



**Jill Tokuda responds for Lahaina**  
Through criticism and adversity, Tokuda stays strong.  
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**Favorite president**  
Filipino educators responds to who their favorite(s) is/are.  
**See below**



**Super Bowl LVIII, a look at one view**  
Dinengdeng & Pinakbet admonishes the value of loyalty.  
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# Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

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## Advocating for Lahaina: Jill Tokuda

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY JILL TOKUDA

**“W**ith all the things I have seen, the stories I have heard, the hands I’ve held, and the moments I have shared with so many people since the fires, it has moved me, and it has changed me,” U.S. Congresswoman Jill Tokuda declares. “You can’t help but be changed by an experience like this, and while there will always be people who criticize and judge you, none of that will help Lahaina and her people. So, I respect their judgments and instead focus on doing everything I can for Lahaina, for Maui, and for Hawai’i.” The Lahaina and Up-country Maui wildfires thrust the Congresswoman, just seven months into her first term into the national and local limelight. Maui residents in her district perished in the La-

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Congresswoman Jill Tokuda at Ground Zero.

## Who’s Your Favorite President?

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR



Figures of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln are carved on Mount Rushmore.

PHOTO: PUBLIC DOMAIN, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=225975>

**I**t’s mid-February with celebrations galore. Mardi Gras (on Feb. 13) (Hello New Orleans!), Ash Wednesday (on Feb. 14), Valentine’s Day (also on Feb. 14 and it’s a Leap Year, ladies) and yes, President’s Day (celebrated on Feb. 19; President Abraham Lincoln’s birthday is on Feb. 12 while President George Washington’s birthday is on Feb. 22). BTW, 2024 is a presidential election year ...

Since 1789, forty-five males have served as president of the United States. (While the count of Presidential succession is forty-six, only forty-five men have served—Grover Cleveland was both the 22nd and 24th President. See box on page 9 for list.) All except one have been

see PRESIDENT p.3

FREE



Former colleagues in the Hawai'i State Senate: Gil Keith-Agaran and Jill Tokuda.

## Tokuda ...

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haina fires and also lost homes and businesses and left many others in limbo about jobs and staying on island. Now, six months after the Lahaina fires, Tokuda continues to advocate passionately for the Lahaina fire survivors. “This was the hardest thing I’ve ever experienced as an elected official,” she says plainly. “And quite frankly, as a human being. While I was blessed not to have lost a loved one or a home, it still felt, and still is, deeply personal.”

Tokuda was on the ground almost immediately after the Lahaina fire. “Within days of the fire, we put together

er federal resource fairs, focused on facilitating a whole-of-government response to make sure people were connected with the help they needed and working to secure the resources and support needed to ensure the immediate and long-term recovery of our Maui ‘ohana.”

Many freshman legislators can get lost in the rough and tumble of DC politics. But Tokuda is no neophyte to public service. Tokuda won a Hawai'i State Senate in 2006, representing her native Windward O'ahu communities of Kāne'ohe and Kailua. In the Senate, she rose to chair the powerful Ways and Means Committee, where she was responsible for balancing the state budget and considering and approving



Rep. Tokuda with her husband and kids.

any fiscal and tax measures moving through the Legislature. During her twelve years at the State Capitol, Tokuda also chaired the committees governing Education and Higher Education, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs, and Labor, as well as serving the Senate leadership as Majority Whip.

Tokuda outlined her efforts in advocating for the Lahaina fire survivors. In addition to bringing Congressional leaders to Hawai'i (including then-House Speaker Kevin McCarthy), which aided in securing \$16 billion in additional disaster funding for FEMA, Rep. Tokuda also introduced legislation and joined the others in Hawai'i's congressional delegation (U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono and U.S. Representative Ed Case) in requesting various federal actions, including:

- Requesting FEMA's assistance to return West Maui students to the classroom and to facilitate the development of temporary and permanent schools in Lahaina.
- Asking President Biden to increase disaster funding request to support Maui. FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund received an additional \$16 billion in appropriations on Sept. 30th.
- Introducing a bill that would allow more taxpayers impacted by the Maui fires to deduct personal casualty losses and keep cash in their pockets.
- Introducing the Maui STRONG Act to create a grant program to help restart Maui nonprofits and small businesses that were impacted by the wildfires.
- Requesting the Department of the Interior support and prioritize environmental restoration and cultural preservation on Maui and Hawaii Island as part of the wildfire recovery efforts.

Tokuda, born and raised in Kāne'ohe, notes she is “a proud product of Kāne'ohe Elementary, King Intermediate, and Castle High School.” “I was the first in my family to attend college, earning my BA in International Relations and a minor in Japanese from the George Washington University in Washington DC,” she adds.

Tokuda's family remains important for her busy life. “I am blessed to have a wonderful family that has supported me through all of my public and private endeavors,” she notes firmly. “My husband Kyle Michibata is my rock and has been my best friend since we were twelve years old. Our sons Matt (15) and Aden (14) now attend the same schools we went to as students, King Intermediate and Castle High School.” And she adds, “Each week that I go home, I am also eagerly greeted by our chiweenie, Bailey.”


Having such strong family ties shapes Tokuda's focus. “My focus in Congress has always been, and remains, making sure that our *keiki* and families can see a future for themselves in Hawai'i. That means prioritizing actions and policies that help to make Hawai'i more affordable for *keiki* to *kūpuna* so they can live and thrive at home,” Tokuda asserts. “This includes expanding access to health and mental health services, building more housing people can afford, reducing food insecurity, bringing down the cost of living, protecting our environment, and increasing access to education and job opportunities.”

Tokuda observes this long list has been affected by the fires. “Sadly, these challenges and issues existed long before the fires, and since then, have been exacerbated in all of our communities.”

Her time as a college student in DC apparently fueled her desire to enter

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Appointments on Maui or on O'ahu

President ...

from p. 1

white. Anyone knows who was the only non-white President? If you answered Barack Obama, the 44th president, who was born in Hawai‘i, you are correct!

Here’s some interesting facts. One president resigned (Richard Nixon).

One president served for only thirty-one days (William Henry Harrison).

One president served for twelve years (Franklin D. Roosevelt).

A few presidents are known by their initials: FDR (Franklin Delano Roosevelt), JFK (John Fitzgerald Kennedy) and LBJ (Lyndon Baines Johnson) while one was known by his middle initial “W” (George Walker Bush) as compared to his dad George Herbert Walker Bush.

There were two sets of fathers and sons who became president: John Adams/John Quincy Adams and George H.W. Bush/George W. Bush.

A set of presidents were distant cousins (Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt).

Four presidents were assassinated while in office (Abraham Lincoln, John Garfield, William McKinley and John F. Kennedy).

Eleven presidents failed to win reelection: Donald J. Trump, George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Herbert Hoover, William Howard Taft, Benjamin Harrison,



Cornelio “C.J.” Ancheta

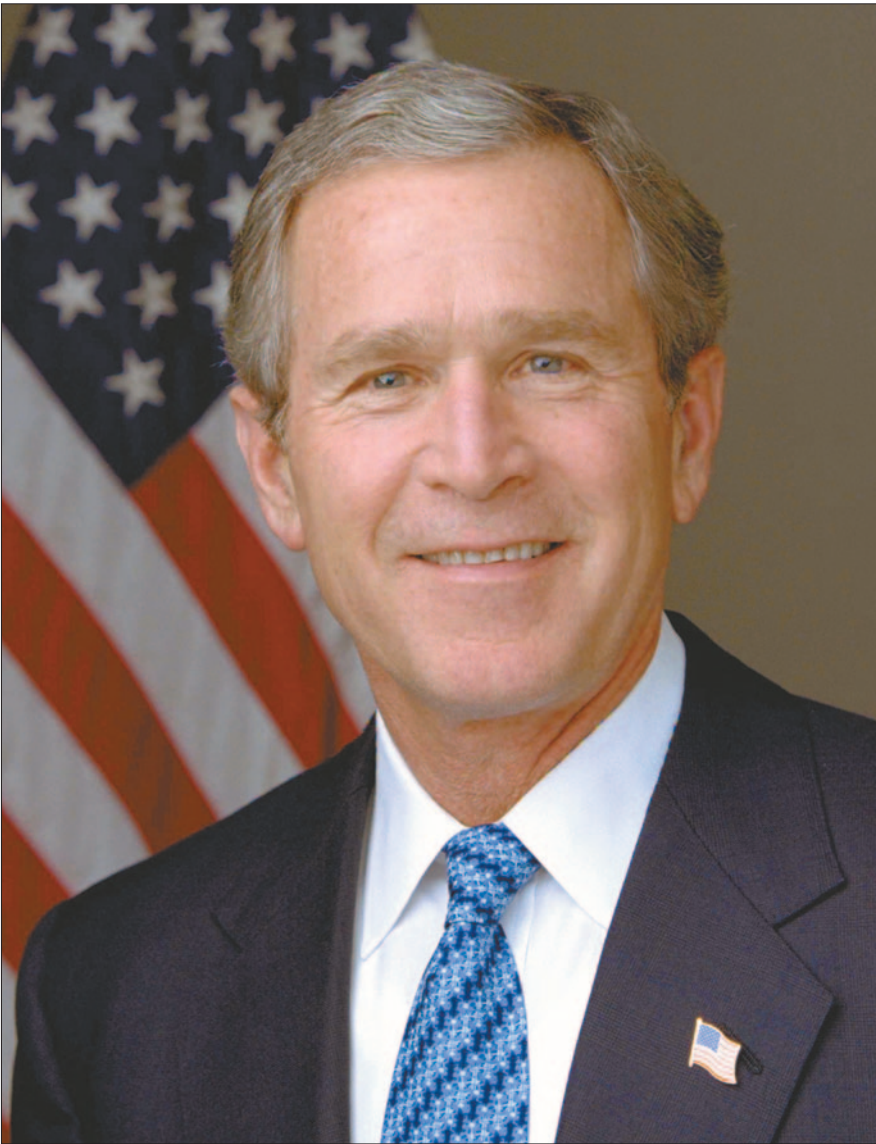
Grover Cleveland, Milton Von Buren, John Quincy Adams and John Adams.

If you love history or political science, there’s a lot of information about our Presidents that is simply interesting.

Local educators of Filipino ancestry talked about their favorite U.S. Presidents.

2022 West Maui-Lāna‘i-Molokai Complex Teacher of the Year, Cornelio “C.J.” Ancheta says “I admire two Presidents mainly because of their significant achievements in education reform initiatives. The first one is President George W. Bush. He was responsible for instituting the ‘No Child Left Behind’ (NCLB) Act in 2015. Accord-

see PRESIDENT next page



George W. Bush

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## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



Jennifer Bagoyo takes the blood pressure before the patient sees the doctor during the medical and dental mission in Bangued.  
PHOTO COURTESY TWO-THIRDS WORLD NETWORK

## Our Mission to the Philippines, for Christ

In the Bible, Matthew 28:18-20, the Great Commission states:

*I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

In response to this call from God, Two-Thirds World Network (TTWN), a Maui based U.S. IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit Christian organization recently held a medical, dental and evangelism ministry mission in various parts of the Philippines from January 15–27, 2024. TTWN objectives are:

- Declare the Good News of Christ in the Two-Thirds World;
- Develop partnerships that maximize human, material, and spiritual resources to meet physical and spiritual needs;
- Engage God's people to inspire

influential spiritual leadership and economic development among people;

- Build influential spiritual leaders through theological education, training seminars, and mentorship; and
- Promote cross-cultural exchange of ideas and opportunities in global missions.

The recent mission was conducted in Laoag City and Badoc in the province of Ilocos Norte; Turod and Camarao in Narvacan; Nagtupacan in Santa Maria; and Santa in the province of Ilocos Sur, and Bangued in the province of Abra. The mission team included two medical doctors, two dentists, nurses, pharmacists and several spiritual counselors. Local *barangay* officials also provided help, especially feasts of delicious, authentic delicacies representing their villages. The warm and gracious hospitality given to us by the various villages made our mission

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## President ...

from p. 3

ing to edweek.org, the NCLB elevated the federal government's role in holding the school's responsibility for the academic progress of all students. As a special education teacher during my early years, I appreciated the NCLB because it supported the learning needs of a group of vulnerable population students such as special education students, English language learners, and poor and minority students. Although there were concerns and challenges, the NCLB produced positive gains in mathematics achievement among young learners. The other leader is President Barack Obama. In 2015, he signed into law the 'Every Student Succeeds Act' (ESSA), implemented in 2017 during my first year of teaching. According to the Hawai'i public school website, Hawai'i took advantage of this by updating its Strategic Plan to align its requirements. Additionally, Hawai'i's accountability system, called Strive HI, provides annual report cards on students' academic performance and readiness." Ancheta currently teaches at Lahainaluna High School, teaching Geometry and Algebra II to 10th and 11th graders. He's been teaching full-time for six years.

Current Kahului Elementary School teacher (Grade 2) Michelle Balala Siores also names Obama as her favorite President. She states "Obama's most significant achievement was making healthcare accessible and affordable for all. As the first Black American President, he had to overcome prejudice and he did so by leading our country with grace and intellect. Obama's greatest asset was his ability to inspire and enrapture others with his speeches."



Michelle Balala Siores

Ancheta agrees. Obama "championed the cause of the economic boom during his term and health care reform, popularly called Obamacare." Ancheta cited Obama's "character traits of being conciliatory, assertive, considerate and gracious" which made Obama a great leader. "He used these traits to overcome his challenges during his term. Additionally, his skill in building a team, presenting his ideas fluently, and ability to make quick decisions contribute to his great leadership."

"George Washington is my favorite president because he exemplified leadership," declares Cecilia Jacinto. "He was a founding father of the United States of America and he played an important part in establishing the U.S. Constitution. Afterwards he was elected as the first U.S. president and he set a precedent of a peaceful transfer of power."

Jacinto taught for three years in Pennsylvania and seven years at Kahului Elementary School (Grade 4) before taking a sabbatical to care for

see PRESIDENT p.9



Barrack Obama

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# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

## All-American as Possible Under the Circumstances

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran | PHOTOS COURTESY GIL KEITH-AGARAN

I plan to watch the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 11th. I don't care much for either team playing—the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers. I'll take in the game simply because I'm a regular red blooded American that way.

But as Saturday Night Live lampooned, the conference championships are really the last NFL weekend for REAL football fans. Two weeks later, the Super Bowl is simply an event that anyone can indulge in—like the Oscars, Olympics, or, locally, Easter morning service or the Maui County Fair (when we had one). On Maui, probably any Laker game as well.

Whether you follow professional football or bought a block by yourself or with a group from work, or simply drop by a friend's house for proposition bets on which commercial follows the first score, it's part of being a card-carrying member of the regular community. If you don't attend or watch (at least part of the game), what will you talk about around the water cooler on Monday? There's no red America, or blue America, there's just the NFL's Super Bowl game (certainly no purple America with the RatBirds losing to the Chiefs).

I may be dating myself but growing up, the NFL Monday Night Football game was "satellite delayed" and the talking head sports reporters would direct you to close your eyes if you didn't want to see the score at 6 p.m. HST. Now you can sit in on the Manning Brothers take on the weekly match up if you don't want to tune into ABC/ESPN/Disney, and then watch the replay in local prime time. Or you can get the highlights on YouTube TV so you don't sound

as ignorant of what happened like some poor saps who recently became fans of Dan Campbell and the Detroit Lions by watching HBO Hard Knocks.

Sure, there are some who could care less about whether San Francisco or Kansas City collects another Lombardi Trophy (named after legendary Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi for you folks who think we should abolish athletics at the University of Hawai'i—except for Wahine volleyball). Those same folks probably look down on popular American culture generally. Maybe they heard a Chiefs game is happening because someone said Taylor Swift has a fan section swaying in front of the Kelce luxury box.

I take the easier course. To avoid the Mean Girls picking on me, I try to blend in.

My problem is I actually am a fanatic for an unlikely team.

The 1982, 1989 and 2022 games were different because my team—the Cincinnati Bengals—appeared in those Super Bowls. Those were personal. I looked forward to Super Bowl XVI, XXIII and LVI as a long-suffering follower of a particular team, and not just someone tuning in because everyone else was watching.

Super Bowl XVI took place in the Detroit Silverdome—only the third NFL title game played under roof at the time. I was in college so being contrary to other West Coasters attending my East Coast college, I openly stuck with my small kid team the blue-collar Bengals instead of the more trendy, snotty San Francisco 49ers.

Fandom can be an inexplicable thing. It's like who knew *dinuguan*



The Bengals won their first playoff game since 1990 by beating the Raiders in a 2021 Wildcard game.

and *pinapaitan* are Filipino cultural delicacies that separate the *manongs*—you're not a Full-Blooded Ilocano (FBI) if you don't crave either occasionally (*balut*, in contrast, is just a colonial abomination).

I can only say the earliest game I remember is Kenny Anderson throwing the ball around in a playoff game when the Bengals fell behind. They still lost that game but I simply liked the Midwest Offense run by Cincy. I certainly didn't want to bandwagon behind that other AFC Central team, the Pittsburgh Steelers who had somehow won a pair of Super Bowls and seemed to always thwart the ex-

pansion Bengals. (I cheered for the Oakland Raiders whenever they played the Steelers in postseason—I know in my heart of hearts Franco Harris did not catch that ball and, anyway, the pigskin illegally bounced off one of his teammate's helmets before he possibly caught it—Immaculate Reception my behind!)

The Niners had a link to my Bengals because Bill Walsh had been the Cincy QB coach. Walsh left when Bengals founder/owner/unquestioned lord and master Paul Brown handed the reins to defensive coach Tiger Johnson when Brown retired

see SB LVIII p.16



The Bengals picked Joe Burrow (QB) as the first overall pick of the 2020 draft after finishing 2–14. Burrow would lead them to the 2022 Super Bowl.





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Roxelle Trisha Mae Magliba



Makana Kina



Isabel Esparza Romo



Kau'i Pridgen

Maui High School student **Roxelle Trisha Mae Magliba** held the first Cultural Appreciation event at Kahului Elementary. Roxelle has been diligently working at this event since the spring of her Junior year as part of her senior Project. The event highlighted seven different cultural groups: Vietnamese, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Japanese, Samoan, Tongan and Filipino through cultural activities and performances. In preparation for her event, Roxelle met with the leads of all the cultural groups on a monthly to weekly basis to organize her plans for the event and to assign different tasks she needed for the groups to complete. She outlined the event's guidelines and even held decoration workshops with the groups. Beyond that, Roxelle also organized the event details with the administration and staff at Kahului Elementary and find volunteers to help at the

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## Is Not Everything ...

### Cultural Appreciation

Jhanessty Vaye Bautista | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2024

event. It was a crossover between Maui High and the elementary school, as many volunteers came from the various high school clubs. During the event, Roxelle oversaw all the different cultural performances, classrooms, and volunteers. "My favorite memory of the event was seeing all the cultural groups shine in their classroom. I saw many

lines and children being educated about the different cultures in Hawai'i. I saw students holding their floating lanterns, showing them to their parents with a smile. I saw families come together as they built the Filipino *parol*. Moreover, I saw students wearing attire from their culture. It was truly a heartwarming sight where different cultures joined together to help the youth be more aware of Hawai'i's diversity," she recounts.

"Spreading cultural awareness to our youth is important for their development and future," Roxelle emphasizes. "When children are educated about different cultures, they grow up feeling comfortable working with other peers outside their culture. As a result, they build connections and friendships which can help prepare them for their future."

**Makana Kina**, the lead for the Japanese cultural group, helped Roxelle create various decorations for their classroom and activity. She and her group also planned and performed their *Obon* dances during the event. A few helpers and performers alongside her included **Aaron Omuro** and **Jacelyn Yun**.

The three's favorite memory of the event was having performers from the Filipino Cultural Club and students and teachers from Kahului Elementary join their *Obon* dance performance despite being their first time trying the dance. Beyond classroom education, the group taught the community about the traditional folk-dance commemorating and celebrating their ancestors.

They also highlight three reasons why spreading cultural awareness to our youth is so important. Makana and Jacelyn believe "spreading cultural awareness is important because it allows all of us to respect and appreciate different values of the cultures around us without judgment." Aaron further builds on the point, saying, "It is important to know where you came from to know where you can go. The cultural part of people's identity tends to go unnoticed, and learning about it creates more depth to their personality and character. It can also help them connect with people who are similar to them."

**Isabel Esparza Romo**, the lead for the Hispanic cultural group, also helped Roxelle create drawings and a poster to welcome the community to a replica of Mexico. She also made paper flowers out of tissue paper as decorations for the classroom. Isabel's favorite memory of the event was seeing the kids happy playing *Lotería*, Mexican bingo. She adds, "I feel it's important to spread cultural awareness to

our youth because it's always good to learn something new about a different culture."

**Kau'i Pridgen**, the lead of the Hawaiian cultural group, helped Roxelle as she taught her group a hula and made posters related to Hawaiian culture. "I loved sharing the culture to the next generation and sharing my culture with other cultures, and for me, I loved that I got to see others experience the different cultures," she says, explaining her favorite event memory. Furthermore, she adds, "I believe spreading cultural awareness is important to our youth because it gives the love and respect for their culture, and it also teaches people more about the history and traditions that we share."

Lastly, I was one of the few leads who helped with the Filipino cultural group. As the event overlapped with the Filipino Cultural Club and its officers, we often offered advice and reassurances to Roxelle during the event's planning stages. I helped choreograph and teach sixteen performers to dance the traditional folk dance of *Tinikling*, which represents Filipino rice farmers' attempts to

see GOOGLE IS NOT EVERYTHING p.19



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



TOP PHOTO: The people in Baranggay Laoag City await medical and dental services. 2nd PHOTO: Mission team helpers from Two-Thirds World Network share a prayer for Baranggay Nagtupacan officials following a day of medical and dental help for the residents.

PHOTO COURTESY TWO-THIRDS WORLD NETWORK

work gratifying.

Some of the villages receiving help with medical and dental services were comprised of a mix of Muslims and Christians. This mix was also true of the health workers who helped our team. And what a joy to all be working together for the community. The services provided during our mission were medical checkups, dental services, medications, toothpaste, toothbrushes and reading glasses. In addition, the mission team provided livelihood training for the villages on starting a small business and creating a simple product, such as making mayonnaise, pork and veggie dumplings, ketchup and a variety of pickles and baked goods. The primary purpose of the livelihood training is to encourage the village community to become self-sustaining and to learn to produce simple products that can be sold to provide them with some additional income for their families.

During the two-week medical and dental mission by the TTNW team, approximately 865 patients received medical and dental assis-

tance, services also needed in many other villages throughout the Philippines. This is an annual mission being provided by TTNW as a key part of its mission. The need for such services is so great because of the limited and costly healthcare services that, too often, are not being provided by the government.

We are so encouraged and grateful for the great deal of support and donations from individuals, churches and volunteers, who make it possible for us to carry out this very important work to those who are not able to access it and/or are not able to afford healthcare services.

This essential work continues, not only because it is the right thing to do, but it is God's call to all of us to help those who are in need and less fortunate. May we all be the hands and feet of God and serve Him with joy and obedience to His call! God bless. ✨

*Vince Bagoyo*

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

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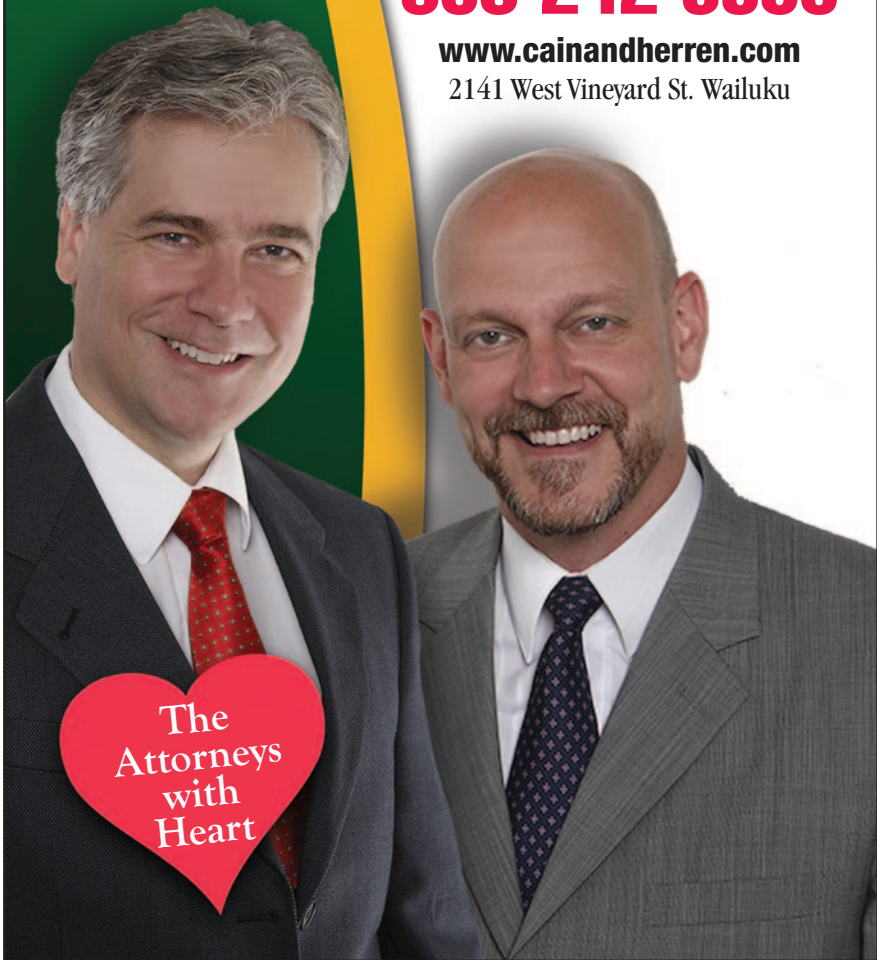


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As a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, Tokuda visits nurseries in her district.

## Tokuda ...

from p. 2

government service. But Tokuda’s experience includes running her own businesses and serving in nonprofit organizations, including an executive position with the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center on Maui. During the pandemic, Tokuda worked with the state, counties and nonprofit entities to track the progress of over \$21 billion in federal relief that came to Hawai’i as well as supporting the management and distribution of those resources.

Currently, Tokuda sits on the House Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Armed Services and is on the Special Select Subcommittee on

the Coronavirus Pandemic. Tokuda is happy with her assignments. “It was particularly important for me to serve on the agriculture committee during this Congress as we are negotiating a Farm Bill that only comes around every five years, and it was critical that Hawai’i have a seat at the table as we consider where resources and support will go for the next five years.”

Tokuda also highlights the importance of the military in Hawai’i and the communities in Windward and rural O’ahu, and the neighbor islands that she represents. “Given the military presence in our state and the need to make sure national security is balanced with community needs and priorities, it was important for me to serve on the armed services committee to represent



Rep. Tokuda and Congressional Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus.

the views of our constituents.”

Serving the people is Tokuda’s priority and she understands the frustrations of people. “First of all, there can always be improvement and for the sake of those we serve, we must always strive to do better.” One of the criticisms of the response to the disaster was the duplicity/volume of forms needed by the survivors to receive assistance, such as a different form for FEMA, a different form for SBA, and a different form for the Red Cross, requiring the survivors to shuttle back and forth between agencies, many without vehicles and convenient transportation and all likely suffering different ranges of emotional stress.

“I completely agree that we must reduce the paperwork and bureaucracy when it comes to quickly getting help to victims of disaster,” Tokuda agrees. “While our office has been helping navigate the system, the long-term solution really is to reduce inefficiencies. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor and a strong advocate for the Disaster Survivor Fairness Act, which would streamline federal benefits for disaster survivors, including by creating a universal application for federal agencies.”

Tokuda is aware of the heroic response by the different levels of government. “Our federal, state, and county partners were the first on the scene pulling people to safety, and many of them have never left, even when the disaster impacted them personally. Responding to this crisis will take generations, and our ability to effectively meet the needs of our people and rebuild Lahaina, rests with our ability to communicate with each other and be prepared to take action swiftly to keep progress moving.”

Although Tokuda’s job requires her presence in Washington, D.C., she has made it a priority to have her Congressional staff present on Maui by holding regular weekly office hours in Lahaina. “I have been working hard to make sure we not only have a continuous physical presence on island so that we can be responsive to resident and community needs, but we have also been maintaining contact with officials at all levels of government to ensure we are working together to help rebuild Lahaina,” she maintains.

But Rep. Tokuda also recognizes the reality that the process of rebuilding Lahaina will be a complicated one. “How Lahaina is rebuilt and what it looks like in the future, must be a vision created by her people,” Tokuda

concludes. “Before we start mapping out tax map keys and roadways, talking about setbacks and easements, the community must first come together and talk about a once in generations opportunity to build back their community better. Stronger. Once that vision is set, then it will be about planning to make that vision a reality. These will not be easy conversations or decisions. And it must be one that takes into account many seemingly conflicting things, like zoning and building requirements, and affordability and expediency so we can quickly get people into homes and back on their land.”


Tokuda understands this will not be easy. “In order for this to work, there needs to be a willingness to be flexible and to compromise on all sides, and to remain focused on our collective vision for Lahaina’s future.”

But before that can happen, the time-consuming task of tending to the environmental problems caused by the fire remains at hand. “Environmental cleanup and remediation, unfortunately, will take time,” Tokuda observes. “And it is something we do not want rushed and potentially creating larger environmental problems for us later. This is not to say we do not act with urgency, but rather, our focus must be on doing it right and well.”

The environmental concerns are multiple. “In the case of debris removal and remediation, we are talking about making sure the air we breathe is clean, the water we drink is safe, the land we walk on and grow food on is free of toxins, and our ocean ecosystem is healthy,” Tokuda clarifies. “Especially as we are able to lean on federal partners like FEMA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Army Corps of Engineers, it is important for us to do this right.”

But with thousands still temporarily housed in hotels, Tokuda understands there is an urgency to act. “As I’ve said before during my speeches on the House floor, we must act with urgency to get shovels in the ground and build more permanent housing units to give our residents and families the stability they need.” Tokuda recounts joining with other members of Hawai’i’s congressional delegation in writing to the Secretary of Homeland Security to request FEMA build 1,000 temporary housing units on Maui for displaced residents. “We need to continue to push on all federal, state, county and private sector partners that can and

see TOKUDA p.12



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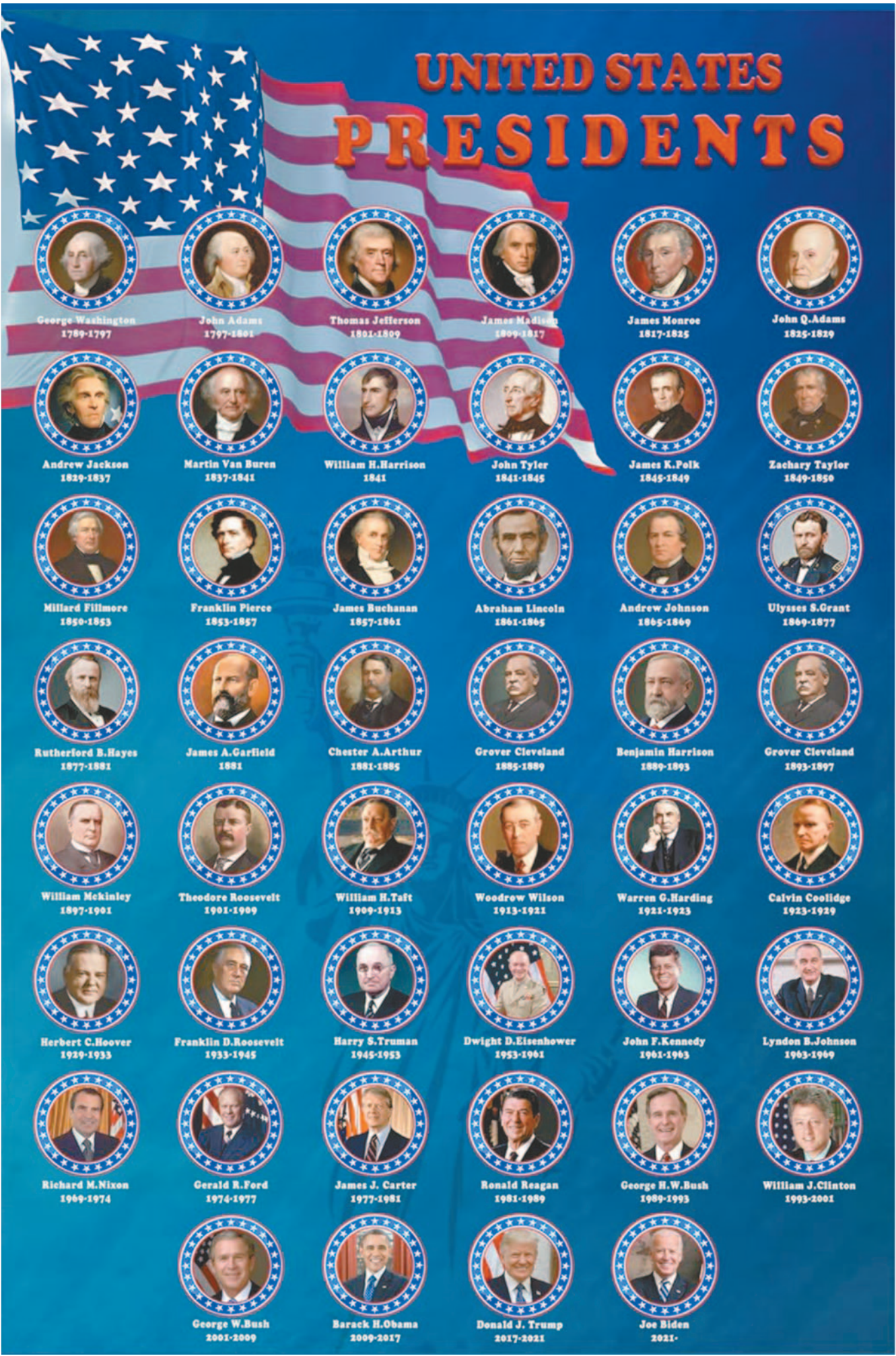
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## The Presidents of the United States

George Washington (1789–97)  
John Adams (1797-1801)  
Thomas Jefferson (1801-09)  
James Madison (1809-17)  
James Monroe (1817-25)  
John Quincy Adams (1825-29)  
Andrew Jackson (1829-37)  
Martin Van Buren (1837-41)  
William Henry Harrison (1841)  
John Tyler (1841-45)  
James K. Polk (1845-49)  
Zachary Taylor (1849-50)  
Millard Fillmore (1850-53)  
Franklin Pierce (1853-57)  
James Buchanan (1857-61)  
Abraham Lincoln (1861-65)  
Andrew Johnson (1865-69)  
Ulysses S. Grant (1869-77)  
Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881)  
James Garfield (1881)  
Chester Arthur (1881-85)  
Grover Cleveland (1885-89)  
Benjamin Harrison (1889-93)  
Grover Cleveland (1893-97)  
William McKinley (1897-1901)  
Theodore Roosevelt (1901-09)  
William Howard Taft (1909-13)  
Woodrow Wilson (1913-21)  
Warren Harding (1921-23)  
Calvin Coolidge (1923-29)  
Herbert Hoover (1929-33)  
Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-45)  
Harry S. Truman (1945-53)  
Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-61)  
John F. Kennedy (1961-63)  
Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-69)  
Richard Nixon (1969-74)  
Gerald Ford (1974-77)  
James Carter (1977-81)  
Ronald Reagan (1981-89)  
George H.W. Bush (1989-93)  
William J. Clinton (1993-2001)  
George W. Bush (2001-09)  
Barack Obama (2009-2017)  
Donald J. Trump (2017-2021)  
Joseph Biden, Jr. (2021–present)

IMAGE CREDIT: IMAGE MAY BE PURCHASED AT AMAZON.COM FROM THE HLBNWB USA STORE (HLLNWB USA PRESIDENTS PORTRAIT POSTER SCHOOL CLASSROOM WALL DECORATION LEARNING HISTORY FLAG POSTER)

## President ...

from p. 4

her child. “Washington overcame multiple significant challenges,” she explains. “He was the commander of the Continental Army and led the Patriots to win against the British in the Revolutionary War. Then he led discussions and kept the peace while the Founding Fathers wrote and ratified the U.S. Constitution. As the first U.S. President and ‘Father of the Nation,’ he had to set many precedents and pave the way for the newly formed government and nation. George Washington’s leadership skills created the United States. He was able to work with many different people through a difficult process and build a nation.”

Nine-year veteran teacher Joanne

Magliba Carter (Kahului Elementary School where she teaches K–5 ELL) says her favorite President is William Howard Taft, who served as the 27th President from 1909 to 1913 and the tenth Chief Justice of the United States, serving from 1921 to 1930, the only person to have held both offices. Carter notes President William McKinley sent Taft to the Philippines in 1900 as the Chief Civil Administrator. Taft was considered as “sympathetic towards the Filipinos, he improved the economy, built roads and schools and gave the people at least some participation in government,” expounds Carter. “Taft successfully argued for the construction of the U.S. Supreme Court building. He felt the Supreme Court should distance itself from Congress because it was a separate branch of the government. Prior to this, the

Supreme Court heard cases in the Capitol building.”

In addition to having their favorite President, these educators of Filipino ancestry utilize their favorite President’s leadership skills in their classroom.

“At the beginning of the school year, I instill in my students the need to be peaceful and productive in the classroom. Washington’s leadership skills exemplified being peaceful and productive,” explains Jacinto. She describes how during the first week of the school year she has students work as a class to solve a puzzle she created for them and later, within their own teams, solve each other’s puzzles. “This team building activity establishes community, creativity and problem solving. Like Washington, the students learn to be productive within a group

and to complete their work in a timely manner. Also, they need to be creative like the Founding Fathers by creating a new puzzle.” Jacinto emphasizes the importance of the students working together cooperatively and peacefully to solve the different puzzles. “During this activity, the teammates realize they must use kind words, take turns, and listen to each other’s ideas to be successful with the puzzle. They also see that if a classmate is being unhelpful or unkind, then it takes time away from creating and solving the puzzle. Afterwards, we keep the puzzles on our wall as a reminder of their need to continue to be peaceful and productive as good citizens and strong leaders within our school.”

Ancheta notes although he is a math teacher, “my advocacy for implementation

see **PRESIDENT** p.13

Community... In Action



Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is open for your celebrations.

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA PHOTOGRAPHY



Platinum Sponsor All Island Case Management Co. traveled from Oahu to participate in the 2023 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

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 \$500 security deposit; from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for \$800 (including the cleaning fee) plus a \$500 security deposit; or from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. for \$950 (including the cleaning fee) plus a \$500 security deposit. If alcohol is provided and/or served, there is an additional fee of \$300 and you must hire two licensed bartenders. Self-service coolers and/or BY-OB (guests providing their own alcohol) are NOT allowed.

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

Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

Binhi at Ani's 2024 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 10 at The Dunes at Maui Lani. Registration and Free Breakfast begins at 6 a.m. Shotgun starts at 7 a.m. Lunch Banquet to follow at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

A Platinum Sponsor (\$1,400) includes two foursomes, tee sponsor, par 3 con-

tests, four mulligans per player, listing in Mahalo ad.

A Gold Sponsor (\$750) includes one foursome, tee sponsor, par 3 contests, two mulligans per player, listing in Mahalo ad.

A Tee Sponsor (\$150) includes tee sign only, listing in Mahalo ad.

Donors (monetary or prize) are also accepted.

The deadline is February 29 but don't wait until then as the golf tournament always sells out.

Contact Arnel Alvarez at (808) 357-0748 or Bill Ruidas at (808) 344-5251 or Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 294-5510.

55th Annual BARRIO FIESTA

The 55th Annual Barrio Fiesta will be held on Friday, May 24 and Saturday,

May 25. Two contestants (Trisha Mariz Jose Basig, daughter of Rizalino and Lizette Basig; and Gianna Cheryze Magbual, daughter of Jovy Magbual and Maria Hall) are vying to become the 2024 Miss Barrio Fiesta and need your support. Please contact them to place your ad (\$200) or to become a Sponsor (\$1,000).

Binhi at Ani is also accepting Vendors (Food, Business, or Non-Profits). If you are interested, contact Chairperson Nora Ca-



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

PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS



Many thanks to the many volunteers needed to ensure the success of the 2023 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.

PHOTO: BASILIA EVANGELISTA

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

banilla-Takushi at (808) 276-8861.

**Bayanihan Feeding Program** provides a Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui (Hale Mahaolu Elua and Hale Mahaolu Akahi) and Maui Adult Day Care.

As of January 31, 2024, a total of 21,982 lunches have been distributed.

Teams serving during the month of January 2024 include: Kihei Charter School Volunteers and Philippine Nurses Association Maui Hawai'i Chapter.

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 6 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](mailto:gkiick@hotmail.com) or Wellness Coordinator Claudette Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or [claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us).

**Scholarship Applications for Binhi at Ani's Scholarship Program** for graduating 2024 High School Students have been distributed to high school counselors. The deadline (postmark or receipt) is March 1, 2024. For 2024, at least ten \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. The eligibility requirements are: 1) must be a resident of



PHOTO ABOVE: Miss Barrio Fiesta 2023 Naoemi Skye Paa flanked by her proud parents Richard and Jeanice.

PHOTO RIGHT: Climb the Grease Pole contest is always a popular draw with the winner receiving a nice cash prize.

PHOTOS: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Tinikling performed by La Galería: Compañía Baile Filipino.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Members of the Philippine Nurses Association Maui Hawai'i Chapter volunteered in January for the Bayanihan Feeding Program.

PHOTO: CHRISTINE GUMPAL



**PHOTO RIGHT: Binhi at Ani President Melen Agcolicol (center) pose with Christine Gumpal and Johanne Guevarra.**

**PHOTO LEFT: The 2023 Binhi at Ani Scholarship Recipients.**

**PHOTO LEFT: The 2023 Binhi at Ani Scholarship Recipients.**  
IMAGE: LAWRENCE PASCUA



**The Tulong for Lahaina® Fund recipients complete a survey.**  
PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

the island of Maui; 2) must be scheduled to graduate in 2024 from a high school on Maui with a cumulative grade point average (through the 1st semester of 2023) of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale; and 3) must complete the application as instructed and provide all required documents. An independent panel of judges will base their decisions on grade point average (30%), activities, honors, awards and employment (30%), a short essay (30%) and letters of recommendation (10%). For more information, contact Scholarship Chairperson Michelle Balala Siores at (808) 268-8915.

**Tulong for Lahaina® Fund**

Binhi at Ani established the Tulong for Lahaina® Fund where a \$750 grant would be awarded to those who lost their home, their business or an immediate family member. As of the September 30 deadline, 715 applications were received. To date, over \$150,000 has been raised and 213 families have received \$750 plus food boxes, hot food, toilet paper, water, gift cards and quilts during three distributions.



**QR Tulong For Lahaina**

**TULONG**  
*For Lahaina*

COORDINATED BY BINHI AT ANI

**MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Miss Maui Filipina 2023 Johanne Guevarra recently returned from her goodwill trip to the Philippines. “It was an enriching experience that left an indelible mark on my

heart,” she says. “Meeting esteemed officials such as the Mayor of San Juan (Elaine Sarmiento), the Mayor of Cabugao (Josh Cobangbang), as well as the Governor of Ilocos (Jeremiah Singson), underscored the importance of fostering strong community ties and collaboration across borders. These encounters were not only an honor but also highlighted the shared commitment to uplifting communities and creating positive change.

“The most rewarding aspect of the journey, however, was reconnecting with my roots in the Province of Ilocos Sur through meaningful philanthropy. By raising funds to provide essential school supplies to Saoang Elementary School and Sulot Sulot Elementary School, I had the privilege of contributing to the educational development of local children. Witnessing

the smiles on their faces and knowing that our efforts would make a tangible difference in their lives filled me with immense gratitude and purpose.”

“Beyond the philanthropic endeavors, the trip offered me the opportunity to explore various parts of the Philippines, from the bustling streets of Manila to cold fresh cliffsides of Baguio, and the tranquil landscapes of Ilocos. Reuniting with beloved relatives and experiencing the warmth of Filipino hospitality reaffirmed the importance of staying connected to my heritage. Each moment spent in the Philippines was so incredible and embracing the rich culture of the Philippines was a reminder of the compassion, unity, and shared humanity we Filipinos share in our community.”

The Council is seeking contestants for the **2024 Miss Maui Filipina Scholarship Pageant** which will be held on June 7, 2024. The qualifications are between the ages 18 and 27; female; full or part Filipino ancestry; and single, never married. For more information, please call or text (808) 264-0871 or email mmf.mfcc@gmail.com.

**UHMC KABATAK CLUB**

The first ever FilGrad is being organ-

ized by the Kabatak Club at the University of Hawai'i Maui College. **FilGrad Maui 2024** will celebrate the 2024 UHMC graduates of Filipino ancestry at an event on Friday, May 3, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Unlike any other commencement ceremony, FilGrad Maui 2024 will be organized by the graduates for the graduates. The bond between the students to reach this momentous day makes it an accomplishment on its own.

Surrounded by their family, friends and loved ones, the participants in FilGrad Maui 2024 will thank those who provided them with support, love, help and inspiration in their path to a college degree. The celebration will highlight the rich history and contributions of Filipinos in Hawai'i. Sadly, the rate of Filipino college graduates in the United States is far different from that in the Philippines, with only fifty percent of entering first-year college students receiving a college degree.

Sponsorships are available to assist UHMC Kabatak Club in this most worthy endeavor as funds are needed to hold this event. Sponsorship levels are Royalty (\$500-\$1,000+); Kaibigan (\$100-\$499); and Bayanihan (\$5-\$99). For more information on the sponsorship, please contact filgradmaui@gmail.com.



**Recipients of the Tulong for Lahaina® Fund patiently wait to receive their check.**

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



**IMAGE ABOVE: FilGrad Maui 2024 welcomes your help. Email filgradmaui@gmail.com. Sponsorships are key, so please kōkua.**

IMAGE: DIETHER MARC DADIZ

**PHOTO LEFT: Miss Maui Filipina 2023 Johanne Guevarra speaking to students of Saoang Elementary and Sulot Sulot Elementary during the distribution of school supplies.**

PHOTO: JOHANNE GUEVARRA

Tokuda ...

from p. 8

must play a role in quickly building housing options and working with service providers to get people into these homes.”

Tokuda is also mindful of the need to focus on the homeowner’s mortgage problems. “It is also critical that while we focus on housing, we do everything we can to support mortgage holders as many struggle to balance payments while facing a long and uncertain future,” Tokuda emphasizes. “Innovative strategies like land banking or land trusts need to be seriously considered, in addition to making available mortgage and financial counseling and support services.”

The effects of the Lahaina fires on Maui are wide-ranging, which Tokuda understands. “The economic impacts of the fire have been and are severe. After listening to small business owners struggling to start back up, I introduced our Maui STRONG Act, which would provide \$30 million in grants to small businesses and nonprofit organizations on Maui. While we are still working to get it passed and funded, the idea is already being considered by other members of Congress as a means to help small businesses in their community deal with disaster.”

The response to the fires, however, is only part of Tokuda’s legislative responsibilities. After a local legislative tenure enjoying supermajorities in the Hawai’i State Legislature, Democrat Tokuda faced a much different dynamic in the U.S. Congress. In Washington,

D.C., with just a few votes between the Republicans as the majority party and the Democrats as the minority party, she understands the necessity of reaching across the aisle to develop relationships to legislate for the common good. Last year, together with Diana Harshbarger, a Republican Congresswoman from Tennessee, she launched the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus, now consisting of forty-nine Republicans and Democrats. The Caucus works to highlight healthcare challenges across rural America and advocate for better access to quality, affordable care and strengthen the healthcare workforce and delivery pipeline. “Where you live and how much you make should not

Rep. Tokuda at the Hawak Kamay Filipino Resource Fair at the Lahaina Civic Center.



Rep. Tokuda with Unity Walk organizer Archie Kalepa.



Rep. Tokuda at the Unity Walk with Bob Fenton, Regional Administrator for FEMA Region IX.

determine the level of access and care you and your loved ones receive,” Tokuda explains. “I am working hard to make this a priority of Congress to make sure all Americans get the healthcare they need.”

Rep. Tokuda also lists a number of measures she has sponsored:

- Keep Kūpuna Fed Act: ensures access to SNAP food benefits despite future COLA adjustments to Social Security benefits.
- Crisis Assistance and Resources in Emergencies (CARE) for First Responders Act: increases access to mental health and other resources for emergency and other first responders, and disaster relief workers and volunteers.
- Protecting Family Legacies Act: amends the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to reduce the blood quantum successorship qualifications from one-quarter to one-thirty-second.
- Grow Your Own Food Act: Creates microgrants for food security.
- Thrifty Food Plan: studies to accurately account for disparities in food costs between urban and rural parts of Hawai’i and to adjust Thrifty Food Plan benefits for neighbor island residents.

Healthcare, agriculture, military affairs, constituent service, and the Maui wildfires easily fill Tokuda’s plate and attention. But her understanding of kuleana and the Aloha spirit keeps her true to her purpose. “Following the fires, I committed to deliver a ‘Maui Minute’ each week that Congress is in session to make sure my colleagues and our federal government never for-

gets the shared responsibility it has to help us recover and rebuild. It’s been six months since the fires happened, and in that time, we’ve had other disasters strike and a war break out,” Tokuda recounts. “At the same time I gave my first ‘Maui Minute’ speech, my friend and colleague Representative Doug LaMalfa who represents Paradise, California, stood up to talk about the rebuilding of his community five years after their disastrous fire.”

Tokuda says that was a turning point. “It was at that moment I realized this is our responsibility and our duty to make sure our people and communities don’t get left behind no matter what else is happening in the world. Since then, I’ve uplifted the experiences of survivors, first responders, those still living in hotels, and those working on the ground to recover and begin to rebuild. I’ve talked about the impacts on business, agriculture, and the rebuilding of our schools. I’ve said much and will say more, always reminding those listening that Lahaina is not Lahaina without her people, and that at the end of the day, Aloha Always Wins.” ✨

**Alfredo G. Evangelista** is a graduate of Maui High School (1976), the University of Southern California (1980), and the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law (1983). He is a sole practitioner at Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company, concentrating in estate planning, business start-up and consultation and nonprofit corporations. He has been practicing law for 40 years (since 1983) and returned home in 2010 to be with his family and to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Basilia Tumacder Idica.



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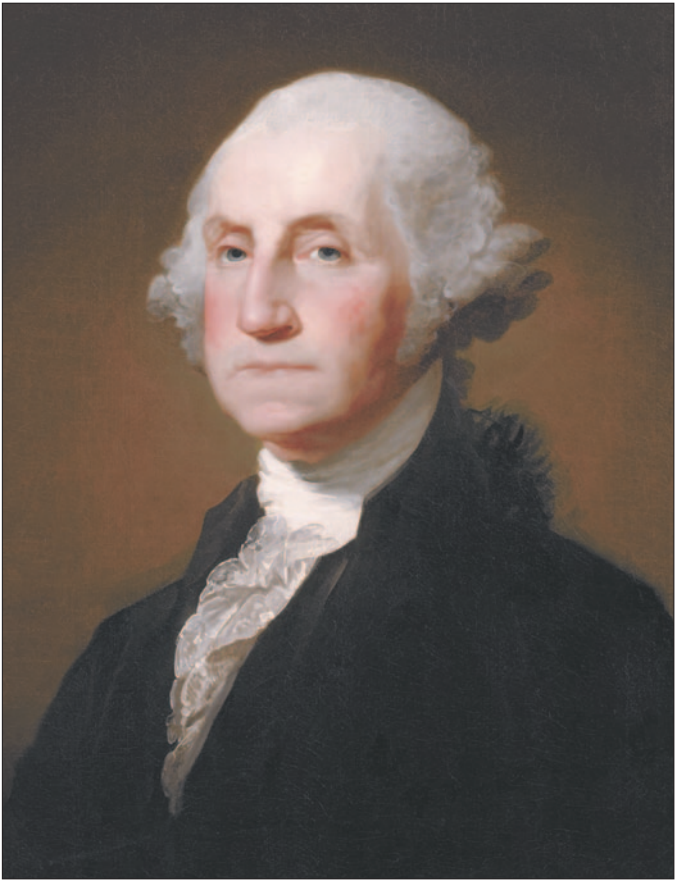




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Cecilia Jacinto with husband Mihai Ene and daughter Natalia Ene

PHOTO COURTESY ENE 'OHANA



William Howard Taft

IMAGE: PUBLIC DOMAIN, PACH BROTHERS, RESTORED BY ADAM CUERDEN - NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. NPG.80.198



Joanne Carter with husband Craig and children Isaiah Cabatu, Taliah Cabatu, Railee Carter and Jessee Carter.

PHOTO COURTESY JOANNE CARTER

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# President ...

from p. 9

menting Project-Based-Learning in the classroom models some of President Obama's leadership skills. When my students conduct projects to solve real-world problems, I teach them 21st century learning skills such as creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration." Ancheta spoke of a recent energy sustainability project completed by his students which allowed them to work collaboratively with their groupmates and present their project to a large audience, such as the school's student showcase. "They learned how to create a brochure encouraging the community to shift to using LED lightbulbs." Siore emphasizes "In my class, I teach my students to always show Aloha. Obama showed the spirit of Aloha everywhere he visited." "Teaching about our past presi-



dent's leadership is important because students should be given the opportunity to learn about and celebrate the accomplishments and sacrifices of each one of our nation's presidents," explains Carter. "Students can identify the traits that make a great president such as honesty, integrity, perseverance and strong communication skills." So, who is YOUR favorite President? You have forty-five to choose from. Think about it. ✨ Assistant Editor **Alfredo G. Evangelista** majored in Political Science at the University of Southern California. His favorite President is JFK who was assassinated when Evangelista was five years old. He remembers asking his Mom Catalina "Why did they shoot our President?" and seeing John-John salute his Dad's casket as it went by. And yes, Evangelista believes there was a conspiracy to assassinate JFK and has read several books on the subject.

# Called, Chosen to Serve

Naawagan, napili nga agserbi.

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY DCN. PAT CONSTANTINO

On January 27, 2024, Jason Jacinto and John Metz were ordained Deacons for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, Hawai'i. More than four hundred parishioners, friends and family witnessed a beautiful Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of the Diocese of Honolulu. They are both assigned to St. Joseph Church, Makawao, Maui.

Deacon Jason is employed by the County of Maui, Environmental management as an Electronic Tech. He is married to Diane Felipe Jacinto and their children are Jonathan (Carolyn), Jacob and Kianaleialoha with grandchildren Ka'uleimaikalani Anien and Sebastian. Jason's parents are Modesto and Emelita Jacinto, who came to Hawai'i from Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, Philippines.

Deacon John is employed at Four Seasons Maui at Wailea Resort as a baker. He is married to Josephine Bumanglag Metz, from San Mateo, Isabela, Philippines. They have three children, John William (Kim Diane), Joseph and Jacob. John's parents are John and Veronica Almeida (deceased) Metz from Olinda, Maui. His grandparents Antone and Emily (Gomes) Moniz-Tavares are from Ha'ikū while his great-grand parents Joseph and Dorothy (Moniz-Tavares) Almeida are from Olinda.

This is the inspiring Homily of Bishop Larry Silva taken from Jeremiah 1:4-9, Psalm 89, 1 Timothy 3:8-10, 12-13 and John 16:11-16.

Think there are no wolves in Hawai'i? Think again!

There is a subtle wolf who eats the faith of good people, making them think they have no need of God, or even that they are their own gods, arbiters of all truth. This wolf is very stealthy and devours many of the sheep of the Lord's fold. There is the wolf of depression, who eats away at the hearts of many, young and old, convincing them that life is only a burden and there is very little reason to live. There is the wolf of violence, who devours marriages, friendships, and neighborhoods, and even nations. There is the wolf of isolation, who eats at the bonds between family members and neighbors, making those who seem to be free into prisoners of themselves. There is the wolf of arrogance, who eats at the truth whenever he judges it to be inconvenient, and who causes the sheep to turn on one another.

We are here, however, to celebrate and affirm the power of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, to save his sheep from the hungry teeth of these and so many other wolves. No one can properly pay him for saving them from the jaws of the destroyer, except by joining him in caring for the sheep he loves so dearly. And today, Jason and John, you are being called in a special way to serve the Good Shep-

herd to make his saving work even more effective.

As deacons, you will be given a special way of fending off these wicked wolves with the double-edged sword of the Word of God. Your preaching the Gospel by proclamation and by the example of your lives will be the greatest deterrent to these wolves who try to devour the Lord's beloved flock. You will be able to immerse, soak and baptize the sheep in the very name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, so that they will be more immune to the burning lies of the wolves who try to convince them they are nothing. You will visit the members of the flock when they are ill to feed them with the Bread of Life and to remind them that, even though the wolves of sickness and death growl and threaten them, they cannot be consumed because you fill them with the Body of Christ, which makes these wolves deathly ill. You will visit the imprisoned who are surrounded by wolves of despair and violence, and you will drive them away by making the Good Shepherd present through your presence. You will see some sheep straying away from the fold be-



Deacons Jason & John ready to receive the gifts for the Mass with Bishop Larry.

cause they are lured by wolves who wear sheep's clothing and make themselves look so appealing, and you will bring them back to the only Good Shepherd by your own steadfast fidelity to Him.

Do not think, however, even though you have been called to this ministry of service from your mother's womb and are given special graces through the sacrament of Holy Orders, that these wolves will not also want to devour you. They can easily do so through pride or arrogance, and therefore, you must stay close to the Good Shepherd by constant prayer throughout the hours of the day. They can lure you away by the attraction



Deacon Jason and Diane Jacinto, and Deacon John and Josephine Metz with Bishop Larry Silva after the ordination are gathered after Jason and John are ordained.

of privilege and power that will be given to you because of your state in the Church, but you can remain safe if you keep your eyes on the Good Shepherd, who humbled himself and came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. These blood-thirsty fiends who try to devour the flock of the Lord can be poisoned by the Blood of the Lamb, which you will minister to your brothers and sisters, washing them in the Blood of the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep, but the Lamb needs you to lay down your lives as well.

Wolves in Hawai'i? Yes, indeed! But the Lord now chooses you, my dear brothers, to join him in bringing life and joy to God's flock by conforming yourselves each day to the Good Shepherd who alone can save his sheep and lead them into rich and life-giving pastures.

I'd like to share a comment Deacon Jason made when asked how he was called to the Diaconate: "While attending Deacon Chris Rubican's Ordination I was approached by Bishop Larry Silva about what my thoughts are on the ordination for Deacon Chris. I said, 'Very inspirational!' He then said 'If you are interested, just discern on it to see if it is your calling!'" And so, it happened, Deacon Jason's formation calling started five years ago and now is ordained a Deacon together with Deacon John.

Our calling comes in different directions and we journey with God in different directions. Let us start by being good stewards and see where God is calling us. This is just the beginning. If you are interested in becoming a Deacon for the church, please let your Pastors or Deacons know. We can help you get start-

ed. They will have an information presentation for different parishes soon; please ask your Priest or Deacon for the date and time. The formation core team has scheduled observing weekends on April 12-14, May 3-5 and June 14-16, 2024. Please contact your Pastor.

Thank you God for Deacons Jason and John and thank you for answering the call and be chosen by God to serve. It is an honor, special and privilege to serve His church. You will experience all kinds of expected and unexpected things. Pray always to ask God to help you in all your endeavors. He will always be there to guide us, never doubt that! Keep the Faith and always remember, if He keeps us alive, there is always hope to serve another day.

I've always said "Welcome to God Crucifixion." You will figure out what I mean. May God always keep you in His care and guide you to do your best as a Deacon! Now as a senior Deacon, I must decrease and you must increase! Jesus, I trust in you. Amen! ✨

**Deacon Patrick Constantino** retired from active Ministry on July 1, 2022. He is still a Deacon in good standing with full faculties to perform all sacraments in the Diocesan of Honolulu Hawai'i. Constantino has been ordained for thirty-six years. He is the first Filipino Deacon in the Diocesan of Honolulu. 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-two years. They are blessed with four children, eleven grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren.





Whoa! Second month of the year already? That was quick. Ah February, the love month! What are you doing this Valentine’s Day? Are you ready for Valentine’s Day?

Check out these quotes.

Roses are red, sky is blue, my love is true, only for you. Aaahhh, so sweet. How about this. Roses are red, violets are blue, the first time I saw you, I fell in love with you, My heart already knew that it’s you! Wow, I think I’m getting good at this ... One

# Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

more ... Roses are red, violets are blue, who needs flowers when I got you? I have to stop because I am getting carried away. But if you need help, contact me and I might be able to help you. Whatever your plans to celebrate, don’t forget to get a flower

or bouquet of flowers for your Valentine. It will surely brighten up her day or even bring a smile to her face. Happy Valentine’s Day!

Shout out to our February birthday celebrants: my good friends, Leilani Maglaya Corpuz, Renie Garo Menor,

Zina Andrade-Nefalar, Esmeralda “Esmie” Damo and Andre Baguyo. Happy, Happy birthday! *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Tagalog) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ilokano) *Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu!* (Ibanag) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Kapampangan) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo!* (Ilonggo)

Let’s see what’s going on with our story this month and where Michael and Angel will be going next, shall we?

RAY CANNOT WAIT so he stands up and asks her, “Did you kill the cop?”

Angel quietly says, “*Hindi.* (No).”

“Then why is it that it’s you they are saying who killed the cop?” Ray asks irritably.

“*Indi* (no), *dili* (no), I did not kill the cop. I don’t have a gun or did not do anything to kill that officer,” Angel says sobbing. She covers her *mukat* (face) with her *ima* (hands) this time.

“Police Officers escorted us after we landed at the airport. They took us to their car.” Angel explains.

“I realized he was a crooked policeman because we were escorted through the airport and avoided all the proper procedures to enter the US like customs, and the bag checked area,” Angel says in between her cries.

Angel must relive what was supposed to be the start of her “American Dream” but turned out to be the worst day of her life again. She closes her eyes and continues, “He let us ride in a van and when we were driving away, a police car stopped us but the man just kept driving.”

Her first day in Hawai’i should have been the start to achieve her dreams but turned into a nightmare. She remembered how hot the sun beamed down on her, how it absorbed into her skin after the thirteen-hour flight. She remembered how sticky the leather of the old patrol car felt and the suffocating stench that came from the smoke-soaked upholstery. She remembered how dizzy she felt from the road and the horror she felt when put into that van with all these other girls.

Tears roll down her *mata* (eyes) and she starts crying again. “I did not do anything wrong. I trusted Billy. My family trusted Billy. My *magulang* (parents) even borrowed money so I can come here and achieve what they

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Father	Tatay / Itay	Tatang / Itang	Amahan	Tatay	Yama	Tata
Mother	Nanay	Nanang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
House / Home	Bahay / Tahanan	Balay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Bale
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Mukat	Lupa / Arap	Nawong / Dagway	Goya / Nawong
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Work	Trabajo	Ubra	Trabahu	Obro	Trabaho	Trabaho
No	Hindi	Haan	Awan	Indi	Dili	Indi
Money	Pera	Kwarta	Salapi	Kwarta	Kwartu	Kwalta
Friends	Kaibigan	Gayyem	Bai	Miga	Kofun	Kaluguran
Parents	Magulang	Nagannak	Ginikanan	Ginikanan	Magana	Pengari

call the American dream. I am a *nas-ingpet* (good) person. I listened to my *ginikanak* (parents) growing up and always respect and obey what they say. I helped my siblings and my neighbors. Why me?”

“How did the officer get killed?” asks Ray, looking at Angel.

“I closed my eyes and covered my head when I was inside the van. I saw the driver that he was going to hit the police officer and I knew we were going to crash. I heard gunshots and I saw the other guy who was sitting on the passenger side, holding a gun. There were loud gunshots inside the van so I just closed my eyes and took cover,” Angel explains between sobs.

Michael rubs her back, giving comfort to her. “We will help you get through this,” he says in a soft voice. He looks at his Uncle Ray, pleading to his uncle to help her.

Ray looks away. He cannot say *indi* (no) to his only nephew. He treats him like his son. He babysat him when he was a baby, taught him how to ride a bike and even coached him to play soccer and basketball. He wants to say, “*Haan* (No) Michael, we are not going to do that.” He cannot move his mouth to say it aloud.

Instead, he looks around the room

and says, “Where are your *nagannak* (parents)? You should talk to them and hear what they have to say.” Then he calls them in a loud voice, “Robert! Mila! You should be here talking to us!”

Michael’s *magulang* (parents) look at each other and do not say anything.

Michael’s mom stands up and starts cleaning up the table. She says “You should go there and talk to them,” pushing Robert away to join them in the living room.

“Me? Why me? I didn’t do anything!” Robert says defensively.

“I didn’t say you did something. I just said to go and give them your two cents,” Michael’s mom says and clears the dishes in front of Robert.

“I have *trabaho* (work) to do,” Robert says and stands up and walks towards his little office in the *balay* (house).

As soon as he gets to his little office, he closes the door and locks it.

Robert walks to the secured filing cabinet and unlocks it slowly. He opens the drawer and pulls out an envelope.

He slowly opens it

and there it is ... the picture of Villamor Lopez also known as Uncle Billy on one sheet and a picture of Angel on another sheet and two more ladies he doesn’t know.

He takes Angel’s picture and says, “Now I can put a name on your picture, Angel. The last piece to the puzzle and I can finally solve this case. You are really an angel.”

He closes the folder slowly, takes a deep breath and puts it back in the file. And he says, “Soon” quietly.

Hmmm ... what does Michael’s dad have to do with Angel? Why does he have his own file?

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! *Hang-gang 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 and is a licensed Resident Producer of Life Insurance with World Financial Group and an Independent Consultant of Saladmaster. She is a 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.

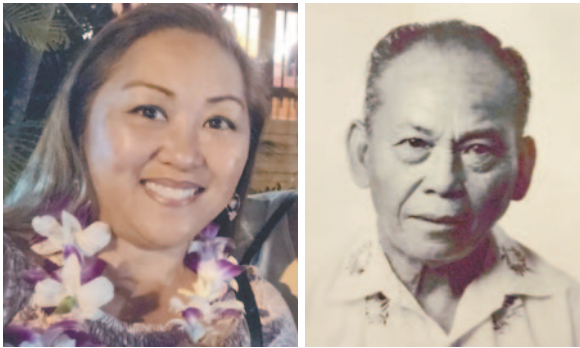


According to Walt Disney, “All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them.” Our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed, “No one appreciates the American Dream more than a foreigner.” How true it is! The American Dream was in the mind of the father of this month’s featured Sakada Offspring when he came to Hawai’i in the 1930s to work in the plantations of Hawai’i.

Caroline Domingo Sadiri was born in November 1972 at the Kapi’olani Children’s Hospital in Honolulu. She attended Kahului School (K–8). She played Volleyball, participated in Track and Field, and band playing the clarinet. She graduated from Maui High School. She participated in the follow-

# Caroline Domingo Sadiri

Lucy Peros | PHOTOS COURTESY DOMINGO SADIRI ‘OHANA



LEFT: Caroline Sadiri. RIGHT: Bonifacio Sadiri

ing clubs and activities: soccer, Leo club, Filipino Club, Spirit Club, Block M, and arts (received various Art

awards). She was the 1989 Homecoming Queen. She graduated *cum laude* in her graduating class. After high school, Caroline attended Maui Community College now known as University of Hawai’i Maui College and graduated with an A.S. in Accounting.

Caroline is a very industrious individual. In the past, she worked at the E.K. Fernandez game booths, Kutsunai Photo Studio as a studio assistant, with James H. Hattaway DC as Chiropractic Assistant/Receptionist followed by be-

coming a certified Chiropractic Assistant as well as working at ‘Ohana Hale Chiropractic. For the next 11 years, she worked at Richard Drayson CPA which became Toma & Drayson CPAs as a bookkeeper/tax preparer. After that, Caroline worked at Aloha Eye Clinic for over eighteen years as their Certified Optician/Optical Manager. She is an American Board of Opticianry Certified Optician.

Currently, Caroline works full-time for the Law Office of Thomas R. Cole as their Legal Secretary/Bookkeeper/Office Manager. As her part-time job since, she works at Maui Sunglass

see SAKADA OFFSPRING p.18

## SB LVIII ...

from p. 5

as Head Coach. Moving to the Bay Area, Walsh exported and then re-branded the Cincinnati O as the “West Coast Offense.”

I possibly would have switched to the Niners (I was already a San Francisco Giants fan) but those elitist City by the Bay natives attending my college were just too cocky and obnoxious going into Super Bowl XVI. I must have been a little over the top in my fandom because one of my classmates had an in with a minority owner of the Cleveland Browns and offered to get me a game ticket. As a poor scholarship kid from Hawai’i, I didn’t have the money to fly to Detroit for the game and pay for some kind of shelter afterwards, so I sheepishly turned him down—a self-respecting Bengals fan couldn’t accept charity from the team that shamefully fired Paul Brown.

The 1981–1982 Bengals boasted accurate passer Ken Anderson and a cocky young WR in Cris Collinsworth and a pair of hard driving runners in Pete Johnson and Charley Alexander. That team won the AFC title in an icy victory over San Diego and Dan Fouts. The Bengals entered the Super Bowl as favorites by a few points.

I remain convinced if Johnson or Alexander score at the goal line, Cincinnati wins, probably covers and the Bengals, not the Niners, are the team of the ’80s. I forget how many times the Bengals made it to the red zone in the game without scoring ...

But the Bengals fell short. And I had to sit in the residential college Common Room watching as my San Francisco schoolmates celebrated every stop and Bengals miscue.

I secretly thought we’d be back fairly soon. Fans always think they’d be back the next year (like the four straight times the Buffalo “Wide Right” Bills represented the AFC in the Super Bowl—okay, they lost them all so maybe that could have been worse).

Ironically, I attended law school in the Bay Area. During my second year, Stanford hosted Super Bowl XIX that featured the Dan Marino-led



PHOTO LEFT: Joe Mixon (28), Joe Burrow (9) and Ja’Marr Chase (1), key members of the Bengals offense. PHOTO RIGHT: The Bengals took the lead in the 2022 Super Bowl on a 75-yard Joe Burrow to Tee Higgins TD.

Dolphins versus Joe Montana, Jerry Rice, Roger Craig and that Niner defense that shutdown Miami. Quite a week of festivities and spectacles in the City, and I almost changed my allegiances during my time in Berkeley. But I am a loyal guy. I stuck with Cincinnati.

When I finally made it home to Hawai’i, we got another chance.

It took longer than I expected and a quirky coach in Sam Wyche and young QB Boomer Esiason starting instead of Anderson.

Seven years after Super Bowl XVI, the Bengals earned a re-match with the Niners in Miami. Boomer was firmly at the helm and Collinsworth was at the end of his career. It was a FG battle. After Stanford Jennings’ 93-yard kickoff return TD, the Bengals led 16–13 and seemed poised for redemption. But then Joe Montana happens. 92-yard drive. Lewis Billups doesn’t make the interception and Montana connects with John Taylor on the next play.

In the following decades, my team admittedly were more Bungles than Bengals. Even when Marvin Lewis arrived and they began winning again, they consistently were the NFL’s not ready for prime-time players and failed to win a playoff game from 1990 until 2021. I saw every way for a team to blow a game.

Things didn’t improve with the arrival of new coach Zac Taylor. He

went 2–14 to start—in retrospect, a strategic tanking that allowed the Bengals to draft cocky new quarterback and Ohio native Joe Burrow fresh from a record setting run to the NCAA title at LSU. With perhaps the best trio of young receivers in Ja’Marr Chase, Tee Higgins and Tyler Boyd and a defense that bent but seemed to make enough adjustments in the second half to slow opponents, Cincinnati raised my hopes. Even with a porous O-line that gave up a ton of QB sacks, the Bengals seemed competitive (if with a banged-up Burrow) after upsetting the defending AFC champs Kansas City 27–24. The Bengals rallied from 18 points down to win on an Evan McPherson Field Goal in O.T.

In 2022, I would have preferred a third game against the Niners but got the Rams instead in Super Bowl LVI. Like 1989, the Bengals led that one until the referees changed the way they called most of the game—I mean if Tee Higgins can score a 75-yard TD without getting flagged for a pretty obvious OPI, Logan Wilson’s little love tap didn’t deserve a flag on the Rams’ “winning” drive. Then the O-line failed at the wrong time and Burrow didn’t have time to get off a fourth down pass to a streaking Chase. Perhaps Joe Montana still gets off that

throw. But regardless, the NFL got the storyline it wanted—the Rams won in their new expensive home stadium.

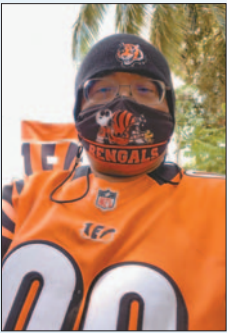
I thought we’d be back fairly quickly. But the zebras also beat us in 2023, allowing a limping Pat Mahomes to hone his legend in the AFC title game.

Then everything fell apart this year when we lost Burrow for much of the year and missed the playoffs and finished behind the RatBirds, Browns and Steelers. I’m betting we’ll be back in 2025 when Burrow and Chase have a shot at returning to Louisiana for Super Bowl LIX—those two LSU Tigers still own that state.

I’ll likely take in this year’s game at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center (my law firm is a sponsor of the event). The host of my usual venue decided to travel with his wife to New Orleans for Mardi Gras during Super Bowl week. But it’s the Super Bowl and I’ve got some blocks. 🌟

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

missed watching the AFC and NFC championship match ups live because Apo Alfredo Evangelista committed him to helping at the Tulong for Lahaina® Fund distribution on the same day as the games. He had no skin in either game so no harm, no foul.



# Things To Do in Wailuku

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog”

Nestled in the central part of the island of Maui, Wailuku Town beckons with a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. With the recent opening of the Wailuku Garage (the public parking space), I thought it would be good for us to talk story about what to do in Wailuku. More information about the Wailuku Garage will be at the end of this column but first, *mag kwento-kwentuhan tayo* about things to do in Wailuku.

There are many things to do in Wailuku both for local residents and for visitors and tourists. Let us explore some of them here:

- 1. Explore Market Street** Take a leisurely stroll along historic Market Street, discovering charming boutiques, local shops and vibrant cafés. Some examples of wonderful places to shop are: Native Intelligence, Paradise Now Hawai'i, Sabado Art Gallery and Depo Market.
- 2. Indulge in Wailuku Coffee and Breakfast** I mentioned vibrant cafés and would like to elaborate more. An example is to start your day at Wailuku Coffee Company, savoring the rich aroma of freshly brewed coffee in a cozy Hawaiian setting. You may opt for fresh juice and Açaí Bowl at Maui Juice Co. If you are craving for a big breakfast, try SixtyTwo MarKet and order their spam fried rice or *loco moco*.
- 3. Hike in 'Īao Valley State Park** Head to 'Īao Valley for a scenic hike amidst lush greenery and marvel at the iconic 'Īao Needle, a natural Hawaiian landmark. Take note for out-of-state visitors, you will need a reservation. More information at [gostatepark.hawaii.gov](http://gostatepark.hawaii.gov).
- 4. Relax at Kepaniwai Park** When going to 'Īao Valley, also take a break at Kepaniwai Park, a serene oasis celebrating Maui's multicultural heritage with themed gardens representing different ethnicities. Don't forget to visit the Filipino *Bahay Kubo*.
- 5. Discover Bailey House Museum** Immerse yourself in Hawaiian history at the Bailey House Mu-

seum, showcasing artifacts and exhibits chronicling the island's cultural evolution.

- 6. Appreciate Garden and Art** Visit the on-going Earth to Sky exhibit at Discover Imua Gardens. It is “a world full of imagination” for the young and old (ok, maybe not old but let's say young at heart).
  - 7. Cultural Experience at 'Īao Theater** Visit the historic 'Īao Theater on Market Street for cultural performances, films and a glimpse into Wailuku's artistic heritage.
  - 8. Culinary Delights and Foodtrucks** Savor diverse culinary delights at local eateries like Gianotto's Pizzeria and A Saigon Café, experiencing the island's flavors. Experience delightful food from Foodtrucks in the Wailuku Foodtruck Pod, where Like Poke and Dôlish Maui are located. There are many more places to eat; walk around and see them.
  - 9. Mystery Maui** This is an original-themed, 5-star rated mystery room. Fun for the whole family and with friends. Something different to do on Maui.
  - 10. Explore and Learn** Visit Ka'ahumanu Congregational Church, the Good Sheperd Episcopal Church and the Wailuku Library.
- Obviously, this is not a complete list but it is a good start. What other things to do in Wailuku would you



Earth to Sky Exhibit" at Discover Imua in Wailuku.  
PHOTO LIZA PIERCE



Mystery Maui.  
PHOTO KIT FURUKAWA

suggest?

## About Wailuku Parking

As I mentioned earlier, the Wailuku Garage opened to the public on Jan. 16, with a two-hour parking time limit between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. This state-of-the art, four-level, 393-stall parking structure replaced the old municipal parking lot. It is expected to double the available parking capacity as well as provide electric vehicle charging stations and ten stalls compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

For now, parking is free. It is expected, however, fees will apply in the future, pending approval of the PARK MAUI program by the Maui County Council.

The main Wailuku Garage entrance is located at 30 N. Church St. in Wailuku. The hours of operation are from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Overnight or permit parking is not allowed at this time. All vehicles must be removed from the garage by 11 p.m. or

be subject to enforcement.

For more information including proposed parking rates, permits and fees, visit [www.ParkMaui.com](http://www.ParkMaui.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 and 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.



Mystery Maui.  
PHOTO KIT FURUKAWA



PHOTO LEFT:  
Bonifacio &  
Armeline Sadiri's  
Wedding photo

PHOTO RIGHT:  
Armeline &  
Bonifacio Sadiri

Wailea as their Certified Optician.

Currently, Caroline is engaged to Jeffery Grimes who is originally from Kansas City, Missouri. As they say, love finds its way. In Jeff's and Caroline's case, it was the "Optical Way." Jeff and Caroline met when he moved to Maui to work for the Maui Police Dept. and he needed eye care and found Aloha Eye Clinic, where Caroline was working in Optical. Jeff is a U.S. Navy Veteran (Navy Military Police, served in Kuwait). Currently, he is a Deputy Sheriff for the State of Hawai'i Dept. of Law Enforcement. In the past, Jeff worked at the Portsmouth Sheriff's Dept. in Virginia, Securitas at Honolulu Airport, Maui Police Dept., and TSA Maui. Jeff is a friendly, dedicated and fun-loving guy. He enjoys going to church, spending time with Carol and family, driving, off-road driving, camping, barbecuing, watching football (fave: Kansas City Chiefs) and drag racing.

Life is full of twists and turns. But to survive through it all, we just need to go with the flow with an open heart and mind. Caroline's life is no exception. She also had a previous relationship which produced two wonderful children, Kau'i and Elijah Uweko'olani.

Kau'imakamae Uweko'olani (28 years old), attended Emmanuel Lutheran Preschool, St. Anthony Grade School, Lihikai Elementary, Kamehameha Schools Maui, and Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon where she received her B.S. in Exercise Science. Kau'i is a very sports-minded individual. She participated in a lot of sports activities from middle-school all the way to college. She presently works at Bayada Maui as a full time Registered Behavior Technician, working with special-needs children at their schools. Kau'i also coaches the Girls Softball team at Kamehameha Schools Maui. She enjoys reading her Bible, loving Jesus, listening to Christian music, doing puzzles, traveling, baking and experiencing new foods, hiking, rock-climbing, family time and sunsets. She resides in Kahului.

Elijah Lanakila Uweko'olani (20 years old), attended Emmanuel Lutheran Preschool, St. Anthony Grade School, Kamehameha Schools Maui and is currently attending college in Spokane studying Criminology. He started playing T-ball for the Wailuku Phillies up until high school.

He played Pop-Warner football with Kahului Ali'i and Wailuku Rainbows. He played baseball and football for Kamehameha Schools Maui, then played college football for Whitworth University. Elijah enjoys Bible studies, playing and watching football, working out, cooking, listening to Reggae music and art (drawing and painting). He resides in Spokane, Washington.

Caroline has three siblings: Tereza Rapoza, Bonifacio Sadiri and Jennifer Velez.

Tereza Rapoza is a receptionist at Longevity Health Center and Medical Assistant at Hawai'i Industrial Medicine. She is married to Mark Rapoza. He works at Kihei Garden and Landscaping. They have two children, Matthew and Melissa. They reside in Wailuku. Tereza has four children from a previous relationship, Teryna, Giordan, Terylle and Garrett. They are also blessed with two grandchildren, Gage and Asher. She enjoys watching good movies, cooking, baking and family time especially with her grandchildren. She is a natural caretaker in the family.

Bonifacio Sadiri (single) is a Warehouse Manager at Slim's PowerTools. He is a skillful artist who creates lifelike portraits and cartoon art. He has a natural gift of repairing tools and assembling things. He enjoys karaoke, airbrushing, camping and assembling models. He lives in Kahului.

Jennifer Velez is Caroline's younger sister. She is a Dental Assistant for an Oral Surgeon in Kahului. She is married to Roland Velez who works Warehouse at Island Distributing. They reside in Kahului. They have three chil-

dren, Rylie, Raige and Raecen. Jennifer enjoys the beach, working out, good movies, watching sports, being with family and friends, playing golf, softball and dodgeball.

Caroline is a very active member of Christ The King Catholic Church in Kahului. She serves in the Worship Committee (Usher Ministry for 8 a.m. Sunday mass), Service Committee (Document and Publishing Ministry taking photos/historian), Faith Formation (Catechist, teacher for 6-12 Reconciliation class), Parish Pastoral Council, Stewardship committee, Fundraiser Coordinator for Maui Charity Walk and Maui Vicariate Disaster Relief Task Force. The money received from the Maui Charity Walk is used for the Outreach Program of Christ The King Church. Many people on Maui who qualify have benefitted from this program by helping them pay for rent, utility bills, gas bills, doctor bills, etc. This program is not only for Christ The King parishioners but also for other parishes as long as they meet the qualification.

In 1990, Caroline was chosen as Miss Sampaguita, a scholarship program. She also danced for *Hālau Hula Kamakani Kilio'opu* and was a member of the Haleakalā Lions Club. She enjoys photography, scrapbooking, drawing, painting and reading books. She also enjoys just being a mom, spending time with Jeff and family, church ministries, good movies and nature.

Caroline is the daughter of Armeline Corpuz Domingo Sadiri and the late Bonifacio Ragual Sadiri. Bonifacio was born on June 1, 1909, in Paoay, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. He was a farmer with a minimum education in basic reading and writing. On January 2, 1930 at age 20, Bonifacio came to Hawai'i on a steamer boat called, *S.S. President Lincoln*. He landed on O'ahu. He worked at Ewa Plantation Co. as a laborer in the sugarcane field and then moved on to Wahiawā Plantation and Kunia Pineapple. In the 1950s Bonifacio worked as a Stevedore for McCabe, Hamilton & Renny Co. No forklifts back then, he carried loads by hand, loading and unloading cargo.

In 1969, at age 60, Bonifacio decided it was time to settle down and have a family. That was the first time that he returned to the Philippines since he left to come to Hawai'i. With the help of his Uncle Juan Sadiri, they

went to a barrio where his future wife was living. It was a typical Filipino danon, a proposal to marry a girl with her parents' blessings. Although the girl's parents gave their blessings, the girl still must make the final decision whether to marry. Bonifacio was persistent in marrying Armeline Corpuz Domingo that he did not want to leave her house until he got a positive answer from her. Armeline finally gave in and said yes (for a better life in Hawai'i). They got married on January 10, 1970 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Mangato, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. Seven days later after their wedding, Bonifacio had to return to Hawai'i to work. Armeline followed him on June 30, 1970. They lived in an apartment on King Street close to Chinatown where some of their friends also lived.

Their first child Tereza was born in July 1971. In November 1972, Caroline was born so they moved to a bigger apartment in Kalihi. In February 1974, their third child, Bonifacio was born, followed by Jennifer in June 1975.

In 1973, Bonifacio retired from McCabe, Hamilton & Renny as a stevedore. In 1974, the whole family traveled to the Philippines to visit family and stayed there for a month. When they came back, Armeline's uncle, Isidro Corpuz encouraged the Sadiri family to move to Maui and promised he would build a house for them to live in. Bonifacio hesitated at first but with Armeline's encouragement, he agreed to move to Maui.

In 1976, Armeline became a U.S. citizen. While they were waiting for their new house to be built, they lived with the Corpuz family. After four months, they were able to move into their new home. Bonifacio was a stay-home dad while Armeline went to work at Maui Pine, then later at HC&S. Bonifacio worked in his garden growing a variety of vegetables, built benches, tables and cooked all the family meals. While cooking, Caroline remembers him whistling Filipino folk songs. He did the shopping mainly at Noda Market and Ooka Market and drove the children to and from school in his big white station-wagon. He even walked the children to their classrooms when they were little.

In 1976, Armeline and Bonifacio petitioned Armeline's parents and siblings to come to Hawai'i. In 1977, they all arrived and lived with them.

In 1982, Armeline and Bonifacio



The siblings; Tere, Carol, Armelina (Mom), Jene and Boonie

bought their own house on Makali'i Street in Kahului. Besides raising vegetables, Bonifacio was able to raise chickens, goats and pigs because they had a big backyard with no neighbors in the back. In those days, they were able to slaughter livestock in the backyard. It was a very happy, close-knit neighborhood where everyone shared what they have with each other. In Ilokano, they call it *padigo*. What fun days to spend one's childhood!

As Bonifacio got older, he gave up raising livestock but enjoyed joining his contemporaries at the old Kahului Shopping Center under the monkey-pod trees playing cards or checkers or just talking stories.

Bonifacio eventually became sick due to his years of smoking tobacco and consuming alcohol. Although he

through his struggles and successes, he lived out his fruitful life and achieved the American Dream. I am forever grateful and I thank God that he made the decision to immigrate to Hawai'i at a young age. He took the opportunity to work hard as a plantation worker and earn money to help his family back home. I admire his perseverance and determination to overcome the challenge he dealt with, which led him to live the local lifestyle, sharing space with multiple ethnic groups and sharing their different cultures. He became a part of Filipino history in Hawai'i as a Sakada. Although many of the Sakadas were bachelor men, I am also glad that my dad decided to settle down to marry my mom, Armelina and raise our family on Maui. My dad, Bonifacio, set a



Carol's family; Jeff, Carol, Kau'i and Elijah

got weaker every day, he was still able to walk his first daughter on her wedding day in 1987 as well as meet his first grandchild Teryna in 1988. Caroline shares her memories of her dad's last moments: My mom took very excellent care of him until the end. I remember our house was filled with family and friends to visit him and say goodbye to him on his last days. I was only fifteen years old and I remember going in his room that day and sat next to his bed, just he and I having a heartfelt conversation of Thank you's and I love you's. His voice came down to a whisper, as he caught his breath and said in Ilokano, to 'take care of my brother and sisters, of myself and take care of my mom.' He passed away on March 6, 1988.

Caroline also wants to share her reflection on her dad: "As I look back at my childhood, I am overwhelmed with fond memories of my dad being present in my life. He was a true homemaker and took care of his family first and made a great home for us. What made it special was that he was happy and content. I realize that

to be a Filipina American second generation and raising a family of my own, as part of our Filipino community on Maui to grow and prosper. We honor our past by perpetuating our Filipino heritage on this beautiful Maui, our home." ✨

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



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

catch and prevent the *Tikling* bird from stealing ripe rice grains from the fields. During the dance, two people slide and tap the bamboo against each other while two others step in between the sticks.

My favorite memory of the event was teaching the dance to the high school and elementary students and teachers. When I first tried the dance, getting used to the rhythm of jumping in between the sticks was terrifying and challenging. After having had more experience, however, I was able to teach using little shortcuts I figured out through learning and choreographing the dance. Seeing the excitement of those I taught as they successfully went through the sticks was rewarding.

Although not every cultural group was highlighted in these interviews, Roxelle expresses her utmost gratitude to everyone who helped make this event come to life.

Per every point made through these interviews, cultural awareness is vital because we live in Hawai'i. Hawai'i is a unique place as so many different cultures reside throughout the smaller scale of communities compared to the mainland. Understanding and appreci-

ating each culture and its values gives everyone a sense of belonging. Let us practice *Pakikisama*, which has no direct translation in English but is essentially the value of "getting along with others to preserve a harmonious relationship" and represents the bridge between the different cultures. ✨

### 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 a President of Maui High's Key Club, vice president of Maui High's Filipino Cultural Club, Executive Secretary of Maui High's Student Government, and a member of the National Honor Society and Creative Media Club. Jhanessty is in the ACOM Pathway at Maui High, focusing on graphic design and entrepreneurship. In her free time, she reads books of all genres, sketches outlines for her new graphics project, sings karaoke alone or with a group of her close family and friends, and loves anything involving the popular video game Minecraft Bee. She is the daughter of Vanessa and Jhon Boy Bautista.

# HEADS UP!

## Elections are right around the corner

**Primary Election**  
is Saturday,  
August 10

**General Election**  
is Tuesday,  
November 5

For more information, visit:  
<https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/contest-schedule/2024-contest-schedule/>



# Fil-Am Voice

This is a Fil-Am Voice public service announcement

# TULONG<sup>®</sup> For Lahaina

COORDINATED BY BINHI AT ANI

## Please donate to Tulong for Lahaina<sup>®</sup> Fund

At least forty percent of Lahaina's residents are of Filipino ancestry and our *kababayan* needs our *tulong*—our help. A process was created to grant \$750 to those who 1) as a homeowner, lost their principal place of residence; 2) as a business owner, lost their business in a brick and mortar setting; or 3) lost an immediate family member.

Donations are needed as there are over seven hundred applicants.

To donate, send your 100 percent tax deductible check payable to Binhi at Ani at 780 Onehe'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 or donate via credit card through [www.binhiatani.org](http://www.binhiatani.org). Or donate through the QR code below. Any questions, contact Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 294-5510.



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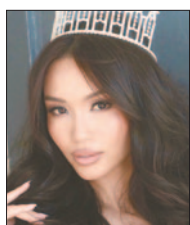
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