



### Housing on Maui

Challenge to bring many affordable housing projects is accepted by all would-be leaders.

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### CJ Ancheta Inspires

Much-needed teacher shortage given momentary reprieve by this Pinoy's achievement.

See below



### Hawai'i's past monarchy

Recent Queen's passing reminds us about our political history.

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# Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

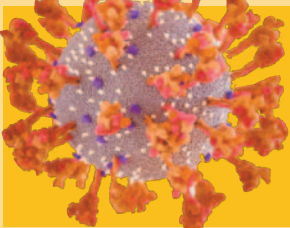
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Google Is Not Everything stresses importance of teachers.

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Bivalent vaccines for Omicron now available.

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Terno Ball to cap October's Filipino American History month.

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## The Challenge of Building Housing Maui Working Families Can Afford

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

**A**ffordable Housing. During the political season, it's the buzzword for all politicians, both incumbents and wannabes. "We should do this; we should do that" is the common refrain. "Government is not doing enough and government has to take the lead" or "Government has to get out of the way and let the private sector do their job" are other frequent soundbites.

And the public eats it up. Who wouldn't be in favor of affordable housing?

But are solutions as straightforward as some wannabes would say? Is creat-

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Government leaders join the developer Linda Schatz (4th from left) in breaking ground at Kaulana Mahina, a residential workforce housing rental project consisting of 324 units located across the street from Foodland Kehalani and Longs Drugs.

PHOTO COURTESY TROY HASHIMOTO

## Teachers Play an Important Role in the Advancement of Maui's Filipino Community

Ancheta is Teacher of the Year for the Hāna - Lāhaināluna - Lāna'i - Moloka'i complex.

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

**I**n the 1800s, Horace Mann, a key American advocate for public education, called education the great equalizer. Mann, although poor and self-taught, was able to enroll at Brown University. He became an attorney and entered government service. When the State of Massachusetts adopted a statewide board of education, he became its first Secretary and advocated for such causes as universal popular education and well-trained, professional teachers.

Hawai'i is now the only state with a statewide board of education, with all other states having more locally ge-

ographic school boards. Hawai'i's socioeconomic fabric consists primarily of Hawaiians and immigrants, many of whom continue to climb the social ladder. Local Filipinos as seen through the eyes of the *Sakadas* and their offspring—as chronicled by *The Fil-Am Voice's* Lucy Peros in her *Sakada Offspring* column—have always considered education as a key element to progress.

My own Dad, a 1946 *Sakada* from Paoay, Ilocos Norte who barely had a second-grade education in the Philippines, would tell me to study hard so I wouldn't need to work for the sugar plantation.

(In my senior year of high school, he did threaten to send me to the military if I didn't shape up; a scary thought for a then 90-pound weakling.)

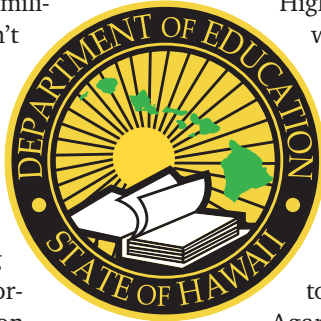
I read somewhere teaching is the most honorable profession... and I read elsewhere the reason is without teachers, there wouldn't be any doctors, lawyers, engineers, scientists and other vocations.

But growing up, I don't recall having a single teacher of Filipino ancestry at Kahului

School. I think there might have been one at Maui High School while I was there (Class of 1976) but I'm not sure. My wife Basilia (Class of 1978) also can't recall any. State Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran (Class of 1980) recalls Elizabeth Menor, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher and Elizabeth Ayson, a Vice Principal.

Currently, there are more than 13,000 teachers in the

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FREE



Housing ...

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ing “affordable housing” as simple as cutting red tape?

But first, let’s get to the basics. And even that may be difficult. The first question is What is affordable housing? I think in the old days, it meant something like you shouldn’t spend more than a third of your income for your housing costs. Therein lies the first problem. With low paying wages (only this year the minimum wage was increased), working people generally pay closer to half or more of their monthly incomes for shelter. That doesn’t leave much for other living expenses, resulting in folks having more than one job—or having families combine their incomes to qualify to purchase a home, which comes with potential problems down the road. Add to that the low inventory on an island where land costs keep going sky high.

The State and County have different agencies to deal with housing. At the State level, the Affordable Housing program is run by the Hawai’i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, with the purpose of the program to help qualifying residents purchase homes for less than market rates.

At the County level, the Department of Housing and Human Concerns’ Housing Division has the objective to “create housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents through partnerships with community organizations with the objectives of: developing long-term afford-



Sen. Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran

able rental housing units; increasing availability of home ownership opportunities; and developing special needs housing with appropriate support services.”

Developers have to comply with Maui’s ordinance which generally requires at least twenty-five percent of a proposed development’s market units to be affordable housing. Under certain circumstances, a developer may also fulfill the requirements by paying a fee or the use of credits from other projects. (Developers usually must also provide infrastructure—roads, water, sewer and connections—associated with their development.)

If a resident qualifies for and purchases an affordable housing unit, there are restrictions as to the resale of such property for a period of time. Once the time passes, the resident can then sell at market price without the

restriction.

“Maui re-branded affordable housing as ‘workforce housing’ in Maui County Code chapter 2.96,” explains State Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran. “‘Workforce housing’ is housing considered affordable under Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines for income groups ranging between 50 percent (very low income) to 140 percent (above moderate income) of the area median income as determined by HUD (with adjustments made for Hāna, Lāna’i and Molokai).”

For the County of Maui, the Area Median Income (AMI) in 2022 is \$101,100. This number is then adjusted for the number of family members.

Keith-Agaran says “The challenge is a lot of our workers likely don’t qualify under the HUD income guidelines for the units built as ‘workforce housing.’ In other words, their family income is above the 140 percent cut-off so they have to try and purchase what’s considered market units. One of my colleagues gives the example of a teacher married to a police officer or another government worker. So it’s not surprising we continue to have a lot of multi-generational families living together as a necessity rather than because we have strong ‘ōhana values. With the median price of a home on Maui hovering near a million dollars, we’re not addressing the housing needs for a lot of our working families.”

“The real goal should be to build units or incentivized housing construction of homes and neighborhoods that families above 140 percent can really afford given what people are paid in Maui County,” observes Keith-Agaran.

Stand Up Maui (SUM) formerly known as FACE Maui has been advocating for affordable housing for many years. In 2017, SUM asked the Maui County Council to establish a Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan but was rejected. On August 28, 2020, the Council awarded to Hawaiian Community Assets, Inc. a \$300,000 contract to create a comprehensive plan. The 264-page report was presented to the Council on July 19, 2021.

The Plan proposes five goals:

“Goal 1. Build 5,000 affordable homes for local residents at or below 120 percent area median income.

Goal 2. Provide sufficient funding to the Affordable Housing Fund to finance the development of needed affordable housing and community serving infrastructure.

Goal 3. Require developers to dedicate 20 percent of their land to affordable housing development and build housing that meets the needs of local residents when seeking resources from the Affordable Housing Fund.

Goal 4. Use county owned land to develop affordable housing.

Goal 5. Make the development process more accessible, predictable and timely.”

The Plan proposes to invest \$1.169 billion: \$380 million for infrastructure improvements and \$789 million in rental and mortgage subsidies.

On October 21, 2021, UHERO, The Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai’i issued a 20-page analysis. Generally, the UHERO analysis found the Plan to be “a major step forward in developing coherent strategies to address Maui County’s

shortage of affordable housing for lower-income households” but strongly suggested a few recommendations:

“We strongly suggest that a few key components of the Plan be modified to ensure its proposed ‘by-right’ regulatory framework for approving, planning, and developing land parcels with affordable housing does what the Plan’s authors intend: Increase the flow of new affordable housing units coming to market over the next 5–10 years,” UHERO said and added “the current version of by-right development presented in the Plan is flawed.”

“We recommend two other substantial changes to the Plan to ensure that its execution does not impede the private development of housing. The changes are important because the housing needs of Maui’s lower-income households can only be partially met by the additional affordable units to be developed by the County. Families across the Maui income spectrum need additional units to be brought to market by private landowners and developers,” added UHERO.

“With changes to a few key provisions,” UHERO concluded “the Plan could lead to a big increase in production of affordable housing on Maui. The Plan is a big step forward and the Maui County Council should move to adopt an amended version as its blueprint for this sector over the next decade.”

(In early 2021, the Council passed Bill 10 introduced by Councilmember Michael Molina by a 6–3 vote (Council Chair Alice Lee and Councilmembers Tasha Kama and Yuki Lei Sugimura voted no) that would increase the requirements of fast-tracked affordable housing requirements from 50 percent to 75 percent, making Maui the second-highest in the country—second only to three municipalities on the mainland who required 100 percent but saw a 60 percent decline in housing growth after the increase. Mayor Michael Victorino vetoed the bill and the Council, with Councilmember Kelly King switching, was unable to override Victorino’s veto.)

The *Fil-Am Voice* contacted Mayor Michael Victorino and Retired Judge Richard Bissen—one will be elected Maui’s Mayor in November—to answer several questions on affordable housing.

**Question 1: Maui is facing an unprecedented housing crisis due to lack of inventory and as a result, median housing prices reached \$1.2 million. According to the 2019 Housing Planning Study, the total workforce units needed for Maui from 2020 through 2025 are 10,400 units to meet the demand. What specific actions as Mayor will you do to address this housing crisis.**

**a. How many units do you plan to develop during your term as Mayor?**

VICTORINO: *Since I took office in 2019, 1,103 new housing units have been completed. There are currently 742 residential units under construction and 4,622 approved units are pending construction. At a minimum, 10,230 new housing units will be developed during my two terms, should I be re-elected. Of these, 5,756 will be “affordable” units our residents can rent or*

see HOUSING p.9



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## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE

# We Must Raise the Next Generation of Maui's Filipino Leaders

The topic of finding the next generation of Filipino leaders for Maui may be on your mind these days. It has definitely been on my mind for some time. To be candid, I am worried time is slipping away and it feels more and more like a ship with no captain at the steering wheel to guide it in the right direction.

Have you ever wondered why our Maui Filipino community is leaderless? Literally leaderless?

It has been essentially this way for the longest time—since the labor movement in the early 20s and 40s—since the construction of the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center that brought the Maui Filipino community together in unity—since the Maui Centennial Celebration in 2006 commemorating our *Sakadas*—all activities and events that have helped Maui to become what is today.

We have not had a leader since. Is it because the Maui Filipino community does not want to be led? Or is it because we Filipinos are divided? Or is it because we are not powerful? Or is it because we do not see ourselves as deserving? Or is it simply because we just don't care?

The question we might want to ask ourselves is How important is it for us to have a Filipino leader to speak for us, or carry our message, or promote our cause, who will have a positive impact on all of us here on Maui Nui. Are we willing to be satisfied and comfortable for non-Filipinos to speak for us, to carry our causes for us, even

though they may not understand our rich culture and aspirations? ... like our need for affordable housing, the urgency of protecting our jobs, especially for those who work in the visitor-related industry, healthcare and much more, as Filipino-Americans on Maui?

Filipinos are one of the largest ethnic groups—if not the largest—on Maui and for all of that, we have a noticeable absence of prominent Maui leaders mobilizing Filipinos, making a case for what affects us locally. We are undeniably the labor force making our County the worldwide island destination and highly appealing place to live that it is today.

What I love about being a Filipino-American living on Maui is how close we are as a community. We love to celebrate. We love to spend time with family. We don't shake hands—we hug—it is like a huge kinship. We help each other in times of need. These qualities are what make us unique and special.

Leader? How do we define a leader? A leader is someone who inspires passion and motivation in followers. A leader is someone with a vision and the path to realize it. A leader is someone who does not seek power or fame. We need Filipino leaders who lead by example, who guide others through good behavior instead of empty words.

As we seek the next generation of Filipino leaders here on Maui, we must find those who possess humility, integrity, empathy, re-

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## Educators ...

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Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE). According to the DOE, as of October 2020, there were 1,014 teachers who identified themselves as Filipino compared to 3,194 White; 3,077 Japanese and 3,298 two or more races. In October 2018, 7.8 percent of teachers in the DOE were identified as of Filipino ethnicity compared to 25 percent Japanese, 23.9 percent White and 24.0 percent two or more races.

At Maui High School, according to principal Jamie Yap, there are about 122 members of the teaching staff with approximately 12 percent of Filipino ancestry.

So it was great news—and something all Maui's Filipinos should be proud of—that when the Finalists for Teacher of the Year were announced on August 5, 2022, a familiar name popped up: Cornelio "CJ" Ancheta. "We are proud to recognize these outstanding teachers who have demonstrated some of the highest levels of dedication and passion for their students," said Superintendent Keith Hayashi in the News Release. "As our Hawai'i public school system continues to focus on prioritizing and accelerating student learning, we are grateful to have outstanding teachers in the classroom to help lead the way."

"One of the main reasons I became a teacher is that I would like to be a positive influencer and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our young 21st-century learners," Ancheta says. His philosophy of education revolves around his stalwart belief that "Anybody Can Learn."

Ancheta did not go directly to public education after moving to Hawai'i from the Philippines. He served as a substitute educator for about a decade then dedicated himself to a retail management position. During that time, he also served a three-year term as School Community Council chair for Princess Nahien-aena Elementary School and volunteered as a math tutor. Ancheta was also the Publisher/Managing Editor of the *Fil-Am Observer* from 2005–2012. When he retired in 2017, he earned a teaching credential and took a teaching position at Lahainaluna fulltime. He has been involved with the HSSO Maui Regional Science Olympiad since 2011 and became co-director in 2017.

Ancheta, now a secondary mathematics teacher at Lāhaināluna High School, will represent the Hāna - Lāhaināluna - Lāna'i - Moloka'i complex; each of the fifteen complex areas and the public charter schools name a finalist. In October, the State teacher of the year will be selected to represent Hawai'i in the National Teacher of the Year program.

With both an undergraduate and Master of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Ancheta brings an agricultural science background to the classrooms. He likens students to seeds. "I know that not all seeds will germinate simultaneously and that some will grow



Ancheta

faster than others even though I provide their basic needs of water, light and a medium for them to thrive," he explains. "I also know that eventually, all of the seeds will germinate at a later point in time." Educators, he states, are the gardeners who provide what's needed to sustain student growth and development.

Ancheta has faith that "given the opportunity, motivation and conducive learning environment, anybody is capable of absorbing abstract or concrete concepts, ideas, and skills." His job, as a teacher, is to facilitate the ability of his students to control and motivate their learning in both pace and scope.

Ancheta is also a true believer in the PBL trifecta (Project-Based Learning, Problem-Based Learning, and Place-Based Learning). PBL gives his students insights on how subjects fit into real life—learning things they did not expect in a conventionally taught geometry class where students might be memorizing formulas to solve problems on paper. "They were able to use technology tools to be creative in presenting their projects and were able to communicate their results well," he observed. CJ is also a staunch supporter of incorporating multilingualism in the classroom.

As a parent who was involved in the schools, Ancheta knows parents play a significant role in supporting their children emotionally.

Ancheta previously was selected as a 2020–2022 Hawai'i State Teacher Fellow. The Hawai'i State Teacher Fellows program runs out of the Hawai'i Department of Education Leadership Institute and provides a diverse group of thoughtfully and rigorously selected public school teachers with peer and community engagement skills, tools to facilitate focus groups, and communication and advocacy strategies. Fellows receive and create opportunities to collaborate with stakeholders to elevate public education.

According to the DOE, the Teacher of the Year program started around 1964. Kahului Elementary teacher Kiyoshi Yabui (he taught music and played the piano for Kahului School's song leaders during the annual track meets) was Maui's first. A cursory review of the available list of Maui's teachers of the year since 2010 does not appear to include any teachers of Filipino ancestry.

And yet studies confirm the importance of having teachers of Filipino ancestry. State Representative

see EDUCATORS p.7



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As we drive to church on Kamehameha Ave., my mother complains the candidates who lost in the Primary should take down their yard signs and banners, especially those who posted illegally on public fences and walls.

Following the August 13th primary election, advertisements during the news are back to Hawaiian Electric keeping the lights on (don't think about your bill going up), Marcus Mariota at a lū'au (the Atlanta Falcons starting quarterback assures you First Hawaiian Bank is local), promotions for the weekend college and professional football games and other local businesses making similar be happy pitches instead of Jill Tokuda likes guns and Sylvia Luke is a crook. Reporters cover parades and proclamations for little league championship teams, and how long the TSA lines are mid-day at Kahului Airport.

We've heard some lamenting about the ugliness of those third-party ads in the primary but I've also heard folks arguing there's always been some whisper campaigns—using the coconut wireless in the past but now augmented by social media and television. But is there some common view of how we should conduct public debates and elections?

If civics is still taught in schools, there should be some mention of how some American ideas underpinning our republic trace back to England (or if you believe the Declaration of Independence, rooted in the mother country's exploitation—meticulously listed by Thomas Jefferson—of its American colonies). Of course, our rights and institutional frameworks are in a written con-

# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

## Eyeing Hawai'i's past monarchy and current government

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran



Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom died on September 8, 2022. She was 96.

PHOTO COURTESY PIXABAY

stitution while the English, the talking heads assure us, just know what makes up the British constitution (a mix of Acts of Parliament, court decisions and conventions and practices). The English speak of two aspects of its constitution—the “efficient” or functional portions and the



A screenshot of William, Kate, Harry and Meghan inspecting flowers and messages laid out fronting Windsor Castle.

SCREENSHOT BY ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



A section of the beautiful stained-glass window at The Cathedral of St. Andrew depicting the arrival of Bishop Thomas Nettleship Staley, received by King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma.

PHOTO COURTESY EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF HAWAII

“dignified” or symbolic. In more recent years, we arguably have seen an erosion in the unwritten practices in our democracy, most notably civil debates and the assumption of a peaceful transition of power following an election.

But following the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II, we're being reminded how much Monarchy Envy the heirs of the American colonies still feel for the royals. The United States was the first of the British colonies to leave the empire, fighting (and winning) two wars against the English. The British even burned down the President's residence during the War of 1812. Now, after bailing out Great Britain in two World Wars, political leaders from both nations refer to the “special relationship” between the two countries.

But it's still amazing to me that William, Kate, Harry and Meghan inspecting flowers and messages laid out fronting Windsor Castle pre-empt an hour of talking heads debating the latest Mar-a-Lago search warrant legal wrangling. After her passing on September 8, mainstream and cable television provided wall-to-wall coverage.

I suppose the fascination with the British Monarchy can be forgiven more readily locally.

Hawai'i is the only State that was once a monarchy, and some of the later Kings and Queens were decidedly anglophiles in their royal trappings and institutions.

Many local institutions trace their origins to the Kingdom of Hawai'i and interactions with England (I'm not even touching James Cook running into the islands and titling them for the Old World as the Sandwich Islands for

one of his patrons).

The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i traces its origins to King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma inviting Queen Victoria's Church of England to the kingdom, supporting its establishment with various land grants. The Union Jack became part of the Kingdom's flag and remains part of the State flag.

The sun never sets on the British Empire referred to the geographic scope of its colonial borders. Hawai'i during Kamehameha III's reign briefly fell under the control of the English during the so-called “Paulet affair.” British Admiral Richard Darton Thomas would arrive and overrule Paulet, restoring sovereignty over the islands to its monarch. Commemorating Admiral Thomas' action, Kamehameha III said, “*Ua Mau ke Ea o ka ʻĀina i ka Pono*,” which has been adopted as the Hawai'i State motto.

Ironically, Hawai'i would eventually become a possession of the United States, after a revolution overthrew the island monarchy. Local residents can surely appreciate the legacy of colonialism that the English monarchy still symbolizes. Do children still learn about “manifest destiny” in our schools and whether some of its assumptions can be traced back to England?

Over the last weeks, we've seen the English display dignified parts of their constitution that have not been observed in seventy years, and they did it well. Americans do it formally every two or four years and lately we have not been very good at observing and protecting the symbolic aspects of our constitution.

God Save the King. ✨

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** practices law in Wailuku. A Maui High School graduate, he attended college in Connecticut and law school in Northern California. Unopposed in the primary election, he recently won another four-year term as the State Senator for Central Maui.







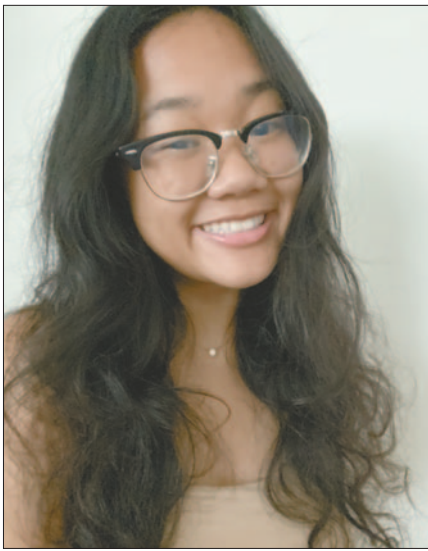
Jordyn Paa



Aliyah Casayuran



John Rick Bumanglag



Sharmaine Butay

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## Is Not Everything ...

### The Importance of Teachers

Jazmyne Faith Vloria | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2023

On paper, a teacher is “a person who teaches, especially in a school.” This definition fails to reveal the thought behind every lesson, adoration for each student and strength in every discussion teachers implement. With a quarter of the students’ day dedicated to teach-

ers, without a doubt, teachers hold a strong influential part in shaping students’ mindsets, habits and overall character. Instilling a growth mindset within students takes priority in **Jordyn Paa’s** lesson plans, Maui High School’s ACOM capstone teacher. “It’s

important now more than ever to prioritize a growth mindset because all of our students have been pushed back two years due to COVID. It’s evident with what we’re teaching and how we’re teaching it.” Along with Jordyn, many teachers follow the same lesson plan in hopes of students applying it to experiences and predicaments outside of school. **Aliyah Casayuran**, a 12th grader, has grown to appreciate, “Teachers consistently remind me always to keep a positive mindset even if I’m stressed, frustrated, or overwhelmed.” She explains her teachers “remind me that hard work always pays off in the future. Behind every achievement, there’s always obstacles that we, as students, encounter.” **John Rick Bumanglag**, an 11th grader, expresses his teacher’s guidance as “Beyond just academics. Teachers have always found ways to guide me through peaks and valleys, celebrating triumphs and helping me through vulnerability.”

With the teacher’s optimistic encouragement, some students were drawn astray from their usual. “I was introduced to many teachers who challenged me out of my comfort zone. I had to be loud, try new things, and work with more people than I was used to,” reflected **Jhanesty Vaye Bautista**, an 11th grader. Other than encouraging students to take on new challenges, teachers redefine past experiences. In other words, students have a new approach to daunting tasks, “Whether it’s homework, senior project or that I need some ad-

vice from a mature perspective, I can count on the teachers I’ve built a relationship with to help me,” shared **Sharmaine Butay**, a 12th grader, who said outlooks ingrained by teachers will always have precedent within students’ minds. “Even though I may not be in their class anymore, their words and advice will stick with me.” “I can relate to them and what they’re going through, so I always check in on them because I genuinely care about how they’re doing. When you establish that relationship with your students, the trust begins to be reciprocated. It makes class a much more enjoyable place to be,” Paa reveals. Teachers have become a pillar of strength and guidance for students, offering their free time, advice and care which leads most students to develop a “family connection” with their teachers. Sharmaine appreciates “being able to come and talk to my teachers when I need help. A lot of my teachers are very welcoming and provide a good support system when I need one.” Along with Sharmaine, Jhanesty formed a cultural connection through her high school teachers, “Weirdly enough, growing up, I wasn’t surrounded by many teachers that had the same culture as me. I grew forgetful and out of touch with my culture. However, as I entered my Junior year, some friends and I restarted our Filipino Club, wanting to learn and share our culture with ourselves and others.” Jhanesty has grown to be grateful and appreciative of the extra effort her teachers offered “through teaching

Continued on p.8



## EXCELLENCE IN EMERGENCY CARE

“I arrived at the emergency room for a symptom of a racing heart. I waited maybe three minutes and I was taken to a staff of nurses and doctors that I would learn are just top shelf, professionalism at the highest level. I was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and was hours away from a stroke. It only took a few hours when I realized I was part of the family. I’ll never forget the kindness, the patience, and the knowledge the nurses had - it was just incredible. I was given strict instructions with my meds, and released. I can’t wait for the follow ups and to start living my new life. Thank you all at Maui Memorial.” – J.J. (Google Review)

Maui Health is committed to providing exceptional care for every person, every time. Our team of caregivers continue to receive national recognition for their dedication to quality and safety.



Learn more about Maui Health’s commitment to excellence at [mauihealth.org/excellence](http://mauihealth.org/excellence).

Maui Memorial Medical Center  
Maui Memorial Outpatient Clinic  
Kula Hospital and Clinic  
Lānaʻi Community Hospital

PEOPLE. COMMUNITY. EXCELLENCE.



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

spectfulness, deep gratitude and no need for power. These are the qualities of good Filipino leaders who will advance our cause and make us proud to be Filipino here on Maui.

The key question we must confront is: How do we raise the next generation of Filipino leaders for Maui? We need to start investing in our young people by inspiring, encouraging, training and mentoring them in all areas of discipline in leadership rather than focusing most of our efforts and resources on cultural events and on parties.

Currently we have several Maui Filipino groups and organizations which may consider taking the

lead in developing leadership cohorts to train our young Filipinos as the next generation of leaders. Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is an ideal training center for such a significant endeavor—and one of the key purposes for its construction by our early Maui Filipino pioneers.

AND when we do this together and with common purpose, our future will be in good hands—with our next generation of Filipino leaders on Maui. ✨

Vince Bagoyo

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

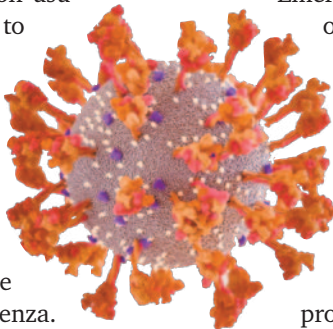
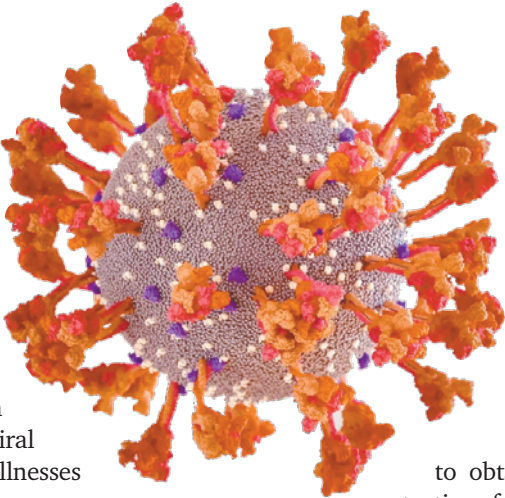


# Summer's end signals Fall preparations

Errol Buntuyan, M.D., FAAFP

Hard to believe we are already in the month of September which signals the end of summer. As the pumpkin spice and cinnamon flavors emerge from our favorite cafés and dessert shops, so does the usual preparation for the upcoming Fall and the viral season of illnesses we anticipate every year. Normally this time of year, we prepare for the influenza season and start recommending people to get the flu vaccine. The 2022 vaccines for influenza have just arrived on Maui and they are now readily available at many clinics throughout the island. Often times, people tend to wait until later in Winter to receive the flu vaccine because the influenza season usually lasts from October to March. This year is exceptionally different. For most of the year, Omicron and its subvariants have yielded milder symptoms resembling more of the common cold and influenza. Since the start of the pandemic we were safe to assume these symptoms were all due to COVID because influenza cases disappeared due to our lockdown and isolation precautions. We have, however, already seen a rise in positive influenza cases emerge earlier late this spring and early summer. We also saw the emergence and spread of the Monkeypox virus over the last few months. Monkeypox vaccines are available through Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center in

Wailuku for those who qualify in high-risk exposure groups. Needless to say, as this COVID pandemic transitions to an endemic, the viral landscape of illnesses has yielded unpredictable developments. Influenza is already here on Maui. So get your flu vaccine! This month the FDA approved the Emergency Use Authorization of the new Bivalent COVID mRNA booster vaccine. Both Pfizer and Moderna are manufacturing this Bivalent booster. This new vaccine booster was developed to include Omicron spike proteins in addition to the original mRNA vaccine formula with ancestral spike proteins we have used for initial doses and prior boosters. At least 77.3 percent of Hawai'i residents completed the initial COVID vaccination series. Only 44.8 percent had the first booster and even less (11.6 percent) received the second booster. On Maui, the numbers are lower with only 71 percent having completed the primary series, 42 percent with the first booster and 9 per-



cent with the second booster. With this new Bivalent COVID vaccine booster, the CDC recommends everyone over the age of twelve should receive it to obtain the best protection from Omicron infection, risks of severe illness and hospitalization. Getting boosted also protects from suffering the symptoms of long COVID such as fatigue, brain fog and cough. The CDC recommends everyone stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination, including all primary series doses and boosters for their age group. Four COVID-19 vaccines are approved or authorized in the United States to prevent COVID-19: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax and Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen). It's recommended the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine only be considered in some situations. The CDC does not recommend mixing products for your primary series doses. If you received Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna or Novavax for the first dose of your primary series, you should get the same product for all following primary series doses. Novavax is not authorized for use as a booster dose at this time. **Ages 6 months through 4 years** should receive all COVID-19 primary monovalent series doses. Boosters are not yet recommended for this age group. **Ages 5 years to 11 years old** should receive all primary monovalent series doses and updated COVID-19 monovalent boosters if eligible. **Children ages 5 through 11 years** who received a Pfizer-BioNTech primary series must also get Pfizer-BioNTech for a booster. **Ages 12 and up**, after getting the original monovalent vaccine series completed, the only booster available will be the new Bivalent booster. People ages 12 years and older can no longer get the original (monovalent) mRNA as a booster. **Teens ages 12-17 years** may get a different product for a booster than they received for their primary series, as long as the booster is Pfizer-BioNTech. **People ages 18 years and older** may get a different product for a booster than they received for their primary series. **For ages 50 and up**, even if you had the two prior monovalent vaccines as boosters, you are now eligible to get this new Bivalent booster if it has been at least two months since your last COVID vaccine shot. If you have not received any COVID vaccinations yet, you can start with the primary monovalent vaccine to complete the primary series and then be eligible for the new Bivalent booster. Below is the CDC link regarding booster questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html> With both the flu season already here and with the Omicron variant actively circulating in our community, it will be interesting to see what the upcoming Fall and Winter seasons will yield. Will there be yet another COVID subvariant developing? How sick will people be feeling should they get exposed and infected? How many will get infected with influenza? How many will get sick with both viral illnesses? Many people are now no longer wearing masks nor as vigilant about practicing the basic safety precautions (social distancing, masking, hand sanitizing). These safety precautions literally took the number of influenza infection to zero cases in 2020 and 2021. Both viruses are out there and we have the influenza vaccine and the new COVID boosters ready to protect us from being severely sick if we get exposed and infected. Take care of yourselves and each other and get updated on your vaccinations for these Fall and Winter seasons. ✨

**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.

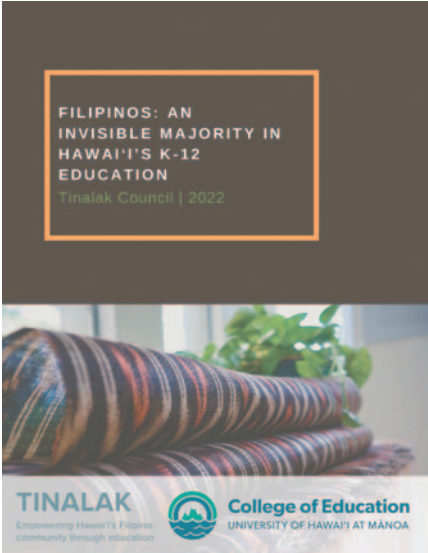
## Educators ...

from p. 4



Woodson

Justin Woodson, chair of the House Committee on Education, says "From a policy perspective, it is important to continue increasing the percentage of teachers from Filipino backgrounds. There is clear research that indicates student outcomes improve long term if the student can ethnically identify with their teacher." The research Woodson refers to is the twenty-six-page Report from the Tinalak Council in 2022 titled *Filipinos: An Invisible Majority in*



*Hawai'i's K-12 Education.* The Tinalak Report highlights how Filipinos comprise 25 percent of Hawai'i's population and are the largest (23.4 percent) ethnic group in Hawai'i's public schools but are under-represented in the field of education. "In 2019-2020, Filipinos had high graduation rates (91 percent); however, they had significantly low college-going rates (54 percent)," states the Tinalak Report, which also found Filipinos to be mostly at the community college level. "They are not transferring to 4-year institutions (when compared to UHCCs), impacting their social and

see EDUCATORS next page

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Educators ...

from p. 7

economic gains and thus remain underqualified for higher-level labor markets.”

The Tinalak Council was created in 2012 to advise Dr. Donald Young, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa, how to address the underrepresentation of Filipinos in the College of Education.

Patricia Espiritu Halagao, PhD, who is the Professor and Chair of the Department of Curriculum Studies at the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa is the principal author of the Tinalak Report. Halagao notes how only 11 percent of teacher candidates at the University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa were of Filipino ancestry, leading to “underrepresentation



Halagao



Ronquillo

of Filipino teachers” in the DOE. Halagao cites research showing “student-teacher matching of the same race or ethnicity produces more positive educational experiences for students of color and gains in student achievement.”

“I think it’s important to have more teachers with Filipino ancestry in Hawai‘i’s Department of Education,” says Yasha Ronquillo who started working as a paraprofessional educator through the Arts and Communication pathway at Maui High School after graduating in 2018. She transitioned to a part-time teacher in Maui High’s Career and Technical Education program after she received her Bachelor’s degree in Creative Media from the University of Hawai‘i, West O‘ahu. “I believe shared culture enriches student-teacher relationships and helps students get more excited about the



Siores

heritage and traditions they might not have been exposed to.”

Michelle Balala Siores, a teacher at Kahului Elementary School, gives an example of how her Filipino students can relate to her. “As a Filipino teacher, I help my Filipino students feel heard and seen. My class and I were having a discussion about our favorite foods. I said pansit and you could hear the up- roars of ‘that’s my favorite too.’” Siores understands, however, that is not enough. “I wish there was more I could do for my Ilokano and Tagalog speaking students like being a translator or the ability to fluently understand the language. Luckily, our English Language Learner program at my school do have Filipino speaking teachers who provide services to our students who are learning English as their second language.”

Teachers continue to be challenged—two years after the beginning of the pandemic. (*The Fil-Am Voice* chronicled the challenges of virtual learning in the September 15, 2020 issue and the reopening of schools in the September 15, 2021 issue.)



Keith-Agaran

“During distance learning, I relied heavily on using technology tools for education in implementing PBL in my classroom and inviting a medical doc-

**“If we give our students a meaningful, relevant and authentic activity, we are giving them that enduring understanding that will enable them to remember even ten years hence.”**

– “CJ” ANCHETA

tor from the mainland as a guest speaker,” recalls Ancheta. “These tools include Google Suite, Jamboard, Padlet and Webex. In attendance at the webinar were my students, our school staff and other students from other classes. After the webinar, I had my students select their group members in order to promote collaborative learning. They were placed in breakout rooms and I had the opportunity to check in with all the smaller groups. Using a shared Google document, I was able to monitor the progress of each group. They created a survey administered to all students and analyzed the results. Each group solicited feedback from the other groups. At the end of

two weeks, the students presented their Google slides with a group of other students, including some teachers and administrators. In their reflection pieces, the students gained a substantial amount of relevant and au-

see EDUCATORS p.11

Google® Is Not Everything ... | from p. 6

us about the languages, suggesting different topics that needed to be touched on, and so much more. Overall, they’ve inspired me to be more accepting of the culture I was absent in, give some love back to it and truly embrace it.”

Connecting a real-world situation to a classroom discussion, giving pieces of insight and wisdom and guiding students to connect with their cultural backgrounds are only a few instances of their impact on students. The dictionary may have failed to define the overall influence of teachers. The outcome of students’ mind-sets, work effort, and future doings, however, is evident in the importance of teachers. ✨

**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 Saber-Scribes (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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# Housing ...

from p. 2

purchase.

BISEN: First, we need to get to the root of the problem and understand WHO is in the housing crisis. There is a “lack of inventory” but why? Do we have developers applying to build homes? Are they trying to serve our Kama‘āina population? How many plans are awaiting permitting? Do the development policies in place allow permits to be granted in a timely manner? I believe part of the problem is the policies in place and the lack of adhering to our Maui County Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan. We should either adhere to the policies created to expedite housing development OR create new or better policies. The Maui County Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan: • The Plan identifies zoning and permit regulations and procedures that need to be streamlined and updated to facilitate timely completion of affordable housing projects. • The Plan clearly identifies complementary infrastructure investments that should be made simultaneously to support the new affordable housing projects.

As Mayor, it will be important to have knowledgeable leadership to head our departments that can remove redundant policies, build upon efficiencies and seek and implement best practices.

Current estimates indicate at least 5000 units are needed. There may be 3500 units in the ‘pipeline’ for permits but those are not assured to get to the building phase. And it’s not just the number of units we build, it’s who are we building them for? We’ve been looking at the wrong statistic. If we build 5000 units, and sell 4000 to people from outside the state because locals are not able to afford them, then what have we done?

### b. Where do you plan to develop these workforce units.

VICTORINO: The majority of new residential construction is in Central Maui, including Kahului, Wailuku, and Waikapū. There are also various projects planned for South Maui, West Maui, one in Hāli‘imaile, one on Lāna‘i, and a small project in Hāna.

BISEN: The Maui County Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan identifies specific county-owned and state-owned land parcels on which 4,333 of the 5,000 affordable units would be built. Let’s start with the plans created. We shouldn’t spend money on studies if we won’t follow what is suggested.

### c. When do you plan to develop these workforce units.

VICTORINO: Some are already under construction; many will break ground as soon as the Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation Facility and Wai‘ale Road extension are complete. Some projects are pending SMA permits and/or final subdivision approval. Many of the affordable units are included as part of larger developments with a mix of workforce and market-priced housing.

BISEN: As soon as feasible. Some of these projects are awaiting permits. We need to get existing plans and applications moving forward. This would be quicker than starting a new development plan or new application. If housing is a crisis for our Kama‘āina, we need to respond in a like manner by streamlining the process (without sacri-



Mayor Michael Victorino

ficing health, safety and environmental concerns) allocating the appropriate amount of funds within our budget and putting in the necessary infrastructure creating that critical public private partnership that can help drive prices down and demonstrate the County’s commitment to this effort. We will also focus on repurposing existing vacant commercial spaces/properties that already have sewer, water, electricity and parking as this would not only increase housing for our residents but help to revitalize those areas too.

### D. What is the price range/area median income (AMI) for your proposed workforce units.

VICTORINO: Price guidelines are based upon median family income as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the number of years for a fixed-rate mortgage with no discount points, percentage of gross household income for housing costs, number of bedrooms, and percentage of purchase price used for a down payment. Depending upon specific variables, the lowest purchase price for a 1-bedroom unit will range between \$150,000 at the lowest income level (50 percent below AMI) up to \$479,000 at the “gap income level” (up to 160 percent of AMI). Affordable rents are based on 30 percent of gross monthly income. There are some price variances among units depending upon location on Maui, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i and Hāna.

BISEN: Policies are set by the Council. Currently there is an attempt for the council to require 25 percent of housing within a development be capped at 28 percent of the AMI. The problem here is, a prior island council attempted to do something similar. That Council took the affordable guideline from 50 percent AMI down to 30 percent of the AMI. As a result, no developer applied to develop housing or built homes due to cost and risk. We need to have an open discussion with developers and make it a win-win. Building an affordable home isn’t the problem, it’s making sure the land value is affordable. We also can start building homes that match the applicant’s income. Have a flex zoning allowance that allows the developer to make real time changes when building to serve the applicant.

**Question 2: What are the specific impediments/obstacles that are preventing the development of workforce housing units. And what specific actions will you take to address them during your first 100 days in**



Richard Bissen

### office as Mayor.

VICTORINO: Impediments include requirements for critical infrastructure to be built before construction can begin on housing, lengthy delays in the permitting process, and overly complex zoning and building codes, and frankly put, additional conditions imposed by the County Council that challenge developers to be able to complete projects in a timely and affordable manner. My administration is already solving these problems. I have recommitted the County to build needed infrastructure and we are entering into public-private partnerships that exchange additional housing units for the developers’ obligation to contribute to infrastructure costs. To expedite permitting, we launched MAPPS (Maui’s Automated Planning & Permitting) system, an on-line system to replace KIVA Net and eliminates the need to move paperwork

between offices. In addition, we’ve deployed a new “AHMN” (Affordable Housing Maui Nui) process that brings developers and permitting staff together early in the development process to identify potential problems and solutions to prevent lengthy and costly delays. Finally, I have asked our Planning Department to review the County building codes for consistency, identify conflicts and update them. This has not been done since 1960 and inconsistencies in the code often delay permit approvals.

BISEN: The first three are water, the cost of land and the lack of good paying jobs (too many jobs are minimum income jobs and the <60 percent AMI workforce are boxed out of home/property ownership). In addition, the method of allocating infrastructure costs to developers upfront instead of to the ultimate property owners over time, the uncertainty of getting a permit in a reasonable amount of time, and the lack of consistency in the State rules, County policies and ordinances, the Maui Island Plan, and the various Community plans. When an affordable housing permit is applied for, I will require all department heads to meet with the developer at the same time to discuss concerns with the proposal. I will assign a designated member of my team (the Chief of Staff or executive assistant) to monitor that permit and report to me weekly with an aging report on the progress of that project to its completion. In the first 180 days we will strive to approve 100 new ADU (accessory dwelling unit) permits. We will offer three pre-approved floor plans

see HOUSING p.13



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Community... In Action



PHOTO LEFT: The Bayanihan Heritage Foundation is holding a "Terno Ball" on Saturday, Oct. 29.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



PHOTO ABOVE: The Bayanihan Food Distribution will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m. to Noon.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

PHOTO RIGHT: The Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center is open for events inside the Center.  
PHOTO: KELSEY HERROLD



BAHAY KUBO HERITAGE FOUNDATION

On October 29 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. the Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation will be hosting a "Terno Ball 2022" fundraiser. Proceeds of the fundraiser will be used to apply a synthetic nipa roof to the Bahay Kubo located at 'Iao Valley Kepaniwai Park. Tickets will be on sale for the fundraiser by October 1st 2022. The event will be held at Tante's Island Cuisine in Kahului. For more information or if you would like to sponsor an advertisement in the souvenir book, email Bahaykubomaui@gmail.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



COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

\$950 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, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Bayanihan Feeding Program.** On August 31, Nareit Hawaii presented a \$30,000 grant to Binhi At Ani to support the expansion of its Bayanihan Feeding Program, the beneficiaries of which are seniors on fixed incomes who have free meals prepared and delivered to them at Hale Mahaolu in Central Maui. As of August 31, a total of 8,937 meals were delivered.

Gladys Quinto Marrone, executive director of Nareit Hawaii, said Binhi At Ani's free meals service is the kind of



community program Nareit Hawaii and REITs strive to support with its grant awards. "Caring for our seniors and keeping them healthy and secure in their golden years is a core value of our community's way of life. We admire the spirit and commitment shown by Binhi At Ani to look out for the health and welfare of Maui's seniors and are proud to support this wonderful free meals program that so many volunteers are giving their time to make possible." Melen Agcolicol, president of Binhi At Ani, said, "This grant is a godsend and comes at such an opportune time. We would have been strapped to continue our free meals program without Nareit Hawaii's generous donation. This grant will pay for our food and supplies for the next two years and allow us to increase the number of seniors we can provide free meals to on Maui." Participating in the grant award presentation to Binhi At Ani were Carol Reimann of Alexander & Baldwin, which donated the land where the Binhi At Ani

Filipino Community Center is located; Grant Chun of Hale Mahaolu; Kai Pelayo of Bayer Crop Science Hawaii, which donated \$20,000 over the past two years to upgrade Binhi At Ani's kitchen; Richard Yust of Maui Food Bank where Binhi At Ani buys much of the food for the Bayanihan Feeding Program, and members of Binhi At Ani's Board of Directors and Advisory Board. State and County lawmakers showing their support at the grant presentation were State Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, State Representative Troy Hashimoto, Maui County Mayor Michael Victorino, and Maui County Councilmember Tasha Kama.

**Bayanihan Food Distribution** will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2022 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. noon or whenever the food boxes are all distributed. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehe'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Food Distribution]. Volunteers are also needed. Contact Jan Paa at (808) 357-2303 to volunteer.

**Enhance@Fitness for Kupuna** at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center classes have begun. They 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



PHOTO LEFT: Gladys Quinto Marrone, Executive Director of Nareit Hawaii hands \$30,000 check to Binhi At Ani to continue its work in providing meals to Seniors. Mayor Mike and Joycelyn Victorino (from left) stand with Marrone, Melen Agcolicol, Alfredo Evangelista, and Rep. Troy Hashimoto at the presentation.  
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



PHOTO ABOVE: Enhance@Fitness for Kupuna at Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center classes are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7 to 10:30 a.m.  
PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS

PHOTO RIGHT: (Seated) Carol Reimman, Gladys Quinto Marrone, Grant Chun. (Standing) Richard Yust, Mayor Mike Victorino and Kai Pelayo  
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA







**PHOTO LEFT:** The Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs is preparing for the 2022 Misa de Gallo and Simbang Gabi services.

PHOTO COURTESY  
NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI



**PHOTO RIGHT:** The Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club will be dancing at the upcoming Plantation Days Festival on Oct. 1, and will be selling merienda at the event.

PHOTO COURTESY  
NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI

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

**Fundraiser.** Binhi at Ani will have a fundraiser on Saturday, October 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. A pork adobo/pinakbet/pansit plate lunch will be available for \$15. A roast pork/corn plate lunch will also be available for \$15. A bag of five cascaron and 4 banana lumpia will be available for \$10. For more information, contact Melen Agcolicol at (808) 205-7981.

### MAUI COUNCIL OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUBS

Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs is preparing for the 2022 Misa de Gallo/Simbang Gabi services: Christ the King: December 16–24 at 5 a.m.; Maria Lanakila: December 16–24 at 5 a.m. and December 19 at 6 p.m. with Bishop Larry Silva; St. Anthony: December

15–23 at 6 p.m. and December 17 and 18 at 5 p.m.; St. Joseph: December 16–24 at 7 a.m.; with Bishop Larry Silva on December 19 at 7 a.m.; and St. Theresa: December 15–23 at 5 a.m. except for Sundays at 7 a.m.

The Diocesan Congress of Filipino Catholic Clubs 72nd Annual Convention will be held on Kaua’i, November 4, 5 and 6 at Hilton Garden Inn in Kapa’a, Kaua’i. The theme is “The Eucharist: Source and Summit of Our Christian Life.” For more information, contact Nora Cabanilla-Takushi, president of the Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs, at (808) 276-8861.

### MARIA LANAKILA FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUB

Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club will be performing at the Plantation Days Festival on October 1, being held at The Sugar Museum, 3957 Hansen Road in Pu’unēnē from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Club will also be selling pansit, banana and vegetable lumpia and pork and peas.



### MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Maui Filipino Community Council recently volunteered to prepare meals for the Bayanihan Feeding Program at Binhi at Ani.



**PHOTO ABOVE:** On Sunday, Sept. 11, the Maui Filipino Community Council team helped with the Bayanihan Feeding Program.

PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



The sixteen teachers of the year from Maui.

PHOTO COURTESY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Educators ...

from p. 8

thentic information from the speaker than any Googled document. It was a bit challenging but doable. My students’ desire and passion for the topic were the catalysts for the project’s success. If we give our students a meaningful, relevant, and authentic activity, we are giving them that enduring understanding that will enable them to remember even ten years hence,” observes Ancheta.

“We had a lot of great teachers at Maui High,” Senator Keith-Agaran recalls. “I especially appreciate the teachers who volunteered as advisors for our class and our clubs—staying after school and taking a real interest in us. I think that probably inspired quite a number of my classmates to go into education, including Jocelyn Romero and Lorna Savella, among others.”

“One of the biggest struggles teachers deal with is not allowing ourselves to take off the teacher hat,” says Siores. “In my seven years of teaching, I realized that I can plan for the perfect lessons everyday but it may not always go the way as planned. My first two years of teaching I would stay after school until 6 p.m. I’ve become better at being efficient with my time to be able to leave contractually at 2:45 p.m. but I know of some teachers who have been teaching for ten plus years and still work past working hours. And we do not get paid overtime. Sometimes it’s not about being efficient with time but doing everything we can to make a difference for every single one of our students.”

Teachers, however, continue to leave the profession for other jobs. Bradley Cacayorin, who taught with Siores at Kahului Elementary, decided to become a fireman after more than ten years of teaching. Siores explains

“Part of the reason teachers are leaving the profession are the conditions of being grossly underappreciated and unheard by government officials, school administrators, staff, parents, students and all the while not seeing the pay increase for their years of service.”

According to the DOE, effective for the 2022–2023 school year, a teacher’s salary starts at \$38,521 for those who have not completed a state approved teacher education program (SATEP). For those who have SATEP, salary starts at \$50,819.

Woodson is sympathetic and points to improvements. “I’m pleased the Legislature was able to appropriate funding for teacher differential pay for hard-to-fill positions, professional development funding and decompression,” he says. “Decompression was particularly significant as it compensates teachers based on their years of service. Moving forward, I am also hopeful teachers will receive pay increases automatically as it would address many systemic issues.”

The conclusion of the Tinalak Report is worth repeating in its entirety: “Filipino students are an ‘invisible majority’ in the Hawai’i K–12 public school system. They are the largest ethnic group yet they are not represented in the curriculum they learn, nor are they

reflected in the education faculty. Perhaps, Filipinos do not garner much attention as a group because they are neither struggling nor exceeding academically. They score in the middle for academic achievements and teachers rank them as average in socio emotional learning. With such a moderate status, Filipinos may be overlooked and fly under the radar, ultimately not performing to their potential. We cannot afford to continue to sit on the sidelines and not pay attention to the academic, social and cultural needs of a quarter of our student

***“I especially appreciate the teachers who volunteered as advisors for our class and our clubs—staying after school and taking a real interest in us.”***

– GIL S.C.  
KEITH-AGARAN

see EDUCATORS p.13





We bid goodbye to August and we welcome the first BER month. Welcome September! In the Philippines, they start playing Christmas songs on the first day of September. Here in Hawai’i, they also play Christmas songs and some start to display their Christmas trees and decorate it. This time will pass by so fast the next thing you know, the year is gone.

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

Shout out to our September Birthday celebrants: Keilah Galiza, Deja Butay, Arissa Kira Delos Santos, Mana, Mando and Janay Domion, Justin Dumlao, Lalaine Pasion, Ferdinand Cajigal, Debbie Butay, Julia Grace Impelido-Butay,

Dolly Butay, Didi Hamai, and Gilbert Keith-Agaran. 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!*

“Aunty!” Angel shouted while smiling and waving her sock in the air trying to get Aunty’s attention.

“And then *sino* (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…” Aunty made a sour-face and clenched.

Angel frantically waved her sock in front of Aunty while she was still in a trance. Flori, Angel’s second-degree cousin who was also passing by overheard the conversation with a bbq stick and soda pop bag in her *kamot* (hand) peeped in and smiled.

Expletives came from Aunty’s mouth, firing bombs in front of the two girls.

Angel tossed her sock at her forehead. “Aunty,” said Angel.

Aunty glared right at Angel. “Aunty, I don’t know if you notice … But he has a *kasintahan* (girlfriend).” Angel chuckled and picked up her sock.

Aunty’s *mata* (eyes) turned bright red and she climbed into the *bahay* (house) and hit Angel with her slipper as more curse words left her lips.

“*Ana?* (What?) *Bakit?* (Why?) *Sino* (Who) told him to have a *nobya* (girlfriend)? You know about this, ha? And you don’t 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 fourteen nieces and nephews over the course of two decades.

“*Nasaan* (Where) is he now? You tell me,” Aunty Mary Grace demanded Angel.

Florie giggled with her pork BBQ sauce dripping to the floor. As soon as the one droplet of sauce hit the surface of the floor, it was like an alarm went off in Aunty’s head as she turned around and glared at Florie.

Super slipper attack! *Pow, bang, boom*, like a cartoon comic strip the two girls fell to the ground laughing. With no slippers left in her *ima* (hands), she began to slap Angel’s butt. Angel laughed, pretending it hurt.

“*Kinsa* (Who) is the girl? I will give him lickings,” Aunty asked.

Giggling, she blurts out, “It’s Mary

Fe, the new girl from Cagayan. Haha-ha. Stop! No … ,” as she made a pouty face.

“*Sin o* (Who)? Aunty asked, turning to Florie and began to slap her leg as well. “*Sinni* (Who) is her parents? Tell me now!” she demanded.

Florie, still clenching on to her BBQ stick and soda pop, determined to never let it drop, took the hits while she skimmed around like a fish out of water.

“*Apay* (Why) did you not tell me,” with more colorful profanity, Aunty asked.

“Hello? Uncle Benjie and Aunty Vilma,” Angel said. Aunty’s kung fu move stopped as she ran out of breath.

“He has been going there every day to help Uncle Benjie on the farm,” she added. Angel and Aunty locked eyes. Suddenly Aunty stormed out of the house and bolted for the street.

“Raffie! Raffie!” she yelled walking out in the street.

Angel and Florie peeked out the door into the sun. Angel took a bite from the BBQ stick and Florie cried as they both laughed together.

Wiping her mouth and peeping out the door, Angel saw her Uncle Myron talking to a man she never grew up

around but he had been around their *barangay* for weeks now.

Not thinking anymore about it, she took a sip from Florie’s pop and finished her chores.

A few hours later. Tok tok tok tok. Tok tok tok tok. (Knocking sound)

A faint tapping on the wall followed by “Hoy.” Angel still fast asleep.

Tok tok tok tok. The tapping got harder. But Angel continued her rest.

Tok tok tok tok. The hard tapping turned into slapping. “Hoy” is shouted.

Angel bolted to her feet, startled looking into the window as her brain was still booting up. It’s Florie. “Hoy, where are you? It’s your turn to manage the booth,” she said. “Aunty Lumen is mad at you,” Florie smiled as she peeked through the window.

“*Hani* (What)?” Angel mindlessly gazed towards the location of the voice.

“Hoy, gaga. I’m here!” Florie waved.

“Ha?” Angel is still confused.

“*Anni* (What) day is it?” she blurted out.

“Hello? It’s Friday. Remember we told Aunty Lumen we will man the registration desk?” said Florie.

“Registration desk?” Angel repeated.

“The festival …” Florie responded.

Just as Angel’s brain finally finished loading, “Oh that’s right!” she yelled. Panicked, she grabbed a jacket from off the hanger.

“Tsk tsk, You are getting old Angel,” Florie joked.

“Oh, look *ninoymi* (who) is talking. You are two months older than I.”

“*Hayst* … *Nganong* (Why) do you have to say that?” Florie pouted. “But I’m still cute.”

“Whatever, let’s go,” Angel said.

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 Ad-



Housing ...

from p. 9

(studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom) that, if selected AND connected to the county water and sewer system, would receive a building permit to begin construction on that homeowner's existing property. We will also seek out the most efficient and expeditious permitting process and best practices in the United States or global community and see if we are able to apply any or all of their processes to our housing situation fully recognizing our unique environmental and cultural history and preferences. We will ask our own employees/experts, the private sector, developers, realtors, contractors and any others who work in the permitting process about their ideas regarding the approval process, redundancies and areas where we can improve our efficiency and customer service. We can say that housing is a priority or we can show that housing is a priority, through our actions.

**Question 3: A charter amendment is proposed to bifurcate the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Do you support this amendment, and if so, how will this proposal help build more workforce housing units for hard working families on Maui.**

VICTORINO: I support dividing the Department of Housing and Human Concerns into two departments only if the Maui County Council is committed to funding the type of staffing required for an effective Department of Housing. This would include staff planners, CIP specialists, project managers, civil engineers and so on. Government at all levels is slower than private industry due to the need for public consultation and a tendency to prioritize process over productivity. My Administration has worked collaboratively with developers who are capable and willing to help meet our housing needs. A bi-furcated Department with the needed resources can help entitle land, expedite zoning issues, and then allow developers to take over and do what they do best. I believe the private sector is more efficient than the public sector at building housing, but perhaps both are needed during these times. Staffing a new Housing Department won't be cheap, but a benefit is the Department of Human Concerns would be able to focus on delivering social services to those who need them.

BISSEN: I believe that before we even consider the bifurcation of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns we need to effectively assess and

address their issues and maximize efficiencies in the current system and department. There will be additional overhead costs, which could mean increased taxes, for adding a new County department. We should not take this lightly, especially when it comes to our taxpayer's hard-earned dollars. Additionally, time and time again we've seen that added layers of bureaucracy can impede affordable housing development in Hawai'i. Creating housing is an absolute priority, and I do support isolating focus and responsibilities in pursuit of efficiency. However, we must ensure that our government growth matches our current tax revenue. I strongly believe that we can invest our time and resources in improving our current department without causing additional cost burdens for our citizens.

Finally, the two candidates were asked a separate, different question.

VICTORINO's question: **How many workforce housing units were completed/acquired/preserved (please itemize under each category) during your first term as Mayor? How many are currently in the development stages and the anticipated dates for the completion of each proposal.** (Answer in tan box below.)

BISSEN's question: **"Kama'āina Housing" is one of your political platforms. Please explain in detail what that means such as who qualifies: locally born; years of residency; ethnicity; etc.**

Kama'āina housing is a 5 step plan intended to create housing for Maui County residents, it is not based on where you were born or your ethnicity. You must, however, qualify for a homeowner's exemption which is a reduction in your tax assessed value of your primary residence that you actually live in (not a second home or vacation home). This will only impact the homes in these proposed subdivisions and not homes already built or offered by other private developers or projects. Our plan urges the County to: 1) Create an inventory of lands that are "appropriate" for home building, as determined by input from the community, 2) The County will provide the infrastructure (roads, sewer, water) mostly through available federal funds, which will create a public private partnership with the developer; 3) The home buyer must qualify as a Maui resident by being eligible for a homeowners tax exemption and the home can only be sold to other kama'āina who qualify for a homeowner's exemption, in perpetuity; 4) The

see HOUSING p.15

Category	Total	For Sale	For Rent	# of Affordable Units
Completed	1103	574	529	842
In Construction	742	196	466	473
Pending	4622	3018	1504	2774
Lots only	61	—	—	—

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

ministrative 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.

Educators ...

from p. 11

population. As a community, we need to fight for Filipino recognition, representation, and funding support that benefit Filipino youth in our schools. Youth are no longer willing to wait and are taking it into their own hands to design the communication they want. Families, schools, political leaders, and communities must also take it upon themselves to demand more for our Filipino youth. This means advocating for greater representation and outcomes in accountability measures, higher education and K-12 educators, and curriculum, as a way of proactively increasing Filipino student achievement."

Nevertheless, the lists of valedictorians at the local high schools each year are peppered with Filipinos.

"Back in my day," Keith-Agaran notes, "we had one valedictorian and one salutatorian. I recall Jocelyn Romero and I were among the contenders for those honors so I would like to think Filipinos valuing education and doing well in school continues to this day."



A great insight from Maui High School alum Keith-Agaran who will be honored by the Maui High School Foundation on September 20, 2022 with the Award of Excellence, which recognizes an alumni who has excelled in their field or profession.

**Alfredo G. Evangelista**, a 1976




Maui High School alum, was active in Maui High's Debate and Speech Teams. His favorite teachers were Gwen Hayashi and Naomi Story (English who were the Debate and Speech coaches, respectively) and Nobu Agena (Social Studies who was the Student Government advisor).

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Ti Biag ken Pammati  
“Life and Faith”



Fr. Anastacio “Jun” Postrano smiles with Bishop Larry Silva.



Fr. Jun with parishioners help at St. Francis Xavier Church in Kahakuloa, mission church of St. Ann's Church in Waihe'e.

Before I introduce Fr. Jun let me explain the difference between a pastor and administrator who is assigned to a parish by Bishop Larry Silva. An administrator is a priest from our diocese or country on mission to our diocese for a certain number of years. A pastor is a diocesan priest or a priest of a religious community who is assigned to a parish. A parochial vicar is an associate priest at a parish.

It is with great honor to introduce to you Fr. Anastacio “Jun” Pastrano, Jr, installed as the new pastor at St. Ann’s Church, Waihe’e on July 30, 2022 by Bishop Larry Silva. Fr. Jun was born on June 1, 1959 in Davao, Philippines and ordained on June 15, 1984 in Maniki, Davao, Philippines. He is from the Diocese of Tagum, Davao, Philippines. He has ten siblings—four boys and six girls.

Interesting story of Fr. Jun’s family:

The mother of Fr Jun, Anaclea Requina was born in Kohala, Hāwī in 1924 on Hawai’i island. They moved to O’ahu and two sisters were born in Waipahu. His grandparents who were from Cebu and Bohol, worked in Hawai’i as *Sakadas* as sug-

ar plantation workers in the year 1920. After the birth of their third child, his grandparents decided to return to the Philippines and settled in Davao, Mindanao Island, where his mother grew up and married Anastacio Postrano and was blessed with

Francis DiLorenzo. His first assignment when he came to Hawai’i in 1995 was with Sr. Grace Dorothy Lim, under the Filipino Ministry. His ministry was to work with Filipino communities on Hawai’i island to catechize and bring them back to the

Today, I look back with deep gratitude and sincere humility for God’s faithfulness and blessing. Domine non sum signus. Lord, I’m not worthy, yet God called me. That’s because God calls not so much the worthy. It’s all the grace of God. Amping ug Padayon kanunay sa pag-alagad. Stay safe and continue to serve our community. Tambayayong tang tanan. Let’s all work together for the good of our ‘Ohana. Basta adunay “Gugma,” adunay “Panaghiusa.” As long as there is LOVE, there is always “UNITY.”

Congratulations to all my fellow kababayan here in Maui and other islands of Hawai’i. Mahal ko kayong lahat. God bless. Aloha ug Mabuhay! Dios ti Agngina da kayyu Amin.

– FR. JUN POSTRANO, PASTOR, ST. ANN’S CHURCH, WAIHE’E, MAUI

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’ānae. 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.

Born to Serve,  
Chosen and Called

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY ST. ANN’S CHURCH PARISH

ten children.

In the year 1990, his family decided to move back to the United States, Hawai’i. They thought they would have a tough time coming to Hawai’i but with God’s help, no problem! Because their mother was an American citizen, they automatically became U.S. citizens, even if they were born in the Philippines. What a blessing!

Fr. Jun is Visayan but can speak Ilokano fluently because their neighborhood in Davao was mostly Ilocanos. He came to Hawai’i to minister to our community by Bishop

mainstream of our church. He has served at St. Joseph in Hilo and later became Administrator to Our Lady of Lourdes, Honoka’a, St. Michael Church in Kona, St. Benedict Church in South Kona, St. Roch Church in Kahuku, as Pastor at St. Mary’s Church in Hāna and present Pastor of St. Ann’s Church in Waihe’e. He also served as Vicar Forane for West Hawai’i. In 2016, he was officially incardinated to the Diocese of Honolulu. Thank God for Fr. Jun, gifted to give of himself to our Dioceses!

Reflection and Message from Fr. Anastacio “Jun” Postrano, Jr.:

PHOTO RIGHT: The Knights of Columbus were proudly in attendance at Fr. Jun’s installation as Pastor of St Ann’s Church.



PHOTO LEFT: Fr. Jun helps make sweet bread with the parishioners for one of St. Ann’s parish fundraising events.





Housing ...

from p. 13

County will provide financial literacy for the applicants to assist with qualifying for a mortgage loan and maintaining your monthly mortgage payments and 5) The County will assist by working with a bank or mortgage company to try and obtain a group discounted down payment and mortgage interest rates (based on the volume of customers).

Even the gubernatorial candidates have Affordable Housing as one of their important issues. For the Democrats, Lt. Gov. Josh Green posted his ten-point plan on his website and titled it "Emergency Housing Plan for Hawai'i":

- 1. Immediately issue an executive order to all state and county hous-



Lt. Gov. Josh Green

ing agencies to speed up construction of affordable housing by eliminating red tape, streamlining processes and approvals, and coordinating efforts to address the crisis.

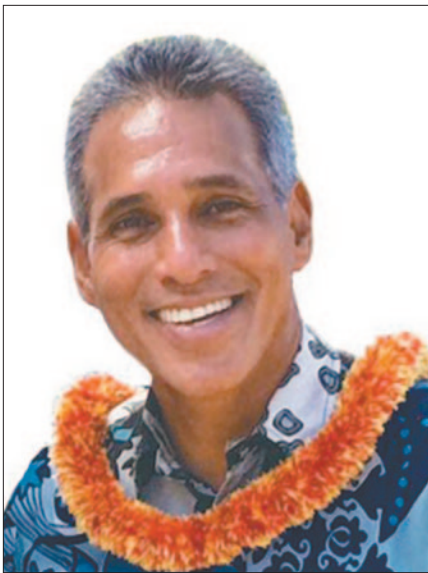
- 2. Make housing for Hawai'i residents our top priority by aggressively enforcing existing laws to shut down the 25,000 illegal vacation rentals across the state, taxing the 35,000 vacant investor units, and limiting permits and increasing taxes on new luxury developments by out of state investors.
- 3. Create a "Path to Home Ownership" for first-time home buyers and essential workers with a new state-subsidized loan program, including financial education and assistance to help navigate the home buying process.
- 4. Create an Office of Emergency Housing to serve as a "one stop shop" to eliminate bureaucratic red tape and provide faster services and approvals.
- 5. Use vacant state lands to build affordable homes and rentals with federal, state, and private partnerships.
- 6. Continue to increase the rental housing revolving fund, increase the low-income housing tax credit, and create new deductions and incentives for long term rentals to low- and middle-income families.
- 7. Direct the Department of Hawaiian Homelands to deliver land immediately to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries for homesteading, and to

work with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to build housing for Native Hawaiians.

- 8. Reduce homelessness by building kauhale housing villages and funding new programs, services, and incentives such as vouchers to house the homeless.
- 9. Work with the counties to lower the costs of building affordable housing by addressing water, sewer, park, and other fees as well as zoning and exaction requirements, all while maintaining environmental protections.
- 10. Work with Hawai'i's Congressional delegation to increase federal housing voucher funding, homeless funding, infrastructure funding, and a bond cap increase to build housing.

For the Republicans, former Lt. Governor James R. Aiona, Jr. recently called a News Conference to announce his four-point plan titled "Hawai'i Home Ownership Initiative":

- 1. Preserving And Growing Affordable Housing For Local Residents  
The solution is to not only increase the supply of housing, but to make sure it is preserved for our local market through local wages.
  - This is accomplished by keeping the future sale of any affordable home at the same income range that it was purchased at.
  - Creating a local market by preserving the income range of the purchase of affordable housing for future affordable home buyers.
- 2. Creation And Implementation Of



Former Lt. Gov. "Duke" Aiona

Whole-Of-Government Approach

- Appointing a Chief Officer of Affordable Housing within the cabinet of the Executive Branch that is empowered to coordinate, leverage and deploy all efforts and resources and execute cross cutting measures directed to expeditiously build affordable homes.
- 3. Create And Enhance Existing Financial Home Buying Programs
  - Enhance Hula Mae for buyers of affordable housing.
  - Transition governmental rental programs to tenant owned.
- 4. Attract And Empower Local Families, Businesses And Individuals To Create A "Hui" To Build Affordable Homes And Rentals
  - A local "Hui" of families, businesses, and individuals are encouraged see HOUSING p.18

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Christina Estrada Porte



Christina's Parents, Elisea Estrada (left) and Julian Estrada enjoying a relaxing day at home.

# Christina (Lucy) Estrada Porte

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY LUCY PORTE

Health care is a human right. Such awareness has resulted in the public labeling nurses as heroes especially during the COVID pandemic. The public recognizes nurses for their courage, bravery, commitment, knowledge, resilience, advocacy and persistence in the face of incredible adversity. This month's featured Sakada Offspring, Christina (Lucy) Estrada Porte is a registered nurse who dedicated her whole life in the

health care industry. Christina was born on June 12, 1950 in San Esteban, Ilocos Sur. She attended Lihikai School, St. Anthony High School and the University of Hawai'i Maui College for her Associate Degree and the University of Phoenix for her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. While employed at Hale Makua, Christina floated between the Kahului and Wailuku facilities. She retired from Hale Makua after 33 years

of service. At Hale Makua, she held various positions from a staff RN, coordinator, Nursing Supervisor to a Director of Nursing at the Wailuku Hale Makua. While working at Hale Makua, she held other jobs at Maui Medical Group as the urgent care RN, dialysis center and a clinical instructor at the University of Hawai'i Maui College. She took her early retirement from Hale Makua to care for her grandchildren. She continued, however, to

teach the nursing assistant program at the University of Hawai'i Maui College. In 2019, she assisted Mr. and Mrs. Domingo Gumpal in the creation and development of their curriculum and syllabus of the nursing assistant school, CNA Hawai'i Institute, LLC (Certified Nurse Assistant). To this date, she continues to teach the nursing assistant program. Besides being active as a nurse, she also finds the time and energy to join

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Lucy's son, Philip Campos and grandchildren, Eliana and Jay Campos stand outside the old Café O' Lei restaurant at Maui Lani.



Lucy's grandson Jay Campos has a sit-down meal during his birthday.





During the April 2022 visit to Chandler Arizona to visit brother Rey Estrada's family: Jared Estrada (from left), Marissa Estrada, Rosemary Estrada, Kathy Estrada, Jimmy Estrada, Harold Estrada, Christina Lucy Porte, Jocelyn Estrada, Romy Estrada



Renato (Rey) Estrada, Kathy and their Children



Jimmy Estrada and wife Rosemarie

in community clubs, organizations, church ministries etc. Christina was the founding president of the Philippine Nurses Association Maui Chapter (PNAMHI). In 2018, she organized the nurses of Filipino ancestry to become a chapter of the national association, the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA). On May 15, 2019, the PNAHMI became the 52nd chapter of the PNAA. They had a successful 2nd induction on May 29, 2022. During her term as the President of the PNAHMI, they accomplished many activities which included: participated in the Maui County Fair Parade, took part in the Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society, staffed the first aide booth at the Maui Fil-Am Heritage Festival at Queen Ka'ahumanu Center, staffed the first aide station and provided CPR education at the Christ The King Church Health and Wellness, assisted with the COVID 19 screening at Hale Makua Health Services, supported Binhi At Ani in the Food distribution from the beginning to the end, cooked and served the homeless at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church on a quarterly basis, participated in the Feeding program at Binhi At Ani and on-going, assisted vaccination clinic for the DOH at the University of Hawai'i parking lot and

at Binhi At Ani, and assisted in the COVID testing. Christina received several awards: Lokelani Service Award at the 20th PNAA Western Regional Conference on April 30, 2021, Recognition for leadership, community service, and bringing PNAHMI to an excellent standing on May 2, 2021, Pride award for excellent leadership in 2021, Outstanding Leadership award as the PNAHMI founding president, and recipient of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Gintong Pamana Leadership Award on July 13, 2022. For relaxation, Christina enjoys crocheting and watching NETFLIX movies and Korean dramas. Christina has one son, Philip Campos—a Real Estate Broker: owner and manager of Island Premier Realty, LLC. Her daughter in law, Allison Yoshimoto, is a Speech Pathologist and owns and manages Valley Isle Therapy Group, LLC. Her grandchildren are Eliana Campos, 9 years old, currently home schooled and Eliot Jay Campos, 7 years old, attending Pōmaika'i Grade School, 2nd grade. Christina's siblings are Romulo (Romie) Estrada, a Vietnam veteran married to Jocelyn Estrada. They currently live in Las Vegas. Their children are: Christian Estrada, Romina Estrada Arenas, and Quin Mark Estrada who reside in California.

Christina's second brother Renato (Rey) Estrada succumbed to COVID-19 in October 2021. Rey was a computer engineer, married to Kathy Estrada (housewife). They have three children, Rachel, Marissa and Jared. Christina's youngest brother is James Harold (Jimmy) Estrada, married to Rosemarie Estrada. She is currently employed at the Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea. They have three children; Jason, Brandon and Harold. Christina's father, Julian Villanueva

Estrada was one of the thousands of *Sakadas* who came to Hawai'i in 1946 to work in the pineapple and sugar cane plantations. He left his wife Elisea Jarra Estrada and son Romulo in the Philippines. He lived in Camp Keahua, a camp located below Pukalani today. Remnants of Keahua camp can be seen today with coconut trees still standing on the way to Pukalani. Julian was assigned to work for HC&S (Hawai'i Commercial and Sugar Co.). He worked in the irrigation system department. He was assigned to fields where he oversaw the irrigation system, ensuring they were

in good working condition. He returned to the Philippines in 1950 after four years, then he returned to Maui. In 1960, he brought his wife Elisea, son Romulo and Christina to Maui. This was the first time Christina met her father. She claimed it was awkward and uncomfortable but she adjusted. From the Philippines, coming to Hawai'i, they traveled via the S.S. *President Cleveland*. It was a culture shock for Christina to be in Hawai'i especially being in the school system. She learned to adjust to learn and read English. She managed to learn

see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page



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quickly.  
Christina's mom, Elisea also worked at HC&S as a tractor driver until she retired at age 65. Both parents were hard workers. They have done well in providing for their family. They believed to get ahead in life one must attain a college education.

Christina did not experience living in the camps because the camps were being phased out when she arrived on Maui. So their new home was at the 6th increment in Kahului. They often visited their friends and relatives who were still living in the camps like Camp 3, McGerrow Camp, Camp 4, Skill Village, etc. To earn some money for allowances, Christina did laundry for the single men in the camps. She used the old fashion washing machine which has a roller to wring the wet clothes. She even learned to starch and iron all the clothing. Although it wasn't the easiest thing to do, by doing such a job, she learned discipline, patience and perseverance. She claimed it motivated her to reach out as far as she can get and did not give up.

Christina had this to say about her Dad: "What I remember about my



The youngest of the Estrada brothers cooking while big brother supervises his culinary skills.

Dad was he was a very patient man, gentle and easy going. He was the cook in our family. He was known to his friends as the knife sharpener. People would come to the house to have their chicken knife sharpened before going to the chicken fight. Jimmy, our youngest sibling continued my Dad's tradition of chicken fighter and knife sharpener."

Besides being a busy nurse, mom and grandma, Christina recently joined a pilgrimage to Central Europe

led by Fr. Gus Uthuppu, Pastor of Christ The King Church, visiting several countries for two weeks. The highlight of this pilgrimage was attending the Oberammergau Passion Play in Bavaria, Germany. It's a special play about the passion of Christ performed by the inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau every year from 1634 to 1680 and every 10 years since 1680.

No matter how busy a person is, Christina surely proves that where there's a will, there's a way. ✨

**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.

## Housing ...

from p. 15

to build affordable housing at a reduced profit through the state's reduction of their development costs by guaranteeing a portion of the development's financing.

- State guarantee 100 percent financing with non-recourse lending.
- Enhance HRS 201H and revisit the Land Use Commission's mission to assuring that proposed housing projects will benefit the people of Hawai'i through affordable housing.

Just prior to the pandemic, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz and legislative leaders convened a series of meetings of key legislators, the mayors, planning officials and legislators to discuss ways to address the growing ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) population in Hawaii. They reached consensus on a number of proposals to address cost of living challenges, including adopting an Earned Income Tax Credit, streamlining certain state and county processes for housing projects and providing government support for infrastructure. Then the pandemic came, two of the Mayors were term limited, and only a few of the proposals were enacted by the state and some of the counties.

After November, the new Governor and new Mayor, and the county councils and legislators elected will have the opportunity to implement their



Sen. Brian Schatz

plans. In 2024, however, will the incumbents and their challengers still be talking about the need to build more housing residents can afford? ✨

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



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# Kwento Kwentuhan

## The BER Months Are Here Again ... And We Are All Excited!

Keep reading ...

Liza A Pierce of "A Maui Blog"

**T**he BER what? If you are a Filipino (especially those who grew up in the Philippines) you know exactly what the BER months mean. Simply, it refers to the months in the calendar ending with BER ... you know ... SeptemBER, OctoBER, NovemBER and DecemBER! For those who are not familiar with it, you may ask "So what does it mean? Why are they special and why are Filipinos, excited about it?" The short answer? *Christmas!*

More than any group of people in the world, Filipinos are die-hard lovers of Christmas. Christmas season in the Philippines starts on the first day of September when radios, television programs and shopping centers play Christmas songs to signify the arrival of the holiday season. Top of the list Christmas song being played in September is the "Christmas in Our Hearts" by Jose Marie Chan. Just as "All I Want For Christmas Is You" has become the modern Christmas anthem here in the U.S., "Christmas In Our Hearts" is the modern Christmas anthem in the Philippines.

*Whenever I see girls and boys  
selling lanterns on the streets  
I remember the Child  
in the manger as He sleeps  
wherever there are people  
giving gifts, exchanging cards  
I believe that Christmas  
is truly in their hearts*

Back to our earlier question, "Why are we so excited about starting the Christmas season in September?"

Sociologist Clifford Sorita, a former seminarian and a professor at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, says celebrating Christmas starting with BER Months, helps us anticipate a horizon. Anticipating Christmas from the Horizon of the BER Months allows us to open up to new possibilities in the spirit of HOPE. So what HORIZON does Christmas represent? Answer: The Eternal God came to earth in the form of a man in order to save His

own creation. Emmanuel (God is with Us)—"Therefore the Lord Himself will conceive, and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14)—is a word written on countless Christmas cards throughout the centuries and sung in some of our most-loved carols. (Ah, read back the lyrics of the song I just shared and it reflects a similar sentiment).

Furthermore, Sorita shared the frenzy surrounding the BER months is bound in the anticipation of the arrival of the overseas workers. "This is really a big homecoming," he says.

Sorita also says the BER months represent "a psychological time clock for most Filipinos to prepare" a jammed Christmas calendar with family and friends.

Wilfrido Arcilla, a marketing consultant who teaches at Manila's Ateneo Graduate School of Business, says the Philippines' long run-up to Christmas is not "some grand design like Black Friday" meant to entice crowds into the malls to spend. Instead, Arcilla says, the BER season is a natural confluence of things defining Filipino culture: "The celebration of family and faith, fiesta and food, friends and fun." He says merchandisers are merely exploiting a Filipino passion for Christmas predating shopping malls.

As Filipinos here on Maui, are you joining in the spirit of celebrating Christmas beginning in September? I am!

I believe these several BER months long celebrations of making one feel Christmas is here and near is always a good feeling for Pinoys all over the world and not just in the Philippines. Sure, here in the U.S., some people get upset when they see Christmas decorations set up early because they still want to focus on other Holidays such as Halloween and Thanksgiving but for us Pinoys, we love to enjoy the spirit of Christmas early.

By the time you are reading this column, it is already mid-September.



The "BER" months are back—SeptemBER, OctoBER, NovemBER and DecemBER. As Filipinos, it seems we bypass the hype of the Fall season, Halloween and Thanksgiving, and go straight to celebrating Christmas in an amazing and prolonged way. PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE

Even if there is no Christmas music being played on the radio (or streamed on the Internet or at shopping centers) go ahead, find the Christmas in our Hearts song on YouTube and sing along:

*Let's sing Merry Christmas  
and a happy holiday  
this season, may we never forget  
the love we have for Jesus  
let Him be the one to guide us  
as another new year starts  
and may the Spirit of Christmas  
be always in our hearts. ✨*

**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.



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