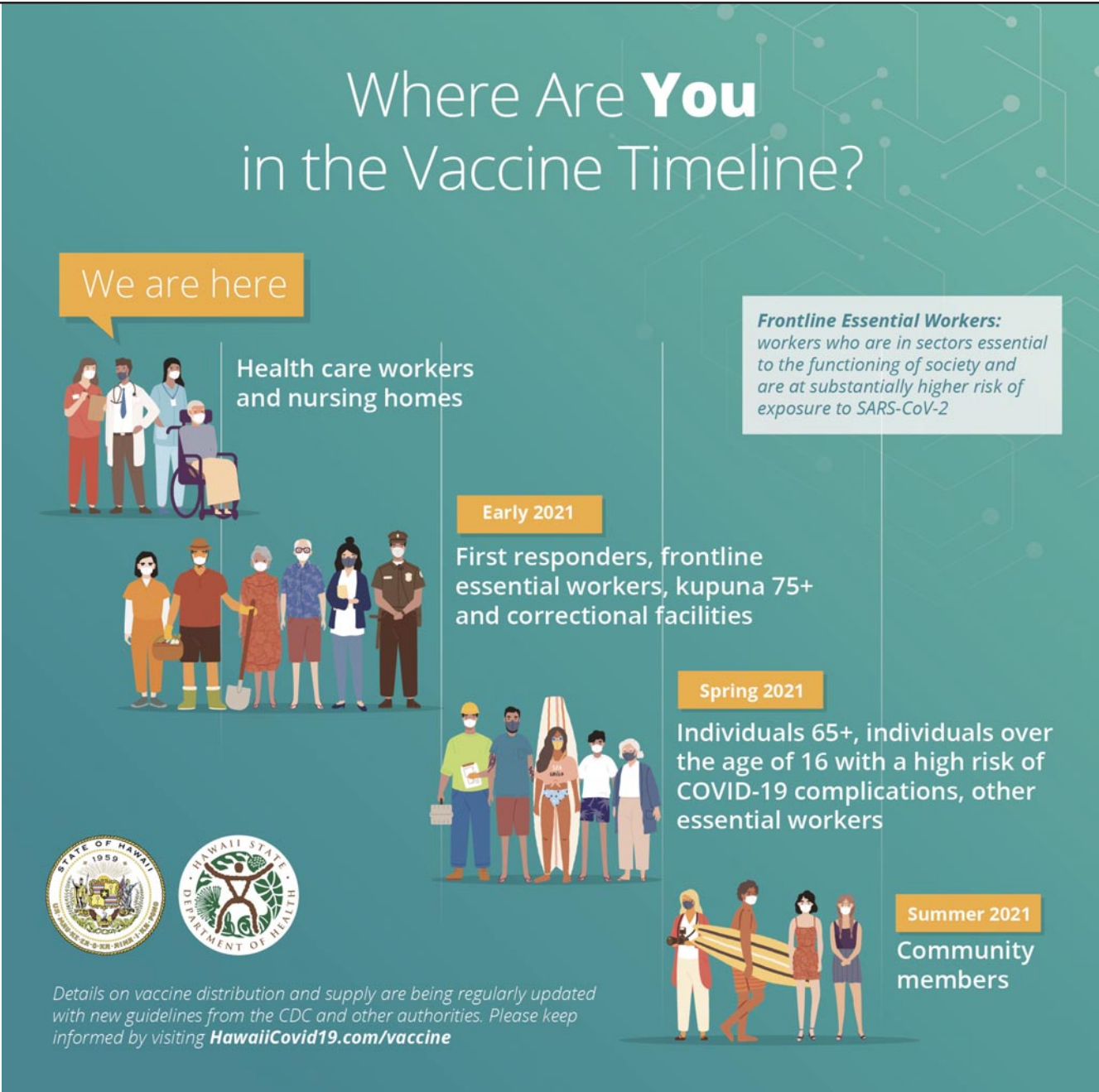
# Vaccine for the COVID-19 Virus

What you need to know!

Errol Buntuyan, M.D.

Our nation and our local Maui community have been hit hard with increased COVID positive cases in the last two months. It is undeniable the COVID-19 virus has not only affected our health but also our economy as well. Many have cared for or may have lost their stricken loved ones, others have lost their jobs due to business closures or have been furloughed with no relief in sight. The promising news is a limited number of COVID-19 vaccines have finally arrived on Maui. They became available to our frontline healthcare workers and nursing home community on December 23rd. The arrival of these vaccines signal the glimmer of hope to end the suffering many of us have experienced in 2020.

Two newly approved vaccines deemed safe are from the manufacturers Pfizer and Moderna. Though Pfizer



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was granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) a week before the Moderna vaccine, both arrived on Maui almost at the same time. The Pfizer vaccine is being distributed at Maui Memorial Medical Center because the hospital has the deep cold freezers required for storage. The Department of Health (DOH) has received the Moderna vaccines and have distributed them at the UH Maui College campus with the help of the National Guard, Public Health teams, community nursing staff and providers. There will be continued supply and shipments in the upcoming months to other health care facilities and eventually everyone on Maui will be able to receive the vaccine.

The COVID-19 virus is mostly spread through respiratory droplets that float through the air between people who are close together, talking, breathing and coughing. There currently are no good treatments once you are sick with COVID-19. Older people or those with long standing diseases can get very sick and die from a COVID-19 infection. Although we do our best with social distancing, wearing masks and washing our hands, it is very difficult to prevent the spread of this virus. The COVID-19 vaccines are the best chance for prevention of this viral infection.

These COVID-19 vaccines cannot give someone COVID-19. These vac-

cines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19. These vaccines use mRNA to stimulate our immune system to create specific antibodies to fight against the spike proteins of the virus. This does not allow the virus to enter our cells to cause the infection in our body. Both vaccines seem to work very well with studies showing up to 95% effectiveness in preventing the recipient from getting COVID-19. It is a two-shot vaccine series given in the arm with three to four weeks between shots. The typical side effects are similar to other vaccines such as low fever, feeling tired, muscle aches, headache and a sore arm at the site of the injection. These can last one to two days after receiving the shot.

An allergic reaction could occur after receiving the vaccine. Signs of a severe allergic reaction are hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast

heartbeat, dizziness or weakness. Although this is a rare occurrence, people with known severe allergic reactions to foods, medications or other vaccines should discuss the risks with their primary care provider before getting the shot.

This vaccine is our best chance of not getting COVID-19. Currently there are tiered groups of distribution to receive the vaccine. Group 1a are health care workers and those residing in nursing homes that are currently receiving the vaccine. As more supplies

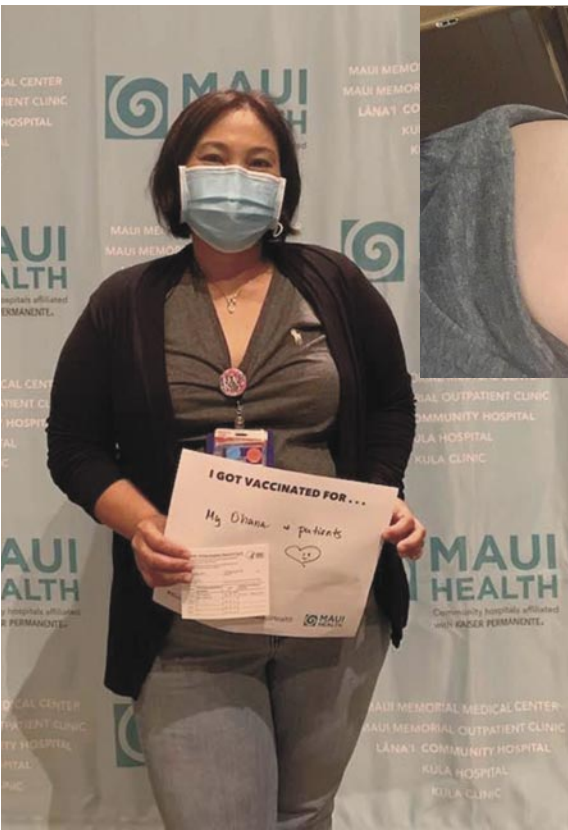
***“This vaccine is our best chance of not getting COVID-19. Currently there are tiered groups of distribution to receive the vaccine.”***

– ERROL BUNTUYAN, M.D.

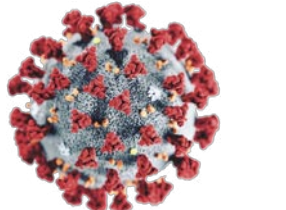




**Christine Gumpal**, a Registered Nurse at Maui Memorial Medical Center and Co-Owner of CNA Hawai'i Institute, LLC, and frontline essential worker, receives her first COVID-19 vaccination.  
PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTINE GUMPAL



**Marjorie Magbual**, a Registered Nurse at Kula Hospital, and a frontline essential worker also receives her first COVID-19 vaccination.  
PHOTO COURTESY MARJORIE MAGBUAL



come in we hope to vaccinate our group 1b in the next two months, which are our first responders, frontline essential workers, those kūpuna age 75 or older and those in correctional facilities. By Spring 2021, we hope to get group 1c which are individuals 65 or older, those with a high risk of COVID-19 complications over 16 years old and other essential workers. Group 2 are all community members 16 years or older that we hope to

vaccinate by summer 2021. Unfortunately, we do not have a vaccine for children under 16 years of age. You may hear from your healthcare provider, your employer, announcements from State and local leaders or the media. The DOH maintains the latest information on the vaccine's status in Hawai'i at [www.hawaiicovid19.com/vaccine](http://www.hawaiicovid19.com/vaccine). Please do not hesitate to get the COVID-19 vaccine when the opportu-

nity comes your way. This will keep our Maui Filipino community safe from this deadly virus and steer us closer to the end of this pandemic. **Errol Buntuyan, M.D.** is a Family Medicine Practitioner and the Physician in Charge of Maui Primary Care at Kaiser Permanente. Born in Quezon City and raised in Southern California, he has

been practicing medicine on Maui since 2007. Dr. Buntuyan promotes whole food, plant based nutrition, regular physical activity, stress mindfulness and sleep hygiene as keys to optimum health and wellness. He enjoys cooking, playing tennis and travel.



## Cabebe ...

from p. 3

chaperone me and my girlfriend. But in San Francisco, Mrs. Cabebe was paired with a younger dancer and we all were instructed to meet back at the bus at a certain time and to make sure your partner was with you. The bus loaded up and no one said a word until fifteen minutes later, someone said "Where's Mrs. Cabebe?" We returned back and there she was—waiting patiently. Mrs. Cabebe was apparently shopping in a gift shop and when she came out, we were gone. So throughout the rest of the trip, before the bus would leave our stops, it would become a joke and we would say "Where's Mrs. Cabebe?"

During our trip, we performed in Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, and San Juan Capistrano but the highlight of course was performing at the Carnation Plaza at Disneyland. The Carnation Plaza no longer exists but the



At the January 2005 opening of Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.  
PHOTO COURTESY CABEBE 'OHANA



Chaperoning the Miss Maui Filipina in the Philippines.  
PHOTO COURTESY CABEBE 'OHANA

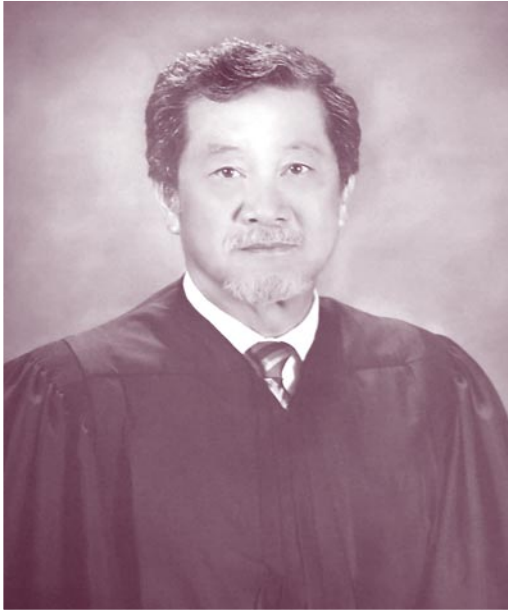
memories and teachings of Mrs. Cabebe have lasted a lifetime. Beyond learning the intricate dance steps, we learned how to trust each other, how to develop as leaders in our community, and most of all, how important it was to give back to the community. Aggie took leadership roles in many Filipino community organizations. She served as president of the Maui Filipino Community Council. She worked well with everybody—most of whom have passed—but those still around include Greg Peros, Tony Ramil, Leo Agcolicol and yes Deacon Patrick Constantino—who was the money man involved in Trophies and Donations and that great money maker—the Souvenir Book. Mrs Cabebe also served as Vice President and a Board of Governor for

the statewide United Filipino Council of Hawai'i. And she was the first president of Binhi at Ani. With her friends Nancy Andres and Pauline Agres, she would embark on many new projects in Maui's Filipino community like the Barrio Fiesta. Mrs. Cabebe became the first chairperson of the Barrio Fiesta while Andres was the General Chairperson of the year's activities called the Filipino Fiesta. "I've attended every single Barrio Fiesta since 1970 when Nancy Andres started it. She was the general chairman back in 1970. I chaired the first Barrio Fiesta with Greg Peros," said Cabebe in May 2019, reflecting on the 50th Barrio Fiesta. "Fifty years later, we need to continue to perpetuate the Filipino culture for our younger generations. And we need to move forward as a

Filipino community on Maui and work together." "It was Nancy's idea to start the Barrio Fiesta. She developed the concept and because she was new on Maui, she worked through some old-timers to get it done," Cabebe said in 2009 when Andres passed away and the Barrio Fiesta was dedicated to Andres. Cabebe and Andres also modernized the Miss Maui Filipina pageant. In 1970, the pageant was given a new format that included different phases of competition. "Nancy Andres and I went to the Miss Hawai'i Filipina contest and we got their criteria and decided to upgrade our Maui queen contest," recalled Cabebe in June 2019. "We started with three phases: the Ki-

see CABEBE p.13





(Above) Judge Alfred Laureta  
PHOTO: HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

(Left) Alfred Laureta and  
Sen. Daniel K. Inouye  
PHOTO: 'ULU'ULU MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVE  
AND THE DANIEL K. INOUE INSTITUTE

Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJAs). The group decided to help him as they were aiding other Hawai'i students. He promised them he would return to practice law in Hawai'i. With a three-year scholarship, Laureta would move to the Bronx and receive his Juris Doctor in 1953.

He also met his wife Evelyn Reantillo, a nursing student, during his time on the East Coast. She would support their young family when they fulfilled his commitment and moved back to Hawai'i. Without a job and expecting a first child, Laureta studied for the bar exam and in 1954 became only the third Filipino admitted to practice law at that time.

Laureta, trying to develop a law practice, would be drawn into the groundwork organizing for social changes in the post-War islands. His early law partners included Bert Kobayashi, later a Hawai'i Supreme Court Justice and Russell Kono, who would serve as a district court judge. He would become a law

partner of a young Nisei veteran named Daniel K. Inouye and another AJA named George Ariyoshi. He would be recruited into their Democratic Party organizing activities with a local haole police officer named John Burns.

Following the Democratic election "revolution" in 1954, Laureta would serve the new Democratic majority in the Territorial House of Representatives as House attorney with fellow young lawyers Patsy Mink who would later serve as Congresswoman and Herman Lum who later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i. In 1959, Laureta would serve as an administrative assistant in the U.S. Congress when his partner Danny Inouye was elected as the new State of Hawai'i's first U.S. Congressman.

Governor Burns would call Laureta back from Washington, D.C. to the islands to serve in his Cabinet. Upon confirmation, the child of a Filipino plantation worker became head of the State Department of Labor and Indus-

trial Relations.

A few years later, Burns appointed Laureta as the first Filipino-American State court judge in 1967. Laureta would serve on O'ahu's first circuit court before transferring to Kaua'i's fifth circuit court in 1969.

In 1977, an Act of Congress established the Territory of the Northern Marianas. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter made Laureta the first federal Judge of Filipino descent nationally. Upon U.S. Senate confirmation, Laureta became the first judge for the newly-established U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan), serving from 1978 to 1988.

As he recounted to the *Honolulu Advertiser* when appointed, "There's no federal court building in Saipan. Court will initially be held in the lounge of the Saipan Continental Hotel, at one time a small gambling casino when slot machines were legal on the islands."

Laureta retired to Kaua'i where he continued to participate in the community—volunteering with Kaua'i Economic Opportunity as a mediator, serving as the Kaua'i commissioner on the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

and as an elected director on the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative, among other activities.

Laureta passed away on November 16, 2020 at his home on Kaua'i, surrounded by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In a *StarAdvertiser* obituary, one of his former law clerks Robin Campaniano provided the following coda: "He taught me how to be a lawyer and how to be very judicial. He showed me judicial temperament and how that should permeate everybody's life: How to be honest, fair, to be a person with integrity and to be humble at the same time." ✨

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** practices law in Wailuku and represents Central Maui in the State Senate. He spent only three months as Director of Labor during Governor Ben Cayetano's administration but has a photo on the wall in the same conference room as Judge Laureta.



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran



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Goodbye 2020. What a year to remember or forget! It's the year that didn't turn out the way we expected it would be. Was surviving the global pandemic on your plan or goal? It's been a tough year for many of us as we experienced job loss, childcare difficulties, virtual schooling and most of all, not being able to see family be it far or near. We cannot visit them

# Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

when they are sick or on the bridge of death, we cannot attend funerals to pay our respect to our loved ones. Instead, the government came up

with these new normal things like wearing a face mask, social distancing at least six feet, avoid touching MEN (Mouth, Eyes, Nose), washing

hands or use hand sanitizer and so on. Now the year is over, we welcome 2021 with new absolute joy and take all of those life lessons we learned from last year and apply them this year to have a happier and healthier 2021. Let's see what's going on with Michael this month and where they will be going next, shall we?

SUSAN: Are you on your way to the office? Where are you?

MICHAEL: Hmm No. I just came from Pā'ia and I had a flat tire. I am driving to the shop to have my tire fixed and then go see someone. Should I be in the office on a Saturday?

SUSAN: Well, Sir, I think you have to call me when you are not driving or when you are done with all the things you have to do ngayon (today). I'm afraid I don't have any good news for you on this one.

MICHAEL: Ano (What) do you have for me?

SUSAN: The name Angel Corpuz from Baccara doesn't exist. I've looked up many different records from the United States government files all the way to Philippine birth certificates. There is no Angel Corpuz from Bacarra.

MICHAEL: Anni? (What?) That's impossible. Check the records again.

Susan: Sir, she doesn't exist. The person you were looking for, she is not who she seems to be.

Michael gasps with horror in his eyes. His korason (heart) starts to pound and his knees tremble.

SUSAN: I've done a little bit more digging as well. I've looked into the immigration records and it seems an Angel Corpuz Ramos went missing around that same time. I forwarded the last available picture of her at the Philippine airport with an unknown man beside her.

MICHAEL: Let me take a look at that picture. Send it now.

Michael stares at his phone, anxiously waiting to receive the picture. It seems like forever, he sighs, but only a minute just passed.

"Ding!" Susan sent one image. As Michael opens the photo provided by his assistant there is no doubt this is the same girl.

Michael is hit with a series of emotions—anger, confusion, sadness, anger, worry. His puso (heart) starts beating at 1000 miles a second. "How could this be?"

SUSAN: Sir, she is wanted. There is a warrant for her arrest. Apparently there was a sheriff who was killed and

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Car	Sasakyan	Lugan	Sakyanan	Auto	Kotse	Saken
Street	Kalye	Dalan	Dalan	Dalan	Dalang	Kalye
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Hani?	Ano?	Anni?	Nanoyin?
House	Bahay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Bale
Hair	Buhok	Buok	Buhok	Buhok	Vu	Bwak
Stairs	Hagdanan	Agdan	Hagdan	Hagdanan	Ad dan	Eran
Today	Ngayon	Ita nga aldaw	Karun	Subong	Sangaw	Ngeni
Heart	Puso	Puso	Tutu	Puso	Kasingkasing	Korason
Arms	Braso	Takyag	Lima	Gamat	Kamot	Braso

she was one of the last people seen on camera with him. Immigration detectives are after her as well as the police department special investigation team.

Michael hangs up the phone. As he flings it aside, he pulls over.

After clinching his buhok (hair), he begins to rub his face aggressively. After a deep breath he grabs his phone to check out the photo again. Yes, this is definitely her.

He makes a U-turn to head back to Pā'ia.

As he goes up and down Baldwin Avenue, he is desperately looking for a sign of Angel.

He gets out of the sasakyan (car) and starts to run up and down the kalye (street).

Deep inside, he just wants to burst out and shout her name. But he doesn't have the courage to do so. He dashes towards an unknown balay (house) and raises his kamay (hand) to knock and then pauses and retracts his kamot (hand). He just doesn't have the guts to do it.

"What if they scold me?" "What if a dog jumps out?" "What if it's a big angry guy?"

Michael steps back and slowly walks down the hagdanan (stairs) staring at his gamat (hands). He looks around but his mind is racing. He cannot really gather any of his thoughts. He knows he should do something but his head is in a state of chaos.

Hurriedly going back to his kotse (car), he sees his phone ringing.

Like a linebacker jumping in for a

fumbled ball, he leaps into his sakyanan (car), almost injuring himself on the parking brake. He captures the device and tries to unlock his phone.

As his lima (hands) shake, his pupils dilating, he enters his password. Incorrect. He enters it again. Incorrect. "Arggg," he grunts. He enters his password for the fourth time. Incorrect. A panic attack comes on and he furiously taps on this phone screen for the fifth time. "Wrong PIN entered 5 times, try again in 30 seconds." Grinding his teeth, he enters PIN after PIN after PIN. "Wrong PIN entered 12 times; try again in 10 minutes.

As fire comes from his mouth, he flings his phone into the bushes and it crashes into the cane grass. He stares into the field. In shock, he instantly regrets throwing his phone.

This time, wishful and playful words come marching out of his mouth. He begins his walk to the cane grass and gracefully makes his way into the Pā'ia forest. As the coarse, sharp grass blades dig into the soft skin on his body, he winces in pain. Gingerly pushing aside lump after lump, he can't see his phone anywhere.

Grimacing with every step, Michael can feel the tiny micro sharp bwak (hairs) on each blade of grass grab hold of him as he passes. His pants snags on every turn. Michael has never done any landscaping work so this is all new to him. Digging around feeling the ground, he feels something

crawl up his braso (arm). He screams and shakes off his ima (hand).

"Aww man what have you done now Mikey? Geez, couldn't I have just thrown it away in the lugan (car)? Why did I have to chuck it into the grass?" he whiffs under his nose.

Suddenly, a sound catches his ear. Michael stops moving and holds his breath.

The sound again. He can hear it. He hears his cell phone ringing! "Riiinnngggggggg ... Riiiiinnnnngggggg ..."

Who do you think it is? Could it be Susan with more information? Could it be the cops looking for Angel? Or could it be his grandmother needing help with her television again?

Find out next month! 2020 is in the books! Aren't we glad we have a fresh new start? Let's kick off 2021 with some positive New Year's resolutions. Please share your resolution with us on Facebook. Visit us on our Facebook page and leave us a comment or ideas at www.facebook.com/fil-amvoicemaui.

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



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## Is Not Everything...

### The Coup D'état Crisis

Alexis Joy Vilorio | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL

January 6th, 2021.

This day in history will forever be remembered as a remarkable one. From the runoff election in Georgia to the counting of electoral votes and a violent visit to the United States Capitol by enraged political followers, January 6th, 2021 was anything but tranquil.

Amid claims of a fraudulent election stemming all the way from November until this point in time, President Trump continues in his tirade criticizing the authenticity of the 2020 election. As expected, his supporters followed suit.

As Congress counted the electoral college votes for the Presidential Election, pro-Trump protestors stationed in Washington D.C. stormed the Capitol in opposition to Joe Biden's anticipated ceremonial declaration as president-elect. Armed and dangerous, a mob of protestors breached layers of security and got onto the Capitol floor, some calling the event an attempt of a *coup d'état*, the overthrow of an existing government, which in this case is the incoming Biden administration.

*“At this hour, our democracy is under unprecedented assault.... The scenes at the Capitol do not reflect a true America. Let me be very clear: the scenes of chaos at the Capitol do not represent who we are.”*

In response to their entrance, the U.S. Capitol was placed on lockdown. During the destructive raid of the Capitol, House and Senate floors were locked with the House being evacuated by police. The mob's abrupt entrance put a pause to the ceremonial counting of the electoral votes. The protesters were said to have been in possession of hate symbols such as the nazi and confederate flags and waving around gestures of white supremacy.

President Trump released a video urging the protestors to go home, though staying true to his claims of



Storming of the United States Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021.  
PHOTO ATTRIBUTION 2.0 GENERIC (CC BY 2.0), VIA WIKIPEDIA

election fraud.

“We had an election that was stolen from us. It was a landslide election and everyone knows it—especially the other side—but you have to go home now,” Trump stated in a video released via his social media.

Since its release, social media sites were quick to take action against Trump's recurrent false claims of fraud. Facebook took the video down and Twitter suspended Trump's account for 12 hours, warning of permanent banning if further misinformation is promoted.

Trump was not the only prominent political figure who released remarks on the event. Former President George W. Bush and President-elect Joe Biden both released statements condemning the President and his supporters' conduct.

“It is a sickening and heartbreaking sight. This is how election results are disputed in a banana republic—not

our democratic republic. I am appalled by the reckless behavior of some political leaders since the election and by the lack of respect shown today for our institutions, our traditions and our law enforcement,” said President George W. Bush.

“At this hour, our democracy is under unprecedented assault. The scenes at the Capitol do not reflect a true America. Let me be very clear: the scenes of chaos at the Capitol do not represent who we are,” said President-elect Joe Biden

As of Wednesday night, the Capitol was deemed secure from protestors and the proceedings of the counting of the electoral votes continued. Though now seemingly back to normal, it is clear to many this event might just be the start to even more chaos. This attack on the Capitol is symbolic of the partisanship fostered throughout the past four years in which progress as a united country was looked down upon



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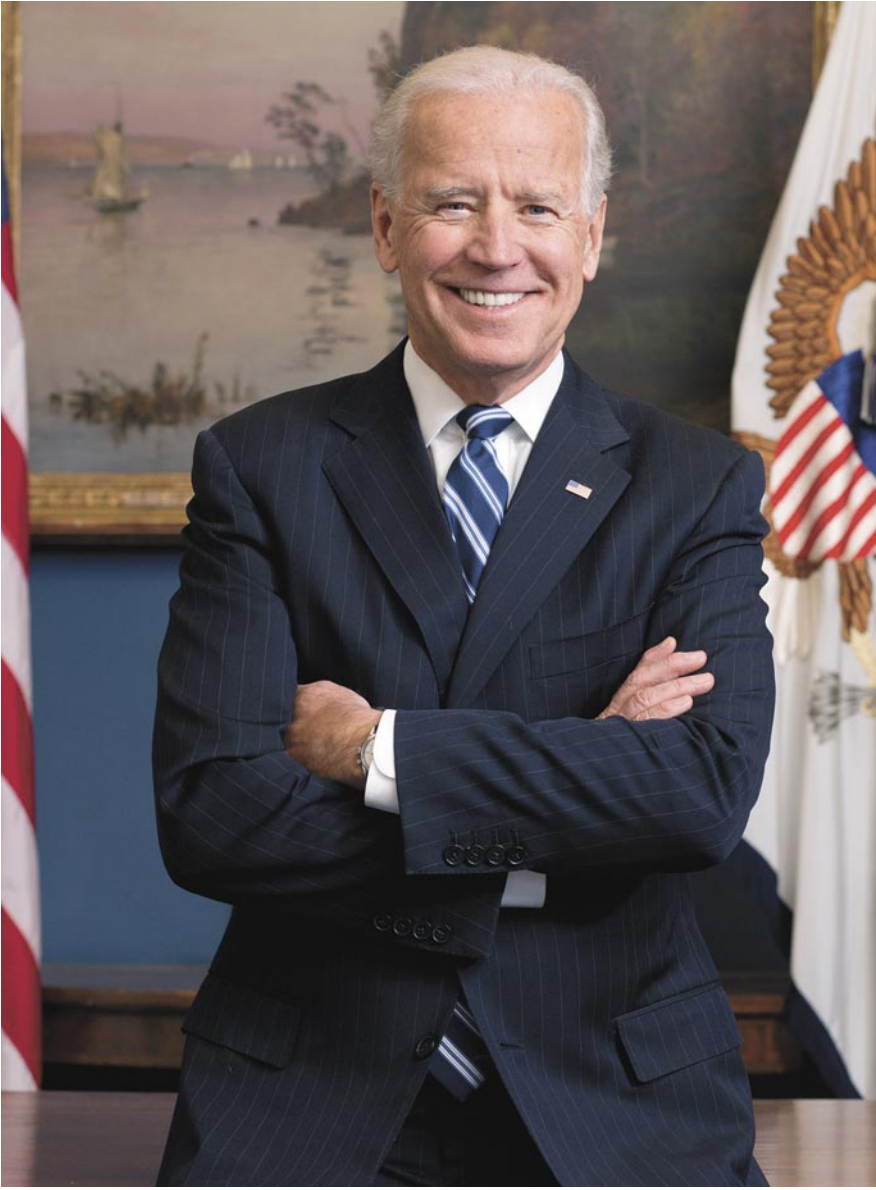
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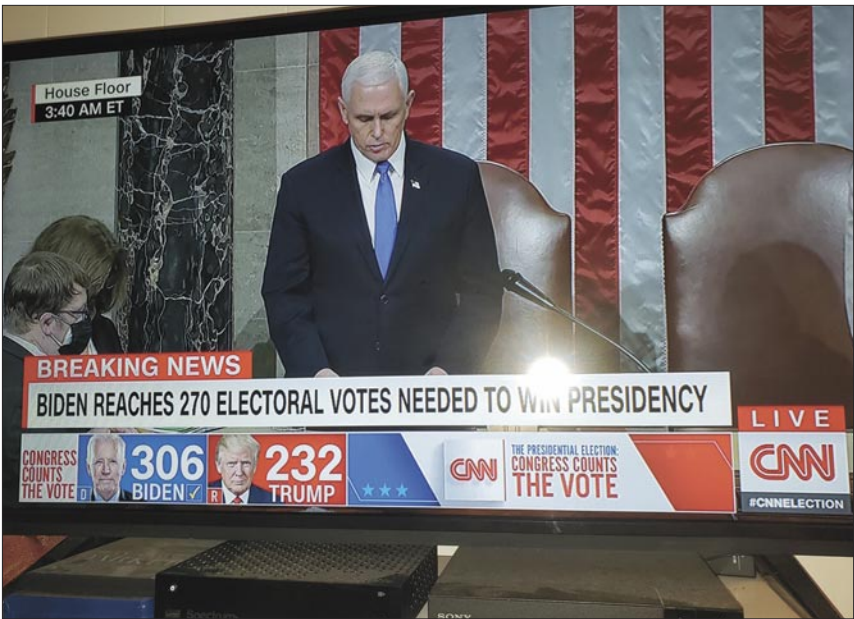
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President-Elect Joseph Robinette Biden.  
PHOTO: EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, VIA WIKIPEDIA





Biden gets 306 electoral college votes.  
SCREEN SHOT: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

by some.

While what happened on January 6th at the Capitol was an extraordinary event that hasn't happened in the country in centuries, there is still light at the end of the tunnel as new leadership continues to move into the U.S. federal government. In addition to Biden's win, Democratic candidates Jon Ossoff and Reverend Raphael Warnock were up for U.S. Senate seats in the Georgia runoff election. Their wins signal the imminent change in the policies put in place, a change the United States may need in these times. In the near future, there is much to look forward to as the United States continues to shift its priorities towards unification, healing and advancement as a society. ✨



**Google® Is Not Everything** is a monthly column authored by high school students. The title of the column emphasizes education is more than just googling a topic. Google® is a registered trademark. This month's guest columnist is **Alexis Joy Vilorio**, Maui High School Senior. She is the founder and President of the Saber-Scribes journalism club and Vice President of the Silver-sword Chapter of the National Honor Society. Alexis is a member of HOSA-Future Health Professionals as the Secondary Representative of the Hawai'i HOSA State Council. She will be attending Stanford University in the Fall to major in Anthropology. Alexis is the daughter of Alex and Juvy Vilorio.

## 2021 ...

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of this pandemic. We put serving the community first. We know that the demand for government services and support increases during times of crisis, and I believe our public servants have responded well." Betts recounts, "DHS was able to quickly assess the rising need for benefits and services. We worked internally to build the capacity and apply for all necessary federal waivers to shore up our staff's capacity to focus on getting services out to the residents who most needed them, all with very quick turnaround." DHS applied for and received Coronavirus Relief Funds to quickly modernize its systems so that 1) telework could be supported and 2) residents could access applications for benefits online or over the phone. Staff responded to exponential increases in applications. "We aggressively procured PPE to provide to our 84 statewide offices as well as to contracted providers," she says. "We quickly made the switch to telework, such that up to 90 percent of DHS divisions were able to efficiently telework without having to be in an office space." DHS also disseminated more than 11.6 million dollars in childcare grants for providers through a grant with the Hawai'i

Community Foundation, increased the maximum childcare subsidy amounts to families and dispersed additional federal benefits to families in need, including two rounds of pandemic EBT for children who were enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program. "I anticipate that with more federal aid, we will be able to continue serving residents quickly and efficiently into the new year," Betts promises.

Even Butay's sprawling agency has been impacted by the economic doldrums. As a special funded department, the HDOT's revenues remain directly tied to the user fees for the state's infrastructure and facilities at harbors and airports. During the pandemic, the HDOT has learned how to maintain critical infrastructure and services while adapting to the new paradigm of increased health, safety measures and a sudden decline in revenues. To ensure the health and safety of the public and the department's staff, various safety measures were implemented. For example, hands-free sanitizer dispensers were placed around department facilities and masks were distributed to personnel. Many offices moved to telecommuting and increased digital communications between offices to minimize risk. With the pandemic ongoing, Butay expects the department

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In the 1970s the Maui Filipino Community Council leadership was dominated by men: (Back row): Pat Constantino, Reynante Tagorda, Artemio Baxa, Martin Luna, Virgilio Agcolicol, Pepito Ragasa, Mel Bartolome, Patrick Esclito, Antonio Ramil, and Fred Duldulao. (Front row): Shirley Evangelista, Aggie Cabebe, Leo Polo, Raquel Nancy Andres and Carmen Ordenez.

PHOTO COURTESY CABEBE 'OHANA

## Cabebe ...

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mona Formal Phase; the Talent Phase; and the Terno Phase and Oral Questioning." Over the years, more changes were made to the Miss Maui Filipina pageant.


The year 1970 was a critical year for the Maui Filipino Community Council. It was the first year of the Council's Fiesta Filipina, with events spanning from May 1 through July 11, 1970, including an Introduction of the Queen contestants on May 1 with a motorcade from Wells Park to the Kahului Shopping Center; a Santa Cruzan Festival on May 29 at the Kahului Shopping Center; the first annual Barrio Fiesta on May 31, and the Queen Contest and Coronation on June 6 at the Baldwin auditorium. The pageant even published a souvenir program (24 pages).

Cabebe had a lot of respect for An-


dres and developed a close working relationship with her. "The first time I met Nancy was when she came to Maui in 1964 to perform as part of the *Saniatan ti Amianan*. That's why I named my Folk Dance troupe The Maui Saniatas in the late 1960s," Cabebe recalled. "I got my nickname 'General' because I served as the General Chairperson of the Filipino Fiesta for many years, beginning in 1972 when Nancy became president of the Maui Filipino Community Council. When Nancy became president in 1972, I looked for a person to assist with the queen contest and found Pauline Agres," said Cabebe. "Together, the three of us would be called The Three Musketeers."

Cabebe would collaborate with Andres and Agres on many projects and activities. The Three Musketeers created the Mrs. Valentine pageant—a fundraiser for the Maui Heart Association. For many years, Cabebe was the

see CABEBE next page



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Cabebe ...

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official Chaperone for the Miss Maui Filipina pageant and would accompany the queen on her official trip to the Philippines. In 1976, a trip to the Philippines was offered as a prize. “I was the first chaperone,” said Cabebe. “Nobody wanted to go. They were scared. I had family in Manila so I wasn’t scared.”

Cabebe was involved in virtually every cultural activity of Maui’s Filipino community. In 1974, as Filipino Fiesta General Chair, she observed “I have had the opportunity of noting how many people gave their time, energy, and talent to the community activities in connection with the Filipino Fiesta projects. I find their contribution very rewarding.”

Cabebe was also a member of a number of commissions and committees: Maui County Status of Women, Maui Community Arts Council, Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Culture and the Arts, and the Maui County Charter Commission.

As to her experience with working with groups and organizations, Cabebe said “If involved in any project, just be dedicated!”

Her selfless dedication would earn her many honors: In 1973, she earned the Outstanding Member Award from the Maui Filipino Community Council. In 2001, she was presented with the

Gintong Pamana Leadership Award by the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. In 2003, she was presented by the United Filipino Council of Hawai’i with a Progress Award in the fields of Humanitarian/Community Service. In 2015, she received the Philippine Arts



Attending granddaughter’s graduation from Seattle University.

PHOTO COURTESY CABEBE ‘OHANA

and Culture Leadership Award from Dance International Production. Also in 2015, she received a Women of Excellence award for Maui County.

Aggie’s commitment to the youth went beyond Good Shepherd: she would teach Filipino folk dance to the Christ the King Jr. Filipino Catholic Club, St Joseph Jr. Filipino Catholic Club as well as many other groups including many Senior Citizen groups. She loved to teach the Rigodon to be performed at celebrations, including the grand opening of Binhi at Ani in January 2005.

But the youth was always her focus.

When Binhi at Ani opened sixteen years ago, Mrs. Cabebe’s wrote: “Truly, we all share a common hope—the future of our youth. And they will re-

main the focus of our efforts and will continue to spur us into action in the many projects of the community to come.”

Indeed, Cabebe’s life will continue to live through the many youth she taught and nurtured. The applause at the end of future performances will always be for Cabebe as well.

In 1999, The Maui News published an article written by Valerie Monson after a testimonial for Cabebe. “The applause that rippled through the Maui Beach Hotel on Saturday night was nothing new to Aggie Cabebe. As the woman who brought the art of Filipino dancing to Maui, she’s been on the receiving end of ovations time and time again. But

these cheers weren’t in acknowledgment of a show she’d just finished. This was for the performance of her life.”

The Fil-Am Voice joins the rest of Maui in extending condolences to the Cabebe

‘ohana on their loss. Rest in peace and love, Aggie, we will remember you as we dance each step of your beloved Filipino Folk Dances and we will always miss you—The Mother of Filipino Folk Dance on Maui.

Aloha ‘Oe and Maraming Salamat Po for everything. 🌸

**Alfredo G. Evangelista** served as President of the Good Shepherd Church Filipino Youth Choir from 1974–1976. He would lead the warm ups and assign who would perform the dances, always making sure he was paired with his high school sweetheart, the former Basilia Tumacder Idica. Together they would be featured as the dancers for Sayaw ed Tapew na Bangko (dance on top of a bench); his favorite dances included Maglalatik, Palu Palo, Pandann-



go sa ilaw and Oa-sioas (he was not a g i l e enough to d a n c e Tinikling).

2021 ...

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ment will continue to implement these measures and seek to improve conditions to ensure the well-being of the state’s transportation system users and personnel.

Hashimoto says his office has continued to serve his district throughout the pandemic without any interruptions. Other aspects of State government, however, have had more challenges in pivoting. With the upcoming budget shortfalls, Hashimoto hopes it will force each Department to rethink how they are operating and possibly streamline government in a positive way.

Hashimoto notes because of the pandemic for the first time, the Legislature will allow for remote video testimony on pending legislation. “This is very important for neighbor island residents who will now have equal access to sharing your voice on pending bills and hopefully will assist in creating better pieces of legislation,” he says.



Alice Lee

The Maui County Council, which meets year-round, moved to virtual meetings as the County Building closed during the early part of the lockdown. Wailuku councilmember

Alice Lee, recently re-elected as Council Chair by her colleagues, notes: “We were among the first municipalities to move online for our council and committee meetings. As a result, we have not only been able to provide uninterrupted service to the citizens of Maui County but we have increased their ability to participate in the process as well.” Budget Chair Rawlins-Fernandez added “Community feedback on the transition to remote meetings have been overwhelmingly positive, commending the Council for not skipping a

beat in providing transparency and opportunities to meaningfully engage in decision-making on all issues.”

Maui’s Filipino non-profit organizations such as Binhi at Ani, the Maui Filipino Community Council, and the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce have all learned how to do virtual meetings. “Since March our Board meetings and committee meetings were held on-line via ZOOM,” said Agcolicol. “It was initially confusing but we’ve learned how to meet the challenge head on.”

“Communication has been a challenge,” reported Cortez. “However, MFCC has been adapting to this challenge by continuing with scheduled meetings through the use of ZOOM or other forms of online meeting platforms. Due to social distancing requirements, engaging in community involvement is one of the biggest challenges. Thus, I plan to communicate with members and officers (existing and incoming) to insure transparency of information.”

“Our Board of Directors meetings have been done virtually,” said Rabang. “We have also conducted our Business Mixers throughout the year virtually, but towards the end of last year, the content remained as relevant in these trying times. Having speakers representing the Liquor Commission and Travel Industry was beneficial to local businesses across the island. We will need to be agile through this pandemic and socio-economic changes on Maui to ensure we represent local businesses and the Filipino community in the best possible way.”

Ige recognizes there have been challenges with unemployment insurance due to the State’s old and antiquated computer system. “Still,” Ige says, “those in the UI office have found innovate ways to work around the limitations of an aging system, established new programs quickly and found solutions to continue to support the unemployed.”

Similarly, Woodson notes over the last couple of months, more commu-

see 2021 back page

My Dad always said Be Prepared

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# Kwento Kwentuhan

## Support Local Small Businesses in 2021

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



The key is our support local businesses during this unprecedented time of COVID-19—that will bring many happy returns of Aloha to our economy!

Happy New Year! With the New Year comes many new opportunities. Opportunities for self-improvement and opportunities to serve and support our community.

In this new year edition of *Kwento-to-Kwentuhan*, I bring your attention to the local small businesses in our community.

2020 was very hard on our local small businesses. Therefore, let us do our part in supporting them this year. Let us help get them back on their feet.

Incidentally, while I was musing on this thought, I saw a post that struck my attention because it is exactly what I was thinking about. My friend Laura DiBenedetto shared on Instagram about supporting small businesses. Laura is the author of the best-selling book *The Six Habits*. I asked Laura’s permission to share her thoughts here and she said yes! Actually, she said “absolutely, please do.” So here they are:

**Things we need to know about small businesses**

Prices are often higher than big box stores because they aren’t given the same bulk pricing. A small business can’t order 500,000 units of something and get the very best price (14¢/unit) like a Walmart can. They can maybe order 100 (\$1.25/unit).

To compete with the big guys, small businesses need to price their items in the same range as the big box stores and knowingly make less money on an item, still staff the store and put food on the table for their family.

Where large businesses often have far too much rigidity in their policies, small businesses usually don’t. When you’re looking at the person that wrote the policies, it’s much easier to get an exception to a policy that

doesn’t work for you. You can often just ask (nicely) and appeal to their good nature and logic.

A small business owner is versatile and is often responsible for accounting, inventory, sales, pricing, service, marketing and so much more. A big business has a person (or team) for each area of the business.

When you buy from a small business (a product or a service), you support the dreams of a local person who had the courage to break out of the mold and go for their dream! You help them to feed their family, put their kids through college and pay their mortgage.

When a small business has a slow week, it can put them out of business (imagine nine months of that) if they’re new, had too many slow weeks or are still learning the ropes for all 500 departments they need to run.

Once upon a time, America was over 80-percent small businesses. Blacksmiths, bakers, wood cutters, builders, restaurants, barbers and so many more. There was no shame in the trades. There was pride, apprenticeship and skills being passed on to the next generation. Small businesses were the norm!

**How can we help these small businesses in our midst? Here are ten solid, easy things to do**

1. Grab all the PPE you or your state requires, get in your car and patronize those businesses that can help your holidays be brighter! Smile so huge it shows behind your mask!

2. Call or get online and ask if they can or will deliver to you - or do contact-free pickup if that’s important to you. Don’t let excuses stand in your way!
3. Write supportive reviews on Google and Yelp. Word of mouth is still the most important form of marketing.



Can you imagine—all of those Hawai’i made goodies fit in this little-bitty box?!

4. When you hear someone say they’re going to start a business, share their post on social media to your community. It really does help.
5. If you usually buy services from a large company, give an opportunity to a smaller business. Don’t expect them to compete on price. Small businesses typically compete with much better service and treating you like you matter (because to them, you do!)
6. Say “thank you.” Those two little words mean so much to someone that is working their fingers to the bone to make you happy. Our culture has transactionalized

- relationships and we’ve forgotten our manners. Just because you pay someone to do something for you does not mean you’re excused from good manners.
7. It’s easy to spot someone who’s never been in a particular store before. If you encounter a newbie, say something nice about the business!
  8. Brag about your purchases to your friends. Let them know about your incredible new service provider. Tell them about the great products and service at the new retailer you just fell in love with. Be vocal!
  9. If you have the opportunity to meet the business owner, ask them how you can help them to succeed. Nine out of ten times, it’s going to be something really easy that only takes you two seconds.
- Share this message with others so we can all participate in reviving our economy and supporting the small businesses that got this country started in the first place! ✨

**Liza Pierce** of *A Maui Blog* is an Interactive Media Strategist in Hawai’i. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She’s been living on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a mother, a friend and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About Rainbows; 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.





# Where are **you** in the COVID-19 Timeline?

## WE ARE HERE



Health care workers and nursing homes receive the vaccine.

⚠ Workers who are in occupations essential to the functioning of our communities are at a much higher risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2.

## EARLY 2021

First responders, frontline essential workers and kupuna 75+ receive the vaccine.



## SPRING 2021



Individuals 65+, individuals over the age of 16 with high risks of complications, and other essential workers receive the vaccine.

## SUMMER 2021

All community members begin receiving the vaccine.



*gil* **KEITH-AGARAN**  
SENATE

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## 2021 ...

from p. 14

nications have shifted virtually, “primarily transitioning to more online communication platforms.” Lee adds, “We will continue to look at ways to improve as we navigate this new path forward. Our goal is to continue to provide accessible online meetings to keep our community connected to the legislative process while prioritizing health and safety.”

Lee says like many other organizations, the council’s management and staff have quickly adjusted to working remotely, as the Council’s concern for everyone’s health and safety remains paramount. “This change has presented many opportunities for positive change,” she says. “We have shown an ability to respond to challenges presented by a crisis while increasing accessibility to legislative participation and improving the way we communicate and share information with our constituents.”

Rawlins-Fernandez believes the shifts initiated in the last County budget put local government in good position going forward: “I think Maui County finds ourself in a good position to tax equitably, in order to better prioritize and provide more for our residents who need it most. Our recent tax reform efforts have already positively impacted and leveraged our ability to sustain a level of normalcy for these taxpayer-funded services, as well as helped us maintain one of the highest bonding ratings possible,” she asserts. Pointing to housing, Rawlins-Fernandez notes, “Taxation has influenced the recent boom in housing sales by offshore investors parting ways with Hawai‘i, which offers greater opportunity for our own residents to explore the prospect of homeownership, as well as an increase to our residential workforce rental housing inventory.” Consequently, she anticipates this trend growing in the next decade, noting “We recently passed tax incentives for long-term rentals and intend to further expand these efforts with new affordable long-term rental incentives as well.”

Further, Rawlins-Fernandez believes the County should continue towards more self-reliant economic models: “Investing now in food security, vocational education opportunities for employment openings in diversified industries such as technology, medicine and in skilled and unskilled labor industries such as construction and maintenance in both the public and private sectors, will enable our growth toward realizing a circular economy without much reliance on outside economic trends that tend to negatively impact our own stability in times like these.”

Butay adds, “Aside from dependence on the visitor industry, our economy needs to diversify in other areas such as diversified agriculture and aquaculture to be more self-reliant on food supply. Our harbors system is at the heart of supporting the needs of our population. An estimated 80 percent of all goods consumed in Hawai‘i are imported, of which 99 percent of imported goods arrive through the commercial harbor system. We also have to capitalize on high technology and the quality of life offered in our island state. Advancing high-tech sectors in the state and capitalizing on high technology by promoting broadband high-speed internet service, astronomy, renewable energy (wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, tidal, biomass), among others, especially when people can now work from home and anywhere. We should attract the best high-tech innovators to work and live in the state, given the quality of life offered in the state.”

Economic diversification has been the State’s mantra since the Ariyoshi years ... but something always interfered.

In this case, along with lingering effects of the ongoing pandemic, 2021 also began with signs of the continuing partisan divide in our country.

Will the hopes and dreams matter if our democracy continues to be challenged by insurrectionists or those plotting a *coup d’état*? On the day after January 6, Levi Ho’okano, the new president of the Hawai‘i State Bar Association wrote: “The actions yesterday by the riotous group at the U.S. Capitol runs contrary to our freedom to peacefully protest and assemble.

Constitutional protections and procedures are a delicate fabric that we, as citizens and especially as lawyers, must uphold if democracy is to survive. This is a time for all of us to come together, to work towards building a more perfect union through the rule of law and a fair and impartial judicial process. As President of the HSBA, I ask that you join me in condemning the actions of those yesterday at the U.S. Capitol, and work to improve our community by working together to settle any difficulties we may face in a civil manner. Out of Many, One.” ✨



**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** (Bar # 4677) and **Alfredo G. Evangelista** (Bar #3373) practice law in Wailuku. They condemn the actions at the U.S. Capitol and hope everyone will work together to improve our community. *E Pluribus Unum.*