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# Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

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

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## Maui's Filipino Community Awards Scholarships

*Binhi at Ani, Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation and Maui Filipino Community Council honors local graduates.*

**Alfredo G. Evangelista**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

**Y**ou can see it in their faces.  
You can hear it in their voices.

And yes, their smiles are bright and wide.

Undoubtedly, local parents and guardians of the Scholarship Recipients of Binhi at Ani, Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation and Maui Filipino Community Council are extremely proud of their scholars—and for one family—their twins!

Also, no doubt, the awarding organizations are equally proud to invest in the students' future success.

Students who applied for the Binhi at Ani scholarship needed a minimum 3.5 grade point average (30 percent), a variety of activities, honors and employment (30 percent), a short essay on "What Promote the Bayanihan Spirit Means to Me" (30 percent) and letters of recommendation (10 percent).

The Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation required applicants have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (25 percent), a comprehensive resume (30 percent), letters of

see SCHOLARS next page



Binhi at Ani scholarship recipients  
IMAGE COURTESY LAWRENCE PASCUA

## U.S. Supreme Court Eliminates Race Conscious Policies In Selective College Admissions

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran**

**O**n June 28, 2023, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) issued expected rulings against race-conscious college admissions, handing down 6-3

and 6-2 decisions in two cases, *Students for Fair Admissions Inc v. Presidents and Fellows of Harvard College* and *Students for Fair Admissions Inc v. University of North Car-*

*olina*. The plaintiff in both, Students for Fair Admissions (SFA), is an anti-affirmative action group created to pursue the suits on behalf of students and their parents who

alleged systematic discrimination against Asian American applicants. SFA alleged that compared with other racial groups, Asian American appli-

see RACE p.3

FREE



Scholars ...

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recommendation (15 percent), and an essay responding to four questions (30 percent): “a) Provide a short background about yourself and what factors got you involved in the Filipino community on Maui? b) What do you think will be the next main challenge or opportunity faced by the Filipino community on Maui? What kind of ideas or solutions do you recommend to address them? c) Filipino-Americans are getting more spotlight recognition in mainstream media, sports, government and in various industries! What are your thoughts about Filipino representation today and where do you fit in the big picture? and d) What is your favorite Filipino food? Describe and defend in detail why your choice is better than others.”

The Maui Filipino Community Council applicants needed a 3.0 grade point average, two letters of recommendations (one from a community member and the other from an educational professional) and an essay/personal statement on the importance of education in relationship to their future goals.

But there is a subtle expectation these scholars will someday, somehow, contribute to Maui’s community.

West Sider Joa Navarro understands the expectation: “I want to return to Lahaina and help bring opportunities to the youth through internships and other business-related ventures. I believe by coming back to help the community where I was raised

will be my biggest show of the Bayanihan Spirit.”

Realistically, local scholarship awards will cover a fraction of tuition and fees—not to mention housing, books, travel (for those studying off island). But the parents and students understand every bit helps. Some will need to borrow to finance their education. According to USNews.com, the average tuition and fees for a private out-of-state college is \$39,732 while the average tuition and fees for a public out-of-state college is \$22,953 and a public in-state college’s tuition and fees average \$10,425. The University of Hawai’i at Mānoa lists residents’ tuition and fees \$12,186 with books, housing and other expenses estimated for a total price tag of \$30,331.

This year’s scholars represent almost every high school on Maui; many are valedictorians with grade point averages of 4.00 and above. Their activities include student government, band, HOSA, the National Honor Society and more. Their volunteer activities range from beach clean ups to serving food for the elderly and homeless.

“As a child, I witnessed how my grandparents promoted the Bayanihan Spirit,” recalled



Patrick Po’omana’o Borden

Saber Patrick Borden. “My grandfather, who is a retired chef, used that passion for cooking and gave back to the Filipino community. For many years, he volunteered to

cook for various associations participating in the *Barrio Fiesta*. I try to follow in his footsteps by volunteering at a local homeless shelter preparing and serving dinner. No other reward can match that feeling of gratitude for helping those in need. “

The spirit of volunteerism is encapsulated in the Bayanihan Spirit. “The Bayanihan Spirit means unification within a community, and to me that shows the importance of working together,” explained

Blanche Abut from Lahainaluna. “I have realized giving back to the community is something so important in life and it should be regularly practiced. The Bayanihan Spirit is within those who give back to their community. They share the love they have with each other as well as helping each other grow to the best of their abilities and together they create a beautiful society. As a Filipino, the Bayanihan Spirit also lives within my family. As we strive to support each other through our dreams, no matter how hard life gets.”

Many of the scholars have humble beginnings with some probably the first in their family to go to college. All are following the American dream of working hard through education in climbing the ladder to success.

“The long-term goal to help Filipinos climb the socio-economic ladder is for my generation to strive for higher education so that there are more Filipino business owners, more Filipinos in legal careers, policy makers, community influencers, teachers; more mentors who can be role models and encourage young adults like myself that the sky is the limit,” observed

Jacob Garcia from Kamehameha Schools.

For the scholars who are offspring of *Sakadas*, their future success is part of what drove the *Sakadas* to work hard in the plantations—the hope for a better life for their family. As the late Richard Caldito would say to the youth, “Work hard *annako* so your success will be our success.” Although it’s been over seventy years since the last *Sakadas* arrived in Hawai’i in 1946, the words of Caldito and others continue to remind the students that their success is also a communal accomplishment.

“I learned about the stories of Filipino plantation immigrants in Hawai’i. However, that’s only one part of our history,” explained



Angelina Ancheta

Maui High’s Angelina Ancheta. “It’s essential to fully understand the rich history of the first Filipinos that immigrated to America. There is so much history about the hardships our past Filipino ancestors endured, such as moving to

a new country, experiencing racial discrimination/assimilation and fighting for their civil rights to pursue the American dream.”

Baldwin graduate Janessa Baguio-Larena



Janessa Baguio-Larena

wants to use her education to further opportunities for Filipinos. “As a person of Filipino descent, I recognized not everyone is comfortable with my existence in America. That is why I chose a career as a social worker to lessen that gap between groups of people. My mother has given me opportunities to volunteer and integrate myself into the Maui community. Since she has given me time to connect with the people around me, I value community and connection.”

“I want younger kids to see their culture be normalized, and I want them to be proud of being Filipino,” claimed



Frances Dangtayan

West Maui resident Frances Dangtayan. “This is one of my biggest motivations. I hope to one day be a role model for younger kids who grew up like me. I want to inspire them to be themselves and not be ashamed of their background no matter how different they are.”

“My version of the Bayanihan Spirit



Taylor Aloy

is forever growing,” noted Kamehameha Maui graduate Taylor Aloy. “I want to leave a legacy for those who come after me to always help those who need it and to be confident in

doing so.”

“I will continue to use the Bayanihan Spirit to guide me throughout adulthood and become a role model of the Bayanihan Spirit for others,” former *Fil-Am Voice* columnist



Jazmyne Faith Sagisi Viloria

Jazmyne Faith Sagisi Viloria promised.

Although space limitations prohibit an extensive background for each Scholarship Recipient, the following brief synopsis gives us a glimpse that our future is indeed bright.



Jansen Aceret

Jansen Chase Aceret is currently attending the University of Hawai’i Maui College pursuing a degree in nursing. Aceret received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.

Blanche Yvonne Abut, daughter of Diane Abut. The Lahainaluna High School graduate will attend the Uni-

see SCHOLARS p.4



EXCELLENCE  
IN PATIENT CARE

“I would like to thank the hard working professional staff in the Endoscopic Department. I was in for an outpatient procedure and was very nervous. They calmed my nerves and processed me through all the tests that were needed for the procedure and kept me informed all along the way. A special thanks to Nalani for her concern and help at the end of the day. Thanks to Shannon, my Maui hero! Thank you for all that you did. Mahalo to everyone in Endoscopy for all that you do!” - Patient Testimonial, April 2023

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. To read more testimonials, visit our website:

[mauihealth.org/mahalo](https://mauihealth.org/mahalo)

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Maui Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy  
Kula Hospital and Clinic  
Lānaʻi Community Hospital



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Supreme Court Justices.  
PHOTO: FRED SCHILLING, COLLECTION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

## Race ...

from p. 1

cants consistently received lower “personal ratings”—for traits like self-confidence, likability and kindness.

The Court’s six Justice conservative majority ruled Harvard’s and the University of North Carolina’s (UNC’s) affirmative action policies failed the Equal Protection Clause’s “strict scrutiny” requirement when employing a racial classification and therefore violated the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. In short, SCOTUS rejected Harvard’s and UNC’s use of race as one of many considerations in trying to admit a student body that reflects the diversity of the nation. The newest Justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson, recused herself in the case against Harvard, but took part in the case against UNC.

Forty-five years ago, the Court established in *Regents of University of California v. Bakke*, 438 U.S. 265 (1978), that a university’s use of racial “quotas” in its admissions process was unconstitutional but a school’s use of “affirmative action” to accept more minority applicants was constitutional in some circumstances. In 2003, the Court confirmed universities could employ a “system of holistic review”—an admissions approach that did not mechanically assign points but rather treated race as a relevant feature within a student’s application. *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 306 (2003). Writing for the majority in a case involving admission to the University of Michigan Law School, then-Justice Sandra Day O’Connor wrote, “Effective participation by members of all

racial and ethnic groups in the civil life of our nation is essential if the dream of one nation, indivisible, is to be realized.” Further, O’Connor suggested, “Access to legal education (and thus the legal profession) must be inclusive of talented and qualified individuals of every race and ethnicity so that all members of our heterogeneous society may participate in the educational institutions that provide the training and education necessary to succeed in America.” Justice O’Connor, however, noted twenty-five years had passed since *Bakke*, and suggested, “We expect that twenty-five years from now, the use of racial preferences will no longer be necessary.”

Twenty years after *Grutter*, the decisions in the SFA challenges were not surprising. Chief Justice John Roberts, who assigned himself to write the opinion for the majorities, and Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito previously dissented when SCOTUS upheld affirmative action programs in 2016. Then-Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for a 4–3 majority to affirm the principles in *Bakke*, asserting, “A university is in large part defined by those intangible ‘qualities which are incapable of objective measurement but which make for greatness’ ... Considerable deference is owed to a university in defining those intangible characteristics, like student body diversity, that are central to its identity and educational mission.” *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*, 579 U.S. — (2016). “But still,” Kennedy recognized, “it remains an enduring challenge to our nation’s education system to reconcile the pursuit of diversity with the constitutional promise of equal treatment and dignity.”



Harvard University.  
PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA COMMONS: FLICKR.COM-PHOTOS-ELLENMETTER-14403017345



The term **affirmative action** was first used in the educational setting at UCLA School of Law in 1966. In 1982, UCLA students protested against less student input in the admission process.  
PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

With the addition of Donald Trump appointees Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett, the new conservative “super majority” just last term in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* (2022) overruled longstanding precedents *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992) that granted women a constitutional right to abortions in the first trimester of a pregnancy.

In the majority opinion, Chief Justice Roberts suggested, “At the same time, nothing prohibits universities from considering an applicant’s discussion of how race affected the applicant’s life, so long as that discussion is concretely tied to a quality of charac-

ter or unique ability that the particular applicant can contribute to the university.”

Justice Jackson dissenting in the UNC case, joined by Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, wrote: “With let-them-eat-cake obliviousness, today, the majority pulls the ripcord and announces ‘colorblindness for all’ by legal fiat. But deeming race irrelevant in law does not make it so in life.” Justice Sotomayor, dissenting in the Harvard case, declared, “Ignoring race will not equalize a society that is racially unequal. What was true in the 1860s, and again in 1954, is true today: Equality requires acknowledgment of inequality.”

Roberts also wrote, “Nothing in this

see RACE p.9



## Planting trees for a greener future


At Bayer Hawaii, we believe in safeguarding our island paradise and taking responsibility as stewards of the land. That’s why we are thrilled to welcome nearly 300 native trees at our Maui farm through our tree-planting effort.

Beyond their aesthetic beauty, trees play a vital role in our ecosystem. They offer shade, produce oxygen, and provide shelter to countless species. Moreover, trees act as a powerful weapon against climate change, capturing carbon and keeping it from entering the atmosphere.

In alignment with Hawaii’s ambitious pledge to plant and protect 100 million trees by 2030, Bayer Hawaii has completed the first two phases of our tree planting project. This initiative supports the global conservation mission of planting 1 trillion trees, championed by the World Economic Forum.

Bayer is committed to making a difference at both global and local levels. Plant a native tree and join us as we continue our journey towards a greener future for Hawaii and beyond.

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## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE

# Maui Filipino-American Youth Scholars Join Leadership Cohort

Recently, I attended the 2023 Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation's (MFCCF) scholarship award celebration to honor and recognize the achievements of nineteen deserving Maui Filipino-American youth scholars. Each scholar received a \$1,000 scholarship for remarkable scholastic achievement and community involvement. This year's college bound recipients plan to pursue degrees in a variety of disciplines and interests, such as business and finance, design, engineering, healthcare, hospitality, science and much more. As they shared their plans during the awards ceremony, we learned what molded them into the persons they are today are their reverence for and being proud of their Filipino culture. I am so encouraged by the tremendous talents of Maui's Filipino American youth.

We need to be mindful and always be reminded high grades alone are not everything; what is more important is what one does with his or her educational achievements—for the good of others, for the betterment of all—to be a change agent that will make a positive long-term impact on our community.

As a follow-up to the scholarship award ceremony, a leadership cohort was initiated to further train and encourage the scholars to be immersed in the Filipino culture and to internalize the leadership skills to help them in their college endeavors. "Cohort" is defined in the Webster College Dictionary as "a group of persons sharing a particular statistical or

demographic characteristic" which in this case is being a 2023 MFCF scholarship awardee. This cohort for the scholars, which is a long time in coming, is currently led by Dr. Jasmine Therese Esguerra, one of the leaders of the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce. According to Dr. Esguerra, to date, four of the awardees have signed to participate in the eight-week training program which will include public speaking, Philippine dance and music, Tagalog and Ilokano dialects, vision and goal setting, health and wellness, introduction to financial literacy and more.

One of the cohort participants, Kailani Ibanez, shares her thoughts about being part of the training program, saying, "As a Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce scholar, I've been immersed in my culture and personal goal-building skills with a group of Filipino leaders who are committed to helping me and my peers succeed. Since the day I received the acceptance letter, I've been reminded daily of how lucky I am to come from such a supportive island and ethnic community. Not only has having community mentors helped prepare me for the financial aspects of college, but it's also helped me cultivate strength within myself that will be my guide for the next year." Kailani plans to attend Seattle University in the fall to pursue a degree in



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## Scholars ...

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versity of Hawai'i at Mānoa, majoring in Psychology. Abut received a \$1,000 Maui Island Cozy Dental/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.



Jacqueline Agorilla

dation Scholarship.

Taylor Leolani Aloy, daughter of Jesse and Lezlie Aloy. The Kamehameha Schools Maui graduate will attend Seattle University, majoring in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Aloy received a \$1,000 U.S. Renal Care/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.



Katie Anakalea

a \$1,000 Mikilua Farm Center/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

Angelina Ancheta, daughter of Celso and Grace Ancheta. The Maui High School graduate will attend Seattle University, majoring in Design. Ancheta received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.



Jairo Baguio-Larena

a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

Janessa Baguio-Larena, daughter of Benedicto Larena, Jr. and Edeluisa Baguio-Larena. The H.P. Baldwin High School graduate will attend Seattle University, majoring in Social Work. Janessa Baguio-Larena received a \$1,000 In Memory of Rev. Walter T. Baloalao/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.



Kathleen Baniqued

at Ani Scholarship.

Jaiden Barbosa, son of Frank and Joselin Barbosa. The Maui High School graduate will attend Arizona



Jaiden Barbosa

State University, majoring in Civil Engineering. Barbosa received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.

P a t r i c k

Po'omana'o Borden, son of Francis and Lynette Borden. The Maui High School graduate will attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, majoring in Business Finance. Borden received a \$1,000 Café O Lei/Binhi at Ani Scholarship and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.



Jovan Gumtang Butac

and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.

Cheyenne Cadiz, daughter of Oliver and Catherine Cadiz. The Maui High School graduate will attend Mount Saint Mary's University of Los Angeles, majoring in Nursing. Cadiz received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.



Cheyenne Cadiz

ipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.

Aliyah Casayuran, daughter of Alfonso and Jesse Casayuran. The Maui High School graduate will attend Pacific University, majoring in Kinestiology. Casayuran received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.



Aliyah Casayuran

Marc Cartagena, son of Mark Anthony and Whriz Debrey Cartagena. The Lahainaluna High School graduate will attend Pacific University, majoring in English. Cartagena received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Community Council Scholarship.



Marc Cartagena

Troy Concepcion, son of Teody and Aileen Concepcion. The Lahainaluna High School graduate will attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, majoring in Nursing. Concepcion received a \$1,000 Binhi



Troy Concepcion

see SCHOLARS p.8



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# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

## An Ascendant Conservative Judiciary Asserts Itself

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

During the Governor debates last Fall, Democratic Party nominee Dr. Josh Green, M.D. urged voters to consider the next Governor would have the ability to appoint three of the five Hawai'i Supreme Court Justices. I don't get a sense Green got much additional traction from making that point but the GOP nominee, a former State Judge, tried mightily to avoid talking about the unelected third branch and the impact of a more conservative Hawai'i High Court on island life. But then again, local Republicans tend to shy away from being too closely associated with their national party and some of their party base's priorities.

Historically, the ability to pick, and preferable pack, the Judiciary is more of a federal and national Republican drawing card. Donald J. Trump memorably released a list of possible Supreme Court Justices vetted by the Federalist Society. Whether a Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) more inclined to pick away at liberal case law like *Roe v. Wade* swayed enough Evangelical and mainstream GOP voters to not only stay with the Republican nominee in 2016 but to actually show up at the polls is a political hack's bar room talking point. But in an election that turned on less than 22,748 votes in Wisconsin, 44,292 in Pennsylvania and 10,794 in Michigan, every issue swaying turnout mattered.

On June 28, 2023, I made online donations to my undergraduate college and law school. On the same day, SCOTUS ruled against affirmative action in college admissions, handing down 6-3 and 6-2 decisions in the consolidated cases, *Students for Fair Admissions Inc v. Presidents and Fellows of Harvard College*, and *Students for Fair Admissions Inc v. University of North Carolina*, 600 U.S.

—(2023). That was just one of 58 decisions issued in the current 2022 SCOTUS Term that ended on June 30th.

Just two years before I entered college, the High Court established affirmative action as a thing in *Regents of University of California v. Bakke*, 438 U.S. 265 (1978). A majority of the nine Justices ruled unconstitutional a university's use of racial "quotas" in its admissions process but allowed in some circumstances a school's use of "affirmative action" to accept more minority applicants. Over the last forty-five years, the most selective American colleges and universities have generally applied race conscious policies in admitting an entering classes as diverse as their particular community, state or the nation as a whole.

While I don't read every decision issued by SCOTUS, I do follow the major opinions issued annually at the end of the term.

Elections have consequences is a political truism. In the case of Hillary Clinton losing, three Justices (John Roberts, Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas) who were on the losing end of a more recent affirmative action case (i.e., *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*, 579 U.S. (2016)), were reinforced by three Trump appointees (Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett) to form a more reliably conservative "super" majority with the potential and willingness to upend longtime legal precedents, *stare decisis* be damned. They displayed that sheer political strength and brawn by overruling a woman's right to abortion last term as a start, even in the wake of a draft of the opinion leaked weeks before being announced publicly. *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022), overruling *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973).

The High Court Justices were also



Branford College at Yale  
PHOTO COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

in the news this year for more than their judicial rulings. Justices Alito and Thomas were criticized for accepting travel and other gifts from Republican donors with interests in cases before the Court, with Thomas reportedly not disclosing those annual luxury trips. The head of a law firm with a thriving Supreme Court practice purchased some real estate from Justice Gorsuch that the latter had had trouble selling. The Chief Justice's wife owns a lucrative business headhunting lawyers for major law firms. Unlike lower federal court judges subject to judicial ethical rules, SCOTUS sets, and supposedly enforces, its own standards.

In the past, other Justices have certainly accepted occasional travel, hunting trips and other gifts, including the late liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsberg and her close *frienemy* Antonin Scalia. Perhaps the reverence reflexively accorded the Court by lawyers has eroded in reaction not just to recent decisions on major cases but in the sheer audacity and arrogance in the super majority abandoning incremental changes in favor of immediately implementing longtime goals for conservatives and their legal think tank and bullpen, the Federalist Society. While Chief Justice Roberts is portrayed as an institutionalist, he joined the five other conservatives in aggressively moving SCOTUS rightward. In short, critics see the Court like any other political branch with Republican appointees reliably voting as conservative activists have wanted since the Warren Court, while Democratic Justices flail at maintaining liberal precedents.

The skepticism about the Court's motivations has turned rather ugly. Usually appellate courts only decide "actual" cases—litigation based on

actual facts and real stakes and adjudicated in a final way by a lower court. Some commentators on social media and cable talking heads suggested the Court arguably took and ruled on a couple of cases that had standing or ripeness problems.

People who appeal usually need to have an injury to bring an appeal. For example, the high court easily found no standing for five of six states challenging President Joe Biden's \$400 billion loan forgiveness program. It found, however, the State of Missouri, by manufacturing an entity that participated in some way with student loan repayments and collected fees associated with those loans, did have a claim since it would lose fees from any forgiven loans to Missouri residents. The Court then used its novel "major question doctrine" to reject President Biden's administrative order, finding a \$400 billion forgiveness policy required clear authority from the U.S. Congress. *Biden, President of the United States of America, et al. v. Nebraska et al.*, 600 U.S.—(2023). The 6-3 majority rejected whether The Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003 (HEROES Act) waiver and modification authority provided the Secretary of Education and the executive branch with specific enough power to forgive student loans due to the emergency arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court concluded "[t]he basic and consequential tradeoffs' inherent in a mass debt cancellation program 'are ones that Congress would likely have intended for itself.' [citation omitted] In such circumstances, the Court has required the Secretary to 'point to 'clear congressional authorization' to justify the challenged pro-

see D&P p. 7



United States Supreme Court  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA





Varin Jhon Bautista



Dylan Domingo



Noah Santiago



Dominick Guiwa

Did you know American Football didn't exist in the Philippines until the early 2000s? Even when it was introduced, it was the variant of flag football which first gained a lot of traction. Since then, the industry of football has turned into its own organization. If that's the case, however, which sport do Filipinos love and play the most? If you guessed basketball, you are correct. Basketball can be simply described as being able to shoot a ball into a hoop from various distances while an opposing team tries to stop you. I wasn't introduced to basketball until my last year of middle school, and even then, I only played the sport for a year. In that year, I built long lasting relationships, developed a mindset filled with perseverance and persistence and of course, built my endurance and strength over the many miles I had to run. Although the journey only lasted a year, the lessons I learned from the sport have been

# Google®

## Is Not Everything ...

### Shoot Far, Play Hard

Jhanessty Vaye Bautista | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2024

prevalent throughout my whole high school career. And the journey I faced is not something only I have been lucky to witness. Making his basketball debut in the seventh grade, **Varin Jhon Bautista** describes how basketball taught him how to persevere in different situations. "I have to use confidence to succeed in situations I might not be comfortable in. It reminds me I have to be dedicated and hardwork-

ing to actually see improvement," Varin explains. Now entering his Junior year of high school, it is hard to replicate the thrilling emotions he experienced during his first year of basketball. The sport has become a distant hobby for him, "I will always play sports even if I'm not on an official team because it reminds me I have to work more and more to exceed expectations." Other than affecting his ideals, his endearment for watching the sport also exhilarates the feeling of what losing feels like and how awesome it feels to get back up from a loss. At age six, **Dylan Domingo** felt familiar feelings of endearment for watching the sport but just being able to watch instead of playing was bitter-sweet. "I would spend most of my time on the bench but whenever my coaches put me on the floor, I'd give it my best through intense hustle. I wanted to prove to my coaches I was worthy of being something more," he voices. He would go on to spend hours every day honing his skills for the sport alone and with his friends. His determination paid off but not in the likely way he nor you would expect. "Although my love for basketball is large, I find myself not wanting to pursue basketball any longer," he reveals. Although he successfully made it on the junior varsity team in high school, Dylan realized making the team was not the dream he always sought to experience. Now, focusing on his education, he takes that dedication and passion he had for the sport and uses it to drive his future in coding. Basketball, like every sport, is also one bringing a sense of connectedness among communities. **Noah Santiago** enjoyed playing and watching the sport with his friends and family from an early age. "[It gives] me a sense of togetherness as a community. Whether it's cheering for the Lakers, talking about recent games or even playing pickup games, I get the chance to meet new people who share a common interest,"

he explains. As the name suggests, pickup games are where people "pick up" or engage in games with random people. It's an informal way of playing basketball as you play with random people. "Some of my best memories come from playing basketball with my friends at our local park," he reminisces. He continues to play sports because of the impact it had on his relationships with others and himself. Although basketball is the talk of the Philippines, there are other sports the country gets to engage in. "*Eskrima* also known as *Arnis* is the Filipino national martial arts which involves a plethora of many different unique styles and arts," explains **Dominick Guiwa**. Back and forth from California to Maui, Dominick keeps himself grounded with the national martial arts: "*Eskrima* has greatly impacted my life with teachings of my Philippine history and heritage. The martial arts has overall brought me closer to my roots." *Eskrima* is not just a sport, it is an art and an important skill set of his life. Additionally, he gets to stay fit by doing something he loves and can learn from. Many have grown up with a sport, loved a sport, hated a sport and maybe have pursued a sport in a professional career. Sports are a big part of everyone's childhood and growing up with it has given people the ability to build important life skills in a non-traditional way. So again, in life, it's important to apply the saying "Shoot far, play hard" because sometimes, that's all you need to do to find success. **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 **Jhanessty Vaye Bautista**, a Senior at Maui High School. She is President of Maui High's Key Club, Vice-President of Maui High's Filipino Cultural Club, Executive Secretary of Maui High's Student Government, a member of Blue Thunder, Maui High's Robotics club, and a member of the National Honor Society. Jhanessty is in the ACOM Pathway at Maui High, focusing on graphic design and entrepreneurship. In her free time, she reads books of any and all genres, sketches out designs for her new graphics project, sings karaoke alone or with a group of her close family and friends and loves anything with the popular videogame's Minecraft Bee. She is the daughter of Vanessa and Jhon Boy Bautista.

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# D&P ...

from p. 5

gram. [citation omitted].” As the government branch ideally independent of political concerns or emotions, the Court could coldly ignore the impact of reimposing the overwhelming financial burden for millions of Americans.

The Court also was criticized for its follow up to the Colorado Gay Wedding Cake case (*Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, 584 U.S.—(2018)). In *303 Creative LLC et al. v. Elenis et al.* (June 30, 2023), SCOTUS and the lawyers for the parties, did not consider whether a religious woman opposed to same sex marriage who wanted to start a wedding website business had the right to legally challenge Colorado’s public accommodation statute. Colorado’s current Anti-Discrimination Act bars businesses open to the public (such as housing, hotels, retail businesses, restaurants and educational institutions) from denying goods or services to people because of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion and other characteristics. The Court majority created a first amendment exception from State public accommodation laws in what the majority argues is a limited category of commercial activities, like artists or businesses, create expressive content. In a dissenting opinion, Justice Sotomayor scathingly disagreed, “Today, the Court, for the first time in its history, grants a business open to the public a constitutional right to refuse to serve members of a protected class.”

Twitter wags and mainstream media talking heads argued *303 Creative* may now be the basis for allowing “I’m worried” standing. After the fact, journalists discovered the person who allegedly inquired about a gay wedding website was a married heterosexual who denies making the re-



Hawai'i Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald and assistant Brandon Kimura visited during Opening Day of the Legislature in 2019. The Chief Justice is expected to retire in the next couple of years.

PHOTO COURTESY GIL S.C. KEITH -AGARAN

quest and who himself had the skills to create his own website. Arguably, her “standing” to bring the suit fell under the pre-enforcement challenge principle—the threat Colorado would enforce its public accommodation statute allowed a court to consider her action.

As the Court’s wont, it announced those three legal “blockbuster” opinions (abolishing affirmative action, rejecting student loan forgiveness and recognizing a first amendment exemption from public accommodations) in the final week of the Term. Some cynical commentators suggest the Chief Justice and perhaps Kavanaugh and Barrett anticipated the race conscious admissions, gay wedding website and loan forgiveness decisions would be controversial and among the last released, and therefore needed some throwaway case to assure the public the Court majority was ruling on the legal merits and principles rather than following bald politics and wielding sheer power and numerical superiority. So in *Allen v. Milligan*, 599 U.S.—(2023), Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Ka-

vanaugh sided with their liberal colleagues to reject racially gerrymandered voting districts in Alabama. In a 5-4 ruling, the Court said that the congressional map drawn by the Alabama legislature—which established only one majority Black congressional district out of seven, in a state more than 25 percent Black—likely violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

The Supreme Court, 7-2, also surprised some observers in upholding federal requirements that Native Americans must be given preferences in the adoption or temporary fostering of Native children. *Haaland, Secretary of the Interior, Et Al., v. Brackeens*, 599 U.S.—(2023). The court confirmed federal standards requiring a placement “preference” for members of a child’s extended family, other tribe members or “other Indian families” under the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Roberts, Kavanaugh and Barrett joined the liberals in dismissing the inventive “Independent State Legislature” doctrine in recognizing state courts can review legislative action related to elections. *Moore, in his Official Capacity as Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, et al. v. Harper et al.*, 600 U.S.—(2023). The GOP-dominated North Carolina legislature argued the Elections Clause of the Federal Constitution requires “the Legislature” of each State to prescribe the rules governing federal elections. Art. I, §4, cl. 1. Roberts for the majority, wrote: “*Marbury v. Madison*, 1 Cranch 137, famously proclaimed this Court’s authority to invalidate laws that violate the Federal Constitution. But *Marbury* did not invent the concept of judicial review. State courts had already begun to impose restraints on state legislatures, even before the Constitutional Convention, and the practice continued to mature during the founding era. James Madison extolled judicial

review as one of the key virtues of a constitutional system, and the concept of judicial review was so entrenched by the time the Court decided *Marbury* that Chief Justice Marshall referred to it as one of society’s ‘fundamental principles.’ *Id.*, at 177.” Roberts concluded that the Elections Clause did not carve out an exception to that “fundamental principle” and “[w]hen state legislatures prescribe the rules concerning federal elections, they remain subject to the ordinary exercise of state judicial review.”

The Court also provided another win for free exercise of religion supporters. A unanimous court in *Groff v. DeJoy, Postmaster General*, (June 29, 2023) supported the ability of employees to obtain accommodations at work for religious practices, reviving a lawsuit by a former mail carrier who accused the Postal Service of discrimination after being disciplined for refusing to show up for work on Sundays.

Alexander Hamilton famously, in his anonymously published *Federalist* 78, argued the federal judiciary is the weakest of the three co-equal branches of the federal government. After all, we know the Judiciary has neither the guns nor a broad taxing power to enforce its orders or maintain its operations and budget. But even without the power of sword or purse, we all know the influence of judges remains broad and important in our society, and under current

conditions in Washington, D.C., where the U.S. Congress rarely legislates, we now obviously know Hamilton was wrong. Without a legislative branch dealing with immigration, student loan debt, common sense gun control, environmental protection, higher education opportunities, voting rights and other important issues, the current SCOTUS is usurping that space and dictating what can or cannot happen in those areas. With life tenure, the current ascendancy of the conservative SCOTUS super majority will likely last a gen-

**“... even without the power of sword or purse, we all know the influence of judges remains broad and important in our society, and under current conditions in Washington, D.C., where the U.S. Congress rarely legislates, we now obviously know Hamilton was wrong.”**

– GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

eration.

In April, Hawai'i Justices Michael Wilson and Paula Nakayama retired due to the Constitution’s mandatory retirement age of seventy for Justices and Judges. In Hawai'i’s Missouri-style merit selection process, the Judicial Selection Commission (JSC) will provide Governor Green with lists to pick their successors for ten-year terms. JSC disclosed in February the thirteen lawyers and judges applying for the vacancies: District Court Judge Rebecca A. Copeland, Vladimir Devens, David M. Forman, Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA) Chief Judge Lisa M. Ginoza, Kimberly Tsumoto Guidry, Kendra K. Kawai, Oahu District Court Judge Summer

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## From the Editor's Desk

| Cont'd from p. 4

Liberal Arts.

Another cohort participant, Jansen Aceret, is extremely honored to join the program and said in part, “As a young adult, this opportunity will allow me to expand my horizons in improving my skills. In the next eight weeks of the program, my fellow cohorts and I immerse ourselves in the five pillars of one’s being: physical health, personal development, relationships, and spirit. My goals for this program include improving my sleep quality, building a \$500 emergency fund, joining a hula hālau, improving my relationships with friends and feeling more present in my everyday life. I also look



Jansen Aceret

forward to amplifying my network and meeting possible mentors, as well as future employers with the help of our cohort leader.” Jansen is currently attending the University of Hawai'i-Maui College, pursuing a degree in nursing.

With all these talents of our own Maui Filipino-American youth, it gives me confidence our future on our island home will be in the capable hands of our next generation of leaders. Let us continue to encourage, guide and support them as they pursue their chosen professions that will bring honor to our Filipino culture. *Magkaisa Tayong Lahat ... We are better together ... Mabuhay!*

*Vince Bagoyo*

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



Scholars ...

from p. 4

at Ani Scholarship and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Community Council Scholarship.

Mico Corpuz, son of Cristobal and Gemma Corpuz. The Lahainaluna High School graduate will attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, majoring in Architecture. Corpuz received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Community Council Scholarship.

Jordan Cortez, son of Joel and Danise Cortez. The H.P. Baldwin High School graduate will attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, majoring in Business. Cortez received a \$1,000 Vince & Jennifer Bagoyo & family/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

Avery Dagupion, son of Jim and Heidi Dagupion. The Lahainaluna High School graduate will attend Lane Community College, majoring in Nursing. Dagupion received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Community Council Scholarship.

Frances Agatha Ruiz Dangtayan, daughter of Bryian and Julie Ann Dan-



Avery Dagupion

\$1,000 Mikilua Farm Center/Binhi at Ani Scholarship and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.

Taelor Ferrer, daughter of Carlos and Erin Ferrer. The H.P. Baldwin High School graduate will attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, majoring in Elementary Education. Ferrer received a \$1,000 In Memory of Richard "Pablo" Caldito/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

Jadelyn Fujii, daughter of Jimmy and Amparo Fujii. The Lahainaluna High School graduate will attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, majoring in Art Studio. Fujii received a \$2,000 In Memory of Agrifina "Aggie" Cabebe/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

Jacob Ha'aheo Ricalde Garcia, son of Daniel Garcia and Arleen Ricalde-

Garcia. The Kamehameha Schools Maui graduate will attend Brown University, majoring in Environmental Science. Garcia received a \$1,000 In Memory of Gloria Evangelista Cajigal/Binhi at Ani Scholarship and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.

Karissa Ginoza, daughter of Kyle and Kim Ginoza. The Maui High School graduate will attend the University of Southern California, majoring in Mechanical Engineering/Pre-Med. Ginoza received a \$2,000 Friends of Gil Keith-Agaran/Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

Kiana Haugg, daughter of Gerald and Brenda Haugg. The Kihei Charter School graduate will attend Loyola Marymount University, majoring in Theater Arts. Haugg received a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

Kailani Ibanez, daughter of Jessie and April Ibanez. The H.P. Baldwin High School graduate will attend Pacific University, majoring in Liber-

al Arts. Ibanez received a \$1,000 Bayer Crop Science Hawai'i/Binhi at Ani Scholarship, a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Community Council Scholarship.

Shelby R. M. Kubo, daughter of Kevin and Traci Kubo. The H.P. Baldwin High School graduate will attend the University of California Davis, majoring in Biological Sciences. Kubo received a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

Mia Merrill, daughter of Mark and Alexis Merrill. The graduate of Maui Preparatory Academy will attend Brigham Young University. Merrill received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Community Council Scholarship.

Joa Navarro, son of Joel and Jaime Navarro. The Lahainaluna High School graduate will attend the University of Utah, majoring in Finance. Navarro received a \$1,000 McDonald's of Kahului/Binhi at

see SCHOLARS p.11



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Race ...

from p. 3

opinion should be construed as prohibiting universities from considering an applicant’s discussion of how race affected his or her life, be it through discrimination, inspiration or otherwise.” But the Chief Justice warned that admissions officers could not employ the personal essay as a proxy to consider the applicant’s race. “In other words, the student must be treated based on his or her experiences as an individual—not on the basis of race,” he wrote. “Many universities have for too long done just the opposite.” How universities committed to maintaining student body diversity can comply in practice was not spelled out and likely will end up in further litigation.

The affirmative action rulings will have little actual effect locally. The University of Hawai’i (UH) has three four-year campuses: UH Hilo, UH West O’ahu, and the flagship UH Mānoa. Mānoa reportedly has a somewhat selective admission rate of 58 percent, with West O’ahu accepting 84 percent of applicants, and Hilo taking 71 percent. In comparison, the most selective institutions like Princeton, Harvard, Stanford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and California Institute of Technology accept approximately 3 percent of applicants, with Yale admitting 5 percent, and Brown, Dartmouth, Pennsylvania, Duke and Chicago taking 6 percent.

And that’s the rub for the selective



**Filipinos at UCLA School of Law were scarce**, usually having only one in each year. By 1983, there were ten law students of Filipino ancestry and most were involved in the UCLA Asian/Pacific Islander Law Students Association.

PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

American colleges and universities. As *New York Times* reported (Sarah Mervosh and Troy Closson, “The ‘Unseen’ Students in the Affirmative Action Debate,” *New York Times* 7/1/2023 [https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/01/us/affirmative-action-students.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=highlight-Share]), the decision will impact elite college admissions, reducing the number of Black and Hispanic students at the most selective American universities. As in the case when California barred affirmative action by referendum in 1996 (Proposition 209), the University of California system—especially at the most selective Berkeley and UCLA campuses—saw sharp

drops in the number of Black and Hispanic students admitted.

As Mervosh and Closson note, “But the effect of race-conscious admissions was always limited to a relatively small number of students. For the vast majority of college aspirants, those elite schools are not an option—academically or financially.”

The *Times* reported, “Many head straight into the work force after high school or attend less selective universities that do not weigh race and ethnicity in admissions. Approximately a third of all undergraduate students—including half of Hispanic undergraduates—attend community colleges, which typically allow open enrollment.”

UH Maui College offers a smattering of four-year degrees along with partnering with other campuses to allow Maui residents some classes using remote learning to earn credits towards four-year degrees. Compared with mainland schools, UH likely has a more demographically diverse student body. Student bodies at the four-year campuses, however, do not reflect the statewide number of native Hawaiians and Filipinos. Like Blacks and Hispanics on the continent, many Hawaiians and Filipino students attend the community colleges scattered throughout the islands, if they pursue any higher education at all. But Bachman Hall leaders continue to favor Mānoa—even complaining that the recently approved State Budget favored the community colleges at the expense of Mānoa.

Further, the *Times* observed, “Fewer than 200 selective universities are thought to practice race-conscious admissions, conferring degrees on about 10,000 to 15,000 students each year who might not otherwise have been accepted, according to a rough estimate by Sean Reardon, a sociologist at Stanford University. That represents about 2 percent of all Black, Hispanic or Native American students in four-year colleges.”

The impact of the Court decision will fall more on promising Hawai’i students applying to elite and selective mainland schools. While islanders likely will continue to benefit from policies that favor a geographically di-

see RACE p. 11

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



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



Miss Maui Filipina 2023  
Sandra Nicole Desierto.  
PHOTO: SEAN MICHAEL HOWER

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 served and/or provided, there is an additional fee of \$300 and you must hire two licensed bartenders. Self-service coolers and/or guests providing their own alcohol is not allowed.

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 2 p.m. Telephone (808) 877-7880.

**Bayanihan Feeding 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 June 30, a total of 15,752 meals were delivered. Teams serving during May included 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 contacting Lucy Porte at (808) 276-8026. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 One-he'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 Wellness Coordinator Claudette Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or



COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

[claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us).  
**Summer at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center** concludes on July 26 with a Presentation at 6 pm.

This year's offerings are:  
Mondays (6/26, 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24) - from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - *Philippine Cultural Dance*. Taught by Madelyne Pascua.

Mondays (6/26, 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24) - from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - *F.L.Y. First Love Yourself* program, created by What Makes You Feel Beautiful, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Limited to females, ages 13 through 17. Taught by Miss Hawai'i USA Savannah Gankiewicz.  
Tuesdays (6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25) - from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - *Art Classes for Youth*.

Taught by Philip Sabado.  
Wednesdays (6/28, 7/5, 7/12, 7/19) - from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - *Zumba with Eva Marie*. Taught by Eva Marie Arconado-Mirzai.



MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Maui Filipino Community Council will host the annual convention of the United Filipino Council of Hawai'i on Maui from July 21 through July 23 at the Maui Beach Hotel. Chairing the convention is Emi Cortez.



The Miss Hawai'i Filipina Scholarship Pageant will be held on July 22 at the Maui Beach Hotel. Sandra Nicole Desierto—the 2023 Miss Maui Filipina will represent Maui.



Summer at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center



Race ...

from p. 9

verse class, local high school graduates will need to pay attention to what factors mainland schools will choose to emphasize. Institutions even before the recent Harvard and UNC litigation have increasingly recognized high-achieving students from low-income families or “first-gen” applicants—the first in their families to go to college. The schools practicing affirmative action likely have been working towards “race-neutral” admissions for some time, and personal essays and recommendations may play a larger role in seeking diverse classes.

Adam Harris, in his 2021 book, *The State Must Provide: Why America’s Colleges Have Always Been Unequal—and How to Set Them Right*, suggested restricting or abolishing affirmative action simply restores the unequal access to elite higher education that has always existed. Harris argues, reviewing history, from its inception, America’s higher education system was not built on equality or accessibility, but on educating—and prioritizing—white students. Even the system of Historic Black Colleges and Universities created to provide places for Black students never received the same amount of state support as the predominantly white schools of higher education located in the same state.

Yale President Peter Salovey wrote to alumni shortly after the decision. “Yale,” he asserted, “is committed to continue this journey and build on the progress we have achieved together.” Yale joined several other universities in an *amicus* brief, arguing “diversity vitally enhances higher education. A student body that is diverse across every dimension, including race, improves academic outcomes for all students, enhances the range of scholarship and teaching on campus, improves critical thinking, and advances the understanding and study of complex topics. Generations of Yale students, alumni, faculty, and staff can attest that Yale’s diverse educational environment has positively con-

tributed to their creativity, adaptability, and leadership.”

Salovey asserted, “A whole-person admission review process that takes into account every aspect of an applicant’s background and experiences has enabled colleges and universities to admit the classes they need to realize their missions. Restricting this ability limits universities in opening their doors to students with the widest possible range of experiences. This is a detriment to everyone who benefits from the diversity of our campuses.”

Jeremiah Quinlan, Dean of Yale Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid, also contacted alumni:

Yale

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the Yale Community,

This morning, the Supreme Court issued decisions in two cases that examine the consideration of race in admissions. It will take some time to fully consider the implications of the Court’s decisions and review our admissions policies in light of them. As we do this work, I write today to reaffirm Yale’s unwavering commitment to creating and sustaining a diverse and inclusive community. This principle is core to our mission of teaching aspiring leaders to serve all sectors of society and improving the world through research and scholarship, education, preservation, and practice. We will continue to foster diversity in its many dimensions and will use all lawful means to achieve it.

As I consider today’s rulings, I am deeply troubled, but I also have hope when I reflect on the words of the Reverend Pauli Murray, eminent Yale graduate, civil rights icon, and namesake of one of our residential colleges. In 1979, the Reverend Murray remarked that “true community is based upon equality, mutuality, and reciprocity. It affirms the richness of individual diversity as well as the common human ties that bind us together.” These principles have guided Yale in the long journey to bring the promise of higher education to more students, including veterans through the GI Bill, women with the advent of coeducation, and those from underrepresented groups by increasing racial and socioeconomic diversity. Yale is committed to continue this journey and build on the progress we have achieved together.

As we argued in the *amicus* (friend-of-the-court) brief that Yale filed in the Harvard and University of North Carolina cases together with several other universities last year, diversity vitally enhances higher education. A student body that is diverse across every dimension, including race, improves academic outcomes for all students, enhances the range of scholarship and teaching on campus, improves critical thinking, and advances the understanding and study of complex topics. Generations of Yale students, alumni, faculty, and staff can attest that Yale’s diverse educational environment has positively contributed to their creativity, adaptability, and leadership.

After the decision in Students for Fair Admissions Inc., many universities, including Yale, issued statements.

“Today’s rulings will not change our commitment to consider each applicant as a multi-faceted individual. Yale’s whole-person review process is one of the College’s great strengths and has yielded student and alumni bodies that reflect the enormous depth and breadth of humanity. This approach enables admissions officers to consider the many factors that shape each applicant’s candidacy, and for decades it has helped the admissions committee select students who will make the most of a Yale education while making significant contributions to the Yale community.”

see RACE p. 13

Scholars ...

from p. 8

Ani Scholarship.

Mikaina Orbeta, daughter of Leonardo and Miriam Orbeta. The Maui High School graduate will attend the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, majoring in Nursing. Orbeta received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.

Mihaina Orbeta

Danica Mae Palacio, daughter of Danny and Myrna Palacio. The Maui High School graduate will attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, majoring in Comprehensive Medical Imaging. Palacio received a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.

Danica Mae Palacio

Jarred Peros, son of Greg and Lorelle Peros. The Maui High School graduate will attend the University of California Davis, majoring in Computer Science and Engineering. Peros received a \$1,000 Mikilua Farm Center/Binhi at Ani Scholarship, a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Community Council Scholarship.

Jarred Peros

Charlie Salacup, daughter of Edgard and Lyn Salacup. The Maui High school graduate will attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, majoring in Nursing. Salacup received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.

Charlie Salacup

Tamryn Taoka, daughter of Truman and Mandi Taoka. The Maui High School graduate will attend the University of

Tamryn Taoka



Cedrick Jonathan Gonzales Villegas

les Villegas, son of Ricardo and Sydney Villegas. The Maui High School graduate will attend Seattle University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Villegas received a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship.

Jazmyne Faith Sagisi Viloría, daughter of Rudolfo and Ruth Viloría. The Maui High School graduate will attend the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, majoring in Creative Media and Marketing. Viloría received a \$2,000 In Memory of Agrifina “Aggie” Cabebe/Binhi at Ani Scholarship and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship.

Madison Yu-Cua, daughter of Dennis and Ainee Yu-Cua. The Lahainaluna High School graduate will attend the University of San Francisco, majoring in English. Yu-Cua received a \$1,000 Binhi at Ani Scholarship, a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation Scholarship and a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Community Council Scholarship.

Joceyln Vasquez (not pictured), daughter of Jojo and Eliza Vasquez. The Maui Preparatory Academy graduate will attend the University of California, San Diego, majoring in Clinical Psychology. Vasquez received a \$1,000 Maui Filipino Community Council Scholarship.

The Fil-Am Voice congratulates all the Scholarship Recipients and their families for making us proud. ✨

Maui High School alum (Class of 1976) Alfredo G. Evangelista received scholarships from Kahului Filipino Community Association, Maui Filipino Community Council and the United Sons and Daughters of Ilocano Regions. He also received scholarships from Alexander & Baldwin, Carnation, Elmer F. Cravalho, Ripon College and the University of Southern California, while also being on the work-study program and obtaining a Guaranteed Student Loan through the H.C.&S. Federal Credit Union. While attending the UCLA School of Law, he received the Florence-Virginia Wilson and the Western State Scholarships

It’s still July BUT the “Brrr” months are coming!

Prepare this fall with an AD to celebrate Filipino-American History Month and Christmas!

Fil·Am Voice

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# CONSULATE COMMEMORATES 125 YEARS OF PHILIPPINE FREEDOM

June was a busy month for the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu as several activities were held to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence. On June 12, 1898 in Cavite, the Philippines declared its status as a sovereign nation, which gave birth to the first Philippine Republic. Through the annual observance of Philippine independence, we remember the valiant efforts of our predecessors who fought for freedom and secure a future they envisioned for the country.

On June 11, former University of Hawai'i professor Dr. Raymund Liongson, and the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu, behind the leadership of its chair, Mr. Edmund Aczon, staged *Kasarinlan: A Journey to Independence*. The re-enactment showcased important episodes of Philippine history from pre-colonial times to the struggle for freedom under Spanish rule and the declaration of Independence in Kawit. The activity featured lively cultural performances and heartfelt renditions of *kundiman* songs, *Bayan Ko* and *Sampaguita*.

On June 12, the Consulate, together with members of the Knights of Rizal – Hawai'i Chapter and the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawai'i (PCCCH), held a solemn ceremony to hoist the Philippine flag. The national day messages of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.,



Consul General Emil Fernandez (second from right) shares a toast with Lt. Governor Luke (center), Mayor Blangiardi (second from left), PCCCH Chairperson Adela Salacup (right) and Ms. Amelia Cabatu (left).

PHOTO COURTESY MARK SALONDAKA

Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, and Philippine Ambassador Jose Manuel G. Romualdez were read during the occasion. A modest *salo-salo* ensued with community members delighting attendees with surprise performances of Tagalog and Ilokano songs.

The Consulate hosted a reception on June 13 for U.S. government and Consular Corps officials. Director Jade Butay of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, a Filipino-American whose parents hail from Ilocos Norte, represented the Hawai'i State government. Director Butay and I led the toast affirming the robust and

deep alliance between the Philippines and the United States, our growing partnership in multiple areas and the meaningful contributions of Filipinos and Filipino Americans to Hawai'i and the United States. We were honored to be joined by former Governor Benjamin Cayetano and Madame Vicky Cayetano during the reception.

On June 14, the Consulate and PCCCH opened an art exhibit dubbed *Hibla at Pinta* featuring the paintings of Filipino artist and fashion designer Mr. Edgar San Diego. Through his artistry, Mr. San Diego brought to life strong *Filipiniana* elements in his paintings and created pieces vividly

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Filipino Food Week specials: Macadangdang's *Sisig* (above) and Tante's Island Cuisine's *Bulalo* (below).

PHOTOS COURTESY MACADANGDANG AND TANTE'S ISLAND CUISINE





Flag raising ceremony at the Philippine Consulate with Filipino community members.  
PHOTO COURTESY MARK SALONDAKA



Consul General Emil Fernandez welcomes guests during the Philippine national day reception.  
PHOTO COURTESY THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE

capturing one’s imagination.

The Consulate again partnered with PCCCH on June 17 in organizing this year’s Independence Day gala. The guests were dressed to impress in either traditional *Filipiniana* pieces or their modern interpretation. Adorned in their *Filipiniana* attire, Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke and Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi generously took time off from their busy schedules to take part in the celebration. In her remarks, Lt. Gov. Luke highlighted the strong ties between the Philippines and Hawai’i and recalled the Filipinos who first arrived in the islands in 1906 as *Sakadas*. She also emphasized the importance of recalling history and the initiative of the younger generation to include Philippine history in Hawai’i’s curriculum. In my message, I reflected on the impact of the Filipino diaspora to the development of both the Philippines and the United States, and the crucial role each and every Filipino plays as an ambassador of Philippine culture and heritage.

And no Filipino celebration would be complete without food! At the tail-

end of the Consulate’s commemorative activities, Filipino Food Week in Hawai’i and American Samoa was again held. From June 20 to 26, over twenty participating establishments throughout the islands presented their interpretation of *pulutan* dishes or specialty cocktails. The activity was warmly received by the talented chefs who experimented with Filipino cuisine. Three of the establishments were Maui-based – Tante’s Island Cuisine, Macadangdang, and Joey’s Kitchen–Nāpili. It was truly a pleasure to collaborate with these amazing restaurants, who continue to prove Filipino food deserves the spotlight in the culinary scene.

The Consulate expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the organizations and Filipino community members who supported and initiated activities to celebrate Philippine independence this year, including the Fil-Am Community of East Hawai’i, which had their 2nd Philippine Independence Day celebration in Hilo. As Filipinos, we fittingly take pride in our nation. Your efforts to enhance our global image does not

go unnoticed. The Philippine Consulate looks forward to working with the community in honoring our country’s heritage for generations to come. *Mabuhay ang lahang Pilipino!* 🌟

**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).

# Race ...

from p. 11

Quinlan noted, “Whole-person review has also helped make Yale more accessible. Today, the number of students who are eligible for the Pell Grant, a federal grant awarded to undergraduates with exceptional financial need, is nearly twice as high as it was a decade ago, and the numbers of undergraduates who identify as people of color, and those who will be the first in their families to attend college, have both increased by more than 60 percent over the past ten years.”

The California schools clawed back some of the enrollment decreases by investing in more extensive and expensive recruiting efforts while employing race neutral admissions policies. Starting in the early 2000s, the top-performing students graduating from most high schools in the state were guaranteed admission to most of the eight UC undergraduate campuses. But as University of California Chancellors informed SCOTUS in *amicus* briefs supporting Harvard and UNC, despite investing billions, the schools have made some progress but have not met their diversity and equity goals in the twenty-five years since Proposition 209 was approved.

Texas largely sidestepped affirmative action by implementing a program where the top resident students in all Texas public and private schools are guaranteed admission to a University of Texas campus. Texas House Bill 588, commonly referred to as the “Top 10% Rule”, is a Texas law passed in 1997. The law guarantees Texas students who graduated in the top ten percent of their high school class automatic admission to all state-funded universities. With schools in communities that may have larger or homogenous Hispanic and Black populations, top students from those schools have the opportunity to attend a UT campus. The University of Texas at Austin, however, only guarantees admission to students from the top six percent of their high school class. But the *Fisher* challenge arose despite the Top 10 percent Rule when a white female student missed the cut-off for her high school and she was placed in a pool where race was considered as an admissions feature.

The effort to boost diversity that more closely reflects the California population has come with a heavy price tag. Since Prop 209 took effect, UC has spent more than a half-billion dollars on outreach programs and application reviews to draw in a more diverse student body. Olufemi Ogundele, Dean of UC Berkeley undergraduate admissions, recently reflected in the *New York Times*, “Those measures run the gamut from outreach programs directed at low-income students and students from families with little college experience, to programs designed to increase UC’s geographic reach, to holistic admissions policies.” (Olufemi Ogundele, “Learn From Those Of

see RACE p. 18





Happy Birthday America!  
IMAGE COURTESY DCN. PAT CONSTANTINO



Cora and Dcn. Pat Constantino enjoying the fireworks at Dodgers Stadium.  
PHOTO: DCN. PAT CONSTANTINO

My reflection is from the Gospel of Matthew 10:37–42.

*Jesus said to his disciples: “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—amen. I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”*

*The Gospel of the Lord!  
Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ!*

As we celebrate our nation’s birth, it would be good for us to ponder what American citizenship has meant to many people over the past two hundred years plus, and what it means to many who seek to enter our land today. People, including many of our own ancestors, have gone to extraordinary lengths to make America their home.

What is it about this land that has made it so attractive to the rest of the world? Doubtless many people come here looking for work. They are tired of eking out a subsistence living in their own land. They know this is truly a land of economic opportunity. Most of them come here and work hard and become an asset to their community and to our country. Others live in lands torn with crime or outright oppression by their own government. They come here looking for security.

# Happy Birthday America! Jesus’ Thirst For America!

Deacon Patrick Constantino

It’s interesting in a sad way. Few people die in traditional warfare nowadays, that is, war between nations. Most people who die today from violence are killed either in crimes or they are the victims of terrorism or they are victims of violence from their own governments. There are still some very cruel authoritarian governments in many parts of the world. So people come to America as they have for 200-plus years for economic opportunity or to flee crime or persecution in their own countries.

Who can blame either group? Particularly if we have a family, we will go to extraordinary lengths to provide them with a better life. But there is another reason people have risked their very lives to come to this land. And it’s summed up in one word: *Freedom*, blessed freedom!

That’s what America has stood for more than anything else since its founding two hundred plus years ago. It was founded by a group of individuals who had an amazing vision of a better way of structuring government: of the people, for the people, by the people.

Freedom. What a powerful word. What an amazing idea. Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of worship, freedom to pursue one’s dream—we dare not take these things for granted. And so on July 4th, we enjoyed picnics and parades and fireworks to celebrate, as gen-

er’ations have before us, the gift of freedom.

For Christians, however, every worship service ought to be a celebration of freedom—for the most important freedom available in this world is the freedom only Christ can bring—freedom from sin and death, freedom from fear and failure, freedom from anger and vindictiveness.

Perhaps we should replace our Call to Worship with fireworks and our organ with a brass band. Why? Because nearly 1800 years before our ancestors fought at Valley Forge, someone else died for our freedom. On the cross of Calvary a man named Jesus of Nazareth gave up his life to free us from every scourge that would crush our spirits and bring us down to sub-human activity.

“You have been set free . . .” writes St. Paul. Do you know what that means? St. Paul uses the image of slavery. Paul lived in a world where slavery was practiced on a widespread basis. Some people were enslaved because of military conquest. Others were enslaved because they could not pay their debts. But the people he was writing to knew the life of a slave to be a miserable one. Imagine living at the mercy of the whims of a master who, if he chose, could be cruel and vindictive—one who could whip you or banish you or even have you killed. Of course,

Paul himself knew what it was to be bound in chains while languishing in prison.

You and I may have difficulty relating to slavery. Probably none of us will ever wear chains around our arms and legs. But there are many people in our land who live as if they are bound with chains. I’m thinking of those who have become addicted to drugs or alcohol or tobacco or pornography or a host of other vices that have preyed on humanity since the dawn of time. A recovering alcoholic will tell you the first step to overcoming an addiction is to acknowledge addiction has taken you prisoner. Addiction can be a terrible master. I may seem to be making light of a serious situation. I don’t mean to be.

It’s important to understand we can be addicted to a great many things. Some addictions can even be beneficial. For example, some people are addicted to exercise, which most of us could use more of. Psychologist William Glasser authored a book several years ago titled *Positive Addiction*. Glasser notes how some people actually improve their lives through developing what he calls addictions to positive endeavors. For example, he believes a person who jogs one mile a day not only strengthens his heart and his lungs but he increases his self-confidence and imaginative powers as well.

Though he uses language more suited to his time, this is basically what St. Paul is saying. In this passage Paul is saying we can be addicted to sin, which includes everything that would pull us down and keep us from being what God created us to be . . . or we can be addicted to God who will help us, if we will let Him, increase our sense of well-being bound by chains of love to God. This is to say there is no greater freedom

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI p.20





Hello Summer! Summer break is finally here and you know what that means. ... It's fun time under the sun! How are you spending your summer break this year? Are you traveling domestically or internationally? Or are you staying on the island? Whatever you decide, I hope you have fun; after all, life is short. We must enjoy it and spend time with friends, family and especially those kids. Kids grow up so fast. One minute you are

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

changing their diapers and the next thing you know, you are sending them to college. Let's enjoy our paradise and make memories with our family and friends. Share how you spend your sum-

mer vacation and visit us on our Facebook page and leave us a comment at [www.facebook.com/FilAmVoiceMaui](http://www.facebook.com/FilAmVoiceMaui). Let's also give a shout out to our July birthday celebrants: Cherilyn Faylogna

Danzer, Lyndsay Danielle Butay Hayen and Migz Ravina Cariaga. Happy, Happy birthday to you! (Tagalog) *Mali-gayang bati sa iyong kaarawan!* (Ilocano) *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?

RAY DECIDES TO TELL his brother about his first assignment. He was assigned to do an investigation about an undocumented person from the Philippines who killed a cop.

"Bro, I think Michael is going out with a dangerous person. He might get in trouble," Ray says to his brother.

"Sino (Who) is in trouble? Michael killed a cop?" Michael's mom overhears Ray and his brother's phone conversation.

"Hindi (No). You heard it wrong," says the husband to his wife. "Stop eavesdropping on my phone calls," says Robert, Michael's dad to his wife.

"Sinno (Who) killed a cop then?" she asks her husband.

"Bakit (Why) don't you call your son and tell him to *agawid* (come home)," he answers to his wife. And then turns back to talk to his brother on the phone.

"Bro, we will try to contact him. Please look out for your nephew," Robert says to his brother.

Then he hangs up the phone with a heavy *nawong* (face).

"Apay (Why) does your *mukha* (face) look like that?" his wife asks him.

He ignores what she says. He asks her instead, "Where is Mikey?"

"Leave the boy alone. He's grown up. Let him have fun once in a while. He's always working. I don't want him to end up like you, who *ubra* (works) all the time and has no time for fun," Michael's mom says.

"I know he is an adult but I need to talk to him," Michael's dad says.

"Talk about what? *Ubra* (Work) again? *Trabaho, trabaho, trabaho* (Work, work, work) all the time!" she exclaims.

"It's not *obro* (work). It's for his safety," he says and leaves her in the living room.

| English        | Pilipino | Ilokano | Cebuano  | Ilonggo | Ibanag   | Kapampangan |
|----------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|-------------|
| Work           | Trabaho  | Ubra    | Trabahu  | Obro    | Trabaho  | Trabaho     |
| Mother         | Nanay    | Nanang  | Inahan   | Nanay   | Yena     | Ima         |
| Where?         | Nasaan?  | Inno?   | Diin?    | San o?  | Sitaw?   | Nokarin?    |
| Who?           | Sino?    | Sinno?  | Kinsa?   | Sin o?  | Sinni?   | Ninoymi?    |
| House          | Bahay    | Balay   | Balay    | Balay   | Balay    | Bale        |
| Come / Go home | Umuwi    | Agawid  | Pauli    | Mapauli | Malubbet | Muli naka   |
| Friend         | Kaibigan | Gayyem  | Bai      | Abayan  | Kofun    | Kaluguran   |
| Face           | Mukha    | Rupa    | Nawom    | Nawong  | Muka     | Lupa        |
| What?          | Ano?     | Ana?    | Hani?    | Ano?    | Anni     | Nanoyin?    |
| Why?           | Bakit?   | Apay?   | Nganong? | Ngaa?   | Kaam?    | Bakit?      |

Michael's mom follows him to the bathroom and asks, "What do you mean for his safety? Is Mikey in trouble? Is he ok?"

He doesn't respond. He goes to the kitchen to get a glass of water.

"Answer me! Is Mikey in trouble? Hani (What) did your brother say on the phone? Where is he? Why is he not home? *Nanoyin* (What) did he do?" she asks unending questions.

"*Nganong* (Why) don't you help me and try to call him? I've been calling him since this afternoon and he wasn't answering," he says calmly.

"*Kaam* (Why) didn't you tell me he is missing? That he is in trouble? I should have not gone out and had fun with my friends? Oh, Robert, where is my son?" she starts sobbing.

"I did not say that your son is missing! Will you stop crying? It will not help us. You need to keep yourself calm," Robert says to his wife.

Michael's mom dials the phone ... Hangs up when it goes to voice-mail ... dials again and again and again.

She must have dialed fifty more times.

Then finally "Mikey! Mikey!" *Ima* (Mom) screams.

Angel gives the phone to Michael.

Michael stares at the phone. He is blank.

Angel grabs his *kamay* (hand) and gives the phone to him.

He stares at her blankly.

"*Nanay?* (Mom?) *Are you my inahan* (mom)?" Michael says nervously.

"Of course, Michael! I am your *yena* (mother)!" she says furiously. "Oh Mikey, *nasaan* (where) are you?" she says worriedly. "Are you ok? Are you hurt? Are you safe? Come to the *balay* (house)." Endless questions she wants to know the answer to.

"I am fine, *Ima* (Mom). I am safe. Nothing to worry about," Michael says calmly.

"Michael, you have to *umuwi* (come home) and we need to talk. I think it is not safe for you to be out and let alone this time. *Pauli* (Come home), my son," she pleads with him.

Michael looks at Angel and he says to his mom, "I'm with Angel, *Inang* (Mom)."

"I know, son. The two of you should *pauli* (come home) so we can talk about things. They said Angel killed a cop," Mom says shakingly.

"*Unsa* (What)?" Michael is shocked. "*Sino*

(Who) told you? How did you know that?" *Inno* (Where) did you get that news?" Michael's turn to have endless questions for his *Nanay* (mother).

"Michael, calm down. The detectives are looking for her so it's best to *agawid* (come home) so the two of you are safe. *Magpauli* (Come home), son, please?"

Michael is quiet for a moment then he says, "Ok *yena* (mom), we're coming home."

What is waiting for Michael and Angel at Michael's home? What are his parents going to do? Is Angel in trouble? Is Michael in trouble?

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 *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 the owner of Maui Balsamic Vinegar, 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.





Sakada Offspring



Grace Motonaga



Our family at Kū'au celebrating our anniversaries.



A surprise celebration for a milestone birthday.

Grace Nefulda Motonaga

Lucy Peros | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY NEFULDA MOTONAGA 'OHANA

This month's Sakada Offspring is a Hawai'i born whose father came from the Philippines as one of the old timers Sakada in the 1920's. Grace Nefulda Motonaga was very happy to share whatever she remembers about her parents especially about her father, Ciriaco Nefulda. Grace was born in March 1965 at the Maui Memorial Hospital in Wailuku. She attended Wailuku Elementary, Īao School, Baldwin High School, Maui Community College and

the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She presently works at Kaiser Permanente as Sr. Trainer for the EMR (electronic medical records) system for the last twenty-five years. She is primarily responsible to train nursing and ancillary staff as well as support new providers when they start at any of the Maui Kaiser clinics. Grace is certified in Epic Care Ambulatory. She started as an appointment clerk, became lead appointment clerk, then lead scheduler and lastly for the EMR

system. Grace's prior employment were Maui Medical Group - front desk; International Savings and Loan - bank teller; Monarch Building Supply - retail cashier; and Waiehu Liquor Store (aka: PC Trading Store) - a small family business. Shawn Motonaga, Grace's husband, retired five years ago from the County of Maui after thirty-two years service and is currently working with their son at his automobile repair business. Their daughter, Megan Won (spouse - Michael) is a fourth-grade teacher in Seattle. She is a graduate of the University of Washington and Seattle Pacific University. Their son, Christian Motonaga (spouse: Chastity) is a small business owner (UTI - Universal Tech-

nical Institute). Grace belongs to the Valley Isle Fellowship Congregation. She is very active and is involved in the music ministry (plays keyboard), Small Group (co-leader), Pastoral Search Team (member); and assists with Women's Ministry, Neighborhood Outreach and Kūpuna Care. She is an active community volunteer through Kaiser Permanente and she belongs to Two Thirds World Network (board member, as a treasurer). Grace received from Kaiser Permanente 5, 10-, 15-, 20-, and 25-years' service awards besides the Friend of Nursing award. Besides being a working wife, Grace enjoys watching Hallmark movies, listening to various genres of

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Ciriaco and Magdalena Nefulda at church.





The Nefulda Cousins .

music, playing the piano, hunting, walking, and playing with her son’s dogs, and she loves to watch drag-racing. She is also a caregiver to her ninety-two-year-old mother-in-law who lives with them.

Grace has only one sibling, Josephine Muehi (spouse: Brian), both retired (no children).

Grace shared the following information about her parents, Ciriaco and Magdalena Nefulda, migrated from Paoay, Ilocos Norte, Philippines in the 1920s to work in the sugar plantation of Hawai’i. This makes him one of the old timers of *Sakadas* who came to Hawai’i as plantation workers. He had an opportunity to make a better life in the states. He lived in Spreckelsville in Pā’ia and worked at HC&S for many years. He eventually retired as a Luna (Supervisor) sometime in the 1970s.

In the 1950s he longed for a bride so he reached out to his family and asked for a single female he could write to (pen pal). Eventually, he returned to the Philippines to finally meet his pen pal. Soon after that meeting, they fell in love and got married. That beautiful lady was the late Magdalena H. Velasco, Grace’s mom.

Here is a heartfelt reflection of Grace about her parents: *I thank our good Lord for the parents He blessed me with. They were both strong in their Christian faith and raised my sister and I in the same manner. They were involved in the life of our church, Pu’unēnē Evangelical Church, that eventually relocated to Kahului and renamed Maui Evangelical Church. They served in various positions over many years. And because of their deep faith, they were good respectable people who worked extremely hard, were honest*



Enjoying the Venetian in Vegas.

and very humble.

In addition to Grace’s reflection, this writer testifies Ciriaco and Magdalena Nefulda were assets to the Filipino community here on Maui. They were very active in the different Filipino organizations like the USDIR (United Sons and Daughters of the Ilo-

cano Regions) under the leadership of the late Cirilo Sinfuego.

Those of you who remember the old Territorial Building at the old County Fair Grounds, there during the annual Rizal Day Celebration around the end of December, you would see **see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page**



Ciriaco and Magdalena Nefulda at home.



Their very first barong tagalog.





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## Race ...

from p. 13

Us Doing The Work Already,” New York Times 7/4/23, [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/07/05/opinion/affirmative-action-college-admissions.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=article-Share]]. In the briefs, the California Chancellors wrote, “Yet despite its extensive efforts, UC struggles to enroll a student body that is sufficiently racially diverse to attain the educational benefits of diversity.” The *amicus* brief notes: “Although these programs have increased geographic diversity, they have not substantially increased the racial diversity of students admitted to UC. They have had little impact at the most selective campuses.”

Ogundele cautions admissions officers face big challenges: “Having equitable college admissions requires an understanding of the broader context of students’ applications, information about their neighborhoods (the College Board’s Landscape is one tool), their schools, the courses available, access to those courses and their situations at home, because experiences vary greatly in K–12.”

Since California eliminated race-conscious admissions, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma and Washington have also barred affirmative action either legislatively or by referendum. Selective public universities in red-der states may also face different risks in maintaining “diversity, equity and inclusion” policies where conservative elected officials are quick to label certain practices as “woke” and appear willing to interfere legislatively with admissions policies. Those institutions will have to carefully craft approaches to navigate the narrow route al-

lowed in the Roberts opinion.

The Court decision did not impact another part of the admissions process that was criticized as favoring white and wealthy applicants—so-called “legacy” preferences for the children of alumni and faculty, donors, and athletes. Disgruntled supporters of diversity policies have already filed lawsuits challenging those preferences. Elite schools have resisted those objections, arguing these preferences build community and assist in fund-raising. But with cynicism around college admissions high (especially following the admissions scandal where parents bribed coaches at selective schools to admit their non-athlete children as recruits), elite universities may need to adjust those policies as well.

While race conscious factors are now illegal, the decisions still leave questions for America’s selective colleges and universities. Opponents of affirmative action have already warned they will be watching how those institutions respond. ✱

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran**, a first generation Filipino-American, was admitted to Yale College two years after the Bakke decision and only twelve years after the admission of the first

undergraduate women to Old Eli, and to the Boalt Hall School of Law, the University of California at Berkeley, a dozen years before California voters eliminated affirmative action through Proposition 209. He served as a student member of the Boalt Hall Admissions Committee during his third year in law



school. His undergraduate class was quite diverse, with students enrolled from every part of Westchester County. He received degrees from both institutions and practices law in Wailuku. He also represents Central Maui in the Hawai'i State Senate. UH Maui College is in his Senate district.

## Sakada Offspring | from p. 17

Ciriaco and Magdalena participating in the joyous event! One would see them dancing the iconic Filipino dance, Rigodon, together with other Filipino leaders like Elias and Catalina Evangelista, Isaac and Felipa Cacyorin, Cirilo and Catalina Sinfuego, Santiago and Lourdes Dagdag, and Domingo and Victoria Dagdag.

The lives of our Sakadas were not only full of work, work and more work but they knew how to have fun with their families! ✱

**Lucy Peros** is a retired schoolteacher, 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 En-

hance 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.





## Chat GPT: A Practical Look at the Use of Realtime Open AI

Liza A Pierce of "A Maui Blog"

**T**his is brilliant: I was having a hard time writing a great introduction to the topic we are talking about this month at Kwento-Kwentuhan. Then I thought, "Why not put this topic into use. It's the perfect time to test it." And so I did. I logged in to my chat.openai.com account, went to Chat GPT and asked it to write the introduction for me.

### I typed:

If you are to write a paragraph introducing the subject of Chat GPT and AI, how would you write it?

### And chat GPT replied:

*Introducing Chat GPT and Artificial Intelligence (AI), a fascinating realm where human-like conversation meets advanced technology. Chat GPT, powered by the GPT-3.5 architecture developed by OpenAI, is an impressive language model designed to understand and generate human-like text based on the input it receives. With its vast knowledge and ability to analyze context,*

*Chat GPT can engage in dynamic conversations, answer questions, provide explanations, and even assist with various tasks.*

*AI, on the other hand, refers to the field of study and development of intelligent machines that can perform*

*tasks requiring human intelligence. From natural language processing to computer vision and problem-solving, AI encompasses a wide range of applications.*

*Together, Chat GPT and AI offer exciting opportunities for interactive communication and enhanced understanding between humans and machines.*

*Wow, that was quick! And quite impressive too, isn't it? Although the tone of the introduction is not quite the same as my tone (or my "voice" as we say it in the writing world), it still did the job of providing a good introduction on the topic of Chat GPT and AI.*

Have you been hearing all these chatter about this subject Chat GPT and IA? I have been. In social media, LinkedIn, and even during in person conversations, this topic often comes up nowadays.



Have you tried using Chat GPT? ... I think it is good to familiarize ourselves with it.

PHOTO COURTESY LIZA PIERCE

There are legitimate concerns in using this technology. However, we cannot simply ignore it. It is "the future" we can say "the future is now" so we must at least get familiar with it.

### Moving along, I decided to ask it another question:

Tell me, what are the three important things we should know about Chat GPT and AI

### And here is its reply:

When it comes to Chat GPT and AI, there are three important things to keep in mind:

**Language Understanding and Generation:** Chat GPT is a language model powered by AI that excels in understanding and generating human-like text. It has been trained on a massive dataset comprising diverse sources of information, allowing it to grasp a wide range of topics and respond intelligently to prompts. Its ability to comprehend context, provide accurate answers, and generate coherent responses makes it a valuable tool for interactive conversations.

### Applications and Potential:

AI, including Chat GPT, has a vast array of applications across various domains. In customer service, it can handle customer inquiries and provide personalized assistance. In education,

it can serve as a tutor, answering questions and explaining complex concepts. In content generation, it can assist with writing, generating ideas, or even creating fictional stories. Moreover, AI is utilized in healthcare, finance, transportation, and many other fields, revolutionizing processes and enhancing efficiency.

**Ethical Considerations:** As AI continues to evolve, it is crucial to address ethical considerations. Chat GPT's responses are generated based on patterns and examples from its training data, which means it may sometimes produce biased or inaccurate information. It is important to critically evaluate the information provided by AI models and consider their limitations. Additionally, privacy and data security are significant concerns when dealing with AI systems, as they often require access to personal or sensitive data. It is essential to handle data responsibly and implement safeguards to protect user privacy.

By understanding the capabilities, potential applications, and ethical implications of Chat GPT and AI, we can navigate this fascinating field while harnessing its benefits responsibly.

Here are a couple more important things to know about Chat GPT that were not mentioned in the previous reply.

**Chat GPT, as AI, does not have real-time information or access to current reviews.** For example, when you ask it about the best restaurant on Maui, it will give you a disclosure before it mentions some restaurants.

**Chat GPT's training data goes up until September 2021, which**

**means its knowledge is based on information available up to that time.** It does not have access to real-time or future information. It's important to verify and cross-reference any time-sensitive or updated information with current sources to ensure accuracy.

Have you tried using Chat GPT? As I said earlier, I think it is good to familiarize ourselves with it.

There is a lot to learn. Maybe we will revisit this topic in the near future. For now, this is just a quick glimpse at what it is all about. Here is the website to go to create an account to use Chat GPT if you want to try it out: chat.openai.com 🌟

**Liza Pierce** of A Maui Blog is an Interactive Media enthusiast. She started blogging in 2006 and she loves talking story online and spreading aloha around the world. She's been living on Maui since 1994 and considers Maui her home. A wife, a mother, a friend... and so much more. She loves Jesus; Maui Sunsets Catcher; Crazy About Rainbow; End Alzheimer's Advocate. Her life is full and exciting here on the island of Maui. Liza is currently the Digital Media Specialist with Hawai'i Life Real Estate Brokers. She is the author of the book Maui 2021 and Beyond.





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Ti Biag ken Pammati

from p. 14

in the world than the freedom that God gives through Jesus Christ.

Whether it is freedom from a debilitating habit or freedom to simply be the very best we can be, there is something about being connected to Christ that allows us to experience a richness to life those without Christ will never experience. That sounds like to me that with all the background and experiences, we have with Christ, we can be all addicted to Christ.

That can happen to a person. Maybe it's happened to us. Maybe at one time in life we were addicted to one of the many vices in this world that lures people and then traps them. But one day we met Jesus and he took the chains of addiction off and set us free—free to be a new person with a new heart and new spirit. Maybe we were bound by a different kind of addiction. Maybe we were bound by self-righteousness and a condemning spirit. Maybe Christ has freed that spirit in us to love and to be loved.

Whatever our situation, there is one who longs to take off any chains, even if it is simply the chains of a meaningless and self-centered preoccupation with our own needs. He wants to help us make a new start. He wants to be our Friend, our Ally as we seek to live an abundant life, filled to the brim with a joy that surpasses understanding.


Today is the day that can happen. Will we join our life to that of Christ? Then we will be able to say

that glorious chant that we first heard from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: “Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, (I’m) free at last.”

Let’s thank God for freedom this day, and let’s open our hearts to the One who gives us freedom in this world and the world to come. *Jesus, I trust in You! Amen!*

Hope you all had a happy Fourth of July! 🌟

On July 1, 2022, **Patrick Constantino** 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‘ānae. His last assignment before retiring was at St. Joseph Church in Makawao.



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

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

D&P ...


from p. 7

M. M. Kupau-Odo, Deirdre Marie-Iha, ICA Judge Sonja M. P. McCullen, ICA Judge Karen T. Nakasone, Oahu Circuit Court Judge Catherine H. Remigio, ICA Judge Clyde J. Wadsworth, and Thomas Yamachika. During her recent Senate confirmation as an ICA Judge, Guidry said she would withdraw from consideration. In 2024, JSC will have to provide names to the Governor to replace Chief Justice Recktenwald as well.

If confirmed by the State Senate, Green’s Justices may form a new majority on the Hawai’i Supreme Court with the same potential to disrupt settled Hawai’i law for at least the next decade in the same ways as the SCOTUS conservative super majority. 🌟

**Gilbert Keith-Agaran**, a first generation Filipino-American, was admitted to Yale College two years after the Bakke decision and only twelve years after the ad-

mission of the first undergraduate women, and to the Boalt Hall School of Law, the University of California at Berkeley, a dozen years before California voters eliminated affirmative action. His undergraduate class was quite diverse, with students enrolled from every part of Westchester County. He received degrees from both institutions and practices law in Wailuku. He also represents Central Maui in the Hawai’i State Senate. UH Maui College is in his Senate district.



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