

**Good News from Capitol Hill**  
Rep. Kahele has a special perspective on representing all islands with equity.  
**Page 1**



**Hate for AAPI: An End is Needed Now!**  
Alexis Viloria reports on the damage.  
**Page 1**



**First 100 Days for Biden-Harris**  
Editor expounds on the successes.  
**Page 4**



# Fil-Am Voice

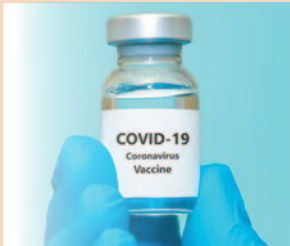
Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

April 2021 • Vol 5 No 4 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

**inside**



Pres. William McKinley: Beloved yet despised ...  
**p5**



Vaccinate “Bakuna” Now! Don’t wait.  
**p6**



Welcome to our new Google Is Not Everything writer, Brooklyn Jones.  
**p10**

## Congressman Kai Kahele Hits the Ground Running

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Back from Washington D.C., new U.S. Representative Kaiali’i Kahele sat down briefly for an exclusive interview with the Fil-Am Voice. While visiting the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center, the Big Island lawmaker touched on his first days in office, his family and his ties to the Philippines, the American Rescue Plan, the future of tourism, Hawai’i’s food production and his role as a Congressman for the neighbor islands and rural O’ahu.*

“It’s been a whirlwind. Nothing like I would have ever imagined,” says Congressman Kaiali’i Kahele in describing his first three months. He and his fam-



Rep. Kaiali’i “Kai” Kahele visits the Sakada Wall at the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center in Kahului. PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

ily departed for Washington, D.C. in late December. “We were up there for New Year’s. I got sworn in on the third. Insurrection was on the sixth. We impeach President Trump like a week later. Biden was sworn in as President on the see KAHELE next page



Stop Asian Hate marches are prevalent not only on the mainland, but also have been staged at our Hawai’i State Capitol.

PHOTO: WAYLAND T. QUINTERO

A year after the COVID-19 virus started to wreak havoc on our country, another virus continues to make its mark on America with a target of its own. With unwarranted associations between COVID-19

and Asian-Americans, tensions within the Asian American community have continued to rise as some Americans craved a group to blame. From the racist rhetoric spit out at the start of the pandemic dubbing the coronavirus as the “Chi-

nese virus” to the violence Asians are facing nationally, its become worse for the Asian-American community.

America, now ridden with Asian hate crimes, has shifted in the eyes of many from the land of opportunity to the

## Anti-Asian Violence Erupts

Alexis Joy Viloria

land of fear. To be treated with such violence based on race is something nobody ever wishes to face. Unfortunately, in recent times, that nightmare has become reality. Witnessing the brutal attack and murder in San Francisco of 84-year-old Vicha Ratana-pakdee from Thailand to the violent shooting that led eight Asian women in Atlanta to their deaths to the brutal assault on an elderly Filipina in New York on her way to church during Holy Week,

see ASIAN HATE p.3

FREE





**Kahele's wife Maria** is shown here with her parents John Day and Eleanor Gorospe Day.  
PHOTO COURTESY KAHELE 'OHANA

# Kahele ...

from p. 1

20th. And then we worked on the American Rescue Plan.”

Kahele has been to the Philippines on many occasions, flying as a military pilot to Subic and Clark Economic Zone in Pampanga. “I’ve also flown to Mindanao where the Abu Sayyaf is and I’ve been down there for classified missions,” he recounts. “I’ve also been to Palawan and participated in Operation *Balikatan* and delivered books for school children in Palawan. And I’ve also worn my Hawaiian Airlines uniform and flown into Manila when Hawaiian Airlines was flying to Manila.”

But Kahele also has more personal links. “I have a lot of connections and ties to the Philippines of course

through my wife Maria who is a Filipina and we have two daughters who are Filipina as well,” Kahele says proudly. “My wife Maria Gorospe was born in Baguio. My mother-in-law Eleanor Gorospe comes from northern Philippines in the Ilocano area—the province of Cagayan. When Maria was born in Baguio, they lived there for about two years and then moved to the coast—La Union. She still has her Philippine birth certificate today; she has dual citizenship.” Maria is one of nine children of John Day and Eleanor Gorospe Day. Maria and her older brother were born in the Philippines and the rest of the family were born in different places. “My father-in-law and mother-in-law own property in Samar. They still go back quite often. The Gorospe family still lives in the Philippines.” Maria’s parents now live in Hilo where Eleanor is an APRN at



Maria takes a photo opportunity with her lovely sisters.  
PHOTO COURTESY KAHELE 'OHANA

Hilo Medical Center.

Elected in November, the Kaheles initially planned to move to D.C. but the January 6th insurrection changed all that. On the day of the Capitol sacking, they were in their apartment—just two blocks from the Capitol where they could hear the explosions and the tear gas. “It was crazy,” says the Congressman. “They specifically told us ‘Do not come to the Capitol, stay in your offices because of the crowded gatherings.’ So I was in my apartment with them.” The Congressman received many calls of concern and posted on Facebook they were safe but did not disclose his whereabouts for safety reasons.

Lingering rumors that some Republicans lawmakers assisted the insurrectionists, however, has not deterred Kahele’s ability to build relationships with some colleagues across the aisle. “Most of them are either former military or veterans, like me. So we have a common link there. And then others are faith-based. I go to the prayer breakfast every week. I went to the National Prayer Breakfast which was virtual, unfortunately.”

The Congressman hopes he brings a different vibe to the Hawai’i delegation. “I think they [U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono and U.S. Representative Ed Case] like the new energy in our delegation.” Kahele notes for a long time the Hawai’i delegation did not include a neighbor island resident. “But if you don’t live on a neighbor island, you don’t understand what it’s like to live on Maui. You don’t understand what it’s like to live in Hilo. I bring that perspective. I also bring something Congress has only had one since statehood—a Native Hawaiian perspective.”

Kahele also describes his “great relationship” with fellow Congressman Case, who represented the same district at one time. “He has been very instrumental in helping prepare me to become a new member of Congress. He’s gone through the orientation process twice so he’s very familiar with what a freshman experience can be like—what to expect, the fast pace, how you have to position yourself so you can get some of the things you want like committee assignments and office locations, how to set up your staff. Building your team is really important and having the right people in

place is important. For me, it’s all about trying to find the right people with the right skill sets.”

Representing a district spanning every neighbor island and the more rural parts of O’ahu, Kahele took a different approach for staffing and his local office—members of Congress are allowed no more than eighteen full time positions and no more than four part-time positions for their D.C. and state offices. The four part-time staff are based on Kaua’i (Michael Contrades), Lāna’i (Joelle Aki), Molokai (Gene Ross Davis) and Maui (Stephanie Ohigashi). “I have three field reps in Maui County and that’s important because people in the past have usually only assigned one person to cover all of Maui County, who typically lives on Maui. Lāna’i and Molokai usually didn’t have a voice.”

Kahele also moved the Second District congressional office from downtown Honolulu to Hilo. “I have a young family. They go to preschool and first grade. My wife is at home taking care of them. For me to have the district office in Hilo allows me a chance to take them to school to work from the office ten minutes away from my house.”

As a freshman Congressman, he notes the importance of the Democratic Senators and Representatives working together with President Joe Biden. “In the first sixty days, we’ve passed the American Rescue Plan—\$1.9 trillion. The only reason we’re able to do that is because we have a unified Congress and a unified White House—Democrats. If not, we would not have done it right now. Think about that. President Biden took office January 20th—he signed a bill into law in the first sixty days and that bill is one of the most consequential bills passed in recent memory that is going to help our working poor or middle-class families and to help get through the pandemic.” Kahele notes the first CARES Act of \$2.2 trillion was passed in March 2020 with bipartisan support and the second CARES Act of just under a trillion dollars was passed in December 2020 with bipartisan support. “The third COVID-related bill—the American Rescue Plan—not one Republican voted for that bill, not a single one.”

The Congressman animatedly  
see KAHELE p.4



## I Grow, You Grow

Our world faces enormous challenges, from a changing climate and limited natural resources to food sustainability for a growing population. At Bayer, we believe agriculture is part of the solution.

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Science for a better life





**People in Colombus Ohio rose up** in solidarity on March 20 to protest the eight killed in the Atlanta, Ga. spa shootings which occurred on March 16, 2021.  
PHOTO: PAUL BECKER1999 AT [HTTPS://FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/21426642@N07/51058557473](https://flickr.com/photos/21426642@N07/51058557473)

## Asian Hate ...

from p. 1

nothing can contain the fear the Asian American community has for their own lives and loved ones alike.

Living in a place so ingrained with so many cultures including heavy Asian influence like Hawai'i, many locals can't even start to comprehend the brutality and hate Asians on the mainland are facing. Three Asian Americans with local ties process their encounter with the events recently unfolded due to hate towards those of Asian descent.

Wesley Lo, CEO of Hale Makua Health Services shares his take on the recent aggression towards the Asian American community. As the violence on Asians does not exclude vulnerable groups like elders, it's hard to witness the brutal acts conducted by those possessing such hate. To this hate though, Lo pays homage to the blessing it is to have a tight-knit and supportive community full of diversity. "My initial thoughts were that I am blessed to live in Hawai'i where we are a 'melting pot' and people are not judged by their color or race and we embrace our differences. I feel blessed that we live in a place and I am surrounded by people that look to support our community as opposed to tearing our community apart," Lo says.

What is happening now though, is not new to Lo who had his bouts with Asian-targeted racism even in past times before the COVID-19 virus. "To some extent, it reminded me of my past when I attended college on the mainland in the 1970s. I found that

racism existed in those days. Most people I interacted with were good people with community-based values but there were always a few that had feelings of racism and I felt sorry that they had to live their lives like that."

While some find themselves pondering the reason behind recent events, Lo has his own suspicions of the foul motives of many attackers. "I suspect that many of these people have insecurities about their lives and feel that life has been unfair to them." Lo attributes the attacks to the ignorance of attackers in response to the hardships they face. "Accordingly, they look to blame people for the hardships that they face as opposed to finding solutions to their problems or issues."

In order to curb the effects of Asian hate and prevent violence toward Asians, Lo says the power possessed to stop the hate is in one's ability to control their behavior and solidarity with other racial groups. "I think that the only thing we can control is our own behavior. We must not let ourselves be brought to the level of many of the people who have anti-Asian views and then start treating them similarly or casting judgments on other ethnicities or races." To Lo, in the course of action, it's crucial to remain a strong example to follow even in the worst of times. "While there is an uptick in violence, the worst thing we can do is start making broad generalizations of others."

Lo's daughter Noelle, a Junior at Maui High School, also shared her thoughts on anti-Asian violence occurring in the country. Social media plays a crucial role in the lives of today's

see ASIAN HATE p.5



**Wesley Lo**  
PHOTO: HALE MAKUA HEALTH SERVICES



**Noelle Lo**  
PHOTO COURTESY WESLEY LO



**Dani de Jesus**  
PHOTO COURTESY DANI DE JESUS



**Local Hawai'i residents rose up** in solidarity at the state Capitol to protest Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) hate.  
PHOTO: WAYLAND T. QUINTERO



CELEBRATING  
**NURSES WEEK**  
*-and-*  
**HOSPITAL WEEK**

From May 6 through May 15, 2021, now more than ever, we celebrate our caregivers. Our nurses, providers, and entire Maui Health ohana have been working tirelessly on the front lines of this pandemic. They are heroes every day, but this week each deserve additional gratitude and appreciation for their commitment to our patients and our community.

To thank a health care hero, visit [mauihealth.org/mahalo](https://mauihealth.org/mahalo).



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

[mauihealth.org](https://mauihealth.org) | [#HEROESWORKHERE](https://twitter.com/HEROESWORKHERE)





## From the Editor's Desk

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



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris during "Mask up, America," March 21, 2021.

IMAGE: WHITEHOUSE PUBLIC DOMAIN - JOE BIDEN AND KAMALA HARRIS "MASK UP, AMERICA," MARCH 21, 2021 VIA TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/POTUS/status/1373771407218335745>

## First 100 Days: Biden/Harris Administration

*Promises made ... Promises kept ...  
So far so good!*

Even before their 100-day marker, there is much to celebrate with the Biden/Harris administration team. The TEAM is off to a great start. Lucky for us, the TEAM is comprised of professionals with highly developed skills who are able to work as a team. Through them, quiet boldness makes itself visible in compassion, empathy and hope, extended freely and expressed daily, wherever they are called. With gratitude, we are told to expect more policy changes to address the needs and challenges facing ordinary, hardworking Americans. Because they inherited a mess, their priority task is an urgent, wide-ranging cleanup.

Today, each of us breathes a sigh of relief as we witness their

laser focus on fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, which after more than a year, continues its heavy impact on the health and welfare of millions, along with unspeakable sadness from the profound loss of more than a half million American lives caused by this ever-mutating virus. Perhaps most significant of all, families and friends can now look forward to the time when hugs will again be shared, as often as possible with all, in every growing circle of folks who love and care for each other. To this end, in just 50 days, over 100 million Americans have been vaccinated, with a promise all Americans who want to be vaccinated will be able to by May 1st, months ahead of schedule ...

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 8



Rep. Kahele is greeted by Nora Cabanilla Takushi, a member of the Board of Directors of the Binhi at Ani Maui Filipino Community Center upon his and his family's arrival to the Center.

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

## Kahele ...

from p. 2

spoke in depth about the four major aspects of the American Rescue Plan: vaccinations, stimulus payments, jobs preservation and education.

Kahele, who received the Pfizer two-shot vaccine, notes "Every American in this country, if they want a vaccine can have one by the end of May. As soon as we get the majority of the country inoculated, I really believe we're gonna be looking at COVID being in our rearview mirror." Kahele believes the effects of the pandemic will last through 2021-2022 and points to the dangerous variants. "With the variants coming, it's even more important to get your vaccine because that variant is aggressive. But the vaccine, according to the science-based data they've provided, can minimize dramatically the effects of the virus, minimize the transmission with things like wearing masks, social distancing, and also limit the amount of harmful effects or the probability of getting COVID-19. The delegation is united in the message we want to provide to the people of Maui, which is 'Get your vaccine as soon as you're able to get it.'"

The American Rescue Plan will

"provide direct money into the pockets of most Americans that qualify via that direct stimulus payment of \$1,400," explained Kahele. "If you make \$75,000 or below and you're a single parent, you're going to get \$1,400; if you make more than \$80,00, you're not going to get anything. From \$75 to \$80,000, it's going to slowly phase out and at \$80,000, it's phased out. If you're married, filing jointly, \$155,000 is the threshold and it phases out at \$160,000. If you lost your job and you're collecting state unemployment insurance, we added \$300 in federal funds to the current state unemployment insurance you would get per week." Kahele notes the first \$10,200 in unemployment insurance benefits are tax free. "That's going to help keep money in people's pockets."

Kahele also noted the sea change for parents, especially single parents, with young children. "The earned income tax credit is a progressive Democratic plank—a policy provision different from Republicans. They're not into earned income tax credits but the EITC is one of the best ways to help people come out of poverty. Increasing the amount you get back and expanding the coverage limit, which is what we did in this bill, the child tax credit is really important."

see KAHELE p.12



Rep. Kahele, after ringing the Sakada bell stands under the bell's arch with his family.

PHOTO:  
BASILIA EVANGELISTA



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What school you wen’ go?  
It’s a common way in local circles to get a sense of someone’s background.

On Maui, whether you went to Lahainaluna, St. Anthony, Baldwin or Maui High was important shorthand for a person’s character—it told you whether they lived on the West Side, or in town, or upcountry, or were Catholic or Filipino or Portuguese. I don’t know what additional information gets conveyed now with King Kekaulike, Kamehameha (Pukalani), Seabury Hall, Kihei Charter and West Maui Prep also in the mix.

With that in mind, one of the more controversial legislative ideas this year was a proposal to rename McKinley High School. Noting President McKinley’s role in the annexation of Hawai’i, a House resolution suggested returning to its pre-1907 name of Honolulu High School (it was founded as Fort Street English Day School in 1865).

McKinley, by the way, also presided over the takeover of the Philippines and Puerto Rico as invaded spoils of the Spanish-American War.

The idea attracted the support of the Hawai’i State Teachers Association and others. But the current Principal, some teachers and other McKinley



President William McKinley High School.

SCREENSHOT: GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

throw history.

I could have told the introducers that would happen.

I introduced a similar proposal when I first got into the legislature, suggesting we consider renaming the school after the first President born in

dorms a few years ago, changing its name from noted Lost Cause defender John C. Calhoun to pioneering computer scientist and mathematician Grace Murray Hopper.

Debates about the legacies behind names are not new. The University of Hawai’i has rebranded a number of its buildings as well.

For some reason, I used to say my law school was named after one of the first women lawyers in California. Actually, she made a donation to U.C. Berkeley and asked them to name a building after her husband. Turns out he was a major proponent of Chinese Exclusion proposals. So now my vocational school is Berkeley Law School, better branded to compete with its public

Ivy peers, Michigan Law School and Virginia Law School.

So, the House Education Committee did hear the McKinley resolution. But of course, in the end, it was deferred. ✨

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** received a diploma from Maui High School (the new campus which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2022).

# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

“What school you wen’ go?”

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran



Henry Perrine Baldwin High School

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

staff disagreed. Many Tiger alumni also opposed the resolution for various expected reasons. Passionate recitations of pride and memories of their time in school. Invoking the names of various noted local graduates (for example, Governor George Ariyoshi, Reverend Abraham Akaka, Illinois U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, Gladys Kamakakuokalani Brandt, U.S. Senator Hiram Fong, U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, Duke Kahanamoku, Satoru Abe, among others). Arguing the namesake of the school doesn’t detract from the education and values learned in its halls and classrooms and there are better ways to teach about the role of McKinley in Hawai’i’s post-over-

Hawai’i, Barack Obama. I actually suggested either Noelani Elementary which he attended or McKinley because of the annexation.

So, I heard from a lot of impassioned McKinley partisans and learned more about McKinley High lore and history than I would have ever imagined. One alum asked me how I would feel if there was a proposal to rename Baldwin High. As a proud Saber, I was tempted to email back I was down with that. But I know I wouldn’t have heard the end of it from my high school classmates whose children ended at our crosstown rivals.

Yale renamed one of our residential



Maui High School

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

## Asian Hate ...

from p. 3

youth. While social media has its own problems, it can also act as a lifeline to spread awareness about current events.

In the context of anti-Asian violence, Noelle recognized how useful social media is in spreading awareness about the inequality faced by Ameri-

ca’s Asian community. “Social media is truly a powerful tool. Some take it for granted but the power it has is incredible. Social media brings to light the situations.” With much of the anti-Asian violence not being represented in the media, many wouldn’t even know about the cruelty the Asian American community is facing at this point in time. “Teens wouldn’t have been as educated or even known about these topics if it wasn’t for so-

cial media. It’s a step in the right direction. Truly educating our kids and showing them real life, not sugar-coating,” Noelle says.

As the creator of a benefit concert to raise funds for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund after witnessing the brutality faced by the Black community, Noelle is no stranger to the fight toward racial equity. To fellow members of the Asian American community, Noelle leaves a strong message about

holding those who committed the crimes witnessed accountable. “We need to have consequences. So many of these stories have killers running free, abusers getting no punishment. All because they’re not of color or they had a bad day. Punish a criminal for being a criminal.”

Former Maui High School teacher turned filmmaker Dani de Jesus spoke about her own encounters with the

see ASIAN HATE p.11





96 year old Catalina Evangelista receives her Pfizer vaccine at Maui Memorial Medical Center.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Alfredo Evangelista receives his Johnson & Johnson vaccine at the War Memorial gymnasium.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Rosario Versola received the Moderna vaccine at War Memorial gymnasium.  
PHOTO COURTESY ROSARIO VERSOLA



# More Vaccinations on the Way

Errol Buntuyan | M.D., F.A.A.P.

The race to get COVID vaccinations into the arms of our Maui residents is underway. With the rise of COVID infections this last month, Maui County maintains the highest percent infectivity rate in the state. The majority of the positive cases are the highly contagious California variant, meaning it is easier to become infected with the virus and spread it to others.

The impact on our Filipino community has been profound. Many families became infected with COVID this month. Our hospital has seen a rise in positive cases with at least twenty-two patients admitted, some in the ICU and needing intubation. Folks in our community have had to stay home from the exposure, be quarantined from loved ones and unable to go to

work.

The good news is although the positivity rate has increased, the majority of our community practices social distancing and wearing masks. This helps to prevent exposure to high COVID viral loads and decrease the intensity of the infection. Still, with the more highly contagious California strain we are worried about exposing our more vulnerable elderly population to this deadly virus. The likelihood of severe illness, hospitalization and death is much higher in our older generation regardless of the amount of virus they may be exposed to.

Another positive note is the arrival of more vaccines on Maui. The Hawai'i Department of Health is receiving more vaccines and delivering them to our Maui District Health Of-

fice, local pharmacies, and organizations. Maui Health System continues its campaign of delivering the Pfizer vaccine to those eligible at Maui Memorial Medical Center and will have a distribution outpost at the Grand Wailea Hotel ballroom.

The Maui District Health Office continues with their twice weekly distribution at UH Maui College. MinitMedical also has provided vaccine distribution clinics at the War Memorial Gymnasium throughout the week. Kaiser Permanente is vaccinating daily (Monday through Friday) and have hosted Saturday clinics. Maui Medical Group and some local pharmacies also are giving vaccines. Local community centers like Binhi at Ani are hosting pop up vaccine clinics. There will be more and more opportunities in the next month to sign up and get your vaccination. Currently, close to 24 percent of the Maui population has at least one dose of the vaccination.

The eligibility criteria rapidly expanded to group 2 and almost all Maui residents are now able to be vaccinated. As of April 6, vaccine registration is open to anyone over age 16 for the Pfizer vaccine and anyone over age 18 for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

The informational box (shown left) contains the key weblinks and contact information to get registered. These sites will have questions verifying your

eligibility and allowing the booking of a vaccination appointment. Each site should also indicate which vaccine(s) they will be distributing when you book your appointment. Please keep in mind some vaccine choices may not be available due to the weekly supply chain delivery.

As we race to stop the spread of COVID infections within our Maui community, the best way to protect ourselves is to get the vaccine the moment you become eligible. Until we get fully vaccinated, please remember to remain safe and decrease your exposure risks. It's been a very long and tiresome year of living within the confines of being in a pandemic but hopefully soon, we will be able to get back to some sense of pre-COVID normalcy when the majority of our island is vaccinated. ✨

See page 16 for useful information on the COVID-19 vaccine in Ilokano and Tagalog.

**Errol Buntuyan, M.D., F.A.A.P.** 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.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Access Info Box

- Hawai'i Department of Health statewide vaccine registration portal of all open vaccination centers:  
<https://hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccine/>
- Maui Health COVID-19 Vaccine Information  
[www.mauihealth.org/covidvaccine](http://www.mauihealth.org/covidvaccine)
- Maui District Health Office  
Tel: (808) 984-8200, from  
<https://health.hawaii.gov/maui/>
- MinitMedical Vaccine Link on  
<https://www.minitmed.com/>
- Kaiser Permanente Vaccine info and registration  
<https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/hawaii/front-door>
- Maui Medical Group website:  
<https://www.mauimedical.com/>





What pranks or jokes did you pull with your sibling, friend or a colleague this year? Was it a unique one or you copied it from someone? April starts off with the joker in all of us and if you got fooled, I hope you didn't take it personally or too hard. After all, it's just April Fool's day. I hope

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

next year I will be brave enough to do a prank (or two) on my friends, sisters

or kids. Do you have any suggestions so I can practice now? Leave comments or suggestions at [www.facebook.com/filamvoicemaui](http://www.facebook.com/filamvoicemaui), I would love to hear it! Last month, Michael went to confront the man who was hiding behind the bushes. Let's see what's happening this month, shall we?

AS MICHAEL TALKS TO THE BOY and sends him on his way back *balay* (home), Michael sighs a bit of relief as he walks back to the *balay* (house) and through the *harapan* (front) *pin-tuan* (door) where Angel is waiting. "Cinno (Who) was that man?" asks Angel. "Just a boy down the *dalan* (street) in love with you," says Michael seriously. "Oh really?" Angel says. Before she closes the *lukub* (door), she takes a last look at the man from a distance who continues to take photos. Angel closes the *pasbul* (door) and pauses. She looks up and reopens the door to take a second look outside. The man from the distance is gone.

Puzzled, she stares into the horizon and ponders if she really saw anyone. She looks to the left, no one. She looks to the right, no one. Confused, she closes the *ganhaan* (door) behind her and peeks through the curtain. "Hani (What) is it?" Michael asks. Still perplexed, Angel replies "*Wala* (Nothing)." "Really? It doesn't look like it was 'waay' (nothing)," Michael responds. ANGEL: I thought I saw someone. Michael giggles. "Ana (What)? Another kid who is in love with you? Let me check."

Michael hurries to the *ridaw* (door) and opens it and as he does so, a few pigeons fly away. "Nope, *awan* (nothing), just a few birds." As Michael holds the *puwerta* (door) open, he turns to Angel. "Listen. Angel, my office called me not too long ago. Who are you?" "Anni (What) do you mean?" Angel gazes. "There is nobody registered as Angel Ramos Corpuz from Bacarra living here in Maui. Who are you and why have you been lying to me this whole time?"

Angel looks at him blankly. She doesn't know *ano* (what) to say. Silence. MICHAEL: Are you even going to tell me anything? She looks down at her toes and says, "I tried to tell you when we were in Mā'alaea but you wanted to muma (kiss) me that day." A lightning bolt hits Michael—not a lightning bolt—a thunder bolt. A marvelous thunderbolt hits Michael

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Door	Pintuan	Ridaw	Lukub	Ganhaan	Puwerta	Pasbul
Friend	Kaibigan	Gayyem	Bai	Miga	Kofun	Kaluguran
Money	Pera	Kwarta	Salapi	Kwarta	Kwartu	Kwalta
Kiss	Halik	Anggo	Paghalok	Haluk	Ummo	Muma
World	Mundo	Lubong	Kalibutan	Kalibutan	Bida	Yalu
Heart	Puso	Puso	Tutu	Puso	Kasingkasing	Korason
Hug	Yakap	Arakup	Gakos	Kupo	Gagap-pan	Kawul
Work	Trabaho	Ubra	Trabahu	Obro	Trabaho	Trabaho
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Hani?	Ano?	Anni?	Nanovin?
Nothing	Wala	Awan	Wala	Waay	Awan	Wala

from multiple sides sending chills down his spine. "How is she so blunt?" Michael thinks. "How can she say this to me so effortlessly? Do I look so desperate like that? Do I come across that creepy? Does she think I'm crazy?" Suddenly, Michael begins to float, his feet becomes lighter and lighter. A strong gust sweeps his feet from under him as he tumbles and spins in a cyclone of emotional insecurity and unrest. A storm of doubt, fear and shame rips at his very soul. And just as the truck called regret comes directly at him, aimed to impale the very head that was too scared, too timid to go for the *halik* (kiss). Just as the massive truck is about to hit him, Michael braces himself for impact and covers up. A loud horn streams throughout the entire neighborhood and all of a sudden, Michael is back on the ground, in the kitchen of where Angel lives and he is left sweating profusely. Angel again stares at him going through yet another internal anxiety attack. Michael painfully looks away. He remembers that day. It's the day they were strolling to Mā'alaea Ocean Center, shared a plate of fried milkfish from Tante's and Rosie got wet from the strong wave. What a day that was. He couldn't keep his eyes off her. He wanted to *ummo* (kiss) her that day but didn't have the courage to make a move. He didn't want the day to end so he drove to Lahaina to spend more time with her. ANGEL: I tried again last week. I was hoping a *kaibigan* (friend) would

*yakap* (hug) and pulls her into his arms. He was *gagap-pan* (hugging) her as if she were the only thing in the *kalibutan* (world) matters. With a mournful look in her face, Angel *gakos* (hugs) him back. They *arakup* (hug) for a long time, his *korason* (heart) singing and confused at the same time. He *kawul* (hugs) her until she stopped sobbing. His *puso* (heart) aches for her. "Ana (What) are we going to do?" thinks Michael. Have you made a hard decision in your life? Do you make decisions based on emotions? How do you handle emotions in decision making? *Anni* (What) do you think Michael and Angel will do next? Do you think Michael's actions will be clouded with his emotions? Will he do the right thing? *Ano* (What) is the right thing to do? Please visit us on our facebook page and leave us a comment or ideas at [www.facebook.com/FilAmVoiceMaui](http://www.facebook.com/FilAmVoiceMaui). 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!).

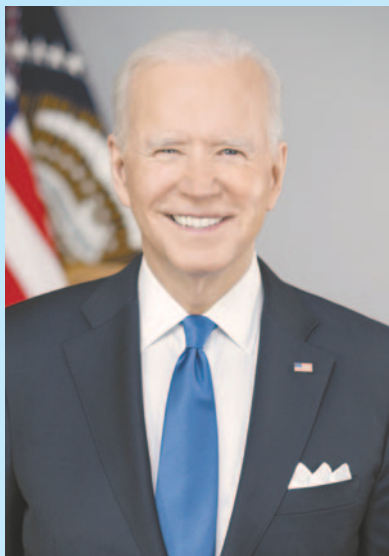
**Dulce Karen Butay** was graduated from Maui High School and earned her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College and her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai'i - West Oahu. She is currently the Administrative 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 Saladmaster's Travel Club and won an all-expenses paid trip to Cancún, Mexico. Butay has traveled to Texas, the Philippines and Thailand as one of the delegates from Island Healthy Solutions, a Saladmaster dealer here on Maui.





# From the Editor's Desk

Cont'd from p. 4



**President Joseph Robinette Biden**  
official image, 2021.

PHOTO: OFFICIAL OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT, VIA WHITEHOUSE.GOV

clearly an early, unexpected major achievement. Among the accomplishments of the Biden/Harris Team, here are some of the most far reaching.

## ONE

Passage of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (ARP) will help to uplift working Americans, despite not one single supporting vote from Congressional Republicans. In contrast, a PEW Research Center poll found over 70 percent of U.S. adults support the ARP, including 40 percent of Republicans. This Plan includes: 1) \$1,400 direct payments to eligible workers to help buy food; 2) extending unemployment benefits; 3) expanding the child tax credit; 4) funding vaccine distribution adequately; and 5) \$1 billion to help schools, colleges and universities to open safely. Further, the Plan provides financial assistance to state and county governments to ensure prevention of furloughs of our first responders—police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and health care providers. Another key benefit of the Plan is it reduces children's poverty rate in the U.S. by approximately 50 percent.

## TWO

The vaccinations goal being ahead of schedule expresses President Biden's hope the nation will begin to have a collective sense of normalcy and once again we can celebrate the July 4th Independence Day at traditional barbecues with loved ones.

## THREE

Rejoining the World Health Organization (WHO) amidst the pandemic crisis, allows the U.S. to lead in combating the virus to assure global health and security. By executive order, this 1) establishes the position of a COVID-19 response coordinator within the Executive Office; 2) accelerates the development of COVID-19 therapies that can be easily manufactured, distributed and adminis-



**Vice President Kamala Harris**  
official image, 2021.

PHOTO: OFFICIAL OFFICE OF THE  
VICE PRESIDENT, VIA WHITEHOUSE.GOV

tered; 3) provides surge assistance to critical care and long-term care facilities and 4) supports the re-opening and continuing operation of schools, including early childhood centers, for in-person learning.

## FOUR

Economic relief is addressed in the Executive Orders that will 1) pause Federal student loan payments and collections and keep the interest rate at zero percent; 2) ensure the future is "Made in All of America by All of America's Workers," to encourage American companies to produce needed products here at home and 3) protect the Federal workforce, including putting Federal agencies on a path to require a \$15 minimum wage for contractors.

## FIVE

The Executive Order on health care strengthens Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act by extending the enrollment period from February 15 to May 15, to allow more Americans to sign up for health care during the pandemic, as well as directing agencies to address policies that limit access to health care.

## SIX

To refocus on the climate change crisis, the U.S. will 1) rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, a global pact to reduce carbon emissions; 2) protect public health and the environment by restoring science to tackle the climate crisis; 3) place a temporary moratorium on oil and gas activity in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge via an Executive Order and revoke the Keystone XL pipeline permit; 4) set climate change as a key consideration for U.S. national security and foreign policy and 5) set the goal of achieving a carbon pollution free electricity sector by 2035, which aims to replace the Federal government's fleet of automobiles with zero-emission vehicles.

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 14

## Community... In Action



**Rep. Kaiali'i "Kai" Kahele** visited the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center during his Maui County stop, touring all of Hawai'i's islands.

PHOTO: ALAN FUKUYAMA

# COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

*Editor's note: Send your community briefs to [info@filamvoice.com](mailto:info@filamvoice.com).*

*This month's column was compiled by Assistant Editor*

*Alfredo G. Evangelista.*

## BINHI AT ANI

The Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center remains closed for events due to the COVID-19 pandemic but the Board of Directors continues with creating new programs and projects for the community.

### Bakuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center

Binhi at Ani continues hosting free vaccination clinics with two scheduled in the next few weeks.

The first vaccination clinic—*Bakuna for Veterans at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center*—will be held on Saturday, April 24 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands will be vaccinating veterans, spouses and their caregivers. If you have not received a notification, please call 1 (800) 214-1306.

The second vaccination clinic—*Time for the Shots*—will be administered by the University of Hawai'i Maui College Nursing Program on Saturday, May 1, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. No appointment is necessary to receive the Moderna vaccine. You may, however, register for an appointment via the QR code above or through this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0>



D44A5AB2DA3FEC07-binhi.

Two hundred individuals received the Johnson & Johnson vaccination during the initial Bakuna at Binhi on March 18. Another 60 registered at Binhi on March 29 for the Moderna vaccine at War Memorial gymnasium.

Stay tuned to Binhi's Facebook page for more updates on the Bakuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center program.

### Barrio Fiesta

The Barrio Fiesta, normally held during the Memorial Day weekend, will be postponed until events can be held—with the target date of Labor Day, depending on the CDC, State of Hawai'i and County of Maui guidelines for events.

### #BayanihanFeedingProgram

This new program which provides a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui needs teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches.

Please *kōkua* by 1) creating a Team: <https://forms.gle/cVUGB6XLmtJi7MVH8>; 2) volunteering as part of a Team: <https://forms.gle/sJVEAdmYKimfRR4V8>; and 3) making a tax-deductible donation to Binhi at Ani via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card <https://binhiatani.org/donate/> or mail a



**The 51st Annual Barrio Fiesta** was held virtually, with **Chelsea Guzman** as host.

SCREENSHOT:  
ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



**Mario Arruiza** receives the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

PHOTO:  
ALFREDO EVANGELISTA





Binhi at Ani’s Scholarship Awards were presented virtually in 2020.  
SCREENSHOT: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Golf Tournament Co-Chair Bill Ruidas rings the bell at the 10th hole at The Dunes at Maui Lani.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Bakuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center helps our kababayan get their COVID-19 vaccination.  
IMAGE: LENNEL ALVAREZ



Marilyn Oura stands in front of Uncle Louie’s Sausage located on Alamaha Street in Kahului.  
PHOTO COURTESY MARILYN OURA

check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehe’e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program].  
Through seven weekends, 2,462 plates were served.

Congressman Kai Kahele Visit

The Congressman and his family visited Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center on March 18. The visit began at the Sakada Bell, proceeded to the Sakada Wall, the interior of the Center, the Building Donor Wall, the newly renovated kitchen, and viewed where *iwi* are buried. He later met several members of the Board of Directors during a small reception outside in the patio area.

Scholarship Awards

Scholarship forms are available on Binhi at Ani’s website <https://binhiatani.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2021-Scholarship-Application.pdf> and Facebook page and are due by May 15. At least five \$1,000 scholarships (depending on the amount raised by the Scholarship Golf Tournament) will be awarded to graduating high school seniors on Maui. (No continuing scholarships will be available.) For more information, contact Nora Cabanilla-Takushi at 276-8861.

Scholarship Golf Tournament

The early bird registration for the inaugural Binhi at Ani Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament (Sunday, May 30 at The Dunes at Maui Lani) is May 1, with early paid registrants eligible to win the Early Bird Prize courtesy of Friends of Yuki Lei

Sugimura. Applications are available on Binhi’s website <https://binhiatani.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2021-Golf-Tournament-Application.pdf>  
The tournament format will be modified scramble, with four players to a team. Platinum Sponsorships (two foursomes, tee sponsor, all par 3 contests, four mulligans per player, listing in Mahalo ad) are available at \$1,300, with \$800 tax deductible. Gold Sponsorships (one foursome, tee sponsor, all par 3 contests, two mulligans per player, listing in Mahalo ad) are available at \$750, with \$300 tax deductible. Teams (one foursome, all par 3 contests) are available at \$600, with \$150 tax deductible. Tee Sponsorships are available at \$100, with \$100 tax deductible. Donations for prizes (monetary or in-kind) are also needed. Excellent prizes as the first-place team will win the Mayor’s Cup sponsored by Mayor Michael Victorino. Jim Falk’s Valley Isle Motors is the Hole-in-One Sponsor while Pepsi is the Beverage Sponsor.  
The golf committee is chaired by Arnel Alvarez (telephone 357-0748) and co-chaired by Alfredo Evangelista (telephone 242-8100) and William “Bill” Ruidas (telephone 873-8605).

Takeout Tuesdays

The next Takeout Tuesday will be on April 27—from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.—and will feature a choice of Four Sisters Catering Pork Adobo, \$12, or Kal Bi Plate, \$15. Free delivery in Central Maui for a minimum of

five orders. Takeout Tuesday is a fundraiser to minimize Binhi at Ani’s loss of revenue due to not having been able to have events at the Center. Contact Melen Agcolicol at 205-7981 for more information.

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council is having an Uncle Louie’s Portuguese sausage fundraiser. Two six-ounce sausage rings (hot or mild



with the following flavors: Pineapple, Italian, Maui Onion and Okinawan) will be available for purchase via pre-sale tickets of \$10. The deadline is April 30. Pick up at Uncle Louie’s, 190 Alamaha Street in Kahului from May 3 through 7. Contact Emi Cortez at 373-6371 or Marilyn Oura at 280-2057 or any member of the Maui Filipino Community Council Board of Directors.



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MEO Team at Bayanihan Feeding Program.  
PHOTO: MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Takeout Tuesday April flyer.  
IMAGE: MELEN AGCOLICOL



# Google® Is Not Everything... Gun Control

Brooklyn Jones | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL

The only consensus we seem to have on gun control laws in America is the amount of disagreement. The Second Amendment, apparently guaranteeing our rights to bear arms, is open to interpretation by others. No matter its true meaning, however, we must resolve the current back-and-forth matter of gun ownership. As of March 24, 2021, one-hundred and three mass shootings occurred this year alone. Although 2021 was supposed to be a new beginning from the 2020s rollercoaster, countless people have perished from gun violence within the first three months.

Is there a balance we can achieve to keep both our firearms and our safety?

Since day one, pro-gun laws existed in America; the right to bear arms was written into America's constitution by our Founding Fathers. Still wary of England's past constriction on colonial rights, the Founding Fathers wanted to ensure every American would be able to own a gun to protect themselves against the government should the need arise. Without our right to buy and own firearms, armed forces,

police forces and the like would be free to infringe upon our rights as they wished.

**Gwen Jaramillo**, a Junior at Maui High School, shares her thoughts on the subject. In her opinion, "the Second Amendment is still relevant today but obviously, with the system we have now, there are many faults so the logistics of all of it needs to be rethought." When the Second Amendment was enacted, the only real firearms around were muskets, compared to the AK-47s around today. While the Second Amendment does still have a footing in the present, it is questionable if buying heavy-duty firearms should remain available for casual purchase and use. "A gun should not be used to kill but instead should be used to protect and serve," Gwen states. "There are certain guns that I believe should not be administered to an average citizen (anyone that isn't in any sort of special force) such as [a] 50-caliber rifle."

Nonetheless, the act of amassing swaths of firearms receives praise in this country. A contributor to this sentiment is the National Rifle Association,



Gwen Jaramillo  
PHOTO COURTESY  
GWEN JARAMILLO



Camille Haluber  
PHOTO COURTESY  
CAMILLE HALUBER



Altene Jacob Tumacder  
PHOTO COURTESY  
ALTENE JACOB TUMACDER

tion, better known as the NRA. Gwen points out that while its core values uplift self-independence, honesty and patriotism, the NRA's darker side shows "an unconstitutional restraint with legitimate gun control and claim[s] [of] victimhood in any case of a mass shooting."

The NRA and other associations, pro or anti-gun, lead us to ask whether the problem stems from guns or the people using them. Maui High School Junior **Camille Haluber** answers this question. "I believe that having access to guns can lead to the controversy of what a person does with them, either good or bad." In her opinion, guns are a right people utilize because of the Second Amendment but often end up abusing. On the other hand, having the weapon itself can encourage someone to make poor decisions with the rifle, leading to unnecessary violence, as seen in recent acts of racially-motivated sadism by civilians and police officers alike.

Camille suggests enacting laws to prevent police officers and other authorities from abusing their weapons privileges to combat this. She also thinks lack of education is a big part of the problem, recommending community lessons about gun violence and gun etiquette should be mandatory. "People should think before pulling the trigger and how their actions will impact others around them," she concludes.

Because our nation is so diverse, opinions about owning guns can vary highly. People of color, in many cases, are disproportionately assaulted in gun cases than Caucasians, affecting their beliefs. Citizens of southern states and other areas where gun laws are looser may not find them as threatening or outlandish to own. No matter the example, it's clear that individuals' opinions regarding guns depend heavily on their environment.

**Altene Jacob Tumacder**, a Junior attending Maui High School, sees the correlation between the parents' actions and their children's behavior regarding gun ownership. "Many believe that guns are deemed safe as they are glorified by the usage of their guns by their parents. They are often blinded by the sad reality that it has violently taken the lives of many in our country." Like many, he has noticed a concerning number of shootings over the years. "It isn't a surprise when there is a new mass shooting reported."

What most concerns Altene, though, is when his schoolmates make jokes about the shootings as a way to

cope with the heavy news. Generation Z, consisting of people born from 1997–2012 has grown up with the heartbreaking knowledge shootings are widespread in this country but that hasn't made hearing about it any easier. Other peers, Altene observed, turn to activism as an attempt at change, but "[it] often appears as if we are silent."

Rage and grief often go hand in hand with events of gun violence. The product of these emotions can either be chaotic or uniting. Rachel's Challenge is an example of the latter. The foundation, born out of Rachel Scott's memory, a victim of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting, was inspired by Scott's bountiful kindness. Having once attended a Rachel's Challenge seminar myself, I can say it was a beautiful way to honor Rachel's memory, as well as everyone else who lost their lives in the Columbine Shooting. It showed my classmates and me something inspiring and good could ensue even after a horrible tragedy.

The issue of gun control understandably brings a flurry of emotions and arguments but bringing the facts to light as the ultimate deciding factor is of utmost importance. Clearly, there is no black and white answer for any aspect of gun control laws. Our country's diverse population, incredible as it is, comes with the kickback of having varied opinions on almost every topic. And for most other subjects, disagreeing is okay. But what we all need to start collectively agreeing is our current gun control system isn't sustainable. Too many innocent people have perished because of our unwillingness to listen and work together. Let's use our passion for keeping our weapons to be passionate about keeping each other safe too. ✨

**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 **Brooklyn Jones**, a Junior at Maui High School. She is an assistant editor in her school's journalism program, *Saber Scribes*, and is a member of the *Girls Can STEM Club* as well. Brooklyn is in the *ACOM Pathway* at Maui High, specializing in graphic design. In her free time, she swims for *Hawai'i Swimming Club*, bakes and likes to go to the beach. She is the daughter of *Melissa Ligot Jones* and *Darren Jones*.



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**"Positively No Filipinos Allowed"** reads this sign from Stockton California back in the 1920s. Artifacts and attitudes reflecting this bygone era persist and are still with us today, a whole century later.  
IMAGE COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

# Asian Hate ...

from p. 5

fear Asians on the mainland are living within these times. Back at the start of the pandemic during the first spike in hate towards the Asian community, de Jesus states her initial emotions in response to the situation were of anger. To de Jesus, the response was prompted by the ease in figuring out the source of the hate the community was facing. "From the rhetoric of President Trump, the tie was so easy to make. He was saying horrible things about the origins of the virus and people were reacting to that." Many of those reactions, of course, were of mal intent towards Asians as de Jesus suspects they were looking for someone to pin the blame for the halt in their lives. "People want someone to blame. Then, you have the head of the entire

country calling the coronavirus the 'China flu' and 'Kung flu' that was directly connected to the Asian community, so people latched onto it."

Despite the violent and ignorant nature of the crimes towards Asians, de Jesus felt it was inevitable due to the prominence of the figures promoting racist rhetoric towards Asians. "There is power in words, especially coming from a world leader or any type of person that has a platform."

The hate—seemingly new—can actually be interpreted as a build-up of anti-Asian attitudes over the past century. It's not that long ago during the 1920s there were signs in Stockton, California saying "No Filipinos Allowed." The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act prohibiting immigration by Chinese laborers was only repealed in 1943. De Jesus affirms "It's not new The hate and resentment towards the Asian American community isn't anything new but now you're seeing people reporting it more and because we had a direct correlation again to what was happening in the

world." Like Noelle, de Jesus recognizes the spotty areas of the media's coverage of Asian hate crimes that leave the community to spread knowledge of the hate they face themselves. "The media wasn't covering the anger present so it was really up to the Asian community itself as well as celebrities who called attention to it Why aren't our stories important enough for the media to take on?"

Recently, Asian American celebrities like Cheryl Burke of Dancing With the Stars fame have taken to social media to promote the Stop Asian Hate movement. "No matter what, I am so PROUD to be a Filipina-American and I stand with my fellow Asian Americans/Pacific Islander's community and anyone else of any race who agrees that this has to stop," posted Burke on her Facebook page. "Together, I know that even if you are not Asian American, you can still use your voice and

*"People want someone to blame. ... There is power in words, especially from a world leader or any type of person that has a platform."*

– DANI DE JESUS

we can ALL stand together as human beings, and do so with love instead of fear. Let's keep telling our personal stories, using our voice and continue to educate our kids, loved ones, and strangers! Remember, WE ARE STRONGER WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER!" Comedian Jo Koy also supports Burke's involvement in the Stop Asian Hate movement, saying "Sometimes ignorance separates us and it doesn't need to be that way."

De Jesus attributes the anti-Asian attitudes faced to the lack of education of the framework of America—immigrants. With citizens from all over the world seeking refuge and an opportunity to thrive, the amount of education Americans receive about other cultures and their presence in America is vastly limited. "We are a country of immigrants and different cultures but nobody studies internment camps, the Filipino veterans who fought in the war denied their pensions, the plantations in Hawai'i or even the reason why Filipinos speak English is that the Philippines was colonized by the United

States," de Jesus says.

As someone who previously lived on Maui and currently lives on the mainland, there's a huge difference in the tensions faced in both places. De Jesus, who recently went on a road trip from Los Angeles to Idaho was confronted with fear for her safety on the behalf of loved ones. As a seasoned solo traveler, this is something she never had to deal with. "It's very, very rare that I'm afraid and then Atlanta happened and everyone in my sphere was impacted and fearful. Women in particular were asking themselves 'How do I go outside?'" It's safe to say the Asian hate crimes have not made life easy for Asians residing on the mainland.

Though all are disappointed by the outcomes of the generalization and resentment towards the Asian community, de Jesus is determined to change America's cultural awareness one story at a time. Currently working on a documentary with her sister spotlighting the presence and dispersal of Filipino gangs in Los Angeles, de Jesus found deep roots connecting that to immigration policies which made marks on the Filipino-American experience. "What we're trying to do as filmmakers and I, as a forever educator, is tell our stories and this is where Stop Asian Hate comes in. It's imperative that our stories are no longer a side note; we are no longer just monoliths. The Filipino-American experience is very different

from the Chinese-American experience, the Indian-American Experience." For de Jesus, the stories shouldn't stop at Asian Americans; all cultural groups in the United States should be telling their stories and receiving the spotlight they deserve as the framework of the country.

In this time filled with emotions for the Asian community in America whether those emotions be anger, sadness or terror, it is pivotal for everyone to support each other whether Asian hate be present in the islands or not. It is in the divisive nature of the past of this country and even the world that keeps many in the mode of hatred. As the pioneers of the future, it is this generation's responsibility to hold others accountable and make America the place everybody claims it to be--a haven for diversity, success and opportunity. ✨



**Alexis Joy Viloria**, a Maui High School Senior, is the founder and President of the SaberScribes journalism club and Vice President of the Silversword 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 Viloria.

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**Rep. Kahele does the honors** of carving into the celebratory *lechón kawali*. Mayor Mike Victorino stands back with Kahele's family while Melen Agcolicol, President of Binhi at Ani stands by to support the action.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

## Kahele ...

from p. 4

He understands raising a child is expensive, costing about \$250,000 from conception to 18 years old. "We expanded the child tax credit, which was \$2,000 and we made it \$3,000. If your child is six years of age or less, we added \$600. For every child in your family, if you qualify, if that child is less than six years old, it's a \$3,600 child tax credit on your tax return, which is now due on the 17th of May because the IRS extended the deadline yesterday." Kahele believes the child tax credit will cut child poverty in half. After a year, Congress will need to act to make it permanent. "Why that's important is we know if we can keep children out of poverty, of going hungry, of sleeping in their car, of being raised in a dysfunctional household because of the economic challenges that people have, we can help their long-term growth effects. We know children that grow up in poverty in those types of very difficult situations have long term health effects, long term mental health effects, long term growth effects and it's this cycle of poverty that we can never get out of. This child tax credit is really, really important for the poor."

The American Rescue Plan also continues assistance to struggling businesses. "We extended billions of dollars to important corporations, like the airline industry, so that we can extend the Paycheck Support Program—the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses. For example, we appropriated \$14 billion to the airline industry because we cannot let the airlines fail." Kahele observes the airlines employ thousands of people and the airlines are critical to our transportation infrastructure. "As an example, Hawaiian Airlines was going to lay off 900 employees on April 1 and they issued those notices to Hawaiian Airlines employees, many of which work right here at Kahului Airport. Because we passed the American Rescue Plan, nobody loses their jobs, everybody will keep their jobs, all the furlough notices were canceled and they keep their jobs and health care. That's really important for a family

that has to be able to take their kids and their family to the doctor when they're sick." Kahele also detailed the funds to the SBA. "We also put billions of dollars into the SBA programs so they can issue grants to Mom-and-Pop stores—stores that are struggling to survive, that have kept people on payroll, that have lost revenue, lost inventory and need help with their rent payments. When we keep people on the payroll, we keep them on their health insurance and that's a good thing. Otherwise, we would be dumping them onto the state's unemployment insurance program."

Kahele understands the limitations of the unemployment insurance program and explained how the American Rescue Plan assists with health care. "The day you lose your job, potentially, you lose your healthcare. So what are your options?" The Congressman noted one could pay for their own health care, try to qualify for Medicaid or sign up for the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) as the enrollment period was extended to May and additional subsidies were provided so the total amount of premiums would be about 8.5 percent of the gross annual earnings. "What is the other option for health care that you have if you lost your job? COBRA. How much is COBRA? Thousands of dollars. But not for the next six months as we just made it free. If you want COBRA, you can have COBRA until the end of September. The bottom line is there will not be a single person on Maui calling me who should have to worry about not being on health care."

The Congressman highlighted how the American Rescue Plan would get kids back in school. "We added billions of dollars to provide to the state public educational districts and school systems—the necessary PPE, the necessary work environment, the necessary tools teachers would need, so that kids can go to school, teachers can feel comfortable teaching in that environment, and we can get kids back in school." Kahele expressed how important it was for kids to return to school to learn in a normal environment as they "have lost a year basically of their educational and social interaction."

see KAHELE p.15

## My Dad always said Be Prepared

*Plan for your estate, NOW!*



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Ti Biag ken Pammati  
"Life and Faith"



Stations of the Cross outdoors was led by Fr. Michael and the Youth team.



Deacon Pat preaching homily on Easter Sunday.

**AUTHOR’S NOTE:** On April 4, Christians around the world celebrated Easter Sunday. I was honored to give the Homily during Mass at St. Joseph Church in Makawao. I decided to use my Homily as the message for this month’s column because Easter is celebrated not only after Holy Week but for fifty days, leading to Pentecost.

**H**appy Easter everyone! Alleluia! It feels so good to be able to say that again after such a long time. Alleluia! It brings me great joy to gather with all of you to rejoice in and give thanks to God for the greatest gift we could ever imagine—the gift of redemption, the gift of salvation, the gift of new life won for us through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus! Think about that for a second.

Our God refused to simply sit on the sidelines and watch us continue to stray, watch us pursue our self-centered goals, watch us wander down a path that was leading us away from Him. Rather, our God chose to fully immerse Himself in our world, chose to become one of us, chose to become like us so we could become more like Him. Imagine that.

**What a God we have! Alleluia!**

Happy Easter Everyone!  
Alleluia!

Deacon Patrick Constantino  
PHOTOS COURTESY DCN. PATRICK CONSTANTINO

And as with all the great celebrations of our Church Year, we will break out music that we save for this particular season—songs which allow our hearts and voices to give praise to our God who loves us beyond all understanding—a love so strong even death is powerless in the face of it. We know these hymns well.

They include *Alleluia Sing to Jesus, Crown Him With Many Crowns, This is the Feast of Victory For Our God*, just to name a few, and the one that probably is tops on many of our lists—*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*—an oldie but goodie! It’s nearly impossible to sing these songs and not feel true joy, not feel true hope, not feel secure in the loving arms of our God. Alleluia!

But the one that moves me the most is one we don’t always necessarily associate with Easter, one that we sing only occasionally throughout

the year, if at all. Yet, this song, for me, contains some truly poetic words that express what lies at the heart of what we are celebrating this day. I’m talking about *Morning Has Broken*.

I played it almost every day last year about this time, the well-known Cat Stevens version, as this country and world were first paralyzed by the pandemic, wreaking a widespread destruction nearly everywhere. And I did so because of what the songs says, of what it implies, of the deep truth it reinforces. You see, in the midst of great uncertainty, in the midst of fear and sorrow and confusion, the words to this song helped me remember the truth Jesus made possible through the great act of love we celebrate this day.

**And what is that truth?  
What is that hope?**

*Morning has broken, like the first morning Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.*

Think about that. When we talk about salvation, when we talk about new life, when we talk about reconciliation with our God—what we’re really saying is that the power of Jesus’ resurrection is the power to cre-

ate each of us anew each day. Every day is a new Eden—full of promise, hope and beauty. Every day we get to start again—looking forward, not backward, looking at what might be, what could be, rather what was.

***Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.***

Jesus made all that possible—the Divine Word made flesh—our God pouring Himself into our world and into our hearts, showing us the incredible power of love and thereby transforming every living thing, the whole of creation—in ways we can’t even imagine. God made this world good. And it can still reflect that goodness.

***Sweet the rain’s new fall, sunlit from Heaven. Like the first dew fall, on the first grass.***

What an image! The reconciliation Jesus has brought about, the mercy he extends to us, the power of the resurrection, allows us to be the very people he created us to be—people who have the capacity to help make this world the beautiful place he created it to be—have the capacity to bring a little bit of Eden to a world in desperate need of it.

***Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning. Born of the One Light Eden saw play.***

Wow! That’s good stuff. Do we believe it? Seriously? Do we believe it? Do we believe that a new day has dawned? Do we believe the world can be different? Do we believe we

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI next page



Blessing of fire and lighting of Paschal candle by Fr. Michael. What a beautiful setting at the entrance of St. Joseph Church.



The Adoration of the Holy Cross by Fr Michael and Deacon Pat





The over flow parishioners celebration Mass via live stream in our Gym. Coordinated by Deacon candidate Jayson Jacintho, his wife Diana and the Youth.

can be different—full of love and mercy and kindness and generosity? Do we believe that everything is different because God has made it so, because Jesus, the new Adam, has died and risen to make it so? It takes faith to believe such a

thing. It takes faith to believe the death and resurrection of Jesus has changed everything—not just in regard to the end of our earthly lives but in regard to this very moment, this very morning, this very day—a brand-new day full of possibility and

From the  
**Editor's Desk** Cont'd from p. 6

SEVEN

In the arena of immigration, Executive Orders seek to 1) preserve and fortify deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA); 2) direct the Department of Homeland Security to strengthen the regulation which defers the removal of undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children; 3) revoke an executive order issued by the previous administration, which made sanctuary jurisdictions and did not comply with immigration enforcement measure ineligible to receive Federal funding; 4) ensure a lawful and accurate enumeration and appointment pursuant to the decennial census which requires all residents of a state be counted in the census, regardless of immigration status; 5) revoke the so-called Muslim ban which restricted foreign nationals from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the U.S.; 6) establish a task force aimed at reuniting children who American authorities separated from their families on the border and 7) halt construction and funding of the border wall with respect to the Southern border of the U.S. and redirect funds diverted to border wall construction.

Immediately after their historic inauguration, the Biden/Harris team began to work for the American people, as evidenced by their accomplishments described earlier. Now, their most pressing goals include 1) raising the minimum wage to \$15 that will provide a living wage for millions of struggling, hardworking ordinary Americans; 2) especially in light of the recent vicious massacres in

Georgia and Colorado, gun control policies must be passed to prevent repetition of senseless deaths and 3) immigration reform is long overdue.

As our nation begins to heal, the TEAM brings much anticipated leadership to our people and the world—to repair broken alliances, to rebuild longtime friendships and to rekindle trusting relationships within and outside our borders. Our widely respected values will once again give the nations of the world a beacon of light to help us all find a better way together. At the same time, a stern rebuke is expressed by President Biden to anti-American leaders who have demonstrated their eagerness to harm our election process and degrade our precious values, still and perhaps more than ever, highly respected by many.

In closing, we share with you a quote from a speech by President Biden, who believes fervently, “Our best days still lie ahead. Together we will choose hope over fear, unity over division, and truth over lies.” Let us all pray for our leaders so they will seek guidance from our Lord Almighty. Let us all be united with a common purpose, “to love our neighbors as ourselves.” As Americans, we have a powerful leadership Team working every day on our behalf. Let every one of us commit to do our share, to help our nation and our people to be the best that we can be. ✨

*Vince Bagoyo*  
VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



Fr Michael with Deacon Candidates Jayson Jacintho and John Metz with the Youth leaders of St. Joseph, after leading The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

Fr Michael and Deacon Pat prostrating in front of the altar, on Good Friday.



Liturgy of Holy Masses celebrated by Fr. Michael Tolentino.

promise and hope and wonder and beauty.

What a God we have!

*Praise with elation, praise every morning. God's re-creation of the new day.*

My friends, whoever you were yesterday—doesn't really matter. Whatever you did in your past, whatever ways you have strayed—doesn't matter. Whatever you don't like about yourself—doesn't matter. Whatever problems you are having or grief you are carrying ... Whatever is breaking your heart or weighing you down ... Whatever cross you are carrying ...

These things don't win!

They won't get the best of us. They don't get the last say. They are not the end of the story—not the end of our story. God wins. Every single time—and therefore gives us an opportunity to wake up each and every day and be the person not only we want to be but to be the person God wants us to be—for God, for ourselves, and for the world. That's what it means to be a resurrection people, an Alleluia people, a people of faith, a people who live in the light and power of what we are celebrating today.

Put simply—every Good Friday can and will be followed by an Easter Sunday.

May we leave this holy place this day with deep gratitude and love for what God has done for us, what Jesus has done for us, what the Spirit has done for us.

And may we come to realize

that a beautiful world is possible, a new Eden. But it will only come about if we infuse it with the love of God which is beyond all understanding. It's in our hands—not because it has to be so but because God wants it so—invites us to work with Him, invites us to walk hand in hand with him, transforming this world one person at a time. That's not a burden but actually a gift. God could do it alone but chooses not to. And He does so because He loves us and knows what we are capable of.

What a God we have! The victory has been won! He is risen! And each of us gets to share in the victory! Morning has broken! Now what do we intend to do with it?

*Have a blessed Easter everyone! Jesus, I trust in you! Amen! ✨*

On June 18, 1987, **Patrick Constantino** was ordained as the first Deacon of Filipino ancestry for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai'i. For twenty-two years, he served as Administrator at Holy Rosary Church in Pā'ia, St. Rita Church in Ha'ikū and St. Gabriel Church in Ke'ānae. Constantino is presently assigned to St. Joseph Church in Makawao.

Prior to his ordination, Constantino was in government—first appointed in 1966 as Assistant Sergeant of Arms by the Speaker of the House Elmer F. Cravalho. When Cravalho became Maui's first Mayor, Constantino became his Executive Assistant—the first of Filipino ancestry. Later, Constantino became the first County Treasurer of Filipino ancestry and the first County Grants Administrator and Risk Manager of Filipino ancestry.

Constantino has served as a Deacon for thirty-three years and married to his lovely wife Corazon for fifty-nine years.





# 2021 Mother’s Day

Be a thoughtful Mother’s Day celebrant.

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog” | IMAGE COURTESY LIZA PIERCE AND CANVA.COM

There are tears of joy and tears of sadness. What tears are you going to shed on this Mother’s Day 2021?

Mother’s Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family as well as motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in society. Mother’s Day is celebrated around the world but not exactly on the same date. For example, in the United Kingdom and Ireland, it is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent, which was on March 14 this year. In the United States and the Republic of the Philippines, Mother’s Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May, which is May 9th for 2021.

Mother’s Day is usually a happy day. It is a common practice for young children to make Mother’s Day arts and crafts in school around this time and they give them as gifts to their mom. There were many times when I had tears in my eyes reading my children’s little poems that came with the gifts. Sometimes they give photos of themselves and all the other possible cute and sentimental stuff you can imagine. For Mothers with adult children, they usually get a phone call or a visit. And yes, a call from children far usually brings tears of joy on mother’s eyes as well.

For many families, Mother’s Day is a day filled with joy and laughter, es-

pecially when the mom starts pulling out those photo albums and starts reminiscing about memories of their children growing up.

While Mother’s Day is a time of celebration for many, it is also a difficult time for some: for women who are in the process of waiting to be a mom (especially to those who have been waiting for a long time) ... for those who miss their moms who passed away ... for moms who miss their kids who passed away ... for women who desire to be a mom but were told they physically can’t (this is tough). In these situations, tears of sadness are shed. May this *Kwento-Kwentuhan* remind us to be mindful and sensitive to the women around us. We’ll never know how a woman next to us feels about Mother’s Day.

And then there’s another group of Mothers who we can celebrate this year: those who opted to adopt or foster ... or those who chose to be a dog mom and a cat mom and whatever pet mom they chose.

How are you celebrating Mother’s Day with your family this year? If your mom is still alive, make sure to give her all the love she deserves. Face time, ZOOM or a phone call would be great if you are away and can’t come visit. Send her flowers. Sing her a song. Think of creative ways to express your love for her. If your mom is Filipino, take her out to



**This May 9th**, contact your mom if she is still reachable. Be mindful toward those who has lost their mothers along the way or to those who cannot physiologically pursue motherhood. Make this day a thoughtful yet fulfilling celebration of this special relationship.

a Filipino restaurant or bring her to a Filipino grocery store.

Read the book “Love You Forever” by Robert Munsch with your mom, and watch some sentimental tears falls down her eyes.

To all the Mothers reading this article, Happy Mother’s Day to you!



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

a friend and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About 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.



## Kahele ...

from p. 12

Kahele’s first trip to Maui Nui as a Congressman started on Lāna’i. “I came over here yesterday on the ferry. Well, we thought we was gonna die. Twenty-foot swells in the channel. Oh my gosh. My body is still a little whacked out. We arrived yesterday at 12 o’clock on Maui. I could have gone to the hotel and went to sleep for the rest of the day but we had stuff planned. So you got to just suck it up and roll, man. But I still don’t feel fully recovered from that boat ride,” he admitted.

“It’s been a good trip. We’re mostly focused on central Maui—Wailuku, Kahului—and focused on the flood,” said Kahele. His schedule on Maui was full—spending time with Mayor Michael Victorino, Managing Director Sandy Baz and Emergency Management head Herman Andaya. Kahele visited Ha’ikū, toured the Maui Ocean Center, talked story with community members concerned about the wastewater discharge into Mā’ālaea Bay, met with ILWU president Donna Domingo together with Maui Division chief Bobby Andrion and Business Agent Manny Baltazar, and huddled with the Hawai’i National Guard, Dr. Pang and the Department of Health at



**Rep. Kahele**, and family stand with a framed illustration of their family.

PHOTO:  
ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

the University of Hawai’i Maui College vaccination site. “The next trip, we’ll probably spend more time in West Maui, maybe go out towards Hāna. But you know, my goal is to come to Maui at least three if not four times a year, every year, at least while I’m in office.”

With tourism continuing to be the

economic engine, Kahele says he talks frequently with Victorino. “Well, you know, with the Mayor, we talk about tourism a lot. I just came into Lahaina the other day and there’s a lot of tourism here. But it’s that balance.” Kahele understands the governor has his plans but the governor has also respected County Mayors and their abil-

ity to make decisions they feel are in the best interest of their respective Counties. “Everyone has different policies and timelines for when they think their County is ready to reopen for tourism. They’re also using data.” Kahele noted Maui’s high count of forty-one COVID cases—the highest in the State on the day of the interview. “That’s something that Mayor Victorino has to figure out why that’s the case—looking at the data, looking at the arrivals from the transpacific. Is it cases that have originated from tourists or is it cases that have originated within the community? So he can figure out what is the right timing. And then we need to look at how do we reopen the economy to tourism and also do it in a way that we keep in mind the health and safety and welfare of our residents—the people that live here—so I don’t envy being in his shoes.”

The Congressman noted the different approach taken by Kaua’i. “We’ve also seen Mayor Kawakami take a different path than our other Mayors. And today, his COVID count was zero and his COVID count is usually zero but the economy on Kaua’i is zero. That’s not good either but I’m not in that seat. I don’t walk in his shoes; I don’t get the same data and briefings that he gets every day. So I’m not here

see KAHELE on back page



Kahele ...

from p. 15

to be an armchair quarterback.” Kahele fully understands his job and his role. “I’m here to support the Mayor and the County of Maui, especially as it relates to the flooding last week, especially as it relates to the role that FEMA can play.” Kahele reports the County of Maui will receive \$32.47 million through the American Rescue Plan. “That was different than the previous two CARES packages. This is the first time Maui County is getting direct money from the U.S. Treasury and I am going to ensure that happens and that it doesn’t go to the Budget and Finance Director on the Fifth Floor of the Capitol.” Kahele expressed the Hawai’i delegation’s united support for the Governor’s and the County’s emergency flood proclamations. He promises the federal government’s assistance in reimbursing the County’s repair efforts and the assistance of the Army Corps of Engineers to assess the damage. “It’s a whole team effort—State, County, Federal to address some of these natural disasters.”

Kahele and Victorino both hail from Hawai’i island and that will serve Maui well. “Well, part of it is relationships, you know, working together with the Mayor, working together with our different state and county partners in terms of tourism.” Kahele says the airlines are an important piece of the equation and notes the airlines are under the purview of the federal government through the Federal Aviation Administration, with fed-

eral dollars supporting the airports. “Part of it is ensuring the federal government has robust national testing strategy, that we have a national or at least a well thought out contact tracing strategy.” He wants to make sure that tourists at their point of embarkation have taken the test and they’re COVID free when they travel. “And when they come into Maui, they’re not going to be bringing COVID” with them. “I think it’s really up to the Mayor and his team and the Governor as to how much they want to open up that spigot to let more people back in because I really believe people are tired of being at home, tired of being on ZOOM. They want to get out and travel, they want to come to Hawai’i. We are a leisure destination that people love to come to. But we cannot go right back to 10 million tourists. There’s no possible way.” Kahele says we need to safely reopen that spigot and let people come back to Hawai’i in a safe way and be mindful of the residents. “But we also know that tourism is a major lifeline for our economy. It also challenges us to think outside the box. And think about how we want to diversify the economy or what we want to plan for the future. What does Maui County look like in 2050?” Kahele asks. “What kind of Maui are we going to pass on for our future generations? And that all starts now, with proper planning about the future of Maui. I had a chance to look at a conceptual outline from the Hawai’i Tourism Authority about what that blueprint for Maui may look like in the future. And there’s good opportunities out there. And that’s where

we should make these strategic investments in the future so we can diversify Maui’s economy.” Food production also is an important cog in Hawai’i’s future. “We can do that with the proper farm plan, with the proper strategic investments.” Kahele says through the Farm Bill, the government can invest in small farmers working together with companies like Mahi Pono which will transform the central Maui plain into the breadbasket of the state. “We can do that with what we have on Hawai’i Island, what we have on O’ahu where we have prime agricultural land. Former sugar and pineapple lands have great potential but they require a lot of investment.” Kahele explained how windbreaks, soil remediation and a state-of-the-art water irrigation system were needed. “But if we invest in that, we can help the small farmer and have a balance.” Kahele spoke of his touring the hydroponic farm on Lāna’i, funded largely by Larry Ellison. “They’re unbeliev-

able. But I also had a chance to go across the street to meet with three local farmers that have been farming on Lāna’i for thirty plus years. And there’s a role for them too. There’s a role for everybody to feed Hawai’i’s people. And we can do that.”

With his “can do” attitude and fresh energy, Congressman Kahele will definitely be a huge factor in creating a new Hawai’i.

**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 37 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.



Iti Salun-At Yo

| Cont’d from p. 6

Frequently Asked Questions • COVID-19 Vaccine:

Here are a couple of examples of the safe outcomes of taking the vaccine, *Bakuna*, furnished by the Hawai’i State Department of Health in **Ilokano** and **Tagalog**. (Links for more in-depth information about taking the “Bakuna” in both languages are provided at the bottom of this box.)

How safe is mRNA?

Kasano ti katalged ti mRNA?

Natalged dagiti mRNA a bakuna a kas kadagiti sabali a klase ti bakuna iti Estados Unidos. Inadal ken insagana dagiti medikal nga eksperto ti mRNA iti sumagma-mano a dekada. Kayatda dagiti bakuna nga mRNA gapu ta mabalin dagitoy nga arami-den iti laboratoryo babaen kadagiti masindadaan a materiales. Kayat a saoen daytoy a mabalin nga al-alisto ti proseso ngem kadagiti tradisyunal a wagas ti panagaramid kadagiti bakuna. Naadal idin dagiti mRNA a bakuna para iti trangkaso, Zika, ken rabies. Inusar ti panagsukimat iti kanser ti mRNA a pang-trigger iti immune system tapno itargetna ti masnop a selula ti kanser. Apaman nga available ti nasken nga impormasion panggep iti mikro-bio a makaigapu iti COVID-19, rinugian dagiti medikal nga agsuksukimat a dinisenio dagiti an-nuruten ti mRNA tapno mabukel dagiti selula ti naisangsangayan nga spike protein iti maysa nga mRNA a bakuna.

Gaano kaligtas ang mRNA?

Ang mga bakunang mRNA ay kas-ing-ligtas ng lahat na iba pang mga bakuna sa Estados Unidos. Ang mga dalubhasa sa medisina ay ilang dekada nang inaaral at tinatrabaho ang mRNA. Gusto nila ang mga bakunang mRNA dahil maaari itong buuin sa isang laboratoryo gamit ang mga madaling makuha na mga materyales. Nangangahulugan ito na ang proseso ay maaaring maging mas mabilis kung ihahambing sa mga tradisyonal na paraan ng paggawa ng mga bakuna. Ang mga bakunang mRNA ay dati nang pinag-aralan para sa trangkaso, Zika, at rabies. Ang pananaliksik sa cancer ay gumamit ng mRNA upang hudyatan ang immune system na targetin ang mga partikular na cell ng cancer. Sa sandaling makukuha na ang kinakailangang impormasyon tungkol sa virus na nagdudulot ng COVID-19, sinimulan nang idisenyo ng mga medikal na mananaliksik ang mga mRNA instruction para sa mga cell para mabuo ang natatanging spike protein sa isang bakunang mRNA.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

Maalak kadi ti COVID-19 manipud iti bakuna?

Saan nga usaren dagiti bakuna nga mRNA ti live virus a makaigapu iti COVID-19, Saandaka dagitoy a maikkan iti COVID-19

Maaari ba akong makakuha ng COVID-19 mula sa bakuna?

Ang mga bakunang mRNA ay hindi gumagamit ng live na virus na nagdudulot ng COVID-19, hindi ka mabibigyan ng mga ito ng COVID-19

Link iti ILOKANO:

<https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/e/2PACX-1vR7CXXIfMTIXIzF-1uz1g4ryDUnrwwPx9IFD0SRGfLz-RDABqGYc6I9cR1tes7EgDoG7DB29cQV10nI/pub>

Link sa TAGALOG:

[https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/e/2PACX-1vQ\\_8ZG\\_s6F\\_k7trBGYygpEWIltFZ\\_OUjae5cwbTgcCvIfIVnr5P7kdIs\\_zkfFgcD3--NTg6Sn39hOZZ/pub](https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/e/2PACX-1vQ_8ZG_s6F_k7trBGYygpEWIltFZ_OUjae5cwbTgcCvIfIVnr5P7kdIs_zkfFgcD3--NTg6Sn39hOZZ/pub)

Don't Wait, Vaccinate!

‘Ohana. Faith. Life.  
Mahalo for Remaining Safe  
During this pandemic for All of Us.

**gil KEITH-AGARAN**  
SENATE D

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