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Maui Hosts PNAA Western Region Conference.
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Bolosan Takes Rep Position on Maui
Representing Gov. Josh Green
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Serving the Public
Dinengdeng & Pinakbet examines the number of Filipino legislators.
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FilAm Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

April 2023 • Vol 7 No 4 | **FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY** | **FREE**

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Nurses Make a Difference

The Philippine Nurses Association of America Western Region meets on Maui.

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

There are 4.4 million registered nurses in the United States. And yes, without a doubt, *Nurses Make A Difference*. When we celebrate National Nurses Month in May, "You Make A Difference" will be the theme, as selected by the American Nurses Association (ANA). In announcing the theme, the ANA spoke to all nurses "The impact you make on health care is unparalleled. You truly make a difference by influencing and shaping health policy decisions that ensure all Americans have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare coverage." The ANA explained the theme was to honor the "varying nursing roles as well as the positive impact you have on everyone's lives."



Beriones

"Nurses are the pillars and backbone of the healthcare system in the U.S.A. and the world," states Gloria Lamela Beriones, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, the 2022-2024 president of the Philippine Nurses Association. **see PNAMHI next page**



Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawai'i
PHOTO: MARIA DEMAREST

Leon Salacup Bolosan

Governor's Man on Maui.

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

When *Leon Salacup Bolosan* arrived on Maui as a 16-year-old in September 1965, little did he know that someday, somehow, he would be Governor Josh Green's main man on Maui. After all, that's how American dreams are. The Bacarra native, who was born in 1948, son of Santiago Madariaga Bolosan and Feliciano Francisco Salacup, came to Maui on a student visa and initially studied at Mauna'olu College in Pā'ia. Later, he received an Associate Degree from Maui Community College and began a career in construction.

On December 5, 2022, Bolosan officially became the Governor's Maui representative. "This position requires



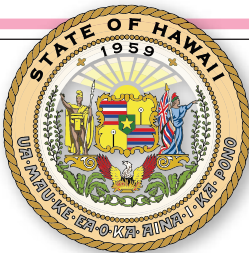
Leon Bolosan—as the Governor's representative on Maui—stands in the office.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

great demands, time and energy," says Bolosan. He explains each day is different. "My role

is to deal with the public." When asked what type of things come to his attention,

Bolosan laughingly says "Oh brother!" and shares he deals with mostly complaints, and requests for directions and services. In the last couple of months, Bolosan reveals, the most frequent complaints related to the new Kihei school, the luxury yacht grounding, and the hospital strike. "Some people who get evicted, they even come over here." Bolosan's immediate supervisor is Fele Tau, who gives him guidance. If needed, Bolosan can check with Brooke Wilson, Green's chief of staff. "I have a good relationship with all these people," he emphasizes. For every situation, "I weigh the problem to determine how to respond to the complaint and whether I need to seek

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Philippine Nurses Association of Central California.
PHOTO COURTESY PNA CENTRAL CALIF.



ABOVE: Philippine Nurses Association of San Diego.
PHOTO COURTESY PNA SAN DIEGO



ABOVE: Philippine Nurses Association of Southern California.
PHOTO COURTESY PNA SOUTHERN CALIF.



RIGHT: Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawaii.
PHOTO COURTESY PNA MAUI

PNAMHi ...

from p. 1

ation of America (PNA). “Filipino nurses are the largest internationally educated nurses in the U.S.A. and renowned for their excellent work ethics and compassionate care to patients and families.”

From April 20 through April 23, Maui will host the PNA’s biennial Western Region Conference. “What a great honor for the Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawaii (PNAMHi) to host for the first time in the history of Maui the Western Region Conference,” shares Angelina Agustin Saiki, BSN, RN, the 2022-



Saiki

2024 president of PNA. “A large professional event is truly a remarkable experience, filled with many hours of hard work, yet an incredible and worthwhile journey of experiences of professional bonding.”

PNA is divided into four regions: Eastern, North Central, South Central and Western, according to Col. (Ret). Bob Gahol, MBA, MPA, MMAS, MSS, BSN, RN, who serves as the PNA Western Region Vice President. “The Western Region consists of thirteen



Gahol

chapters from Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington State, with almost nine hundred members,” explains Gahol. “I personally sought PNA to host this conference because I was very impressed with how they conducted their event when I attended their induction of officers in May 2022. It was very organized and well-attended by community leaders. I knew they were ready to host our regional conference.”

Voices, We CARE (Wisdom, Excellence, Collaboration, Advocacy, Respect and Equity,” according to Gahol. “We chose the Hawaiian word *Lōkahi* because of its significant meaning of unity and harmony with the world around us.”

The Conference’s Leadership Speakers include Dr. Marlon Sario, the Director of Nursing Professional Practice and Nurse Scientist at Providence Saint John’s Health Center in Santa Monica, California; Dr. Dino Doliente, Vice President of Quality and Innovation at Rockport Healthcare Services in Los Angeles, California; Lourdes Moldre, a Nurse Executive Patient Care Director at UCSF Health Mount Zion Hospital in San Francisco, California; and Gahol, who previously served as a Commanding Officer, Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Nurse Executive in the U.S. Army.

The Conference’s Education Speakers include Dr. Carl Hill, the chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer for the Alzheimer’s Association; Dr. Guilietta Swenson, a Psychologist with Maui Memorial Medical Center; Dr. Elizabeth Berry, a Nurse Educator for Hawaii Pacific Health; Dr. Leo-Felix Jurado, the Founding Dean for the College of Health Professions at the Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania; and Dr. Rose Hata, the Director of Queen Emma Nursing Institute and the Magnet Program Director at The Queen’s Medical Center.

The Leadership component is to provide “chapter leaders’ continuous leadership training” while the Education component “will provide relevant and up-to-date topics for PNA members to stay focused and get involved to campaign for action of the Future of Nursing 2020–2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity,” explains Beriones.

“This is the first time we on Maui will be hosting this conference,” affirms Jenny Bissell, president-elect of PNA. “The conference attendees will gain

tools and skills in the best learning environment that will promote collaborative partnerships infused with the Aloha and *kababayan* spirit between nurse and patient.”

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“On Friday March 3, 2023, I was admitted to the Maui Memorial Medical Center for a heart procedure. Once I was admitted, I went upstairs and was greeted by two nurses. They were fantastic in attitude and action. The team who performed the actual procedure were all clearly skilled and very professional. They loved it when I told them that they were in charge and to just do what they do, and that I would be a great patient. After the procedure, I was taken back to the recovery area and the nurse took care of me and kept my wife informed with at least three phone calls. My wife doesn’t hand out compliments lightly and text messaged me “That nurse is fabulous!!!!”. The areas of the hospital I was able to see were spotless and every staff member I met was knowledgeable, professional, and supportive! I have been to other hospitals and have had other experiences in my life and I am very happy to say that your hospital and staff are truly top notch! The thought of this procedure did cause some anxiety because it was my first time (and hopefully the last), but each staff member made me feel safe, comfortable, and cared for and you just can’t get better than that! My sincere thanks to the entire team.” - M.B. March 2023

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Kula Hospital and Clinic
Lānaʻi Community Hospital



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Leon Bolosan's official press photograph.
PHOTO: STATE OF HAWAII

Bolosan ...

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guidance.”

When the Governor isn’t on Maui, Bolosan steps in. The first ceremony he attended on behalf of Governor Green was the Maui Filipino Community Council Rizal Day celebration in late December 2022. “It was challenging to deliver my first speech.” Bolosan joked how Lydia Coloma, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran’s mom, who gave an acceptance speech on behalf of the Senator who was attending a funeral on O’ahu, was a better speaker than Bolosan. “I’m a little rusty in giving speeches.”

Bolosan also attends groundbreaking ceremonies, funerals, and celebrations of all kinds. On a monthly basis, he meets with the Department of Land and Natural Resources as well as the Department of Transportation. He also meets with the Department of Education as needed.

Bolosan first met Green when he became Lt. Governor. “I am honored to be the Govenor’s representative on Maui,” he proclaims. “I know the Governor trusts me. I would not do anything to breach that trust.”

After Bolosan graduated from the



Genaro Bolosan.
PHOTO COURTESY BOLOSAN ‘OHANA

Maui Community College, he worked with F.M. Bulusan Contracting. (Yes, a relative with a different spelling of the last name; two of his grandfather’s brothers went to Isabela and somehow their name was changed from Bolosan to Bulusan.) Later, he worked with Rex Construction Company before creating his own general contracting company, Seven Brothers Contractors. Bolosan was also an exclusive retailer for Bose and owned Maui Entertainment Center in Kihei.

Bolosan’s paternal grandfather, Genaro Bolosan, arrived on Maui as a *Sakada* in 1925 at the age of twenty-five and worked at Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company until he retired in the 1960s. “I dedicate my success to my grandparents,” Bolosan says. Genaro and his wife Sinforosa Madariaga Bolosan had only one child, Santiago. Santiago became a Sergeant in the Philippine Constabulary and was primarily assigned to the Mindanao region where he lost his right arm in battle.

Santiago, who later changed his name to Magdaleno, and Feliciano had ten children: Leon, Magdaleno Jr., Romeo, Daniel, Ligaya, twins Oscar and Linda, twins Eugene and Manuel, and Emily.



Leon Bolosan campaigns with Josh Green.
PHOTO COURTESY BOLOSAN ‘OHANA



Leah Belmonte (from left), Gov. Josh Green and Leon Bolosan.
PHOTO COURTESY BOLOSAN ‘OHANA

All live on Maui; Magdaleno Jr. and Daniel are now deceased.

Bolosan is married to Erlinda Sajor Bolosan whose roots are from Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. They met at Maui Community College. Erlinda was a for-

mer school teacher in Manila and eventually began substitute teaching and teaching full-time, with her last assignment at Waihe’e School. Erlinda retired right before the pandemic.

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From the
Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



This homeless camp was found on a busy main thoroughfare in Kahului. Maui County is dotted with these camps in many public spaces in central Maui. Will the County's new budget cover helping the houseless find viable shelter and help those who live this way with their special needs?

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

Maui County Budget

Mayor Bissen's 2024 budget proposal now under Council consideration.

Folks are asking if Mayor Bissen's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024 addresses "Kama'aina Prosperity" he pledged to tackle during last year's mayoral campaign. The answer to this question will be different, depending on one's point of view. His proposed budget may provide insight whether the promises made will, in fact meet the needs of our hard-working families.

Mayor Bissen's budget proposal submitted to the County Council on March 24 is a blueprint as to how the County will spend its limited financial resources in order to have a long-lasting positive impact on Maui's quality of life. The budget total is a whopping \$1.227 billion, making it the highest budget in our County's history to date and is a slight increase from the previous total. The bulk of it is for operating expenses amounting to approximately \$930 million or

85 percent of the total, and capital improvements, totaling \$149 million or 15 percent of the budget.

In my previous editorials, I have repeatedly highlighted the many issues and challenges facing our hard-working families, requiring immediate attention. The top three are: 1) lack of affordable housing; 2) homelessness and unsheltered residents; and 3) the high cost of living. A brief review of the budget proposal identifies some specific actionable items and some not specific but mentioned briefly in the Mayor's message to the Council.

Let's begin with the issue of affordable housing. In his State of the County Address, the Mayor proposed to increase the Affordable Housing Fund from the existing 3 percent contribution of certified property tax revenue to 8 percent, earmarking about \$43 million, which "would provide 452

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Bolosan ...

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They have three children: Lionel (who works at Home Depot), Leah (who works at Mahi Pono) and Leila (who works at Grand Wailea Napua).

Those who follow Filipino beauty pageants will recognize Leah Bolosan as the 1993 Miss Hawai'i Filipina. Those who follow government and politics will recognize Leah, now Leah Belmonte, as former Governor David Ige's Maui representative, serving seven years before transitioning to Mahi Pono. In 2014, Leah became the first Filipino on Maui to be named as the Governor's Representative—and left her position at Grand Wailea to do so.

"I'm proud of what Leah accomplished," beams Bolosan. His job is made a little easier because he meets a lot of folks who knew and liked Leah. Bolosan's office consists only of

himself and one staff member, Michele Ankele-Yamashita who started during Governor Neil Abercrombie's term. Ankele-Yamashita is the most experienced staff of the neighbor island representatives. "When Josh became Gov., there was a lot of case work," Bolosan admits. "So all case work initially came through Maui for the first month until everyone was in place."

The Governor's Representative is more often a political appointment. "I turned him down many times," Bolosan declares. But Green was insistent until he got his man. "Later on I realized I wanted to help people," reveals Bolosan. "That's why I'm still poor. I'm a community-minded person."

Bolosan, a declared member of the Democratic party, has been involved as a major political strategist since 2002. At that time, he became involved as a campaign coordinator in

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PNAMHi ...

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The Conference is a huge undertaking for PNAAMHi and Beriones is keenly aware of the challenging work involved. "My sincere appreciation to Ms. Angelina Saiki, PNAAMHi President; Ms. Jeny Bissell, President-Elect; and PNAAMHi Executive Board and members for hosting the 21st PNAAM Western Region Conference," declares Beriones. "Thank you very much to Retired Colonel Bob Gahol, VP, Western Region and all the PNAAM and PNAAMHi planners for their dedication and sacrifices to make this conference meaningful and one of a kind to cherish in a lifetime. My heartfelt gratitude to all the donors, vendors, sponsors, and supporters for their loving kindness and generosity in supporting the 21st PNAAM Western Region Conference. Aloha and Mahalo!"

The list of financial supporters for the Conference is an impressive one and includes Diamond Sponsors LabMinds Staffing & Recruiting, ACP Health Care Resources, Ohana Pacific Health/Hale Makua Health Services, and Guam Regional Medical City; Gold Sponsor Queens Health Systems; and Silver Sponsors Alzheimer's Association, Mauiola Pharmacy and US Renal Care. "Thank you for your generous donations of your time, treasures and talents," expresses Saiki.

As with all conferences, there is always time for networking and fellowship. The networking event—a Hawaiian *Lū'au*—will be on Friday, April 21 at Maui Beach Hotel. (Guests are welcome at the cost of \$65). The Gala Night with the theme "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" will be on Saturday, April 22, also at Maui Beach Hotel. (Guests are welcome at the cost of \$75). "The Gala Night is the celebration of Western Region WE CARE (Wisdom. Excellence. Collaboration. Advocacy. Respect. Equity) Awards," relates Beriones. And yes, sometime during the Gala Night, the PNAAM theme song "Shine PNAAM Shine" will be sung.

[See box below for lyrics.]

SHINE PNAA SHINE

*In the place outside of our native land
In the land of great opportunity
Here comes PNAA
We stand for the world to see.*

*We're involved in all the disciplines
We're educators and administrators
We're the best hands-on nurses
Responsible, passionate and true.*

*Let the whole world know
Shine PNAA Shine
Stand proud, tall and strong
Shine PNAA Shine.*

*We will show our dedication
Our commitment to the community
Our excellence to our profession
We dedicate this to the next generation.*

*Let the whole world know
Shine PNAA Shine
Stand proud, tall and strong
Shine PNAA Shine
Let the whole world know
Shine PNAA Shine
Stand proud, tall and strong
Shine PNAA Shine.*

With such support and the opportunity to learn as well as engage in networking and fellowship, the Conference will undoubtedly be a success, with hats off to Saiki, Gahol, Beriones, and the rest of PNAAM and PNAAMHi.

But beyond hosting a Conference and beyond being our frontline heroes, Hawai'i's Filipino nurses are making headlines. In August 2021, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa announced the renaming of the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene to the Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON). Atmospera-Walch

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The **Fil-Am Voice**, a newspaper focusing on issues concerning our Filipino American community here on Maui, is published every month by Fil-Am Voice Inc. ©2023 **Fil-Am Voice Inc.** All rights reserved. The *Fil-Am Voice* is valued at \$1 per issue. One complimentary copy per person is available at islandwide distribution locations. Multiple copies may not be taken without the permission from the *Fil-Am Voice*. **Disclaimer:** The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Fil-Am Voice, Inc. Any assumptions made within these articles are not reflective of the position of Fil-Am Voice, Inc.

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Filipinos Who Serve, or Not Serve, in Our Government

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

In 2018, I wrote in this column I was the only Filipino legislator in the Maui delegation. With Elle Cochran (West Maui) discovering in recent years she has Filipino heritage, now we have two. That's progress.

In that 29th Legislature, there weren't many of us statewide. Of the twenty-five Senators, we had six: Donovan Delacruz (Wahiawā), Brickwood Galuteria (Waikiki-Kaka'ako), Donna Mercado Kim (Kalihi Valley, Moanalua), Will Espero (Ewa Beach), Lorraine Inouye (Kona-Kohala) and me. In this 32nd Legislature, Henry Aquino (Pearl City-Waipahu), Brandon Elefante (Pearl City-'Aiea) and Joy San Buenaventura (Puna) have joined Donovan, Donna, Lorraine and me to bring our caucus numbers to seven (both Will and Brick having departed). Senators are now out-numbered in the fifty-one member House of Representatives where there are ten *kababayan*: Della Au Belatti (Makiki), Micah Aiu (Foster Village), David Alcos (Ewa Beach), Cochran, Sonny Ganaden (Kalihi), Diamond Garcia (Varona Village-Ewa), Greggor Ilagan (Hawaiian Paradise Park), Rachele Lamosao (Waipahu), Rose Martinez (Ewa Beach) and Trish La Chica (Waipi'o-Mililani). There are some with Filipino spouses or significant others: Justin Woodson (Kahului) and John Mizuno (Kalihi), and perhaps others.

In the Senate, Filipinos now hold posts with some responsibility. Delacruz chairs the powerful Ways and Means (WAM) committee that determines the State budget (Up-country Maui's Kyle Yamashita now chairs the House Finance committee). Kim, Inouye, Aquino and I all sit on WAM while Cochran, Lamosao, Aiu and Alcos have Finance seats as freshmen. Inouye chairs the influential Water Land committee with Elefante as Vice Chair, Kim chairs Higher Education and serves as Education committee Vice Chair, and San Buenaventura chairs Health and Human Services and holds a seat on the Judiciary committee. Dela Cruz, Aquino, Inouye and I also sit on Senate leadership. In the lower chamber, Ilagan now often presides over the House as Vice Speaker, and Belatti chairs the important Health committee.

Some of us represent areas where you expect to find sizable *Pinoy* populace—our homelands of Kalihi, Waipahu, Ewa Beach and Kahului.

Contrary to what some critics of Hawai'i politics would argue, Valley Isle voters have been fairly selective in returning legislators to office. For Maui, with only nine Senators and Representatives in the seventy-six member Legislature, stability has been a sporadic occurrence. For every Joe Souki who spent decades in the House, there are the single or brief terms of Kam Tanaka, George



Blue Ribbon School principal and Maui native Ervin Pasalo with Sen. Keith-Agaran and staffer Danielle Evangelista.

IMAGE COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

Fontaine, Tina Wildberger and Kika Butkowski.

In 2006, Maui County's legislative delegation included Joe Souki (House Dist. 8), Bob Nakasone (House Dist. 9), Tanaka (House Dist. 10), Chris Halford (House Dist. 11), Kyle Yamashita (House Dist. 12), D. Mele Carroll (House Dist. 13), Shan Tsutsui (Sen. Dist. 4), J. Kalani English (Sen. Dist. 6) and Roz Baker (Sen. Dist. 5).

After the General Election, Tsutsui won a rematch with former Sen. Jan Yagi Buen while Tanaka lost to An-

gus McKelvey. Tanaka himself in 2004 ousted incumbent Brian Blundell while Yamashita won a rematch for the Upcountry seat with incumbent Kika Butkowski (in doing so, Yamashita perfected a Haleakalā Highway sign waving technique often imitated but rarely successfully copied). Carroll was appointed to the East Maui-Molokai-Lāna'i seat to replace Sol Kaho'ohalahala who resigned to work for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission in 2005.

The delegation remained intact in

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Maui senators Keith-Agaran, McKelvey and DeCoite with 2022 DOE Canoe District Teacher of the Year Cornelio (CJ) Ancheta.

IMAGE COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN



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Charie Salacup



Jasper Bibat



Jordyn Paa

As the golden bubbles glisten over the upward side of the *lumpia* wrapper, I rush to the stove, and the welcoming sizzles instantaneously make my mouth water. I reach for the tongs and flip the *turon* to reveal its crispy tan reflection. I gently tuck it into a foil wrapper to let it bask in all its sugary glory. The light emphasizes its hardened sugar dollops, the ends standing up with assertion, its heat transferring to my hand—munch. My brother impatiently chomps the *turon* and is now fanning his mouth, “It’s wor–worth the pain!” he breathily exclaims. With each Filipino dish’s delicious taste, there is an associated memory or meaning that makes the eater feel nostalgia and at home.

“When it came to a family gathering or celebration I bee-line to the *halo halo*,” explains **Angelina Ancheta**. As food starts correlating to happy times and events, it creates a new memory and feeling to the eater,

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Is Not Everything ... Beyond Taste

Jazmyne Faith Vloria | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2023

“One of my nostalgic memories actually included me eating *halo halo*, me and my friends were all hanging out at Maui’s annual Barrio Fiesta. Viewing all the performances and walking around with a *halo halo* in hand made the day so much more enjoyable,” remembers Angelina. Similar to Angelina, **Kainalu Bediamol**, connects *bibingka* to family parties, “Every time I go to a family celebration, I can

count on *bibingka* making an appearance in the dessert line.” Kainalu reveals his gravitation towards *bibingka* is because of his mom, “My mom asked if I ever tried *bibingka* before, I questionly responded back no and in the same second she pulled it off her plate and handed it to me. *Bibingka* became the first Filipino dessert I tried and I owe it to my mom.”

“My favorite Filipino dish are *empanadas*!” exclaims Charie Salacup. Although the dish’s crunchy outer shell and flavorful fillings makes it a favorite for most, for Charie she has a different reason, “*Empanadas* will always be my favorite because of its nostalgic smell and iconic look brings me back to my trip to the Philippines. As me and my parents passed *empanada* carts throughout Vigan, I would plead with my parents to buy one. I’d always appreciate when they buy me one and I would continue walking about with an extra snack in hand,” reminisces Charie. Connecting food to a family trip gives food a new story.

“I appreciate that she went out of her way to cook me *arroz caldo* as I was sick in bed,” expresses **Jasper Bibat**. Every time Jasper felt ill, his mom would immediately cook *arroz caldo*. At first he would associate it as a routine food, however, Jasper recognizes, “It became my comfort food, as the

arroz caldo healed my throat, my heart became warm with appreciation for my mom.” Parents’ actions have the greatest impact on their children. For **Jordyn Paa**, her mother’s efforts in cooking Filipino cuisine became a core childhood memory, “I would always get excited when my mom cooked pork *adobo*.” Growing up Jordyn did not have much Filipino culture implementation throughout her daily life. Throughout childhood she was mainly exposed to her Portuguese culture, which led Jordyn to the conclusion, “My mom’s pork *adobo* became my intersection of Portuguese and Filipino culture. She would make it more vinegary which was similar to a Portuguese dish called *Vinha D’Alhos*. From this one dish it started my efforts in connecting with my Filipino culture.”

After hearing the stories of many, Filipino dishes hold much more than taste value. As Filipino dishes are introduced by parents, made a staple at family gatherings or form cultural connections, it becomes a core memory and holds a special meaning for each individual. ✨

Google® Is Not Everything is a monthly column authored by high school students. The title of the column emphasizes education is more than just googling a topic. Google® is a registered trademark. This month’s guest columnist is Jazmyne Faith Vloria, a Senior at Maui High School. She is a member of 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 re-fashions old clothes, journals, edits photos/videos and loves to analyze lyrics in songs. She is the daughter of Ruth Sagisi and Rudy Vloria.



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D&P ...

from p. 5

the 2008 election. Nakasone, however, sadly passed away after winning re-election and Gov. Linda Lingle appointed me to his Kahului House seat.

In 2010, Bertram lost a rematch to George Fontaine for the South Maui seat.

Two years later, Kaniela Ing ousted George Fontaine. After a couple of terms, Ing lost a race for U.S. Congress and Tina Wildberger took the seat.

2012 also marked the passing of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye. With Brian Schatz tapped for Washington, D.C., Shan Tsutsui moved to the Lt. Governor's office and Gov. Abercrombie appointed me to the State Senate in his place. The Governor also picked Justin Woodson to take my seat in the House.

Another change happened when Carroll succumbed to cancer in 2015. Gov. David Ige appointed Lynn DeCoite to the canoe district. Ige later appointed DeCoite to J. Kalani English's Senate when English retired from the Legislature. Troy Hashimoto was then appointed to represent Wailuku when Souki left the House.

This past November elections resulted in Maui's House delegation being split between the male veterans (Yamashita, Woodson and Hashimo-



The current Maui legislative delegation at Governor Josh Green's State of the State address.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

to) and new women legislators (Cochran, Terez Amato (S. Maui) and Mahina Poepoe (E. Maui-Molokai-Lāna'i)), while McKelvey replaced the retired Roz Baker in the upper chamber.

Until this year, one thing did not change. I've been the only Filipino member of the delegation. As noted above, now we have two. Based on our population, people would expect

more. But unlike an election for County Council or for Mayor where all voters can cast a vote for any of the offices on the ballot, legislative seats are decided by the registered voters who live in a particular district. Kahului people vote for District 9 (Woodson), Wailuku people for District 10 (Hashimoto), Upcountry residents for District 12 (Yamashita) and so on. Cochran holds the West Maui seat and undoubtedly Lahaina voters were familiar with her from her years on the County Council and may still not know she has some Filipino blood.

But even when voting County wide, Filipinos have not filled many Council seats either.

As long as I remember, there have been just a handful of Filipinos who've served on the Maui County Council.

Pablo Caldito. At one time, Vince Bagoyo and Rick Medina served at the same time, and in more recent times, Danny Mateo, Joe Pontanilla, and recently, Don Guzman and Alika Atay. Currently Shane Sinenci and Keani Rawlins-Fernandez are the only ones on the Eighth Floor who could say *Mabuhay*.

There certainly were Filipino and part-Filipino candidates throughout the last twelve years. Some appealed more directly to their fellow Filipinos. Others campaigned more broadly. The latter generally were more successful and that makes sense. Filipinos may make up a considerable proportion of various neighborhoods but not everyone is registered to vote or does vote. Why else would some candidates dismiss the Filipino population as expendable since they can always move back to the Philippines.

Since Republicans and other smaller political parties have a challenge to even field candidates, legislative seats are usually settled in the Democratic Primary Election (except apparently this year in West O'ahu where Republi-

cans Garcia and Alcos won seats, along with Lamosao and Martinez; LaChica was appointed by Governor Green). But the observation remains that in a horse race, the Democratic Nominee would be favored.

Anecdotally, for whatever reason, the *Bayanihan* vote has not shown up in proportion to our population in Primaries. People used to suggest Filipinos work on weekends and the Primary is always held on a Saturday. The observation, however, has persisted even as the Legislature made absentee voting easier over the years. Hawai'i is among the states that allowed "no excuse" absentee voting (vote by mail used to be reserved for people who would be out-of-state on Election Day). The State also began to allow early Walk In voting in addition to Absentee Mail and showing up at the polls. In 2016, people could show up at Absentee Walk site and take advantage of same day registration and voting.

Now that Hawai'i has moved to all mail elections (with limited election day voting), the verdict is still out on Filipino participation.

But beyond numbers in the Legislature, I've been pleasantly surprised—now that people are returning to the Capitol in person—at the number of Filipinos (young and old) who come to testify representing various professions and backgrounds (students, scientists, doctors, nurses, lawyers, farmers, business people, clergy, academics, and others). Whether election numbers reflect our population, more Filipinos are engaging in civic life. And that's a good thing. 🌟

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran represents Central Maui in the State Senate. He served in the administration of the first Filipino Governor elected in the United States, Benjamin J. Cayetano (1995–2002). He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.



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

affordable housing units for our residents." With the current demand for housing at its peak of 14,000 units, the proposed budget will barely make a dent in addressing our housing crisis. On the bright side, this is a good start, and I hope it will lead to a more robust appropriation in the future.

Another issue needing urgent attention and support is the plight of unsheltered individuals and families—that segment of our community who desperately need our compassionate care. A recent report indicates there were over 700 unsheltered individuals as of the end of 2022. Sadly, there are no specific appropriations to build decent housing units for these folks in the current proposal, as far as I could find in my search.

A third issue is the high cost of living. Despite many of our family members having multiple jobs, it is difficult for them to make ends meet. These residents survive paycheck to paycheck and often live with anxiety, depression and increasing health issues. To address this problem, the Mayor's proposed budget calls for a reduction in taxes paid for by owner-occupied homes that are valued at \$3 million and below and to lower the mandatory property tax on \$300. This new action is intended to support residents who make the

island their home.

There may be additional options to be considered, like suspending the County fuel tax, reducing fees for vehicle registration, providing County subsidies for childcare, and free bus rides to and from work and more common sense ideas that will lower the cost of living.

Finally, many leading economists believe there is a good possibility a recession will hit the U.S. sometime this year. Since Maui is highly dependent on visitor dollars, a recession will have a severe economic impact on our working families.

While the Council deliberates the Mayor's budget proposal, residents are encouraged to share your comments and suggestions to help fine tune the final outcome, to further ensure the proposed budget will truly address the challenges that residents face daily.

The Council has until early June 2023 to approve the budget. Now is the time to provide your written comments and suggestions or better still, your direct testimony at the Maui County Council meetings. Take action today! 🌟

Vince Bagoyo
VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

PNAMHi ...

from p. 4

spera-Walch, who was born in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines received her AS, BS, MPH and DNP from UH Mānoa.

“Nursing is my passion and I have been dreaming on how I could make my passion to remain forever and continue to make a positive impact to the future generations, even when I am gone in this world,” explains Atmospera-Walch. “How could I motivate, influence, and inspire others to advance the Nursing Profession? Nurses are the largest members of the workforce in the healthcare industry and without nursing, the health of the community would be in jeopardy. Can you imagine being in the hospital without nurses?”

In remarks during the naming ceremonies, Patricia Lee, the former Chair of the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents said to Atmospera-Walch: “It is an incredible honor to have the Nursing School of our beloved alma mater, UH, named after you! That is such a testament to all you have accomplished in the past and your tremendous commitment to ensuring that Hawai‘i’s future health and nursing care will make forward positive strides.”

Atmospera-Walch states her mantra is “Dream Big but you must Act on your dream to make it a reality and that I do! I want to ensure my passion in nursing will remain forever and what is a better way to do it than supporting nursing education? Yes, sup-

porting the school which made my dream come true.”



Ceria-Ulep

acting Dean for three months and then Interim Dean for five months. A faculty member of the nursing school since 1993, Ceria-Ulep received her BSN and MSN from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and her PhD from the Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University.

“I am the first Filipina selected as Dean for this position at UH Mānoa (UHM),” observes Ceria-Ulep. “Nancy is the first Filipina to give a transformative gift to the UH. This signifies to me that Filipinos have arrived and that we’ve shattered the glass ceiling. It’s about time. After all Filipino nurses have been in the U.S. at least six decades. Their story is one of duty and sacrifice—they leave their family, mother land, and culture to provide a better life for their family. Being a nurse is their passport to the United States. It’s been reported that four percent of the nurses in the U.S. are Filipinos; yet 26 percent of nurses who died of COVID-19 and related complications were Filipino. What a disparity! I would like to think that my success/accomplishment and Nancy’s as well would signal to my Filipino nurs-

Nancy Atmospera-Walch proudly stands in front of the wall at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing immediately after the naming ceremonies.”

PHOTO: KUHIO WALCH



es/colleagues that their sacrifices have not been for nought. At UHM Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON) sometimes our undergraduate cohort are 30–35 percent Filipinos. I believe Nancy and I could serve as role models to Filipinos aspiring to be nurses; and who are nurses. That it’s possible to reach this level of achievement.”

The appointment of Ceria-Ulep as Dean of the School of Nursing named after Atmospera-Walch is truly a historic one, breaking multiple glass ceilings. What’s significant is Ceria-Ulep’s research focused on the Filipino community of which she has long standing relationships. “I have a collaborative relationship with Filipino nurses. For example, through partnerships with Nurses’ Advocates & Mentors, Inc. (NAMI) as a volunteer. NAMI provides review classes for a nominal fee to RN

foreign graduates who are predominantly Filipinos for over 20-plus years,” notes Ceria-Ulep. “I also collaborate with the Philippine Nurses Association of Hawai‘i (PNAH), an affiliate of the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA) as well as the Filipino Nurses of Hawai‘i (FNOH). For the Filipino community, I want to continue to address our health issues. Filipinos have one of the worst health statuses in Hawai‘i, I believe through our lifestyle which can be modified. A UHM NAWSON colleague and I received a National Institute of Health funding to increase physical activity (exercise) and decrease sedentary time in Filipino older adults who are leaders from Filipino Catholic Clubs in Hawai‘i. Further, one of UHM NAWSON’s research focus is to address the health disparity of Filipinos due to our

see PNAHMI p.13



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

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President, HOSA Future Health Professionals Hawai‘i/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center
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United Barreneos of Maui's *bahay kubo* at Maui's annual Barrio Fiesta.
PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Bolosan and Ankele Yamashita
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Bolosan sits in the conference room.
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

Bolosan ...

from p. 4

Ed Case's campaign for Congress, with Don Guzman as campaign chair, along with Pat Wong. "I put up over 300 signs for Ed that year," Bolosan claims. "I put them up and removed them too."

In 2014, Bolosan was the Maui campaign coordinator for the gubernatorial campaign team of Ige/Tsutsui. In 2018, Bolosan was the Maui campaign coordinator for the gubernatorial campaign team of Ige/Green. In 2022, Bolosan was the Maui campaign coordinator of Josh Green for Governor.

Bolosan learned his community organizing skills as the president of the Maui Fil-Am Jaycees, serving as President from 1973–1976 and as president of the United Bacarreneos of Maui, serving in the 1980s. "That was the

first time that I could get Judge Baxa, attorney Ramil and Herman Andaya together," Bolosan recalls. "Manong Fred Dagdag would tell me there were a lot of Bacarreneos on Maui—more than any other town—but why didn't we have a presence at the Barrio Fiesta. So when I was president, that was the first time we entered and we won." Bolosan proudly notes he still has the trophy for the Bacarreneos winning first place in the booth contest during the annual Barrio Fiesta.

More recently, Bolosan served on a number of important commissions. He was a member of the Liquor Commission from April 2017 through March 2022, serving as Chair from 2021–2022. He later served from April 2022 to March 2023 on the Board of Variances and Appeals.

Bolosan explains requests to the Governor's office must be made online and highly recommends the request be submitted at least four to six

weeks in advance. Requests include the Governor's attendance at an event, a message from the Governor, or a certificate from the Governor; all of which are highly valued in the Filipino community. After the request is made, Bolosan can monitor it. But Bolosan warns "The Governor's schedule changes every day."

Bolosan has fond memories of his grandfather Genaro. "He loved to make throw nets and would catch mullet and other fishes. He also loved to plant vegetables. When he's not sewing nets, he's with his *tarong*, string beans, *paria* and other vegetables. He told me to go to school. He was the guy who petitioned me so I could go to Mauna'olu College. I owe my grandparents my success."

Bolosan shared three of his mantras: "Be soft onto people. Never take a person's dignity. Avoid the blame game." He recognizes that because he works for the government,

"I'm a public servant" and notes "Maui has been very nice to me and my family. My life has lots of ups and downs. There's times I did hit rock bottom but I still consider my Maui is heaven on Earth."

Indeed, Maui *nō ka 'oi!* ✨

Assistant Editor **Alfredo Evangelista** came home to Maui *nō ka 'oi* in 2010 (after attending school on the mainland and working on O'ahu for twenty-seven years). He is pictured below with fellow Maui High School alum Brian Moto, Leon Bolosan, and World Class Travelers Bill and Amy Ruidas.



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Community... In Action



Rent the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center for your celebrations..
PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



The 54th Annual Barrio Fiesta will feature food, business and cultural booths and the sharing of games and culture including "Tinikling."
PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

Angelina Abapo inside the Cebu cultural village.
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



ABOVE LEFT: The Santa Cruzan procession will feature former Miss Barrio Fiestas. PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA
ABOVE RIGHT: The Veterans Memorial Service will be held on Saturday at high noon. PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA
RIGHT: Be the first to climb the Grease Pole and win \$500! PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA.
LEFT: Enter the Any Kine Sisig Challenge sponsored by Tante's Island Cuisine. PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

BINHI AT ANI

Celebrate your special 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 alcohol will be provided, there is a \$300 additional fee and you must hire two licensed bartenders.

The office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Telephone (808) 877-7880.

Annual Barrio Fiesta

The 54th Annual Barrio Fiesta will be held on Friday, May 26 (5 p.m. to 10 p.m.) and Saturday, May 27 (10 a.m. to 10 p.m.)

Fabulous Filipino Food will be available including *balut*, *banana lumpia*, *bangus*, *cascaron*, *chicharon*, *dinuguan*, *empanada longanisa*, *pansit*, *pinakbet*, *pork adobo*, *pork and peas*, and *pork lumpia*. Select local food will include *bbq beef*, *chow fun* and *shoyu* chicken. Plus Filipino vegetables and fruit!

Contests include Any Kine Sisig Contest Cooking Challenge sponsored by Tante's Island Cuisine (Saturday at 3:30 p.m.; \$500 to the winner); The Barrio Fiesta Voice sponsored by Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company (Friday at 8:30 p.m.; \$500 to the winner); Barrio Wear Contest sponsored by Rusty & Hedy Udarbe (Saturday at 7 p.m.; \$250 to the female winner; \$250 to the male winner); Climb the Greased Pole sponsored by K&R Auto Body & Painting LLC (Saturday at 1 p.m.; \$500 to the winner); *Da Pansit* Eating Contest sponsored by Friends of Gil Keith-Agaran with



pansit provided by Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club (Saturday at 3 p.m.; \$500 to the winner); Do the *Sungka* sponsored by Johnstone Supply Maui (Saturday at 10:30 a.m.; \$500 to the winner); Pabitin sponsored by Friends of Justin Woodson (Friday at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.); and Sabado Art Foundation Keiki Art Party sponsored by Friends of Yuki Lei Sugimura (Saturday at 2 p.m.; \$500 to the winner).

Cultural Entertainment will include performances by Assumpta Choir, Dance International Production, La Galeria: Compañia Baile Filipino, Sto. Niño Club of Maui and Students of Aggie Cabebe. And yes there will be Zumba (Friday at 9:30 p.m. led by Eva Arconado Mirzai and Saturday at 9:30 p.m. led by Ginalyn Dela Cruz).

Cultural Villages will include Cebu (presented by Sto. Niño Organization of Maui); Cordillera (presented by Sabado Art Foundation); Ilocos Norte (presented by Julie Cruz); Ilocos Sur (presented by UHMC Kabatak Club); Metro Manila (presented by Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawai'i); Mindanao (presented by La Galeria: Compañia Baile Filipino) and Pangasinan (presented by Violy Natividad).

Miss Barrio Fiesta 2023 will be crowned on Friday at 7 p.m. Vying for the crown are Kiara Ganoy and Naeomi Paa. (The final counting will be on May 8.)

Santa Cruzan will be presented on Friday night at 6:30 p.m. including past queens: Miss Barrio Fiesta, Little Miss Barrio Fiesta and Tiny Miss Barrio Fiesta. Confirmed to participate as of press time are Shirley Evangelista (Miss Barrio Fiesta 1970); Nora Cabanilla (Miss Barrio Fiesta 1977); Myrna Baggao (Miss Barrio Fiesta 1978); Miss Ernalyn Corpuz (Miss Barrio Fi-

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

esta 1981); Chamille Misay (Miss Barrio Fiesta 1990); Vanessa Milan (Miss Barrio Fiesta 2002); Moana-Marie Raquinio (Miss Barrio Fiesta 2006); Joana-Leesa Ped (Miss Barrio Fiesta 2007); Chelsea Guzman (Miss Barrio Fiesta 2011); Sheena Garo (Miss Barrio Fiesta 2015); Sierra-Naomi Cachola Perryman (Miss Barrio Fiesta 2018); Jillian Ped (Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2012); Selena Rodrigues (Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2014); Christal Bismonte (Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2015); Jia Garcia (Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2016); Elizabeth Thomas (Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2017); Zoe Zane (Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2018); Raine Lopez (Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2019) and Mia Suh (Tiny Miss Barrio Fiesta 2012). The Reyna Elena will be Audryanah Starmer (Miss Barrio Fiesta 2022) while King Constantine will be portrayed by Treysen Manuel. It is not too late to participate in the Santa Cruzan. Please contact Madelyne Pascua at (808) 268-0686.

Special Events will include the Veterans Memorial Service on Saturday at 12 noon and the Outstanding Housekeeping Awards on Saturday at 8 p.m. To date, the following hotels have confirmed their participation: Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort, Aston Kā'anapali Shores, Courtyard by Marriott, Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea, Kā'anapali Beach Hotel, Maui Beach Hotel, Maui Coast and Plantation Inn. The submission deadline is April 30.

A Special Feature will be the Philippine Consulate General staff on-site to answer

questions.
The 54th Annual Barrio Fiesta will feature other activities that will be confirmed shortly. The Fiesta will be hosted by Rowena Dagdag-Andaya (Friday evening) and Jeremy Zane (Saturday evening).

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 March 31, a total of 13,682 meals were delivered. Teams serving during March were Miss Maui USA, Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawai'i and Maui County Federal Credit Union.

There is a need for additional teams of volunteers to prepare the free lunches.

Create a Team by signing up: <https://forms.gle/cVUGB6XLmtJi7MVH8>. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card <https://binhi-atani.org/donate/> or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehe'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program].

Enhance@Fitness for Kupuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center classes are continuing. 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 helping older adults at all levels of fitness to become more active, energized and empowered to sustain independent lives. For more infor-



LEFT: The Barrio Wear Contest.
BELOW: The Outstanding Housekeeping Awards.
PHOTOS: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



UHMC Kabatak Club preparing lunches for the Bayanihan Feeding program.
PHOTO COURTESY UHMC KABATAK CLUB



Enhance@Fitness for Kūpuna at Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center classes are held.
PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS



Beach Clean Up at Kahului commenced with Miss Maui Filipina 2022 Lennel Alvarez spearheading the project. Alvarez along with volunteers are shown here.
PHOTO COURTESY LENNEL ALVAREZ.

mation 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.

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Miss Maui Filipina 2022 Lennel Alvarez recently conducted a **Beach Cleanup Day**. “I wanted to organize a beach clean up, in collaboration with the Kabatak Club of UHMC, to help with keeping our community clean,” she says. “We worked together to get volunteers from the community, as well as invited the Maui High School Filipino Club. We met at Kahului Beach Road, and together we picked up around 20 bags of trash, a mattress, a tire, and some car parts. I want to thank all those who came from the Kabatak Club, the MHS Filipino Club, my friends, and my family. I could not have done this event without them.”

From May 18 through May 27, Lennel will travel to the Philippines in her official capacity as Miss Maui Filipina. “As my trip to the Philippines nears, I put a lot of thought into what I could do in my eight day trip. I plan to visit my parents’ hometowns, Laoag City and Cagayan, and go to the elementary schools where I will donate school supplies,” shares Lennel. “I will also visit the Mayors of both provinces. I will travel to Manila to visit the capital of the Philippines and spend some time there as well. I can’t wait to go back to the Philippines after five years and see my family.”



The 2023 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant will be held on June 2, 2023 at Binhi at Ani. The contestants are Kasey Cababat, Sandra Desierto, Johanne Paige Cruz Guevarra and Shyla-Tehara Moore. Contact Michelle Santos at (808) 264-071 for more information.

The **Council** will play host to the annual convention of the **United Filipino Council of Hawai’i** on Maui on July 21 through July 23 at the Maui Beach Hotel. Chairing the convention is Emi Cortez.

The **Council** will also host the **Miss Hawai’i Filipina Scholarship Pageant** at the Maui Beach Hotel on July 22. Chairing the pageant is Michelle Santos.



UHMC KABATAK CLUB

UHMC Kabatak Club held a successful carwash fundraiser on March 18 to fund future events. Volunteers, including club advisors, officers, and members, were determined to wash over 60 vehicles ranging from SUVs to big cargo vans. Customers enjoyed homemade banana lumpia sold for \$5 per 3 pieces, and banana cue sold for \$4 for two skewers upon submitting their tickets as volunteers washed, brushed, rinsed, and dried their cars. Although under the blazing sun, volunteers persevered to make cars look good as new.

UHMC Kabatak Club meets every other Tuesday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the UHMC Student Lounge. Join their next meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 or on May 2, 2023 as they share food, play games and learn more about the Filipino culture.



PHOTO COURTESY UHMC KABATAK CLUB



PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

UHMC Kabatak Club worked hard at their car wash fundraiser. They also sold food at their car wash under the hot sun.



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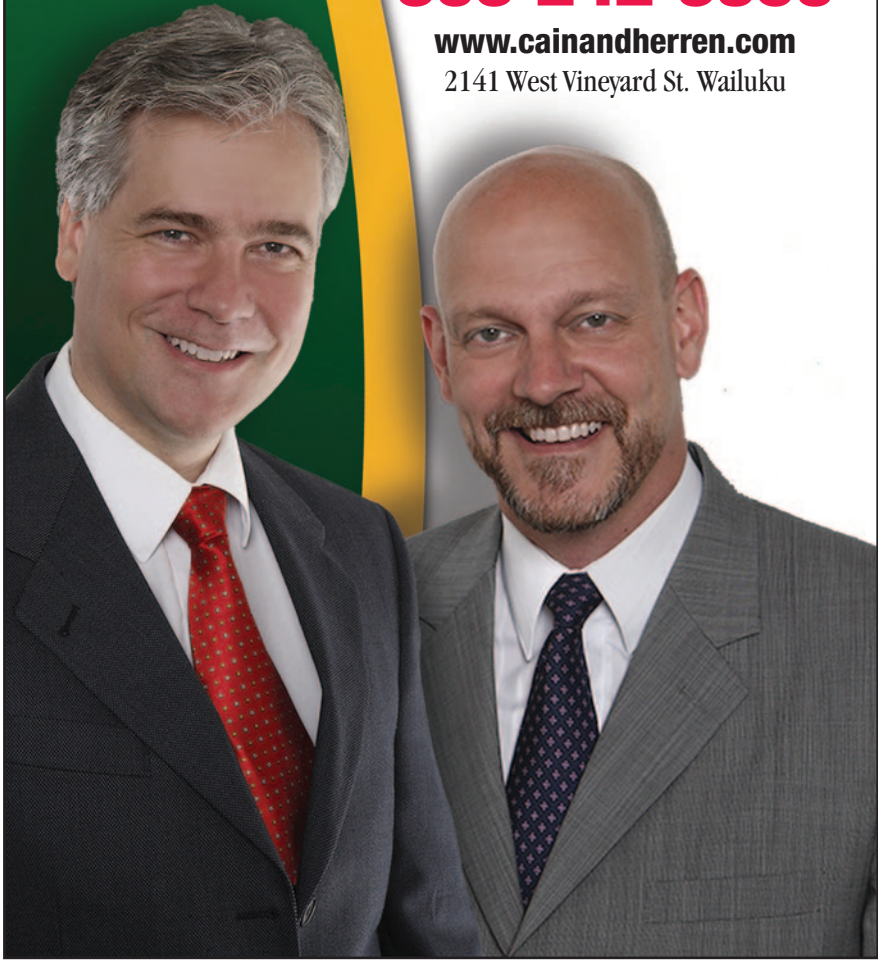



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CONSUL GENERAL'S CORNER

EMIL T. FERNANDEZ



I had the pleasure of meeting many of my countrymen in Maui last month. It would be my first official engagement outside O’ahu after assuming the position of Consul General in Honolulu late in 2021.

I arrived at The Dunes at Maui Lani before sunrise on a chilly Sunday morning to take part in the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center’s fundraising golf tournament, where over 140 players had signed up. I was told it was to be the largest field of golfers assembled for the annual event and the first where the Philippine Consul General would participate. I had the good fortune of being in a foursome comprised of affable personalities—Eddie Munoz, Boyet Tamayo and Jim River. Under the auspices of Alfredo Evangelista, the activity was impeccably organized. Thousands of dollars would be raised for the Center’s commendable scholarship program for deserving Filipino American students on the island.

Later that evening, I was humbled to be the guest of honor in a reception tendered by the Center, whose current president is the indefatigable Melen Agcolicol. As I noted in my remarks during the event, I was expecting no more than 50 Filipino community

leaders to be present but was pleasantly surprised to be in the company of more than 200 guests. Among them were local government officials, including Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen and his Chief of Staff, Mr. Leo Caires; former Mayor Mike Victorino and his lovely wife, Joycelyn; State Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran and his ageless mother, Lydia Coloma; Councilmember Shane Sinenci and his Executive Assistant, Mr. Don Atay; the Hawai’i Governor’s Representative in Maui, Mr. Leon Bolosan; and a fellow Atenean, the esteemed Judge Artemio Baxa (retired). Attendees were treated to a sumptuous buffet spread of Philippine dishes and entertainment by seasoned cultural troupes with performances of the country’s most popular dances.

I wish to extend a special thank you to Philippine Airlines, led by its Area Manager in Honolulu Sol Solleza, for generously donating two round-trip tickets between Honolulu and Manila, which were drawn at the awarding ceremony of the golf tournament and evening reception. The lucky winners were Jim Diegel and Josie Ramos.

The visit was not complete without the courtesy call on newly elected



Posing with Miss Barrio Fiesta Audryanah Starmer, Binhi at Ani President Melen Agcolicol and Atty. Alfredo Evangelista.
PHOTO BASILIA EVANGELISTA

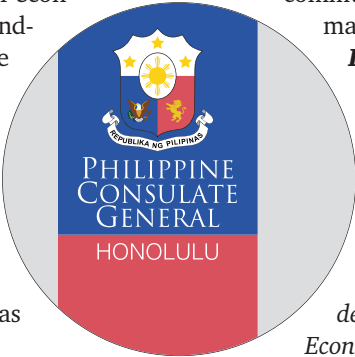
Mayor Bissen, who warmly received me and a group of Filipino community leaders in his Wailuku office. Among those present were Jing Gumpal, President of the Maui Filipino Community Council, and Kit Zulueta, distinguished alumna of the Filipino Young Leaders Program (FYLPRO). The meeting afforded us the opportunity to get to know one another better, enumerate priorities and discuss issues of importance to the community. Among other things, I highlighted the pivotal role played by the Filipino community in the island’s development, including its contribution to the local economy and cultural landscape, and invited the Mayor to visit the Philippines in the near future. We were also elated knowing that a Filipina American, the charming Sharon Banaag, serves in the Mayor’s Office as Executive Assistant.

The visit also enabled me to listen to the various concerns of our kababayans, including making consular services more accessible and better known. To this end, I have tasked Consulate personnel to participate in the Center’s Barrio Fiesta this May, where they shall man an information booth to attend to community members’ queries. Also being scheduled in the third quarter of the year is the Consulate’s outreach mission, where applicants may renew their passports, take their oaths as dual citizens, legalize documents, and register as overseas voters. More will be done to further improve services being rendered

and it is incumbent upon us to work collaboratively to ensure that everyone is attended to in an efficient and timely manner.

Also contributing to my fruitful trip were Teresita Noble of Noble Travel, Greg Peros of Maui Beach Hotel, Tante Urban of Tante’s Island Cuisine, Philip Sabado of Sabado Art Gallery and Dana Pastula of Maui Tropical Plantation. To them and countless others, I owe a big debt of gratitude for ensuring a pleasurable stay. The memory of the journey, especially the warmth and hospitality of the Filipino community of Maui, will remain with me always.

Emil T. Fernandez is the current Consul General of the Philippines stationed in Honolulu. He graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management Economics. Prior to his appointment to Hawai’i, Fernandez served as Deputy Consul General in Frankfurt, Germany. His other foreign assignments included Washington, D.C. (2010–2016), Santiago, Chile (2005–2008) and Caracas, Venezuela (2002–2005). In Manila, Fernandez held several important positions, including Executive Director of the Office of Asian & Pacific Affairs (2016–2018), Director for Southern Europe of the Office of European Affairs (2009–2010), Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations (2008–2009) and Acting Director of the Office of ASEAN Affairs (1999–2001). ✨



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With retired attorney Tony Ramil, Luz Ramil, Norma Cronkite, Judge (Ret.) Artemio Baxa and Ernie Cronkite.
 PHOTO BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Seated next to Maui Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
 PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

PNAMHI ...

from p. 8

poor health status. To this end, I will strengthen the research infrastructure of NAWSON by appointing an Associate Dean for Research, establish an office and staff to support our research effort, and recruit stellar nurse scientists to conduct research affecting our state's health issues including Filipinos."

As the consummate professional, Ceria-Ulep has identified her goals. "As Dean of UH Mānoa (UHM), flagship campus of the UH system, we have an obligation to address the workforce shortages in nursing—both nurses and nursing faculty. Plans are underway to address such through collaborations with faculty, staff across the UH system and without; and with our health centers' leadership as well as our Legislature." But she is not afraid to admit to the emotional side of her appointment. "I welcome this opportunity with gratitude, excitement and joy!" she exclaims. "I am honored and privileged, and at the same time humbled to be selected as the permanent dean of the UH Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing. I appreciate the confidence and trust placed in me by faculty, staff, students, colleagues and administration. From teaching at all levels and serving as department chair, associate dean, acting and interim dean, I have grown so much personally and professionally at NAWSON. I will use lessons learned and experiences gained to take NAWSON to

greater heights with everyone's support and collaboration to benefit the school, university, state and beyond!"

At the Atmospera-Walch naming ceremonies, Lee observed: "What an absolute source of pride it is not only for the Filipino Community but for Asians, for minorities, for people of color, and for women! How you have been able to make such a difference in one lifetime for the benefit of so many in our community is amazing and laudable!"

But perhaps Ceria-Ulep said it best. "My personal motto is to make a difference in the world. I would like to think that after I am gone, the world is a better place because I have been in it."

Yes, Dr. Ceria-Ulep, you and the 4.4 million registered nurses in the United States are indeed making a difference or in a jazzier vein, *Nurses Rock!* 🌟

Alfredo G. Evangelista is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the University of Southern California (1980), and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law (1983). He is a sole practitioner at Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, concentrating in estate planning, business counseling, and nonprofit corporations. He has been practicing law for 39 years (since 1983) and returned home in 2010 to be with his family and to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Basilia Tumacder Idica.

His niece Sannah Kelly Evangelista is an RN and his grand nephew Isaiah Torres will be entering the nursing school at UHMC this fall.



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Easter services.



Holy Thursday.



Deacon Patrick Constantino proclaiming the Gospel.

A New Year and A New Easter

Jesus: Our Hope and Savior!

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS MADDIE PASCUAL

Not Dead Anymore! He is risen and alive in our hearts and lives forever!

He is the only one who can help us with our problems and fix it! But we must have faith and believe!

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was drawing, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, I have told you.” Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” Matthew 28:1–10

Good morning, and welcome to our celebration of Easter, the most important day in the history of humanity, the day when Jesus Christ rose from the grave, defeated the power of death and secured for us eternal life. Christians all over the world begin their celebration this day by loudly proclaiming some variation of the word “Alleluia!” which means “Praise the Lord!” So, I invite you now to say it with me—Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

It’s a powerfully moving thing to think about churches all over the world in nearly every tongue celebrating Easter in their own unique

way. But not every celebration turns out the way we hoped.

Our passage begins, “After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

“So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

“Suddenly Jesus met them. ‘Greetings,’ he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’”

Just ten verses capture for us the totally unexpected, earth-shaking, life-changing power and promise of Jesus’ resurrection. And I don’t want any of us to leave here today the same people we were when we walked through the doors.

We need to experience Jesus’ resurrection as if we were witnesses to it, as if it were happening this very morning/evening. Every person who experienced Jesus’ resurrection exhibited a permanently changed life afterwards. They were not the same people. Their attitudes, their priorities, the focus of their lives changed radically because they witnessed the risen Christ. And if we truly understand the power and the promise of Jesus’ resurrection, then we will be

permanently changed by it too!

All of our celebrations through the year, Lent, Advent, Ordinary Time, Feast, are all the same! But what makes a difference in our life are the experiences we go through in different times in our lives! It is the same teaching but we should look at it in different experiences, time and what’s going on in our life and world!

For starters, Jesus’ resurrection turns our grief into joy. Through Jesus, our greatest enemy, death, has been swallowed up in victory. (1 Corinthians 15:54) Our bodies may die but our souls will rise to eternal life because Jesus gave his life as a ransom for us and defeated the power of death. We no longer live in fear of death and decay, and we do not grieve as those who have no hope. (1 Thessalonians 4:13) Our grief is tempered with joy because we know God is faithful to His promise one day He will wipe every tear from our eyes, and there will be no more death nor mourning nor crying nor pain. (Revelation 21:4) And we are called to live in the assurance of God’s promises now, to live joyfully now, to live as children of the resurrection now. Not just on Easter Sunday but every day of our lives until the day when those promises are finally and joyfully fulfilled!

Jesus’ resurrection has also turned our separation into reconciliation with God. That’s the second promise we receive through his life. Remember when Jesus was dying on the cross, only the women and the beloved disciple John were with him. All the other disciples ran away. So when the angel told the women to go quickly and tell the disciples Jesus was going ahead of them to Galilee, what were they expecting? Were they afraid Jesus would condemn them? That he would punish them for abandoning him?

If so, they didn’t worry for long. As the women ran from the tomb, Jesus suddenly appeared to them and said, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers... Those aren’t words of condemnation. Those are words of grace. Even

though the other disciples had abandoned him, Jesus still called them brothers and assured the women there was no reason to fear. As John tells us, “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Jesus certainly had good reason to reject or condemn his disciples after his resurrection. But he died specifically so his blood would be the final sacrifice that covered over our separation from God. His death healed our separation and restored our relationship with God.

And the final thing we learn from the Easter story is Jesus’ resurrection is not the end but the beginning of a whole new story. This isn’t like an old Western movie where all the good guys ride off into the sunset together. Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of a new life for his followers. It is the beginning of a new calling, to go make disciples of all people, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. It is the beginning of a new adventure in living as Jesus would live in our families and communities and schools and workplaces. And if we are followers of Jesus Christ, that is our new story too! It will not be the same oh, same oh!

It’s important to note after Jesus’ resurrection, his followers endured persecution, imprisonment and death in order to spread the message of his life to the ends of the earth. They were so certain this obscure carpenter from Galilee was the Messiah sent from God that they staked their lives on it. What about us? Can we remain neutral? Will we leave here the same people we were when we came in this morning?

I pray when we leave here today, our lives will be marked by the joy, reconciliation and courage flowing from the power of Jesus’ resurrection!

May God, who is risen in us this Easter, continue to live in us, forever! Happy Easter! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus, I trust in You! Apo Jesus, agtalekak kenka. Amen! ✨

On July 1, 2022, **Patrick Constantino** see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI p.18



April starts with the joker in all of us and if you were fooled, I hope you didn't take it personally or too hard. After all, it's just April Fool's Day. Hopefully next year, you will be the one playing a prank on your friends or your co-workers. Be prepared or if you want some ideas, let me know I might have some ideas or suggestions for you. Leave me a message or comments at www.filam

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

voicemaui.com, I would love to help! Shout out to our April birthday celebrants: my sister Daisy Butay-Hayen, my Auntie Norma Butay Aurelio, and

Carmelita Montero Quemado. Happy, happy birthday to you! (Tagalog) *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Ilokano) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay*

mo! (Ibanag) *Makapagayaya nga ag-gaw na nikeyana mu!* (Kapampangan) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Ilonggo) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo.* In last month's issue Michael and Angel were out in the boonies running away from a man who was weirdly taking pictures of Angel. Let's take a look at what the story is this month, shall we?

THEY WALK TO THE *SAKEN* (CAR) QUIETLY.

Angel gets inside the *sakyanan* (car), and buckles herself. "Michael, I did not kill a cop. Do you believe me? I didn't do anything!" She starts sobbing.

"Ssshhh... Be quiet for now. Explain later. Right now, let's go to my *bahay* (house)," Michael tells her.

"To your *balay* (house)? Your *nanay* (mom's) house? I don't want to go to your *bahay* (house). Your *nanang* (mom) is there. I am scared of your *inahan* (mom)!" Angel cries a flood with trembles and hiccups

"Stop crying. It's not going to help you. And besides, my mother is the last thing that you should be worried about," Michael says calmly.

The car is filled with silence. Angel stops crying and does not say anything.

Michael is right. Even if I cry a river, it will not solve any of my problems. I need to set aside my emotions and face my problems. His *yena* (mother) is the last thing I have to worry about. I'm sure his *Ima* (mother) is nice and she will treat me like a daughter of her own. Ahh, I miss my *nanay* (mother), she says quietly and let's go a *malalim* (deep) sigh.

Michael is the only *kaibigan* (friend) she has right now. Where are my *gayyem* (friends) anyway? Haha... I don't really have *kaluguran* (friends), she says to herself. I thought Rosie was my *kofun* (friend) but she hasn't been around lately.

Michael gives her a glance because she let go a *halalum* (deep) sigh. "I could only imagine *ano* (what) she is going through," he says to himself. *Anni* (What) has she done? How am I going to help her? *Ana* (What) am I

going to do? I'm so confused right now. He, himself let go an *adalem* (deep) sigh.

"Am I in trouble, Michael?" Angel asks Michael softly.

Michael did not *dinig* (hear) Angel because he was in *malayalam* (deep) thought.

"Michael?" she says. Michael does not answer.

"Michael, did you *dungug* (hear) me?" Angel asks louder.

"Ha? *Nanoyin* (What) are you asking?" he says. Confused.

"Am I in trouble?" she repeats her question.

"Ahh... I don't know. It depends on *ana* (what) you did," he says reluctantly.

Silence fills the *kotse* (car) again. Michael concentrates on his driving. He drives carefully so they will not get into any accident as he has a lot on his mind.

Angel closes her eyes and says a prayer.

She doesn't know how long she closed her eyes because when she opens her eyes, they are already parked in front of a big *balay* (house).

"Is this your *bale* (house)?" Angel asks.

Michael does not answer.

"Wow! Your *bahay* (house) is so big!" she exclaims.

Michael does not move from the driver's seat. He lets go a *lalum* (deep) sigh.

Angel mirrors him and she also lets go a *halalum* (deep) sigh. And then another one, and another one.

Michael looks at her and asks "Are you ready?"

"To face your *inang* (mother)?" Angel asks.

"Yes," he says quietly.

"There will be a lot of questions and frustrations," Michael says.

"Yes, I understand," Angel says softly.

They both take an *adalem* (deep) breath and slowly open their doors.

Their feet feel so heavy it feels like they are dragging it.

The driveway is only a few steps to the door but it feels like a mile for them.

Michael opens the door and goes inside the *balay* (house).

He thinks Angel is behind him but when he turns around, the door is still

open and she is still standing outside.

Angel feels like her feet is planted in the ground. She cannot move her feet. She's scared to go inside because Michael's mother is there. She doesn't know what she will do to her, thinking she is getting her son in trouble.

"Michael is that you?" a voice says and they both freeze.

Who likes being questioned? Or confrontation? I myself try to avoid this kind of situation. What is going to happen in Michael's house?

Anyways that's all I have. Keep an

eye out for my article on every issue. I'm Dulce, helping you to master your Filipino Languages. Like always, let's laugh, let's *making* (listen) and Let's Talk Pinoy! *Hanggang sa muli!* (Until next time!) *Ingat!* (Take care!) ✨

Dulce Karen Butay was graduated from Maui High School and received her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu. She is currently the Administrative Officer at the County of Maui, Department of Finance. Butay is a licensed Resident Producer of Life Insurance with World Financial Group and an Independent Consultant of Saladmaster.



ter. 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.



Lee Barbero



Lee and Tanya Barbero



Lee's and Tanya's Family

Lee Anthony Barbero

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY BARBERO 'OHANA

“We aren’t ‘step,’ we aren’t ‘half,’ we aren’t adopted, we are just family!” says this month’s featured Sakada Offspring, Lee Anthony Barbero. This is such a true statement as we continue to read Lee’s life story.

Lee was born on October 2, 1961 at Maui Memorial Hospital in Wailuku, Maui, Hawai‘i. He attended Christ The King School, Kahului School, Maui High and Maui Community College. His special interest in

carpentry (because of his Dad’s influence) led him to complete vocational certification in Carpentry and Building Maintenance.

His Dad’s hard work ethics also led him to also try to be a hard worker. During high school, he worked at Woolworth’s as a stock boy. During summers, he worked on jobs with his Dad and his Uncle Joe (Dionisio) Villa as a carpenter’s helper. While attending community college, Lee worked in the maintenance department at Maui

Lu Hotel. From there, he worked many years in grounds and building maintenance in South Maui, first at Hale Pau Hana Resort and Wailea Golf Club. Later, Lee owned his maintenance business, LTM Enterprises. He is currently working at St. Anthony School in the maintenance and custodial department.

Lee is married to Tanya Marie Alconcel Barbero, who works as the Director of Faith Formation and Family Life at St. Anthony Church. Their children are Marlena Barbero, a graduate of Chaminade University with a B.A. in Psychology, who works at Maui Medical as Purchasing Agent Assistant II. Isaiah is a student at Baldwin High School and Ivah attends Lihikai School.

Lee has five siblings: Bernard Barbero who works as Container Yard Supervisor with Matson, Kahului Harbor. Bernard and his wife Virginia have two adult sons and one grandson. Wilburt Barbero is in retail sales at Billabong in Lahaina and is an accomplished lei maker. Wilburt makes the most beautiful lei po’o (head lei). Lisa Visitacion Moore, the eldest of the Visitacion children works for the County of Maui Prosecutor’s office. She is proud to say she has worked for the County for nearly thirty years because of the encouragement from Daddy Leo Visitacion. Lisa is married to Micah Moore and has two adult children and one grandson. Juliet Visitacion Hammonds lives in Virginia with her family and works in the healthcare industry. She has two adult daughters and three grandsons. Dan Leo Visitacion is the youngest of Lee’s siblings. He is a Security Professional and has worked with resorts and private properties in Wailea.

Lee and Tanya are very much involved in various ministries and committees at St. Anthony Church and School. They are in the Worldwide Marriage Encounter presenting team. They are also General Licensed Resource Caregivers (foster parents) for nearly twenty years and cared for dozens of children in sibling groups since 2005.

One of Lee’s favorite mottos is “I come to serve, not to be served.” He


says service is his motivator. He spends a lot of time serving the church and the community. When he has time to spare, he enjoys watching cowboy movies.

Lee feels humbled and grateful when he thinks about the person he is becoming because of the love, sacrifice and encouragement from his parents and grandparents who came to Hawai‘i as *Sakadas*. Without them, he wouldn’t be here today, he says. His *Sakada* parents and grandparents are the late Crispulo Terradanio Barbero, Francisco Bio and Leonides Antolin Visitacion. Lee says “A Dad isn’t defined as the man who makes the child but rather the man who extends his hands and time to help raising the child and his heart to love the child through anything! Blood doesn’t always make you a Dad. Being a Dad comes from the heart. I am blessed to have the gift of two Dads!”

Lee’s grandfather Crispulo T. Barbero first came to Hawai‘i in the 1930s from Dolores, Abra, as a contract worker in the 1930s for the sugar plantation on the Hāmākua Coast, living for years in Pāpa‘aloo. After being in Hawai‘i for about twenty years, Crispulo returned to the Philippines for a visit. It was that time that Bernardo Guzman Barbero (Lee’s Dad) asked to come to Hawai‘i when Crispulo returned. Bernardo was educated (he was a teacher), so grandpa Crispulo brought Bernardo to Hawai‘i to further his education to find work in Hawai‘i. Bernardo attended Hilo Technical School studying business and became a respected accountant and worked at Pearl Harbor. He and Idalinda (Primitiva) Bio (Lee’s mom) met on Hawai‘i island and got married in 1957. They moved back to Maui and had three sons, Bernard, Wilburt, and Lee. Bernardo Barbero was an active and respected member of the Filipino Community. He worked for the Bank of Hawai‘i and was credited with helping to teach the Filipino plantation workers the importance of depositing their money into the safety of the banking system rather than hiding their money in their homes.

Sadly, after nearly six years of mar-

Spring is here....




Remember to plan for your estate

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Leo and Idalinda Visitacion at Leo's surprise birthday party



Visitacion Family picture in 1974



Visitacion Grandchildren

riage and three young sons, Bernardo died from cancer. Lee was just two years old.

As a young widow with three young boys, Lee's mom Ida, took her time to grieve and heal. As the Lord would have it, she met and married Leonides Visitacion six years later and the family grew with three more siblings, two sisters and a baby brother.

Leonides "Leo" Visitacion was from Bangui, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. He was petitioned by an uncle, Pedro Soriano, a *Sakada* who came to Hawai'i in the 1930s. Leo came to Hawai'i in April 1946 on board the *S.S. Maunawili* at Port Salomague. They landed on Maui a few weeks later. Leo was orig-

inally scheduled to work for the Lahaina Pioneer Mill but he was able to exchange places with someone else. Instead, he was sent to Maui Pine Plantation in Hāli'imaile. At Maui Pine Plantation, for fifty cents per hour, Leo did such jobs as pick pineapple, gather pineapple tops and shoots for planting, cut grass, drive trucks and even did carpentry work, fixed homes that needed repairs when the pineapple was off-season.

At the Hāli'imaile Camp, the Filipino Clubhouse was the center of gatherings, with lots of parties, practically every weekend. The men were the cooks at parties and Leo was one of them. They cooked the best Filipino

food! Leo loved working in Hāli'imaile but when Maui Pine became unionized, Leo moved to the Kahului Development, a subsidiary of HC&S as a carpenter. He worked there for one year. From 1961-1976, he joined the Sakata Construction. During President Jimmy Carter's Administration, SCET (a training program) under the County of Maui came about. Leo took advantage of working under that program for three years. SCET stands for Super Cupboard Employment Training Program. It's a program with a focus on self-improvement.

Always looking for opportunities, Leo took the Civil Service Test and he passed it with flying colors. This

opened another door for him. Under the County of Maui, he got into the Building Maintenance Program. He worked there until his retirement in 1985 at age 63.

After two years of enjoying retirement, Leo decided to do something else, to give him some physical activity for health reasons. So Leo took a part-time job as parks caretaker for only fifteen hours a week and worked only on weekends. This worked really well with Leo because he still had time to enjoy his grandchildren on weekdays. Leo and Ida Visitacion are a couple who truly show devotion and commitment to each other and to

see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page

Exercise To Help Improve Health Against A COVID-19 Infection

"People who do little to no physical activity are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 than those who are physically active." - CDC Review

Exercise recommendations:

- 3-5 year olds: physical activity throughout each day
- 6-17 year olds: 60 minutes of moderate exercise every day
- 18+ year olds: 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week

Additional benefits of exercise include:

- reducing risk from chronic diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure
- possible improvements in
 - sleep and immune quality
 - mental and cognitive health

Source: "Physical Activity and COVID-19." (2022, 20 May) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/physical-activity-and-COVID-19.html#print>

Some Low to Moderate Intensity Exercises to Try

Taichi or Yoga 	Seated exercises 	Walking with friends 	Gardening 	Water Aerobics
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UPCOMING COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

HAWAII ISLAND MINI CONFERENCE Ft. ESKRIMA WORKSHOPS Sun, May 7 and Sat, May 13, 2023 9:45 am - 4:00 pm In collaboration with Sariling Gawa Youth Council Waiakea High School Cafeteria 155 W Kawili St, Hilo, Hawaii Island	MOLOKAI/LANAI Stay tuned for upcoming events	O'AHU VACCINATION CLINIC Thu, Apr 20, 2023 • 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Filipino Community Center 94-428 Mokuola St, Waipahu, O'ahu
MAUI TEST KIT DISTRIBUTION Sat, Apr 22, 2023 • 7:00 am - 3:30 pm PNAA Western Region Conference Maui Beach Hotel 170 W Kaahumanu Ave, Kahului, Maui	KAUAI VACCINATION CLINIC Sat, May 13, 2023 • 4:00 - 8:00 pm Downtown Lihue Night Market Kress St, Lihue, Kauai	RADIOTHON #7 Sat, Apr 22, 2023 • 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Tune into KNDI Radio 1270 AM or Larry Ordonez's Facebook Page
	ZUMBA CLASSES Every Wednesday • 5:30 - 6:30 pm Kauai Philippine Cultural Center 4475-F Nuhou St, Lihue, Kauai	Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates!

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FILCOM CARES is funded by the Hawaii Public Health Institute and administered by The Filipino Community Center.

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their six loving and respectful children. Leo and Ida are devoted members of Christ The King Catholic Church. Ida served as a Eucharistic Minister. Now their children and grandchildren are devoted members of both Christ The King Church and St. Anthony Church. They are also serving in various ministries in both churches.

Lee shared his reflections of his Daddy Leo Visitacion: Dad died on November 25, 2015. We were grateful to have taken care of him. Daddy Leo was a man of action and few words. He could always be counted on, working hard, serving others without wanting to draw attention to himself. Qualities that I admire in him and hope to emulate: humility, reliability, loyalty, loving, supportive, simple, gentle, encouraging, generous with his talents, time in serving in the Filipino community and the community at large. He led by examples, loved and cherished his family (here and back in the Philippines).

Dad was very resourceful and was the quintessential handy man. As a journeyman carpenter, many of the projects he worked on are still standing to this day. In particular is our cottage he built for me when I got married and started my own family. It amazed me how organized he was with all his construction tools and supplies. One of my earliest memories of helping him is pounding recycled nails to straighten them out to be used again. I was fortunate to be the recipient of his personal tools.



Bernard, Lee and Wilburt (extreme right) Barbero dancing with the Maui Saniatas.

I became interested in the carpentry field because of learning from Daddy Leo. My first summer job was helping him as a carpenter's helper.

Dad volunteered many hours getting ready for the Barrio Fiesta when it was held at the War Memorial field helping to construct the stage and other booths. Dad was an awesome cook, and to this day, my brother Dan feels closest to Dad when he is cooking Dad's favorite dishes. I am happy to have learned how to cook pansit from him (the way he learned from helping make pansit for Christ The King Filipino Catholic Club for many years).

Dad worked hard to bring his sister, Mercedes Visitacion Jamias and her family to Hawai'i. It was special for him to have his family here on Maui too and gave us the chance to grow closer to them as well.

He was a loving grandfather to his grandchildren whom he helped take

care of after retiring. I remember going to the beach at Camp One in Pā'ia to gather pokpoklo (green seaweed) early in the mornings. He was easy to approach when I needed to seek his counsel and advice. He was not judgmental and loved unconditionally.

Dad loved to eat seafood and fish, so it was easy to give him birthday or Father's Day gifts because we would give him his own platter of sashimi!

In my adulthood, I came to appreciate the way Daddy Leo honored my Daddy Bernardo by raising us. He never tried to take the place of my Daddy Bernardo but became the Daddy we needed.

I have a special affinity to St. Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters

and also the foster father of Jesus. I think many of those characteristics and values of St. Joseph were lived out in by Daddy Leo Visitacion.

Thank you, Daddy Leo, for honoring Daddy Bernardo by loving me and my brothers and raising us as your own sons. Thank you for raising us to be such a strong family of faith. ✨

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.



Ti Biag ken Pammati | from p. 14



Palm Sunday services.

stantino retired as a Deacon for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai'i, after serving thirty-five years and becoming on June 18, 1987, the first Deacon of Filipino ancestry for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawai'i. For twenty-two years, he served as Administrator at Holy Rosary Church in Pā'ia, St. Rita Church in Ha'ikū and St. Gabriel Church in Ke'anae. His last assignment before retiring was at St. Joseph Church in Makawao.

Prior to his ordination, Constantino was in government—first appointed in 1966 as Assistant Sergeant of

Arms by the Speaker of the House Elmer F. Cravalho. When Cravalho became Maui's first Mayor, Constantino became his Executive Assistant—the first of Filipino ancestry. Later, Constantino became the first County Treasurer of Filipino ancestry and the first County Grants Administrator and Risk Manager of Filipino ancestry. Constantino is married to his lovely wife Corazon for sixty-one years.



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Strawberry Shortcake

A story of resiliency and kindness

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

I first saw her on Instagram. I was scrolling through my feed when this photo of a cute chihuahua on “home made DIY wheels” stopped me in my tracks. I ended following the page her foster parent created for her. Her name is Strawberry Shortcake and her Instagram handle is @strawberrywheelz.

What is it that attracted me to this special needs chihuahua named Strawberry? I believe it’s because Strawberry’s story is a story of resiliency and kindness.

Resiliency

What is resiliency? Resiliency is the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties; it is a character trait we all need right now, with everything happening all around us. When we read (listen or watch) the news, we mostly hear negative stories. Stories of war, shooting, job loss, calamities and so on. Life can be difficult. Resiliency gives us the ability to withstand adversity and bounce back and grow despite life’s downturns.

“Strawberry Shortcake is a special needs chihuahua with a spinal injury resulting from a bb gunshot wound. (People can be unbelievably cruel sometimes.) She is fecal incontinent and requires manual bladder expressions regularly. I adopted her in the early months of the pandemic shortly after an amazing team of staff and fosters at Maui Humane Society took her in and got her on the mend. She was gifted her wheelchair by donors while in foster care, and on adoption day I proudly welcomed four paws and two wheels into my life. She and I have formed a beautiful bond. Strawberry requires adequate space and extra special attention as she is not able to relieve herself without assistance. My chosen field allows me to provide full-time loving care for her, something that is as much of a necessity as it is a luxury,” shared by Frank Aranda, Strawberry’s adoptive human father, on their Go Fund Me Page. The link can be found on Strawberry’s Instagram.

When you see Strawberry today, she is a happy chihuahua bringing joy to people lucky enough to interact with her, in person or even just online.

Kindness

We do not need to define kindness, do we? We all know what kindness looks like when we see it. It is that quality of being friendly, generous and considerate. It is a virtue much needed these days as well.

Maui Humane Society took Strawberry in and got her on the mend. That’s kindness. While at MHS, a sweet lady offered to foster

Strawberry and she took care of her until she was adopted. That’s kindness. A guy named Frank Aranda, officially adopted Strawberry knowing she is a special needs pet, which comes with extra expenses and needs of extra time and attention. That’s kindness.

Recently one of our pets had an accident and broke a bone in his front leg. I was anxious and overwhelmed. I needed help in taking care of him while I work from home. I reached out to Frank because his current work right now involves taking care of puppies (slumberpuppies.com). The kind of services he offers is not exactly what I needed and the schedule when I need the services has a conflict as well. He didn’t stop, however, by saying “Sorry, I can’t help you.” He actually went above and beyond and contacted a colleague of his who was able to help me. All this to say it is Frank’s kindness which inspired me to share Strawberry’s story here at Kwento-Kwentuhan. I am grateful for the kindness she is extending to Strawberry right now and for the kindness she extended to me.

Go ahead and check out and follow Strawberry Shortcake’s Instagram Page and Frank’s Slumberpuppies.com. There are many more details and stories there. By the way, although the website name is SlumberPuppies, it does include animals of all ages including puppies. It’s about overnight companionship services for your pets, and also daytime services such as transport/pet taxi for people who might need pick-ups and drop offs for certain animal appointments etc. Let Strawberry and Frank inspire you to be resilient and kind as they inspired me. 🌟

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.



PHOTOS COURTESY FRANK ARANDA



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