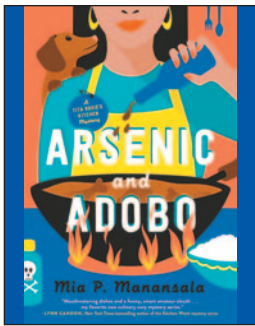




### Our Health Care

Five years ago, Maui Health begins operating Maui Memorial Medical Center

See below



### Great Reads

Philippine authors leave a trail of very interesting reads for Filipino Americans and the diaspora

Page 7



### Community In Action

So many activities for our community as the pandemic begins to wind-down

PHOTO: SEAN MICHAEL HOWER

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# Fil-Am Voice

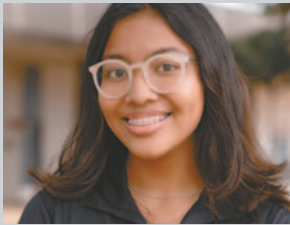
Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

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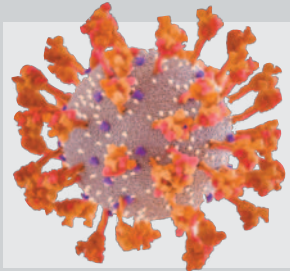
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Evidence mounts that Angel is a “killer.” Let’s talk Pinoy gets heavy ...  
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New writer: Front and center for Google® article.  
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Have we reached “normal” yet in the Pandemic?  
p19



Election signs are up now, not just in the heart of Wailuku (above) but all over Maui County.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

## Time to Concentrate on US Elections

Maui Mayor, Governor head list of Hot Races; Keith-Agaran and Hashimoto unopposed

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

Now that the Philippine elections are over and Ferdinand “Bong Bong” Marcos, Jr. will be inaugurated as Philippines President on June 30, Maui can now concentrate on the American State, County and federal elections. Remember, while Primary Election Day is on Saturday, August 13 (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.), Hawai’i elections are conducted largely by mail-in ballots—just like for Hawai’i residents with dual citizenship who participated in the Philippine elections. Due to reapportionment, all State and County offices see ELECTIONS next page

## Five Years Later: Maui Health is Meeting the Challenges

Alfredo G. Evangelista, ASSISTANT EDITOR

Five years ago, on July 1, 2017, Maui Memorial Medical Center, Maui Memorial Medical Center Outpatient Clinic, Kula Hospital and Lanai Community Hospital officially became part of Maui Health System (now rebranded simply as “Maui Health”), a system of community hospitals and clinics affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

### History of the Hospital

For over a century, Maui Memorial Medical Center (“MMMC”) and its sister hospital and clinics have cared for Maui residents. MMC is the successor to Malulani Hospital, established in 1884 dur-



The Maui Memorial Medical Center with the new wing in the foreground has cared for Maui residents for over a century.

PHOTO COURTESY MAUI HEALTH

ing the reign of Queen Kapi’olani. The earliest official record of the hospital is in an 1866 report generated by the Board of Health to the Legislature, Kingdom of Hawai’i. In

1927, the County of Maui became financially responsible for the hospital. In 1952, the County built a new 140-bed hospital named Central Maui Memorial Hospital, honoring Maui’s fallen veterans.

By 1966, responsibility for the hospital shifted from local government to the State of Hawai’i Department of Health. Thirty years later, Hawai’i Health Systems Corporation (“HHSC”) took over management of MMC, Kula Hospital and Lanai Community Hospital. Subsequent legislation would sanction more local management of different hospitals and the three facili-

see MAUI HEALTH p.4

FREE





Keith-Agaran



Hashimoto



Victorino



Bissen



Molina



King

# Elections ...

from p. 1

are up for election (and note, boundaries were redrawn so a different person may now be representing you at the County, State and/or federal levels).

Let's get the easy ones out of the way. If you live in Senate District 5 (Central Maui comprising Kahului, Pu'unēnē, Waihe'e, Wailuku and old Waikapū), Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran (provided he receives at least one vote) will continue to be your state Senator because he is unopposed. If you live in re-numbered House District 10 (Wailuku, Waikapū and portions of Waiehu), your State Representative will be Troy Hashimoto because he is unopposed (again assuming he receives at least one vote).

But the other races will be interesting ... and as Editor Vince Bagoyo, Jr. writes in his Editorial, the Filipino vote could be/may be the difference.

For Maui County, the top post is the hottest contest. Incumbent Michael Victorino faces strong challenges from retired Judge Richard Bissen, long-time Councilmember Michael Molina, former Council Chair

Kelly King, as well as Cullan Bell, Kim Brown, Alana Kay, and Jonah Lion.

Victorino served from 2006 through 2017 on the Council before being elected as Mayor in 2018, besting Don Guzman and Elle Cochran and four others in the primary. In the general, Victorino received 26,227 to Cochran's 20,956 votes. Bissen, retired in December 2021 after sixteen years as a Judge, was Maui's Prosecuting Attorney (1995–2003), Interim Director of the State Department of Public Safety and First Deputy Attorney General under Republican Governor Linda Lingle. Molina served on the County Council from 2001 until 2010, worked for Mayor Alan Arakawa (2011–2018), and then returned to the County Council in 2018. King was first elected to the Council in 2016 (defeating incumbent Don Couch). She served as Chair of the Council from January 2019 until she resigned as Chair in December 2019. She initially filed on May 25 to run for State House District 11 but withdrew her candidacy on June 6 and filed for Mayor on June 7th, the very last day to file nomination papers. Bell owns C Bell Construction Inc. and is a flag football coach; Brown owns Akamai Coffee Company; Kay ran for Mayor

in 2014 and received 1,398 votes in the primary; and Lion is the founder of Djedi Academy.

Under Maui's charter, the top two finishers in the primary (all County elections are conducted as non-partisan) advance to the November 8th General Election.

Every seat on the Council is being challenged—no one gets the free rides (cue Edgar Winter) given to Central Maui legislators Keith-Agaran and Hashimoto. County races with only two candidates proceed to the General Election ballot without a primary.

The Kahului seat has the most competition—seven. Incumbent Tasha Kama will face Cara Flores, Carol Lee Kamekona, Buddy Nobriga, Tina Pedro, Jason Schwartz, and Keoni Watanabe. Flores is a realtor and founder of HALE Hawai'i; Kamekona ran two years ago and received 27,641 votes to Kama's 30,029 votes; Nobriga is a scion of the Nobriga ranching and Coca-Cola bottler clan; Pedro describes herself as an independent consultant and educator and is a former member of the State Campaign Spending Commission and the Maui County Planning Commission; Schwartz previously ran in his old up-country neighborhoods for various of-

fices and is the host of the Maui Neutral Zone.

The Makawao-Ha'iku-Pā'ia seat (vacated by Molina) has four candidates: Aram Armstrong, Nara Boone, Dave DeLeon, and Nohe U'u-Hodgins. DeLeon is a former Maui News reporter who later served in the Lingle and Arakawa County administrations. U'u-Hodgins works for local planning, consulting and development management firm F&W Land LLC. Armstrong is the founder of Generative Ventures Hawai'i and a Designer and Technologist at Food Security Hawai'i based in Ha'ikū and Boone is an entertainer and a voice teacher.

The South Maui seat (vacated by King) has three candidates: Tom Cook, Robin Knox, and Dennis O'Shea. Local general contractor Cook ran in 2020 and received 25,506 votes to King's 34,155 votes. Knox is the owner of Water Quality Consulting, Inc.

The Upcountry seat will pit incumbent Yuki Lei Sugimura against Renee Cruz and Jordan Hocker. Sugimura who was first elected in 2016, was unopposed in 2020, receiving 48,268 votes (23,361 were blank) but now faces Cruz, a Makawao realtor and Hocker, a student at University of Hawai'i Maui College.

The following Council races go straight to November: East Maui Council seat (Claire Kamalu Carroll and incumbent Shane Sinenci) which will be the third battle between these two (in 2018, Sinenci received 23,654 votes to Carroll's 19,467 while in 2020

see ELECTIONS p.8

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## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE

# Maui Mayor's Race is On

*Who would want to be a mayor to face these crises?*

- Lack of affordable workforce housing
- Homelessness
- Drug & alcohol abuse — domestic violence
- Rising crime
- How to manage tourism and protecting our resources
- Ongoing COVID-19
- Anticipated slowdown in economy
- High cost of living

Employers across the island, state and nation today are challenged daily by understaffing. Many who stopped working due to the pandemic now refuse to ever work again, after rediscovering the benefits of family life and the fleeting nature of relationships getting little or no nurturance. Many more realized they do not need all the material things they once worked so hard to own and instead are learning to live with less, finding the joys of spending more time with loved ones, friends and the activities or hobbies they had been neglecting, once again deriving the pleasures of personal productivity and creativity. Still, there is a crisis in the shortages of workforce housing, due largely to issues related to the government's inability to keep up with developing housing that is both affordable and plentiful.

Homelessness increases markedly as more choose to remain on an island which is warm, welcoming and appealing, where living without a domicile is possible. Despite all efforts made by local agencies and leaders, having an added group factor in the need for affordable and available homes only puts greater pressure on the community, both providers of and those who need a place to call home.

Our jails are holding sites for perpetrators of drug and alcohol abuse, which quite often results in domestic and other forms of violence against family members and neighbors, sometimes even strangers.

Crime increases when folks in need do not receive the attention and much needed services they require for basic living. Unfortunately, many of these crimes are preventable, if basic needs are received, most especially, the need for friendship, for companionship, and most of all, the need to love and be loved. Loneliness is the worst of all diseases.

Balancing the benefits of tourism and protection of our resources continues to challenge all communities. The continuation of COVID-19 restrictions loom on the horizon again, even as we looked hopefully to taking masks off once and for all. The health-minded choose to keep their masks on, knowing there are still too many who choose to be unvaccinated or even acknowledge the virus is real.

In the coming elections, the Filipino vote is critical, especially because we are often taken for granted by some political participants. Filipino votes in this coming election may tip the scale on who will be the next Mayor on Maui.

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 6

## Maui Health ...

from p. 1

ties were governed by "HHSC Maui Regional Board."

Over the years, the hospital benefitted from influential Valley Isle legislators at the State Capitol. The late Robert Nakasone was in charge of the Capital Improvement Projects ("CIP") budgets for the House Finance Committee. Nakasone with the assistance of legendary Maui legislators such as Speaker Joe Souki and Senator Mamoru Yamasaki (Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee) were able to provide funds to the hospital that allowed the building of a new Kahului wing, later renamed in Nakasone's honor after his death in 2009.

### Getting there

The Legislature created HHSC in 2007 hoping a less traditional government structure would be the long-term solution to growing operational losses for all the state-run public hospitals. Two years later, however, the Legislature passed a law to allow any HHSC region to seek private partners at the urging of local Maui community leaders and the Maui Regional Board members. The Maui region explored such a relationship with Banner Health of Arizona in 2012 but that did not materialize. In 2014, Senate Bill 3064 which would allow the transfer of HHSC hospitals to a private nonprofit died in conference committee.

The state operation of the regional hospitals continued to be fiscally difficult. For example, as noted in the 2015 Report to the Legislature, HHSC had to deal with "increases in costs due to collective bargaining raises negotiated by the State of Hawai'i on HHSC's behalf that were not fully-funded by the Legislature."

In 2015, Speaker Souki introduced HB 1075 to allow the Maui region of HHSC to "negotiate with a private entity to transfer the right and responsibility to manage, operate and otherwise provide health care services at one or more facilities of the Maui regional system, including Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital and Clinic, and Lāna'i Community Hospital, to a nonprofit management entity wholly-owned by the private entity." Three major committee chairs—Della Au Belatti (Health), Mark Nakashima of Honoka'a (Labor) and Sylvia Luke from Pauoa (Finance) moved the Maui legislator's proposal through the House. The House version passed Third Reading 41-10 (but with strong concerns expressed by Representatives Brower, Choy, Creagan, DeCoite, Fukumoto Chang, Har, Ing, Jordan, Keohokalole, Kobayashi, C. Lee, LoPresti, Matsumoto, Oshiro, Pouha, Rhoads, San Buenaventura, Say, Takumi, Tokioka, Tsuji, Ward and Woodson voting aye with reservations; Representatives Aquino, Cullen, Johanson, Kawakami, Lowen, McDermott, Morikawa, Ohno, Onishi and Yamane voting no).

After HB 1075 HD2 crossed to the State Senate, West Maui Senator Rosalyn Baker and then-Kona Sena-

tor Josh Green heard and moved the House proposal through the jointly convened Consumer Protection and Health committees. As Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee chair, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran worked directly on HB1075 HD2 SD2 CD1 (2015) with then-Ways and Means Committee Chair Jill Tokuda in hearing the bill. The Senate draft passed Third Reading, 24-1 (with reservations expressed by Senators Dela Cruz, Espero, Harimoto, Inouye, Kahahele, Kidani, Kouchi, Nishihara, Ruderman and Shimabukuro, and Senator Taniguchi voting No).

For the House, Belatti, Luke, Nakashima and Maui representative Kyle Yamashita and Kailua's Cynthia Thielen and for the Senate, Baker, Green, Keith-Agaran, Tokuda and Hawai'i Kai's Sam Slom served on the conference committee that negotiated the final version. The bill passed both Houses of the Legislature on May 1 and was sent to Governor David Ige for his signature. The final version passed the Senate 24-1 (with Senator Taniguchi the only No); the House voted 34-16 (with Representatives Har, Jordan, Oshiro, Say and Tokioka voting aye with reservations; Representatives Aquino, Brower, Choy, Cullen, Johanson, Kawakami, Lee, LoPresti, Lowen, Morikawa, Ohno, Onishi, Rhoads, Takumi, Tsuji and Yamane voting no and Representative McDermott excused). Ige signed the bill, which became Act 103, on June 10, 2015, at Maui Memorial Medical Center.

"HB 1075 anticipated that subsidies would continue for a period of time but capped at the \$34 million dollar subsidy the State provided in FY2014," explained Keith-Agaran. "In addition, the hospital would receive \$6 million annually for ten years to continue repair, maintenance and renovations of the state-owned facilities."

But two months after Act 103 took effect, the United Public Workers (UPW) union filed the first legal challenge. In February 2016, a federal judge dismissed the UPW lawsuit but the union appealed. In May, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals halted the transfer work without briefing due to the UPW appeal. In August, the State and UPW announced a settlement and the Ninth Circuit dismissed the UPW appeal. The State and UPW signed a supplemental contract in September 2016.

The second lawsuit was filed by the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) in August 2016, challenging a law Ige had vetoed (but was overridden by the Legislature) that would provide a severance cash payment or special early retirement benefits for hospital employees. The court granted a temporary restraining order. In May 2017, Ige signed into law a bill allowing employees at the three Maui County hospitals to receive severance in the form of a one-time lump sum cash bonus. The law repealed the law challenged by ERS and in June 2017, ERS and HHSC agreed to dismiss the second lawsuit.

While UPW and ERS were delaying the implementation by filing lawsuits, the State nevertheless began the transition. "The Regional Board



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Governor David Ige signed the agreement with Kaiser to transfer management of the three Maui County public hospital facilities to Maui Health Systems.  
PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

picked Kaiser over Hawai'i Public Health but Governor Ige and his team negotiated the agreement with Kaiser without much input from the local board," recalled Senator Keith-Agaran. "After it was signed on January 14, 2016, Kaiser then formed an affiliate Maui Health Systems as the entity to manage the three hospitals. Under the agreement, Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital, and Lanai Community Hospital would operate as community hospitals, open to everyone, regardless of health insurance coverage."

The parties projected a transfer date of July 1, 2016 but the two lawsuits forced a delay on the transition

to July 1, 2017.

**Five Years Later**

"I know the changes that created MMMC were technically privatization," commented Senator Rosalyn Baker who is retiring after three decades at the Legislature, "however, in my view finding a reputable community partner with local ties and standing/credentials in the health care space to operate and update the hospital facilities, attract new staff and provide additional and needed services was the best decision legislators could make to ensure that the community hospital on Maui remained viable, could grow to meet both current

and future demands for out-patient and in-hospital services on Maui and maintain the local values the community wanted and deserved."

State Representative Troy Hashimoto, who was not yet in the Legislature when the initial legislation passed, remarked "I believe one of the biggest challenges that have been faced has been with the lingering impacts of transitioning from State employees to Maui Health. In some respects as a State Hospital much of the benefits and pay were likely superior for front line employees. A transition is still likely taking place in the minds of those who chose to continue with the hospital. Union representation also changed and I feel was critical for health care professionals to collectively bargain for improved wages. Change is never easy and takes time."

The change affected all departments at Maui Health. "I have been here for almost seven years and with the transition, Human Resources was one of the departments that had to learn completely new systems and processes," said Moana-Marie B. Raquinio, a Human Resource Generalist at Maui Health. "It was and continues to be challenging but so important to support our employees. I love what I do at Maui Health and look forward to the next



Natividad

five years."

"The transition made my job as RN First Assist superb; getting paid commensurate with my many years of work experience with the hospital under the state system," said Monica Elaydo Natividad, BSN, RN, CNOR, RNFA. "It gave us the full benefits package from the State except for the sick leave which I think should be more than what we are receiving now. The clocking in and out through the phone system at the surgical department from the time of transition is an excellent time-saving incentive compared to the old-fashioned paper and pencil time sheets."

"I believe as a part of the transition, operational improvements have been made on how the hospital operates," observed Representative Hashimoto. "I know not everyone agrees that the transition was for the better ..."

The management change allowed Maui Health System to continue to provide high-quality, patient-centered, affordable care for all residents and visitors on Maui and Lānaʻi, supported by Kaiser Permanente's industry-leading technology, evidence-based medicine and nationally recognized care quality.

Christine C. Gumpal, RN, BSN, an Acute Dialysis nurse at MMMC said "I

see MAUI HEALTH next page



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# Maui Health ...

from p. 5



Gumpal

was with Maui Health when the transition took place. The physical improvement is awesome. The digital component is great. Above all, it is client treatment with a touch of Aloha.”

According to Maui Health, shifting to the public-private partnership spurred more investment in its people, services, facilities and technology to expand its range of care, promote health in schools and communities, create development opportunities for staff, improve IT infrastructures, among others.

Patient satisfaction scores and national survey scores have all improved since the transition and Maui Health hospitals continue to perform at or above national standards for many national benchmarks, scores/ratings such as Leapfrog, the American Heart Association, the Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Under the new leadership, Maui Health helped to recruit fifteen new providers to Maui for critical services including cardiology, surgery, neurosurgery, family medicine, nephrology, ortho surgery, vascular surgery, spine surgery and plastic surgery. Maui Health was also able to improve and expand access to care available in the MMMC Outpatient clinic to now include twenty-three different specialties including interventional cardiology, neurosurgery, oncology, ortho surgery, nephrology, family medicine and many other critical services.

“Since the affiliation with Kaiser Permanente, MMMC has been able to recruit and retain additional physi-

cians, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to provide a greater range of services and supports that our Maui residents require and deserve,” confirmed Senator Baker.

Also on Lanai, Maui Health was able to establish 24/7 physician coverage for the Lānaʻi Community Hospital Emergency Department. Maui Health also established a mammogram program for the women on Lānaʻi. Once a month, residents can sign up to come to Maui on the ferry, shuttle to MMMC, get a screening mammogram, lunch and then are taken back to the ferry to return to Lānaʻi. Costs are covered by MMMC. This provides an important, life-saving service to these women who don’t have access to mammograms on Lānaʻi. As with other health care providers and groups, Maui Health anticipates continuing to attract specialists to Maui will remain a challenge, especially if the doctors’ spouses or partners are looking for opportunities in their own careers that may not be readily available on Maui.

“It continues to be frustrating that Kaiser physicians on Maui continue to refer local patients to Moanalua Hospital on Oʻahu for procedures and treatments that could be handled on island,” Senator Keith-Agaran noted. “The excuse that Maui Memorial Medical Center doesn’t have the right doctors is belied by the fact Kaiser Moanalua has actually hired some of those same physicians away from Maui Health. I understand one of the commitments made by Kaiser in bidding on the partnership opportunity was to keep more patients on island, although I understand the agreement negotiated by the Oʻahu Governor didn’t specifically hold Kaiser to that obligation.”

Still, Maui Health claims it was able to decrease outmigration of patients to Oʻahu/mainland for care, meaning Maui Health was able to keep more patients on Maui, close to

home and their loved ones, where healing happens best. This included a reduction in outmigration for trauma related injuries from 19 percent to 3 percent over the last three years. Maui Health now has a dedicated trauma surgeon team, on-call 24/7, dedicated to trauma patients and not pulled away to other cases.

The importance of a stable workforce is key in Representative Hashimoto’s opinion. “It will be critical for our hospital to stabilize its workforce and keep doctors and nurses on Maui for a longer period of time, which was not helped at all with COVID. Therefore, it will take a few more years to see if their new efforts are working. We hear too many stories of doctors and nurses wanting to move away for better opportunities. A focus must be made on growing our own rather than recruiting those who may not be familiar with our community. One big goal is eliminating the use of traveling nurses and instead replacing all of them with long-term professionals. The hospital will need to inevitably be expanded and we must clearly know what our plan is for the next fifteen to twenty years.” Hashimoto said the underlying issues of recruitment and retention of health care professionals must be addressed. “One of them is housing—it will be critical to see if the recent land deal with the County [of Maui] and the Hospital Foundation in Maui Lani will be successful as it can be a potential model for future housing for health care professionals.”

Maui Health was also able to build many successful training programs and partnerships to help build talent from within our own Maui community. A paid CNA training program that helps to train, certify and employ nearly fifty program graduates was instituted. The program offers Maui residents a chance to earn their Nurse Aide certificate while getting paid and does not require a degree or any experience. The six-week program provides all training and after passing the exam, students are offered a full-time job at Kula Hospital.

Maui Health also established a formal nursing education and residency program to hire nurses from University of Hawaiʻi Maui College and have had over one hundred graduates so far. An in-house Peri-Op and other surgical specialty training programs to advance the skills and careers of Maui Health’s employees was also established so they can continue to grow and thrive here on Maui in healthcare.

Senator Baker lauded Maui Health’s efforts in working with UHMC to utilize their graduates: “UH Maui College stepped to the plate to help train nursing students who want to stay and work on Maui.” Maui’s legislators see growth of UHMC as a key.

“Maui Health has taken on the task of training nurses fresh from UH Maui College and I hope that a four-year program will be implemented at the college in the near future as well as some way of training Maui residents on island as medical technicians by partnering with sister campuses,” Senator Keith-Agaran added.

“University of Hawaiʻi Maui College is working towards trying to create a

Bachelor’s in Nursing Program, which it does not currently offer on Maui,” explained Representative Hashimoto. “The Legislature this past session also allocated funds to the John A. Burns School of Medicine to begin a neighbor island residency rotation to help recruit doctors willing to serve in rural areas.”

Since transition, Maui Health completed several large-scale construction projects at MMMC including upgrading of hospital hallways and public areas, roof replacements, new chillers and boilers and installation of a new 3D mammogram system at the outpatient clinic and a new cafeteria. At Kula Hospital and Lānaʻi Community Hospital, renovations and construction include installation of hurricane windows, new kitchen exhaust, call bell system, plumbing, roof repairs and many other cosmetic upgrades.

But further expansion will need creativity, according to Representative Hashimoto. “From the Legislature’s standpoint, it is critical that a master plan be developed for the hospital’s future physical improvements. Expansion of Maui Memorial is needed but it is challenged by being landlocked. Creative solutions will need to be identified to expand the hospital. Options such as purchasing the Maui News building were considered, which ultimately did not succeed but an alternative is now the construction of a parking garage for the hospital. The State will always be concerned with physical improvements because although the operations of the hospital is through Maui Health, the State continues to own both the land and the physical assets of the hospital.”

Maui Health was able to substantially reduce reliance on state funding. Before the transition, HHSC Maui Region was receiving an average of \$38 million in state subsidies per year. The state subsidy decreased from \$36.7 million in 2017 to \$33.4 million in 2018 to \$11.5 million in 2022, saving the State approximately \$69.5 million.

“We expect that with the operating subsidy winding down that Maui Health will need to be close to self-sufficient,” said Senator Keith-Agaran. “If they need physician office space to attract doctors to serve at Maui Memorial Medical Center then we need to look at how we can help make that possible.”

## The Challenge of COVID

Unfortunately, nearly a third of the first five years were consumed with managing the COVID-19 pandemic, which was unlike any other virus anyone ever faced. There were brand new processes and protocols to learn and the quickly changing guidance from CDC/health experts caused confusion and fear. The fear was rampant throughout the community, affecting the workforce. There were staffing shortages and national shortages of PPE and other supplies. The pandemic exacerbated the existing capacity challenges at MMMC as COVID patients needed special care/space.

“Looking back on five years, working at Maui Health has been so rewarding,” says Arman Molina, Security Manager at Maui Health. “Not only being a healthcare worker during a

see MAUI HEALTH p.14

## From the Editor's Desk

| Cont'd from p. 4

Communities are at a significant crossroads, the results of which will have a long-lasting impact on all of us. There are several mayoral candidates vying to lead Maui County in the next four years: an incumbent Mayor, a retired Judge, current members of the council and several political newcomers.

Who of the mayoral candidates

do you believe will best lead us in resolving the multiple crises we face today? *If not yet registered to vote, do it right now!* ✳

*Vince Bagoyo*

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



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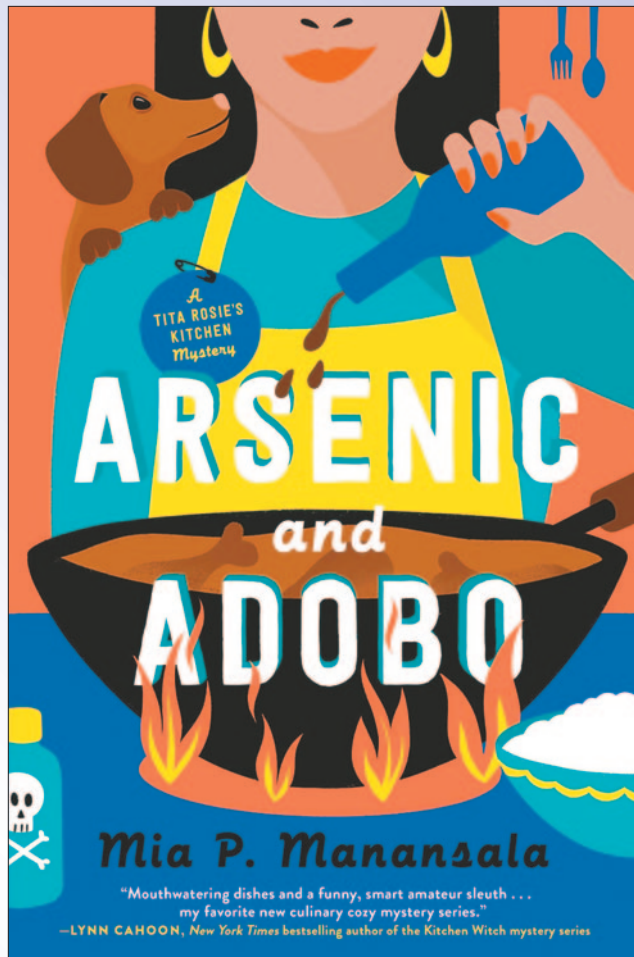
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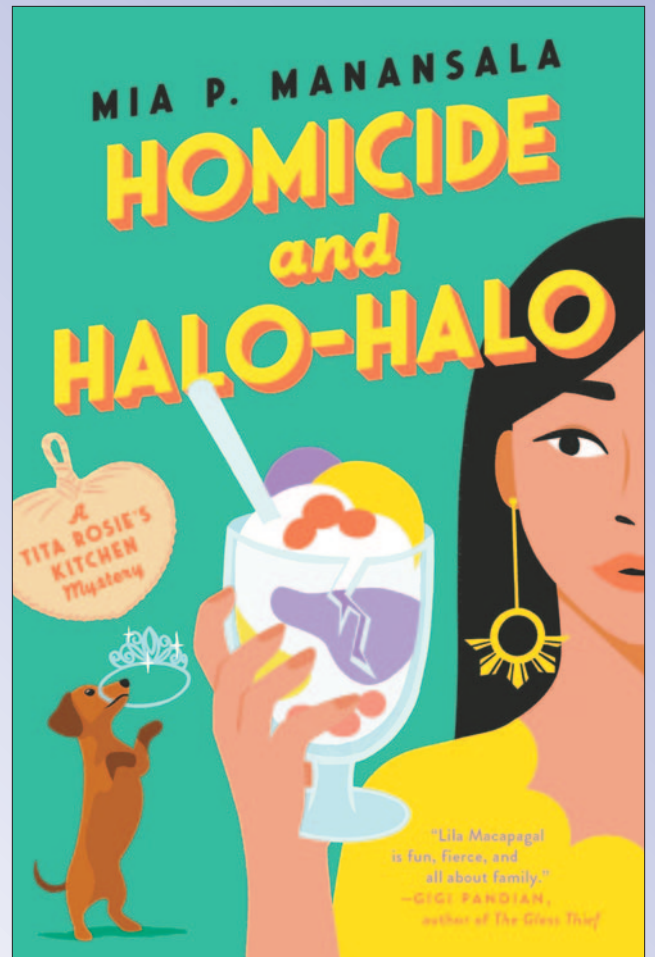
The summer months are ripe for lazy reading and I've always been a sucker for some breezy thrillers or mysteries to wile away the warmer months. If you're not ready for Elaine Castillo or Jessica Hagedorn, and you've devoured local writers Will Espero and Virgie Cantorna's first novels, are there other Filipino stories worth sampling? I recently picked up the first two books in Mia P. Manansala's *Tita Rosie's Kitchen* series of mysteries, drawn by the obvious Filipino references in the titles: *Arsenic and Adobo* and *Homicide and Halo-Halo* (the third comes out in October: *Blackmail and Bibinka*).

Manansala, a Chicago-raised Filipina American, writes in the "culinary cozy" Mystery sub-genre, what she has described in interviews as Hall-mark movies with dead bodies. Think RomCom crossed with an amateur sleuth but with lots of Filipino cooking and references spicing the pages: "Lola Flor pointed to the *suman*, saying, 'Sweet sticky rice cooked in coconut milk and streamed in banana leaves. The banana leaves give the rice its distinctive flavor. They're garnished with *Latik*. Carmelized coconut curds,' she added at Derek's confused look. 'In the bowl is *ginataang bilo-bilo*. Chewy rice balls, tapioca pearls, jackfruit, purple yam, and *saba* banana cooked in sweet coconut milk. The best thing to eat on a cold day like this.'"

Manansala's central character Lila Macapagal is a mid-western Filipina and baking foodie who moves back to Shady Palms, Illinois from the Windy City after breaking up with her cheating chef boyfriend. Ostensibly she moves back to help her aunt Rosie and grandmother Flor run the family Filipino restaurant, the titular "Tita Rosie's Kitchen" of the series. When her former high school boy friend Derek Winters, now a food blogger and constant critic of Tita Rosie's food (much of which he has sampled), falls dead while dining at the family restaurant, Lila eventually becomes the prime suspect. Lila is forced to clear herself and find the real culprit, aided and abetted by childhood friends barrista Adeena Awan and dashing lawyer Amir Awan while coping the "help" offered



Mia P. Manansala, **ARSENIC AND ADOBO** (ISBN-13: 9780593201671 Penguin Publishing Group 2021 336pp)



Mia P. Manansala, **HOMICIDE AND HALO-HALO** (ISBN-13: 9780593201695 Penguin Publishing Group 2022 304pp)

## DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

### Book Review: Tita Rosie's Kitchen Books 1 And 2

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran | PHOTOS COURTESY KEITH-AGARAN

by her circle of Filipino family and godmothers (a trio of *Ninangs* she calls "the Calendar crew"—their names are April, Mae and June): "... a bevy of a gossiping aunties, none as loud and nosy as the group of fifty-something-year old women ... they weren't related, but all three of them were completely interchangeable, down to their bad perms, love of floral patterns, and need to pro-

vide running commentary on my life."

The second installment introduces another aspect of Filipino culture — beauty pageants. For a small town (Shady Palms is described as a village of 20,000 or so people), a lot of murders happen.

The writing is light, funny and clever. Noting at one point the disapproving reactions of her *Ninangs*, aunt and grandmother, Manansala

writes, "I don't know if you've ever been stared down by an elderly Asian woman but It. Is. Terrifying. Don't be fooled by the cute florals and jaunty visors—these women will end you, wielding nothing but their sharp tongues, bony elbows, and collapsible shopping carts."

She also captures accurately how the Filipino diaspora operates where we've settled in this country: "Amir and I managed to catch my cousin Bernadette while she was on break in the cafeteria. I say 'cousin,' but we weren't related by blood. Like most Filipino families, we extended that relationship to any close family friend. So even though I was an only child, I had enough godmothers, cousins, aunties, and uncles to populate a small village."

I'm looking forward to *Bibinka*. ✨  
**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran**



practices law in Wailuku with Taki-tani Agaran Jorgensen & Wildman, LLP. He won an Honorable Mention for his short story TWO GOATS in the old Honolulu Magazine fiction contest sometime in the Twentieth Century. He currently represents Central Maui in the Hawai'i State Senate.



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Elections ...

from p. 2

Sinenci received 32,995 votes to Carroll’s 26,245 votes); West Maui Council seat (Justin Herrmann and incumbent Tamara Paltin) Paltin, first elected in 2018, bested Rick Nava (33,696 to 26,592 in 2020 and 28,376 to 14,581 in 2018); Nava, after pulling papers decided against running; Herrmann is a first-time candidate; Wailuku-Waihe’e-Waikapū seat (Noelani Ahia and incumbent Alice Lee) Lee is the current Chair of the Council, replacing King who resigned in 2019; Lee formerly represented the Makawao seat and unsuccessfully ran for Mayor in 1998, losing to James “Kimo” Apana in the Democratic primary; Lee made a comeback in 2018 beating then incumbent Alike Atay, 23,703 to 21,322; Ahia, a founder of Mauna Medic Healers Hui, is a Hawaiian cultural activist; Lānaʻi seat (Riki Hokama and incumbent Gabe Johnson); Hokama who served as Lānaʻi’s councilmember since 1998 was term limited in 2020; Johnson previously ran against Hokama in 2018, losing 20,508 to 22,475 and 2016, losing 19,092 to 23,272; and Molokai seat (incumbent Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and John Pele); Rawlins-Fernandez beat incumbent Stacy Helm Crivello in 2018 and has held on to the seat since then; Pele is part-owner of Hiro’s Ohana Grill and a former member of the Molokai Planning Commission.

For the State races and federal races, candidates run under a party: Aloha ‘Āina, Democrat, Green, Liber-

tarian, Republican or as a Nonpartisan.

For Governor, seven Democrats vie to replace Governor David Ige: Duke Bourgoin, Vicky Cayetano, Josh Green, Kai Kahele, Richard Kim, Mac Lewman, and Van Tanabe. Cayetano is the former Chairperson of the Hawaiʻi Chamber of Commerce; Green is the current Lt. Governor; and Kahele is the current Congressman from Congressional District 2. Bourgoin ran for Honolulu Mayor in 2020 and received 368 votes while Kim previously ran in 2018, garnering 1,576 votes in the primary; Tanabe also ran in 2018, garnering 775 votes in the primary. Lewman is an Oregon native and holds real estate licenses in Oregon and Hawaiʻi.

The Republican candidates include Duke Aiona, Gary Cordery, George Hawat, Keline Kahau, Lynn Barry Mar-



Cayetano



Kahele



Green



Aiona



Tsuneyoshi



Penn



Mariano

iano, Paul Morgan, Moses Paskowitz, BJ Penn, Heidi Tsuneyoshi, and Walter Woods. Aiona, who entered the race on the last day, is a retired Judge and served as Lt. Governor under Lingle. He lost in 2010 to Democrat Neil Abercrombie and in 2014 to Democrat David Ige. Mariano previously ran for State Senate #12 in 2018, garnering 3,999 votes to Sharon Moriwaki’s 9,507 votes. Penn is a first-time candidate but has a huge following as a mixed martial arts fighter. Tsuneyoshi is a current member of the Honolulu City Council, having been first elected in 2018.

Caleb Nazara and Keleionalani Taylor are running as non-partisans and will need to match the votes of the partisan nominee with the lowest total to qualify for the General Election.

For the Lt. Governor’s race, six Democrats want the “stay breathing” job:

Keith Amemiya, Ikaika Anderson, Daniel Cunningham, Sylvia Luke, Sherry Menor-McNamara, and Sam Puletasi. Amemiya ran for Honolulu Mayor in 2020, placing second to Rick Blangiardi, receiving 149,735 votes to Blangiardi’s 224,474. Anderson is a former Chair of the Honolulu City Council but resigned in September 2020; he was first elected in 2009. Luke is the current chair of the powerful House Finance Committee and has represented the Pauoa area since 1998. Menor-McNamara is on leave from the Chamber of Commerce Hawaiʻi, where she is the President and Chief Executive Officer. Cunningham previously ran for Governor in 2010 under the Free Energy Party, which received 1,265 votes. In 2018, Puletasi ran for Congress District 1, garnering 519 votes in the race won by Ed Case.

The Republican candidates for LG include Rob Burns, Tae Kim, and Seaula Tupai, Jr. Burns is a businessman (started the company Local Motion); Kim is an attorney and in 2020 ran for Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney; at that time, the *Star Bulletin* identified his political party as Democrat. Tupai is currently the Senior Pastor at Overcoming Faith Center in Hilo.

Charles Keoho is the lone Nonpartisan candidate.

Maui has three State Senators. With Senator Roz Baker (West Maui-South Maui) retiring after three decades, five candidates want her seat: Democrats Shaina Forsyth, Tamara Goebbert and Angus McK-

see ELECTIONS p.11

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# COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

## BINHI AT ANI

Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is now open for events inside the Center. Including the cleaning fee, the Center can be rented from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1150 plus a \$300 security deposit; from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for \$800 plus a \$300 security deposit; or from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. for \$950 plus a \$300 security deposit.

The office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm and on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

## 2022 Binhi at Ani Scholarship Recipients.

Congratulations to the twenty-three scholarship recipients:

**Jansen Chase D. Aceret**, son of Lito G. Aceret and Lilia D. Aceret, graduate of Maui HS who will enroll in the Nursing program at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Jansen receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Aiden Bluh**, son of Corie Bluh and the late Robert Bluh, graduate of Maui Preparatory Academy who will major in Marketing at University of Michigan. Aiden receives a \$1,000 Emerald Club Realty/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Kristine Bonilla**, daughter of Julio Bonilla and Josephine Bonilla, graduate of Maui HS who will enroll in the Nursing program at University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Kristine receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Jessica Mae D. Castillo**, daughter of Ken Erwin M. Castillo and Mia Shalimar D. Castillo, graduate of Maui HS who will major in Applied Business and Information Technology at University of Hawaii Maui College. Jessica receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Seanna-Victoria Campos Dagdag**, daughter of Frederick Dagdag and Lori-Ann Dagdag, graduate of Maui HS who will major in Pre-Pharmacy at University of Hawaii Maui College. Seanna-Victoria receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Camry Gach**, daughter of Michael Gach and Barbara Gach, graduate of Seabury Hall who will major in Environmental Engineering at Dartmouth College. As the top-rated scholar, Camry receives

a \$2,000 Friends of Gil Keith-Agaran/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Camille Haluber**, daughter of Ferdinand Haluber and Merly Haluber, graduate of Maui HS who will enroll in the Pre-Nursing program at University of Hawaii Maui College. Camille receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Gwen Jaramillo**, daughter of Bernardino Jaramillo and Nilda Jaramillo, graduate of Maui HS who will major in Biochemistry at Gonzaga University. Gwen receives a \$1,000 Maui Island Cozy Dental/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Brooklyn Jones**, daughter of Darren Jones and Melissa Jones, graduate of Maui HS who will major in Environmental Science at Marist College. Brooklyn receives a \$1,000 Bayer Crop Science Hawai'i/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Amy Khoang**, daughter of Thanh Nguyen, graduate of Lahainaluna HS who will major in Business Finance and Economics at Bellevue College. Amy receives a \$1,000 Vince & Jennifer Bagoyo & family/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Kaydence K.L. Lilio**, daughter of Lesley Ann Pico-Lilio and the late John M. Lilio, graduate of Kamehameha Schools Maui who will enroll in the Nursing program at Creighton University. Kaydence receives a \$1,000 In Memory of Mariano Domingo/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Julie-Anne Limon**, daughter of Ernesto Limon Jr. and Edna Limon, graduate of Lahainaluna HS who will enroll in the Nursing program at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Julie-Anne receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Grace Kathleen Martin**, daughter of Dan Martin and Amy Wisthoff-Martin, graduate of Maui Preparatory Academy who will major in Biology/Pre-Med at Brown University. Grace receives a \$1,000 US Renal Care/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Alexis Nordblom**, daughter of Hal Nordblom and Adele Nordblom, graduate of Lahainaluna HS who will major in Creative Media at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Alexis receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Kyra Cabanilla Ong**, daughter of Rolando Antonio Ong and Vilma Cabanilla Ong,

graduate of Maui HS who will major in Biology at Bates College. Kyra receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Piper Pascua**, daughter of Harold Pascua and Angela Pascua, graduate of Lahainaluna HS who will major in Public Health at San Diego State University. Piper receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Tricia Pascua**, daughter of Rodel Pascua and Analiza Pascua, graduate of Lahainaluna HS who will major in Business Administration at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Tricia receives a \$1,000 McDonald's of Kahului/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Allison Adriana M. Rante**, daughter of Edison D. Rante and Winda G. Millano, graduate of Lahainaluna HS who will major in Business Administration Information System at San Diego State University. Allison receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Ku'umakalehiwaonālani Kuloloio Ruidas**, daughter of Dion Ruidas and Kekane Ruidas, graduate of Kamehameha Schools Maui who will major in History at Montana State University. Ku'umakalehiwaonālani receives a \$1,000 In Memory of Rev. Walter Baloaloo/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Jayde Lynn Sagun**, daughter of Gordon Sagun Jr. and Kimberly Sagun, graduate of Seabury Hall who will enroll in the Nursing program at Gonzaga University. Jayde receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Kolea Suehiro**, daughter of Mark Suehiro and Linette Suehiro, graduate of Kamehameha Schools Maui who will major in Political Science at Pepperdine University. Kolea receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Altene Jacob Tumacder**, son of Rizal Tumacder, Jr. and Cristina Tumacder, graduate of Maui HS who will enter the Nursing program at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Altene receives a \$1,000 In Memory of Gloria Evangelista Cajigal/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

**Gabriel Valdez**, son of Ernesto Valdez and Marisa Valdez, graduate of H.P. Baldwin HS who will major in Computer Science at Oregon State University. Gabriel receives a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

## 53rd Annual Barrio Fiesta

The LIVE component of the 53rd Annual Barrio Fiesta, which was dedicated in Memory of Agrifina Cabebe was a huge success. You can watch the Highlights on Facebook.com/BinhiatAniFilipinoCommunityCenter.

Congratulations to Miss Barrio Fiesta 2022 Audryanah Starmer and her parents

Danford Starmer and Annabelle Latayada Jackson and her guardians Arthur and Sigrid Latayada; 1st Princess Kyara Tumacder and her parents Jerald and Heidi Tumacder; and 2nd Princess Angel Alba and her parents Pablito and Normalita Alba.

## #BayanihanFeeding Program

The program provides a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui. As of May 31, a total of 7,317 meals were delivered. There is a need for additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches. The teams serving during the month of July are Binhi at Ani, Friends of Michael Victorino, Maui Filipino Community Council, Miss Maui USA, and Philippine Nurses Association Maui Hawai'i.

Create a Team by signing up: <https://forms.gle/cVUGB6XLmtJi7MVH8>. 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].

Stay tuned for exciting news about the #BayanihanFeeding Program!

**Enhance® Fitness at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center** will begin on July 11. Classes will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Enhance®Fitness is a low-cost ongoing evidence-based group exercise and falls prevention program that helps older adults at all levels of fitness become more active, energized, and empowered to sustain independent lives. Enhance®Fitness is a great way to stay independent or get stronger after illness or surgery. Helps improve energy, strength and balance as you age. For more information on Enhance®Fitness, contact Enhance®Fitness Coordinator Ginny Kiick (808) 280-6251 or [gkiick@hotmail.com](mailto:gkiick@hotmail.com) or Wellness Coordinator Claudette Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or [claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us).

**The Seed and Harvest Dinner** honoring the 2022 Scholarship Recipients will be held on July 2 at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. The 2022-2023 Binhi at Ani Board of Directors will also be installed. Seating limited to 250. Cost of \$40 for Prime Rib Dinner. Contact Melen Agcolicol at (808) 205-7981 or [melencopy@gmail.com](mailto:melencopy@gmail.com).

**Summer at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center** begins on Monday June 27 and ends with a "Presentation Night" the last week of July (Wednesday, July 27 at 5 p.m.). The purpose of the Summer at Binhi at Ani is to provide a fun and educational experience for the children of the community. **see COMMUNITY p.17**





# Elections ...

from p. 8

elvey; Republicans Phillip Raya and Sheila Walker; and Green Party Melisah Shishido.

Incumbent Lynn DeCoite who was appointed by Ige to replace Senator Kalani English for Senate District 7 will face Leo Caires and Walter Ritte in the Democratic party primary. Waiting for the winner in the General Election will be Republican Tamara McKay. Both Caires and Ritte sought the Maui Democratic party's nomination for the Senate seat but Ige selected DeCoite, who was representing House District 13 (Molokai, Lānaʻi, East Maui) at that time.

In the House, Maui has six State Representatives.

With State Representative McKelvey leaving his House seat (District 14-West Maui) to run for State Senate, four candidates seek to replace him: Democrats Elle Cochran and Kana-mu Balinbin; Republican Kelly Armstrong and Aloha 'Āina Leonard Nakoa. Cochran represented the West Maui Council seat since 2010 until she unsuccessfully ran for Mayor. Balinbin first ran in 2016 against Cochran; he ran again in 2018, and as a Republican in 2020. In 2020, Nakoa ran as a Democrat against McKelvey and received 1,157 votes in the primary.

With State Representative Tina Wildberger opting not to run for re-election (District 11-South Maui), there are four candidates running: Democrats Terez Amato and Randal Mahiai and Republicans Shekinah Cantere and Netra Halperin. Amato ran twice against Roz Baker for the Senate; in 2014 (losing by 486 votes in the Democratic primary) and in 2018 (losing by 106 votes in the Democratic primary). Halperin previously ran for State House (District 11) in 2012, losing to Kaniela Ing in the Democratic primary and also ran for the County Council (Kahului seat) in 2008, losing to Joe Pontanilla.

Three incumbent Representatives face challengers.

In House District 9 (Kahului), incumbent Justin Woodson will face off against fellow Democrat Sam Peralta. With no other candidates, the Primary will determine the winner. Woodson was first appointed in 2013, beat challenger James "Kimo" Apana in 2014; was unopposed in 2016; beat Kauanoe Batangan in 2018; and beat Kahala Jen Chrupalyk in 2020. Peralta, a first-time candidate, is a Pastor at New Hope Maui.

In House District 12, incumbent Kyle Yamashita, a Democrat, will face off against Republican Dan Johnson

and Green Party Summer Starr. Although their names will appear in the Primary election, the ultimate winner will be decided in the General (assuming each receives at least one vote in their partisan primary). Yamashita, the current Vice Chair of the House Finance Committee, had several close contests: winning by 240 votes in the August 2018 primary against Tiare Lawrence and winning by 352 votes against Lawrence in the 2016 Democratic primary. Johnson works in construction and project management. Starr is the Maui representative for Pono Hawai'i Initiative and previously ran as a Democrat against Yamashita in 2008, garnering 37.4 percent of the vote to Yamashita's 58.9 percent.

In House District 13, incumbent Linda Clark (who was appointed by

Ige to replace DeCoite) will face fellow Democrats Keali'imalu Nomura and Mahina Poepoe in the Democratic Party primary. The winner will face Republican Scott Adam and Green Nick Nikhilananda in the General. This will be the first election for Clark, Nomura and Poepoe. Nikhilananda has run as a Green candidate in 2018 against then Representative Lynn DeCoite, garnering 2,298 votes to DeCoite's 5,796; in 2016, he received 2,773 votes to DeCoite's 5,824 votes; in 2014, he received 11,730 votes to Bob Carroll's 27,071 in the general election race for Council (East Maui). Clark is president of the Kaupō Community Association; Nomura is the Executive Director of the Maui County Workforce Development Board; Poepoe describes herself as "an advocate for culture and environment" while Adam's background includes "a full career as a professional snowboard coach."

For the federal races, incumbent U.S. Senator Brian Schatz is being challenged by fellow Democrat Steve Tatai. The Republicans are fielding Steven Bond, Timothy Dalhouse, Asia Lavonne, and Bob McDermott while the Libertarian candidate is Feena Bonoan, the Green candidate is Emma Jane Pohlman and the Aloha 'Āina candidate is Dan Decker.

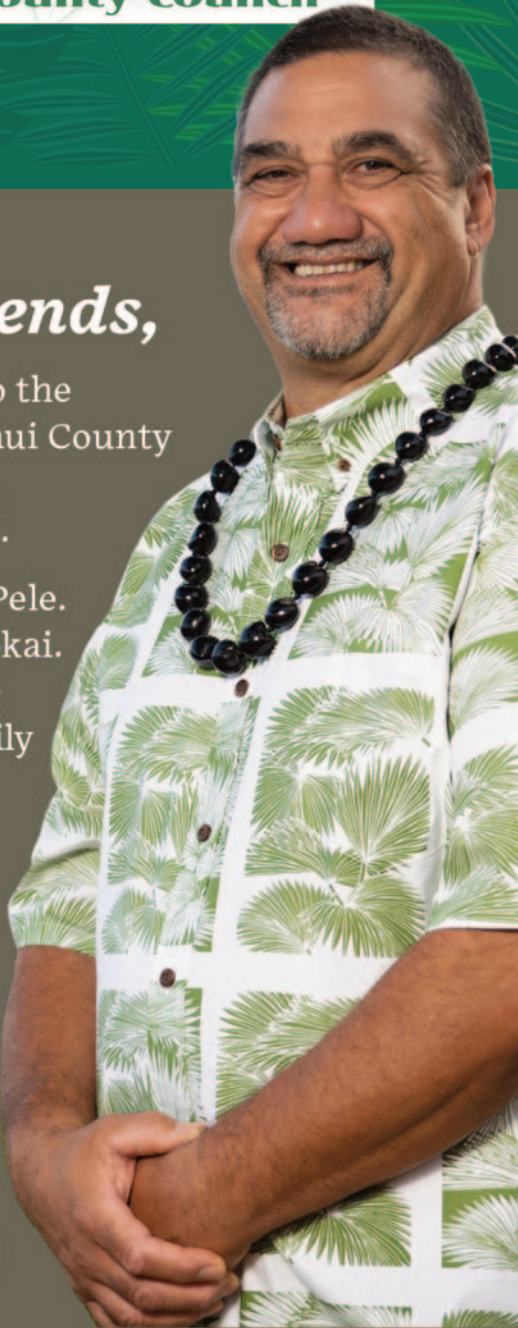
For Congressional District 2, nine candidates hope to replace Kahele, who is running for Governor: Democrats Patrick Branco, Nicole Gi, Brendan Schultz, Jill Tokuda, Steven Sparks and Kyle Yoshida; Republicans Joe Akana and Joe Webster and Libertarian Michelle Tipples.

Will 2022 be a banner year for Filipino candidates?

For Governor, Republican Lynn Barry Mariano hopes to be the second Hawai'i governor of Filipino ancestry, joining Benjamin Cayetano who was elected in 1994 and re-elected in

see ELECTIONS p.19

**So there you have it—your choices for the Primary Election on August 13. But to vote, you must be registered to vote. And the regular paper registration deadline is just weeks away (August 3). No excuses. Vote!**



## Aloha Friends,

I love this land. To the outside world, Maui County is a vacation spot. To us, it is **HOME**.

My name is John Pele. I grew up on Molokai. I married my wife and raised my family on Molokai. I am running for the Molokai seat on the Maui County Council because I know how it feels to watch your child leave home because of the high cost of living and limited opportunities.

I am running for County Council because I want to ensure that our children, if they chose to, can build a life here. It is time to put politics aside and focus on building more affordable housing.

I am running for County Council because I yearn for a time when our local politicians and the community worked together to solve problems. I know I can restore balance to our local government so that we find solutions for economic growth while preserving the things that make this beautiful place our home.

I ask you to join me on this journey and together we will make Maui County better than ever!

Mahalo nui,

**Paid for by Friends for John Pele.**



Happy Father's Day



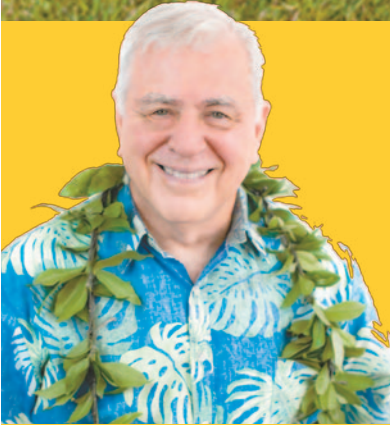
Happy Father's day to all the wonderful Dads!

From the Molina Ohana:  
Mike, Cielo, Ian, Aimee, and Malia



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From this Dad, to all Dads  
Happy Father's Day



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# KAI KAHELE

★ GOVERNOR ★

Maraming salamat po.  
Agyamanak apo.  
Thank you very much.

Maria Kahele was born in Baguio, Philippines.

U.S. Congressman Kai Kahele is a Lt. Colonel in the Air National Guard.



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"This is an election year and it is now the opportunity for the people to get their vote counted for the candidates that share their vision for Maui County and represent Maui County well"



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**PEDRO**  
MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL

*Be The Change!*

"I Humbly Ask For Your Support ♥"

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# Happy Father's Day Everyone!

**Please Join Us.**

**HANA HOU**  
**VICTORINO**  
*Friendraising*

**06**  
JUNE

**28**  
TUESDAY

**'22**  
YEAR



**5:30PM to 7:30PM**



**Velma McWayne Santos CC (Wailuku CC)**

Paid for by the Friends of Michael Victorino, P.O. Box 3085, Wailuku, HI 96793





# nohe

## U'U-HODGINS

### MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL



### Aloha!

My name is Nohe U'u-Hodgins. I am running for Maui County Council because I believe today's political landscape does not always reflect the values we were all raised with:

#### Family | Respect | Kindness

I will work towards restoring these values, so that future generations can cherish a life fullfilled on Maui County. Please join me on this journey.

Mahalo,






[votenohe.com](https://votenohe.com)
[@votenohe](https://twitter.com/votenohe)

Paid for by Friends of Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



# Maui Health ...

from p. 6



Molina

While the COVID-19 pandemic challenged Maui Health in many ways, it also provided the opportunity for Maui Health to further support the community. In December 2020, Maui Health opened one of the first and largest vaccine clinics in the county. The first online, automated vaccine appointment system in the County of Maui was built. Maui Health also understood the special needs of our kūpuna and created kūpuna desk hours as well as an email and phone support desk system responding to hundreds of vaccine questions a day. A partnership with Seabury Hall students to host vaccine help desks was also established. To date, Maui Health has administered nearly 85,000 doses of the COVID vaccine.

Partnerships with County leadership as well as hospitality industry leaders were established.

The Safe Reopening Task Force was created in August 2020, just before the islands reopened to tourists in October 2020. The task force included hotel and hospitality leaders with many GM's, managers and representation from over fifteen hotel/resort properties on Maui and Lāna'i. The task force also included the Maui Hotel & Lodging Association and the Maui District Health Office.

Maui Health also partnered with the County of Maui to release a "Safe Travels" commercial to educate tourists how to keep themselves as well as Maui's residents safe. The award-winning commercial is still playing in the Kahului Airport. Additionally, "Educate to Vaccinate" was launched where teams from Maui Health's vaccine clinic were sent to educate and vaccinate hotel employees. The program helped move the employee vaccination rate on some participating properties from forty percent to seventy percent.



Rembis

"When you take a step back and look at all we've accomplished over the last five years, even in the face of the world health crisis, it's pretty incredible," says Michael Rembis, CEO of Maui Health. "I am beyond proud of this team and so grateful. We've got something really special here at Maui Health and we're only getting started."

### The Future

Maui Health continues to expand its services. In November 2022, a Wound Care Clinic will open. "We are excited to be opening Maui Health Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy

in Wailuku. This will be an outpatient clinic, located near Maui Memorial Medical Center Outpatient Clinic at Maui Lani Parkway. The clinic will offer our Maui County community a comprehensive, quality approach to wound healing," said Mahie Wong, Director of Marketing. "The clinic will help to treat patients with non-healing wounds that require an advanced level of care. Wounds typically treated at the center include those that are chronic and especially difficult to heal, such as diabetic, venous and pressure ulcers. We will also have hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBO) available, a proven, Medicare-approved treatment for certain indications to advance our program's wound healing capability. With HBO therapy, patients receive 100 percent oxygen delivered under pressure which can greatly improve wound healing and even save limbs. This pressure increases the oxygen in the blood and tissues and promotes healing. HBO has been proven to accelerate wound healing in patients with diagnoses including but not limited to certain diabetic ulcers, venous ulcers, pressure ulcers, surgical wounds and trauma wounds, and other non-healing wounds."

Maui Health continues to hire for several clinical and non-clinical positions at the new outpatient clinic and all its facilities. Maui Health will also continue with its provider recruitment efforts; reduction of outmigration of patients to O'ahu/mainland; increase of in-migration from neighbor islands; continued capital projects and renovations; and continued process improvements and streamlined operations.



Agonoy

"I am pleased to be part of Maui Health and to celebrate our five-year anniversary is an indescribable feeling," says Khristal Mae Agonoy, an Administrative Support Assistant, Health Information Management. "I have seen many changes throughout Maui Health but the culture of providing exceptional health care for the community still remains. Maui Health advocates for health and safety by introducing and implementing the HealthyYOU! Wellness Program. I personally enjoy taking part in this program as it holds me accountable for my health as well as being able to interact with others outside of my department and facility. I am excited for what's to come for Maui Health! Happy Five-Year Anniversary!"

Representative Hashimoto believes the transfer to Maui Health has benefited Maui but is a little cautious: "It is fully hard to measure as COVID has brought so many unanticipated challenges. Many health care professionals took the brunt of the impacts and it is almost like Maui Health now has to rebuild once again. At the end of the day, our hospital is only as good as the physicians and front-line professionals we have. Therefore, recruitment and retention are key to our success and that will always be the hospital's biggest challenge, especially with our nationwide silver tsunami of

see MAUI HEALTH p.17





Congratulations to all the graduates. Way to go Class of 2022! Warmest congratulations to my daughter, Keilah Elizabeth Galiza on your graduation. You’ve worked hard to achieve your goals and amazed us with your accomplishments! You’re on your way to seek new dreams, so embrace life with passion and keep reaching for your star! I hope you feel great about what you’ve accomplished

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

and I hope you’ll continue to be a person who does things that are worthwhile and important in life to make us proud. We are so proud of you. Love

you, kiddo.

Let’s not forget that in June we also celebrate Father’s Day. We thank all the fathers for being able to celebrate

last month’s Mother’s Day. This month, we thank all the mothers for being able to celebrate Father’s Day. Happy Father’s Day to all the fathers and the father figures to the lives of the children. Thank you for your unconditional love and support you give to the children.

Let’s visit our friends Angel and Michael and see what’s going on with them this month, shall we?

ROBERT CONTINUES TO PACE back and forth as he stares at his phone. “OMG, Mikey, *sitaw* (where) are you?”

Literally one minute has elapsed since his last text message. He writes and sends another one. And clinches on the phone.

He calls again and there’s no answer.

“*Hoy, hoy, hoy ...*” His wife snaps her fingers trying to get his attention. “*Ano* (What) is going on here?” she asks him with irritation.

“Oh, there you are. Do you remember the girl that Michael has been seeing?” he asks his wife.

“Yes, of course. I think that’s his *noby* (girlfriend). She’s so gorgeous so *maganda* (beautiful) young lady,” she says smiling.

“She might be a murderer,” Robert says.

Mila’s *mata* (eyes) widen. She is shocked and speechless.

“Yes, that was Ray who called. He was calling you but you didn’t answer your phone. He said she was last seen with the cop who went missing awhile back. Do you remember?”

“No way!” Mila exclaims.

“Yes way!” he answers.

She turns around and rubs her arms, “I just got the chills.”

“Now I’m trying to call Mikey and he is not answering his #\$\$%\* phone.”

“Wow. I will try to call him,” Mila says confidently.

“*Hani?* (What?) You mean he would answer your call and not mine? *Hindi* (No) ... Now, *anni* (what) is that all about?” The dad shakes his head.

“Hahaha,” she giggles.

“Well, you know I am his *nanay* (mother) after all. And as you know, you’re not exactly the easiest person to talk to when you’re upset. Do you remember that time you flipped over the table because you lost when we were playing Monopoly?” she continues.

“Geez, Mila, *huwag* (don’t) even go there. *Saan* (Don’t) do this.” He rolls his *mata* (eyes) and walks towards the wine cabinet.

“I’m just saying. Do you remember when he came home with an F grade in Math?” her voice goes high to re-

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Beatiful	Maganda	Napintas	Matahum nga	Maanyag	Makasta	Malagu
Girlfriend	Kasintahan	Nobia	Amiga	Noby	Noby	Noby
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Mukat	Lupa / Arap	Nawong / Dagway	Goya / Nawong
Where?	Saan?	Inno?	Aha?	San o?	Sitaw?	Nokarin?
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Don't	Huwag	Saan, di	Ayaw	Dili	Kammu	E
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Hani?	Ano?	Anni’?	Nanoyin?
No	Hindi	Haan	Dili	Indi	Awan	Indi
Eyes	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata

mind him about it.

“I know he stays home all day, all night long and barely comes out of the room and he can’t even get high marks on his assignments? Come on!” he answers proudly.

“Well then, there you go. You just answered your own question,” Mila answers, rolling her *mata* (eyes).

She calls Michael’s phone. “My little baby” shows Michael’s name on her iPhone.

“*Ano?* (What?) Geez,” she gives an eye to her husband who is peeking on her phone. “He is still my little baby no matter how old he gets and starts to date Angel and never comes home because he would rather be with his *kasintahan* (girlfriend). I miss him so much,” she begins to sob.

Shaking the phone, the call goes to voicemail.

She calls again. And begins to panic.

“Mikey! Answer the phone. Tell me you’re still alive!” she exclaims.

Michael’s phone is on silent in his backpack in the backseat of the jeep. As he lays on Angel who is passed out from exhaustion, Angel creeps her *mata* (eyes) open as she feels a vibration nearby.

“*Ano* (What) is that? Something is moving, Michael,” she says softly as she remembers he fell asleep a while ago. She struggles to move without disturbing the big baby laying on her.

“Aggh ... Someone’s head is so heavy. OMG, you must be so smart with a brain so large, I cannot even move,” Angel says.

She tries her best to maneuver to

get a bit of space free from under him. He is in an awkward spot and he might fall over into the grass.

“*Dili* (No). I’ll just let him sleep,” she says.

She looks down at his semi-curly brown hair. “My hapa hero is trying to save the day but is knocked out like a baby,” she giggles.

She continues to feel the vibration and can’t help but fight the anxiety of *saan* (where) that buzzing is coming from.

“Is it his cell phone? But *inno* (where)?” she asks herself.

She tries to wiggle her *kamay* (hand) behind the seat but that doesn’t work. Her arms are way too short to touch even the back seat.

“Geezzz. Can this buzzing at least stop? I wonder who is calling him. I wonder if he has a *nobia* (girlfriend) who is looking for him. Ooh, Mister if you have an *amiga* (girlfriend) I’m so going to kill you. Oh ohhh ...” she says to herself.

As she starts to visualize Michael with another girl, jealousy begins to creep in.

“Oh ya? Oh ya? You think?” she begins to answer her own thoughts. She looks at him and threatens to flick his ear. “You try it, I will kick your butt.”

The buzzing continues.

“Oh, somebody loves you so much ha?” she continues to mock. This is when her demeanor quickly turns bitter and she starts to talk to herself. “Angie, you didn’t even find out if he has a *maanyag nobya* (beautiful girlfriend) or a scary wife. “*Nanoyin*

(What) if he is married? And here you go hanging out with a man you *ayaw* (don’t) even know anything about his love life and you put your heart out there and *ana* (what) do you ...”

The buzzing continues.

“*ANO?* (WHAT?) Why are you calling? I didn’t know he was taken! Ha! Actually. Technically, I’m not with him so you *dili* (don’t) have to worry about that. I *kammu* (don’t) know *nokarin* (where) we are going but ...”

The buzzing continues.

Arrrrggg!

Michael snorts mid-snore and startles Angel. She quickly stops her rant and places her *kamot* (hand) on his *mukha* (face).

“Shhh. ... you didn’t hear any of that he he ... but if you do, have a ...” she says.

The buzzing continues ...

“No! I can’t take it anymore!” She gently pushes him off just enough to free her hand and she lunges out toward his backpack. She stretches and her fingertips barely latch onto the strap of the bag. Angel clinches her hand to secure the bag. By this time she realizes she inadvertently pushed Michael’s head towards her crotch.

“Ayyyyy! *Bastos!*” she says, as she lowers herself back down into his arms. With her is the backpack.

The buzzing continues.

“Okay missy. I will find you,” Angel blurbs out as she tears into the top main zipper of the bag and sticks her entire arm deep inside. Her *kamot* (hand) darts past the clothing and the Hydroflask following the buzzing ... left past the notebook, right past the wallet. “Ooohhh, I wonder? *Haan* (No) focus Angie,” she reminds herself.

Follow the buzzing. Tapping into her *Zen* like powers she locates the buzzing phone.

“Ah ha!” she exclaims as she rips it out into the air and accidentally presses the green accept call button. “Who is ...” she belts out as she finally realizes the “*noby*” (“girlfriend”) turns out to be somebody else as the caller ID burns into her eyelids it reads “Mommy.”





Alessandra Gudoy



Alyssa Palomar



Cheyenne Cadiz



Macy Filazar

# Google®

## Is Not Everything ... Approaching Our Senior Year and Beyond

Jazmyne Faith Viloria | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2023

Scholarships, college applications, personal statement essays and “What’s your safety, target and reach schools?” started intertwining in my brain as I watched Maui High’s Class of 2022 commencement ceremony. I knew the post-high school life was inevitable but I didn’t realize it was arriving soon. With senior year

approaching me and my peers started to fill our summers with internships, senior year planning, college searches, scholarship writing and travel. “Over the summer, I will be doing an internship with the STEMworks team working with Chad Junkermeier at UHMC to help with his project on carbophenes which I look forward to

being a part of to help his team and gain some experience and knowledge in material science,” **Alessandra Gudoy** excitedly announces. Along with Alessandra are many other seniors who decided to participate in a summer internship; most stayed within the Maui community; others, however, ventured out of state. For example, my internship with PBS Student Reporting Labs will be held in Tempe, Arizona, allowing me to experience an entirely different setting while applying my creative media and marketing skills to new tasks. Internships offer high schoolers opportunities to gain experience in their desired career field, connect their skills and classroom lessons to a work environment and expand their network.

Summer also allows seniors to obtain their senior project hours through job shadowing, volunteering or creating project elements. **Alyssa Palomar** plans to job shadow a pediatrician to correlate with her senior project’s focus on the medical field: “I’m looking forward to gaining new knowledge about the medical field, working with patients and experiencing a new work environment,” Alyssa explains. Although some seniors spend their summer completing hours, others use it to plan, research and connect with possible mentors. “I am also working as a part-time unit helper at Hale Makua and with that, I am working alongside them to plan my senior project! I am hoping to bring back bingo nights with the HOSABERS at Hale Makua,” **Cheyenne Cadiz** retorted.

Besides experiencing new work environments, some seniors travel across the nation to experience new cultures and scenery and learn important lessons. “I will be traveling to Nashville, Tennessee, to compete at the HOSA international leadership conference!

During this trip, I am most excited to gain new leadership skills and opportunities beneficial to my future in medicine. I also looking forward to meeting others with a passion for healthcare,” Cheyenne remarks as she is one of the few Maui High School students who qualified for internation-

*With only fifty-one days till the start of the new school year, upcoming seniors are trying to make the most of their last high school summer. Through new experiences, productive preparation and well-deserved relaxation , seniors will be ready for senior year’s challenges.*

– JAZMYNE VILORIA

Like Cheyenne, **Macy Filazar** will also be traveling due to competitions, “I will be playing in basketball tournaments in Kona, O’ahu, Chicago, Ohio, Northern and Southern California. I’m most excited about Chicago because I’ve never been there before and it’s just such a fun group of girls to play with. I’m also excited to see the different competition at each tournament.”

With only fifty-one days till the start of the new school year, upcoming seniors are trying to make the most of their last high school summer. Through new experiences, productive preparation and well-deserved relaxation, seniors will be ready for senior year’s challenges. ✨

**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 **Jazmyne Faith Viloria**, a Senior at Maui High School. She



is a member of SaberScribes (Maui High’s journalism club), Historian of the Video Club and Team Captain of Blue Thunder, Maui High’s Robotics club. Jazmyne is in the ACOM Pathway at Maui High, focusing on videography and photography. In her free time, she sews and refashions old clothes, journals, edits photos/videos and loves to analyze lyrics in songs. She is the daughter of Ruth Sagisi and Rudy Viloria.



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Community ...

from p. 10

hi at Ani program is to provide activities for youth during the summer (with one exception as noted below). The confirmed activities with the date and times are

Mondays - from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. – Voice Lessons. Taught by Angelina Abapo.

Mondays - from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. BINGO for Seniors.

Tuesdays - from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Social Dance for High School Seniors and older. Taught by Jeffrey and Lydia Dela Cruz.

Wednesdays - from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Philippine Cultural Dance. Taught by Madelyne Pascua.

Wednesdays - from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Escrima. Taught by Madelyne Pascua.

Thursdays - from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Art classes for youth. Taught by Philip Sabado.

All classes are FREE. Pre-registration to binhiatani@gmail.com.

MAUI COUNCIL OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUBS

The Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs consisting of Christ the King Filipino Catholic Club, Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club, St. Anthony Filipino Catholic Club, St. Joseph Filipino Catholic Club and St. Theresa Filipino Catholic Club celebrated 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines. Congratulations to the 2022 Island Treasurers Awardees: Saturnina Balasan/Christ the King FCC; Marlina Ca-

chola/St. Theresa FCC; Maria Gazmen/Maria Lanakila FCC; Robert & Daisy Mego/St. Joseph FCC; and Violeta Roque/St. Anthony FCC. Congratulations also to the 2022 Father Claes Awardees: Nelia Altura/Christ the King FCC; Jeny Bis-sell/St. Theresa FCC; Patrocinia Garcia/St. Anthony FCC; and Emie Donna Magan/Maria Lanakila FCC. Altura is now eligible for the Monsignor Calib Award to be presented during the Diocesan Congress of Filipino Catholic Clubs Hawaii

Convention which will be held in Honolulu from November 4 through 6.

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Congratulations to Lennel Alvarez, the 2022 Miss Maui Filipina! The First Princess is Shay-Lea Ruiz and the Second Princess is Kailee Delos Santos. Lennel will now compete in the Miss Hawaii Filipina Pageant to be held on Saturday, July 30 at the

see COMMUNITY p.23

Maui Health ...

from p. 14

the aging of baby boomers that will need access to critical care. Maui is no different and we will need these professionals now more than ever.”

Thinking about the last five years, Senator Keith-Agaran noted, “We still have a working acute care hospital on island--there were doubts about the

long-term viability of the operations without the investments made in renovations and modern equipment and in starting the cardio program-- work that Maui Health is building on and can continue to expand for the benefit of Maui’s residents.”

Without “getting the Kaiser Permanent affiliation,” Baker concluded, “the hospital would not have remained viable and most hospital healthcare would have to

be accessed off island.”

In January, **Evangelista’s** entire household was affected with the Omicron variant of COVID-19, including his 97-year-old Mom Catalina. Evangelista was impressed with the care and attention given to his Mom, with daily telephone calls from the physician and nurses.



Let’s Talk Pinoy!

from p. 15

“Michael!” the voice is coming in hot.

“Michael! Hello? *San o* (Where) are you? Hello?” the voice cracking.

Angel freezes!

What do you think Angel is going to do or say?

Have you answered a phone call and just froze right there?

Anyways, that’s all I have. Keep an eye out for my column in every issue.

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 Con-



Dulce Karen Butay

sultant 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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Ti Biag ken Pammati  
“Life and Faith”



Above: Garcia family with great grandpa Deacon Pat  
Left: Garcia family with Bishop Larry Silva

Our Confirmation and First Eucharist celebration was held on Friday June 3, 2022 at St. Joseph Church, Makawao, weekend of Pentecost Sunday. We had eighteen candidates who were Confirmed and received their First Eucharist from Bishop Larry Silva. I thank God and the religious education teachers for preparing my great grand son Izaiah Garcia in receiving these special gifts of these Sacraments. I told my great grand son you are now a soldier of God! He is our number one great grand son and has grown to be a wonderful and handsome young man! God Bless him and may our family continue to guide him in his faith journey as to his calling from God!

On the evening of that first day of his of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to

breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ! John 20:19-23

Pentecost is celebrated as the

been amazing, the truth is the Spirit is still present today. He comes to us as well. You and I are ordinary people capable of extraordinary things because of the power of the Spirit in us and in the world. His grace inspires us to spread His word, care for

and fear of the Lord give us a firmness of mind to do good and avoid evil and help us understand God’s power as we hold him in awe and adoration. We are granted knowledge to correctly judge matters of faith and right actions and piety to devote ourselves to God and open ourselves to His will. These gifts are freely given and provide all we need to live as children of God. We are called to use these gifts to fortify our faith and serve the Father.

If someone gave us a new phone, we would not keep it hidden in its box. A new bike would not be left unused in the garage. Instead, we would put them to good use and think of the person who gave them to us whenever we used them. In the same way, the Holy Spirit remains with us and wants us to use His gifts to help us grow in our faith and become closer to God. His gifts can also help us call others to join us on our journey. These gifts are not meant to be kept hidden or to be used only for our own needs. They are meant to be shared. They are meant to inspire others and invite them to join us in the family of God! Jesus fulfilled his promise to send the Spirit to dwell among us!

This is what I mean, when I say, “You become a soldier of God!” When you receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, it’s meant to give it away, where it is needed! Like love isn’t love until you give it away! “Peace be with you!” ✨

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’anae. 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.

Continued on p.22

birthday of the Church. When the Apostles were gathered, the Holy Spirit came to them as a strong wind, descending upon them as tongues of fire. Inspired and empowered by the Spirit, Peter and the others began preaching the word. We are told later in this chapter, in Acts 2:41, that about three thousand persons were baptized that day. The Church was born. Over two thousand years later, Jesus is still alive in the world and the Spirit continues to work through us, his followers. It must have been something to be in

those in need, comfort those who suffer and to live as believers in this world in need of God’s love. Birthdays are often an occasion for gift-giving.

Pentecost is no exception. The Holy Spirit bestows abundant spiritual gifts on believers. These gifts may not come in a brightly wrapped box but their worth is beyond measure. They give us strength when we are weak and courage when we are afraid. We are granted wisdom to inform our judgment and understanding to help us see God in what sur-



Izaiah receiving the Chrism Oil for Confirmation by Bishop Larry Silva



Izaiah with God father Ikaika Kaialilii  
PHOTO COURTESY GARCIA FAMILY

them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he

that room when the Holy Spirit entered the midst of the disciples gathered there! Though that must have

rounds us. The gift of counsel allows us to be directed by God in matters necessary for our salvation. Fortitude

1966 as Assistant Sergeant of Arms by the Speaker of the House Elmer F.



# This is the New Normal ... And It's Okay

Errol Buntuyan, M.D., FAAFP

The month of May has gone by fast. The gathering events last month like Mother's Day, Memorial Day weekend gatherings and graduation festivities have fostered the exposure and spread of COVID over the last few weeks. We find ourselves at the beginning of June again in the midst of a surge of COVID cases. On Maui, we have a 15.6 percent positivity rate, with Kaua'i and Honolulu near 25 percent positivity rates in the first week of June. The Omicron variant and its subtypes have been percolating in our community since January and the percent positivity rates are back up but this time it feels different. People in our community are better prepared and are getting used to this new normal.

The good news is that the hospitalization and death rates due to COVID symptoms have not significantly gone up during this latest surge. The combination of vaccinations and boosters, home testing, isolation if exhibiting symptoms, advanced medicinal treatments and a milder Omicron variant have all contributed to spare us from the severe illness we

were seeing back in 2020 and 2021. Most symptoms are mild with fever, chills, fatigue, headache and cough that last only for a few days. Many that are infected feel the symptoms are like a common cold. Influenza rates have gone up since the end of the mask mandates and some people feel the symptoms of Omicron are milder than the flu. Because of all this, businesses remain open, events are continuing to be scheduled, people are

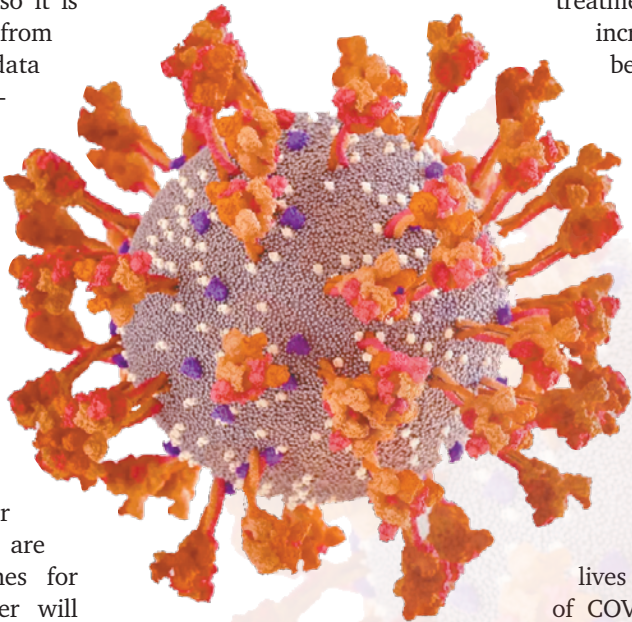
going to gatherings, parties and festivities. We are living our lives with COVID amongst us.

People who were infected with Delta or other strains in 2020 or 2021 are now getting infected again with the current Omicron variant subtypes. Omicron is highly contagious, so it is highly likely exposure can be from almost anywhere. Recent data shows that people who are infected with Omicron can get a rebound infection with Omicron within days of recovering. Though a milder overall illness, Omicron can still cause an annoying course of symptoms lasting for weeks. Children are often getting the mildest symptoms but still capable of passing COVID along to each other and their family members. Boosters for children 5 years old and above are now available. COVID vaccines for children 12 months and older will most likely be approved in the upcoming months.

There is once again a focus on Long COVID in the news. Long COVID is the persistence of symptoms for four or more weeks. The symptoms are similar to the acute phase (fever, cough, headache, body aches) that includes brain fog and stomach pain but newer studies are linking up to two hundred symptoms to Long COVID. Long COVID can affect up to 30 percent of people who have been infected and can last for up to two years. With the amount of people getting Omicron, we expect the number of Long COVID cases to also increase in the next few months. For now, there currently is no cure for Long COVID, just sympto-

matic support. The best way to avoid Long COVID is to not get COVID infected.

It seems our community and our world has adapted to living with COVID as we move from surge after surge.



People are living their lives, going to gatherings, being social with family and friends and choosing on their own if they want to wear masks. People are more mindful of their risks of exposure before deciding to go to events. People already know the etiquette around COVID exposure and infection.

When symptoms develop, many get tested with a rapid home test or go to a venue with PCR testing. If the test is positive, many choose to isolate for at least five days, seek treatment if they are high risk with medications like monoclonal antibody or Paxlovid. People should return to work or to their daily activities once symptoms resolve and they feel better.

People should be keeping up to date with the latest vaccine boosters or should await to receive them when they become eligible. Medical establishments, the CDC, State and County health departments readily report any new developments on strains and treatments to stay informed. We are increasingly familiar with how to behave and react with COVID ensconced in our lives. This is our new normal.

We move forward into the summer months of 2022. June is Pride Month, during which we celebrate diversity. The month of June also has many days to celebrate like Father's Day, Juneteenth, National Children's Day and Kamehameha Day. We again have plenty to look forward to this summer as we emerge out of the pandemic living our lives with COVID. The ebb and flow of COVID strains and new surges of infection will no doubt continue. The fact we survived the challenges of COVID these last two years only instills hope we can withstand any obstacles coming our way. We will be OK. 🌟

**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.



## Elections ...

from p. 11

1998. Three other candidates claim close connections to the Filipino community: Vicky Cayetano, Governor Cayetano's wife was born in Manila, Philippines; Congressman Kai Kahele's wife Maria was born in Baguio, Philippines while Vivian Welsh Aiona's (former Lt. Governor Duke Aiona's wife) roots are from Cebu and Iloilo.

For Lt. Governor, Sherry Menor-McNamara, of the famous Menor clan (her uncle Benjamin Menor was Supreme Court Justice; her Dad Barney Menor was State Representative; her cousin Ron Menor was State Representative, State Senator and Honolulu Councilman; and her uncle Selberio Menor was the Administrator of Maui's Department of Civil Defense) aims to be Hawai'i's second Lt. Governor of Filipino ancestry (Benjamin Cayetano was the first in 1986).



Pedro



Balinbin

For Maui Mayor, no candidate appears to be of Filipino ancestry although Michael Molina is married to the former Cielo Batan.

In the County Council, Tina Pedro hopes to join incumbents Shane Sinenci and Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

For the State legislature, other than Keith-Agaran in the State Senate (where there are currently five other State Senators of Filipino ancestry), Maui does not have any other Filipino state legislator. Kanamu Balinbin hopes to be the second.

At the federal level, Democrat Sergio Alcubilla and Republican Arturo

Reyes hope to unseat incumbent Ed Case but Maui residents cannot vote in Congressional District 1. They can consider, however, Patrick Branco in Congressional District 2.

So there you have it—your choices for the Primary Election on August 13. But to vote, you must be registered to vote. And the regular paper registration deadline is just weeks away (August 3). But it's easier now; you can walk-in and register and vote on the same day during the walk-in period or on Election Day at the designated voter center.

No excuses. Vote! 🌟  
**Alfredo G. Evangelista** is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the University of Southern California (B.A. Political Science 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 Ilica.

Evangelista's Dad was a supporter of Richard Caldito and Ben Cayetano. Evangelista recalls Joseph Bulgo campaigning in Paukūkalo with a loud megaphone on a truck, tossing candy to the neighborhood kids. Evangelista has been involved in the political campaigns of Earl Anzai, Benjamin Cayetano, Nestor Garcia, Mufi Hannemann, Mazie Hirono, Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Matt Matsunaga and Ron Menor and has sign waved for other campaigns.







Pam Henderson



Filomeno & Teresa Domingo



Filomeno's Retirement Party with Grandchildren

# Pam Henderson

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY HERNDERSON 'OHANA

Humility and good work ethics run deep through the veins of this month's *Sakada* Offspring and her *Sakada* grandparents, Filomeno and Teresa Domingo and parents, Greg and Petra Peros.

Pam Henderson was born on December 27, 1974 in Wailuku, Hawai'i. She attended Lāna'i High and Elementary School, pre-fourth grade, Kahului School, fifth-eighth grade, and St. Anthony High School, ninth-twelfth

grade. Pam received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Political Science at the University of Portland. She received her Master Degree in Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a Master of Science Degree in Management and Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University. Pam's husband, Corey Henderson is a U.S. Army retired Combat veteran

with twenty years of service; currently employed as an instructor at the Department of Homeland Security Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. He also owns a personal fitness training business. Pam and Corey have two sons, Cole, seventh grade and Cameron, fourth grade. Both are in Beta Club in school and are active in travel football and soccer.

Pam has two siblings, Gregory "Jay" Peros and Peggy Andes. Jay is the General Manager of the Maui Beach Hotel on Maui. His wife Lorelle Peros is a Professor at the University of Hawai'i, Maui College. She is the Department Chair of the Hospitality and Tourism Program. They have two sons: Jeremy, first year college at the University of California at Irvine. Jarred is in the eleventh grade at Maui High School.

Peggy Andes works for Hawai'i Pacific Health as a Physician Recruiter. Her husband Paul Andes works in mortgage and finance. They have one son, Paxton who is in the seventh grade at Maryknoll School.

Pam worked as a Mental Health Therapist for over twenty-two years. Initially, she was working with teens and their families on O'ahu. She then worked with the Department of Defense with service members and their families on various military installation posts throughout the country. Because Corey was in the military, they moved every two to three years as Corey was assigned to different duty stations. Pam has been working in private practice for nine years, first on O'ahu, while Corey was stationed at Schofield Barracks prior to retirement, and currently in Savannah, Georgia.

Pam's maternal grandparents,

Filomeno Pascual and Teresa Domingo, came from Casili, Laoag, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. Filomeno was one of the thousands of Filipinos who came to Hawai'i recruited to come and work on the sugar and pineapple plantations, known as the 1946 *Sakadas*. Like most of the *Sakadas*, he came to find a better life for himself and his young family he left behind.

Filomeno left the Philippines on board the S.S. *Maunawili* from Port Salomague, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. Brave, ambitious, determined and adventurous of a man, Filomeno left his young pregnant wife, Teresa Mandac Domingo and his four young children: Chris (9 years old), Clara (7 years old), Monica (5 years old), Petra (2 years old), and the late Pacifico was unborn yet. It must have been exceedingly difficult for Filomeno to leave such young family. It must have been hard for Teresa also to let him go but with the understanding of both, it was worth the sacrifices.

Filomeno landed at the Kahului Harbor after a month of rough ocean journey. Upon arrival, HC&S personnel transported Filomeno and the other *Sakadas* to Skill Village, a camp located in Pā'ia. He lived with his brother, Juan Domingo for a while, then on his own with a friend, the late Catalino Delos Reyes. At HC&S, he worked as a harvester, sprayer (poisoned weeds) and finally as an irrigator until he retired in 1978 at age 65.

Although Filomeno only received a Grade 3 education and was unable to read and write proficiently in English, he was determined to learn. In fact, he was so determined he did not mind his good friends, Maximo Pacleb and

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Greg & Petra Peros 50th Wedding Anniversary Family Picture

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Filomeno's Retirement Party. (Front) Petra Peros, Teresa and Filomeno Domingo, Clara Domingo. (Back) Chris Domingo, Monica Domingo, Pacifico Domingo



Cameron, Pam, Cole, and Corey Henderson



Corey, Cameron, Cole, and Pam Henderson

Jose Paguirigan tutored him whenever they had time after work and on weekends. He also attended adult education in the evening. His writing and reading improved dramatically.

Filomeno was a very industrious man. His family in the Philippines was always on his mind. He worked part-time as a yardman in Kula together with his friend, the late Felix Agustin after work at HC&S. He sent the money he earned to his family in the Philippines. His wife Teresa was also a very thrifty, industrious and business minded type of a woman. She would use part of that money sent by Filomeno to buy rice field lands in Laoag. Rice produced from these lands helped support the family and a great supplement of the money sent by Filomeno from Hawai'i. Filomeno was also self-sufficient. He had a garden with a variety of vegetables. He was a generous man. He shared his produce with his friends and neighbors.

In April 1967, Filomeno moved to a new home closer to Pā'ia town. It was also around that same time that his family followed him to Hawai'i.

Chris arrived in April 1966, Monica and Petra arrived in December 1966, Teresa, Clara and Pacifico arrived in August 1967. In November 1976, they moved to Kahului, at West Hawai'i Street. Unfortunately, Teresa passed away on January 5, 1997 and Filomeno passed away on April 25, 1999.

Filomeno and Teresa Domingo were blessed with five children. Chris, the oldest was married to Suzie Ranchero Domingo (both deceased). They have two children and four grandchildren. Their second child was Clara Domingo, single (deceased). Monica, their third child was married to David Domingo (deceased). Petra, their fourth child is married to Greg Peros. They have three children and five grandchildren. Their fifth child was Pacifico (deceased), married to Evelyn Reantillo Domingo. They have one child and two grandchildren.

Monica, Petra, and the late Clara shared these heart-warming words about their Dad, Filomeno: *Dad was a very loving Dad to us his children and especially to his grandchildren. He was*

**Continued on next page**



Pam, Cameron, Cole, and Corey Henderson



Corey and Pam Henderson



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Pam, Cole, Cameron and Corey Henderson



Cole, Corey, and Cameron Henderson

very generous to them. He was thrifty, a good gardener, and a good barber. He was a Jack of all trades. He was able to do plumbing and fix things around the house that needed fixing or carpentry work. He was a strong-willed man but humble and meek. He was loyal to our mom and to us children especially when he left us back in the Philippines when we were children.

Pam also shared her reflection on her grandpa, Filomeno Domingo: The words that come to mind when I think of my grandfather are virtuous, humble, dedicated and assiduous. He was a quiet man. He expressed his love for his family through his hard work. Grandpa had an amazing work ethic, working out in the yard, fixing things, in his shed or tending to his garden. He was a man of faith. He prayed and read his bible every night. We truly love our grandpa

and we missed him terribly. ✱  
**Lucy Peros** is a retired schoolteacher, 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.

Ti Biag ken Pammati | from p. 18



My great grandson with Bishop Larry Silva at hi Confirmation & 1st Eucharist celebration

Cravalho. When Cravalho became Maui's first Mayor, Constantino became his Executive Assistant—the first of Filipino ancestry. Later, Constantino became the first County Treasurer of Filipino ancestry and the first County Grants Administrator and Risk Manager of Filipino ancestry.

Constantino has served as a Deacon for thirty-four years and married to his lovely wife Corazon for sixty years. [Editor's note: Congratulations to Deacon Patrick Constantino for recently being nominated as an Outstanding Older American for the County of Maui: There are so many lives that this person has touched. As a church deacon, Deacon Pat has counseled many couples before they received the sacrament of matrimony. He has used his life experience to guide couples as they start their new journey of life together. He seeks the good in people and reflects the virtues of others so that they can see the good in themselves. He also provides comfort to those who have lost their father,

mother, spouse, siblings or friend. He always listens to those who are grieving by providing comfort to them and validates their emotions/feelings in the moment. He has been a mentor to many. Now at the age of seventy-eight, his current adventure is being a new columnist for The Fil-Am Voice newspaper. He is also currently the Spiritual Director and Leader of the Hawai'i Catholic Filipino Council. Deacon Pat was part of the Formation Team that guides Catholic men to become Ordained Deacons in the State of Hawai'i. He continues to baptize infants, marry and counsel couples and is available to do funeral prayer services. Pat has also worked in city government as an Executive Assistant to former Mayor Elmer Cravalho and was the County Treasurer at one time.]

**This is what I mean, when I say, "You become a soldier of God!" When you receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, it's meant to give it away, where it is needed!**

—DCN PATRICK CONSTANTINO





# Kwento Kwentuhan

## Filipino Food Week 2022

*Celebrating Filipino Cuisine on June 20–26*

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

**T**he restaurant edition of Filipino Food Week is happening June 20–26. Are you excited? I am! It is a great way to promote our Filipino culture and get people to learn more about Filipino cuisine. That is why I am highlighting this event in our Kwento-Kwentuhan this month.

### What is Filipino Food Week?

Filipino food week is a week-long celebration of Filipino cuisine, where diners can go to participating restaurants in Hawai'i to try the Filipino food specials offered by different chefs and food establishments.

Participating restaurants and revered chefs will be featuring Filipino cuisine for an entire week for their diners. The Philippine Consul General encouraged restaurants once again to prepare special dishes celebrating Filipino cuisine as well as create appetizers, entrées, desserts or drinks featuring *calamansi* as an ingredient. *Calamansi* is a popular citrus fruit in the Philippines, used as a flavoring agent, among other purposes.

By organizing the Filipino Food Week, the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu hopes to generate more awareness and interest among locals and restaurants to feature Filipino food. The Food Week is part of a US-wide effort of the Philippine Embassy in DC and various Consulates in the US to promote Filipino cuisine and culture.

### What restaurants are participating?

The participating restaurants statewide are listed on the Filipino

Food Week Hawai'i Facebook Page.

Since *Fil-Am Voice* is circulated on Maui, let me share with you about the participating restaurants and the dish they will offer:

**HUMBLE MARKET KITCHEN** - Ora King Salmon Belly *Sisig* - *Calamansi* Hawaiian Chili Water *Ponzu*, Smoked *Ikura*, Crispy Garlic

**JOEY'S KITCHEN** - Caramelized Scallops, Maui Cattle Co. Oxtail *Kare Kare* Risotto rice, Fried Okra, *Bagoong* chili oil & Chopped Peanuts

**ROY'S KĀ'ANAPALI** - *Karekare* Surf & Turf - Tender Beef Short Rib, Butter Shrimp, *Arroz Caldo* Risotto

**TANTE'S ISLAND CUISINE** - *Lechon Kawali* Garlic Fried Rice Loco Moco with Mushrooms & Mama Sita's *Siling Labuyo*

### Fil-Am Voice supports the Filipino Food Week's Mission

We are sharing this Filipino Food Week Hawai'i event here at *Fil-Am Voice* to show support of this endeavor to promote Filipino culture.

Do you have any upcoming event that will promote Filipino culture? Let us know. If it is a good fit for our readers, we will share about it here as well. In the meantime, don't forget to patronize one of the restaurants listed above and enjoy the delicious Filipino cuisine.

*Maraming Salamat po!* ✨

**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;

Pablito 'Bob' Gahol, Christine and Jing Gumpal/CNA Hawaii Institute, LLC, Sol Hafalia, Senator Gil Keith-Agaran, Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, LLLC, Roger Madariaga/NextHome Hometown Realty Group, Tina Magarin, Michael Bissell Photography, Monica Natividad/Lifestyle by ByDzyne, Mildred Bagay Nicolas, Jeanelyn Onnagan/Lifestyle ByDzyne, Madelyn Pascua/ Dance International Foundation, Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc., Lucy Porte, Joe Mar and Preciosa Roja, Ella Rosetes/Lifestyle by Dzyne, Angelina 'Angie' Saiki/ Case Management Professionals, Inc., St. Theresa Filipino Catholic Club, Dr. Marlon Saria, William 'Bill' Snipes, Father Arnel Soriano/St. Theresa Church, Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, Espie Tavares, Maria and Jeff Thomas/Jeffrey Thomas, DDS, Mayor Michael P. Victorino, Representative Justin Woodson, and the Zumba Dancers.

### TANTE & ARACELI URBAN FOUNDATION

The Tante & Araceli Urban Foundation awarded a \$1,000 tennis scholarship to Justin Powell, son of Steve and Ligaya Powell. Justin will be going to California to participate in a two-week Junior Tennis camp and play in Junior Tennis tournaments.



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MARI: HUMBLE MARKET KITCHEN, JOEY'S KITCHEN, MACADAMUS, ROY'S KĀANAPALI, AND TANTE'S ISLAND CUISINE.  
HAWAII: ROY'S MAUI KAILUA BAR & GRILL.  
HAWAII: EATING HOUSE 1049.

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**Filipino Food Week**, coordinated by the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu and in partnership with Jacob's Gourmet Foods, Kasama Rum, Marigold Corp. (Mama Sita's) and Tanduay USA happens June 20–26 this year.

PHOTO COURTESY PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL OF HONOLULU

*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.*



## Community ...

from p. 17

Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu. Advertising opportunities are available. Contact Lennel at Lenneljoy.alvarez@gmail.com or (808) 283-8731. The deadline is July 1.

### PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION MAUI HI

The Philippine Nurses Association Maui Hawai'i held their Installation Dinner on May 29. The officers and directors were installed by Dr. Marlon Saria, the Western Region Vice President of the Philippine Nurses Association of America.

Mahalo to the Sponsors, Donors and Special Guests for their support: Anamcara Care Hawai'i, Inc., Pliny Arenas/ U.S. Renal Care, Dr. Nancy Atmospera-Walch/Advantage Health Care Provider, Inc., Senator Roz Baker, Rowena 'Nikki' Baysa/ Nursing Care Hawai'i, Jeny Bissell, Joy Bulosan, Helen Bumanglag, Dione and Sofia Cabias, Juliet Calpo, Eliana Campos, Philip Campos/Island Premier Realty, LLC, Randy Cruz/ Randy's Catering, Perie Danao/ Aloha Nightingale, Maria Demarest, Dr. Gloria Rongcal Gage/Maui Island Cozy Dental, Colonel

## "Happy Father's Day ..."



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# Happy Fathers Day

Honoring the men who came to these islands as sakadas, the grandfathers, and uncles, and fathers who raised us, and laid the foundation for our community and the opportunities we enjoy today.



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