

HAWAII

FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

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CITIZENS PATROLS TAKE A BITE OUT OF KALIHI CRIME

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EDITORIAL

Community Policing Works!

Every Tuesday and Thursday evenings, two citizens patrols walk through their respective neighborhoods in Kalihi. They report suspicious activities and persons, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, bulky items and anything else that may blight their community.

For the Kalihi Kai Patrol, statistics during a one-year period beginning in July 2007 to June 2008 show a downward trend in number of calls received by police in HPD's District 5. As for the second patrol—the Kalihi Community Watch—authorities have raided and shut down many drug and ice houses as a result of their vigilant efforts. Both patrols are proof positive that community policing works.

Successful community policing starts with the 'Broken Window' theory, which suggests that any evidence of decay in a neighborhood—be it broken windows, trash or graffiti—which is left untouched for long periods of time attracts and emboldens the criminal element. Those who live and work in the area are less willing to intervene, become more fearful and withdraw from community involvement and upkeep. But by simply repairing the broken window, painting over graffiti or taking other small steps can lead to a renewed sense of pride in the community.

We congratulate and commend these volunteers, the majority of whom are Filipinos, for serving as additional eyes and ears for the police. Their love for the community and for Kalihi is truly an inspiration for others.

Candidate Field Set For 2008 Election

Now that the dust has settled from the last minute flurry to file nomination papers, the real work begins for Filipino incumbents and newcomers who are vying for seats in the State Senate, House of Representatives and City Council.

A glance at the list of candidates shows no real surprises. In the Senate, incumbent Nor Menor squares off against two Democratic challengers. How voters will react to Menor's DUI woes is anyone's guess. He mailed letters of apology to voters in Senate District 17—a move that will help his chances, given the fact that Hawaii voters tend to have short memories. Another race of note is between former House Rep. Alex Sonson and incumbent Sen. Clarence Nishihara for Senate District 18. This contest will be too close to call.

In the House of Representatives, several Filipino incumbents are running unopposed. Those with opponents—which includes Reps. Joey Manahan (District 29), Rida Cabanilla (District 42), Kimberly Pine (District 43) and Michael Magaoyao (District 46)—stand excellent chances of winning re-election. If we're lucky, we'll see two new Pinoy's joining the list of Filipino House lawmakers—Filipino Chamber of Commerce president Jack Legal for District 40 and Rito Saniantan for District 41. A third newcomer could emerge from the crowded House District 35 race, where six candidates, several of whom are Filipino, are vying for Sonson's vacant seat.

In the Honolulu City Council, incumbents Romy Cachola and Nestor Garcia face opponents. Both veteran lawmakers are expected to win handily.

The race for Honolulu's top post may lack the intensity of the 2004 election when former council colleagues Mufi Hannemann and Duke Bainum duked it out. But a dramatic, 11th hour entry by Councilmember Ann Kobayashi at least spices things up. Still, Kobayashi, University of Hawaii professor Panos Prevedouras and the other mayoral hopefuls, several of whom are professed anti-rail critics, face a steep, uphill climb.

Issues such as the controversial rail transit system and Hawaii's faltering economy should give these candidates plenty to debate over. Good luck to all of them and may the best men and women win.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

W

elcome to another edition of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle and to the start of the 2008 election season! Many political signs have already been posted on yards and fences islandwide. In the coming weeks, we will see hordes of enthusiastic sign-wavers and lei-decked candidates standing on our streets. You may even get a knock on your door from some of the harder-working candidates, who prefer a face-to-face meeting with voters.

If you were unaware, July 22 was the deadline to officially declare one's candidacy. Several Filipino candidates, both incumbents and newcomers are among the political hopefuls. The numbers bode well for the Filipino community. Congratulations and best wishes to those who have filed nomination papers!

While on the subject of the election, Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona has a column in our Open Feature section on page 6. He lists several compelling reasons why Filipinos should support a "Con-Con" or Constitutional Convention, which is basically an organized gathering where elected delegates update the state's constitution for the purpose of restructuring our public education system and addressing other long-standing issues. Lt. Gov. Aiona urges Filipino voters to vote "yes" on the November 4th ballot for a Constitutional Convention.

For many voters, the controversial rail transit system will be an issue of importance. Momentum is building to allow voters to decide the contentious issue once and for all. In our Legislative Connection column on page 3, Sen. Will Esperso makes a strong case in favor of a rail system. Please read his article and see if you agree with him.

Our cover story for this issue, written by Dennis Galolo, is about two citizens patrols in the Kalihi area. You just might see them on Dillingham Boulevard or North King Street on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Clad in their bright-yellow t-shirts, patrol members are a visible deterrent to criminals. The dozen or so members who comprise each patrol are ordinary citizens from all walks of life. Some are retired, a few are working professionals, while others have young families. All of them volunteer an hour or so once a week to walk their neighborhood. And they are good at it. Each member has been trained by HPD on how to report suspicious people and activities. Their efforts and partnership with police have helped to reduce crime in their community. Please read more on pages 4-5.

There are other columns and feature stories in this issue that we hope you will find informative, including "Immigration Update" on page 7 and a profile of artist extraordinaire Juno Galang on page 6.

As always, we are grateful for your support. Until next issue.... Aloha and Mahuay!

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

LETTERS

HFC's On-Line Edition Will Attract Worldwide Readership

I thoroughly enjoyed reading your online edition of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Congratulations for being on the cutting edge and putting Hawaii and your paper before a worldwide readership. I have already sent to all my friends your website. By reading about news from Hawaii and the Philippines and also by seeing all the advertisements, they may be more inclined to come to Hawaii for a visit or to invest in the Philippines. Your venture to go online and be a part of the virtual world has limitless possibilities.

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LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION



By Senator Will Espero

The battle for a rail transit system for Oahu is heating up. Both opponents and proponents have formed organizations to further their cause. I have ridden many rail systems around the world, and I am a strong believer that we need to build a system for Oahu.

In the next 30 – 40 years, Oahu's population is expected to increase by at least 250,000 people, maybe more. It is likely many if not the majority will live in Central and West Oahu. We have the land to build homes, schools, parks, and businesses, however, we do not have enough land to build more highways. Some individuals are pushing for an elevated toll road from West Oahu to downtown. A toll road could be part of the solution, but in time, a toll road will face congestion as well. There is also the issue of the cost of the toll, and I have read anywhere from \$6 to \$15 one way during rush hour is possible. Toll roads also encourage more driving when we should be looking at options to get people out of their automobiles.

Some opponents say we cannot afford a rail system. I say we cannot afford not to build one. The City had budgeted \$3.7 billion dollars for the project, and as the largest public works project on Oahu, it will create many construction jobs for area resi-

Rail: A Vision for Tomorrow (Part 1)

dents. A half percent increase in the general excise tax will raise most of the funds, and it should be noted that tourists' spending could pay up to 25% of the costs.

We will also work with Senator Dan Inouye to secure hundreds of millions of dollars from our federal government. When the cost is spread out to all residents of Oahu, West Oahu and Ewa Beach will benefit from all residents helping to pay for the rail. It should be noted that potential riders will not only be the 900,000 plus residents of Oahu, but also our 7 million visitors each year.

A rail system will not eliminate traffic congestion. It is expected to reduce traffic by a small margin, but most importantly, it will give residents another option to commute. Without rail, traffic would get worse much sooner. Rail passengers, unlike drivers, will not be affected by car accidents, stalled vehicles, flat tires, debris in the road, bad rainy weather, or potholes. Rail users can also save on the high cost of car maintenance. In time as people see the value of rail, more people will use it. The bus system will be modified to feed into the rail system with transfers between buses and the rail being automatic.

More job opportunities in Kapolei, Ewa Beach, and West Oahu will reduce the number of commuters to town, and projects like U.H. West Oahu, Family Court, Ray Kroc Community Center, Ewa Industrial Park, Target Mall, DeBartolo Mall, Disney at Ko Olina, Hoakalei Resort and Marina in Ewa Beach will provide new jobs.

The Honolulu Advertiser re-



(Inset) Sen. Espero inside a subway train in Shanghai, China

cently ran stories on successful rail transit systems on the mainland, and although it has not been an easy road to get all the rail systems built, with gasoline now above \$4.35 a gallon, alternative forms of transportation are becoming very appealing and popular. Cities on the mainland are experiencing an increase in rail ridership.

Opponents of rail have also said the project is about real estate development and not transportation. Riders will use it to commute, and the rail system will be a catalyst for new development around the transit stations. In transit-oriented development (TODs), affordable homes, childcare facilities, businesses, and other commercial establishments will want to be located at these stations because the rail line will provide easy access to the public. If new communities are built around stations, less agricultural land and rural land will be needed for our growing population. This in turn will help keep the country country.

Environmentally, the rail will expel less carbon into the air than automobiles and trucks. The rail will run on electricity so it is imperative that we aggres-

sively work to use more solar, wind, wave, and waste-to-power energy for our electricity in order to reduce our reliance on finite supplies of fossil fuels.

A rail system is for the fu-

ture. Thirty years from now, the wisdom of a rail system will be obvious and clear. Future generations must have multiple travel options. Rail systems have been beneficial around the world for over 100 years, and it's time for Oahu to get on board this train and improve the quality of life for our residents. If the City Council had not killed the rail system in 1992 by a 5 to 4 vote, we would be using a less-expensive rail system today. Let's not make that same mistake again. Please e-mail me at senepero@capitol.hawaii.gov to share your opinion on a rail system.

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Citizens Patrol Groups Take a Bite Out of Crime in Kalihi

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

By Dennis Galolo

Early last year, Rudy Ibay, tenant association president at Bishop Gardens, was alarmed at the number of young adults whom he observed loitering on the sidewalks late into the evening. The brazen group consumed alcohol, played loud music, vandalized cars and intimidated residents.

Ibay discussed the problem youths with neighbors from nearby apartment buildings. They also, to his surprise, shared similar concerns.

He suggested forming a citizens patrol, an idea that interested many neighbors. In June, dozens attended an informational briefing and training session conducted by Officer Fabian Mata, HPD's District 5 community

policing officer. Mata provided simple crime prevention ideas to attendees, along with tips on how to describe a suspect and report suspicious activities.

By the end of the evening, dozens had signed up, including tenants and resident managers from eight apartment buildings. Ibay was elected patrol coordinator.

A few weeks later on July 2, 2007, members of the newly-formed Kalihi Kai Patrol held their first walk. They began at Bishop Gardens, walked down Dillingham Boulevard, turned right onto McNeill Street, then right once more onto Waiakamilo Road. Suspicious activities and persons were reported to the police, along with the license plates of illegally parked and abandoned vehicles. Members also reported piles of bulky items left on the sidewalks.



Several members of the Kalihi Kai Patrol pose for a group photo before walking their neighborhood

Making A Difference

Since that first walk, members have faithfully patrolled their community once a week. Their presence sends a strong signal to criminals that many pairs of eyes will be watching their every move.

The patrol's efforts appear to be paying off. According to statistics from HPD, there

were a total of 395 calls in July 2007 for assault, burglary, graffiti, auto theft and other crimes within Beat 564—the Kalihi Kai Patrol's area—which encompasses Dillingham Boulevard, Waiakamilo Road, the H-1 and Kalihi Street.

The number of calls dipped to a 12-month low of 293 in November 2007. In June 2008, there were 351 calls.

Romy Valdez, the resident manager of the Holiday Gardens apartments, is among several patrol members who have noticed a big difference in the community.

"It's much better now," he says. "Before, our tenants didn't even feel safe when throwing away the rubbish. Now we all do. It's good to know that there are others out there who are looking out for our community."

Valdez also noticed a sharp decrease in the number of abandoned and derelict vehicles. In the past, such cars would sit for weeks on the streets, taking up valuable parking space. Not anymore.

Fellow patrol member Nancy Rosales, who is one of a handful of women on the patrol, says that the neighborhood is "a lot quieter and cleaner." She is president of the tenant association at the Holiday Apartments, which has a total of 70 units.

"I used to be afraid to have my son play in the park, but now I feel it's a lot safer," she says.

An added benefit of joining the patrol was the opportunity to meet her neighbors and to network with others.

"Before it was basically work and home for me," she says. "I really didn't know the people around me. I've met a lot of new people since joining the patrol."

Kalihi Community Watch

A few blocks away, another citizens group conducts similar weekly patrols. This patrol, called the Kalihi Community Watch, was formed during the late 1990s when a proliferation of "ice houses" sprang up in the neighborhood. The patrol's founder and leader is Jaime Querido.

Honolulu City Councilmember Cachola, who represents

Kalihi, helped Querido establish the patrol. He has known Querido for many years and describes him as "a very dedicated man who loves his community."

"Although small in stature, Jaime refuses to be intimidated by anyone," Cachola said. "When his next door neighbor was running an ice house, Jaime encouraged neighbors to join us in forming a citizens patrol. Together with police, we walked the neighborhood in a show of solidarity."

When crime levels dropped, members of the Kalihi Community Watch would lay low. Currently, they are actively walking their neighborhood, which is bounded by North King Street, Puuhale Road, Kaulaunui Street and Bannister Street.

Just like their brethren a few blocks away, the Kalihi Community Watch's efforts have also paid off, says Officer Mata. When walking with the group last month, he noticed a big change in the area.

"I remember coming to a stop on Gulick and looking around," he said. "I just sensed something was different about the neighborhood."

Mata has also noticed a change take place among patrol members, compared to a year ago.

"The group is more comfortable walking now," he says. "Before, I would see fear in their eyes. Now, they're more confident."

Adopting Kalakaua Park

The Kalihi Kai Patrol has gone a step further and officially adopted nearby Kalakaua

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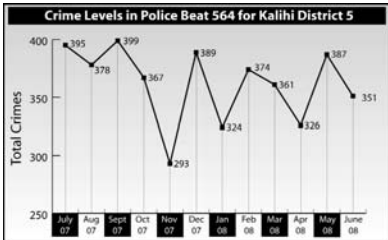
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COVER STORY



District Park. For patrol members Florendo Juan and Brian Ortiz, graffiti was a big concern. Both men worked with faculty and students from Kalakaua Middle School to remove graffiti as part of weekend service projects.

"The way I look at it is you can either grumble about the graffiti or you can do something about it," says Juan, a City employee and neighborhood board member. "Sometimes I've painted over the graffiti and eight hours later it's tagged again. But I just do it over. You cannot get mad—you just have to keep on doing it."

Juan has branched out to painting over the graffiti at 13 bus stops along North King Street and Dillingham Boulevard. The most recent bus stop he painted was on Kalihi Street fronting the YMCA.

Thanks to their efforts, the amount of graffiti at Kalakaua Park has been drastically reduced.

The Kalihi Kai Patrol's efforts have also impressed Officer Mata, who described members as "dedicated and committed."

"The group should be very proud of themselves and what

they've done," he said. "They're strongly committed to improving their community. Hats off to them."

On July 23, Councilmember Cachola presented both patrols with Honorary Certificates for their efforts and to also mark the Kalihi Kai Patrol's one year anniversary.

"Both patrols are proof that community policing works," he says. "Good things happen when the community willingly partners with the police and serves as additional eyes and ears for our officers."

News of the success of the Kalihi Community Watch and the Kalihi Kai Patrol have spread to other areas of Kalihi, keeping Officer Mata busy in conducting training sessions and patrolling.

Kalihi's Background

Kalihi is one of Oahu's oldest neighborhoods. According to data from the 2000 U.S. Census, Kalihi-Palama has about 40,000 residents and about 18,000 more for Kalihi Valley. Kalihi also has the state's largest concentration of public housing projects (seven) and a higher-than-average percentage of families living in poverty.

Consider also these statistics:

- 27 percent of Kalihi families receive food stamps, compared to 12 percent for the rest of Oahu.
- 27 percent of Kalihi's children live in poverty, compared to 14 percent islandwide.

Kalihi encompasses most of HPD's District 5, which is one of the busiest districts for police. District 5 is a good-sized area geographically-speaking, unlike Waikiki, where the area is more condensed. It stretches from Pali Highway to Ala Kupuna, down to the ocean and the valley.

A total of 171 officers

are assigned to District 5 and its 23 "beats." In 2007, the district received a total of 88,330 calls for service. When taking into account the district's annual budget of \$13.4 million, its officers bring new meaning to the slogan "doing more with less."

Still, the men and women of District 5 have done an outstanding job. According to statistics provided by HPD, crime in District 5 (Kalihi) fell a whopping 32 percent during the first three months of 2008, compared to the same period last year. The bulk of the decline was due to decreases in auto theft, criminal property damage and theft."

"For the most part, there's been a decrease in overall crime," Maj. Kurt Kendro, the top man in District 5, reported at a Neighborhood Security Watch Community Meeting in April 2008. "It's challenging due to the limited resources we have. That's why we're excited to see the numbers go down."

HPD recognizes the positive impacts that citizen patrols can have on the community, says Sgt. Caesar Piros, who patrols Kalihi during the evenings. Officers try their best to accompany the patrols but occasionally, they walk without a police escort.

"Based on my experience, I've seen very positive results from citizen patrols," says Sgt. Piros, who has been with HPD since 1990. "HPD will always support citizens patrols and neighborhood watch groups, but there are times when it's difficult to accompany the patrols because of a shortage of officers."

Kalihi Pride

For years, Kalihi has endured its share of drugs and crime. Many residents feel that Kalihi has unfairly earned a negative image over the years.

Still, crime is a very real part of life in Kalihi. This past June, police raided a home on Ahonui Street and confiscated about 3 lbs. of crystal meth with an approximate street value of \$230,000.

Also in June, a group of about 50 teen boys from nearby housing projects ran amok one evening. The group rampaged through the Hauiki Street neighborhood, damaging cars with bats, metal pipes and two-by-fours, and attacking two people who tried to stop them. The harrowing incident led residents to form their own citizens patrol group, which held its first walk in mid-July, ac-

ording to Officer Mata.

Despite Kalihi's negative image, residents like Florendo Juan remain fiercely-proud of their community.

"I'm proud to say that I'm from Kalihi," he says. "This is my community. I grew up here. I tell everyone not to judge Kalihi by what they hear on the news. The way I look at it, Kalihi is a close-knit community."

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Patrol member Brian Ortiz paints over graffiti at Kalakaua District Park in Kalihi

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OPEN FORUM

Why Filipinos Should Support a Constitutional Convention

By Lt. Governor Duke Aiona

On November 4, 2008, Hawaii voters will decide whether to convene a constitutional convention. It is a decision that will have a lasting impact on the future of Hawaii because our constitution represents the fundamental governing principles and values of our state.

A constitutional convention is an organized gathering of publicly-elected delegates for the purpose of updating our state's constitution. Any proposed constitutional amendments approved by the public delegates would then be voted

on for ratification by our citizens during a subsequent general election.

Rarely does an opportunity come for the public to impose such far-reaching change upon our system of government, and the Filipino community should not pass it up. The founders of our state recognized the importance of maintaining a living, evolving constitution when they incorporated a provision that calls for a constitutional convention every 10 years.

Yet our last constitutional convention was held 30 years ago in 1978.

Several significant accomplishments resulted from our last constitutional convention, including the requirement of an annual balanced budget and

term limits for the Governor and Lt. Governor. That is in addition to the creation of the Judicial Selection Commission and Office of Hawaiian Affairs; the adoption of the Hawaiian language as an official state language of Hawaii, and the creation of the Council on Revenues to forecast how much money the state can spend.

Several long-standing issues can be addressed by our Filipino citizens at a constitutional convention, including restructuring the public education system; redefining relationships between the state and counties; expanding legislative options such as public initiative and referendum; strengthening sunshine laws to hold government accountable; protecting agricul-

tural lands and advancing energy independence.

The decision to convene a constitutional convention is one of the most important questions facing voters this year.

This decision is compounded by the fact that blank ballots take on a new meaning. When voting whether to convene a constitutional convention, as well as proposed constitutional amendments, blank ballots are counted as "no" votes.

That is why it is so important to make sure the public has all the information available to make a well-informed decision.

I am leading a non-partisan task force to provide our citizens with accurate and credible information in advance of the November 2008 General Election. We will make our findings available in a public report no



Lt. Governor Duke Aiona

later than August 1, 2008.

Presenting the people of Hawaii with the opportunity to convene a constitutional convention is my duty as a public servant. And it is my privilege to provide our Filipino community with credible and accurate information so they can make a well-informed decision in response to the ballot question: "Shall there be a convention to propose a revision of or amendments to the Constitution?"

FEATURE

Celebrated Artist Makes His Mark in Hawaii

By Caroline Julian

The vibrant colors of his paintings speak volumes as they truly capture the essence of Hawaii's beauty.

One would think the artist be-

hind it has been surrounded by our islands' elements all his life.

"I get my inspiration from everything that I see around and emotional feelings that I experienced," said 65-year-old Juno Galang, who was born in Manila.

And the love he felt for the islands began in the 1960's, during a brief stopover in Honolulu while on his way to San Francisco.

His yearning for Oahu brought him back in 1974 for a couple of years, but like a love affair he couldn't get over, he returned for good in 1983.

"(It's) the island feeling... that I decided to move here and paint," he explained.

As a celebrated artist, Galang convey the flavors and culture of our islands through his use of vivid colors.

"I am known for my realistic contemporary interpretation of Hawaiiana," he added.

Although he paints in a variety of mediums, he is most notable for his watercolors. He recently returned to using oil paints after focusing on watercolors for many years.

Galang has been perfecting his craft since he was 13 years old. But it was his dream to become a painter since he was the tender age of six.



Celebrated artist Juno Galang

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Some of Juno Galang's *Obra Maestras*

"I was a self taught artist before I attended the University of Santo Tomas," he said.

The advertising major believes his studies and natural talent he shaped him into the artist he is today.

Before pursuing his dream, Galang worked as a free lance illustrator for more than 30 years while living in San Francisco, New York, Seattle and Vancouver, Canada.

But painting is his true love.

His art isn't only be seen in homes. They can also be viewed publicly on a giant canvas—in Downtown Honolulu buildings and several notable business offices.

Galang has painted for the Alexander & Baldwin building located on Alakea and Hotel Streets. Roberts Hawaii has also used his art in the past.

His art can also be seen and purchased at various Tabara galleries.

Although Galang has created many, many works of art over the years, he says there isn't one that stands out. They are like his children; he loves them all equally, said the father of four.

"They are all of my favorites because they are all me. Everything is all equal because it's all me. It's the audience that picks which is their favorite."

IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Obtaining Court Review of Consular Visa Denial Without Really Trying

1182(a)(2)(C)) any "alien who the consular officer or the Attorney General knows or has reason to believe is or has been an illicit trafficker in any controlled substance" is inadmissible. The consul refused to reveal the information upon which the determination was based, asserting that the information was secret.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials met with Jose and asked him to become an informant, telling him that if he cooperated his visa problems "would go away." He refused and consular officials denied his visa application and revoked his border crossing privileges. The consul told their lawyer that the resident agent of the USDEA sent them a letter containing "derogatory information" to support the finding that there was reason to believe that Jose was a drug trafficker.

Alma and Jose filed an action in U.S. District court against the Attorney General, the Secretary of Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and other government officials, alleging that Jose had not trafficked in illegal drugs and that the consular officials improperly conditioned the granting of a visa on Jose's agreement to become an informant. They asserted that they suffered a procedural due process violation as a result of the allegedly improper condition.

The defendants moved to dismiss and for summary judgment, asserting lack of subject matter jurisdiction, lack of personal jurisdiction, and failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. The District Court dismissed the case and

Alma and Jose appealed to the Court of Appeals.

Due Process Protects Marriage

Alma asserted that she has a protected liberty interest in her marriage that gives rise to a right to constitutionally adequate procedures in the adjudication of her husband's visa application. The Supreme Court recognizes that the "due process clause that provides certain substantive rights - life, liberty, and property - cannot be deprived except pursuant to constitutionally adequate procedures. Freedom of personal choice in matters of marriage and family life is, of course, one of the liberties protected by the due process clause.

Facially Legitimate and Bona Fide Reasons

The complaint alleged that the Consulate "had reason to believe that Jose was a drug trafficker. The court said that this is plainly a facially legitimate reason, as it is a statutory basis for inadmissibility.

Alma and Jose failed to allege that the consular official did

not in good faith believe the information he had. The court said that it is not enough to allege that the consular official's information was incorrect.

They provided the court with a letter identifying the head of the local DEA office as the source of the information that Jose was involved in drug trafficking. Thus a consular official relied on a fellow government official assigned to investigate drug trafficking. The court said that there is no reason to believe that the consular official acted on this information in any thing other than good faith.

The court concluded that the reason given by the consul was facially legitimate and bona fide.

Tipon's Tip

To succeed in obtaining court review of consular visa denials, you must hire a lawyer who knows the law and who can present the facts in your case to fit the requirements of the law.

The law is that the complainants must show that the reason given by the consul (1) is not facially legitimate and (2) is not bona fide (not in good faith). The complainants failed to show these. Furthermore, do not provide evidence against your case.

What did the complainants seek to gain by submitting the letter identifying the head of the local DEA office as the source of the information that Jose was involved in drug trafficking? It strengthened the consul's position that he acted in good faith in denying the visa since he based his decision on a presumably reliable report by another government official.

(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 practice and procedure guide for immigration officers and lawyers. He specializes in immigration and criminal defense. He is located at 905 Uni St. corner N. King, Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96819. Tel. (808) 847 1601. Fax (808) 847 1624. E-Mail: Pllam-law@yahoo.com. Website: 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.)

Congress has plenary power to make policies and rules for the exclusion of aliens." Kleindienst v. Mandel, 408 U.S. 753 (1972). "The consular official's decision to issue or withhold a visa is not subject either to administrative or judicial review." Li Hing of Hong Kong, Inc. v. Levin, 800 F.2d 970 (1986, CA9).

There is an exception to this doctrine. A U.S. citizen raising a constitutional challenge to the denial of a visa is entitled to a limited judicial inquiry regarding the reason for the decision. As long as the reason given is facially legitimate and bona fide the decision will not be disturbed.

Consequently, with an excellent lawyer who knows how to handle this kind of case, you might be able to obtain court review of a consular visa denial.

Here is the most recent case on the subject, decided July 9, 2008 by the U.S. Court of Appeals. Bustamante v. Mukasey, No. 06-17228.

Facts

Alma, a U.S. citizen, married Jose, a Mexican citizen. Alma filed an immigrant petition for Jose. When Jose applied for an immigrant visa in Mexico, a consular official told him that the Consulate had "reason to believe" that he was trafficking in illegal drugs. Under the immigration law (8 USC



Capt. Anthony Bareng Constantino was recently promoted to Captain from the Army National Guard. His wife, Agnes Constantino, and an officer from the Army National Guard, is seen here pinning the medal of honor on him. Capt. Anthony Bareng Constantino is an Ewa Beach resident and a graduate of Campbell High School. He is the son of Tony and Mely Constantino of Ewa Beach.

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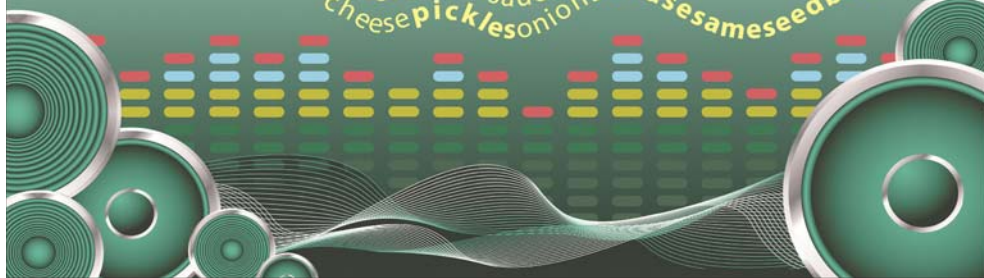
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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

I Love Liliha Festival Set For August 30



Organizers of the Fifth Annual I LOVE LILIHA Town Festival are inviting the public to attend the free event, which is scheduled for August 30, 2008 at the Prince David Kawananaoka Playground from 10 am to 4 pm.

Organized and founded by State Rep. Corinne Ching, the festival celebrates Liliha's diverse and rich cultural history. The event brings together the Liliha community and showcases the area's businesses, schools, community groups and organizations to the general public.

The event will have a health fair, keiki activities & games, one food, live

entertainment, community service booths, and more.

"We want to provide visitors and residents alike the history and heritage of one of the state's oldest and most interesting communities," says Rep. Ching.

"In the past four years, we have had great success with the I LOVE LILIHA Town Festival," says coordinator Colette Devou. "We have truly given the citizens of Liliha, and those island-wide, a day to remember."

If you or your organization is interested in participating or reserving a booth, please contact Ms. Devou at 542-1150.

Filipino Society to Donate Medical Equipment To The Philippines

The Balaan Catalina Society, one of the oldest established Filipino organizations in Hawaii, will donate and ship medical equipment and supplies to the Philippines on Wednesday, July 23, 2008.

Erwin Gabrillo, former society president, secured surplus mammogram machines, x-ray machines, hospital beds, TV posts, wheelchairs and other medical supplies to donate to public hospitals in the Philippines. Gabrillo has done a variety of volunteer work in the Philippines. He participated in the Congress of Visayan Organization Medical Mission to Southern Leyte, Philippines, in response to the devastating mudslide that claimed over 1,000 lives.

"While I was on the 2006 medical mission, I saw many hospitals that lacked medical equipment and I also met with many residents who could not afford vis-



its to the hospital," said Gabrillo. "Some hospitals simply did not have the medical and life saving equipment that we in Hawaii have, and therefore, I knew I needed to return in order to help those in need."

State Rep. John Mizuno said, "This is a great opportunity to help the neediest in the Philippines with donations of medical equipment and supplies. I applaud the Erwin Balaan Catalina Society and all those who stepped up to the plate for this most laudable mission."

Friends of Operation Manong to Hold Fundraiser

The Friends of Operation Manong (FOOM) is organizing a fundraising garage sale to raise money for the Justice Ben Menor Scholarship Fund and to support educational outreach activities of the UH Office of Multicultural Student Services.

The garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, August 30, 2008 from 8 am to 1 pm at 744 Elepaio Street in Kahala.

FOOM is asking the community for donations of used furniture, clothing, housewares, working appliances, books,

toys, plants, athletic equipment, DVDs, shoes and other items in good condition.

Donations are tax-deductible. For additional information and pick-up arrangements, please call 956-7348.

FOOM is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to empower immigrant and underserved ethnic communities by helping them develop community resources and capacities that promote educational opportunities, cultural pride, diversity and an enhanced quality of life.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

UFCH Holds 50th Convention in Las Vegas

The United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH) held its 50th Convention on July 18 at the Main Street Social Club in Las Vegas. There were a 81 delegates who attended from the islands of Oahu, Lanai, Molokai and Big Island. Speakers for the convention included Rose Lee, President, Filipino Association of Las Vegas, Las Vegas Immigration Lawyer, Atty. Rolando Vasquez and Amy Belmonte, Owner, Healthcare Management Services of Las Vegas. The speakers talked about the global Filipino and immigration issues.

delegates voted on the new sets of officers. The following were elected: Pres. Eddie Agas, VP Angie Borromeo, Sec. Lynn Gutierrez, Treas. Bernadette Fajardo, Auditor Dolly Ortal. Board of Directors, Hold Overs: Annie Corpuz of Honolulu and Lisa Trinidad of the Big Island. Elected new boards of directors are Cleo Bala Casino, Ireneo Soriano, Moses Luczon, Philip Alcaín and Edwin Ranan.

Outgoing president, Atty. Bryan Andaya, congratulated the new officers and talked about projects accomplished during his term. He also urged UFCH members to cooperate and unite towards the accomplishment of their common

goals. He also asked the members to continue on with the successful implementation of approved resolutions of the organization.

It was a productive convention with surprised entertainment, games and cash prizes. In addition, there were competitions for Best Filipiniana outfit, Best Barong, Most Romantic Partner, singing and folk dancing.

Dr. Cora Manayan, former Honolulu resident and now residing in Las Vegas, attended the meeting and made a generous donation of \$5,000 to the UFCH scholarship funds.

The gala event was emceed by Carlotu Hufana-Ader of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

NAIA-3 to Start Limited International Operations Next Month



NAIA-3 Departure Hall

by Paolo Romero

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 will start servicing international flights next month on a limited basis to pave the way for the facility's full operations next year, officials said yesterday.

This as President Arroyo also said that the opening of NAIA-3 is proof of the government's "resolve and determination to move forward" towards economic progress.

The facility recently opened for domestic flights with Cebu Pacific. Yesterday, Philippine Airlines (PAL) Express and Air Philippines also began domestic flight operations at the NAIA-3.

Mrs. Arroyo inspected the facility after coming from Cebu at noon. Her plane taxied towards NAIA-3 and stopped at Gate 131. She was met by NAIA-3 Task Force head Michael Defensor, PAL chairman Lucio Tan, Cebu Pacific president Lance Gokongwei and Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

In her impromptu speech

after her inspection tour of the sprawling terminal, the President thanked Defensor, Mendoza and the others who helped open the facility after a six-year wait.

"This airport is the gateway of our country to the rest of the world," the President said. "It is our showcase for tourism and economic progress."

She said opening of the terminal was "a result of our resolve and determination to move this nation forward. Welcome to NAIA-3."

Defensor said Cebu Pacific assured him that by Aug. 8, it would operate one or two international flights out of the terminal and slowly increase the flights until the NAIA 3 can fully operate for international flights by February next year.

Meantime, local airlines Air Philippines and fledgling PAL

Express joined Cebu Pacific in operating out of NAIA-3, testing further the facility's capacity to accommodate regular commercial flights after years of staying mothballed.

Alfonso Cusi, Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) general manager, said that the transfer of Air Philippines and PAL Express of their domestic flights was welcomed by MIAA.

The two airlines, owned by Tan, transferred all their domestic flights to the NAIA-3 yesterday.

The transfer of the two airlines, particularly Air Philippines, was a bigger test for the facility since it entailed the activation of the terminal's long-unused aerobridge machines.

It was learned that Air Philippines' flights will use Boeing B737 aircraft that will load and unload passengers via the aerobridge to get into the terminal's arrival area.

The final partial opening of NAIA-3 this week comes after a couple of failed "soft openings" set by MIAA in 2006 and 2007 after government's payment of a P3-billion downpayment to the builder of the terminal, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) in 2006 as expropriation of the facility. (www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

OFW Deployment Rises 33.5% in First Half of 2008

Despite the global economic slump, the hiring of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in various countries abroad posted a sharp increase in the first half of the year.

Data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) showed that the number of Filipinos deployed from January to June went up by 33.5 percent compared to last year.

POEA chief Rosalinda Baldozo said they have recorded a total deployment of 640,401 or 160,676 more than the 479,725 Filipino workers who left the country to work abroad during the same period in 2007.

Baldozo attributed the growth in the hiring of OFWs abroad to the continuing preference of foreign employers for highly skilled workers and the desire of OFWs to seek better employment.

According to Baldozo, the

deployment of workers overseas is expected to increase further due to the growing demand for construction workers and other skilled workers in the Middle East and Europe.

Earlier, she discounted a possible decline in overseas deployment amid the global economic crisis.

She explained that many developing countries are suffering from manpower shortage and they would always prefer Filipinos as their workers.

But based on POEA records, the number of contracts processed in the first half of the year dropped by 9.6 percent from 606,084 in 2007 to 548,150 this year.

According to Baldozo, the contracts processed for land-based workers declined by seven percent while sea-based workers went down by 14.9 percent in the first half of the year.

The number of re-hires

also dropped by 20.5 percent while the new hires was higher by 7.3 percent.

Last year, the country suffered a massive drop in overseas deployment due to the implementation of a policy, which among others, provides higher salary for domestics.

RP, Malaysia forge pact

The Philippines and Malaysia agreed yesterday to redouble efforts for instituting long-term solutions to the problems of cross-border travel, work and migration, including a proposed bilateral Border Pass Agreement to address the issue of Filipinos illegally staying and working in Sabah.

At the conclusion of the two-day Fifth Meeting of the Philippines-Malaysia Working Group on Migrant Workers at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City, Kuala Lumpur and Manila agreed to the possible deployment of Malaysian Immigration Attachés at the One-Stop Processing Center in Zam-

boanga as part of the long-term solutions to the problems of cross-border travel.

The Malaysian government assured the Philippines that it is strictly adhering to its established procedures for the humane and orderly conduct of the arrest, detention and repatriation of Filipino illegal migrants.

DFA Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos Jr. led the Philippine Delegation while Ministry of Home Affairs Senior Deputy Secretary-General Dato' Raja Azahar bin Raja Abdul Manap led the Malaysian Delegation.

In a joint statement, Manila and Kuala Lumpur said the discussions of the Working Group were held in a cordial atmosphere and directed at finding constructive, operational solutions to issues concerning migrant workers.

During the meeting, both sides also discussed and agreed to cooperate closely so that there would be minimal adverse impact arising from the action to be undertaken by the

Malaysian government.

Manila and Kuala Lumpur also agreed to step up efforts to regularize eligible migrants; that children unaccompanied by parents will not be placed under arrest but turned over to the care of appropriate authorities; that only those deportees who are medically fit would undertake the travel; and to facilitate travel documentation of deportees.

The meeting noted developments on the recruitment and employment of Filipinos in Malaysia as well as the implementation of Malaysia's Anti-Trafficking Law.

The Philippines raised the issue of Filipinos being deported from Sabah during the Working Group annual meeting that was initiated in 2005 as a functional forum to address bilateral concerns on the status of Filipino migrant workers in Malaysia.

The DFA said the meeting is timely in view of the reported impending crackdown on illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. (www.philstar.com)

MAINLAND NEWS

Reception to Launch 2008 Philippine Fiesta on East Coast

The Fiesta Fever is in the air, as exciting activities are being set as a prelude to the biggest gathering of Filipinos in the East Coast - the Philippine Fiesta in America! On August 15, at 7 pm, the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel at 2 Meadowlands Plaza, East Rutherford, New Jersey (in front of Giant Stadium -

proudly plays host to The Philippine Fiesta 2008 Gala Reception. This prestigious event serves as a kick off to the Fiesta itself - which opens on August 16-17 at the Meadowlands Expo Center in Secaucus, NJ.

The evening honors those exhibitors from the Philippines and the United States who help make the Philippine Fiesta pos-

sible with their support. These entrepreneurs and business people will be feted at a welcome reception hosted by none other than Special Edition Press, Inc. (SEPI), whose vision of bringing Filipino businesses closer to the US Market has resulted in the inception of the Philippine Fiesta in America.

To regale guests with their beauty and grace, the candi-

dates for Miss Philippine Fiesta 2008 will be presented as part of the evening's events. The ladies who will vie for the coveted pageant crown are Meriden Villanueva of Bergenfield, NJ, Stephanie Suyhogo of Long Branch, NJ, Ria Martin of Bronx, NY, Kay Ashley Manuel of Bricks, NJ, Denise Cintron of The Bronx, NY and Jessica Tiglav of Bogota, NJ.

Also making a special appearance will be the biggest names in Philippine entertainment: Marian Rivera, Dingdong Dantes and Bea Alonzo. Also appearing are Divo Bayer, and Hilarius Rey Kilay & Poca.

For more information, please contact (212) 682-6610 or email: sepmzgn@aol.com, www.philippinefiesta.com

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NaFFAA Urges House Vote on Veterans Bill

The National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) urged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to send S. 1315 to the House floor for a vote before Congress adjourns for its August recess.

Noting that "time is running out for our aging veterans," NaFFAA National Chair Alma Kern called on the House leadership "to act decisively" because "next year may be too late."

In an open letter to the Speaker, Kern expressed "the growing frustration among our grassroots supporters over the perceived inaction that may doom passage of the equity bill this year." Kern added that the Filipino American community is doing its utmost to enlist more supporters for the measure, and "we remain confident that a bipartisan consensus will prevail."

Kern also pointed out that



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

July 26 marks the anniversary of President Roosevelt's calling the Filipino World War II veterans into service under U.S. command. "Our veterans and our community look to your leadership to seize this historic moment and make good America's promise to these veterans," Kern wrote.

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Alarming Trend in Labor Certification Processing

routine audits, they discovered indications that the employers' clients were improperly instructed to contact the lawyers first if a U.S. job applicant appeared potentially qualified for the job opening during the recruitment process.

The DOL has also debarred the LawLogix Group Inc., a California-based software company for "willfully providing false or inaccurate information" and "failing to comply" with the terms of the application. It determined that the company did not exercise good faith when it filed more than 100 applications for the sole purpose of testing the department's PERM electronic processing system. The debarment is in effect for three years.

PERM labor certification is a complicated process. It is required as a preliminary step in filing most employment-based (EB-2 and EB-3) immi-

gration petitions to secure green cards. During this process, the employer must show that it has tested the U.S. market in good faith and that there are no willing and qualified U.S. workers to fill the offered position.

The labor market must be tested in a manner that is open, fair and not biased.

The DOL routinely audits cases for compliance with these regulations. Normally, if the recruitment and selection process is satisfactory, the case is certified and the employer can proceed with the green card petition for the alien worker. When the DOL has concerns that the employer has not properly recruited or considered U.S. applicants for the available position, it will institute a supervised recruitment.

Supervised recruitment requires the employer to receive prior approval from the DOL before undertaking mandatory recruitment steps. The timing and draft of the advertisement have to be approved and all re-

gulations and complicated laws. They added that immigration lawyers traditionally participated in guiding their clients during the labor certification process even prior to the implementation of the PERM. They assert that this is a permissible rendering of legal advice and not an "improper attorney participation" as declared by the DOL.

Despite the spate of audits, supervised recruitments and sanctions undertaken by the DOL, employers need not shy away from sponsoring qualified alien workers for PERM labor certification, as long as they fully comply with the DOL's good faith recruitment requirements, file proper PERM applications and keep detailed documentation of the recruitment and reporting requirements.

In a letter criticizing the DOL action and supporting the Fragomen law firm, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) contended that employers have the right to seek legal counsel during the PERM recruitment considering that this is a highly complex process governed by detailed

regulations and complicated laws. They added that immigration lawyers traditionally participated in guiding their clients during the labor certification process even prior to the implementation of the PERM. They assert that this is a permissible rendering of legal advice and not an "improper attorney participation" as declared by the DOL.

Despite the spate of audits, supervised recruitments and sanctions undertaken by the DOL, employers need not shy away from sponsoring qualified alien workers for PERM labor certification, as long as they fully comply with the DOL's good faith recruitment requirements, file proper PERM applications and keep detailed documentation of the recruitment and reporting requirements.

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 website at www.seguritan.com

There is an alarming trend in the processing of labor certification applications under the Program Electronic Review Management (PERM) system.

On July 8, 2008, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) initiated supervised recruitment for pending labor certification cases filed by Cohen and Grigsby, a Pittsburgh-based law firm.

A month earlier, the DOL had announced the audit of all the permanent labor certification applications filed by the nation's largest immigration law firm Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen and Loewy, LLP.

In taking these actions against these big law firms, the DOL claimed that during its

GLOBAL NEWS

RP to Issue New Tamper-Proof High-Tech Passport

Filipino overseas travelers will soon travel with the latest state-of-the-art electronic passport equipped with a tamper-proof microchip bearing your identification and personal information.

The new so-called e-passports with electronic chips are set for release in October 2008, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The e-passports will use technology as secure and tamper-proof as identification cards used by the U.S. military and defense establishments.

The DFA said this move will

make the Philippines globally-compliant, along with 61 other countries that have e-passports.

The DFA began preparations for the new maroon booklets for its longtime supplier Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), which recently contracted French card systems and identity products firm Oberthur Technologies for technical assistance in making the most advanced Philippine passport to be issued.

"It's the top-level, state-of-the-art technology that we're using here. It's the best passport you can have. There's no better

technology in the world," said Xavier Fricout, director of identity products and cards systems of Oberthur Technologies.

Besides advanced security features on its laminated information page and individual sheets, the e-passport will contain the bearer's photo, fingerprints and personal information in one tiny microchip embedded on the end cover page.

The laboratory-certified imbeds use computer software that is "a little better" than what Oberthur had used in passports of other nations it had worked on like that of Belgium, Taiwan,

Thailand and Kuwait, Fricout said.

The DFA is still finalizing details on the price and processing time for the electronic booklets, but estimated that it may take "between five to 10 days" to process the e-passports.

The new passport will replace the manually-processed

green passport, in which the bearer's information is encoded long hand. The e-passport will gradually take the place of the machine-readable passports—maroon booklets embedded with computer-recognized biometrics and safety features for tamper-proofing.

The DFA said the two earlier passport versions will be recognized worldwide until their expiration dates.

UV Chorale's Singing Gives Sydney Churchgoers 'Goose Bumps'

Hearing some of the liturgical songs sung in Filipino was a moving experience for Filipino churchgoers. "It gave me goose bumps," said one.

"No wonder they're world-renowned," remarked one of the nuns of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the congregation co-founded by MacKillop (1842-

1909), the first Australian to be beatified.

The 30-member UV Chorale, founded in 1999, is on a three-week concert tour in New South Wales billed "Receive the Power," which is also the title of the WYD 2008 theme song.

The chorale's visit to Australia, its third, is on invitation of the Bethlehem Communi-

ties Australia, an organization working among the poor in Cebu and other parts of the Philippines.

The UV Chorale won the silver and bronze medals in two different categories at the Busan Choral Festival & Competition in November 2007, besting 39 other choral groups from Asia, America and Europe. (www.inquirer.net)



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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

DAYASADAS



By Pacita Saludes

Piesta Dagiti Ilokano Iti Hawaii

Ditoy America, maymaysa ti panag-piesta dagiti Ilokano. Babayan ti angay ti Annak ti Kailokuan iti America (AKA) ket ditoy Hawaii ti pakaaramidanna inton Agosto 9, 2008 iti Honolulu. Kas gagangay nataraw idiy Ilocos dagiti kankanta, salsala ken ada latta met met koronasion. Mabalgangtan tay mapili a reyna. Nabalangatan ti Mrs AKA 2008. Kasta met ti Ms. Ilocos.

Agparang dagiti napalabas a rereyna a nangparaksak kadagiti napalabas a panag Piesta. Maipan ti nagnaganda ditoy ta saanen a masigurado ti ayan ti kada mayasa iti daytoy a

lubong. Iti ganas na rumbeng a malagip idia ta isuda ti naorganisar ti AKA idi tawen 1979. Ti immuna a reyna, dagiti babbalasag Elsa Pinera, Cora Aglugbog, Marites Antolin, Nora Balon, Merly Yanos, Ebangelina Ugale, Aracelie Ancheta, Rosemarie de Jesus, Evelyn Sidirean, Marie Ann Garpao, Lynn Dacuycuy, Melodie Collado, Lory Saiti. Precy Galacio, Tessie Facunla, Jocelyn Agas, Grace Cabulera, Emily Belसारि, Rose Ann Dumlaog, Arlene Kaye Agpaoa, Jessica Saludes, Rochel Mae Balanany, Edith Dumlaog, Fredelyn Ganil, Emma dela Cruz. Ket dagiti naestaduan isuda dagitoy.

Ti immune a Mrs. AKA nairugi iti 1988. Mrs. Felipa Lacuesta, Marilyn Duldulao, Florence Paulino, Filomena Agdinooay, Cyriann Locquiao, Divina Lumabao, Elaine Pascua, Letty Carlier (Bermudez), Rose Daprozta, Mercy Nedic, Pacita Ranches dela Cuadra, Trinity de Vera, Rita marie Sagucio, Nancy Javier, Carolina Jacobo. Dagiti ub-ubbing nga

inaw-awagani ti Little Queens Jocelyn Agas Little Queen, Paul Pagatpatan (Little King), Trinity Cristobal, Andrew Alejandro (Little King), Roseann Dumlaog, Glen-Ford Pablo (Little King), Tacy Cristobal ken Amanda Chang.

Ub-ubbing, babbalasag ken nateangan naaytada amin a mangparparagsak ti Piesta ti Kailokuan iti America. Daya ti kinaanep dagiti Ilokano ditoy America (Hawaii) a kas met idiy Filipinas.

Agbiag dagiti Ilokano iti America/ More Power Too!

Naisangsangyan daytoy a panagrambak dagiti Ilokano. Napintas a pagbalangatan dagiti entablado, kas iti Farrington Auditorium ken dagiti nadumaduma nga entablado a nakapababuyaan dagiti adu a sagsagana ti AKA, ngem napanunot ti komite a balivan isa a maselebraran iti iti Empress Restaurant. Padasen kano met ti agbuybuya a mangmangan.

Dagiti mabuya kabayatan ti pannangan. Adna dagiti daan ken kabaruangan nga ugali a

kankanayan a laglagipen dagiti Ilokano. Pakaragsakan met ti mangtagingayan ti kadaan nga inar-aramid ken binuybuy iti nagapuan.

Ilokaniana Variety Show

Mabuya ti Ilokaniana Variety Show ti kada Martes alas nuebe y media iti rabii iti Chanel 53. Dita ti inkay pakabuyaan kadagiti aktibidades, parambak wema ar-aramiden dagiti naduma duma nga organisasion Filipina maidasar ditoy.

Kadagiti amin a kayatna ti maipablaak dagiti pakaammoda iti tangatang babayan ti television uyam kayo ditoy. Agparangkayo iti channel 53. Itugayto dagiti ipadamagyo, Iwaragwayo dagiti plano ken ar-aramidenyo babayan ti television.

Awagandakami iti tel 839-3016 tapno mai-ischedule kayo. Come-on nga kaFilipinoan, mga kalokanoan. Dikay agpaudi! Idasar tayto dagiti lutotayo, iburaytoy met a kas kadagiti sabsabali!

Dios ti Angina Ti Anosyo!

Agsasaruno ti panag Piesta dagiti il-ilid idiy Kailokuan. Naikeddengen ti bulan ken petsa ti kada ili isu a taltalantanan dagiti ag balikbayan. Adayo pan ti bulan agsagsaganan da ikita a mapan. Agegsagega metten dagiti kakabagian sadiay.

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GLOBAL NEWS

Pinoys Face Stricter Immigration Rules in Italy

By Mayen Jaymalin

Italy's Parliament on Wednesday gave final approval to a security package that toughens rules on illegal immigration. Some 20,000 Filipinos in Italy are believed to be undocumented.

The bill was passed as a response to street crime that Italians blame mainly on foreigners.

It was passed by a wide margin in the Senate and includes increasing jail sentences by a third for offenders who are also illegal immigrants and expelling any foreigner who has been sentenced to more than two years in prison.

The package also raises from 60 days to 18 months the time authorities can keep clandestine migrants in temporary holding centers while trying to send them back to their country of origin.

If expulsion procedures fail and the migrant is released with an order to leave the country, being caught again can bring a jail sentence of up to four years under the new law. The bill also

makes it a crime to rent an apartment to an illegal immigrant.

The Philippine government maintained yesterday that the new immigration rules would not affect the employment of Filipinos in that European country.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) chief Rosalinda Baldoz cited that most Filipino workers there are documented.

"Most of our workers there have the necessary visas and return home as soon as their visas have expired," Baldoz said.

She, however, admitted that there are undocumented Filipino workers in Italy, a popular tourist destination for Filipinos, who enter the country on tourist visas.

"There are Filipinos who use tourist visas to go there but opt to stay and work. But we do not have the exact figure right now," Baldoz said.

The Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO) reported that there are close to 130,000 Filipinos staying in Italy. Of the figure, about 20,000 are said to be undocumented workers.

Earlier, Labor Secretary Mariano Roque expressed confidence that the new immigration rules approved by various countries in the European Union would not lead to the displacement of illegal Filipino migrants there.

Roque pointed out that stricter immigration rules have been implemented in the past but did not affect the employment of Filipino workers.

The new measures were previously approved by the lower house of the Italian Parliament with the conservative forces of Premier Silvio

Berlusconi enjoying a comfortable majority in both chambers.

Berlusconi won April elections amid promises to crack down on crime, which Italians increasingly link to foreigners and especially clandestine migrants.

The center-left opposition voted against the package, concerned mainly by the move to make illegal immigration an aggravating circumstance, a measure it says is discriminatory. (www.philstar.com)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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SEPTEMBER 5, 2008 MONDAY

Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC), Inauguration and installation of officers • 6:00P.M at Ala Moana Hotel • For details, please call: Cirivalina Longboy 375-0828 • Danny Villaruz 778-0233 • Carlota Ader 688-3215

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