

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

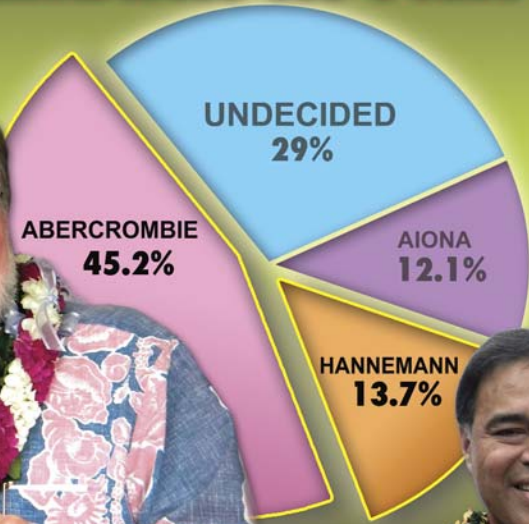
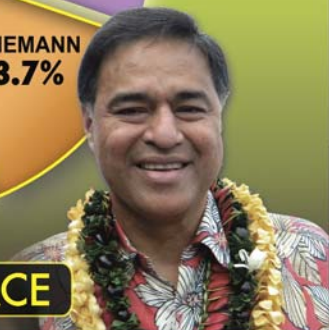
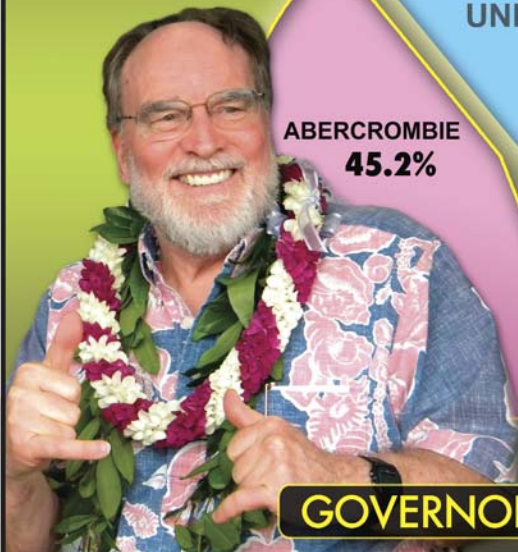
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ SEPTEMBER 4, 2010 ◆

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EDITORIAL

Filipinos and the 2010 Elections

A Primary Election poll taken by the Chronicle during the last week of August shows that as far as registered Filipino voters are concerned, the major races are wide open, except for the race for governor. The Chronicle poll showed Neil Abercrombie holding a commanding 45.2 to 13.7 lead over Mufi Hannemann. Trailing at a distant third was Duke Aiona at 12.1 percent.

Abercrombie's sizeable lead is rather surprising, given he and Hannemann's immense popularity among Filipino voters and strong union support. However, two recent black marks against the former mayor may at least partly explain Filipinos' current overwhelming preference for Abercrombie. These two are Hannemann's exclusion of former Gov. Ben Cayetano during a speech he made at the Democratic Party Convention several months ago and the blame for a substantial increase in real property taxes for Oahu residents. Both incidences may seem insignificant at first blush but apparently have hit a nerve within the Filipino community—particularly among first-generation immigrants.

As for this year's elections, a good number of Filipino candidates are in the running. Leaders in the Filipino community, for the sake of unity, usually discourage two Filipino candidates from running against each other for the same seat. It has unfortunately happened in previous elections and will do so again this year as Donovan Dela Cruz squares off against Michael Magaoyao for Senate District 22, and incumbent Henry Aquino faces Republican challenger Reginald Yago for House District 35.

In the gubernatorial, congressional and mayoral races, there are no viable Filipino candidates. However, one too many pinoy are gunning for the lieutenant governor's position. With Lyla Berg, Robert Bunda and Lynn Finnegan in the hunt for LG, the already small number of Filipino lawmakers at the Capitol could further dwindle if all three suffer defeat. Involved are big risks and high rewards, since a victory by either of the three places a Filipino squarely in line for the governorship in about eight years.

First things first, however. For the sake of political empowerment, better government and true reform, Filipino voters need to turn out in droves at the polls come September 20 and November 2. Too many have stood on the sidelines for too long. We urge them to get in the game and get out to vote!

Leadership Change in Store For City Council

Honolulu City Council chair Todd Apo recently announced that he will resign his seat effective November 8 and assume a new job as public affairs manager in Hawaii for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. To his credit, Apo has done an admirable job in serving his district and constituents since joining the Council in 2004. It's just too bad that he didn't make up his mind earlier. His Council seat could have been included in either the September 18th Primary or the November 2nd General Election, had he set an effective resignation date prior to the candidate filing deadline of July 20, 2010. As it turns out, taxpayers will be paying roughly \$150,000 for a special election to determine who will serve the remainder of Apo's term.

You can't really blame Apo for looking out for himself and his family's best interests, especially when a mega-business company like Disney comes a-calling. However, his resignation will probably disappoint those constituents who expected him to serve out his full four-year term. Call us old-fashioned, but shouldn't every elected official be obligated to serve his or her entire term? It is extremely rare for an elected official like Apo to resign mid-term and take a job in the private sector. Perhaps these constituents would be more understanding had he resigned to take another government position or seek another elected office as politicians routinely do.

Let's just hope that Apo's replacement, whoever he or she is, will be able to pick up the ball and move forward on issues that the underserved Leeward Coast community has wrestled with for years, including the homeless population on the beaches and the

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Aloha and welcome to the latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle—the Aloha State's leading Filipino community newspaper! We are devoting this issue to the 2010 Primary Election, which is fast approaching. Our staff conducted a telephone poll of registered Filipino voters during the last week of August and asked which candidates they would vote for in the race for governor, mayor, 1st and 2nd Congressional Districts and City prosecutor. Our poll went further and asked these registered Filipino voters to list their top concerns, as well as their party affiliation, age, origin and gender. All in all, we feel that our poll has a fairly good grasp of the Filipino voter and his or her preferences. Putting the poll results all together was a major chore and required none other than the political expertise of our veteran associate editor Edwin Quinabo. Two things are certain from our poll—Neil Abercrombie holds a surprisingly large lead against Mufi Hannemann in the race for governor and many Filipino voters remain undecided on whom to vote for in many of the other races. The cover story on the results of our poll begins on page 4.



To further educate our readers, we recently sent questionnaires to candidates of Filipino ancestry who are running for office. We tried our best to be fair and to include everyone, incumbents and newcomers alike, but unfortunately, some did not return their responses by press time. These include Reps. Della Au Belatti, Rida Cabanilla, Kymberly Marcos Pine and former City Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz, who is running for the State Senate. Nevertheless, we hope that you will enjoy reading up on our Filipino candidates, beginning on page 12.

We have included other articles in this issue, beginning with an Opinion Column "For Good or Bad: the Era of a New Filipino Constituency Has Begun" on page 3, an Open Forum article "Hannemann Stood Tall and Proud but Looked Down on Filipino Leaders" on page 6 and information on page 6 on where registered voters can cast absentee ballots.

In closing, we again thank you for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. We invite you to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have ideas, concerns or questions regarding Hawaii's Filipino community.

Until next time... *aloha and mahalo!*
Chona A. Montesinos-Sonido

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future of Waimanalo Gulch landfill. The community needs strong leadership...and hopefully this time around, gets a councilmember committed to serving a full four-year term.



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OPINION

For Good Or Bad: The Era Of A New Filipino Constituency Has Begun

By Edwin Quinabao

Ethnic voting - is it something Hawaii's Filipino community paying much attention to this 2010 election?

To many, the idea of even discussing the topic openly arouses a range of mixed emotions, from awkwardness to denial, to dismay and pride. But despite how we feel about it and buy into the notion of voting based merely on merit and the issues, ethnic voting always posts a blip on election radar screens simply because everyone - candidates and communities alike -- know exactly how real it is.

As big political races draw nearer, top contenders probably have already discovered that targeting the Filipino vote is not as easy as it used to be. In the first place, this 2010 general election is in short supply of the kind of crowd-pulling passion needed for block voting to occur. There is no charismatic, Cayetano-type Filipino in any of the major races drawing headline attention. Nor is there a centerpiece issue unique to our community for candidates to exploit. Even commotion over political endorsements within our own community is not generating the kind of buzz as they did in the past. The typical bickering among our leaders over who they support is too transparent and discarded by most as special interest, egoistic disputes. The vast majority of us, 200,000 plus Filipinos, frankly could care less which candidate these leaders support.

A changed group

The bottom line is today's Filipino voters are much more savvy and guarded.

Our voting patterns may not deviate considerably at this stage in our political evolution. But our reasons behind why we make our voting decisions have changed.

Gone are our motivations of the past: voting as a block in respect as the state's "swing vote" as in the 1990s/early 2000s; or voting as a block to elect one of our "own" as in the 1980s/early 1990s when our community held the dubious label of "sleeping giant."

Why the change? Filipinos

have come a long way. Given our marked political successes, our visibility and achievements in almost all sectors of society from government to labor and business, we have no more or less to prove than any other ethnic group in the state. This new confidence also affects our standards by which we keep our elected officials accountable. As we once did, most of us now will not be counting our fingers the number of Filipino appointed directors in a new administration or the number of Filipinos asked to serve as members on non-sense boards following this election. Instead, we'll be looking at performance standards: "how well can our elected leader direct our economy back on track?" or "how prudent will he or she be in spending taxpayers' dollars?" Issues seem to be the underlying importance for this new Filipino constituency.

What is the New Filipino Constituency

Parallel to heavily studied consumer reports in which Generation X-ers are increasingly surpassing in financial clout and numbers the baby boomer generation, the realm of politics is no different. The time for the new Filipino constituency, those ranging in age roughly between 30 and 50, has arrived. Younger to middle-aged Filipinos share unique experiences of their own generation, different from their parents' who unequivocally voted as their unions encouraged them to. Many of these younger Filipinos still belong to unions, but a large segment also have made careers in other sectors with new interests to protect and new alliances established, often wholly independent of ethnicity-in-mind, altogether.

Our increasing diversity and new roles in mainstream society could be perceived as both new weaknesses and strengths. We are vulnerable in our loose kinship to each other as a people, blending into the mainstream perhaps too competently and losing our unique cultural identification. In the way of politics, this could be particularly damaging should our people fail to achieve near socio-economic parity among other predominantly mainstream-thinking ethnic groups. If our community performs under-par in education and corpo-

rate representation, as examples, relative to say the Japanese and Caucasian groups who are largely mainstream, who then would advocate for Filipinos if our political base suddenly has merged into simply "mainstream" consciousness. It's easy to see how this trend without balance could do irreversible harm.

The obvious upshot is that more Filipinos are now in positions of visibility and influence in the larger community. How well this bodes for us in the distant future really depends on what these successful Filipinos contribute back to uplifting our entire community. The big unknown is, would any sense of loyalty to our own ethnic community remain should we veer too far away from our base?

Our political future

There is no doubt that new tensions and grievances specific to our community can quickly reverse this current trend of "political mainstreaming." An example of this could be seen in the national arena among Latino voters whose community is suddenly finding renewed value in ethnic block voting amid the battle over immigration reform.

It is also possible that a new, contemporary, captivating, strong Filipino leader who truly represents who we are today, emerge to recapture our passions politically to once again win a state governorship or be a trailblazer in Congress.

To disregard the power of Filipinos rallying together as block voters in future elections would be a gross underestimation.

What we really need to see happen is guidance from our established leadership which at the moment seem more concerned about holding on to power than the future of our community. In fairness to some of them, they've helped our community advance. But their enormous failure, probably unnoticed in their own minds, is that they have not succeeded in providing positive examples of cooperation and mentorship, driving away younger Filipinos from the whole idea of unity and community advocacy for our people.

Those of us who are Filipino leaders, we need to ask ourselves: "who will carry on our legacy, our lifetime's work for our commu-

nity? The answer to this question alone could play a large factor in what our political future as a community will look like 10, 20 years from today. Unlike Hawaii's Chinese community, which is the most balanced in terms of mainstreaming and intra-community advocating among all Hawaii's ethnic groups, who would have thought our Filipino community be so disconnected from our culture, our language, and most importantly, each other.

The bigger, politically correct picture

From the viewpoint of fair-

ness, perhaps our new, mainstream voting outlook falls closer on the side of enlightenment. Some would actually applaud its direction and our new lenses absent of colored barriers. But in a world of competing interests in which race still matters, should we be so accepting of losing our solid, tested voting base that has worked effectively over many years in achieving community empowerment?

As we can see in spite of our economic and political gains mainstreaming, for all its pros and cons, ethnic voting for many of us in the end can never really be ruled out completely.

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COVER STORY

Abercrombie Leads Hannemann in HFC Primary Election Poll

Other Races Wide Open With Many Undecided Voters

By Edwin Quinabo

As the Primary Election rapidly approaches this September 18, all major races are up for grabs among Hawaii's Filipino community, except for one.

According to the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's (HFC) recent Primary Election poll, former U.S. Rep. Neil

Abercrombie holds a commanding lead over former Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann in the race for governor among registered Filipino voters, 45.2 percent to 13.7 percent. The landslide Abercrombie advantage might come as a surprise to some considering the mayor's support from several high-profile leaders in the Filipino community.

The gap is so far apart that even if a late push by the Hanemann camp were to capture the entire 29 percent of undecided Filipino voters before the Primary, Hannemann would still trail Abercrombie.

The other big-name contender in the governor's race, Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona, received 12.1 percent of Filipino voters in the same HFC poll.

Abercrombie has posted big numbers in past HFC polls in each of his 10 re-election victories to Congress. Abercrombie's supporters point to his longstanding relationship with the Filipino community, efforts to improve benefits for World War II Filipino veterans, support of labor unions and defense of social programs such as Social Security as reasons for his impressive poll showing.

He is viewed as one of only a few politicians genuinely interested in working with all sectors of society—the corporate CEO, college professor, community activist, high-tech researcher, ailing senior, hotel worker Maria, construction foreman Jose, local farmer Watanabe, the temporarily unemployed, minimum wage earner and middle-class small business owner. This quality is particularly attractive to the

Filipino community as it becomes increasingly varied as a group.

In Hannemann's favor, his rise from humble beginnings resonates well among many Filipinos with similar struggles. When considering Hannemann's working-class start, strong will and determination, Filipinos can't help but draw comparisons to another politician with similar smarts and toughness—former Gov. Ben Cayetano. Filipino voters' difficulty in choosing a governor this election may have more to do with Abercrombie's strong record advocating for working people versus Hannemann's own political shortcomings. In the same race against a different opponent, perhaps Hannemann's pre-primary election numbers would be considerably higher among Filipino voters.

Like Abercrombie, Hannemann's relationship with the Filipino community is also tight. Make no mistake, he is admired by many. A frequent visitor to the Philippines on trade missions and fixture at numerous community events, Hannemann is particularly popular among Filipino business leaders where he definitely has higher favorability. But that scope may be too narrow as evidenced by the HFC poll.

This Primary Election, Oahu's Democrats are fortunate to have two highly-qualified, articulate and strong candidates.

Many people believe the winner will become the next governor. The latest mainstream poll shows Abercrombie slightly ahead, but Oahu residents have nearly two weeks to find out how the undecided will vote, if voters will change their minds, or if polls by their very nature are not getting important data from a hidden, decisive demographic that could sway this hotly contested race.

Other Big Races Up For Grabs

This year's HFC poll shows an unusually high rate of undecided registered Filipino voters. The large undecided percentage in all major races may indicate lukewarm interest among Filipino voters, especially when considering the close proximity of Primary Election day to the time this poll was taken.

Mayor's race

In the race for mayor of Honolulu, the undecided group is a whopping 52.8 percent that could throw the race either way between former City Prosecutor Peter Carlisle who garnered 27.6 percent and anti-rail crusader Panos Preevedourous' 15.4 percent. Acting Mayor Kirk Caldwell, a relative unknown to Hawaii's Filipino community, came in with only 4 percent of votes.

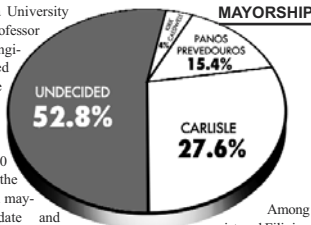
The four-term Honolulu prosecutor announced early in July 2009 that if Hannemann leaves office to run for governor, he would resign to run for mayor. Carlisle's lengthy executive experience and independent stance from political parties make him an attractive candidate for Filipinos, many of whom identify themselves as independents.

Panos, a University of Hawaii professor and civil engineer, finished third in the 2008 mayor's race, receiving 140,000 votes. He is the only anti-rail mayor candidate and could snatch the election based on that hotly-contested issue alone. His relatively strong showing in the HFC poll suggests that the large concentration of Filipinos living in West Oahu are not necessarily sold on the rail project as assumed, even though their neighborhoods would be most affected by its completion.

If the mayor's race is to be decided on the issue of rail as many people believe, two strong pro-rail candidates in Carlisle and Caldwell may split the vote and open the door for a Panos victory. The election is structured as a winner-take-all contest. The winner will serve out the last two years remaining of Hannemann's vacated term.

1st Congressional District

The percentage of undecided voters in this race is also high at 44.7 percent. Based on mainstream and the HFC poll, voters will likely see a rematch between U.S. Rep. Charles Djou, who won in a special mail vote-in election earlier this year, and state Senate President Colleen Hanabusa. With former U.S. Rep. Ed Case out of the race and a primary elimination format, voters will decide once and for all who will be representing Hawaii in Washington, D.C.

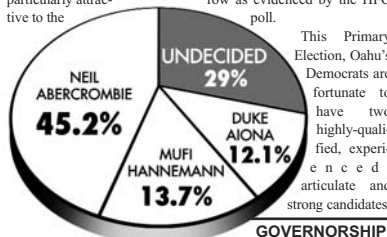


Among registered Filipino voters, Hanabusa leads with 37.2 percent, compared with Djou's 18.1 percent. A staunch Democrat and trailblazer as the first Asian American woman president of a state legislative body in the U.S., Hanabusa reminds Filipinos of the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink. The comparisons are obvious—Hanabusa's progressive politics, eloquence and legislative leadership make her an attractive candidate for the Filipino community.

In her first attempt at Congress in 2006, Hanabusa narrowly lost to Mazie Hirono in a 10-way race by a few hundred votes, 21.8 percent to 21.1 percent. Her exceptional showing then, even managing to beat out former Sen. Matt Matsunaga, caught the attention of Democratic party leaders who noted her blend of charisma and smarts to compete at the highest level.

Equally articulate, Djou's brief stay in Congress has been a refreshing surprise as a "moderate" Republican. Djou outshines in talent and ability many Hawaii politicians on both sides of the political spectrum. His conservative approach to fiscal matters is attractive to business leaders in the Filipino community. Self-acknowledged inde-

(continued on page 5)



COVER STORY

(from page 4, Abercrombie...)

pendents also look favorably to Djou who could provide greater balance in Hawaii's congressional representation.

While Djou is known statewide as one of the more visible and vocal Republicans, he is relatively unknown at a personal level to active Filipino community members. If he loses this election and plans to run in future elections, Djou should consider building relationships with the Filipino community.

2nd Congressional District

In the 2nd Congressional District race, the undecided vote is considerable at 42.9 percent, but incumbent U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono who received 52.4 percent stands well above all contenders. John Willoughby, a military officer and commercial pilot, received 4.8 percent.

Hirono's re-election bid this year may be secured according to preliminary polls, but the high undecided percentage in this HFC survey may suggest some dissatisfaction with her performance or lack of effective outreach to the Filipino community. Or the poll results may simply indicate apathy among Filipino vot-

ers with this particular field of contenders, absent of a heavy-weight type opponent. A former state legislator and Lt. Governor during Gov. Cayetano's tenure, Hirono is no stranger to running tough campaigns against formidable challengers such as Case, Lingle and Hanabusa.

Honolulu Prosecutor

A special election for City prosecutor will be held on Primary Election day to fill the post vacated by mayoral candidate Carlisle. Keith Kaneshiro, former city prosecutor from 1989 to 1996, is most notable among contenders. Despite his name recognition, Kaneshiro trails in the HFC poll slightly behind current deputy prosecutor Franklin "Don" Pacarro. Kaneshiro received 20.9 percent of respondents' votes compared to Pacarro's 27.8 percent. Darwin Ching, a former deputy prosecutor and Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, got 0.9 percent. The undecided total is 50.4 percent.

Top Issues For Filipinos

Number One: The Economy

It's no surprise that Filipino voters overwhelmingly consider

the economy as the number one priority. Forty percent of respondents believe that lifting the state from the lingering depression should be the top goal for elected officials.

According to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEBT), there are some indicators that show improvement in the economy. The U.S. real GDP is expected to increase by 2.9 percent this year. Japan's GDP growth is targeted at 3.1 percent. Both upward trends should help Hawaii's economy toward modest recovery. Visitor arrivals are expected to close 2010 with a 4.6 percent increase. The Honolulu Consumer Price Index is projected to increase by 2.2 percent. Personal income growth in current dollars is projected to increase by 2.5 percent.

While there are signs of better days ahead, people don't see statistics. They see stores vacant, businesses closing, empty office spaces, family and friends out of work. They hear stories of struggle everywhere. A disturbing trend particularly among small businesses is cut backs in working hours, often from full-time to part-time.

Tied For Second: Jobs and Foreclosure

HFC respondents considered unemployment (14.3 percent) as the second most important issue for elected officials, along with the foreclosure/housing crunch.

Hawaii's unemployment rate remains one of the lowest nationally at 6.3 percent (sixth lowest in the country). The fact that Hawaii's labor force is shrinking (fell by 1,700 to 634,700 in July 2010) while unemployment rate holds steady means that job hunters are giving up and not being counted in official record-keeping.

Related to the economy and jobs, the foreclosure situation rated (14.3 percent) in the top tier among Filipinos' concerns. While the market value for Hawaii homes haven't dipped as low as in other states, its foreclosure rates is among the nation's highest at 12th place, according to RealtyTrac, Inc. The number of foreclosure fil-

ings this year is at 6,482, or one in every 79 households.

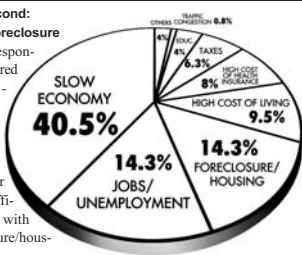
In neighborhoods with high concentrations of Filipinos such as Ewa, Waipahu and Kapolei, the percentage of foreclosures and short sales are higher compared to other areas in the state. Many Filipino families that have been affected by subprime loans continue to struggle to stay in their homes.

Number Three:

High Cost of Living

The high cost of living was the third most important issue among Filipinos at 9.5 percent. Hawaii has always been among the most expensive cities not just nationally but internationally.

(continued on page 8)



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OPEN FORUM

"Hannemann Stood Tall and Proud but Looked Down on Filipino Leaders"



W e would like to respond to the Open Forum letter "Stand Tall, Stand Proud Muff Hannemann!"

in your July 24th issue.

Unfortunately, the letter signed by several Filipinos from Maui has muddied the waters in terms of the real issue facing the Filipino community. Let's be clear about this particular debate—the issue at stake is about honor, dignity and respect for Filipinos...not culture or tradition.

Muff Hannemann's exclusion of former Gov. Ben Cayetano from the list of past Democratic governors from Kalihi was no trivial matter. And it wasn't the first time that Hannemann disrespected a Filipino leader or elected official.

The truth is, Hannemann's temper tantrums are well-known among political and government circles. More than one public official, including Gov. Linda Lingle and City Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, have criticized the former mayor for his bullying and intimidation tactics.

As for Filipinos, we have been informed of several instances where Hannemann in fact intimidated and/or belittled several Filipino leaders, including:

Donovan Dela Cruz, then-Honolulu City Council Chair: During a meeting at the Mililani Golf Course, Hannemann lashed out at Dela Cruz for a response that was not to his liking. Hannemann stood up and threatened to have Dela Cruz ousted as council chair. Before being restrained, he pointed at Dela Cruz and stated "I'm going to take you down."

Romy Cachola, Honolulu City Councilmember: Needing a fifth vote to oust Dela Cruz, Hannemann called Cachola to his office in the presence of his cabinet and two councilmembers. Cachola was berated in front of the others for refusing to support Hannemann's efforts to remove Dela Cruz. Hannemann once more stood up, gestured and yelled at Cachola to "get out."

Two State senators of Filipino ancestry: In a face-to-face meeting with Hannemann, one of the Filipino senators refused to back down or give in to the

former mayor's demands and intimidation tactics. The second senator, whom Hannemann called a "punk," described the former mayor as "overbearing" and "intimidating."

Former Gov. Ben Cayetano: We are appalled that Hannemann would not recognize someone whom Filipinos look up to as a role model. In the eyes of many Filipinos, excluding Cayetano was disrespectful—even if Hannemann never had the opportunity to work for him as he did for past Democratic governors.

We, therefore, strongly disagree with our Maui "kadarang" in their politically-motivated attempt to defend Hannemann's snubbing of Ben Cayetano.

As for culture and tradition, it is commendable for Hannemann to attend Filipino gatherings and functions, to sing songs for the audience, to personally visit the Philippines and to present awards that recognize successful Filipinos. But most politicians and elected officials from the City, State and federal levels already do that. It's nothing new.

The real issue is that Hannemann has a history of stand-

ing up to look down and intimidate our Filipino leaders. Just think...if he can do that to our leaders, he can do the same to just about anyone.

Irrespective of which island you're from—Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai or the Big Island—we Filipinos need to stand united. Let's join together and see to it that no one taints our honor, dignity and respect as Filipinos.

Arlina Agbayani
Benvenuto Bautista

Nora Bautista
Richard Bebeyson
Defina Benitez
Gerry Benitez
Jade Butay
Enma Corpuz
Romy Corpuz
Rafael Salva Corpuz
Cely Galichia
Mercedes La Fuente
Agnes Malate
Jake Manegdog
Paquito Ramirez
David Rodriguez
Bobby Soria
Julius Julius
Sheryl Ulep

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Absentee Polling Sites Announced for 2010 Elections

The Office of the City Clerk will be operating an Absentee Polling Place in the courtyard of Honolulu Hale for the upcoming 2010 election season. The hours of operation will be from 8 am to 4 pm, Mondays through Saturdays, from September 3-16, 2010 for the Primary Election and October 19-30, 2010 for the General.

In addition to Honolulu Hale, registered voters can vote at absentee polling sites at Kapolei Hale's conference rooms A and B and at Windward Mall on the second level next to Sears. Only paperless direct recording electronic voting machines (DRE) will be available at Kapolei Hale and Wind-

ward Mall. Honolulu Hale will have both DRE machines and paper ballots.

Elections officials are also reminding candidates that campaigning is prohibited by law within a 200-foot perimeter around the absentee polling place. Persons distributing literature, wearing campaign clothing or conducting any election activity will be required to leave. Parked vehicles with campaign advertisements are also prohibited by law unless the owner of that vehicle is voting at the absentee polling place.

If you have further questions, please contact the City's Elections Division at 768-3800 or for additional election information, visit the City's website at: www.honolulu-elections.org.

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EDUCATION: Neil Abercrombie believes that every child deserves quality education and college opportunities.

LABOR: Neil's heart is close to the working people. He walked alongside hospital and hotel workers in their fight for just wages and better working conditions.

LANGUAGE ACCESS: Neil believes people who need language assistance should receive help for important information and services.

FILIPINO WWII VETERANS: Neil believes that a serious act of injustice was done against them. He fought in Congress to restore benefits and just compensation for them.

IMMIGRANTS: Neil believes in reuniting immigrant families sooner and advocated to shorten the long wait for relatives to come to the United States.

CAREGIVERS: Neil recognizes the need of seniors to be cared for in a safe and nurturing home environment. He supported legislation to support both the recipients and providers of care.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE: Neil helped obtain federal funds to build the Filipino Community Center. He supports Filipino culture and heritage community programs.



Neil Abercrombie, Amy Agbayani, Co-chair of Abercrombie for Governor and Governor Ben Cayetano

"Masapultayo ti napinget, napudno, ken natured a lider kas sumaruno a gobernadortayo. Ni Neil Abercrombie ket nabayagen a gayyem ken mangsupuportar iti komunidad a Filipino. Nasinged isuna a gayyemko iti nasuroka trenta a tawen. Maysa isuna a lider a mabalintay a mapagpiaran."

Governor
Ben Cayetano

Importante la unay para ken Neil Abercrombie ti botosyo iti daytoy umay nga eleksion a primaria. Agbotoskayo koma inton Septiembre 18.

Mabalinyo met ti agbotos babaen iti 'Absentee Ballot'. Dumawatkayo iti balota ket mabalinyo nga ipatulod daytoy iti koreo aginggana inton Septiembre 11.

Mabalin pay ti panagbotosyo a personal babaen ti ipapanyo idia City Hall. Mangrugi daytoy inton Septiembre 3.

I humbly ask for your vote. Thank you.

Kiddawek a sipapakumbaba ti botosyo. Dios Ti Agngina.

COVER STORY (cont.)

(from page 5, Abercrombie...)

The poor economy, job losses and bad financing many Hawaii residents are dealing with make the historically high cost of living here seem even higher.

According to the majority of lists ranking the most expensive cities in the U.S., including Forbes, Hawaii ranks anywhere from first to fifth in the country, depending on the criteria used. Hawaii ranks in the top 20 in overall cost of living in the world. The typical data examined are food, housing, utilities, transportation, and health care costs compared with income. Due to the state's location and cost to transport goods to the islands, the high cost of living may be one of the toughest challenges for lawmakers to find workable solutions.

Number Four: High Cost of Healthcare

An increasing concern rising up in importance for Americans is the exorbitant cost of healthcare which is responsible for 6 out of every 10 bankruptcies. This problem ranks fourth in our HFC poll at 8 percent.

Hawaii fares better than other states in the number of in-

sured residents as a result of the state law enacted 36 years ago requiring companies to provide health care insurance for their employees. This requirement is a contributing factor to Hawaii having the longest life expectancy in the nation.

But times are changing even though the law remains in place. Due to higher overhead costs, companies have resorted to hiring more part-time employees to avoid paying for employees' expensive healthcare. The workforce is also changing to one that is more service-oriented with outsourcing projects. As a result, more people are finding themselves reclassified as independent contract workers and having to pay for their own health insurance. Individual insurance plans without the built-in group buying power is substantially higher for the same services. With job loss, part-time and independent contracting status on the rise, paying for an individual insurance plan is becoming more common and too costly for this group of health insurance payers to maintain.

Other Issues

Filipino voters also were concerned with taxes (6.3 percent), education (4 percent), and traffic congestion (0.8 percent). For respondents in Waianae, dealing with the homelessness problem is a top priority.

A Snapshot of Hawaii's Filipino Voters Party Affiliation

Democrats: Historically, Filipinos have been predominantly Democrat because of their affiliation with labor unions, hotel unions and their plantation roots. The changing workforce and downside in labor union membership among Filipinos has affected this community's loyalty to the Democratic Party.

Close to 54 percent of respondents said that they are Democrats. The percentage is still sizable, but not nearly as high as 10 years ago.

Independents: Those who have left the Democrat party haven't completely abandoned the values and goals of the party in place for the Republican platform. Many Filipinos consider themselves independent at 33.7 percent. The community's penchant for political independence is actually not a new phenom-

en, but it does appear to be growing. These voters do not necessarily have complete confidence in either the Democrat or Republican party. They vote on the basis of a candidate's experience and charisma, or vote according to a candidate's stance on a specific, singular issue they're impassioned about, independent of party affiliation.

Republicans: At the start of Gov. Lingle's rise to statewide prominence, many Filipinos were among other ethnic groups who saw the Republican Party as an emerging, solid alternative in Hawaii politics. That has changed, given Lingle's near exit from the governorship and the shrinking Republican base at the Legislature—45 to 6 in the House and 23 to 2 in the Senate. Only 12.5 percent of respondents considered themselves as Republicans in the HFC poll. With Lingle out of office soon and Senate Minority Leader Fred Hemmings choosing not to run again, the Republican leadership is expected to dwindle to record lows, especially if Lt. Governor Aiona loses his bid for the governorship, House Minority Leader Lynn Finnegan fails

in her bid for Lt. Governor and U.S. Rep. Charles Djou falls short of getting re-elected.

Age, Origin and Gender

Age: The majority of registered Filipino voters are between the ages of 46 through 65. This bracket constitutes 64.7 percent of the Filipino constituency. The second largest voting group is 66 and older at 22 percent; 30-45 at 11 percent; and 18-29 at 4.2 percent.

Origin: Immigrants who have been living in Hawaii for more than 10 years make up the largest voting group at 73.3 percent, followed by locals who were born here at 21.6 percent; and residents living here fewer than 10 years at 5.2 percent.

Gender: Women made up 62.2 percent of poll respondents, compared with men at 37.8 percent.

The HFC Primary Election Poll was taken during the last week of August and targeted only registered Filipino voters statewide. For greater accuracy, pollsters conducted a larger sampling of neighborhoods with higher concentration of Filipino residents. For a larger cross-section, polling was done at different times of the day. A total of 125 respondents participated in the HFC poll. It has a margin of error of 6 percent.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel
Samonte Tipon

Harboring Illegal Aliens – Could You Lose Your Home?

I was thinking of a Biblical verse for this column. The closest was the story of the Good Samaritan (from Samaria, not Samar) who saw a wounded victim of thieves, whom others had passed by without helping, and he stopped, bandaged his wounds, and brought him to an inn, telling the innkeeper to care for him and he would repay him when he returned. Luke 10:29-37.

But the verse didn't seem appropriate because the wounded man was not an illegal alien, the Samaritan brought him to Jericho, not America, he did it because of compassion not for private gain, and Jericho had no Immigration and Nationality Act.

Section 274(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Act provides for criminal penalties for any person who, "knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that an alien has come to, entered, or re-

mains in the United States in violation of law, conceals, harbors, or shields from detection, or attempts to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection, such alien in any place, including any building or any means of transportation." Any person who engages in a conspiracy to commit, or aids or abets the commission of, the offense is also subject to criminal penalties. Section 274(a)(1)(A)(v)(I) and (II).

The penalties include death or imprisonment for any term of years or for life and fine, depending on whether the purpose is for commercial advantage or private financial gain, and on whether serious bodily injury or death resulted. Section 274(a)(1)(B). In addition, any conveyance, including any vessel, vehicle, or aircraft and any property traceable to such conveyance or proceeds of such violation, shall be seized and subject to forfeiture. Section 274(b)(1).

To "harbor" or "conceal" means to shelter and protect illegal aliens. *Sunjarg v. U.S.*, 27 F.2d 223 (6th Cir. 1928). Merely providing shel-

ter to an alien with knowledge of his illegal presence in the U.S. is sufficient to constitute "harboring". *U.S. v. Lopez*, 521 F.2d 437 (2nd Cir. 1975).

Li, a U.S. citizen, operated a restaurant in Wisconsin. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents discovered three illegal aliens living in his home. All three worked at his restaurant. He was charged with harboring illegal aliens for commercial or private gain. The aliens testified against him. They acknowledged that Li never asked them to complete employment-related paperwork. The jury convicted him.

The appellate court affirmed his conviction, holding that he concealed the illegal aliens by omitting their names from his wage records and providing them a place to live, and he derived financial advantage from the aliens' illegal status since he paid them less than the state minimum wage. The court cited a similar case involving a Filipino, *U.S. v. Calimlim*, 538 F.3d 706 (7th Cir. 2008).

Li challenged the forfeiture

of his home as "grossly disproportional" to the crime of harboring and "does not bear some relationship to the gravity of the offense" since it would leave his children homeless and he was sentenced to only 15 months and a \$10,000 fine, while his home had a fair market value of \$179,200. The appeals court rejected his contention, saying that the authorized penalties for harboring are much more than what was actually imposed. *U.S. v. Yu Tian Li*, No. 09-2229, 08/03/2010, CA7.

gration law and criminal defense. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed." an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Listen to the most funny, witty, and useful radio program in Hawaii on KNDDI at 1270. AM dial every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. and on KHCB at 1060. AM dial every Thursday at 8 p.m. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness at the time of publication.)

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He practices in Hawaii, specializing in immi-

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Aquino Optimistic on US Visit

By Delon Porcalla /
Thursday, Sept. 2, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - President Aquino is optimistic his visit to the US will bring more investments to pump prime the economy and provide more social services to the people, including the upgrading of education.

Mr. Aquino will visit Vietnam on Sept. 13 to 14, and then proceed to Indonesia on Sept. 14 to 15 for a state visit before his trip to the United States later next month, Malacañang said yesterday.

The Palace said as part of tradition, Mr. Aquino must first visit members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Details of Mr. Aquino's first travel abroad were not yet available.

Mr. Aquino spoke with optimism after receiving a warm reception from students of the Rizal Technological University in Mandaluyong yesterday as guest of honor in the launching of the Educational and Law Center.

Mr. Aquino was also ecstatic at the prospects of a German group investing in the country after the foreign investor made a courtesy call to



President. Noynoy Aquino

him in Malacañang. He said that in September he hoped to bring home some good news from the US, adding that there were investors who were very interested in putting their money in the country.

Accompanying Mr. Aquino were Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzalez II and Mayor Benhur Abalos, among others.

Mr. Aquino said it had been a discouraging week for him starting Monday, when eight Hong Kong nationals, five of whom were also Canadian passport holders, were killed in the 10-hour hostage crisis at Rizal Park in Manila.

Grateful that he visited the Mandaluyong campus, Mr. Aquino decided not to read his prepared speech and instead gave impromptu remarks.

He begged off from making empty promises on increasing the budget for education. (www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

DTI Sees Investments Reaching P400 Billion

By Ma. Elisa P. Osorio / Thursday, Sept. 2, 2010

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) expects investments to hit more than P400 billion this year, surpassing the P345-billion yearend target of the government.

"We may surpass the P400-billion investments for this year," Trade Secretary Gregory L. Domingo said in a press conference yesterday afternoon.

"The investors are upbeat," Domingo said. Combined investments for the two attached agencies of the DTI – the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Philippine Economic Zone Author-

ity (PEZA) amounted to P240.41 billion for the first seven months of the year.

"The Philippines is not in the radar of foreign businessmen. We have to raise consciousness in order for them to visit our country," Domingo said.

Domingo said he has already asked Undersecretary Cristino L. Panlilio to visit the Middle East and Europe to encourage these businessmen to come to the Philippines.

Data from the BOI showed that from January to July this year, investments gathered by the BOI stood at P171.8 billion. This was 297 percent higher than the P43.226 billion worth of investments obtained during the same period in 2009. (www.philstar.com)

Metro Manila Security Heightened as 'Ber' months Arrive

By Dennis Carcamo / Thursday, Sept. 2, 2010

MANILA, Philippines -- The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRO) has deployed additional police personnel in crime-prone areas in Metro Manila during the so-called "Ber" months, which

usher in the Holiday Season, a radio report said.

Some of the places where additional policemen have been deployed to are Cubao area in Quezon City, Litex-Fairview, and areas in Caloocan City.

Aside from the commercial areas in Metro Manila, plainclothes police personnel will also be stationed inside public utility buses plying major thoroughfares. (www.philstar.com)

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Filipino Candidates for Primary Election

By HFC Staff

Filipinos have left an indelible mark on island politics over the past half century. Pioneers like Peter Aduja, the first Filipino to win a major elected office in the Territorial House of Representatives as a Republican from Hilo. Or Benjamin Cayetano, the first Filipino governor of a U.S. state. And Eduardo E. Malapit, Kauai's first mayor of Filipino ancestry. These are just a few of the Filipino politicians who made headlines and blazed a trail for future Filipinos in elective office to follow.

Fortunately for the Filipino community, there has always been a handful

HENRY J.C. AQUINO (D) Position Seeking: Re-election to State House District 35



Experience: Served as Vice-Chair of the House Public Safety committee and a member of the Finance, Labor and Transportation committees.

Background: Parents are from Ilocos Sur. Holds an MA in communication from Hawaii Pacific University. Attends St. Joseph Church, teaches self-defense classes, organizes graffiti paint outs; serves as a director for the Waipahu Community Foundation and with the Saniatians of Hawaii and the Leeward Oahu Lions Club.

Why are you running? "To make a difference for our families, friends, neighbors, youth and seniors. I am honored by the support and confidence my district has put in me. In addition, I am proud of my roots and will continue to work hard to address important issues."

Agenda/Platform: "My platform consists of three key components to build a better Hawaii. First is to create and support legislation that strengthens the economy and generates jobs. Second is to support legislation that addresses community safety and crime, traffic, affordable housing and care for the vulnerable and needy. Third is to improve the quality of the public education system. A well-trained and educated population is essential in achieving a strong economy and brightens the futures for all of our children."

LYLA BERG (D) Position Seeking: Lt. Governor



Experience: Served as representative for State House District 18. Was vice-chair of the House Education Committee and a member of the Agriculture; Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs; Higher Education; and Tourism, Culture & International Affairs committees.

Background: Graduated from Punahou and earned a Ph.D. in education from the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. Worked for over 15 years with the State Department of Education as a teacher, student activities coordinator, vice-principal and middle school principal. Founded Kids Voting Hawaii program in 1996. Conducted workforce development training for Kapiolani Community College, the visitor industry and the private sector.

Why are you running? "I believe that I can utilize the Lt. Governor's office to help eliminate political barriers and gridlock that prevent new ideas and people from being included in meaningful dialog that could lead to real problem solving. By actively engaging individuals, business and community organizations in the process, I'm convinced we can

cause change to happen in record time."

Agenda/Platform: "Return our keiki to well-staffed classrooms; create employment for jobless workers and restore vital government services, particularly in the courts and for disadvantaged children and families."

ROBERT BUNDA (D) Position Seeking: Lt. Governor



Experience: Served as senator for State Senate District 22. Was Senate president from 2001-2006 and State House representative from 1983-1994.

Background: Graduated from Lilehua High School and Texas Wesleyan College. Served in the U.S. Air Force, Texas Army National Guard and Hawaii National Guard. Was a banking executive and local insurance broker.

Why are you running? "I look at all sides of complex issues and consider both the immediate and long term benefits. I have a proven ability to bring people together and find solutions to even the toughest problems."

Agenda/Platform: "I will work to fast track permits for the \$32 billion worth of pending State and City CIP projects. I will work with local banks to encourage businesses to apply for working capital. Our education system needs change. The superintendent should be a cabinet position and directly accountable to the governor. The BOE should be replaced with an appointed regional or district boards. I also support more charter schools, schools within schools and autonomy for schools and for principals. In 1988, I created the Ocean and Marine Resources Council that produced the first comprehensive Ocean Resources Management Plan. In 1997, I initiated the formation of a community task force to recommend changes to the Pupukea Marine Life Conservation District on Oahu's North Shore. Today, the marine life there is thriving."

WILL ESPERO (D) Position Seeking: Re-election to State Senate, District 20



Experience: Served as State Representative for three years and State Senator for eight. Is current chair of Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee. A total of 52 bills he introduced have passed. Secured construction funds for projects in his district, including Fort Weaver Road widening, North-South Road, Ewa Makai Middle School, Keoneala Elementary and UH West Oahu.

Background: Holds business degree from Seattle University. Resident of Ewa Beach for past 21 years. Appointed by former mayor Frank Fasi to head neighborhood board system from 1987 to 1994.

Why are you running? "I enjoy public serv-

ice and helping my community. It is very rewarding to help people and pass legislation which benefits our state. My community continues to grow and I feel honored to be able to help shape its destiny."

Agenda/Platform: "I support more government services and facilities for West Oahu, a ferry from Ewa Beach to Downtown, anti-bullying legislation, more investment in early childhood education, an economy that grows jobs and removing the tax on food."

mentors and helps young adults achieve their goals. Is president of Java Beans Hawaii which specializes in locally-grown products, machinery and equipment. Is president of West Oahu Women Society (WOWS), a group of women who contribute their time in championing for the betterment of society. Endorsed by Carpenters Union Local 745 and IronWorkers Local 625.

Why are you running? "I am community and solution-oriented. I am also concerned with job loss, economic hardships facing small business owners and a lack of opportunity for our children in the education system."

LYNN BERBANO FINNEGAN (R) Position Seeking: Lt. Governor



Experience: Served as representative for State House District 32 (Lower Pearlridge, Aiea, Hala wala, Hickam, Pearl Harbor, Moanalua Gardens).

Served in Finance, Education, Higher Education, Health, Human Services, Hawaiian Affairs and Legislative Management committees.

Background: Father and brother served in military. Grandfather was a Philippine guerrilla during World War II. Previously worked for Primary Residential Mortgage.

Why are you running? "With eight years as a representative and five years as minority leader, I have the experience to be an effective Lieutenant Governor. I served as a parent board member for Voyager Public Charter School, which contributed to my desire to bring true reform to our public education system. Prior to public service, I worked as a senior loan originator and saw first-hand how individuals and businesses are struggling to make ends meet. I understand how important it is to lower the cost of living for families, individuals and businesses. A lack of balance in government leads to back room deals and decisions that don't put the general public interest first. I'm running for Lt. Governor because I believe we must keep Republican leadership in the executive branch in order to have a balanced and honest government for all the people of Hawaii."

Agenda/Platform: "I elected Lt. Governor, I pledge to work toward government that places Hawaii residents ahead of bureaucracy, improve public education so that students and families come first, sustain and accelerate Hawaii's transition to a clean energy future, lower the cost of living and ensure that businesses thrive."

LEATRICE ANN PEDRO GRANTHAM (D) Position Seeking: State House of Representatives, District 41



Background: Raised in Waipahu and worked in hospitality businesses for nearly 26 years, with experience in restaurant management. Oversaw development and planning for hotels and restaurants. Founded Honolulu Fair Des Affairs, a nonprofit group that

mentors and helps young adults achieve their goals. Is president of Java Beans Hawaii which specializes in locally-grown products, machinery and equipment. Is president of West Oahu Women Society (WOWS), a group of women who contribute their time in championing for the betterment of society. Endorsed by Carpenters Union Local 745 and IronWorkers Local 625.

Why are you running? "I am community and solution-oriented. I am also concerned with job loss, economic hardships facing small business owners and a lack of opportunity for our children in the education system."

Agenda/Platform: "I will work to empower an entire community with a fresh approach and provide alternatives to a stagnant economy. I will also advocate on behalf of working families who are the life blood of our community and the key to growing the economic stimulus of our state."

GIL KEITH-AGARAN (D) Position Seeking Re-election to State House District 9



Experience: "In the State House, I've brought my passion for Maui, experience practicing law and working in County and State government."

Background: Appointed by Gov. Lingie to finish the term of the late Rep. Bob Nakasono. Served on Gov. Cayetano's cabinet at the Dept. of Land & Natural Resources (Board Chair and Deputy Director), Dept. of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Deputy Director), Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations (Director) and at the Maui County Dept. of Public Works and Environmental Management (Director). Received a B.A. from Yale College and a J.D. from the UC-Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law.

Why are you running? "My parents taught me the importance of hard work, education and fair treatment. As a beneficiary of the sacrifices of prior generations, I am obligated to help others have the same or better quality of life."

Agenda/Platform: "I come from a community of working families with changing opportunities in these challenging times—fewer agricultural and blue collar jobs and limited gap and affordable housing. Central Maui has tremendous potential to position itself for new jobs. It's important that the State, County and private sectors partner to create quality workforce housing so that residents can afford to live and work in our community."

DONNA MERCADO KIM (D)



Position Seeking: Re-election to State Senate District 14

Experience: Served as Chair of the Ways &

(continued on page 13)

LEGAL NOTES

Visa Fees Raised to Fund Border Security



By Reuben S. Seguritan

The USCIS has started to implement the fee increase in H-1B and L petitions as mandated by Public Law 111-230, also known as the Border Security Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010.

The fees collected will help fund the \$600 million project of the Obama Administration to enhance border protection and law enforcement.

The hike in the filing fees are \$2,000 for the H-1B petitions and \$2250 for L-1A and L-1B peti-

tions. Subject to the hike are petitions postmarked on or after August 14, 2010. It will remain in effect until September 30, 2014.

The additional fees are required to be paid by petitioners that employ 50 or more employees in the United States with more than half of the said employees in H-1B or L (including L-1A, and L-1B, and L-2) non-immigrant status. Full-time and part-time employees are included in the count.

When filing an H-1B or L petition, the petitioner will now have to include the additional fee or a statement outlining why the new fee does not apply. If the USCIS does not receive the additional fee or a statement of explanation for nonpayment, it may issue an RFE

(Request for Evidence).

Prior to the new law, the filing fees were \$320 (base processing fee), \$500 (fraud prevention and detection fee) and the applicable ACWIA fee (\$1500 or \$750) needed to file an I-129 form. A separate fee of \$1000 was also required for premium processing.

The visa fee hike has been criticized as unfair and discriminatory by Indian IT companies that would be affected the most. They file an estimated 50,000 visa petitions, including H-1B and L-1 visas annually.

But Senator Charles Schumer, the main proponent of the new law and the fee hike to fund it said: "If you are using the H-1B visa to run a glorified international temp agency for tech workers in contravention of the spirit of the program, I and my

colleagues believe that you should have to pay a higher fee to ensure that American workers are not losing their jobs because of unintended uses of the visa program."

Senator Schumer also said that the border security bill had to be passed in order to generate Republican support for the comprehensive immigration reform bill that he has been passionately advocating.

President Obama who had endorsed the bill that he signed last August 13 said: "The resources made available through this legislation will build upon our successful efforts to protect communities along the Southwest border and across the country... So these steps will make an important difference as my administration continues to work with Congress toward bipartisan

comprehensive immigration reform to secure our borders, and restore responsibility and accountability to our broken immigration system."

Immigration advocates however have expressed doubts that the new law will help push immigration reform. The president of the League of United Latin American Citizens said: "Efforts to overhaul our broken immigration system have once again taken a back seat to appeasing anti-immigrant xenophobes, as Congress passed another dramatic escalation in border enforcement with very little evidence that the past escalations have been effective."

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

FEATURE (cont...)

(from page 12, Filipino Candidates...)

Means Committee. Was former Senate vice president, a member of the State House of Representatives and the Honolulu City Council.

Background: Graduated from Farrington High School and Washington State University. Was a radio talk show co-host, public relations director and trainer facilitator of The Pacific Institute. Served with the Kalhi Business Association, Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce, Palama Settlement Board of Trustees, Boys and Girls Club of Honolulu, Aliamanu Unit and Hawaii's Junior Miss, Inc. Also served on Hawaii Korean Millennium Commission, National League of Cities Economic Development Steering Committee and the President's National Committee on Transportation.

Why are you running? "My positions as chair of the Senate Ways and Means committee and former Senate vice president have provided the residents in the district I serve a strong voice at the Legislature. I will provide a continuity of leadership."

Agenda/Platform: "My platform includes fiscal accountability by holding government officials accountable for expenditure of taxes, identifying core government services to ensure that government funds these essential services, creating incentives for economic viability and continuing to improve our public schools."

MICHAEL MAGAOAY (D)
Position Seeking: State Senate District 22



Background: Served as representative for State House District 46. Graduated from Waiialua High School and the University of Hawaii-Manoa.

Other interests: Involved with UH Engineering Alumni Association, Milliani Lions Club, Aloha Ke Akua High School and March of Dimes. Served with St. Michael's School Board and Church Pastoral Council. Also served as Catholic Charities board member and member of Neighborhood Board No. 27. **Accomplishments:** Served as a member of the Governor's Turtle Bay Advisory Working

Group. Saved Kahuku Hospital from closing, saved Pupukea-Paumali for future generations, saved Waimea Valley and saved Poamoho Camp from closing. Provided funding for new administration building at Sunset Beach Elementary and new library/media center at Waiialua Elementary.

Awards: Named 2010 Health Care of Hawaii Legislator of the Year.

Why are you running? "I care about our community, environment and future. I have worked diligently to sustain and preserve the unique beauty, economic health and way of life on the North Shore."

Agenda/Platform: "Life is very short. We need to work hard every day of our life and to listen to our hearts, soul and mind. Especially to the people I represent, the many voices that are woven into many fabrics of our community and to respect our kupuna."

JOEY MANAHAN (D)
Position Seeking: Re-election to State House of Representatives, District 29



Background: Born in Manila and arrived in Hawaii in 1994. Graduated from UH-Manoa.

Why are you running? "My passion is serving the community. While much has been accomplished during the past four years, there is still much work that needs to be done. Given a proven track record, I hope to continue serving as an advocate for the needs of our district as well as those of our State."

Agenda/Platform: "Balancing the State budget and addressing top three priorities for government spending—education, health and human services and housing. The repair and maintenance backlogs of our schools should be a priority. This year, I was able to secure \$3 million for the repair of Farrington High School's swimming pool. The monies will be part of an overall plan to modernize Farrington. As for health and human services, we need to make sure that our health centers continue to be accessible so they can provide much-needed services and programs to the community. As for housing, the repair and

maintenance of public housing is paramount."

FERNIE S. NICOLAS (D)
Position Seeking: State House of Representatives, District 41



Experience: Served on Kalhi-Palama Neighborhood Board from 1987 to 1993.

Background: Hails from Batac, Ilocos Norte. Holds degrees in political science and theology from Northwestern University in the Philippines. Is an ordained minister who founded Bible Baptist Church in 1984 and is currently its senior pastor. Also operates FSN Driving School of Hawaii and FSN Travel Agency in Waipahu. **Why are you running?** "Because I am dedicated to public service. I want to serve the community."

Agenda/Platform: "I am committed to utilizing my business skills to facilitate economic recovery by supporting local businesses and creating local jobs. I am committed to a strong public school system that supports our children from the earliest of grades all throughout the university years. As a family advocate, I have participated in intensive community policing, a proactive measure to discourage drug and crime-related violence by our youth. I also support programs that deter drug use, promote drug-free activities for youth and provides counseling for behavioral modification."

BEN PASCUA (R)
Position Seeking: State Senate District 15



Background: Former U.S. soldier who served in Afghanistan and Bosnia. Previously worked for a Utah-based mortgage firm, as an investment account executive for a local magazine and for a local real estate firm.

Agenda/Platform: Will introduce bills to reduce the size of the Legislature, establish legislative term limits, require legislators to

comply with the Sunshine Law, reduce health care costs and rekindle a conservative fiscal responsibility.

K. ANGEL PILAGO
Position Seeking: Re-election Big Island County Council District 8



Background: A retired counselor and Vietnam veteran who earned Silver Star for Heroism and two Bronze Stars. Actively involved in Filipino and Hawaiian cultural affairs. Served for two years as vice chair of the Hawaii County Council and four years as chair of the Planning Committee. Has over 20 years of experience in civic and community work.

Why are you running? "I offer my experience, commitment and dedication to the County Council so together we can meet the needs of island families. My military, community and political service make me what I am. My family and friends give me purpose and motivation. The health and welfare of our elders and our children is my just cause. Together, let's give our people the peace and prosperity we deserve."

Agenda/Platform: Introduce "Safe Routes To School" and "Open Government" resolutions, set new conservative budget guidelines for county, move West Hawaii Council Offices to Civic Center, form ad hoc committee to explore tax reform, create ward improvement district in North Kona, approve Makalei-Police Fire Station, follow-up on Kailua Business Improvement District and institute community development plans.

LAWRENCE SAGAYSAY (D)
Position Seeking: State House of Representatives, District 46



Background: Born and raised in Waiialua. Employed by the Hawaii Army National Guard before retiring in 1999. Worked as Legislative Office

(continued on page 14)

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December 3 • Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel • 6 – 11pm • For more info, call FilCom Center @ 480-0451

PASKO SA FILCOM / SUNDAY

December 12 • 9am – 8pm • For more info call FilCom @ 480-0451

BAYANIHAN DINNER FUNDRAISING EVENT / FRIDAY

FEATURE (cont.)

(from page 13, Filipino Candidates...)

Manager for former Rep. Michael Magaayo from 1999 to 2010. **Why are you running?** "With my military and legislative background, I feel that I am qualified to pursue this new endeavor. I learned the working mechanics of the legislative process and got to know others who work in the House of Representatives and State Senate. I also had the opportunity to assist the people of the 46th District on various concerns and to work with the City Council and Congress on issues concerning House District 46." **Agenda/Platform:** "To be part of the solution in improving Hawaii's economy. Our economy has to improve before addressing homelessness, education, health and welfare for our citizens and the state's infrastructure. We have to support businesses that will generate more revenues and jobs in high technology. We have to also look at government performance and do away with what does not work. My vision for the North Shore of Oahu is to continue economic growth and prosperity while preserving our sense of community and unique lifestyle."

ROLAND D. SAGUM, III (D)

Position Seeking: Re-election to State House District 16



Experience: Served on the House committees of Finance, Water, Land and Ocean Resources; Energy and Environmental Protection; and Housing. Was the legislative representative to the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Committee. Also served on the Management Advisory Committee for KVMH Hospital and the Kauai Civil Commission. Was appointed to the Kauai General Plan Update and the State Marine & Coastal Zone Management Advisory Group.

Background: Graduate of the Kamehameha Schools and holds a Bachelor's degree in biology and an Associate's degree in hotel management. **Why are you running?** "My passion is to serve as the voice for the 'locals' and in representing Kauai's youth, elderly and poor in particular." **Agenda/Platform:** "I will work to 'Keep West Kauai, West Kauai.' I also work 'one-by-one-by-one' on individual issues, of which there are many during this time of unprecedented financial hardship."

LYNN VASQUEZ (D)

Position Seeking: State House of Representatives, District 27



Background: Born and raised in the Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Puunui area. Father was from Batang, Ilocos Norte. Married to the late Conrado "Boy" Vasquez, a boxing champion in the Philippines and California and member of the Laborers Local 368.

Experience: Co-founder of the Slippah Wish Foundation, volunteer with the KauKau Wagon, involved with City & County Weed & Seed and Adopt-a-Block programs, member of Neighborhood Board No. 14 and a previous member of the Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board.

Why are you running? "The Heritage Area Group" and "Against The Heritage Area Group" made presentations last year before the Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board. I was shocked that my opponent knew about the Heritage Area and was very involved but failed to inform her constituents. I testified about this issue at the Legislature. As of now, it is on hold in Washington D.C."

Agenda/Platform: "The economy and jobs are the biggest problems facing Hawaii. We need to encourage growth and alternative energy. Programs to assist displaced persons, displaced homemakers and the homeless need to be improved. As a candidate for State House, my goal is simple—listen to the people and make decisions which will improve the quality of life here in District 27 and Hawaii."

REGINALD A. YAGO (R)

Position Seeking: State House of Representatives, District 35



Background: Graduated from Damien Memorial High School and attended school in Chicago. Returned to Hawaii and worked for a real estate developer and as a Realtor.

Experience: "As a Realtor, you need to be a good listener to find out your clients' needs. You need to be detail-oriented for a smooth transaction. And you need to be a great problem solver to overcome challenges that may arise. An effective leader must possess these qualities."

Why are you running? "My grandfather came from Sinait, Ilocos Sur and was a *sakada*. His generation helped define what Hawaii and Waipahu are today. They taught us to work hard, look out for one another and live within your means. This is why I am running for House District 35. The Legislature is not fiscally responsible and not looking out for Hawaii."

Agenda/Platform: "We need to lower the tax burden on businesses. This will encourage job creation. We need more transparency in government. We need to audit the State DOE and make it a policy that 90 cents out of every dollar of its budget go to the school level. Our children deserve more than a huge bureaucracy."

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MUFI HANNEMANN

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Born and raised in Kalihi, Mufi Hannemann grew up amongst many Filipino families. He has visited the Philippines five times, and each time brought him a greater appreciation for our Filipino culture and traditions. Mufi was proclaimed an "adopted son" by many Philippine cities and towns, including Manila, Laoag, Vigan, Bacarra, Badoc, Pasuquin, San Nicolas and the province of Ilocos Norte. Mufi has also visited Makati, Batac, Cabugao, and Cebu.

Last year, the United Filipino Council of Hawai'i bestowed Mufi with the Ating Kaibigan award, the most prestigious award granted to a non Filipino. It means "our Filipino friend."



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