



Living wage
What is being done about it in our Hawai'i State Halls of Lawmakers.

See below



Two State Reps
Giving their views on leadership.

See below



Super Bowl LVI is serious
Matters weigh on us but on Sunday, Feb. 13, nothing else matters.

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Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

February 2022 · Vol 6 No2 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

inside



Students grow from even part-time work.
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Shirley Evangelista gets Lifetime Service award
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We are called to be “fishers of” all mankind.
p12

Raising The Minimum Wage To Eighteen Dollars

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR | *STORY BEGINS ON PAGE 2



Raising the minimum wage is now being fought for in the halls of our State’s Capitol. Speaker Scott Saiki and Senate President Ron Kouchi are taking this matter very seriously.

Troy Hashimoto and Justin Woodson



The Seventh in a Series.

Editor’s note: In 2022, Leadership for the State and Maui County will be at the forefront with elections for Governor, Maui Mayor, Council, and due to reapportionment, all State Senators and State Representatives. The primary election will be held on August 13, 2022 with the General Election on November 8, 2022, and it’s not too early to start thinking about the type of State and County leaders needed. The first three months focused on potential gubernatorial candidates. The next three months focused on Maui County’s Mayor and Councilmembers. The next three months will focus on Maui’s state legislative leaders, who were simultaneously sent identical questions with the same re-

sponse date. This month, we focus on State Representatives Troy Hashimoto and Justin Woodson. State Representatives Linda Clark, Angus McKelvey, Kyle Yamashita and Tina Wildberger did not timely respond.

Troy Hashimoto

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

I am a fifth generation Maui boy, growing up on my family’s persimmon farm in Kula. I am a 2005 graduate of King Kekaulike High School and attended the University of



Denver where I received my undergraduate and master’s degree in business. I previously worked for former Maui County Council Chair Mike White for nearly 8 years and served for 4 years as the chair of the Maui County Democratic Party, in addition to serving as a student member on the

Hawaii State Board of Education.

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 vision is to create an environment where local residents who grow up here in Hawaii can stay here. The first step is to create solid educational and job opportunities. In addition, with the reality of rising prices, we must create an environment where the cost of living is kept in check. The reality remains that the majority of a family’s paycheck goes towards the cost of housing. If just this one cost is

see LEADERSHIP p.4

FREE

The Governor and both the State House and Senate leadership have made raising the minimum wage one of the priorities for the legislative session that began on January 19th. The last increase in the minimum wage occurred in 2018, setting the present \$10.10 per hour. The Senate measure is SB2018 which serendipitously references the last increase. SB2018 would raise the minimum wage to \$18.00 over four years: \$12.00 on October 1, 2022, \$15.00 on January 1, 2024, and then \$18.00 on January 1, 2026.

Legislative efforts before 2018 concentrated on moving the rate to \$15.00. With the pandemic challenging the ability of some local businesses to attract workers to lower paying jobs, entry-level positions generally command more than the current minimum wage. The State Senate put forward a bill last session proposing a hike to \$13.00 which the House rejected.

In early January, House Speaker Scott Saiki announced support for an \$18.00 minimum wage, saying: “We had to defer the increase in the minimum wage during the pandemic, but now that conditions have improved, the House will propose to increase the minimum wage to \$18.00 an hour.” While he had no details at the time,

“[A] majority of credible studies conclude that higher minimum wages appreciably boost workers’ earnings with little or no effect on employment.”

– SEN. BRIAN TANIGUCHI

Saiki has since introduced HB2408. Raising the minimum wage was endorsed by the Governor, the Senate President and other legislators.

The Senate acted quickly on SB2018, with the Labor and Ways & Means committees hearing and the full Senate moving SB2018 to the House for consideration on January 28, 2022. Twenty-four of the twenty-five Senators voted in favor of the bill. Senator Brian Taniguchi, the main sponsor of the bill, wrote in the committee report: “[A] majority of credible studies conclude that higher minimum wages appreciably boost workers’ earnings with little or no effect on employment. A 2018 study by the U.S. Census Bureau found that raising the minimum wage benefits a large majority of low-income workers by putting them on the path to higher earnings in the long-term and decreasing income inequality.” Taniguchi further expressed “there is currently a significant difference between Hawaii’s minimum wage and what is needed to afford basic needs in the State. According to a report titled ‘Self-Sufficiency Income Standard—Estimates for Hawaii 2020’ issued by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism in December 2021, approximately 18.2 percent of two-adult couples with

no children, and 34.7 percent of two-adult couples with two children had incomes below the self-sufficiency standard in 2020. For single-adult with no children, single-adult with one child, and single-adult with two children 43.1 percent, 50.0 percent, and 80.0 percent had incomes below the self-sufficiency level, respectively.” Taniguchi also pointed out, “despite the State’s high cost of living, according to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, twenty-two states and the District of Columbia have minimum wages higher than Hawaii.”


Support for the minimum wage increase came from the Governor; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Department of Human Services; Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kauai; one member of the County Council of the County of Maui; American Association of University Women; Americans for Democratic Action; Common Cause Hawaii; Community Alliance on Prisons; Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Education Caucus; Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Stonewall Caucus; Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Labor Caucus; Faith Action for Community Equity/Raise UP Hawaii Coalition; Free Access Coalition; Hawai‘i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development; Hawai‘i Alliance for Progressive Action; Hawai‘i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations; Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice; Hawai‘i Children’s Action Network Speaks!; Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; Hawai‘i Health & Harm Reduction Center;

Hawai‘i Public Health Institute; Hawai‘i State AFL-CIO; Hawaii State Teachers Association; Hawaii Youth Services Network; Imua Alliance; International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local #1 of Hawaii; Living Wage Hawaii; Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates; Pono Hawaii Initiative; Pride at Work—Hawai‘i; St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Kailua-Kona; UNITE HERE Local 5; United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO; and forty-four individuals.

Opposition was expressed by the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii; Aloha Hula Supply; Envisions Entertainment & Productions, Inc.; Hawaiian Chip Company; Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association; Hawai‘i Restaurant Association; Hawaiian Candies & Nuts, Ltd.; Highway Inn; Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce; National Federation of Independent Business; Tanaka of Tokyo Restaurants; Society of Human Resource Management Hawaii; Honolulu County Republican Party; and thirty-four individuals.

Taniguchi argued “incrementally increase[ing] Hawaii’s minimum wage to \$18.00 per hour by 2026 ... will raise the quality of life for Hawaii residents, reduce poverty, increase economic activity in the State, and appropriately address inflation and the resulting increase of the cost of living in the State.” The Senate Ways and Means committee report noted “as the minimum wage increases over time, the Department of Budget and Finance [should] ensure that all state employees be paid no less than the


see WAGE p.6



Empowering Our Youth

As a strong supporter of STEM education, Bayer invites eligible schools to apply for a grant from our Hawaii Science Education Fund – designed to help local schools enhance their science curriculum and encourage students to consider a future career in the sciences. For more information, applications and submission deadlines, visit hawaii.bayer.us/education.

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From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



True representation can only happen if our citizens do the essential communication with their elected leaders. The vote of each citizen is key to making our government work for us, the people.

COLLAGE: LAWRENCE PASCUA

Electing Good Leaders is Essential ...

Leadership matters.

Voting, especially during this year's election is our sacred duty as citizens. Our democratic process requires participation of thoughtful, serious and engaged citizens whose vote determines who will be our leaders at all levels of government. Elected officials are expected to represent their constituents. True representation can only happen if our citizens do the essential communication with their elected leaders. The vote of each citizen is key to making our government work for us, the people.

During these past six months, the *Fil-Am Voice* profiled our current local elected leaders on the issues our residents face. There seems to be no easy answers from leadership to indicate how best to tackle the primary issues, especially in light of the pandemic. Will it be the same same, or will there be a change for the better?

Some of the key issues facing Maui today, which have now reached the crisis level: first, where is affordable housing for

working families? According to recent reports, the median price of housing is now over one million dollars, yes, \$1,000,000-plus. That is beyond the reach of our hard-working families. This now becomes a crisis that we cannot wait any longer to solve. Recent reports also inform us the current housing demand is over 10,000 units by 2025. Of even more urgency, how do we address the challenges faced by our unsheltered community members?

Second, how do we improve our economy and provide a living wage for our working families? Many have little or no family time because most are at their jobs, some with two or three jobs, just to make ends meet. Many are also juggling responsibilities for the care of young ones and elderly parents or more elderly family members. The pandemic has added one more layer of responsibility at home, to help the children with online learning or to find them an online connection elsewhere.

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Civil Beat's Civil Café on Maui issues with Sen Gil Keith-Agaran, reporter Nathan Eagle and Blaze Lovell.

PHOTO COURTESY TROY HASHIMOTO

Leadership ...

from p. 1

reduced, it will make a tremendous difference in the daily life of many.

An area of improvement that I am focusing on is the severe shortage of nurses and teachers in Maui County. When looking at one reason for this problem – it is because it is incredibly difficult to receive degrees in these fields. Students can become a Registered Nurse on Maui, but cannot easily obtain a four year degree. The hurdle for teaching is very similar – prospective teachers can do remote learning for K-6 teaching, but we do not have full access nor a dedicated program at right here on

Maui. This must change and we must make progress on this issue for the sake of future generations.

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

I consider Maui's Filipino community a part of my family. They are my friends, my mentors, and allies in community-building. As the largest ethnic group in the State of Hawai'i, it is important to have the Filipino voice resonate and create a collective influence. I also share the same values — respect for elders, working hard, hospitality, joy and humor, and that family comes first. That is why I always make sure to learn from the Filipino perspective and honor the



With Vice-Speaker John Mizuno before giving invocation on the House floor.

PHOTO COURTESY TROY HASHIMOTO



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Maui delegation on Opening Day of the 2022 Legislature.
PHOTO COURTESY TROY HASHIMOTO

rich cultural heritage which helps to create the strong fabric of our Maui nui community.

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

Many describe the Filipino community as “no longer invisible.” Even the latest blockbuster movies have entire scenes done in Filipino, which is a nod to its growing influence not only in media, but also in other sectors like business, politics, and education. As someone who has closely worked with Filipinos, here are some observations.

- Affordable housing. In line with my priorities, I believe a home for our workforce can vastly improve the quality of life of our Filipino community. With financial debt from student loans, and the rising cost of healthcare, home ownership has been out of reach for many. Our young professionals today settle for compromised arrangements like living with their parents, or with roommates, or give up their hobbies for a second and third “hustle” just to make the monthly rent payments. The dialogue about overcoming economic barriers to higher education and starting a family can become realistic if we protect our residents’ rights to homeownership. Our kids will be able to imagine a future on Maui.
- Support for small businesses and workforce rights. After chatting with Filipino business owners, all are dealing with the same challenge - being understaffed. A Filipino restaurant claims they used to receive job applications EVERY WEEK during pre-pandemic times. With most immigration plans on hold, our Filipino businesses have showcased resilience by continuing to operate to keep the community running. I also recognize the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Maui Filipinos, especially with frontline health workers, those in the hospitality and restaurant industries and other essential workers. Their safety is put at risk and they can’t simply “work from

home.”

- Mental health stigma. The pandemic has pushed this issue to the forefront especially with the Filipino community. Common with Asian families, we tend to sweep problems under the rug and ignore them until they reach a tipping point. Perhaps with pride, shame and difficulty expressing one’s thoughts, it is hard for some in the Asian community to seek professional help when it is needed. Instead, it is dealt with within the confines of the family, which may cause more distress. Inadvertent harming phrases like “just ignore it” or “try not to be too depressed” can sometimes be shared lightly as jokes but with more education on mental health, all communities can be stronger from within.

Our community, especially the Filipino community has been through a lot. Now is the time to reimagine our efforts to have the most meaningful impact for our next generation.

Justin Woodson




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

I have been involved in politics in various capacities for roughly 20

see LEADERSHIP p.9



With Housing Chair Nadine Nakamura of Kaua’i after our first hearing.
PHOTO COURTESY TROY HASHIMOTO



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Alohi Alvarado ALOHI VEGA ALVARADO ENTERPRISE YANA MYSTICS HEALING	Jada Lucas HORTICULTURE RESIDENT
Janet Alvarado THE ALVARADO PROJECT	Sam Molitas MAUI’S BEST MASSAGE
Pia Barton MALAYA BOTANICALS	Alma Tablang LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE
Caroline Cabading KULTURA KAPWA	Brandon and Myline Dahle DA PLAYGROUND
Marife Cendena HAWAII WORK UNIFORMS, LLC	Jenna Pascual LOVE COACHING & LAUGHTER YOGA
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From the Editor's Desk

| Cont'd from p. 4

Third, how can we re-open our schools safely so our students can resume their personal and educational development to a higher extent than possible online? Teachers are understandably fearful because many in the community refuse to wear masks or take precautions to mitigate the spread of new variants of the virus, along with other cyclical diseases.

Fourth, is another crisis—to somehow manage our tourism industry without negatively impacting our health and quality of life, while also protecting our environment and preserving our natural resources. The list goes on and we will stop here to turn instead to creating better answers to resolving the top issues in this conundrum, we hope, by election of visionary, innovative, inspiring leaders.

The 2022 election will have significant and far-reaching results. More than ever, we need our best leaders to bring communities together in action for common purpose in the best traditions of what is still the most successful democracy on the planet.

After pondering the key issues before us, I realize we are only ten months away from electing our leaders. This coming election is highly consequential: do we keep our current leaders or do we need to bring new blood with bold leadership to bring needed change in solving our problems? What kind of leaders do we want, to address the challenges facing our community today?

It is never too early to start familiarizing yourself about the potential candidates. Get to know who they are; study their plans to address the pressing issues we face; have a one-to-one interview with each of them; attend the candidate forums. Ask yourself, “Does this candidate have the character and leadership qualities we want and need at this time?”

Register to vote, remembering your vote matters. Get involved in the campaigns of your candidates. There are many ways to help: phone banking along with other supporters; providing as much financial support as you can; sending friend-to-friend cards; online messaging; door-to-door visits; hosting small coffee hours, stuffing envelopes; yard signs and many more activities.

Also in the upcoming election, Maui citizens will be voting on several charter amendments being proposed by the Charter Commission. We encourage our readers to study these proposed amendments to ensure the changes on how our government operates will actually help to address the issues needing immediate care. Or, will these proposed amendments impede the required pragmatic solutions to our current challenges? Do the benefits of these proposed initiatives outweigh the

estimated costs? We urge you to study these issues carefully before you cast your vote.

For the past ten months, the Charter Commission has been meeting to review possible changes to the current charter. Currently, the Commission has in hand eighty-five proposals under consideration. Some would say these are too many changes to digest and may create more confusion than clarification for many voters. Here are some key charter changes which require careful analysis and thorough understanding of the implications on how our County will be governed in the future.

Key Highlights of Charter Commission's Proposals

- 1. Restructure Council Elections (Sec. 3-1)** Replace the current countywide, at-large election system with a new system of three electoral regions, with three residency districts each, resulting in a nine-member council with roughly the same residency districts we have now. The voters will vote for the three residency seats in their pod, instead of all nine.
- 2. Replace the Maui Planning Commission with Six Community Planning Commissions on Maui (Sec. 8-8.4)** Instead of one 9-member commission with island-wide jurisdiction, there will be six 7-member regional Planning Commissions, based on Community Plan Districts, with jurisdiction over planning issues affecting their respective districts.
- 3. Create a new Department of Housing Development (new Chapter 8-19)** Creates a new department dedicated to the development of affordable housing.
- 4. Create a new Department of the County Hearings Officer (Chapter 12)** Establishes the Department of County Hearings Officer. The Department will be staffed by two or more licensed attorneys who will preside over contested cases, appeals or hearings dealing with the rights of citizens, employees or officers. The County now deals with these matters by hiring qualified attorneys on an as-needed basis, or by hearings before Boards empowered to hold such hearings.
- 5. Create a new Department of 'Oiwi Resources (new Chapter 8-20)** The department will design and implement programs to care for and develop 'Oiwi or Native Hawaiian Cultural and Natural Resources.
- 6. Make Corporation Counsel independent of the Mayor (Sec. 8-2.2)** Make the appointment of the Corporation Counsel subject to the review of the Independent Selection Commission; gives the Corporation Counsel a five-year term of office; gives the same commission the power to determine eligibility for re-appointment; gives Council final say over the re-appointments and the Mayor no involvement in that process.
- 7. Independent Selection Commission (new Sec. 13)** Creates a new commission that determines who will be eligible for being appointed the Prosecuting Attorney, the County Auditor, the Corporation Counsel, the County Hearings Officers, the Ethics Director, the County Clerk and the members of the Board of Ethics. Also determines if the Corporation Counsel and the Prosecuting Attorney can be reappointed.
- 8. Make the Board of Water Supply semi-autonomous (Chapter 8.11)** Gives the power to manage, control and oversee the Water Department to the Board of Water Supply, including the power to hire and fire the Director and Deputy Director. Those powers now reside with the Mayor and the Council.
- 9. Make the Ethics Board an independent agency (Sec. 10-2.7)** Ethics Board will be managed by an executive director, selected by the Board, who will also be the Board's chief legal advisor. The Board will have other dedicated staff, independent of the executive branch. The Board is now managed and staffed by the Corporation Counsel's Office.
- 10. Establish Community Boards (new Sec. 13-)** Creates Boards for each community plan area to increase citizen participation in the decisions of government.

To know more about the Charter Commission and proposed amendments, you may visit its website.

Your participation in this year's election is so important. Please register to vote and make your voices heard by casting your vote for leaders who have your interest at heart and who are responsive to community priorities. Let us not be just spectators and instead, let us be the movers who will make our community a better place to live, work, raise our families and most of all, to take good care of ourselves and each other. ✨



VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

Wage ...

from p. 2

applicable minimum wage rate.”

SB 2018 now goes to the House for consideration and action.

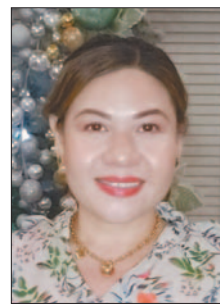
The *Fil-Am Voice* checked in with a few small business owners on Maui on their reaction of raising the minimum wage to \$18.00 per hour, including the president of Fil-Am Voice, Inc., **Tante Urban**, owner of Tante's Island Cuisine at the Maui Seaside in Kahului who believes raising the minimum wage will impact small businesses. “An increase in wages and other costs of doing business means price increases



Urban

to offset the cost increase. In my business any small price increase is noticed by the customers and many times they say something or question it. It's like you're getting more money but at the same time you're spending more. Where do you find balance—higher revenue (wage) versus higher expenses (cost of living). When will it end?”

Roseminic Ulep, also a small business owner as a healthcare provider for the elderly and a transport provider for the disabled, looked at the issue of raising the minimum wage from both the employee and employer's perspective: “From the employee's perspective, I am all for it because the cost of living is so high like gas, shipping groceries, rent you name it, basically everything,” said Ulep. “We need to work two jobs just to be able to take care of our basic needs for our family. On the other hand, as a small business owner, pay rates has always been the issue. I have been working for the State of Hawaii for the whole time and we have been asking them for a raise since 2018 with myself and other providers testifying at the State Capitol for higher rates per patient and until now, there has been no increase. As little as what the State pays me per patient, I don't know how I will be able to make it if the lawmakers will not balance out the equation. If the Legislature passes this bill for employees, I hope they will also consider the employer side. Many employers are paying cash just to stay in business. The lawmakers need to look at every angle to make it work for both parties.”



Ulep

Joselito Yuzon, owner of Johnstone Supply Maui has a strong pro-employee perspective. “This bill is long overdue and should be passed as soon as possible. Honestly, 2026 is



Yuzon

see WAGE p.19

I'm a Cincinnati Bengals fan.
And I'm not a bandwagon jumper.

The dictionary defines a “fanatic” as a “person who is extremely enthusiastic about and devoted to some interest or activity.” The etymology is from the Latin word “fanaticus” which suggests an “insane person”—picture a religious zealot in a frenzy during a temple festival. Sounds like a football fan decked in team gear primping for television cameras.

And Bengals fans gotta be closer to long suffering faithful waiting for the promised one.

I'll admit to being somewhat touched in the head when it comes to the Bengals.

I still wish Paul Brown had turned the team over to QB coach Bill Walsh (who drafted Kenny Anderson out of little Augustana) rather than defensive coach Bill “Tiger” Johnson. Super Bowl XVI may have turned out differently. It doesn't come down to Pete Johnson getting stuffed at the goal line.

In my dreams, Lewis Billups pulls in the interception in the endzone to close out Super Bowl XXIII. No second chance for Joe Montana and John Taylor.

I'll openly admit I didn't see this Super Bowl appearance coming.

This season had questions. Top pick Joe Burrow was coming back rather quickly from a severe injury and rather than taking OT Penei Sewell with the fifth pick, we drafted WR Ja'marr Chase. Unsurprisingly, Burrow suffered fifty-one sacks this season.

However, Cincinnati showed flashes of a powerful offense all season with three dangerous receivers in Chase (81 receptions/1,455 yards/13 TDs), Tee Higgins (74/1,091/6) and Tyler Boyd (67/828/5), a solid runner in Joe Mixon (292 carries/ 1,205 yards/ 13 TDs), and a confident rookie placekicker in Evan McPherson (28 FGs in 33 attempts/46 PATs/48 kicks).

While the defense played inconsistently, the Bengals somehow won the AFC North with a 10–7 record, clinching the title in Week 17 with a stunning come from behind win over heavily favored Kansas City (Chase torched the Chiefs with 266 yards).

They then won their first post-season game since 1991, beating the Las Vegas Raiders 26–19 at Paul Brown Stadium.

The Bengals next travelled to Nashville and upset the top AFC seed Tennessee Titans, 19–16.

In the AFC Championship game, the Bengals fell behind the prohibitive favorites Chiefs (fresh from topping the Buffalo Bills 42–36 in one of the most entertaining games of the year)



Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran celebrates his team going to the Super Bowl.

21–3 at Arrowhead Stadium. Patrick Mahomes led KC to touchdowns in

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET Who Dey!

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

"I won't bother predicting if the Bengals will beat the Rams.

It would be disappointing if Cincinnati didn't finish this magical season with a super Bowl ring. I'll still be a fan.

2525."

– GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

their first three drives. The Bengals would dominate the second half, holding the Chiefs to under one hundred yards in offense, to take the lead 24–21, before winning the game in overtime 27–24. That earned the Bengals a berth in Super Bowl LVI (This year, the Bengals beat five of the other six AFC playoff teams—topping the Titans, and twice against the Raiders, Chiefs, Steelers and Ravens).

The Bengals will be the “home team” when they play the Los Angeles Rams at SoFi Stadium. They will wear black.

The good guys always wear black.

I won't bother predicting if the Bengals will beat the Rams.

It would be disappointing if Cincinnati didn't finish this magical season with a Super Bowl ring.

But I'll still be a fan.

2525.

If you know, you know.
#WhoDey! #WeDem! 🌟



As this is the year of the Tiger in the Chinese calendar, will this be the year of the Bengals in the Super Bowl?

In small kid time, **Gil Keith-Agaran's** favorite team was the Cincinnati Bengals and his favorite player was Bengals quarterback Ken Anderson (16 seasons, 2,654 of 4,475 passes (59.3 percent) for 32,838 yards) who led the expansion team to Super Bowl XVI. Anderson's career completions, passing touchdowns, and touchdown passes remain

Bengal records. Ironically, Anderson earned his only Super Bowl ring as an assistant coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLIII. Mr. Keith-Agaran asserts that if Pete Johnson scores on fourth and one, the Bengals are the Team of the Eighties, and the long years of Cincinnati wandering in the hapless wilderness would never have occurred.





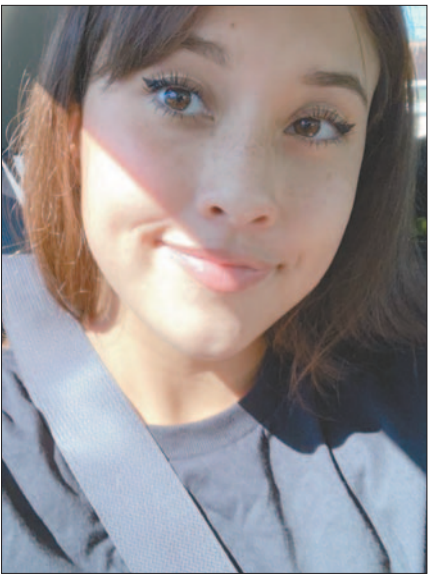
Tia Lewis



Altene Jacob Tumacder



Katelyn Gicale-Emden



Gabriella Jones

Google®

Is Not Everything ...

Part-time Work for Students During the Pandemic

Brooklyn Jones | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2022

Wanted: part-time employees during a pandemic. Must be responsible, friendly and hard-working. No prior work experience is required. Please contact your local small business, organization or big-box store for more details.

Some teenagers started their first jobs ever during a pandemic while others adjusted to different working conditions. COVID pushed some students into positions out of necessity, an opportunity to explore future career paths or a way to save up for their future.

senior at Seabury Hall High School, has been a scooper at Pā'ia Gelato. In its quaint touristy atmosphere with small local shops and restaurants, Pā'ia town was the optimal location for Tia when she applied for a job. Many of her classmates live in the area, so she could make money while being close to her friends. Along with scooping gelato and packing wholesale orders, Tia loves to meet “kind and generous” newcomers and hear their stories as she fixes them a cone, espresso or smoothie. Indeed, there can be a few high-maintenance customers. The enthusiastic and appreciative majority, however, helped Tia realize how fortunate she is to live on a beautiful island like Maui.

As graduation and college approaches, Tia will be ending her chapter at Pā'ia Gelato. Still, she won't forget the fantastic memories she's made there or the best way to make a sundae.

Part-time jobs in food service can be tricky but learning to work with others, manage time and be patient is invaluable and can't always be taught in schools. While working in food service is a more popular choice, others get a head start on their careers through their after-school jobs.

Altene Jacob Tumacder from Maui High School is one such student; with Ohanacare Maui, he's learned all the above skills and more. A motivated worker, Altene received his CNA certification as part of his senior project then dove into the medical field as a nurse aide. His first job is challenging: he is routinely tasked with caring for patients in their homes, some of which have COVID. But the way he sees it, “there is never a time when I don't find a silver lining.” One particularly proud moment on the job was when a patient looked up at him, smiled and said “I like you.” But to him, providing any amount of relief to vulnerable community members in a rather uncomfortable time makes the job altogether rewarding. “I continue to work because I have found passion in caring for people, especially the vulnerable,”

Altene beams. “I can't see myself doing anything else.”

Our local businesses and their employees have helped provide jobs and services throughout a raging pandemic. The adaptations businesses made to comply with sanitization, mandates and social distancing haven't been easy. Still, everyone in the community is immensely grateful for their persistence and products.

Katelyn Gicale-Emden, a senior at Maui High School, has experience working before and during the pandemic. Before the quarantine hit, she worked at 5 Palms Restaurant as a food runner. During that time, restrictions on incoming tourist numbers halted the business' primary income source and stopped work.

And when Katelyn returned to work after quarantine, she had to get used to the new policies. As a food runner, she would work in the kitchen and the back parts of the restaurant; getting used to wearing a mask coupled with intense south Kihei heat, Katelyn would get headaches and even stand in the walk-in freezer to cool off. Using facial protection is almost automatic these days but like the rest of us, she hopes we won't have to wear masks in the future. As a people person, Katelyn likes “being able to greet guests and see their facial expressions, see them talk and for me to really express myself to them.”

Katelyn now works at Spago Maui. With her cheerful yet professional demeanor, she enjoys coming across new people whenever she comes to work.

So many people come to the islands, which can be a blessing and a curse. Tourism season brings in businesses for local companies but high demands and a lack of employees can make it hard to stay above water.

Gabriella Jones is a freshman at Maui High School and started working when her dad's health food store, Alive & Well, was short on workers. She quickly learned how to use the cash register, label products, verify product orders and do thorough sani-

Continued on p.11

“I am a bit of an introvert but the encounters I've had with customers, employees and employers alike taught me a multitude of lessons, like the importance of being confident under pressure.”

– BROOKLYN JONES

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Justin Woodson defends the education bill on the House floor.
 PHOTO COURTESY JUSTIN WOODSON



Justin Woodson helps with the Binhi At Ani periodic food distribution events.
 PHOTOS COURTESY JUSTIN WOODSON

Leadership ...

from p. 5

years. I've worked at the Hawaii State Legislature in both the House and Senate, including the late Representative Mele Carroll. I've also served at the Hawai'i State Democratic Party of Hawai'i. I've been a small business owner running Woodson's Eco Auto Wash. We serviced car dealerships in the Kahului area. Currently, I am a Realtor. I've practiced real estate in the past as well. I'm married to Stacy Woodson and we have four children: Justice 17, Janalise 15, Jeven 14, and Jemery 10. I studied microbiology at the University of Oklahoma and have earned a Bachelor's in Political Science from the California State University Fullerton.

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?

I envision a Maui and state with world-class public schools. We have amazing school personnel but our system is not properly set up to maximize learning opportunities. I also see a Maui that offers truly affordable housing and rental solutions. We should continue to expand programs that support our seniors; and we must continue to support our businesses and imagine different means to diversify our economy so that everyone can ul-

timately obtain good-paying jobs. Much is right with Maui. The connections people have with one another. The genuine happiness people share when they see each other when we are out and about. And the wholesome environment in which we are blessed to live and raise our families. We must also continue to help those less fortunate like our homeless community.

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


My family and I are a part of the Filipino community. The Filipino community thrives on Maui. We enjoy spending time with one another at cultural events, beauty pageants, birthday parties, and church. The pandemic has made me appreciate these gatherings even more. I also love how in difficult times, we come together. This can be seen early in the pandemic when we distributed hundreds of boxes of food to those in need. It is a blessing to be a part of such a connected community.

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

The greatest needs of the Filipino community are the same needs of all locals on Maui. We need terrific schools so that our children can have promising futures. We need better and more affordable housing options. And we need job opportunities. ✨



Justin Woodson with his wonderful family.
 PHOTO COURTESY JUSTIN WOODSON 'OHANA



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Bayanihan Feeding Program
PHOTOS: ROCHELLE MENDOZA



COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

Compiled by Assistant Editor Alfredo G. Evangelista.
Send your community briefs to info@filamvoice.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 Ma-haolu Residents in Central Maui. As of January 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 February 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, chairper-

son of Binhi at Ani's Health and Wellness committee at guzman.chelsea.i@gmail.com or Sheena Marie Garo, co-chairper son at 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 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2022 at The Dunes at Maui Lani. Sponsorships are available as follows: Platinum-\$1400 (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. The deadline is February 28, 2022. Tee Sponsors (\$100) and donations of cash/prizes are requested.

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. Applications are due by March 1, 2022.

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Rizal Day/Installation

State Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran in-

stalled the 2022 Board of Directors of the Maui Filipino Community Council, with Pliny Arenas, Vice President of Operations of U.S. Renal Care as the Keynote Speaker.

The Outstanding Awardees are:

Zaldy Ugalino, president of the Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation, received the Outstanding Citizen Award.

Nicole Yuzon, a 2021 graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (B.S. *summa cum laude* Biology with a Minor in Music), received the Outstanding Youth Award.

Lawrence Pascua, the incoming Vice President of the Council, received the Outstanding Member Award.

Emerita Cortez, the outgoing President



For those who met the early bird registration (Feb. 15), they will be entered into a drawing sponsored by Friends of Yuki Lei Sugimura.
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



State Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran installs the 2022 Maui Filipino Community Council Board of Directors.
PHOTO: TROY HASHIMOTO



ESTABLISHED IN 1959

MISS MAUI FILIPINA SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT

Coordinated by the
Maui Filipino Community Council



CONTESTANT QUALIFICATIONS

Single Filipina Woman
between the ages of 18 to 27



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Michelle Santos at 264-0871 or
mmf.mfcc@gmail.com



Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant flyer
IMAGE: MICHELLE SANTOS



Shirley Evangelista - Distinguished Community Service award

of the Council, received the Outstanding Leadership Award.

Shirley Evangelista, who co-founded (with Nancy Andres) the bilingual program and was involved with other community organizations such as the Council, the Miss Maui Filipina, Filipino Cultural Club, Girl Scouts, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and others, received the Distinguished Community Service Award.

2022 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant

The 2022 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant will be held on June 4. 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 for more information. The deadline is March 27, 2022.

Lance Christian Abut

Marigold Baldonado

Jerome Butac

Kyson Calibuso

Laurn Hashimoto

Mai Huyhn

Moses Ligot

Sydnie Matsuda

Erin Akemi Mukai

Ariana Rose Pacleb

Jeremy Peros

Haley Purdy

Yuriana Robles

Clouie Salacup

Shania Tumpap

Abbygail Cinena Viloria

Alexis Joy Viloria

Jacob Wittenberg

Michael Wong

Jadyne Zane

The 2021 Binhi at Ani Scholarship Recipients

You can be one of the 2022 Binhi At Ani scholarship recipients. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2022.



Nicole Yuzon - Outstanding Youth award



Zaldy Ugalino - Outstanding Citizen award



Lawrence Pascua - Outstanding Member award



Emerita Cortez - Outstanding Leader award

Google® Is Not Everything ... | from p. 8

tization. Gabriella grew up around Alive & Well. Her main jobs were cleaning the shelves and playing computer games as a kid but in the present, she is glad to finally be a part of the team.

Granted, there have been unpleasant instances like customers refusing to put on their masks but her shifts are altogether pleasant. Gabriella comments she learns something new every day. After months of work, she recalls when she was able to help a customer find the specific product they were looking for, describing the feeling as gratifying. Gabriella admits she doesn't see herself in this line of work for her future career but appreciates the experience this ordeal has given her.

Likewise, I am a bit of an introvert but the encounters I've had with customers, employees and employers alike taught me a multitude of lessons,

like the importance of being confident under pressure. As well, the interactions improved my conversation skills. After nearly a year of little to no conversations with people in real life, I welcomed the practice! 🌸

Google® Is Not Everything ... is a monthly column authored by high school students. The title of the column emphasizes education is more than just googling a topic. Google® is a registered trademark. This month's guest columnist is **Brooklyn Jones**, a Senior at Maui High School. She is an assistant editor in her school's journalism program, *Saber Scribes*, and also a member of the *Girls Can STEM Club*. Brooklyn is in the *ACOM Pathway* at Maui High, specializing in graphic design. In her free time, she swims for *Hawai'i Swimming Club*, bakes and likes to go to the beach. She is the daughter of *Melissa Ligot Jones* and *Darren Jones*.



Ti Biag ken Pammati

“Life and Faith”



Beginning the day, early morning and setting fishing lines.



Our great grandson Jeffrey watching fishing poles patiently.

Time to not get tired or lose Hope but keep the Faith and share the Love! My reflection is from Luke 5:1-11.

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake, the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.’ Simon said in reply. ‘Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.’ When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boats to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, ‘Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.’ For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching men.’ When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Him.

A study came out last year that was disturbing but not necessarily surprising. The World Health Organization did a study of people around the world who worked 55 or more hours per week compared to those

Do Not Be Tired or Lose Hope Because God is Always With You

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY DCN. PATRICK CONSTANTINO

who worked 35 to 40 hours per week. The study covered health and workplace data from the 1970s to 2018 and included workers in 154 countries. They concluded “People working 55 or more each week, face an estimated 35 percent higher risk of a stroke and a 17 percent higher risk of dying from heart disease, compared to people following the widely accepted standard of working 35 to 40 hours in a week.” They also estimated more than 745,000 people worldwide died in 2016 from the physical stress of working excess hours. Those are some scary numbers. Sounds like to me a good excuse for goofing off a little bit from time to time.

Of course, this study was completed before the recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many companies cut their workforce and the remaining employees worked longer hours to compensate. Also, many people began working from home, which made it harder to leave work at work. The result: working unpaid overtime.

We all know the United States is the nation of “rise and grind.” Hard work is in our DNA. But so is being

tired. We complain about how busy and tired we are. We compare our busy schedules and shrug our shoulders. “Oh well, that’s just how life is. What can we do about it?”

A seasoned doctor was training his latest group of interns on diagnostic techniques. He wrapped up his training by saying “Never ask your patients if they feel tired.” “Why?” someone asked. “Because,” the doctor replied, “everybody feels tired.”

And he may be right about that. Everybody feels tired. That’s normal, right? It’s a hazard of modern life.

I’m not against hard work. I thank God for the opportunity to work and to use the skills and energy He gave me to make a difference in the world. I’m sure you feel the same way. But most of us also understand that sometimes our work can be unfulfilling. When we gave our best efforts to something and we don’t see any results, we lose heart. That tired feeling isn’t just bone deep. It’s spirit deep. And it steals away our joy, our peace, our hopes. That’s not what God intended for our lives. Our God is a creative God

and God made us for peace, hope and joy. So that spirit deep tiredness poisons the life that God intended for us to have.

That’s why we can relate to Simon Peter and the other disciples in our Bible passage for today. Crowds of people have come to the shore of the Lake of Gennesaret to hear Jesus preach. On the edge of the lake are the fishing boats that have come in after a long night’s work. Professional fishermen in Jesus’ day lowered large nets into the lake. In the dark of night, the fish couldn’t see the nets, so schools of fish were easier to catch at night.

Unfortunately, Simon Peter and his colleagues had an unsuccessful night. Jesus climbed into Simon’s boat and asked him to float out a short distance from shore. After Jesus finished teaching the people on the shore, he told Simon Peter to sail into deeper waters and let down his nets again.

Put yourself in Simon Peter’s shoes. He’s just finished working all night with no results. In addition to being tired and ready to go home, he’s probably frustrated his hard work didn’t pay off. He was tired and ready to quit. And now Jesus is telling him how to do his job. Simon answers “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

And in this story, Jesus gives us a gift. He shows us how to heal a tired spirit. For example, one thing we learn from this story is doing meaningful work can heal a tired spirit. A great way to stay energized and effective in our life is to seek to do

Continued on p.14



Night falls nothing is caught! Tired and going home with no catch!



These are part of their catch which the share with family, neighbors and friends.



Ah February, the love month! Are you ready with Valentine's day? Roses are red, violets are blue, how did I get lucky with you? Aaah, so sweet. How about this Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm in love with you, Don't you have a clue? Wow, I think I'm getting good at this. I have to stop because I might get carried away. But if you need help, contact me and I might be able to help you. Whatever

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

your plans to celebrate, don't forget to get a flower or bouquet of flowers for your Valentine. It will surely brighten up her day or even bring a smile to her

face. Happy Valentine's Day! Shout out to our February birthday celebrants: my good friends Leilani Maglaya Corpuz, Crisian Baguyo Chel-

sky and Andre Baguyo. Happy, Happy birthday! *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* Also, celebrating their 21st Wedding Anniversary on Valentine's day are Andre and Jovy Baguyo. You two make a perfectly ideal couple. Happy Anniversary to both of you! Cheers! Let's see what's going on with our story this month and where Michael and Angel will be going next, shall we?

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. "We need a place that 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. "Nokarin (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, there sits an old military hummer. Angel rubs her eyes and steadily proceeds to ask Michael question after question. "Michael, *ano* (what) is that?" "How are you going to drive that?" "Do you have the *susi* (key)?" "Does it still run?" "Inno (Where) are we going with this?" "Who is going to be there?" "How long are we staying there?" "Do we have supplies?" Michael glances over at Angel with a confused/stressed look on her *nawong* (face). He continues to look for the hidden *yabi* (key) for the hummer. "San o (Where) is the *tulbek* (key)? Saan (Where) is the *pang'able* (key)?

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Hand	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Key	Susi	Tulbek	Pang'able	Yabi	Annus	Susi
I'm hungry.	Nagugutom ako.	Mabisinak	Gutom nako.	Nagutom ako.	Mavisin nga.	Maranup ku.
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Mukat	Lupa / Arap	Nawong / Dagway	Goya / Nawong
Hug	Yakap	Arakup	Gakos	Kupo	Gagap-pan	Kawul
Car	Sasakyan	Lugan	Sakyanan	Auto	Kotse	Saken
Where?	Saan?	Inno?	Aha?	San o?	Sitaw?	Nokarin?
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Hani?	Ano?	Anni?	Nanoyin?
Arm	Braso	Takyag	Lima	Gamat	Kamot	Braso

echoes in Michael's head. The questions continue. "Michael, *hani* (what) time is it?" "Is there anything to eat? I think *nagugutom ako* (I'm hungry)." "When was the last time I ate?" "Did you eat yet? *Mabisin ak* (I'm hungry)." "Did I just say *maranup ku* (I'm hungry) again?" "Should I bring down our bags?" "Do you think we forgot something?" "You think Lydia will be mad that I just left and never said anything?" "Do I have my ID card? *Aha* (Where's) my purse?" Michael realizes Angel is having a breakdown so he walks towards her and he gives her a *gagap-pan* (hug). She *kawul* (hugs) him tight. "Sshhhh ... calm down everything will be ok," he says softly. Angel frees herself from the *arakup* (hug) and looks him in the eye. Even in the dark, Michael can see

Angel's watery eyes. And she continues to ask questions. "Do you think so? I am in trouble?" she shrieks as they stand next to each other. He walks her to the passenger side of the hummer. Holding onto the back of her head and kissing through her worn out headband, he whispers "Everything will be okay." Angel lets out a cry. A cry that is years of pain and suffering rolled into a few consecutive gasps of air as she unravels herself into Michael's *braso* (arms). "I don't know what's going on yet but we will figure it out when we get there," Michael continues and holds her *kamay* (hand) tight. Angel continues to cry. "Ok?" Michael says.

No answer. Michael continues to comfort her, rocking her back and forth, resting in his *gamat* (arms). Slowly the cry turns into a pant and then fades away. Now what? What is Michael's plan? Will everything really be ok? Are they hiding? Until when? Anyways that's all I have. Keep an eye out for my article every issue. I'm Dulce, helping you to master your Filipino Languages. Like always, let's laugh, let's *making* (listen) and Let's Talk Pinoy! *Hanggang sa muli!* (Until next time!) *Ingat!* (Take care!). **Dulce Karen Butay** was graduated from Maui High School and 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.



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My grandson's Josh and Jon with Malcolm a friend who owns this boat with a large catch. Their catch was given to their friends, neighbors and family.



My great grand daughters Kalya and Quinn. Fishers of women.

something we truly believe.

Another way to heal a tired spirit is to catch God's vision for our life. You've heard me say several times before, God has a plan for our life. In no way is our life meaningless. We are here for a reason. To invigorate our life, pray God will show us that reason. That's what I mean when I say we need to catch God's vision for our life!

When Jesus told Simon to row to deep waters and cast his nets again, Simon said "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything." That's a microscopic response. "But because you say so, I will let down my nets." That's the moment Simon opens himself up to Jesus' leading. And Simon and his colleagues catch so many fish they load them onto two boats.

Simon is so ashamed of his doubts he falls at Jesus' knees and says, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man."

But Jesus didn't do this to shame Simon. He did it to share with Simon a new vision for his life.

Jesus says to Simon, "Don't be afraid, from now on you will fish for people."

Jesus is talking to us as well as Simon Peter. Don't be afraid, he says to us, from now on you will fish for people. Whatever work you are doing, whatever hobbies you have, wherever you find yourself, our primary purpose now is to bring people to God. Your primary purpose in your home, in your workplace, in your school, in your hobbies, in your passions, in your relationships is to share the love and truth of Jesus Christ with others. That's the new vi-

sion God has for our life!

It's like something interesting I recently read about our country's space program. It seems when NASA engineers sent the *Perseverance* rover on a historic mission to Mars in 2020, they hid a coded message in the rover's parachute. The parachute had an unusual red and white pattern. Alan Chen announced this strange pattern held a secret message. Then he challenged folks to find and decode the message. It only took six hours for internet sleuths all over the country to find and decode the message on the rover's parachute. The message was "dare mighty things!"

Dare mighty things! That's what Jesus is saying to Simon. You're looking at your life through a microscopic lens. You only see if you've caught fish to feed your family and turn a profit. Catch your vision for your life. I want to work through you to share the presence and power of God. I want to change lives. And that is exactly what those weary fishermen did. They changed lives and changed the world. So the second thing we learn from today's Bible passage is catching God's vision for your life can heal a tired spirit.

And finally, we learn from this passage that more than anything else, committing our life to Jesus can heal a tired spirit. How does our Gospel passage end today? After Je-

sus offered Simon and his friends a new vision for their lives, we read "So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him." They didn't go home and catch up on that missed sleep. They didn't even go out and sell that big catch of fish. They just left everything to follow Jesus.

Is it possible our tired spirit is a result of not committing our whole life to Jesus' Lordship? Our successes, our failures, our strengths, our weaknesses, our doubts, our insecurities, our future, our identities—are

**"When we
commit our
entire life to
Jesus Christ, we
are also trusting
Jesus with
the results
of our life!"**

— DEACON
PATRICK CONSTANTINO

we still wrestling over committing everything to Jesus' plan and purposes? Because when we commit our entire life to Jesus Christ, we are also trusting Jesus with the results of our life! He is offering to work through us to change lives with His power and His message and His love. We don't have to do the work alone. That is a sure antidote for a

tired spirit.

When you become tired, discouraged or filled with doubt about whether our efforts are making any difference, please remember this: Jesus' disciples faced harassment, rejection, imprisonment, beatings and death for their work. But they also convinced thousands of people Jesus is Lord and Savior for all humankind. Amen! They planted churches all over the Roman Empire, Africa and Arabia. Today, over one billion people from every race and nation call themselves Christians and there are Christian churches in every corner of the world! And you and I are here today because of the works of Simon Peter, Paul and the other apostles who committed their works and their lives to the message and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Now it's our turn. Commit our life to Jesus and see how He can give us a new sense of vitality and use us to make a difference in this world.

I pray what I share with you today will help you answer the ques-

tion—How can I as a member of St. Joseph Church be more effective in proclaiming the living Jesus Christ to the world? You are proclaiming Him by being here at mass!

As I wrote my reflection today, I got a call from Erlinda Pulido, wife of Deacon Cornelio Pulido who suffered a massive stroke after arriving in Seattle to spend Christmas and New Years with his family. With all the prayers from everyone, Linda never tired or lost hope for a miracle. And then it happened. Deacon Cornelio talked to Linda via live stream from the hospital, set up by the hospital. A miracle during this time of crisis! It started with that massive stroke upon arriving in Seattle, before Christmas, weeks later the family had to decide whether to take him off life support. Then the recovery happened, moving his limbs, blinking his eyes to answer them, taking off the oxygen during the day and putting it back on at night, pandemic restrictions, family cannot visit as often. And today, the miracle! The good news is he talked to Linda! Amen, Lord! Thank you for this miracle! Please continue to pray for Deacon Cornelio Pulido, his wife Linda and their family.

Jesus, I trust in You! Amen! ✨

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

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

Constantino has served as a Deacon for 34 years and married to his lovely wife Corazon for 60 years.



Deacon Stan Franco, Deacon Cornelio and Linda Pulido, Deacon Ken and Charmaine Bissen, Deacon Steve and Momi Maglentes, with Deacon Pat and Cora Constantino, Deacon Al and Kathy Phillips with Fr. Drexel at their Diaconate anniversary Mass celebration.





The Omicron surge is so contagious it has impacted our community infecting our Maui Mayor and our elderly loved ones ... even Alfredo Evangelista's 97 year old mom, who survived because she was vaccinated and boosted.
SCREENSHOT AND PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

The Omicron variant of COVID 19 has made a significant impact on Maui to start this New Year. We have seen record high infection rates and hospitalizations, more so than we have since the start of the pandemic. Almost all those currently infected and who suffer with severe symptoms continue to be the unvaccinated. Those partially vaccinated, and not yet boosted are also becoming infected with the Omicron variant but are much less sick. The majority of patients are the younger population under 50 years old and many are also children.

The good thing about this latest surge is the death rates are much lower than the previous Delta spike in September. More people have become infected over the last month than there were in half of 2021's positive cases. The number of deaths from this Omicron surge in January, however, have only been 40-50 lives lost for the entire State of Hawai'i. This means this variant is not as deadly as the previous strains although the number of new cases of Omicron are decreasing, there is an expected lag in people who will die from COVID this month and unfortunately there will be more deaths reported from this latest wave. Overall this lower percentage of death rates hopefully indicates future variants will continue to cause less suffering and death. During this latest Omicron surge, Filipinos sadly still constitute the largest percentage of those deaths at 23 percent in the State of Hawai'i.

The Omicron surge peaked in late January, with positive cases continuing to decline entering in early February. With the large number of people infected in the last month, natural immunity against COVID is now a majority of our population. Thus we should now be more protected with this immunity. For those who got vaccinated and boosted, the T-cell and B-cell responses to Omicron infection have proven to be superior in protection. COVID vaccination is still the best way to fight against infection, avoid suffering from symptoms and prevent hos-

Surviving the Omicron Surge

Errol Buntuyan, M.D., FAAFP

pitalization. The treatment regimens against COVID have also improved during this surge. The most effective monoclonal antibody treatment is now Sotrovimab. The prior treatment from Regeneron is no longer helpful. This new IV infusion treatment is only available at the hospital (Maui Health Systems). Currently a tier system determines who is eligible to get Sotrovimab. There is now an oral medication available. Paxlovid is an oral treatment that if taken within five days of symptom onset can help reduce further illness and prevent hospitalization. Paxlovid has many drug to drug interactions and thus screening is needed to get this medication.

The Maui Health Systems (MHS) website www.mauihealth.org has more information and a referral/application form to determine if you are eligible for either of these medication treatments. Currently only MHS has the ability to order these medications. A QR code with the link to the MHS referral/application form is below-right.

Though the risk of severe illness and death from Omicron has decreased since the prior surges, there are still many down sides to getting infected. Having to take off from work, disruption of social/travel plans and being at risk of exposing others are impactful outcomes to testing positive. Many folks also have lingering COVID symptoms which persist for weeks after turning positive. It is still too early to tell how many of these Omicron symptoms will persist for over three months and end as Long COVID. The prolonged symptoms of fatigue, headache, cough, brain fog, joint aches and digestive issues are still uncomfortable conditions to suffer through often with no cure.

On the immunization front, only 32 percent of those eligible on Maui has had three doses of the COVID vaccine. On Maui, receiving the booster is considered to be "fully vaccinated" and experts have determined having the booster will give the best protection against Omicron. Many Maui restaurants are still requiring proof of vaccination and as of February 7, boosters are recommended but not required to enter and dine inside. If you have not yet gotten your booster dose after five months of your second dose, please plan to get your booster completed to stay protected.

For our *keiki*, Pfizer vaccines are available for children five years old and up. Boosters are currently only available for children 12-17 years old at least five months after completing the primary series. Moderately or severely immunocompromised people aged five-plus years who received the Pfizer vaccine primary three shot series are eligible for a single Pfizer booster dose at least five months after completing their additional primary series.

As we end yet another COVID surge, we will have survived another wave of illnesses, disruption, suffering and dismay. Our quest back to normalcy will again resume as the cases drop. Social calendars will fill, travel plans will be made and gatherings and parties will ensue.

Here are things we must do after this surge to ensure success against future variants:

We must stay as protected as possible by getting vaccinated and boosted. The website mauinuistrong.info has all the vaccination sites on the island with contact information on how to get an appointment. Know your COVID status if you feel

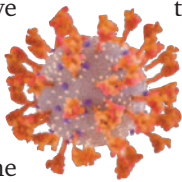
symptoms or are exposed. Home testing kits will be more readily available at pharmacies, online and retail outlets. Medical facilities are continuing to offer testing appointments. The website mauinuistrong.info also has the updated testing sites throughout the island.

If you have any symptoms or are feeling sick, please stay home, limit your exposures, wash your hands and mask/cover up those coughs. We must learn to live with COVID as if it were any of the other viral illnesses we had in the past. We must strive to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets to others and spreading infection.

Most of all, take good care of yourselves. Stay as healthy as possible by eating a diet of mostly plants (fruits and vegetables) with limited processed junk foods and minimal sugar. Get your rest and try to achieve 7-9 hours of sleep each night. Decrease your stress levels by staying active with at least 30 minutes a day of movement (walking, gardening, housework, sports, gym) for a minimum of five days a week. We know COVID tends to target those with chronic illnesses like diabetes and high blood pressure or those who are overweight and obese. Working to improve your health will prevent you from suffering from severe COVID symptoms should you turn positive.

We hope the next few months will be a time for our Maui community to reset. We hope there will not be another COVID variant to come upon us anytime soon. We can only do our best to stay prepared for the next wave and further build on our resiliency as we march along this pandemic journey. 🌟

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.





Mark Felipe



Jaimelee's Kamehameha Maui 2019 Graduation. (Left to Right) Mark, Barton William Kala'iolele Cortez Felipe, Jaimelee Grace Kai'ulani Cortez Felipe, Nolan Andrew Kaleleonapa'a Cortez Felipe, and Ester Cortez Felipe

Mark Anthony Felipe

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY FELIPE 'OHANA

Actress Sarah Jessica Parker said growing up in a big family taught her a lot of problem solving and how to share and compromise. Congolese American former professional basketball player, Dikembe Mutombo also said he came from a large family but he was not raised with a fortune. Something more was left him and that was family values. Pope John Paul II said a family that prays together, stays together.

The family of this month's *Sakada* Offspring truly fits in all the categories mentioned above. Mark Anthony Felipe is a grandson of a *Sakada* couple who raised eight children, four boys and four girls in the plantation camp of Maui. Mark was born on January 25, 1962 on Lāna'i City, Lāna'i, Hawai'i. He attended Lāna'i High and Elementary (K-6) and the Kamehameha Schools Kapālana (7-12). He attend-

ed Maui Community College (now known as UH Maui College), UH Mānoa and Kapi'olani Community College.

Mark is married to Ester Cortez Felipe. She works in the Purchasing Department at Hale Makua in Kahului. Their team provides supply needs to each of the campuses like Hale Makua Kahului and Wailuku, Home Health Care Home. They also process hundreds of invoices. They have three children. Their first son Barton William Kala'iolele Cortez Felipe works at HMSA. He attended Hawai'i Pacific University with a Bachelor Degree. However, HMSA has partnered with company called Firstsource Solutions Limited. Firstsource provides business process management in the banking and financial services, customer services, telecom and media and healthcare sectors. At present, Barton transitioned to a new role with Firstsource. The client he is currently working for is HMSA. His job title is Business Specialist and his duties include meeting with business clients to

discuss operational challenges, evaluating business data to identify areas of opportunity and helping clients to optimize business strategies. Their second son, Nolan Andrew Kaleleonapa'a Cortez Felipe works for Culpepper and Associates, Inc. His station is called Warning Point, working in an emergency call center where he monitors CCTV, alarm, radios, weather etc. and sends notification and dispatch units for Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyards under the guidance of Pearl Harbor's emergency management division. He was in the U.S. Navy for four years. Their daughter Jaimelee Grace Kai'ulani Cortez Felipe is a Junior at Davidson College in North Carolina majoring in Physics. She hopes to graduate in 2023. Mark has three brothers. Michael Kaipo "Mickey" Felipe is a resident Manager at Mā'alaea Yacht Marina. His wife Evangeline works at Costco



Fernando and Maxima's Wedding Picture 1930

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(From left to right) Mark's brother Christopher; his nickname is Chris or Kaleo, Mark, his dad Florindo "Pete" Felipe; his family nickname is "SISO." That's what Mark's *apo* calls him, Mark's brother Michael; nickname is "Mickey," and Mark's brother Mitchell whose nickname is "Miko."



Family Photo.

in Kahului. Mitchell Mahi “Miko” Felipe is retired from the Navy and his wife Amelia is self-employed. Christopher David Kaleo Felipe is also retired from the Navy and his wife Kami is self-employed.

Mark is involved in sports as coach for Little League, Broncos League, High School such as Seabury Hall. He enjoys fishing as a hobby. He and Ester are very active members of Christ The King Church. Ester is a very dedicated Religious Education teacher at the Church.

Mark is employed at the County of Maui, Division of Environmental Management. His previous employment includes Truss Systems Hawai'i Fabricator, Seabury Hall (Assistant Baseball Coach), ICI Dulux Paints (Sales Consultant), Fuller O'Brien Paints, the Paint Can (Sales Consultant) and Honsport (Assistant Manager).

Mark came from a large and very close-knit family. His father, Florendo “Pete” “Siso” Felipe was one of the eight children of the late *Sakada* Fernando and Maxima Felipe who originally came from Camiling, Tarlac, Philippines. Fernando came to Hawai'i as a recruit to work in the plantations of Hawai'i in 1927.

Upon arriving on Maui, Fernando worked at Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S). He lived at Kekania Camp, a camp located between Pulehu and Keahua Camp. Keahua Camp was located just below where Pukalani is today with some remnants of coconut trees to the left side of the turn off to Hāli'imaile Road. Fernando lived there with other old timer *Sakadas*. His jobs at HC&S consisted of irrigation, cutting grass and other labor work.

In 1929, Fernando decided to go



(Front left to right) Virginia McElroy, Florida Yoza, Sr. Marcelina Felipe, CSJ—Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet—Juanita Lundgren. (Back left to right) Benjamin Felipe, Florendo Felipe, Marcelino Felipe and Juanito Felipe.

back to Camiling, Tarlac to marry the former Maxima Ramos. After their wedding, they came back together to Hawai'i. Fernando and Maxima were one of the first married couples who lived and raised their families in the plantation camp. They then moved to Keahua Camp when their children were of school age. There was also a Catholic Church in Keahua, the Immaculate Conception Church where the Felipe family attended mass. All

the Felipe children helped cleaned the church. This is one of the churches where the late Monsignor Osmundo Calip began to evangelize the camp people which began the formation of the Filipino Catholic Clubs here on Maui in 1949.

Fernando and Maxima Felipe were blessed with eight children (four boys and four girls), thirty-two grandchildren, forty-eight great grandchildren

Continued on next page



Ester and Mark



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Sr. Marcelina Felipe, CSJ and Sr. Eva Joseph Mesina, CSJ,



Marcelina Felipe's 2021 Jubilee Celebration with Fr. Gary Secor, CSJ Sister and 'Ohana Members.

and thirty-four great great grandchildren. They had a very hard life according to one of their daughters, Sister Marcelina Felipe, CSJ. To help with the family finances, Maxima would make and sell Filipino desserts like *suman*, *cascaron* and twisted donuts. They raised their own vegetables and sold the extras. They raised animals such as pigs, goats, chickens and cows for their consumption as well as for sale. They slaughtered those animals to sell to other people in the camp. This is often pre-ordered and it's called *oraga*. They washed clothes for the single men in the camp to earn extra money. Maxima also worked in the fields at HC&S. While

she was at work, their oldest daughter, Virginia would become the mother in charge of the younger siblings. Although they were poor with money, they were rich in love. Catholic education was very important to Fernando and Maxima. With lots of sacrifices and their strong faith, they were able to send all their eight children to attend Catholic schools. The Felipe's eight children are: Benjamin (deceased) married to Lourdes; Virginia married to James Mc Elroy; Florida (deceased) married to Kenneth Yoza; Florendo "Pete" (Mark's father) married to Charlotte; Marcelino (deceased) married to Laureen; Sister Marcelina Felipe, the family historian;

Juanito married to Bernadette; and Juanita married to Loren Lundgren. Sister Marcelina is a religious with the order, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. On April 5, 1991, Sister Marcelina's dream of becoming a Missionary Sister became a reality. She headed for Talca, Chile, South America as a missionary. She was scheduled to stay there for three years but God had other plans for her. She stayed and served the people in Chile for nineteen years. She did pastoral ministry for ten years in the pueblo called Curepto, Chile, located on the West Coast of Talca. After her sabbatical in 2002, she returned to Chile to start a new mission at the ecological and spirituality center in Vilches (Centro de Ecología y Espiritualidadde Vilches). This is a healing center located at the foothills of the Andes Mountains. Besides praying, gardening, visiting and listening to the people's stories, her ministry was Spiritual Accompaniment to the women in Sauce Prison. She also visited the men's prison in Talca. Sister Marcelina recently celebrated her 60th Anniversary as a Sister. She now lives in Honolulu.

According to Sister Marcelina, their mom Maxima was a very religious woman. In their old plantation house, Maxima had an altar with lots of statues and a beautiful picture of the Sacred Heart of Mary. Every morning she would light a vigil candle and pray for protection and guidance during the day. She had great reverence for the ancestors and God's holy presence in Mother Nature. Every night she would say her rosary and pray her prayers in Ilokano. She memorized all her prayers because she didn't know how to read or write. She had a great desire, however, to learn how to read according to Sister Marcelina. So Sister bought her Mom an Ilokano Bible with large print. She learned how to read eventually with Sister Marcelina's help. Both Fernando and Maxima did not complete grade school. The Felipe children helped Fernando when he was studying for his U.S. citizenship so he could pass the test. Although Fernando and Maxima did not have much education, they encouraged all their children to do well in school. They all did!

Mark shared these very touching comments about his grandparents, Fernando and Maxima Felipe: "My Apo Guys (grandparents) were very nice to me. I only had my Apo Lakay (grandpa) for 10 years of my life. He would chase me around the house, show me not to be afraid of animals and talked to me in Ilokano (I couldn't understand). My Dad said I was Grandpa Fernando's pride and joy be-




Mark's Children in 2009, Barton, Jaimelee and Nolan.

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Love Hopes All Things

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

I wrote the following essay twenty years ago and it was published in our church’s devotional:

Love Hopes All Things

It was 2 o’clock in the morning. I was on bed tossing and turning. My heart was anxious and my head was spinning. I was worried about our son. He’s just five and he’s already having problems at school.

It’s almost 3 o’clock. I still could not sleep. Whispering, I prayed ‘God, what future does my son hold? Show us how we can help him.’ I did not hear an audible answer. But in the stillness of the night I knew the Lord had spoken and said ‘For I know the plans I have for Gardner ... plans of good and not of evil ... to give him a future and a hope’ (Jeremiah 29:11). With these comforting words, I went to sleep.

The scene above happened several years ago ... and from that, I’ve learned to appreciate this aspect of love that I’ve not focused on before: hope!

More than anyone, God knows the depth of my love for my son Gardner. And on that night, God reminded me that He loves Gardner so much more than I possibly can! After that prayer, God has been showing us each day His wonderful plan. Hope unfolds

every step that leads to Gardner’s bright future. No longer am I anxious. Instead, love has taken away my fears. Yes, there are times when I still worry, but I have learned to turn my worries into prayers and the result is a tremendous hope!

This is the power of love. It is fueled and sustained not by an ever-changing emotional or physical state, but by deep beliefs and hopes that are given by God to those who trust Him. Real love has a capacity to view life—and live with it—with an optimism that is refreshing because of ‘Christ in you, the hope of glory.’ (Col 1:27)

Real love can hope because of what God can do in a person’s life. Love ... hopes all things. As I was contemplating what to write for the February 2022 edition of Kwento-Kwentuhan, I was reminded of the above essay and thought it would be good to share this story and give an update about our son. This shows the power of hope in love.

Our son graduated in September 2021 with a Bachelor in Fine Arts Degree majoring in Digital Production. He is a success story. When he was in first grade, we discovered he is dyslexic. That explained why he was having trouble in pre-school when he was five—the time I wrote the essay above. To make a long story short, he persevered in school de-



This is the power of love. It is fueled and sustained not by an ever-changing emotional or physical state, but by deep beliefs and hopes that are given by God to those who trust Him.

IMAGE: LIZA PIERCE

spite the difficulties and I as his Mom provided love, support, encouragement and prayers. When times were tough, I reminded myself that “Love Hope All Things.”

February is the love month—the month we celebrate Valentine’s Day. While Valentine’s Day celebration are often focused on romantic love, it is also a great time for us to express our love to our family and friends.

In closing, let us look at what love is according to I Corinthians 13:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

How did you express your love this Valentine’s Day 2022? How will you express your love each and every day? Expressing our love

through I Corinthians 13 is a good start. ✨

Liza Pierce of A Maui Blog is an



Interactive Media enthusiast. 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 Rainbow; End Alzheimer’s Advocate. Her life is full and exciting here on the island of Maui. Liza is currently the Digital Media Specialist with Hawai’i Life Real Estate Brokers. She is the author of the book Maui 2021 and Beyond.

cause I was the first grandson born with the Felipe last name. He told my Dad that now his name Felipe, will live forever.” ✨

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.



Wage ...

from p. 6

way too far for \$18.00 to be realized; it should be by 2024. Maui is a very expensive place to live and employees deserve more than \$10.10. They are the backbone of the company and they should be compensated fairly well.”

Other bills to raise the minimum wage were introduced by the Progressive Caucus in the legislature (HB1771 and SB2750), Working Families Legislative Caucus (HB1503 and SB2243), the Maui County Council package (HB1440 and SB2099). A minimum wage increase to \$18.00 over eight years to 2030 is also in a House omnibus measure, HB2510 which proposes a number of changes to State policy: making the state

Other bills to raise the minimum wage were introduced by Progressive Caucus in the legislature, Working Families Legislative Caucus and the Maui County Council package.

earned income tax credit refundable and permanent; increasing and amending the refundable food/excise tax credit; increasing minimum wage and the tip credit through 2030; amending the household and dependent care tax credit to apply to expenses paid for the care of a qualifying individual, regardless of age and specify that a qualified individual is, among other things, a recipient or eligible to be a recipient of Social Security disability insurance; appropriating funds for an outreach campaign to educate low-wage earners about their withholding options and to provide support when completing their withholding forms.

Although the Senate acted quickly in passing SB 2018, since being received by the House, SB2018 has not been heard by the House Labor committee as of press time. ✨

Alfredo G. Evangelista is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the University of Southern California (1980), and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law (1983). He is a sole practitioner at Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, concentrating in estate planning, business start-up and consultation, nonprofit corporations, and litigation. He has been practicing law for 38 years (since 1983) and returned home in 2010 to be with his family and to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Basilia Tumacder Idica.

Gilbert Keith-Agaran contributed to this article.



Valentine's Day

*is a wonderful time to show love to
our family and friends, so please
share love not germs.*



Follow the 5 Ws

1 Wear a mask 2 Wash your hands 3 Watch your distance
4 Wipe down surfaces (Keep sanitized) 5 Wide open spaces (Enjoy outdoors)
+ overall Wellness (Stay home if you're sick | Go out if you're well, enjoy life!)

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