

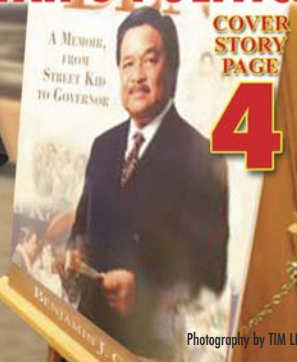
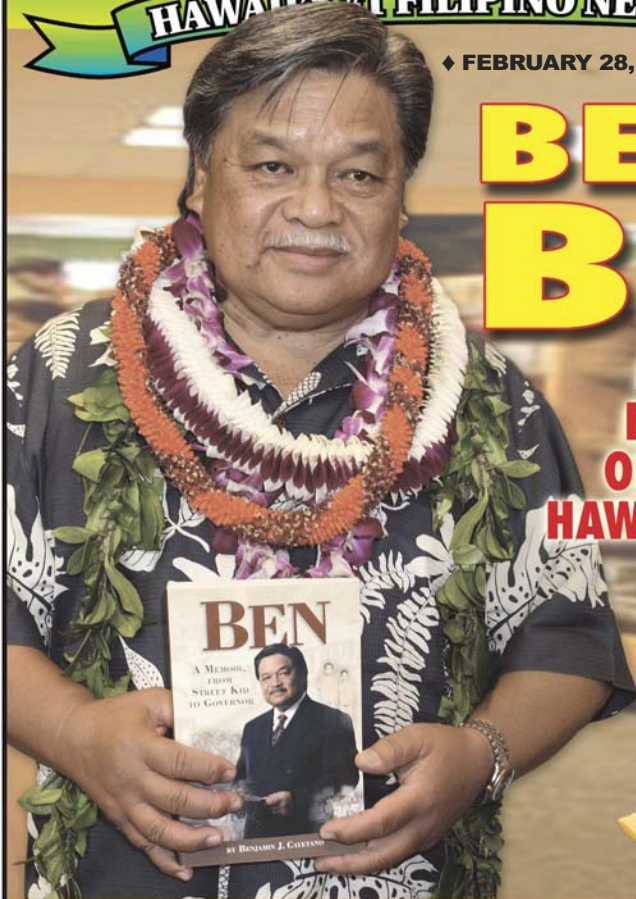
# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ FEBRUARY 28, 2009 ◆

## BEN IS BEN

A CANDID AND BOLD ACCOUNT OF HIS LIFE AND HAWAII'S POLITICS



Photography by TIM LLENIA



HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

**7** INAUGURAL FILIPINO FILM FESTIVAL SET FOR APRIL



PHILIPPINE NEWS

**12** PHILIPPINES ACCEPTS NEPALESE DOCTORS AMID SHORTAGE



LEGAL NOTES

**13** CENTRALIZED PROCESSING FOR NATURALIZATION

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**EDITORIAL**

**Lessons Learned From Ben Cayetano**

**B**enjamin Jerome Cayetano is back in the spotlight with the release of his new, 560-page autobiography. We're familiar with Cayetano's rags-to-riches story. How he—a poor Kalihi boy—rose through the ranks to become the nation's first governor of Filipino ancestry. We should be inspired by his accomplishments, which broke barriers and opened doors for people of all races, not just Filipinos, to achieve their dreams.

Cayetano's enduring legacy is that he will perhaps be most remembered as the "Education Governor." A firm believer that education is the great equalizer, Cayetano, who as a youngster found school boring, studied hard to earn his law degree. It didn't end there. As governor, he launched the State's A+ After School Program, increased State funds to build new schools and modernize aging ones, raised the starting pay for teachers, extended the school year and invested in the new University of Hawaii medical school.

Those who knew Cayetano say he was also big on honesty. He may have been controversial, but not corrupt. In fact, not a single case of corruption comes to mind while he was governor. Cayetano ran a tight ship and expected cabinet members to do likewise. He fought many battles during his combined 28 years in office. He championed numerous causes, won as many friends as he did enemies, but never backed away from controversial issues or difficult decisions.

History may yet determine Cayetano to be one of Hawaii's greatest governors. Many forget that his term was bookended by turbulent economic times—much like today. Hawaii benefited as he was the tough leader needed for those tough economic times. With the state's worsening economy, we can only hope for our next governor to be equally tenacious and unafraid to make the tough decision. Just like Ben.

**The Case Against Legalizing Gay Marriage**

**W**hat to do about gay marriages. The bill that gives same-sex partners the same rights as married couples under state law remains in limbo after senators last week were unable to reach an agreement after some 15 hours of testimony. Senate President Colleen Hanabusa is now mulling over a rarely used ploy to pull the bill from committee and bring it before the full Senate where there are enough votes for the measure to pass, supporters say.

Invoking such a ploy could open a Pandora's box in that controversial bills bottled up in committee could receive a free pass to the floor for a full vote. Understandably, senators are treading carefully, given the ramifications. You see, the House and Senate have guidelines in place that govern the structure of committees and the conduct of business. The guidelines are commonly accepted and adhered to. If not, political chaos would ensue.

Similarly, the legalization of gay marriages could open a Pandora's box. If two men or two women are allowed to marry, what's to stop a group of three men and two women who profess love for each other, to do the same? Or a brother and sister who claim to love each other? Gay marriage proponents want equal treatment for all couples. But why is love between two people worthy of state sanction and not love between three or more?

While our good lawmakers wrestle over the fate of the gay marriage bill, let us pray for wisdom to prevail. The ancient pillars were put into place for a reason—to preserve the family structure and to protect children, whom researchers say develop best in homes headed by a mother and a father. Let us be wise then and not remove these pillars.

**FROM THE PUBLISHER**

**W**

elcome to another issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! A bill to legalize gay marriages has again made headlines and stirred raucous debate at the State Legislature. Filipinos seem



divided as well. Some sympathizers, especially those who have faced discrimination or know of other minorities who have been discriminated against, believe it all boils down to basic civil rights. However, it's safe to say that most Filipinos take the position of the Catholic Church, which opposes same sex marriages. We expect both sides to continue debating *ad nauseam* about the issue, which is far from over. So stay tuned, folks.

Our cover story for this issue was written by contributing writer Danny de Gracia, II who introduces us to a new book—"Ben: A Memoir, From Street Kid to Governor." The book, written by none other than Ben Cayetano, is a behind-the-scenes view of island politics, with frank criticism of some figures. In a candid interview with the former governor, de Gracia also uncovers interesting tidbits about America's first ever governor of Filipino ancestry, including his background, rise to the top, as well as his personal triumphs and struggles. Cayetano has been out on a tour of sorts to promote the book. He has met with good-sized audiences at Barnes & Noble and Borders Bookstore locations island-wide, many of whom waited patiently in line for an autographed copy. The book has reportedly sold well. We hope our story, on pages 4-6, will encourage you to pick up a copy, which we highly recommend.

On page 7, we have a news item on the White House's Summer 2009 Internship Program. We urge Filipino students to apply for the internships, which will allow them to develop leadership skills and give them a first-hand taste of politics in Washington, DC. The internship may just help to encourage one of our youth to run for U.S. president one day—who knows? But we'll never know, unless our youth apply. The deadline to submit applications is March 22, 2009.

In closing, we hope you will take time to read these and other articles of interest in this issue—articles such as the first ever Filipino Film Festival at the Honolulu Academy of Arts in April, thousands of dollars worth of scholarships for UH students majoring in Filipino Language & Literature, and a special but limited concert series with Jasmine Trias and the Society of Seven Las Vegas. Also, don't forget our regular columns like Legislative Connection, Immigration Guide, and Legal Notes.

As always, thank you for supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! Until next time...

Aloha and *Mabuhay!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

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LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION



By Senator Will Espero

# Stem (Part 2)

school students and their families explore science and technology over five days. Students in last year's "Return to the Moon: Failure Is Not An Option!" camp enjoyed a lunar curriculum tied in with NASA's mission to send orbiters and an impactor to the moon to look for the presence of water under the lunar surface to prepare for possible lunar habitation.

## Starbase Atlantis

Since 2002, more than 10,000 fifth graders have attended the Pearl Harbor-based Department of Defense program, which graduated its 200th class in October 2008. The five day program stimulates uses instruction and teamwork-based experiments, as well as real flight simulation time to teach about aerospace. Experiments include protecting eggs in from cracking in a "crash," designing paper airplanes for drag or speed, and others. The youngsters are introduced to astronomy, physics, and aerospace science, and at their graduation ceremony, they blast off actual rockets they've built. Joseph Barrett, Program Director, said that the Ford Island program has been so successful that Hawaii's Air National Guard plans to open a location at their army in Hilo for Big Island students.

## NASA Explorer Schools

Each year, NASA establishes a three-year partnership between itself and 50 new explorer schools. Its education specialists work with teachers and administrators to spark innovative science and mathematics instruction for grades 4-9. NASA Explorer School teams get new teaching resources and technology tools with NASA's unique content, experts, and other resources, to give students exciting learning experiences. Pearl City Elementary this year will be completing the partnership it began in the 2006-2007 school year.

## EVENTS

The University of Hawaii hosts several events to spark student interest in science. The College of Engineering's annual Engineering Expos challenge middle and high school students to build any number of items using engineering principles. Among last year's tasks: solar

powered cars, "mouse-trap" CD racecars, football catapults, oaktag/chopstick rollercoasters, and more.

Each April the UH-Manoa's Institute for Astronomy holds an open house where families can enjoy astronomy lectures, "astronomy school," infrared demonstrations, observatory linkups, telescope manufacturing tours, fun-with-physics activities, and others. UH-Manoa's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology hosts a two-day Open House in October of every odd-numbered year. The action-packed event includes understanding seismic activity demonstrations, weather station observations, geology and watershed labs, space displays, and so much more. Seeing it all takes the entire two days, so plan on a fun family outing.

The Hawaii Ocean Science Bowl, called the "Aloha Bowl," was developed to stimulate interest in ocean sciences among high school students, demonstrate the importance of the oceans in daily life, and foster the next generation of marine scientists, teachers, and policy makers. Last year's second place team, Kealakehe High School represented Hawaii well



at the National Ocean Science Bowl in Seward, Alaska where they captured the Spirit Award. Staying warm during the "white-out" and avalanche that stopped their train (the they boarded a bus) added excitement to the trip. (First place team Punahou, wasn't able to travel there.) This year's winning team will compete in Washington D.C. in April.

The Maui Economic Development Board's Women in Technology Project teams up with local organizations for its annual "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day." Now in its ninth year, middle school girls shadow local engineers to learn how they contribute to the community. Only 20% of engineering undergraduates are women. Nationwide, women comprise only 10% of the engineering

workforce, and only 5% in Hawaii.

The Lacy Veach and Ellison Onizuka Science Days honor the memories of these late astronauts. The day-long programs feature hands-on activities and lectures and displays.

These are just some of the creative ways that STEM education has taken off in Hawaii, stimulating young minds and encouraging them to enter careers in these high-skilled, satisfying and challenging jobs. The Senate's Economic Development and Technology Committee, of which I was past vice-chair, wholeheartedly supported these programs. I'm proud to have played a role in it, and look forward to the next generation of upcoming scientists.

2009 is the year of "Apollo: the Next Generation, Return to the Moon" for the 19th annual Future Flight Hawaii summer program. The theme mirrors the goal of the U.S. as it competes with China and Japan to see which country will be the next to return an astronaut to the moon. Future Flight Hawaii inspires and equips the next generation of explorers by using the excitement of space to catalyze student interest in science, technology and the future. Initiated in 1991 under the Office of Space Industry in the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Future Flight has hosted more than 8,500 students and parents statewide. Training modules with a mission context help students feel like real scientists, with "laboratory voyages" taking them on journeys of exploration to the moon, Mars, and Earth. Staff educators design the programs with contributions from Hawaii Space Grant Consortium scientists and NASA resources.

Future Flight Director Art Kimura oversees a wide range of space-themed science programs in Hawaii: the summer enrichment program; residential and non-residential science and technology camps; family science nights that reach 4,000 children, parents, and teachers annually; support to NASA Explorer schools; coordination of the Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Science Day and the Astronaut Lacy Veach Day of Discovery; coordination of the Hawaii Botball robotics regional tournament; and support to schools and teachers in STEM.

Other summer camps. Hawaii Island Robotics Academy (HIRA), for grades 3-8, challenges students to design, build, program, and perfect a robot to perform certain tasks, then compete. Camp Eureka, for grades 3-6, focuses on design, programming, and building a robot, ending in a SumoBot competition. Camp Imiloa's space-themed summer camp sessions for elementary

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COVER STORY

# Fortune Favors The Bold: Ben Cayetano Speaks Out With New Autobiography

By Danny de Gracia, II

Photography by TIM LLENA



**T**he ancient Roman philosopher Cicero wrote, "In men of the highest character and noblest genius there is found to be an insatiable desire for honor, command, power, and glory." Like the mighty Caesars of ages past who put to papyrus scrolls their inmost thoughts after the drums of war stilled and the victorious trumpets of parades silenced, America's first ever Filipino governor Ben Cayetano has given the world a rare look into his life with his new tour de force autobiography "Ben: A Memoir, From Street Kid To Governor."

ocrat nor a member of the esoteric elite; he is a salty, take-n-o-prisoners, grown-from-the-

## The World According to Ben Cayetano

Unlike most contemporary political memoirs, Cayetano's book is not a mea culpa for gaining sympathy for mistakes made in office or a desperate plea to retroactively create a legacy. The story presented through "Ben" is one that dares the reader to see the universe through Cayetano's own eyes and come to grips with the fact that we live in a world that requires power to lead and scarcely tolerates cold, timid souls knowing neither victory nor defeat.

Cayetano is neither an ar-

ground-up leader who, like the fictional John Connor of Terminator lore was a child chosen by fate and nursed on the milk of adversity and force fed with the bread of rejection to become a revolutionary leader of leaders, completely without equal.

The story of the man who would be governor over the Fifth State begins in the unlikely hamlet of Kalihi, a place which Cayetano is quick to emphasize translates into English as "place of transition." Raised by his father Bonifacio Marcos Cayetano, the future governor's parents divorced at an early age. He never received an explana-

tion why his mother longer lived with him. Times were rough with a father who worked long hours as a waiter at the Outrigger Canoe Club and his early years were the combination of Hershey bars, fist fights and breaking into politics as the eighth grade treasurer of Kalaheo Intermediate School. Cayetano worked hard, played hard and learned hard lessons growing up in poverty.

In 1959 when Hawaii was admitted to the United States of America, Cayetano was 19 years old, married and raising his first born son, Brandon. Of this Cayetano reflects in his book: "I was a skinny 19-year-old too preoccupied with learning about parenthood and supporting Lorraine and our two year old son to take a strong interest in politics."

He continues: "In those days, Filipino Americans had little political and economic

power – and even less community respect. In the hierarchy of [Hawaii's] ethnic groups, Filipinos ranked down at the bottom, a place shared with Samoans and other Pacific Islanders. In my eyes, the only way to break down those barriers and change minds – win respect – was through education. A high school diploma was not enough – getting a college degree was the key."

In 1963, Cayetano and his wife moved to Los Angeles, California. He began studying at Harbor Junior College in San Pedro, often being the oldest among peers in his classes but remarking: "I felt reborn as a student ... At age 24, I found myself actually looking forward to going to class each day."

In 1968, Cayetano transferred to UCLA and got a taste of California's Vietnam era social unrest and campus demonstrations. Cayetano recalls then-governor of California Ronald Reagan with less-than-fond memories, choosing to cover Reagan's signature on his UCLA diploma with a piece of tape as a personal protest that lasted some 25 years.

Cayetano then went on after graduating from UCLA to attend law school at Loyola, where he learned that making a difference on social issues required knowledge and mastery of the laws of real property, contracts, criminal laws, torts and the Constitution. Despite the industry tradition of law firms shying away from hiring first year students, Cayetano applied to 50 firms before being accepted by Harris & Hollingsworth, where he found a part time job that gave him a sense of purpose and, while

-serving a subpoena on a well-to-do Northridge house, the opportunity to hear for the first time in his 29 years since coming from Hawaii a white person address him as "sir."

## A Law Degree and a Little Chip on Your Shoulder

In 1971, Cayetano graduated from law school and returned home to Hawaii on a 747, looking from the air for signs of whether or not the controversial H-3 defense freeway had been constructed – it had not.

The time had come for him to take the defining rite of passage for prospective lawyers – the bar exam. He recalls sweating over missed questions and cringing over perpetuities and negotiable instruments, subjects that he "found boring and had treated as such in law school." For six weeks, Cayetano feared the worst that he had failed his bar exam but found out that he passed on the first try, becoming the only one out of 900 graduates from his high school class of 1958 to become a lawyer. His wife, Lorraine called him from home to tell him, "didn't I tell you that I knew you would pass? I'm so proud of you."

Not long after opening his own law practice, Cayetano was courted by then-Governor John A. Burns to head the Hawaii Housing Authority Commission despite never having met him personally. Cayetano recalls the governor's executive assistant explaining to him that "he [Gov. Burns] knows your story ... that [you] came home with a law degree and a little chip on your shoulder."

Accepting the offer, Cayetano remarks about the day of his appointment: "I owed and

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COVER STORY

I wanted to give back. Public service was one way to do it. And a governor I had never met opened the door to that world for me: it was a turning point in my life."

It wasn't long after his appointment that Cayetano was approached by Richard Dumancus, president of the Sheet Metal Worker's Union who encouraged him to run for office. One week later, Cayetano decided to run in the 1974 election for the newly-created 19th House District which included Pearl City, a district which political experts considered to be "the wrong district."

Despite being advised to run in Kalihi or Waipahu because of a better chance of success, Cayetano went ahead anyway with an all-novice campaign staff, walking door to door with his wife and telling his story to voters. Despite being ignored by nearly all the unions, a break came when HSTA announced it had endorsed him. On election day, Cayetano defeated his opponent by just over 500 votes. He had become a state legislator at a time when some 22 new freshmen were elected, a stunning 43 percent turnover of seats.

Four years later, Cayetano ran for the State Senate and won, but tragedy struck that same year when his mother died in her sleep. Brokenhearted, Cayetano recalls finding on his mother's nightstand a nearly empty medicine vial in which his mother had taken some 47 capsules in less than two days — she had likely been confused and forgotten how many pills she took, so it was assumed.

"Mom had lived a star crossed life," Cayetano writes. "She was beautiful and smart, but she suffered at the hands of her cruel father. Once, my Aunt Rachel told me, my grandfather hung my mother suspended from her wrists from the ceiling. Mom was about 12 at the time. Only after Aunt Rachel, who was about 10, started screaming and pulling on his arm did he let mom down.

With reorganization going on in the Senate, Cayetano had little time to mourn. For 12 years Cayetano fought many battles in the Legislature, championed many causes and won as many friends as he did political enemies, never shying away from controversial issues and the difficult challenges of his times. In 1986, the Hawaii gubernatorial election drew strong contenders to the Democratic



Atty. Emmanuel Tipon congratulating Ben Cayetano on his new book during one of his book signing tours

Primary and Cayetano ran for Lieutenant Governor, overcoming a 20-point deficit and beating his opponent by 43,000 votes. He and John Waihee would go on to defeat Andy Anderson and Pat Saiki in the general election and Cayetano's political stock continued to rise while serving as Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii for the next eight years.

**Cayetano Rex: America's First Filipino Governor**

In 1994, Cayetano's tour de force culminated when he was elected as America's first ever Filipino governor. A poll conducted two years earlier gave Cayetano high marks for independence and honesty, but was perceived by many to be arrogant and brash. Nonetheless, Cayetano won on November 6, 1994 with 35.8 percent of the vote.

He would go on to win reelection a second time in 1998 and presided over some of the most turbulent times in Hawaii's history, including the terrorist attacks against America on September 11, 2001 and the ensuing economic crisis. By the time he left office, he was known as a fighter who took risks but always came out on top against opponents in battles he was expected to lose.

Cayetano's book signing events to promote his autobiography drew massive crowds, including many members of his former administration, political friends and enemies alike, and mostly people who stopped by just to say "Thank you, Ben."

I interviewed Cayetano at his second book signing event and asked him what advice he had for young persons interested in politics. "Get a good education," he said outright. "If you're seeking political office, you need to get some experience in the political arena, so I would say to help someone who is in politics, get experience that way, and see if

that's what you really want." With Cayetano having shaken the world so many times over and having won so many elections, I couldn't resist asking him whether or not he had any interest of returning to politics. "I was in it for 28 years and it's time for the young people to assume the mantle of leadership. People my age need to recognize that."

People of all ages, race, religion and political affiliation admire the former governor for his tale of triumph over adversity and his rise to power as a Filipino-American.

"Cayetano's life story is a testament to the fulfillment of the American dream," Lt. Governor James "Duke" Aiona Jr. commented. "The lesson we should take away from reading his book is that there is an opportunity in every situation we see people face in life. Regardless of our ethnicity or socio-economic status, we all can overcome obstacles to changes that we wish for ourselves. I'm very proud of the accomplishments of the Filipino community in our state, which has a long and proud history with roots tracing back more than a century in Hawaii."

For U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie, he immediately knew Ben was "somebody special" when the two first met in 1974.

"Ben has always been at the forefront — a leader. He won in a district he wasn't supposed to win in, he never lost an election his entire life, he was almost always behind when he started a contest but he always came out the winner because he's honest, tough, and smart.

"If I had to think of three characteristics about Ben, honesty comes first and foremost. He's tough as nails and boy is he smart," U.S. Rep. Abercrombie said.

"People recognized a real leader when they saw one. They didn't always necessarily agree with him but they knew he was



Ben Cayetano with wife Vicky assisting him during his book signing tour

making decisions on behalf of the entire community. The Filipino community and all Hawaii can be very proud of him."

I also asked Rep. Abercrombie what advice he had for young Filipinos interested in following Cayetano's footsteps and serving in elected office.

"You have to take the point of view that he always took," Abercrombie said. "...that nothing was going to stop him, because there were outside forces or elements like being a son of an immigrant, coming from a tough neighborhood, living in circumstances that were not the most advantageous. No matter what the obstacles were, he never let them stand in his way."

Former Honolulu City Councilwoman Ann Kobayashi was one of an estimated 300 autograph seekers who stood in line during Cayetano's book signing. She said his book is an inspiration for young people.

"The real lesson for everybody is that you have to follow your dream," she says. "He had such a hard life, such a hard childhood, and here he became

governor of the State of Hawaii and is still popular."

State Representative Lynn Finnegan felt that Cayetano's life story is reflective of the American spirit and promise of success to those who endure.

"In America, no dream is without power or impossible of fulfillment and Cayetano as the first Filipino governor proved that," said Finnegan. "I look forward to the day when we will have a person of Filipino descent as the President of the United States of America."

Another Filipino lawmaker, State Rep. Kymberly Pine, said that it's important for more Filipinos to see themselves as strong, powerful leaders like Cayetano was.

"He broke many barriers for the Filipino people and opened doors for people of all races to achieve their dreams. He's a courageous man who many people can be proud of, and I consider him to be one of my favorite leaders," she said.

Others who attended the book signing ceremonies were

(continued on page 6)

**Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.**



**Board-certified ophthalmologist**  
U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Philippines  
San Marcelino, Zambales  
1988 to 1990  
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(Fortune Favors... from page 5)

not as magnanimous in their comments about former governor.

"I find it strange that while in office, Ben said that his legacy would be determined by history. Yet here he is, years later, writing the first chapter of his legacy with this autobiography," a Filipino said under condition of anonymity. "That's something to keep in mind when reading this book."

Perhaps the greatest lesson that Filipinos can learn from Cayetano's memoirs is that the future belongs to those who believe in their dreams. That the time is now, rather than later, for young people to get involved in political leadership, no matter how impossible it may seem for them to break in and that they have to be willing to be agents of change rather than maintainers of the status quo.

"The younger generation must take an active role in the political process," said Sarah Hunt, host of the television show Better Government. "The first step in getting involved is to become aware about your votes. The next step is to cast it. One by one, we can reclaim our representation and give it back to the people of Hawaii. If you believe your voice is being washed out by corruption and special self interests, get involved. Real change starts with people who actually want change and are not the same people, dressing up the same idea to be sold as a new one."

### A Book For Every Home Library

During the height of Cayetano's term in office, I was living half a world away in San Antonio, Texas, but even there I heard daily of the Filipino governor's political prowess and exploits. When my



Councilmember Nestor Garcia and wife Karen showing the new book by Ben Cayetano that they had purchased during the book signing event at Ward Center

father, who was born in Hawaii retired as a colonel in 2002 from the U.S. Air Force after 32 years of service, we were surprised to learn that Gov. Cayetano sent him a warm letter congratulating him on his years of service.

It was a moment that my father and I will never forget. Despite being a staunch Republican, my father always admired Cayetano. My father had grown up as an orphan in Honolulu, and like the governor, had moved to California where he faced discrimination and had to work harder than most as a poor Filipino in search of an education and respect.

When I read Cayetano's book, I understand better the governor's struggles and grew to respect my father even more because I realized that the blessings we Filipinos enjoy today came at the sweat and tears of the previous generation.

"Ben: A Memoir, From Street Kid To Governor" is a book for every home library. It challenges us to see that greatness comes not when things go well for us, but when we're tested. "Only if you've been in the deepest valley can you ever appreciate how magnificent it is to be on the highest mountain." I strongly recommend Cayetano's new book for young and old, Democrat and Republican, Filipino and non-Filipino alike.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Filipino Students Encouraged to Apply White House Internship Program



Applications are being accepted for the White House Internship Program for the summer 2009.

Those selected to participate in the program will gain valuable experience, develop leadership skills and learn firsthand about life at the White House.

"This program will mentor and cultivate young leaders of today and tomorrow," says President Barack Obama. "I look forward to working with those that are selected to participate and I want to commend all who apply for their desire to help through public service to forge a brighter future for our country."

In addition to office duties, interns will supplement their learning experience by attending a weekly lecture series hosted by senior White House staff, assist at White House social events and volunteer in community service projects.

The 2009 Summer Internship program runs from May 22-August 14, and the submission deadline is March 22, 2009.

Those interested in apply-

ing will be placed in a departmental office for their internship. The following is a list of departments in the Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President where interns could be placed:

ing to the White House Internship Program must be:

- U.S. Citizens
- Eighteen years of age on or before the first day of the internship.
- Enrolled in a college or university (2-4 year institution) or must have graduated from college within the past two years.

"We encourage our young people, particularly those with an interest in public office, to apply for the White House internships," says Teresita G. Bernaldes, Ed.D., Director of Global Youth Center of Hawaii. "The experiences gained could one day help a young Filipino, if chosen, to one day become president of the U.S."

- White House Department of Scheduling and Advance
- The Office of Cabinet Affairs
- The White House Communications Department
- The White House Office of Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs
- The Office of the First Lady
- The White House Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA)
- The Office of Political Affairs
- The Office of Management and Administration
- The Office of White House Counsel
- The Domestic Policy Council
- The White House Office of Presidential Personnel
- Office of the Vice President

More information on the White House Internship Program, including application instructions, can be found at: [www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships](http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships).

# Inaugural Filipino Film Festival Set For April

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu is partnering with the Honolulu Academy of Arts for the 1st Annual Filipino Film Festival, scheduled for April 10-17, 2009 at the Doris Duke Theatre.

The Honolulu Academy of Arts will celebrate independent Filipino cinema by hosting six new award-winning films by a cooperative of independent filmmakers. According to the Philippine Consulate General, the films selected for the eight-day event have received rave reviews from Filipino critics and audiences.

Two of the films—"Boses" and "Brutus"—were in Louis Vuitton's 2008 Hawaii International Film Festival and are back by popular demand. The film schedule is as follows:

- April 10 at 7:30 pm and April 11 at 1 pm and 4 pm
- "100," directed by Chris Martinez
- April 11 at 7:30 pm and April 13 at 1 pm and 7:30 pm
- "Boses" (the Voices), di-

rected by Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil

- April 14 at 1 pm and 7:30 pm
- "Brutus," directed by Tara Barrera Illenberger
- April 15 at 1 pm and 7:30 pm
- "Yummy," directed by Jay Abello
- April 16 at 1 pm and 7:30 pm and April 17 at 1 pm
- "Endo," directed by Jade Francis Castro
- April 18 at 1 pm, 4 pm and 7:30 pm
- "The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros," directed by Arauca Solito

Festival organizers will hold lectures and discussion after the showings. Directors and actors will be present to answer questions from the audience.

Those who are interested in the event are encouraged to make advanced reservations due to limited seating, which is on a first come, first serve basis. More information is available online at: [www.honoluluacademy.org](http://www.honoluluacademy.org) or by calling 532-8700.



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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

### Jasmine Trias, Society of Seven LV to Perform in Weekend Series

American Idol finalist Jasmine Trias will join the Society of Seven Las Vegas for a limited five-weekend engagement from March 6-April 4 at the Outrigger Main Showroom.

Fran Kirk, Outrigger Entertainment vice president, says Trias and the SOS LV were a hit when they performed together last year.

"We're excited to have her back," says Kirk. "Jasmine adds an element of freshness and femininity to the Society of Seven Las Vegas. Audiences will be surprised by her growth and broad scope of musical genres she is able to excel in."

In addition to SOS LV's Broadway melodies and celebrity impersonations, Trias will perform songs from "Flower Drug Song," "Miss Saigon" and "Dream Girls." Organizers say she will enchant the audiences with her impersonations of Beyonce, Britney Spears, Natalie Cole and Shakira, and perform hits from her American Idol journey that put her in the national and world limelight.



Trias, who finished third in American Idol's third season, has performed with Tony Ruivivar and the original SOS members at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. She was the first American Idol star to appear in a production show on the Las Vegas strip.

More information is available online at [www.outriggeractivities.com](http://www.outriggeractivities.com) or by calling 923-7408.

### Hirono Announces \$16.2 Million For Public Housing Repair

U.S. Rep. Mazie K. Hirono announced a \$16.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development to repair and modernize public housing complexes throughout Hawaii.

Projects include re-roofing and renovating units on Maui and the Big Island, as well as updating aging elevators and upgrading electrical systems statewide.

"We're boosting the economy, putting people to work, and providing long term benefits to public housing residents," Hirono says.

Hirono also voted in favor of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, H.R. 1105, which includes \$172 million of the

Congresswoman's highest priority funding requests. The bill passed the House by a vote of 245-178 and now goes before the Senate.

"A large portion of my approved funding requests are for educational, agricultural and infrastructure projects and programs in Hawaii," she says. "This funding not only addresses immediate budgetary needs for these programs, it strengthens our island economy over the long-term."

Hirono's requests include \$24 million for various agricultural projects, \$20 million for the fixed rail project and \$7 million to expand the Campbell National Wildlife Refuge on Oahu's North Shore.

### UH Filipino Program Offers Six Scholarships

The University of Hawaii-Manoa's Filipino & Philippine Literature Program is offering five scholarships of \$1,000 each and one scholarship of \$500 for the Fall 2009 semester.

Three Venancio Igarta Scholarships worth \$1,000 each are available for students majoring in Philippine Language and Literature with a concentration in Filipino. Applicants must be Filipino-American, born and raised in Hawaii or moved to Hawaii at age seven or younger and have a 3.0 grade point average. The scholarship is in memory of the late Venancio Igarta, a New York-based Filipino painter who bequeathed his artwork for the benefit of Filipino artists and the community through the Igarta Arts Center.

Two other scholarships are the Aida

Ramisal Martin Scholarship and the Filipino & Philippine Literature Program Scholarship. Both are valued at \$1,000. The final scholarship is a \$500 scholarship donated by Teresita Ramos. Applicants must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher and minor in Filipino.

The scholarships are meant to encourage students to major or minor in Filipino language and literature. A degree would be useful for teachers or instructors at the elementary, high school and college levels; those in the military or in defense intelligence; researchers in culture, politics, linguistics and economics; social workers and counselors; diplomatic and consular jobs; performing arts, music and creative writing.

Those interested in applying are encouraged to contact Dr. Ruth Mabanglo via email at [Mabanglo@hawaii.edu](mailto:Mabanglo@hawaii.edu) or by calling 956-6970.

**IMMIGRATION GUIDE**



**By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon**

# Who Is the Fool Who Says "Marry for Love"? You Can Marry for Money or Immigration If ...



ou must marry for love," is an unsolicited advice that is honored more in the breach than in the observance. The advice gives pretend to be romantic. "What fools these mortals be," said Shakespeare.

A fitfitysh woman married an eightysh man. Here is the visa interview Q & A.

"Q: If he did not court you and you do not have a relationship with \_\_\_\_\_, why did you decide to accept his marriage proposal?"

"A: "He was recommended to me by my cousin \_\_\_\_\_ and she knows him personally. I can also immigrate to the U.S. by marrying him. . ."

The consul denied the visa saying "You have no petitionable relationship with the petitioner." He returned the file to USCIS which issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke, telling petitioner to explain his wife's statement and to present evidence that the marriage was not entered into for the purpose of evading immigration laws.

**Overcoming visa denial**

We succeeded in fighting the visa denial. USCIS reaffirmed the visa approval. We successfully used the same reasoning and similar evidence in other older man/younger woman marriages. A WW II vet told us that he has heard our successful track record in this kind of cases and is prepared to stake his stimulus package to be reunited with his younger wife whose visa was denied. "But you will no longer have any stimulus," we joked. "My wife will take care of that," he counter-joked.

**Legal and bona fide marriage**

The alien must establish not only that there is a legal marriage, but that it is bona fide and not for the purpose of procuring the alien's entry into the U.S. *Ilic Lee v. Mukasey*, No. 06-3494, 06-4089 (CA9 Nov. 19, 2007). After World War II, war brides flocked to America on petition of their soldier husbands, under the War Brides Act. Three French war brides were charged with conspiracy to obtain illicit entry as spouses of veterans. The U.S. Supreme Court said: "The common understanding of a marriage, which Congress must have had in mind when it made provision for 'alien spouses' in the War Brides Act, is that the two parties have undertaken to establish a life together and assume certain duties and obligations." *Lutwak v. United States*, 344 U.S. 604, 73 S.Ct. 481, 97 L.Ed. 593 (1953).

**Must marriage be successful or viable?**

In a case involving people from Hawaii, the court held that: "Aliens cannot be required to have a more conventional or more successful marriage than citizens. . . Petitioner's marriage was a sham if the bride and groom did not intend to establish a life together at the time they were married. The concept of establishing a life as marital partners contains no federal dictate about the kind of life that the partners may choose to lead. Any attempt to regulate their life styles, such as prescribing the amount of time they must spend together, or designating the manner in which either partner elects to spend his or her time, in the guise of specifying the requirements of bona fide marriage would raise serious constitutional questions." *Bark v. INS*, 511 F.2d 1200 (CA9 1975). The

"nonviability of the marriage cannot alone be the basis to deny adjustment." *Hernandez v. Ashcroft*, 345 F.3d 824 (CA9 2003).

**Falling out of love or separation?**

An adjustment of status is approvable if it is established that the applicant entered into the marriage in good faith, even if the parties are no longer in love. *Agyeman v. INS*, 296 F.3d 871 (CA9 2002). "Evidence that the parties separated after their wedding is relevant in ascertaining whether they intended to establish a life together when they exchanged marriage vows. But evidence of separation, standing alone, cannot support a finding that a marriage was not bona fide when it was entered." *Bark v. INS*, 511 F.2d 1200 (CA9 1975).

**Marriage for "green card" not necessarily sham**

In a case involving Ilocanos in Hawaii, the court said that: "Motivations are at most evidence of intent, and do not themselves make the marriages shams. Marriages for money or other ulterior gain are as ancient as mankind, yet may still be genuine, and marriage fraud may be committed by one party to the marriage, or a person who arranged the marriage, yet the other spouse may genuinely intend to marry. The ulterior motive of financial benefit or immigration benefit does not make the marriage a fraud, though it may be evidence that the marriage is fraudulent." *U.S. v. Tagalicud*, 84 F.3d 1180 (CA9 1996). "Just as marriages for money, hardly a novelty, or marriages among princes and princesses for reasons of state may be genuine and not sham marriages, so may marriages for green cards can be genuine. An intent to obtain something other

than or in addition to love and companionship from that life does not make a marriage a sham. Rather, the sham arises from the intent 'not to establish a life together.'" *U.S. v. Orellana-Blanco*, 294 F.3d 1143 (CA9 2002).

(ATTY. TIPON has won all deportation cases he handled and obtained approval of all visa petitions he filed. He is from Laog City. He has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service," an 8-volume prac-

tice and procedure guide for immigration officers and lawyers. He specializes in immigration and criminal defense. Office at 905 Uni St, corner N. King, Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96819. Tel. (808) 847 1601. Fax (808) 8 4 7 1 6 2 4 . E - M a i l : [filamlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:filamlaw@yahoo.com). Website: [www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com](http://www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com). Listen to the most interesting and humorous radio program on Hawaii radio KNDI 1270 every Friday 7:30-8:00 AM. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice for any specific person or situation. Neither the writer nor publisher warrant the completeness or accuracy of the information provided herein at the time of publication.)



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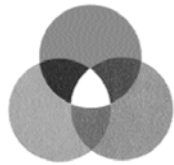
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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## US Report: RP Judiciary Corrupt, Inefficient

By Pia Lee-Brago/ Friday,  
February 27, 2009

**M**ANILA, Philippines - A US State Department report said corruption and inefficiency in the judicial system have undermined human rights in the Philippines and caused "widespread skepticism" of due process.

"The law provides for an independent judiciary; however, the judicial system suffered from corruption and inefficiency," the State Department's 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in the Philippines released yesterday said.

"Personal ties and sometimes bribery resulted in impunity for some wealthy or influential offenders and contributed to widespread skepticism that the judicial process could ensure due process and equal justice," the report said.

"Trials were delayed, and procedures were prolonged. Corruption was a problem throughout the criminal justice system," the report said.

The report also said political killings and disappearances "dropped dramatically" in recent years "following increased domestic and international scrutiny."

But the report said some members of the security forces

continued to abuse detainees physically and psychologically and there were instances of torture.

Prisoners awaiting trial and those already convicted were often held under primitive conditions, the report said.

Leftwing and human rights activists were often subjected to harassment by local security forces. Problems such as violence against women, abuse of children, child prostitution, trafficking in persons, child labor, and ineffective enforcement of workers' rights were common, the report also said.

The report also cited abuses by the New People's

Army, particularly its liquidation of government officials and perceived civilian enemies.

The rebel group's recruitment of child soldiers was also noted in the report. The use of children for combat or auxiliary roles was also common in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and in the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf.

The report also cited inroads in judicial reforms initiated by the Supreme Court.

It mentioned, for example, the dismissal in September of a Court of Appeals justice and the disciplining of four others for their roles in a bribery scandal. In October the high

court denied the motions for reconsideration filed by these justices.

The report also said time limits for the resolution of cases appeared ineffective.

The law provides that cases should be resolved within set time limits once submitted for decision - 24 months for the Supreme Court, 12 months for the Court of Appeals and three months for the lower courts.

"However, these time limits were not mandatory and, in effect, there were no time limits for trials. Lengthy pretrial detention remained a problem. Anecdotal evidence suggested that, in practice, trials can take six years or more," the US report said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## Insured Bank Deposit Doubled

By Jess Diaz / Thursday,  
February 26, 2009

**M**ANILA, Philippines - In the face of the Legacy fiasco, the House of Representatives has approved the proposed doubling of the amount of insured bank deposits to P500,000.

The proposal to double the amount of deposits insured by the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) is contained in a bill whose principal author is Speaker Prospero Nograles.

Before congressmen approved the Speaker's proposal, opposition Rep. Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro introduced an amendment that would prohibit



Speaker Prospero Nograles

PDIC from paying fraudulent deposits of failed banks.

Under the amendment, PDIC would be authorized to settle only "legitimate" bank deposits.

"This will prevent a repeat of the Legacy scandal, which involved the splitting of accounts so depositors can go around the

deposit insurance law," Rodriguez said.

Citing findings by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, he said Legacy depositors were told to split their deposits into not more than P250,000 per account so these would be covered by the PDIC.

He said unless PDIC insurance is limited to legitimate deposits, unscrupulous bankers would find a way of going around the new higher level of insured accounts to rob their banks.

"It will then be the taxpayers, through the PDIC, who will be left holding the empty bag," he stressed.

He pointed out that in the case of the shuttered Legacy group of 12 rural banks, the PDIC is spending nearly P14 billion to pay off depositors.

Upon the prodding of congressmen, PDIC president Jose Nograles has promised to scrutinize each depositor's insurance claim submitted to his agency. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## Philippines Accepts Nepalese Doctors Amid Shortage

**A** hospital in the eastern Philippines is opening up its residency program to doctors from impoverished Nepal to address a shortage of Filipino physicians.

Some 40 Nepalese doctors are vying to be admitted at the state-run Bicol Medical Centre in Naga city, where they will be assigned to departments including pediatrics, surgery and internal medicine.

The Nepalese doctors will undergo residency training for four years, but will not be allowed to practice privately in the Philippines. They will pay about 3,000 dollars each to train with Filipino doctors in a hospital system largely modeled on U.S. standards.

Ruben Penafiel, officer in charge at the hospital, said some of the Nepalese doctors might be asked to extend their stay to help solve "the severe

shortage of doctors at government hospitals."

He said another hospital in the central Philippines was considering taking in more than 30 Nepalese doctors.

About 1,000 Nepalese doctors look for residency each year in medical facilities across Asia that are based on the U.S. system, since there are only a few hospitals in their own country.

The Philippines is experiencing a shortage of doctors amid a mass exodus of physicians to the U.S., where they receive higher pay. Others refrain to become nurses, who are in short supply in the U.S., according to the Philippine Medical Association.

Since 2000, some 11,000 Filipino doctors have gone back to medical school to retrain as nurses, more than half of whom have already landed jobs in the US, the group says. ([www.philfortune.com](http://www.philfortune.com))



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## LEGAL NOTES

# Centralized Processing for Naturalization



By Reuben S. Seguritan



When applying for naturalization to be a U.S. citizen, it is important to know where to file the N-400 application and supporting documents otherwise, delay will result when filed in a wrong location or facility.

Effective January 22, 2009, certain naturalization applications will have to be mailed to a designated lockbox facility instead of a USCIS Service Center as previously done.

In the past, the processing of naturalization applications took

place in any of the four service centers or the field office having jurisdiction of the applicant's residence.

This move to centralize the initial processing of the N-400s is intended to streamline the process and facilitate a more cost-effective, efficient and consistent handling of naturalization applications. This is also intended to standardize the review of the applications and pre-interview process for cases requiring interview at a local USCIS field office in order to improve business processes, case management and customer service.

All N-400 cases should now be filed at the designated lockbox except for two categories: military applicants who are veterans or active members of the U.S. Armed Forces filing under section 328 or 329 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act and

spouses of current members of the U.S. Armed Forces. They are directed to file with the Nebraska Service Center whether or not they are filing within the U.S. or are based abroad.

Other than the above two exceptions, naturalization applicants who reside in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands should file their N-400 and supporting document with the USCIS lockbox facility located in Phoenix, Arizona.

Those residing in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, DC, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mis-

issippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and U.S. Virgin Islands should file their N-400 and supporting documents with the USCIS lockbox facility located in Dallas, Texas.

In cases erroneously filed, USCIS has given a transition period of 30 days from January 22, 2009. These cases will be forwarded to the proper address instead of rejected.

After the 30-day grace period, the N-400 will be returned to applicant with an explanation and direction on the appropriate facility or lockbox to mail it.

To be eligible for naturalization, the applicant must show that he/she is either a lawful permanent resident for at least five

years; or if married to and living with a U.S. citizen, a lawful permanent resident for at least three years; or member of the U.S. Armed Forces with honorable military service; or a member of one of several other groups eligible to apply for naturalization and at least 18 years old.

Along with the N-400 form, the applicant needs to file his/her supporting documents to prove his/her eligibility for naturalization and the filing fee of \$595.00 plus a biometrics fee of \$80.00 for a total of \$675.00 payable to USCIS.

The USCIS will issue a new N-400 and instructions form to reflect these amendments.

REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his web-site at [www.seguritan.com](http://www.seguritan.com)

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## DFA: Visiting Forces Agreement Helps Build Strong Republic

By Jose Rodel Clapano /  
Thurs., February 26, 2009

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino and US troops operating under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) help preserve peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region in these times of uncertainty, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

In a statement, DFA spokesman Eduardo Malay said the VFA is part of the network of alliances in the Asia-Pacific and an effective deterrent against potential aggressors.

"By increasing interoperability between Philippine and US forces, the VFA enhances Philippine national security and helps create a stable environment conducive to economic development," he said.

Malay said the VFA ensures that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is kept abreast of new military strategies and technologies.

It also increases the capacity of Filipino troops to respond to security threats like terrorism, pandemics, natural disasters and transnational crime, he added.

Malay said in 2006, the US trained and equipped an Army engineering company, three Infantry battalions, a Ma-

rine battalion, and three Light Reaction Companies.

"Last year, through a total of 25 major exercises under the VFA, Philippine Armed Forces personnel obtained enhanced training, assistance and support on defense capacities including surveillance, intelligence, reconstruction, communications, and mobility," he said.

Malay said through the VFA, the AFP has received materiel from the US to effectively secure the nation from external and internal threats.

"The United States has already provided the AFP with eight helicopters in 2000; 20 of the 30 committed UH-1H (Huey helicopters) in 2007; 1 cyclone; 6 fast anti-terrorism boats; 433 M-35 trucks; 30,000 M-16 rifles; 1 C130; 2 Point Class navy cutters; night vision goggles; navigation equipment; and protection equipment such as vests and helmets," he said.

Malay said the US has also committed to share in the expenses for the implementation of the Joint Defense Assessment, costing approximately \$400 million over a 10-year period. "The US National Defense Authorization Act also allocated \$12 million and \$16 million to the Coast Watch South Project in 2007 and 2008, to strengthen security in our borders," he said.



Malay said the VFA also generated income for the Philippines and through the five-year RP-US Mutual Logistics Support Agreement, provided revenues for the AFP amounting to \$706,425.28.

"The United States ship visits to the Philippines have brought in \$5 million and \$9.5 million in 2006 and 2007, respectively, as proceeds from the replenishment of supplies and logistics," he said.

"The VFA also facilitates RP-US cooperation in eliminating the scourge of terrorism and

rebuilding in times of disaster."

Malay said last year, the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan assisted in relief activities following typhoon "Frank."

Its 13 cargo aircraft and helicopters flew 316 sorties delivering 479,105 lbs. of relief supplies, he added.

Malay said the VFA also "directly benefits" Filipinos through its civil-military and humanitarian component.

"In the 2008 Balikatan, 17,209 patients were treated through the medical civic action

program (MEDCAP), and 10 schools were repaired or rebuilt through the engineering civic action program (ENCAP)," he said.

Malay said Balabac, Palawan Mayor Shuaib Astami was thankful for the five-day humanitarian and civic assistance program of Balikatan 08 that benefited his town.

"About 2,500 residents were able to avail themselves of free medical and dental services, and joint RP and US forces were able to construct a two-room school building," he said.

"The US forces also donated school supplies and athletic gear for elementary and high school students."

Malay said in Sulu, Filipino and US troops conducted a two-week medical mission in 19 towns.

Sulu Gov. Sakur Tan praised the Balikatan 08 for "paving the way for peace and a progressive Sulu," he added. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

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IFS-A107534 Ed. 12/2006

## PHILIPPINE NEWS FEATURE

ASH WEDNESDAY  
TIME TO REPENT

By Evelyn MACAIRAN /  
Wednesday, February 25, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - Catholics are being called to repent for the sins that they have committed and promise they would become better Christians during today's observance of Ash Wednesday, which will mark the start of the Lenten season.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president and Jaro, Iloilo Archbishop

Angel Lagdameo yesterday said he is hoping that the country's leaders would experience a "moral renewal" and shun graft and corruption.

Archbishop Lagdameo said today's leaders should use the Lenten season to re-examine their lives.

"The call of Lent is for moral renewal. To achieve this we need at least a critical mass of citizen-

leaders who are willing to 'break out of the box,' to operate with a new social consciousness and conscience, not for their individual or group security, but for the good of the greatest number," he said.

In his Lenten Message, the CBCP president reminded leaders that graft and corruption is like a contagious social cancer that eventually affects the services to the poor.

"The most seriously affected by the crisis of moral values are the poor, the marginalized, often-times treated like commodities. Graft and corruption breed widespread poverty. Widespread poverty in turn breeds graft and corruption," he said.

With national elections slated for next year, he reminded the public that one way to cure the social cancer is by electing new leaders who possess the values of honesty, justice, truth, integrity, credibility, accountability, transparency and stewardship.

"The forthcoming national elections must not simply be a changing of hats for the same persons, or change of faces but with unchanged hearts. We must be able to gather a critical mass of citizen-leaders with a genuine passion and obsession for good governance and prophetic leadership," he said.

Meanwhile, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales told the faithful that in order to

complete their true transformation, they should be generous and perform good deeds and almsgiving.

In his pastoral letter, Cardinal Rosales invited Christians to "live out a deeper meaning of Lent this year by performing acts of good deeds and almsgiving."

The money that they could save from their fasting and abstinence could be donated to one of the programs, HAPAG-ASA which is dedicated to feed hungry and malnourished Filipino children.

HAPAG-ASA is an integrated nutrition program meant to alleviate hunger among Filipino children. Through the Archdiocese of Manila and the five Suffragan Dioceses, the program has been able to feed close to 24,000 children in its two-and-a-half-year history.

This year, HAPAG-ASA aims to feed at least 12,340 children from Metro Manila as committed by the dioceses. ([www.philfortune.com](http://www.philfortune.com))

## MAINLAND NEWS

## Filipino Designer Vies for Red Carpet Glory

Fashion designer Alan del Rosario is hoping to make history as the first Filipino designer to win the "Oscars Designer Challenge" competition.

The contest features seven up-and-coming fashion designers who are vying to have their original evening gown worn

during the 81st Academy Awards. The gown entries were submitted earlier this month at the annual Oscar fashion show at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The winning designer's gown will be worn by a model who will assist in giving the Oscar trophy to winners during

a live telecast on Oscar night.

Del Rosario, a former civil engineer from the Philippines, recently won California's Designer of the Year and GenArt Los Angeles' Fresh Face awards. His gown is a strapless French lace and pink silk mermaid gown accentuated with Neil Lane jewelry that includes

art deco diamond bracelets, emerald cut diamond ring and art deco linear diamond earrings. The black satin t-strap evening sandals are by Stuart Weitzman.

"I want to capture the old Hollywood glamour and make it more relevant today," del Rosario says.

Del Rosario has two lines: "Burlap" is his sexy, sophisticated, funky new contemporary label, while "Bow & Arrow" is his couture line that translates red carpet chic into a collection that moves effortlessly with the

changing events throughout a woman's day.

One of Del Rosario's close friends is Monique Lhuillier, another Filipino designer who is also making fashion waves in Hollywood.

"Monique and I are friends since we are both Cebuano and both graduates of the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising," del Rosario says.

Del Rosario's clothes are getting noticed in Hollywood. Celebrities who have worn his creations include Michele Pfeiffer, Debra Messing, Paris Hilton, and Drew Barrymore. ([www.philfortune.com](http://www.philfortune.com))

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cation form.  
**APRIL 6TH.** 4pm, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl — “*Araw ng Kagitingan*” (Day of Valor)  
**JUNE 12.** 8:30am, at the con-

sulate grounds — “*Araw ng Kalayaan*” (Independence Day) and another activity at 6:30 pm.

**JULY 10-14TH — Ambassadors and Consul Generals Tour to the Philippines,** a special package tour for the public.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**55TH TERNO BALL & 5TH WOMEN ACHIEVERS' AWARDS NIGHT / SATURDAY**  
March 7, 2009 • Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Ballroom • Contact Lina Longboy (375 0828) or Jo Farina (282 3847)

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROJECT / SATURDAY**  
March 14 and June 13, 2009 • 9:30 am - 1:30 pm • Likelike Highway & Kalihi Street • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828

**UH ILOKANO LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE PROGRAM AND THE TIMPUYOG STUDENT ORGANIZATION'S ILOKANO DRAMA AND SONG / SATURDAY**  
April 11, 2009 • 9:30am - 1:30pm • UHM Art Auditorium • Free admission. Call Dr. Aurelio Agcaolil at 956-8405 or Julius Soria at 956-2226

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**OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) GOLF TOURNAMENT / SATURDAY**  
April 15, 2009 • Kapolei Golf Course • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828 for more information

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**TIMPUYOG AND ILOKANO BA SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET / FRIDAY**  
May 8, 2009 • Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki Ballroom • For tickets and more information, call Dr. Aurelio Agcaolil at 956-8405 or Julius Soria at 956-2226

**FILIPINO FIESTA, PARADE AND SANTACRUZAN / SATURDAY**  
May 9, 2009 • All day starting at 8 am. • For inquiries, call FilCom Center at 680-0451

**GOLDEN JUBILEE MISS OAHU FILIPINA PAGEANT / SATURDAY**  
June 13, 2009 • Pacific Beach Hotel • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828

**OFCC GOLDEN PRESIDENT'S BALL / FRIDAY**  
June 26, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel, Tapa Ballroom • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828

**OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) ANNUAL CONVENTION / SATURDAY**  
June 27, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828 for more details

**FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII INSTALLATION BANQUET / SATURDAY**  
July 11, 2009 • 6 pm. • Hilton Hawaiian Village • Call Rose Mendoza at 371-3902 or Bennett Evangelista at 398-5988

**BATAAN CATALINA 79TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION / SATURDAY**  
July 25, 2009 • For more information, send email at [juncolme@yahoo.com](mailto:juncolme@yahoo.com)

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