



# Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

July 2025 • Vol IX No 7

FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY

FREE

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# Hedy Udarbe

## KŪPUNA ADVOCATE

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

“I’m deeply grateful to MEO and the committee for recognizing the importance of advocating for *kūpuna*. This is a collaborative effort and I share this award with the organizations in the community who work to ensure the *kūpuna* will live with dignity, comfort and respect. It is a testament of Aloha, the spirit of community and the values we hold so dear in our Hawaiian culture,” said Hedy Udarbe to a throng of almost five hundred in the Grand Wailea ballroom.

The event was the 53rd Kūpuna Aloha Luncheon organized by Maui Economic Opportunity. Udarbe was one of the two who were honored as Kūpuna Advocate of the Year. (The other honoree was Kathy Collins.)

Udarbe was born and raised in the Philippines and earned a Bachelor’s in Medical Technology from Concordia University. She immigrated to Hawai’i in 1973 and married Rusty Udarbe in 1973. They recently celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary. The Udarbe’s have three children and five grandchildren.



Hedy Udarbe is honored as the Kūpuna Advocate of the Year.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

For fifty years, Udarbe was a scientist at Clinical Laboratories. For twenty-five years, she oversaw operations at the lab’s thirteen clinics on Maui, Hawai’i island, Kaua’i and O’ahu. She re-

tired in 2016 and moved to Maui with her family.

There are forty senior clubs on Maui, according to Debbie Cabebe, the Executive Director of MEO, with about 1,000 Sen-

iors as members. One of those senior clubs—which was created by former Speaker of the House Joseph Souki when he headed MEO—is the Lahaina Honolua Club.

Cabebe gave an overview of the Lahaina Club. “For fifty-five years the Lahaina Club, formed by the merger of the Lahaina and Honolua Pensioner Clubs in 1970 has been an influential voice on the issues and developments on the West Side and a contributor to the community. Community members would often be seen sewing *lei* to sell to cruise ship visitors to support the scholarships for the Lahainaluna graduates.”

The Lahaina wildfire changed everything. “When tragedy struck on August 8 2023 the Lahaina wildfires destroyed most of the town with more than one hundred individuals perishing. Our Lahaina Honolua Club lost—one of their members lost their life and forty of them lost their homes. Nearly all club members were relocated across the island and bey-

see KŪPUNA p.2



Debbie Cabebe, MEO Executive Director, introduces Hedy Udarbe.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Kathy Collins (with Hedy Udarbe) was also honored as Kūpuna Advocate of the Year.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

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## Kūpuna ...

from p. 1

ond. The club's meeting site at the West Maui Senior Center lay in ashes. Yet the phoenix arose. Members helped members and offered necessities, financial aid and comfort," said Cabebe.

A year before the Lahaina wildfires, former MEO Executive Director Gladys Baisa invited Udarbe to join the Lahaina Senior Citizens Club.

In 2024, Udarbe would become president of the Lahaina Club, succeeding Arlene Gerbig. "Under Hedy's leadership and direction, the Club is taking flight once again—rebuilding monthly meetings and processing a healthy membership," Cabebe said. "Hedy Udarbe has taken the helm of one of the island's iconic kūpuna clubs and navigated the members throughout turbulent skies."

In his remarks, Mayor Richard Bissen Jr. noted that "Hedy Udarbe, president of the Lahaina Honolulu Senior Citizens Club, has played a vital role in restoring stability for seniors following the 2023 Lahaina wildfires—helping coordinate



State Senator Troy Hashimoto on behalf of the State Legislature presented certificates.

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Mayor Richard Bissen Jr addressed the attendees—almost five hundred in number.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

care, rebuild community ties, advocate for housing, transportation and safe places for displaced *kūpuna*.” Bissen quipped that Udarbe would always be the first to greet him and would offer him food.

Udarbe attributes many of her values and character to her beloved paternal and maternal grandparents, who raised her after her Dad passed when she was seven and while her Mom was attending college. Udarbe says she learned responsibility, respect for one’s elders, the willingness to help those in need, compassion, empathy and giving back to the community from her elders.

“Let us continue to uplift one another, continue to recognize our *kūpuna*’s wisdom and experiences. They are the treasure of our heritage,” Udarbe said.

Udarbe is currently a very active member of the Binhi at Ani Board of Directors and volunteers for many of Binhi at Ani’s activities, including the Bayanihan Feeding Program (which provides a hot meal on Sundays for residents of Hale Mahaolu and participants of the Maui Adult Day Care Center in Kahului), Tulong for Lahaina®,

see KŪPUNA p.4

PEOPLE. COMMUNITY. EXCELLENCE

CONGRATULATIONS  
**JESSICA ACOP**  
Program Director, Maui Wound Care & Hyperbaric Therapy

### Celebrating Leadership in Action

Maui Health proudly celebrates Jessica Acop for being honored with the esteemed **Gintong Pamana (Golden Heritage) Leadership Award** by the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation in recognition of her outstanding leadership, dedication to patient care, and deep commitment to uplifting Maui’s Filipino community.

*“As a proud Igorota-Filipina and healthcare leader, I feel a deep responsibility to give back to the Filipino community that shaped who I am,” shared Jessica. “One of the ways I do that is by working with local Hawaii youth, and encouraging them to pursue careers in healthcare... to ensure our families and island community are cared for well into the future.”*

Jessica’s leadership has also earned national honors for excellence in patient care, including the **Rising Star Leadership Award** from RestorixHealth — a prestigious distinction awarded to just three leaders among 250+ wound care clinics nationwide.

Mahalo, Jessica, for your heart, service, and dedication! Read her full story at:  
[mauihealth.org/jessica](https://mauihealth.org/jessica)

Maui Memorial Medical Center  
Maui Memorial Outpatient Clinic  
Maui Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy  
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## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE

# A Call to Action ... Support Our Immigrant Communities

# U.S.

Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) raids continue to upend innocent lives in our country—terrorizing and inflicting fear to many of our brothers and sisters by detaining undocumented immigrants who are here in our country seeking a better life for their families. ICE raids are primarily targeting our Latino friends residing in blue states like California and New York. It is also a warning Asian immigrants like our *kababayans* could be the next target by ICE.

The *Fil-Am Voice* calls on all our community leaders to rally and raise

our collective voices in support of our friends, who are targets of enforcement sweeps and being detained by unchecked federal officials. This inhumane treatment by President Trump has caused many families to become separated. In some instances, children come home from school, suddenly without parents and sadly wonder if they are ever going to see their detained parents and/or grandparents again. Who is going to take care of these children without their families? President Trump came into office in January vowing to target violent criminals for deportation. But amid pressure to raise deportation numbers by his extremist right-wing supporters,

federal administration officials shifted their focus to innocent and hard-working farm workers, landscapers, hotel housekeepers, caregivers, healthcare workers, construction workers and other laborers, many of whom have been working in the country for decades.

As our family and grandkids traveled the country during this summer, I witnessed many demonstrations supporting our Latino friends who are senselessly targeted for deportation without due process of law. Even a Latino U.S. Senator was recently handcuffed by federal officials for simply asking a question during a press conference by the Secretary of Department of Homeland Security. *This action by our federal law enforcement officials is un-American.* No immigrant is immune with this senseless act—and they may come for us soon if we do not act and resist. Our undocumented *kababayans* are only protected when we are in solidarity with our fellow immigrants. We can no longer afford to be silent. Many demonstrations are taking place throughout the country, including here on our island home with shouts and cheers, honking horns, and many homemade signs like “No kings at least not today,” “No crown for the clown,” “Power to the people.” The collective vibration is enormous “Save the coun-

try” is echoed during these many rallies. We cannot shrug and surrender the country to a wannabe dictator and/or billionaire warmongers. This administration seems to delight in inflicting suffering on minority communities. Inhumane raids by ICE are ripping away the American dream from undocumented immigrants who came to this country to seek a better life. We strongly urge our fellow Americans to continue pushing back against the administration policies with peaceful protest and resistance. The question we need to ask ourselves is, “How do we rise together” during this time of uncertainty and fear? As a fellow immigrant in our community, silence is NOT an option. We need to stand with our brothers and sisters who contribute so much to our economy and are an integral part of our community. Our strength is through our unity—a collective voice to advocate for those who are marginalized minorities. Let us make America a welcoming country again. May our God direct our path to righteousness—and extend compassion to our immigrant families and friends.



VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR



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## Kūpuna ...

from p. 3

the Bayanihan Food Distribution, Take-Out Tuesday, the Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, The Seed and Harvest Dinner, and A Bayanihan Christmas. For the last two years, Udarbe has coordinated the Outstanding Housekeeper Awards during the Annual Barrio Fiesta®.

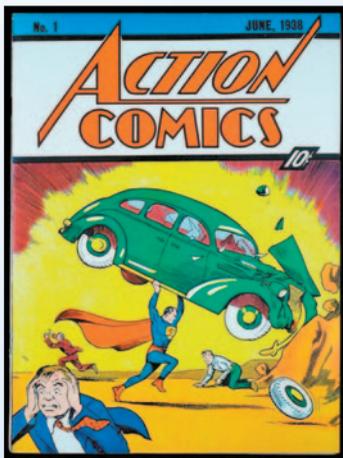
Udarbe is also a member of the Maui County Planning and Coordinating Council, the ILWU Pensioners and a volunteer at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in the gift shop.

Udarbe extolled her fellow *kūpuna* to maintain a positive attitude. “Now, my fellow *kūpuna*, today when you look at yourself in the mirror, don't go ‘Darn, more wrinkles.’ You look at the person staring at you and say ‘Good morning, beautiful,’ ‘Good morning handsome.’ ‘I am wonderful,’ ‘I am awesome,’ and ‘I am powerful.’”

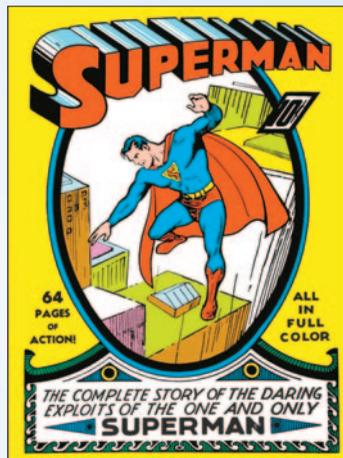
Udarbe noted how most of our lives are spent caring for family and others. She told her fellow *kūpuna*: “It's time that we spend our time to ourselves. So, starting today, when you go out that door, do something that makes you smile—something that makes your heart

see LET'S TALK PINOY p.11

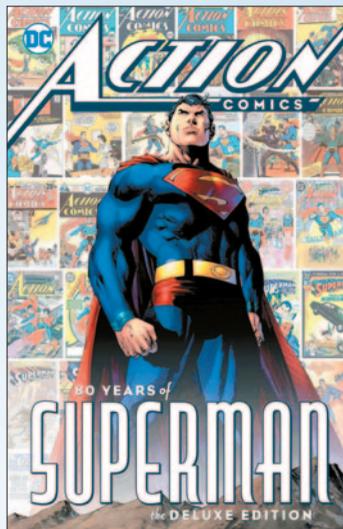
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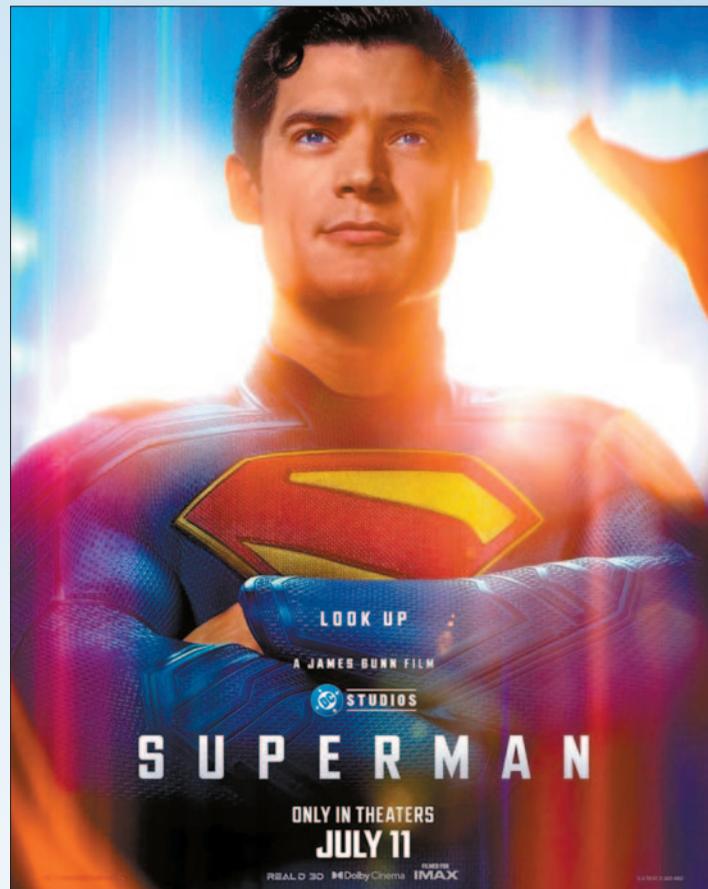
DC has re-published editions of Superman's first appearance in Action Comics #1 several times since his debut in 1938.



DC published a reprint of an early Superman story.



DC Comics issued a special collection to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Superman's first appearance.



A modern re-invention of Superman is currently playing in theaters nationwide.

SCREENSHOT BY GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET



# Superman Now

*The True American Alien for Our Times*

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

I don't plan to see James Gunn's re-boot of the Superman "franchise" at some brick-and-mortar movie theater.

I haven't been to the cinema in many moons—I mainly stream now. I suppose ever since the pandemic period, I don't even notice the summer blockbuster film season.

And I can recall seeing Return of the Jedi at the Consolidated Theater in Waikiki just after getting home from my Junior year of college. I admit not camping out to reserve a spot for opening night—I just cut in line where my friends

had taken turns waiting to get to the box office. Yes, boys and girls, in the 1980s, you couldn't just buy tickets early online and show up for your movie at showtime—you had to actually show up in person and queue up and wait.

The last time I really tried to see a movie on its opening release date was "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," over twenty years ago now.

So "Superman" will have to wait.

But it doesn't mean I don't get to comment on the cultural war controversies over the

film.

Are people ignorant?

If you're concerned the Superman movie is too woke, you don't know much about his lore.

Superman has always been an illegal immigrant. He dropped into Kansas in a spaceship—no paperwork from the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. His birthname was "Kal-El"—not your typical red-blooded American moniker (it's more like "Barack Hussein Obama").

His "adopted" parents Jonathan and Martha Kent simply passed him off as their natural

child, naming the baby "Clark Kent" (after Martha's family name). This was plausible since Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster created Superman in 1938 when rural communities might still have births at home. As someone from the Texas Hill Country once told me, good neighbors should live at least a mile away without their house in sight and mind their own business. No one would question not knowing Martha had been pregnant and given birth—and perhaps missing church gatherings due to a long harsh winter that prevented the Kents from getting off their land for months. Okay, you have to suspend some of your disbelief.

Until DC Comics decided to have Clark operate as Super-

boy in his hometown of Smallville (only later located in Kansas, with Metropolis probably akin to St. Louis in neighboring Missouri), Superman reveals himself to America full-grown. As originally conceived, he wasn't an all-powerful guy: "Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound."

But in those early stories, Superman was pretty brutal—hit first and ask questions (well, ask no questions) later.

He eventually lost the opening to complexity in his personality, softening to be closer to the archetype brave, righteous and just hero who protects the underdog and helpless. Superman eventually would be able

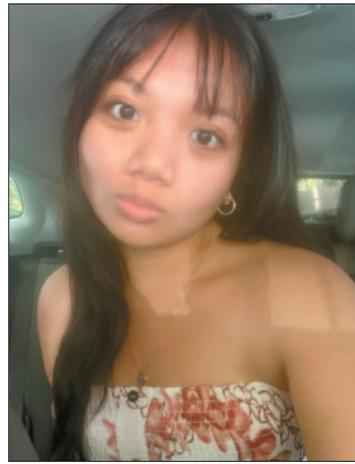
see **DINENGDENG** back page

# Google®

Is Not Everything ...

## As Summer Fades

Angel Alba | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2026



Chasity Kaye Agustin



Dea Leen Asuncion



Trisha Mariz Basig

The summer season is about to reach its closing point and with that, summer break is finally ending. Although it feels like summer just started, time flew by in the blink of an eye; within the past two months, memories were made with strong connections and developments. From spontaneous adventures with friends to quiet moments of reflection under the sun or stars, each day brought its own story. Each day created a perfect setting for personal growth, laughter, and new experiences. As the days grow shorter and the anticipation of fall approaches, we carry these summer memories with us and not just as passing moments but as lasting moments of joy and change.

A student at Maui High School, **Chasity Kaye Agustin**, suggests a song written by Kali Uchis, *It's Just Us*, that highlights her summer. Chasity further explains this song doesn't necessarily represent her summer but a song that's been on repeat in her playlist all summer long. A new season means a new school year and as the new school year approaches, Chasity is eager to look forward to the upcoming school events hosted at her school or even at other schools—from homecoming to spirit weeks and cheering at

sports games with her friends. Although summer was a time for relaxation and freedom, Chasity is ready to take on another journey in her last year in high school and make the most of her opportunities, memories and connections that lie ahead this school year.

As for **Dea Leen Asuncion** who is also a Maui High School student, however, she states, "I'm looking forward to seeing my friends and graduating. I am eager to graduate because I am already experiencing *senioritis*, even though school hasn't started yet." As a senior, there are many opportunities, experiences and important responsibilities to look forward to. As Dea spent her summer with friends, a song she wishes to share that represented her summer is *1&Only* by XLOV. Dea explains, "Every time I listen to it, I am instantly reminded of playing Roblox with my friends on late summer nights and drinking many cans of Coke to stay awake."

*Feels* by Calvin Harris is the song highlighting **Trisha Mariz Basig's** summer. To clarify why this song represents her summer, she explains, "I've just been chilling through the summer, working and spending time with friends and loved ones." Trisha is a student at Baldwin High School, and

speaking of friends, Trisha is determined to have a remarkable experience with her friends as a Junior at Baldwin High School. For the upcoming school year, Trisha is looking forward to "meeting new people and teachers and striving for better performance," she says. After a relaxed and fulfilling summer with her friends and loved ones, she's ready to face new challenges and opportunities that come with being an upperclassman.

As the final days of summer fade into memory, students like Chasity, Dea and Trisha carry the memorable moments they have shaped during their break. Whether it was through music, late-night laughs or quality time spent with family and friends, each experience added something meaningful to their personal stories. Now, with a fresh start ahead, they're stepping into another journey into the school year with excitement, goals, and motivation to grow even more. A new school year means new beginnings, and with the memories and growth from summer still with them, they continue to move on confidently, ready to make this year just as meaningful and memorable. ✨

**Google® Is Not Everything ...** is a monthly column see **GOOGLE IS NOT EVERYTHING** p.8

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# Let's Talk Pinoy!



## Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

with hotdogs, hamburgers and potato chips? Or was it a delicious mix of family favorites like *poke*, *sushi* rice, *kalbi* ribs and spam *musubi*?

We're half-way through the summer and I hope you've had

the chance to do something fun and memorable with your loved ones. Living in Hawai'i, we're truly lucky. We're surrounded by the ocean and beaches are always just a short drive away. Whether it's a quick beach day or

a long weekend camping by the shore, there's always something beautiful to enjoy. After all, we live on one of the most *maganda* (beautiful) places on Earth.

Shout out to those who are celebrating their birthday this month. Extra shout out to Cheryllyn Faylogna Danzer, Lyndsay Danielle Butay Hayen and Jay Peros.

Happy, Happy birthday to

you! *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Tagalog) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ilo-kano) *Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu!* (Ibanag) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Kapampangan) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo!* (Ilonggo)

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

"CAN I ASK YOU A FAVOR, my dear *pisan* (cousin)? Could you please go to our *balay* (house)? I really miss my *Inahan* (mother) and my *Amahan* (father) and it would mean the world to see their *mukha* (faces) and hear their voices again," Angel pleads with heartfelt longing.

"Yes, of course *kasinsin* (cousin). I'm going to *takbo* (run) there now so you can talk to your parents," Julia says it excitedly.

Julia runs as fast as she can to reach her cousin's *balay* (house), her *kasingkasing* (heart) racing with worry.

She stops to catch her breath, glancing at the dark windows and feeling a knot in her stomach.

"My dear *pakaisa* (cousin), your *bale* (house) is so dark. I'm really not sure if anyone is home right now," she says softly.

Angel feels a wave of anxiety wash over her. Where could her family be? It was nighttime,

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Mother	Nanay / Inay	Nanang / Inang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Gamat
Father	Tatay / Itay	Tatang / Itang	Amahan	Tatay	Yama	Ima
House	Bahay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Balay	Tata
Happy	Masaya	Naragsak	Malipayon	Masadya	Magayaya	Matula
Heart	Puso	Puso	Tutu	Puso	Kasingkasing	Korason
I'm sorry.	Pasensya na.	Pakawanen nak.	Pasayloa ko.	Pasensyaha lang ako.	Pakoman na.	Patawaran yu ku pu.
Hands	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Mukat	Lupa / Arap	Nawong / Dagway	Goya / Nawong
Door	Pintuan	Ridaw	Lukub	Ganhaan	Puwerta	Pasbul
Cousin	Pinsan	Kasinsin	Agaw	Pakaisa	Kapitta	Pisan

and they should have been home by now.

The porch light is off and the usual humming from inside is missing. Julia fumbles with the knob, opens the *pintuan* (door) and steps into the silence.

"Auntie Lena? Auntie Lena ..." Julia calls out. When no one answers, she calls out "Uncle Eloooo ... Uncle Elo!"

From the kitchen, Julia hears her aunt's voice. "*Patawarin yu ku pu* (I'm sorry), Julia, we

don't have electricity."

Julia walks in to find her *kasinsin* (cousins) Maribeth and Johnny sitting at the table, lit only by the soft flicker of a single candle. Her aunt looks up with the worry in her eyes and

her cousins' hands are clasped tightly in their lap.

"The bill we couldn't pay it this month," her *pisan* (cousin) Maribeth says softly, her voice heavy with shame. We tried to stretch what we had but it wasn't enough."

Angel hears them and her *korason* (heart) sinks. The weight of their quiet struggle fills the room more than the darkness ever can.

Julia pulls a chair close and takes their *kamot* (hands) in hers.

"Oh shucks I forgot Angel are you still there?" Julia fumbles for her phone and sees the screen glowing. Angel is still on FaceTime, her *nawong* (face) filled with concern.

"I am here. And I heard everything," Angel says and starts to sob.

"Big sister, *Pasensya na* (I'm sorry) you had to hear all that," Maribeth says, trying to smile, a little embarrassed.

"Don't be. We're family. If

see LET'S TALK PINOY p.11

## Community... In Action



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

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA PHOTOGRAPHY



Team Maui County Federal Credit Union helps with teh Bayanihan Feeding program.

PHOTO COURTESY MAUI COUNTY FCU



2025 Miss Barrio Fiesta and the 1st and 2nd princesses attend the Seed & Harvest Dinner.

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA

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

PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS



Mayor Richard Bissen Jr. installed the Binhi at Ani Board of Directors.

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



# COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

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

### BINHI AT ANI

Celebrate your special events at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. The Center can be rented

on Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1,400 (which includes the cleaning fee) plus GET and a \$500 security de-

posit or from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1,200 (which includes the cleaning fee) plus GET and a \$500 security deposit.

On Sundays, the Center can be rented from 1:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. for \$1,050 (which includes the cleaning fee) plus GET and 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.

**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.

Through June 30, 2025, a total of 36,557 lunches have been distributed.

Teams serving during

the month of June 2025 include Confederation International Association of Samahang Ilocano Group, Kihei and Lahaina Seventh Day Adventist Church, Maui County Federal Credit Union, Maui Filipino Community Council, Miss Maui USA and Philippine Nurses Association Maui Hawai'i.

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 Crop Science Hawai'i and Nareit Hawai'i.

**Enhance@Fitness for Kūpuna at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community**



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

authored by high school students. The column's title emphasizes that education is more than just googling a topic. Google® is a registered trademark. This month's guest columnist is **Angel Alba**, a Senior at Maui High School. She is a Class Representative for the Class of 2026 at Maui High School, a Cultural

Representative of Maui High's Filipino Cultural Club, a part of HOSA, Upward Bound, and a Filipino folk-dance group named "La Galería: Compañía Baile Filipino." Angel is in the Nursing pathway at Maui High and aspires to be a



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



The 2025 Binhi at Ani Scholarship Recipients were presented their awards and lined up for a obligatory photograph, following the official conferments.

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



Top-rated scholar Lia Kagehiro, who will be attending the University of Southern California, received a \$2,000 In Memory of Agrifina Cabebe-Binhi at Ani Scholarship

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



Alexis Viloria, a 2021 Binhi at Ani Scholarship Recipient and recent graduate of Stanford University, hosted The Seed and Harvest Dinner

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA

2025 Miss Maui Filipina Bernadette Amorio Acaso will compete in the state-wide Miss Hawai'i Filipina Scholarship Pageant on Sat., August 9 on Kaua'i.

PHOTO: CEASAR LIZADA



Scholarship Recipients pose with representatives of the Maui Filipino Community Council at the Bahay Kubo at Kepaniwai Heritage Gardens at 'ao Valley in Wailuku

PHOTO COURTESY MFCC



**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.; 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 May 2025, there have been 944 classes with seventy-five 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.

#### Seed and Harvest Dinner

The Seed and Harvest Dinner was held on Saturday, July 12 at

the Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Twenty-three scholars were awarded a total of Thirty-One Thousand Dollars. Throughout the evening several scholars shared their talents: RJ Arconado (Invocation); Meldge Ponce (Star Spangled Banner); Maomi Alexa Llaguno (Pambansang Awit); RJ Arconado, Karisa Bayudan, Sarah Nicole Cariaga, and Cameron Ibea (Alma Mater); Ava Torres (Binasuan and Tinikling); Emily Sloper (Art work); Willyn Domingo (Short Movie); and Jonah Tapaoan (Escrima demonstration).

Alexis Viloria, a 2021 Binhi at Ani Scholar and recent graduate of Stanford University hosted the event.

Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr. installed the 2025–2026 Binhi at Ani Board of Directors: President Arnel Alvarez, Vice President Nora Cabanilla-Takushi, Secretary

Jared Agtunong, Assistant Secretary Edward Garcia, Treasurer Edward Evangelista, Assistant Treasurer Levi Aguinaldo, Auditor Rogelio Yadao, Immediate Past President Melen Agcolicol, and Directors Delia Buduan, Marcia Parana, Lawrence Pascua, Madeilyn Pascua, Greg "Jay" Peros, Hayde Sim, Hedy Udarbe and Brianna Zamora.

Serving on the Advisory Board of Binhi at Ani are Pliny Arenas, James "Kimo" Apana, Vince Bagoyo Jr., Leah Belmonte, Debbie Cabebe, Dean Duque, Luis Hoakoana, Marian Horikawa-Barth, Jason Koga, Jacquelyn McCandless, Alvin "Kai" Pelayo, Chris Rabang, Brandi Saragosa, Stephen West, Tante Urban and Jamie Yap.

Florante Garcia serves as Operations Manager, Jeanice Paa serves as Assistant Operations Manager while Alfredo Evangelista serves

as Legal Counsel.

#### Summer at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center

Since July 7, there have been a variety of free classes featuring Philippine Cultural Dance taught by Madelyne Pascua, Art Classes for Youth taught by Philip Sabado and Introduction to Escrima for Youth taught by Brian Aganos.

The program ends on Thursday, July 31 with a Presentation at 6 p.m.

#### MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Bernadette Amorio Acaso will compete in the upcoming Miss Hawai'i Filipina Pageant, scheduled for August 9 on Kaua'i; at the Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall, held during the annual United Filipino Council of Hawai'i convention.

The Council recently an-

nounced its 2025 scholarship recipients: Rachael Bandy, a Seabury Hall alum, will attend Gonzaga University and major in Biology.

Sarah Nicole Quimangan Cariaga, a Lahainaluna High School alum, will attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and major in Hospitality Management.

Kamuela Gregorio Dahilig, a Baldwin High School alum, will attend Santa Clara University and major in Biology.

Kaylynnne Evangelista, a Maui High School alum, will attend George Fox University and major in Elementary Education.

Meldge J. Ponce, a St. Anthony School alum, will attend Grand Canyon University and major in Nursing.

Each of the Scholarship Recipients were awarded \$1,000.



## Ti Biag ken Pammati

“Life and Faith”



Priests lead the mass during the Jubilee year, as the Traveling Jubilee Cross is displayed on the dais at Christ the King Church in Kahului.



Parishioners and visitors celebrate mass at Christ the King Church where the Traveling Jubilee Cross was first displayed.



Priests stand and lead praise and worship during the Year of Grace in the Diocese at Christ the King Church, alongside the Traveling Jubilee Cross.

# Jubilee Year of Grace in the Diocese of Honolulu and Traveling Jubilee Cross

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS COURTESY PATRICK CONSTANTINO

The Jubilee Cross has to make a pilgrimage. It has been placed in the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa in Honolulu for veneration of all the faithful during this Jubilee Year.

In order to allow a greater participation in the Ordinary Jubilee Year of Grace in the Diocese of Honolulu, however, Bishop Silva has commissioned a Traveling Jubilee Cross to be hosted by every parish in the Diocese throughout the year.

It would be desired some sort of pilgrimage (i.e. transferring of the cross from one location to the next) be arranged between the parishes.

When the Traveling Jubilee Cross is in your parish, the faithful should be encouraged

to make a pilgrimage. Jubilee indulgence may be obtained when the ordinary conditions are met, namely, detachment from sin, sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, with the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

The faithful who are truly repentant of sin but who cannot participate in the various solemn celebrations, pilgrimages and pious visits for serious reasons (especially cloistered nuns and monks but also the elderly, the sick, prisoners and those who, through their work in hospitals or other care facilities, provide continuous service to the sick), can obtain the Jubilee

Indulgence, under the same conditions if, united in Spirit with the faithful taking part in person, they recite the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any approved form, and other prayers in conformity with the objectives of the Holy Year, in their homes or wherever they are confined (e.g. in the chapel of the monastery, hospital, nursing home, prison ...) offering up their sufferings or the hardships of their lives.

When permitted, the parish may celebrate the “Mass for the Holy Year.” This Mass may be said with the color proper to the day or the liturgical time whenever special celebrations are held on the occasion of the Holy Year, except on Solemnities, on Sundays and Feasts, on the weekdays of Holy Week, the

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI p.12



**JUBILEE CROSS**  
*Schedule at the Parishes*

- CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, KAHULUI  
JULY 21 - 26, 2025
- ST. ANN CHURCH, WAIHEE  
JULY 26 - 30, 2025
- ST. THERESA CHURCH, KIHEI  
JULY 30 - AUGUST 5, 2025
- MARIA LANAKILA CHURCH, LAHAINA  
AUGUST 5 - 10, 2025
- HOLY ROSARY CHURCH, PAIA  
AUGUST 10 - 14, 2025
- ST. MARY CHURCH, HANA  
AUGUST 14 - 18, 2025
- ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MAKAWAO  
AUGUST 18 - 23, 2025
- OUR LADY QUEEN OF ANGELS, KULA  
AUGUST 23 - 27, 2025
- ST. RITA CHURCH, HAIKU  
AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2025
- BISHOP LARRY'S 50<sup>TH</sup> PRIESTLY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
AUGUST 23, 2025  
MORE INFORMATION TO COME
- ST. ANTHONY CHURCH, WAILUKU  
SEPTEMBER 1 - 7, 2025



Hedy Udarbe with Binhi at Ani presidents Arnel Alvarez (2024-2026), Nora Takushi (2016-2020) and Melen Agcolicol (2020-2024).

PHOTO: ALFREDO EVANGELISTA



Keynote Speaker Congresswoman Jill Tokuda takes a selfie to bring back with her to Congress.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE PASCUA

## Let's Talk Pinoy! | from p. 7

something's hurting you, it's hurting me too," says Angel, who is holding back her tears, and her voice is soft but firm.

Angel takes a deep breath and asks about her parents. "Where is *Tatay* (father)? I just saw *Nanay* (mother) a while ago. Where did she go?" Angel asks and looks around for her parents on the screen.

Julia glances toward the hallway. The mood shifts, a quiet pause.

Julia turns the phone towards herself and whispers, "She went to their room, I think. She didn't want you to see her crying."

Maribeth and Julia walk to the room. Maribeth calls her *Inahan* (mother) and says, "Nanay, Angel is asking for you!"

Lena starts to sob and says, "Thank goodness you are alive, my daughter! We were so worried! I hope you are safe!"

Angel's eyes flutter close as emotions creep in.

Flashback to what happened at the airport brings back her memories. It seems like yesterday. Tears start to roll down her cheeks.

"Angel ..." a familiar voice—soft, trembling—cuts through

the haze.

Angel's eyes snap open. She exhales sharply, blinking away tears.

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** 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 Adminis-



tration, 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 on Maui.

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## Kūpuna ...

from p. 4

sing. Do something wonderful because you are wonderful and also powerful. We are the voice."

Udarbe is definitely a shining example of those who uplift others in Maui's Filipino community and the greater community—a humble but forceful person with a community mindset. Her words are worth repeating: "We are

powerful. We are the voice. We are all champions." ✨

Assistant Editor **Alfredo G. Evangelista** attended the annual Kūpuna Aloha Luncheon with his wife Basilia, where they saw and greeted many family members and friends.



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## Ti Biag ken Pammati | from p. 10

Sacred Triduum, on days within the Octave of Easter, on the weekdays of Advent from December 17 to December 24 inclusive, on days within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day), and on Ash Wednesday.

See the box on Page 10 for the Jubilee Cross schedules of each parish for the Maui Vicariate. Also included is The Illustration: The Diocese's Jubilee Cross Explained and a picture of the actual Jubilee

Cross that will be traveling from Church to Church on their schedule dates (See below-right).

These are special times that we need God in our *Life* to help us keep our *Faith*.

Enjoy your visitation at our churches and enjoy our Jubilee Year of the Cross!

*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 be-

came 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.



## The Diocese's Jubilee Cross, explained

*Hawai'i Catholic Herald*

The Diocese of Honolulu's Jubilee cross is hard to miss.

Whether isle faithful see the cross at its main post in the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa in Honolulu, or its traveling twin (lately stationed at the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in downtown Honolulu), a number of features will catch their eye; its height (more than 8 feet tall), the striking black and gold color scheme, the stained glass that sets off each of its 11 intricate icons.

Jubilee crosses in churches throughout the world offer a way for people to connect to Pope Francis and to Holy Year events in Rome as they gather and pray around them, according to Father Alfred Omar B. Guerrero, director of the Diocesan Office of Worship.

Father Manny Hewe, pastor of the Co-Cathedral, provided an explanation of the icons on Hawai'i's Jubilee cross, which was created by the Co-Cathedral's Deacon Ray Lamb.



1. The archangels St. Michael and St. Gabriel are depicted at each end of the cross.
2. A representation of Jesus as the vine, as stated in the Gospel of John: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit because, without me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5).
3. The Mother of Perpetual Help — the Blessed Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus, with archangels St. Michael and St. Gabriel standing before them.
4. (center) A depiction of the Last Supper.
5. A symbol of the enduring Marian devotion of Mary. Help of Christians, first coined by St. John Chrysostom in 345 AD.
6. The crucifixion and death of Jesus.
7. The resurrection of the Lord.
8. The dormition, or "falling asleep," of Mary, observed as a feast day in the Eastern Orthodox tradition to commemorate her repose before she was taken up to heaven. In the Latin Catholic tradition, it is celebrated as the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 15.



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## Sakada Offspring



Mary Jean Bega



Four generations of the Manuel 'ohana and extended family.



Mary Jean's grandfather, Martin Manuel.

**E**very good teacher knows the impact and importance of education. It is not just about learning reading, writing and math at school. Instead, formal education is about gaining the knowledge and the skills needed to become a better person and create a better society to live in.

This month's featured Sakada Offspring, Mary Jean Santiago Bega is one of those great teachers. She was born in Banna, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. She attended Lihikai Elementary School (K-8), H.P. Baldwin High School (9-12), Maui Community College (now University of Hawai'i Maui College) and received her Associates of Arts Degree. Then she attended the University of Oregon. From there she received her B.S. in Elementary Education. Being a life-long learner, she continued with her Masters in Curriculum in Instruction from the University of San Diego.

# Mary Jean Santiago Bega

Lucy Peros | PHOTOS COURTESY THE BEGA 'OHANA

Mary Jean worked at the Department of Education as a teacher. She taught at different schools, Lihikai School, Pukalani Elementary, Pu'u Kukui Elementary, St. Anthony School, Kalama Intermediate School—teacher mentor and University of Phoenix—instructor for Master's in Education program. She is a National Board-Certified Teacher. She also worked as secretary for Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Kula, Maui.

Recently, Mary Jean was announced as the new Principal for St. Anthony School.

Mary Jean was married to the late Eric Kuhio Bega. They have three daughters: Rachel Rose Lilinoe Lockhart, married to Joshua Lockhart (two children), Gabrielle Anuheia Liana Thomas, married to Daniel Kila



Mary Jean and her sister Marie at Port Salomague in Cabugao, Philippines, where their grandpa boarded the ship bound for Hawaii in the 1930s.

Thomas (three children) and Mikaela Huali Bega.

Mary Jean is a member of the Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) is the Stewardship Commis-

sioner for the Diocese of Honolulu, Eucharistic Revival Chair, Stewardship Day Chair, Holy Ghost Catholic Church Feast Chair, as well as an active member of the PPC (Parish Pastoral Council), church liturgy and church stewardship committee. She is even very generous with her time as a guest speaker when she is called upon for pilgrims who wish to visit both Holy Ghost Church and Our Lady Queen of the Angels Church.

Mary Jean enjoys reading, traveling with her sister and volunteering in church activities.

Mary Jean has three siblings: Marie Arensdorf - retired dental hygienist, Roger Manuel - a building contractor and Ronald

see SAKADA OFFSPRING next page



Mary Jean at the rice paddies.



Mary Jean's family.

Manuel (married to Rochelle Manuel) - Manager at the Grand Wailea Resort (3 children)

Mary Jean's grandfather, Martin Manuel was a *Sakada*. He left the Philippines in the late 1930s. He came from Banna, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. He married Tomasa Sebastian. They had two children, Pascuala Manuel and Fred Manuel. Fred was married to the late Rosita Manuel. Fred and Rosita are Mary Jean's parents. Pascuala was a teacher and Fred was a dentist in the Philippines. When Fred arrived on



Mary Jean's 'ohana.

Maui, he became a carpenter then a well-established building contractor so he could provide for his family. He also worked as a laborer in the sugar cane fields. Over the next 30 years, he worked to bring his family to the islands. He lived in Alabama Camp in Pu'unēnē.

Mary Jean shares her reflec-

tion on her *Sakada* grandfather who came to Hawai'i in the 1930s: *A few months ago, I had the profound opportunity to visit Port Salomague, Cabugao, Philippines, the very place where my grandfather, Martin Manuel took a leap of faith and left his homeland. Standing on the dock, gazing out into the vast open sea, I*

*was overcome with emotion. I tried to imagine what it must have felt like to board that ship, to look back one last time at the only home he had ever known, unsure if he would ever return. That moment brought into sharp focus the incredible courage it took to make such a sacrifice. What a selfless act of love, to*

*leave behind family, familiarity, and comfort, all in the hope of building a better future for them. In that vulnerable space, I found unexpected comfort: a statue of Our Blessed Mother stood quietly along the coast, perched on a rocky outcrop surrounded by water. She felt like a gentle reminder of God's presence, a beacon of hope and protection for those journeying into the unknown.*

*It's hard to fully comprehend the depth of that sacrifice. But I do know this: I am who I am because of him. My grandfather and I share the same birthday, a bond that feels*

*deeply meaningful. I see pieces of his tenacity in myself. While I would never claim to match the strength it took for him to leave everything behind, I do feel a sense of under-*

*standing, even kinship, with his decision.*

*I carry his story with reverence and pride. His journey reminds me that our lives are built on the courage of those who came before us. ✨*

**Lucy Peros** is a retired schoolteacher, having taught at St. Anthony Grade School and Waihe'e Elementary School. Her late parents, Elpidio Cachero Cabalo (a 1946 *Sakada*) and Alejandra Cabudoy Cabalo both worked for Maui Land and Pine Company. Lucy enjoys being with other retirees in the Enhance Fitness Program under the Department of Aging three times a week. Whenever she can, she joins other Waihe'e School retirees when help is needed at the school. Lucy also devotes some of her time as Lector and choir member at both Christ The King Catholic Church in Kahului and St. Ann Catholic Church in Waihe'e. She enjoys being with her granddaughters after school. She also enjoys writing, reading and gardening in her spare time.



# Kwento Kwentuhan

## Kaibigan ng Lahaina: Uplifting the Filipino Spirit Through Community

Liza A Pierce of "A Maui Blog" | IMAGES COURTESY LIZA PIERCE

At the heart of West Maui, Kaibigan ng Lahaina is doing more than offering support—they are building a movement rooted in compassion, culture and care. Founded by Filipinos with deep ties to Lahaina, this newly formed nonprofit exists to serve Filipino and immigrant families with programs honoring cultural identity, community connection and resilience.

The organization rose in response to the needs that surfaced after the August 2023 Lahaina wildfire. In the wake of the tragedy, many Filipino families—some of whom have lived in Lahaina for genera-

tions—found themselves navigating unfamiliar systems while dealing with unimaginable loss. Language barriers, cultural gaps and limited access to resources made recovery especially difficult. Kaibigan ng Lahaina stepped in with a vision not just to assist but to uplift—with empathy and understanding at the core of every effort.

Their work is guided by Filipino values: *Malasakit* (deep care), *Bayanihan* (communal unity) and *Pakikipagkapwa* (shared humanity). Through programs like *Sawali* (resource navigation), *Amin* (mental health), *Waya* (workforce development) and *Ili* (cultural

education), they have supported over 1,600 families—and continue to expand their reach.

One of the most joyful expressions of their mission is the “Lahaina Palengke Night,” a lively and healing community gathering designed to celebrate Filipino culture and revitalize small businesses. The June 2025 event at Lahaina Cannery Mall featured more than twenty Filipino and immigrant-owned vendors, music, traditional dances, karaoke and a host of community resources—all free and open to the public. For many, it was a moment to reconnect and feel hope again.

As one vendor shared, being there “gave us back life, joy, and togetherness.” That sentiment echoed through the night—smiles on faces, old friends reunited and children dancing to familiar tunes. Mae Ann, who runs the popular Tagpuan food truck, summed it up beautifully: “A thriving Lahaina is this—our community coming together and helping one another.”

Kaibigan ng Lahaina continues to focus on long-term healing. With support from the Hawai'i Community Foundation and other partners, they are working toward establishing a permanent community resource center—ensuring culturally relevant services remain accessible long after emergency relief fades.

Their story is one of thoughtful connections. They remind us that to truly help others, we must see them, hear them, and walk with them—not just during times of crisis, but through the everyday work of rebuilding lives.

In this time of uncertainty and transition, let us re-



One of the most joyful expressions of their mission is the Lahaina Palengke Night, a lively and healing community gathering designed to celebrate Filipino culture and revitalize small businesses.

IMAGE COURTESY KAIBIGAN NG LAHAINA

member the power of connection. Let us choose to show up with care, to build bridges with the heart and to carry the spirit of Kaibigan—friendship—with us always. Because by connecting with care, we cultivate meaningful community. And that, truly, is the heart of who we are.

For more information about Kaibigan ng Lahaina, visit their website at [kaibigannglahaina.org](http://kaibigannglahaina.org). ✨

**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, and is a Maui sunsets catcher; crazy about rainbows and an end Alzheimer's advocate. Her life is full and exciting here on 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*.



The Filipino Catholic Club of Maria Lanakila Church in Lahaina shared their folk dances during Palengke Night to encourage the Lahaina community.

PHOTO COURTESY ELIZABETH WHITEHEAD

## Dinengdeng ...

from p. 5

to fly, use x-ray and heat (now laser) vision and be invulnerable to most things. His one weakness would be radioactive remnants of his home planet Krypton (and don't even start with all the different colored Kryptonite and how they affected him).

Superman was always a bit hokey—after all, he disguised his secret identity by wearing glasses and combing away his hair curl. And his bright colleagues at the Daily Planet (originally the Daily Star)—

Perry White, Jimmy Olsen, Lois Lane, Steve Lombard—never quite figured out why Clark Kent is always running off just before Superman shows up to save the day.

Tropes including a bevy of female friends with “L.L.” initials: his girlfriend and eventual wife Lois Lane, high school sweetheart Lana Lang, mermaid Lori Lemaris. His main opponent was another “L.L.” — Lex Luthor, the corporate evildoer against the hero of the common man.

At some point, Superman became protector of the status quo U.S. justice system and

**“... I'd like to see masked ICE agents raid the Daily Planet and try and deport him [Superman] from Metropolis.”**

— GIL S.C. KEITH-AGARAN

white bread American way of life. Batman, the great masked vigilante who operates outside of the system—with Police Commissioner Jim Gordon and others looking the other way

at Bruce Wayne's illegal tactics—I think, would somewhat derisively coin “Big Blue Boy Scout.”

But given the modern cultural divide, I'm not surprised that some movie-goers might be offended by this stranger in a strange land operating without the proper papers. Certainly, don't tell them there's, a Supergirl (his cousin Kara Zor-El) with similar powers but with a drinking problem, a Power Girl who isn't the demure sidekick, a Communist Chinese Superman, some adopted alien Super Friends teens, a gay Superman Jr. (Jo-

nathan Kent), and Lana Lang and Lois with Super powers.

In the war years, Superman also fought “Nazis.” Of course a lot of American Super Heroes would fight the Axis Powers until someone questioned why the allies didn't win the war earlier if the Justice Society was on our side and the powers that be decreed that magic prevented our heroes from taking active parts in the European and Pacific war campaigns. So I naturally would expect that Superman has a problem with fascist tendencies in government.

In one comic book storyline, Lex Luthor becomes President of the United States. Superman has some challenges in navigating that space—knowing the voters elected a villain to head up the country. That's comic books (graphic novels for you politically correct folks). It would never happen in real life.

But I'd like to see masked ICE agents raid the Daily Planet and try and deport him from Metropolis. ✨

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran's** practices law in Wailuku. He still reads some comic books and watches movies adapted from graphic novels. Keith-Agaran has always been a fan-boy of American-born sociopath Batman more than illegal alien Superman.



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