



**Hope for the New Year 2022**  
Maui community gives their reasons for hope this year.  
**See below**



**Three council members**  
Giving their views on leadership?  
**See below**



**I Resolve**  
What are the New Year's resolutions that you promised yourself you'd keep? Are they realistic? Words of wisdom from the Editor.  
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# Fil-Am Voice


Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

January 2022 • Vol 6 No1 | **FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE**

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Mayor Michael Victorino, Grace Sales, Chancellor Luis Hokoana, Michelle Balala, Rep. Kai Kahele are just a few names who have hopeful expectations for the New Year 2022.

## Hopes and Expectations for 2022

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Alfredo G. Evangelista, Assistant Editor

**E**ven before the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, fireworks exploded across the sky. Neighbors—especially in Central Maui—had competitions in exploding firecrackers. Japanese and other local families exhibited their *kadomatsu* and *kagami mochi*. Filipinos posted on Facebook photos of their twelve fruits. Many Filipinos wore polka dots and jumped when the clock showed 12 a.m. Others popped champagne and sang *Auld Lang Syne* which roughly translated means times gone by: *Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And the days of auld lang syne?* (In the joyous celebration of the coming of the New Year, there was even a Facebook video of someone playing *Auld Lang Syne* on his kazoo!)

In years past, it was all optimism for the New Year. But the COVID pandemic changed that. Throughout Maui and the State, there are prayers 2022 will be better than 2021 and 2020.

see HOPE p.2

## Tamara Paltin, Shane Sinenci and Yuki Lei Sugimura

**E**ditor'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. Our first series focused on potential gubernatorial candidates. We now shift our focus to our County's elected leaders, who were simultaneously sent identical questions with the same response date. In

November, we focused on Mayor Michael Victorino and we shift our focus to the current members of the Maui County Council. In December, we focused on Councilmembers Gabe Johnson, Tasha Kama and Michael Molina. This month, we focus on Councilmembers Tamara Paltin, Shane Sinenci and Yuki Lei Sugimura. Councilmember Kelly King, Council Chair Alice Lee, and Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez did not timely respond.

### Tamara Paltin

**1. IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE TELL US YOUR BACKGROUND, INCLUDING DETAILS ABOUT YOUR FAMI-**



The Sixth in a Series.



**LY, EDUCATION, AND EXPERIENCE IN THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS.**

I am currently serving my second term on the Maui County Council. I was born and raised here in Hawai'i nei, and my husband George Vierra and I are raising our

two children here in Nāpili. Prior to taking office, I worked as an Ocean Safety Lieutenant at DT Flemings Beach Park. I've earned a Bachelors of Science in Mathematics and Education and have chaired the Council's Planning and Sustainable Land Use committee since taking office in 2019. I have also been a member of all the council's committees since 2020 and a member of Maui's Metropolitan Planning Organization.

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

see LEADERSHIP p.4

**FREE**





Mayor Mike and Joycelyn Victorino

# Hope ...

from p. 1

Entering the final year of his first term, Mayor Michael Victorino expressed more optimism than his daily press conferences: “Maui County is a community first, and visitor destination second. Although tourism remains our County’s main economic engine, our economy can improve its balance through support for industries in agriculture, arts and creativity, science and technology, health and wellness, education and environmental restoration.”

Victorino outlined his plan: “Like a strong, stable chair, my plan for economic recovery has four legs: upgrading to greener infrastructure to enable more affordable and attainable housing; balancing tourism; diversifying

Maui County’s economy; and strengthening our County’s holdings for future generations. As we look ahead, we will use the County’s land and real estate assets to make way for new housing construction, help prepare for climate change by moving parks and roads inland and protect open spaces by preserving our natural and cultural treasures.”

With the nation and the state entering a third year of the pandemic, COVID-19 continues to color local officials’ expectations and hopes for the



Gov. David Ige

to see the community continue to rally together to keep one another safe. My hope for the new year is that we continue the momentum in putting our family, friends and neighbors at the forefront as we all work together to end this pandemic.”

Small business owner Grace Sales’ basic hope is the pandemic will come to a close by 2022. “Like you, I want things to go back to normal. I also want to travel, not wear a mask, not hear someone die of COVID or see people fight about vaccination. I don’t want to be suspicious every time someone coughs, constantly worry



Grace Sales

do endless TikToks to bid time. Never have I imagined during the early days of this pandemic that I would be so afraid to be a foot away from another human being as if his or her breath would melt my face or insides, or that toilet papers would sell like hot cakes.” Sales understands she can’t just “hope and rely on magic for things to happen. I know that I have to do my part as a responsible member of the community because while I can’t control someone else’s actions, I can control mine. By now, we have all realized that this pandemic is just not about you and me. We all have to do our share if we want to have this pandemic be over soon.”

Mayor Victorino is optimistic. “My hope for Maui County in 2022 is to safeguard the health and safety of our people so we can continue on the road to economic diversity and recovery. Our people are our greatest resource, and they need to be able to live and work here, raise their families

about new virus variants that’s beginning to evolve into a trans-f o r m e r name or be under the threat of being confined again to my house and

and retire here if they so choose.” With a lot of plans for the next year, the Mayor added, “To make all this possible, we need to remain vigilant against COVID-19 and its variants. We can take care of ourselves, family and friends by getting vaccinated and following up with booster shots after six months. Testing for COVID is another important way to curb the virus by identifying infected individuals quickly.”



Chancellor Lui Hokoana

UH Maui College Chancellor Lui Hokoana added, “Just one hope: That everyone gets vaccinated so we can kick this pandemic. And we can help. If they want a vaccination, they can call the UHMC Health Center at 984-3493 and schedule an appointment to get a Covid VAX shot.” Victorino also observed, “I’m proud of what our residents have accomplished in limiting the impact of the virus on our island communities. However, COVID does not give credit for good behavior. We can do all the right things. But if we let our guard down even once, the virus is ready to exploit

see HOPE p.6



## Feeling Thankful

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**Mahalo for your support and best wishes for a healthy and happy 2022!**

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Science for a better life



## GIVE YOURSELF A BOOST THIS NEW YEAR!

It is more important than ever to get vaccinated and, if you have already been vaccinated, to receive your booster dose. The positivity rates continue to climb exponentially in Hawaii, and as we start this new year, this is an important reminder that COVID-19 is still very much part of our world and that we need to continue with the precautionary measures to protect ourselves, our loved ones, our community, and hospital resources. Get vaccinated today, including your keiki.

**Some things to consider:**

- Omicron has become the dominant strain, accounting for majority of the new cases in the U.S with cases increasing daily.
- Vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic Omicron infection is between 0% - 20% after two doses of the Pfizer/Moderna vaccine, and between 55% - 80% after a booster dose.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [mauihealth.org/covidvaccine](http://mauihealth.org/covidvaccine).

### MAUI MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER VACCINE CLINIC HOURS\*

**Monday through Friday — 9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 5 pm**  
**Walk-ins welcomed for all qualified vaccine recipients.\*\***  
(MMM administers the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine only)

If preferred, appointments are still available at [vams.cdc.gov](https://vams.cdc.gov). To expedite your vaccination, please review all required vaccine documentation at [mauihealth.org/covidvaccine](http://mauihealth.org/covidvaccine) before arriving, and bring a valid ID (required), and a copy of your insurance card (if available).


For questions, call (808) 242-2273 or email us at [mh-covid-vaccine@kp.org](mailto:mh-covid-vaccine@kp.org).

\*Clinic hours subject to change. Please visit [mauihealth.org/covidvaccine](http://mauihealth.org/covidvaccine) for current schedule.  
\*\*Vaccine recipients under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

**MAB CLINIC UPDATE** — Maui Memorial Medical Center is now the only site on island to administer monoclonal antibody therapy (mAb) treatment. mAb treatments are available to qualified individuals, **by appointment only**. Please review qualifications and treatment indications at [mauihealth.org/mab](http://mauihealth.org/mab) and email appointment requests to [MHS-covidmab-requests@kp.org](mailto:MHS-covidmab-requests@kp.org). **Phone and walk-in requests will not be accepted.**

For mAb treatment questions, please contact your PCP so they can assess your individual health conditions and medical needs.

[mauihealth.org](http://mauihealth.org) | #THISISOURSHOT





# Maraming Salamat Po!

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

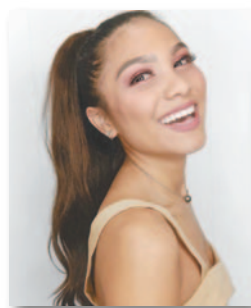
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Jedd Ann Gadia, Jia Garcia, Sheena Garo, Avee Lampitoc, Genesis Lampitoc, Irene Magsayo,  
Lawrence Pascua, Madelyne Pascua, Rose Rafael, Kathleen Taroma, Kimberly Taroma,  
Maria Thomas, Ava Torres, Nicole Yuzon

Maui High School Chamber Choir, Maui High School Chorus, Maui High School Bel Canto Choir  
under the direction of Kristin Kawahara

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Jia Garcia, Sheena Garo, Gil Keith-Agaran, Genesis Lampitoc, Lucy Porte, Philip Sabado,  
Maria Thomas, and Cherry Respicio Urias

Mayor Michael Victorino | Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation

And to all who gave their Greetings  
for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Thank you also to all the volunteers for the Drive-By-Food fundraiser**

Belinda Agapay, Melen Agcolicol, Arleen Alvarez, Arnel Alvarez, Michelle Balala,  
Rose Balmores, Levy Cadavis, Sheena Garo, Kawena Kan Hai, Rochelle Mendoza,  
Cora Molina, Bong Miranda, Jeannine Miranda, Victor Lesa, Jeanice "Jan" Paa,  
Jaycel Pardo, Fem Pascua, Madelyne Pascua, Primo Pascua, Nora Cabanilla-Takushi

And those who purchased plate lunches.

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







## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



Maybe this year's new resolutions will focus more on the good which gives more meaningful awareness and can uplift our spirit and bring lasting joy to others.

GRAPHIC: LAWRENCE PASCUA

## New Year's Resolution's

*Making New Year's resolution's is easy ...  
Sticking with it is hard ...*

“Why?” we ask ourselves, as we contemplate the creation of our New Year's Resolutions which always seems to be a terrific way to start a new year. This is a long-standing tradition because of its universal hope to change something or several things, for the better. The positive intention hooks us into a compelling sense of wanting to create possible opportunities for the things we did not quite accomplish yet or would like to begin. The “audacity of hope” is what a former president called this phenomenon.

There is a universal appeal in hope, an elusive beacon reminding us we can always do more, we can conscientiously do better. So, we declare our resolutions, we plan, we prepare our motivational self-

talk, then we look forward to the distant goal post, knowing all the while making good resolutions is important and easy—sticking with them is hard. Most of the time we fail within a few weeks, if not days, after making our resolutions. Let us explore how and why this happens.

Committing to the goals we create for ourselves can be difficult, and they can leave us feeling defeated if we do not achieve them. Too often, setting lofty goals in our resolutions results in making us feel overwhelmed and before long we succumb to the weight of the pressure, which we often forget—is self-imposed.

Most common New Year's resolutions focus on personal/physical lifestyle—with familiar recurring themes like health and fitness, im-

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 6



Tamara Paltin sits in Council with visiting Maui Fire Department.

PHOTO COURTESY TAMARA PALTIN

## Leadership ...

from p. 1

A. My vision for Maui County is that we are a resilient and sustainable County; able to weather storms, climate change and economic setbacks and bounce back together, better and stronger than before. I want to see all our residents be able to own a home, pursue a higher education or be able to pursue their dreams here in Maui County. B. During times of hardship, as a County we pull together and take care of one another. We are moving to diversify our economy through agriculture and innovation and as a County we give a lot to our non-profits that assist in raising the standard of living for those in need. We work hard to protect our environment and resources and balance the need for development. C. Despite our efforts, we are over dependent on tourism, home ownership is unattainable for most residents and we are short of critical workers such as doctors, nurses, police and teachers. We have limited mass transportation options and the Jones Act contributes to making the cost of living too high for most residents.

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

My mother's family came to Hawai'i several generations ago to work on the sugarcane plantations. My mother was raised on Hawai'i Island, 'Amauulu Camp 5 during World War II and worked at the Pineapple cannery in Honolulu to put



Tamara Paltin helps build housing.

PHOTO COURTESY TAMARA PALTIN

herself through college. I am not Filipino, but I grew up going to school, working and spending time with many Filipino community members as friends. I share plantation roots with many of Maui's Filipino community and a love of the culture, work ethic and commitment to education.

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

The three greatest needs within the Filipino community are affordable housing, better paying jobs and access to higher education opportunities. I believe Maui's Filipino community is greatly undervalued. So many Filipino members of our community work more than two jobs and live in overcrowded housing situations. Al-



Tamara Paltin speaks at an event.

PHOTO COURTESY TAMARA PALTIN



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Tamara Paltin shares big smiles with her 'Ohana.  
PHOTO COURTESY TAMARA PALTIN

though many Filipino work multiple jobs, they are often low paying jobs. This fulfills a critical need, but decreases quality of life, time spent with family, rest and pursuing other interests for the workers. More and better access to higher educational opportunities can allow Filipino youth as well as adults, to get higher paying specialized jobs in a variety of needed fields (Medicine, law enforcement, caretaking, etc). We need to create space to allow our youth to try out different career paths that can lead to better paying jobs which can in turn make home ownership a reality. Maui County does invest in Maui Economic Development Board which expands opportunities for school aged youth. The County also funds Maui Economic Opportunities, which has a Core 4 business development program that can help adults who have an idea and want to become small business owners. Our Filipino community needs leadership to encourage their involvement in attaining higher education and support to obtain good paying jobs that they are interested in and that help to forward the goals of Maui County as described in Maui's General Plan. Across the board, affordable housing is the most critical issue facing Maui community members, including Filipino's. Demand far exceeds supply and there are so many people from outside of Hawai'i buying properties with cash and above the asking price. We have a number of affordable/workforce housing projects coming up and these rental projects can offer lower rents for families to save up towards home ownership. Hale Makua, Nā Hale o Maui and Hawaiian Community Assets, and others, have programs open to all Maui County residents to help get them on track to home ownership. I encourage the Filipino community to take advantage of these programs designed for all our residents to help them apply and qualify for loans and improve their credit score to get them home ready when the opportunity arises.

Shane Sinenci



**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.**

Mabuhay! I was born and raised in Hāna to Stephen Sinenci Sr. and Gladys Roback. I attended Lahainaluna High School as a boarder, and later received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Oregon. Upon returning to Maui, I taught at Hāna High and Elementary School as a special needs teacher for 20 years. Since being on the Maui County Council, I have worked on Environmental issues and Cultural preservation efforts. I currently chair the Agriculture and Public Trust committee and am working on the Water Use Development Plan and the new Agriculture Department.

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

Maui County is a special place for both residents and visitors. It has a rich agricultural history where many of our ancestors worked in the sugar and pineapple plantations. The cost of living in Maui can be quite expensive, particularly when we depend on 90 percent of imported goods from the

see LEADERSHIP p.9

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

JOIN THE CHARTER COMMISSION MEETINGS ON JANUARY 26 & 27 AND COMMENT ON THE FULL PACKAGE OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS.



Learn more at the Charter Commission website

www.mauicounty.gov/CharterCommission





# Hope ...

from p. 2

that opportunity. Small things matter, like washing hands frequently, avoiding crowds and watching physical distancing from those outside your household.”

Small business owner Melen Agcolicol expressed her hope: “My hopes for 2022 is to have COVID go away completely so our lives will go back to normal. Our health is my primary concern and it affects our daily activities and lifestyles.”



Gabrielle Gutierrez



Michelle Balala and fiancé Adi Siores



Alice Lee

The return to normalcy is also on the mind of Maui County Council Chair Alice Lee. “I feel very hopeful that 2022 will bring us

many opportunities to not just return to normalcy but to reestablish a new and improved way of life for all of us post COVID -19. We will work to diversify and strengthen our economy, provide a wider range of affordable housing to local home buyers and to those who are houseless, do a better job of protecting our environment and expand access to education and training. This is just the beginning!”

Helping to do her part to protect the environment through her business is a goal for Gabrielle Gutierrez: “I will make Sugaring the main form of hair removal here on Maui and the rest of Hawai‘i. As a Filipina that was born and raised here on Maui and has seen our landfills grow exponentially over the years has motivated me to become a steward of love for the land. I am so thankful that I create an impact through my work by helping and teaching other estheticians the right skills and techniques on how to properly sugar others in their line of work. Sugaring is biodegradable (the sugar paste is made of just three ingredients: sugar, lemon, and water) and there’s less waste involved (no sticks or strips) compared to waxing. Being more mindful of the waste that’s created through everyday tasks and practicing alternative ways on how to live waste-free for myself and others are my hopes for 2022.”

Michelle Balala, a teacher at Kahului School, expressed “I hope 2022 brings more opportunities and normalcy in our daily lives.” She has very personal reasons for a positive outlook. “I’m looking forward to marrying my best friend this year with all of my family and friends from near and far.” Busy Balala is optimistic about her business ventures. “With my business, Exertus Financial Partners, I look forward to helping more families eliminate debt. It’s an exciting year and I have a really good feeling about 2022.”



U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz

On the federal level, Hawai‘i’s senior U.S. Senator Brian Schatz remarked “2021 was not an easy year and I’m grateful to the Filipino American community, including so many on the frontlines who have sacrificed so much to help Hawai‘i fight this ongoing pandemic. Together, we were able to take important steps to move our state forward. In Washington, we worked to pass the American Rescue Plan and delivered more than \$6 billion to Hawai‘i to keep people in their homes, support small businesses and workers and distribute vaccines. And our bipartisan infrastructure bill has already provided millions of dollars to improve our roads, bridges and public transportation, making it safer and easier for people to get around while creating thousands of local jobs. As we begin 2022, we continue our

work to keep people healthy and rebuild our local economy. We’re also working hard to address the climate crisis and improve health care for Hawai‘i families by lowering the cost of prescription drugs and expanding Medicaid. Representing our state in Washington is a privilege I don’t take for granted and I look forward to continuing this important work in the new year. I hope everyone has a safe and healthy 2022. Mabuhay!”

U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono noted, “In 2021, under President Biden, we were able to accomplish so much to



U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono

help working families, including passing the American Rescue Plan and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. We also passed my legislation, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, to address the rise in verbal attacks and physical violence the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community has experienced during the pandemic.”

She added “But there is a lot more work that needs to be done. Next Congress, the first thing the Senate must do is pass legislation to protect the sacred right to vote. We also must pass President Biden’s Build Back Better plan to lower costs for families in Hawai‘i and take urgent steps to combat the climate crisis. We are determined to get this done.”

U.S. Representative Kaiuli‘i Kahele, completing his first year in the U.S. Congress, noted, “As we head into



U.S. Rep. Kaiuli‘i Kahele

2022, it is fitting to look back at what we have lived through and accomplished. Like many of you, my family and I have felt the impact of the last year that included both triumph and disaster for our communities. We endured our second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic, lived through floods that devastated our island communities and witnessed the Capitol insurrection that threatened our democracy. Yet through it all, we remained steadfast and together we will continue to build a home that is safe and healthy for our families,

see HOPE p.12

## From the Editor's Desk

| Cont'd from p. 4

proving finances, learning new things for personal development. These previous resolutions may be familiar to you:

- Exercise more
- Lose weight
- Live life to the fullest
- Spend less and save more money
- Travel more
- Spend more time with family
- Seek a new hobby

Last year, because of the pandemic, we experienced many challenges that changed the trajectory of our lives. When planning resolutions for 2022, a good and first place to start is to reflect on your 2021 resolutions. We all faced challenges last year, marked with prolonged COVID-19 related measures—lockdowns, isolation, anxiety and even depression. Living through such difficult and stressful times can show us a better appreciation for life—we are more resilient and able to bounce back with a higher appreciation for being alive and greater determination to use our time with deeper awareness and gratitude.

Maybe this year’s new resolutions will focus more on the good which gives more meaningful awareness and can uplift our spirit and bring lasting joy to others. Here are some New Year’s resolutions you may want to consider:

- Practice the act of kindness for strangers
- Offer forgiveness to those who may have wronged us
- Send encouraging cards to someone who is alone, feeling lonely
- Find a cause that you can be passionate about
- Write thank you cards to teach-

ers and healthcare workers

- Have more intentional conversations with neighbors
- Give brotherly/sisterly love to the unlovable
- Express and share gratitude for and with others frequently
- Be more patient, less judgmental
- Share a genuine smile with strangers
- Extend grace to all

In the words of Zig Ziglar:

- Be strong, but not rude.
- Be kind, but not weak.
- Be bold, but not bully.
- Be humble, but not timid.
- Be proud, but not arrogant.

Let us make our 2022 New Year’s resolutions a reflection of God’s character and make them count to bring happiness and joy. Like the Holy Bible says, “Let’s be doers of the Word, and not hearers only.” And, “Faith without works is dead.” In David Mathis’ Advent Prayer during the Christmas season is a reminder the “joy in us, through Christ, would rise to the level of sweet, encouraging, upbuilding, hopeful words. Make our mouths to be foundations of contagious joy in Christ. May Jesus be honored in our words and may the hearts of our friends and family be enriched, rather than encumbered by the things we say.” Yielding to God’s Word will make our New Year’s resolutions more meaningful, achievable and will bring us closer to “a more perfect union.”

Happy New Year! 🌸

*Vince Bagoyo*

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



By the time this issue is published, I am confident Joe Burrow will have led my AFC North Division Cincinnati Bengals to a convincing win over the Raiders in the NFL WildCard Round! That will end a long play-off victory drought. The Queen City's pride has not scored a post-season win since 1991 (eight losses) and has not advanced to the Divisional Round in three decades. And don't remind me about the two Super Bowl losses to former Bengals assistant coach Bill Walsh. We're due.

Even more, Klay Thompson will have returned to the basketball court after spending two years on the sidelines recovering from injuries. He will re-join a Golden State Warriors team that barely resemble the team that lost to the Toronto Raptors in the 2018 Finals, except they're winning again. And Steph now holds the all-time career record for three-pointers made while Draymond still remains one of the best defenders in the NBA. With a new supporting cast of veterans (Andrewiggins, Andre Iguodala, Otto Porter, Jr., Nemanja Bjelica, Kevon Looney, Damion Lee) and young players (Jordan Poole, Gary Payton II, Jonathan Kuminga) for the active Splash Brother, the Dubs have one of the best records to start the season.

Local Maui Interscholastic League fall sports returned finally and two Maui schools played for state football titles—Lahainaluna for the Division I crown and Kamehameha-Maui for the Division II championship. Maui High had a winning record and beat Baldwin High twice.

But all the good news about sports gets dampened by the ongoing-COVID situation (our transfer portal plagued University of Hawai'i football team withdrew from the Hawai'i Bowl when too many players tested positive for COVID).

Twitter claims Joe Burrow, making sure he can play in the WildCard game, is carefully avoiding crowds. In fact, the team ruled out him even traveling to Cleveland for the Bengals final regular season game. COVID has also impacted Golden State. Along with expected injuries for finely tuned athletes, the Dubs have lost certain players to the NBA's health safety protocol for several games already.

The vaccines work as advertised, although boosters are recommended—lowering the impacts of infection and reducing the numbers required to be hospitalized. All good things. But Pandemic conditions continue. One variant overtaken by another as Delta gets overshadowed by Omicron.

The Omicron variant appears to be spreading rapidly and health providers are preparing for the worst (even as initial data indicates Omicron is more contagious, it also is not causing as serious impacts as Delta, even to the unvaccinated and unboosted). While cautious due to the limited ICU beds we have in our County, our health providers are better prepared and hopefully equipped to deal with a growth in hospitalizations.

But reaction to COVID has shifted.



Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran and Alfredo Evangelista having a competitive NFL moment during a 2022 pre-playoff shenanigan session. PHOTO: GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

Most of us were able to travel and celebrate the holidays with family after perhaps missing those gatherings over the last two years. We've gone out to eat. Our churches, to some extent, resumed in-person services through Ad-

Zoom/YouTube virtual hearings until circumstances change for the better. Here at home, the Maui County Council and County boards and commissions remain closed, holding hearings and meetings on the BlueJeans platform.

But while schools remain open, the MIL has decided to bar fans from high school games.

No one should be happy that we've fallen back—but with a vaccine that

works and health care better prepared, there is reason for optimism. But it does require the community to remain committed to keeping each other safe. And it requires all of us to exercise continued *Common Sense, Courtesy and Caution*.

And hopefully we'll be able to hold a Super Bowl Party in February. *WhoDey!* 🌟

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** practices law in Wailuku.

# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

## Who Dey!

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

vent to the Christmas season. Many have returned to work as the economy re-opened. Visitor numbers to Maui County are close to 2019 even with Hawai'i's continuing travel safety protocols for out-of-state arrivals. There's great resistance to impose another shutdown. And schools re-opened.

People simply are weary of pandemic life. A group even tried to gather enough voter signatures to recall Mayor Michael Victorino just a few months before he faces the primary election in August.

There's understandable reluctance to close in-person schools and return to virtual learning—even with growing numbers of teachers and other staff calling in sick daily. Most certainly acknowledge virtual learning was not great for Hawai'i's students. But it's unclear whether the experience of the past two school years resulted in any additional planning for expanding or making virtual learning more available and effective.

The approach seems to be wait and see at this point. The Legislature convenes for the new regular session on January 19. At Christmas, the House and Senate, following City and County of Honolulu guidelines, were planning for a re-opened Capitol building. Just a week later, caution required remaining closed and planning for continuing



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## Is Not Everything ...

### Jamie Yap: A Principal with Impact

Brooklyn Jones | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2022

December is an exciting month for all: full of everything Christmas or winter-themed, a break from work and school and the end of the old year. On top of everything, December brought something else special this year. Mr. Jamie Yap, after leaving his position as principal

of Maui High School, officially became the Acting Area Complex Superintendent on December 14, 2021. “Mr. Yap set a positive example of what a principal should be like,” says Maui High School Junior Jarred Peros. As the head of the school, principals must set up rules and regulations but



Jamie Yap

to Jarred, Mr. Yap’s rules were “fair” and they “ensured safety and fun” at Maui High.

He also admired the principal’s school spirit. Be it basketball, football, baseball, and more, you could spot our principal cheering the Sabers on.

Not only would he come to competitive events but he enthusiastically participated in student-led activities too, like the seniors’ class music video for one year’s annual homecoming music video. Needless to say, the seniors took the win.

And Sabers remember in virtual school, Mr. Yap would make appearances during Saber F.Y.I. videos—the media students’ weekly production for announcements and important reminders. He encouraged students to stay on top of their grades and contact their teachers or the counselors if they needed extra help with the responsibility of online assignments. It was important for struggling students to know there was someone to support them.

When school came back full time, Faith Christy Soliven, a senior at Maui High, recalls a visit from the principal in her Education class. As someone interested in the education field, Faith respected the “passion” and “heart” Mr. Yap displayed as he talked about his lifestyle and job responsibilities. “His warm personality

and wisdom about the impact you can have on others through education are inspiring,” Faith says.

Norlito Sanchez, a senior, had Mr. Yap at both Maui Waena Intermediate, where he was principal until 2016, and at Maui High. Through his interactions with Mr. Yap in middle school, he knows the past principal of Maui Waena as “sympathetic” and “someone who knows how to talk to students.” Norlito, who admitted he was a “bit of a troublemaker” in middle school, sought Mr. Yap’s guidance to learn to make better decisions. Fast forward to high school, and the student and principal came full circle; Mr. Yap presented Norlito with the Harvard Book award for academic excellence in May 2021. To Mr. Yap, Norlito would like to say the following: “Thank you so much for changing my life as it would have gone in the wrong direction. You inspired me to

work hard and continue to make the most of my life.”

Whether they knew him personally or from afar, it’s evident Mr. Yap had a significant impact on the lives and attitudes of his students.

From everyone at Maui High, we would like to wish good luck to Mr. Yap, and Mrs. JoAnne Higa, the new interim principal of Maui High School, in their positions. ✨

**Google® Is Not Everything ...** is a monthly column authored by high school students. The title of the column emphasizes edu-

cation 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.

*“Whether they knew him personally or from afar, it’s evident Mr. Yap had a significant impact on the lives and attitudes of his students.”*

– BROOKLYN JONES

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It is important that our established Filipino businesses support our young *mga bata*, into professional careers including law, medicine, dentistry, and consulting.  
 PHOTO COURTESY SHANE SINENCI



During the Proclamation of Judge Joseph Cardoza day at the Kalana O Maui building, Sinenci stands with the Mayor and fellow councilmembers for this photo.  
 PHOTO COURTESY SHANE SINENCI

# Leadership ...

from p. 5

US mainland. A new Department of Agriculture will greatly improve our food security on the island, by keeping important agricultural lands for food production and developing the infrastructure to process food products on the island. Our predecessors survived

on every aspect of farming, and diversified agriculture will create plant by-products, more economic opportunities for value-added products, and a chance to bring food costs down. Our visitor industry is an important economic driver that we want to manage and sustain because over-tourism can quickly overwhelm us beyond our control. It is important that the rental car industry does not overwhelm our

roadways and highways, that our beaches are open to all users, and that short-term rentals do not over-run our local neighborhoods. Other mainland communities are experiencing over-tourism and it is important that we manage our visitors' footprint upon our precious island environment.

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

My grandfather, Blas Dadoy Sinenci, was one of the first *sakadas* to Hawai'i. He came in 1931, from Pinili, Ilocos Norte, to work on the sugar plantation. He ended up at the Kipahulu Sugar plantation where he met and married my grandmother Martha Tolentino. Papa Blas was a true farmer, he sold his bananas to the plantation neighborhoods and lived off of his garden of sweet potatoes. He fathered 9 children, 7 sons and 2 daughters, of which his eldest Stephen was my dad. My uncles all became workers in the construction industry, including contractors, masons and landscapers but farming was a labor of love. My family instilled in me the ethics of hard work and family; all Filipino values that Papa Blas taught us.

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

Maui County's Filipino community provides us with a rich culture and a sustainable workforce. The contributions to our communities are enormous,

including military service, political office and vital frontline workers during the pandemic. Our Filipino history in Hawai'i spans over 100 years! And although Filipinos provide a vital workforce for our agriculture, hotel, and medical industries, more investments into these industries are important in expanding the *pamayanan*. The Coronavirus pandemic has reminded us that our medical services are crucial in keeping our island community safe and healthy. Many nurses are being imported into the state to meet the demands of ICU patients and we must utilize our training institutions on the island so we can provide workers locally. It is also important that our established Filipino businesses support our young *mga bata*, into professional careers including law, medicine, dentistry, and consulting.

The visitor industry is one of Maui County's most lucrative economic drivers, however, millions of dollars are being shipped off-island to offshore investors. In order to keep families at home and to establish wealth opportunities here, our local families should look to acquire condominium properties within commercial zones and invest in the short-term rental business; or at least to purchase for long-term housing options. Finally, if anybody can be characterized as a resilient people, it is Filipinos. We have proven that sustainable living is an important cultural value and one that the entire County can learn from. As we invest

see LEADERSHIP p.11



Shane Sinenci pounds taro into poi at our Hawai'i State Capitol building.  
 PHOTO COURTESY SHANE SINENCI



Shane Sinenci sits with 'ohana following his swearing-in at the County building.  
 PHOTO COURTESY SHANE SINENCI



Community... In Action



Fr. John A. H. Tomoso at the December blessing of the Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation with Foundation president Zaldy Ugalino.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Bayanihan Feeding Program.  
PHOTO: ALAN FUKUYAMA

Scholarship Golf Tournament Application.  
DESIGN: LAWRENCE PASCUA



COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

Compiled by Assistant Editor Alfredo G. Evangelista.  
Send your community briefs to [info@filamvoice.com](mailto:info@filamvoice.com).

BAHAY KUBO HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation will host Mayor Michael Victorino in late January 2022 to give him an update of the completion of the renovations at the Bahay Kubo at the Kepaniwai Gardens in Iao. If anyone wants to volunteer to help maintain the Bahay Kubo, please email [bahaykubomaui@gmail.com](mailto: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 [flipsideurbanapparel.com](http://flipsideurbanapparel.com).



BINHI AT ANI

Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is now open for events inside the Center. There are protocols to follow. The office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#BayanihanFeedingProgram

The program provides a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui. As of December 31, a total of 5,592 meals were delivered. There is a need for additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches. The teams serving during the month of January are Friends of Michael Victorino, Miss Maui USA and Binhi at Ani. 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](mailto:guzman.chelsea.i@gmail.com) or Sheena Marie Garo, co-chairperson at [sheena.garo@gmail.com](mailto:sheena.garo@gmail.com). Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card <https://binhiatani.org/donate/> or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehe'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program].



Scholarship Golf Tournament

The Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2022 at The Dunes of Maui Lani. Sponsorships are available as follows: Platinum - \$1,400 (eight players); Gold - \$750 (four players); Team - \$600 (four players). To receive a copy of the registration form, please contact Arnel Alvarez, Chairperson of the Golf Committee, at (808) 357-0748 or via email [Lenra1268@gmail.com](mailto:Lenra1268@gmail.com). The Early Bird Deadline is February 14, 2022.

Scholarship Awards

The Application for the 2022 Scholarship is now available on-line and through the guidance counselor of each high school. For more information, contact Michelle Balala, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, at (808) 268-8915 or via email [michelle.balala@live.com](mailto:michelle.balala@live.com). Applications are due by March 1, 2022.



MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Rizal Day/Installation

The Council will hold a Rizal Day 2021-22 Celebration and Installation of Officers on Sunday, January 30, 2022 at the Maui Beach Hotel elleair Ballroom. Jing Gumpal will be installed as President along with the other members of the Board of Directors. The event starts at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are available at \$25 and may be purchased from Marilyn Oura, telephone number (808) 280-2057.

2022 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant

Miss Maui Filipina 2019 Mary Grace Basig is expected to crown the new Miss Maui Filipina in June 2022. If you are a single woman of Filipina ancestry between the ages of 18 to 27 and interested in entering the 2022 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant, contact Michelle Santos at (808) 264-0871 or [mmf.mfcc@gmail.com](mailto:mmf.mfcc@gmail.com) for more information.



2021 Scholarship Recipient Jadyne Zane at The 2021 Seed and Harvest Dinner.  
PHOTO: KELSEY HERROLD



Bust of Dr. Jose Rizal at Kepaniwai Heritage Gardens at Iao Valley.  
PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA



Miss Maui Filipina 2019 Mary Grace Basig.  
PHOTO: RACHEL ANDRION/  
RACHELANGELAFILMS





Yuki Lei Sugimura stands with MEO staff and with the work and in support of their organization.  
PHOTO COURTESY YUKI LEI SUGIMURA

## Leadership ...

from p. 9

in food security on the island, growing and processing food will be important diversified businesses to promote in the coming years. Filipino food is a favorite amongst all island cultures and promoting the culture through food is imperative.

In closing, I look forward to more dialogue with the Filipino community and in supporting Filipino-American Heritage in all facets of our daily lives. *Maraming Salamat!*

### Yuki Lei Sugimura

**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.**

Maui born, raised sugar plantation, Baldwin graduate, UH Mānoa, Bachelor of Science degree, wife 35 years, mother, three term Councilmember, businesswoman, Democratic Party Maui Vice Chair. Maui County Representative for U.S. Senators Daniel K. Akaka and Mazie Hirono. Advocated on COVID-19 eviction moratorium

program which shared sources for financial support. Volunteered COVID-19 food-box distribution at the Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center, 2021 MEO Kūpuna Advocate of the Year awardee, 2019 M.A.U.I. (Making An Unforgettable Impact) Kanaktion Community Leader Award for Prevention of Under Age Drinking. Board member Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Maui Nisei Veterans Memorial Center and Japanese Cultural Society of Maui.

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

My hopes and dreams for our residents is to have a roof over their heads with comfort and safety, children who are educated with hopes and dreams towards the future. As the County Council Infrastructure and Transportation Committee chair I am working with the County Departments to build the Central Maui wastewater system and the Wai'ale Road extension. Both these projects will support housing, jobs including long term agriculture, schools and private, public services in the Central Maui area. Also by building the wastewater system, it



Yuki lei signwaves to passersby during her 'Stay Safe!' message to Maui County.  
PHOTO COURTESY YUKI LEI SUGIMURA

will begin to address the decentralization of the Kahului wastewater treatment facility which may be impacted by climate change and future sea level rise.

What is right about Maui is we care about each other as displayed by the Filipino community during COVID-19 pandemic. The Binhi At Ani Center provided food-box distribution; vaccinations and lifted the community. I was fortunate to volunteer and even donated rolls of toilet paper for distribution. Also I was impressed with the Filipino community scholarship awards and recognition of business leaders. This is absolutely right for the people!

The difficulty of Maui is the cost of living and living on an island with limited available land to build homes and communities.

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

I treasure the Filipino community and try to volunteer and participate with the many community activities from the various Filipino organizations. At one of the food drives during the pandemic, a gentleman who I was packing food boxes with asked me if I

was Filipino. That was a treasured moment and I felt in my heart that although I am not of Filipino ancestry I could possibly be a part of the Filipino community.

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

The greatest need for every community on Maui is an affordable home to purchase or rent. Homes are being swept off the market and taking away the opportunity of the American dream from our local families. There is also a shortage of homes which drives-up the cost of housing and it becomes unattainable for working families. In my role as Councilmember, I am working on legislation for tiny homes to maybe provide some additional options for housing.

The next greatest need is to earn a living wage to save money and live a sustainable and balanced life.

The last greatest need is to send our children to college as education is the key to attain bigger dreams and wishes. ✨



Yuki Lei Sugimura helps load cars with food during one of Binhi at Ani's food distribution serving the needs of Maui's community during the COVID-19 pandemic.  
PHOTO COURTESY YUKI LEI SUGIMURA



Yuki Lei Sugimura stands with her 'Ohana.  
PHOTO COURTESY YUKI LEI SUGIMURA



# Hope ...

from p. 6

kūpuna and keiki. In Congress, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act became law and will bring at least \$2.8 billion to Hawai‘i. We are on track to rebuilding our country stronger with working families and climate sustainability as a top priority. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your voice in Washington, D.C. and look forward to continuing our important work for Hawai‘i in the new year. *Hau‘oli Makahiki Hou!*”

Hirono did provide a note of optimism for the new year: “Hawai‘i’s cultural and environmental advocates and stewards have shown that we can come together to protect Hawai‘i’s precious resources and address critical issues and the thoughtful management of Hawai‘i tourism. In the next year, we must continue to work together to achieve a strong, resilient Hawai‘i.”

With the State legislative session scheduled to begin January 19, 2022, Maui’s longest serving state lawmaker



State Sen. Roz Baker

R o s a l y n Baker noted, “My hopes for 2022 include a world especially Hawai‘i Nei without COVID and where we all strive to

practice and live Aloha even in dealings with people with whom we may disagree on important issues. I hope 2022 will provide us with meaningful capital improvement funds for education, health and hospital care on Maui as well as the opportunity to enact laws to address important community issues with a budget that meaningfully funds education, human services and capital improvements for our roads and other critical infrastructure.”

The third branch of government—the Judiciary—has a new addition on Maui: *per diem* judge Lance Collins, who is also a music producer. “My 2021 was bookended by the launch of the *Kawili* album in January and my appointment as a *per diem* district court judge in December. This year also saw Judge Clarissa Malinao appointed to the circuit court on O‘ahu and Judge Kirstin Hamman elevated to the circuit court here on Maui. I’m confident that future judicial appointments will continue to help the bench reflect the diversity of our communities in Hawai‘i. In the meantime, my hope for 2022 is that our community will continue to work on addressing the barriers young Filipinos in Hawai‘i encounter that limit their access to higher education opportunities.”

Mayor Victorino implored, “Let’s work together to make our community a better place to live. That can mean picking up ‘ōpala on the side of the road or flashing a friendly shaka to someone passing by. Our roads can be a little safer, every day, if we practice Aloha, slow down and focus on the road ahead. Joycelyn and I pray that you and your ‘ohana will have a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year. Aloha and *Hau‘oli Makahiki Hou!*”



*Per diem* Judge Lance Collins



Jay Salva

From the private sector, Jay Salva, Mahi Pono Supervisor, looks back on a couple of years of planting out the former sugar lands with more diversified crops: “*Maraming salamat po* for your support over these past couple of years as we work to preserve open space and keep Maui’s agriculture lands healthy and active. Wishing you peace, health and happiness this holiday season and throughout 2022. *Maligayang Bagong Taon!*”

For Bryan Sales, who manages his family’s business: B. Sales Trucking, Excavation, Pumping & Plumbing Services LLC, he says his “hopes for



Bryan Sales and ‘ohana.

2022 is for things to get back to pre-COVID days. Days where we can be with family and friends again. I also hope for good health for my family and me. And lastly, I hope for our family business to continue to grow and be successful.”

Jeny Bissell, a nurse with the State of Hawai‘i ran off a list of her hopes—



Jeny Bissell

- most of which were COVID related:
- Zero hospitalization from COVID.
  - Zero death from COVID.
  - 100 percent of Maui County population ages 5 years old and older get vaccinated; and ages 16 years old and older get boosted.
  - More gratitude, kindness and less complaints and rudeness.
  - Be the branch of the solution than the root of the problem.
  - Only put out negative and/or positive energy that you can handle.
  - Put self-care as your number one priority, health is wealth.”

After a pretty un-eventful hurricane season, punctuated with the Kona low storm that swept through the island chain, Maui Emergency Management Agency Director Herman Andaya expressed, “As one year ends and another



Herman Andaya

er begins, the Andaya family pray that all of our homes and hearts be filled with peace, joy, gratitude and love. In the new year, it is our hope that we continue working together in improving the lives of our residents and creating a community that fosters goodwill and generosity to all.”

But it is the youth who may have been the most challenged. “As a teacher, I hope that schools continue to focus on safety first during this pandemic,” says Balala. “The pandemic isn’t over, but I believe as long as everyone does their part in getting vaccinated, wearing masks and staying home when sick will help end it soon. I also hope that my students are able to be ready for the next school year. Distance learning was very tough for everyone (teachers, students and parents). Students had a lot to catch up on and this 2021-2022 school year is a lot of pressure for teachers and administrators. So I hope that our students will be ready and prepared.”

For 2013 Maui High School alum Jared Sam Agtunong, who graduated from Vanguard College and most recently from Pepperdine University



Jared Sam Agtunong

with a Master’s in Public Policy, he is back home to make a difference. “For many college-aged young adults, the pandemic brought a number of Maui kids who call this island their home, back from the continent. Uncertainty remains for many of us, especially as the pandemic continues to shake the economy—plans for setting out in our careers, paying off student loans, homeownership, travel, etc. We are an entrepreneurially focused generation setting out in an evolving post-digital labor market. Amid COVID-19, I crossed the finish line of my academic journey by emailing my final paper from my childhood bedroom in Kahu-

see HOPE p.18





Happy New Year! *Naragsak Nga Baro a Tawen! Manigong Bagong Taon! Maayong Bag-ong! Malipayong nga Bag ong Tuig! Magayaya ka ta bagu nga dagun! Mas-aplalang bayung Banda!*

What was on your menu this New Year’s Eve? Did you have pork for progress, fish for abundance and noodles for wealth? How about a ring-shape cake for a circle of luck or black-

# Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

eyed peas or green leafy vegetables for good luck? Did you do any of the traditions like wearing polka dots, having coins in your pockets or jumping at the

stroke of midnight? What were your twelve fruits in your baskets? Anyways, whatever you had at the table and what you did, I hope it will bring you

good fortune or good luck this New Year.

Shout out to our January babies: Basilia Evangelista, Kallie Keith-Agaran, my niece Camille Butay-Hayen and my goddaughter Roxanne Alibin. Happy, Happy birthday! *Maligayan bati sa inyong kaarawan!*

Let’s see what’s going on with our story this month and where Michael and Angel will be going next, shall we?

AS THEY SIT THERE TOGETHER in agonizing pain, Katherine grabs Ray’s *nawong* (face) and says “A--hole that really hurt” and she lunges into him and they both fall to the floor. She shoves her elbow into his throat. But he doesn’t care. He is so overcome with happiness in his *korason* (heart) that he just pulls her in close and *kawul* (hugs) her, almost crushing her as well.

She knees him again in the groin and he lets her go. She lays face to face with him and says, “Don’t mess with me Ray.” As they look at each other, she *anggo* (kisses) him. And he *halik* (kisses) her back.

For 25 years Ray was in love with this woman. Twenty-five years of thumb wars and side tackles. Endless phone calls and messages throughout the day. They went through so many bad moments. Like the time Katherine broke her arm at the Ice Palace on O’ahu and Ray came over every single day to take care of her. Like the time Ray sobbed over his frustration for being suspended from the football team due to his bad grades. Katherine would come over and tutor him, even late into the night. The night before his final, they fell asleep in the living room with books all over the floor. Like the time Katherine’s high school boyfriend was caught cheating and Ray went to “see him after school.” Like the time that Ray’s prom date ghosted him at the last minute and Katherine who decided not to go because she hates these types of gatherings, got dolled up and showed up at his door as his replacement date. Birthdays, weddings, close called pregnancy tests, injuries, all the crying and hardship they shared with each other as best friends, came down to this moment with a *ummo* (kiss). Could they ever go back to being *kaibigan* (friends)? Would this turn into something special?

Suddenly all of Ray’s worries melt away and he *yakap* (hugs) her and *paghalok* (kisses) her with 25 years of love. They just lay there looking at each other with utter shock as Katherine gently places her *kamay* (hand) on Ray’s cheek. “Don’t worry. It’s going to be okay,” she whispers as she had done thousands of times before. He looks at her and grins. “Yeah? Why?”

| English         | Pilipino               | Ilokano                    | Cebuano               | Ilonggo                      | Ibanag                         | Kapampangan               |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Happy New Year! | Manigong Bag-ong Taon! | Naragsak Nga Baro a Tawen! | Maayong Bag-ong Tuig! | Malipayong nga Bag ong Tuig! | Magayaya ka ta bagu nga dagun! | Masaplalang bayung Banwa! |
| Kiss            | Wala                   | Awan                       | Wala                  | Waay                         | Awan                           | Wala                      |
| Car             | Sasakyan               | Lugan                      | Sakyanan              | Auto                         | Kotse                          | Saken                     |
| Door            | Pintuan                | Ridaw                      | Lukub                 | Ganhaan                      | Puwerta                        | Pasbul                    |
| Thank you.      | Maraming salamat.      | Agyamanak.                 | Daghang salamat.      | Madamogud nga salamat.       | Mabbalo.                       | Dacal a Salamat.          |
| No              | Hindi                  | Haan                       | Awan                  | Indi                         | Dili                           | Indi                      |
| Red             | Pula                   | Nalabbaga                  | Pula                  | Pula                         | Uz-zin                         | Malutu                    |
| World           | Mundo                  | Lubong                     | Kalibutan             | Kalibutan                    | Bida                           | Yalu                      |
| Friend          | Kaibigan               | Gayyem                     | Bai                   | Miga                         | Kofun                          | Kaluguran                 |
| Hand            | Kamay                  | Ima                        | Kamot                 | Kamot                        | Lima                           | Gamat                     |
| Hug             | Yakap                  | Arakup                     | Gakos                 | Kupo                         | Gagap-pan                      | Kawul                     |

he whispers back as he had done a thousand times before. She laughs and says what she always says, “because I’m here.”

“*Daghang salamat* (Thank you).” Ray says softly, takes Katherine’s *kamot* (hand) and gives it a gentle *muma* (kiss).

Ray and Katherine get up off the floor.

“Did you know how I felt about you all these years?” Ray whispers.

“Of course I did,” Kathrine replies. “I always knew but you never made the effort to claim me. I was always yours.”

Ray is completely baffled, which turns into sadness, which turns into happiness. He feels every feeling you could feel in that moment, it happens to him. “I never wanted to damage our friendship,” he explains. “You mean the *kalibutan* (world) to me and I wanted you in my life forever, even if it would be just as *kaluguran* (friends).”

Katherine begins to sob. “Nobody could ever replace you. I would stand by your side until the last days of my life. You just didn’t know it,” Katherine whimpers.

They embrace and cry. Suddenly there is a loud knock on the *ganhaan* (door). Knock ... knock ... knock ...

They hurriedly wipe their tears and begin to fix themselves. The knocking continues. “Hold on a second,” Ray shouts. “Come back later, I’m in a

meeting.” The knocking stops and they can hear footsteps walking away.

“What’s the plan Ray?” Katherine asks. “You could just tell the Chief that you can’t do this case because your nephew is involved.”

“*Hindi* (No). Then he would assign the project to someone else and I would have *awan* (no) power whatsoever,” Ray answers.

Ray searches his pockets and looks for his phone. Beginning to panic, he continues to look in the same places. Walking back and forth, he starts to look stressed and agitated. Suddenly Katherine ejects the device out of her bag.

“You looking for this?” she grins.

“What? Where did you? When did you? How did you?” Ray stumbles on his words.

“You, dingdong, you dropped it while speed walking here. So I fol-

lowed you to return it but actually I got more than I was looking for,” as she smirks and Ray begins to turn *pu-la* (red).

“Why are you turning *uz-zin* (red)?” He takes his phone. “*Madamogud nga salamat!* (Thank you). I know you always have my back,” he remarks as he dials Michael’s number.

Ring ... Ring ... Ring ... “No answer, it goes to voicemail,” Ray says.

Ring ... Ring ... Ring ... “Argg,” as he hangs up.

He dials again. Ring ... Ring ... Ring ...

In the meantime ... Michael is concentrating on his driving. He looks straight at the road. He is scared to look at Angel. As he makes a right turn on a corner, he gets a glimpse of Angel’s *mukha* (face); he can’t help it. She looks worried yet she still has that angelic *nawong* (face). Her eyes are closed as if she is saying a *dasal* (prayer).

They are almost to the street of his *kaibigan* (friend’s) *bale* (house) when he notices a *saken* (car) following them. He doesn’t recognize the *sasakyan* (car).

“Who is behind us? Who could be following us?” Michael exclaims.

Angel opens her eyes and turns around to look at who is behind them.

“I don’t know a lot of people,” she says to him. Her *kasingkasing* (heart) starts beating faster. She starts to get worried.

“I will just turn around and mislead him in town. Are you hungry?” Michael asks her.

“My *korason* (heart) is beating so fast and all you ask is if I’m hungry?”

see LET’S TALK PINOY p.18



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“Life and Faith”



Fr. Michael Lazo Tolentino



Fr. Michael during the Christmas mass.



Fr. Michael with deacon candidates.

It gives me great honor to present Fr. Michael Lazo Tolentino, Administrator of St. Joseph Church, Makawao, Maui, Hawai‘i. Fr. Michael was born on January 18, 1978 in Santa, Ilocos Sur, Philippines to the proud parents of Armando G. and Ofelia Lazo Tolentino. He is the eldest of four siblings. His Priestly Ordination: October 4, 2002, 17 years in his Priestly Ministry. He comes from the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. He sends us his Christmas message:

Christmas is no other than God wanting to be with us. He became one like us as a lowly child born in a manger. So that in this way, we will not be afraid of the grandeur of His power and greatness but will understand His true love for us. We too, love Him neither out of fear nor wonder but with a real love in our hearts.

Fr. Michael Lazo Tolentino

A special priest from the Philippines assigned to St. Joseph Church in Makawao.

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY TOLENTINO FAMILY

As Jesus Christ is telling us in the gospel of St. John that “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him might not perish but might have everlasting life.” (John 3;16). Almost more than a year that we are struggling from this pandemic, we are tried and tested in many ways, our faith, our relationships, and our work and jobs. We struggled a lot on how to survive but thank God by His guidance and grace we are able to do so. Life must go on, there are many important things to do, but our fight from the pandemic is not yet over, still we need to be vig-

ilant and resilient, to be hopeful and prayerful. The coming of Christ will strengthen our perspective in life, that in every battle there is victory. Therefore, we need to prepare for Jesus and preparing is knowing and doing His will. If we do so, the grace of God will be given to us and we need to respond to that God’s grace in us, how? First, we need to believe in God’s presence. What a great blessing on our part to belong to God as His children; for in Christ, we are destined for holiness and unblemished. We were prepared by God through the power of the Holy Spirit for a holy life and have to be unblemished in this unholy world. Second, we must seek to cooperate with the grace of God in our lives. God needs us to be instruments in today’s world and time. Let us pray to God that we may realize this great privilege and responsibility.

And that through Christ we are empowered to resist the snares of evil and to do the will of God and we can place ourselves in the service of God. Being aware of God’s presence and being committed to cooperate in God’s grace, our preparation for Christmas will be meaningful and we can celebrate with love and joy in our hearts. May this love of God in us be not only manifested during Christmas time but throughout the year. It is fresh and new and never monotonous. We may celebrate Christmas at the end of the year but this does not mean that the love of God, the love of Jesus Christ is demonstrated to us only once a year. In reality, we experience the

love of God every day in many different ways and situations.

God is the faithful and tireless lover who will never abandon us. Merry Christmas and a grace-filled New Year to all!

Fr. Michael also shared his message as we bring in the New Year:

Iti daytoy a baro a tawen 2022, intay sarabuen a napnoan namnama ken pammati. Ti Dios iti kankanayun nga intay kamangan, nangnangruna iti daytoy nga atul-tuloy a pandemia ta mataginayun iti kaadda iti sasayat a salun-at kadatayo amin. Naragsak ken Nabunga a Baro a Tawen tayo amin.

Thank you, Fr. Michael, for your inspiring message and thank you for serving our Parish at St. Joseph Church and the whole Maui Filipino community. We are Blessed with your leadership and thank God for Fr. Michael!



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 34 years and married to his lovely wife Corazon for 60 years.



Fr. Michael's parent's siblings, nieces and nephews.







Volunteers at the registration table assist Maggie Evangelista during a recent Bakuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Volunteers from University of Hawaii Maui College listen to instructions at a recent vaccination clinic held at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

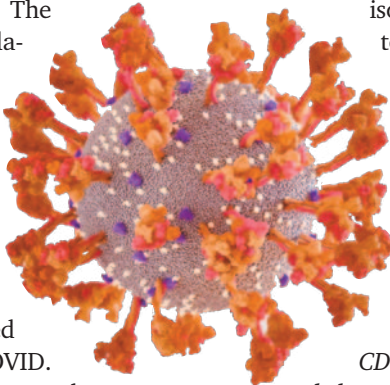


A volunteer at a recent Bakuna at Binhi at Filipino Community Center.

PHOTO ALFREDO G EVANGELISTA

We ring in the New Year of 2022 amidst another surge. Omicron emerged in the United States last month and made its way to the Hawaiian shores by the December holidays. The daily number of positive cases once again rose to record numbers. The omicron variant has a large number of mutations in its surface making it more contagious. Both immunized and unvaccinated people are turning positive. The good news is omicron has caused less overall severe illness, hospitalizations and deaths. The unvaccinated population is the least protected and have suffered the most illness with this variant. The unvaccinated still account for almost all those who are hospitalized and dying from COVID.

There is some good news in that the boosters of the mRNA vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer are highly effective against omicron in preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death. Those who received the J&J vaccine are advised to get an mRNA booster to benefit from this protection. Though the vaccinated are turning positive, the symptoms start quickly after exposure (1–2 days), are very mild (scratchy throat, cough and congestion) and do not last for more than a few days. The spread of omi-



# Stay Ahead of COVID in 2022

Errol Buntuyan, M.D., FAAFP

cron happens via aerosols when a person has symptoms, thus when someone is asymptomatic, the chance of spread is very low.

Because of this, the CDC and the Hawai'i DOH have reduced the isolation guidelines down to just five days (when asymptomatic or with resolving symptoms). Omicron seems to move through rather quickly in those that are infected. The exposure and quarantine recommendations were also updated. See CDC guidance in the table below.

The effectiveness of getting a COVID booster is still the best way to protect ourselves from omicron infection. Getting boosted against COVID is now the definition of 'fully vaccinated' in Maui County. Also, the FDA has recently authorized children twelve and up to get the Pfizer booster. If you are eligible for a booster and you have not received one yet, please get it done. The mild symptoms of the omicron variant is a good indication we are moving towards the endemic state.

The COVID virus seems to be heading towards a more survivable infection as it continues to circulate in our population. Still, we are a long way from being able to categorize this as an endemic. COVID continues to maintain a death toll mostly in the unvaccinated and has killed a total of more than 823,000 people in the US and 5.43 million people worldwide. We have seen more deaths due to COVID in 2021 (almost 500,000) than we saw in 2020 (385,000). COVID will be endemic when we get enough immune protection from vaccination or infection that we start to see less infections and less death rates. We can only hope that future variants will continue to cause milder symptoms and less death in those that are infected.

Many of us are already exhausted and tired as we approach the second-year anniversary of this pandemic. Unfortunately, news headlines of this latest omicron surge dominate the start of 2022 with infections forcing many people to isolate—impacting staffing shortages in almost every industry. Our daily lives are once again affected. The ebb and flow of surges will most likely continue in the years to come. We must stay as resilient as we can.

What can we do to protect ourselves, get ahead of COVID and stay resilient?

**Get vaccinated.** Maintain any boosting recommendations as these variants arise. Encourage friends and loved ones not yet immunized to get vaccinated. COVID has caused much worse symptoms, suffering and disease in the unvaccinated than the vaccinated. Mahalo to the many volunteers who continue to commit their time and energy to promote and give vaccinations in our community.

**Wear a mask.** The latest expert recommendations are to use N95 or KN95 masks for the best protection against Omicron. A surgical or level 2 mask can also be used. The good news is that these are now readily available and in good supply online and at many retail stores throughout the island. There is overwhelming evidence that cloth masks are not good and are ineffective against this latest variant.

**Stay healthy.** Commit to eating lots of fruits and vegetables, limit processed foods and meats, do not smoke and limit your alcohol and soda intake. Obesity is a major risk factor in getting COVID disease. Get regular physical activity and eat so you can maintain a normal body weight with a BMI less than 25. You can calculate your BMI with this site from the CDC: Adult BMI Calculator | Healthy Weight, Nutrition, and Physical Activity | CDC.

**Boost your immune system.** Get plenty of restful sleep each night and reduce your stress. Try to get seven to nine hours of sleep each night. Identify your stressors and actively work to reduce them. Getting into a daily routine, exercising, avoiding "junk" food, meditating, maintaining connection with others and talking to a professional in mental health are

see ITI SALUN-AT YO p.18

## If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (ISOLATE)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.

## If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (QUARANTINE)

If you:

Have been boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.

If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.

If you:

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine over 2 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Are unvaccinated

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.

If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.



Volunteers from Philippine Nurses Association of America Maui Chapter pose with State Representatives Kyle Yamashita and Sylvia Luke.

PHOTO ALFREDO G EVANGELISTA





Madeline Ater



Madeline, Samantha and Curt.



Curt, Samantha and Madeline at Tamarack Resort in Donnelly, Idaho.

# Madeline Pascua Ater

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY MADELINE ATER

Today, pharmacists are an essential part of every health care team and are recognized as drug therapy experts according to Dr. Paul W. Abramowitz, a Pharm D, CEO for the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP). Dr. William N. Kelley, MD, a professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania added that Pharmacists exist because society says there needs to be someone in the healthcare system to

oversee the drug-use process. Pharmacy is consistently rated the most trusted profession. Sakada Offspring Madeline Pascua Ater and her husband Curt Ater are both pharmacists by profession. We are proud to say they both belong to the group of pharmacists that Dr. Abramowitz and Dr. Kelley mentioned. Madeline was born on Maui, Hawai'i at the Maui Memorial Hospi-

tal (now known as Maui Memorial Medical Center) on September 8, 1967. She attended Kahului Elementary, Maui High School, University of Hawai'i, Hilo Campus and Oregon State University where she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy. Madeline met her husband Curt in pharmacy school in Oregon. They have been married for almost thirty years now. Curt currently works at St. Lukes Hospital in Idaho as an outpatient pharmacist. As for Madeline, she started practicing pharmacy after graduating, at the Wailuku Professional Pharmacy (now known as Longs Drug - Wailuku). After moving to the mainland, she worked for Albertson's Pharmacy for twenty years. In 2020, she decided to make a move to her current employer St. Alphonsus Hospital, where she is currently an outpatient pharmacist.

Curt and Madeline have a daughter, Samantha. She currently lives in Bozeman, Montana. She graduated with a business management degree from Montana State University in December of 2020. She is currently pursuing her dream of being a tattoo artist and is an apprentice at Blue Rider Tattoo in Livingston, Montana. Madeline is an only child although she had a half-sister, Sandra Alionar who passed away several years ago. When Madeline was younger and living on Maui, she was a very active member of the Christ The King Filipino Catholic Club. After moving away to the mainland, her family attends the local Catholic Church near their home. Currently, they go to Holy Apostles Catholic Church in Meridian Idaho. At Holy Apostles, Madeline volunteers at the various activities in the classrooms and for the church fundraising event. She looks forward in the future to do more volunteer work. Madeline enjoys playing pickleball, snowboarding during winter, and hiking in the mountains. Madeline was very close to her Dad, Mateo Pascua, who came to Hawai'i in 1938 together with his friends, Catalino Cachola and Francis-

co Cabrera. Mateo was born in Dasay, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines on September 28, 1914. Unfortunately, Mateo's parents died when he was very young. Under the care of his Uncle Ponciano Garces' family, he grew up to be a strong handsome young man. Ponciano Garces was one of those men from the Philippines considered as "Old Timer" because he came to Hawai'i in the early 1930s to work in the pineapple and sugarcane plantations. Ponciano sponsored young Mateo to come to Hawai'i. Mateo did not work at the plantation right away. Instead, he worked as a nurse's aide at Kula Sanatorium (Kula Hospital). In those days, Kula San as it was commonly called, was a place of rehabilitation for patients who contracted tuberculosis. Patients were confined there until they were completely cured from the disease. At the outbreak of World War II, Mateo was drafted to serve in the war. Because of health reasons, he did not pass his physical exam. So he worked at Kula San from 1938 to 1946. In 1946, Mateo decided to change jobs. He applied at HC&S Company and got a job as a truck operator (driver). He stayed in that job until he retired at age 65. In December 1966, Mateo, at 52 years of age, decided to go to the Philippines to find a wife. There in Dasay, Narvacan, he met the love of his life, the beautiful Adeline Valdez. There was no doubt in his mind that he found his soulmate. In those days, it was easier to file petition papers for wives to come to Hawai'i. Mateo and Adeline only got to know each other well for a week before their marriage. Mateo's one month vacation was coming to an end so quickly. So to expedite matters, Mateo and Adeline met each other in Manila and got married there on January 3, 1967. Mateo had to come back to Hawai'i just a week after their wedding on January 10, 1967. Because most of the paperwork were done before their wedding, Adeline was able to follow Mateo to Hawai'i two weeks after their wedding. When Adeline arrived on Maui in 1967, she and Mateo lived in Camp I, a camp in Sprecklesville near Pā'ia. It was a camp complete with stores, theater, etc. After a year, they moved to Alabama Camp, a camp located near the Pu'unēnē Mill. Their house had its

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Adeline, Madeline and Mateo at the Maui Prince Hotel, Mākena, Hawai'i.

own outhouse, made for two families but with a divider. Their house rental was only \$20 per month including water. There were lots of activities in the camp according to Adeline. There were lots of parties in the clubhouses and even chicken fights. They were able to slaughter animals in their backyard at that time. Adeline worked at the Maui Pine Cannery as a supervisor until she retired in 2002.

Adeline emphasized that accepting Mateo in marriage at that point in time of her life in 1967 was a real sacrifice on her part. Her dream and goal was to come to Hawai'i to find a better life for her and her family especially for her brothers and sisters. Dreams do come true with Adeline and Mateo. They sponsored their brothers, sisters and their families to come to Hawai'i. They are now all enjoying a better life.

Alex Haley, an American writer and author of the 1976 book, *Roots: The Saga of an American Family* said, "In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future." Mateo and Adeline in their hearts, truly believed in Haley's words.

Madeline said this about her parents: "I remember my father fondly

as a gentle man with a kind heart. He always had a smile for me. He loved to socialize, going to family parties and 'talking stories' with his friends for hours at the Kahului Shopping Center under the monkey pod trees. He passed away before he ever got to meet our daughter but I can see his gentleness in her. I am forever grateful that my father was brave enough to travel to Hawai'i and was a hard worker. I owe the life I have to him and my mother." ✨

**Lucy Peros** is a retired school-teacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Both of her late parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 Sakada) and Alejandra Cabudoy Cabalo of Hāli'imaile, worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Lucy now enjoys retirement and has time to join other seniors in the Enhance Fitness Program under the Department of Aging three times a week. She also attends the line dancing class and other activities at Kaunoa Senior Center and joins other Waihe'e School retirees when help is needed at the school. Lucy also devotes some of her time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church. She enjoys writing and reading in her spare time.



Madeline, Adeline and Mateo at Pike Place Market, Seattle, Wash.



Madeline's family at Tamarack Resort in Donnelly, Idaho.

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I'm almost going to have a heart attack here. Where are we going? Nanoyin (What) are you planning?" Angel asks worriedly.

"I have an idea. I have a plan," says Michael with a smile on his (face).

"It better be good," says Angel with a series of emotions.

Michael continues to drive and it gets silent in the car. The next half an hour is just driving and silence.

Michael pulls into a dirt road with overgrown grass. He goes outside to open the gate. "This is actually a friend's get away house. It's actually pretty remote and off grid," he excitedly tells Angel until he realizes she is sleeping. They need a place no one can get to. He locks the gate and proceeds down a gravel dirt road. From there he parks on the grassy area.

He wakes up Angel. "Wake up babe," smiling as he says it.

Angel pops open her eyes quickly because she hadn't really been sleeping. She gets up. "Were you sleeping?" he asks. "Of course!" She turns her head. "Where are we, Michael?"

As they get out of the *sakyanan* (car), he finds a stick and whacks some of the grass out of the way. "Here." A hard thump. As he pushes the grass out of the way, they see an old military hummer.

What now? What is Michael's plan? What is there for Michael and Angel?

Keep an eye for the next issue. Please visit us on our Facebook page and leave us a comment or ideas at [www.facebook.com/Fil-AmVoiceMaui](http://www.facebook.com/Fil-AmVoiceMaui).

I'm Dulce, helping you to master your Filipino Languages. Like always, let's laugh, let's *makinig* (listen), and Let's Talk Pinoy! *Hanggang sa muli!* (Until next time!) *Ingat!* (Take care!).

**Dulce Karen Butay** was graduated from Maui High School and 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.



Alexis Viloria

## Hope ...

from p. 12

lui. Anticlimactic, to say the least; the road ahead seemed quite uncertain and not the best of circumstances to graduate into. Personally, it wasn't an easy season, but whatever challenge, hurdle, or task came my way, I told myself—"Jared, you got this." And even if you fail—to quote from the movie *Zootopia*—"birds don't just fly, they fall down and get up."

Agtunong, who now works with the County of Maui as a grant writer in the Office of Economic Development, observed: "Maui County exhibited some of the highest unemployment rates in the country, our visitor industry taking a nosedive, and the fluctuations of COVID-19 statistics have constantly left our community with a rocky sense of stability. Despite all of this, throughout 2021, weathering through COVID-19 surges, drought, wildfires, and flooding—I've witnessed our Maui friends and family coming through for each other in many ways."

2021 brought a lot of reflection by Agtunong: "This past year has left me with three things to reflect on: a

greater appreciation for my island home, the strength of Maui's people to show up for each other and a sense of fortitude that regardless of the challenge—we'll make it through. Maui's people are resilient, strong and resolute, evidenced by our deep sense of the Aloha spirit. But community resiliency is not simply a race of perseverance; it is our ability to withstand adversity and bounce back, which is why I need to pause and reflect on my hopes for the New Year. My hope for 2022, especially for Maui's young adults is that of 'rest, a communal determination to carry on, and courage to jump into adventure, whatever that may be.'

The journey is what you make of it, as Stanford University freshman Alexis Viloria reminds herself. "For me, 2021 was a journey in itself. Being online all year, graduating and moving to college, the experiences I gained are unrivaled. This being my first year back in person since 2020 (also living in a new place and on my own for the very first time), I have big hopes for 2022. As most people hope, I wish for continued vigilance and education surrounding the pandemic—I'd love to continue having the experiences and

see HOPE next page below

## Iti Salun-At Yo | Cont'd from p.15

some strategies that can reduce your stress levels.

The transition to this new normal will not be easy. A surge in COVID omicron infections during the 2021 December Holiday Season was difficult for us and caused missed gatherings, cancelled flights and absent workdays. 2022 may yield a few more COVID variants and surges and we must stay vigilant and prepared.


A common New Year's resolution is the pledge to 'lose weight' by eating healthy and exercising. Hopefully we can all strive to live healthier lifestyles by also reducing stress and getting adequate rest. The

commitment and resolution to be healthy in 2022 will build our resilience and ensure our success in this ongoing fight against COVID. ✨

**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.




# "It's a New Year ... Time to do your Estate Planning."



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# New Year, New You

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

By the time you are reading this article it will be three weeks into 2022. How is your New Year 2022 going so far? Did you make a resolution at the start of the year? How is that going for you?

The new year is a great time to think about self-improvement. It naturally is a good time to cast visions and set goals. If by any chance you already fell short of your resolution, do not give up. Step back up or maybe re-think about your strategy and tool for self-improvement. Does simply writing a resolution work for you or do you need to set goals to cast a vision? Or maybe to make things simple, all you have to do is have a “one word” to guide you to a better you.



A real vision board provides a daily incentive every time you wake up and see it.  
PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE

Let’s talk story about the various ways we have to help us achieve a better us in the new year. Pick one or do them all. The key is to do and not just to plan on doing. So here are the four ways:

**1. New Year’s Resolution.** This is a tradition where a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve their life at the start of a new year.

These days, New Year’s resolutions have a low success rate. Why? Because New Year’s resolutions seldom have actionable steps. They are created out of peer pressure based on an arbitrary date. When I was in elementary school in the Philippines, it was a yearly tradition in our school when we returned from our Christmas vacation, our teachers would ask us to write down our New Year’s Resolution. Did you do that in school too?

**2. Set Goals.** Instead of resolutions, many prefer to set goals for the year (and even 5 year and 10-year goals). They think that setting goals are more realistic, especially if you set SMART

goals. SMART goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound. To do this, take some time to reflect on where you are and where you want to be. Writing down the specific goals and dividing them into manageable, actionable bite-sized pieces helps attain it. This is what we do at my office. At the company I work for, we are encouraged to set goals.



What has been your dream of changing but never had the gumption to really follow through with ... Try one or all of these methods to stay the course to success.  
PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE

**3. One Word for the Year.** The process of choosing a word helps you focus on the goals and actions you want to work on for the next year. It also helps you determine your priorities like whether you will concentrate on family, personal growth, career etc. Carefully selecting a word of the year helps you to gain clarity about the things you would like to create in your life and the way in which you want to live. I started choosing one word in 2017 and have done it year after year since then. Here are some of the words I had: 2017 Listen, 2018 Courage, 2019 Transform, 2020 Align, 2021 Persist. In 2021 I published my first book Maui 2021 and Beyond and it was that one word persist which helped me persevere and not give up on writing the book when times were tough. Yes, one word can help achieve a dream if you stick by it.

**4. Vision Boards.** A vision board is a collage of images and affirmations representing your dreams in a visual way. The collage of beautiful photos, graphics, text and quotes are there to inspire you and to define what you want most. It then serves as a reminder to chase those dreams throughout the year. Many people use a poster board to create and visualize their goals, pasting photos they find

from magazines. You can, however, also use a notebook, cork-board or even create a digital version. Vision Boards are fun to do with friends. At the end of the year, gather some friends, bring magazines, pupu and drinks and create vision boards together for the coming New Year.

Whatever way or tool you use to help you improve, do it. The important thing is we take advantage of the momentum of New Year to create a better version of you. The New You. Happy New Year! ✨

*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.*

**HOPE | from p.18**  
learning opportunities available to me in a physically accessible environment. Finally, being in a place I’ve dreamed of for so long with new friends to join me in my journey, a step backward in our progression towards the end of the pandemic, as we are experiencing now, is scary to think about. I also hope to prioritize my own well-being amongst the chaos that college can be whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally. I’m looking forward to a new year full of resilience, exploration and care.”

The resilience of the bamboo is often used to describe the Filipino people. The pandemic has certainly challenged this belief but in the last two

years, Maui’s Filipino community has seen the *Bayanihan* spirit come through.

“Binhi at Ani’s motto is to ‘Promote the *Bayanihan* Spirit,’” says Agcolicol, president of Binhi at Ani. “Despite Binhi’s challenges of being closed and losing its sole source of revenues from rentals, we decided to promote the *Bayanihan* spirit by creating programs to help the community: the *Bayanihan* Food Distribution, the *Bayanihan* Feeding Program and the *Bakuna* at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. In turn, we’ve been blessed by our sponsors, advertisers, donors and hundreds of volunteers. Binhi at Ani remains hopeful our plans to reopen in 2022 will be fully realized.” ✨



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*Alfredo G. Evangelista is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the University of Southern California*

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



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Learn about our vision for Maui Nui and the four pillars of recovery. Become an integral part of the campaign by volunteering or engaging with us at live events throughout the year. Please join us as we march towards the reelection of Michael Victorino For Mayor in 2022.

Go to [www.VictorinoForMayor.com](http://www.VictorinoForMayor.com)



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**Mayor Victorino**

**WORKING FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY**



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