



Hawai'i Chamber's Take on Trump's Tariffs
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Good things are happening this month. Bagoyo spills tea.
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TV Busy With Trump Reboot
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Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

February 2025 • Vol IX No2 | **FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE**

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Hula has profound impact on some high schoolers.
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On ‘day one’ of President Trump’s inauguration, he signed a slew of Executive Orders.
PHOTO: @VP, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Trump’s Tariffs

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

In the first month of his presidency, President Donald J. Trump has signed Executive Order after Executive Order. The nature of the Executive Orders has ranged from rescinding over 70 Executive Orders previously issued by President Joseph Biden, Jr. to renaming the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

On February 1, 2025, Trump signed three Executive Orders involving tariffs. One Executive Order titled “Imposing Duties to Address the Situation at Our Southern Border” imposed a twenty-five percent tariff on all products of Mexico. Another Executive Order titled “Imposing Duties to Address the Flow of Illicit

Drugs Across Our Northern Border” also imposed a twenty-five percent tariff on all products of Canada. The third Executive Order titled “Imposing Duties to Address the Synthetic Opioid Supply Chain in the People’s Republic of China” imposed a ten percent tariff on all products of the People’s Republic of China.

The White House distributed a Fact Sheet explaining the issuance of the tariffs: “The extraordinary threat posed by illegal aliens and drugs, including deadly fentanyl, constitutes a national emergency under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) . . . President Trump is taking bold action to hold Mexico, Canada

and China accountable to their promises of halting illegal immigration and stopping poisonous fentanyl and other drugs from flowing into our country . . . Tariffs are a powerful, proven source of leverage for protecting the national interest. President Trump is using the tools at hand and taking decisive action that puts Americans’ safety and our national security first.”

In response, Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau noted the close relationship between the United States and Canada. “This decision puts in peril a historic economic relationship, a relationship that has been the source of wealth, prosperity and pos-

sibility on both sides of the border . . . As I have consistently said, tariffs against Canada will put your jobs at risk, potentially shutting down American auto assembly plants and other manufacturing facilities. They will raise costs for you, including food at the grocery stores and gas at the pump. They will impede your access to an affordable supply of vital goods crucial for U.S. security such as nickel, potash, uranium, steel and aluminum. They will violate the free trade agreement that the president and I, along with our Mexican partner, negotiated and signed a few years ago.” Trudeau announced Canada would in

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FREE

Tariffs ...

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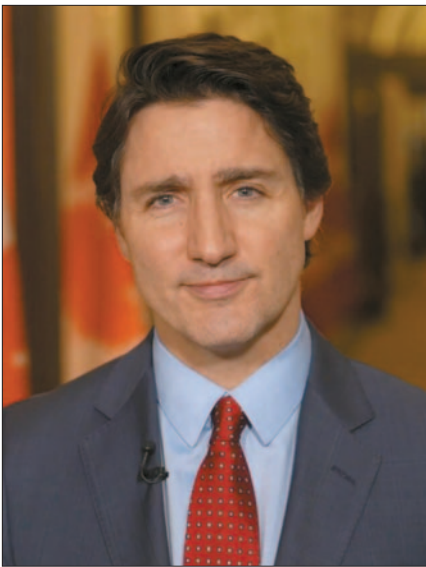
turn impose a twenty-five percent tariff on items from the United States.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum also announced Mexico would impose tariffs on U.S. goods. Sheinbaum also took issue with Trump’s characterization the drug cartels had an alliance with the Mexican government, with Sheinbaum calling the characterization “slander.”

A couple of days later, on February 3, 2025, Trump reversed himself and issued another Executive Order pausing the twenty-five percent tariffs on Canada and Mexico until March 4, 2025.

On February 10, Trump issued another Executive Order imposing a twenty-five percent tariff on steel and aluminum imports, effective March 12. The Fact Sheet on the twenty-five percent tariff on steel and aluminum explained: “President Trump is taking action to protect America’s critical steel and aluminum industries, which have been harmed by unfair trade practices and global excess capacity.”

And on February 13, Trump announced he was directing his administration to review reciprocal tariffs—where the United States would impose the same amount of tariffs other countries are imposing on the United States. (For example, India imposes an average 9.5% tariff on American goods while the United States imposes only a 3% tariff on goods from India. In this scenario, the United States would increase its 3% tariff to equal



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada.
PHOTO: JUSTIN TRUDEAU — PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, CC BY 3.0, VIA WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

India’s 9.5% tariff.)

What exactly is a tariff? The Chamber of Commerce of Hawai’i explains a tariff is a tax that a government adds to products coming from other countries. “This tax makes imported goods more expensive, so businesses—and, therefore, customers—have to pay more for them,” says Sherry Menor-McNamara, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber of Commerce. “Governments might use tariffs to encourage people to buy locally made products instead.”

“When a country imposes a tariff (tax on goods coming in from other countries), importers must pay an extra fee to bring those goods into their



President Claudia Sheinbaum of Mexico.
PHOTO: ENEAS Mx, CC BY 4.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

It’s a New Year ...



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A TARIFF COMMISSION CHAUFFEUR, PERHAPS.
Uncle Sam—If ever we get out of this, Bill, let's get a chauffeur who knows the machine and can keep it going steady and stop this tinkering on the road.
From The Minneapolis Journal. Wednesday Aug. 4, 1909.



A LITTLE APPRECIATION MUCH APPRECIATED.
President Taft—For this relief many thanks.
From The Minneapolis Journal. Tuesday, Aug. 10, 1909.

This cartoon dated August 4, 1907 is titled, 'A Tariff Commission Chauffeur Perhaps.' The caption reads: "Uncle Sam—If ever we get out of this, Bill, let's get a chauffeur who knows the machine and can keep it going steady and stop this tinkering on the road."

PHOTO: HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.JPG

This cartoon dated August 10, 1909 is titled, 'A Little Appreciation Much Appreciated.' The caption reads, "President Taft—For this relief many thanks."

PHOTO: HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.JPG

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Investing in your future

As an avid believer in STEM education, Bayer is proud to support students across the islands. Applications for our **2025 Life Sciences Scholarship program** are now available to graduating seniors of all high schools in Hawaii who will be attending an accredited college or university to pursue a discipline related to the life sciences (including agriculture, agronomy, biology, botany, genetics, horticulture, plant physiology, chemistry, crop science, soil science, and more).

Eligible students are invited to download a scholarship application at hawaii.bayer.us/education. Best wishes as you continue to invest in your future!

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From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE



Maui fire survivors peruse the Filipino vegetables provided through the Kaibigan Ng Lahaina (KNL) organization.

PHOTO COURTESY VINCE BAGOYO, JR.

What's Happening in February

Reasons to celebrate

The second month of the year is the most notable for both Valentine's Day and Black History Month. February is also the shortest month of the year with just 28 days unless it is a leap year—in which case there are 29 days.

There is so much to celebrate in February and much to be thankful for. Here are just some of the events that are worth celebrating and worthy of our collective support:

Black History

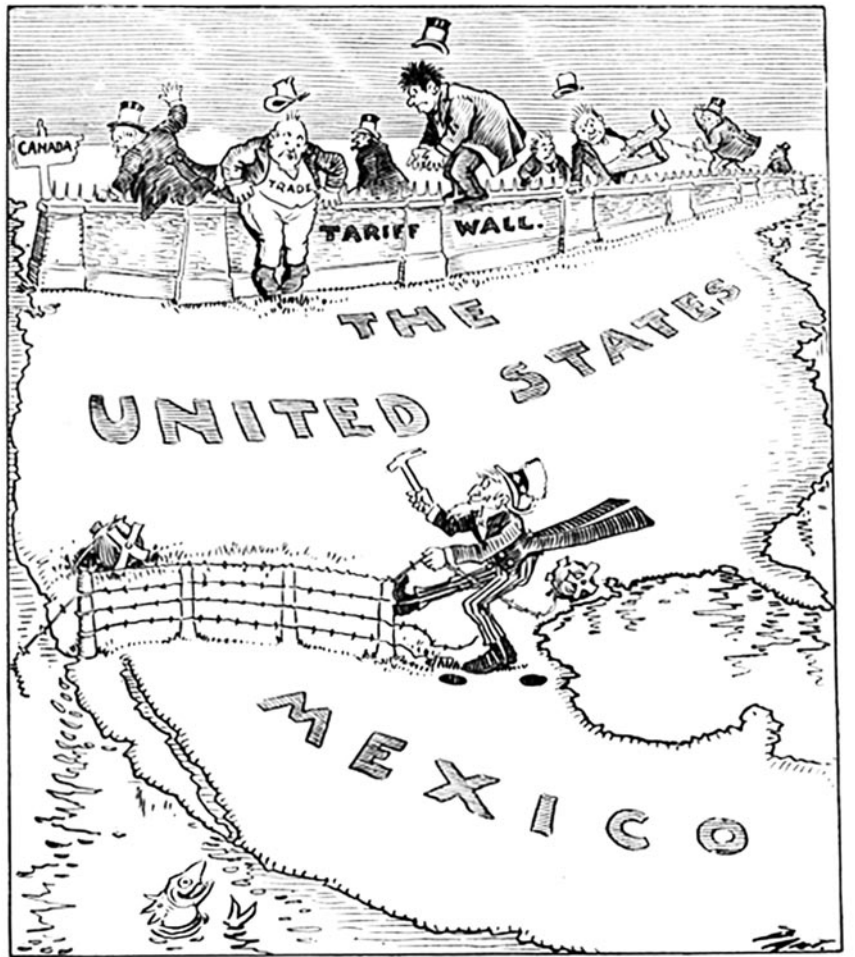
Black History Month recognizes the many incredible achievements of African Americans throughout history that shapes and made our country great and acknowledges their struggles. The focus celebrating Black History Month is highlighting the legacy of pioneers and leaders from Rosa Parks to Dr. Martin Luther King and many oth-

ers who paved the way for the civil rights movement. Because of these pioneers' non-violence activism, many of our civil and human rights we all enjoy today were made possible and we owe our deepest gratitude to them.

Valentine's Day

This is the time of the year we splurge to show our loved ones how much we care. It is estimated Valentine's Day celebration is the third priciest day of the year for U.S. consumers—who will spend over \$2 billion. That is a lot of chocolate candy hearts and roses. This is a great time to reach out to someone special and tell them how you feel about them. It does not have to cost you a lot of money to celebrate Valentine's Day with a loved one. The best gift is simply to spend time together, take a leisure-

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SAME OLD POLICY.
Uncle Sam is building a barbed wire fence on the Mexican border. That's nothing; see what he's had on the Canadian line all these years.
From The Minneapolis Journal. Saturday, Sept. 10, 1910.

This cartoon dated September 10, 1910 is titled, 'Same Old Policy.' The caption reads, "Uncle Sam is building a barbed wire fence on the Mexican border. That's nothing, see what he's had on the Candadian line all these years."

PHOTO: HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Tariffs ...

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country," explains Menor-McNamara. "This cost is usually passed down to consumers in the form of higher prices. For example, if the U.S. imposes a tariff on imported aluminum, companies that use the product—like those making soda cans, cars, and airplanes—have to pay more. This can lead to higher prices for everyday items like canned drinks, kitchen foil, and vehicles."

Historically, tariffs have been a part of the United States. The first tariff of approximately 5% started in 1789 as the new nation did not have the legal authority to collect taxes from the states. Income taxes began after the 16th Amendment was passed in 1913. After World War II, the United States engaged in more free trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994. NAFTA was replaced by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in 2018, during the first Trump administration.

The imposition of tariffs will affect

Hawai'i's consumers according to Menor-McNamara. "Because Hawai'i depends heavily on imported goods, tariffs can raise prices on everyday items." In terms of the food industries, Menor-McNamara notes "Many families rely on imported products such as rice, canned goods, and specialty ingredients like *bagoong* (fermented shrimp paste), frozen seafood, fruits, vegetables, snacks, canned goods, etc."

She also cautions that "Many homes in Hawai'i, including those under reconstruction in Lahaina, rely on imported materials like cement, wood, and steel. If tariffs are placed on these imports, rebuilding efforts could become more expensive and take longer."

Tariffs on electronics would also lead to higher prices. "Many families in Hawai'i buy appliances and technology from brands that manufacture overseas (Samsung, LG, Bosch, Panasonic, etc.)," Menor-McNamara observes. "Tariffs on these goods could lead to higher prices for things like refrigerators, televisions, and even

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DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

Early Weeks of Trump Reboot Makes for Must Watch TV

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

I admit I wasn't expecting much from the re-boot (I wasn't a fan of the original series, as readers of my column must know) but *MAGA: Butler Rally* did promise the second coming of the Trump saga might make even better television than the first series. No surprise it got picked up to replace the lackluster and belated spin-off of *Dark Brandon—Kamala's Run*.

MAGA: RETRIBUTION so far is living up to its previews (you should believe what he promised during the campaign) and has been non-stop action from the Oval Office—stopping birthright citizenship here, sending ICE raids there, stripping all federal websites of Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) references and basically flooding the zone with more plays than an NBA game's final four minutes. 47 might not have been a dictator on Day One but he has been the Executive Order signer-in-chief with quick follow up administrative actions by him this time bet-

ter prepared and savvy minions in the weeks afterwards. Shock and awe. Pick and choose your poison. So many things to take in.

And just when you were getting into the Tariff storyline, the producers rolled out the mini-series *MAGA: DOGE TEAM* featuring Elon Musk and a loveable squad of blazer over t-shirt twenty-something year old anonymous engineers ("first names only, ma'am") invading a federal agency near you to root out fraud and waste Silicon Valley style. With cameo appearances by bi-partisan confirmed Secretary of State Mario Rubio and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, *MAGA: DT* effectively dismantled the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) (humanitarian workers were locked out of their office building and the sign was removed) and got into the federal payment system (officially "read only" reportedly although Elon announced he was stopping some pay-



President Donald J. Trump.


PHOTO: DANIEL TOROK, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA AT COMMONS

ments). With some recent Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) law clerks recently added to the cast, *MAGA: DT* apparently was given the

green light for a full season with some legal eagles to help. I understand the federal Education Department and Pentagon are now on the see DINENGDENG p.7




Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran and Tulsi Gabbard.
PHOTO COURTESY GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN



HEALING HEARTS, SAVING LIVES

Maui surfer Morgan DuPont's life was turned upside down by sudden heart failure. Thanks to our expert team's rapid pump system now available on Maui, Morgan has a second chance at life.




February is Heart Month

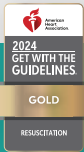


"When I was taken off the ventilator, I had to learn how to breathe again. I was so weak that the first time they stood me up, I thought I would never walk again. But three days later, I walked a mile. The doctors were stunned because patients in my condition typically end up with a heart transplant—or dying. But thanks to the team at Maui Memorial and their efforts, I beat the odds... It was a miracle. I am forever indebted and grateful to Maui Memorial."

Maui Memorial's heart team has been recognized with multiple prestigious AHA awards for excellence in cardiac care; a testament to their dedication to saving lives and ensuring advanced medical treatments are available for our Maui community, close to home, where healing happens best.

Read more about Morgan's miraculous recovery:
mauihealth.org/morgan

AWARD-WINNING HEALTHCARE
16 years of excellence in stroke and heart care.

 mauihealth.org/heart





Amberlyn Bartolome



Nathalie-Mae Leano



Alicia Saia

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Living in Hawai'i has captivated people with cultural traditions and practices. For instance, hula has been around for hundreds of years, and the importance of hula practices and chants are presented in honoring the gods and chiefs. Another practice hula and chants are used for is storytelling. It conveys narratives about Hawaiian history, mythology, nature and emotions. Unlike written or spoken stories, hula brings these tales to life through expressive movements, rhythmic beats and chanting or singing. To illustrate, hula often mimics ocean waves, moving trees, and wind or use facial expressions.

Amberlyn Bartolome, a student at Baldwin High School, finds an interest in Polynesian dances and finds herself doing hula. Amber states "I've always been fascinated by the beauty and elegance of hula since I was young." Admiring the beauty and elegance of hula made her intrigued by it and her friend Shania encouraged her to join their group and try it for herself. At first Amber had a feeling of nervousness, however, she says, "With the guidance of my *kumu* and the support of my hula sisters, I was able to learn quickly and push through the challenges."

Nathalie-Mae Leano is a Maui High School student and a former hula dancer who was always fond of the way hula was performed and how it attracted countless people's attention through their graceful movements. As a former hula dancer, she says, "I liked dancing and having the opportunity to tell a story through the movements of hula." Getting the chance to share stories through hula and sharing about Hawaiian history, mythology and traditions makes Nathalie feel connected and positive about herself for being able to share stories with others.

Another Maui High School student, **Alicia Sa-**

ia, finds herself discovering the art of hula as well. Listening to the music and watching the movements being performed attracts Alicia's attention even more. Whether traditional or modern music is played for hula, it has a hypnotic and soothing quality drawing people in. As for the *ipu* (gourd drum) or *pahu* (sharkskin drum), it creates an entrancing pulse. Alicia states seeing her sisters dance hula ever since she was young inspired her to follow in their footsteps.

Getting involved in these cultural practices and traditions gives individuals more knowledge on what they know about the island of Hawai'i and its culture. The importance of hula is more than just a form of entertainment, it is a way of preserving history, honoring ancestors and expressing deep spiritual and cultural beliefs. The way it blends music, movement and storytelling into a mesmerizing performance captivates the people as it connects individuals to Hawaiian culture and history. 🌸

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 **Angel Alba**, a Junior at Maui High School. She is a Cultural Representative of Maui High's Filipino Cultural Club, a member of HOSA, Upward Bound and the Filipino folk-dance group "La Galería: Compañía Baile Filipino." Angel is in the Nursing pathway at

Maui High School and aspires to be a pediatric nurse. In her free time, she enjoys creating blogs, building Lego structures, going to the gym, spending time with family and friends, singing karaoke, and watching dramas or any type of movies that interest her. She is the daughter of Normalita Alba and Pablito Alba Jr.



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



These women show the vegetables they got provided through the Kaibigan Ng Lahaina (KNL) organization.
PHOTO COURTESY VINCE BAGOYO, JR.

ly scenic walk at your favorite beach, cook a romantic dinner together, make a special card with a heartfelt love note and plan an activity you can do together.

Presidents' Day

It is celebrated to honor the lives of the presidents of the United States especially George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. It is a federal holiday and celebrated on the third Monday of February. Washington is the first president of the United States and he presided over the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Lincoln's legacy is based on his momentous achievements: he successfully waged a political struggle and civil war preserving the Union, ending slavery and creating the possibility of civil and social freedom for African Americans.

Kaibigan Ng Lahaina

It is a newly formed 501C3 non-profit organization dedicated to the recovery and resilience of Filipino immigrant communities impacted by the August 8, 2023 wildfires. We are extremely grateful and proud of this organization for their passion and commitment to helping our fellow *kababayans*. According to its recent news release, Kaibigan Ng Lahaina (translated Friends of Lahaina) received a \$250,000 grant from the American Red Cross to support Lahaina wildfires survivors. The grant funding will support two key service projects designed to help survivors. The two essential projects benefiting our Filipino community affected by the wildfires are:

- *Tagumpay Pondo* (translated Victory Fund). This project will provide one-time financial assistance to qualified applicants,

intended to cover personal expenses related to the wildfire's impact. As stated by Sieny Corpuz, KNL Director of Community Operations, "these awards are not a long-term solution, they provide essential immediate relief to those who are struggling to get back on their feet."

- The second important project for the grant is *Padigo* Project (translated to make sure all are fed)—named after the Ilokano word for the "assurance that there is enough to feed everyone in the household" and to help families as they continue their recovery from the wildfires. This is a food subscription program offering culturally significant food, including Filipino vegetables, meats and other protein sources of Filipino households affected by the wildfires. According to Eric Arquero, Executive Director of KNL, inception of the *Padigo* project was initiated because KNL "recognized how the loss of Filipino grocers and home gardens has deeply impacted our community."

To apply for these programs, you may contact Kaibigan Ng Lahaina. We extend our deepest and sincere appreciation to the organization and its hard-working Filipino leaders that are the "boots on the ground" working diligently in helping our Filipino community impacted by the wildfires. Let us support them with our time, finance and prayers! *Magkaisa Tayong Lahat!* ✨

Vince Bagoyo
VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET | from p. 5

radar (hope those bureaucrats have not been sending condoms to yet another Gaza—the DOGE boys embarrassingly didn't google condoms were sent to a Gaza region in Africa to address AIDS and *not* to war-torn Gaza for Palestinian refugees and Hamas use).

Not to be out-done, the flagship *RETRIBUTION* followed the shortened Tariff your neighbors and closest allies arc (where Mexico and Canada cut deals to delay the import taxes by promising to do what they had already announced they were doing at the southern and northern border to stop migrants and fentanyl and the U.S., in turn, promised to stop the import of U.S. guns) with confirmations. To the surprise of no one but naïve true



Vice President J.D. Vance.
PHOTO: DANIEL TOROK, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA AT COMMONS

believers in norms and the integrity of elected officials, the U.S. Congress (both houses also controlled by MAGA) apparently would not stop 47 from getting the team he appoints. Pete Hegseth (Defense), Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (RFK Jr.), Tulsi Gabbard (Director of National Intelligence) and Kash Patel (Federal Bureau of Investigation director) were made series regulars after being billed as guest stars initially by the leftwing podcasters and beltway talking heads. It's especially galling for the GOP members of Congress two former Democrats have Cabinet posts and one has been consistently Pro-Choice most of his public life. What the President lost in Matt



U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz.
PHOTO COURTESY GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

see DINENGDENG p.16

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Community... In Action



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



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

Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament



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DUNES MAUI LANI



Binhi at Ani’s Annual Golf Tournament is coming up on Sunday, March 23, 2025.
IMAGE: LAWRENCE M. PASCUA



In 2024, the All Island Case Management Corporation team from Oahu garnered first place, winning the Mayor’s Cup.
PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA



Even if you miss the hole-in-one courtesy of Jim Falk’s Valley Isle Motors, you can jump for joy!
PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

BINHI AT ANI

Celebrate your special events at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. The Center can be rented from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1,300 plus GET (including the cleaning fee) plus a \$500 security deposit or from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1,100 plus GET (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.

If alcohol is BYOB or placed in coolers, there is an additional fee of \$500.

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

Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 23, 2025 at The Dunes Maui Lani Golf Course. A Plat-



inum Sponsorship (eight golfers) is available at \$1,500 while a Gold Sponsorship (four golfers) is available at \$800. Tee sponsorships are available at \$250 and cash donations are also accepted.

Those who submit their paid application by February 28, 2025 will be entered into an early bird drawing sponsored by Friends of Yuki Lei Sugimura. Jim Falk’s Valley Isle Motors is sponsoring the hole-in-one prize at each of the par-three holes. There are also closest to the pin prizes on holes #3 and #8 and on the green contests on holes #6 and #17. There will be a Jackpot at hole #3 (additional entry fee of \$20) and a Jackpot at hole #8 (additional entry fee of \$20).

The deadline is March 10, 2025 but don’t wait until then as this tournament is expected to be sold-out, with over 60% of the sponsorships already sold as of press

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

Compiled by Assistant Editor Alfredo G. Evangelista.

time. All net proceeds from the golf tournament funds Binhi at Ani’s annual scholarship programs. For more information as to the golf tournament, contact Arnel Alvarez at (808) 357.0748 or email Lenra1268@gmail.com or Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 242.8100 or email AlfredoG.Evangelista@gmail.com.

Bayanihan Feeding Program provides free Sunday lunch to Hale Mahaolu Residents in Central Maui (Hale Mahaolu Elua

and Hale Mahaolu Akahi) and Maui Adult Day Care.

As of January 31, 2025, a total of 32,657 lunches have been distributed.

Teams serving during the month of January 2025 include Confederation International Association of Samahang Ilocano Group, Kihei and Lahaina Seventh Day Adventist Church, Maui Filipino Community Council, Maui Federal Credit Union and Philippine Nurses Association Maui Hawai’i Chapter.





Get your paid application in by February 28, 2025 and you will be entered into a drawing sponsored by Friends of Yuki Lei Sugimura.

PHOTO: ALFREDO G. EVANGELISTA



John Constantino and his students from Kauai assisted with the Bayanihan Feeding Program.

PHOTO COURTESY NORA CABANILLA-TAKUSHI



The 2024 Binhi at Ani Scholarship Recipients.

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA PHOTOGRAPHY

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 Onehe'e Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732 [Memo: Feeding Program].

The Bayanihan Feeding Program is a partnership with Maui Food Bank and is supported by grants from Bayer Hawai'i USA and Nareit Hawai'i.

Enhance@Fitness

Enhance@Fitness for Kupuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center classes are continuing. Offered in partnership with the County of Maui, Office on Aging, classes are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:15 a.m. to 7:15 a.m.; from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.; and

from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Enhance@Fitness is an exercise program for those over 50 years of age that improves cardiovascular fitness, strength, flexibility and balance. Since July 2022 and through December 2024, there have been 894 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.

Scholarship. Applications for Binhi at Ani's Scholarship Program for graduating 2025 high school students are now available through the portal: bit.ly/baa2025scholarship. The deadline is 4 p.m. HST on Friday, March 14, 2025. (Late submissions will be automatically disqualified.) In 2025, at least fifteen \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. The eligibility requirements are: 1) must be a resident of the island of Maui; 2) must be scheduled to graduate in 2025 from a high school on

Maui with a cumulative grade point average (through the 1st semester of 2024) of at least 3.50 on a 4.0 scale; and 3) must complete the application as instructed and provide all required documents. An independent panel of judges will base their decisions on grade point average (30%), activities, awards, honors and employment (30%), a short essay (30%) and letters of recommendation (10%). For more information, contact Scholarship Chairperson Jared Agtunong at binhi-atanischolarship@gmail.com.

MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

Scholarship applications (high school and University of Hawaii Maui College) are now available at <https://www.mauifilipinochamber.com/sc> holarship.

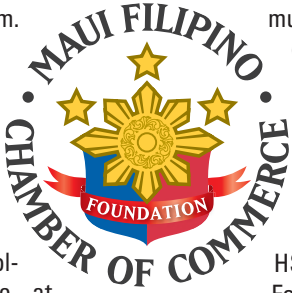
Eligibility requirements for high school:

Applicant must be a resident of the island of Maui and Applicant must be scheduled to graduate in 2025 from a high school on Maui with a cumulative high school grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale.

Eligibility requirements for UHMC: Applicant must be a resident of the island of Maui; Applicant must be currently enrolled and have completed at least twelve (12) credit units at the University of Hawai'i Maui College; and Applicant must have a college cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale.)

The application and any supporting documents must be emailed to mauifilipinocc@gmail.com by March 14, 2025, 11:59 p.m. HST.

For questions *only*, contact either Scholarship Co-Chair Donna Paz at dpaz@mauifcu.com or Clayton Fuchigami **see COMMUNITY IN ACTION p.15**



Ti Biag ken Pammati
“Life and Faith”



Praying together with Hope in our Hearts and Fear not!
IMAGE COURTESY LAWRENCE PASCUA VIA ADOBE STOCK



Children praying and raising their rosaries at a youth conference.
IMAGE COURTESY DCN. PAT CONSTANTINO

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (6:17, 20–26):
Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to

No Matter One’s Present Circumstances, Wisdom, Faith and Hope Demands Walking the Path of Trust in God For Life

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY PATRICK CONSTANTINO

you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way.
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.
Walking with pain with Jesus brings healing and comfort during this Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

Year! Our message today: Life & Faith (Ti Biag ken Pammati), God gives us His message in today’s Gospel and readings. As you can imagine, many people seek their clergy when they are wrestling with some sort of mortal issue or difficult decision. The presumption—whether correct or not—is we are kind of experts in this area. And often when people want to discuss something with me, what they really want is for me to give them some sort of defin-

itive answer; that is to tell them exactly what they should do, what choice they should make. But instead, they usually get a somewhat disappointing answer from me. And the reason is simple—many, maybe most of these questions do not have a clear-cut answer. In other words, I often cannot say with any sort of confidence what they should do, cannot say one choice is 100% wrong and the other choice is 100% right. Often, I simply help the person look at all the various aspects of their problem with the hope maybe the scales will get tipped in one way or the other—thereby helping the person have some confidence even if it is just a small amount in one choice over another. Put another way—people usually come to me wanting black or white answers. Instead, I sometimes must point out the grayness of the situation, the complexities their choice is not as simple as they hoped. Much of the spiritual life and life in general falls into this category. And part of being a person of faith is wrestling with these sorts of things, taking what we believe in faith and trying to shed some light on what a proper course of action might look like. And that can be pretty difficult at times. Truthfully, many moral decisions come down to picking the thing has a 55% or 60% chance of being what God is asking of us in a given situation. It’s easy to simply pick the thing we want and find a way to be okay with it or convince ourselves it’s also what God wants. And when that happens, we can find ourselves making decision after decision that is just in our own best interest, the decision that always rewards us in some way or demands little from us. Yet, today’s readings

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI p.12



Our Filipino community praying together in the Year of Pray celebration.
IMAGE COURTESY DCN. PAT CONSTANTINO



What? It’s the second month already? That was quick! Ah February the shortest month, lasting only 28 days or 29 when it’s a leap year. This month is filled with significant holidays and events like President’s Day and Valentine’s Day.

Valentine’s Day, February fourteen, is a day dedicated to love, affection and appreciation of relationships. Couples use this day to express their feelings for their partners. Are you ready for this day? Order those red roses

Let’s Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

and add these poems or heartfelt notes.

Roses are red / Violets are blue / Honey is sweet / And so are you!

Roses are red / Sun is shining bright / With you every moment / Feels just right.

Let me know if you need help in writing poems or sweet notes. Contact me at info@filamvoicemaui.com. Happy Valentine’s Day!

Shout out to our February birthday celebrants: Leilani Maglaya Corpuz, Renie Garo Menor, Zina Andrade-Ne-

falar, Rihanna Kyra Lagpacan and Keianna Ericka Lagpacan. Happy, Happy birthday to you! (Tagalog) *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Ilokano) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ibanag) *Makapagayaya nga ag-gaw na nikeyana mu!* (Kapampangan) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Ilonggo) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo!*

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

MICHAEL DIALS RAY’S number again. “Mickey, go back to sleep ...” Ray says.

“No, wait ...” Michael stops him.

“Just ask if her *nanay* (mother) is Lena Ramos Corpuz,” and Ray hangs up the phone.

Michael types the name on his phone so he won’t forget and returns to bed.

Michael has stared at the ceiling in the dark for over an hour now. He can’t go back to sleep. His *mata* (eyes) are heavy but he cannot fall asleep. He is turning and tossing.

“Angel’s *inahan* (mother) and Uncle Ray?” he says in his mind. “*Makananu* (How) did that happen?”

Michael sits on the edge of the bed, “*Bakit* (Why) is this happening to me? *Nganong* (Why)? *Apay* (Why)? *Kaam* (Why)?” he says. “*Ano* (what) am I going to do?, *Anni* (what) am I going to say to Angel?” He closes his *mata* (eyes).

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
New	Bago	Baru	Bag-o	Bag o	Bagu	Bayu
Hug	Yakap	Arakup	Gakos	Kupo	Gagap-pan	Kawul
Lips	Labi	Bibig	Ngabil	Bibig	Bibig	Labi
Smile	Ngiti	Isem	Ngisi	Yuhom	Gumigalo	Ayli (tawa)
Heart	Puso	Puso	Tutu	Puso	Kasingkasing	Korason
Stairs	Hagdanan	Agdan	Hagdan	Hagdanan	Ad dan	Eran
Come	Halika	Umay ka	Duul dinhi	Magaabot	Umekataw	Mekeni
I love you	Mahal kita	Ay-Ayatenka	Gihigugma ko ikaw	Palangga ta ka	Iddidu kattaka	Kaluguran daka
Thank you	Salamat	Agyamanak	Daghang salamat	Salamat gid	Mab-balo	Dacal a salamat
Red	Pula	Nalabbaga	Pula	Pula	Uz-zin	Malutu

When Ray and Katherine left their house, Michael and Angel were quietly sitting in the living room. They were just looking at each other refusing to end the night.

As the minutes tick by, Michael feels a heavy drowsiness slowly taking over. His eyelids flutter with each blink growing heavier. A yawn escapes, wide and uncontrollable. He rubs his eyes, trying to fight it but the pull of sleep is undeniable.

“*Halika* (Come), it’s getting late. I will show you the room you will be sleeping in,” Michael says and stands.

“*Salamat*, (Thank you),” Angel says and also stands to follow Michael going towards the stairs.

Michael takes her hand and they ascend the staircase. Their footsteps are soft trying not to wake anybody in the house. With each step, their silence fills the space with an unspoken understanding.

As they reach the top, their connection feels as natural as the rise and fall of their breathing, a perfect harmony in the simplicity of the moment.

Angel glances at him, her *ngisi* (smile) reflecting the soft glow of the nearby light. He squeezes her hand

gently in response, a silent promise to always be there.

They continue to walk down the hall to an empty room. He pushes the door open, flicks the light on and lets out a quiet sigh.

Angel breaks the silence and says, “*Agyamanak* (thank you) for all your help.” She gives him a *gakos* (hug). As Michael pulls her into his arms, there’s a gentle squeeze, as if to say, “I’m here.” The warmth of their body presses gently, the scent of their skin lingering softly in the air. It’s a quiet, unspoken exchange, one filled with reassurance and care. The *yakap* (hug) lasts just long enough to make everything feel okay before they pull back, eyes meeting with a shared understanding.

The world around them momentarily fades, the rhythm of their breathing syncing. He feels the air between them shift as he takes a small step back and clears his throat.

Unsure of what to say, “There are new clothes in the closet and towels in the bathroom. Sleep well,” Michael

says and starts to walk to his room.

“Sleep tight,” Angel responds and closes the door.

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 who recently celebrated an early Valentine’s Day with her friends, 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.





A family that stays together prays together and leaves it in God's hands.
 IMAGE COURTESY DCN. PAT CONSTANTINO

suggest on occasion things are essentially black or white, are right or wrong, are what God wants or what He does not want, are life-giving or life-draining. These sorts of things are kind of like a coin—just two-sided, a coin landing on heads or tails but never on its edge. Do we believe these sorts of decisions exist? And do we recognize them when they present themselves? We just heard the Sermon on the Plain, yes, that is what we commonly call this passage from Luke. The first half is familiar—what we call the Beatitudes slightly altered wording from what we find in Matthew’s account—the Sermon on the Mount. And while the situations described in these lines can be challenging, the overall effect is positive and uplifting and encouraging. Blessed are you, blessed are you, blessed are you, blessed are you. That all sounds pretty good to me. But Luke does something Matthew does not do—he includes a series of other statements from Jesus to bring into focus the flipside to all those statements about being blessed. In other words, Jesus is pointing to them and us if we accept what He said about blessedness, we must in a very real sense accept what the opposite of those statements imply. And He uses that dreaded word “woe” to get his point across. And that does not sound nearly as good to me. I guess there are some black or white things after all. And it makes me start wondering about my own life, my own moral standing—makes me wonder if I am giving myself a pass on some things that should be clear to me, things I should be convinced need to change. Am I poor—that is, am I unattached



Our family praying the Divine Mercy for our grandson Keola on his 4th Anniversary of Life.
 IMAGE COURTESY DCN. PAT CONSTANTINO

to the things I have or am I rich—clinging to and attempting to get all I can during my time on this earth? Am I hungry—that is, do I leave some of my needs unmet so I can more fully meet the needs of others or am I filled now—that is, do I place my needs and wants before those of others? Am I laughing now—that is, am I detached from the sufferings of others or am I grieving and weeping—that is, am I empathetic to the pain of those around me, compassionate towards people who are suffering? And am I hated—that is, do I courageously stand up for what I believe in a loving way, of course or does everyone speak well of me—that is, do I basically stand for nothing and simply go around trying to please everyone in every situation? My friends, living a life

pleasing to God is not easy. Often it is pretty difficult to know what to do in a given situation. And all God asks is we wrestle with whatever difficulties we are having in coming to a clear understanding and simply make the best choice we can. But let us not presume we can take that kind of uncertain approach to every choice we have to make. Sometimes the choice from our faith or conscience is clear. Sometimes we do know what God would want from us in a given situation yet sometimes try to talk ourselves into the choice we want. When we hear that voice loud and clear, when right or wrong is in sharp focus, let us be sure to choose right—choose the thing that honestly reflects the God-choice and not the me-choice. Blessedness—a God-cen-

tered Life is sure to follow. Jeremiah in our First Reading put it this way, and I am paraphrasing: We can trust in human beings and be cursed or we can trust in God and be blessed. It is sort of black or white even if it is certainly not easy. So let us do the right thing when it is clear what the right thing is and begin living the life God wants for us and from us—a life of great meaning, joy, and yes, blessedness, through the life and faith that Jesus gives us! Jesus, I trust in You! Amen! ✨

Deacon Patrick Constantino retired from active Ministry on July 1, 2022. He is still a Deacon in good standing with full faculties to perform all sacraments in the Diocesan of Honolulu Hawai’i. Constantino has been ordained for thirty-seven years. He is the first Filipino Deacon in the Diocesan of Honolulu. Prior to his ordination, Constantino was in government—first appointed in 1966 as Assistant Sergeant of Arms by the Speaker of the House Elmer F. Cravalho. When Cravalho became Maui’s first Mayor, Constantino became his Executive Assistant—the first of Filipino ancestry. Later, Constantino became the first County Treasurer of Filipino ancestry and the first County Grants Administrator and Risk Manager of Filipino ancestry. Constantino



is married to his lovely wife Corazon for sixty-four years. They are blessed with four children, eleven grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren.

Preparing for Retirement

Essential Steps Before and After 50

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog” | IMAGES COURTESY LIZA PIERCE

At what age is the best time to think about retirement? The earlier, the better, especially when we think of this principle of compounding in the financial world. The thing is, when we are young, we do not think much about our retirement. Or at least, most don’t (or didn’t).

I am now in my late 50s and this got me seriously thinking about retirement. I believe many of you, readers of *The Fil-Am Voice* are thinking about it to, so let’s talk story about it here. For the benefit of readers younger and older than me, the discussion is in two Phases:

Phase 1: Building Your Foundation (Before Age 50)

Start Early and Build Strong. The decades before turning 50 are crucial for building a solid retirement foundation. The power of compounded interest works best with time on your side. Starting at age 25 versus 45 can mean the difference between needing to save \$200 or \$900 monthly to reach the same retirement goal. During these years, focus on aggressive growth and maximum contributions to retirement accounts.

Maximize Career Earnings. Your peak earning years typically occur during your 30’s and 40’s. This is the time to focus intensely on career advancement opportunities and skill development. Consider pursuing additional certifications or education that could increase your market value. Don’t hesitate to negotiate better compensation packages or take on additional responsibilities. Many professionals find success in building their expertise through challenging projects or leadership roles leading to higher earnings.

Establish Multiple Income

Streams. Diversification isn’t just for investments—it applies to income sources too. While your primary job provides the foundation, consider exploring dividend-paying stocks for passive income. Real estate investments can provide rental income and appreciation over time. Many professionals also find success in consulting or freelance work related to their expertise. The key is to create income streams continuing into retirement.

Focus on Debt Elimination. Before hitting 50, make aggressive moves to eliminate high-interest debt. Start with credit cards and personal loans, as these typically carry the highest interest rates. Once those are handled, focus on car loans and make extra payments on your mortgage when possible. Entering your 50s debt-free or close to it, provides significantly more flexibility in retirement planning.

Learn and Plan. Use these years to become financially literate. Understanding investment strategies, tax implications and estate planning basics will serve you well. Stay informed about healthcare options and begin researching long-term care insurance while premiums are lower. This knowledge will help you make better decisions as retirement approaches.

Phase 2: Optimizing and Protecting (Age 50 and up)

Take Advantage of Catch-Up Contributions. The government provides extra saving opportunities once you hit 50. You can make additional contributions to your retirement accounts beyond the standard limits. These catch-up provisions can significantly boost your retirement savings, especially if you’re behind on your goals. Take full advantage of these opportunities in both your em-



Don’t sit on your hands ... get ready for your retirement.

ployer-sponsored plans and individual retirement accounts.

Refine Your Investment Strategy. As retirement approaches, your investment strategy should evolve. Consider gradually shifting to more conservative investments to protect against market volatility. Focus on creating reliable income streams through bonds and dividend-paying stocks. Many financial advisors recommend creating a bond ladder to provide predictable income during retirement years.

Healthcare Planning Becomes Critical. Healthcare planning takes center stage after 50. Research Medicare options and supplemental insurance plans thoroughly. Consider long-term care insurance while you’re still young enough to qualify for reasonable rates. Building a dedicated healthcare savings fund becomes crucial, as medical expenses often increase during retirement years.

Create Your Retirement Income Strategy. Develop a comprehensive plan for managing your retirement income. This includes deciding when to start Social Security benefits, determining which accounts to draw from first and creating a sustainable withdrawal strategy. Consider tax implications of different withdrawal sequences and work to minimize your tax burden during retirement.

Fine-tune Your Housing Strategy. Housing decisions become increasingly important as retirement approaches. Consider whether downsizing makes financial sense or if aging in place is the better option. If you still have a mortgage, create a plan to eliminate it before retirement. Some retirees explore reverse mortgages as part of their financial strategy, though this requires careful consideration of the pros and cons.

Focus on Estate Planning. Estate planning becomes more urgent after 50. Ensure your will is current and consider whether a trust might be beneficial. Update healthcare directives and power of attorney documents. Review and update beneficiary designations on all accounts and insurance

policies. This planning provides peace of mind and protects your loved ones.

Practice Your Retirement Budget. Before actually retiring, experiment with living on your projected retirement income. This practice period helps identify areas where you might need to adjust spending or save more. Build an emergency fund specifically for retirement and plan for irregular expenses like home repairs or medical costs. This trial run can reveal potential issues while you still have time to address them.

Prepare for the Transition. The emotional and social aspects of retirement become increasingly important after 50. Start developing hobbies and interests that can carry into retirement. Maintain and build social networks outside of work. Consider how you might want to stay active through part-time work or volunteering. Physical and mental wellness should be priorities as you plan for a fulfilling retirement lifestyle.

Remember these phases aren’t rigid—they’re guidelines to adapt to your personal situation and goals. The key is to recognize retirement planning needs change as you age and your strategy should evolve accordingly. By understanding and preparing for both phases, you can create a more secure and enjoyable retirement.

Good thing for us *Pinoys*—we are family oriented. Retirement means we get to enjoy more time with our family—and maybe we will have grand kids at this time. With that said, it is good to be prepared. ✨

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, is a Maui sunsets catcher, is crazy about rainbows and an 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*.



Preparing for your retirement requires planning. Be sure your plan is in place before you decide what age you decide you want to enjoy your retirement





MaryGrace Bautista



MaryGrace Bautista's father, Gregorio "George" Bautista.



MaryGrace and father, graduation circa 1991.

“Lucky you live Hawai‘i” is a special motto that this month’s featured Sakada Offspring always heard from her Dad since she could remember as a child. MaryGrace Bautista was born in July 1973 in Wailuku. She attended Kahului Elementary School, Maui High School (Class of 1991), Heald Business College (1991–1992), Maui Community College (1997, Associate of Science Degree in Information Technology) and a beauty school (2011, Nail Technician).

MaryGrace is presently employed at Central Pacific Bank as a Sales Assistant in the Home Loans Division. Her past employment for thirteen years was with Mann Mortgage as an Administrative Assistant to Loan Officers and as a Mortgage broker from 2010 to 2017. Other past employments were Nail Technician at Chatter Box (2012–2014), and Nail Technician at Cutting Edge Salon from 2011–2012.

Besides being busy at work, MaryGrace enjoys some hobbies and interests. She enjoys going shopping, going to the beach and pool, eating at different restaurants, traveling to the mainland and sharing her skin care line (Korean Skin Care) with her friends and family.

Besides her children, MaryGrace also has a special person in her life, Billy Medeiros. She has two daughters, Kristie Amberlyn Pingkian and Jessica-Lynn Bautista Pingkian. Kristie attended the University of Hawai‘i Maui College. She lives in New York and works at Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino. Jessica-Lynn attended Kapi‘olani Com-

munity College. She lives on Maui and works at Hyatt in the Sales Department. Windell Taylan is Jessica’s fiancé. Jessica has two children, Malorie Reign Taylan (4 years old) and Jesson Allen Pingkian-Taylan (1 year old).

In 2006, during the Centennial Celebration of the arrival of the first Filipino immigrants who came to work in the plantations of Hawai‘i, Kristie Pingkian authored a story about her Sakada grandfather, Gregorio “George” Bautista as a third-grade project under the direction of her teacher, Chaunalee Gaoiran at Kahului School. It is worth publishing again to honor all our Sakadas besides Kristie’s grandpa, Gregorio Bautista, whose story is very similar to most if not all our Sakada stories.

My grandfather was born on November 11, 1906 to Alejandro and Eugenia Bautista in the Philippines in the town of Sinait, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. My grandfather was 19 years old when he arrived on the islands. There were these men from Hawai‘i who were recruiting people from the Philippines to work on the plantations in Hawai‘i. My grandfather arrived on the islands in the year 1925. He rode on the ship for three months. He landed on Kaua‘i. On Kaua‘i, he fell ill and needed some assistance, so that he could get better. The Lunas (supervisors) on Kaua‘i sent him to Maui so that he can recover

from his illness. On Maui, my grandfather got better and started working for Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company as a Hana Hou boy (bring buckets of water to workers on the plantation fields). This occupation only made ten cents per hour, \$1 per day for 10 hours of back breaking work in the plantation fields in the hot sun. My grandfather did this for about six months and wanted to look for another job. He got another job at a grocery store in Pu‘unēnē near the camp where he lived. In the grocery store, everything was great, but he had to carry 50-pound bags of rice. So he went back to the Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company as a weeder and cane harvester. He stayed on that job for six years and went to work in the mill as a crew chief operator where he retired in 1964.

Life in the plantation was hard. Neighbors were from different backgrounds. They had the Japanese, Spanish, Chinese camps around the Filipino camp. They used kerosene stoves to cook. The bathroom was in an out-house, (shower and toilet). They had free housing. They paid for electricity and water. There were no telephones and few televisions. They had the grocery store, the church, and the community halls nearby. People in the camps knew each other.

My grandfather lived with two other men in the house. Life was simple and

yet hard to enjoy because of the back breaking work every day for ten hours.

My grandfather enjoyed playing sports such as tennis, golf and baseball. His team went to a championship game against a Honolulu team and they won. My grandfather also won a handicap for tennis. He was an avid baseball and tennis player during his time. He was a part-time soldier for the HC&S battalion. He almost went to duty when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941 during World War II.

In addition to Kristie’s beautiful story, just for history’s sake, George Bautista was born the same year the first fifteen Filipino immigrants came to Hawai‘i in 1906. When he came to Maui, he lived with his friends Genaro Ibanez and his brother Jose Bautista at Camp 6 and at McGerrow Camp in Pu‘unēnē, one of the last plantation camps to be closed.

In 1961, George went to the Philippines to marry his beautiful wife, Marina Agsalog. He had to come back right after the wedding because of his job. Marina followed him in 1966. They lived at McGerrow Camp for three years before moving to Kahului in 1970. In fact, George and Marina were selected number one on the list for a house lot in the Eleventh Increment of the New Kahului. Former Maui County Chairman Elmer Cravalho drew their names in the presence of the late Pepito Ragasa, Douglas



Father Gregorio "George" Bautista and Mother Marina Bautista at the lottery drawing for the 11th increment



Father Gregorio "George" Bautista and mother Marina Bautista during Gregorio's 84th birthday.

Thompson, Joseph Franco and Richard Taylor. That house lot is their present residence today on Kamehameha Avenue. Marina started working at HC&S in 1978 doing a variety of jobs. She retired in 2008. Marina is an avid traveler. She already traveled to the following exotic places: Israel, Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Portugal, France, Italy, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Amsterdam, Russia, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

MaryGrace is the only child of Marina and George Bautista. She also shares her personal reflection on her Dad. *I remember my Dad as being humble, always helping family members and other people. My Dad would always be*

the one that would give his shirt to the person in need. He would always talk about the Philippines about his childhood and talk also about how hard it was for him as a kid. My Dad would mention that he was a rascal as a child. But he was always eager to learn about life. My Dad has always been a huge fan of family life and enjoyed being around his family. My Dad spoke Ilokano, Tagalog and Japanese. My Dad's neighbor taught my Dad how to read, write and speak Japanese. My Dad was into sports. He played baseball and tennis. He won several trophies from both sports. I remember during my school breaks that we would always go to the old Kahului Shopping Center where Dad would play Sakura (Hanafuda, Japanese game cards) with his friends under the monkeypod trees. My Dad and my Mom were a perfect couple for me growing up. My Dad was always so calm and he and my Mom agreed or compromised with each other. There was no fighting in our household. My Dad got along well with everyone. He had a good and long life.

My Dad was the one who raised and took care of me because he was already retired when I was born and



Family picture at the airport in the Philippines circa 1975.

*my Mom was still working at HC&S. I remember my Mom bringing home from the fields, squash, paria leaves (bitter melon leaves which I love), pumpkin and other Filipino vegetables. I miss my Dad every day and wish that he would still be here. I only wish that he would have seen his grandkids. I am glad to have a father like my Dad. I am proud to be a part of my Dad's legacy. I always live my life with my Dad's motto in mind, "Lucky you live Hawai'i." **

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 Wai-

he'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.



Family picture - Mary Grace with her Mother, Children and Granddaughter.

COMMUNITY... IN ACTION | Cont'd from p. 9

Currently reigning Miss Maui Filipina Johanne Paige Guevarra hopes to give away her title to the 2025 Miss Maui Filipina at the pageant on May 3 at the Westin Maui Resort.

IMAGE COURTESY JOHANNE GUEVARRA



at cfuchigami@mauifcu.com.

MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Applications are being received for the **2025 Miss Maui Filipina Pageant**, which will be held on May 3 at the Westin Maui Resort. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2025. For more information, contact Michelle Santos at (808) 264-0871 or mmf.mfcc@gmail.com.

Applications are also being received for the **2025 Mrs. Maui Filipina Pageant**.

This popularity contest will be held on April 12 at the Maui Beach Hotel. For more information, contact Madelyne Pascua at (808) 268-0686.

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

The Philippine Consulate General will have a **Consular Outreach Mission on Maui** on Saturday, May



3, 2025 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, May 4, 2025 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Mission will be held at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center.

Services will include the following:

- Passports (Appointments will open at 2 p.m. on April 4, 2025 via www.passport.gov.ph)
- Dual Citizenship (Email application form and supporting documents for evaluation to Honolulu.pcg@dfa.gov.ph by April 25, 2024.
- Report of Birth/Report of Marriage (For those who need these as supporting documents for their passport application, email the application form and supporting documents for evaluation to Honolulu.pcg@dfa.gov.ph by April 25, 2025).
- Notarials (Affidavit, Special Power of Attorney) (Appointments may be made via <https://tinyurl.com/MAUI2025OUTREACH> beginning on April 4, 2025.



MAUI

DATES:

Saturday, 3 May 2025,
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday, 4 May 2025,
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

VENUE:

Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center, 780 Onehee Ave, Kahului, HI 96732

HOW TO AVAIL OF SERVICES (MAUI)

PASSPORT:
Appointments for the Maui outreach will open at 2:00 PM on **Friday, 4 April 2025** on www.passport.gov.ph.

DUAL CITIZENSHIP:
Email application form and supporting documents for evaluation to honolulu.pcg@dfa.gov.ph by **25 April 2025**. The Consulate will inform the applicant if the application is approved and when to mail the original for processing and inclusion in the oath taking during the outreach.

REPORT OF BIRTH/REPORT OF MARRIAGE (for those who need these as supporting documents for their passport application):
Email application form and supporting documents for evaluation to honolulu.pcg@dfa.gov.ph by **25 April 2025**. The Consulate will inform the applicant if the application is approved and when to mail the original for processing.

NOTARIALS (AFFIDAVIT, SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY):
Appointments for the Maui outreach may be made through this link - <https://tinyurl.com/MAUI2025OUTREACH> - starting 4 April 2025.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

Tariffs ...

from p. 4

cell phones.”

Whatever happens in Washington, D.C. will truly affect Hawai'i's residents, including members of the Filipino community. “Hawai'i is unique because we import the vast majority of our goods, including close to 90% of our food (according to Hawai'i Public Health Institute),” notes Menor-McNamara. “This makes our local economy more vulnerable to price increases caused by tariffs. Filipino families, especially those who send money back to family members in the Philippines, may feel the effects too. If tariffs lead to higher prices, the cost of living goes up, making it harder to save money and send financial support to loved

ones.”

While it may be impossible to keep track of all the announcements by the Trump administration, Menor-McNamara advises to do so. “It's important for Hawai'i's business owners to keep track of tariffs that impact industries like retail, construction, and food. One option is to choose locally made products, which supports small businesses and reduces potential impacts of tariffs.”

It will be more important to “buy and support local.” As the Made in Hawai'i website (created by the State of Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism) states, “When you buy from Hawai'i companies, your purchase goes toward sustaining our local economy and helping small business owners survive and help them keep employees



Sherry Menor-McNamara,
President and
Chief Executive
Officer of the
Chamber of
Commerce

PHOTO COURTESY
SHERRY MENOR-
MCNAMARA

hired.” ✨

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 41 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.



DINENGDENG & PINAKBET | from p. 7

Gaetz (probably not a loss), he gets some folks who scare the *beejeezus* out of old-line Reagan Republicans, the beltway community and the lib-

eral elite.

There have been some hiccups in storylines. An 80+ year old Reagan appointed judge lambasted the

birthright citizen proposal and another federal judge effectively enjoined its application nationwide. Other federal judges have been skeptical of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum ordering all federal agencies to stop spending while a review of DEI in their operations was done. That's a no-no. The *Impoundment Control Act of 1974*, passed in response to a similar power grab by President Richard M. Nixon, makes it crystal clear presidents do not have the power to “impound” or withhold, congressionally mandated spending. That memo was withdrawn but the message was sent. Spoiler Alert: don't be surprised if the new world order does actually follow through on Andrew Jackson's (the first Democrat President) oft-cited notion the courts have ruled, now let them enforce their order. Legal proceedings take time and in the meantime, if you don't really care about losing in court eventually, you can really move on to any part of your agenda you want.

One thing to admire is the writers (based on that seminal work *Project 2025*) are leaving no stone unturned to hang their legal hats on. The mass deportations project relies on the *Alien Enemies Act of 1798*. It's still on the books so it may be old but it could be used. And to make sure the pace gets closer to what 47 promised, ICE is back-dating the date of deportations (still apparently too few to beat the record set by Deporter-in-Chief Barack Hussein Obama). But at least

migrants awaiting return to their own counties.

I gotta think OMB director Russell Vought and his Heritage Foundation colleagues are shoo-ins for Emmys with the way they've captured the ratings so far. In fact, MAGA and its related shows have made the *Resistance* reboot close to cancellation—the arcs so far of let's write strongly worded letters protesting actions, and let's occupy the Senate floor and delay a vote for thirty hours to confirm the OMB director, and let's spout off on CNN and MSNBC, haven't captured the imagination of folks who want a real opposition. But some critics are already asking whether MAGA storylines will begin to repeat (and begin to lose audience) after these first shocking episodes. If so, watch in 2026 for *House Arrest: Hakeem's Heroes and the Impeachment Wars*. But if the ratings do go up, look for a spin-off pilot MAGA: *HAWAII* featuring Governor Brenton Awa.

Now waiting for the pilot of next season's mini-series: *MAGA: GAZA STRIP*. That should be quite a development with everything—ethnic cleansing, forced deportation to Egypt and Jordan, and a U.S. occupying force (and casinos, and beaches, and resorts)! ✨

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran practices law with Takitani Agaran Jorgensen & Wildman, LLLP in Wailuku. He served in Governor Benjamin Cayetano's administration and Mayor Alan Arakawa's administration before returning to private practice. He represented Central Maui in the Hawaii House of Representatives and State Senate from 2009–2023.



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