



Miss USA Returns to Maui

Savannah returns with a platform for fire survivors.

See below



Maui Elections

The Editor says "vote." It is a way to affect change and the rising costs of housing on Maui.

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Can you speak pidgin?

It can be good when the time is right to use it locally.

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Fil-Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | "Let Us All Unite"

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Women are empowered on Maui through unity.

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Savannah Gankiewicz is crowned Miss USA

The Maui native wants to highlight the Lahaina & Kula fires.

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR



Governor Josh Green crowns Savannah Gankiewicz as Miss USA.

PHOTO: MARK SALONDAKA

In early May, the world of Miss USA was turned upside down when the 2023 Miss USA Noelia Voigt resigned. Social media was abuzz and the Miss USA Facebook page posted "We respect and support Noelia's decision to step down from her duties. The well-being of our titleholders is a top priority, and we understand her need to prioritize herself at this time. We are currently reviewing plans for the transition of responsibilities to a successor, and we will soon announce the crowning of the new Miss USA."

Beauty pageant aficionados began speculating who would be crowned. After all, right before a queen is announced, the host usually stresses the importance of the first runner up in words like "In the event the queen is unable to complete her reign, the first runner up will become queen"

Those who followed the 2023 Miss USA pageant knew 2023 Miss Hawaii USA Savannah Gankiewicz, a Maui native, was the first runner-up.

Three days later, the announcement came. "The Miss

Beauty pageant aficionado-

see SAVANNAH next page

Post-Fire Election Slate Set. Local Candidates File to Run

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR | ALL PHOTOS ARE COURTESY EACH CANDIDATE

And just like that ... the 2024 elections are right around the corner. In two months, the Hawai'i primary election will be held on Saturday, August 10 with the general election less than three months later on Tuesday, November 5.

While most eyes will be focused on the Presidential election featuring a rematch between current president Joseph Biden and former president Donald Trump (yes, there are a few third-party candidates), there are several important local races, some featuring rematches.

In the State Legislature, all of Maui's Senators and State Representatives are up for re-election. In the County of



Senator Hashimoto, Representative Woodson and Councilmembers Johnson and Sinenci are unopposed and automatically elected.



Maui, the Mayor's race is two years away but all Council members are up for re-election ... and all current office holders filed for re-election. (In case you're wondering, the Governor's race is also two years away.)

Following a legislative session focusing on addressing



the aftermath of the August 2023 West Maui and Upcountry fires, reforming the impact of the general excise tax on medical services, and ending with an unexpected income tax cut aimed at the cost of living, Maui's nine member all-Democratic Senate and House delegation are seeking



another term. In Central Maui, State Senator Troy N. Hashimoto, a Democrat, is running to complete the term of retired State Senator Gil Keith-Agaran in Senate District 5. "I am running for the State Senate to continue representing Central Maui

see ELECTION p.3

FREE



As Miss Maui USA, Savannah Gankiewicz volunteered with guest Chef volunteer Chef Andre of Montage Hotel for the Binhi at Ani Bayanihan Feeding Program.

PHOTO COURTESY MELEN AGCOLICOL



Miss USA Savannah Gankiewicz first walk.

PHOTO MARK SALONDAKA

Savannah ...

from p. 1

USA Organization is thrilled to announce that Miss Hawaii USA Savannah Gankiewicz is Miss USA 2023. She will be crowned in her native state of Hawaii in a celebratory coronation on Wednesday, May 15," said a post on the Miss USA Facebook page.

"We are proud to crown Savannah Miss USA 2023, a true representation

of vision, intelligence, and compassion," said Miss USA Organization CEO & President Laylah Rose. "Her dedication to empowering women through self-love and confidence is inspiring, and we look forward to her impactful reign as Miss USA."

"I fully support and respect Noelia's decision to step down, and I stand in solidarity with mental health awareness," Savannah said. "I accept the crown knowing that I have been up-

lifted by my supporters, family, friends, and the people of Hawaii throughout this journey. I accept this title on their behalf. To my fellow Miss USA sisters, I believe it's crucial for us to stand united for the future of the organization and the incoming class of 2024 and beyond. I pledge my wholehearted support to the new delegates who have dedicated themselves to their state pageants, and I am committed to ensuring a seamless and memorable transition between Miss USA titleholders."

The Miss USA news release described Savannah as a "model, entrepreneur, and program director for What Makes You Feel Beautiful — a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering self-love throughout every stage and phase of life in girls and women of all ages. She also dedicates her time to facilitating the 'F.L.Y. First Love Yourself' youth program which empowers young women to develop self-love, confidence, and compassion." Savannah was lauded for "stepping up to take the crown."

Savannah, who utilized the Banyan Tree as part of her costume during the 2023 Miss USA pageant in Reno (and won the Best Costume award as well as the interview phase constituting fifty percent of the scoring), wants to refocus on the Lahaina rebuilding during her reign, according to the Miss USA pageant. "Savannah hopes to be a symbol of resilience and hope and bring the Aloha spirit across the nation. She would like to give support to her home island of Maui and put it back into the spotlight on the rebuild-

ing process in Lahaina after the tragic fires nearly one year ago."

In Savannah's first social media post after being named the successor, she promised "to always be transparent with you and to share my experience. I still believe in the Miss USA organization and its future, and my intention is to make positive changes from within and rebuild its legacy."

Savannah also addressed the current state titleholders: "I want you to know that the Miss USA title will endure and it will give you the tools to achieve greatness. You just have to take leap of faith and believe in yourself."

Savannah's belief in herself was evident when she was crowned on May 15 by Hawaii Governor Josh Green. The words she used to describe her feelings were shock and gratefulness. "Hi everyone. Aloha! I am so shocked right now and I'm just so tremendously grateful. I am incredibly grateful to be standing here today in my home state of Hawaii and accepting this prestigious title. This moment means so much to me and being surrounded by my loved ones and community has truly filled me and my motivation to embrace this new chapter. While this decision was not made lightly, I firmly believe that this opportunity was meant for me and I am ready to make a positive impact with this organization that I hold dear to my heart."

Savannah's support from her loved ones was evident with the presence of her Mom Yvienne Peterson, her stepdad Gerrit Peterson, her siblings, and

see SAVANNAH p.4

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Election ...

from p. 1

because it is critically important to advocate for our education system, affordable housing, and a vibrant economy,” Hashimoto explains. “The end goal is for local residents to have a future on Maui and not move off the island. It will take all of us working together in a collaborative manner and I promise to continue working hard every day.” As no one filed against Hashimoto, he will be elected if he collects at least one vote in the primary.

This marks the fourth consecutive time since 2012 that the Senate incumbent (Shan Tsutsui in 2012, Keith-Agaran in 2016 and 2020; Keith-Agaran had a primary and general election opponent in the 2014 special elections to complete Tsutsui’s term) has faced no opposition in Central Maui; Hashimoto also drew no opponent in his 2022 re-election to his Wailuku House seat. (The 2020 Reapportionment scheduled Senate Districts 6 and 7 for two-year terms in 2022 and four-year terms after this election, with Senate District 5 up again in 2026.)

Kahului State Representative Justin H. Woodson, also a Democrat, is running for re-election in House District 9. “I feel humbled to continue to serve the community,” says Woodson. “There is still much to do.” Like Hashimoto, no one filed against Woodson so the House Education Commit-



Miyake

tee chair will be re-elected. The race for House District 10 will be decided by the voters in the Democratic primary. State Representative Tyson K. Miyake, a Democrat, is running in House District 10 (he was appointed after Hashimoto was elevated to the State Senate). “I am running for re-election to continue our progress and strengthen our community in State House District 10,” he says. “Born and raised on Maui, my dedication to public service is deeply rooted in the values instilled by my parents, David and Irene Miyake, who taught me the importance of hard work and commitment to others. With your support, I will keep fighting for affordable housing, quality education, and a resilient economy.” Prior to his appointment, Miyake worked as a government affairs consultant. He also served as chief of staff to former Maui Mayor Mike Victorino and as deputy county managing director.



Savage

Miyake is opposed by fellow Democrat Jeremiah Savage. “As a dedicated parent and community member, I am running for State

House to prioritize safety, infrastructure, cost of living, and education in Central Maui,” states Savage. “As a father whose son was born and raised on Maui and attends ‘Āo Middle School, I understand the challenges we face—from education and cost of living to job security and affordable housing—to secure a vibrant future for our *keiki*. Here in Maui, I’ve contributed to our community by serving on nonprofit boards, a county commission, working for the County of Maui, and working with Maui nonprofits to bring money from the mainland into Maui’s economy.” Savage is a financial advisor who served as Deputy Finance Director in former Mayor Alan Arakawa’s administration.

Two incumbent State Representatives need to beat back a fellow Democrat in the primary and their respective Republican challenger to keep their seat.

The East Maui-Molokai-Lāna‘i legislative seat features a rematch. State



Poepoe

Representative Mahina Poepoe, a Democrat, is running for re-election in House District 13 after beating then-appointed State Representative Linda Ha‘i Clark in the 2022 Democratic Party Primary Election. “Halo friend, my name is Mahina Poepoe and I am running for re-election to the State

House of Representatives, District 13,” says Poepoe. “I will continue to work hard to improve the quality of life for our families by reducing the cost of living, increasing access to healthcare, strengthening our public and higher education systems, creating more opportunities for affordable housing, protecting our environment, and expanding support services such as child and elder care. I’ve worked hard every day to deliver results that are reflective of my unwavering commitment to our people and *‘āina* and I humbly ask for your support.”

Fellow Democrat Clark is seeking to replace Poepoe as well as Republican Scott Adam (who lost to Poepoe in the 2022 General Election, 5,827-2,084).

State Representative Elle Cochran, a Democrat, is running for re-election in House District 14. “Aloha and



Cochran

Mabuhay! I am running to continue representing all of House District 14 that spans from Mā‘alaea-West Maui-Kahakuloa-Waiehu,” Cochran says, the only Filipino in the Maui Nui legislative delegation. “My focus will be on our Filipino community that makes up the majority of our Lahaina residents. Mahalo and *Salamat Po* for your continued and future support!”

Fellow Democrat Kanamu Balinbin see ELECTION p.8

Summer is here...



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Best wishes to the Class of ‘24!

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From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



Your vote counts. Don't miss the opportunity to choose our leaders who will change our quality of life here on Maui.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA

Ready or Not ... Election Season Is Here Again ...

The 2024 election season is now underway. We are less than five months away from electing our national, state and county leaders.

While the presidential contest may garner the most attention during this election cycle, there are important local races having a more direct impact on our residents' lives. On Maui, for example, County Council members and some members of our State Legislature are on the ballot this year. Your voice and vote are extremely important to elect candidates who truly have our best interest at heart.

Maui has suffered a lot this past year. The wildfires in the West Maui and Upcountry areas devastated many of our 'ohana, many of whom are still living in hotels. What is even more concerning is a greater number of families are looking for decent and affordable homes where they can live. Many are moving from their island homes

to the mainland due to the shortage of housing and lack of options. Not only are the wildfire victims impacted, many of our residents are also being displaced due to high rents most of our working families cannot afford. To top it all, the cost to buy a house today on Maui has now reached a high of \$1.3 million, a median price far out of range for our working families.

In the past several elections, affordable housing was the main issue for all the candidates running for public office. Yet, we are still in the same predicament and this pressing problem is unresolved. Many are losing hope and faith with the lack of resolve by our policy makers to finally tackle this issue.

The County is proposing to ban short term vacation rentals (STVRs) that are legally approved and currently used by visitors to the island, to house our residents instead. Regardless where you are on this

see FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK p. 7



PHOTO ABOVE: Miss USA Savannah Gankiewicz spoke to a group of Lahaina fire survivors the day after she was crowned.

PHOTO: YVIENNE PETERSON

PHOTO RIGHT: Miss USA Savannah Gankiewicz with her stepfather Garret, mother Yvienne, sister Natashya and cousin Jade.

PHOTO COURTESY YVIENNE PETERSON



Savannah ...

from p. 2

well as her maternal grandfather Orlando Tagorda and maternal grandmother Carmelita Omlí, among others.

Savannah spoke of her journey and her commitment to be compassionate. "Through this journey, I have learned the importance of being a role model for young women, teaching them the value of self-love and empowerment. The personal growth that I have experienced has shaped me into a leader and individual and I am eager to use this Miss USA platform to inspire women to strive for greatness. I am forever grateful for the support of my fellow contestants and the friendships I have formed during my time at Miss USA. I am inspired by the dedication and determination of all the women who graced the Miss USA stage and I am committed to follow in their footsteps as a compassionate and impactful leader."

With social media ablaze on the resignation and succession, Savannah noted her own experience and desire to make a difference. "As I embark on this unique reign, I am dedicated to taking action and making a difference. With my background as a certified mental health first aid responder and training in anti-bullying suicide prevention, I understand the importance of prioritizing your well-being and advocating for those in need. I believe that the true change starts from within and I am determined to lead by example and empower the class of 2024 and beyond to pursue their dreams and unwavering confidence and courage."

Lending support to Savannah in addition to the Office of the Governor was the Miss Hawaii USA pageant and Savannah specifically thanked them. "Thank you to the Miss Hawaii USA State Pageant for being by my side through this journey, sharing in my dreams, and putting together such a beautiful coronation today that I will cherish forever."

The next day, Savannah flew to Maui and met with a small group of Lahaina fire survivors. During the meeting, Savannah emotionally re-

vealed how after it was announced she would be the successor, she herself was bullied. "Since I've gotten this title, I've dealt with a lot of bullying and harassment, and it really does, it breaks my heart. Sorry, I didn't want to cry, but I just feel like it's hard, because I wish people saw where my heart is coming from."

The hurt was evident as Savannah broke down. Maui folks know Savannah's heart for the people of Maui is true. As Savannah explained, she promised to keep the focus on Maui and use her voice to encourage young women. "And it's helping Lahaina and helping Maui residents and having a platform, but also showing young women that you can get bullied and you can hurt but you stand back up and you keep going and you keep using your voice."

Savannah, Maui is proud of you and despite your short reign, we know you will continue to make all of us proud and be an inspiration by your words and deeds. Aloha and Mabuhay! 🌟

Assistant Editor **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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DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Da Queen's Pidgin



Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

I recently saw some ads for the Hawai'i Comedy Legends Tour—one stop for O.G.s Andy Bumatai, Frank DeLima and Augie Tulba will be the Maui Arts and Cultural Center on July 26th at the Castle Theater.

It's a tough thing but Filipino accents are back.

Sure, some people think an exaggerated impersonation of your Apo from Ilocos makes a person sound ignorant who should be treated with respect. Accents, others argue, confuse customers and salespeople who have to ask you to repeat yourself (try tell that to the Starbucks barrista who scrawls my name as "Bill", "Gill", "Gayle", "Joe" or "Jill"). Accents simply brand you as an outsider. A newcomer. An immigrant.

The same detractors insist if you can't say "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" in proper English, you can forget about singing it on American Idol.

But frankly, a lot of some people's disenchantment with Filipino accents has to do with the inability to do it right.

I admit it. An FBI and I lack the skilz.

I occasionally listen to Andy Bumatai's The Daily Pidgin podcast and Augie T.'s Honolulu City Council meetings on *Ōlelo*. Now those two do pretty good Filipino accents. You'd think they were really Filipino. You can't help admiring the way they mimic older immigrant men who stretch out their English words with generous sprinklings of "boy," emphasize the wrong syllable or replace all "F" sounds with "P"s.

When you're a local-born Filipino, it frankly sucks if you can't do a decent Filipino accent.

First, it limits the range of jokes you can tell. When you can use a Filipino accent, any joke becomes a laugh riot. The audience simply loves

hearing the sing-song cadence of the yardman. Even that noted ethnic slurer Frank DeLima can seem funny when he parodies a Christmas Carol reciting fine Filipino Fusion Cuisine names (Macadangdang) and near racistly tinged dishes (e.g., black dog, billy goat).

For example, you know the one—little Eban was asked by the teacher to use the word "hostess" in a sentence. Eban said, "De telep'one she rring-rring. I say, 'Hello, hostess?'"

Second, a good Filipino accent shows pride in your heritage. Only true Filipinos know how more dignified GAH-ber-nay-dor Cayetano and MA-your Bissen sound than plain Ben or Judge.

Third, when you go to Church, you want to hear the liturgy in the old tongue. Once you've heard a Catholic Mass or the Eucharist in a Filipino accent, you can never go back. If you can't handle a Filipino accent, you can lose your place in service or mis-time your responses.

It's an acute problem for folks who go away for school and limits our prospects for gainful employment and opportunities when returning home from seeing America.

When I moved back to Maui after law school, some people simply assumed I must have been raised on the mainland. And that prejudice occurs, I fear, because I can't do a Filipino or local accent.

And believe you me, I had a fine command of Maui pidgin as a kid. Let me point out it wasn't your up-country *Portagee* pidgin but authentic Plantation Camp relocated to the increments talk. After all, I was a Pā'ia boy. Wandering Skill Village and Orpheum camps before moving to Luna Lane in Lower Pā'ia behind Charlie's Juice Stand, sneaking into Augie's pool hall, reading comic

see DA ACCENT p.7



Comedian Augie T (center) with Let's Talk Pinoy! columnist Dulce Karen Butay and entertainer Martin Nievera in 2010.

PHOTO COURTESY DULCE KAREN BUTAY



Just four Filipino attorneys: Gil Coloma-Agaran (from left), then-Lt. Gov. Benjamin Cayetano, Alfredo G. Evangelista, Wilfredo Tungol at the wedding of another Filipino lawyer Ferdinand "Danny" Aranza circa 1991.

PHOTO COURTESY ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



State Senate President Ronald Kouchi, Father John Tomosot, a local Filipino lawyer who went to college on the mainland, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Warden K. Peter Lee at the 2015 Barrio Fiesta.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



APRIL - MAY

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Roxelle Trisha Mae Magliba



Kaelen Coloma



Raven Bugtong



Angel Alba

Mauí High School's Filipino Club existed long before the year 2022. The current version of the club, however, differs from the one that existed many years ago. During the spring of 2022, **Roxelle Trisha Mae Magliba** and many of her friends embarked on a journey to re-establish the Filipino Club. In September of that year, the club became a reality and the version it is today: the Filipino Cultural Club.

Roxelle is the founder and President of Maui High School's Filipino Cultural Club. Roxelle has significantly impacted the school's cultural identity in the past two years. In her Filipino community, she has helped students participate in the traditional folk dance of *Tinikling*, introduced language workshops, and held a Cultural Festival with various other cultural groups from Maui High in collaboration with Kahului Elementary School.

Starting the club came easy to Rox-

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Is Not Everything ... "Pamayan"

Jhanessty Vaye Bautista | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2024

elle. "What inspired me to restart the Filipino Cultural Club at Maui High School was my friends. Many of us are Filipino but not all of us were too knowledgeable about the beauty of our culture. And as the time went on, I kept meeting new people that are just like my friends: Filipino but don't know our culture. At that point, I knew I wanted to do something about it," she

explains. Seeing the Filipino club that existed years ago solidified Roxelle's decision as she was inspired to bring the Filipino community closer together.

Roxelle would like to give a special shout-out to her mentor and club advisor, Mary Jane Butac, "Without her, I wouldn't be where I am today. The Filipino Cultural Club has helped shape me to become the person that I am and it all wouldn't be possible without Miss Butac's support and guidance. Her passion in teaching and spreading cultural awareness have helped the club flourish and grow every single day."

As Roxelle pursues a higher education, she takes what she learned from the Filipino Cultural Club. "The club has taught me how to become a leader. With over a hundred members, I had to work with my council to develop activities, projects and more. Moreover, I had to implement what the members wanted to see. I plan to use what FCC taught me for future projects and for my future career," Roxelle declares.

Kealen Coloma served as the club's Advertiser in the 2023 to 2024 term but has been around on the club's officer board since its founding. Kealen would also like to give a massive shout-out to club advisor Mary Jane Butac. "It goes without saying that having Ms. Butac as a club advisor was the best decision made by us as a council. Despite most of us on the council who have not actually had her as a teacher in our eyes she is all our favorite teacher. Ms. Butac does so much for our club and many don't realize that she usually provides for our club as well using her own funds. So huge props to Ms. Butac—we, the Filipino Cultural Club council, wouldn't want it any other way," Kealen says. As Kealen attends the University of Hawai'i Maui College, she plans to continue her journey in the cultural club. "From everything that I learned from the Filipino Cultural Club I plan to implement as well when I join *Kabatak* Club in UHMC. From communication, volunteering, involving myself with the community, creating lasting bonds and being a leader. All things I want to not

just carry with me into college but for the rest of my life."

A few of the club's predecessors are Vice-President **Raven Bugtong** and Cultural Representative **Angel Alba**. Raven Bugtong would like to thank Angel Alba for her devotion to the club. "She took the initiative to spread knowledge about our club to the rest of the community, showed leadership on multiple occasions such as during our *Tinikling* practices and continued to show commitment by becoming our club's cultural representative. We are sincerely grateful for Angel's contributions to the Filipino Cultural Club," Raven explains. Angel would like to thank all the members and the officers. "Without all of our officers and members, the Filipino Cultural Club wouldn't have made it this far and without their support we would have fallen," Angel voices.

As Vice-President and Cultural Representative for the 2024 to 2025 term, Raven and Angel hope to use the knowledge the Filipino Cultural Club has taught them to educate others with a different understanding. Raven further explains "I have learned many valuable lessons and gained insightful knowledge that have helped shape my identity, not only in the club but as a person in general. I understood the importance of participation and being an active member in our club's activities, as I was able to create lasting connections with not only my fellow club members but also those outside of our club. Being in the Filipino Cultural Club also helped me take pride in my work and become comfortable with being myself. I plan to use these lessons to influence my decision-making skills to create satisfaction for everyone in the club."

Serving as vice president since the club's founding and having the opportunity to write for the *Fil-Am Voice* this year is a memory I will cherish forever. The skills I have gained are ones I will take with me in the future as I plan to pursue Psychology at Gonzaga University. My cultural identity has never felt more seen and accepted, and I hope a legacy lives on where many other students and people will get to feel the same. To put it simply, let us practice *pamayanan*. Wherever we end and wherever we go, let us keep our cultures close and embody them everywhere. ✨

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 2024 graduate of Maui High School. She is a

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The Attorneys with Heart

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



Voting now is a snap with the amount of options we have available to us. You can vote by mail, or opt to turn in your completed ballots at centers like the one shown here at the county building in Wailuku, or go to your assigned polling place and vote in-person.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGLISTA

idea, the issue of converting these STVRs will be bogged down in court for many years. There are also significant challenges to converting these vacation units into long-term rentals for residents—such as, high rents, high Homeowners Association fees (HOAs), making these units unaffordable for working families, not to mention the unintended economic impact that may result with the outlawing of STVRs. This is unlikely to solve our housing crisis, both short-and long-term.

Some residents think such an action may just be “political cover” for not being able to build more affordable homes to provide long awaited relief for Maui’s residents. We need to build more affordable homes, plain and simple, if our policy makers genuinely want to solve

this gravely extended housing crisis.

So, when you cast your vote this election cycle, make sure you study the records of all the candidates and incumbents to see if they have been consistent with supporting housing projects for Maui’s hard-working families. Too often, many candidates make promises which are not kept nor delivered. If you have not yet registered to vote, The *Fil-Am Voice* strongly encourages those who are eligible to vote to register. If you want change to happen, make your vote COUNT! ✨

VINCE BAGOJO, JR. | EDITOR

Da Accent ...

from p. 5

books at Nagata store, begging for bait from Bersamin’s Fish Market. I grew up with pidgin as my mother tongue.

My family gave me all the support I needed. After all, upon retiring from the Hilton Hawaiian, my grandfather decided to give up English—and a fluent pidgin to boot. He did English only when he couldn’t avoid it. Doctor’s appointments. Talking to our neighbors while grooming their fighting chickens.

My sister and I would have complete conversations with him speaking *Ilokano* and us responding in the Queen’s pidgin.

Even in high school you had to talk local if you wanted to fit in. You couldn’t eat lunch behind the Maui High library if you should have been playing chess on the ta-

bles between C Building ... unless you could talk local. Then you could move between both worlds.

But I made the mistake of going away to the mainland for college. That put me out of practice for seven years before I came home and I’ve paid for it (my classmates from Hawai’i were an ‘Iolani grad, a Punahou swimmer and a military brat out of Radford). At least in law school, a future Hawai’i Supreme Court Justice classmate was an unrepentant surfer with the best local accent.

Spending time away from Hawai’i changes how you talk. My best friend joined the Air Force and developed a twang from basic training and postings in the South. Another ended in the Midwest and only lapses into the cadence of local talk when he’s home. A third ended in Los Angeles and he, like me, sounds more like a recently arrived *haole* when

see DA ACCENT p.9

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Fil-Am Voice



Public Notice Birth of Ku'a Iwi Hugo Peralta

LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PEOPLE OF Maui, Hawaii, United States – This public notice and affirmation that Ku'a Iwi-Hugo of the family Peralta has been born on the land in a mortal body. The living male is the result of life and love and physical embodiment of the biological father Samuel-Hugo: Peralta and biological mother Molly-Elizabeth: Peralta (nee Stiens). Ku'a Iwi-Hugo of the family Peralta is their living Son from the moment of conception from the first combining of their unique genetic code and was born earthside on the land in the geographical location commonly known as Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, Republic, united States of America. He was born on August 7th in the calendar year 2023 Anno Domini at the hour and minute of 2:30 pm, weighing 6 lbs 10 oz and 21 inches long. He is happy, healthy and thriving.

Election ...

from p. 3

filed to run against Cochran as well as Republican Kelly J. Armstrong. Cochran beat Armstrong 3,759-2,070 in 2022.

Upcountry State Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, a Democrat and chair of the powerful House Finance Committee, is running for re-election in House District 12. He will face Republican Dan Johnson and Green party candidate Rita M. Ryan. Yamashita beat Johnson 7,085-2,118 two



Johnson

years ago.

"I'm running for office because I love Maui and everything about this island that sets it apart from the rest of the world, and it saddens me when local families can no longer afford to live here and are forced to leave," explains Johnson. "I'm a husband, a father of two young children, and was born and raised on Maui with four generations family here, and after graduating from UH Manoa with a degree in Finance, I've navigated a successful career in project management over the past decade, and through my experience I have come to understand many of the core reasons for our state's exceptionally high cost of living. My heart is to prioritize reducing the cost of living through state tax adjustments, incentivizing local homeownership, while preserving our values, liberties, land, resources, and restoring our community."

Maui's other State Representative Terez Amato, a Democrat, is running for a second term in House District 11



Amato

(South Maui) and faces Republican Aileen R. (Lily) Acaín. "Maui deserves a Representative who in just the last two years has successfully fought for over \$50 Million for Kihei for two hundred teacher and affordable workforce housing units, preschool early education, funding for flood and fire mitiga-

tion, much needed school repairs, the biggest working family income tax break in Hawaii's history, while eliminating tax on Medicare/Medicaid and increasing medical caregiver reimbursement," Amato declares. "In 2025 I'll continue to fight for our kūpuna, union and hospitality workers, striking nurses, the disabled, teacher pay raises, a living wage, local farmers, expanded healthcare, CNA/nurse education and reducing student debt, because we must care for and support those who choose to dedicate their lives to caring for our families and keiki. I grew up on Maui (see www.TAmato.org) and refuse ALL corporate and lobbyist contributions because this election you deserve a Representative who is #WorkingForThePeople, not for big corporations and lobbyists, a Representative who is working for you!"

Maui's two other State Senators have attracted GOP opponents.

State Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, a Democrat, is running for re-election in Senate District 6 (West Maui-South Maui). "I am running for re-election to continue the fight to protect Hawaii and its most important resource—our people," he says. "If re-elected I will work to implement the fund-



McKelvey

ing and policies we have passed last session including our working-class family tax cut and to secure funds needed for Maui's recovery. I am committed to our survival, healing, and resilience."

Republican Sheila Walker has filed to set up a rematch against McKelvey. McKelvey beat Walker 9,387-4,634 in 2022.

State Senator Lynn Pualani DeCoite, a Democrat, is running for re-election in Senate District 7. "I am running to continue my commitment to serving my entire Senate District, mauka to makai, on each island and ensuring that all of my constituents have ac-



DeCoite

see ELECTION p.17

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

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 and will attend Gonzaga University, majoring in Psychology.





A local Filipino Lawyer who went to school on the mainland at the 2015 Barrio Fiesta behind a part of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Bahay Kubo display.

PHOTO: GIL KEITH-AGARAN



Mayor Richard Bissen, Jr. at the 55th Annual Barrio Fiesta on Saturday night.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Rodrigo Domingo, one of the J-1 teachers, hosted the 55th Annual Barrio Fiesta on Friday night.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

Da Accent ...

from p. 7

he attempts to speak pidgin. Better not even try.

The lucky guys are those who went to schools with plenty of local kids (like UNLV in the accurately nicknamed Ninth Island). They can move effortless between pidgin and proper English.

But I had assumed the tide may be turning in favor of guys like me. After almost a hundred years of Filipinos in Hawai'i, it was getting safe to drop the accent.

Maui is more and more an English Standard island. Along with getting the SUV, shopping at big box stores, wearing mainland style clothes and eating fast food, we put away local things like plate lunches (too expensive) and *saimin* (get *ramen* and *udon* now). With more and more teachers being hired from

mainland colleges, our kids have no choice but to conform. If you want to be understood, you gotta drop the accent. If we want to be taken seriously, we need to talk like mainlanders.

After all, this is America. We got a mainland native living in Washington Place again. If you want to make it on American Idol, you can't have a Filipino accent.

But there is a deep state conspiracy against us. Over the last couple of years, the Department of Education has been recruiting teachers from the Philippines—and that undoubtedly will lay the foundation to influence the next generation and perpetuate the insidious prejudice against English Standard speaking.

*
Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran grew up in Pā'ia. He practices law full time in Wailuku after leaving elected office in November 2023. He speaks a pidgin Ilokano and no Taglish.





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Community... In Action

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

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO LEFT: Philippine Nurses Association Maui, Hawai'i chapter team helped with the Bayanihan Feeding Program.

PHOTO COURTESY PNAMHI

PHOTO RIGHT: Balut eating contest winner poses with sponsor Chef Joey Macadang-dang and wife Juvs.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



BINHI AT ANI

Celebrate your special events at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. The Center can be rented from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1150 (including the cleaning fee)

plus a \$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 BYOB (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.

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 May 31, 2024, a total of 24,732 lunches have been distributed.

Teams serving during the month of May 2024 include Miss Maui USA 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 Melen Agcolicol at (808) 205-7981. Tax-deductible donations are accepted via Paypal or a Credit/Debit card or by mailing a check payable to Binhi at Ani, 780 Onehee 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 Kupuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center classes



COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

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. Since July 2022 and through December 2023, there have been 508 classes with eighty participants. For more information on Enhance@Fitness, contact Enhance@Fitness Coordinator Ginny Kiick (808) 280-6251 or gkiick@hotmail.com or Wellness Coordinator Claudette Medeiros (808) 463-3166 or claudette.b.medeiros@co.maui.hi.us.



2024 Miss Barrio Fiesta® Gianna Magbual and Princess Trisha Basig. Many thanks to the 2023 Miss Barrio Fiesta Naemi Skye Paa for a job well done.

The major sponsors were County of Maui and the Office of Economic Development; Bayer Hawai'i; U.S. Renal Care; ILWU; Philippine Airlines; Allstate/Brent Wylam, Agent; Copy Services; McDonald's-Kahului; Four Sisters Bakery; Four Sisters Catering; Maria Hall & Family; In

Maraming salamat po! to the thousands who participated in the 55th Annual Barrio Fiesta®. Congratulations to the



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

PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS

Maraming salamat po! to thousands who participated in the 55th Annual Barrio Fiesta®. Shown here are the Outstanding Housekeeping Awardees.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



Memory of Stanley Magbual; and Pukalani Superette.

Those who were selected by their respective hotels as the Outstanding Housekeeper were: Jonathan Acoba of Wailea Marriott, Jessie Alejo of Grand Wailea Resort, Florestina Corpuz of Grand Wailea Resort, Josephine Faulve of Maui Beach Hotel, Virginia Javalde of Outrigger Kā'anapali Beach Resort, Jovie Martin of Maui Seaside Hotel, Thina Medeiros of Sheraton Resort & Spa, Hermand Navarro of Courtyard by Marriott Kahului, Zenaido Peredo of Outrigger Kā'anapali Beach Resort, Vivan Tan of Courtyard by Marriott Kahului, Rosario Versola of Wailea Marriott and Andres Yadao of Maui Beach Hotel.

Congratulations to the following winners: Rafael Manlansing - Airfare to the Philippines sponsored by Philippine Airlines; Medel Panaligan - Las Vegas trip sponsored by Allstate/Brent Wylam, Agent; Pangasinan presented by Wena Gazmen - Cultural Villages (\$500); Christopher Rimorin - AnyKine Sisig Challenge® sponsored by Tante's Island Cuisine (\$500); Aldrin Abugo - Barrio Fiesta Balut Challenge® sponsored by Balai Pata by Joey Macadangdang (\$500); Nelly Gum-

boc - The Barrio Fiesta Voice® sponsored by Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista, A Limited Liability Law Company (\$500); Jesus Valledor - Barrio Wear Showdown!® sponsored by Rusty & Hedy Udarbe - Male Division (\$250); Seraiyah Low - Barrio Wear Showdown!® sponsored by Rusty & Hedy Udarbe - Female Division (\$250); Landon Poouahi - Climb the Greased Pole!® sponsored by In Memory of Nancy Andres and Aggie Cabebe (\$500); Ester Juan - Do the Sungka!® sponsored by Johnstone Supply of Maui (\$500); Christian Chow - Eat Da Pansit® sponsored by Friends of Gil Keith-Agaran (\$500); Landon Poouahi - Kabataan Art Party® featuring Phil Sabado sponsored by Friends of Yuki Lei Sugimura (\$500). And all the youth who participated in the Pabitin at the Barrio Fiesta!® sponsored by Friends of Justin Woodson.

Many thanks to the Food and Business Vendors: Allstate/Brent Wylam, Agent; Bayer Hawai'i; Binhi at Ani; Dance International Foundation; Grand Canyon University; Hawai'i Army National Guard; Ilocos Surian Association of Maui; Kabayan Remit; The Legal Clinic; Magsingal Association of Maui; Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club; Maui Aids Foundation; Maui

Filipino Community Council; Maui Revival Church; Mrs. Maui Filipina; Riman; Grace Sales, Realtor; and U.S. Renal Care.

Support was also provided by Media Sponsors The Fil-Am Voice and KPMW Mix 105.5 and Beverage Sponsor Pepsi.

Cultural Entertainment was provided by Students of Aggie Cabebe; Miss Barrio Fiesta 2023 and Miss Barrio Fiesta 2024 contestants; La Galeria: Compañía Baile Filipino; Naragsak; The Paoay Singers; and Outrigger Kā'anapali Beach Resort.

Other program participants included: Eva Marie Arconado-Mirzai, Mario Aruiza, Vince Bagoyo, Jr., Major Aris Banaag, Sharon Zalsos Banaag, Emmanuel Baltazar, Gina Dela Cruz, Rodrigo Domingo, Christine Espina, Ethan Evangelista, Florante Garcia, Hawai'i Army National Guard, Lahainaluna High School Filipino Club, Maria Lanakila Filipino Catholic Club, Miss Barrio Fiestas and Little Miss Barrio Fiestas for the Santa Cruzan, Deacon Chris Ribucan, Bobby Sales, Marilou Siores, Elizabeth Thomas and Nestor Ugale.

The Seed and Harvest Dinner will be held on Saturday, July 13 at Binhi at Ani

Filipino Community Center, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The twenty-six 2024 Scholarship Recipients will be introduced and the 2024-2025 Binhi at Ani Board of Directors will be installed.

Table sponsorships are available at \$750 while individual seats are available at \$50 for the prime rib/fish dinner. Advertisements are available at \$200. Contact Melen Agcolicol at (808) 205-7981 or via email at melencopy@gmail.com.

Summer at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center is currently ongoing with the following FREE classes for youth:

Mondays (6/10, 6/17, 6/24, 7/1) - from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - Philippine Cultural Dance for Youth. Taught by Rodrigo Domingo.

Tuesdays (6/11, 6/18, 6/25, 7/2) - from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - Art Classes for Youth. Taught by Philip Sabado.

Wednesdays (6/12, 6/19, 6/26) - from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - Introduction to Tae Kwon Do for Youth. Taught by Rico San Agustin.

Call the Binhi at Ani office at (808) 877-7880 to inquire if students are still being see **COMMUNITY IN ACTION** next page



accepted for any or all the classes.

The 2024 Summer at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center program will end on Wednesday, July 3 with a Presentation at 6 p.m.

MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Gintong Pamana award is given to members of Maui's Filipino community who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, professional excellence, and a steadfast commitment to serving the community. The 2024 honorees are:

Eileen Caldwell, Area Director of Human Resources, Marriott Hawai'i & French Polynesia. Her distinguished career in human resources spans over 25 years, primarily within the hotel industry. She began her journey at Sheraton Maui and now serves as the Area Director of Human Resources for Marriott Hawai'i and French Polynesia. Caldwell has spearheaded numerous initiatives to enhance the well-being of hotel workers and their families, mentored diverse groups, and advocated for inclusivity. Her leadership was instrumental in Marriott's response to the Lahaina wildfires in 2023. Caldwell also serves on the board of the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, contributing her extensive knowledge to workforce programs in Hawai'i.

Yvette Kitagawa, Royal Lahaina Resort. With 27 years of experience at the Royal Lahaina Resort, Kitagawa has demonstrated exceptional leadership, especially during the Maui wildfires of 2023. Her efforts ensured the safety and well-being of her team and guests, providing a refuge for displaced individuals. Kitagawa's ongoing support for the community, including her volunteer work with the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation's scholarship program, showcases her unwavering commitment to helping those in need. Her leadership embodies the spirit of compassion and resilience.

Alvin "Kai" Pelayo, Community Affairs Manager, Bayer Crop Science. Pelayo is dedicated to ensuring Maui County's agriculture remains healthy and sustainable. His leadership during the August 2023 wildfires highlighted his commitment to community service, as he provided critical



Gintong Pamana leader awardees are members of Maui's Filipino community who demonstrated exceptional leadership in serving the community.

IMAGE COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



support and resources during the crisis. Pelayo's involvement with the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce and the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center underscores his dedication to uplifting the Filipino community. His efforts in promoting positive farming practices and environmental stewardship leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Christopher Yanuaría, Personal Support Counselor, University of Hawai'i Maui College. Yanuaría provides essential mental health counseling services to students at UHMC. His role extends beyond individual counseling sessions, participating in crisis intervention and educational programs. During the Maui wildfires of 2023, Yanuaría played a crucial role in providing immediate and long-term mental health support. His leadership and dedication to men's holistic well-being and efforts to combat human trafficking reflect his commitment to serving others. Yanuaría holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

The Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce has also announced its 2024 Scholars:

Bernadette Acaso graduated from Maui High School and is the daughter of Danilo and Nila Acaso. She will be attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to pursue a degree in Environmental Engineering.

Haylie Aggasid graduated from HP Baldwin High School and is the daughter of Donnabeth Pascua. She will be attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to pursue a degree in Dental Hygiene.

Carla Agrade graduated from Lahainaluna High School and is the daughter

of Carlito Agrade. She will be attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Keith Baniqued graduated from Lahainaluna High School and is the daughter of Monet Baniqued. He will be attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to pursue a degree in Comprehensive Medical Imaging.

Jhanesty Bautista graduated from Maui High School and is the daughter of Vanessa and Jhon Boy Bautista. She will be attending Washington State University to pursue a degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences.

Cheira Cappal graduated from Lahainaluna High School and is the daughter of Emerson and Cheryl Cappal. She will be attending Portland State University to pursue a degree in Business Management.

Judy Dela Cruz graduated from Lahainaluna High School and is the daughter of Marivic and Judy Dela Cruz. She will be attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to pursue a degree in Digital Cinema.

Rob Gonzales graduated from St. Anthony High School and is the son of Midea Gonzales. He will be attending the University of Notre Dame to pursue a degree in Physics in Medicine.

Jasmine Lagazo graduated from Lahainaluna High School and is the daughter of Russell and Marifel Lagazo. She will be attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to pursue a degree in Nursing.

Roxelle Magliba graduated from Maui High School and is the daughter of Rolex and Grace Magliba. She will be attending Seattle Central Community College to pursue a degree in Nursing.

Criselle Pacubas graduated from Maui High School and is the daughter of Mary Jane Pacubas. She will be attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to pursue a degree in Nursing.

Arjei Paet graduated from HP Baldwin High School and is the son of Roger and Mary Jane Velasco Paet. He will be attending the University of Hawai'i Maui College to pursue a degree in Dental Hygiene.

Sienna Racoma graduated from Maui High School and is the daughter of Jojo and Lorly Mar Racoma. She will be attending the University of Hawai'i Maui College to pursue a degree in General Creative Media.

Edgar Ramones graduated from Maui High School and is the son of Edgar and Rodalyn Ramones. He will be attending St. Martin's University to pursue a degree in Engineering.

Noah Santiago graduated from Maui High School and is the son of Gilbert and Mary Grace Santiago. He will be attending Grand Canyon University to pursue a degree in Applied Business Information Systems.

Ethan Sim graduated from Kihei Charter High School and is the son of John and Hayde Sim. He will be attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to pursue a degree in Accounting.

Elizabeth Thomas graduated from Maui High School and is the daughter of Jeffrey and Maria Thomas. She will be attending the Chaminade University of Honolulu to pursue a degree in Psychology.

Jaimie Tirona graduated from HP Baldwin High School and is the daughter of Jorge and Marga Tirona. She will be attending Long Island University to pursue a degree in Fine Arts/Design.

Jhenie Yuro graduated from HP Baldwin High School and is the daughter of Julius and Winnie Yuro. She will be attending the University of Hawai'i Maui College to pursue a degree in Pre-Nursing.

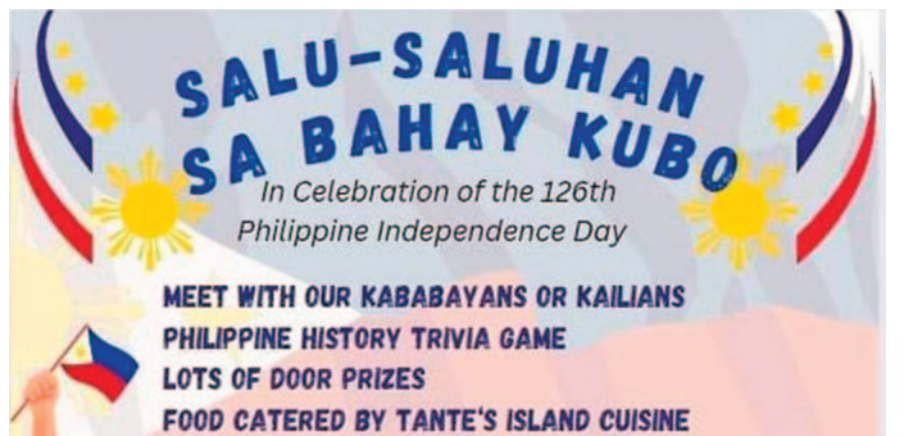
Zoe Zane graduated from Maui High School and is the daughter of Jeremy and Darryl Zane. She will be attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to pursue a degree in Psychology.

Tierra Bueno-Moniz is a current student at the University of Hawai'i Maui College pursuing a degree in Nursing.



MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

In celebration of the 126th Philippine Independence Day, a Salu-Saluhan sa Bahay Kubo was held on June 8. With a Philippine history trivia game and lots of door prizes, the attendees were treated to lunch provided by Tante's Island Cuisine.



Maui Filipino Community Council along with their monthly board meeting met early on Saturday morning to help clean and beautify the Bahay Kubo premises at Kepaniwai Heritage Gardens in Wailuku. Their meeting was followed by "Salu-Saluhan"—a meet and greet with its members and community guest which included Filipino cuisine, a trivia game, door prizes and a demonstration of the "Balintawak" style of arnis, or Filipino stick fighting which was collaboratively organized with Maui's Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation.

IMAGE COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Filipino Chamber of Commerce has announced its 2024 scholars.

IMAGE COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Halfway through the year! It's a sure thing that time flies by so fast.

The month of June should have been the month of celebrations especially for the graduates. Congratulations to Caese Calaro and Ava Castillo! Warmest congratulations to all the graduates on your well-deserved success! I wish success keeps following you in everything you do and everywhere you go! Hats off!

Let's not forget in June we celebrate Father's Day! We thank all the fathers

Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

for being able to celebrate last month's Mother's Day. This month, we thank all the mothers for being able to celebrate Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and the father figures in the lives of the children. Thank you for your

unconditional love and support you give to the children.

Shout out to those who are celebrating their birthday this month. Extra shout out to Deziree Brianna Butay, Chona Laureta, Mary Jane Domion,

Raymond Marko Tamayo, Linda Bea Rasos and Ailyn Rafael. Happy, Happy birthday to you! (Tagalog) *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Ilokano) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ibanag) *Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu!* (Kapampangan) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Ilonggo) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo!*

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

RAY STANDS AND MESSES Michael's *buhok* (hair), saying "You are really something, my nephew."

Michael pushes his Uncle Ray's *kamot* (hand) and stands. "Stop messing with my *buhok* (hair), Uncle Ray. I'm not a kid anymore. I'm turning to be a fine young man just like you."

Ray and Katherine stand and walk towards the front *puwerta* (door) and Michael says, "Please lock the *pasbul* (door) on your way out, Uncle Ray."

Ray stops where Angel is sitting and he messes her *buhok* (hair) and says, "Get some sleep, kiddo. You need some. We have a lot of work to do ahead of us."

Michael and Angel look at each other. The silence is demeaning as they both sit there refusing to end the night.

Ray closes the front *pintuan* (door) and stands there for a minute.

"Come on let's go, it's been a long night," says Katherine and holds his *gamat* (hand) and walks towards the patrol *sasakyan* (car).

They walk to the *sakyanan* (car) hand in hand in silence.

Ray drives to Katherine's place in silence. They don't talk at all while they are traveling. Ray is concentrating on driving while Katherine is focused on the road too. When they reach her *balay* (house), he turns off the engine and says to Katherine, "*Pasensya ha lang ako* (I'm sorry), it's late at night. You are probably tired."

Katherine smiles at him and says, "It's ok." ... She is about to go down when she turns to him and asks, "Would you like to come inside for a cup of coffee?"

Ray hesitates at first but when he sees her *ngiti* (smile), he says, "Oh sure. I will not be able to sleep any-

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Hair	Buhok	Buok	Buhok	Buhok	Vu	Bwak
Door	Pintuan	Ridaw	Lukub	Ganhaan	Puwerta	Pasbul
House / Home	Bahay / Tahanan	Balay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Bale
Car	Sasakyan	Lugan	Sakyanan	Auto	Kotse	Saken
Tomorrow	Bukas	Ton bigat	Ugma	Buwas	Aggaw	Napun
I'm sorry	Pasensya na	Pakawanen nak	Pasayloa ko	Pasensyaha lang ako	Makoman na	Patawaran yu ku pu
Smile	Ngiti	Isem	Pahiyum	Yuhom	Galo	Timan
Eyes	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Mukat	Lupa / Arap	Nawong / Dagway	Goya / Nawong

way."

He gets out of the *lugan* (car) and follows Katherine to her *balay* (house).

She unlocks the *lukob* (door) and turns on the lights and goes to the kitchen to brew some coffee.

He closes the *ridaw* (door) behind him and goes to the living room and starts scanning the pictures on the shelves and on the wall.

Ray *pahiyum* (smiles) when he sees some pictures of him with Katherine on the wall. He stares at one particular picture that takes him to the past.

It was a hot summer afternoon when Ray was waiting for the school bus under the tree, twirling his pencil on his fingers. Suddenly he was struck pretty hard and someone fell on top of him. As he ate a bit of sand and opened his eyes, he naturally pushed the boy off of him, proceeded to get up and rant. But to his dismay, the boy was actually a girl. She scrambled to control the ball and corralled it into her *braso* (arms). She held the football in both *gamat* (arms) and jumped up in the air and spiked it in the ground. "Yah! Let's go!" Katherine screamed as in the distance you could hear a small crowd cheering. Laugh-

ing, she looked down at Ray and smirked. She gave a thumbs up and said "Ey, thumb-wrestle. You think you can beat one girl?"

Ray jumped up and dusted himself. He opened his *ima* (hand) and said, "Yeah, right! You have no chance." They locked *gamat* (hands) and began the thumb-dance. ... "One two three four, I declare a thumb-war," the two sang in sync. Instantly, Ray could feel the force and strength of Katherine. She instantly powered her way to a clean thumb pin on Ray. In complete shock and eyes wide opened. He demanded a rematch. She obliged. "One two three four, I declare a thumb-war." This time Ray put up a heroic effort. But the result was the same. A clean pin. She even kept the pin and looked into his eyes, which were filled with despair. Despite the fact that a girl not only knocked him down but beat him, no, she dominated him in thumb wrestling. As she let go of the hold, she walked past him and shoulder-bumped him, turned around and gave a thumbs up and walked away.

Everything happened so quickly. He stared into his *kamay* (hand). This was the first time a girl touched his *kamot* (hand). As he turned his head

he saw this tomboy running with the football pretending to be a running back. He smirked back at her and got on the bus.

The next day Ray was sitting in his usual spot near the bus stop under the tree. Looking around, he was looking for this mysterious girl. Constantly looking around but to his disappointment, she never came. Playing with a blade of grass and bending it into oblivion, he flicked it over his right shoe. Grabbing his bag and tossing it over his shoulder, he started heading to the waiting line for the bus. All of a sudden someone bumped into him and it was Katherine.

A gleaming *tamisni* (sweet) *ngiti* (smile) in her *nawong* (face), pearly white teeth, her *buhok* (hair) was a mess and sweating. Hunched over, she gripped his forearm and caught her breath. "Hey, Ray," she said while lifting her *gamat* (hand) with a thumbs up. "Wrestlemania time. Let's see if you got any stronger from yesterday," she jabbed at him. *Katamis* (Sweet) *isem* (smile) from ear to ear, he is so *naragsak* (happy) to see her, you could see it in his *rupa* (face). He dropped his bag and fake spit into his *ima* (hand). And extended his *lima* (hand), "Hell yeah, rematch! I can't lose again."

"One two three four, I declare a thumb war," they giggly sang. And the match was on. Katherine on the offense, as she always is the aggressor, she tried quickly to clamp on, but misfire after misfire, she started to get sloppy. Ray, on the other *kamay* (hand) playing defense, never got into motion of attempting a pin since he was always running. She pulled him in close to her and he panicked. She pinned him and counted. "Seven, eight, nine..." Ray squirmed and pulled and jerked but just couldn't

see LET'S TALK PINOY page 16

Ti Biag ken Pammati

"Life and Faith"



Newlywed love birds, Earl & Tricia Lamadora married 4 1/2 months at St Joseph Church.



My grandson Jonathan & Sharde Tavares married eight years at St Joseph Church.



My granddaughter Ashley & Jason Garcia married fourteen years at St Joseph Church.

A reading from 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8: *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

My homily I preached at my special friends Earl and Tricia Lamadora's wedding on January 23, 2024.

You have just heard a description of Holy Matrimony from the inspired word of God in the scriptures that was read. Now you are about to enter upon this holy state. To impress you with the seriousness of this step, I should like to remind you that in the sacrament of matrimony it is not the Priest or Deacon, but Earl and Tricia who are ministers of this sacrament. This is a wonderful thing. What does it mean?

As you have heard, sacraments are living encounters with Jesus Christ. In the sacraments, Christ enters into our lives now in order to give Himself to us and so to help us accomplish a particular work for

Celebrating In June, Weddings & Marriages!

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY DCN. CONSTANTINO

Him. There is no more personal, nor more divine, activity in the world than one of Christ's sacraments. In most of the sacraments a Priest or Deacon, is the instrument or the minister through whom our Lord acts as He enters into our life and our activity. But not in the sacrament of matrimony.

Here it is the two contracting parties, Earl and Tricia, you minister the sacrament to one another. This means you bring Christ Jesus to one another. You do this when you give this mutual consent to the marriage contract, when you say "I do." So the "I do" or the "Yes" which each of you will pronounce, has tremendous implications. It means you give Christ to one another; it means you give yourselves to one another; it means you give yourselves to Christ, you give your consent to His working in

you.

Up to now you have been more or less alone. Now you belong to one another and both of you to Christ. He invites you to live your future with Him; and surely there can be no greater privilege. His invitation to you is what is called a vocation. He calls you to a life with Him, a life of holiness, a life leading to holiness. You are called to be saints in the particular vocation called matrimony, the vocation of the greatest number of people in the world. And Jesus calls you to holiness, not in spite of but precisely because of your married life together, including the most intimate aspects of that life. Everything about marriage is holy and can lead to sanctity.

Your vocation in marriage, Earl and Tricia, consists essentially in living for the other party, daily, yearly,

forever, growing away from self and selfishness in order to find oneself in the beloved. Both of you must do this. If both of you learn to live for the other, your life will be a joy and your marriage a success. But if either of you continues to live for self, your marriage will be in danger.

You must have the deepest respect for one another as a person. You are not mere bodies, you are Earl and Tricia, you are not something; you are someone, each of you. God's finest creation is the human person; and therefore we must have the highest reverence for all human beings; this reverence reaches its glory in marriage. Reverence, respect, kindness; these are the formulas for happiness in marriage. Always, be kind. Be kind and you will be saints.

Now you are about to enter this new life. And immediately after you give yourselves to one another, you are going to seal your marriage in the blood of Christ offered in this Mass. I repeat in giving yourselves to one another you give yourselves to

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI p.17



My grandson Ikaika & Pua married 6 years at Queen of Angels Church.



My son Cary & Geri Constantino married thirty-six years at Holy Rosary Church.



Pat & Cora Constantino married 63 years on August 26, 2024 at Holy Family Church, Puunene by Fr. Allencastre.

The Power of Women Helping Women

Building Stronger Communities Together, Part 2

Liza A Pierce of "A Maui Blog" | PHOTOS COURTESY LESLIE GARO, MĀLAMA YO MAMA

THIS ARTICLE IS PART 2 of the "Power of Women Helping Women" shared in the May 2024 issue. Here we will zoom in on a few more Maui women organizations whose mission is to support each other.

There are many organizations by women, for women on Maui. The following are just some of the women communities I would like to highlight. There are diverse missions and focus and it is good because they can fulfill diverse needs as well. If you are a woman desiring to connect with other women, look into some of these fantastic women organizations.

Mālama Yo Mama

Mālama Yo Mama (@malamayomama on Instagram) started with women empowerment photoshoots. It was organized by Leslie Garo as a way to connect, to collaborate with local photographers, to empower women by feeling beautiful and to make memories and capture them. This blossomed into something more. It has become a community of women with real stories and real connections, with various events and gatherings.

Inspired by the 2024 theme for International Women's month, "Inspire Inclusion," Leslie emphasizes this community is never about competition.

"It's up to us to take the leap in reaching out to another strong, passionate woman and to build connections. The more heads and hearts working together the better! Even when you don't think there's a mutual piece, there is! Whether it be your mission as a businesswoman, or your values and beliefs or even the obstacles you've encountered or the dream you envision Someone out there has a similar thought, a similar dream! Work together and see how far you'll go!" This is one of many encouragements Leslie shares with the Mālama Yo Mama community.

Maui Mompreneur

'Mompreneur' (@MauiMompreneurEvents on Instagram) is a term



Founders of Mompreneurs Jovina Ka'eo and Luana HueSing-Ammasi help women balance the demands of running a business with parenting.

PHOTO COURTESY MAUI MOMPREENEURS



Women engage in an empowerment photoshoot hosted by Mālama Yo Mama. Every photoshoot comes with surprises and always leaves these women feeling beautiful and supported.

PHOTO COURTESY @CAPTUREDBYCAMMY AND @AMETHYSTJAYPHOTOGRAPHY

typically used to describe entrepreneurial mothers who balance the demands of running a business with parenting. With the passion to help Maui women navigate and succeed in this complex entrepreneurial world, Luana HueSing-Ammasi and Jovina Kaeo founded Maui Mompreneur more than a decade ago.

Maui Mompreneur provides a platform for networking, sharing resources and offering mutual support among women on Maui who are juggling the responsibilities of motherhood and entrepreneurship. They organize events, where mompreneurs can connect, learn new skills and promote their businesses.

"Over more than a decade, we've built more than an event; we've cultivated a vibrant community of inno-

vative, hardworking mompreneurs who inspire and support one another," says HueSing-Ammasi. "Witnessing the growth, successes and challenges of our vendors while contributing to the local economy and fostering a supportive environment for family businesses is truly rewarding. Each year adds another layer to our rich tapestry of stories, learning and connections, making it an honor to lead and evolve with such a dynamic, inspiring group of entrepreneurs."

Aloha Ladies Club

The Aloha Ladies Club on Maui (@alohaladiesclub on Instagram) is a social organization founded by Shauvon Young, designed for women, often focusing on creating a supportive community through various activities and events. The club has a sisterhood vibe all while supporting the community of Maui.

The club aims to foster friendships, provide networking opportunities and engage in community service. Activities might include social gatherings, workshops, recreational outings and charitable events.

Members of the Aloha Ladies Club often enjoy a sense of camaraderie and connection, which is particularly valuable in a close-knit island community. The club can serve as a great way for women to meet new friends, share experiences and contribute positively to the community on Maui. Specific details about member-

ship, events and activities are found on the club's website or through local community announcements.

What Makes You Feel Beautiful

What Makes You Feel Beautiful (@whatmakesyoufeel_beautiful on Instagram) is a community-based organization dedicated to fostering self-love throughout every stage and phase of life in girls and women of all ages. There's a special emphasis on supporting those aged 13-19 from economically marginalized backgrounds in Maui County. They provide transformative experiences through workshops focused on self-esteem, skill building, body positivity and self-care, alongside offering mentorship, summer internships, educational resources and outreach awareness campaigns.

This organization, founded by Monica Marrow, places a special emphasis on supporting girls, especially those from Maui who are at a higher risk due to factors such as poverty, homelessness, minority status with limited support and restricted access to programs. What Makes You Feel Beautiful is committed to addressing these challenges by providing girls with essential life skills to overcome obstacles and thrive.

Through the incentives and resources offered, this organization strives to instill self-love, confidence and empowerment in girls through its mentorship programs. They pro-

see KWENTO KWENTUHAN next page



Maui Mompreneur celebrates its eleventh year supporting the local community of shoppers and vendors during a spring event at the University of Hawai'i Maui College.



This latest event that Maui Mompreneurs participated in was held April 26–28, 2024

PHOTO COURTESY MAUI MOMPREENEURS

vide educational opportunities, paid mentoring internships and practical tools to equip girls with the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully navigate life and overcome difficulties. Their ultimate goal is to make a positive impact on the lives of girls, empowering them to realize their full potential and contribute to the reduction of homelessness, poverty, and other obstacles in Hawai'i.

Women Helping Women

The mission of Women Helping Women (@womenhelpingwomen-maui on Instagram) is to end domestic violence through advocacy, education and prevention, and to offer safety, support and empowerment to women and children, victims of domestic violence.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship and needs help or would like to speak with someone about domestic violence,

confidential help is available 24 hours a day. Their staff is prepared to assist callers in preparing safety plans, respond to general questions about domestic violence, provide referrals and share additional information about its programs and services.

From its start in 1977 as a grassroots effort to provide assistance and support for women victims of domestic violence, Women Helping Women has steadily grown to become an established non-profit agency providing a comprehensive continuum of services to over six hundred women, men, and children each year. Throughout its history, Women Helping Women has expanded its organizational capacity to support a variety of programs, projects and activities focused on direct intervention, advocacy, education and prevention. Today, Women Helping Women supports a staff of over twenty dedicated professionals, with offices in West Maui, Hāna and on Lāna'i.

Experience the Power, Get Involved

The women organizations I mentioned here are just a few examples of women's groups here on Maui. When you look for others, you will find them. There are women supporting women in churches, gyms, crossfits, yoga studios, etc. There are moms supporting moms in play dates and sports related to their kids as team moms. From one woman to another, I encourage you to find your "tribe." Find the community that fits you.

P.S. If you are a man reading this, I encourage you to support and empower the women in your lives by giving them the time and the support to get

involved in women's communities. You will be happy you did. ✨

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 Rainbows; 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.



Let's Talk Pinoy! | from p. 13

move. "You have vice grip gamat (hands)!" he shouted as they both laughed. "Ten," she finished the pin and released him. They both laughed as they stared at each other.

Her mayumu (sweet) timan (smile) on her nawom (face) was so addicting. This was the moment Ray fell in love with Katherine.

"Ray... Ray back... to earth Ray," Katherine calls but he just yuhum (smiles).

Anyways, that's all I have. Keep an

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

Dulce Karen Butay was graduated from Maui High School and received her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Maui Community College. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai'i - West

O'ahu. She is currently the Administrative Officer at the County of Maui, Department of Finance. Butay is 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.



Election ...

from p. 8

cess to services and resources no matter where they live,” explains DeCoite. “I am also committed and willing to work with EVERYONE in our communities to ensure a better future for all of Hawai‘i Nei.”

DeCoite will face Republican Gabby Macaraeg.

At the local level, control of the County Council will again be at stake. Two Maui Councilmembers, currently in the minority of the Council, are unopposed and will be re-elected.

Both are focused on the fire impacts. In the East Maui Residence District, Councilmember Shane Sinenci is focusing on rebuilding Lahaina. “As a graduate of Lahainaluna High School, my thoughts and prayers go out to the families affected by the August fires,” Sinenci states. “Rebuilding Lahaina will take a monumental task and if re-elected, I will work hard to bring back economic vibrancy as we recover and heal our community.”

For the Lāna‘i District, Councilmember Gabe Johnson is also focused on the wildfire survivors. “I am running for office to continue advocating for our working class and the folks who need help the most. My focus will be helping wildfire survivors and making sure our nonprofits are funded,” promises Johnson. “The people of Maui County have needs that we must address.”

Two Councilmembers will need to win in the primary and general to retain their seats as there are three candidates running for each of those two seats.

In the South Maui District, Councilmember Tom Cook is running for re-election. “From starting as an apprentice carpenter to becoming a successful general contractor in 1989, I have honed my build-



Cook

ing and problem-solving skills through hands-on experience,” Cook says. “Over the years, I have managed a company with over forty employees, navigated the complexities of building permits, and balanced the demands of paying rent, mortgages, and caring for both children and grandparents. These life experiences have equipped me with the insights and empathy needed to effectively continue serving Maui County on the County Council.”

Cook is opposed by former Councilmember Kelly Takaya King who gave up the seat to run unsuccessfully for Mayor in 2022 (she finished third in the Primary behind then-incumbent Mayor Michael Victorino and retired Judge Richard Bissen). “Urged by hundreds of Mauians who have seen a continued attempt by the current



King

council to push for outside interests to take over our resources--especially public water rights--I am running for re-election to my previously held Council seat to again take up the advocacy for pono prosperity that every Maui resident deserves,” King explains. “In my previous terms I was able to usher in affordable housing/rental projects (two of which were completed and housed the lowest income tenants during my tenure), pass important environmental protections for our shoreline waters, wetlands, endangered species, etc., and address infrastructure concerns including innovative wastewater solutions and pushing for Kihei’s much-needed North South Collector Road. I would also like to revive crucial programs I had started, such as the Maui Youth Council, the Climate Action, Resilience and Environment Committee and real houseless solutions (i.e., the overnight parking pilot project) that were eliminated after I left the council in 2022.”

Johnny Keoni Prones is also running for the South Maui seat. “I’m for the people of Maui County. I’m here to



Prones

Listen to the residents of Maui County and the Community,” Prones declares. “Rewrite the history of the State of Hawai‘i and ask our Leaders and Lawmakers.”

In the Upcountry District, Councilmember Yuki Lei Kashiwa Sugimura, chair of the Council money committee, is running for re-election. “It has been an honor to represent the Upcountry residency area on the Maui County Council over the last eight years, serving as the Budget Chair and Council Vice-Chair over the last two years,” Sugimura says. “Throughout the years, I have worked to bring our local families together through community events such as the Barrio Fiesta, Maui AgFest, and Maui Matsuri. I am seeking reelection to continue working with our community as we face a long recovery ahead.”



Sugimura

Sugimura is challenged by Edward (Ed) Codelia and Jocelyn N. Cruz. “I am running for Maui County Council because I firmly believe that my voice on a council of nine will make a meaningful difference for the present and future of Maui County and its residents,” states Codelia.

With only two candidates filing in five of the Council races (Kahului, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia, Molokai, Wailuku-Waihe‘e-Waikapū and West Maui), those match ups will not appear until the General election.



Codelia

In the Kahului District, Councilmember Tasha Kama, chair of the Council Housing Committee, is seeking



Kama

another term. “I am running for re-election to increase our housing inventory and bring down the price of housing. Along with that I want to diversify our economy by increasing entrepreneurial ship programs,” Kama says. “Maui is the home of four generations of Kama’s and I want to ensure this ‘āina will always be here for them and for those yet to be born.”

Carol Lee Kamekona is again opposing Kama. “As a passionate advocate for Maui, I’m running to enact actionable change fueled by innovation, progress, and the grit to take on our most pressing issues,” explains Kamekona. “My 22-year Navy veteran background instills values of strong leadership, responsibility, and a profound commitment to our community’s welfare. Advancing affordable housing, supporting sustainable agriculture, and diversifying our economy are my top priorities to ensure a better future for our seven generations.” Kamekona ran in 2022 but did not advance to the General Election against Kama.



Miyake

In the Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia District, Councilmember Nohe U‘u-Hodgins says, “As a proud native of Pā‘ia, Maui, I cherish my island roots and am grateful to call Maui my home.” U‘u-Hodgins adds, “With a background in the construction industry, I bring invaluable expertise from my roles as Permit Expediter and Advisor. Now serving my inaugural

term, I am running for re-election to continue my commitment to our community and our island. I am seeking your support for another term.”



U‘u-Hodgins

see LET’S TALK PINOY p.19

Ti Biag ken Pammati | from p. 14

Christ. From now on your attendance at Mass will be different, more complete, more perfect than it has been before. Up to now you have given yourselves singly, by yourselves, more or less, as members of a parish community. That relationship continues but now you make the gift together.

Now we are ready for the marriage. May I suggest you enter upon this holy vocation with these words of the offertory of this Service on your lips and in your hearts: “My trust is in You, O Lord; I say, ‘You are My God.’ In your hands is my destiny.”

This is the prayer and this is the wish of all your loved ones, here present, your relatives and friends, as they now witness your marriage vows. So, Earl and Tricia, are you ready to embark on this amazing ad-

venture? Are you ready to begin this exciting partnership and journey faithfully into your future? OK, then, let us do it! God bless you!

Preparations before Marriage in most Roman Catholic Churches:

There is a four- to six-month preparation before marriage.

- Meet with your Pastor or Deacon—prepare forms and sacraments are received and in order;
- Go on an Engaged Encounter weekend—mandated;
- Focus review;
- Some churches have marriage preparation teams to help couples; and
- Other related matters.

I believe we are the only church that has a marriage preparation pro-

gram, Engaged Encounter for Engaged couples. We need a preparation like this so we can help start couples in their marriage and help them last forever! We need this also to limit divorces in our communities. Couples are taking advantage and living together with no moral commitments and no respect for a lifetime commitment. This is not what the church teachings are. We need to put God in our lives and respect one another as He has loved us! ✨

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 Diocese of Honolulu Hawai‘i. Constantino has been or-



daind for thirty-six years. He is the first Filipino Deacon in the Diocese 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.

Sakada Offspring



Editha Colitti



Editha & Dad Edward Tadeo, taken at the Lao Valley Cultural Center around 1968-1969.



Editha & Husband Michael in Santa Barbara, taken at the Santa Barbara Zoo where they attended a wedding.

Kindness is a powerful word. American Writer, humorist and essayist Mark Twain says kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. Oprah Winfrey, an American talk show host, television producer, actress and author also says this about the word kindness. To extend yourself in kindness to anybody is an extension in kindness in the world. This month's featured Sakada Offspring, Editha Colitti shares her father—a son of a *Sakada*—showed kindness everywhere he went here on Maui.

Editha was born in May 1962 at Maui Memorial Hospital. She attended Lihikai Elementary, Sunnyside Elementary in California, Quartz Hill High School in California and Antelope Valley College and Fashion Institute of Design in Los Angeles, California.

Currently, Editha works at RE/MAX Gold Coast Realtors as a realtor and an office manager. Previously, she worked for a company doing statistical research in the oil business for data provided to news outlets and news journals. Previously, she was a stay-at-home mom raising a family. After graduating from college, Editha became a manager for Mervyn's, a retail store. She then worked at Broadway which became Macy's. Editha was gearing up to work at the corporate headquarters as her dream job to be a

Editha Colitti

Lucy Peros | PHOTOS COURTESY COLITTI 'OHANA

fashion buyer for one of the departments. This meant she would have to daily commute to downtown Los Angeles for work. Editha was a newlywed and she and her husband were about to start a family, so Editha shifted priorities between being a career mom or a stay-at-home mom. She chose the latter.

Editha's husband, Michael Colitti is the owner and CEO of Hiring Done Right, a consulting firm for private businesses.

Editha and Michael have two daughters. The first is Jenna Christina Salera who is married to Chris Salera. Jenna and Chris have one child, a son named Noah who is 8 months old. Jenna graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and received her degree in International Business & Business Administration Management. She is currently working for Missions Produce, an international and public owned company, in the executive office as a Senior Talent Acquisition Specialist.

Editha and Michael's other daughter, Sydney Michelle Colitti, graduated from the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. She received her MPH degree in biology

and works as an epidemiologist. Sydney, her team and other teams of epidemiologists were part of the scientists who provided data during the COVID outbreak. Some of Sydney's work was published. She is currently unmarried.

Editha's brother Mario Tadeo is an architect and is married to Zoe. Between the two of them, they have four adult children. Editha's other brother, Dean Tadeo works for the Nanea in Wailea. He and his wife Tanya have two sons.

Editha also has three half-sisters and a half-brother. Half-sister Tessie Labra is a widow and has two adult children, half-sister Karen has two adult children, half-sister Nita has two adult children while half-brother Eddie Tadeo Jr. is single.

Editha likes to spend time with her family and her husband's family. They usually enjoy Sunday dinners together. Once a week together with her fun group of ladies, they do Bible study. She also volunteers at her church functions whenever she is needed. She also helps at her in-law's home as one of the hosts whenever she is needed.

Editha's father, Edward Tadeo was born in Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur, Philippines on December 17, 1926. He came to Hawai'i in July 1946 with his father, Agapito Tadeo along with his mother Leona, brothers Larry and Cirilo, and sister Julita Villarin aboard

the *S.S. Marine Falcon*. Although Edward is not a *Sakada* himself, he nevertheless experienced the same experience as those who were.

While on *S.S. Marine Falcon*, Edward's whole family, except his younger brother Cirilo, became very seasick. Because of their seasickness, they did not have much fun while on the boat. They could not eat anything except for fresh fruit. They suffered throughout the eighteen-day boat ride to Kahului Harbor on Maui. The Tadeos felt very relieved and happy when they landed at Kahului Harbor. The family was transported to Camp 13 (located halfway between the airport and Pā'ia). Edward was only sixteen years old then but started working in the field as an irrigation maintenance man. He was working in that job until 1967 when he decided to look for an easier job. In 1967, Edward started working at the warehouse of A&B Supermarket (located where Central Pacific Bank is today). He stacked merchandise and picked up merchandise from the pier.

Life at Camp 13 was a fun one according to Edward. On Saturdays and Sundays, as a sixteen-year-old, they spent time watching movies at the old Pu'unēnē Theater near the mill and rode their bicycles around the camps. They celebrated Rizal Day, weddings, birthdays and baptism parties at the clubhouses. They raised their own pigs, goats and chickens as well as their own vegetables. To water their vegetables, they fetched water from the ditches. They shared their goods with their neighbors and sold the rest for extra money.

In 1959, Edward decided to go home to the Philippines to get married. His first cousin and his sister had a friend named Teresa Taal. Teresa was an incredibly beautiful young lady and they introduced her to Edward. It must have been love at first sight. The chemistry between Teresa and Edward was just so strong. With no doubt about it, in January 1960, they were married. He was able to stay with her in the Philippines for four months before his vacation expired.

As soon as he returned to Hawai'i, Edward filed a petition for Teresa to come and join him. In September 1960, Teresa came to follow Edward. They lived at McGerrow Camp (a camp near the Pu'unēnē Post Office across the Haole Clubhouse) until the 7th increment in Kahului opened in



PHOTO LEFT: Teresa & Edward Tadeo at Editha's Wedding.



PHOTO RIGHT: Jenna, Sydney & Chris (son-in-law), taken in May 2021, the day of Jenna and Chris' wedding.

Election ...

from p. 17

ral term on the Maui County Council, I represent the Makawao, Ha'ikū, Pā'ia residency area with dedication, determined to address pressing challenges and ensure a brighter future for generations to come."

U'u-Hodgins will face a familiar opponent in Nara Boone. "I am running for Maui County Council's Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pā'ia seat because it's never been more important to



Boone

have COMMUNITY VOICES at decision making tables," declares Boone. "As Maui recovers and rebuilds, our focus needs to be on housing the fabric of our society; our cashiers, farmers, school staff, hotel/healthcare workers, etc. Please vote for all nine council seats, and when you do, please check the BOONE box." U'u-Hodgins beat back Boone 25,196-19,409 in 2022.

In the Molokai District, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez faces a re-match with John Pele whom she defeated 25,448-18,797 in 2022.

In the Wailuku-Waihe'e-Waikapū District, Councilmember and Council Chair Alice L. Lee states "I am running for re-election because I care deeply about our community and I want my grandchildren to be able to



Lee

live, work and thrive in the place I call home." The Council leader says "We are facing unprecedented economic challenges from the August 2023 wildfires coupled with a severe housing crisis that was exacerbated by the fires, and these serious issues require serious deliberation. My years of experience in the private and public sectors, and my family's roots in our community, help me to best serve the people of Maui County by bringing fairness, openness, civility, collaboration, and balance to our County Council as we address these critical issues."

James (Nahele) Forrest filed to run against Lee. "Aloha, I'm James 'Nahele' Forrest and I'm a friendly attorney running for Maui County Council so I can help locals thrive and have a better quality of life," declares Forrest. "Maui's luxury hotels make hundreds of millions in profit each year so it's time to



Forrest

give our Union workers 25% raises so they can afford housing and have plenty left over to take care of their families. Filipino workers helped build our islands and they deserve to

have their communities revitalized and supported in recognition for their generations of service."

Lee won re-election two years ago in one of the closest Council races, 22,733-22,220.

In the West Maui District, Councilmember



Acquintas

Tamara Akiko Maile Paltin is running for re-election. Lorien (Lolo) Acquintas has filed to run against Paltin. "As a born and raised Hawaiian, a father, and business owner I understand the needs of our community," Acquintas expresses. "I will help restore balance in Maui by breaking down the walls of division and being a bridge so we can work together. I would like to see a Maui where our kūpuna live in dignity and where our keiki can grow old because Maui deserves to thrive not just survive."



Hirono

In the federal races, Hawai'i junior U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono, a Democrat, is seeking a third six-year term. In the national contest for control of the U.S. Senate, Hawai'i is considered a safe Democratic seat. "As your U.S. Senator, I'm fighting on your side every day to lower costs and make life better for people and families in Hawai'i, including the Filipino community," states Hirono. "Whether working to expand educational opportunities for our keiki, strengthen critical programs like Social Security and Medicare for our seniors, or confirm fair and objective judges, I'm committed to ensuring our communities have the support they deserve. I'm running for reelection to build on the progress we've made and defend our democracy, and I humbly ask for your vote in this election."

Running against Hirono in the Democratic primary are Ron Curtis and Clyde McClain (Mac) Lewman. Hirono won her current term by defeating then-Republican Curtis 276,316 in the 2018 General Election; she beat former Hawai'i GOP Governor Linda Lingle 269,489-160,994 in 2012.

For the Republicans, the battle is between Melba Amaral, Paul Dolan, Adriel C. Lam, Bob McDermott, Arturo P. Reyes and Emmanuel Tipon. The most well-known is former State Representative McDermott who lost a 2022 bid against Hawai'i senior U.S.



Amaral



Lam

see ELECTION next page



Editha & Michael, on the evening following the wedding in Lahaina.

1963. In 1965, they moved to Kea Street until they decided to move to California in 1973 when their children attended college. They lived in California until all their children graduated. In 1985, they returned to Maui to enjoy their retirement. Edward and Teresa belong to the Santo Domingo Association and the Filipino Catholic Club. Edward's favorite past time is to go to the old Kahului Shopping Center under the monkeypod trees and talk stories and play card games with the other retirees. Edward and Teresa's other passion is to travel on cruises and land tours. They have been on Alaskan, European and Panama cruises. They also traveled to Las Vegas several times, Canada and all over the continental United States.

Edward and Teresa's advice to young people is to go to school, have a good education and work hard. Their advice to older folks is to travel and see the world, take vacations and take cruises while you are still healthy.

Editha shares her personal reflection on her parents, Edward and Teresa Tadeo. *I remember that, as a child, both my parents were hard workers. My Mom was always away at work and working hard. She loved to cook. She would cook all kinds of fun and delicious meals and desserts. She was very strict but I don't recall Mom raising her voice. Mom was always put together, dressed well and her hair was done. I remember she bought me an exceptional doll. This doll could walk. It had batteries and you would have to turn it on to make her walk. I was never allowed to play with it. Mom kept it in a showcase. She would take her out only when we had guests so she could demonstrate how amusing this doll was. To this day, I wonder gleefully if that doll was for me or Mom.*

From what I recall, my Dad seemed very friendly. He had a lot of friends and cousins and we had a lot of parties and get-togethers. We went to a lot of parties. Dad was also very strict but fun. I was a sickly child and I think he



took pity on me. Dad would take me on his motorcycle for rides and let me climb over the house's roof. I remember one day he came home with three mynah birds that he rescued and gave one to me and my brothers, Mario and Dean. Dad was always coming home with fun things for us kids. My Mom and Dad loved to go riding. We would drive up to Lahaina and Dad would

pick up hitchhikers along the way. Once we got to Lahaina, he would feel sorry for the haole hippies, who he said were homeless and sat and hung out on the lava rock wall on Front Street. So, Dad would feed them and give them money. Little did he know that these hippies were starving artists and would soon become famous artists and maybe one day own a gallery on that street. We would also go riding down to Big Beach during the days when you had to go through keawe trees to get to the beach. The hippies used to hang out on the beach in tents. Dad again felt sorry for them because they had such a sad life. So, he would give them money and food. As usual, little did Dad know that these hippies were probably vacationing foreigners who chose to camp on the beach for weeks and were enjoying the free spirit life!

*Dad was a proud American. He never spoke to his children in his native language because he wanted to emphasize that his kids were Americans. Dad was a patriotic man and loved his adopted country. His views were conservative, yet he cared very much for the environment, taking care of the land and respecting the island. Dad was very grateful and honored to have been able to come to the United States. He never took advantage of his citizenship and learned a very hard lesson when he got into trouble in his younger years when he came to the States. Because of this, he tried to be a good example to his family. Dad emphasized the importance of working hard and getting a good education. And he would quietly demonstrate ways to treat others well and take care of people who do not have the privilege we do. **

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.

Election ...

from p. 19



Senator Brian Schatz (Schatz beat McDermott decisively 37,646-11,226 in Maui Nui and 290,894-106,358 statewide).

Tipon

“Aloha, It is a GOOD day in Hawai‘i to announce my candidacy for U.S. Senate,” Amaral says. “Hawai‘i is in desperate need of new representation in Congress. We need to pass ‘common sense’ legislation and the Will of the People is consulted and put forth when making public policies that affect them.”

“Hawai‘i is a strategic center and economic/cultural pathway to the Pacific,” declares Lam. “We can do better in harnessing the talents and energy of the people of Hawai‘i in making ourselves a hub of choice and place for our future generations to come home to. We can Make Hawai‘i Home Again, we can Make Hawai‘i Great Again.”

“Let us make Hawai‘i a Paradise again’ is my vision, with a landscape of beautiful scenery instead of homeless encampments, smoothly paved roads, and other things that make life in Hawai‘i enjoyable, which can be done by getting from the federal government at least \$5 billion for infrastructure plus \$1 billion for the Maui fire

victims, because we should ‘Love Americans First’ rather than Ukrainians who were given \$61 billion. I will demand that U.S. immigration authorities allow Filipinos to visit the U.S. without a visa because a visa requirement denies the equal protection of the laws since Japanese and Germans who killed Americans in WWII are not required to have visas,” promises Tipon. “I can and will help you achieve these—which the incumbent has not done—because I am a Yale-educated lawyer with a Fulbright scholarship who is well-respected, articulate, friendly, open-minded, helpful, cares about others, and believes that with God all things are possible.”

Hirono also faces Emma Jane Avila Pohman (Green), Shelby Pikachu Billionaire (We the People) and John (Raghu) Giuffre (Nonpartisan).

For the 2nd District Congressional race, U.S. Congresswoman Jill Tokuda, a Democrat, will be seeking a second term. “As a mom, I want nothing more than for my two boys to see a future for themselves in Hawai‘i, with good jobs and a home where they can raise families,” Tokuda asserts. “This is personal to me and comes with a sense of urgency as our next generation has become one of Hawai‘i’s greatest exports. There is so



Tokuda

much to do, to take care of our people and communities, and I humbly ask for your support.”

Republican Steve Bond says “Hawai‘i Born, I have been living in Kula Maui, at my great grandfather’s old farmhouse for ten years. I lived and worked in Manila from 1997-2000. With all the problems facing Maui we need to elect a U.S. Congressman from Maui, I pray you ask your family and friends throughout the entire state of Hawai‘i to visit and votestevbond.com.”

Aaron Toman of the Libertarian party declares: “I have always lived by the words, ‘If I’m not willing to stand for my rights, do I deserve those rights in the first place?’ I couldn’t sit back through another election cycle; if I wanted to see change, I had to create the change myself! I’m here to prove that a better Hawai‘i will arise when we Limit The Power of our Elected Government!”



Toman

Nonpartisan Randall Kelly Meyer is also in the race.

With only four of the twenty races unopposed, there is still a need to vote in the Primary and General elections. As noted, the Primary Election will determine one race in the Democratic primary, and in two races, which Democrat will proceed to the general

election. Two councilmembers will need to beat back challenges in both the primary and general elections to retain their seats. While five Councilmembers will skip the primary election, they will face opposition in the general election.

Remember, if you don’t vote, you can’t complain.

All candidates were requested to submit an explanation in three sentences or less why they were seeking election/re-election to the office they filed for and to provide a photo. *

Assistant Editor **Alfredo G. Evangelista** majored in Political Science at the University of Southern California. After law school, he volunteered for several political campaigns: U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Governor, Lt. Governor, State Senate, State House, and Mayor. His first political campaign experience was in elementary school.

Retired State Senator **Gilbert Keith-Agaran** contributed to this story. He practices law in Wailuku and has no options for legislators in this election because he votes in Kahului.





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