

# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ OCTOBER 15, 2011 ◆

## CATCHING UP WITH LOIDA NICOLAS LEWIS

FIL-AM BUSINESSWOMAN AND PHILANTHROPIST

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Ms. Lewis with Pres. Barack Obama



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**EDITORIAL**

**Role Models Worth Looking Up To**

It's not always easy to find good role models for young women in today's society. Choosing which women are worth paying attention to is often skewed, which could explain why celebrities like Paris Hilton or Kim Kardashian make the news, while scores of female doctors, researchers, teachers, activists, scholars, businesswomen and mothers go unnoticed and unappreciated.

Fortunately, there is no shortage of savvy, intelligent, hard-working women for young Filipinas to look up to. In the Philippines, women have broken through the barriers of institutions that were once male-only, most notably executive government posts to executive corporate positions. The Philippines has already had two women presidents, compared to none for the U.S., as well as an entire slate of government executives and members of Congress. In the private sector, women have made their marks as successful entrepreneurs, corporate executives, professionals, academics and everything else in-between.

Loida Nicolas Lewis and Josie Natori are two eminent examples of highly competent leaders. Ms. Lewis inherited the top post at TLC Beatrice, one of the world's leading multinational food companies, after her husband and former company CEO passed away. She successfully steered the company to greater profits and more acclaim. Ms. Natori is a fashion designer who sells lingerie, sleepwear, loungewear, underwear and other high-end women's fashion to upscale department stores in the U.S. and 15 other countries internationally. Both women are proof positive of Filipino women's ability to successfully juggle their careers with their roles as wives, mothers, community and business leaders and catalysts for change in a world pining for leaders.

We congratulate Ms. Lewis and Ms. Natori and others like them for their accomplishments. Kudos especially to Ms. Lewis for also reaching out to the poor and needy in her hometown of Sorsogon, in the Philippines through her family's private college. We wish her continued success in all of her future and personal endeavors.

**Let's Tread Carefully on Homeless Bill**

The City is moving forward on a bill to establish a procedure for the removal and disposal of personal items stored on public property. The Carlisle administration supports Bill 54 (2011) which bans furniture, clothing and other personal belongings on sidewalks and public parks. Violators would be given written notice and 24 hours to remove their belongings. Failure to comply would result in confiscation of such items.

Critics like the ACLU say the bill unfairly targets the homeless and opens up the City to costly litigation. The organization also believes that the homeless will simply move from one place to another. On the other hand, supporters complain that public areas in communities like McCully, Moiliili and Downtown are being used for personal storage purposes and encampments. They say that Bill 54 will ensure sidewalk access for pedestrians and address public health, safety and sanitation issues.

While the bill does have its merits, we cannot support it unless there are more concerted efforts by the public and private sectors to reach out to the homeless. Let's remember to extend compassion to those who are less fortunate. We should realize that if not for the grace of God, we could very easily be the ones out on the streets. Many local families are living to paycheck-to-paycheck and struggling to make ends meet. One catastrophic illness or job loss and we are out on the streets.

We need less of a heavy hand and more of a helping hand in dealing with the homeless. For instance, the police should not show up at community clean-up events *en masse* and force the homeless to vacate, as was done in the past. A more humane approach would be to

**FROM THE PUBLISHER**

Let the war of words begin. As expected by most political pundits, former Gov. Linda Lingle last week announced her candidacy for the U.S. Senate as a Republican. The position has been up for grabs ever since incumbent U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka, 86, decided not to run for re-election. A two-term governor, Lingle is the decided underdog against Democrats Mazie Hirono and Ed Case. A Hirono victory over Case in the Primary would set up a rematch of the 2002 gubernatorial race won by Lingle. With Democrats holding a slim 53-47 majority in the U.S. Senate, the national GOP will have a vested interest in Lingle's campaign. So far, 2012 has the makings of a very interesting election season. We'll have much more on politics in the coming months, so please stay tuned.

For our cover story this issue, we have an exclusive interview with Ms. Loida Nicolas Lewis, a successful Filipina entrepreneur, philanthropist, social civic leader, motivational speaker, author and lawyer. Her husband was the late Reginald Lewis, a legendary businessman who was the first Afro-American to build a billion-dollar company. After Reginald's untimely death, Loida took over the company and continued its successful run. She has worn many hats over the years but still managed to raise two daughters in a healthy and happy family environment. The Chronicle last featured Ms. Lewis in May 1997. After some 14 years, she graciously allowed us to catch up with the details of her life. We hope you will enjoy reading her life story and tidbits of wisdom she shares in our cover story.

In our Open Forum, University of Hawaii-Manoa civil engineering professor and former Honolulu mayoral candidate Panos Prevedourous writes about the copious amounts of energy that will be consumed by Honolulu's fixed rail project—a fact that he says has been overlooked. Please read his thought-provoking article "Honolulu's Rail Is an Energy Black Hole" and see if you agree with him.

There are other columns and articles of interest in this jam-packed issue that I hope our readers will find informative and useful. In closing, we would like to thank our faithful readers as well as our advertisers for their generous support of our two recent special supplements on women's health and clean energy. We have received excellent feedback on the quality of both supplements. Much, much thanks for your kind and generous support of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. As always, we invite our readers to contact us at: [filipinochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:filipinochronicle@gmail.com) if you have story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii's dynamic and vibrant Filipino community. Until next time...*aloha and mabuhay!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*

**LETTERS**

**KUDOS FOR WELL-WRITTEN SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT**

I had the pleasure of reading your October 1st issue cover to cover and I commend Carolyn and your newspaper for your efforts in publishing all the energy articles in it. I'm very impressed with the substance and energy information that you provided in this issue. I plan to bring copies to share with key energy stakeholders and leaders to bring attention to your newspaper.

Thank you for this issue and I hope that you'll continue to include energy news every now and then.

**Estrella A. Seese**  
Acting Energy Program Administrator  
State DBETD

send outreach teams ahead of time to counsel the homeless and encourage them to accept housing solutions and other services. Government needs to also look at ways to expand the existing inventory of affordable housing, provide more employment opportunities and aggressively partner with non-profit and social service groups.

These options would be a good start in eradicating homelessness instead of eradicating the homeless. It's already hard enough for the homeless to obtain employment and housing. Let's not make it even more difficult with legislation that further burdens their lives.



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## OPEN FORUM

# Honolulu's Rail Is an Energy Black Hole

By Panos D. Prevedourous

**E**nergy and Honolulu rail is an angle that I did not have time to look at in detail, until recently when my students did some energy analysis of Honolulu's proposed rail. They discovered this June 2008 article in the Honolulu Advertiser by Sean Hao entitled "Rail's use of energy subject of debate" (see <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2008/Jun/09/In/hawaii/806090353.html>)

Of note is that rail will consume about 20 MW of energy which is about 20 percent of the capacity of HECO's new palm oil fueled power plant. Unfortunately, peak rail schedule coincides with peak demand for electricity around 6 pm, which means that rail will stress HECO's generators.

Now if you believe the City's numbers which are based on incredible ridership projections and substantial bus route

eliminations, Table 4-21 of the Final EIS shows that the rail project will save 396 million British thermal units (BTU) of energy each day, or 144,540 million BTU per year.

Hao correctly added that: "Any evaluation of the energy savings generated by rail also needs to consider the massive amount of energy required during construction. For example, construction of the fixed guideway will require between 3.7 trillion and 4.9 trillion BTU of energy, according to Parsons Brinckerhoff."

This quote reveals two startling facts:

First the unnamed Parsons Brinckerhoff source clearly lied to Hao by stating roughly half the amount of energy BTU required for the construction of the rail. The 2008 Draft EIS, Table 4-34 on page 4-159, shows that the rail's Airport alignment will require 7,480,000 MBTU. That's 7.5 trillion BTU, not 3.7 trillion BTU.

Second, dividing 7,480,000

by 144,540 gives 51.75. That's how many years it will take to make up the construction energy loss by the purported energy savings. But in 52 years rail will need multiple component replacements, repairs and refurbishments. So an energy black hole it is!

On the other hand, our 2008 simulation estimates using the DEIS traffic numbers show that rail is a net energy loser without even counting the huge energy consumption during construction. In comparison, a properly designed and operated HOT lane system will save energy (motor fuel and oil for electricity generation.)

And speaking of lies and lack of accountability, here is a fine quote from this 3-year old article: "The potential positive impact on the environment is a key benefit of the \$3.7 billion elevated commuter rail line, said Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann."

Now we know that the impact to the environment will be clearly negative and the cost has

**Fuel Consumption for One Peak Hour (in US gallons)  
Change from Base of ~97,000 gallons**

ALTERNATIVE	Motor Fuel	Motor Fuel plus Diesel at HECO for Rail
<b>Rail: 6.5% traffic reduction</b>	-2.6%	-0.3%
<b>Rail: 3.25% traffic reduction</b>	-0.4%	1.9%
<b>HOT Lanes and Four Underpasses</b>	-40.5%	-40.5%

increased by \$1 billion. Let's keep this summary and look at it three years from now. The Ewa-to-town corridor has been paralyzed by rail construction

closures. Construction and rail car cost is expected to exceed \$7 billion, while Congress has rescinded \$1.5 billion of expected support.

## SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

# Answers to Your Most Pressing Social Security Questions

By Jane Yamamoto-Burigsay

### GENERAL

**Q:** I received a notice from Social Security recently. It said my name and Social Security number do not match Social Security's records. What should I do?

**A:** It's critical that your name and Social Security number, as shown on your Social Security card, match your employer's payroll records and your W-2 form. If they don't, here is what you need to do:

- Give your employer the correct information exactly as shown on your Social Security card or your corrected card; or
- Contact your local Social Security office ([www.socialsecurity.gov/locator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/locator)) or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) if your Social Security card does not

show your correct name or Social Security number.

For more information, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**Q:** Are Social Security numbers reassigned after a person dies?

**A:** No, we do not reassign Social Security numbers. In all, we have assigned more than 460 million Social Security numbers and each year we assign about 5.5 million new numbers. The current system has enough new numbers for several more generations. For more information, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

### RETIREMENT

**Q:** Can I apply online for retirement benefits?

**A:** Yes. It's quick and easy. Apply online and save yourself

a trip to the office. Once you submit your online application electronically, in most cases, you're done. There are no forms to sign or documents to send in. If more information is needed to process your application, a representative will contact you. For more information about applying online, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Q:** If both my spouse and I are entitled to Social Security benefits, is there any reduction in our payments because we are married?

**A:** No, We independently calculate each spouse's Social Security benefit amount. Each spouse receives a monthly benefit amount based on his or her own earnings. Couples are not penalized simply because they are married. If one member of the couple earned low wages or

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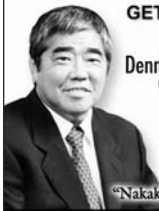
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# A Heart-to-Heart Chat with Fil-Am Businesswoman Loida N. Lewis

By Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

**B**usinesswoman, industrialist, philanthropist, social civic leader, motivational speaker, author and lawyer. Such titles aptly describe Loida Nicolas Lewis—an extraordinary woman who is a role model and inspiration for Filipinos the world over.

Born and raised in Sorsogon City, Lewis comes from a family of successful entrepreneurs. She graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Law and graduated *cum laude* from St. Theresa's College. She met her husband-to-be Reginald Lewis on a blind date in New York. They married a year later in Manila. In 1987, Reginald Lewis acquired Beatrice International in a \$985 million leveraged buyout, creating the largest African American-owned company in the U.S.

After Reginald's untimely death in 1993 of brain cancer, Lewis was named chairwoman and CEO of TLC Beatrice. She began business meetings with prayer and used a personal touch when dealing with employees. She cut costs, trimmed positions, sold non-performing assets but retained the services of loyal and effective employees. When it came to sharing profits, she did so with those who created value for shareholders. Her business philosophy was simple—"Profits With Honor."

As a businesswoman, she

was ranked number 1 among the "Top 50 Women Business Owners in America" by the Working Woman magazine in 1994. BusinessWeek named her a "Manager to Watch" in 1995.

Under her leadership, TLC Beatrice International Holdings, Inc., grew into a multi-billion dollar corporation of 64 companies based in 31 countries. Today, it is a marketer of ice cream in Spain and the Canary Islands, the leading manufacturer of potato chips in Ireland, and a prime distributor of beverage in the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Thailand.

An accomplished attorney, Lewis holds the distinction of being one of the first Asian women to pass the New York State bar exam without studying at a U.S. law school. She later served as a General Attorney in the Immigration and Naturalization Service and founded the Asian American Legal Defense Fund in New York City, which served as a voice for those whose human rights were threatened. She also headed the National Federation of Filipino

American Associations (NaF-FAA) which supported the fight of Filipino-American veterans for equity.

Lewis continues to be actively involved with philanthropy work in the Philippines, namely the Lewis College in Sorsogon, which educates the next generation of Filipinos. Enrollment consists of about 980 children, from K-12 to college, with 30 percent on scholarship.

During the May 2010 elections in the Philippines, Lewis worked hard to promote clean and honest elections—something which has eluded the country for years. As a result of her advocacy, she is serving as president of the U.S. Pinoy for Good Governance (USP4GG) which aims to promote solidarity and goodwill among Filipinos.

The Chronicle last interviewed Lewis in May 1997. Now nearly 14 years later, she has once again granted the Chronicle an exclusive interview. The following interview was edited for space and clarity.

**Q:** *The Spratlys dispute is a big concern for many Fil-Amns. U.S. Pinoy for Good Governance is taking a lead role for a peaceful resolution over the Spratlys. How did you get involved with USP4GG?*

**A:** In the last Philippine elections, Fil-Amns led by Rodel Rodis organized USP4GG for Noynoy & Mar. When Noynoy Aquino won the elections as president of the Philippines, we travelled to Manila to attend his inauguration and were given a special audience in Malacanang. At the end of our conference, we organized ourselves as USP4GG to serve as a watchdog over Philippine affairs and to help Pres. Aquino in his efforts for

good governance in the Philippines.

**Q:** *When the call went out for a nationwide day of prayer, how did Fil-Amns respond? Do you feel that a peaceful solution can be found for the Spratlys? Personally, how would you resolve this dispute?*

**A:** On Aug. 21 of this year, USP4GG set up a nationwide Day of Prayer for Peace for the Spratlys. We had 175 cities all over the world that joined us. I believe a peaceful solution will be found for the Spratlys because I believe in the power of prayer. I also believe that China as a world power will not engage in war as its first military venture in Asia. War is not only economically-expensive but China will also antagonize its Asian neighbors, if not the entire UN. Personally, I would recommend to Pres. Noynoy to raise \$1B in bonds, buy this giant oil rig in Shanghai and extract the oil by subcontracting it to the U.S., France, Norway and Canada. Then we will have control of our oil proceeds.

**Q:** *Why are the Spratlys so important to the Philippines and Fil-Amns? If it comes down to war, is the Philippines ready to shed blood over the Spratlys?*

**A:** Our military capability was laughable until last August, when the BRP Gregorio del

Pilar, our only military ship dating back in WWII, was purchased from the U.S. for 450 million pesos. In terms of bravery, our Filipino navy men are ready to die, but Pres. Noynoy will not ask that sacrifice from our people because other means are available to settle this dispute peacefully.

**Q:** *What other projects is USP4GG involved in?*

**A:** Other projects include amending the Overseas Voting Act to eliminate the pledge of returning to the Philippines three years after voting, encouraging Filipino-Americans to participate in the political process both in the U.S. and in the Philippines, working for the passage of Medicare portability before the U.S. Congress. These are the three major initiatives of the USP4GG.

**Q:** *You're a very successful businesswoman. Your dad was a successful furniture businessman. Did you get your business savvy from him?*

**A:** Both of my parents are entrepreneurs. My mother had



Loida Nicolas Lewis



Philippine Secretary of Transportation Mar Roxas with Loida Nicolas Lewis at the 1st Worldwide Conference of Overseas Filipinos For Good Governance held in 2010 in Manila

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## COVER STORY

*(From page 4, A CANDID...)*

her own pharmacy shop and a pawnshop. My father founded Nicolas Furniture in Manila. In Bicol, my family owned movie theaters and a recreation center, a gasoline station, a lumber yard, tracking and fishing ponds. In short, we ate "deals" for breakfast. And then I married Reginald Lewis who himself is an entrepreneur. After growing up in a business-minded family and being married for 24 years to an entrepreneur, where else will I get my business expertise?

**Q:** Please talk about your childhood in Bicol. What were some of your favorite activities?

**A:** We were surrounded by beautiful beaches and hot springs. I remember during summer, we would have picnics at the beach or the hot springs. I went to public school in Sorsogon. My classmates came from all levels of society, so I learned how to treat people as equals regardless of economic status. I studied at St. Agnes Academy, an all girls' high school which was run by German Benedictine nuns. It gave me my spiritual foundation.

**Q:** You chose to study law at UP. How did you become interested in law? Were you at the top of your class?

**A:** My father studied pre-law in UP where Diosdado Macapagal and Jose Laurel Sr. were his classmates. However, because he went into business, he could not continue his dream of becoming a lawyer. Of his five children, he wanted me to study law, while my other brothers studied commerce, engineering and architecture. So we followed our father's game plan. I was in the top 10 percent of the graduating Class of 1967 and elected senator (university councilor) in UP Student Council.

**Q:** How did you end up in New York after passing the Philippine bar exam? You then practiced law for several years in New York.

**A:** My father was so happy I was admitted to the Philippine Bar. As a graduation gift, he sent my mother and me on an around-the-world trip. First, we waited for my sister in New York who was studying at Columbia University. We arrived in Sep-

tember but she would not graduate until May. So I decided to work at the Civil Rights Research Council and my boss introduced me to Reginald Lewis as my blind date. We were married in seven months and that's how my life began in the U.S. I worked as an immigration lawyer with the government (INS) for eight years. In 1988, my husband bought out the largest off-shore leveraged buy-out of Beatrice Food International and we moved to Paris, France. During my five years in Paris, I wrote a book entitled "How To Get a Greencard" and it's still for sale at amazon.com.

**Q:** You and your husband raised two daughters. What values did you instill in them while growing up? Where are they now working?

**A:** Mr. Lewis and I emphasized two things—first, you must do your job (in my children's case, they must study well). Secondly, they must respect their elders. So, I started reading to them everyday when they were six months old. Both of them are Harvard graduates,



Rodel Rodis, co-founder of US Pinoy for Good Governance, Loida Nicolas Lewis and Celia Panglinan-Donahue, a noted lobbyist in Washington, D.C. and Member, Board of Trustees of US Pinoy for Good Governance during the 15th Congress Joint Committee Hearing on Suffrage & Electoral Reforms and Committee on Foreign Affairs at the Batasan Complex, Quezon City, Philippines last month

*cum laude.* The older one, Leslie, is an actress. The younger one, Christina, worked for five years with the Wall Street Journal and is now a freelance writer.

**Q:** What businesses were the Lewis family involved in? What was your role in the family business?

**A:** TLC Beatrice International Holdings Inc. consisted of 64 companies in 31 countries. Mr. Lewis was chair and CEO and I had nothing to do with it. I took over as Chairman of the Board and CEO. I started to liquidate it in 1997 and sold everything by 2000. My internal rate of return to investors

was 35 percent.

**Q:** After your husband's untimely death, you not only kept TLC Beatrice afloat but also helped it to thrive. What do you attribute your success to?

**A:** Godly wisdom. I prayed everyday and practice Zen to clear my mind. I listened very well to those who knew better than I did. And I used my instincts.

**Q:** You're a woman of faith. How has your religious beliefs affected your outlook on life? And your daughters as well?

**A:** I believe in a loving God

*(continued on page 6)*

## Personal Injury Asbestos Mesothelioma

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## COVER STORY

(from page 5, A CANDID...)

and that all things work together for good. I have faith that everything will be alright in the end. And if it is not all right, it is not the end. So, this optimistic frame of mind enabled me to endure and to triumph. My two daughters are successful in their own right and I would hope that both their father and me had some effect on their character.

**Q:** What are the top issues facing the Fil-Am community in the U.S.? What role can they play in improving the situation of their kababayans back home?

**A:** First, there is a lack of political participation. Their voices are not being heard by politicians. Second, there is a lack of unity so that Filipinos are underrepresented in political affairs. Third, a good number of Fil-Ams are reaching or have reached their retirement age.

They would like to retire in the Philippines if Medicare is available. Second and third generation Filipino-Americans do not really have a sense of their identity or culture. Efforts should be made to educate them on our glorious history as a people, both in the Philippines and in the U.S.

**Q:** Please talk about some of the outreach work you've done back in the Philippines, especially for the poor people. Why have you given back so much?

**A:** I established the Lewis College in Sorsogon, a private school with a low tuition fee. One-third of the students are on scholarship. I also funded the initial capital for a micro-finance foundation in Sorsogon in 1988. We started with 4 families and now there are 20,000 families lifted out of poverty by

micro-finance foundation (People's Alternative Livelihood Foundation of Sorsogon). They lend 5,000 pesos or more to women so they can start their own business. They won't be loaned money unless they undergo training on how to manage a business for four Saturdays. Once they have been loaned money, they must report back every Saturday and pay back the loan. They have one year to pay it back. God has blessed me so much here in America so I feel I should give back to Sorsogon where I was born and where I grew up.

**Q:** How has Noyonoy Aquino done so far in his presidency? Has his administration delivered on his campaign promises?

**A:** Out of 148 countries last year, the Philippines was 89th in a Competitive Rating. We have since moved up to 76th place.

This week, Pres. Obama invited Pres. Noyonoy to be 1 of 8 countries chosen for fighting corruption and advocating transparency in government.

**Q:** You have been involved with NaFFAA as its president. What have been some of NaFFAA's most notable achievements during your tenure?

**A:** During my tenure, we decentralized the activities of NaFFAA so that its regions assert their identities. In 2004, we filed a case in the Philippine Supreme Court contesting our right to vote as a dual citizen in the Philippines and won.

**Q:** When you want to get away from the stress of life, where do you retreat to? Where is your favorite vacation spot in the world?

**A:** When Mr. Lewis was alive, we bought a house in East Hampton, New York. When he died, I bought a beachfront house that he wanted to buy at East Hampton. That's where we go on the weekends. My favorite city is Paris.

**Q:** What are some of long

range goals you've set for yourself?

**A:** First, a movie and documentary about Mr. Lewis' life. Second, a book about my life. Third, to be a good grandmother to my grandchildren. My eldest daughter adopted two children from Rwanda. They are now six years old and in kindergarten.

**Q:** Will you be doing more projects for the poor and homeless in the Philippines? If so, what are they?

**A:** No, but I intend to lobby for the change in the laws on adoption. There are so many abandoned children in the orphanages all over the Philippines. To adopt, it requires that the child has to be in your care (physically) for two years which knocks out any foreign adoption.

**Q:** What about writing more books and/or bestsellers?

**A:** I am writing my story but I will probably seek a co-writer to provide the research. The title of my biography/memoir was given to me by my daughter Christina. It's entitled "You Can Have It All But Not At The Same Time."

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## YMCA to Co-Sponsor 12th Annual Lights On Afterschool Rally

The YMCA of Honolulu is partnering with the Afterschool Alliance for the 12th Annual Lights On Afterschool Rally on October 19, 2011 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm at the Hawaii State Capitol.

Experts believe that after school programs play a key role in the social, emotional and physical growth of children. Hawaii ranks as one of the top states in the nation for afterschool program participation with close to 60,000 children in grades K-12 receiving after school care. However, more needs to be done to reach out to the 65,000-plus kids who are on their own after the last school bell rings. These chil-

dren spend an average of seven unsupervised hours after school, which can lead to skipping school, drugs, alcohol and other troubling activities.

"Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families," says Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "Given the economy, it is more important than ever to sustain quality afterschool programs. We want to ensure that students have fun, engaging hands-on learning opportunities after school."

Locally, the YMCA of Honolulu, partners with the

State DOE to provide on-site after school programs to as many children as possible. The YMCA has structured programs to allow for homework time and assistance, learning and enriching experiences, exercise and play time.

Parents, educators, community leaders and business leaders from across the nation are urging Congress to strengthen afterschool programs by supporting the Afterschool for America's Children Act (S. 1370), which would allow federal funding to support innovation in before school, afterschool and summer learning programs. They are also urging their congressional members not to divert or deny funds for afterschool programs.

## SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE (from page 3...)

did not earn enough Social Security credits to be eligible for retirement benefits, he or she may be eligible to receive benefits as a spouse.

## DISABILITY

**Q:** How does Social Security decide if I am disabled?

**A:** If you are an adult, you must be unable to work for a year or more because of a medical condition or combination of medical impairments. Overall, we use a five-step evaluation process to decide whether you are disabled. The process considers any current work activity you are doing. It also considers your medical condition and how it affects your ability to work. To be found disabled:

- You must be unable to do work you did before you became disabled and we must decide you cannot adjust to other work because of your medical condition; and
- Your disability must last, or be expected to last, for at least one year or to result in death.

Social Security pays only for total disability. We do not pay

benefits for partial or short-term disability. For more information, read our publication "Disability Benefits" at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html).

**Q:** If I go back to work, will I automatically lose my Social Security disability benefits?

**A:** Social Security has several work incentive programs to help people who want to work. You may be able to receive benefits and continue your health care coverage during a trial work period. For information about Social Security's work incentives and how they can help you return to work, you should:

- Visit our special work site at [www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work);
- See the "Red Book" on work incentives at [www.socialsecurity.gov/locator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook</a>;</li>
<li>• Call our toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778); or</li>
<li>• Contact your local Social Security office (<a href=)).

For more information, go online to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call toll free: 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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## IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel  
Samonte Tipon

## Petitioning Overstaying Non-Immediate Relatives Could Lead to Deportation

visa is immediately available for such relative and the immediate relative can adjust status to lawful permanent resident. The only risk is where such immediate relative is ineligible to adjust status because such relative is ineligible for admission or is deportable for violation of the immigration laws.

On the other hand, petitioning by a USC or a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) for a non-immediate relative who entered the U.S. on a nonimmigrant visa but stayed beyond the authorized period generally involves a great risk of deportation. Generally, since there is no visa immediately available for such non-immediate relative, he/she cannot adjust status, unless the petition has been pending for a long time such that the priority date has been reached and a visa has become available.

Here is the danger of petitioning for overstaying non-immediate relatives as shown in the case of Matter of Zamora-

Molina, 25 I&N Dec 606, decided on October 6, 2011 by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) which decides appeals from, among others, decisions of Immigration Judges.

Form I-130 which is used to petition for an alien relative requires that the petitioning relative indicate the name, address, immigration status, authorized period of stay, and other information about the relative being petitioned. If USCIS personnel find that the alien has overstayed they will report it to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) who will initiate removal proceedings against the alien under INA § 237(a)(1)(B), 8 USC 1227(a)(1)(B) for remaining in the U.S. longer than permitted.

Zamora was admitted to the U.S. on July 7, 2000 when he was 13 years old on a B-2 (tourist) non-immigrant visa with authorization to remain in the U.S. until January 5, 2001. On August 5, 2004 when he was 17 years old, his mother filed an

I-130 petition to accord him second-preference classification as the minor child of a lawful permanent resident (2A preference category) under INA § 203(a)(2)(A). On March 22, 2007, USCIS approved the petition with an August 5, 2004 priority date. On July 24, 2009, when the alien was 22 years old and before his priority date became current, his mother naturalized.

### Alien beneficiary charged with overstaying

Meanwhile, on January 23, 2008, DHS charged Zamora with removability for remaining in the U.S. longer than permitted. He conceded removability but moved for termination of the proceedings, arguing that he was eligible to adjust his status under INA § 245(a) as the child of a USC. He claimed that although he was over 21 years old, he could retain his status as a "child" by applying the formula in the Child Status Protection

Act (CSPA), INA § 203(h)(1) to his age at the time of his mother's naturalization.

### Alien who reaches 21 no longer immediate relative

The Immigration Judge (IJ), held that the alien was removable since he conceded removability. The IJ rejected the alien's argument that he was eligible to adjust his status as an immediate relative, holding that he was ineligible because an alien's biological age on the date of the alien parent's naturalization controls whether an alien is an "immediate relative," and that the alien did not qualify as an immediate relative because he was 22 years old when his mother naturalized. The Judge said that when the alien's mother naturalized, since he was over 21 years old, he was accorded first preference classification as an unmarried son of a USC under INA § 203(a)(1). However, a visa was not yet immediately available to

(continued on page 8)

“Immediate relatives,” in immigration law, are the spouse, child (under 21), and parents of a U.S. citizen (USC).

They are not subject to the numerical limits on immigrant visas under Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 201(b)(2)(A)(i). All others are non-immediate relatives, such as a USC's adult unmarried child, adult married child, and brothers and sisters, and an LPR's spouse, minor children, and adult unmarried children. They are subject to quota restrictions.

Petitioning by a USC for an immediate relative who entered the U.S. on a nonimmigrant visa but stayed beyond the authorized period generally involves little risk of deportation because a

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# Noy Rejects State Honors for Marcos

by Aurea Calica  
Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011

**M**ANILA, Philippines - There will be no state honors for the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos under the Aquino administration if and when his family finally decides to bury him.

President Aquino made this clear yesterday, saying it would be "the height of injustice" to martial law victims to have the late strongman accorded state honors.

Aquino earlier ruled out a burial for Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"We have so many victims of the martial law years who have not gotten even a recognition formally from the government and they were victims. They have not been accorded an apology, the compensation bill is still pending, and it would be really I think the height of injustice to render any honors to the person who was the direct mastermind of all their suffering," Aquino told a gathering of local and foreign newsmen at the Mandarin Oriental hotel yesterday.

Marcos' senator son and namesake lambasted Aquino for the decision, saying "the President has wasted a very good opportunity to unify the nation." The chief of staff of former first lady Imelda Marcos said the senator has been designated family spokesman on the issue. Mrs. Marcos is reportedly confined in an undisclosed hospital.

Aquino had tasked Vice President Jejomar Binay to study calls by the family and supporters of the late strongman that he be buried with honors at the Libin-

gan ng mga Bayani. They said Marcos deserved a hero's burial at the Libingan because he had been a war hero and a president.

Marcos' supporters revived calls for him to be buried at the Libingan after former military chief Angelo Reyes, who committed suicide last February at the height of a Senate investigation into military corruption, was interred at the cemetery.

Binay recommended military honors for Marcos but not a state funeral or hero's burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. He also said the Marcoses had agreed to bury the late president in their hometown in Batac, Ilocos Norte but this was denied by the Marcos family.

"With regards to the Marcos burial, you know, in all honesty — and I think I will have to communicate this to the Vice President, I apologize, he's been doing the study on my behalf; he had a recommendation — and it was recently called to my attention again. So I think I will not, I am sanctioning — not under my watch — a (state) burial for the late President Marcos," Aquino said.

"And I think you cannot divorce what happened during the martial law years with the totality of his public life. And it serves as a wrong message — deems the honors given to others of a similar nature — to render the same to a person that has inflicted such suffering on our people after having promised to serve them," Aquino said.

The President's father was Marcos' arch political enemy.

A military court during the Marcos regime sentenced Aquino's late father and name-



Pres. Aquino (top photo) and the remains of Marcos in Ilocos Norte

sake to death by musketry for rebellion. After years in incarceration, the elder Aquino was allowed by Marcos to undergo a heart operation in the US where he eventually chose to remain in exile. His assassination upon his return to the Philippines in 1983 by soldiers triggered almost daily protest actions that led to the 1986 people power revolution that toppled the dictatorship.

Marcos died three years later in exile in Hawaii. His body is on display in a glass coffin in his hometown in Batac.

"We will have to respect him. That is our President. We just have to respect him. As our President, we must respect his decision," Binay told reporters. "It is the prerogative of the President and we must all accept, respect and support his decision."

Commission on Human Rights chair Loretta Ann Rosales, who figured prominently in the anti-Marcos struggle, lauded Aquino's decision.

"Although he became a

president of the country, he was a dictator and he had never been a good president because he plundered the nation. His dictatorship destroyed the country's economy," Rosales said of Marcos.

"He cannot qualify for full military honors because his military medals are fake. No less than the US and the late former congressman Boni (Bonifacio) Gillego, a war veteran himself, had proven that Marcos' alleged medals are fake," Rosales said.

She said the Marcos family should show respect to the late dictator by burying him silently in Ilocos Norte.

"I hope the Marcos family would do what they ought to do. Bury him silently, with dignity, in Ilocos Norte. You cannot give him military honors. For one to be given full military honors, for a former president for that matter, you have to be a good president first. He has never been a good president and his alleged war medals are fake," Rosales reiterated.

## Zarzuela

Sen. Marcos said Aquino had taken them for a ride with his earlier directive to Binay to look into calls for a state burial for the late dictator.

"It is very hard to deal in good faith with somebody who does not have one word on the subject. It turns out that all of these discussions and debates were nothing more than a zarzuela," Marcos told Senate reporters.

He recalled that the President had even promised voters in Northern Luzon — the bailiwick of the Marcoses — to have an

open mind on the issue.

"That is why for me he has wasted a very good opportunity to unify the nation. The work of the President is not to play partisan politics but to unite the nation and that is apparently not his tendency," Marcos said.

"He would like to continue what divisions we have in our country. He obviously does not want to heal those divisions. He wants to widen those divisions, which just brings us to the conclusion that he is not a natural leader," he added.

"I am very disappointed that we cannot count on our President to have one word. I cannot count on our President to exercise and exhibit leadership, unifying our country," Marcos said.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who had been a defense minister under Marcos, took a calmer stance on the issue.

"You have to understand that that is a very sensitive issue as far as the two families are concerned and I would understand the feelings of the President, he is the son of the man who was slain and I think we have to understand him and respect his feelings," Enrile said.

"You know that's a natural reaction of a son who loves his father. You cannot take that away. That will linger on," he added.

Marcos loyalist lawyer Oliver Lozano said he accepts Aquino's decision with sadness.

"We disagree but we respect the decision of President Aquino," Lozano told The STAR in a telephone interview.

He said giving Marcos a hero's burial is one of the duties of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to one of its own.

(continued on page 11)

## IMMIGRATION GUIDE (from page 7, PETITIONING...)

him, hence he could not adjust his status. A visa is "immediately available" when an alien's priority date is earlier than the date for the specified preference category shown in the current

### Visa Bulletin.

The BIA affirmed, holding that INA § 201(f)(2) precluded the alien, who was over 21 when his mother naturalized, from qualifying as an immediate rela-

tive, and that INA § 204(k)(2) did not allow the alien to retain his 2A-preference status (minor child of LPR) after his mother naturalized. The BIA explained that under § 201(f)(1) if the child of a USC is under 21 when a visa petition is filed, he retains

his classification as an immediate relative even after turning 21, but this provision is inapplicable to the child of an LPR who has filed a

petition according to the child 2A preference status and who subsequently naturalizes. In that case § 201(f)(2) applies and the determination whether the alien qualifies as a "child" shall be made using the age of the alien on the date of the parent's naturalization. The BIA said that an alien cannot "opt out" of the automatic conversion of the 2A-preference category to first preference category when the parent becomes naturalized, although an alien could "opt out" of the automatic conversion of a 2B-preference category to first preference category when the parent naturalizes.

COMMENT: Why did not the parent file a visa petition upon

the child's arrival when he was still in legal status? Why did the parent file the petition after the child had overstayed for 4 years? Did not the parent realize that the child would be caught overstaying? Why did not the parent naturalize before petitioning for the child so that he would have been an immediate relative?

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## TRAVEL &amp; TOURISM

# Lechon in Iceland? Are You Kidding?

By Ethan Belmonte

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Pinoy cuisine, as delicious as it is, is seldom represented around the world.

Sure, you might find a Tito Rad's in a Filipino-populated neighborhood in Queens, NY, or a Jollibee or two in a few suburbs in San Francisco, CA. But compared to prominent Asian culinary counterparts China, Japan, or even Thailand, Pinoy food, undeservingly, falls behind the rest on the international buffet table.

Enter Harry's, a small Filipino restaurant in downtown Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland. Come again? Pinoy food in Iceland? Well, Harry's, owned and operated by husband-wife tandem Kristjan and Lolong Kristjansson, has quietly skyrocketed to the top of the Reykjavik restaurant charts on the popular travel website TripAdvisor, sitting at the No. 2 position at the time of writing after spending months at No. 1. Known for its "friendly atmosphere, uncomplicated menu, and well-prepared food" (says a user named "costbox" from Edin-

burgh, UK), my dining experience at Harry's during my family's summer trip to Europe was comforting and delightful to say the least.

The story of Harry's began several months after the unlikely meeting of Kris — a native of Iceland — and his soon-to-be-wife Lolong in the Philippines. After living in Lolong's home in Marikina, the couple migrated back to Reykjavik, and despite some financial struggles due to the ongoing economic crisis in the country, Harry's was born.

The first thing I noticed upon walking into Harry's was how simple it was for such a highly-rated restaurant — six to seven tables were comfortably spaced around the restaurant, paintings of Filipino landscapes hung on the walls, and a small, modest kitchen was positioned on the side. Upon entering, we were greeted by Kristjansson, who serves as the owner, manager and waiter of the joint. Peering into the kitchen, I saw Lo-



Tip of the iceberg: Harry's Restaurant skyrocketed to the top of the Reykjavik restaurant charts on the travel website TripAdvisor, sitting at the No. 2 spot. It is a small Filipino restaurant in downtown Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, owned and operated by husband-wife tandem Kristjan and Lolong Kristjansson.

long hard at work, often preparing meals for five or more groups at the same time.

Among the dishes we sampled was a *lechon kawali* plate, complete with vinegar and *toyoy* (can you just imagine having *lechon* in Iceland, of all places?). We also had a platter of *lumpia* Shanghai, and a Pinoy-influenced lamb dish that my mother still regards as her favorite meal of the trip. The verdict? The food was great. More impressively, it was surprisingly authentic: the pork was rich and juicy, and tasted like it could've

been prepared in Aling Loring's. The *lumpia* (which Kris brought to the table while we waited for our main courses) was tasty and addictive. The lamb was succulent and spiced perfectly. Our meal was, in essence, Pinoy home-cooking at its best.

Towards the end of our meal, we noticed Kris politely turn down several potential customers from dining that evening. Confused at first (as there were obviously several tables vacant), we realized that he had done this to ease the workload on Lolong. After our

meal, I went on TripAdvisor to write a rave review about my experience and saw — to no surprise — that Kris had taken the time to respond to every review of his restaurant.

My brothers and I often talk about people who have "figured it out" — people who take only what they need from the world. People who don't believe in the equation "money = happiness." After our experience at Harry's, our unanimous verdict was that Mr. and Mrs. Kristjansson have, indeed, figured it out.

([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))



Lechon kawali, Iceland-style

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**HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**

**Pacquiao vs. Marquez Set for  
 November 12**

Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao will defend his World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight crown against Juan Manuel Marquez on November 12, 2011 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.



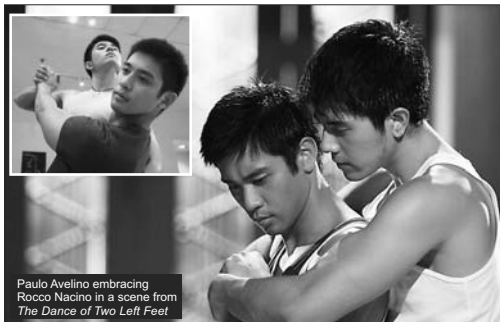
The highly-anticipated grudge match will be the third in a series of very close fights between the two boxers. The first match ended in a draw, followed by a close split decision victory by Pacquiao. Always the gentleman fighter, Pacquiao speaks highly of Marquez.

"Juan is the only opponent I have fought who was able to anticipate many of my moves and effectively counter most of them," Pacquiao says.

Boxing fans will be able to watch the bout live on DIRECTV in either standard

definition (SD) or stunning high definition (HD) by calling 1-800-982-5553. The fight will be shown at 9 pm Pacific Standard Time (PST) or 12 midnight Hawaii time.

DIRECTV also offers Filipino viewers with ten TV channels including TFC, GMA Pinoy TV, GMA Life, Cinema One Global, ABS-CBN News Channel, Kapamilya Channel, MYX, Gem Net, DZMM and DWRR.



**Filipino Films to Premiere at  
 Intl Film Fest**

The 31st Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF), sponsored by Halekulani Hotels & Resorts, will premiere several Filipino films as part of the Asian Showcase category. The films include:

- **"The Dance of Two Left Feet"**—This beautiful and moving film features poems from Filipino feminists that are intertwined with dances highlighted in the film. The story centers on Marlon who hires a classmate to teach him to dance so that he can impress their teacher. When their friendship becomes strained, it is through dance that they can express what they cannot say in words.
- **"Thelma"**—directed by Paul Soriano and starring Maja Salvador, the film is an inspirational drama about the life of Thelma, a tomboyish young girl who must use her natural gifts of speed and strength to help her family

overcome tragedy. There will be a Q&A session with the cast and crew who will share their experiences while working on the film.

- **"The Woman in the Septic Tank"**—directed by Marlon Rivera, this comedic film documents the trials and tribulations of three ambitious film school graduates as they set out to make an Oscar-worthy movie. This film has been selected as the Philippines' entry for next year's Academy Award for Best Foreign-Language Film.
- **"Busong"**—This film about the riveting tales of tribal life is directed by Aureaus Solito. The story is culled from a number of indigenous myths and beliefs and focuses on Angkarang as he travels with his sister Punay in search of a cure for the sores that cover her body.
- **"Star-Crossed Love"**—directed by Erick Salud, this romantic comedy is

(continued on page 11)

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

# PNoy: Gov't to File Case vs Arroyo by November

by Angelo I. Gutierrez  
Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011

**M**ANILA, Philippines - President Benigno Aquino III today announced that his administration will file charges against former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo by November.

"With regards to filing charges, the latest information that I have is by November we will be filing charges," Aquino announced in a press conference with foreign media in Makati City.

Aquino, however, did not say what specific cases and on what basis will be the charges that will be filed against his

predecessor.

He said that they fear that possible witnesses "might be gotten to from now until November." He said it would be easier for his administration to gather evidence and witnesses if they would remain quiet on the details of the investigation.

"So I don't think it would be prudent on our part to give details as to which charges, and we're not even saying that it's necessary a corruption charge that will be the first one that will be filed," Aquino added.

Last month, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said that at least two major cases may be filed against former President Arroyo before December. He issued the statement amid calls



The Arroyos, Mike and Gloria

from various sectors for the Aquino administration to fulfill its promise of holding the past administration accountable for various crimes, including corruption.

Abad said that a group is "doing work on that" but de-

clined to divulge the people involved in the investigation and what are the developments on the probe.

He assured that Aquino has strict instructions to the Department of Justice to pursue the cases.

The ailing former president is already facing at least six plunder charges before the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman, which were filed by various groups since she stepped down from Malacañang in 2010.

Her husband, former first gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, is also facing various charges and investigations, one of which was based on the Philippine National Police's purchase of two second-hand helicopters in 2009.

The latest plunder case against the former president was filed by Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño last month. The complaint, filed before the Office of the Ombudsman, was in connection with the allegedly graft-ridden \$329-million National Broadband Network deal with

China's ZTE Corp.

Bayan Muna and Akbayan party-list group had also filed separate plunder cases against Mrs. Arroyo for the alleged misuse of funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Two plunder complaints were filed by former solicitor general Frank Chavez including the so-called fertilizer fund scam that involved the alleged diversion of more than P730 million in government funds to the former president's campaign kitty in 2004 and the alleged diversion of P550 million kept by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to Philhealth during the 2004 presidential campaign.

The other plunder complaint was filed by Danilo Liyahilhay for the past administration's alleged failure to remit the P72-million capital gains tax from the sale of the old Iloilo City airport to Mega-roads.

Mrs. Arroyo and her husband are also being implicated in the alleged massive electoral fraud in 2007. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

(from page 8, NOY...)

Lozano said the Marcos family can afford a decent and honorable burial for the former president, even without help from the AFP.

"We do not want to appear mendicant if the government will refuse to provide the military honors," Lozano said.

He had earlier proposed a mountain tomb for Marcos in Bataac or in any place in Ilocos Norte.

"A mountain tomb or shrine will also feature a chapel where visitors can pray, and a museum which will showcase memorabilia, and the blueprint of the former president to make the Philippines a great nation," he said.

He claimed that more than 200 congressmen had declared Marcos a hero, in a resolution. He also cited the AFP's inclusion of Marcos in its list of distinguished members.

Another Marcos loyalist said the New People's Army, and not Marcos, should apologize to the people.

"A communist takeover was on our doorstep when President Marcos declared martial

law. For heaven's sake, they should stop peddling lies like what they did in the Plaza Miranda bombing. No less than former senator Jovito Salonga wrote in his book that the Plaza Miranda bombing was a handiwork of the NPA and not Mr. Marcos," Cherry Cobarrubias told The STAR. Cobarrubias chairs the True Marcos Loyalist movement.

"It was not Marcos who tortured, if they were indeed tortured, but the military. It was not Mr. Marcos who arrested them, but the military," she said.

Cobarrubias said Marcos declared martial law "precisely to preserve and protect democracy against the communists."

"The so-called Marcos victims are not victims of martial law. They are leftists, communists. They should be the one to apologize to the people. Their bosses are still there. They are the ones who should apologize, not only to Mr. Marcos, but to the Filipino people. They are not the victims. Mr. Marcos is their victim. Mr. Marcos only did his work as the president to protect the Philippines from a communist takeover," she said.

"Marcos is the true icon of democracy for declaring martial law," Cobarrubias said.

## Best interest of Phi

The AFP said it respects the President's decision and expressed confidence it would benefit the country.

"We respect the decision of the President not to allow a state burial for the late President Marcos. We fully trust the wisdom of his decision which is for the best interest of the Filipino people," AFP spokesman Col. Arnulfo Burgos Jr. said.

But a source, who requested anonymity, said military rules entitle former presidents and soldiers to burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The Marcos family said the late president was a World War II veteran and was part of guerrilla forces that fought the Japanese colonizers.

Marcos claimed to have received around 300 war medals including the US Congressional Medal of Honor. But the claim was questioned in a series of articles published by the We Forum newspaper in 1982. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (cont.) (from page 10, FILIPINO...)

about a naive student who must put aside emotional needs when he finds himself in a no-strings-attached sexual relationship with the most beautiful girl in school.

• **"Rakenrol"**—directed by Quark Henares, this comedy for music lovers tells the story of Odie and Irene, two friends who build a friendship upon their mutual love of obscure garage rock bands. When the two decide to form their own band, the audience is taken on a hilarious journey through the ups and

downs of life as a musician.

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## FAMILY CORNER



By Grace Fong, Ed.D. and Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

# Essential Language Skills: Reading

**B**etween the ages of 3 and 5, commonly referred to as the preschool years, children make rapid progress in developing early language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These are important skills that work together to help children express themselves and communicate their ideas. Young children's early experiences with language—hearing it, practicing speaking it, seeing it in print and other forms, practicing writing it—have a tremendous impact on how well they acquire these essential language skills over time.

Reading is one of the most valuable skills a child can learn. Reading helps to develop curiosity, imagination, and thinking skills. Children are ready to read at different ages. Before they actually learn to read, children must learn skills like matching sounds with letters and figuring out how letters are combined to form written words. Preschool-aged children are still developing many reading-related skills like enjoying books, seeing the connection between spoken and written language, and talking and listening to oth-

ers. You can help your child develop these skills by:

- Reading aloud to him every day for at least 10 minutes, using a variety of books including stories, rhymes, poetry, and nonfiction.
- Letting him talk about the pictures or help you tell the story; older children can "read" simple stories to you.
- Rereading a book when your child asks you to.
- Talking with your child and asking questions about the stories you read, for example: "What do you think will happen next?" or, at the end of the story: "What was your favorite part?"
- Making stories "come alive" for your child as you read by changing the tone of your voice to match the mood of the story, for example, using a loud voice when there is a lot of action or a quiet voice when something sad or scary is happening.
- Keeping books where he can reach them to look at when he wants to.

Knowing the letters of the alphabet and reading are two different skills. Learning about letters and words helps with later

development of reading skills. Preschool-aged children are typically interested in learning the letters in their own names. They often write line after line of squiggles as they try to write their names. Sometimes they enjoy finding and learning the names of individual letters. But, they are not particularly interested in the order of letters in the alphabet. You can encourage your child's interest in letters and words by:

- Showing him the letters that form his name and the names of people or things that are important to him.
- Playing letter games like "find all the 'T's' on this page," or "let's think of animals that begin with the letter 't'."
- Encouraging your child to send letters to friends and relatives. Write down what he wants to say while he watches you write. Read his letter back to him before mailing it.
- Encouraging your child to watch family members as they write shopping lists or notes, and talking about

what is being written.

- Reading aloud road signs, labels, and advertisements.

Here are other things you can do to encourage your child's interest in reading:

- Tell him stories about your own life. Make up or tell traditional stories you heard as a child.
- Look at picture books with your child and make up stories about them together. This helps your child learn that books tell stories, stories begin at the front of the book, are sequential, and logical, and storytelling is fun.
- Create your own simple books that you can read together. Let your child draw some pictures on several sheets of paper and ask him to tell you about the pictures. Write down what he says on each sheet. Staple or tie the pages together. Read his descriptions as you go through the book together. Encourage him to tell you the story of his pictures.
- Show an interest in reading.

Your child wants to be like you and will likely copy what you do. When you read, you demonstrate that you value learning and that reading is enjoyable.

Reading aloud with children—from the time they are born through school age, and even when they can read on their own—is one of the most effective ways you (or a care giver) can help them learn to read and comprehend what they are reading. One clear benefit of reading aloud is that children develop stronger language skills. They learn many new words. They learn to ask questions about the story. They make a connection between pictures and words. As an added bonus, the time you spend together reading builds strong emotional bonds between you and your child. Make time each day to pick up a book and read together.

GRACE FONG is the Interim Director of the Center on the Family, and SYLVIA YUEN is the Interim Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

### Top 3 Health Concerns: Poor Air, Alcohol, Trauma

by Sheila Cristosomo  
Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Health Secretary Enrique Ona cited three health concerns presently confronting the country in a meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO)-Western Pacific Region Office.

Ona told the committee meeting of the WHO-Western Pacific in its regional office in Manila last Monday that the three health concerns are poor air quality, alcohol and trauma. "These problems are not new and it's indeed commendable that we are starting to recognize their significance in our effort to promote public health," he noted.

The four-day WHO meeting discussed current health issues in the region like dengue, antimicrobial resistance, tradi-



Health Secretary Enrique Ona

tional medicine, non-communicable diseases, health surveillance and budget, among others.

Health ministers and experts from the Western Pacific countries attended the meeting.

Ona said poor air quality has been the major cause of hospitalization and deaths from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

"A lot of factors contribute

to poor air quality. Smoking is the primary source of poor air quality indoors while particulate matter pollution emanating from the transport sector, from industries and factories are the major sources of poor outdoor air quality," he added.

Ona also claimed that there has been a rise in alcohol use among Filipinos 15 to 19 years old.

"The harmful use of alcohol results in a considerable proportion of crime, violence, injuries, deaths and a lot of problems for health. We need to engage society and relevant sectors in reducing the access of minors to alcohol by supporting pricing and sales restriction policies. Likewise, we need to continue promoting the adoption of healthy lifestyles among the citizens," he added.

He also expressed concern over injuries and trauma in the country that have "greatly in-

(continued on page 13)

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## LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

# Abandonment of Permanent Resident Status

should be aware of the requirement to maintain that status.

Most LPRs who reside or make frequent trips outside the U.S. do so because of employment, school, business, medical reasons, or other family members' immigration status. They must remember, however, to maintain a continuous and uninterrupted intention to return to the United States because failure to do so may result in a loss of that status through abandonment.

Having the intent is not enough and the LPR must be ready to prove it through sufficient evidence. Some of the circumstances that may demonstrate ties to the United States include home ownership, maintenance of a U.S. bank account, family ties in the U.S., employment, business or properties in the U.S., and maintain-

ing a U.S. driver's license.

Generally, absence from the U.S. for more than one year is considered abandonment of residence. However, the test is not the length of time spent abroad but whether the LPR intended to be abroad only temporarily.

As a rule, a visit is temporary if it is for a relatively short period which is fixed by some early event or if the LPR had a continuous uninterrupted intention to return to the U.S. during the entire time of the visit. The LPR upon re-entry may demonstrate the reasons for staying abroad by showing legal and medical records, school records, employment letter, and affidavits, as may be applicable.

A reentry permit is a travel document issued by the USCIS to those who expect to spend lengthy periods of time abroad. It is generally valid for two years. The LPR will not be deemed to

have abandoned status just because of the duration of his/her stay/s abroad. However, it is still not a guarantee of admission and the LPR may be asked to give proof that there was no abandonment of residence.

Maintenance of permanent residence is also important for naturalization purposes. One of the requirements in a citizenship application is continuous residence in the United States for at least 3 or 5 years. The applicant must not have, within the last 3 or 5 years, been outside of the U.S. for one year or more. Absences less than 6 months generally do not break continuous residence, while absences more than 6 months but less than 1 year raise a rebuttable presumption of abandonment of residence.

With or without a re-entry permit, and regardless of the length of stay abroad, classify-

ing oneself as a nonresident alien for tax purposes raises a rebuttable presumption that an LPR has abandoned that status. Furthermore, LPRs should not overlook the requirement of filing U.S. tax returns even while living abroad.

Still, an LPR has certain rights, including the right to due process. For instance, where his/her status is challenged as having been abandoned, the LPR has the right to have that issue determined by a judge. It is important to note that even while in removal proceedings, the LPR remains a permanent resident and continues to be so until a final administrative order issued that changes that status.

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](http://www.seguritan.com)

## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Aquino: Stimulus Package Not to Hurt Fiscal Health

from [www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)  
Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011

**M**ANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - President Aquino said that the P72 billion stimulus package would cushion the economy from the impact of an uncertain global recovery, but assured that this will not be done at the expense of the country's fiscal health.

"We will do what we can within the bounds of fiscal prudence to keep the economy

growing," Mr. Aquino said on Wednesday's briefing organized by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP).

Mr. Aquino said that the stimulus package, which will finance reconstruction plans and infrastructure projects, will be financed by government savings and not by additional borrowing that may widen the country's deficit.

The country's economic managers have programmed this

year's fiscal deficit at P300 billion, equivalent to three percent of the country's GDP. The country's budget gap for the months of January to August narrowed to P34.5 billion, from last year's P228.10 billion on back of increased tax collections and prudent government spending.

According to the President, whether the government will extend another stimulus package would depend on two things: government savings and the absorptive capacity of dif-

ferent agencies that will be utilizing the funds.

"Going beyond that might not be productive at this point in time," he said.

Thanks to its strong fundamentals, the Philippines is one of the few countries that stayed resilient amid global recessions.

This year, the eurozone debt crisis and the sluggish US growth are not the only factors

threatening global recovery. The natural disasters that rocked Japan and the political turmoil in the Middle East and North African countries exacerbated global economic woes.

Philippine export revenues are on a downturn for the past few months owing to lower demand from major export markets of Japan, the United States and European Union.

(from page 12, TOP 3...)

increased over the decade to become the top three to top four leading causes of death annually, among both adults and children in the country."

"Transport related crashes, assault, accidental drowning and fall are the major recorded causes of deaths among all ages. Pedestrians comprise more than 50 percent of all deaths, followed by motorcycle and pedal bike users," he said.

Dr. Shin Young-soo, WHO director for the Western Pacific, said that the region has made progress in the health area.

He claimed that nine of 10



Air pollution from the transport sector

countries with rampant malaria cases in the region have already formulated national elimination plans.

"Prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS have improved in most parts of our Region. And tuberculosis control pro-

grams have been strengthened across the region," he added.

Shin cautioned that such gains could be reversed "if the level of antimicrobial resistance is not tackled collectively."

He cited multi-drug resistance "to the most effective anti-malaria drugs and to first- and second-line of tuberculosis treatments."

"We now need to turn political recognition into concrete action. This is particularly so in low-resource settings, where the impact of this rising tide of non-communicable diseases is felt the hardest," he maintained. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

### Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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## MAINLAND NEWS

# U.S. Senate Passes Bill to Sanction China Over Currency

from [www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)  
Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted Tuesday to threaten China with higher tariffs on Chinese products made cheap through an artificially undervalued currency, which lawmakers blame for destroying American jobs. The House of Representatives, though, is unlikely to take up the bill, which some American businesses warn could trigger a trade war.

The 63-35 vote showed a broad bipartisan consensus that it is time to end diplomatic niceties with China and confront it over its aggressive trade policies.

"There are always people who don't want to stand up to China, and I think they are, frankly, undercutting our ability to stop the hemorrhaging in our manufacturing jobs," said Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio, a Midwestern industrial state.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, a Republican from Alabama, said the bill "is an important step towards defending American values, confronting China's abusive practices and preventing the liquidation of American manufacturing."

Still, the bill could die in the House of Representatives, where a

companion measure has the sponsorship of more than half the members but lacks the support of the majority Republican leadership.

House Speaker John Boehner, the top Republican in the lower chamber, like the many large multinational companies that oppose the legislation, has said it would be dangerous to dictate another country's currency policies, and he can prevent the bill from ever being considered.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, also a Republican, said Tuesday that the White House should make its position clear before the House acts. The White House and President Barack Obama have not come out against the bill but have shown they are uncomfortable with it, saying they are concerned about any legislation that might violate international trade rules.

Advocates for the bill say it will make American goods more competitive and support more than 1 million new jobs. Critics warn that it will provoke Chinese retaliation and hurt Americans in one of their fastest-growing markets.

Regardless of the outcome, the debate and the vote are giving senators a chance to make clear to the Chinese their frustrations over trade policies that have seen China's trade surplus with the United States go from \$10 billion 20 years ago to



\$273 billion last year, delivering painful blows to U.S. manufacturers and their employees.

"This is a country manipulating its currency for an advantage in the export market," said Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina. "The Chinese manipulation of the yuan has cost this country at least 2 million jobs — 41,000 in South Carolina — and it is an unfair trade practice in another name."

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Xiaoxu criticized the Senate vote on the currency issue in a statement posted to the ministry's website.

"Under the pretense of addressing the so-called 'exchange rate imbalance,' this resolution is in fact an act of protectionism, and seriously violates World Trade Organization rules," he said. "It not only cannot solve the problems in the U.S. economy or unemployment, but will seriously impede Sino-U.S. economic and trade ties and impede the joint

efforts that China, the U.S. and the international community have made to enable a strong recovery and the growth of the global economy."

He called on "the U.S. government, Congress and the public to resolutely oppose the use of domestic legislation to hype and exert pressure over the renminbi exchange rate issue, and to resist protectionism, resist the erroneous politicizing of economic and trade issues, and maintain the sound development of the Sino-U.S. economic and trade relations."

The vote came as Congress prepared to complete work on a package of free trade agreements that is also seen by their backers as removing barriers to American exports and promoting job growth.

Both the House and Senate are expected to vote Wednesday on trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama.

The Chinese currency, the yuan, is undervalued against the dollar by 25 to 30 percent, according to most estimates, with some economists putting the difference at up to 40 percent. That means that Chinese goods sold in the United States have a 25 to 30 percent price advantage, while U.S. items sold in China become that much more expensive.

Brown, whose state of Ohio has been hit hard by Chinese competition, cited a tool and die shop in Brunswick, Ohio, that was about to sign a \$1 million contract until the Chinese came in at the last moment with a bid 20 percent lower.

"That meant I don't know how many jobs that didn't stay in America but went to China and that 20 percent was given to them because of currency," he said.

The legislation would set in motion the imposition of higher tariffs on a country — China is not specifically mentioned in the bill — should the U.S. Treasury Department decide that its currency is "misaligned" and the country does not act to correct it. Currently, Treasury must resolve that a country is willfully manipulating its currency, a higher bar to reach, before sanctions can be considered.

The bill also makes it easier for specific industries to petition the Commerce Department for redress if they believe an exchange rate is giving a foreign competitor the equivalent of an export subsidy.

The drive to punish China for its currency practices has been going on for years, led by conservatives such as Graham and Democratic liberals such as Brown and Chuck Schumer of New York. They have generally been discouraged by the Obama administration, and the Bush administration before it, which cautioned against unilateral sanctions and appealed for time to bring about Chinese cooperation through diplomatic channels.

There has been some appreciation of the yuan in the past year, but not enough to satisfy those who say it is still heavily undervalued in China's favor.

The Chinese have made their opposition to the Senate bill clear, saying in numerous statements that the trade imbalance is a result of U.S. economic policies and not the exchange rate, and that unilateral actions against China could damage the entirety of U.S.-China relations. Those range from efforts to protect better U.S. intellectual property rights in China, ending the theft of American technology, assuring the security of Taiwan and keeping the Korean Peninsula peaceful.

But Schumer said getting China to play by the rules "will not happen by persuasion, by multilateral talks, by wishing it were so, or even by the healing of time. It will only happen if America stands up for itself, for fairness, for equal treatment."

Opponents argue that the currency sanctions would do little to help the U.S. job market because more expensive Chinese goods would simply be replaced by goods from other low-wage countries such as Vietnam and Bangladesh. And they say companies such as Wal-Mart would continue buying Chinese items because they are deeply involved in investment in China, a fast-growing export market.

But the Alliance for American Manufacturing, a labor-management partnership that supports the bill, says a 28.5 percent appreciation in the yuan would create 2.25 million American jobs and reduce the annual trade deficit by \$190.5 billion.

"China responds to consequences, and this legislation will make a real difference for American workers and businesses," said the group's executive director, Scott Paul.

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## MAINLAND NEWS

### Southern Cal Pinoy's Unite for Philanthropy Project

The Southern California Filipino American community recently gathered for ABS CBN Foundation International's "Kwentuhan Hollywood" at Universal Studios.

Over 70 Fil-Am leaders representing 30 organizations discussed collaboration and philanthropy—an initiative rarely undertaken and successfully done. These leaders are committed to helping their disadvantaged countrymen through generous donations to development programs in the Philippines.

"We have thousands of Filipino-American organizations working independently to help our beloved kababayans but at this event, we got together and pledged to collaborate," says

Letty Quizon, program development director for the ABS CBN Foundation International. "We thought there was no better way to launch the Kapamilya Circle of Giving than by gathering around a table and sharing stories of successes and lessons learned from challenges."

The group pledged to sponsor ABS CBN Foundation International's educational program—a comprehensive teacher training and curriculum enhancement program that aims to increase student achievement across all disciplines. Primarily directed to public elementary schools in the Philippines, the initiative starts with a library of 480 teaching DVDs and a television set. Teachers are trained to

incorporate these DVDs in teaching history, social studies, language arts and even math and science, covered by a \$1,500 sponsorship. The program is currently in 8,523 schools, serving 4.2 million public elementary students and their teachers.

According to the of Filipino American Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles (FACCLA), the program is a God-send for poor Filipinos.

"It not only helps to care for the immediate needs of children and impoverished families in the Philippines but also contributes to more long-term prosperity through environmental programs, education and special programs for business owners and those who want to start a business," says Evangelina Crowther of the FACCLA.

## GLOBAL NEWS

### 'Scrapped European Contracts Bad for Phi'

by Lawrence Agcaoili  
 Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011

**M**ANILA, Philippines - House Senior Deputy Minority Leader and Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez yesterday warned the Aquino administration's move to cancel major projects funded by European governments would do more harm than good to the country.

Suarez was reacting to comments from Malacañang that the administration was not biased against European investments in canceling or suspending several major contracts funded by official development assistance (ODA) just to ensure the success of its flagship Public-Private Partnership program.

President Aquino earlier cancelled a multi-billion peso Belgian project to dredge part of the Laguna Lake and suspend the implementation of a French project to build 72 roll-on, roll-off (Ro-Ro) ports all over the country.

Suarez pointed out the Philip-



A Ro-Ro port in Bacolod

pines has already spent billions of pesos in litigation costs alone against the German firm Fraport over the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project.

He said the litigation costs do not yet include compensation for the German firm after the government took over the facility as well as business opportunity losses.

"What's worrisome here is the backlash and subtle moves and economic decisions made against the Philippines because of the adminis-

tration's penchant to cancel projects only because they were forged by the previous administration," Suarez said.

"All these contracts passed through rigorous study and documentation by both governments and in some instances by multilateral institutions, so you must presume regularity and not impute malice," he said.

Suarez said he received reports that the Belgian firm is going to sue the Philippines for renegeing on the dredging contract while the French firm was also contemplating the same.

"Up to now, they (Malacañang) have not yet come up with evidence that these contracts are tainted. This is really destroying the reputation of our country, that we do not honor contracts," he said.

Suarez said President Aquino was being fed wrong information on the two projects by interest groups.

"They said there is no need for Ro-Ro ports because no one is using those routes. Of course, how can

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vessels dock if there are no Ro-Ro ports? In the same way, if you build roads, people will be able to travel and commerce will flourish," Suarez said.

Suarez stressed all ODA contracts are governed by internationally accepted protocols to discourage corruption.

He said ODA projects are given at "overwhelmingly low interest rates."

"If the country would be facing international lawsuits, we would be incurring litigation costs and economic losses and we would not be benefiting from these projects," Suarez said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))



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