

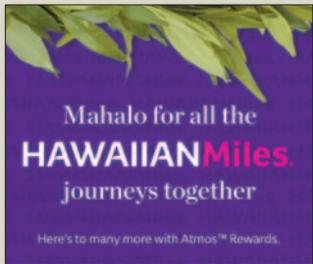


Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

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inside



Fil-Am Voice queries the Alaska+Hawaiian merger. **p1**



Alba looks at camping workshop as a gateway to confidence-building. **p6**



Walking with joy helps manage stress, says Kwento-Kwentuhan writer. **p13**

Alaska + Hawaiian: Questions and Answers

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR

Airplanes link our island the way ferries and bridges connect other places.

I remember my first trip on an airplane. I was around five years old. I was with my Mom and we were onboard a Hawaiian Airlines propeller plane traveling to Hilo to attend a funeral. It was a bumpy ride and yes, I threw up. Over the years, air travel became less bumpy as technology improved. Our family periodically travelled to O’ahu to attend family gatherings. Our church youth choir traveled to Kaua’i and O’ahu. My high school debate and speech teams traveled to O’ahu for tournaments.

I think my first trip to the mainland was as a senior in high school to attend a church conference—the Episcopal Asian-American Strategic Task Force (E.A.S.T.) conference in San Diego via Western Airlines. Later in the summer of 1976, our church youth choir (which had evolved into a Filipino Folk Dance troupe) toured the West Coast—first on Canadian Pacific Airlines then United Airlines. At the end of the trip, I flew on a United Airlines flight to Chicago



The joining of Alaska Airlines with Hawaiian Airlines brings up many questions. We hope to answer the important ones.

PHOTO COURTESY HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

and then hopped on a now defunct small carrier to attend Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin. At Ripon, it amazed me many of my classmates had never flown in an airplane; a classmate from Pittsburgh traveled to Wisconsin via train. When I transferred to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, I flew United Airlines (tears would well up in my eyes when I heard Honolulu City Lights while boarding) and sometimes Hawaiian Airlines, whose terminal at that time was

separate from LAX.

After graduation from law school, my interisland work travel was primarily through Aloha Airlines although at one time my boss purchased me a pass on Mid Pacific Air which featured prop planes and jets. Mid Pacific Air folded and in 2008, Aloha Airlines followed suit—and I was upset because I was saving my AlohaPass miles for a future trip to the mainland. With Aloha Airlines’ bankruptcy, the consumers lost all their mileage points.

I get it that it’s tough to run an airline but after the failed interisland ferry that apparently Hawai’i is still paying for, airline travel is the only way to go between the islands.

In December 2023, the Alaska Air Group (the flagship of the 49th state) announced the acquisition of Hawaiian Airlines (the flagship of the 50th state). Personally, I was concerned because I didn’t want to lose any of my Hawaiian Miles. So I thought an acquisition (or a merger, depending on whose viewpoint) would be best instead of a third bankruptcy by Hawaiian Airlines.

The merger was completed in September 2024 and now—one year later—the integration is becoming more visible to consumers.

In early September, Diana Birkett Rakow was introduced as the new CEO of Hawaiian Airlines, effective October 29. Rakow will be based in Honolulu, one of the seven hubs of Alaska Air Group (Seattle, Honolulu, Portland, Anchorage, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco). Rakow has been with the airlines for eight years and

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Miles ...

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previously worked at Group Health and Kaiser Permanente. Educated at Harvard and the University of Washington, Rakow was previously a health policy advisor for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee. She will continue to report to Ben Minicucci, CEO of Alaska Air Group.

Prior to the announcement of Rakow's promotion, the news was abuzz with the announcement the mileage programs of both Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines would become "Atmos."

With many so-called experts

posting on their own websites as to what they thought would happen, *The Fil-Am Voice* contacted Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines for information and we received responses to our questions from Alex Da Silva, Regional Communications Director-Hawai'i and Jacob Aki, Senior Public Affairs Manager.

The questions covered a range of topics such as routes, operations, mileage, and employees.

The Fil-Am Voice: *It's been reported some Hawaiian Airlines routes will be canceled, including Boston. Which routes are affected and when? Will Alaska offer alternatives?*

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: In August we an-

nounced the suspension of Honolulu-Incheon (South Korea), Honolulu-Fukuoka (Japan), and Honolulu-Boston service. Final flights will be Nov. 19 from Fukuoka and Boston to Honolulu, and Nov. 21 from Incheon to Honolulu. Impacted guests will be offered re-accommodation or refunds.

These changes allow us to redeploy aircraft to strengthen service between Honolulu and Sydney, Papeete, Los Angeles, Seattle, and other high-demand markets.

- Honolulu-Sydney: increased to daily flights (Dec. 18-Jan. 31)
- Honolulu-Papeete: second weekly flight beginning March

- Honolulu-Los Angeles: fifth daily flight during peak periods (Nov. 21-Dec. 1, Dec. 19-Jan. 6)
- Honolulu-Seattle: fourth daily flight (late Nov.-mid-April)

Hawaiian Airlines guests can continue to fly between Hawai'i and Incheon or Fukuoka via one-stop itineraries through Hawaiian's other Japan destinations, including twice-daily Honolulu-Haneda and daily Osaka services, and partner carriers, including oneworld alliance members. Hawaiian Airlines will also launch nonstop flights five times a week between Seattle and Incheon on Sept. 12. Between Honolulu and Boston, guests can connect daily

on Alaska Airlines' flights via Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and San Diego.

The Fil-Am Voice: *Japan and Korea are major markets. Are there additional changes?*

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. Honolulu-Incheon and Honolulu-Fukuoka flights will end in November. However, we will continue 14 weekly flights to Tokyo Haneda and maintain Osaka service.

The Fil-Am Voice: *Hawaiian once flew to Manila. Are there plans to bring that route back under the merger?*

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: There are no current plans to resume Honolulu-Manila service. However, through our partnership with Philippine Airlines, guests can still conveniently travel to Manila on nonstop flights from Honolulu, Seattle, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. These flights can be booked on alaskaair.com, with Atmos Rewards points earned and redeemed.

The Fil-Am Voice: *Will direct Maui-Las Vegas flights continue?*

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. Direct Maui-Las Vegas service will continue.

The Fil-Am Voice: *Late flights from O'ahu to Maui were a challenge last year. Now that weekday 9:30 p.m. flights have returned, will they continue?*

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. We intend to keep late-night interisland flights. Neighbor island residents told us this service is essential for attending evening events on O'ahu without overnight stays, and we are committed to maintaining this access.

The Fil-Am Voice: *Some reports suggest only Hawaiian will operate in Hawai'i. Can you clarify?*

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: The long-term plan is for Hawaiian Airlines to operate all flights to, from and between the Hawaiian Islands under the combined company.

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This transition will take several years to complete.

The Fil-Am Voice: Are there plans to expand or improve premier lounges across Hawai'i and the West Coast?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. Hawaiian currently operates premier clubs on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i island, and Kaua'i, in addition to the Plumeria Lounge in Honolulu. A new flagship premium lounge at Honolulu's Daniel K. Inouye International Airport is scheduled to open in 2028, located in the Mauka Concourse and significantly larger than existing spaces.

Alaska Lounges are available in Anchorage, JFK, Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle, with new lounges planned for Honolulu and San Diego.

The Fil-Am Voice: Have Alaska and Hawaiian Airlines operations been co-located at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. Hawaiian has moved check-in operations to Terminal 6, co-locating with Alaska. This provides faster access between check-in, gates, and baggage claim, making travel more seamless.

The Fil-Am Voice: Will aircraft configurations change on mainland routes?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Our fleet strategy will continue to use the Boeing 737 MAX, A321neo, and A330 aircraft across transpacific and mainland markets.

The Fil-Am Voice: Will premier members still have a dedicated check-in line?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. Preferred check-in lines for status members will remain in place.

The Fil-Am Voice: What happens to HawaiianMiles members under Atmos?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: HawaiianMiles accounts will transition into Atmos on October 1. Miles con-

vert 1:1 into Atmos points, preserving their value. Balances will merge into Atmos profiles, and members can redeem them at the same value.

The Fil-Am Voice: How do Atmos tiers compare to Hawaiian's tiers?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Atmos offers four tiers:

- Atmos Silver (20,000 pts) ~ Pualani Gold
- Atmos Gold (40,000 pts) ~ Pualani Platinum
- Atmos Platinum (75,000 pts)
- Atmos Titanium (100,000 pts)

The Fil-Am Voice: Does it take more flights or segments to achieve status now?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Not necessarily. Atmos offers three ways to accrue points—mileage, revenue, or segment-based—so members can choose the method that best fits their travel habits. Elite members also earn bonus points, making status accessible in multiple ways.

The Fil-Am Voice: Are award levels for Hawai'i-mainland flights the same as before?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. Core award levels remain consistent with HawaiianMiles.

The Fil-Am Voice: Do West Coast and East Coast flights require the same number of points?

Alaska Airlines+Hawai-

ian Airlines: No. Atmos uses dynamic pricing, so East Coast flights generally require more points than West Coast—similar to HawaiianMiles.

The Fil-Am Voice: Will status earned in 2025 carry into 2026?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. Any status achieved in 2025 will be honored through the 2026 program year.

The Fil-Am Voice: What happens to Hawaiian Airlines credit cards?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Existing Hawaiian Airlines credit cards (issued through Barclays) remain active and will now earn Atmos points.

Balances cannot transfer from Hawaiian Airlines credits cards to new Atmos cards. All Atmos cards are issued as Visa through Bank of America. Spending bonuses apply only to new purchases, not balance transfers.

The benefit of two free checked bags when purchasing tickets directly on Hawaiian or Alaska with your card will continue.

The Fil-Am Voice: Were Hawaiian Airlines union employees guaranteed job security?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. All union positions were preserved.

The Fil-Am Voice: What

see MILES p.4

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From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Essential for healthy relationships

It is safe to say forgiveness and reconciliation are always extremely hard and sensitive topics but are essential for healthy relationships with family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. How do you forgive and reconcile with someone who has wronged you and with unrepentant and unapologetic heart? Forgiveness is a very personal decision to release someone from hurtful actions, often for one's own well-being and freedom from bitterness. It is an internal act focusing on the person who is hurt and it does not require the offender to apologize or change their behavior. Forgiving someone regardless of the offenders' lack of repentance can be a gift to oneself, to overcome bitterness and achieve emotional well-being. It is

a way of taking the burden of resentment off yourself. What do you do after forgiving someone who has offended you? The simple answer is reconciliation. This may be harder to achieve and navigate but it is essential to one's relationship with others. It starts with humility and grace. Reconciliation is a mutual, active process of rebuilding damaged relationships requiring the offenders' apology and sincere repentance, as well as your willingness to restore trust and connection with both parties to work through the issues, though it is not always possible but it is worth a try.

Bishop Desmond Tutu eloquently and profoundly said, "Forgiving and being reconciled to our enemies or our loved ones are not about pretending

that things are other than they are. It is not about patting one another on the back and turning a blind eye to the wrong. True reconciliation exposes the awfulness, the abuse, the hurt, the truth. It could even sometimes make things worse. It is a risky undertaking but in the end it is worthwhile, because in the end only an honest confrontation with reality can bring real healing. Superficial reconciliation can bring only superficial healing." Before Nelson Mandela of South Africa was arrested in 1962, he was an angry, relatively young man. He founded the ANC's military wing. When he was released from prison and became the president of his nation, he surprised everyone because he was talking about reconciliation and forgiveness and not about revenge. We can all learn from these two iconic leaders, how to bring true peace, unity and joy when we subscribe to and extend grace to all people. We must not only speak about forgiveness and reconciliation but we must also act on these principles.

Why are forgiveness and reconciliation so important? That is because it is God's commands. In Biblical context, the Holy Bible emphasizes God's foundational act of reconciling the world to Himself through Christ which serves as the model for human reconciliation and the command to forgive others as God has forgiven us. This is a key principle explicitly mentioned in the Bible at Ephesians 4:32: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you." This biblical instruction calls us to be kind, compassionate and forgiving towards others, mirroring God's own forgiveness. The world will be a better place for us and the generations to follow when we subscribe to these key principles of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace. Lord, let peace begin with me! *

VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

Miles ...

from p. 3

about non-union employees?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Some non-union positions have been eliminated due to duplicative natures. We are supporting affected employees with severance payments and career transition resources.

The Fil-Am Voice: Do union employees lose seniority or benefits?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: No. Seniority and benefits will be preserved and union workgroups for both Alaska and Hawaiian have begun joint collective bargaining negotiations.

The Fil-Am Voice: Will employee and retiree flight benefits continue?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. Flight benefits remain unchanged.

The Fil-Am Voice: What positive changes can Hawai'i-based customers expect?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: A larger network, more schedule options, late-night interisland flights, expanded lounge access, upcoming refurbished cabins on the Airbus A330s, our Huaka'i by Hawaiian resident travel program, and Atmos Rewards with more partners and flexibility.

The Fil-Am Voice: What about fares?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Fares will continue to reflect demand, route, and season. Our focus is adding seats and options where demand is highest, which helps keep fares competitive, along with promotions for Hawai'i residents.

The Fil-Am Voice: What about on-board food?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: We will continue to offer local favorites on Hawai'i routes while expanding pre-order and seasonal menu options.

The Fil-Am Voice: What about in-

see MILES p.11



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Then-Lt. Governor Brian Schatz (now Senior Hawaii U.S. Senator) attended the 2011 Maui Fair.



Kahului Hongwanji Mission volunteers cooking chicken hekka at the 2013 Maui Fair.



Kahului Hongwanji Mission chicken hekka booth volunteers at the 2013 Maui Fair.

DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

A Maui Community Tradition on the Brink of Reviving

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

If there's a Ferris Wheel, I'll be at the Maui [County] Fair sometime between October 2-5 next month.

Since moving home in the early 1990s, taking a Big Wheel ride with my mom (and later my wife) became an annual tradition. At some point, the Maui Fair Alliance had taken on organizing and running the Fair—probably after the leadership of the venerable Maui County Fair and Racing Association (and its subsequent non-profit successor), as we former Jaycees say, “roostered out.” I’m too young to have seen it but they appar-

ently did have horse races at the Kahului Fairgrounds way back when.

But as the Fair approached one hundred years, Covid happened. After the October 2019 event, the Maui Fair Alliance began canceling the event. The Alliance cancelled the Fair for two years during the pandemic. The next three years got nixed due to various challenges—E.K. Fernandez had difficulties bringing the expected rides and games to the neighbor island fairs (and even some traditional Honolulu events passed on including the conventional Joy Zone), prob-

lems getting commitments from various volunteers and community partners (the greying of community volunteers probably played a big part) and other issues. The Alliance announced last year it was formally dissolving after canceling the Fair for a fifth straight year. It appeared the Fair would end short of its 100th event.

Coordinating all the effort—herding volunteers, getting sponsors, security and the joy zone provider, lining up food and other vendors, handling contracts, storing equip-

see DINENGDENG p.9

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Amaya-Lynne Badillo

Camping is more than just a getaway; it's an opportunity for personal growth, stepping beyond your comfort zone and forming lasting connections with others, nature and yourself. From August 21 to 23, the Maui High School's Executive Council, alongside the Student Activities Coordinator, initiated a leadership camp at Camp Maluhia. This event aimed to bring student leaders together to collaborate, connect and gain valuable experiences they could carry back to their clubs, school and the broader community. The leadership camp featured engaging group activities designed to encourage teamwork and share ideas. In addition, guest speakers, including State Senator Troy Hashimoto, were invited to share their leadership journeys and inspire the next generation of leaders.

Amaya-Lynne Badillo was a participant in the leadership camp and from her experience, she shares she had a great experience, especially since it was her first time attending. "It was very fun spending time with others and learning how to become a better leader in the end," she said. Throughout the camp, Amaya gained more confidence and noted it helped her step out of her comfort zone. An area she wishes to continue



Moani Valite

to improve is her communication skills, particularly with larger audiences. "I will say I am still not as talkative when it comes to bigger group sessions but I am still working on that," she admitted. As she continues to progress, during the camp Amaya learned the importance of always taking initiative because if not, "your words do not get out there," and to always be open-minded to ensure everyone's ideas are respected and heard.

Meanwhile, **Moani Valite's** takeaway from the leadership camp was understanding how essential teamwork and communication are to learning and building confidence in ourselves. She explained the camp helped her progress by teaching her how to manage responsibilities more effectively and how to work with a variety of people. Reflecting on her time at Camp Maluhia, she said, "I had a great experience. I got to build my leadership skills and work with new people." Overall, Moani's experience at the leadership camp not only strengthened her leadership skills but also reinforced the importance of collaboration and effective communication in building both confidence and success.

From **Angello Alvarez'** point of view, however, he de-



Angello Alvarez

scribes the leadership camp as a "truly valuable and enriching experience" that went beyond his expectations. He highlights the well-organized structure of the camp, from the engaging leadership workshops and the fun team-building activities to the thoughtful details like the nutritious meals. What stood out to him the most was the strong sense of connection and unity amongst his group. "We weren't just peers," he said, "but truly became one team through collaboration and friendship." During these hands-on experiences, Angello was able to reinforce what he learned and gained more confidence in his ability to lead and work with others. Beyond the skills and structured activities, Angello found the most impactful part of the camp to be the friendships he built. "Before, I would just see many of these people around school," he explained, "but after collaborating and interacting with them, I feel much closer—not only as classmates but as fellow leaders in our community."

The leadership camp at Camp Maluhia was more than just a three-day retreat—it was a meaningful experience that encouraged personal growth, built lasting confidence and fostered strong connections among see **GOOGLE IS NOT EVERYTHING** p.12

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Let's Talk Pinoy!



Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

In some parts of the world, September signals the arrival of autumn, back to school and the gradual winding down of the year. But in the Philippines, it marks something far more festive: the beginning of the Christmas season. As soon as the “ber” months begin, Filipinos usher in a joyful, months-long celebration reflecting the country’s deep faith, strong family ties and love for tradition.

By September 1st, malls begin playing Christmas carols, homes and streets start to sparkle with *parol* lanterns and

lights. Filipino radio stations revisit the beloved song of José Mari Chan—the unofficial voice of Filipino Christmas. The song starts with these lyrics: *Whenever I see boys and girls selling lanterns on the street, I remember the child in the Manger as he sleeps ...* This early start is not just a quirky tradition; it’s a cultural expression of warmth, hope and resilience. In a country

that has faced many hardships, natural disasters, economic challenges and more—Christmas offers a season-long reminder of joy, generosity and community.

More than just a countdown to December 25th, the Filipino Christmas season starting in September reflects the nation’s identity. It blends faith, festivity and family, making this month more than just a transition from

summer to the end of the year. For Filipinos, September is the joyful drumroll to the most anticipated celebration of all—Christmas. Are you ready for it?

Shout out to all the September babies! We have the most birthdays in this month! Do you know why? Because it’s cold in December when they were conceived ... Happy birthday to Keilah and Deja, Mana (our fur baby), Velma Coloma, Arissa Kira, Ernesto Casabay, Mando Domion, Ferdinand Cajiagal, Debbie Butay, Julia Impellido-Butay, Imelda Ulep, Gil

Keith-Agaran, Didi Hamai, Michelle Santos, Ofelia Pascual and an extra extra shout out to my mom, Dolly Butay. Happy, Happy birthday to you! *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Tagalog) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ilokano) *Makapagayaya nga aggaw na nikeyana mu!* (Ibanag) *Masayang kebaitan queca!* (Kapampangan) *Masadya gid nga adlaw sa imo pagkatawo!* (Ilonggo)

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

FOR A LONG MOMENT, no one spoke. The faint crackle of the call was the only sound, the silence heavy but not empty-full of everything they could not yet put into words.

Finally, Lena exhales shakily, her sobs softening. “Are you doing fine there, *akon anak* (my child)? When you come home,” she says, voice trembling but filled with hope, “we will make *adobo* just the way you like it. And we will sit together at the table, all of us, together again.”

Angel closes her *mata* (eyes) briefly, imagining it—the smells, the laughter, the warmth of their *kamay* (hands). When she opens them again, her *pahiyum* (smile) is steady. “I’ll hold you to that, *inahan* (mother).”

“I am *masaya* (happy) to see that you are safe, *ing anak ku*

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Mother	Nanay / Inay	Nanang / Inang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
Father	Tatay / Itay	Tatang / Itang	Amahan	Tatay	Yama	Tata
Hand	Kamay	Ima	Kamot	Kamot	Lima	Gamat
Smile	Ngiti	Issem	Pahiyum	Yuhom	Galo	Timan
Parents	Magulang	Nagannak	Ginikanan	Ginikanan	Magana	Pengari
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Nawom	Nawong	Muka	Lupa
Door	Pintuan	Ridaw	Lukub	Ganhaan	Puwerta	Pasbul
Eyes	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata

(my child). We are always thinking of you,” Lena says with *isem* (smile).

Angel is about to say something when she hears a loud knock from *puwerta* (door).

Knock ... knock ... knock ... She pauses and looks towards the *ganhaan* (door). The knocks are deliberate and heavy. She rises carefully, each step making the floor creak

louder than usual. Another round of knocks echo through the room—this time sharper, insistent.

“Angel,” Michael’s voice from the other side, low and

strained. “Are you awake?”

She hesitates at the *pintuan* (door) but she opens it anyway. “Michael?” she whispers back, barely loud enough to be heard.

“You are awake,” he says. He steps closer, “I could not sleep. I had to make sure you were safe. His *mata* (eyes) lingers on hers, his lips curve faintly, the shadow of a *timan* (smile) tugging at the corners.

Finally, she steps aside. “Come in before you wake up your *magulang* (parents).”

He enters quietly and closes the *pasbul* (door) behind him.

Michael’s gaze flicks to the glowing screen, the small square of her mother’s face still visible. The sound is muted but the faint outline of Angel’s family remains, waiting patiently on the other side of the call.

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 Miss Maui USA and Miss Maui Teen USA 2025 helped with the Feeding Program in August.

PHOTO COURTESY LINDSEY RODRIGUES



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

PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS



Get your "Takeout Tuesday" plate lunch before Oct. 7. Da grindz is broke-da-mout, don't missout!

IMAGE COURTESY BINHI AT ANI



COMMUNITY... IN ACTION

Compiled by Assistant Editor Alfredo G. Evangelista.
Send your community briefs to 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 deposit 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 August 31, 2025, a total of 38,407 lunches have been

distributed.

Teams serving during the month of August 2025 include Confederation International Association of Samahang Ilocano Group, 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 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.

Take Out Tuesday

On October 7, 2025, Binhi at Ani will hold a Take Out Tuesday fundraiser. Available for

purchase will be a steak plate (\$20), a bbq chicken plate lunch (\$20) (both plates served with steamed vegetables, *pansit*, rice and corn). Dessert is also available (4 banana *lumpia* and 6 *cas-caron* balls) (\$12). Pick up is available between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. Limited delivery to Kahului and Wailuku with a minimum order of five plates.

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

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

Saturday, October 18, 2025 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, October 19, 2025 from 8 a.m. to 12 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 Thursday, September 18, 2025 via www.passport.gov.ph)





MAUI

DATES:
 Saturday, 18 October 2025,
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Sunday, 19 October 2025,
 8:00 am - 12 Noon

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 **Thursday, 18 September 2025** on www.passport.gov.ph.

DUAL CITIZENSHIP:
 Email application form and supporting documents for evaluation to honolulu.pcg@dfa.gov.ph by **3 October 2025**. The Consulate will inform the applicant if the application is approved and when to mail the original for final vetting 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 **3 October 2025**. The Consulate will inform the applicant if the application is approved and when to mail the original for final vetting.

NOTARIALS (AFFIDAVIT, SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY):
 Appointments for the Maui outreach may be made through this link - <https://tinyurl.com/MAUIOUTREACHH2025> - starting 19 September 2025.



You're Cordially Invited To The
75TH ANNIVERSARY AND ANNUAL
DCFCC CONVENTION

Hosted By
Maui Council Of
Filipino Catholic Clubs

NOVEMBER 21-23, 2025
MAUI BEACH HOTEL
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII

Scan For Sign Up
 Deadline to submit registrations
 September 28, 2025

Consular outreach services will be on Saturday, Oct. 18 at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Annual DCFCC Convention is on November 21–23, 2025.

Dual Citizenship (Email application form and supporting documents for evaluation to Honolulu.pcg@dfa.gov.ph by October 3, 2025.

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 October 3, 2025).

Notarials (Affidavit, Special Power of Attorney) (Appointments may be made via <https://tinyurl.com/MAUIOUTREACH2025> beginning September 19, 2025.

MAUI COUNCIL OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUBS

Maui will host the 75th Annual Convention of the Diocesan Congress of Filipino Catholic Clubs (DCFCC) from November 21–23, 2025. Themed “Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future,” the convention coincides with the global Jubilee Year 2025—declared by Pope Francis as a time of renewal



and pilgrimage under the banner of “Pilgrims of Hope.” The history of the FCC in Hawai‘i traces back to the vision of Msgr. Osmundo Calip, who in the 1950s recognized the need for a united network of Filipino Catholic lay organizations to strengthen parish life, support vocations, and preserve cultural heritage. His leadership and pastoral care laid the foundation for a movement that continues to flourish through generations.

The convention will open on November 21 with a pilgrimage to Our Lady Queen of Angels Church in Kula, where pilgrims will join a walking prayer through the outdoor Stations of the Cross and the Divine Mercy grotto. That evening, attention turns to the next generation at St. Anthony Church in Wailuku, where national youth speaker Aries Patulot will lead a dynamic youth and young adult event. Known for his powerful message of hope and reconciliation, Patulot will inspire participants to embrace their faith, heritage, and leadership in the

Church’s future.

On Saturday, November 22, the morning begins with the general assembly at St. Theresa Church in Kihei, a time for prayer, fellowship, and convention business. Pilgrims will then journey to Maria Lanakila Church in Lahaina—miraculously spared during the 2023 wildfire—for prayer and reflection. This visit will stand as a moving witness of resilience and hope for Maui and the Filipino Catholic community. The day culminates with a gala dinner celebration at the Maui Beach Hotel, honoring the legacy of 75 years while looking ahead to the next chapter.

The convention concludes on Sunday, November 23 with a Closing Mass at Christ the King Church in Kahului, sending forth delegates united in faith and mission as Pilgrims of Hope. This final liturgy will commission participants to continue living and sharing the Catholic faith with renewed joy and purpose across Hawai‘i.

Registration for the Convention is now open at: www.osvhub.com/stanthonymaui/forms/dfcc-registration-2025

Dinengdeng ...

from p. 5

ment to be used at future fairs and dealing with issues that came up—was a full-time job and Sherry Grimes handled it for many years.

I admit dismissing the announcement the County of Maui was providing funding to re-start the Fair (former Mayor Mike Victorino and former legislator Avery Chumbley, Alliance honchos, were unable to overcome the challenges following the pandemic.) But seeing the bones of the tents on the War Memorial Gym parking lot and the new food booths being constructed on the adjacent soccer field, it looks like the powers that be may be pulling this rabbit out of the hat.

Our long national nightmare is over.

I wish the County-subsidized organizers well. The Fair, at one time, was an important community gathering. It was a visible manifestation of the connections that bound our residents.

At both the old location and the War Memorial, various community groups served fair food. Christ the King offered *pansit* for American tastes. Malasadas, of course, from the Kiwanis (and Key Club members). Pronto pups from the Boy Scouts. Steaks from a soccer club. Chow Fun from Wailuku Hongwanji (if your kid was in the pre-school, you *voluntold* a shift or two under Wes Wong’s careful eye). Smoked meat from a canoe club. Chili and chili dogs from the Maui High band. It was touted as the biggest annual fundraising event for many local non-

profits.

E.K. Fernandez over time encroached on community food offerings (pizza, cotton candy, candied apples). And with connectivity expanding, fundraising through GoFundMe and other virtual efforts reflected the shift from group efforts to more individual money asks.

The fair was such a big thing that Maui treated fair weekend like a religious High Holiday. It was the only event for that block of time. A tradition like Easter, Memorial Day, Makawao Rodeo on July 4th weekend, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas. Even Maui Interscholastic League (MIL) football games used to take a “break” for the fair (coaches, county workers and MIL volunteers no doubt also working at the fair instead that weekend). Of course, there were only four teams then (Maui, Baldwin, Lahainaluna and St. Anthony). When the MIL added more schools (with their own stadiums), the fair break faded away.

But many a community leader made their bones as a chair of a Maui County Fair committee.

I grew up when MCFRA still held the event at the Fair Grounds off Pu‘unē Avenue. The parade route at that time started at War Memorial and wound its way downhill past Kahului Shopping Center, the old Bank of Hawai‘i, Maui Clinic and the Kahului Armory (McDonald’s opened at some point during that era). I walked the parade with my boy scouts and cub scouts troop as a kid and dutifully stood along the route through high school to watch friends, and later nephews and nieces in the

see DINENGDENG p.16

Ti Biag ken Pammati

“Life and Faith”

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 16:1–13):

Jesus said to his disciples, A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, “What is this I hear about you! Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.” The steward said to himself, “What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.” He called in his master’s debtors one by one. To the first he said, “How much do you owe my master?” He replied, “One Hundred measures of olive oil.” He said to him, “Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.” Then to another the steward said, “And you, how much do you owe?” He replied “One hundred kors of wheat.” The steward said to him, “Here is your promissory note, write one for eighty.” And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently. For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones, and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If therefore, you are not trustworthy with dis-



Bishop Larry Silva celebrated his 50th Priestly Anniversary with all the Priest, Deacons & Religious of the Maui Vicariate, at St Anthony Church on August 29th.



Priests and Deacons gather, who attended Bishop Larry Silva 50th Anniversary Mass celebration.

Does God Trust Us?

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS: MADDIE PASCUAL

honest wealth, who will trust you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon.

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

Does God trust us?

Maybe you have never been asked that question before or considered it on your own. Of course, it is always a little “iffy” when we ask these sorts of questions about God—as if we know what God is thinking. And even using such words to talk about God reduces God, in a certain sense, to someone like us, that is, attributes to Him the kinds of attributes we see in ourselves. Yet, words are all we have. If we are going to say anything about God we have to use human language, and by doing so, automatically

fall far short of the reality of God, the majesty of God, the mystery of God. That does not mean, however, we should simply throw up our hands and simply abandon these sorts of spiritual quest. Rather, we acknowledge the limits of language but forge ahead anyway—hoping to gain a little insight into that which is beyond all understanding. So I ask again—*Does God trust us?* It must be a pretty important question. After all, we just heard a lengthy and somewhat mysterious story about trust—a parable often called *The Unjust Steward*. And there is a lot going on in this story—stuff about proper stewardship, squandering, prudence, honesty and dishonesty—a whole array of things. Yet, Jesus seems to sum it up by telling his disciples they need to pick a side, pick a master, pick

whom they will serve. Put another way, Jesus alerts them to a deep truth—if they cannot be trusted with things that do not really matter, they cannot be trusted with things that matter. We are either on the right path or we are not. We are either trying our best to serve God or we are not. We are either serving God or serving something else that matters little. Put simply—either the world has our earth or God does. It cannot be both! So, back to my original question—*Does God trust us?*

I guess it matters what we mean by trust. If we mean God can always count on us to do the right thing, the good thing, the holy thing or that He can always count on us to follow through on the promises we make to Him, then of course not. God cannot trust we will never turn our backs on Him, will not ever disobey, will not ever sin. He knows that is simply not possible. But if we mean trust in the sense He never gives up on us, He never stops inviting us to be more than we were yesterday, He won’t ever stop entrusting us with continuing His mission, His work, His sanctification of the world, then we’d have to say He trusts us implicitly, continually, unconditionally, deeply. And He does that most

visibly by always respecting our freedom. We do not believe in a God who forces his will on us. Rather, He allows us to choose—that is, allows us to cooperate with His will or not, seek the good or not, love or not.

Do we deserve to have God put that sort of trust in us?

In one sense that scares me. Maybe even terrifies me. When I think about who God is and who I am, when I think about the things God is capable of, that is, anything and everything and what I am capable of seemingly little, when I think of how often I mess up, how often I fail, how often I do the opposite of what God wants, I have concluded God’s trust in me is misguided. He is asking for the wrong guy’s help. He is expecting too much. He is only going to be disappointed. And I am completely wrong when I think that way. Yes, I am certainly not going to be perfect. Yes, I will sometimes make a mess of things. Yes, sometimes I will find it difficult to love, to be kind, to be generous, to be merciful. All those things are true. Yet, God made me. In Love. In his image. With a dignity that cannot be forfeited. And God saw that it was good ...

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI p.12

Miles ...

from p. 4

flight entertainment?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Streaming to personal devices remains standard, with a broader library. Seatback systems will continue where available.

The Fil-Am Voice: Internet access?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Building off Hawaiian's position as an early innovator, Alaska will roll out Starlink Wi-Fi starting in 2026, with the full fleet equipped by 2027.

The Fil-Am Voice: Will customer service improve—especially

getting a "live voice"?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. We are focused on improving our call center experience for our guests.

The Fil-Am Voice: Is the Pualani logo going away?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: No. The Hawaiian Airlines brand, including the Pualani logo, will be preserved in perpetuity.

The Fil-Am Voice: Who is leading the new airline in Hawai'i? How will culture be protected?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Hawaiian Airlines is currently led by CEO Joe Sprague. Incoming Hawaiian Airlines CEO Diana Birkett Rakow

will take the helm on October 29 and lead Hawai'i operations, supported by a senior Hawai'i-based leadership team. We remain committed to cultural stewardship through our existing efforts to promote Hawaiian language and sponsorship of community programs.

The Fil-Am Voice: Will community giving continue—including to smaller nonprofits and groups outside O'ahu?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: Yes. Both airlines have strong records of community investment, and those commitments will continue statewide.

The Fil-Am Voice: Anything else for our Maui readers, espe-

cially the Filipino community?

Alaska Airlines+Hawaiian Airlines: We know how important travel is for staying connected. That's why we're committed to making every journey as seamless as possible, whether it's a trip to the West Coast, a visit to the Philippines through our partners, or a quick hop between islands. Our goal is to remain Hawai'i's most trusted airline, delivering safety, reliability, care, and a travel experience that honors the deep bonds our communities share across Hawai'i and beyond.

✳️ Assistant Editor **Alf-**

redo 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 Ilica.



Let's Talk Pinoy! | from p. 7

"You were talking to your magana (parents)?" he says softly, "I didn't mean to interrupt."

Angel shakes her head quickly, "No—it's fine. I finally connected to my ginikanan (parents)," she says, finally daring to meet his gaze.

The silence between them stretches, delicate as glass. Angel feels her chest tighten beneath the weight of Michael's gaze, her breath caught somewhere between a sigh and confession.

But before she could speak, a voice breaks the moment.

"Is that you Robby? Robert?" The voice comes from the phone. Angel's mother, still on the muted call, leans closer to her camera, squinting as though trying to peer through the screen.

Michael bears a striking resemblance to his Uncle Robert. If Lena mistakes him for Robert, does that mean they truly share a past? And if so, could it also mean Angel is actually his cousin?

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 Administration, specializing in Accounting, from the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu. She is cur-

rently 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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Ti Biag ken Pammati | from p. 10

That means whatever God is asking of me is possible because He is the one providing for all that I will need. He knows I can be so much more than what I have been so far. And He will not let me down. *ever.* But will I continue to let Him down, continue to put my trust in the world and worldly things rather than in the only one who deserves my trust, the only master worth serving? I guess what I should be ultimately asking all of us is—Do we trust ourselves? Do we honestly believe we have what

it takes to live a good, holy, fruitful life—the kind of life possible because God will be the one living through us, working through us, loving through us? And so, maybe today is a good day to also reflect on the words of the rich man in the Gospel passage from Luke. “Prepare a full account of your stewardship!”

What kind of steward have I been? Have I taken care of others as God would want me to? Have I treated the earth as the precious home it is? Do I use what I have to make the



The reception for Bishop Larry Silva's 50th Priestly celebration at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center was well-attended by many parishioners from all over Maui and Lānaʻi.

world a little more just, a little more kind, a little more peaceful, a little more forgiving? Do I go the extra mile, share an extra cloak, turn the other cheek, forgive seventy times seven times and every other thing that shows I have listened to and taken to heart the words of the Lord Jesus—our God who wants us to have the only kind of life worth living? Or am I serving something or someone else? It is time to choose. God always leaves that part to us. And we cannot

choose both no matter how we wish we could. My friends, God trusts us. Let us show him we can be trusted, with both the big stuff and the little stuff. Who knows what kind of beautiful world we might help bring about?

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.



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

student leaders. Through interactive workshops, team-building activities and shared challenges, participants like Amaya, Moani and Angello were able to step out of their comfort zones and develop essential leadership skills. From learning to communicate effectively to understanding the value of teamwork, each student left camp with new perspectives and a stronger sense of purpose. As they return to their roles at Maui High, they carry with them not just memories but valuable lessons that will continue to guide them as confident, collaborative and ca-

pable leaders in their school and community. ✨

Google® Is Not Everything ... is a monthly column 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 member of the 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.



Kwento Kwentuhan

The Joy of Walking

Liza A Pierce of "A Maui Blog" | PHOTOS: LIZA PIERCE

As the holiday season approaches (it's already a *BER* month and we Filipinos know what that means), many of us are beginning to feel the rush of endless to-do lists, gatherings and commitments. While this season is filled with joy, it can also bring added stress.

So how do we handle stress? One of the simplest yet most effective ways is walking. Walking is not just exercise—it's therapy for the soul. It clears the mind, lowers stress, and gives us a chance to pause, breathe, and reconnect with what truly matters.

Here on Maui, we are especially blessed. Walking isn't limited to sidewalks and city streets. Our island offers some

of the most breathtaking coastal walks in the world, where we can enjoy fresh air, scenic beauty and moments of peace by the ocean. Depending on where you live or work, at least one or two of these walks are just minutes away.

Wailea Coastal Walk

This two-mile path stretches in front of the Wailea resorts and is easy to access from Polo Beach, Wailea Beach or Ulua Beach. The paved walkway makes it perfect for all ages, with ocean views at every turn. If you're lucky, you may even spot *honu* (sea turtles) or dolphins along the way. Don't forget a small beach bag—ending your walk with a dip in the ocean is the ultimate reward.

Kā'anapali and Lahaina Coastal Walk

At 1.4 miles, this is one of Maui's most popular walkways. Beginning at the Sheraton in Kā'anapali, it winds past some of West Maui's most famous beaches. It can get crowded around midday and sunset, so going earlier in the day makes for a more peaceful stroll.

Kapalua Coastal Walk

This gentle two-mile trail offers stunning shoreline views and unique lava rock formations. The scenery is worth every step but bring sunscreen—shade is limited here.

Honolua Bay Footpath

For something different, try this short but enchanting walk through a lush old-growth forest. You'll pass towering trees, moss, jungle vines and tropical plants before arriving at Honolua Bay, one of Maui's most beautiful snorkeling spots.

Keālia Pond Coastal Boardwalk

Located along Kīhei's Sugar Beach, this flat wooden boardwalk is part of a wildlife refuge and offers a peaceful setting for birdwatching. Informative signs along the path explain the importance of this wetland sanctuary, home to endangered species and migratory birds from as far away as Asia and North America.

My suggestion? Don't wait for stress to pile up before you start walking. Begin now. Make walking a habit. That way, when life feels busy and overwhelming this holiday season, you'll already be used to stepping outside, breathing deeply and finding refreshment in the simple act of walking.

So, my friends, let's remember sometimes the best gift we can give ourselves is

Ulua Beach Front is one of the entrances to the path at the Wailea Coastal Walk Path.

PHOTO COURTESY LIZA PIERCE



Lydia Coloma, Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Maka walk at the Central Maui Regional Sports Complex.

PHOTO: GIL KEITH-AGARAN



Wailea Coastal Walk is full of scenic surprises that will fulfill your day before it has even begun.

PHOTO COURTESY LIZA PIERCE

time to walk, breathe, and enjoy the beauty around us. ✨

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*.

Sakada Offspring



BARROGA

Young Mauian newly elected SU treasurer

WASHINGTON — Believing that “inefficient bookkeeping leads to inefficient management,” Kenneth James Barroga, 20, is confident that he can fulfill the demands as newly elected treasurer of the Associated Students of Seattle University.

Barroga, a junior in business management from Kahului, won the treasurer's race handily at the Jesuit university with a coeducational enrollment of 2,933 students.

The Filipino-American upperclassman is also president of the Marketing Club, a resident assistant in Xavier Hall, active member of Hui O Nani (the Club of Beautiful Hawaii).

A 1970 graduate of St. Anthony's High School in Wailuku, Barroga is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Felipe C. Barroga of Lehua Street, Kahului.

Kenneth Barroga - College Days



Eusebia and Felipe Barroga celebrating the New Year.



Eusebia and Felipe Barroga Wedding Photo

Kenneth James Barroga

Lucy Peros | PHOTOS COURTESY THE BARROGA 'OHANA

most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Martin Luther King, Jr., an American minister and civil rights activist said: “Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education.” Brian Tracy, a Canadian American motivational public speaker and self-development author also said: “Continuous learning is the minimum requirement for success in any field.” A Tibetan Proverb says it all in a very simple way: “A child without education is like a bird without wings.”

This month's featured Sakada Offspring, Kenneth James Barroga deeply appreciates the sacrifices his *Sakada* parents, Felipe Barroga and Eusebia (Sylvia) Barroga made for him



Kenneth Barroga

and his brother in education.

Kenneth James Barroga was born in 1952 at the Maui Memorial Medical Center. According to Kenneth, he grew up in a small house on Kaho'okele Street. He used to walk himself

to go to school at Wailuku Elementary School, and later Īao Middle School. He remembered a teacher who helped him learn how to read. His parents worked a lot. He remembered his parents wanting him to learn English so he would not miss some conversations because they were not in English.

Kenneth graduated from St. Anthony High School and continued his education at Seattle University in Seattle, Washington where he received his Bachelor's Degree in

Business in 1974. He has been retired since 2020. Most of his work was in banking and investment management. The majority of his financial work was with Wells Fargo Bank. He worked himself up to Assistant

VP. He also worked for Washington Mutual and Chase Bank. He eventually ran his own financial advising company with his wife, Sarah Rice.

Kenneth has three sons from a prior marriage to Julia Bamford. They are strong healthy adults now. Devin, Ian and Andrew have each found themselves rewarding work. Kenneth is very proud of them.

Kenneth's older brother, Felipe Barroga, Jr. unfortunately passed away in 2012 and is survived by his wife Norma and three adult children—Philippe, Claire and Christine.

In his retirement, Kenneth served on a non-profit board and cared for their two horses and ranch. He and his wife Sarah travel as often as they can. They have travelled with her family to several countries. Currently, they are planning a trip to Cinque de Terra, Italy. Walk while you can and eat healthy is their motto for a long healthy life.

Kenneth's father, Felipe C. Barroga came to Maui with his



Group Picture at 2015 wedding



Kenneth and Felipe Barroga, Jr.

father in 1926. Felipe was 16 years old. The Barrogas were originally from Bantay, Ilocos Sur but moved to Camiling, Tarlac. Eusebia Barroga's parents were originally from Pidig, Ilocos Norte. Kenneth's grandfather and his father both arrived together to work for the sugar company. They lived in Pu'unēnē and were both field laborers. Five years later, Kenneth's grandfather returned to the Philippines while his father stayed back. He was twenty-one years old in 1933 and living on Maui on his own. Felipe worked hard. Because of his efforts to form a union for field laborers, however, he was told to leave the company.

Ambitious Felipe did not stay idle. After he left the field work, he became an entre-

preneur opening a pool hall business at Market and Vineyard St. in Wailuku. During World War II, he also added a taxi service to transport service members around the island. He was eventually hired by Maui Electric Company where he enjoyed his remaining work years.



Barroga family during first communion.

He retired at the age of sixty-two with pension. According to Norma, Kenneth's sister-in-law, Felipe was a very good storyteller, a very good cook and a good gardener. He was a talented fishnet maker. He even sold his fishnets he made at the old Valley Isle Hardware Store in Wailuku. He was a member of the United Sons and Daughters of the Ilocano Regions. Felipe passed away in 1996 and is buried at Maui Memorial Park Cemetery next to Kenneth's mother, who passed away in 2005.

Eusebia (Sylvia) grew up in Hāna, the daughter of a Chinese-Filipino immigrant and a Hawaiian father who was a *Kahuna* (Hawaiian healer / spiritual

leader). According to Kenneth, his father courted his mother by driving in a nice car along Hāna Highway, full of food for her family. Kenneth's father was a car salesperson then and he managed to arrive in a new car, impressing his future in-laws. There were several years between Kenneth's parents but that never created any problems.

After they were married, Eusebia (Sylvia) Augustin Barroga moved with Kenneth's father to Wailuku. Sylvia was a good seamstress. She sewed at home. At the same time, there was a woman from Germany who taught Sylvia how to drive so she could get to her new job as a pastry chef's assistant at the Sheraton Maui in Kā'anapali. "Life was exciting as a child as we got to eat the practice pastries. Yum," claims Kenneth. In addition, Kenneth mentions living in Wailuku in those days was great fun, play-

ing with neighbors and his cousins: "I even sold mangoes to the tourists on the buses at the Ūao Valley. The drivers always encouraged my sales and one even taught me how to serve the delicious fruit so his bus and the tourists stayed clean."

Kenneth shares his reflections about his father: *My father was all about hard work, living the American dream. Do good and live well. My father taught me how to successfully catch fish but he did not teach me his Philippine language. He shared what he thought would be most productive. Education in the American tradition was important to him, and he believed that would give his sons a leg up and flexibility to survive in a very competitive world. I thank him for this early decision because it did make a difference for me.* ✨

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.



The final three Maui Fairs (from left) before the Pandemic had the following themes: "Celebrating the Greatest Things in Life," "Celebrating the Good Ol' Days," and "Make Memories - Share Moments."

Dinengdeng ...

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Maui High band, color guard and cheerleaders march by.

I enjoyed wandering through the homemakers' building and looking at the

pies and cakes on display. I checked out the orchid display (and even bought a few for my mom who liked to have them). I admired the photography and student art event—it showed Maui had great eyes and talent (and art and photo teachers).

I was terrible at games but I would toss a few rings at soda bottles and dimes on the slippery Lucky Strike table as my annual contribution to E.K. Fernandez. My sister accumulated quite a number of large stuffed animals won for her by friends. It was a matter of pride to collect a toy in whatever game you played.

The main attraction—besides a lot of people watching and some of the nightly entertainment—was the joy zone. I remember being on what I think was called the skyline—really just a modified ski lift with a route above a portion of the fairgrounds allowing you to survey the people below. I gave up on the dizzying, vomit-inducing rides early in high school (my first real roller coaster ride came Senior year in college when we wandered away from campus to one of the Six Flags Amusement Parks).

A perk for volunteers was free entry for your shift. And if you really had connections, you could get parking behind Baldwin High School's campus. I generally parked at

Kaiser or the Cameron Center to support whichever non-profit had won handling those spaces.

A&B took back the land in 1989 to re-develop and MCFRA gave way to the Alliance moving the fair to the War Memorial complex instead. Returning home to Maui in the 1990s, I volunteered at the fair as a member of a Kiwanis club supervising High School key club members frying malasadas (yeah, we used bisquick pancake mix—aery sugared donuts when allowed to rise a bit before being drenched into the hot oil), put together batches of chicken *hekka* using a secret recipe passed down to Kahului Hongwanji Mission (white wine substituted for Sake), and did shifts selling drinks at soda booths, stirring chili for the Maui High band when a niece was a flag girl/color guard member, offering talk story evangelism and religious tracts at a church table, and surveying fair goers for the Focus Maui Nui project. I even volunteered as the designated "parent" for a niece who was a Maui High cheerleader at their ice cream stand (scooping frozen ice cream can build up your forearm and wrists over the

course of a weekend). And don't even bring up all the volunteering I did when you still had the Maui Jaycees Carnival as well.

So I certainly hope it happens. I think it may be difficult to draw as many of the old groups back—mainly because I expect a lot of those volunteers and organizers, are, well, old. In 2019, the Alliance didn't fill all forty-four of the food vendor slots. My sources assert there are no Key Clubs and Leos at the high schools anymore (something called Interact takes on community service projects now) and the Kiwanis and Lions have much smaller memberships, and the boy scouts have merged with the state organization.

But if there's flying saucers, malasadas, chili and some smoked meat, I can live with that. It may mean the community still sees the value of continuing tradition and re-building some of the connections local folks once felt so strongly. If the Good Lord's willing, and the creek don't rise *

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran practices law in Wailuku. He formerly represented Central Maui in the State Legislature and served in County and State government.



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