



# Fil·Am Voice

Magkaisa Tayong Lahat | “Let Us All Unite”

October 2025 • Vol IX No 10 | FILIPINO AMERICAN VOICE • UPLIFTING OUR COMMUNITY | FREE

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## Maui Welcomes New Consul General Arman R. Talbo

Alfredo G. Evangelista | ASSISTANT EDITOR | PHOTOS: BASILIA I. EVANGELISTA

Over three hundred Maui residents welcomed the new Philippine Consul General, Arman R. Talbo, during a Welcome Reception coordinated by Binhi at Ani on Friday, October 17, 2025.

The Welcome Reception was fittingly held during Filipino-American History Month.

In 2008, the Hawai'i Legislature passed a bill, later signed by Governor Linda Lingle, setting aside October of every year to “commemorate the contributions of Filipino-Americans to the history and heritage of Hawai'i and the United States.” Hawai'i became the first state in the country to pass a law officially designating October as Filipino-American History Month.

Here on Maui, since 2010, the County of Maui has raised the Philippine flag at the County building for the whole month of October. This year's Philippine flag raising festivities were officiated by Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr. and led by the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce and the Maui Filipino Community Council.

In welcoming the Consul



Binhi at Ani coordinated the welcome reception for Consul General Arman R. Talbo.

General, Binhi at Ani president Arnel Alvarez said “As a community, we are proud of the many contributions Filipino Americans have made—and continue to make—in all sectors of life here in Maui County. From agriculture and healthcare to education, business and public service, Filipinos have long played a vital role in shaping the past, present and future of these islands. And gatherings like tonight remind us of the importance of coming together to celebrate those contributions and strengthen our ties with

one another and with the Philippines.”

In his remarks, Consul General Talbo noted the efforts of those in the health care industry during the pandemic and acknowledged the recent arrival of the J1 teachers to teach in the Department of Education.

Consul General Talbo was on Maui as part of the Philippine Consulate General's outreach. He was accompanied by newly arrived Consul Elizabeth Ramos and staff from the Philippine Consulate: Lallaine Marie Uy, Hermogenes Cayabyab, Jr.,

Brenda Auro, Aeron Patrisse Isabel Frias and Elvira B. Perez.

The Consul General said it was important to make it easier for those residing on the neighbor islands to have access to consular services.

Consul General Talbo, who traces his roots to Santa Catalina, Ilocos Sur, noted his *Sakada* roots, including one of his ancestors who worked on Maui.

Consul General Talbo graduated from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City with degrees in Business Administration, Accountancy and Law. He passed both the CPA Board and Bar Examinations.

Consul General Talbo is a career diplomat with the rank of Chief of Mission II, with more than twenty years of experience.

Before arriving in Honolulu, he served as Deputy Consul General in New York, Vice Consul in Barcelona, and Second Secretary in the Philippine Embassy in Madrid.

In the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, Consul General served in the Office of Fiscal Management and the Office

see CONSUL p.2



**Consul General Talbo greets** Malia Davidson, representing Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.



**Consul General Talbo was pleased to see his law school classmate** Chito Ribao.



**Grelyn Rosario and Erlinda Rosario pose with the Consul General.**



**The Naragsak Dancers performed.**



**The J1 Cultural Group wowed the audience with their rendition of Isem, O Naraniag nga Bulan and Piliin Mo ang Pilipinas.**



**Dance International Foundation presented a Maria Clara dance.**



**Tinikling—the national dance of the Philippines.**

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## Consul ...

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of the Undersecretary for Administration. He also served as the Deputy Chief of Presidential Protocol and the Deputy Assistant Secretary and Executive Director of the Office of Consular Affairs.

He is a recipient of the *Gawad Mabini (Rank of Dakilang Kasugo)*, one of the highest awards bestowed on Filipino diplomats. Consul General Talbo also received the Presidential Medal of Merit for his exemplary service in the Office of the President.

As part of the celebration, organizations and businesses presented gifts/tokens of appreciation to the Consul General including: the Governor's office, represented by Governor Green's Maui liaison, Leon Bolosan; Vice Chair of the County Council Yuki Lei Sugimura; Binhi at Ani, represented by Arnel Alvarez; Ilocos Surian Association, represented by Meloticia Sta. Maria; Bahay Kubo Heritage Foundation, represented by Paulo Sabado; Maui Filipino Community Council, represented by Emerita Cortez; Phil-



**Consul General Talbo poses** with members of the Confederation International Association of Sama-hang Ilocano Group.



**Members of the Philippine Nurses Association Maui Hawaii** with Consul General Talbo.



**The Philippine Consulate General** conducted outreach on two days.



**One of the consular services provided** was dual citizenship, with the new citizens being sworn in by Consul Elizabeth Ramos.

ippine Nurses Association Maui Hawai'i, represented by Christine Gumpal and Jasmine Felipe; Dance International Foundation, represented by Madelyne Pascua; Sister City Foundation, represented by Christine Sabado; Mele Ukulele/Cheryl Rock, represented by Melen Agcolicol; Noble Travel, represented by Teresita Noble; and Nursing Care Hawai'i, represented by Nikki Baysa.

Maui was noted to have ten Sister City/County relationships with the Philippines: Zambales Province (established in 1968); Quezon City (established in 1970); Bacarra, Ilocos Norte (established in 1970); Santa, Ilocos Sur (established in 1991); San Juan, Ilocos Sur (established in 1991); Manila (established in 1994); Puerto Princessa, Palawan (established in 1999), Cabugao, Ilocos Sur (established in 2005); Sarrat, Ilocos Norte (established in 2005) and Badoc, Ilocos Norte (established in 2005).

After the presentations, the president of the Ilocos Surian Association of Maui, Meloticia Sta. Maria, led the traditional Mabuhay toast in honor of Consul General Talbo.

Entertainment was provided

by Sharon Zalsos Banaag, Broken Notes, Angelina Abapo Tamayo, Naragsak Dancers, the J1 Cultural Performers, and a collaboration between Madelyne Pascua of Dance International Foundation, Lawrence Pascua of La Galería: Compañía Baile Filipino and Keoni Manuel

of 'Aumakua Productions. Many thanks to the restaurant and caterers who donated their time and services to provide a free dinner: Melen Agcolicol of Four Sisters Catering (who coordinated all the food as well as donated certain food

see CONSUL p.4



**You are invited as my guest to a special Philippines investment opportunity event.**  
Refreshments will be provided.

**Saturday, November 15, 2025 | 11am to 1pm**  
Hosted at the Keller Williams office outside the Macy's at Queen Kaahumanu Ave.

Please mention you are attending as my guest upon arrival so we can sit together. I can assist you with this project or others if you are interested.

With Aloha,  
Jocelyn Moniz, R (S)  
Direct: 808-268-8433  
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## From the Editor's Desk

Vince Bagoyo, Jr.  
EDITOR • FIL-AM VOICE

# Our Hospital. Our Health.

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Maui is so blessed and we are thankful to have very dedicated staff at our hospital to take care of our health needs with compassion and commitment to excellence that continue to make a difference in the lives of our community. Anytime we need life-saving health care—our dedicated hospital staff is always ready to serve when the need arises.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the Maui Health System Foundation is hard at work to raise needed funds to support this essential work of the foundation by assisting breast cancer screenings to women needing financial support for this life-

saving program. We are truly blessed to have this important initiative by the Maui Health System Foundation.

Below is some brief information from the MHS Foundation about the breast cancer awareness project that is worthy of our support.

### **Kokua for a Cause - Saving Lives, Strengthening Community**

Maui is built on the spirit of Aloha—neighbors helping neighbors, families lifting one another up and communities coming together when it matters most. At the heart of this spirit stands the Maui Health Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that quality healthcare is accessible to everyone across Maui and Lānaʻi.

Founded in 1997, the Foundation

supports our island hospitals and clinics by funding critical equipment, programs and services. Through the generosity of donors and community partners, within the last seven years, over \$50 million was invested in the health and well-being of our people.

Among its most impactful efforts is **Kokua 4 a Cause**, a program providing life-saving breast cancer screenings for uninsured and underinsured women on Maui and Lānaʻi. Since 2005, Kokua 4 a Cause has helped more than 1,600 women receive mammograms and biopsies—over \$476,000 in assistance leading to earlier detection, better outcomes and lives saved.

This initiative is made stronger through partnership. Working with **Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center**, women from both islands are connected to screenings and follow-up care. For those living on Lānaʻi, the Foundation removes barriers by covering travel expenses. Each month, 8–10 women make the ferry trip from Lānaʻi to Maui, where not only are their

screenings funded but they are also welcomed with the simple comfort of a provided lunch. It is more than medical care—it is compassion in action.

Every dollar raised for Kokua 4 a Cause stays right here in Maui County, directly serving our community's women. Early detection saves lives and together, we can ensure no woman goes without the screenings she deserves because of cost or geography.

This October, we invite you to join us. Whether through a donation, spreading the word or supporting a participating business, your *kōkua* makes a difference. Together, we can continue this life-saving work and honor the spirit of community that makes Maui and Lānaʻi so strong.

To learn more or to give, visit [www.mauihealth.org/kokua](http://www.mauihealth.org/kokua). ✨

*Vince Bagoyo*  
VINCE BAGOYO, JR. | EDITOR

## Consul ...

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items), Randy's Catering, Maui Beach Hotel, Balai Pata, Paradise Supermart & Catering, B&V Marketplace, T-Ann-J Catering, Hayde Sim and Wena Gazmen. Monetary donations were received from McDonald's of Kahului, Chris Gutierrez, the Ilocos Surian Association and the Law Offices of Alfredo Evangelista. ✨

Assistant Editor  
**Alfredo G. Evangelista** was the Event Chair and Host of the Welcome Reception

tion for Consul General Arman R. Talbo. Evangelista recently celebrated the 42nd anniversary of his admission to the Hawai'i state bar. His current practice concentrates in estate planning, nonprofit corporations and business counsel-



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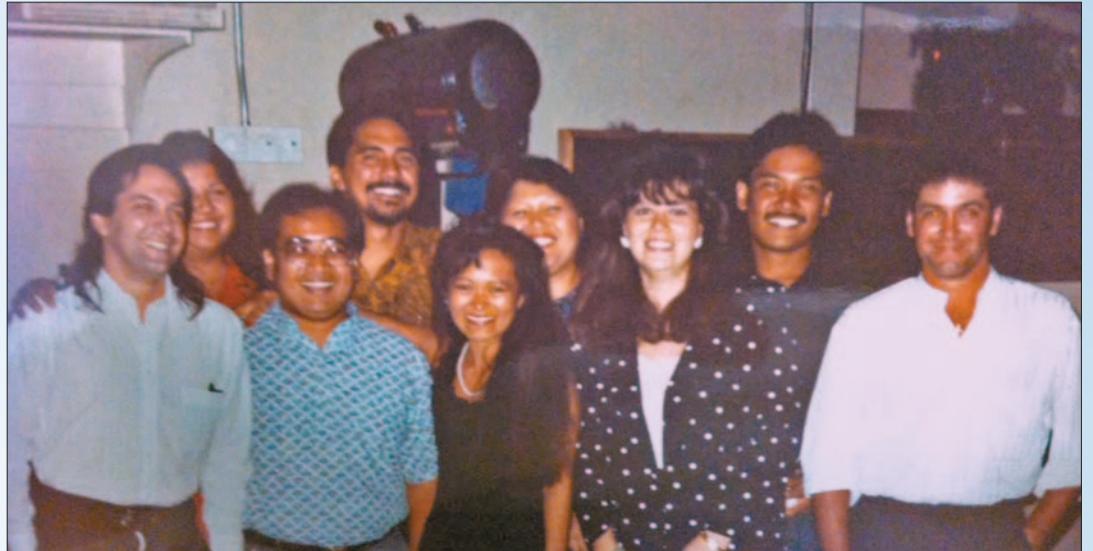
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The author with his high school classmate Mark Lopes, HC&S Harvest supervisor, at the ceremony of the final plantation harvest 2016.



Maui High School classmates at a reunion many years ago.

# DINENGDENG & PINAKBET

## small kid time



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

Locally when talking story with old friends, we often wax nostalgic and with affection about “small kid time.” As I grow older, the easy temptation to misremember the bad with the good is the persistent challenge. I’m missing my high school class reunion. They going ‘Vegas around Thanksgiving (same weekend UH plays UNLV and the Raiders host Dillon Gabriel—if he’s still Browns QB1—at home). I can’t get away.

I look forward to those moments—scheduled or by happenstance. It’s simply comforting to recall how Maui was

small kid time. Old Kahului Shopping Center (an innovative place—when it first opened in the 1950s, one of the first U.S. spots built specifically to house a mixture of shops and food spots outside a residential neighborhood or a town square). It had Craft and Toda Drugs (including comic book and magazine racks). Noda Supermarket. Peggy’s and Johnny’s. Ah Fooks Market. Tasaka Guri Guri (before the azuki beans were banished). Port Town Delicatessen. Barber shops. Shirley’s and a Dairy Queen across Lono Avenue.

Plenty places outside Central Maui.

Driving with friends to various swimming holes then stopping at various Ha’ikū and Upcountry mom and pop stores. Who had the best hot-dogs and cone sushi? The bakeries were usually sold out by the time we were out-of-school and *pau* with clubs and sports and general gallivanting.

Growing up on Luna Lane, the town off Baldwin Avenue and Hāna Highway was where we hung out. I would get sent to buy rope tobacco and twine and other things for my grandfather at the Pā’ia Mercantile. Hours reading comic books at Machida’s and Nagata’s until the cashier gave you stink eye to remind you it wasn’t a library. Getting haircuts at Garcia’s. Going dentist at Dr. Ikeda next to Ikeda Store.

Everyone got jobs for spending money. Working at Dairy Queen because I was born too late in the year to join classmates and friends making good summer money at the Cannery. Even some of our high school teachers were

see DINENGDENG p.9

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Is Not Everything ...

## Friday Night Lights

Ehra Louise Guiwa | MAUI HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2028

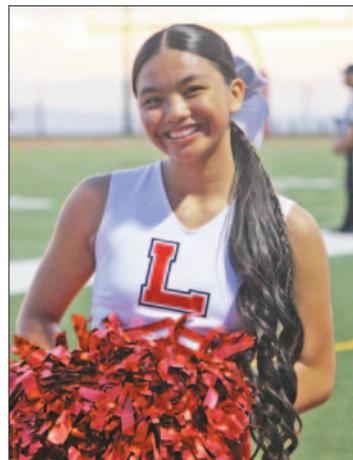


Ayden Elaydo

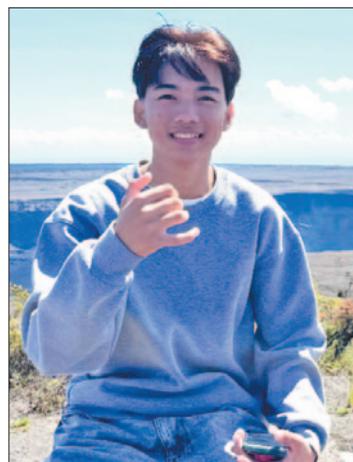
*EDITOR'S NOTE: This month we welcome our new Google® Is Not Everything... columnist, Ehra Louise Guiwa, and thank Angel Alba for her contributions.*

In coming-of-age movies, football games are often depicted as the epitome of the High School experience. Crowds are gathered, dressed up representing their school pride, watching the game unfold and creating endless memories. Meanwhile, cheerleaders, football players, the marching band and the color guard prepare to put on the best show for the moment for which they've been tirelessly working. All these elements together make football games a special time. Football games become more than just a game; they become a scene in someone's own little movie.

Ayden Elaydo, a sophomore at Lahainaluna High School, proudly shares his school spirit at football games. He mentions, "looking at the opposite team, they could be better than us but either way, having the feeling to be at the games is so fun." Although he is not officially on the cheer team, it doesn't stop Ayden. "I get to be with the cheer girls and do the thing we love, which is cheering for our team, The Lunas!" Ayden is a perfect example of how showing out isn't limited to those holding official titles. It's for those who



Kyras Madison Navarro Pagdilao



Jobel Marcos

know how to uplift the people around them.

Likewise, another student from Lahainaluna shares the same experience. While Kyras Madison Navarro Pagdilao is on the field, she explains, "I'm full of energy and excitement. I'm thinking about keeping the crowd pumped up, supporting the team and hitting every move with school spirit." Cheer means so much more than lifting the school spirits to Kyras; it also means cheering for Lahaina, "and feeling the whole community come together." With each chant, stunt or flip, Kyras carries the pride of Lahainaluna and her community on her shoulders and she honors it.

A junior at Maui High School, most well-known for breaking barriers by being one of the very few female athletes playing



Kaylyn Banaag

tackle football, Kaylyn Banaag, expresses her love for the sport, "I love that I get the chance to be on the field and show my hard work." As we all know, football is a very intense game. The pressure is on the players to perform at their best and being the only girl on the team intensifies this pressure. Still, Kaylyn admires the support from teammates, most especially during times "that we can support each other ... like a family." Kaylyn's presence on the football field radiates throughout the entire game; whether she wins or loses, she is simply happy to be there.

As mentioned, football is a very intense sport with a lot of physical contact. While watching the game, it has become normalized to see players injured or tussling. To Baldwin High School junior Jobel Marcos, during games, he is on the lookout that "no one gets seriously injured and that everyone stays safe." He enjoys being on the Baldwin pep band, which "is honestly really fun, cheering the teams on, and lifting their players' spirit." Jobel demonstrates how the pep band maintains an upbeat atmosphere while the players deal with the intensity on the field, reminding everyone that school spirit is about more than just winning and losing.

see GOOGLE IS NOT EVERYTHING p.12

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# Let's Talk Pinoy!



## Let's Talk Pinoy!

Dulce Karen Butay

After a six-year absence, the Maui County Fair finally made its long-awaited return. This beloved community event was last held in 2019 before placed on hold due to a combination of challenges—including funding shortages, the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating wildfires that deeply impacted the island.

This year's fair carried special meaning for residents, symbolizing not only the revival of a cherished local tradition but also the resilience and unity of the Maui community. The community and

visitors looked forward to the parade, live entertainment, local food vendors, carnival rides and exhibits celebrating Maui's rich culture and Aloha spirit. The fair's return served as a reminder that, even in the face of hardship, Maui continues to come together with strength, hope and community pride. *Maui Strong.*

Spooky season is here again—time to bring out the pumpkins,

cobwebs and costumes! Whether you are planning a night of trick-or-treating, a costume contest at work or just handing out candy, it is never too early to start thinking about what you will wear. Will you go all out with a creative homemade costume or keep it simple with a fun store-bought look? Some of the best ideas come from things you already have at home—a clever

mix of makeup, old clothes and imagination can turn into a showstopper! But if you prefer the ease of store-bought costumes, there is no shortage of spooky, funny or pop-culture-inspired options this year. Whatever you choose, the goal is the same: have fun, be safe, and enjoy the Halloween spirit. So, what will you be this year?

Shout out to all the October babies! Happy birthday to Susano "Jones" Domion Jr., Daphne Butay, Gemma Calvan, Lawrence Pascua, Cherry Respicio, Solomon Ezera, Flordelisa "Lisa" Cor-

puz and Zion Jess Butay. *Pada-pada kam nga kumablaaw ti naimbag nga panagkasangay yo amin!* (Happy birthday to all!) Happy, Happy birthday to you! *Maligayang bati sa inyong kaarawan!* (Tagalog) *Naimbag nga panagkasangay mo!* (Ilokano) *Ma-kapagayaya nga aggaw na nikey-ana mu!* (Ibanag) *Masayang ke-baitan 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?

MICHAEL'S GAZE FLICKS to the glowing screen, the small square of Angel's mother's *mukha* (face) still visible. The sound is muted but the faint outline of Angel's family remained, waiting patiently on the other side of the call.

"You were talking to them," he says softly, "I didn't mean to interrupt."

Angel shakes her *ulo* (head) quickly, "*Indi* (No)—it's fine. I finally connected to my *magulang* (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 a confession.

But before she could speak, a *tingog* (voice) breaks the mo-

English	Pilipino	Ilokano	Cebuano	Ilonggo	Ibanag	Kapampangan
Mother	Nanay / Inay	Nanang / Inang	Inahan	Nanay	Yena	Ima
No	Hindi	Haan	Awan	Indi	Dili	Indi
Water	Tubig	Danum	Danum	Danum	Tubig / Pamubo	Tubig
Smile	Ngiti	Isem	Pahiyum	Yuhom	Galo	Timan
Parents	Magulang	Nagannak	Ginikanan	Ginikanan	Magana	Pengari
Face	Mukha	Rupa	Nawom	Nawong	Muka	Lupa
Voice	Boses	Timek	Tingog	Tingog	Boses	Bosis
Eyes	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata	Mata
Head	Ulo	Ulo	Ulu	Buntuk	Ulo	Ulo

ment.

"Is that you Robby? Robert?" The *bores* (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.

"Is that you Robert?" she repeats, her tone a mix of disbelief and something softer—something that makes Angel's

stomach twist.

Michael's *mata* (eyes) flicks to the phone, then back to Angel, his expression caught between surprise and unease. His lips part as though to answer but no words came.

The room seems to tilt, the air too heavy to breathe. Angel looks at Michael again.

"Robby," her *Nanay* (mother) says in a sweet *timek* (voice), "You haven't aged a day since I last saw you."

Angel's pulse quickens. She glances at Michael, searching his *mukha* (face) for a trace of denial, a flicker of confusion—anything. But instead, his jaw tenses and his gaze falls to the floor.

"Mom," Angel says carefully, her *bosis* (voice) trembling just enough to betray her unease. "That's not—"

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

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

PHOTO: CLAUDETTE MEDEIROS



# 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 1 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 li-

censed 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.

**A Bayanihan Christmas: Aggie Cabebe Scholarship Fundraiser** will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center. Table Sponsor (premium seats for 10) are available for \$1,000 while individual seats for the buffet dinner are available at \$50 each. The Dinner is to sustain the memory of



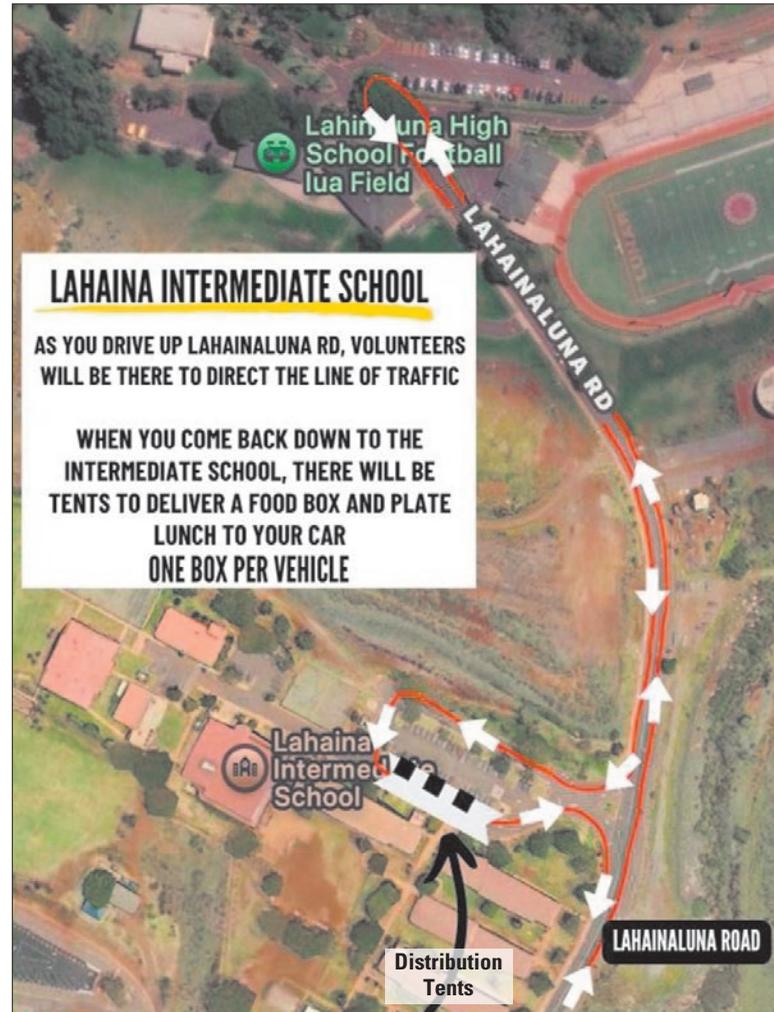
Aggie Cabebe—a remarkable trailblazer in Maui's Filipino community—for generations, with the dinner funding the Agrifina Cabebe/Binhi at Ani Scholarship. The Dinner will also honor the 2025 recipient of the Promoting the Bayanihan Spirit Award. For more information, contact Arnel Alvarez at (808) 357-0748 or [Lenra1268@gmail.com](mailto:Lenra1268@gmail.com) or Alfredo Evangelista at (808) 294-5510 or [AlfredoEvangelista@gmail.com](mailto:AlfredoEvangelista@gmail.com).

**The annual Bayanihan Food Distribution Program** will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15 at Lahaina Intermediate School from 9 a.m. until supplies last. Donations of canned goods, fresh fruits, vegetables and cash are being accepted.

Volunteers are needed to pack the boxes on Nov. 13 and 14 at Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center beginning at 5 p.m. Volunteers are also needed during the actual distribution beginning at 7:30 a.m. Sign up to volunteer via [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/HEG2Z1U9VQCGJG4A6](https://forms.gle/HEG2Z1U9VQCGJG4A6).

The monthly Bayanihan Food Distribution Program was created during the pandemic and is now held annually before Thanksgiving. 2025 will be the second year it is held in Lahaina.

Through November 2024, over \$70,000 in monetary donations were received enabling the distribution of 9,043 food boxes including 10,320 plate lunches, 1,000 turkeys, 95,740 canned goods, 73,994 pounds of produce, 6,290 bags of rice, 17,041 packages of noodles, 3,661 dozens of eggs, 3,868 loaves



Binhi at Ani's Bayanihan Food Distribution takes place Saturday, Nov. 15 beginning at 9 a.m., while supplies last at Lahainaluna Intermediate School, in Lahaina.

IMAGE COURTESY BINHI AT ANI



**A Philippine Flag Raising Ceremony was held Oct. 1 at the Kalana O Maui county building.**

PHOTO COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION



**The 2025-2026 Dr. José P. Rizal Scholarship Dinner will be held Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026. For sponsorship opportunities, advertisements, call (808) 250-5330. For tickets, call (808) 298-2395**

IMAGE COURTESY MAUI FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOUNDATION

of bread/pan de sal, 6,200 McDonald's certificates, 21,697 beverages, 26,310 snacks, 3,810 containers of spaghetti sauce, 6,006 Maui Gold pineapples, 2,160 gallons of milk, 2,318 boxes of mashed potatoes, 730 whole chickens, over 2,500 dragon fruit, and other miscellaneous items such as toilet paper, coffee, goat cheese and masks.

For more information, contact Nora Cabanilla-Takushi at (808) 276-8861.



**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.

## MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

To kick off the month of October as Filipino-American History Month, the County of Maui in cooperation with the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Maui Filipino Community

Council held a Philippine flag raising ceremony on Oct.

1. The Philippine flag will be raised at the County of Maui throughout the month of October to honor Maui's Filipino community and heritage, its plantation roots, and to celebrate the diversity and culture that makes Maui so unique.



Reunion a few years ago.

## Dinengdeng ...

from p. 5

summer supervisors at the Cannery.

We kinda operated on plantation time. Irrigators like my dad going bed right after dinner so they could get up early for catch ride on the red HC&S trucks that came by the Kahului house to ferry them to their assigned cane fields.

It was a carefree, maybe careless time. Driving with your lights out from Wailuku to Kepaniwai Park and Īao Needle. Going beach every weekend. Camping on empty beaches at Wailea and Mākena. Playing on old pillboxes on the Pā'ia and South Maui shoreline. Fishing in Pā'ia with just bamboo poles, some string and a hook with bait from Bersamin's fish market. Catching prawns in various streams. Collecting tilapia from HC&S reservoirs. Swimming at the Salvation Army Pool. Wading in Īao Stream.

Maui County Fair at the dusty old fairgrounds. Parties at the old plantation club houses in Pu'unēnē and Pā'ia before all the County built community centers.

Hanging out at Kahului Library because it was

cooler inside on a weekend.

My roots are firmly on Maui. I colleged on the east coast and law schooled in the Bay Area (Go Giants! Boo 49ers/ Who Dey!). I worked in the big city of Honolulu. I love living here. It's why I made a conscious decision many years ago that this is where I wanted to stay.

Growing up, working and living here, I know our grandparents and our parents who worked on the plantations improved the quality of life and choices for my generation. It took hard work, education, opportunity and, yes, a somewhat unconsciously selfless sense of community.

Obviously, I, more often than not, intentionally dwell on the better memories. Not that interested in acknowledging whether my grandfather and my father came here from the Philippines as Settler Colonist pawns or toiled in the hot sun really as little more than enslaved farm labor. I like the notion they were heroic in traveling to a place far away from *Inang Bayan* with the plan to make a better life for their progeny.

It took courage. My grandfather and my dad

see DINENGDENG p.16

# Ti Biag ken Pammati

## "Life and Faith"

**H**ow the prayers and blessings brought a Saint to Maui through the Divine Mercy prayer group of Our Lady Queen of Angels Church. A story of how God works. Prayer and blessings become miracles for us!

Hi Deacon Pat,

Here goes:

I have felt for a long time that the property at OLQA is a beautiful spot for the people of Maui to come for a short retreat/pilgrimage. The place is simple yet beautiful and I have

always felt a great deal of peace. We have worked hard at trying to landscape for Father in the best way we can as he has built such a beautiful place for us. As I am a Marian Catechist, every year I renew my consecration either here or at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin in front of our international director, Cardinal Burke. We can ask him questions and so I told him when I went there a year ago this past May every church on Maui was enthroned to Divine

Mercy and could he get me a first-class relic of St. Faustina. He said he would. I felt this would be a beautiful gift to Fr. Anton after he had built our Divine Mercy Shrine and I wanted to surprise him. In September I received a letter from Rome as Cardinal told me he could not get the relic and he mailed me the protocol. When I told Father the protocol, he told me absolutely not. I felt really badly as I felt the Lord was calling us to receive this relic. I listened to Father and just kept praying. I



Msgr Terry Watanabe with priests and deacons at the enthronement celebration

## Kula Church receives relic of St. Faustina Kowalska

*How a little church in Kula received a first class relic of St. Faustina Kowalska—lead by Mary Ann Turek, Fr. Antone Nyo, MS and the people of God.*

Deacon Patrick Constantino | PHOTOS: MADDIE PASCUAL

asked Father if we could start doing the Divine Mercy Chaplet before Mass to quiet people and he agreed. Then I asked if we could start doing Divine Mercy at the Shrine at 3 p.m. on first Sundays and invite the other parishes as there was more devotion at other parishes and I hoped our parish would start participating more. He agreed to that also. Then in April of this year I asked his permission to write the bishop myself and he said I could write the bishop at any time. I immediately wrote the bishop. A month went by and I heard nothing. Then Bishop came to our Holy Ghost Feast where I was working and so I asked him if he had gotten my letter. He seemed bewildered and had mistaken my request

for Waipahu and never responded to us. He told me he would get a letter out to me. I wrote a letter out for Father to sign and took pictures. The bishop's letter came the day I was leaving to see my daughter in Florida and so I put everything in my carry on and mailed the packet out via DHL express from Florida. The Poland post office received the packet 2 days later on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It got to be August and we still had heard nothing from Poland. I asked Donna to please email Poland to make sure they had received the packet. The sister from Poland emailed us that she had notified us via email that they received the packet the first part of July and they would be reviewing it the last part of August. Then she

emailed us again that the Bishop's letter said Waipahu and not Kula. I had personally read the Bishop's letter we sent and it did say Kula but must have gotten mixed up in Poland with Waipahu's request. This was the end of August and I was leaving for Poland on September 5. The Bishop was on island for his anniversary and the installment of Fr. Paul at Ha'ikū. I went to Ha'ikū and waited until he had finished eating and then had to tell him my plight and I needed a new letter. If I said he was happy about the whole situation I would definitely be lying. The poor fella could not even relax. Anyway, he worked on it at night and got it to me the next morning. Donna emailed it to Poland and then they notified us it had to be a wet signature. By a miracle he was still on island and I got the letter. We proceeded to Poland not having any idea if we were getting the relic or not. On September 9 we visited the shrine of Our Lady of Chestochowa, where many miracles have taken place. I begged our Lady to please help us. The next morning, we received notification we were getting the relic and we met with sister and re-

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ceived the relic on September 12, the feast of the Holy Name of Mary. I know St. Faustina wants to be with us. I pray she will bring much healing and renewal of faith. I just think more prayer was needed to open the door to reception of the relic.

This is long winded but a beautiful journey that I have experienced. God bless.

The result of this story is that, when it was approved, Mary Ann went to Poland to hand carry St. Faustina Relic to her new home here on Maui,

at Our Lady of Angels Church, Kula, Maui, Hawai'i. On October 5, 2025 during the Feast Day of St. Faustina Kowalska, she was also enthroned at the church in Kula as the first Saint Relic to be enthroned here on Maui. Our Mass started at 3 p.m. with Msgr. Terrance Watanabe, Vicar Forane, presiding, with priest's con-celebrating and Deacons assisting. The Divine Mercy was also recited. There were more than 400 people in attendance. Msgr. Terry and priest held the

Relic so everyone could venerate and reverence the Relic. It was a spiritual moment for all of us! After everyone venerated the Relic it was brought in the church to be enthroned and displayed. Welcome to your new home St. Faustina! In every church in the Maui Vicariate is a Divine Mercy picture enthroned and there's a prayer group in each church. The prayer groups of the Divine Mercy pray everyday at 3 p.m. or as planned by the parishes. Please call the parishes on pray

times and activities they have on Divine Mercy. On visiting the Relic of St. Faustina, you need to call the church on times available to visit. Our Queen of Angels Church phone number is (808) 878-1261. *Jesus, I trust in You!*

#### Story of St. Faustina Kowalska

St. Faustina was Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun and mystic who received visions of Jesus Christ in the 1930s. She is known as the Apostle of Divine Mercy for

spreading the message of God's mercy through her writing the devotion to the Divine Mercy image and the feast of Divine Mercy. St. Faustina recorded visions of Jesus and the message of God's mercy in her diary, "Divine Mercy in My Soul." Her visions established the devotion to the Divine Mercy image and promoted practices like the Divine Mercy Chaplet and novenas. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II

see TI BIAG KEN PAMMATI p.12

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

Michael raises a hand, stopping her. "It's okay," he murmurs, his tone low and almost resigned.

Angel freezes. "What do you mean it's okay?"

On the screen, her *Inahan* (mother) leans closer, her *mata* (eyes) glistening with recognition. "Robby ... you remember me, don't you? It's been, what—thirty years?"

Angel freezes. *Robert*. The name echoed in her chest like a warning bell. "You ... you know my mom?" she asks, voice cracking.

Michael finally meets her eyes, his expression a mix of guilt and sorrow. "No," he says softly. "I don't know your mom. But I just learned from Uncle Robert ... that he does know your mom ..." he says quietly.

The words hit her like a splash of ice *tubig* (water). The room sways again, the sound of her heartbeat roaring in her ears.

"Angel? ... Angel? ... " the voice of her *Yena* (mother) on the screen breaks through the haze, still convinced ... "that's Robby, right?" she asks.

Angel unmutes the call, forcing a shaky *ngiti* (smile) and says, "*Inay* (Mother), this is Michael," she says, her *timek* (voice) steadier than she felt.

Michael gives a polite wave at the camera and he *pahiyum* (smiles), "Hello *po*."

"Michael, this is my *Nanay* (mother), *Lena*." Angel says, gesturing between them.

Michael's expression shifts, "Lena Ramos Corpuz ... " he repeats quietly, almost to himself.

Angel's *mata* (eyes) narrows. "You know my *Nanang* (mother)? How do you know her?" she asks, surprised and confusion threading through her words.

Then she turns back to the screen, "*Nanay* (mother), he is not Robert—he is Michael. How do you know his uncle?"

The silence that follows hangs heavy, like a held breath.

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 al-

ways, let's laugh, let's *making* (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 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'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. 11

in 2000, who emphasized her diary as a “Gospel of Mercy” for the modern world. She began having visions of Jesus at a young age, including a suffering Christ that led her to join a convent. Later, on February 22, 1931, Jesus appeared to her as the king of Divine Mercy, a vision she later depicted in the famous Divine Mercy image. Jesus instructed her to record the revelations she received, which she did in a diary titled Divine Mercy in My Soul. Her diary is a significant source for her spiritual

teachings and vision of God’s boundless mercy for humanity. St. Faustina documented her mystical experiences and interactions with Jesus in her diary, known as the Diary of Saint Faustina. This diary contains accounts of spiritual graces, spiritual insights and personal miracles, serving as a testament



**Relic of St Faustina** at the enthronement Mass.

to the power of Divine Mercy. What was the main message that Jesus told St. Faustina. Jesus told Faustina that “mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to my mercy.” (Diary, No. 300) Jesus appeared to St. Faustina many times

throughout her life, as detailed in her Diary, through the exact number. What is known is that she received private revelations from Jesus in the 1930s concerning His Divine Mercy, including requests to establish a feast day for Divine Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday), have an image of the Divine Mercy painted, and spread the Divine

Mercy novena. St. Faustina missions: 1) The Divine Mercy Image: The image painted under her supervision, featuring rays of red and pale light emanating from Jesus heart. 2) The feast of Divine Mercy: Jesus asked for a feast to be instituted on the first Sunday after Easter. 3) The Chaplet of Divine Mercy: A special prayer she was given to ask for God’s mercy. ✨

**Deacon Patrick Constantino** retired from active Ministry on July 1, 2022. He is still a Deacon in good standing with full faculties to perform all sacraments in the Diocese of Honolulu Hawai’i. Constantino has been ordained for thirty-seven years. He is the first Filipino

Deacon in the Diocese of Honolulu. Prior to his ordination, Constantino was in government—first appointed in 1966 as Assistant Sergeant of Arms by the Speaker of the House Elmer F. Cravalho. When Cravalho became Maui’s first Mayor, Constantino became his Executive Assistant—the first of Filipino ancestry. Later, Constantino became the first County Treasurer of Filipino ancestry and the first County Grants Administrator and Risk Manager of Filipino ancestry. Constantino is married to his lovely wife Corazon for sixty-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

Behind the scenes, various things go on for these students. Kaylyn tries to relax as much as possible following a pre-game ritual: “I like to eat my pregame meal, get ready for the game, talk to some of my teammates, and listen to my music.” Jobel likes to keep it casual by “talking stories with one and another guessing who’ll win and putting face paint on.” While Kyras and Ayden prep the cheerleaders, “we help one another with any last-minute touch-ups with hair or makeup, we practice our cheers, warm up, go over dances, and get everyone hyped up.” Coming to football games, we rarely get to hear what the students performing have on their minds or the effort it takes to make sure the night is special.

At the end of the day, football games truly add to the high school experience but we could not have this moment without the fantastic students who put this all together for their school and community. Ayden, for his unwavering school spirit; Kyras, for reaching out into the community; Kaylyn, for breaking down barriers on the field; and Jobel, for keeping the spirit alive through music—each of them brings a special piece of the picture we often overlook, so let’s remember to thank the students who make every Friday night unforgettable. ✨

**Google® Is Not Everything ...** is a monthly column au-

thored 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 **Ehra Louise Guiwa**, a Sophomore at Maui High School. She is the President of Sabers of Law (Maui High’s Mock Trial Club), one of the Executive Vice Presidents for Student Government, Historian in the Key Club, and a student of eskrima under Doce Pares Multi-Style Hawaii. Ehra Louise is in the Law and Public Safety pathway at Maui High and aspires to be a U.S. Senator. In her free time, she enjoys sewing, baking, volunteering at church, spending time with family and friends, and exploring. She is the only daughter of Merlyn Guiwa and Reymund Guiwa.



# Kwento Kwentuhan

## Celebrating the Made in Maui County Festival—Where Local Pride Shines

Liza A Pierce of “A Maui Blog” | PHOTOS: LIZA PIERCE

Once again, Maui County prepares to highlight its home-grown creativity as the 12th Annual Hawaiian Airlines Made in Maui County Festival gears up for November 7–8, 2025, at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. For me, this festival isn’t just an event—it’s a celebration of community, craftsmanship and Aloha. It’s where local talent takes the spotlight and where the people behind our favorite Maui-made products share their stories, their struggles, and their successes.

### More Than a Market—A Movement

The festival was created to uplift local makers, give them visibility and strengthen Maui’s economy by showcasing locally made products. Since its debut in 2014, modeled after the Made in Hawai’i Festival on O’ahu, it has grown into Maui County’s largest product show—drawing thousands of residents and visitors each year.

But beyond the numbers, the Made in Maui County Festival is about connection. It’s where community meets creativity, where small dreams turn into thriving businesses and where the pride of “made local” shines through in every booth. For many vendors, this event is more than a sales opportunity—it’s a milestone val-

uating their hard work and passion.

### What to Expect—Behind the Booths

Every year, more than a hundred local businesses set up at the festival, each representing a piece of Maui County’s unique identity.

To qualify, businesses must be based in Maui County and at least 51% of each product’s value must come from work done here in Hawai’i. That means what you see—from the packaging to the product itself—truly carries the hands and heart of our community.

Expect to find everything from jewelry, art and clothing to furniture, food products and home goods. Add to that twelve food trucks serving local flavors and a lively schedule of stage performances, fashion shows and entertainment—and you’ve got a full day (or two) of island-style fun.

The event opens with a special Friday preview (November 7, 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.), offering early access for ticket holders and wholesale buyers. Then on Saturday, November 8 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), the festival opens wide for everyone to enjoy. Tickets are \$36 for Friday and \$9 for Saturday (kids twelve and under are free). The first 2,000 attendees on Saturday even receive a complimentary festival tote bag—perfect for carrying all those

local finds!

### Spotlight on Filipino-Heritage Makers

Looking through the vendor list, a few names with Filipino roots stand out—shining examples of how our community contributes to Maui’s creative spirit:

- *Galleon Chocolate*—crafting small-batch artisan chocolates that beautifully blend Filipino and Hawaiian influences. From cacao sourcing to flavor profiles, every bar tells a story of culture and craftsmanship.
- *Maui Chili Chili Oil*—a husband-and-wife team bringing bold island flavor to every jar. Their crunchy chili oil—featuring Maui onions, garlic and local chili—has become a household favorite across the islands.

These makers show how Filipino heritage continues to thrive and evolve here in Maui County. There are more. Walking through the festival, you’ll see how traditions and modern ideas come together, reminding us Maui’s diverse roots are what make its local products so special. For a full list of vendors, visit the Made in Maui County Festival website at [www.madeinmauicountyfestival.com/](http://www.madeinmauicountyfestival.com/)

### Why It Matters

For locals, this festival is more than just a shopping event—it’s a reminder of who we are. It shows our community can support itself, that local innovation thrives and that our products can compete on a global stage without losing their authenticity.

For small business owners, it’s a chance to connect with customers, network with potential partners and gain valuable



exposure. Many local brands that started with a simple booth here have grown into successful island businesses.

And for visitors, it’s a chance to take home something truly meaningful—not just a souvenir but a story, a connection, a piece of Maui’s spirit.

In the end, the Made in Maui County Festival is more than a two-day event—it’s a reflection of Maui’s creative soul and the resilience of its people. Whether you’re a maker, a shopper or a supporter of local business, this festival reminds us Maui’s true treasures are made right here, by the hands of our community.

See you there—and let’s continue to

celebrate and support all that’s made in Maui County. ✨

**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



Janet Solanzo Lendio



Cion (back, from left) and Loreto Solanzo, Janet (front, from left), Lorna and Lorelle stand in this family photo.



Loreto and his sister Estefania await the entourage at church on her wedding day.

# Janet Sabio Solanzo Lendio

Lucy Peros | PHOTOS COURTESY THE SOLANZO LENDIO 'OHANA

Her immigrant parents instilled the values of faith, education and perseverance to this month's featured Sakada Offspring, Janet Sabio Solanzo Lendio.

Janet was born in June 1964, in Wailuku, Maui. Her early childhood was spent in Pu'ukoli'i Plantation Camp until the age of six, when her family moved to Kelaweā Mauka in Lahaina, where their family home stood until the devastating Lahaina fire.

She attended Kamehameha III School, Lahainaluna High School, Washington State University for two years before graduating from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a bachelor's degree. Since the age of sixteen, Janet worked summers at Hilo Hattie's, mostly at their Boys 'n' Girls shop located in the Sheraton Maui. Her parents did not allow her to work during the school year so her studies would remain her priority—an experience that taught her budgeting, discipline and the difference between needs and wants. During college, she also worked clerical jobs with the Department of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

After graduation, Janet returned to Maui and pursued a career in retail management. In January 1987, she joined ABC Stores as an Assistant Manager Trainee. What she first thought might be a short-term opportu-

nity became a 36-year career. Through dedication, teamwork and a commitment to growth, Janet retired early as a Store Manager, proud of the leadership and support she contributed to her colleagues and the company.

Her husband, Terence Lendio, worked for ABC Stores on O'ahu before moving to Maui in 1982 to help with the company's expansion. He built a 36-year career of his own with the company and was able to retire early as a Store Manager. Janet and Terence have been married for 31 years and raised their family in Lahaina. Their son, Rhys, graduated from Linfield College and now works as a financial planner. He and his wife, Cristina, live in Hillsboro, Oregon. Their daughter, Rhyn, graduated from Pacific University—her father's alma mater—and works as a dental hygienist in Portland, Oregon.

One of Janet's greatest accomplishments has been ensuring

both her children went to college, graduated and are now financially secure. In her household, education was always emphasized as lasting at least sixteen years long. Early retirement has been another blessing, giving her the chance to focus on her own well-being. Janet believes in the importance of treating oneself—massages, facials, pedicures—making time for exercise and yoga—even in the midst of life's challenges. As a Lahaina fire survivor, she especially values and understands the importance of caring for both mental and physical health.

In retirement, Janet enjoys reading, learning new things, volunteering in the community, reconnecting with old and new friends and spending more time in Oregon with her children. Travel is something she has not done as much as she would like but it remains a goal for the future. For the past 20-plus years,

she and Terence have a tradition of gathering with the same group of friends to watch UH Warrior football—cheering through the highs and lows, with plenty of camaraderie, food and spirit. She treasures time with both family and friends, recognizing the strength and joy these relationships bring.

Faith has also played an important role in Janet's life but more so after the devastation in Lahaina. She attended Maria Lanakila Church in Lahaina and since being displaced after the fire, has found a warm welcome at St. Anthony Church in Wailuku.

Janet has two siblings, Lorna and Lorelle. Lorna worked in the banking industry for over 25 years and lives in Alaska with her husband, Boyuk Dotomain and together they have two sons, Michael and Keegan. Lorelle is a professor of Hospitality and Tourism at UH-Maui College and lives

in Kahului with her husband, Jay Peros and their two sons, Jeremy and Jarred.

Janet's father, Loreto Sistoza Solanzo was a *Sakada* from Cebu, Ilocos Sur, Philippines who came to Hawai'i to find a better life for himself and his family. In 1946, when recruiters from the Hawai'i Sugar Planters Association arrived in the Philippines to recruit strong young men to come and work in the pineapple and sugarcane plantations here in Hawai'i, Loreto considered it as an opportunity to find a better life. He signed up with no second thoughts.

On January 31, 1946, Loreto, together with many other *Sakadas*, left Port Salomague in Cebu, Ilocos Sur, Philippines, aboard the *S.S. Maunawili*. They were on their way to Hawai'i for about 16 days of sea voyage.

Upon arriving in Hawai'i, they first landed in Hilo where some of the men were assigned to work in the plantations there. Then the *S.S. Maunawili* proceeded to Maui. Loreto Solanzo and his friend, Ernesto Guerrero were among the hundreds of men stationed on Maui, specifically in Lahaina, to work for Pioneer Mill. They lived in Pu'ukoli'i Camp, a camp located across the Royal Lahaina Hotel.

Loreto's first job was preparing the field for the sugarcane planting. Then he was promoted to truck driving to pick up the workers and dropped them off to their workstations. He was in that job for several years until he was promoted as a haul cane truck driver. He held that job until 1982.

As a *Sakada* recruit and as part of his contract, he was given a free six-month vacation to the Philippines. So in 1956, Loreto decided to go back to the Philippines, perhaps with the intention to find a wife. It so happened there was a beautiful, intelligent



Rhys (from left), Janet, Rhy and Terence—who throws the shaka sign—pose to capture a family moment.

young teacher from Cabugao, who graduated from Ilocos Norte Normal School (now called Mariano Marcos University), named Commemoracion “Cion” Sabio. In fact, they were neighbors. But the only problem was Cion was teaching in Davao, Philippines in the Visayas which is so many miles away from Cabugao.

Either fate or coincidence came into play between Cion and Loreto. Cion’s oldest sister’s husband and Loreto’s father are brothers. That oldest sister has a daughter named Irene who of course is Cion’s niece, and Loreto’s cousin. What made it even more exciting was Irene was also a teacher in Davao with Cion. Apparently, Irene had corresponded with her cousin Loreto who was vacationing from Hawai‘i. Cion took a vacation to Cabugao and when she went to her oldest sister’s house to visit, Loreto was also there visiting. So Irene was instrumental in introducing Loreto to Cion. Loreto must have fallen in love with Cion the minute he saw her. Soon after that first meeting, he and his mother went to Cion’s house to ask her father and mother for her hand in marriage. It so happened that Cion’s brother, then Vice Mayor Santos Sabio was at that proposal time. He told Loreto to go back after

three years to marry his sister Cion.

Actually, Cion’s parents liked Loreto to marry their daughter because they felt he came from a good family background. Besides, they did not want Cion to go back to Davao if possible. Cion, However, wanted to go back to Davao to teach because she had many admirers there. Her parents managed to convince her to marry Loreto. Her brother Santos also approved of the marriage. In fact, with Cion’s sufficient teaching certification, he was able to help her find a teaching position in Cabugao.

On April 22, 1957, Loreto and Cion had a grand wedding reception in Cabugao. After two months, Loreto’s vacation was expiring. He needed to come back to Hawai‘i to work. Cion remained in Cabugao to teach.

Cion followed Loreto to Hawai‘i in June, 1963. They lived in Pu‘ukoli‘i Camp. They shared a house with another family. They shared a kitchen and an outhouse (toilet) that was detached from the main house. They raised their own vegetables. Every Sunday, they slaughtered a pig to be shared with their neighbors. In those days, it was okay to slaughter animals in the backyard. In Pu‘ukoli‘i Camp, they were able to have chicken fights (*biagan*)

with no problems. It was a social gathering. It was also comparable to our open markets today, only smaller with people selling cooked foods, desserts, vegetables, etc. After the cockfight, the men and their wives often brought the roosters who lost to Cion and Loreto’s home to be cooked. In fact, those are the best kinds of chicken meat, very lean. They all enjoyed it for dinner. Again, it became part of the Camp’s social life. What a happy camp life it must have been—a time of camaraderie!

In the 1970s, Pu‘ukoli‘i Camp was being phased out. Loreto and Cion moved to Upper Kelaweia Mauka, Lahaina. Unfortunately, Loreto passed away on December 12, 1982 after a very short illness.

The values passed down by Janet’s parents remain central in her life: thanking God for His blessings, lean on family through highs and lows, be respectful, and that education is the key to success. Her father left school early to help support his family after losing his own father in the war but he passed on a deep respect for learning. Her mother, a college graduate, carried that mission forward after his unexpected passing, ensuring all three daughters went to college. Their lessons—to work hard, save for a rainy day, and stay humble—shaped Janet’s journey and remain at the heart of the life she has built with her own family.

Both the Solanzo’s home and Janet’s family home were lost in the Lahaina wild fire. The rebuilding of both homes are goals for the future, carrying forward both heritage and faith. Today, Janet and Terence are beginning the process of rebuilding their own Lahaina home, carrying forward her parents’ values and stepping into the future with gratitude, resilience and love. ✨

**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.





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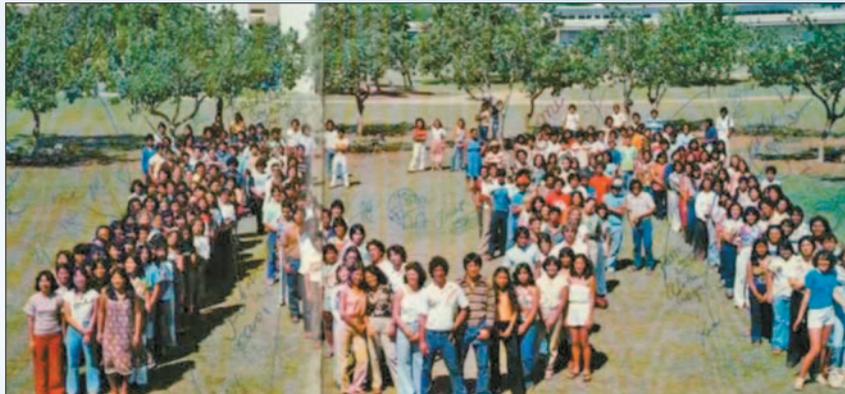
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## Dinengdeng ...

from p. 9

came to Hawai'i before air-planes made the journey a matter of hours rather than months on an open ocean (my mom came later on the *S.S. Wilson*—still many weeks on the open ocean while sharing a room with three other women). They came without first seeing the sand and surf on television or the internet. They came knowing only the people who disembarked on the ships with them. But at some point, they



Some selections from MHS yearbook 1980.



made—perhaps as much accidentally as purposefully—Maui home.

Whether we were born on

Maui or moved here or moved back after seeing America, we all have more economic choices today. Small kid time we had open ended possibilities for the future. Maybe not the paradise and mythical good life we would wish but still better than hours in the pineapple and cane fields or the cannery (a couple of my classmates did spend their careers with HC&S, many until the final harvest). I have classmates who got engineering degrees who were not that interested in playing with water. So instead of taking a local job with public works or Pearl Harbor naval shipyard or one of the private civil firms helping developers, they moved to California, Washington or elsewhere to pursue aeronautical and military industrial complex supporting positions.

My class, as far as I know, had only one person earn a medical degree. We have a

number of nurses and medical technicians (and not all of them with roots from the Motherland) and others in health-related and adjacent fields. We have tradesmen and contractors and a prominent local developer. We have some artists and musicians and entertainers. Quite a number went into the various armed services, some for the minimum but others for many years, before coming back for civilian jobs using the skills (or not) they learned. We have classmates in the civil service throughout the various departments and agencies. I'm most surprised by how many teachers, counselors, professors and educators came out of Maui High School (and so many have already "retired" after decades of service).

I admire my fellow Sabers a lot. I appreciate them for contributing to Maui's community or whatever place they've

made their home, in so many different ways. They've worked and built and created. They've formed families and raised children. Each year we lose a few more and I remember many of them from small kid time with both sadness and reflective fondness.

I kinda wish I could join the reunion but I know we have reunions whenever we see each other in the street.

Never would have predicted the lives we've lived from *small kid time*. ✨

**Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran** attended Maui High School in one of the first classes to spend all four years at the Lono Avenue campus. He practices law in Wailuku and formerly worked in state and county government and served in the state legislature.





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