



Ag has been her life's blood
Copy

See below



Lāna'i living local
Editor Vince Bagoyo, Jr. voices concerns about Lāna'i residents' quality of life.

See p4



Legislating for people of Hawai'i
Sen. Keith-Agaran gives a look at getting the job done.

See p5



Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

May 2023 • Vol 7 No 5 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY |

inside



Jasmine Vilorio hitting the higher education.
p6



Maui Filipino nurses host convention, have a blast.
p10



ConGen promotes Hawaii-Philippines relations.
p19



It's Barrio Fiesta Time

The longest running Fiesta in the United States is held on Maui.

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

For the 54th consecutive year, Maui will host the Annual Barrio Fiesta—and yes, it's the longest running Fiesta in the entire United States. Even during the pandemic years, Maui's Barrio Fiesta was held virtually!

Fiesta time in the Philippines is always a time of fellowship (many who have moved away from the barrio and live in Manila and elsewhere return to their hometown for the annual town fiesta), food and culture. Here on Maui, the 54th Annual Barrio Fiesta will be held live

see BARRIO FIESTA next page



Past Miss Barrio Fiesta Queens participate in the Santa Cruzan ceremony in honor of the blessed mother of God, Mary.

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

Rogerene "Kali" Arce

Leading the only County Department of Agriculture

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

"Agriculture is the basis for food, feed and clothing," says Rogerene "Kali" Arce, the first Director of Maui County's Department of Agriculture. "Agriculture food production allows community access to locally grown foods to the community. Agriculture also provides many jobs not only at the farm but through aggregation facilities, food hubs, manufacturing centers, restaurants, grocery stores, value added production, slaughterhouses, feed companies, cooperatives, plant genetics and nurseries," explains Arce.

Two and a half years ago, the voters of Maui County adopted a charter amendment creating a Department of Agriculture. It was a historical mo-



Rogerene "Kali" Arce
PHOTO COURTESY ROGERENE ARCE

ment as no other County in the State of Hawai'i has its own Department of Agriculture; the State Department of Agriculture is often viewed as

see KALI p.3



Arce with Mayor Bissen
PHOTO COURTESY ROGERENE ARCE

FREE



ABOVE: Barrio Fiesta kicks off iwth a ribbon-cutting ceremony
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



LEFT: Miss Barrio Fiesta shown here with former Mayor Victorino, Joycelyn and and her entourage.
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



LEFT: Kā'anapali Beach Hotel does "Bulaklakan" at the Barrio Fiesta.
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

BELOW: Ralph Algin Maguddayao salutes during the Veteran's Memorial which is Sat. at Noon.
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

Barrio Fiesta ...

from p. 1

on Saturday, May 26 (5 p.m. to 10 p.m.) and Saturday, May 27 (10 a.m. to 10 p.m.) at the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center, 780 Onehe'e Avenue in Kahului, across Maui Waena Intermediate School.

The Barrio Fiesta was initiated by the Maui Filipino Community Council and first held on May 31, 1970 at the War Memorial grounds near the swimming pool. At that time, there was an influx of recent immigrants from the Philippines which caused many problems, especially in the schools. The initial purpose of the Barrio Fiesta was

to share the Filipino culture with the rest of Maui County and to also instill a sense of pride in local Filipinos of the rich culture of their motherland. Today, the need to share the Filipino culture with all of Maui's residents remains true as Maui's Filipino community continues to grow by leaps and bounds.

"We are pleased to again present the annual Barrio Fiesta," says Melen Agcolicol, president of Binhi at Ani. "We continue to refocus on sharing our rich Filipino culture—whether it's through food, entertainment, exhibits, and contests. It's really a continued perpetuation of our culture so our youth will not forget their roots and the rest of Maui can appreciate our

Filipino culture as well."

Food, culture, pageantry, contests, and special events will be featured during the 54th Annual Barrio Fiesta.

Of course, traditional Filipino food will be offered such as *balut*, banana *lumpia*, *bangus*, *cascaron*, *chicharon*, *dinuguan*, *empanada*, *longanisa*, *pan-sit*, *pinakbet*, pork *adobo*, pork and peas, and pork *lumpia*. And a few local favorites such as bbq beef, chow fun and shoyu chicken. Plus Filipino vegetables and fruit!

Food and business vendors include Binhi at Ani, Bayer Crop Science Hawai'i; Christ the King Youth Ministry, Da808spin, FILCOM Cares; KPMW, Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club, Maui Aids Foundation; Maui Filipino Community Council; Maui Health, Millennium Express; Philippine Nurses Association Maui, Hawai'i; Ria Money Services; Grace Sales, Realtor; Sto. Niño Organization of Maui; and U.S. Renal Care.

A special booth will feature the Philippine Consulate General of Hawai'i who will provide information as to the various services provided.

Philippine cultural entertainment will be provided by Bailes de Pilipinas (Friday at 8 p.m.), Dance International Production (Friday at 7:30 p.m.), Sto. Niño Organization of Maui (Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), Students of Aggie Cabebe (Saturday at 7:30 p.m.), Kā'anapali Beach Hotel (Saturday at 8:30 p.m.), La Galería: Compañía Baile Filipino (Saturday at 9 p.m.) Wailea Marriott (Saturday at 8:30 p.m.).

Each night, Zumba will close the program. Eva Marie Arconado-Mirzai will lead the Zumba on Friday night at 9:30 p.m. while Ginalyn Dela Cruz will lead the Zumba on Saturday night at 9:30 p.m.

And at 10 p.m. each night, there will be a drawing (no entry fee required, one entry per person, must be 18 years or older, entry must match government issued ID) for a \$500 Travel Certificate. Sponsoring the Friday night drawing is Asian Mart & Fast Food while Grace Sales, Realtor is sponsoring the Saturday night drawing.

Friday night will be hosted by Rowena Dagdag-Andaya while Jeremy Zane will host the Barrio Fiesta on Saturday evening.

Inside the Center, there will be a replica of a Bahay Kubo created by the Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation. Projected on stage will be photos of past

Barrio Fiestas. Cultural villages depicting several provinces/regions of the Philippines will also be featured: Cebu created by Sto. Niño Organization of Maui; Cordillera created by Sabado Art Foundation; Ilocos Norte created by Julie Agcolicol Cruz; Metro Manila created by Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawai'i; Mindanao created by La Galería: Compañía Baile Filipino; and Pangasinan created by Miguel Agcolicol. The best cultural village will receive a \$500 prize. Cultural villages will be graded on culture, originality, presentation and interactivity.

Vying for the title of Miss Barrio Fiesta are Kiara Ganoy and Naeomi Paa. Ganoy is the daughter of Loren and Diana Ganoy. Ganoy is a seventh grader at Lahaina Intermediate. Paa is the daughter of Richard and Jeanice Paa. Paa is a sophomore at Maui High School. The 2023 Miss Barrio Fiesta will be crowned on Friday evening at 7 p.m.

Former Miss Barrio Fiestas and Little Miss Barrio Fiestas will participate in The Santa Cruzan depicting the finding of the Holy Cross by Queen Helena. As of press time, those expected to participate are Shirley Evangelista, Miss Barrio Fiesta 1970; Tina Castro, Miss Barrio Fiesta 1976; Nora Cabanilla, Miss Barrio Fiesta 1977; Myrna Baggao, Miss Barrio Fiesta 1978; Ernalín Corpuz, Miss Barrio Fiesta 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; Jillian Ped, Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2012; Mia Suh, Tiny Miss Barrio Fiesta 2012; Selena Rodrigues, Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2014; Sheena Garo, Miss Barrio Fiesta 2015; Christal Bismonte, Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2015; Elizabeth Thomas, Little Miss Barrio Fiesta, 2017; Sierra-Naomi Cachola Perryman, Miss Barrio Fiesta 2018; Zoe Zane, Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2018; Raine Lopez, Little Miss Barrio Fiesta 2019; and Audryanah Starmer, Miss Barrio Fiesta 2022. Playing the role of King Constantine will be Treysen Manuel.

The 2023 Miss Maui Filipina contestants will be introduced on Saturday at 6 pm. Lennel Alvarez, Miss Maui Filipina 2022 will lead the four contestants: Kasey Cababat, Sandra Desierto, Johanne Paige Cruz Guevar-

see BARRIO FIESTA p.4



"Hello, I wanted to write a huge thank you to Nurse Rich!!!! We were on vacation in Maui and I was in horrible pain as I was admitted to the ER. He was so kind, compassionate, made my husband and I smile even though we were scared and didn't know what was wrong with me. His level of care he gave us was incredible and his colleague, Dr. Friedman was also fabulous along with the radiology person who explained everything to me.... everyone was so caring and thoughtful. The level of communication, walking me through the decisions, and giving me specific instructions on how to care for myself was truly amazing. All while keeping me calm with talking about travel, kids, etc to keep my mind off of the pain. I just had to say thank you! Rich and his team were amazing and I cannot thank him enough for his amazing bedside manner! Please make sure this thank you gets to him and his team (and supervisors). With sincere gratitude." - J.B. 4/3/23

Maui Health is committed to providing exceptional care for every person, every time. Our team of caregivers continue to receive national recognition for their dedication to quality and safety. In honor of National Nurses and Hospital Week this month, leave a thank you note for our caregivers at:

mauihealth.org/mahalo

Maui Memorial Medical Center
Maui Memorial Outpatient Clinic
Maui Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy
Kula Hospital and Clinic
Lānaʻi Community Hospital

#WEAREMAUIHEALTH | mauihealth.org





Arce with grandparents from right to left: Paternal grandfather Pio Montero, his second wife step-grandmother Purification Dalit Montero, his first wife and Kali's biological grandmother Alejandra (Caballes) Della along with Kali's maternal grandparents Henry H. Peters Sr. and Bernice (Yim) Peters

PHOTO COURTESY ROGERENE ARCE



Arce as Agriculture Coordinator in Hilo 1992

PHOTO COURTESY ROGERENE ARCE

Kali ...

from p. 1

emphasizing regulations rather than assisting farmers.

The Charter amendment was a simple yet far reaching question: "Shall the Charter be amended, effective July 1, 2022, to establish a Department of Agriculture to develop a sustainable regional agricultural system for Maui County?"

In remarks after the 2020 historical vote, East Maui Councilmember Shane Sinenci explained: "I introduced the charter amendment in response to farmers requesting more assistance, both financially and technically, and residents' concerns about our islands' economic resiliency and food security."

Until 2016, Maui clung to its historic agricultural-based economy, with the largest remaining sugar plantation in Hawai'i, H.C.&S. in Pu'unēnē, employing hundreds of Maui residents. In December 2016, however, the last tounahauler brought in the final harvest of sugar cane and Maui ceased to be King of Sugar. Tourism became the undisputed economic driver on Maui as well as the rest of the State. The H.C.&S. lands remained fallow until December 2018 when Mahi Pono announced it purchased about 41,000 acres of H.C.&S. agricultural land owned by Alexander & Baldwin.

To start the complicated process of creating a new Department of Agriculture, an agriculture advisory group

was created in 2021. Members included Brendan Balthazar, David and Carol Brown, Kyle Caires, Ryan Duffy, Kimmo Falconer, Geoff Haines, Vince Mina, Annette Niles, Buddy Nobriga, Nelson Okamura, Robert "Bobby" Pahia, Joshua "Shyloh" Stafford-Jones, James Tavares, Shan Tsutsui, Grant Nakama, and Warren Watanabe. It was a cross section of the local agricultural community representing the Maui County Farm Bureau, Mahi Pono, cattle owners, coffee growers, flower growers, hemp growers, organic and conventional planters, landscape professionals, ranchers and retail, among others. The advisory group began the arduous task of listening to the community and recommending guidelines for the creation of the Department.

William Jacintho, Mina, Pahia, Kilia Purdy-Avelino and Watanabe became members of a Selection Committee, charged with reviewing applicants for the position of Department Director. In the end, out of eighteen applicants, the committee unanimously recommended Arce as Director and then-Mayor Michael Victorino appointed Arce. In September 2022, the Council confirmed Arce's selection as Director and Arce was sworn in on October 4. After Richard T. Bissen, Jr. defeated Victorino for the Mayorship, Bissen retained Arce as Director.

When Arce was announced as the Director-designate, most news outlets emphasized she was a Hawaiian homesteader. But Arce is proud of her Filipino ancestry. The daughter of Ro-

gelio Pio Montero and the late Junice Ah Kwai Peters traces her roots to Ilocos Sur and Cebu.

Arce's paternal grandfather, Pio Pader Montero, was born in Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur, and immigrated to Oahu in 1931 on the President Hoover. He worked as a finger lift operator and was married to Alejandra Caballes and later Purificacion Dalit. Arce says her paternal great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents' surnames are Montero whose spouses had surnames of Pader and Cabacungan, all from Narvacan, Ilocos Sur.

Arce's maternal grandmother, Ale-

jandra Caballes, was born in North Kohala on Hawai'i island and she lived in Kualapu'u, Molokai and worked on the pineapple plantation for about twenty-two years with her third husband, Jose S. Della. Arce's maternal great-grandfather Gervasio Caballes immigrated to Hawai'i in 1923 from Sibonga, Cebu and was married to Segunda Philomena Savilla, also from Cebu. The surnames of Arce's maternal great-great-grandparents are Caballes and Mirabueno of Cebu.


"My younger sister and I spent many summers with my grandparents

see KALI p.9



Arce as Biological Technician for Kalaupapa National Historical Park in the Natural Resources Management Department.

PHOTO COURTESY ROGERENE ARCE



Our Vision:

Health for All, Hunger for None

At Bayer, our vision is Health for All, Hunger for None. That's why we believe in positive community involvement, including support for local farming and sustainable agriculture in Hawaii.

We are proud to support the Maui County Farm Bureau and be a sponsor of their annual Maui AgFest & 4-H Livestock Fair.

Set for Saturday, June 3, 9am-4:30 pm at the War Memorial Complex in Wailuku, Maui AgFest is a terrific opportunity to learn about agriculture, see the Maui 4-H Livestock Show and Acution, enjoy local foods, shop and more.

Please stop by our Bayer booth to talk story. We'll also be giving away copies of our new Hawaii's Farm To Table Activity Book for keiki, while supplies last.

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Science for a **better life**



From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



Blue Ginger Cafe (from top left, clockwise), Sensei Lāna'i, oceanview, and rock signage entry to Dole Park.
PHOTO: VINCE BAGOYO

Island of Lāna'i ... Playground for the ultra-rich and famous.

It is an understatement to say the Island of Lāna'i is probably the best island in the entire State of Hawai'i, if not the world. It used to be known as The Pineapple Island and now is known as The Private Island. Approximately 98 percent of the island is owned by one of the richest men in the world—Larry Ellison—currently worth \$122 billion USD by some estimates. There are two luxury five-star resorts: Sensei Lāna'i and Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i, starting with nightly rates of \$1,905 and \$1,728, respectively. One of the three-bedroom penthouses costs \$21,000 a night, making it Hawai'i's most expensive suite.

These rates will put a dent in your pocketbook and will definitely set you back huge bucks, if you are planning to stay there. That is why the island is known as one of the most exclusive resorts in Hawai'i. For a quick example, I

find it amazing one of the key features of the resorts is the smart toilet, which automatically opens and lights up when you approach it, automatically flushes when you are done with your business and can also turn on music, sounds of waves, whales or rainforests as an added bonus to make your time and experience in the bathroom even more memorable! Really? Yes, really!

My wife and I recently spent a few days on Lāna'i, just to relax and to enjoy the quietness of the city and the beauty of God's amazing creation. This is a happy place for us and has been ever since we lived on the island for the ten years between 1993 and 2003.

During the visit I stopped by the Blue Ginger Cafe early one morning, to check on my old coffee group of friends and was so glad to see them sitting at the same table as when I left the is-

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 7



Philippine Attire contest.
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

Barrio Fiesta ... from p. 2

ra and Shyla-Tehara Moore.

The Veterans Memorial Service will be held on Saturday at 12 Noon, featuring the POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony. Coordinated by Ryan Sagayaga, the service's participants will include Mario Arruiza, Duane Molina, and Vince Bagoyo, Jr.

The Outstanding Housekeepers Awards—recognizing outstanding housekeepers of Filipino ancestry from several Maui hotels will be presented on Saturday at 8 p.m.

Several contests with large prizes are scheduled. (Flyers and more details on the contests can be found on Facebook: @BinhiatAniFilipinoCommunityCenter.)

AnyKine Sisig Challenge sponsored by Tante's Island Cuisine. Saturday at 3:30 p.m. A maximum of five contestants will have thirty minutes to cook a Sisig dish. Contestants will be judged on presentation/style; taste; uniqueness; and overall, with the winner receiving \$500. The deadline to pre-register is May 21.

The Barrio Fiesta Voice sponsored by Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company. Friday at 8:30 p.m. A maximum of ten contestants will compete to be the 2022 Barrio Fiesta Voice. Each contestant will have up to 3.5 minutes to perform and must use their own phone to play the music. Contestants will be graded on vocal quality, stage presence and audience response. The winner will receive

\$500.

The Barrio Wear Contest sponsored by Rusty and Hedy Udarbe. Saturday at 7 p.m. Contestants will be judged based on authenticity, design, accessories and presentation. The male winner will receive \$250; the female winner will also receive \$250.

Climb the Greased Pole Contest sponsored by K&R Auto Body & Painting LLC. Saturday at 1 p.m. Limited to ages 7 to 13. The winner



Bayer Crop Science participates annually.
PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

will receive \$500 while other participants will share in the community pot.

Do the Sungka! sponsored by Johnstone Supply of Maui. Saturday at 10:30 a.m. There will be several preliminary rounds based on time, i.e., the one with the most marbles/pebbles/stones at the end of the time limit will proceed to the next round. The final winner will receive \$500.

Eat Da Pansit Contest sponsored by Friends of Gil Keith-Agaran. Saturday at 3 p.m. The first four participants to eat one pint of pansit will participate in an eat-off, during which each participant will need to eat one plate of pansit. The first one

see BARRIO FIESTA p.8



Jia Garcia and Lawrence Pascua of La Galería: Compañía Baile Filipino dance "Timawa."

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



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DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

This Legislative Session’s Work

Our local government at work for us.

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

The Regular Session of the 32nd Legislature closed on Thursday, May 4, 2023 with votes on the State’s two-year budget, HB300 CD1. The main responsibility of the Legislature is to pass a balanced budget (unlike the federal government, Hawai’i cannot deficit spend). Usually, the House and Senate take final votes on the Tuesday following the end of conference, leaving the final floor day for bills requiring floor amendments and perhaps for more controversial measures that require further debate. This year, the budget was one of the bills pushed over to the final day.

The bills that survived the four-month gauntlet of the session reflect compromises, largely between the lead legislators on those issues. Similarly, HB300 CD1, the State Budget bill crafted by Maui Rep. Kyle Yamashita on behalf of the House (and Wahiawā’s Sen. Donovan DelaCruz for the State Senate), addresses many of the priorities identified when the session opened in January with a new Governor and a Legislature with 18 new members in the House and six new Senators: Housing, Cost-of-Living and Education.

Out-going Governor David Ige left with a proposed status quo budget, leaving much of the agency requests and adjustments for his successor Josh Green to submit as amendments through Governor’s messages (he would send five) during the course of the four months. The Legislature adopted a budget appropriating \$11.3 Billion in general tax revenues

for FY24 (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024) and \$10.4B in FY25 (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025). The bill also proposes \$2.9B for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) in FY24 and \$1.3B in FY25. Another \$40M was reserved for operating and CIP grant-in-aids.

While some House members raised concerns on the final budget—the increased amounts allocated to the Department of Education and University of Hawai’i were less than what the Governor requested in budget additions—HB300 CD1 provides healthy hikes in early childhood education spending. The budget includes \$7,000,000 for expanding the Hawai’i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn initiative, spearheaded by Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke. Hāna Elementary and Wailuku Elementary will be among the first schools to be renovated to provide additional public pre-school classrooms.

The Budget provides \$38,800,000 in FY25 for the expansion of Pre-school Open Doors Programs—allowing existing private operators to include 3-year-olds. The budget also allocates \$5,130,000 in FY25 for Charter School early learning programs, \$660,000 for the Early Childhood Educator Stipend program, and adds 36.00 permanent positions and \$3,949,425 in FY24 and 126.00 permanent positions and \$7,641,383 in FY25 for early learning classrooms.

The Legislature also set aside \$170,000,000 in FY24 for teacher housing (SB941 CD1). With concerns for mental health increasing, HB300



Ways and Means Committee Chair Senator Donovan DelaCruz (D-Wahiawā) and Vice-Chair Senator Gil Keith-Agaran (D-Central Maui) on the final day of the session. IMAGE COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

CD1 includes \$5,000,000 for FY24 and FY25 to offer mental health services for public school students.

Along with repair and maintenance projects for the various University of Hawai’i campuses, the budget also includes adding 3.00 permanent positions and \$98,500 in FY24 and \$200,250 in FY25 for UH Maui College’s health center. Maui students will also benefit from \$3,700,000 in FY24 which continues the Promise Program for Community Colleges

In response to the ongoing housing challenges faced throughout Hawai’i, the Legislature appropriated large infusions to the Rental Housing Trust Fund (\$100M in FY24 and \$180M in FY25) and the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund (\$50M) which assist with the development of affordable housing. Rep. Yamashita’s bill HB1363 CD1 will also provide the County of Maui a final chance to adopt a General Excise Tax (GET) surcharge for housing infrastructure (the other three counties already have GET surcharge ordinances—Honolulu for rail and Kaua’i and Hawai’i island for transportation). That measure also allows Kaua’i and Hawai’i to amend their GET surcharge to its use for housing infrastructure on their islands as well as transportation.

The Legislature largely agreed with the Governor’s homeless initiatives but decided to maintain ‘Ohana Zones for transitional housing proposals while also funding Kauhales (small homes) separately. The budget includes 8.00 permanent positions and \$1,000,000 in FY24 and \$920,000 in FY25 for the Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions, \$15,000,000 in FY24 for the ‘Ohana Zones Pilot Program, and \$15,000,000 in FY24 and \$33,000,000 in FY25 for Kauhale Projects across the State.

The Legislature also continued to address the cost-of-living for working families. HB 954 CD1 provides Hawai’i working families tax credits for child and household care, doubling of the earned income tax credit, and increases the refundable food/GET tax credit. My bill SB1437 CD1 (a companion to Rep. Yamashita’s measure) will allow locally

owned business full deductions of state and local taxes (SALT) on their federal income taxes by allowing them the option to pay at the entity level.

With all politics being local, the delegation also worked on issues of interest in Maui County. The State Budget includes \$39.7M for Maui Health Systems for capital improvement projects over the two years and a \$22M operating subsidy. Maui Rep. Troy Hashimoto’s HB353 CD1 expands the bridge program at UH Maui College for training and educating certified nurses aides as licensed practical nurses—something that will help long-term care facilities like Hale Makua with staffing shortages that have limited its ability to take in more patients (and to accept patient transfers from Maui Memorial Medical Center).

In what many health care providers, including the local hospitals, believe is a game changer, the Legislature passed SB674 CD1 to adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact which will streamline the recruitment of medical providers with out-of-state licenses. The Governor earlier in the session signed a shield law to protect reproductive rights of Hawai’i medical providers and patients (Act 2 2023—SB1 SD2). While a bill to exempt services to Medicaid patients did not make it, the State Budget allocates \$30M in FY24 and FY25 towards increased reimbursements for medical service providers for Medicaid patients.

My bill SB1064 SD1 creates a grant program in the Department of Land and Natural Resources to assist landowners with dam improvements or removal—for example, the homeowners association at Waikapu Gardens that now own a plantation era reservoir along Waiale Drive. The Legislature also included \$6.1M for the Maui Axis deer program in both FY24 and FY25. At the request of Maui Emergency Management Agency Director Herman Andaya, I introduced SB1163 CD1 which restores funding for the Civil Air Patrol units throughout the State.

Another of my proposals, SB1076 CD1, will require the Office of Elec-

see D&P p. 7



Sen. DelaCruz and Sen. Keith-Agaran before the conference committee voted in favor of the State Budget conference draft, HB300 CD1. IMAGE COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN



Elizabeth Bautista



Jovan Butac



Taliah Jahnay Cabatu



Aliyah Casayuran

Wednesday, May 17: Maui High's seniors' last day. For seniors, their last school day, last high school class, and the end of their secondary schooling are now visible on "this month's calendar." While classes come to a halt, seniors still have one assignment left: deciding their future path. Now, seniors must choose how to fulfill their mission, purpose, and passions. Given this big decision, what factors have paved their future path?

"I have been playing soccer since I was four; the balance between competition and teamwork made me fall in love with the sport," cherished **Elizabeth Bautista**. Her passion for soccer did not stop short; by continuously advancing her soccer techniques, she has "achieved a D1 soccer position at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. This has passed younger me's expectations and formed a strong foundation for my future." Like Elizabeth's youth, **Jovan Butac's** childhood hobbies

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Is Not Everything ...

Facing Our Future

Jazmyne Faith Viloría | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2023

formed the building blocks of his future. "As a child, I would find random knick knacks around the house and construct contraptions, motivated by the question 'How can I improve this?' Since childhood, I began chasing the answers to my questions and curiosity." Fueled by innovation, Jovan decided to attend Grand Canyon University and major in general engineering. For Elizabeth and Jovan, the sports,

hobbies and passions that started in their youth have influenced today's reality.

For others, their goals of strengthening communities and encouraging communal unity have influenced their future path. **Taliah Jahnay Cabatu** is attending Chapman University in the fall to major in environmental sciences and policy; with this degree, she hopes to "pursue a career that would help me give back to the 'āina that raised me. Growing up, I became more appreciative of the mindset, values and cultures perpetuated through Maui. Obtaining my bachelor's degree is a stepping stone to serving my community." **Aliyah Casayuran** shares a similar mindset and motive, "I have dedicated my high school career to exploring the healthcare industry through health organizations and volunteering events. I plan to continue my passions in the medical field by attending Pacific University Oregon and majoring in kinesiology. Obtaining this degree will be a step towards my goal of helping people mentally and physically."

As for me, every time I walk onto campus the college counselor's huge "___ days til graduation" serves as a reminder the foundation my younger self has established for future me to flourish. Graduating itself is not daunting to me, however, the inevitable outcome of leaving Maui, my comfort zone and free education takes me a minute to process. These last few years of high school have played a crucial step in accessing my values, career, and future. I have recognized my priorities reside in community connectivity, creativity, and innovation and specifically using my skill set to strengthen my community and others. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa also prioritizes these same values. I have committed to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa under the Shidler College of

Business's program to double major in creative media and marketing and become the first in my family to obtain a bachelor's degree.

As fellow seniors advance to their next era in life, most have begun to reminisce and appreciate the experiences, friendships, and memories created throughout high school. "I feel sad, nervous, and excited all at the same time. It's crazy how fast my high school journey is ending. Every senior is not joking when they say 'time flies,'" exclaims Taliah. Similar to Taliah, Elizabeth feels like her "feelings are on a seesaw, one part of me is excited to explore a new chapter but the other part is sorrowful for the people who won't be beside me." Forming connections among peers, mentors, and teachers has created an aspect to miss, "I'll miss my friends, teachers, and family the most. From talking stories during lunch, experiencing new moments together and everything in between, I'll miss the spontaneous connection formed throughout high school," admits Jovan.

As graduation day approaches, seniors' future plans will soon turn into the present. "I can't wait to see what the future has to offer for the class of 2023," rejoices Aliyah. The tools, resources, and lessons learned through school, family, and friends have prepared them for what is yet to come.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2023; your academic efforts and accomplishments will be recognized through loud stadium "cheehos," lei towers and the support of family and friends. ✨

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 Viloría**, a member of the Class of 2023 at

Maui High School who is on her way to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. During high school, Jazmyne was 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 was in the ACOM Pathway at

Maui High, focusing on videography and photography. In her free time, she sews and refashions old clothes, journals, edits photos/videos and loves to analyze lyrics in songs. Ruth Sagisi and Rudy Viloría are her proud parents.

The Fil-Am Voice congratulates Jazmyne and the Class of 2023!



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D&P ...

from p. 5

tion to provide a digital voter guide for the next election. It was one of the bills reforming election and ethics laws that passed this session.

With the session concluded, Governor Green will have until June 26, 2023 to review and then provide notice of possible vetoes and must deliver his vetoes by July 11, 2023. The

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

land over twenty years ago. Surprisingly, they have not aged a bit except for more white hairs and being a little introspective over what has happened there since the new owner took over, and who now directs the process of transformation from plantation/pineapple to private island, exclusively for the ultra-rich and famous.

As usual, I was greeted with smiles, hugs and lots of high fives. Their warm hospitality and genuine care for the island lifestyle is what makes the island unique and special. This is why we love going back to a community that makes us feel like we are part of the family. It is interesting to listen to and learn about their personal perspectives on the ongoing changes resulting from new ownership. Most feel the island they call their home is losing its sense of place, their children and grandchildren cannot afford to buy a home, ultimately forcing many young families to leave the island. With the new owner building rental units for its workers and island residents, instead of the preferred fee simple, affordable homes that would help them to build equity as homeowners, which would also further provide stability and the opportunity for them to move into the middle class and for their families to not be forever subservient to the landlord. The younger residents were reluctant to speak to me, to share their *mana'o*, for fear of losing their jobs at the resorts, which would then result in their losing their rental units owned by the owner. But for many, the message is mixed—some welcome the changes which bring jobs with decent pay to the island residents and a lot more choices at the grocery stores. Also, they mentioned better recreational facilities like the company-owned swimming pool and movie theater, the “Old Man Bench” at Dole Park, and the newly renovated commercial complexes around the park, which are well-maintained and beautifully landscaped to welcome visitors to the island. For many young families, however, there is a consistent message shared: 1) lack of affordable homes to purchase because the new owner is only developing rental units. Sadly, the company owns and controls most of the

House and Senate would need to reconvene on July 11, 2023 to consider any veto overrides.

Finally, Maui County will benefit from CIP and grant-in-aid awards important for our schools, public operations and non-profits:

Central Maui Public Works Projects:

- \$9M Kahului Civic Center mixed used development (adjacent to the County bus hub)

rental units on the island. For local families, the opportunity to own a home is nil, if not impossible, because it is controlled mostly by the landlord. 2) The island is losing its identity due to the influx of rich visitors and new residents. 3) In the past, Lānaʻi City was a place where “everybody knows your name” but this is no longer the case. Perhaps the most widely broadcast event beginning the trend to attract the ultra-rich and famous to the Lānaʻi was the wedding of Bill and Melinda Gates in 1994. Since then, other well-known celebrities include Jessica Alba, Will Smith, Cindy Crawford and Derek Jeter, to name just a few. The Manele Golf Course was designed by Jack Nicklaus, and Tesla’s owner, Elon Musk is a close friend of the new owner. Nobu Lānaʻi Restaurant serves sushi, sashimi and teppanyaki prepared in the kitchen of renown Chef Nobu Matsuhisa, usually with ingredients from the resorts’ own gardens.

The new owner’s ambition is to build an economically viable 100 percent green community. After buying 88,000 acres, or 140 square miles, of the island in 2012, he moved to Lānaʻi in 2020, turning it into a wellness utopia through his company, Sensei, which is working on three key issues: 1) global food supply; 2) nutrition and 3) sustainability. The goal is to use data to help people be healthier and live longer. From my personal observation and most recent experience on the island, the beauty of Lānaʻi is not the luxurious and well-landscaped resorts. No, not at all! Instead, it is the long-time residents’ warm hospitality and sense of *‘ohana* and simplicity, who absolutely love their island living that make this island special and worthy of our care and protection.

Let us find a way to preserve what is best about the Island of Lānaʻi, to ensure the youth of the island that in their future, should they want to, and if they choose to, they too will be able to call this precious island their home. 🌺

Vince Bagoyo, Jr. | Editor

- \$1M Wailuku Civic Center planning
- 37.7M Kahului Airport improvements, including a new TSA check point
- \$2.5M for PFAS spill soil remediation at Kahului Airport Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training Pit
- \$217K Naniloa Drive Bridge rehabilitation
- \$5M Puʻunēnē Avenue widening from Kamehameha Avenue to Kuihelani Highway
- \$25M for Baldwin High School athletic facilities
- \$150K for ʻĪao Intermediate for expansion of its campus
- \$650K for Lihikai Elementary for communication and electrical upgrades
- \$2.5M for Maui High School track and field improvements
- \$650K for Pōmaikaʻi Elementary for playfield improvements
- \$300K for Puʻu Kukui Elementary plans and designs for expanded portion of its campus
- \$10M for new Central Maui Intermediate and Elementary School (Waikapū) for plans and design
- \$35M for Kahului Harbor improvements
- \$701K for Kanahā Pond Wildlife Sanctuary fencing replacement
- \$300K for Hoapili Hale (Court House) improvements
- \$23.5M for new Waikapū Wastewater Treatment Facility

Other Public Works Projects for Maui County:

- \$1.25M Flood Prevention & Mitigation at Kūlanihākoʻi and Waipuʻilani Gulch
- \$400K for Kula Forest Trail Repair
- \$700K for West Maui tree snail fencing
- \$10M for Upcountry Agricultural Park
- \$2M Molokai Irrigation improvements
- \$8.51M Molokai complex schools

- \$7.5M Lānaʻi high and elementary school
 - \$875M Kamehameha III
 - \$7M Kula (Kēōkea campus) Elementary
 - \$3.2M Mala Wharf
 - \$4M Lahaina Harbor Pier
 - 1.02M Lokelani Intermediate School
 - \$1.3M Hāna High & Elementary
- Grant-In-Aids for Maui Non-Profits:**
- \$150K Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum
 - \$250K Aloha House, Inc.
 - \$345K Arc of Maui County
 - \$300K Boys and Girls Club of Maui
 - \$300K Hale Kipa
 - \$140K Hale Makua
 - \$500K Hāna Health
 - \$450K Imua Family Services
 - \$700K J Walter Cameron Center
 - \$50K Kimokeo Foundation
 - \$20K Lānaʻi Academy of Performing Arts
 - \$400K Maui Academy of Performing Arts
 - \$600K Maui Arts and Cultural Center
 - \$400K Maui Economic Development Board
 - \$150K Maui Humane Society
 - \$200K Maui Family YMCA
 - \$75K Pacific Cancer Foundation
 - \$500K Waiohuli Homesteaders Association

Later this summer, the Senate will convene in Special Session to consider the Governor’s nominees for two vacancies on the Hawaiʻi Supreme Court. And in January 2024, the Legislature will convene for the second session of the 32nd Legislature. 🌺

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran represents Central Maui in the State Senate. He serves as Vice Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.



Sen. Keith-Agaran and staff: L-R Back: Robert Nishimoto, Susan Wong, Jasmine Paredes and James Nelson. Front: Danielle Evangelista and Moya Davenport-Gray. IMAGE COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN



Keiki Art Party hosted by Sabado Art Foundation is sponsored by Friends of Yuki Lei Sugimura.
 PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



RIGHT: Elizabeth Thomas, one of the previous Miss Barrio Fiestas, sings a Filipino melody.
 PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



LEFT: AnyKine Sisig Challenge sponsored by Tante's Island Cuisine

BELOW: Last years housekeeping awards winners.
 PHOTOS: BASILIA EVANGELISTA



Barrio Fiesta ...

from p. 4

to eat all the pansit wins \$500. The pansit will be donated by Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club.

Sabado Art Foundation Keiki Art Party sponsored by Friends of Yuki Lei Sugimura. Saturday at 2 p.m. Limited to ages 7 to 13. The theme will be announced at the onset of the art party. The winner will receive \$500.

There will also be a Pabitin sponsored by Friends of Justin Woodson. There will be four pulls of the Pabitin from which will be hanging an assortment of prizes: Friday at 6 p.m., Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 10:30 a.m., and Saturday at 3 p.m.

And a lechon demonstration (Saturday at 4:30 p.m.) is being arranged!

"We're very excited to again present the Annual Barrio Fiesta—the longest running fiesta in the United States. We could not have continued this unmatched tradition without the support of our sponsors, advertisers, donors, vendors, entertainers, volunteers and the Miss Barrio Fiesta contestants. There is definitely something for everyone at the Barrio Fiesta—food, culture, and entertainment. It's a terrific way to continue to share our culture with all of Maui and to be with old and new friends."

Major sponsors include Bayer Crop Science Hawai'i, Maui Health, U.S. Renal Care and McDonalds of Kahului, Media partners include The Fil-Am Voice and KPMW.

#barriofiestamaui

Alfredo G. Evangelista is a



Pabitin was hosted by Kai Kahele.
 PHOTO XXX

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 sweet-

heart, the former Basilia Tumacder Idica.

Evangelista is Co-Chairperson of the Barrio Fiesta committee and attended the first Barrio Fiesta in 1970.



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Kali ...

from p. 3

Jose and Alejandra Della on Molokai from infancy until elementary age,” remembers Arce. “I recall going with grandma to clean the Catholic church and help her in the garden. When the summer was over, I returned to O’ahu to my maternal grandparents, Henry H. Peters, Sr. and Bernice Yim, who also helped raise me.” Arce notes her sister, Jersula Manaba, who for over twenty-five years has managed Molokai’s Home Pumehana Hale Ma-haolu, is a past Mrs. Filipino Valentine, sponsored by the Molokai Filipino Community Council.

It is easy to understand why Arce was unanimously recommended, appointed, confirmed, retained and re-confirmed by two Mayors and two different County Councils. After graduating from Kamehameha School at the Kapālama campus, Arce received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Hawai’i Hilo College of Agriculture. Arce received a Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture from Washington State, leading to her receiving a Master of Science in Agriculture from Washington State University College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences.

Arce’s work experience includes Kalaupapa National Historical Park, Hawai’i County Economic Opportunity Council, Monsanto, Molokai Land Trust and the University of Hawai’i



Arce in her mandatory uniform for Kalaupapa National Historical Park
PHOTO COURTESY ROGERENE ARCE

Maui College, where she was a part-time lecturer for nineteen years. “I used to hike to work three miles down on Sunday and up on Thursday on the Kalaupapa trail,” she says of her time with the Kalaupapa National Historical Park in the Natural Resources Management Department, where she also served a few months as the Acting Chief of the Department. At Monsanto, Arce “supervised crews in the planting and all the other manufacturing processes (harvesting, shelling, husking) and operated equipment (forklift, husked machine, shelling machine, moisture meter and shake out machine).” Arce later became supervisor in the “Insect Pest Management Department which required me to walk



Arce as a Seed Technician at Monsanto
PHOTO COURTESY ROGERENE ARCE

through corn and soybean fields to scout for insects, weeds and disease pests then, assign appropriate pesticides. I was also responsible for record keeping and attending any in-house audits and those conducted by the Hawai’i Department of Agriculture.” In 2015, Arce was tasked to develop the newly established Conservation Department. “I got the Molokai Monsanto farm to be the first third party conservation certified farm in Hawai’i with Wildlife Habitat Council, a third-party agency specializing with corporate businesses,” observes Arce. “I also got them recertified at the gold level. One of the projects I designed was a one-acre native plant pollinator habitat. With my five-man crew, we plant-

ed, installed walkways and signage which groups from all over the island, state, continental U.S. and international countries visited and learned from me about the conservation work being done to increase diversity on the farm and improve the ecosystem.” Another project which brought honors to Arce was one in which she and her crew planted eleven miles of native Hawaiian trees and shrubs as an agroforestry windbreak system to protect over two thousand acres of crops. “For these two projects, I won the company the Wildlife Habitat Council’s Forest Award for superior management and installation of forest in 2017,” beams Arce.

Arce has also owned several businesses such as Potted Beauties, Nativescapes, and TropiKali LLC.

The official Mission of the Department of Agriculture is stated as “The County of Maui’s Department of Agriculture will support the development and continued management of a sustainable regional agricultural system for Maui County, to promote resident and ecosystem health and well-being and create a thriving circular agro-economic system that can be a model for the rest of the world.”

Arce explains the Department’s Mission is simple: to “provide advocacy and not create additional regulatory barriers on all matters related to agriculture.” As Director, Arce has the responsibilities to:

- “Develop a sustainable regional

see KALI p.13



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Community... In Action



Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is open for your celebrations.
PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



54th Annual
BARRIO FIESTA


\$15 Fundraising

Pork Adobo with Rice & Corn Plate

Pickup: Friday, May 26, 2023 • 5 pm - 9 pm

Saturday, May 27, 2023 • 10 am - 8 pm

Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center 0376



54th Annual
BARRIO FIESTA

\$10 Fundraising

6 Cascaron Balls & 4 Banana Lumpia

Pickup: Friday, May 26, 2023 • 5 pm - 9 pm

Saturday, May 27, 2023 • 10 am - 8 pm

Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center 0400

RIGHT: Miss Maui USA and Chef Andre of Montage Hotel, guest chef volunteer.
PHOTO: SAVANNAH GANKIEWICZ
BELOW: Philippine Nurses of America Maui, Hawai'i team.
PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTINE GUMPAL



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

Maui County Federal Credit Union team.
PHOTO COURTESY MELEN AGCOLICOL

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 an additional fee of \$300 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.

54th Annual Barrio Fiesta

Binhi at Ani will be selling a pork adobo, rice and corn plate for \$15 and six cascaron balls and five lumpia for \$10.

The 54th Annual Barrio Fiesta will be held on Friday, May 26, 2023 (5 p.m. to 10 p.m.) and on Saturday, May 27, 2023 (10 a.m. to 10 p.m.) at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

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 April 30, a total of 14,602 meals were delivered. Teams serving during April included Maui County Federal Credit Union, Miss Maui USA, Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawai'i and UHMC KabataK Club. 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://binhiatani.org/donate/> or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehe'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program].

The Bayanihan Feeding Program is supported by grants from Bayer Crop Science Hawai'i and Nareit Hawai'i.

Enhance@Fitness for Kūpuna 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 information on Enhance@Fitness, contact Enhance@Fitness Coordinator Ginny Kiick (808) 280-6251 or gkiick@hotmail.com or



COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

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

MAUI COUNCIL OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUBS

The new Advisory Board and Committee Chairpersons of the Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs was recently installed.

The officers are President Jeny Bissell of St. Theresa Filipino Catholic Club; Vice President Lolita Eugenio of St. Anthony Filipino Catholic Club, Ed Fabregas of St. Joseph Filipino Catholic Club, Juvy Hernandez of St. Theresa Filipino Catholic Club, Lorenzo Magana of Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club, and Liezl Oandasan of Christ the King Filipino Catholic Club; Recording Secretary Marli- na Cachola of St. Theresa Filipino Catholic Club; and Treasurer Melinda Piano of St. Theresa Filipino Catholic Club.

The chairpersons of the committees are Carmelita Fuchigami of Christ the King Filipino Catholic Club (Organization and Membership); Samuel Melchor of Christ the King Filipino Catholic Club (Ways & Means); Lucila Cuomo of St. Theresa Fil-

ipino Catholic Club (Aloha & Hospitality); Madelyn Pascual of St. Anthony Filipino Catholic Club (Publicity & Catholic Press); Lorenzo Magana of Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club (Constitution & Bylaws); Sydney Villegas of St. Theresa Filipino Catholic Club (Information & Education); Emie Magana of Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club (Social Ministry); Myla Onellion of St. Theresa Filipino Catholic Club (Renewal); Marie Gazmen of Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club (Award); and Trixie Galam of St. Theresa Filipino Catholic Club (Newsletter).

The Spiritual Director is Reverend Father Arnel Soriano, MS of St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church.

Members of the Maui Council recently attended a workshop on Evangelization and Accompaniment led by Fr. Ace at St. Anthony Catholic Church.

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The 2023 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant will be held on June 2, 2023 at Binhi at Ani. Themed "A Crown In Your Heart," Miss Maui Filipina 2022 Lennel Al-



ABOVE: Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs members at an Evangelization workshop.

RIGHT: 2023-24 MCFCC Administrative Board and Committee Chairpersons were installed.

PHOTOS COURTESY TRIXIE GALAM



Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce will be holding their Gintong Pamana Leadership Awards, Wednesday, June 7 at the Maui Beach Hotel.

IMAGE ART: KIT ZULUETA FURUKAWA



Dancing during the Lū'au Night.

PHOTO COURTESY KARL BATON / ASB ENTERTAINMENT



Gala Night "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"

PHOTO COURTESY KARL BATON / ASB ENTERTAINMENT



PNAAC Chapters and Subchapters "Parade of Banners."
 PHOTO COURTESY KARL BATOON / ASB ENTERTAINMENT



varez will crown her successor from one of four contestants: Kasey Cababat, Sandra Desierto, Johanne Paige Cruz Guevarra and Shyla-Tehara Moore.

Cababat, age 23, is the daughter of Ferdinand Cababat and traces her roots to Bayambang, Pangasinan. Desierto, age 24, is the daughter of Estephen Desierto and Marites Idefonso and traces her roots to Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur. Guevarra, age 19, is the daughter of Edgar and Nora Guevarra and traces her roots to San Juan, Ilocos Sur. Moore, age 18, is the daughter of Kristin Moore and Keali'iho'omaueka'oka'ainaikapono Brash Gaud and traces her roots to La Union.

Tickets for the pageant are available for \$30 and will also be available at the door. 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.



MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Gintong Pamana Leadership and Scholarship Awards Dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 7 at the Maui Beach Hotel, beginning at 5:30 p.m. General Admission is \$75. Contact mauifilipinocc@gmail.com.

PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF MAUI, HAWAII

The Philippine Nurses Association of Maui, Hawai'i successfully hosted the Philippine Nurses Association of America's biennial Western Region Conference recently held at the Maui Beach Hotel. In addition to the educational and leadership workshops, the Conference featured a

Networking/Lū'au night and a Gala event. Over 1,000 folks participated in activities of the four-day event, including 125 delegates from the mainland.



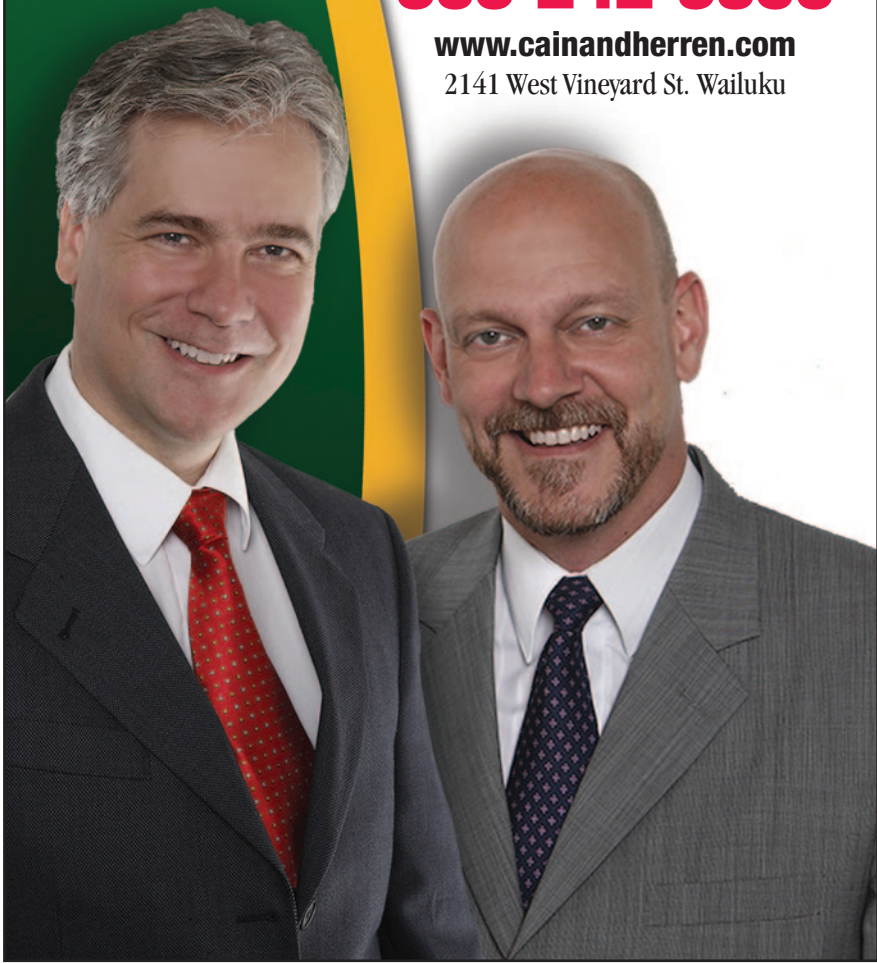
Members of the host chapter pose during the lū'au
 PHOTO COURTESY JEANELYN ASUNCION-ONNAGAN

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PHILIPPINES-HAWAI‘I ECONOMIC TIES

Hawaii and the Philippines have a long-standing history of trade and investment relations. The two regions have shared a unique cultural connection for over a century, which has fueled the economic partnership between them.

Trade between Hawaii and the Philippines dates to the early 1900s when Hawaii was still a U.S. territory. Filipino immigrants started to migrate to Hawaii in large numbers, bringing with them their culture and their trading practices. Today, Hawaii has a large Filipino community that has played a significant role in strengthening the economic ties between the two regions.

The Philippines is an important trading partner for Hawaii. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the total trade between the two regions in 2019 was valued at \$28.1 million. The majority of Hawaii’s exports to the Philippines include agricultural products such as fresh and frozen fruits

and vegetables, while the Philippines exports electronic products, textiles and furniture to Hawaii.

Investment relations between Hawaii and the Philippines have also been growing in recent years. According to the Philippines Trade and Investment Center in Los Angeles, there are currently over two dozen Philippine-owned companies operating in Hawaii, primarily in the fields of real estate, tourism, and food and beverage. They include popular establishments such as Jollibee and Max’s.

In addition, Hawaii-based companies have also been investing in the Philippines, particularly in the areas of tourism, call centers, retail and renewable energy. Examples include the Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, a Hawaii-based hospitality company with several properties in the Philippines, including the Outrigger Resort in Boracay, as well as Connext and Vertaccount, BPOs that have established centers in Angeles, Pampanga



Honolulu Festival
 PHOTO COURTESY HAWAI'I PHILIPPINE CONSULATE

and Makati, Metro Manila, respectively.

The Philippine government has also been actively promoting investment opportunities in the country to Hawaii-based companies. In 2019, the Philippines Embassy in Washington, D.C. hosted an investment forum in Hawaii to showcase the country’s potential for foreign investors. Earlier this year, the Philippine Consulate General organized a briefing on the Philippine economy focusing on its IT sector with corporate executives from PLDT taking part, as well as the *Trabaho, Negosyo at Kabuhayan* session for the Ilocos region. The Consul General also co-led the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Trade Mission to the Philippines last October to explore business opportunities.

The cultural ties between Hawaii and the Philippines are a driving force in the economic partnership between the two regions. The annual Filipino fiesta celebration in the different islands of Hawaii are manifestations of how the two regions recognize their shared culture and heritage, while also promoting trade and investment opportunities. For its part, Binhi at Ani is gearing up to stage its much anticipated Barrio Fiesta 2023 this May 26 and 27. The Consulate has committed to participate with an information booth for the various services it offers.

Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the trade and investment relations between Hawaii and the Philippines continue to thrive. The Philippines has great potential to be among Hawaii’s top trading partners in Asia, and the two regions remain committed to strengthening their economic partnership.

Hawaii and the Philippines share a unique cultural connection that has fueled their trade and investment relations for over a century. With the support of their respective governments and the efforts of their business communities, including the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce, the economic partnership between the two regions is expected to continue to grow and prosper in the coming years. ✨

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 Hawaii, 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).



Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Trade Mission
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The Consul General with Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii CEO Sherry Menor-McNamara.
PHOTO COURTESY HAWAII PHILIPPINE CONSULATE

Kali ...

from p. 9

- agricultural system for Maui County;
- Develop opportunities in the agricultural sector to increase economic resiliency;
 - Ensure locally grown agricultural products to improve health and food security;
 - Promote natural-resource regeneration and protection;
 - Develop and implement programs to diversify and expand sustainable forms of agriculture; and
 - Annual reporting to Mayor and County Council of overall performance in meeting agricultural objectives.”

This February, the Department established its Grant Division. Arce encourages “agriculture producers, including ranchers, value added producers and any agricultural related organ-

assessment of Lanai, Molokai and some of Maui, it was clear that workforce development, infrastructure and market development were the top priorities that resonated across the County thus far.”

Arce understands the need to partner with recent graduates and she is “looking into developing internship opportunities within the Department for new college graduates and students in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Sustainable Agriculture programs.” She is studying “the situation of the slaughterhouses” and will “identify improvements and if there is a need for more to accommodate the possibility of a venison market and the recovering of the beef cattle industry.”

And yes, there’s more!
Arce endeavors to “work with partner agencies on addressing the farm management, market development and providing education of special topics based on the interest of small farmers.” Arce definitely has the best interests of Maui’s agricultural community in her heart and soul. Arce’s



In 2015, Arce developed Monsanto’s newly established Conservation Department.
PHOTO COURTESY ROGERENE ARCE

extensive background in agriculture and conservation with a diverse range of jobs starting in the field, progressing to training others then outreach education and applied field research then fieldwork, ag production and operations and later moving into conservation work will serve her well in her new position. Her roots in agriculture are deep and above all, she is ready and willing to listen. “I am interested in hearing from our farming communities.”

Arce jokes she doesn’t have to hike to go to work anymore. But she does pay out of pocket to fly weekly from Molokai to work on Maui where her office is located at 2154 Kaohu Street in Wailuku. She also needs to travel between three of the four islands constituting the County of Maui. Regardless, Arce will continue to thrive.

“My career is in a traditionally male dominated industry that has been fulfilling,” expounds Arce. “I hope this paints the picture of what perseverance and determination can do for one that applies their will. I think it is important to be passionate about the area of work you are involved in and sometimes sacrifices are necessary to achieve your goal.” ✨

Alfredo Evangelista is the son of the late Elias Acang Evangelista, who arrived on Maui in 1946 and worked

for H.C.&S. for thirty-seven years, and Catalina Gonzales Evangelista, who worked at Maui Pineapple Company, retiring in 1995. During the summers of 1974, 1975 and 1976, Evangelista worked at Maui Pineapple Company in the label line of the warehouse division. The late Agrifina Cabebe, who worked in the personnel department of Maui Pine, gave Evangelista his assignment.



agricultural producers to develop relevant programs that address needs.” Arce reveals after an “initial needs as-



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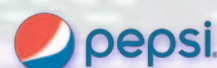
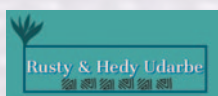
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The month of May is a busy month. May 1st is *Lei Day* in Hawai'i, Mother's Day is celebrated almost the whole world and Memorial Day is also celebrated to honor those who lost their lives while defending our country. It is also graduation season in Hawai'i and high school seniors receive their high school diplomas.

Happy Mother's Day to all the *Nanay, Inang, Inay, Yena, Ima*, especially to my mom, Dolly Butay. Happy Mother's Day to my sisters Daisy, Diane and Debbie and to my daughter, Vanessa Kate Erin.

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

Let's practice thanking our mother and saying "I love you" to them.

To Mom: Thank you for loving and caring for me. I love you.

In Ilokano: *Agyamanak iti pinangipateg ken pinangdunggom kanyak. Ayayaten ka.*

In Tagalog: *Salamat sa pagmamahal at pag-aaruga sa akin. Mahal kita.*

In Ilonggo: *Madamo gid nga salamat sa pagpalangga kag paghalong sa akon. Palangga gid taka.*

In Cebuano: *Daghang salamat sa paghigugma ug pagpalangga nimo sa akoo. Gihigugma taka.*

Let's also give a shout out to our May birthday celebrants: May-Anne Alibin, Jeslie Butay, Melen Agcolicol,

Shane Hayen, Roberta Dumlao, Alfredo Evangelista, Christian Joshua Butay, Jared Hedani, Eleonor Carlos-Galapon, Jowy Langaman and Brian Hayen. Happy, Happy birthday to you! (Tagalog) *Maligayang bati sa iyong kaarawan!* (Ilokano) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ibanag) *Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu!* (Kapampangan) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Ilonggo) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo!*

Let's take a look at what the story is this month, shall we?

MICHAEL OPENS the *pintuan* (door) and enters the *balay* (house).

He thinks Angel is behind him but when he turns around, the *ridaw* (door) is still open and she is still standing outside.

Angel feels like her feet are planted in the ground. She cannot move her feet. She is scared to go inside because Michael's *Inahan* (mother) is there. She does not know what she will do to her, thinking Angel is getting her son in trouble.

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Come in	Pasok ka	Dumanun Ka	Moabut sa	Sulod	Mattalung ka	Lungub
Mother	Nanay	Nanang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
Food	Pagkain	Makan	Pagkaon	Pagkaon	Kanan	Pamangan
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Nawom	Nawong	Muka	Lupa
Beautiful	Maganda	Napintas	Gwapa	Maanyag	Makasta	Malagu
House	Bahay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Bale
Good Evening	Magandang Gabi	Naimbag a rabii	Maayong gabi	Maayong gabi	Mapia nga gabi	Mayap a bengi
Door	Pintuan	Ridaw	Lukub	Ganhaan	Puwerta	Pasbul

mom could say to or do to her.

"*Maayong gabi* (Good evening). *Pasok ka* (Come in), *dumanun ka* (come in), *iha*." Michael's mom walks towards Angel, takes her hand and leads her into the house. "You are so *napintas* (beautiful). Ray was right when he said you are *malagu* (beautiful)" she continues. "Speaking of Ray ... "

Michael cuts off his *nanay* (mother) and says, "Can we talk first before calling Uncle Ray?"

His *ima* (mother) ignores him and continues walking with Angel taking her into the kitchen. "She is *maanyag* (beautiful) Michael," she tells him instead.

"Did you eat yet, *iha*? Are you hungry? I should heat up this pork *adobo* that I cooked, it's the best. Well, it was what Big Mike and Mickey here said to me whenever I cook it."

They turn from the hall and reach the kitchen. "And the *pinakbet*, it's Ilocano *pakbet*," she continues. "I don't put *karabasa* (pumpkin) in it. I cook the *karabasa* separately and add pork belly to it. It's actually Mickey's favorite Filipino food, *karabasa* with sauteed pork belly. Do you know how to cook, *iha*?" she asks Angel.

Angel's tears roll down across her *nawong* (face). She didn't even notice

she was getting teary as she was walking with Michael's mom towards the kitchen.

"Yes, *po*, I know how to cook," she answers feeling like she was choking.

"That's good, *iha*. I like it when girls can cook good *pagkaon* (food). They would make a good wife to their husbands."

"Mom!" exclaims Michael. "We still have to talk and discuss some important matters," Michael says seriously.

"I know, Michael, I know. You are not off the hook yet. But first things first. You must eat. It is not good to skip meals or eat late. You will have an ulcer and you will die," she says to scare Michael.



Angel feels nervous when she hears what Michael's mom says. She doesn't know what to do or say. She just keeps silent.

She helps Michael's mom set up the table; the plates and *makan* (food). She feels this is her last day. She is being well-fed first then thrown to jail. "It's ok, I know it's my fault anyway, for staying here without proper documentation, I need to be punished or

be deported. I wish I would just go home and be with my family," Angel thinks to herself. "Oh, how I miss my family. I hope my *Tatay* is doing okay. I haven't talked to him for a long time." Then her tears start to roll down her eyes.

She doesn't know Michael's mom is watching her.

"Angel? Angel? Angel, are you ok?" she asks.

Angel can't find her voice she hugs her and starts crying on her shoulder.

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

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



Elizabeth Whitehead



Basilia and Mariano Gomez wedding photo



Jim and Elizabeth on their 50th Wedding Anniversary with their son Mike and daughter Lisa.

Elizabeth Priscilla Gomez Whitehead

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY WHITEHEAD 'OHANA

Blessed are the cosmetologists—for they bring out the beauty in others. By profession, this month’s featured Sakada Offspring is a cosmetologist. Not only does she bring out the beauty in others but she also brings out happiness in others with her contagious smile, her prowess in dancing and her love of life.

Elizabeth Gomez Whitehead was born on May 8, 1944 at Pioneer Mill Hospital in Lahaina. She grew up in Lahaina, Pu’unoa Village on Front

Street. Her family lived in a plantation house, a few yards from the beach, now called Baby Beach.

According to Elizabeth, Lahaina was a quaint little town with only mom and pop stores. There were no tourists at that time. The hotels were not yet developed. She attended and walked to Sacred Hearts School from Kindergarten through eighth grade. She was baptized, received her First Holy Communion and Confirmation, and eighth grade graduation at Maria

Lanakila Catholic Church.

Elizabeth attended Lahainaluna High School as a ninth grader and graduated on June 10, 1962. In high school she participated in activities, like *Kaleo Luna* Newspaper, Girl Scouts, cheerleading and was active in her Filipino heritage culture. With her friends, Margie, Pattie, and Rosie, they learned Filipino Folk dances from the late Aggie Cabebe. She remembered learning how to dance *Abaruray*, *La Jota Moncadena*, *Pandanggo sa Ilaw*, *Itik-itik* and many others from Cabebe.

In 1961, when Elizabeth was a Junior in high school, Cabebe started the first Miss Maui Filipina Pageant on Maui. Elizabeth was one of her first recruits. It was held in a quonset hut at the old Fairgrounds across Christ the King Catholic Church. Cabebe let Elizabeth dance the *Pandanggo sa Ilaw* with three candles which unfortunately the wind blew out during her performance. She came in second place but came with an experience of a lifetime. In addition, during her Junior year, she worked for Maui Land and Pineapple Cannery as a packer.

As a graduate in 1962, she was awarded a Scholarship to Mary Stone Beauty College in Seattle, Washington. In high school she showed interest in hair styling. She used to give haircuts and perms to her friends and in return, they would give her eggs or vegetables instead of money, for money was very tight in those days.

After graduation, Elizabeth left home with a hundred dollars in her pocket and told her mom she would never come back to this rock. Lahaina was just being developed at that time with the grading of Black Rock which would be the Sheraton Hotel.

She planned to stopover in Oxnard, California to visit her Uncle Pete and his family and to work for the summer and earn money before going to Seattle. Her Uncle Pete, however, encouraged her to give up her scholarship in Seattle and to stay in Oxnard to help her Aunt June take care of her cousins Christine and Marco. Pete worked for the Navy on St. Nicholas Island during the week and only came home on the weekends. Pete offered to pay for Elizabeth’s tuition at Oxnard Beauty College. He also gave her a car and five dollars a week allowance with the understanding that when she graduated, she had to find a job and move on. To supplement her allowance, she worked at Oxnard movie theater as an usherette showing people their seats as well as worked with the popcorn machines and candy counter when the movie was going on.

Elizabeth graduated from Oxnard Beauty College and received her Cosmetology License. After graduation, she got a job at David’s Hairstylist, owned by Miriam Shapiro. She and her friend, Eileen Pinkos from England, lived together for a while.


It must have been a blessing in disguise because while in Oxnard, Elizabeth met her future husband, James George Whitehead on St. Patrick’s Day in 1963. James was born in Minnesota and raised in Texas, stationed in Oxnard’s Point Mugu as a Navy man. They got married on January 2, 1965 by a Baptist minister in a little wedding chapel on Olympic Boulevard in Oxnard, California. Elizabeth’s sister, Lori and Jim’s best friend, Johnny were their Maid of Honor and Best man, respectively. Being a Catholic, Elizabeth wanted their marriage to be blessed in the Catholic Church. So, on January 5, 1966, a year later, Elizabeth and Jim were married by Father Lictol, a Catholic priest.

Jim and Elizabeth are blessed with two children: James Michael, born on November 21, 1966; and Lisa Ann, born on October 20, 1969, both in California. Soon after, the family moved to San Fernando Valley and bought a home in Canoga Park with Jim’s GI Bill.

Elizabeth was a very resilient individual. With two small children, as a stay home mom, she decided to open a day care center. She received a license to operate an approved day care center for five children.

As a Navy man, Jim did three tours in Vietnam. He even received his GE degree in the Navy. After his Navy tour, Jim worked at different jobs. First, he worked as a gas station attendant and later worked for Aetna Finance Company as a collector, from which he later worked his way up to

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Elizabeth's siblings: Robert (from left), Letitia, Lori and Elizabeth



Elizabeth with six of her grandchildren: Ikaika (back row from left), Teani, Brooke, Misha and Meilin. Elizabeth (front row), and Kainalu

a managerial position in the company. In 1972, Jim was promoted to regional Director. Jim, however, did not accept that position because it meant he would be traveling all over the states leaving his young family from time to time. So, Jim and Elizabeth decided to sell their house and move back to Lahaina, Maui in April 1973.

Jim was a man of many talents. While on Maui, he worked as a welder with Maui Land and Pineapple, Chief Engineer at Nāpili Kai, started a remodeling and refinishing business with a partner, and even became licensed as a general contractor. Some of the buildings and homes he helped build include Nāpili homes, Waiehu

Terrace in Wailuku, Komohana Subdivision in Lahaina, Fire Station in Hāna, King Kamehameha Gym in Kula, the cafeteria at Waihe'e School, and even donated his time as a Contractor overseeing the construction of the MEO Building in Wailuku under Gladys Baisa. Elizabeth also helped Jim by becoming his accountant/Bookkeeper. Together they grew their business, something Jim was very proud of. Jim retired at age 65. They were married for fifty years until he unfortunately passed away due to prostate cancer on March 7, 2016. He was seventy years old.

James Michael, 56, son of Elizabeth and Jim, is the Engineering Supervisor

at the Hyatt Residences in Kā'anapali. He has three daughters and the eldest, Jamie Griffith, has three children: Joey, Jacob and Aria.

James' second daughter Misha works for the Montage in Kapalua. His third daughter, Brooke Whitehead is graduating from college in May and will be working at the Coronado Marriott Resort and Spa in San Diego as a manager.

Lisa Ann, 54, daughter of Elizabeth and Jim, is the Vice President of Destination Maui in Kīhei. She has four children. Her son, James Douglas Camanse is working as a Senior Program Manager for Amazon in Tokyo. Her second son, Bronson Ikaika Camanse,

is the Senior Executive Account Manager for Destination Maui in Kīhei. Today, Lisa is married to Benjon Aipa, they have two daughters. Teani Aipa works at Hui Hui restaurant learning her culinary skills as a cook while Meilin Aipa is a seventh grader at Lahaina Intermediate School.

Elizabeth has five other siblings: Lorraine Gomez is married to Larry Karinen; both are retired schoolteachers. She continues to volunteer in helping Lahainaluna School teachers with their curricula and being advisor to Lahainaluna's Boarding Chorus and Hawaiiana Club.

Phyllis Gomez passed away in in-see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page



Congratulations 2023 graduates!

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54th Annual Barrio Fiesta
Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center, Kahului

O'AHU

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"Spring into Health" Fair
The Filipino Community Center, Waipahu

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fancy.

Letitia Gomez Nahaku, Secretary for Certified Life Insurance Co., worked for Lockheed and Disney and as an independent film maker. She is now retired and helps with her grandchildren. She has two boys, Daniel Kahala Nahaku and Ryan Nahaku.

Josephine Gomez passed away at a young age just after she graduated from High School.

Robert Gomez relocated to California after High School where he found work. He returned to Maui and worked for Jim's Construction. He then worked as Food and Beverage Supervisor at the Ritz Carlton Hotel till he retired. He has three children, Jamie, Michael, and Josie and four grandchildren.

Elizabeth's father, Mariano Ebarra Gomez, was born on October 15, 1910 in Northern Philippines. He was a *Sakada* who left the Philippines with his older brother Pete in search of a dream. He was just 21 years old in September of 1931. He left his parents Matthew and Eulogia Gomez and his seven brothers and sisters. He never saw them again. They were recruited to work in the fields in Hawai'i. He and his brother Pete boarded the SS *Pierce* and landed first on Kaua'i to work in the sugar cane fields. It was a year of unhappiness. It was hard work in the burning sun for ten cents a day job. To save money, his lunch was often rice with sugar water. He left Kaua'i and went to Lāna'i where he worked in the pineapple fields. There



Elizabeth's Dad, Mariano Gomez at 95 years old

he stayed for two happy years until the depression hit the islands and the pineapple company shut down. He left Lāna'i for Lahaina and worked at Pio-

neer Mill Company until he got asthma and couldn't work in the fields anymore. He then went to work for Pioneer Mill Hospital as a custodian, driving the ambulance and helping Dr. Shimokawa with doing autopsies. He loved to play the saxophone, the drums and was a member of the Raymond Aquinde Band. Elizabeth remembers him playing at her Senior ball in the Gymnasium.

At age 25, Mariano met and married Basilia Cornelio, a young Hawai'i born Filipina who was born in Ka'u on Hawai'i island. Basilia first worked for Snow White Laundry, then at the Pineapple Cannery and later at the Marriott Hotel until her retirement. Together, they raised six children until their divorce in 1959.

Elizabeth shared her heart-warming reflection on her parents and the past: "Because my father was Ilocano and my mother was Visayan, they never spoke in their native dialect. They only spoke pidgin English. My parents were hardworking and worked full-time. Therefore, we learned how to take care of our younger siblings. We learned to wash clothes, clean house and cook the chicken we raised (not store bought). We grew our own vegetables. We lived simply and ate simply. We lived a humble life with hand me down clothes. We were economically poor; however, I never felt poor nor was I treated like we were. Most of my friends lived the same way. My parents taught us to be resourceful, resilient and independent and to be kind and help others. We lived in a time where we didn't have designer clothes, shoes or handbags, etc. It was a time of innocence, a time when there was not much crime, no cell phones, no computers and no tech gadgets. Truly, it was a time of 'ohana, family collaboration and kuleana (responsibility). It was a time

to strengthen one's spirituality through mother nature and to take care of one another. We learned to build pathways into the future by understanding our past and what went before us. We learned from the past, lived in the present, and create our future based on the wisdom of the past."

At 79 years young, Elizabeth has been retired for over 25 years. She is very proud to say she was a hands-on grandma, helping with all her grandchildren as they were growing up. She claims she kept herself busy with many activities. She is presently active in the Lahaina Filipino Catholic Club for over 20 years. The LFCC gives out scholarships, helps in the church humanitarian activities and community services. She is also on the Stewardship Committee of the church and served on its Pastoral Council under Fr. Gary. She was also an Officer and a Board of Directors member with Binhi at Ani when it first opened.

Elizabeth loves gardening and enjoys watching her fruits, vegetables and flowers grow. Her passion is dancing. She started line dancing at the Lahaina Cannery Mall, taking lessons from Micki and Ron Brown around 1991. She met her lifelong friend, Elsie Saribay who also loves dancing during these dancing lessons. They formed the West Maui Filipino Dance Troupe, currently called Bailes de Pilipinas. They are still performing today at parties, as well as wherever they are invited like malls, pageants, etc. Recently, they were very saddened by the passing of their mentor, Mr. H. Wayne Mendoza of Honolulu.

Elizabeth says: "Through all my walks of life and activities, I have met and made many friends that are dear to me. I am enjoying my golden sunset years. I have lived a good happy life with no regrets. I have no bucket lists to fill; I have filled them all." ✨



Lucy Peros is a retired school-teacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Both of her late parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 Sakada) and Alejandra Cabudoy Cabalo of Hāli'imaile, worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Lucy now enjoys retirement and has time to join other seniors in the Enhance Fitness Program under the Department of Aging three times a week. She also attends the line dancing class and other activities at Kaunoa and joins other Waihe'e School retirees when help is needed at the school. Lucy also devotes some of her time to activities at Christ The King Catholic Church. She enjoys writing and reading in her spare time.

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18 | Fil-Am Voice | May 2023 | Vol 7 • No 5

Halo-Halo

That would mean “mix-mix” in English.

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

With summertime right around the corner, it got me thinking of cool treats to eat when it is hot and humid.

As a Filipino, the first thing that comes to my mind when I think of a cool yummy treat is *Halo-halo*. Ahhh, that refreshing snack is hard to beat! I am craving it as I am writing this. To get us ready for summertime, let’s talk story about what *Halo-halo* is and share some of these places to get *Halo-halo* on Maui.

The literal translation of *Halo-halo* is “mix-mix” (in Tagalog). Actually, the correct spelling of this famous Filipino dessert is *haluhalo* which is an adjective in Tagalog that means “mixed together.” It is very common, however, to use *halo-halo* and that is what most restaurants and food establishments use on their menu. For this column, we will use the common spelling.

Halo-halo, as the name represents, is a mixture of various delicious (often sweet) and refreshing (some add fresh fruits) ingredients, put in layers, then topped with crushed ice and condensed milk. The special *halo-halo* is often topped with one or more of these special treats: *Ube Jam* (*Ube Halaya*), *Ube Ice Cream*, *Macapuno* and *Leche Flan*. Recently we have seen it served in restaurants where the ingredients are on top of the crushed ice but traditionally the ingredients are placed in the container before the crushed ice.

There is no specific or strict list of ingredients for *Halo-halo*. It is almost like a “choose your own adventure.” The variety is unending. While components vary there are some traditional ingredients found in Filipino *halo-halo* such as *sago* (similar to the jelly balls found in boba), *kaong* (sweetened palm seed), *gulaman* (agar-agar gelatin), sweetened red beans (or the white kidney beans) and *pinipig* (toasted young rice). When I was growing up, we used to have sweetened bananas and sweet potatoes added in too. Sometimes fresh ingredients are added. Fruit such as cantaloupe, avocado and mango are common additions. Some add sweet corn and shredded young coconuts.

The results of having these various ingredients are contrasting textures from chewy to crunchy, creamy to sticky. Combined with the refreshing crushed ice flavored with condensed milk and melted *ube* ice cream—oh it is truly a treat!

Now the question comes: “Where do we get *Halo-halo* on Maui?” Here are some options to start with:

1. **Vidad’s FoodTruck** in Kihei at the South Maui Foodtruck Pod behind Azeka’s;
2. **Da Soriano Grindz Foodtrucks** have three locations: Wailuku, Lahainaluna, and Sunday Market in Kahului;
3. **Tante’s Island Cuisine** - located in the Maui Seaside Hotel on Ka’ahumanu Avenue in Kahului;
4. **Paradise Food Mart** - also located in Kahului; and
5. **Golden Coin Fastfood and Bakeshop** on Lower Main St. in Wailuku.



Here’s a sample of Halo-halo from my brother’s restaurant in L.A. call “Foodtrip.” I got to try it on my trip off-island last year, and it was delicious!

PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE

And don’t forget that on May 26 and 27, the Barrio Fiesta celebration will be held at the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center in Kahului. This is a great time for you to immerse yourself in Filipino culture and taste the great Filipino food and desserts being offered by the various food vendors. We invite you to come. I hope to see you there! 🌟

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



Halo-halo from Vidad’s Foodtruck in Kihei; a cool refreshing dessert on a hot day.

PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE



Special Halo-halo from Tante’s Island Cuisine at the Maui Seaside Hotel in Kahului.

PHOTO: LIZA PIERCE

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.



Happy Mother's Day
to all mothers in our hearts.



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