



**Family caregivers**  
On coping with inevitability of aging and offering comfort and dignity in our parents' later years.  
**See below**



**The People Have Spoken**  
Dinengdeng & Pinakbet assesses the State and federal races.  
**See p5**



**Our Filipino Culture**  
Our local community is bountifully filled with neighbors we can ethnically identify and thrive with.  
**See p6**



# Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

November 2022 • Vol 6 No11 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

**inside**

Winter viral season and long COVID is here.  
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Rest in Peace James Daligcon Mariano.  
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Lolita Sevilla Eugenio is this month's Sakada Offspring.  
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## Maui County Election Recap

*Bissen Elected Mayor; Progressive Council Candidates Lose*

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

**D**elayed initial results provided the only bump for the Bissen Movement claiming victory in the Maui Mayoral race. When the first printout posted at 9 p.m., Retired Judge Richard Bissen opened a 5,000-vote lead over incumbent Mayor Michael Victorino. The second printout at 9:40 p.m. increased Bissen's clearly insurmountable lead to 6,500 votes. The third printout posted on November 9 at 12:12 p.m. indicated Bissen collected 59.7 percent (31,302 votes) to Victorino's 37.6 percent (19,694 votes)—a difference of 11,608 votes—with only 1,374 blank votes while forty-five people voted for both of them.

Bissen dominated in both



mail precincts and walk in/in person tallies. Victorino prevailed in only five Lahaina precincts: 13-04 (mail);



Voters could drop off their ballots outside the County building. PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

votes while Victorino received 11,747 votes. 13,378 voted for the six other candidates.)

The turnout for Maui County's 114,841 registered voters again lagged behind the rest of the state. Only 52,431 voted (45.7 percent), mostly by mail (50,101). Only

**see ELECTION RECAP next page**

## Family Caregivers—Assisting With Love

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

**4:30** a.m. 'Īa o Intermediate School teacher Edward “Ed” Garcia takes his morning walk with his trusted companion, Bella, a year-old lhasa apso. By 5 a.m., Bella and Garcia are back home and Garcia wakes his 91-year-old parents and gets them ready for the day.

It's not easy.

Each day, Garcia prepares their clothes and meals for the day, assists his mother with dressing and toileting, and transfers his mother from her bed to her wheelchair, to the toilet and back to her wheelchair before heading out the door at 6:30 a.m. and driving her to the Maui Adult Day Care Center in Kihei. His father Amancio stays home with

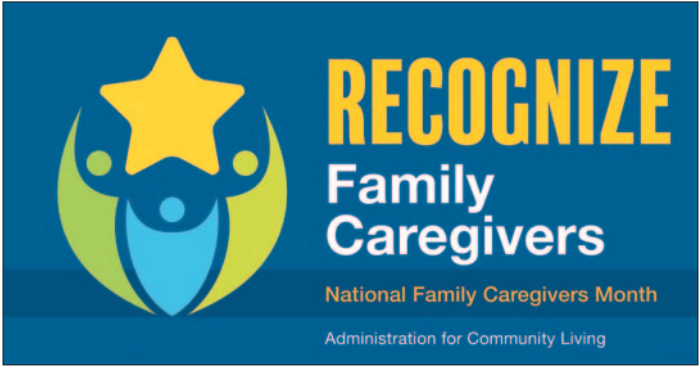


PHOTO COURTESY ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING



Ed Garcia and his Mom.  
PHOTO COURTESY ED GARCIA

Bella.

Some people aren't even up at 6:30 a.m.

Increasingly, Garcia's story is the norm for Maui residents who have taken on the role and responsibility of caring for an elderly parent. “They took care of us, now we take care of them,” says Garcia with an educator's matter-of-factly assurance. “My parents taught me to always value our family. For me, I feel I need to keep giving back to them.”

Garcia notes creating routines and being in a familiar environment causes less stress, confusion and agitation. But challenges still happen.

“Good job, Mama!” cheers Garcia when his mother successfully makes her way into their van. Garcia's mother is generally in a good mood this morning. But she experiences days when she's not ready or asks pointed questions about Garcia and his role. “In the beginning, she would be calling

**see CAREGIVERS p.3**

FREE



Election recap ...

from p. 1

2,330 voted in-person. (The current information from the State of Hawai'i Office of Elections website does not indicate how many voted in person on Election Day versus the walk-in period.)

But Election Day voting again led to the later than scheduled release of results. At about 6:30 p.m., many voters still waited at the Velma McWayne Santos Center in Wailuku—the only Voter Service Center (VSC) open on Election Day in Maui (in a vote by mail system, VSCs are designed to accommodate voters with disabilities and others who might have trouble voting without assistance more than to serve as a traditional polling place).



The long line at 6:30 p.m. outside the Velma McWayne Santos Center.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

Like the Primary Election, Maui received the dubious honor of having the last person vote. At 8:18 p.m. (more than one hour after the closing of the polls at 7 p.m.), the last person

exited Maui's polling center and was interviewed by Hawai'i News Now's Maui-based reporter Chelsea Davis. In a brief interview, Davis learned he was a first-time voter, as he had just reached voting age. (Unfortunately, Davis didn't ask him why he didn't mail his ballot in or why he waited until the last day to vote in person.)

In addition to the results from the Mayoral race, political pundits closely watched the County Council races. With both Kelly King and Michael Molina running for Mayor, the South Maui and the Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pā'ia seats became vacant (King and Molina were unsuccessful, placing third and fifth, respectively, in the Mayoral primary. King later endorsed Bissen).

For the South Maui Council seat, King's 2020 opponent general contractor Tom Cook received 24,656 votes (47 percent) to environmental scien-

tist Robin Knox' 20,050 votes (38.3 percent)—a difference of 4,606 votes. There were 7,670 blank votes and thirty-nine double votes. (King endorsed Knox, who was backed by the 'Ohana coalition/Maui Pono Network/'Onipa'a 2022.)

For the Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pā'ia Council seat, permit facilitator Nohe U'u-Hodgins received 25,135 votes (48 percent) to singer/voice teacher Nara Boone's 19,377 votes (37 percent)—a difference of 5,758 votes. There were 7,857 blank votes and forty-six double votes. (Along with an extensive native Hawaiian clan, U'u-Hodgins also benefited as the daughter of Bruce U'u, a longtime Carpenters union official on Maui. Boone was endorsed by the 'Ohana coalition/Maui Pono Network/'Onipa'a 2022.)

For the Molokai Council seat, part-Filipino incumbent Keani Rawlins-Fernandez received 25,396 votes (48.5 percent) to resident manager John Pele's 18,758 votes (35.8 percent)—a difference of 6,638 votes. There were 8,226 blank votes and thirty-five double votes. (With Cook and U'u-Hodgins winning, Pele was the only one of three candidates endorsed by the super PAC Be Change Now who lost. Rawlins-Fernandez was endorsed by the 'Ohana coalition/Maui Pono Network/'Onipa'a 2022.)

For the West Maui Council seat, incumbent Tamara Akiko Maile Paltin received 33,734 votes (64.4 percent) to bartender Justin Hermmann's 9,887

see ELECTION RECAP p.15



Reporter Chelsea Davis interviewing the last voter in the State.

SCREENSHOT: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



One of the mailers from Be Change Now endorsing Cook, Uu-Hodgins and Pele



On Election Day, Johnson sign waved near the entrance of the Velma McWayne Santos Center—just across from his and Sinenci's stand up signs.

SCREENSHOT: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

### Investing in your future

As an avid believer in STEM education, Bayer is proud to support students across the islands. Applications for our **2023 Life Sciences Scholarship program** are now available to graduating seniors of all high schools in Hawaii who will be attending an accredited college or university to pursue a discipline related to the life sciences (including agriculture, agronomy, biology, botany, genetics, horticulture, plant physiology, chemistry, crop science, soil science, and more).

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Science for a better life





Magbuals with grandchildren.  
PHOTO COURTESY AGCOLICOL 'OHANA



Melen Agcolicol brought her Dad to receive his Bakuna.  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

# Caregivers ...

from p. 1

ing me all kinds of names in the book but I learned not to take it personally. You need to laugh, then try to make your loved one laugh. Sometimes, the cussing and the hurtful words they say to you can get to you but you gotta step back and think how you can make the best of your situation.”

“I never thought I would be taking care of my parents,” says Melen Agcolicol, businesswoman (owner of Copy Services), community leader (president of Binhi at Ani) and daughter of 98-year-old Stanley Magbual and 87-year-old Rufina Magbual. “Both of my parents now need 24/7 care. When I was young, they were both strict with me for everything including doing chores, school and especially boys,” she recalls. “Now it is the opposite as I am now strict on the food they eat

or strict on not forgetting to take their medications although one of us always assists them. It’s not an easy task to take care of your parents.”

Agcolicol and Garcia are among the 157,000 Hawai’i residents estimated by AARP who are caregivers. Nationally, more than fifty million Americans serve as caregivers.

The trend has long been recognized. Then-President William “Bill” Clinton signed the first proclamation of November as National Family Caregivers Month in 1997. Each subsequent president has followed suit.

This year, President Joseph B. Biden, Jr. issued a proclamation which stated in part: “During National Family Caregivers Month, we recognize the love and sacrifice of more than 50 million Americans providing crucial care and medical assistance to parents, children, siblings, and other

see CAREGIVERS next page

# Mahalo! Salamat Po!

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## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE

# There is So Much to be Thankful For

One of my favorite months of the year is November—when we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, usually on the fourth Thursday. An annual holiday in the USA, it shapes an important part of our culture and also heralds the beginning of the holiday season, leading to Christmas and then the New Year.

The first Thanksgiving was a harvest festival. Today it is more generally celebrated as a day designated for giving thanks for the many blessings of the passing year. For most gatherings of family and friends, the celebration features a large meal, and what has become a tradition for Americans around the world, a main course of turkey, stuffing, lots of gravy, accompanied by yams or sweet potato and a variety of vegetables, both raw and cooked as determined by geography. Filipinos are likely to add *lechon* (roasted suckling pig) and favorite desserts (*suman*, *bibingka*, *tupig*, *halohalo*). And for some of us, pumpkin or sweet potato pie is a must.

These past two and a half years have been extremely challenging and difficult for so many due to the pandemic, high inflation and political unrest here and everywhere. In spite of everything, there is still so much more for us to be thankful for. For instance, recent reports indicate there are approximately 50 million or more US residents expected to be traveling for the Thanksgiving holiday, one of the busiest ever!

For me, Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks and express our deepest gratitude for having a wonderful family, a roof over our

heads, food on the table, a safe place to live, a community that cares for its neighbors, good health, jobs, clean air to breathe, wonderful friends and the list goes on. Also, I appreciate the delicious aromas that the day brings to the house and neighborhood—that fusion of smells of *lechon*, *suman* and pie baking in the oven. Do you smell the sweet aromas?

What are you thankful for this year? When I think of Thanksgiving, I think of the wonderful things God has blessed our family with throughout the year. Of special note, this year is particularly blessed for our ‘ohana, as we welcomed our newest (fourth) grandchild. After years of praying for one of our daughters, God answered our prayers with a healthy baby boy. He is a reminder of the sovereignty and power of our Almighty God. You see, when we pray and bring our petitions directly to the One who grants the desires of your heart, He listens, acts and responds according to His perfect will. This is further confirmed in Philippians, 4:19 “God will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which He has given to us in Christ Jesus.”

So this Thanksgiving Day, let us take time to remember what Thanksgiving all is about. May you all have a safe and blessed holiday with your family and friends. May we all be encouraged to extend a hand to those who are less fortunate, so that they, too, can experience the amazing love of God. ✨

*Vince Bagoyo*

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



Cabanilla and grandkids

PHOTO COURTESY NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI



Takushi and grandchildren

PHOTO COURTESY NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI

## Caregivers ...

from p. 3

loved ones, ensuring their health and dignity ... The truth is, at some point in our lives, each of us will likely need to be a family caregiver—but the burden falls especially hard on those who cannot afford support ... Family caregivers are the backbone of our Nation's long-term care system, doing essential work with devotion, often at great emotional and financial cost. We owe them. It is time to bring their service out of the shadows and celebrate and support them in living their own happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives.”

Nora Cabanilla-Takushi and her husband Craig provide care for Nora's 95-year-old mother Pacita Ramos Cabanilla and Craig's 85-year-old parent Mary Elizabeth Francis Takushi. Cabanilla, who has dementia, lives with her youngest daughter Lani Cabanilla in Lahaina. Takushi lives downstairs in her own residence in Pā'ia while her son Kelly and his family live upstairs.

“We help Lani,” says Cabanilla-Takushi. “Mom stays with us on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. We feed her, bathe her and change her diapers. When Lani goes on vacation, we take full care. When I can't put in our days, my sister Essie helps. My brother Felix takes care of the yard and my other siblings help with the cooking.”

Cabanilla-Takushi—who is also active at her church, her diocese and Binhi at Ani, among other activities—also provides care for her mother-in-law. “We pick her up from Pā'ia on Friday afternoons and she stays with us on Saturdays and Sundays. On Monday mornings, we drop her off at Maui Adult Day Care in Kahului. When I have to do all my activities, my husband is the caregiver along



Craig Takushi and Nora Cabanilla-Takushi.

PHOTO COURTESY NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI

with my brother Florentino.”

Cabanilla-Takushi now also assists her husband Craig who recently lost his left leg below the knee. He explains they work as a team in caring for their moms. “We share the load together.” Even with his own disability, he's able to assist. “I thank God I can get around pretty good, even in a wheelchair. She doesn't need to give me a bath or change me,” he says. Cabanilla-Takushi feels blessed. “I count my blessings because Craig can still clean the house. I wash the clothes and he folds them and puts them away. He doesn't get to do the yardwork anymore; I do it. But I have the grandkids and the help of my brother.”

On a personal note, my wife Basilia and I have similar experiences with the Garcia, Magbual and Cabanilla families and countless others on Maui and throughout the State. My 98-year-old Mom Catalina Gonzales Evangelista now lives with us in Waikapū and my wife Basilia is the main caregiver. My wife is also a caregiver for her 82-year-old Mom Jacinta Tumacder Idica who has dementia and lives at her home in Kahului with her main caregiver, Basilia's sister Gemma.

see CAREGIVERS p.8



Jacinta Tumacder Idica and Catalina Gonzales Evangelista

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



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Well, the people have spoken.

Locally, Hawai'i remains deep blue. Democrat Lt. Gov. Josh Green and State Rep. Sylvia Luke easily beat Republicans Duke Aiona (a former Lt. Gov. under the last GOP Governor Linda Lingle) and coach/minister Seaula Tupa'i Jr., opening a 105,772-vote lead on the first print out which they never relinquished (206,479–100,707). Eventually, Green-Luke totaled 259,901 while Aiona-Tupa'i had 151,258 after the final reported results, a gap of 108,643 votes.

With the landslide loss, Aiona passes Frank Fasi and Dominis Garrida ("D.G. Andy") Anderson as the biggest loser of Hawai'i gubernatorial elections (Fasi lost as standard bearer of the Best Party in 1994 to Ben Cayetano and as Independent party nominee in 1982 to George Ariyoshi, although Fasi also lost primaries for the Democratic nomination in 1974 and 1978 to Ariyoshi; Anderson lost to Ariyoshi in 1982 and then John Waihe'e in 1986, before losing a 2002 bid as a Democrat to then-Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono; former U.S. Rep. and Lt. Gov. Tom Gill lost the Democratic nomination to John Burns in the 1970 "Catch a Wave" election and to then Lt. Gov. Ariyoshi in 1974).

Nationally, there was no red tsunami as Democrats fared better



Troy Hashimoto (from left), Josh Green, Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran and Kyle Yamashita  
PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN



Brian Schatz

Case (D-CD1) and picked Jill Tokuda (D-CD2) as the new rural O'ahu/Neighbor Island U.S. Representative. Schatz romped over former Ewa Beach GOP State Representative Bob McDermott, 289,585–105,704 while Case beat Republican Conrad Kress 142,742–50,833 and Tokuda easily out-poll

Republican Joe Akana and Libertarian Michelle Tippens, 127,995–72,455–5,108. With the U.S. Congress narrowly flipping to Republican control at press time, Case and Tokuda will be in the minority in what could be a very divisive final two-years of Joe Biden's first term as President. The Democrats have held on to their majority in the U.S. Senate, meaning Schatz will retain his chairmanship of the Appropriations subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development. Tokuda and Case will need to reach across the partisan aisle

to have Hawai'i's self-sufficiency interests heard as the Agricultural Bill faces reauthorization.

As a member of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, Schatz will need to show if the old

## DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

### Well, the people have spoken

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

adage from the Daniel Inouye-Ted Stevens era still applies—in Congress, there are Democrats, Republicans and then, there are appropriators. Inouye and Stevens worked closely over the years for their two small states (admitted to the union together in 1959) when the two used their committee seniority in taking turns funneling federal funds for both Hawai'i and Alaskan projects. Under the readopted Congressional Addition process (earmarking), Schatz will be in a position to assist local projects with federal resources.

Democrats will continue to dominate both chambers of the State Legislature. When the 32nd Legislature

convenes for the first of its two Regular Sessions on January 18, 2023, the Senate will include Lynn DeCoite (D- District 7- Molokai- Lāna'i- East Maui- Upcountry) and Angus McKelvey (D- District 6- South- West-Central Maui). DeCoite won her own term by besting Tamara McKay (R) 14,133–4,537, after completing the remaining term of former State Senator J. Kalani English. West Maui State Rep. McKelvey will serve the new Sixth District which combines the West and South Maui communities served by retired Senator Rosalyn Baker with the Waikapū Gardens and Legends of Maui Lani subdivisions carved out of Gil Keith-Agaran's Fifth Senate District. McKelvey slipped by Republican Sheila Walker and Green Party nominee Mish Shishido, 9,375–4,625–1,052.

While the GOP surprised Democrats in West O'ahu (winning four seats), Maui will continue to have an all-Democrat delegation. Voters re-elected Central Maui representatives Troy Hashimoto (D-District 10- Wailuku-Waikapū) and Justin Woodson (D-District 9- Kahului) in the August primary.

The dean of the Maui delegation Kyle Yamashita (D-District 12- Upcountry) set a personal record for votes, as he easily beat back Republican Dan Johnson and Green nominee Summer Starr, 7,069–2,115–1,109. Yamashita is expected to play an even bigger role in the next legislature (the Maui Representative has been the top negotiator for the House Finance committee on public works projects since 2009).

Former Maui Councilmember Elle Cochran (D-District 14-West Maui) will serve West Maui, defeating GOP nominee Kelly Armstrong and Aloha 'Aina's Leonard Nakoa III, 3,751–2,064–1,032.

Cochran will be the second Filipino in the delegation.

Elective newcomers fill the other

see PINAKBET next page



Ed Case (from left), Jill Tokuda and Kaiali'i Kahele  
PHOTO COURTESY JILL TOKUDA



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# Is Not Everything ... Finding Thanksgiving Within Our Filipino Community

Jazmyne Faith Vilorio | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2023

**H**alloween plans have passed and now Thanksgiving planning begins. The normal November includes the weekly inspection of grocery store sales, waiting for someone to volunteer their household and numerous group chats; all which are requisite endeavors for a glorious Thanksgiving feast. But as everyone gets settled into their seats for Thanksgiving dinner, a quick glance around the table easily enacts one to reflect on their upbringing specifically who have contributed to it. For a majority of Maui's Filipino Americans, the large Filipino community has played a major role in influencing and supporting Filipino American youth's confidence, comfortability and self-development.

"Coming to the United States as an immigrant was initially a daunting thought for an 11-year-old Filipina," describes **Yasha Ronquillo**, a college graduate and teacher at Maui High School. For Yasha the only

knowledge of America she held were from books, movies and shows; although she was intimidated, "It did not take me long to adjust to the island thanks to the large Filipino community we have here (Maui). Especially since my church was composed of many Ilonggo/Tagalog-speaking families with familiar traditions and customs, it became easy for me to quickly feel comfortable on this island I now call home." As Yasha recognized the Filipino community through church, **Dexter Corpuz**, a recent college grad and teacher at Maui High, recognized the Filipino community through friendships, "Growing up my majority circle of friends were Filipinos and I think it naturally became that way because we had so many cultural connections with each other and to this day we do! For instance, we had a lot of relatabilities with each other and other Filipinos as well."

As Dexter entered adulthood, he re-



Yasha Ronquillo

alized "The Filipino community helped me find myself and my self-identity." Similarly, the Filipino community helped Yasha navigate through her youth, "I did have a point during my teenage years when I was ashamed of being Filipino (due to stereotypes, stigmas and the incessant need to fit in) but the richness of our culture outweighed my negative feelings." Taking pride in her culture and traditions she's become "truly grateful the Filipinos on Maui brought those wonderful things with them to Hawai'i. Without such things, my identity will not be complete."

Creative media are also major contributors to Yasha and Dexter's identity. With creative media and their culture holding such major parts in their identity, multiple projects were concocted with the inspiration being the Philippines and Filipino culture. For example, Yasha launched an Instagram page called "Ganda ng Pilipinas" which "cultivates an appreciation for our culture in a society where Filipinos can oftentimes be mocked, making Filipinos ashamed of their her-



Dexter Corpuz

itage."

From establishing newfound friendships to inspiring a platform focusing on Filipino culture, the Filipino community has ultimately played a major role in most Filipino American youth. Providing a place of familiarity, comfortability and love the Filipino community is appreciated by many, even more than a Thanksgiving feast. ✨

**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 Vilorio**, 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 Vilorio.



**CLINIC OPENING SOON!**

## Maui Memorial Medical Center Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy

Maui Health is excited to announce the opening of Maui Memorial Medical Center Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy, an outpatient clinic that will be located near Maui Memorial Medical Center Outpatient Clinic in Maui Lani Parkway.

The clinic will offer our Maui county community a comprehensive, quality approach to wound healing – coordinating traditional and advanced therapies that aid and accelerate the healing process. This means means longer-lasting results, decreased amputation rates and increased mobility.

The new clinic will also have hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBO) available, a proven, Medicare-approved treatment for certain indications.

### What is Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy?

Hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) therapy is the utilization of oxygen under pressure to enhance the body's natural ability to heal. Patients breathe 100% oxygen inside a chamber that is pressurized at 2-3 times greater than atmospheric pressure. The increase in tissue oxygenation works to combat bacteria and promote angiogenesis.

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**Wound Care and  
Hyperbaric Therapy**  
Maui Memorial Medical Center

## Pinakbet ...

from p. 5

two House seats. County Council staffer Mahina Poepeo (D-District 13- East Maui-Molokai-Lāna'i) dispatched Republican Scott Adam and longtime candidate Nick Nikhilananda (G), 5,820-2,079-637. In Kihei-Wailea, progressive Terez Amato (D-District 11- South Maui) overpowered conservative Shekinah Cantere (R), 5,256-2,879.

Statewide, Democrats will hold twenty-three seats in the State Senate (Brenton Awa ousted Democrat Gil Riviere for the north shore seat, 8,023-7,632). The GOP narrowly lost adding a third seat as incumbent Waianae Senator Maile Shimabukuro retained her seat by seventy-two votes after an automatic recount, 4,971-4,899, over Samantha DeCorte.

The Republicans added to their House numbers by sweeping through West O'ahu. Filipino Diamond Garcia finally suc-



Angus McKelvey and Sylvia Luke  
PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

ceeded in ousting Makakilo Rep. Sharon Har, 3,327-2,974 (Har's DUI arrest undoubtedly hurt her). GOP attorney Kanani Souza beat Stacelyn Eli in a newly drawn district, 3,976-3,197; Eli had switched from her Nānākuli district to run for that Kapolei seat. Another incumbent with DUI troubles, progressive Ewa Rep. Matt LoPresti lost in a re-match with Republican David Alcos, 3,915-2,755. Former HSTA President Corey Rosenlee was ambushed by GOP Elijah Pierick, 3,763-3,072. Two Filipina Democrats did manage to thwart a complete sweep in West O'ahu as Rachele Fernandez Lam-

see PINAKBET p.8

Elle Cochran

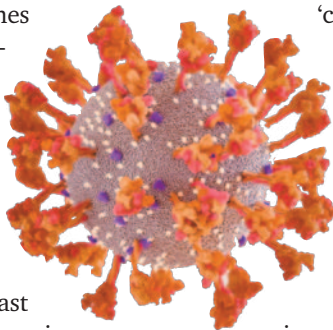


# The Winter Viral Season is Here and So is Long COVID

Errol Buntuyan, M.D., FAAFP

The virus season has officially begun and is in full swing. All across the nation, the reports of influenza infection have risen in the last month and were reported to be ten times higher than at this similar point last year. Also, the rates of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection, an upper respiratory disease most severe in young children and the elderly, have tripled in the past two months. As many as six new Omicron variants have also been noted and are currently being tracked by experts. These Omicron variants are poised to cause a surge in the coming winter months.

The last two years of the pandemic along with the masking and social distancing safety protocols have protected us from these viral illnesses. Our collective immunity against the flu and RSV was relatively low coming into this 2020 viral season. Now the world is back to its full swing of activity, we are seeing the recirculation of these viral illnesses.



The good news is the symptoms of all three of these viral illnesses have been mild for the majority of children and adults who are getting infected. These infections resemble 'common cold' symptoms. These infections, however, are causing a large volume of outpatient clinic visits to urgent care centers, emergency rooms and medical office visits for people who want to get tested and seek advice on how to get better. See below on common cold remedies from the Mayo Clinic.

Those who are immunocompromised are at the greatest risk of suffering from severe illness. Those who have immunodeficiency or who have chronic medical diseases like diabetes, obesity and lung diseases are more likely to suffer from symptoms. The advice to get your vaccinations for COVID and for influenza remains the same as it has been for the last two years. Unfortunately, there is no vaccine for RSV.

Many have relinquished to thinking

the pandemic is over. Many know getting infected with COVID only yields mild symptoms and recovery is usually quick. There is, however, a broad range of health problems experienced by a significant number of individuals after contracting the virus.

Long COVID is defined as anyone having post COVID symptoms for more than three months. Some studies show one in four working age adults have resulted in long COVID. Also, of those with long COVID, twenty-five percent are unable to work due to their lingering health problems. Long COVID is also more prevalent in middle aged adults, many of whom are at the peak of their working years.

The most common long COVID symptoms are chronic fatigue and brain fog, which are causing these individuals to be unemployed or working reduced hours. This is certainly contributing to the labor shortage as approximately four million working age adults in the U.S. are no longer working because of these long COVID symptoms.

The overall message is to avoid getting COVID. Multiple infections with COVID yield a greater chance of suffering from long COVID symptoms. Once again, getting up to date on your COVID and influenza vaccina-

tions will keep you protected. Also, if you are feeling at all sick with a viral illness, stay home and be distanced. It is best to not expose others to your symptoms. Only return to work and social activities once you are no longer having symptoms.

Thus far, the winter viral season is heading towards a large number of infections. Do your best to stay aware and mindful of your own symptoms. Protect yourself and others by getting vaccinated, staying up to date on the latest immunizations, and staying distanced when having viral symptoms.

**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.



## COMMON COLD ADVICE from the Mayo Clinic

Cold remedies that work

- If you catch a cold, you can expect to be sick for one to two weeks. That doesn't mean you have to be miserable. These remedies might help you feel better:
- **Stay hydrated.** Water, juice, clear broth or warm lemon water with honey helps loosen congestion and prevents dehydration. Avoid alcohol, coffee and caffeinated sodas, which can make dehydration worse.
  - **Rest.** Your body needs rest to heal.
  - **Soothe a sore throat.** A saltwater gargle — 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon salt dissolved in an 8-ounce glass of warm water — can temporarily relieve a sore or scratchy throat. Children younger than 6 years are unlikely to be able to gargle properly.
  - **Combat stuffiness.** Over-the-counter saline nasal drops and sprays can help relieve stuffiness and congestion.
- You can also try ice chips, sore throat sprays, lozenges or hard candy. Use caution when giving lozenges or hard candy to children because they can choke on them. Don't give lozenges or hard candy to children younger than 6 years.
- In infants, experts recommend putting several saline drops into one nostril, then gently suctioning that nostril with a bulb syringe. To do this, squeeze the bulb, gently place the syringe tip in the nostril about 1/4 to 1/2 inch (about 6 to 12 millimeters), and slowly release the bulb. Saline nasal sprays may be used in older children.

- **Relieve pain.** For children 6 months or younger, give only acetaminophen. For children older than 6 months, give either acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Ask your child's doctor for the correct dose for your child's age and weight.
- Adults can take acetaminophen (Tylenol, others), ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB, others) or aspirin.
- Use caution when giving aspirin to children or teenagers. Though aspirin is approved for use in children older than age 3, children and teenagers recovering from chickenpox or flu-like symptoms should never take aspirin.

- This is because aspirin has been linked to Reye's syndrome, a rare but potentially life-threatening condition, in such children.
- **Sip warm liquids.** A cold remedy used in many cultures, taking in warm liquids, such as chicken soup, tea or warm apple juice, might be soothing and might ease congestion by increasing mucus flow.
  - **Try honey.** Honey may help coughs in adults and children who are older than age 1. Try it in hot tea.
  - **Add moisture to the air.** A cool-mist vaporizer or humidifier can add moisture to your home, which might help loosen congestion. Change the water daily and clean the unit according to the manufacturer's instructions.
  - **Try over the counter (OTC) cold and cough medications.** For adults and children aged five and older, OTC decongestants, antihistamines and pain relievers might offer some symptom relief. However, they won't prevent a cold or shorten its duration, and most have some side effects.
- Experts agree that these shouldn't be given to younger children. Overuse and misuse of these medications can cause serious damage. Talk with your child's doctor before giving any medications.
- Take medications only as directed. Some cold remedies contain multiple ingredients, such as a decongestant plus a pain reliever, so read the labels of cold medications you take to make sure you're not taking too much of any medication.

- ### Cold remedies that don't work
- The list of ineffective cold remedies is long. Some of the more common ones that don't work include:
- **Antibiotics.** These attack bacteria, but they're no help against cold viruses. Avoid asking your doctor for antibiotics for a cold or using old antibiotics you have on hand. You won't get well any faster, and inappropriate use of antibiotics contributes to the serious and growing problem of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

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# Caregivers ...

from p. 4



Idica and Evangelista at Maui Adult Day Care Center.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Mom started living with us full-time after my sister Gloria, her lead caregiver, died. While my sister Gloria battled cancer, my Mom lived with my sister Estrelita. I provided a weekend respite to my sister Estrelita. Estrelita now comes each morning to prepare my Mom’s breakfast while my wife and I get ready for work. My Mom then spends her day at Maui Adult Daycare in Kahului and we need to be home by 5 p.m. when she gets dropped off by the private transportation system.

A private caregiver comes in at 10 p.m. to be with my Mom while we sleep. It’s been a huge burden on my wife because many times I have to work late or have meetings for Binhi at Ani. I’m just thankful for all those who provide support to me and my wife. It’s really been stressful for me and my wife and we often find ourselves sharing stories with other caregivers.

Governor David Y. Ige also issued a Proclamation recognizing National Family Caregivers Month in Hawai‘i, noting “Hawai‘i’s population is rapidly aging and the majority of our kūpuna age 65 and over wish to remain in their homes and communities as they age ... One in five adults in Hawai‘i serve as family caregivers, providing a broad range of assistance to loved ones dealing with challenges such as age, illness, injury, and chronic or disabling conditions ... It is imperative to

ensure that caregivers have the necessary support and services; be able to continue to earn a living; find a balance between caregiving, their families and relationships, and career; and have time for themselves.” Ige asked Hawai‘i’s people to “join me in recognizing the critical role family caregivers play in a loved one’s life and help make it possible for our kūpuna to age in place.”



Magbuals with grandchildren.  
PHOTO COURTESY MELEN AGCOLICOL

Aging in place or not living in a care facility is often requested by elderly parents, requiring their children or younger relatives to rearrange their lives. “For us, the only option to take care of our parents is the family,” says Agcolicol. “The care home or nursing home is not an option. They already told us that going to a nursing home or facility will kill them early. As they wish, we do our best to take care of our parents the same way when they took care of us when we were kids—only harder because it takes a lot of patience, love and energy.”

Caregivers receive some relief from locally-based services.

For example, Cabanilla-Takushi’s mom and mother-in-law both go to Maui Adult Day Care. Her Mom goes to the facility in Lahaina while her mother-in-law goes to the facility in Kahului. “They’re awesome. They take good care of them,” says Cabanilla-Takushi. Maui Economic Opportunity provides transportation back and forth. “We gotta be home and we gotta get her ready.”

“Mom enjoys going to the Maui Adult Day Care Center because she gets to socialize with others and engage in different activities,” says Garcia. “They also have a caring staff. She



Ed Garcia’s mom gets ready to go to Daycare.  
PHOTO: ED GARCIA

has a daily routine in day care and that helps keep her assured and less anxious.”

Maui Adult Day Care has four facilities (Lahaina, Kihei, Wailuku and Kahului) and a senior center in Hāna. Their hours are 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. On Saturdays, the Kahului and Lahaina facilities are open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Kahului facility is also open on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

“Maui Adult Day Care Centers provides a social therapeutic program to help an older adult live and enjoy life at whatever level one is functioning,” explains Margie Dela Cruz, Executive Director of Maui Adult Day Care Centers. “An adult may still maintain independent skills in the home but could be isolated due to losing the ability to drive or get out or they could be struggling with physical or cognitive challenges. We bring friendship, activity and enjoyment back into the life of an older adult so one is living life and not just existing. We also provide assistance with personal care as needed with bathing, incontinence, toileting, feeding etc. Our clients range from being independent with ADL’s to needing full assistance to keep them safe and comfortable.”



Evangelista celebrates her 98th birthday with the staff at Maui Adult Day Care Center.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

In addition to client services, Dela Cruz also says the Centers provide caregiver support via monthly support groups, quarterly workshops and one-on-one caregiver counseling support in person or by phone. “There is no cost to a caregiver and you do not have to have a loved one attending our centers to benefit from caregiver support,” Dela Cruz says. “Call (808) 871-5804 for information regarding Maui Adult Day Care Centers and caregiver support. We are here to help the com-

munity of Maui care for our kūpuna and be part of the long-term continuum of service to the elderly since 1974.”

According to Dela Cruz, the cost is reasonable, ranging from \$62 per day to \$72 per day, depending on the level of care. Bathing service is also available at a cost of \$20. The Kahului facility also offers a Sundowning program at a cost of \$30 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., allowing caregivers a date night or respite. A variety of scholarships are available, including from the Hawai‘i Community Foundation, Maui United Way and the Maui County Office on Aging.



Dagdag-Andaya

Rowena Dagdag-Andaya is the new Maui County Executive on Aging. While she transitioned into her new position from her prior position as Director of the De-



Dagdag-Andaya’s son Trey learned to take his grandfather Fred’s bloodpressure.  
PHOTO: ROWENA DAGDAG-ANDAYA

partment of Public Works, she became the caregiver for her Mom Judita, a former care home operator. Dagdag-Andaya’s father died in November 2021 and Dagdag-Andaya’s Mom recently passed in September. Having been one herself, Dagdag-Andaya remains very empathetic to the plight of caregivers.

The Maui County Office on Aging’s mission is “To promote and protect the well-being of the older person in Maui County.” Its vision is that “individuals 60 years and older, their caregivers and persons with disability are independent, healthy and feel regarded as contributing members of the community.”

With the growing aging population in Maui County, the Office on Aging aims to address the needs of older

see CAREGIVERS p.11



Dagdag-Andaya children walk with their Grandpa Fred  
PHOTO DAGDAG-ANDAYA

# Pinakbet ...

from p. 5

osao won the Waipahu seat over Veamoniti Lautaha, 3,048–965, and longtime candidate Rose Martinez edged small business owner Janie Gueso, 3,075–2,866.

Democratic Majority Leader Della Au Belatti will remain one of eight Filipino House members, beating Charlotte Rosecrans, 5,435–2,131. The others are incumbent Hawai‘i island Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Kalihi Rep. Ernesto “Sonny” Ganaden, and newly elected Lamasao, Martinez, Garcia, and Cochran. Joining them is first-time candidate Micah Po’okela Kim Aiu (son of longtime Filipina State Senator Donna Mercado Kim) who won his first race, narrowly beating

Garner Shimizu, 3,753–3,505.

Democrats retain a Super Majority, 45–6.

Filipino Senators will include Hawai‘i island Senators Lorraine Inouye and Joy San Buenaventura, Maui Senator Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran, and O’ahu Senators Donna Mercado Kim, Brandon J.C. Elefante, Donovan DelaCruz, and Henry J.C. Aquino. In short, fifteen of the seventy-six legislators will be Filipinos, fourteen Democrats and one Republican. ✨

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** was re-elected in the August 2022 Primary Election to a four-year term as the State Senator for Central Maui.





Ti Biag ken Pammati  
"Life and Faith"

James Mariano loved his job as Program Specialist on Aging. He was loved by his staff who helped the Aging, Disability, Handicapped etc in needs! He reflected God's Love for those who came in contact with him.



Rest In Peace  
James Daligcon Mariano

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY OFFICE ON AGING STAFF

Messages from God comes through different forms but always through his Son our Lord Jesus Christ! Signs of Thanksgiving through Love!

I was honored to be asked to say the Opening Prayer for James Mariano, a Program Specialist on Aging, Maui County Office on Aging-Aging and Disability Resource Center, on October 21, 2022 at the J. W. Cameron Center. James Daligcon Mariano died suddenly on September 2, 2022.

James was born and raised in Kekaha, Kaua'i. He moved to Maui to work at the Aging & ADRC office. His parents are from Piddig, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. He has family on Maui—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Yanos is one of them. His service was live streamed to his Mom and Dad, family members and friends who live on Kaua'i and who couldn't make it to Maui for the celebration of his life.

I never met James in person but when Deacon Kenneth Bissen nominated me for the 53rd Annual Maui County Outstanding Older Americans Recognition, James called me in May 2022, we talked and he asked me some questions and information. That's how we met.

God's love comes to us from anyone or anything or anytime He chooses to give to us in every and any way. At James' memorial service I felt God's love through Jesus Christ. I never met James in person but met him in the Spirit of God! We could feel the presence of God in the love his staff, friends and family shared! We pray for the soul of James until we meet in person in God's house. James, may you rest in peace!

The Gospel today (Luke 19:1-10) centers around a man named Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector in Jericho. Last week, we talked about why the Jewish community so hated tax collectors.

They worked for the oppressive Roman government and they often collected excessively high taxes. They gave the Roman government its required amount, then kept the excess for themselves. As we learned last week, tax collectors were excommunicated from the synagogue. They couldn't participate in the religious and social support of their community.

Our Bible passage says Zacchaeus was wealthy, so it's likely he was profiting off the exploitation and oppression of his neighbors. I'd guess he earned the title 'Least Popular Guy in Jericho.' I think that explains why Zacchaeus didn't want Jesus to see him. These Bible verses tell us Zacchaeus ran ahead of the crowd. It's reasonable to assume he could have gotten close enough to talk to Jesus or touch him. Instead, he climbed up a sycamore-fig tree. He wanted to see Jesus but I don't think he wanted Jesus to see him.

There are a lot of people who feel they are unacceptable to God. That's the first insight we get from today's story. Maybe you feel that way. You come to church searching for something but you're afraid to commit to anything. You're afraid to let anyone get to know you. You're afraid someone will discover you're not a 'real' Christian. And there are plenty of people outside these church walls who feel that way. They think they have gone far from God. The real tragedy is someone in their life may have told them that. One of the most destructive lies we can believe about ourselves is "I am not worthy of God's love."

In the early days of the AIDS crisis, Rev. Ted Karpf was serving as an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Texas. One evening a man showed up at his church door. The man's face bore the characteristic sores of AIDS-related cancer. He

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI p.14

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Appointments on Maui or via ZOOM



Community... In Action

Phil Sabado's bayanihan spirit painting was live-auctioned with the swinning bid from Tante & Tellie Urban.

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



Volunteers pause for a photo after Binhi at Ani's Bayanihan Feeding Program.

PHOTO: LIZA AGCOLICOL



Norma Cronkite won for best Terno and Jessie Valledor won for best Barong Tagalog at the recent 2022 Terno Ball held at Tante's Island Cuisine.

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



Binhi at Ani's 2023 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 5, 2023 at The Dunes at Maui Lani.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

BAHAY KUBO HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation Terno Ball 2022 fundraiser at Tante's Island Cuisine was very successful, raising over \$17,000 net which will allow the Foundation to apply a synthetic nipa roof to the Bahay Kubo located at 'Iao Valley Kepaniwai Park.

The guests were entertained with a festive Terno and Barong Tagalog contest which was won by Norma Cronkite and Jessie Valledor, respectively. A lively auction for artist Phil Sabado's original painting of the Bayanihan spirit was won by Tante and Tellie Urban.



BINHI AT ANI

Celebrate your holiday events at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. The Center can be rented from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1150 (including the cleaning fee) plus a \$300 security deposit; from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for \$800 (including the cleaning fee) plus a \$300 security deposit; or from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. for \$950 (including the cleaning fee) plus a \$300 security deposit. If you want to serve alcohol, there is a \$300 additional fee and you must hire



COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

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. Telephone (808) 877-7880

A Bayanihan Christmas: Aggie Cabebe Scholarship Fundraiser

Agrifina "Aggie" Cabebe (1928-2020) was a remarkable trailblazer in Maui's Filipino community. She was known as the "Mother of Filipino Folk Dance on Maui" and "The General" and she served in many capacities, including the first president of Binhi at Ani in 1985. Maui will always be indebted to her for her pioneer efforts in community building and preserving the Filipino culture.

To sustain her memory for generations, the Cabebe family and Binhi at Ani is creating the "Agrifina Cabebe/Binhi At Ani Scholarship," funded in part by donations and an annual event in her honor.

Seats for the December 14, 2022 event are limited. A Table Sponsorship for 10

guests cost \$500 while individual seats cost \$30. Donations for the Scholarship are also accepted. For more information, please contact the Event Chairperson, Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 242-8100 or [AlfredoGEvangelista@gmail.com](mailto:AlfredoGEvangelista@gmail.com).



Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

The Binhi at Ani 2023 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 5, 2023 at The Dunes at Maui Lani. The Shotgun Start will begin at 7 a.m., with check in by 6:30 a.m. (breakfast buffet will be provided). There are two levels of sponsorship: Platinum (\$1,400) for eight players, tee sponsor, all par 3 contests, four mulligans per player, and a listing in the Mahalo ad. Gold (\$750) for four players, tee sponsor, all par 3 contests, two mulligans per player, and a listing in the Mahalo ad. Tee Sponsors are also available at \$100. The deadline is February 15 with the early bird registration of February 1, which will enter you into a drawing sponsored by Friends of Yuki Lei. Don't



wait as this Tournament always sells out early!

Bayanihan Feeding Program

The program provides a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui (Hale Mahaolu Elua and Hale Mahaolu Akahi, which was added in October). As of October 31, a total of 10,342 meals were delivered. There is a need for additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches.

The teams who served during the month of October were Friends of Michael Victorino, Hawai'i Financial Credit Union, Maui County Federal Credit Union, Maui Filipino Community Council, Miss Maui USA, Peros Family and Philippine Nurses Association Maui Chapter.

More teams are needed. 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: Feeding Program].

Enhance@Fitness for Kūpuna 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 more active, energized, and empowered to sustain independent lives. Enhance@Fitness is a great way to stay independent or get stronger after illness



Rent the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center for your celebrations..

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA

A fundraiser for the "Agrifina Cabebe/Binhi at Ani Scholarship" will be held Wednesday, December 14.

FORM: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Enhance@Fitness for Kūpuna is held at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS

A BAYANIHAN CHRISTMAS Aggie Cabebe Scholarship Fundraiser

Agrifina "Aggie" Cabebe (1928-2020) was a remarkable trailblazer in Maui's Filipino community. She was known as the "Mother of Filipino Folk Dance on Maui" and "The General" and she served in many capacities, including the first president of Binhi at Ani in 1985. Maui will always be indebted to her for her pioneer efforts in community building and preserving the Filipino culture.

To sustain her memory for generations, the Cabebe family and Binhi at Ani is creating the AGRIFINA CABEBE/BINHI AT ANI SCHOLARSHIP, funded in part by donations and an annual event in her honor.

We hope you will assist by attending and/or making a donation. Seats for the December 14, 2022 event (doors open at 5:00pm) are limited. For more information, please contact the Event Chairperson, Alfredo Evangelista at 808.242.8100 or [AlfredoGEvangelista@gmail.com](mailto:AlfredoGEvangelista@gmail.com)

Table Sponsor: \$1000.00  
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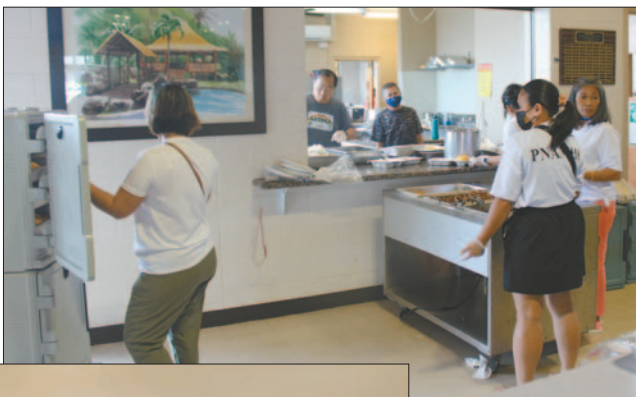
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2022.00 - Frontseat seats for \$10  
\$ 30.00 - Individual seat for the Baha House  
\$ - - - - - Indicates amount



A food fundraiser for the Binhi at Ani was held on Oct. 29, staffed by many volunteers.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs attended the Diocesan Congress of Filipino Catholic Clubs convention on Kaua'i.

PHOTO COURTESY NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI

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** held on October 29 was staffed by many volunteers including 2022 Miss Barrio Fiesta Audryanah Latayada Starmer, the Binhi at Ani Board of Directors, Philippine Nurses Association Maui Chapter and friends. The food fundraiser successfully raised more than \$5,000.

## 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 pm; 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 was held on Kaua'i on November 4, 5 and 6 at Hilton Garden Inn in Kapa'a, Kaua'i with the theme "The Eucharist: Source and Summit of Our Christian Life." Dele-

gates from Christ the King Filipino Catholic Club, Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club, St. Anthony Filipino Catholic Club, St. Joseph Filipino Catholic Club and St. Theresa Filipino Catholic Club attended the successful convention.

## MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Bakuna at Binhi Ani Filipino Community Center.** Miss Maui Filipina Lennel Alvarez led an all-volunteer staff on October 29 that provided flu vaccines and Pfizer Bivalent COVID-19 boosters.

**Rizal Day Maria Clara and Barong Gala** will be held on Saturday, December 30, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Maui Beach Hotel. Sponsorships, advertisement opportunities and individual seats (\$50) are available. For more information, contact Event Chair Lawrence Pascua at (808) 250-5330 or Event Co-Chair Marilyn Oura at (808) 280-2057.

The event will also feature the installation of the 2023 officers and directors: President Domingo "Jing" Gumpal, Vice President Lawrence Pascua, Recording Secretary Marilyn Oura, Corresponding Secretary Michelle Santos, Treasurer Judith Piano, Assistant Treasurer Aileen Concepcion, Auditor Virgilio "Leo" Agcolicol, and Directors Cornelio "CJ" Ancheta, Rodrigo Casio, Melanie Garde, Arthur Latayada, Madeilyn Pascua, Greg Peros and Cherry Joy Urias.



Miss Maui Filipina Lennel Alvarez headed a recent Bakuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Rizal Day Maria Clara & Barong Gala and Installation of MFCC Officers will be held on Friday, December 30 at the Maui Beach Hotel.

FLYER: LAWRENCE PASCUA



## Caregivers ...

from p. 8

adults and caregivers through its Kūpuna Care home and community-based services. The Maui County Office on Aging provides and authorizes services to the Islands of Maui, Molokai and Lāna'i with an emphasis on Aging in Place. Every service, program and product referred or implemented by the Maui County Office on Aging and its contracted providers serve to assist Maui County's seniors and adults with disabilities to lead independent, fulfilled, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

The Maui County Office on Aging along with their counterparts in all four counties in Hawai'i, contracts with organizations serving the elderly to provide the following types of services: Information and Assistance, Adult Day Care, Chore Services, Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals, Homemaker services, Legal Assistance, Personal Care Services, and Assisted Transportation. Services are also available to caregivers. Such services include Adult Day Care Respite, Counseling, In-Home Respite, Training and Support Groups.

In 2019, the Office created a Four-Year Area Plan on Aging for the time period October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2023. It produced five goals:

1. Maximize opportunities for seniors to age well, remain active, and enjoy quality lives while engaging in their communities;
2. Forge strategic partnerships and alliances that will give impetus to meeting Hawai'i's greatest challenges for the aging population;
3. Strengthen the statewide ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) system for kūpuna and their 'ohana to access and receive long-term support services (LTSS) information and resources within their respective Counties;
4. Enable people with disabilities and older adults to live in the community through the availability of and access to high-quality long-term services and supports, including supports for families and caregivers; and
5. Optimize the health, safety, and independence of Hawai'i's older adults.

The Four-Year Plan is necessary as it addresses the issues described in the Older Americans Act of 1965 and identifies funding priorities for programs and services most needed by older adults, adults with disabilities and their caregivers. Statistics provided in the 2019 plan indicate that by 2030, twenty percent of the population will be elderly. The statistics estimate by 2030, Maui will have 45,091 persons that are 65 years or older. And although Maui County and Hawai'i County had the largest proportion of Caucasians, Maui was still very ethnically diverse, with twenty-five languages spoken in the County of Maui. Of the languages

other than English, Ilokano (8,665 speakers or 28.6 percent) and Tagalog (6,119 speakers or 20.2 percent) ranked #1 and #2, respectively in the top ten list of languages other than English spoken at home.

"A new Four-Year Area Plan on Aging is currently being prepared for the County of Maui as required by the Older Americans Act. This plan will cover the federal funding period of October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2027," says Dagdag-Andaya. "It is important we obtain feedback from residents in all areas of Maui County so we can understand, plan and deliver effective and equitable services to our aging population and to caregivers."

Like Dagdag-Andaya, Keali'i Lopez, the State Director of AARP, is also a caregiver. "As a family caregiver for my mom, I know how difficult it is to balance work, caregiving and life in general. It makes a big difference to be able to talk to other caregivers about the challenges we face and to know that you are not alone," said Lopez in announcing AARP's activities to celebrate and support family caregivers during the National Family Caregivers Month.

AARP is the nation's largest non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 years and older to choose how they live as they age. AARP claims a membership of almost thirty-eight million members, including approximately 145,000 in Hawai'i.

In a recent news release, AARP explained being a family caregiver is one of the toughest and most rewarding things that anyone can do for a parent or loved one. There's generally no pay; the hours are long



Cabanilla and her son Ludy and his wife Myrna from Las Vegas.

PHOTO: NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI



Takushi with son Craig and daughter-in-law Nora.

PHOTO COURTESY NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI

see CAREGIVERS p.13





November is here, my birth month, my favorite month. In the Philippines, November 1st is All Saint’s Day and November 2nd is All Soul’s Day. It is the day when we remember our loved ones who have passed away. A few days before the beginning of the month, people go and clean the cemetery where their loved ones were laid to rest. Some would just hire people to clean and repair the memorials. Then at night, the family would gather and have a “celebration of life” party. In the U.S. during November we

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

celebrate Veteran’s Day and Thanksgiving Day. Thank you to our Veterans for their services and sacrifices for our country. These brave men and women put their lives on the line to protect our freedom. Thanksgiving Day is the day to reflect on what we are thankful for. Sometimes we forget to be grate-

ful for the free things in life like the fresh air, the sun, the moon, the rain and the beautiful beaches around us. Waking up in the morning is also something to be grateful for. Having food to eat and clothes to wear, we should be thankful. But especially having your parents, your kids and your

family is also to be thankful for. Shout out to our November birthday celebrants: Helen Bueno Velasco, Mary Grace Joy Andam, Eileen Andrea Bueno Verkhov. Happy, Happy birthday to you! (Tagalog) *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Ilokano) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ibanag) *Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu!* (Kapampangan) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Ilonggo) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo.* Let’s visit our friends Angel and Michael and see what’s going on with them this month, shall we?

“NANAY! (MOM!) SITAW (WHERE) have you been? I never saw you all day,” Angel asked her mom. “I have been helping Auntie Daya cook for her market tomorrow, *Anak.*” Her nanay (mom) explained. “Yes, *Ima* (mom). I have something to ask. Remember now that *Tatay* (father) is sick. And we have so many bills to pay right now. *Inahan* (Mother), I know, I applied at the mall last week but they haven’t called me yet. I am thinking about selling *lumpia* at the school tomorrow,” she told her mom. “No, *Anak.* We have an answer. I don’t know if you met him yet but Uncle Victor has a *kofun* (friend) from Hawai’i. He is here. And he can get you a *trabaho* (job) with good pay. *Anak*, I already told him you will do it. Please?!” her *nanay* (mother) pleaded.

The man approached from behind her *nanang* (mother). “*Kababayan*, you are *maganda* (beautiful). Your daughter is also *napintas* (beautiful),” he told Angel’s mom. Then he turned to Angel and said, “Hi Angel. I heard your *amahan* (father) is not well. Your *nanay* (mother) tells me you are looking for *ubra* (job). That’s good because I need workers. My name is Uncle Billy,” as he extended his *kamot* (hand) for a shake. Angel offered her *kamay* (hand). His *lima* (hands) were soft and wet. Much unlike most of the men she had a few chances to shake their *gamat* (hands). Most of those *ima* (hands) were very rough, hard and callus. Billy’s hand shake was aggressive, as if he was the type to always get *ano* (what) he wanted. His *gamat* (hands) skin was soft as if he never worked a hard laborous day in his life. And the way his handshake ended made Angel feel a bit awkward gently brushing his fingers on her palm as he lifted his *kamay* (hand) back to his body, locking eyes with her and visually saying things that Angel couldn’t make out. Angel didn’t have the best feeling about Billy but like most Filipinos, if

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Friend	Kaibigan	Gayyem	Bai	Miga	Kofun	Kaluguran
Money	Pera	Kwarta	Salapi	Kwarta	Kwartu	Kwalta
Smile	Ngiti	Issem	Pahiyum	Yuhom	Galo	Timan
What?	Ano?	Ana?	Hani?	Ano?	Anni?	Nanoyin?
Rich	Mayaman	Baknang	Adunahan	Manggaranon	Mamamga	Makualta
Father	Tatay	Tatang	Amahan	Tatay	Yama	Tata
Mother	Nanay	Nanang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
Where?	Nasaan	Inno?	Aha?	San o?	Sitaw?	Nokarin?
Beautiful	Maganda	Napintas	Gwapa	Maanyag	Makasta	Malagu
Child	Anak	Anak	Anak	Anak	Anak	Anak
Job	Trabajo	Ubra	Trabahu	Obro	Trabaho	Trabaho

her *nanay* (mother) said he is fine and Uncle said he is a *kaibigan* (friend), then she would accept him as such regardless. “*Tito*, *hani* (what) type of *trabaho* (job) is this? We really need the *salapi* (money) and it’s very hard to find *trabahu* (job) here,” Angel said as she politely looked away from the glaring eyes of Uncle Billy. Billy coughed and fixed the buttons on his overly Hawaiian polo shirt. “Well, you will be doing housework and chores for a really *mayaman* (rich) man in Hawai’i. There will be many of you there since he has a lot of *ubra* (jobs),” said Billy. “Oh yeah?” Angel’s eyes lit up. “A really *baknang* (rich) man? Like a celebrity?” Billy looked at her Mom and grinned. “I wouldn’t say he is a celebrity but he has a big business and lots of *kwarta* (money).” “*Ana* (What) kind of business?” Angel curiously asked. “I can’t tell you because it’s,” Billy leaned into Angel, *ngiti* (smiled), winked and said “It’s top secret.” Being the feisty girl she is, Angel looked at him strangely. “Why is it top secret?”

“Because it is, sweetie,” Billy replied. “We are just workers earning a wage. It’s none of our business to know. Besides, who really cares *anni* (what) his business is, as long as our salary comes in everyday right?” “But *hani* (what) if his business is a bad one and we are helping him do criminal things,” Angel said. Billy clearly looked a bit annoyed, turned to Angel’s mom and raised his eyebrow then looked away. “If you don’t want to work it’s ok. I’ll find another girl to send to Hawai’i in your place. I think Kuya Jojo’s daughter is twenty-two and just finished college so maybe wants *trabaho* (job) now. Do you know *nasaan* (where) Jo is?” Billy said as he began to scan the site, slowly walking away. Mom looked at Angel with very angry eyes and moved her lips. Not really saying anything but Angel immediately knew it wasn’t any good words that were being transmitted with mom’s telekinetic radio waves. Angel jumped up. “No sir, Ate Vee (Jo’s daughter) is staying here, I’m going to Hawai’i to work and help my family please.” She lunged to take Billy’s offer. “When do we leave?” Angel asked. Billy chuckled. “Ok, the *obro* (job)

is yours. Let me talk to your mom about the details. Once we get the documents completed and the payment is cleared we can buy your ticket and pay for the transportation.” “*Ano* (What) payment?” Angel asked. “Well, nothing is free. If you want a good *trabaho* (job) and to go to Hawai’i, you will have to pay your fees and a way to get there,” Billy replied. “But we are going there to make *pera* (money) not spend *kwalta* (money),” Angel responded in desperation. “If you go to school, you pay for tuition, books, transport and room and board.” “*Nanoyin?* (What?) Why? We have no *kwartu* (money) for that. It’s better I just stay here then if it’s like that.” Billy looked at Angel with disgust. Immediately Angel changed her tone. “Hehe. Joke *lang*. Tell me more *tito.*” “You don’t have to worry about any of that. I will take care of all the payments,” Billy said. “Really? Oh, you are so great, *Tito*,” Angel replied. “Well, I will pay for all your expenses.” Billy leaned in. “But you will pay me back.” “Huh? How?” Angel looked confused. “We will talk about repayment later.” Billy stood up straight. Mom who had been talking to Auntie Junie turned to Angel and *isem* (smiled). “Okay, *Tito*,” Angel forcefully spoke. “Trust me, I will get you to Hawai’i with a great paying job. Don’t you want to help your family? Doesn’t your *Amahan* (father) have many expenses for his medicines and food? You will be able to send *kwarta* (money) home every month and *yena* (mother) will not have to suffer to struggle here,” Billy explained. Angel looked at her *Ima* (mother) who was so happy and *yuhom* (smil-



ing). She struggled so much the last three years now that her *Tatay* (father) was not able to work. Sometimes her *nanay* (mother) cried at night. Oh, how many businesses Angel tried just to help. Selling fish balls with a makeshift food cart. Basically, it was just a dolly with a wooden box on it and a gas burner and a pot of oil she would haul all over the town. Sometimes she would bring home 250 pesos. But many nights she would come home with nothing.

Life is hard in the Philippines. Even if you work hard, it will not be enough to feed your family. And even if you want to work, sometimes there's not enough work to do. Don't you feel blessed for having the opportunity to be here in the America?

What are you thankful for this year? I am thankful for all the blessings that He showers me with and also the challenges that made me a better and stronger person.

What are you cooking for Thanksgiving? How do you spend your Thanksgivings? Do you fly anywhere or drive to the nearest family member? Are you the host or do you go out to eat? I would love to hear your favorite Thanksgiving dinner stories, please share it with us at [www.facebook.com/filamvoicemaui](http://www.facebook.com/filamvoicemaui).

Anyways that's all I have. Keep an eye out for my column in every issue. I'm Dulce, helping you to master your Filipino Languages. Like always, let's laugh, let's *makinig* (listen) and Let's Talk Pinoy! *Hanggang sa muli!* (Until

next time!) *Ingat!* (Take care!). ✨  
**Dulce Karen Butay** was graduated from Maui High School and received her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu. She is currently the Administrative Officer at the County of Maui, Department of Finance. Butay is a licensed Resident Producer of Life Insurance with World Financial Group and an Independent Consultant of Saladmaster. She is now part of Saladmaster's Travel Club and won an all-expenses paid trip to Cancún, Mexico. Butay has traveled to Texas, the Philippines and Thailand as one of the delegates from Island Healthy Solutions, a Saladmaster dealer here on Maui.



Part of the Magbual clan gather at a recent birthday party for Rufina.  
PHOTO COURTESY MELEN AGCOLICOL

## Caregivers ...

from p. 11

and the work is demanding.

"I think the most difficult part is giving my Mom a bath and changing her," says Cabanilla-Takushi. "She's bedridden, in a wheelchair, unable to move and has dementia."

Cabanilla-Takushi's mother-in-law is more mobile. Although she too has dementia, she can bathe herself and feed herself but she can't cook. "She still slaps me once in a while. And says 'No talk to me like that,'" says Cabanilla-Takushi's husband Craig.

It takes a whole team to take care of elderly parents and there's always an unexpected situation. "Thanks to the CNA that comes to assist us or take care of our parents while we are at work," says Agcolicol. "It can be frustrating when the CNA calls in sick because finding a cover on short notice is not an easy thing to do as there is a shortage of CNAs. The



Garcia with his Mom and brother Eugene.  
PHOTO COURTESY ED GARCIA

agency working with my parents can't even fulfill thirty-six hours a week. For that missing CNA, the family has to fill in the empty hours. Although there's twelve of us kids, we can't rely on everybody for doing their share."

"Get a lot of support," Garcia offers. "When something happens, you need backup. Don't take things personally. Don't blame yourself for

see CAREGIVERS p.15



*UH Maui College successfully started me on the path to my dream of becoming a surgeon!*

*I was guided by teachers who gave me a strong foundation of knowledge and supported me every step of the way.*

*Maraming salamat po, UHMC!*

Featured Student:  
**Princess Jena Santiago**  
AHEC Project Specialist  
President, HOSA Future Health Professionals Hawai'i/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center  
John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Committee on Aging staff and volunteers with James at a gathering.



Office on Aging staff and volunteers are taking a much-needed break.

had a question for Rev. Ted: “Will you allow me to come to your church and die here?” He had already visited six other churches that night. All had turned him away. Rev. Ted hesitated. Like many people, he was afraid. Not much was known about the disease at this stage and the fear was driving a lot of hateful behavior. AIDS patients were losing their jobs, getting kicked out of their churches, facing harassment and death threats. But then Rev. Ted remembered Jesus’ love for lepers, for the sick, for all those who were unacceptable in their society. And he simply said: “My church is open to you. I will stand by you.” He later discovered this man planned to commit suicide in the church, to die in a peaceful and beautiful place. But the man was so moved by Rev. Ted’s acceptance he changed his mind. Not everybody in his church was ready to accept this man. Attendance dropped drastically. But when the dust settled, twenty-one members of the church remained and committed themselves to caring for this man until his death. He died knowing he was accepted by a community and surrounded by the love of God.

And that brings me to the second insight we get from today’s Bible passage: one of the greatest truths Jesus came to teach us is “God loves you anyway.” No matter what you’ve done, no matter how unacceptable

you feel, God loves you anyway. See how Jesus treated people who were considered nobodies or outsiders? He’s showing us a picture of what God would do if God were to walk into our lives. Our hearts may condemn us. Others may reject us. God loves us anyway. And Zacchaeus was about to discover that in the most surprising way. I think that’s how Zacchaeus spent the rest of his life, trying to be the person Jesus saw in him.

The love of God changes lives. It always has. It always will. A person exposed to grace—the unconditional, unearned, undeserved love of God—will be changed by it. So when Zacchaeus is confronted by grace in the form of Jesus Christ, we shouldn’t be surprised by the transformation in his life.

That brings me to the final insight we get from today’s Gospel. And for this, I’m just going to steal Jesus’ very words “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Please memorize these words. Inscribe them in your brain, in your heart, in all the dark places where you believe you are unacceptable to God. “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

To seek and to save. We need both these verbs to understand God’s Love. Please memorize this and I’ll say it again, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost!” *Ti anak ti tao immay tapno biruken ken isalakan dagiti napukaw.* That’s what He said. That’s what He meant. That’s what he did. And that’s what He wants His followers to do also!

A few years ago, the folks at St. Gregory Episcopal Church in San Francisco decided they would follow Jesus’ lead and go look for people who wanted to meet Jesus



Mrs. Yanos family member sharing James’ story with volunteers and Staff.

but would never walk in the church doors. The church’s Rector and the Director of Ministry went to the busy San Francisco transit stations on Good Friday. They carried with them little bowls of ashes. And as commuters rushed past them, they offered to make the sign of the cross on their foreheads and pray for them. Sounds crazy, doesn’t it? Almost as crazy as inviting yourself to the home of the Least Popular Guy in Jericho. And yet people stopped and received the sign of the cross in ashes. They asked for and received prayer. They talked about their faith or their faith struggles or their rejection of God. But they stopped to talk. They stopped to listen. It turns out, a lot of people who never go inside a church were still looking for God. And so many people who were touched by their ministry said, “Never before have we had the church come to us,” or “We couldn’t make it to church but you brought God to us,” or “You brought God to us.”

That was Jesus’ mission. Please don’t believe the lie you are unacceptable to God. One of the greatest truths Jesus came to teach us is, “God loves you anyway (*Ti dios ayayatennatayo*).” No matter what your feelings say. No matter what others say. No matter whether you deserve it or not, God loves you anyway.

That’s the whole reason God became flesh in the form of Jesus

Christ! “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” If you are looking for Jesus—and even if you’re not—I guarantee you, Jesus is looking for you. And if you have received the love of God through Jesus Christ, then someone is waiting for you, looking for you to share the love and hope of Jesus and change their life too!

Share the love and keep the faith! Keep the faith and share the love! Jesus, I trust in You! Amen!

In thanksgiving, thank you Jesus for putting James in our Life and making him a new friend! Amen! *Jesus, I trust in You! Amen!* ✨

On July 1, 2022, **Patrick Constantino** retired as a Deacon for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai’i, after serving for thirty-five years and becoming on June 18, 1987, the first Deacon of Filipino ancestry for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai’i. For twenty-two years, he served as Administrator at Holy Rosary Church in Pā’ia, St. Rita Church in Ha’ikū and St. Gabriel Church in Ke’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.



Elise Hue Sing, a volunteer, does a Hula in tribute to James life and service to the Church, family and community.





Caregivers ...

from p. 13

what's going on. Find someone to talk to and connect with others who know what you're talking about."

By caring for her mother-in-law, Cabanilla-Takushi says “I get to hang out with her and find out things that she doesn’t like that I never knew before. But she’s willing to try stuff except she doesn’t like Filipino food.” Cabanilla-Takushi’s husband Craig explains “You gotta remember my

Mom's a mainland girl. She's a meat and potatoes kind of person. We've started her on *pancit*, pork and peas and chicken *adobo*. But no chocolate meat yet—or *sini-gang* soup. Even local food she doesn't eat but she loves *sashimi*!"

Despite the challenges of being a caregiver, Cabanilla-Takushi enjoys being with her Mom. “Being around her is a blessing,” she explains. “I love to talk story with her and share stories from the past. And she always says ‘I love you.’” 🌸

**Alfredo G. Evangelista** is the



**Rowena Dagdag-Andaya** con-

tributed to this story. She is the current Executive on Aging for the County of Maui and was previously the Public Workdays is the agency Man-



(The ‘Ohana coalition/Maui Pono Network/“Onipa‘a 2022 fared much better in advocating voting yes on all thirteen Charter amendments, which all passed.)

Between now and January 2, 2023 (when the Mayor and the Council members will begin their terms of office), there will be a lot of behind the scenes maneuvering.

Who will Mayor-elect Bissen appoint to his cabinet? Will his cabinet be re-

flective of Maui's ethnic diversity and include Filipinos? (For those interested, email your resume to aloha@bissenmovement.com or mail it to P.O. Box 3083 Wailuku, HI 96793 or call 1-833-4 BISSEN for more information.)

And at the Council, will Lee continue as Council Chair?

While the Mayor will have four years to convince voters to reelect him, all Council members will face re-election in 2024. ❄️

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



*Election recap ...*

from p. 2

votes (18.9 percent)—a difference of 23,847 votes. There were 8,763 blank votes and thirty-one double votes. (Paltin, who was endorsed by the ‘Ohana coalition/Maui Pono Network/‘Onipa‘a 2022, received the most votes of any Council candidate.)

For the Upcountry Council seat, incumbent Yuki Lei Kashiwa Sugimura received 28,963 votes (55.3 percent) to researcher Jordan Hocker's 16,407 votes (31.3 percent)—a difference of 12,556 votes. There were 7,002 blank votes and forty-three double votes. (Hocker was endorsed by the 'Ohana coalition/Maui Pono Network/'Onipa'a 2022.)

For the Kahului Council seat, incumbent Tasha Kama received 24,074 votes (45.9 percent) to Maui Soda sales and marketing manager Buddy James M.A. Nobriga's 20,384 votes (38.9 percent)—a difference of 3,690 votes. There were 7,912 blank votes and forty-five double votes. (During the primary, the Kahului seat had the most candidates—seven—of all Council races. The five other candidates in the primary garnered 15,225 votes, with 6,459 blank votes. The 'Ohana coalition backed candidate Carol Lee Kamekona did not make it out of the primary.)

For the Lānaʻi Council seat, incumbent Gabe Johnson received 23,452 votes (44.7 percent) to former Council member Riki Hokama's 20,671 votes (39.4 percent)—a difference of 2,781 votes. There were 8,246 blank votes and forty-six double votes. (The sec-

and printout had Johnson leading by only 202 votes; Johnson's sign waving in the afternoon on Election Day near the Velma McWayne Santos Center—close to his stand-up sign and Sinenci's stand-up sign—may have swayed some last-minute voters. Johnson who lost to Hokama in two prior elections was endorsed by the 'Ohana coalition/Maui Pono Network/'Onipa'a 2022.)

For the East Maui Council seat, incumbent Shane Sinenci received 25,285 votes (48.2 percent) to Claire Kamalu Carroll's 19,101 votes (36.4 percent)—a difference of 6,724 votes. There were 7,977 blank votes and fifty-two double votes. (This was the third time they faced each other. Carroll is the daughter of former Council member Robert Carroll, who retired in 2018. Sinenci, who is part-Filipino, was endorsed by the 'Ohana coalition/Maui Pono Network/'Onipa'a 2022.)

For the Wailuku-Waihe'e-Waikapū Council seat, incumbent Alice L. Lee received 22,682 votes (43.3 percent) to acupuncturist Noelani Ahia's 22,178 votes (42.3 percent)—a difference of 504 votes. There were 7,518 blank votes and thirty-seven double votes. (This was the closest race of all Council races. Ahia was endorsed by the 'Ohana coalition/Maui Pono Network/'Onipā'a 2022.)

The ‘Ohana coalition/Maui Pono Network/“Onipa‘a 2022 appears to have lost the majority on the Council with only four of its endorsed candidates winning: Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, Paltin, and Johnson. And then again, coalitions/endorsements can change. For example, Kama was en-



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Lolita Sevilla Eugenio



Asisclo B. Sevilla's World Tour & Travel



Sevilla Family: John-Mario (top, from left), Rosita, Christina, Duke; Linda (bottom from left) , Frances Arcilla Sevilla, Lolita

# Lolita Marie Sevilla Eugenio

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY SEVILLA EUGENIO 'OHANA

Behind every great daughter is a truly amazing dad. Dr. James Dobson, an American Christian author and psychologist said a good father will leave his imprint on his daughter for the rest of her life. This holds true with this month's featured Sakada Offspring and her relationship with her *Sakada* Father.

Lolita Marie Sevilla Eugenio was born on July 17, 1953 in Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i. She attended St. An-

thony School from kindergarten to eighth grade and Baldwin High School from ninth to twelfth grade. Her late husband, Gilbert Eugenio was a senior manager of Longs Drugs, head of security at Wailea Point and retired from Wailea Blue Golf Course.

Lolita's oldest child, Leola M.K. Waikiki-Lovell is employed at Noguchi and Associates, a licensed insurance agent and a food truck owner of Sumo Dog. Her husband Frank Lovell

is with the County of Maui, Parks Department. They have one child, Brock Lovell.

Keolamainameamaemae D. Gilbert is Lolita's second child. She is a pharmacy Tech at Kaiser Permanente at Maui Lani. Her husband, Kanamu Gilbert, is an artist, crafter, self-employed and his business is #Sewintrouble. They have two daughters, Emmaleigh and Elizabeth Gilbert.

Lolita's youngest child is A.B. Kili-

paki Eugenio, a professional golfer, PGA Associate, and a Certified personal Coach at Golftec Hawai'i. His children are Teamana and Rai'hau Eugenio.

Lolita has five other siblings. Linda Sevilla Kushi is a retired special education Resource Teacher with the State of Hawai'i Department of Education. She has two children, Justin Kushi, employed by Hawaiian Electric and Alana Kushi, who works at Kaiser

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Sevilla sisters:  
Lolita (from left),  
Linda, Rosita and  
Christina



Frances Arcilla  
Sevilla & A.B.





Photo left:  
Mayor Tavares  
accepting the  
Rizal Bust from  
A.B. Sevilla.

Photo right:  
Early morning  
show. The 1st  
Filipino Radio  
Show for 46  
years on KMVI.

Inset right:  
A.B. Sevilla  
recognized by  
Pepito Ragasa.



Permanente.

Rosita Sevilla Stein (deceased) was an RN at the Mercy Hospital in San Diego, California. Her spouse Greg Stein and son Eric reside in Las Vegas.

Duke Anthony Sevilla is the County of Maui Supervisor of the Pools, and Lifeguards and Water Safety Department. He is married to Jean Sevilla. Their children are Ihilani Cypriano who resides in Hilo and Zoie Sevilla who resides in Las Vegas. Both daughters have respective businesses. Their son, Shea Sevilla, DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice), CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist) resides in Long Beach, California. Their youngest son Duke Kahae Sevilla is an employee with the County of Maui.

Lolita's brother, John-Mario Sevilla is the Dance Director at-Large of the Luna Dance Institute in Berkeley, California. His Partner is Jim Nelson, a writer. They reside in Oakland, California.

The youngest of Lolita's siblings is Christina Sevilla Smith. She is a retired fuel systems Administrator for Hawaiian Electric. Her spouse was the late Alapaki Smith. She resides on O'ahu with her children, Kamuela and Kiana Smith.

Lolita has many talents. She is an extraordinarily talented dancer. At age 7 she already started Spanish dancing lessons, ballroom dancing as well as Filipino dances with Mr. Tito Cesar until age 15. Then at age 12, she started dancing hula with Momi Toku-

naga. Then she professionally danced for Kumu Hula Iola Balubar at the Sheraton and Wailea Resorts. She was a member of the St. Anthony 6th grade choir which within two years became Sing Out Maui under the direction of the late Ron Gonzalves. She is also a talented piano player, under Miss Leval as her piano teacher.

Lolita lived and grew up in Paukūkalo, Maui with her family. The Sevilla family had a grove of two hundred papaya trees with fruits needed to be harvested daily before the children went to school. They also raised a herd of fifty goats, a couple of pigs, ducks and chickens which also needed to be fed before going to school! The Sevillas were a self-sufficient family. They also raised tilapia, catfish, taro, ong choy, watercress as well as bananas and peanuts. Lolita says they had so many chores and it was hard work but they had fun doing it. They owned Sevilla's Store in Wailuku where they sold most of the produce they raised. With the fish, they even sold the Filipino favorites, the *bisicol* (Filipino escargot) that was a best seller in those days. Today, they are nowhere to be found.

While in high school, Lolita was a very active young lady. Besides being a member of Sing Out Maui, she participated as a varsity cheerleader and performed the lead role of Oliver and other musicals under the direction of Sue Loudon, choir and voice teacher. With Mr. Ken Weathers, when she

was a Junior, she sang with a band doing a cocktail show at the Maui Palms Hotel. She was also an active member of other high school clubs.

Lolita's Dad, Asisclo Baylon (A.B.) Sevilla, a *Sakada*, encouraged his children to participate in school activities as well as get involved in volunteering in the community. Asisclo Baylon Sevilla became the owner of Sevilla's World Tour and Travel in 1966. According to Lolita, her father took the opportunity to help the retired HC&S employees to return home to their families in the Philippines. When they were young, they were recruited to

come to Hawai'i where they would have an opportunity to build a fortune for themselves and their families. They were promised a return trip home to the Philippines.

So Asisclo took the initiative to help these men get back to the Philippines. He went to the ship's records in Honolulu, found the names of the young men that had retired, contacted them and asked if they remembered or had records of their *bango* numbers or contracts given to them at the time of registering to come to Hawai'i.

In 1967, the first *Balikkbayan* char-  
see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page



The Sevilla clan enjoys retirement party of A.B.'s brother Eusebio. Eusebio and his wife are standing at top left.



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tered flight on Philippine Airlines took off to Manila, Philippines. Asisclo contacted as many families as possible in the Philippines to prepare for the welcoming of these *Sakadas* that had not seen their families in years, for some, over forty years! Lolita was on that flight with her Dad. She experienced first-hand in seeing the joy of those *Sakadas* seeing their loved ones again.

From 1972–1979, Lolita decided to work at Longs Drugs, Kahului as a cashier. Then she worked with her parents at Sevilla’s World Tour and Travel for eight years. She became a sales representative and merchandiser with Hawaiian Housewares, outside sales representative with Maui Office Machines and managed a distribution company. Finally, she retired from United Airlines after fifteen years of service.

Lolita received leadership awards and recognition from the Boy Scouts of America as well as the Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading Association, Western Region. For seventeen years after 1998, Lolita produced and directed *Heiva I Maui*, a Tahitian dance competition at the War Memorial Gym. This was a way for our diverse cultures to come together, showing and sharing their talents in Tahitian dance.

Presently, Lolita enjoys sewing crafts. She is the president of the Maui



Grandchildren of A.B. Sevilla; left to right are Eric, Zoie, Kiana, Kamuela and Justin. They are enjoying a day at Kepaniwai Heritage Gardens in Wailuku next to the bust of Philippine hero Dr. Jose Rizal which A.B. dedicated to the County of Maui.

Polynesian Tahiti Fete Association, President of the Filipino Catholic Club, a member of the 7 a.m. choir and sacred hula gestures at St. Anthony Church in Wailuku and an advisory board member of the American Cancer Society. She is also a Notary Public for the State of Hawai’i, Second Judicial Circuit Court. She assists families with U.S. Immigration filing forms.

Lolita shared this very endearing story about her Dad Asisclo Baylon Sevilla and her Mom Frances Fortunata Arcilla Sevilla. Frances was born in Pepe’okeo, Hilo, Hawai’i. Her parents

migrated from Cebu, Philippines. Asisclo Baylon Sevilla aka A.B. (American Boy) was born in Paoay, Philippines. He arrived on Maui when he was 18 years old, a *Sakada*. He even authored a book titled *Tay-ak Ni Gasat (In the Field of Fortune)*. The first printing of his book was in 1931 and the second printing was in 1981. Both were printed in English and Ilokano. Asisclo had a Filipino radio show every morning from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. with KMVI Radio Station. He also had a live show on Sunday afternoons. He even had live performances by such bands as the Molina Brothers as well as his orchestra with Asisclo on the violin. This went on for forty-six years. He spoke in Ilokano as well as played games in English so non-speaking listeners could also play and win prizes from his sponsors for his show. His listeners were not only Filipinos but all other ethnic groups for they loved the music he played. He also announced for HC&S work fields to report, for the sugar cane field workers. He was the only way to contact all workers to their job sites especially since he was on at 4 a.m. He also announced whether there was work in the fields or when the weather was rainy and stormy.

Lolita also shared her Dad did not last in the sugar plantation fields. He found a way to do other types of jobs. He was a salesman for suits, worked in the A&B Store, learned retail and eventually became a self-employed businessman. He sold kerosene, went house to house delivering to homes all over the island from Pu’unenē, Pā’ia to as far as Kapalua. In fact, Lolita assisted him during his deliveries because her brother was too little at the time. A.B. was also a farmer. He was a social butterfly. He emceed numerous weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, retirements, baptisms, you name it, he was there. He and his compadres also loved putting together festivals, fiestas and fundraisers for important causes. He also loved politics and the politicians, their rallies and coffee hours especially if it meant for the betterment of the community.

According to Lolita, Frances Sevilla fell in love with Asisclo when she enjoyed watching him play his violin at

the socials she attended. She had other suitors but A.B. was also an athlete, he played tennis and won tournaments, and Frances’ hand too! She worked for Maui Community College as the Janitor Supervisor. She split her time at Sevilla’s Store as well as a Notary Public and assisted immigrants in bringing their families to join them in Hawai’i. Frances also helped the immigrants become U.S. citizens, get jobs and encouraged the new migrants to better themselves and to take advantage and the opportunities offered here.

Lolita shared her heartwarming reflection on her Dad, Asisclo Baylon Sevilla: *Being a child of a Sakada, I was taught to be proud of my heritage. My father and his fellow Sakadas celebrated every opportunity possible. I learned the art of bartering. When we needed to extend a living space to our home, Dad’s fellow Sakadas came to the rescue! We had the kalding (goat) and the baboy (pig) that were slaughtered in our backyard and divided up to those who helped with the construction. They came together and could put an extension up in a couple of days.*

There were a few other instances that I remember. It was when my Dad would say that Mayor Tavares would be coming to the store to drop off cabbages, lettuce and potatoes. In turn we would give him the hands of bananas, papayas and watercress in exchange. There were no monies exchanged, just produce. As we became adults my Dad, Asisclo Baylon, would ask us, when he had our total attention ‘What are you doing for your community?’ Being good, exceptional citizens was of great importance, and value to him.

Thirty fellow Sakadas became Maui Volunteers, of the Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion, organized as a part of the United States Army, from April 15, 1942, to July 4, 1945. Dad was very proud of being a part of this group of citizens and he often shared his earning the trust and respect from his fellow citizens to him. Their friendships were worth more than a “million dollars.”

**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 and joins other Waihe’e School retirees when help is needed at the school. Lucy also devotes some of her time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church. She enjoys writing and reading in her spare time.



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# Filipinos Celebrate Thanksgiving with Family and Friends

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

Thanksgiving Day is just around the corner. It is a national holiday in the United States. The country as a whole takes time to be with family and friends. It is celebrated with a feast usually referred to as Thanksgiving Dinner.

Americans celebrated the first Thanksgiving as a harvest feast in the fall of 1621. It evolved through the years and President Abraham Lincoln eventually declared it an American public holiday in 1863. Since then, the celebration happens every fourth Thursday of November. This year 2022, it will be observed on Thursday, November 24.

While Thanksgiving is more a part of American history and culture, Filipinos in the U.S. have slowly made it a part of their lives in America. Those who recently arrived in the country and are not particularly familiar with the tradition are amazed at the role Thanksgiving plays in American culture. But over the years, Filipinos have slowly assimilated and have even managed to add some *Pinoy* flavor into the time-honored occasion. In this article we will call this hybrid celebration the Fil-Am Style.

## Thanksgiving Fil-Am Style

While Filipinos in America celebrate Thanksgiving Fil-Am Style, the

focus is still the same. The focus is to give thanks for all the blessings we have received and been receiving. It also focuses on building relationships with family and friends, who are among the greatest blessings in our lives.

One of the areas Fil-Am Style differs is the food prepared and served. Conventional Thanksgiving in the U.S. consists of roast turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, green beans, pumpkin pies, pecan pies and apple cider drinks. For a Fil-Am Style Thanksgiving dinner, the food may also include *lechon* (roasted pig), *crispy pata*, *pancit*, *lumpia*, *kare kare*, *adobo* and *leche flan* for dessert. It also differs in the presentation and serving. It is less formal, more like a potluck or buffet style. There is always an abundance of food, however, and they cook extra so guests can take some food home when they leave the party if they so desire.

After the bountiful and heartfelt dinner, *karaoke* singing may be included. But it is always a time to talk story (yes, *kwento-kwentuhan*). It is a wonderful time with family and friends.

## Is Thanksgiving celebrated in the Philippines?

Historically, as an American



**The Hardy 'ohana celebrates** Thanksgiving in a Fil-Am style with a traditional American Thanksgiving menu and a little bit of hybrid additions to enhance their eating experience.

PHOTO COURTESY AGNES HARDY



**Here is the Hardy 'ohana Fil-Am Style spread** prior to their Thanksgiving feast. All the food and the decorative settings were carefully and lovingly set in anticipation of a meal that exemplifies thanks.

PHOTO COURTESY AGNES HARDY

colony from 1898 to 1946, the Philippines celebrated Thanksgiving on the same day as the United States. President Manuel Quezon even declared it an official local holiday in 1935. Commemoration paused during the Japanese occupation, although locals still celebrated secretly. The tradition returned during the administration of former President Ferdinand Marcos, who even moved the date to September 21. It ended after the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution.

I must admit, however, that as I was growing up in the Philippines, I had no recollection of celebrating Thanksgiving Day as a special day or holiday. Christmas and New Years' day are the biggest holidays. Only when I arrived in the U.S. I learned to celebrate Thanksgiving in the traditional way. Only when I was researching deeper about Thanksgiving with Filipinos (for this column) I learned we did (and some still do) celebrate Thanksgiving in the Philippines. How about you? Do you recall celebrating a Thanksgiving Day in the Philippines prior to your arrival in the U.S.?

## What Are You Thankful for?

As mentioned earlier, the focus of Thanksgiving is to give thanks. In

closing, I would like to ask you dear readers: What are you thankful for this year? Yes, we can (and should be) thankful everyday but it is also a delight to set aside a day specifically for giving thanks.

Happy Thanksgiving Day to all!

✨ **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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