



Election of Interest

Negative campaigning backfires.

See below



Miss Maui Filipina

Lennel Joy Alvarez represents Maui Filipinos with grace, humility and CLASS.

See below



Easter Sunday

Filipino American comedian Jo Koy brings our heritage to theaters with star power.

See p5



Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

August 2022 • Vol 6 No8 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

inside



The ending of Summer brings what?! ... College! Vilorina takes a look.
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Inaugural Summer at Binhi at Ani concludes.
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Sakada Offspring spotlight: Arsinia Anderson
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It’s Bissen vs Victorino

Maui has the lowest voter turnout in the State.

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

The race for Maui Mayor between retired Judge Richard Bissen and incumbent Mayor Michael Victorino is now set for the November 8 General Election. With less than twelve weeks away, Victorino needs to make up a deficit after finishing second as Bissen garnered 13,407 votes (34.0 percent) to the Mayor’s 11,747 votes (29.8 percent). Whoever captures the supporters of also rans Kelly King (6,350 votes or 16.1 percent); Kim Brown (2,851 votes or 7.2 percent); Michael Molina (2,068 votes or 5.2 percent); Cullan Bell (1,769 votes or 4.5 percent); Alana Kay (244 votes or 0.6 percent); and Jonah Lion (96 votes or 0.2 percent) may settle the race before the General Election ballots arrive in the



The top two mayoral vote-getters who will be in this November’s general election are Judge Richard Bissen (left) and incumbent Mayor Mike Victorino.



mailed. There were 793 Blank Votes (2 percent) and 155 Over Votes (0.4 percent). “From the bottom of my heart, *Maraming Salamat po* and *Agyamanak unay kadakayo* for your support and the trust you have placed

in me with your valuable votes in the primary election,” said Bissen. “I humbly ask for your continued support in the general election on November 8.” “*Mabuhay* and *mahalo* to Maui’s Filipino community for

your vote of confidence in the Primary Election,” said Victorino. “I am honored to have earned your trust over the years. I know our home is special. I will always take care of our local people first—every day and always with no compromises. My decisions are rooted in what is best for Maui’s people because at the end of the day, we are all friends and neighbors. You can count on me to always put our community first and I humbly ask for your continued support and vote in the General Election.”

The County Council

For County Council, every registered voter will be able to vote for the nine Councilmembers whether you live in the

see ELECTIONS next page

Miss Maui Filipina 2022 Lennel Joy Felix Alvarez

Everything happens for a reason.

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR | *STORY BEGINS ON PAGE 4



Lennel Joy Felix Alvarez was crowned as the new Miss Maui Filipina on Saturday, June 4, 2022 by previous Miss Maui Filipina Mary Grace Basig.

PHOTO: SEAN MICHAEL HOWER

FREE



A sample of the mailers received.
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Precincts (7) with Highest No. of Registered Voters

13-02	8,362	Ha'ikū/Canoe District
11-03	7,718	South Maui
14-02	7,142	West Maui
12-04	7,114	Upcountry Maui
12-03	5,975	Upcountry Maui
10-03	5,908	Wailuku
11-01	5,208	South Maui

Elections ...
from p. 1

Council district or not. Making it out of the primary for the Kahului residency seat were incumbent Tasha Kama (8,991 votes or 22.8 percent) and Buddy Nobriga (8,738 votes or 22.1 percent). There were 6,459 blank votes, 67 over votes, and

15,225 votes for the five other candidates (Carol Lee Kamekona, Cara Flores, Keoni Watanabe, Tina Pedro and Jack Schwartz). Nobriga is the nephew of Bissen and the scion of the Nobriga ranching and coca cola clan. For the South Maui seat, Tom Cook (13,759 votes or 34.9 percent) and Robin Knox (12,242 votes or 31.0 percent) will face off in the General. Knox closed the gap in the final print out. There were 8,681 blank votes (22.0 percent), 30 over votes and 4,768 votes for Dennis Shea. For the Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pā'ia seat, Nohe U'u-Hodgins (11,922 votes or 30.2 percent) will face Nara Boone (7,608 votes or 19.3 percent). Dave Deleon came in a close third with 7,258 votes after leading Boone through the first two printouts. There were 7,850 blank votes, 52 over votes, and 4,790 who voted for Daniel Smith and Aram Armstrong. Incumbent Yuki Lei Sugimura (20,360 votes or 51.6 percent) will face Jordan Hocker (7,517 votes or 19.0 percent) for the Upcountry seat. There were 6,230 blank votes, 41 votes and 5,332 votes for Renee Cruz. (Maui does not follow the 50 percent+1 rule where a majority in the Primary avoids a runoff.) The races for the Lāna'i seat (incumbent Gabe Johnson vs. former Councilmember Riki Hokama); the Molokai seat (incumbent Keani Rawlins-Fernandez vs. John Pele); East Maui seat (incumbent Shane Sinenci vs. Claire Kamalu Carroll); the West Maui seat (incumbent Tamara Paltin vs. Justin Herrmann); and the Wailuku-Waihe'e-Waikapū seat (incumbent Alice Lee vs. Noelani Ahia) went directly to the General Election

ballot as there were only two candidates in each district. (There will also be several Charter amendments questions on the General Election ballot. Those questions will be the focus of a future article in *The Fil-Am Voice*.)

Who dat? And Do I Care?

With the number of blank votes and votes for other candidates, it is not a sure thing those who garnered the most for the various County seats will prevail. Additionally, the General Election usually draws more voters, even when there is no presidential election. But quite a number of registered voters just didn't return their ballots. (Remember, if you don't vote, don't complain!) Voting is so much easier now with an all-mail-in balloting process and for those who are late, they can still vote (and even register to vote) on the day of the election. The seven precincts with the highest number of registered voters are highlighted in the blue box above left. Of the thirty-five precincts in Maui County, none of them surpassed a turnout rate of 50 percent or more. The nine precincts with the lowest percentage of turn-out (mail and in-person) are indicated in the green box below. By contrast, the seven precincts with the highest percentage of turnout (mail and in person) are those listed in the orange box on p. 9. During the pandemic period, election strategy shifted from old fashioned door-to-door grassroots. Many candidates were wary of going house to house to encourage folks to vote.

see ELECTIONS p.9



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Precincts (9) with Lowest % of Voter Turnout		
12-05	23.29% of 176 registered voters	Upcountry Maui
14-02	23.44% of 3,007 registered voters	West Maui
14-01	23.81% of 3,435 registered voters	West Maui
14-04	24.96% of 7,142 registered voters	West Maui
11-03	26.98% of 7,718 registered voters	South Maui
14-03	27.39% of 2,227 registered voters	West Maui
11-04	27.79% of 3,515 registered voters	South Maui
13-04	28.91% of 2,113 registered voters	Ha'ikū/Canoe District
11-02	29.22% of 4,499 registered voters	South Maui

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From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE

Use the Power of Your Voice and the Power of Your Vote ... Elections Matter

Now the Primary Elections are over, we can focus on the November 8th General Election when we elect who will lead our County for the next few years to address the critical issues facing our community. If you did not register and vote during the Primary, shame on us. Ever since I was eligible to vote I made sure to exercise my solemn responsibility to cast my vote. Elections matter and there are grave consequences if we don't vote, and even worse consequences when we vote for the wrong person.

Just look at what happened on January 6, 2021 at our nation's Capitol, where insurrectionists attacked the U.S. Capitol and our democracy ... *and* our leader of the free world did nothing to protect the safety of our citizens. This is a stark reminder and an important lesson—that elections matter.

Even though the law does not require citizens to vote, voting is an especially important duty of citizens in any democracy. In the action of voting, citizens are participating in the democratic process. Citizens vote for leaders to represent them and to promote ideas that matter to them.

Yes, it is easy to get lost in the media buzz around elections and the candidates. Sometimes we lose sight of what is really important. Elections provide the opportunity to make our collective voices heard and to make sure the issues which affect us and changes we care about are part of the conversation.

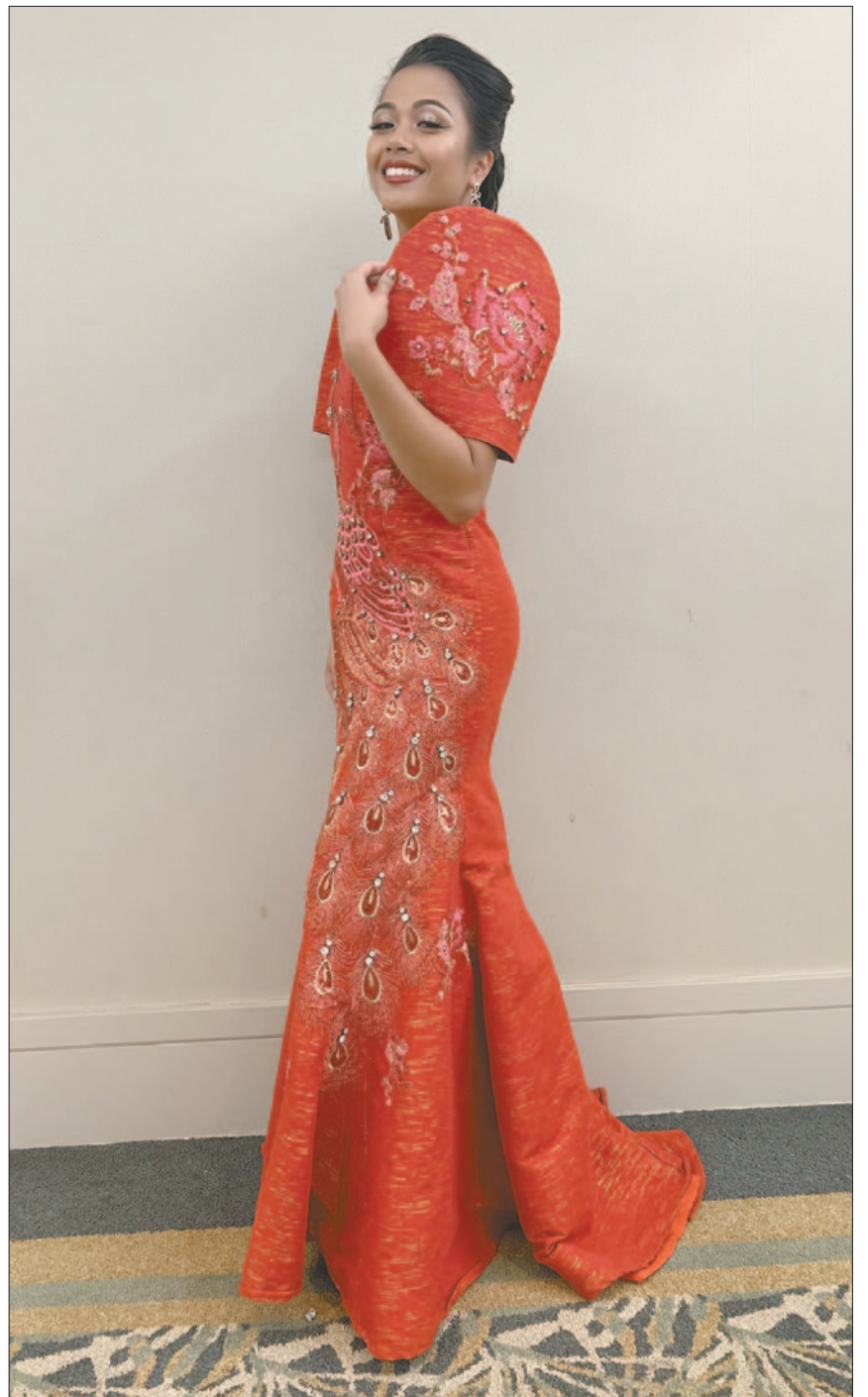
This year's election here on Maui is especially important. We must vote for the right leaders who will address the challenges many of our working families face. For example, many candidates running for office recognize the number one issue facing our residents is the lack of affordable housing—simply put, housing our residents can afford.

There are elected officials who purport to support workforce housing but in several instances vote *no* to 100 percent affordable housing projects. Don't judge candidates by their words; judge them by their records. Words are easy. Records tell the truth. Get to know the candidates' record before you cast your vote, to ensure they are in line with your values and expectations.

There are only a few public officials who consistently support the workforce housing projects for our hardworking families, namely, Council Chair Alice Lee and Councilmembers Tasha Kama and Yuki Lei Sugimura, and the administration's Department of Housing and Human Concerns. We appreciate and thank them for their steadfast support and continued work to ensure our Maui 'ohana will have homes they can afford and even build equity they can pass on to their children and grandchildren.

Another issue many candidates for public office believe is tourism is bad for our island. Somehow, they do not seem to realize over 85 percent of our economy is dependent on tourism related em-

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 6



Lennel Alvarez stands tall and proud as does the peacock design that adorns her modern terna evening gown.

PHOTO COURTESY LENNEL ALVAREZ

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. On June 4, 2022, Lennel Joy Felix Alvarez was crowned Miss Maui Filipina 2022. "My first reaction when I learned that I was Miss Maui Filipina was just shocked," says Alvarez. "I didn't think I would win so I was just overwhelmed with excitement and shock. I was very, very happy to have won but it was just so unexpected. To this day, I still can't believe that I won and am Miss Maui Filipina."

The twenty-one-year-old Filipina was born and raised on Maui. She is the eldest of five children born to Arnel and Arlene Alvarez. "My parents immigrated from the Philippines when they were teenagers, my father from Cagayan and my mother from Laoag" explains Alvarez. "I have two brothers: AJ, who is nineteen years old and Angello, who is thirteen years old and my twin sisters Leanne and Lexxie who are six years old."

The accomplished Maui High School alum (Valedictorian, 2018) already had her Associate in Liberal Arts and Associates of Science in Nursing from the University of Hawai'i Maui College when she became a contestant. "I decided to become a contestant for the Miss Maui Filipina pageant because I wanted to take the opportunity to earn a scholarship that will support me in receiv-

ing my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). In a meeting with Auntie Michelle Santos, I asked about the prizes that could be won in the pageant. She listed the prizes for the queen, first runner-up, and second runner-up, and the \$500 cash prize for Most Ads Sold. I mostly ran for the pageant for the \$500 cash prize, because \$500 can cover my cost of books."

Once she committed, she prepared herself. "Being that the Miss Maui Filipina pageant was my first pageant ever, I did not know where to start," explains Alvarez. "I knew I had to prepare myself physically and mentally for what was to come for the pageant. I went to the gym to prepare my body for the swimsuit competition. I caught myself up on state, national, and global current events, as well as participated in mock interviews to prepare me for the pre-pageant interview. A big portion of preparing myself was to gain more self-confidence to be able to even be on stage and perform to the best of my ability."

She did have her fears about the Miss Maui Filipina pageant. "My greatest fear in becoming a contestant for the Miss Maui Filipina pageant was disappointing my loved ones," Alvarez admits. "But I overcame my fear by continually telling myself that I am running for Miss

see LENNEL p.8



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The **Fil-Am Voice**, a newspaper focusing on issues concerning our Filipino American community here on Maui, is published every month by Fil-Am Voice Inc. ©2022 **Fil-Am Voice Inc.** All rights reserved. The *Fil-Am Voice* is valued at \$1 per issue. One complimentary copy per person is available at islandwide distribution locations. Multiple copies may not be taken without the permission from the *Fil-Am Voice*. **Disclaimer:** The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Fil-Am Voice, Inc. Any assumptions made within these articles are not reflective of the position of Fil-Am Voice, Inc.

When Jo Koy performed recently at the Castle Theater, I was surprised to learn from my sister the *Pinoy* comedian skipped his familiar repertoire of Filipino jokes. Instead, he riffed wryly on his recent Maui experiences. I posted half-kidding on social media she had been ripped off (she quipped I was the one “ripped off” because I’d bought her the tickets as an early birthday present).

Koy apparently saved the ethnic material for his new movie, “Easter Sunday.” On the heels of the box office success of “Crazy Rich Asians” with its all-Asian cast, “Easter Sunday” is the first American film backed by major Hollywood studios (produced by DreamWorks Pictures, Amblin Partners and Rideback, and distributed by Universal Pictures) with Filipino acting leads playing—wait for it—Filipinos. Hawaii’s Tia Carrere says this is her first Filipina role and Lou Diamond Phillips plays himself as the most successful Filipino-American actor who in a running joke with a lot of truth made his mark playing Hispanics or Native Americans.

The plot isn’t very novel but it provides a fond homage to Filipino family life in America, with glimpses of the hopes and pressures parents place on their children for success while including the common tropes of a health care worker in every Filipino family and the central role of Roman Catholic faith and supersti-

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Koy’s ‘Easter Sunday’: A Review

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

For Easter Sunday, Joe and Junior travel from Los Angeles to Daly City to attend a family gathering with their extended Filipino American family.

tions. Koy plays Joe Valencia, a comedian and single father to his teenage son, Junior (Brandon Wardell). For Easter Sunday, Joe and Junior travel from Los Angeles to Daly City to attend a family gathering with their extended Filipino American family. Joe encounters yet another feud between his mother (Lydia Gaston) and his Tita Theresa (Carrere) where no one can pinpoint the reason and deals with another hair-brained scheme gone wrong by his cousin Eugene (Eugene Cordero), while waiting to hear from his agent Jay (played by director Jay Chandrasekhar) if he will get his big break in a television sitcom.

What the film captures well are the family dynamics of an extended clan observing and maintaining old country traditions while trying to also



Assistant Editor Alfredo Evangelista was on assignment with his wife Bessy in Honolulu to preview the movie.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Marietta Paet Anoba and her sister Celia Skeith (visiting from San Diego) pose in front of the poster at Maui Mall.

PHOTO COURTESY MARIETTA ANOBA

fit in and thrive in an American community. The film is more a working family farce than a dramedy and a lot grittier than the Hong Kong wealth depicted in CRA. But it’s a pretty satisfying ninety minutes of laughter.

The pic also features some amusing performances by Hadestown Broadway actress and singer Eva Noblezada as UC Berkeley-bound Tala, a love interest for Junior, Jimmy O. Yang with another often hilariously manic turn as Marvin, Joe’s childhood pal and a Daly City black marketer, Tiffany Haddish as Vanessa, an old girl friend that Joe ghosted who is now a Daly City cop, and Asif Ali with an over-the-top depiction of the local small town crime boss, Dev Deluxe. The plot

gets pulled along by an on-going Filipino gag involving a Filipino presidential candidate’s artifact and his career that is too much of a spoiler to include here.

Go see it. The sequel should bring the cast back for the Super Bowl of Filipino family holidays, Christmas.



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran



practices law in Wailuku. His family regularly attended the Filipino films screened at Queen Ka’ahumanu Center before the pandemic and are addicted to shows on TFC.



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Is Not Everything ... The End of Summer

Jazmyne Faith Vloria | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2023

August 1st. The marking of a new month, new week and unfortunately, the end of summer break. For all HIDEOE students, the 2022–23 school year has forcefully intertwined itself within students’ schedules. The—what seemed to be nostalgic—7 a.m. blaring morning alarms, 2 p.m. relieving release bells and 11:59 p.m. dreadful due dates have become a reality again. With a quarter of the day spent at school, students plan to make the most of it through partaking in new clubs, learning captivating subjects and building a

support system. “Coming back from summer break, I’m excited about the classes I’ve registered for and forming study groups within them. Learning a new subject with friends and like-minded individuals makes it more interesting and enjoyable,” **Edrich Rabanes**, an upcoming junior, expresses. The lessons taught and assignments given within the classroom are meant to challenge students; how students approach and perceive the workload, however, will persecute the outcome. **Deyna Buck**, a high school senior, has filled her

schedule with early college and AP courses; although the workload may be rigorous, she believes, “Balancing all of my classes is preparing me for college. All the late nights I’ll spend studying and reading will add to the mindset I’ll need to persevere later on when academics become more rigorous.”

Although some students are enthusiastic about learning new subjects and building productive habits, many are excited about iconic school experiences. “There’s always a moment in every game where everyone’s energy is high and we end up screaming the cheers. Although I sometimes lose my voice, the joy I feel will always be indescribable but in the best way possible,” Deyna happily explains. The football games, spirit weeks and class activities contribute to nostalgic school memories that stick with students, especially seniors. **Jada Tagorda**, a high school senior, expresses, “I’m looking forward to ending my last year of high school on a high note because it’s the last year before we all branch out into our paths. I’m most excited about our graduation commencement ceremony. I feel walking the line ties up our journey from childhood leading into adulthood.”

As some seniors already prep for the bittersweet end of their high school experience, others are looking toward new beginnings. **Carlo Cortez** committed to Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, and although it’s far from home, he realizes “Moving out of Hawai’i would mainly contribute towards self-growth. I’d be in a new area discovering and getting used to a different culture and lifestyle and it’s something I’m not entirely comfortable with but that’s the exciting part. It will

encourage me to push myself and try unfamiliar things, I’m willing to take this new challenge and steppingstone in my life.” Like Carlo’s thinking, **Kristiann Miguel**, a freshman at UH Mānoa, explains, “Stepping into a new chapter in life, you learn and grow from your experiences. You learn how to step out of your comfort zone and be independent. Through this process, you will meet many people who may share similar interests. I’m looking forward to developing new relationships and support systems because it will make me more resilient and encouraged.”

Although summer break is relaxing, the new school year offers endearing experiences, lessons, personal growth and connections with peers. Students are ready to take on the early classes, meetings and work due dates, that is, with the help of their alarm clock, of course. ✨

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 Vloria**, 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 Vloria.



JOURNEY TO 5

5 YEAR MAUI HEALTH ANNIVERSARY

WE ARE PEOPLE, COMMUNITY & EXCELLENCE.

In the last five years, the Maui Health team has worked tirelessly to make significant improvements in providing safe, quality, compassionate care. **Through the lens of our values**, see how our transition to Maui Health has allowed us to invest more in our **People, Community, and Excellence**:

- **Clinical training programs** to help our team grow skills and talents including perioperative nurse training, certified nursing aide training, and a partnership with University of Hawaii Maui College’s Nursing program. To date, Maui Health has hired over 100 Maui nursing school graduates!
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic** opened in December 2020 to support our community; one of the first and largest vaccine clinics in the county. To date, over 85,000 doses have been administered and continues to serve residents six months and up.
- **Nationally recognized, high-quality care** including MMMC earning a Leapfrog “A” Hospital Safety Grade for spring 2022 and Kula Hospital and Lāna’i Community Hospital achieving five stars from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in 2021 — a first for all facilities.

We invite you to learn more about Maui Health, our mission, vision and values, and all of our accomplishments throughout our Journey to Five, at mauihealth.org/journey.

We are Maui Health. We are proud to celebrate five years of caring for our community!

Maui Memorial Medical Center
Maui Memorial Outpatient Clinic
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Lāna’i Community Hospital

mauihealth.org/journey | [#JOURNEYTO5](https://twitter.com/JOURNEYTO5)

From the Editor’s Desk

| Cont’d from p. 4

ployment. Most of our residents depend on the tourism industry for their livelihood. Instead of disparaging tourism, let us support and “right size it” so our residents who work in the visitor industry continue to thrive and remain here at home, rather than leave our island.

It is time to vote in unity and collectively for those who genuinely look after your best interests and who will deliver affordable housing for our families. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. In the end, we will remem-

ber not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

If you haven’t registered to vote—register now and cast your vote in the November 8th General Election. We are at a critical crossroad—the power to make changes for the betterment of our community is in your hands. Use the power of your voice and the power of your vote for the sake of our children.

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat! ✨

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

The Rise of Omicron Subvariant BA.5

Errol Buntuyan, M.D., FAAFP

The month of July has unfortunately seen the rise of a new subvariant, BA.5, to disrupt our summer festivities. This variant is concerning experts and spurring a lot of discussions about how to proceed in the coming months with our ongoing battle with COVID-19.

It appears this new BA.5 subvariant of Omicron is the most contagious of all. This variant is managing to infect those who have completed the original vaccination series against COVID and even those that have received one booster dose over four months ago. BA.5 also has infected those that were previously infected with other strains, including those positive with earlier Omicron subvariants. This means the acquired immunity from vaccinations, boosters and prior infections are not keeping people from getting infected with BA.5.

The BA.5 subvariant is also causing a range of symptoms more intense than the milder ailments from earlier Omicron subvariants at the beginning of the year. There are more reports of intense sore throat, severe headaches, loss of taste and fatigue. The BA.5 subvariant is believed to have some gene and structural similarities to the Delta variant and thus tends to attack deep into the lung cells. This means many with BA.5 infection will have a lingering cough lasting for many weeks after the infection. Some experts are dubbing this subvariant as the true “Deltacron.”

In July, the U.S. was seeing over 100,000 reported positive COVID cases a day. With the advent of COVID home testing kits and with some people foregoing any testing at all, this number is expected to be much higher. It is without a doubt you know someone in your family, coworker or friend group who recently was infected in the last few weeks. Throughout the country and in Hawai‘i, because of the large amounts of infected people, we are again starting to see some increased hospitalizations as well as a small rise in COVID deaths. Those that are young, healthy, with no risk factors and not usually accustomed to getting ill are getting infected and feeling sick with BA.5.

The good news is we are not yet seeing a sharp rise in either of these numbers for Maui. For the most part, those infected with BA.5 are able to feel better and recover without needing hospitalization within five to ten days but it’s still not a great feeling to be sick with these symptoms.

Many wonder how BA.5 became the subvariant it is today? The lifting of the mask mandate and the return to “normal” life is one key factor to the spread of COVID infection. The more opportunity the virus has to infect people and replicate, the higher the increased chance genetic mutations and variants will occur. The COVID virus only wants to continue to

live in our society among us, continue to spread and continue to multiply. These variants and subvariants are the tweaks the COVID virus makes to maintain its survival.

Another reason why BA.5 has risen to be the dominant strain is our vaccination rates for those eligible for boosters have been really low. Vaccination still is the only effective strategy to prevent COVID infection. On Maui, as of July only 71 percent completed the original series; only 41 percent received the first booster while only 8 percent received the second booster. The vaccines for our teens and keiki are also off to a slow start. This low rate of completed vaccination of course has allowed the Omicron surges that have occurred since the beginning of the year to continue, promoting more chances for these subvariants to form. Living in an endemic state only works if the population keeps up with the recommended vaccinations to limit continued infections and virus replication.

The most concerning thing is BA.5 is evading or dodging our current acquired immunity. This subvariant has morphed to change its surface protein so our antibodies can no longer recognize and neutralize the virus. Scientists throughout the world are looking at developing new vaccines more generalized to fight against coronaviruses in general and are also looking at developing a bivalent vaccine that includes components of both Delta and BA.5. The earliest expected launch of these is later this year.

Regardless, it is still important to get vaccinated. Any vaccine acquired immunity is still helpful to slow the positive infection rates, spreading the disease and fighting symptom severity. These antibodies and memory cells we get by vaccination or prior infection can last for four to five months in our bodies. So if you have not been fully vaccinated and boosted or became sick with COVID within four to five months, it is highly likely you no longer have immunity effective against BA.5. Coming down with BA.5 thus far, is not a pleasant or easy experience. People are feeling more sick than the earlier Omicron subvariants. The great news is those who are fully COVID vaccinated and completely boosted within the last four to five months, are not getting the severe illness or being hospitalized for COVID symptoms.

If you have not received your first booster and more than four months

has passed since your series was completed, get it now. If you are over 50 or have comorbid conditions, and risk factors, you can get your second booster. Based on our Maui COVID vaccination data, there are many who are eligible and are not getting their boosters.

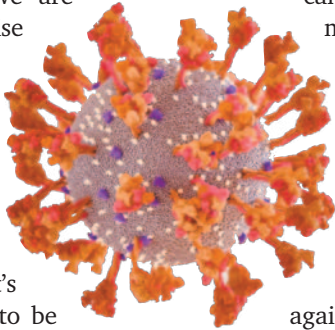
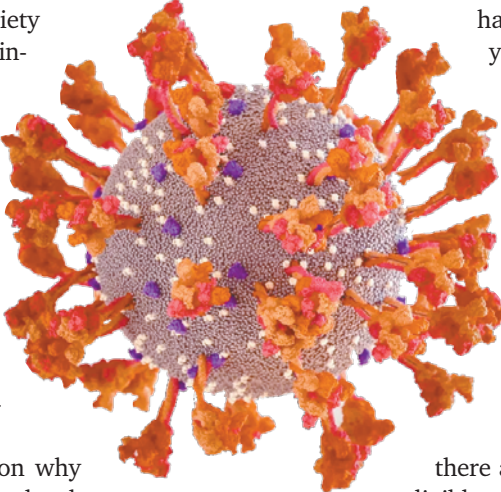
The latest data is BA.5 is spreading mostly through the under 50 year old population. This group is the least likely to have completed their vaccine and booster series. At the time of the writing of this column, the FDA is considering making those under 50 eligible for their second booster.

With the emergence of BA.5 infecting many millions of people, there may be multiple strains and subvariants on the way. In fact, there is another Omicron subvariant BA-2.75 (nicknamed “Centaurus”) currently being monitored as one of interest. The worst thing that could happen is the rise of a new more virulent and dead-

ly strain of COVID that could trigger our world into another lockdown.

With more COVID subvariants emerging we are guaranteed to see the development of new vaccines to tackle these mutations. Stay tuned for these COVID vaccine developments, be aware of any upcoming recommendations and remain updated on your COVID vaccine eligibility. Completed COVID vaccinations with boosters are still our best hope to protect us from getting severe disease from COVID infection. ✨

Errol Buntuyan, M.D. is a Family Medicine Practitioner and the Physician in Charge of Maui Primary Care at Kaiser Permanente. Born in Quezon City and raised in Southern California, he has been practicing medicine on Maui since 2007. Dr. Buntuyan promotes whole food, plant based nutrition, regular physical activity, stress mindfulness and sleep hygiene as keys to optimum health and wellness. He enjoys cooking, playing tennis and travel.



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ABOVE: Lennel attends the Seed & Harvest Dinner sponsored by the Binhi At Ani—the event granted scholarships to 23 graduating seniors this year.
PHOTO COURTESY LENNEL ALVAREZ



ABOVE and BELOW: Lennel stands with Miss Barrio Fiesta 2022, Audryanah Starmer. They are about to represent the Filipino community here on Maui at this year's 2022 Nā Kamehameha Commemorative Pā'ū Parade and Ho'olaule'a which was on June 18 at Lahaina's Front St.
PHOTO COURTESY LENNEL ALVAREZ



Lennel ...

from p. 4

Maui Filipina for myself and no one else. This is all about self-growth and if I can be proud of myself by the end of the pageant, I will be happy.”

Alvarez did not disappoint. She won several awards during the Miss Maui Filipina Pageant (Most Ads, Most Tickets, Most Photogenic and Terno Design as well as the Interview and Terno Speech.) Rochelle Balala

won Miss Congeniality; Ahlyzxie Calleda won the Social Media Award; Kailee Delos Santos was the Second Runner up while Shay-Lea Ruiz, who won the Swimsuit and Talent, was the First Runner Up.

After a number of appearances as the Miss Maui Filipina, Alvarez was off to Honolulu to participate in the Miss Hawai'i Filipina pageant. “After the Miss Maui Filipina pageant, I had a good foundation on what I needed to do for the Miss Hawai'i Filipina Pageant. I decided to keep myself in

shape by going to the gym with Auntie Myrna Breen. I also continued to stay up to date with the current events, globally, nationally, and locally. I continued to work on my talent and my speech, making sure my speech was impactful and unique.”

Alvarez felt her best attributes for the Miss Hawai'i Filipina pageant were her “transparency, humbleness, and passion to serve my community.” Similar to the Miss Maui Filipina pageant, Alvarez’ greatest fear in competing during the Miss Hawai'i Filipina pag-

eant “was disappointing, not only my loved ones but my Maui Filipino community. I told myself I am running for Miss Hawai'i Filipina for myself and no one else. I kept telling myself that as long as I am proud of myself at the end of the night, I will be happy!”

At the end of the night, Alvarez won First Runner Up. “I’m extremely proud of my performance,” says Alvarez “and I am deeply grateful to have won three out of the four competition awards: Best in Swimsuit,

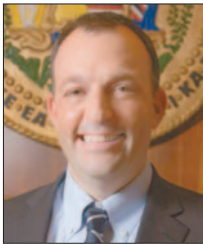
see LENNEL p.13



Several of the anit-Luke and anti-Tokuda mailers from Super PACs
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Precincts (7) with Highest % of Voter Turnout

10-03	47.37% of 5,908 registered voters	Wailuku
10-02	45.42% of 1,169 registered voters	Wailuku
13-05	44.12% of 655 registered voters	Haiku/Canoe District
12-04	43.77% of 7,114 registered voters	Upcountry Maui
13-06	43.04% of 2,328 registered voters	Ha'ikū/Canoe District
13-08	41.77% of 1,386 registered voters	Ha'ikū/Canoe District
12-03	41.30% of 5,975 registered voters	Upcountry Maui



Green



Luke



Tokuda



Keith-Agaran

Elections ...

from p. 2

Likewise, many families did not welcome candidates coming to their homes to talk story.

For this Primary Election cycle, candidates relied more on radio, print, social media and mailers. (Our multi-generational household received thirty-one mailers and two “friend-to-friend cards.” For the County races, we received five mailers and two friend-to-friend cards from the Friends of Michael Victorino; two mailers from the Friends of Nohelani U’u-Hodgins; and one mailer each from the Friends of Yuki Lei and the Friends of Tom Cook Maui.)

Backfired?

For the State and Federal races, some political pundits called it the nastiest campaign ever, likely referring to the races for Lt. Governor and Congressional District 2 and maybe to a lesser extent, the Governor’s race.

Lt. Governor Josh Green easily beat his six Democratic challengers including businesswoman Vicky Cayetano (who announced her candidacy in August 2021) and Congressman Kai Kahele (who did not announce his candidacy until May 2022). Cayetano and Kahele—in what they called unprecedented—held a joint press conference on July 27—seventeen days before Primary election day and about a week after voters received their ballot—to question Green’s personal finances. Nevertheless, Green crushed

both of them with 60.6 percent of the vote; Cayetano placed second with 20.1 percent of the vote while Kahele received 14.4 percent of the vote. (On Maui, Green received 57.2 percent; Kahele received 23.2 percent while Cayetano received 13.3 percent.) On the Republican side, Duke Aiona easily bested BJ Penn (37,406 to 19,667) and eight others. On Maui, it was closer as Penn received 3,021 votes to Aiona’s 3,573 votes. Penn did not concede.

The Lt. Governor’s race was deemed a toss-up based on the recent polls. Of the six Democratic candidates, four were deemed to be within the margin of error the polls’: House Finance Chair Sylvia Luke, former Honolulu City Council Chair Ikaika Anderson, former Honolulu Mayoral candidate Keith Amemiya and Chamber of Commerce president Sherry Menor-McNamara (of the Menor clan). The race became ugly with Be Change Now formerly known as Pacific Resource Partnership—the Carpenters Union Super PAC—casting aspersions on Luke’s ethics through guilt by association. (The three mailers our household received highlighted the words “pay to play” and “corruption.”) The Carpenters Union endorsed Ikaika Anderson and apparently was furious with Luke’s refusal to make permanent the GET increase for the Honolulu rail project.

Evidently, the efforts by Be Change Now didn’t help statewide. Luke received 87,456 votes (33.7 percent);

see ELECTIONS p.13

Happy 98th birthday Mom!

Agyamanak unay ti sakripisyo kanyak.



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Community... In Action



Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is now open for events inside the Center. For more information go to <https://binhiatani.org/book-an-event/>. The Center's capacity is up to 464 persons. PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



Miss Maui USA is one of the teams for Bayanihan Feeding Program. PHOTO COURTESY MISS MAUI USA

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. If you want to serve alcohol, there is a \$300 additional fee and you must hire two licensed bartenders. The office is open on Mondays,



COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

Compiled by Assistant Editor Alfredo G. Evangelista. Send your community briefs to info@filamvoice.com.

Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **#BayanihanFeeding-Program** The program provides a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui. As of June 30, a total of 8,397 meals were delivered. There is a need for additional teams of volun-



teers to prepare the free lunches. The teams serving during the month of August are Binhi at Ani, Friends of Michael Victorino, Maui Filipino Community Council, and Philippine Nurses Association Maui Hawai'i. Create a Team by signing up. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Cred-

it/Debit card 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 for Kūpuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center** classes have begun. There are 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



The Summer at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center concluded on July 27 with a Presentation Night. PHOTO RIGHT: Philip Sabado taught a keiki art workshop that summed up with a wonderful display of art by the young and budding artists. PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Although the Enhance@Fitness classes were delayed a bit, classes are now in full swing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday mornings from 7 to 10:30 a.m.





The Maui Filipino Community Council awarded \$1,000 scholarships to eleven outstanding members of the Class of 2022.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE M. PASCUA

mail.com or Wellness Coordinator Claudette Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us.

Summer at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center concluded on July 27 with a Presentation Night. Mahalo to the instructors Angelina Abapo (Voice Lessons); Jeffrey and Lydia Dela Cruz (Ballroom Dancing); Madelyne Pascua (Philippine Cultural Dance and Escrima) and Philip Saba-do (Art).

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Based on the recent financial success of the 2022 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship pageant, the Council awarded \$1,000 scholarships to eleven outstanding members of the Class of 2022.



Maile Cacal, daughter of Vicente and Lisa Cacal, and an alum of Lahainaluna High School, will attend Arizona State University, majoring in Journalism.

Camille Haluber, daughter of Ferdinand and Merely Haluber, and an alum of Maui High School, will attend University of Hawai'i Maui College, majoring in Health/Nursing.

Amy Khoan, daughter of Thanh Nguyen, and an alum of Lahainaluna High School, will attend Bellevue College, majoring in Business.

Julie Ann Limon, daughter of Ernesto Jr. and Edna Limon, and an alum of Lahainaluna High School, will attend University of Nevada Las Vegas, majoring in Nursing.

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



The Philippine Nurses Association of Hawai'i Maui Chapter helped serve the hungry at the Ka 'Ohana Kitchen of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wailuku.

PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTINE GUMPAL



and an alum of Maui High School, will attend Bates College, majoring in Biology.

Piper Pascua, daughter of Harold and Angela Pascua, and an alum of Lahainaluna High School, will attend San Diego State University, majoring in Public Health.

Tricia Pascua, daughter of Rodel and Analiza Pascua, and an alum of Lahainaluna High School, will attend University of Nevada Las Vegas, majoring in Business Administration.

Marie Pineda, daughter of Wilson and Rita Pineda, and an alum of Lahainaluna High School, will attend Grand Canyon University, majoring in Finance.

Caitlin Ramiscal, an alum of H.P. Baldwin High School, will attend University of

Portland, majoring in Nursing.

Allison Rante, daughter of Edison D. Rante and Winda G. Millano, and an alum of Lahainaluna High School, will attend San Diego State University, majoring in Business Administration.

Altene Tumacder, son of Rizal Jr. and Cristina Tumacder, and an alum of Maui High School, will attend University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, majoring in Nursing.

PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION MAUI HAWAI'I CHAPTER

Volunteers Monica, Lucy, Rozzeedee, Offie, Nate, Jasmine, Dionnie, Jeanylyn, Zack and Jason helped serve the hungry at the Ka 'Ohana Kitchen of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wailuku.



These students benefitted significantly from Auntie Madie's Filipino Folk Dance classes.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Auntie Madie also taught Escrima class. These students show their certificates of achievement.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



It's back to school time! Did you have a hard time finding the school supplies on the list according to the grade level of your child? Or did you just order the ready-pack of supplies? Isn't it worth the price for being stress-free? How do you feel now your kids are back in the classroom? They don't have to be at home anymore, in front of their laptop. It's almost back to normal except they are still wearing masks and still limited to large gatherings. Let's not put our

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

guard down and do our best to stay healthy. Boost your immune system by eating healthy and exercise regularly. Always practice personal hygiene. And always have a good night's sleep. Shout out to our August birthday

celebrants: Jesus Butay, Jr., Omar Lascano Lugtu, Adrienne Kawano, Gail Fujiwara, Vanessa Kate Erin Galiza, Catalina Evangelista, Sean Matthew Impelido-Butay, Adrian Chris and Edrien Chris Delos Santos, Angeline

Manzano, Gene Alvarez, Paul Manzano and Exsor Alibin. Happy, happy birthday to you! (Tagalog) *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Ilokano) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ibanag) *Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu!* (Kapampangan) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Ilonggo) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo!*

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

"We know *ana* (what) you did to that officer, Angel. Just let my son go. Please, I am asking you," she pleads to her.

"Officer?" Angel asks herself. Mom's voice shatters. "He doesn't deserve this. He is a good person. Just let him go! I'm begging you, please."

"*Ano* (What) are you talking about lady?" Angel couldn't control herself anymore.

"You know *hani* (what) you did," says the mom.

"*Ana* (What) did I do?" she asks confusedly.

"You are on video. They are coming after you!" the mom exclaims.

"*Nanoyin?! (What?!)*" Angel asks. "You killed that cop!"

It was at this moment that Angel reminisced about that day. That dark day. Her first day in Hawai'i. Dream turned into a nightmare.

That stupid old man who she trusted. That crooked policeman driving her to the transaction location. She remembers it like it was yesterday. How they were escorted through the airport and avoided all the proper procedures to enter the USA like customs, and the bag check area.

She remembered how hot the sun beamed down on her, how it absorbed into her skin after the thirteen-hour flight. She remembered how sticky the leather of the old patrol car felt, and the suffocating stench that came from the smoked soaked upholstery. She remembered how dizzy she felt from the road and the horror she felt when put into that van with all these other girls from all parts of Asia, just awaiting their doom.

Tears roll down her *mata* (eyes) and she starts crying. "I did not do anything wrong. I trusted Billy. My family trusted Billy. My *magulang* (parents) even borrowed money so I am able to come here and achieve what they call an American dream. I am a *nasingpet* (good person). Why me?"

"Hello? Angel! *San-o* (Where) is my son?" Michael's *Nanang* (mother's) voice fluttering and fading away in the background as her *mata* (eyes) well up.

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Where?	Nasaan?	Inno?	Aha?	San o?	Sitaw?	Nokarin?
House/Home	Bahay/Tahanan	Balay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Bale
Mother	Nanay	Nanang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Hani?	Ano?	Anni'?	Nanoyin?
Eyes	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata
Girlfriend	Kasintahan	Nobia	Amiga	Noby	Noby	Noby
Rice	Bigas	Bagas	Bugas	Bugas	Imafi	qabyas
Parents	Magulang	Nagannak	Ginikanan	Ginikanan	Magana	Pengari
Good person	Mabait	Nasingpet	Matang	Buot	Masippo	Maganaka
Door	Pintuan	Ridaw	Lukub	Ganhaan	Puwerta	Pasbul

"Hello? Angel!" Michael's mom says softly.

Suddenly Angel sees herself in the Philippines, like a motion picture of her own life.

"Hello Angel! *Sitaw* (Where) is my son?" Her Aunt Mary Grace popped her head into the *pintuan* (door) of their *bahay* (house) as Angel is loading clothes into her luggage. "Hello? Hello? Angel! *Nokarin* (Where) is my son?"

"Aunt, I don't know. I haven't seen him since yesterday," Angel replied.

"Oh my gosh. *Nasaan* (Where) is this boy? Ever since last week he has been in and out of the *tahanan* (house). Never telling me inno (where) he is going. He hasn't eaten breakfast with us for how many days, and is out all day, coming home late. [Censored words... more censored words]," her Aunt Mary Grace complained.

"Aunt [more censored words] I cook and I clean the *bale* (house). *Hani* (What) is he doing? He does not

help with anything. You know the other day, your uncle..." Aunt Mary Grace continued.

"Aunt," said Angel, still folding clothes and loading them neatly into her luggage, "Raffie is a *masippo* (good person). I will talk to him when I see him."

"Your uncle had to get *bigas* (rice) all by himself and carry all of it to the *balay* (house) from the farm. Do you know how old your uncle is now? He is..."

"Aunt," Angel again said, while reaching for her water bottle.

"*Bugas* (Rice)... he has to bring it to the *balay* (house) and Raffie is the one supposed to lay the *qabyas* (rice) on the road and watch it. Now, everything is late and..." her Aunt kept going.

"Aunt!" Angel shouted while smiling and waving her sock in the air trying to get Aunt's attention.

"And then who is the one to feed the pigs in the piggery? That is Raffie's job. Oh, when I get my *kamay* (hands)

on him..." Aunt made a sour-face and clenched.

Angel frantically waved her sock in front of Aunt while she was still in a trance. Flori, Angel's second-degree cousin who was passing by overheard the conversation with a barbecue stick and soda pop bag in her hand, peeped in and smiled.

Curse words came from Aunt's mouth firing bombs in front of the two girls.

Angel tossed her sock at her forehead. "Aunt," said Angel.

Aunt glared right at Angel.

"Aunt, I don't know if you notice... but he has a *kasintahan* (girlfriend)." Angel chuckled and picked up her sock.

Aunt's *mata* (eyes) turned bright red and she climbed into the *bahay* (house) and his Angel with her slipper. [More curse words].

"*Ana?* (What?) Why? Who told him to have a *noby* (girlfriend)? You know about this, ha? And you don't see LET'S TALK PINOY next page

Elections ...

from p. 9

Anderson received 67,159 votes (25.9 percent); Amemiya received 56,923 votes (21.9 percent); while Menor-McNamara received 25,249 votes (9.7 percent). On Maui, Be Change Now perhaps worked better as Anderson received 10,646 votes (34.8 percent); Luke received 7,792 votes (25.4 percent); Amemiya received 6,019 votes (19.7 percent); and Menor-McNamara received 2,067 votes (6.8 percent). For the Republicans, Seaula Tupa'i, Jr. bested two other candidates with 44.1 percent of the vote.

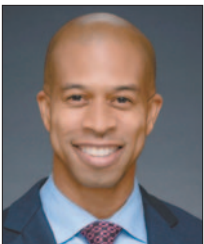
For Congressional District 2 (Kahalele did not seek re-election because he ran for Governor), it also turned nasty with a Super PAC called "Mainstream Democrats PAC" sending out mailers (our household received four) against former State Senator Jill Tokuda. (Tokuda was no stranger to being opposed by a Super PAC as Be Change Now opposed her in her 2018 bid for Lt. Governor against Josh Green.) Super PAC "Dad for America" sent out pro-Patrick Branco mailers while Super PAC "Congressional Progressive Caucus PAC" sent out pro-Tokuda mailers.

In the end, Tokuda received 48.6 percent of the vote (62,056) while Branco received 21.1 percent of the vote (26,965). On Maui, Tokuda received 41.5 percent of the vote (12,655) to Branco's 20.2 percent (6,163). Tokuda faces Republican Joe Akana and Libertarian Michele Tipples in the General Election.

(In a couple of instances, a Super PAC provided some of the lighter moments. A mailer supporting House Speaker Scott Saiki's primary opponent Kim Coco Iwamoto was sent to neighboring Representative Della Au Bellati's community instead. In addition, some mailers supporting underdog Congressional candidate Sergio Alcubilla in urban Honolulu were sent to Maui addresses.)

And yes, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz easily beat his opponent: 227,599 (87.7 percent) to 15,655 (6.0 percent). On Maui, Schatz received a similar percentage of the vote (87.2 percent). In the General, Schatz will be pitted against Republican Bob McDermott, Libertarian Feena Bonoan, Green Party candidate Emma Pohlman and Aloha 'Aina Party candidate Dan Decker.

For Maui's state legislative seats, all three senate seats and six representative seats were up for election due to re-apportionment. In Senate District 5, Gil Keith-Agaran—the only state legislator from Maui of Filipino ancestry—was unopposed and received 7,993



Woodson



Hashimoto

votes (75.8 percent).

In Senate District 6, there will be a new State Senator due to Senator Roz Baker's retirement. State Representative Angus McKelvey (3,889 votes) beat Shaina Forsyth (1,496 votes) and Tamara Goebbert (1,112 votes) to become the Democratic party nominee. McKelvey will face Republican Sheila Walker (who beat Philip Raya) and Green party candidate Melissah Shishido in the general election.

In Senate District 7, incumbent Lynn DeCoite beat fellow Democrats Walter Ritte and Leo Caires with 55.1 percent of the vote (6,700) compared to Ritte's 30.6 percent (3,715) and Caires' 5.9 percent (715). DeCoite will face Republican Tamara McKay in the general.

In the House, Representative Troy Hashimoto (District 10) was also unopposed and received 4,991 votes. Representative Justin Woodson in District 9 crushed challenger Sam Peralta, 3,033 to 817 and with no General Election opponent, is elected.

Incumbent Kyle Yamashita (District 12) was unopposed in the primary and received 4,961 votes. He will face Republican Dan Johnson (1,145 votes) and Green party candidate Summer Starr (25 votes) in the general.

Appointed incumbent Linda Clark (District 13) was defeated by Mahina Poepoe. Poepoe received 2,382 votes, Clark received 1,580 votes and Chase Nomura received 859 votes. Poepoe faces Republican Adam Scott and Green party candidate Nick Nikhilananda in the general.

There was no incumbent in District 11 as Tina Wildberger did not seek re-election (Kelly King initially filed for the race but withdrew and filed for Mayor). For the Democrats, Terez Amato defeated Randal Mahi'ai (2,709 to 966) and will face Republican Shekinah Cantere in the General Election. Cantere eked out a close win over Netra Halperin which prompted a recount which confirmed Cantere's victory.

In District 14, former Councilmember Elle Cochran beat Kanamu Balinbin 1,991 to 1,133 in the Democratic primary. Cochran will face Republican Kelly Armstrong and Aloha 'Aina party candidate Leonard Nakoa in the general. Cochran hopes to be the second member of Maui's legislative team of

see ELECTIONS p.15



Fil-Am Voice Assistant Editor Alfredo G. Evangelista (from left), Bessy Evangelista, Madelyne Pascua, Arnel Alvarez; Lennel's Father and Fil-Am Voice Art Director Lawrence Pascua share a toast before the pageant begins, to wish Lennel the best on her Pageant endeavor on the evening of June 30, 2022 at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.

PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

Lennel ...

from p. 8

Best in Terno Speech, and Best in Interview." She also won the non-competition awards of Best in Terno Design, Most Ads Sold, and Miss Congeniality.

When asked to reflect on the Miss Hawai'i Filipina pageant, Alvarez expressed thanks to everyone who supported her. "This journey for the Miss Hawai'i Filipina Pageant has been crazy but worthwhile. I learned more about myself in the process. I also gained more self confidence in myself and what I do. It was a very challenging experience but very rewarding. I'm glad I pushed myself out of my comfort zone to continue to flourish into the best woman I can possibly be. I'm thankful for all the friendships I have made during this journey and I will continue to support them in everything they do. I'm grateful to have had a wonderful and supportive team of pageant Aunties who coached me throughout this process. I'm thankful for my family, friends, supporters and sponsors that have guided me, believed in me, and supported me throughout this journey. I love you all!"

Alvarez has her mind set on her goals. "My goals as Miss Maui Filipina revolve around educating our Filipino community on the health concerns and issues facing Filipinos today, while also inspiring the youth of today to become the leaders they want to be. My ultimate goal is to host a health fair that is geared to educate our Filipino community, which will include games, singing, and dancing."

But before she could really start her reign, Alvarez returned to Honolulu on August 12 to take the NLCEX-RN exam. On August 14, she learned she passed and added another feather to her cap. "You are now looking at Miss Maui Filipina 2022, Lennel Joy Felix Alvarez, RN," she posted on her social media accounts.

Yes, Lennel, everything happens for a reason. Congratulations and as we Pinoys love to say, "More power to you!" 🌟

Alfredo G. Evangelista and his wife Bessy attended the 2022 Miss Hawai'i Filipina Pageant to support Lennel Joy Alvarez. They stayed up until 4:30 a.m. in the Alvarez hospitality suite along with Maui's Pageant Director Michelle Santos just unwinding and sharing in fellowship, food and needed beverages.

Alvarez felt her best attributes for the Miss Hawai'i Filipina pageant were her "transparency, humbleness, and passion to serve my community."

Let's Talk Pinoy! | Cont'd from p.12

tell me?" Aunty Mary Grace sounded mad.

Florie giggled as she watched Angel clinch into a ball trying to dodge the onslaught of Aunty's flying slipper attack which she perfected over three kids and helped to raise her 14 nieces and nephews over the course of two decades.

"Nasaan (Where) is he now? You tell me." Aunty Mary Grace demanded Angel.

Uh-oh, Angel spilled the beans to

her Aunty about cousin Raffie. Will Angel tell Aunty more about her cousin who is her best friend and family at the same time? Is she going to get him in trouble or will she protect him how he always does to her?

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 Consultant of Saladmaster. She is now part of Saladmaster's Travel Club and won an all-expenses paid trip to Cancún, Mexico. Butay has traveled to Texas, the Philippines and Thailand as one of the delegates from Island Healthy Solutions, a Saladmaster dealer here on Maui.

Ti Biag ken Pammati

“Life and Faith”



Our vigilant and faithful servants, deacon candidates Jason Jacinto and wife Diane, John Metz and wife Josephine, with Deacon Pat and wife Cora and Fr. Jaime Jose and Fr. Michael Tolentino, as they continue their formation to become deacons of our Church.

Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: If the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come. Luke 12:35–40.

We are in difficult times, we need to be vigilant and faithful servants. Our Gospel tells us, we must be “vigilant and ready to expect any challenges that is ahead of us.” Our reward from God will be the good things we did for Him. We know not the time and place when we will meet our Lord, only He knows. But let us be ready for his calling. And let us be prayerful and vigilant in our faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ. May God guide us in this time of trouble and hardship. Let us honor our past and live in the pres-

ent in spite of problems in our world and confront them head on. We will survive and make a difference if we help and stick together. Our successes or failures will help us prepare for a better world and a better future. The Gospel shows disciples what

Be Vigilant and Faithful Servants

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY PATRICK CONSTANTINO

they should be afraid of, namely, when Jesus returns, He will find them going about their business instead of His. In this passage, faithful servants are those who are ready for action. They “gird their loins,” a phrase that means to bind up excess clothing so one can move more freely and go to work. By extension, the phrase means to prepare oneself to do God’s will each day by removing whatever thoughts or excuses hinder their doing so. Faithful servants also keep their lamps lit to light the way for Jesus’ return. They are ready to open the door the moment he knocks. What a surprise they will get when Jesus exchanges

roles and immediately becomes their servant, when he girds himself, has them recline at the table and waits on them. Jesus answers Peter’s question indirectly, making it applicable to both community leaders and all his disciples. All are in some way re-



Our youth praying faithfully during a special celebration.

alive and will indeed return. Jesus warns His disciples those who live as if this world were all there is, who seeks its treasures and pleasures instead of heavenly ones, will be shocked when He shows up and judges them, removing all delusions they are His disciples. He will assign them an unchangeable and eternal place with the unfaithful. Their punishment will be harsher than that of other wrong doers who were ignorant of Jesus’ will. Jesus reminds us today discipleship is extremely demanding and the kingdom is a gift whose value exceeds all others. More is demanded of Jesus’ disciples than of other people—more service, more slavery. Blessed are they whom He finds ready to work and with their lamps lit when He returns. *Jesus I trust in you! Amen!* ✨

On July 1, 2022, **Patrick Constantino** retired as a Deacon for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai‘i, after serving for thirty-five years and becoming on June 18, 1987, 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. His last assignment before retiring was at St. Joseph Church in Makawao.

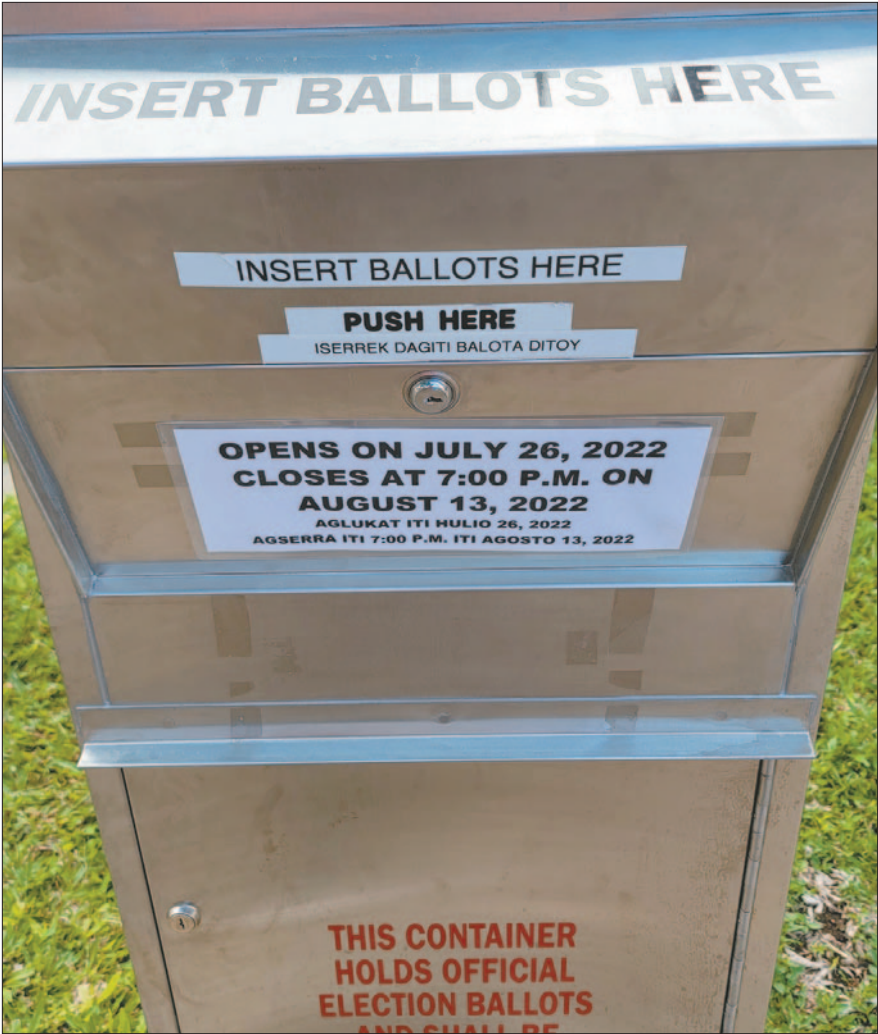
Prior to his ordination, Constantino was in government—first appointed in 1966 as Assistant Sergeant of Arms by the Speaker of the House Elmer F. Cravalho. When Cravalho became Maui’s first Mayor, Constantino became his Executive Assistant—the first of Filipino ancestry. Later, Constantino became the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

Constantino is married to his lovely wife Corazon for sixty-one years.



Maui Knights of Columbus, vigilant and faithful servants at one of our many special celebrations.





Hawai'i is a "vote by mail" state but you may wait until election day to go to an available polling center register and cast your vote in person.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

Elections ...

from p. 13

Filipino ancestry.

"I'm grateful for the continued support from the people of Central Maui and I'm looking forward to working with the new Maui team—we'll have a new Senator for West Maui and Waikapū Gardens," said Keith-Agaran. "I hope Kyle Yamashita will be back—he's played a strong role in the House for many Maui priorities—and with the changes in the House, we'll have untested representatives from South Maui, the canoe district and West Maui/Waihe'e."

From the perspective of the Filipino community statewide (are we still the "sleeping giant"?), there appears to be a number of losers albeit all but three winners still face General Election races. [See blue box to the right]

When asked why Maui's Filipino community should support them, Bissen and Victorino provided the following responses.

"The Filipino people are known for their industriousness, work ethic, perseverance, determination, love for family and culture, and the value they place on education," said Bissen. "It is common for multiple families to live under the same roof due to the challenges in buying or renting a home, until a family can save up enough to buy one. It is common for professionals to come from the Philippines and accept a job they are overqualified for just so they are able to earn a living. It is common to have a full-time job and one or two part time jobs in order to make a living and support their families. And to be able to send one or more of their children to a college or university. All locals, including the Filipino community, face the same challenges of trying to pay for housing, food, utilities, gas and other costs of

living here. They want their voices heard. Our residents need a safe community, good livable wages, clean water, and a beautiful environment for our future generations. My plan is to raise prosperity for all *Kama'āina* residents of Maui, including our Filipino community. My values and plan are consistent with yours. Unlike past promises made and broken, I pledge to give maximum effort to fostering *Kama'āina* prosperity."

"Joycelyn and I are deeply grateful for the close working relationship we've developed with Maui's Filipino community over the past couple of decades," said Victorino. "We've come to respect and admire the Filipino community's work ethic, commitment to family, entrepreneurial spirit and mutual support for one another. We have personally experienced 'the heart of the Filipino.' It has been a joy to participate in your programs and events as an elected official and as a private citizen. Joycelyn and I love to help with the Barrio Fiesta, scholarship programs and pageants, and especially Binhi at Ani's senior feeding program. Thanks to your support, we are headed to the General Election in November. We humbly ask for your continued support. *Maraming Salamat Po!*"

Will Maui's Filipino community be the difference maker in the Mayor's race? We'll know in less than twelve weeks. ✨

Alfredo G. Evangelista majored in Political Science at the University of Southern California (1980) after graduating from Maui High School (1976) and before receiving his law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law (1983).



The Primary Was Not Necessarily Kind to Filipino Candidates

LOSERS

Sergio Alcubilla (D)	Congressional District 1
Kanamu Balinbin (D)	State House District 14
Patrick Pihana Branco (D)	Congressional District 2
Romy Cachola (D)	State House District 30
Roger Clemente (D)	State Senate District 19
Jamaica Cullen (D)	State House District 39
Austin Maglinti (R)	State House District 39
Lynn Barry Mariano (R)	Governor
Sherry Menor-McNamara (D)	Lt. Governor
Bennette Misalucha (D)	State Senate District 16
Julie Reyes Oda (D)	State House District 40
Shane Palacat-Nelsen	Council-Hawai'i
Tina Pedro	Council-Maui
Sam Peralta (D)	State House District 9
Jolyn Gariden Prieto (D)	State House District 35
Arturo Reyes (D)	Congressional District 1
Shirley Templo (D)	State House District 30

WINNERS

Micah Pookela Kim Aiu (D)	State House District 32
Henry J.C. Aquino (D)	State Senate District 19*
Della Au Belatti (D)	State House District 26
Addison Bulosan	Council-Kaua'i
Joy San Buenaventura (D)	State Senate District 2
Elle Cochran (D)	State House District 14
Donovan Dela Cruz (D)	State Senate District 17
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam	Council-Honolulu
Brandon J.C. Elefante (D)	State Senate District 16
Michelle Galimba	Council-Hawai'i
Ernesto (Sonny) Ganaden (D)	State House District 30
Diamond Garcia (R)	State House District 42
Gregor Ilagan (D)	State House District 4
Lorraine Rodero Inouye (D)	State Senate District 1
Gil Keith-Agaran (D)	State Senate District 5*
Donna Mercado Kim (D)	State Senate District 14
Ashley Kierkiewicz	Council-Hawai'i*
Rachele Fernandez Lamosao	State House District 36
Rose Martinez (D)	State House District 40
Ron Menor	Council-Honolulu
Val Aquino Okimoto	Council-Honolulu
Keani Rawlins-Fernandez	Council-Maui
Shirley Simbre-Medeiros	Council-Kauai
Shane Sinenci	Council-Honolulu
Matthew Tinay (R)	State Senate District 13

*Elected in Primary

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is Tuesday, Nov. 8

Sakada Offspring



Arsie Anderson



Mom and Alo



Clifford, Arsie, Cayetana, David, Bernard and great grandchild Kamaile Paet pose for a family picture at his 75th surprise birthday celebration in 2005.

Arsinia (Arsie) Paet Anderson

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY ARSINIA PAET ANDERSON 'OHANA

Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one. This was exactly how the family of this month's Sakada Offspring came about.

Arsinia (Arsie) Paet Anderson was born at Pu'unēnē Hospital in 1951 as the eldest of four siblings with brothers Bernard, Clifford and David to Zacarias Fontanilla Paet and Cayetana Torricer Paet. Cayetana would tell

people their names were in alphabetical order and Zacarias' name was the "Z" according to Arsie.

Arsie attended Pu'unēnē School until 1959. When her family moved to Kahului's 6th Increment, she transferred to Lihikai School located across the Maui Beach Hotel on Ka'ahumanu Ave. Her mom would drive them to school every morning and they would walk back home after school. Walking home built character and friendships

because they had time to walk, talk and laugh with their friends along the way. Her eighth-grade class was first to graduate at the newly built Lihikai Elementary School on Papa Ave. She remembers her eighth grade friends at Lihikai school like Lita Cabudol, Barbara Paheco, Amanda Torricer, Alicia

Tanaka, Lourdez Tesoro, Linda Akiyama and guys like Wayne Guerrero, Gerald Cabrera, Sidney Nako, Victorino Polido, Edward Damaso, Michael Ito, Pau and Vincent Javier and Clinton Rebo to name a few. When she got home from school, after doing her homework, it was her job to cook rice

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Class of '69, celebrating with classmates at Saint Anthony School's Ho'olaule'a, June of 2019.



Arsie received her golden diploma at Saint Anthony School's class of '69's Golden Diploma recognizing during their 50th Class Reunion in June of 2019.



Dana Anderson and grandma Cayetana celebrating her 91st birthday.

and iron clothes. The clothes were sprinkled with water the night before and kept in the refrigerator so it wouldn't dry. As a freshman, Arsie attended St. Anthony Girls High School and graduated as part of the Class of 1969. The girls' and boys' high schools were combined as a coeducational institution in 1968. During her Senior year, the Maryknoll Sisters and the Marianist Brothers taught classes.

After high school, Arsie attended and graduated from Cannon's School of Business on O'ahu. Her first full time employment was with the State

on O'ahu and their son, Dana was born on Maui. They moved to Maui in 1979 where she worked full-time at Maui Memorial Hospital. Thereafter, she worked at Maui Community College, Hardware Lumber Maui, and retired from the Hawai'i Government Employee's Association, totaling thirty-nine years of full-time employment. On Maui, her husband Bruce worked for the State Judiciary as the Driver's Ed Officer, for the Department of Education as a teacher, a School Renewal Specialist. Then he became the



Putting flowers at the family graves are Bernard (clockwise from upper left), Clifford, Arsie and Cayetana.



Family gathering at Cayetana's home last year.

Maui District Superintendent and then retired as Maui High School principal.

In retirement, Bruce and Arsie are involved in ministries at St. Joseph Church in Makawao. Arsie is a Lector, volunteers at the food pantry to serve and deliver food bags to clients and serves on the parish's stewardship committee. Bruce was recently baptized and became a Catholic. He serves as an usher, is a board member for the early learning center preschool and serves on the building and maintenance committee. Both Bruce and Arsie are active in keeping COVID pro-

tocol to insure safe and healthy practices at St. Joseph Church. They also volunteer weekly at Maui Food Bank which allows them to indirectly serve those in need.

Both Arsie and Bruce are also involved in their daughter's business, Friends & Faire, in Wailuku; and keep close contact with their grandson, Kamaleikupa'a, who is a firefighter at the state airports crash fire rescue at the Kahului airport fire station. Jamie, their daughter, is a full-time entrepreneur. Her business is a place to gather

see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page



Fr. Jaime stands with Arsie and her crafts booth at St. Joseph's Early Learning Center craft fair in 2018



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Kama Anderson stands in his work uniform in 2021. He is a State of Hawai'i Crash Fire Rescue Firefighter



Dressed in Christmas PJ's we had a shabu-shabu dinner in the backyard. Akimi (front, from left), Arsie, Jamie, Nicole. Kama (back from left) , Bruce, Dana during Christmas, 2020.



Mr. and Mrs. Zacarias and Cayetana Paet cut the cake during their wedding reception on May 5, 1951.



Arsie and Bruce Anderson stand in front of their Christmas tree during the holiday season in 2018.

with friends (old and new) and other like-minded, creative people to make something cool or shop for local hand-made products. It's a place where people celebrate birthdays, bridal or baby showers, team building or to gather. Their son, Dana is a firefighter with the County of Maui at the Lahaina fire station. He is kind and generous with his time and helps his sister and parents when called upon, coaches high school basketball, loves to surf, enjoys remodeling an old house and likes to cook and be at family gatherings.

Arsie's three brothers were all ambitious, talented, creative individuals. Bernard the eldest brother, owned and

retired from his businesses, Bentos & Banquets and Cupies. He now enjoys going back to nature in raising pigs, which he gained his knowledge and joy from his dad, Zacarias. His dad had a piggery to help supplement his income. Bernard used to help him as a little boy including doing all the things that needed to be done in raising pigs.

Clifford, the second brother, recently retired as the maintenance engineer from Kā'anapali Beach Hotel and his colleagues say he was dependable, and a hard-working employee who helped after hours or at special events at the hotel. As a supervisor and union

agent, he helped inform employees of their rights on working conditions at the workplace. Growing up, Clifford was adventurous and creative—climbing trees to make a swing, using lumber to build something. He learned how to be creative and built things by watching and helping his dad make or repair things. Clifford was the MacGyver during their *hanabata* days according to Arsie.

David, the youngest brother, was musically talented and had a fondness to sing *karaoke*. He studied culinary at Maui Community College and Kapi'olani Community College on O'ahu. He was creative and loved to

prepare wonderful salads, sandwiches, pot pies, desserts at Bentos and Banquets in Wailuku and at Cupies while working and helping Bernard who owned the eateries. David was a master in preparing healthy, delicious and eye-catching meals and found his calling and niche at a job cooking at Ka Hale A Ke Ola homeless resource center before he died in 2012. He loved helping and serving the people he met at the shelter.

Arsie's Dad, Zacarias, came to Hawai'i from Bantay, Ilocos Sur, Philippines as one of the thousands of *Sakadas* who came to work in the

see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page



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Kwento Kwentuhan

Stop and Smell the Plumerias

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

It is past mid-year 2022. Summer is almost over and soon autumn will be here. Based on the proverbial “stop and smell the roses” encouragement, I would like to ask you (Hawaiian style), “Have you stopped and smelled the plumerias” lately?

Stop and Smell The Roses

Although it is impossible to find exactly where the phrase first originated, Mac Davis sang a song by the same title in 1974 with these important admonitions:

Hey Mister Where you going in such a hurry Don't you think it's time you realized? There's a whole lot more to life than work and worry The sweetest things in life are free and there right before your eyes

You got to stop and smell the roses You've got to count your many blessings everyday You're gonna find your way to heaven is a rough and rocky road If you don't stop and smell the roses along the way.

The expression “stop and smell the roses” is not just about flowers or nature but an encouragement to live life with a deeper gratefulness for the world around us. It is a reminder to slow down and take notice of the people and events of the day, to be present in every moment, seeing beyond the ordinary. It means consciously directing your mind to be aware and attentive to the present moment to be able to experience and enjoy more of the world surrounding you.

Here in Hawai'i, we are surrounded with beautiful nature and loving people. People from all over the

world come to Hawai'i to enjoy a vacation. For those of us who live here, however, sometimes we forget to stop and enjoy where we live. With the cost of living so high, many of us have two or even three jobs. We whisk from one job to another without “stopping to smell the plumerias” so to speak.

The Hustle Culture

We live in a fast-paced world that is often crazy busy. This is now what we call “the hustle culture.” Hustle culture teaches us there's always more: more money to make, a bigger title or promotion and a higher wall to climb. Hustle culture means constantly working. It means devoting as much of your day as possible to working—hustling. There is no time out or time in at work. Work is done in the office, outside the office, at home, at coffee shops—anywhere. And in a world constantly on the go and equipped with the tools to achieve that, working constantly on the go is very possible.

Even though the “hustle culture” might be equated to “being hard-working” and on the surface might be perceived as a good thing, it can be toxic. We humans need rest. We need to take time to “stop and smell the plumerias.”

Stop and Smell the Plumerias

Before I end this column, I want to ask you again, “Have you stopped and smelled the plumerias” lately? If not, I encourage you to do so. Take time to reflect on the positive aspects of our lives, value our family and friends. Relish and savor the good times and the good things in life.



Relish and savor the good times and the good things in life. Gratitude and appreciation are keys to a happy life. An effective way to practice gratitude and appreciation is to “stop and smell the plumerias.”

PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE

Gratitude and appreciation are keys to a happy life. An effective way to practice gratitude and appreciation is to “stop and smell the plumerias.” ✨

Liza Pierce of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media enthusiast. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She's been living on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a mother, a friend and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About Rainbow; End Alzheimer's Advocate.

Her life is full and exciting here on the island of Maui. Liza is currently the Digital Media Specialist with Hawai'i Life Real Estate Brokers. She is the author of the book Maui 2021 and Beyond.



Sakada Offspring ...

from p. 18

plantations of Hawai'i in 1946. He was only 25 years old when he came. He was contracted to work for HC&S plantation. He worked at the Pu'unēnē sugar mill and was later promoted and transferred to the fields as a heavy equipment operator. According to his wife Cayetana, Zacarias drove a caterpillar to clear the roads leading to the mill because of dropped sugar cane from the tounahauler trucks. He also worked in cleaning the fields making rock piles helping Mr. Figueroa. He probably even moved those rocks which can be seen piled up in the open fields of Central Maui today where sugar cane was grown. He also worked with the women planting sugar cane by digging a line for the cane and the women would plant the cane.

After being in Hawai'i for five years, in 1951, Zacarias courted and married Cayetana Torricer, a local born Filipina. For a wedding gift,

Cayetana's brother, Marcelino (Moso) Torricer, gave them two piglets and a truck. They lived in Spanish B Camp in Pu'unēnē until their son David was born in 1959 then moved to the 6th Increment in Kahului when David turned one year old. Cayetana grew beautiful orchid plants. She also enjoyed hosting birthday parties for her children and invited the Cortez, Lee, Pacheco and Quirino Paet families. Cayetana made everything homemade: birthday hats, food like sushi, hot dogs, Exchange Orange juice, cookies and cakes. They fondly call Cayetana “Energizer Bunny” because she is always moving; whether in her kitchen or cleaning her home or caring for her plants. She'll be ninety-two on August 7.

Arsie Paet Anderson shared her personal reflections about her parents, Cayetana and Zacarias Paet. “While growing up, I remember my dad would introduce us to relatives at family gatherings. He would tell us to respectfully address our elders as *Nana*, *Tata*, *Manong*, *Manang* or *Lelo* and

Lela (grandpa or grandma). I remember too when he sponsored to bring his brother Felipe (Ipe) from the Philippines to Hawai'i and upon his arrival both cried and hugged each other in a joyful reunion. My dad sponsored Uncle Ipe to come to Hawai'i in hope of a better life and this was the beginning to bring his other siblings and their families to Hawai'i. My Dad never forgot his family, he worked very hard and persevered to help make our lives better. I am blessed God gave me wonderful parents in Zacarias and Cayetana. They molded my character based on principles of work hard, perseverance, being kind, help others and love of family which overflows to my family today. I am so grateful and attribute my success in life to them. Dad was not afraid of hard work. He came to Hawai'i to find a better life for his family and his siblings' family as well. The legacy my dad gave his children is to be unafraid to work hard, helping others, be respectful of our elders and take care



of family.”
Like in the movie, Lilo and Stitch, “‘Ohana means family and family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.” So are the Zacarias Paet Family, no one was left behind and forgotten. ✨
Lucy Peros is a retired school-teacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Both of her late parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 Sakada) and Alejandra Cabudoy Cabalo of Hāli'imaile, worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Lucy now enjoys retirement and has time to join other seniors in the Enhance Fitness Program under the Department of Aging three times a week. She also attends the line dancing class and other activities at Kaunoa Senior Center and joins other Waihe'e School retirees when help is needed at the school. Lucy also devotes some of her time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church. She enjoys writing and reading in her spare time.

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