



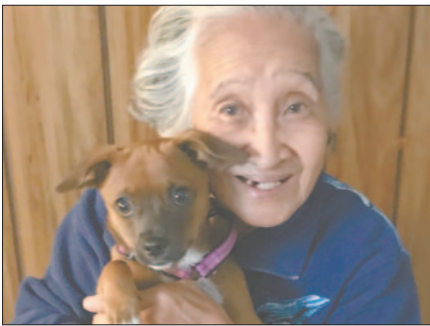
Leading Up to the Midterm Elections
Know your leaders.

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Are You Ready for Your Own Death
Our Editor explains.

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A pet story
Dinengdeng & Pinakbet explores Pets and the Pandemic.

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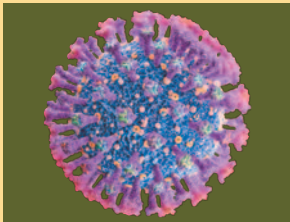


Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

September 2021 • Vol 5 No 9 | **FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE**

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Dealing with the Delta variant by Dr. Buntuyan.
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Father Arnel. The faithful, called to serve.
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Our bahay kubo—almost done with the renovations!
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Back to School Woes

Alfredo G. Evangelista
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A year ago, education was all about parents, teachers and students adjusting to a virtual classroom. Quite a problem on the fly then but the 2021 school year has arrived with both continuing and its own set of challenges. A quick review of the last month and a half highlights classrooms cannot be and are not insulated from outside forces and events.

Right before the school year began, the Board of Education (BOE) changed Superintendents after deciding against renewing Christina Kishimoto’s contract. Instead, the BOE tapped Keith Hayashi, the highly regarded former principal at Waipahū High School on O’ahu, as In-



Protestors outside the County building.

PHOTO: DULCE KAREN BUTAY

terim Superintendent, effective August 1—just a couple of days before the first school bell rang.

Concurrently, the COVID delta variant was detected in Hawai’i and began to spread. Infection numbers were in-

creasing yet the State Department of Education (DOE) kept insisting there would be in-
see WOES next page

LEADERSHIP SERIES

Vicky Cayetano

The Second in a Series.

PHOTOS COURTESY VICKY CAYETANO

EDITOR’S NOTE: In 2022, Leadership for the State and Maui County will be at the forefront with elections for Governor, Maui Mayor, Council, and due to reapportionment, all State Senators and State Representatives. The primary election will be held on August 13, 2022 with the General Election on November 8, 2022, and it’s not too early to start thinking about the type of State and County leaders needed. While no one officially declared their respective candidacies when this series started (Cayetano recently made an of-

ficial announcement), several have expressed interest in the gubernatorial race: former Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Business Executive/former First Lady Vicky Cayetano, and current Lt. Governor Josh Green. They were simultaneously sent identical questions with the same response date.

This month’s focus is on Business Executive/former First Lady Vicky Cayetano while October’s focus will be on Lt. Governor Josh Green. (August’s focus was on former Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell.)

see CAYETANO p.3



FREE



DOE Interim Superintendent
Keith Hayashi



Maui County Mayor Michael Victorino



Gov. David Ige



Maui High School Principal Jamie Yap

Woes ...

from p. 1

person classes only in Maui’s public schools. Rather than getting the opportunity to build on the innovated and novel programs he started at Waipahū (including early college and STEM academies), Hayashi has to navigate a difficult return to in-person instruction “planned” by his now departed predecessor and her people.

Not everyone thought the DOE should re-open campuses.

On August 1, Mayor Michael Victorino requested a two-week delay to the August 3 start of instruction, saying “Even though our vaccination rate in Hawai’i is fairly good compared to other states, the Neighbor Islands have limited hospitals and critical care facil-

ities. Our healthcare facilities are already being challenged by the recent surge of infections, so I believe it is wiser to err on the side of caution.” The Mayor further argued, “Distance learning is not new for Hawai’i’s students and teachers, and while it’s not ideal, it’s preferable to a potential surge in Delta pediatric cases. We should pause for a few weeks until classroom instruction begins so we can have a better indication of how this variant will impact our medical facilities.” He also urged, “In the meantime, I urge the unvaccinated to get vaccinated as soon as possible, for their own health and for the protection of our *keiki*.”

Governor David Ige, the DOE, and the Department of Health (DOH) declined (or perhaps ignored) Mayor Victorino’s late request for a delay and

school began as scheduled on August 3. On Maui, 13,383 regular students and 1,576 special education students matriculated at the twenty schools in the Baldwin-Kekaulike-Maui complex. Another 4,342 regular students and 513 special education students began school at the eleven schools in the Hāna-Lahainaluna-Lāna’i-Molokai complex.

At Maui High School, the largest high school on Maui, 603 are freshmen, 507 are sophomores, 475 are juniors and 454 are seniors, according to principal Jamie Yap. Of the total 2,039 students, 48 percent are identified as being of Filipino ancestry.

After no competitive athletics at Maui public schools during the pandemic, the Maui Interscholastic League (MIL) scheduled a full slate of Fall games and events. On August 4, however, the DOE announced athletes needed to be vaccinated to play sports. “We opened the new school year this week with in-person learning and our highest priority is to ensure all students can continue to attend school safely,” the newly installed interim Superintendent proclaimed.

“This decision was not made lightly because we know the important role athletics play in a well-rounded education, but we cannot jeopardize the health and safety of our students and communities,” said Hayashi. “We saw over the weekend the impact that just

one potential case can have on sports teams, students and families. The alternative is canceling the season outright, which we don’t want to have to do; so we are implementing this layered plan that prioritizes vaccinations as the best way to protect against and reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.”

Athletes were given a deadline of September 24 to comply, thus delaying athletics—including full contact practices and preseason football tilts.

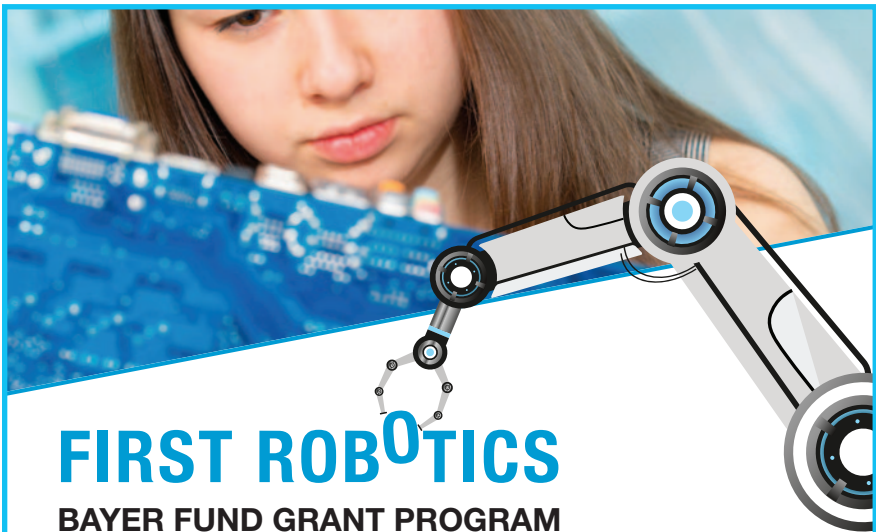
In response, on Maui, hundreds of parents rallied in front of the State and County buildings to protest the requirement, chanting for Mayor Victorino, Governor Ige and local health officials to address their concerns. (Even the football coach at perennial Division II state title contender Lahainaluna resigned in protest.) Activities of various school organizations and extracurricular activities were also placed on hold.

Yap, who in addition to his full-time post as Maui High principal leads the MIL, sympathizes with the students. “For our students it has been a challenge without having activities, marching band and athletics. They don’t have the same high school experience as our students pre-COVID. Again, our kids have been outstanding doing the best they can.”

“I think the kids going back to school is the best thing after the pan-

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Governor David Ige, the DOE, and the Department of Health (DOH) declined (or perhaps ignored) Mayor Victorino's late request for a delay ...



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Liezl Tabon



Vicky Cayetano gives a thumbs-up to her team, whose input she values highly



Vicky Cayetano talks with and listens to a member of the Kaua'i community.

Cayetano ...

from p. 1

1. IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE TELL US YOUR BACKGROUND, INCLUDING DETAILS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, EDUCATION, AND EXPERIENCE IN THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS.

I was born in Manila, the sixth of nine children. My parents were Chinese immigrants who moved to the Philippines in the 19th Century to escape the famine that was ravaging China. I was three years old when our family moved to the U.S. eventually settling in San Francisco where I grew up. After I graduated from high school, I attended Stanford University and majored in business and economics. I left Stanford prior to my junior year to form a business, a travel agency which serviced corporate clients. Four years later I sold the successful business when I moved my family to Hawai'i.

Thirty-four years ago, my partner and I founded United Laundry Services, a commercial laundry serving hotels, hospitals and clinics. Since then, I have served as its President and helped it become Hawai'i's biggest commercial laundry with branches on O'ahu, Maui and the Big Island, employing nearly 1,000 workers. the majority of whom are Filipinos.

In 1997, I married my husband Ben Cayetano, who is the first Filipino-American governor in U.S. history. Whether as First Lady or as President of United Laundry Services, I have been involved in assisting many non-

profits and charitable organizations and continue to do so.

2. IN 200 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE TELL US: A) WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR HAWAI'I/MAUI? B) WHAT IS RIGHT WITH HAWAI'I/MAUI? C) WHAT IS WRONG WITH HAWAI'I/MAUI?

It is important that we apply the lessons learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic. "Restoring" Hawai'i to what it was before is not good enough. It would be a mistake to just return to business as usual. We must build a Hawai'i that is better than before. Working with other community leaders, I will provide the leadership to develop new and innovative ways to improve the lives of our people, in particular, our young, too many of whom are leaving our state, and our elderly living off ever shrinking retirement incomes, who struggle most from the high, ever-increasing cost of living.

My team and I have already developed some new ideas to deal with issues such as affordable housing, the homeless, sustainable tourism and healthcare. There are many other important issues, of course, and I will be more specific when I formally announce my candidacy. I pledge to you that the leadership I provide will be honest, innovative, transparent, independent of special interests—and I will listen to all for their concerns and ideas to improve our people's lives.

3. IN 125 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HAWAI'I'S/MAUI'S FILIPINO COMMUNITY.

From its beginning, the overwhelming majority of my company's workers are Filipinos, many are migrants from the Philippines. Besides interacting with them nearly every day, our relationship is such that I know many by their first names. I've been invited to and attended their many social events—birthdays, anniversaries, listened and celebrated with them on personal matters. Many of our original workers have worked for me for more than twenty years. I treat them with respect and loyalty which they have returned to me in kind.

4. IN 500 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE IDENTIFY AND EXPLAIN THE THREE GREATEST NEEDS OF HAWAI'I'S/MAUI'S FILIPINO COMMUNITY.


I believe that like many other communities in our State, issues like sustainable tourism, affordable housing, the high cost of living, climate change, crime and homelessness, education and healthcare would be at the top of the list.

I am also aware that one issue concerning Filipinos (that relates more on the federal level) is the difficulty due to issues related to COVID of being able to bring relatives and family members to live here in Hawai'i. Filipinos are an extremely family-focused people; they care for each other and are not truly happy unless all in the family are safe, well, and close. Frequently, that means being together in

see CAYETANO next page



Vicky Cayetano builds strong teamwork and collaboration at United Laundry Service.



DON'T WAIT TO VACCINATE


IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU

COVID-19 and its variants are on the rise in our community. Our state positivity rate is the highest it has ever been and we continue to see record breaking numbers of positive cases. Science has proven the best protection against the virus is the vaccine, so please help be a part of the solution. We're seeing a clear demographic shift of young and middle-aged, otherwise healthy adults, making up a growing share of the COVID-19 patients. Don't let COVID-19 happen to you or to the people you love.

Some facts to consider:

- The Delta variant is the most contagious of the COVID-19 variants.
- Nearly all of the new cases in Hawaii are caused by the Delta variant.
- Most patients hospitalized for COVID-19 in Hawaii are unvaccinated.
- Majority of those hospitalizations are between 20-59 years old.

For more information on how to get the COVID-19 vaccine, including the third dose for qualified individuals, visit mauihealth.org/covidvaccine.

**MAUI HEALTH**



From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



It's never easy to think about our own end-of-life situation, however, preparing can be as seamless as looking at five important issues.

PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE

We Are Going to Die One Day ...

How do we prepare for the inevitable?

Like the old saying goes—there are two things for sure in life: death and taxes! It is not a matter of if; it is a matter of when. Too often families are not able to talk comfortably about the preparation for the death of a loved one because it is not a topic anyone wants to think about. Yet we must. Most important is to remember acceptance of death helps everyone focus on quality of life prior to death.

Making decisions early about death and dying issues means you are prepared when you or loved ones arrive at the end of life. Thoughtful parents can lead by meeting with the family, providing specific advance health care documents that list all the tasks that require careful, detailed steps for clear implementation. To begin,

suggestions from an article by authors in the private nonprofit organization Aging With Dignity invites the dying person to consider five wishes to think about to prepare for the end of life. This process helps because it allows family and caregivers to know exactly what the one facing death wants, relieving everyone from the difficult, often awkward situation of having to guess. Here are the five wishes:

- the person I want to make care decisions for me when I can't;
- the kind of medical treatment I want or don't want;
- how comfortable I want to be;
- how I want people to treat me; and
- what I want my loved ones to

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Woes ...

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demic because it allows them to get the education they need after not being in school for over a year," said Didi Azcueta Hamai, whose daughter is a seventh grader at Īao School. "They can socialize with their friends and some kids may get the proper nutrition if they weren't getting it at home. I think they should mandate vaccines. It's to protect not only yourself but their family as well."

On August 5, Governor Ige issued an emergency proclamation requiring all state employees to be vaccinated or tested weekly. "The highly contagious Delta variant creates a big risk of infection, especially for members of our community who are not vaccinated. With spiking COVID-19 case numbers, we have to take measures now to prevent an unmanageable strain on our healthcare system. This new vaccination and testing policy

"They can socialize with their friends and some kids may get the proper nutrition if they weren't getting it at home."

– DIDI AZCUETA HAMAI

for State and county workers will help protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Hawai'i," said Ige. More recently, Gov. David Ige extended the vaccination requirement to all state contractors and any person wanting to enter various state facilities, including public libraries and any state offices still open to serving residents.

As the Delta variant continued to wreak havoc, it became clear that perhaps Mayor Victorino's request was a reasonable one. (Between August 14 and August 19, the DOE reported there were fifty-seven cases, with forty-four in the Baldwin-Kekaulike Maui complex area and thirteen cases in the Hāna-Lahainaluna-Lāna'i-Molokai complex area.)

Leizl Tabon, who has twins in the 7th grade at Maui Waena and a daughter in the 4th grade at Lihikai Elementary, expressed her concerns: "Having kids attending school in person has been great for my children but it has not been with-

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Vicky Cayetano walks through United Laundry Services to survey the operations.

Cayetano ...

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the same country or state. Although this is not something the Hawai'i governor can impact directly, it is a con-

cern that I plan to address with federal authorities when appropriate.

In closing, I want to thank Maui's *Fil-Am Voice* for giving me the opportunity to speak to Maui's Filipino community and, in the coming months, to learn more from them. ✨



Fil-Am Voice

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

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

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

Publisher
The Fil-Am Voice, Inc.
Tante Urban, President
info@filamvoicemaui.com

Editor
Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
info@filamvoicemaui.com

Assistant Editor
Alfredo G. Evangelista
info@filamvoicemaui.com

Art Director
Lawrence Pascua
graphics@filamvoicemaui.com

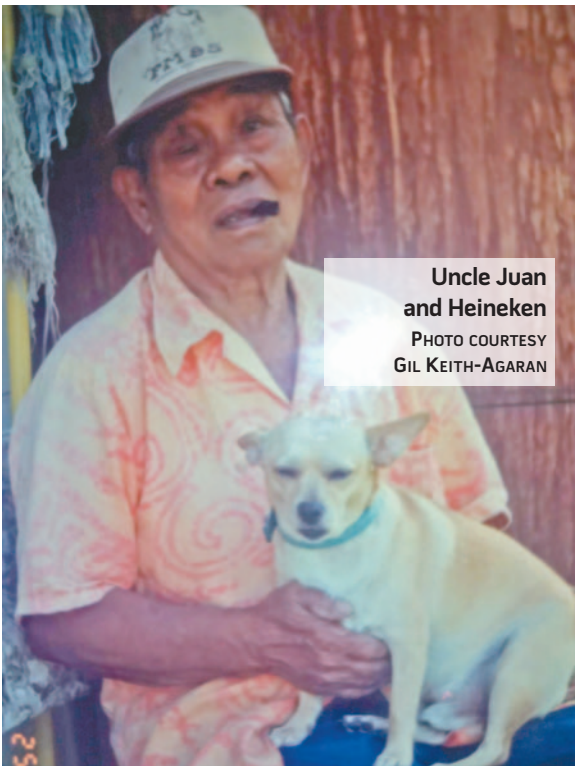
Account Executive
Sharon Zalsos Banaag
info@filamvoicemaui.com

Contributing Writers
Elizabeth Ayson, Ph.D.
Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
Sharon Zalsos Banaag
Errol Buntuyan, M.D.
Dulce Karen Butay
Patrick Constantino
Alfredo G. Evangelista
Brooklyn Jones
Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Lawrence Pascua
Lucy Peros
Liza Pierce
Tante Urban
Alexis Joy Viloria

Distribution Manager
Paul Manzano

Web Master
Nick Ponte

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Uncle Juan
and Heineken
PHOTO COURTESY
GIL KEITH-AGARAN



Above: Britney.
PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

Left: Mom, cousin Frellie and Nicki.
PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

Based on social media postings, one thing happening during this pandemic was a lot more people getting pets. I occasionally saw *friends'* updates featuring cat videos before COVID-19 but then noticed more personal pet photos over the last nineteen months. A lot of us picked up pets while we were isolated from family, human friends and co-workers.

I haven't personally made any correlations but there are several well-regarded studies of the two types of domesticated animal owners. In 2010, University of Texas researchers found dog people were more social and outgoing while cat people tended towards being neurotic and somewhat more thoughtful or cerebral. A 2014 Carroll University survey found dog lovers energetic and outgoing and (gasp) rule followers. Cat lovers were introverted, open-minded and sensitive. Apparently, cat lovers also proved more non-conforming and scored better on intelligence tests.

Reportedly, so-called Red States have the highest rate of dog ownership while Blue States have more cat owners. I don't know how true those studies are for Hawai'i. From walking door-to-door over the years, I think a lot of local people in Central Maui keep canine guards for front doors and garages.

Growing up in Pā'ia, a lot of my neighbors had dogs (the *haole* guy who opened a juice stand along Hāna Highway at the end of our street named his business after his Great Dane *Charley*). There were little yelping things warning owners we were walking past their house. Some larger mixed breeds kept us pesky latchkey kids off nicely manicured yards or made us yell from the street whether they wanted to buy fundraising candy for a school trip to the Big Island. I don't really remember the cats—they were quiet, lazily watching us from perches on a patio or hollow tile wall.

My family is ambidextrous.

Living on Luna Lane, our first pets were dogs. (Papa Lino's roosters were not pets and the egg-laying hens and the occasional bunnies and billy goats

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Dogs, Cats and the Pandemic.

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

eventually became meals.) Precociously creative as children, my sister and I named the black and white poi dog we had *Snoopy* after a famous World War I flying ace. After we lost Snoopy, our next pet was Tarzan (there was a television series). When Tarzan passed—and I don't know who decided on this—we called a white collie-like mutt *Tarzan Replacement No. 1* while my grandpa scoffed that he should have been "Lassie" instead.

In the early 70s, my parents bought a tract home in the 12th Increment—a small subdivision across from the new Maui High School campus. My granduncle Juan Agaran retired from one of the Big Island Sugar Companies and moved in with my parents. He was a lapdog person.

His brother, Papa Lino, turned out to be a cat person. In fact, I think Papa Lino developed one of the first cat colonies in Kahului. One of his show bird cronies gave him a kitten but when additional felines wandered onto our property, he and Uncle Johnny would grouse about them but fed them anyway. Eventually those cats would come by regularly for some milk or a meal.

But the women who ruled our household—my grandmother and my mother—insisted they were outside cats.

Uncle Johnny went to Maui Adult Day Care at Maui Evangelical Church—one of the few male retirees in the program. Some of our yarn braided clothes hangers were made by Uncle Juan in that program. Papa Lino had other activities and television shows he preferred to government sanctioned senior social gatherings and passed on continuing adult day care after a few months.

When I went to college, my grandfather's two cats were tabby *Branford*—named after my residential college—and gray *Connecticut*—the state where I spent my undergraduate years. After graduation, he added calico "Berkeley" where I attended law school.

While working on O'ahu, the family drifted towards some small dogs (although my sister's best friend Nelson had two Dobermen—*Princess* and *Duchess*—for a period). My sister renamed a part-chihuahua gift *Heineken* after a green bottled beverage. A friend of my mother gave her a lap dog named *Nicki*. Perhaps because they were small, cute things, they be-

came our first pets allowed in the house.

After both *Heinie* and *Nicki* passed, my mom and sister became born-again cat persons (although my mom and her morning walking friends reputedly feed the feral chickens at Maui High).

Sister Vel presently has *Ading* after *Fluffy* passed, and in recent years added *Whitey*. Mom renamed *Whitey Britney* because he turned out to be a she. *Ming-Ming* wandered onto the property and is now one of my mother's constant companions.

The most recent addition is a cat that started as a neighbor's stray. But

see PETS p.8

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

know.

For the person who is dying, communicating your wishes to your loved one is particularly important. In every community are kind, experienced resources ready to help, such as a trusted pastor, family counselor, lawyer, social worker, relative, friend or someone who has lost a family member or close friend. Being together to plan gives everyone a chance to participate and when illness makes the coming of death imminent, the courage to express feelings of sadness over the loss creates the foundation for acceptance. Always speak to a medical professional for assistance. We must also be mindful when there are young ones watching the slow demise of a beloved grandparent, for example, sharing their feelings is helpful and healthy for everyone. A prudent, necessary step is to evaluate whether medical treatment is advancing to improve health or prolonging suffering. "Just because you can do something doesn't mean you should."

To avoid the burden of financial pressure on the surviving family members, some families pay into a funeral plan package that provides clear agreements for all who wish to share the costs. All

arrangements are made in advance so there are few decisions left when the time comes. Sometimes the plans for the funeral, even including details of the service, the hymns, the flowers, and so forth, are identified by the person who is dying, saving the family from wondering what their wishes would be.

The result for the dying, for those anticipating loss and already grieving, for all who want to make their final visits to say goodbye—when arrangements are made and funded—is the blessing of being together in collective appreciation and gratitude with peace of mind.

Let us all be prepared: Preservation of Life vs. Prolongation of Death. "The best answers are not about right and wrong, but about God's grace manifest in Christ."

P.S. An urgent reminder—get vaccinated; make an appointment for your booster shot after September 20; wear your face mask; wash your hands often; and stay six feet apart. Let's be a community who cares. We can do this! 🌸

Vince Bagoyo
VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



Osa Tui, Jr., HSTA President



State Rep. Justin Woodson

Woes ...

from p. 4

out its challenges. All my kids have been in close contact at some point, which resulted in a ten day isolation period. This can be very inconvenient and the idea of having been exposed to the virus can be a little frightening for them. All that said, being able to socialize with their friends is beneficial for their well-being and we're hopeful that in person learning will continue for the remainder of the school year."

On August 18, the Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA), the union representing teachers, held a news conference outlining its demands to the State. Osa Tui, Jr., who became HSTA president on July 5, described the state's actions limiting indoor social gatherings to ten or less as hypocritical because the State allows classes between 20 and 40 students.

On September 3, HSTA reported filing "two class grievances over unsafe working conditions during the pandemic and the state's directive that unvaccinated education employees must be tested for COVID-19 weekly." Recently, the DOE reported that as of August 31, 89 percent of its employees

were fully or partially vaccinated.

Yap believes the biggest challenge for teachers is dealing with the state mandated rules for testing. "They have done an outstanding job working with students," he said.

Kahului State Representative Justin Woodson, Chair of the House Education Committee, held an Informational Briefing on September 8 with Superintendent Hayashi and others from the DOE hierarchy including several Deputy Superintendents. The hearing lasted more than two hours.

"I still have concerns about the DOE's reopening because of COVID but we are also continuing to work with the Department to mitigate the community's concerns," said Woodson, who notes the key issues brought forth by parents and teachers are proper social distancing and masking. Woodson said it's also difficult to get testing on Maui and the cost is prohibitive for families. Woodson is pushing the DOE to provide free testing at schools for students and staff.

Another problem caused by the pandemic is the lack of bus drivers. Statewide, approximately 650 drivers are needed and the DOE reported a shortage of about one hundred. On

see WOES p.15



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Dulce Karen Butay and Daughter.



Aloha August, welcome September, the first ’ber month and you know what it means. It means time will pass by so fast the next thing you know, holidays are here and the year is gone.

Shout out to all the September babies! We have the most birthdays in this month! Do you know why? Be-

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

cause it’s cold in December when they were conceived. Happy birthday to Keilah and Deja (1st), Mana (6th, our fur baby), Arissa Kira (7th), my cousin

Mando Domion (13th), Debbie and Julia (17th), my Aunt Imelda Ulep (18th), to my mom, Dolly (21st). Also, a shout out Happy birthday to our Maui State Senator Gil Keith-Agaran! *Pada-pada kam nga kumablaaw ti naimbag nga panagkasangay yo amin!* (Happy birthday to all!)

MICHAEL SCREECHES and tries to grab the magazine.

Swiftly Angel moves it just out of reach and they struggle on the ground.

Angel laughs and continues to tease him. He struggles to capture the magazine in her *kamay* (hands).

Rolling on the ground, the struggle quickly changes as Angel turns around with Michael on top of her with their *mukha* (faces) fronting each other.

Michael looks her in the eyes and then to her *labi* (lips). “Oh, she’s so *malagu* (beautiful),” he says to himself.

Moving his gaze down to her *labi* (lips). He gives her a *halik* (kiss).

They *haluk* (kiss) and the magazine drops to the carpet.

Meanwhile, a man is on the phone. “*Mapianga um-ma nikaw* (Good morning). Uh huh. Yeah... Oh... Uh huh... . Okay. Understood. I’ll be there in a minute.”

Uncle Ray fixes his *buhok* (hair) and places the phone headset back on-to the phone base to end the call.

Uncle Ray is just twelve hours into his new promotion as Police Sergeant. He is *masaya* (happy), he finally gets to do what he wants to do. Missing career opportunities due to health issues and personal problems in the past led to him giving up promotions to tend to those issues. Otherwise, his 20 years in the department would yield him at least to a Lieutenant even in moderate scenarios. But here he is with his Sergeant title.

Looking at himself in the mirror, smiling. “Billy Ray Walker, Sergeant. Oh, that sounds so good,” he says to himself while winking in the mirror. Polishing his badge and tilting his cap a bit, he turns around and acknowledges an imaginary person. “No, it’s okay, you don’t have to be so formal and salute me. Hahaha. My name is Sergeant Walker, how can I help you?” he says with one eyebrow raised and his *kamot* (hand) extended to shake a *lima* (hand).

“Oh Katherine, don’t worry, I’m not going anywhere,” as he gives her a thumbs up. Ray has been secretly in love with Katherine for the past twenty-five years and was given the opportunity to work together ten years ago when she transferred to the Police Department from the Department of

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Good Morning	Magandang umaga	Naimbag nga aldaw	Maayong buntag	Maayong aga	Mapianga um-ma nikaw	Mayap a yabak
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Nawom	Nawong	Muka	Lupa
Smile	Ngiti	Isem	Ngisi	Yuhom	Galo	Timan
Arms	Braso	Takyag	Lima	Gamat	Kamot	Braso
Hair	Buhok	Buok	Buhok	Buhok	Vu	Bwak
Happy	Masaya	Naragsak	Malipayon	Masadya	Magayaya	Matula
Sweet	Matamis	Nasam-it	Tam is ni	Katam is	Nami	Mayumu
Lips	Labi	Bibig	Naabil	Bibig	Bibig	Labi
Kiss	Halik	Anggo	Paghalok	Haluk	Ummo	Muma

Public Works.

These two have been friends since grade school when first meeting out in the playground during recess. Katherine was a bit of a tomboy as she often used to play with the boys and do all the sport activities just as well. She wore loose fitting clothes, burped and laughed like a guy. Even to this day, you couldn’t say she was a girly-girl. Constantly making guy jokes and absurd innuendos. She could drink most men under the table and does amateur boxing a few weekends each month.

It was a hot summer afternoon when Ray was waiting for the school bus under the tree, twirling his pencil on his fingers. Suddenly he was struck pretty hard and someone fell on top of him. As he ate a bit of sand and opened his eyes, he naturally pushed the boy off him, proceeded to get up and rant. But to his dismay, the boy was actually a girl. She scrambled to control the ball and corralled it into her *braso* (arms). She held the football in both *gamat* (arms) and jumped up in the air and spiked it in the ground. “Yah! Let’s go!” Katherine screamed as in the distance you could hear a small crowd cheering. Laughing, she looked down at Ray and smirked. She gave a thumbs up and said “Eh, thumb-wrestle. You think you can beat one girl?”

Ray jumped up and dusted himself. He opened his *ima* (hand) and said,

“Yeah, right! You have no chance.”

They locked *gamat* (hands) and began the thumb-dance. “One two three four, I declare a thumb-war,” the two sang in sync. Instantly, Ray could feel the force and strength of Katherine. She instantly powered her way to a clean thumb pin on Ray. In complete shock and eyes wide opened, he demanded a rematch. She obliged. “One two three four, I declare a thumb-war.” This time Ray put up a heroic effort but the result was the same. A clean pin. She even kept the pin and looked into his eyes, which was filled with despair. Even though a girl not only knocked him down but beat him, no, she dominated him in thumb wrestling. As she let go of the hold, she walked past him and shoulder-bumped him, turned around and gave a thumbs up and walked away.

Everything happened so quickly. He stared into his *kamay* (hand). This was the first time a girl touched his *kamot* (hand). As he turned his head, he saw this tomboy running with the football pretending to be a running back. He smirked back at her and got on the bus.

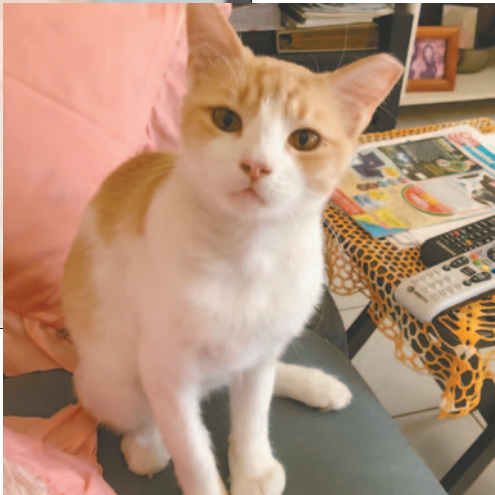
The next day Ray was sitting in his usual spot near the bus stop under the tree. Looking around, he was looking for this mysterious girl. Constantly looking around but to his disappointment, she never came. Playing with a

blade of grass and bending it into oblivion, he flicked it over his right shoe. Grabbing his bag and tossing it over his shoulder, he started heading to the waiting line for the bus. Suddenly someone bumped into him and it was Katherine. A gleaming *tamisni* (sweet) *ngiti* (smile) in her *nawong* (face), pearly white teeth, her *buok* (hair) was a mess and sweating. Hunched over she gripped his forearm and caught her breath. “Hey Ray,” she said while lifting her *gamat* (hand) with a thumbs up. “WrestleMania time. Let’s see if you got any stronger from yesterday,” she jabbed at him. *Katamis* (Sweet) *isem* (smile) from ear to ear, he is so *naragsak* (happy) to see her, you could see it in his *rupa* (face). He dropped his bag and fake spit into his *ima* (hand). And extended his *lima* (hand), “Hell yeah, rematch! I can’t lose again.”

“One two three four, I declare a thumb war,” they giggly sang. And the match was on. Katherine on the offense, as she always is the aggressor, she tried quickly to clamp on but misfire after misfire, she started to get sloppy. Ray, on the other *kamay* (hand) playing defense, never got into motion of attempting a pin since he was always running. She pulled him in close to her and he panicked. She pinned him and counted. “Seven, eight, nine.” Ray squirmed, pulled and jerked but just couldn’t move. “You have vice grip *gamat* (hands)!” he shouted as they both laughed. “Ten,” she finished the pin and released him. They both laughed as they stared at each other. Her *mayumu* (sweet) *timan* (smile) in her *nawom* (face) is so addicting. This was the moment Ray fell in love with Katherine. He was *malipayon* (happy) to spend time with her. For the next few years of grade school and the six years of middle and high school, they met every day after school to thumb-wrestle. Katherine dominated all through grade school but in middle school when Ray’s body started to fill out and he became a young man, he started to easily beat her, letting her win every so often. Currently the record is 1232-525 to Ray since many of those wins came in High School where he was a star running back. Those were the *magayaya* (happy) days in his life.



Left: Ading
PHOTO COURTESY GIL
KEITH-AGARAN



Right: Ming Ming, Britney, Ading
PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN



Mom with Maka
PHOTO: GIL KEITH-AGARAN

Pets ...

from p. 5

he liked the food at our house better so Vel and Mom named him *Kipp* as in “Are you planning to *kipp* him, mom?” The neighbors named *Kipp Oliver* because he has an “O” in his fur, so his full name is *Ollie Kipp* now. *Kipp* is kept out of the house be-

cause that smaller cat enjoys picking fights with the others. My wife and I should be cat people. Her kin have both cats and dogs. Growing up, I thought of myself more as a cat person. Unfortunately, she has allergies and cats leave too much hair around a house. One of our neighbors gave her the runt of a litter that they named *Mija*. *Mija* was a quiet, smart, attentive dog

who turned out to be a wonderful sign waving asset. But we lost *Mija* a few years ago due to an attack by a rescued boxer that got loose in the neighborhood. So now we have *Makalapua*, or *Maka*. Born during Hurricane Lane weekend, *Maka* is a stubborn little thing—living up to her Chug heritage (Chihuahua-Pug). She has trained us well. Since the pandemic started, I walk her in the morning before work then she pulls my mother and me through Tsutsui Regional Park in the late afternoon (my mom gives her training treats just because *Maka* gives her light scratches on her arm driving to

the park). I think she uses me just for exercise and food service. When she has a choice between curling up with Kallie or me, *Maka’s* choice is clear. *Maka* bonds more with her even though I’m the *rule follower*. I guess *Maka* knows who’s the Texan in the house. ✨

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran’s *Alma Mater* were the Bulldogs with Handsome Dan as a mascot but he was graduated from Maui High when there was some mistaken effort to have Saber-tooth Tigers recognized as its mascot rather than the Ahinahina Silversword. He currently represents Central Maui in the State Senate.



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Pinoy ...

from p. 7

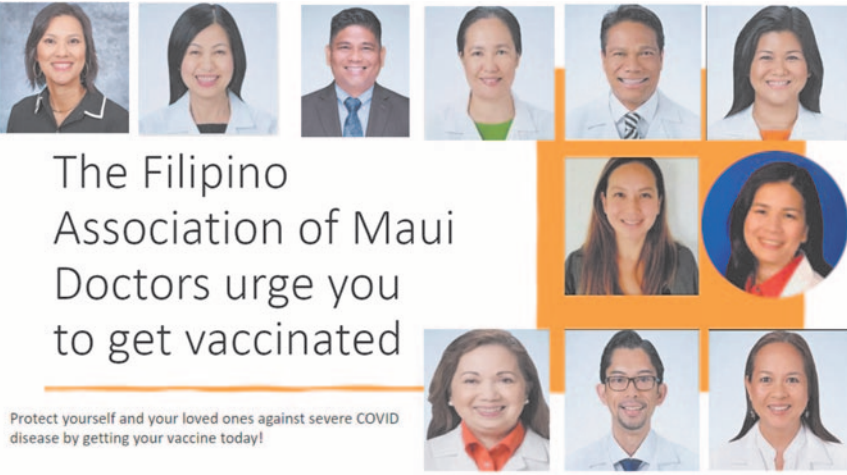
Katherine left to go to UCLA for college while Ray stayed on Maui, eventually getting into the police department. When Katherine showed up to work, they instantly hit it off and have been having lunch together every day. They no longer thumb-wrestle but their iconic thumbs up *kamay* (hand) gesture is something they always have together. As he passed Katherine, she gave him the *matamis* (sweetest) *ngisi* (smile). “*Naimbag nga aldaw mo!* (Good morning!) Go get ‘um boss,” she says. He *yuhom* (smiles) back and enters the conference room for the briefing. As he closed the door, his Chief says, “*Maayong buntag* (Good morning) Ray, here is the new file.” On the table was a picture of Angel and the deceased cop and a manila folder with a WANTED on the tab. Can you imagine Uncle Ray’s reaction? What is Uncle Ray going to do? How is he going to break the news to his favorite nephew? Keep an eye for the next issue.

Please visit us on our Facebook page and leave us a comment or ideas at <https://www.facebook.com/FilAmVoiceMaui>.

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 received her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College. She earned her Bachelor 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 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.





The Filipino Association of Maui Doctors urge you to get vaccinated

Protect yourself and your loved ones against severe COVID disease by getting your vaccine today!

The Delta Variant of COVID Makes an Impact On Filipinos In Hawai‘i

Errol Buntuyan, M.D.

Unfortunately, this current delta variant of the COVID virus is making a tremendous impact on our Filipino community. The data at the end of August 2021 reveal Filipinos make up 19 percent of COVID infections in Hawai‘i, second only to the Native Hawaiian population for ethnic minorities contracting the disease. We come in second overall for hospitalizations in Hawai‘i at 22 percent behind the Pacific Islander population. Filipinos make up the largest group of people in Hawai‘i in the number of deaths from COVID comprising 23 percent of lives lost to COVID.

Our community is at extreme risk for further illness and death from COVID. We know this risk is completely preventable. More than nine out of ten people being hospitalized and that die from COVID are unvaccinated. If more of our Filipino community were to receive the COVID vaccinations, we could prevent this virus from causing more debilitating sickness and death.

There are many who have chosen not to get vaccinated in our community. Sharing the following facts may help inform those who are hesitant to vaccinate. People need to know the risks of not getting vaccinated as well as the nuances of this delta variant which makes this strain more worrisome.

Current data confirm the unvaccinated are five times more likely to get infected with COVID. There is twenty-nine times the increased risk of getting hospitalized with severe COVID illness for those that are unvaccinated versus those vaccinated. The unvaccinated are fifteen times more likely to die than the vaccinated.

There are three words that describe the delta variant: quick, sick, and fast.

We have known for months this variant is more contagious and thus infection can happen very QUICK. This variant is more focused to attack the nasal and oral mucosa upon exposure and replicates at a rate 1000 times faster than previous strains. This large amount of virus in the nose and mouth can be passed quickly to others nearby with each breath. Infected individuals often start feeling symptoms of nasal and throat symptoms in as fast as three days. Wearing a mask and keeping physically distant are important to provide a barrier

of protection and distance from transmitting and receiving infected respiratory droplets.

Though vaccinated and previously infected people have antibodies to COVID, they often do not have enough IgA antibodies in the mucosa to neutralize the virus during the first few days after infection. Thus the vaccinated can potentially spread the virus should they get infected. The good news is recent studies have shown vaccinated and previously infected individuals have much milder symptoms, are less sick, are unlikely to get hospitalized and will neutralize and clear the infection in just a few days. Please see the testimonial from Rod Antone who fortunately was fully vaccinated when he got infected with COVID in August.

Those that are COVID vaccinated and previously infected can mount the proper immune response from their antibodies, T cells and memory B cells. The unvaccinated do not have these layers of protection and will have to suffer through the entire

see ITI SALUN AT YO p.12

My COVID experience

Rod Antone

I WAS DIAGNOSED as COVID positive on August 17th. I got tested because on August 14th I felt the chills at night and then the next couple of days I felt lightheaded and wanted to lie down constantly.

As recommended by the Department of Health contact tracer that I spoke with afterwards I quarantined at home for ten days. My symptoms were very mild during those ten days as the chills and lightheadedness disappeared very quickly and for most of the time the only symptom I had for much of quarantine was I had no sense of taste.

And yes, I am vaccinated with Moderna. I received my first shot in March and my second in April.

While I was in quarantine I had a very good friend, Ryan Piros, taken to the emergency room at the Maui Memorial Medical Center. He could not breathe and had to be put on oxygen immediately. He was later diagnosed with pneumonia and was COVID positive.

Ryan had received his first shot of Pfizer recently but had not yet received his second shot.

I am telling the community what happened to us both because in my mind and according to medical experts, getting the vaccine can keep you out of the hospital if you become COVID positive. I know Moderna

helped keep the worst of COVID from ravaging my respiratory system. I have no doubt if I had gotten no vaccine or just one shot, I would be there in the hospital next to my friend.

Ryan is out of the hospital and recovering at home but he can't talk without coughing and is still having trouble catching his breath. He said COVID was the "most painful thing" he had ever gone through and when he was in the hospital it felt like there were "razor blades" in his lungs when he was trying to breathe.

As the Executive Director of the Maui Hotel & Lodging Association I ask every single person in the visitor industry to get fully vaccinated. Please.

Our employees represent so many in our community and if you all get vaccinated, we can make a real difference in stopping the delta variant as well as keep folks out of the hospital. No, getting vaccinated does NOT prevent you from getting COVID. But as you can see from my experience and Ryan's, there is a considerable difference between both of our COVID positive experiences.

So again, please get the vaccination. Do it for your workplace, your community and yourself. Mahalo.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED



SCAN ME

PAID FOR BY THE FRIENDS OF MICHAEL VICTORINO
P.O. BOX 3085 WAILUKU, HI 96793



Kristiann Miguel



Gwen Jaramillo



Jenna Payba



Bryan Pontanilla



Jaycie Iha

Remember high school football games? Sitting with schoolmates and family on hard metal bleachers, eating bowls of chili and rice, and cheering for the Maui High team on a Friday night were things I looked forward to, and I am sure I was not alone. There was something so classically *high school* about the whole experience that made me feel so happy.

Large crowds packed in a football stadium of people eating, talking, and yelling, however, were deemed unfit for our pandemic situation a year and a half ago. And in my opinion, this was a smart move to keep our community safe.

Since then, we have been cautious about social distancing and accepted last year's lack of sports seasons but our students have made it clear how badly they want to get back on the field.

But due to the uptick in cases on Maui, practices for fall sports had a

mandatory pushback to September twenty-fourth. This date is tentative, on top of everything. What were our athletes' reactions to this?

Kristiann Miguel, from Maui High's color guard, said her initial response was to be upset. And who can blame her? Kristiann's love of dancing and performing turned her onto the color guard team in freshman year and she hasn't looked back since. "All those seasons of stepping onto the football field as the crowds roar and dancing my heart out will be something that I will always remember," she reminisces. As a senior and guard captain, she wants to practice and perform with her teammates as much as she can during her last year of high school while being the best leader she can be.

Gwen Jaramillo, a senior, knows

a thing or two about practicing as a part of the Maui High School marching band. She "already knew or at

ing very sudden; one day, he was done with his first practice, the next, he received a Google Form with a message about a delayed start to the season. Like the others, there was no season for his sport last year. Until then, Bryan has set up targets in his backyard to improve his technique until the season starts up again.

Many students have relied on self-motivation to prepare for their sports seasons in 2021. Cheerleading, a physically demanding sport, meant Maui High School senior **Jaycie Iha** had to keep herself active by running and weightlifting last year. Not only that but

she flexed her cheerleading skills virtually by "keep[ing] the Saber Spirit alive" over the computer. Jaycie credits her mom, who was a cheerleader in high school, for inspiring her love for the sport. "I continue to be a cheerleader because of the women empowerment it embodies despite the stigma it receives." For her last year, Jaycie hopes she can provide the same guidance to the underclassmen as she received a couple of years ago.

Many people may not think of color guard, marching band, air riflery or cheerleading as sports. Looking at the players' dedication and genuine enjoyment of their activities, however, would change the mind of any skeptic. These athletes are more than ready to show their school spirit and give their sport all they have as soon as it's safe to do so! ✨

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 **Brooklyn Jones**, a Senior at Maui High School. She is an assistant editor in her school's journalism program, *Saber Scribes*, and also a member of the *Girls Can STEM Club*. 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*.

Google® Is Not Everything... High School Sports Are Greatly Missed

Brooklyn Jones | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2022

least prepared [her]self" for the event of canceled rehearsals but still attended four-hour practices three days a week this summer as well as planned each one with her fellow drum majors. While the possibility of not coming back to practice looms overhead, Gwen is proud of her band's accomplishments. "If other sports can't rehearse, then we shouldn't be able to either," Gwen remarks. "We are 'ohana and we don't leave family behind."

A lot of people join sports for the chance to be active and become closer with their teammates. But how does that work with solitary sports like air riflery?

According to **Jenna Payba**, most of the team bonding happens at air riflery meets. "I enjoy Air Riflery because of the coaches and the friends I've made." So after finding out about the fall sports season being rain checked, she felt disappointed yet unsurprised. After all, we have become adjusted to the necessary precautions in a pandemic. Even though it will be a while before the season is supposed to start, Jenna worked on her shooting skills during the off-season and now hopes to shoot better in her senior year than she had previously.

Bryan Pontanilla, a senior air riflery shooter, also aims to improve his performance and make it to States. "I'm excited to meet the newbies and see how they do," he shared. According to Bryan, the air riflery team had a single practice before getting shut down. He describes it as feel-

"Looking at the players' dedication and genuine enjoyment of their activities, however, would change the mind of any skeptic."

— BROOKLYN JONES



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Ti Biag ken Pammati

“Life and Faith”



Priests, Deacons and Fr. Arnel with Bishop Larry after Installation.
PHOTO: DANN EBINA



Church attendance at St Theresa Church.
PHOTO: DANN EBINA



Fr. Arnel signing the “Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity” with Bishop Larry.
PHOTO: DANN EBINA

Fr. Arnel M. Soriano, M.S. was officially assigned to St. Theresa Church on July 1, 2021. The son of Fredercio and Rosalina Soriano of Isabela, Philippines, he was born in Ramon, Province of Isabela, Philippines and is 49 years old and ordained for seventeen years as a La Salette. He served St. Joseph Church, Waipahū as Parochial Vicar; St. Theresa Church, Kekaha, Kaua’i as Pastor; St. Anthony Church, Kalihi as Pastor; and is now at St. Theresa Church, Kīhei, as Pastor.

Fr. Arnel was officially installed Pastor of St. Theresa Church on Au-

influence.” On July 1, 2021 Fr. Arnel officially joined our faith community as St. Theresa’s new Pastor. He was born in Ramon in the province of Isabela in the Philippines on Feb. 9, 1972. Within his family, there are five girls and five boys, and Fr. Arnel is the youngest of the boys. “I was raised in a rice farming family,” Fr. Arnel says. My family is Catholic, and my grandmother was especially religious. As a child my mom would always bring us to church. I was an altar server, so I encountered many La Salette priests.” After graduating from La Salette of Ramon in 1989, Fr. Ar-

Every year, Fr. Arnel goes back to the Philippines to visit his family during vacation. He loves reading, dogs and gardening. “Gardening is what really interests me right now,” Fr Arnel says. “It makes me feel productive. We are in a tropical place, so I mainly grow tropical plants and traditional Filipino vegetables like squash and eggplant.” As he begins serving St. Theresa’s faith community, Fr. Arnel looks forward to meeting new people, forming new friendships, and learning alongside the parishioners as “co-journeymen” in our faith. “I will try my best as your Pastor, and I hope to be your prayer partner and to journey with you in your spiritual growth,” Fr Arnel says. “I hope you will help me in my spiritual growth as a priest.” Let us join as a “life and faith” community in welcoming Fr. Arnel as our new Pastor!

The final act in the assignment of a new Pastor is the rite of installation, performed by the Bishop during a Mass at the parish where the priest is named Pastor. Parish administrators are usually not installed. The Order of Installation, which is found in the church’s Book of Blessings, involves a presentation of the new pastor, his staff and parish council to the congregation and the pastor’s “Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity.” The profession and oath consists of the Nicene Creed and a promise to adhere to church teaching. The document is signed on the altar by the new pastor and by the Bishop as chief witness, and lists both the date of appointment and the date of installation.

In the Ilokano language (followed by an English translation), Fr. Arnel has a brief message:

Datayo amin nga kakabsat ken

gagayyem ditoy ili ti Maui, agmay-maysa tayo nga kumararag iti Apo tayo a Diyos a manakabalin amin, ta isalakan na tayo iti daytoy a pigged nga intay masangsangwanan. Ta salikniban na tayo daytoy a didigra nga dimteng ditoy sangalubungan.

Ket babaen iti bileg iti pammati tayo kenkuwana ket mapukaw kuman daytoy a COVID 19 virus tapnu kapia, ayat ken panagkaykaysa ti tumunggal maysa ditoy rabaw ti daga ti aghari ken agraira, ken ti ayat na kadatayo nga pinaraswa na ket agtalinaed.

Kakabsat, ragsak ken dayaw ko unay nga agsirbi ti tunggal maysa kadakayo.

Ket ti kapia ni Kristo, ken ti ayat ti Diyos nga Ama, ken ti timpuyog ti Espiritu Santo agtalenaed ku ma kadakayo.

(My Brethren and friends here in the County of Maui, let us unite and pray to our Lord God Almighty, for He saves us from all harm and protect us from this danger.

And by the power of our faith to Him, this COVID 19 will disappear so that peace, love and unity to all will reign, and his love for us will remain. Brothers and Sisters, it is my joy and privilege to serve you all.

And may the peace of Christ, and the Love of God the Father, with the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you.)

Thank you Fr. Arnel for your Life and Faith commitment to our families at St. Theresa and to the County of Maui. We are truly Blessed! 🌟

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.

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI next page



Fr. Arnel acknowledging parishioners, friends and family for coming to the special celebration.
PHOTO: DANN EBINA



Fr. Arnel working at his desk.
PHOTO: BRUCE KUROSAKI



Bishop greets Fr. Arnel after signing commitment.
PHOTO: DANN EBINA

Called to Serve and Chosen to Journey With You

A new pastor serves at St. Theresa Church in Kīhei.

Deacon Patrick Constantino

gust 22, 2021 by Bishop Larry Silva. Friends and families came from St. Anthony Church, Kalihi and St. Joseph Church, Waipahū to attend this special occasion.

The following is an article from St. Theresa’s Parish Newsletter, titled “Meet Fr. Arnel M. Soriano, M.S. St. Theresa’s New Pastor ‘I Hope To Journey With You’.”

As he reflects on his “life and faith” journey, Fr. Arnel M. Soriano, M.S. unhesitatingly names Catholic school as the most powerful influence on his vocation to the priesthood. “My teachers, the La Salette Missionaries, were close to my family and visited us in our home,” Fr. Arnel says. “I was active in school and church activities at the parish, but the community within my Catholic school was the strongest

nel attended Central Luzon State University, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1993. “In the seminary, I studied philosophy at the St. Paul Foundation run by the Pauline priests,” Fr. Arnel says. “Then I studied theology at San Carlos Graduate School of Theology run by the Archdiocese of Manila and also in the Philippines.” Fr Arnel was ordained on May 4, 2004, then he was the assistant at St. James Parish in Santiago City, Philippines for approximately a year before transitioning to serving faith communities in Hawai’i. “I have been assigned to many islands in Hawai’i, but not Maui,” Fr. Arnel says. “Transitioning to Hawai’i was not hard for me, but the language was difficult, although I learned English in the seminary.”



With the installation of Fr. Arnel at St. Theresa, Monsignor Terry Watanabe was installed as Pastor at St. Anthony Church, shown here with members of the Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club.

PHOTO COURTESY NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI

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-four years and married to his lovely wife Corazon for sixty years.

A Very Important Message from The Filipino Association of Maui Doctors

Ilokano

Kakabsat no adda panangipateg yo te pamilya yo pangngaasi yo ta in kay kade agpabakuna. Te bakuna te covid ket makaysalbar ken natalged. Agdama nga umadado manen te adda covid nan aglalo daydiay delta variant nga nabiit nga makaalis ken mas delikado. Umadado man te maosospatalen ket te kaadwan na haan nga nabakunaan. Te nakaamamak ket adda sagmamano nga pemusay. Te bakuna ke makaysalbar.

English

If you love your ohana, please vaccinate! We do not want anybody to get sick. Vaccines are life-saving and safe. We are currently in the middle of a surge of Covid and the Delta Variant is so much more contagious than the initial Covid infection last year. More people are getting hospitalized (mostly unvaccinated) and a number are on ventilators, and some have died. Vaccines saves lives.

course of the disease which can last over ten days.

Symptoms with this variant of COVID are more severe and people are feeling more SICK. Because the viral loads are so high from the rapid replication, those infected are overwhelmed with the number of viruses attacking the mucosal and lung cells of the respiratory system. The symptoms of sore throat, sinus congestion, headache, fatigue, cough, shortness of breath, body aches, fever, etc. are more intense and severe especially for the unvaccinated because they lack the proper immune cells to fight off the virus. People are seeking medical care in the emergency rooms and getting admitted to hospitals for treatment because of these overwhelming symptoms upon getting infected.

The delta variant of COVID has been spreading and growing FAST during this surge of infections. One infected person with minimal or no symptoms can spread the disease to infect seven to nine others. The previous COVID strains would only spread to two to three people. In our Filipino community of multigenerational homes living in close quarters, a fast-spreading virus can move through entire households of all ages in a matter of days. Turning positive and being sick from COVID will guarantee a ten-day quarantine from work or school. Many folks simply cannot afford to stay home and miss work or school. Keep in mind that up to thirty percent of those infected can get long COVID symptoms of brain fog, fatigue and cough and can be out of work or school for months.

The strain on our healthcare professionals on Maui has been tremendous. Nurses, doctors, physician assistants and support teams have been battling COVID for over eighteen months and are emotionally fatigued. We have had safe and effective vaccines against this virus available since late December of 2020. Pfizer is now FDA approved. It is absolutely heartbreaking to see those that have declined vaccination (mostly under 60 years old and previously healthy population) contract COVID and suffer from horrible symptoms. This could all have been avoided. Local clinics are

overwhelmed with testing requests, questions about exposures, and symptom management advice of COVID illness. Hospitals and emergency rooms are full of severely ill and dying patients from COVID infection.

The Filipino Association of Maui Doctors urge everyone eligible to get vaccinated. We have cared for the members of our community for many years. Seeing our community members get sick because they have not been immunized is devastating. The vaccines will protect you from feeling the harsh symptoms of COVID infection. Vaccination will provide the antibodies and immune cells to stop COVID from causing severe symptoms and hospitalization as it did for Rod Antone and many others. The only way we can lower the risk of further spread is from changing our behavior. We need to wear our masks, stay physically distant, limit indoor gatherings and most importantly get vaccinated.


Why should you put yourself and your loved ones at risk for COVID infection?

If you are not vaccinated, do so now. If you have loved ones who are unvaccinated, please tell them to protect themselves from getting the disease and avoid facing the risks of being hospitalized or dying from COVID illness. The time to act is now. Changing our behavior during this surge is the only way we can stop COVID from continuing to ravage our Filipino community and get us back to some state of normalcy in our lives. 🌟

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.

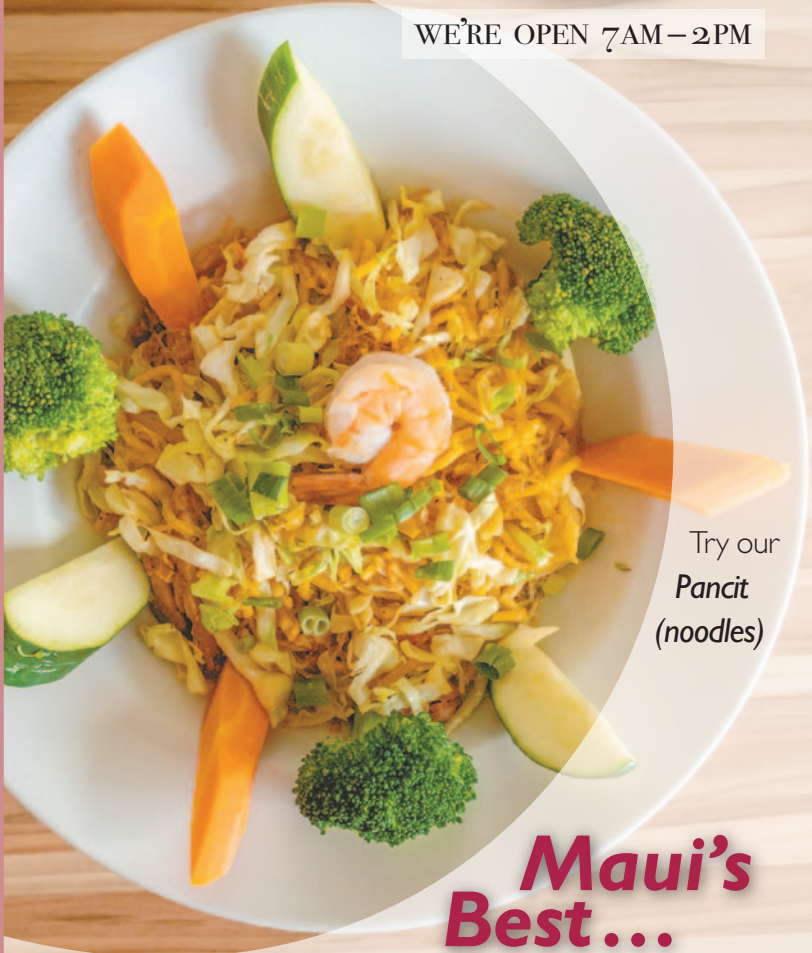


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Community... In Action



The almost completed renovated Bahay Kubo at Kepaniwai Heritage Park.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



The new ceiling of the bahay kubo is beautifully crafted of natural weave.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

COMMUNITY...
IN ACTION

Editor’s note: Send your community briefs to info@filamvoice.com.
This month’s column was compiled by Assistant Editor
Alfredo G. Evangelista.

BAHAY KUBO
HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The renovations are almost done! “Mahalo nui loa to our Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation leaders and members for all your excellent work and to our hard-working volunteers who helped us without reservations,” said Zaldy Ugalino, president of the Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation. “We are very eager to finish this project before the end of September 2021.”

If anyone wants to volunteer to help maintain the Bahay Kubo, please email bahaykubomaui@gmail.com. Monetary donations are still needed and can be mailed to Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation, 32 Hapua Place, Wailuku, HI 96793. T-shirt sales are still available through flip-sideurbanapparel.com.

BINHI AT ANI

Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center continues to be open for outside gatherings (with specific limits as to the number of guests) and “drive-by” parties. There are specific COVID-19 rules which are evolving such as outdoor gatherings of 50 or less do not need the Mayor’s approval. Please contact the office at (808) 877-7880 for more information. The office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Barrio Fiesta

The 52nd Annual Barrio Fiesta will be held on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021. The virtual broadcast will be on the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center Facebook Page



<https://www.facebook.com/BinhiatAniFilipinoCommunityCenter> from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A drive by food pick up (options are plate lunch of pansit, adobo, pinakbet and rice for \$15 or two empanadas—chicken or beef—for \$10 or a package of 12 cascaron for \$10) will be available between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Along with cultural entertainment, the virtual broadcast will feature three contests:

Any Kine Sisig Challenge sponsored by Tante’s Island Cuisine. To be one of five contestants, one must pre-register by September 22. Taping will be on September 25 at 4 p.m. at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. Contestants will have thirty minutes to prepare and cook their Sisig. The winner receives \$300. See the flyer for more details.

Do The Sungka! sponsored by Johnstone Supply Maui. Taping will be on September 25 at 10 a.m. at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. Pre-registration is required. The winner receives \$300. See the flyer for more details.

The Barrio Fiesta Voice sponsored by Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company. Video entries in mp4 format (no longer than 3 minutes) must be submitted by September 27 to alfredogevangelista@gmail.com. The judges will select the 3 finalists, whose submission will be aired on October 2. The winner will be determined based on 50 percent scoring by the final round judges (different from the preliminary judges) and 50 percent based on the number of Facebook see COMMUNITY IN ACTION next page



Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is open for outdoor gatherings, but with restrictions.
PHOTO: KELSEY HEROLD

Happy Anniversary
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it’s too late, plan
for your estate.”

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From left to right are the “Any Kine Sisig Challenge,” “Do the Sungka!” and “The Barrio Fiesta Voice” flyers for the 52nd Annual Barrio Fiesta. The flyers can also be downloaded from the Binhi at Ani Facebook page. These contests will include significant cash prizes for those who are bold enough to participate and win.

likes by 12:30 p.m. The winner receives \$300. See the flyer for more details.

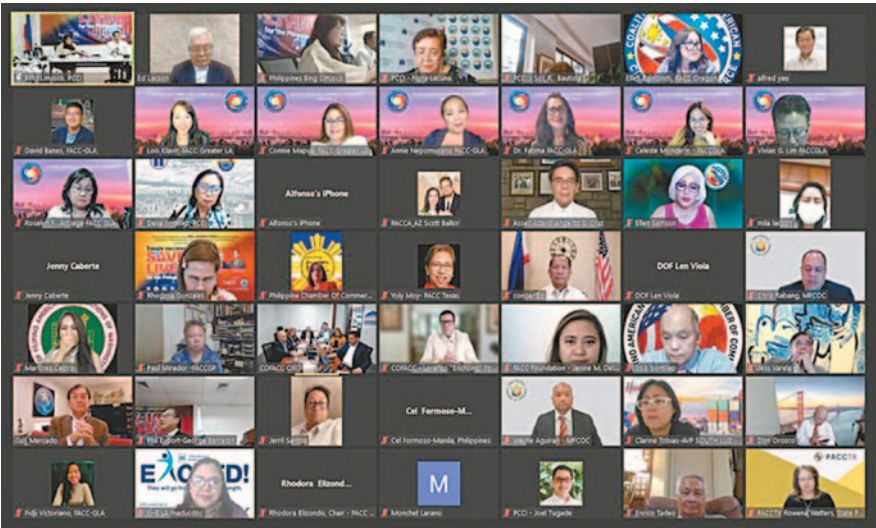
#BayanihanFeedingProgram

The program, which provides a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui, continues to need additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches. The teams serving during the month of September are Binhi at Ani, Friends of Michael Victorino and Miss Maui USA. Create a Team by signing up: <https://forms.gle/cVUGB6XLmtJi7MVH8> or by contacting Chelsea Guzman, chairperson of Binhi at Ani’s Health and Wellness committee at guzman.chelsea.i@gmail.com.

.com. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card at <https://binhiatani.org/donate/> or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehe’e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program]. Thanks to Kai Pelayo, Bayer Crop Science Hawai’i has donated \$10,000 to Binhi at Ani to purchase additional kitchen equipment for the #BayanihanFeedingProgram. The funds were used to purchase an additional refrigerator, a metro heated holding cabinet, camcarriers with thermal barr and dollies, and a hotplate countertop range with stand.

MAGSINGAL ASSOCIATION OF MAUI
The Magsingal Association of Maui will be holding a marinated bangus and longanisa fundraiser. The marinated bangus is available for \$14 (two pieces in a pack) while the longanisa (vinegar) is available for \$16 (twelve pieces). A drive by pick up will be held at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center on Tuesday, October 5 between 3 and 6 p.m. Tickets may be purchased from Florante Garcia, telephone number (808) 281-2304.

MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
The Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce is now affiliated with the Coalition of Filipino American Chambers of Commerce (COFACC). Chris Rabang, president of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce is now a member of COFACC’s Board. One of the current projects of COFACC is the Save Lives, Donate Vaccines for the Philippines. The Philippines has only achieved a fully vaccinated rate of 11.6 percent and donations are being requested to provide vaccines. A donation of \$25.00 will purchase one vaccine. Donations can be made through www.cofacc.org.



Above Left: Binhi at Ani Board of Directors prep the meals during the #BayanihanFeeding Program
PHOTO: ROCHELLE MENDOZA



Left: Kai Pelayo of Bayer and Melen Agcolicol, Binhi at Ani president pose in front of the kitchen equipment purchased through a grant from Bayer Crop Science Hawai’i.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

Above Right: Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce president Chris Rabang (fourth row, extreme right) attends a ZOOM meeting of COFACC.
PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Face Masks For Kids in School

To mask or not to mask, that is not the question ... or is it?

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

The topic of wearing a face mask during the pandemic is very controversial. Proponents of face masks and those who are opposing the use of face masks have very strong opinions so the topic of face mask wearing becomes divisive.

With school starting, it got me thinking about the use of face masks for kids.

Instead of speculating, I opted to check what the State of Hawai‘i Department of Health (DOH) says. Below are highlights from the DOH guidance:

Masking

Correct and consistent mask use is a core essential strategy to help prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 in schools and the community. When people wear a mask correctly and consistently, they protect others as well as themselves.

Indoor settings

- Masks must always be worn correctly and consistently by all students and staff when indoors.
- The only exception is for eating and drinking.

Outdoor settings

- Students and staff do not need to wear masks in most outdoor settings.
- Students and staff should wear masks in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people.

- Schools may elect to require that masks be worn in outdoor settings to simplify procedures for identification of contacts when a person with COVID-19 infection is identified.
- Schools should be supportive of students and staff who choose to wear a mask outdoors.



IMAGE: CHENTELLE ROWLAND

Face shields should not be used as a substitute for masks because of a lack of evidence of their effectiveness. A face shield provides eye protection for the person wearing it (e.g., in the event of bodily fluid splashes) and not respiratory protection.

Recess

In general, students and staff do not need to wear masks when out-

doors (e.g., participating in outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities).

When physical education activities or recess is held indoors, students and staff must wear a mask.

To view the Department’s COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidance for School Year 2021–22, please go to www.hawaiipublicschools.org and download the free booklet in PDF format.

After perusing the guidelines, I am glad to see that “students and staff do not need to wear masks in most outdoor settings” during recess and physical education settings. While I am an advocate of proper use masking, I also believe children should

not be wearing masks for a very long period. At least they will get some break when they go play outside during recess. Of course I am not a doctor so we need to cite an example of what a doctor will say about this issue.

Dr. Vinay Prasad, a hematologist and oncologist, is an associate professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at UC San Francisco who wrote a comprehensive and thoughtful article on masking young students which can be found here: <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/09/school-mask-mandates-downside/619952/>. At the end of the article he acknowledged we really do not know if the benefits of masking kids in school outweighs the downsides. As he said: “In mid-March 2020, few could argue against erring on the side of caution. But nearly eighteen months later, we owe it to children and their parents to answer the question properly: Do the benefits of masking kids in



This young student is properly masked and ready for a day at school.
PHOTO: CHENTELLE ROWLAND

school outweigh the downsides? The honest answer in 2021 remains that we don’t know for sure.”

To mask or not to mask? For school settings, the answer is to mask, at least that’s the mandate for now. ✨

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.



Elsa Agdinaoy Segal's son and daughter attend different schools.

Woes ...

from p. 6

Maui, the result was the consolidation of bus routes for the different schools while new bus drivers (who need a CDL license) were hired. For example, routes GR08A, GR09A, GR09B, GR10A, GR11A, GR12A and GR14A for Maui High School were consolidated.

Yap also notes the lack of substitute instructors is another problem. “In my opinion,” he says, “the biggest challenge for administrators have been dealing with COVID contact tracing and covering classes daily because of no subs available.”

Mayor Victorino’s recent orders, effective September 15 (which will be reviewed on October 15), prohibits

spectators at indoor and outdoor sport events: “Players/participants and staff/coaches only. No spectators are allowed.” (This probably also means no band or cheerleaders at football games and there is some discussion whether this will apply only to County-managed facilities such as the War Memorial Stadium.)

The COVID-19 pandemic/delta variant and the governments’ responses continue to upset parents.

We cannot be scared all the time. We have to take risk as some point. The school has a plan when kids are going back to school. It’s not perfect but at least

see WOES on back page



School buses line the curb fronting Maui High School's administrative building as highschoolers get ready to call it a day of in-class learning during this unpredictable time of the COVID-19 variant.
PHOTO: STACY WOODSON

Woes ...

from p. 15

it's a start," said Dulce Karen Butay whose daughter is now a senior at Maui High School. "The kids need to go back to school. Hybrid learning or distance learning is not working out. I am glad they can go back to school and interact with their classmates and friends. We can educate and emphasize the importance of personal hygiene, social distancing and taking care of themselves. Kids have been vaccinated since birth. What is another vaccine for them if it's going to protect them?"

But as Public Health officials have been constantly saying—both locally and nationally—as information and data changes, so will the proper responses and guidance.

"I believe no one could have been adequately prepared for COVID and returning to school," says Yap. "We believe we had a plan prior to the delta variant. It's the variant that has made returning to school a bigger challenge. Even as we move forward there is no best plan as changes happen daily. I think we prepared as best we could have at the time and we made it a point to focus on the social, emotional aspect of each student so they are prepared for learning. As we speak, we are focusing on our return to school after fall break to have conversations about returning to school in all classes with students before we resume instruction."

Parents with children in private school also understand the importance of staying open. "There is so much negativity our kids are being exposed to everyday," says Elsa Agdinaoy Se-

gal whose son attends Seabury while her daughter attends St. Anthony. "Staying positive and healthy is really important right now. We are grateful Hawai'i students are able to return to the classroom to learn. We hope everyone practices care for each other and the community, so schools are able to stay open."

Yap hears the chatter about closing schools and credits the efforts of the staff and students. "It is my belief we cannot shut down schools. We need to make every effort to stay open. This is in the best interest of our community. We have been very fortunate there has been no transmission of COVID in our school as we document all our cases. This has been a challenging year and we need to stay the course as we work through this pandemic. I really appreciate the staff and students here at Maui High who have come together to keep our school open." ✳

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.



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