YOUR EYESIGHT IS IN GOOD HANDS

With DR. STEVEN RHEE

Steven Rhee, D.O.
Cornea Specialist and Comprehensive Ophthalmologist

Steven Rhee, D.O. earned his medical degree at the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed training in ophthalmology (medical and surgical eye care) at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and pursued additional sub-specialty training in cornea and external disease at the prestigious Tufts-New England Eye Center in Boston. Dr. Rhee is an accomplished cataract and corneal surgeon with more than ten years of experience. Dr. Rhee has been working closely with Dr. Christopher Tortora at the Hawaiian Eye Center for the past 8 years.

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It is a trend that has been abuzz for quite a while now – the trend of more Americans, particularly young adults, flocking to the nation’s cities. I myself live closer to where I work in town and am learning and living the ups-and-downs of not just living without my parents and siblings, but in becoming flexible with living conditions.

Living in smaller dwellings at the heart of urban areas brings with it the need for smaller-scale furnishings and a fresh design approach.

A 2015 study by University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center Demographics Research Group research and policy analyst Luke J. Juday quantifies this phenomenon by examining demographic shifts in U.S. metropolitan areas since 1990.

At the heart of Juday’s study, The Changing Shape of American Cities, is the “donut” model, which once reflected a ring of suburbs with a wealthier, more educated and safer population surrounding a central city more associated with crime and poverty.

The study introduces and proposes a “new donut” model with a thriving “urban core” driven by a resurgence of interest from educated millennials looking for the culture and convenience of a city.

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A famous philosopher, George Santayana, once said that “Those who do not know History are doomed to repeat it.”

The Filipino labor movement in Hawaii has a proud and outstanding legacy. Many of the brave pioneers in the union movement were of Filipino ancestry.

In fact, during the plantation era, between 1920 and 1940, Filipinos sacrificed to fight for reforms. They led 12 strikes against the plantation owners.

Unfortunately, Hawaii is also filled with sad and unfortunate stories and it is worthwhile to learn lessons from our past. Here is one such story:

**Pablo Manlapit**

Pablo Manlapit was one of the first Filipino labor leaders in Hawaii and was instrumental in leading the 1920 and 1924 labor strikes against the plantation owners.

Born in the Philippines, he came to Hawaii in 1910 to work for Hamakua Mill company as a sakada. Smart and ambitious, he went to night school and eventually left the plantation to become a labor clerk. He juggled many jobs as he studied law and eventually became the State’s first Filipino attorney. In 1919, he founded a union called Filipino Labor Union.

It may be recalled that the first wave of Filipinos who were recruited to work in Hawaii’s sugar plantations, came to Hawaii’s shores in 1906. During that time, the Filipinos experienced social discrimination, were paid the lowest wages and were assigned the poorest, most deplorable housing. The Filipinos were not even allowed to bring their families here and only single men were accepted as sakadas.

Manlapit sought to change all that. On January 1920, some 3,000 members of the Filipino Union left their jobs. By the following month, there were 8300 plantation workers or 77% of the workforce who went on strike, clamoring for an 8-hour work day and an increase in daily wages from $7.2 to $1.25.

The strike lasted for three months but the workers did not succeed in their demands. The plantation owners employed “divide and conquer tactics” against eviction of strikers from their homes, hiring of non-union workers and prosecution of labor leaders.

Although he was not prosecuted, Manlapit became a victim of a smear campaign perpetuated by the plantation owners. The rumor was that he tried to extort money from the plantation owners in exchange for calling off the strike.

After the defeat of the 1920’s strike, Manlapit created another union called “Filipino Higher Wage Movement.”

From 1920 to 1924, Manlapit was constantly harassed by the plantation owners, sent to jail twice such that he could not practice law. But he had such a passion for the workers that he continued to go to the neighbor islands to build the union.

In 1923, the Filipino Higher Wage Movement sent a letter to the Owners, asking for a $2-a-day, 40-hour work week. Their demands were ignored. In April 1924, labor negotiations failed, and Manlapit called his Filipino supporters to walk out of their jobs. About 12,000 Filipinos from 23 of the 45 plantations headed that call. This strike was one of the most painful in our history. It lasted for 8 months and also resulted in bloodstream called the Hanapepe Massacre.

The Hanapepe Massacre occurred on September 9, 1924 on the island of Kauai. The plantation owners once again employed divide and conquer tactics—but this time, instead of pitting Filipinos against each other, specifically the Ilocanos versus the Visayans. Violence ensued and when the dust settled, there were 16 Filipinos and four policemen who died while many were wounded.

Pablo Manlapit, although he was not at the scene in Hanapepe, was prosecuted and was sent to exile in California. He was not able to return to Hawaii until the early 1930s but was permanently deported back to the Philippines in 1935. He died in the Philippines in 1969.

**Noteworthy Lessons**

Today, we herald Manlapit as a hero for the labor movement. But although he paved the way for others to follow, it can be argued that he could have succeeded in his objectives if only there was more unity amongst the ranks.

In this issue of the Fil-am Courier, we bring you the story of our Filipino hotel workers who have been on strike for almost a month. Written by one of the most respected social justice advocates in Hawaii, Amy Agbayani described why this cause is important. She also gave us a glimpse of the incredibly brave souls who are fighting for what they believe in.

As we continue to witness history unfold, we bring with us gentle reminders how good intentions can sometimes be sabotaged. The players may have changed, but the tactics remain the same. So we urge unity in the ranks for our workers. We pray that in reading the story above, you can discern the lessons contained in Manlapit’s life.

Let us make sure that Pablo Manlapit did not live his life as a union organizer, in vain.
I am so proud of Unite Here Local 5 members and leaders. These workers are being responsible and using their right to strike to demand a decent wage and working conditions.

Since October 8, 2,700 Marriott hotel workers in Waikiki and Maui are on strike. The strike impacts five hotels operated by Marriott and owned by Kyo-ya: Sheraton Waikiki, The Royal Hawaiian, Westin Moana Surfrider, Sheraton Princess Kaiulani, and Sheraton Maui. The union members work in housekeeping, food & beverage, front desk and other hotel services. For the past weeks, tourists have limited or no housekeeping services, food services, bar service, parking and other services. Thousands of striking workers do not get paid and walk the picket lines daily.

It has been an honor to join the picket line to support their families and make our economy stronger. I am also very grateful for the visible support of the Filipino community for these workers. These hotel workers, many of whom are Filipinos, deserve their fair share of the profits made by Marriott and for their contribution to the visitor industry, the state’s #1 industry. There is broad multi-ethnic support for our multi-ethnic union’s strike for better wages and conditions.

And for the Filipino community, there is a special connection and support for Unite Here Local 5 union strike. Filipinos are 70% of the union led by Philippine-born President, Gemma Garampil Weinstein.

“Our members, the hotel workers, are the reason why Marriott is the largest and richest hotel company in the world. Yet we work multiple jobs. One job should be enough to live in Hawaii, to raise our families and retire with dignity,” says Gemma Weinstein.

The history of Filipinos in Hawaii has been associated with the labor movement and work in the major industry of the state: Hawaii’s #1 industry is tourism.

Filipino workers are a major contributor to the state’s economy and the state’s future.

State data shows close to 10 million visitors (up more than 6% from 2017) and the economic forecasters predict visitor spending to grow to more than $18 billion (9 percent year over year gain).

The visitor industry has been very successful and hotel workers are merely asking for a fair share with more pay, more job security and safer working conditions.
The strike came as Marriott and Kyo-ya have failed to reach agreement on workers’ demand that One Job Should be Enough, despite months of negotiations.

The issues of contention include key issues such as job security around technology and automation, workplace safety and the need for Marriott and Kyo-ya to compensate workers so that one job can be enough for workers to support themselves.

Marriott is the biggest and richest hotel company in the world, yet many Marriott workers have to work multiple jobs to survive because one job at Marriott is not enough.

Kyo-ya is the largest owner of Marriott hotels in all of the striking cities; in addition to the Hawaii hotels, they also own the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Many Hawai‘i residents know the struggle of living in Hawai‘i. A study by the National Low Income Housing Coalition says that you need to earn $39/hour to afford a 2-bedroom rental in Honolulu.

Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer of UNITE HERE Local 5 said “Hawaii’s people have to work several jobs just to get by. Several jobs means working nights Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard with Amelia Casamina and Eric Gill of Local 5

GOVERNMENT IS BROKEN. Politicians are more focused on delivering insults rather than results. And Medicare, Social Security, support for family caregivers, and prescription drug costs are all on the line.

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and weekends. No days off. Several jobs means not seeing our children. Several jobs means not having a life.”

The strike is part of a nationwide strike totaling eight cities with 7,700 Marriott hotel workers from 23 hotels. There are also strikes in Boston, San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, San Diego and Detroit with workers are demanding that One Job Should be Enough.

More cities in major U.S. tourism destinations may join the strike.

A number of political leaders have walked the picket line. Amongst them was US Senator Mazie Hirono. Senator Hirono brought a personal perspective to the issue: “I’m proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with my brothers and sisters in Local 5 on the picket line, fighting for better working conditions and higher wages for thousands of Marriott workers in Hawaii,” Senator Hirono said. “When I first immigrated to Hawaii, my mother worked two jobs to support her children as a single parent. I would have loved if my mom could have worked one job to pay for food and rent. I know what it’s like to have a parent not at home because they have to work more than one job. I will continue to fight with Local 5 and workers across the state to heed their important call that one job should be enough to live in Hawaii.”

As the strike reached its fourth week, there is a call for the Filipino community to join in support of the striking workers: “I humbly and proudly urge fellow Kababayans to join the picket lines in solidarity with the workers. I am sure you know or have family and friends who work at these hotels and we want them to know we support them. The workers are seeking job security, safer workplace and wages that will be sufficient for their families,” advocated Amelia Casamina Cabatu, a private citizen and Filipino community leader.

Local 5 President Gemma Garampil Weinstein reminded the community that “This fight is not only for the hotel workers, it’s for the community of Hawaii and for the next generation.”

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CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY ENTRY PERIOD:


1) ELIGIBILITY: The ticket drawing giveaway is open only to residents of states of Hawaii. Staff & management of Fil-Am Courier, 1270 KNDI Radio and Philippine Airlines and their immediate family members (parents, in-laws, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings), and spouses are not eligible to participate in the prize giveaway.

2) HOW TO ENTER THE PRIZE:

MAIL any Christmas card, (store bought, computer generated or hand written) and list your first name, last name, phone number (to be used for winner contact only), & mailing address and send to:

FIL AM COURIER
PO BOX 17753
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

KNDI RADIO 1270 AM
1734 S. King Street
Honolulu HI 96826

There is NO LIMIT to the number of Christmas card submitted to increase your chances of winning. All entries become the exclusive property of the Sponsor and will not be acknowledged or returned.

3) WINNER SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION:

On December 2, 2018 on the Fil-Am Courier Community Hour on 1270 KNDI Radio with host Amelia Cassalega-Cabalit, one (1) potential Grand Prize Winner ("Winner") will be randomly selected by the Sponsor, whose decisions are final and binding in all matters relating to the selection of Winners of this drawing. The potential Winners are notified by phone. If a potential Winner cannot be reached within 24 hours from the first notification attempt, rejects the prize, or whose phone provider indicates that the phone number is invalid or unable to receive the communication then it ultimately reached thereafter, the prize will be forfeited and an alternate proposed Winner will be selected.

Another winner will be randomly selected by the Sponsor on December 7, 2018 on the Fil-Am Courier Community Hour on 1270 KNDI Radio with host Allen Alvarez. Winner Selection and Notification stated above will also apply.

4) PRIZES: Two (2) Grand Prize Winners will receive a voucher for one (1) round-trip Philippine Airlines economy class ticket Honolulu-Philippines-Honolulu (Originating from the Daniel Inouye International Airport. Airline Voucher must be redeemed and issued by December 30, 2018 and must be used one year from date of issue. Once issued into a ticket, ticket is non-transferable, non-refundable. Prize excluded: US taxes, travel tax, airport terminal fees, and fuel surcharge. Some blackout periods apply. Please call Philippine Airlines for blackout period information.

5) PRIZE TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The Winners are required to comply with any and all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.

6) VOUCHER CONDITIONS: Travel restrictions, conditions and limitations may apply, all of which are subject to change at Prize Supplier and Sponsor's sole discretion. The Voucher can only be redeemed by Philippine Airlines. Flight schedules are subject to availability and blackout dates. Travel must be round trip.

7) RELEASES: All Participants, as a condition of participation in this giveaway agree to indemnify, release and hold harmless the Released Entities from any and all liability, claims, damages, injuries or actions of any kind whatsoever for injuries, damages, or losses to persons or property which may be sustained in connection with: (a) participating in any aspect of the prize giveaway or (b) the receipt, ownership, possession, use or misuse of any Prize awarded.
Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls celebrates their NOVEMBER 3, 2018 Banquet. 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, Fil-Com, Center for Commitment Ceremonies & Progress Awards.

Amelia Casamina CabatuCompiled by AMELIA CASAMINA CABATU

Amelia Casamina Cabatu is a community leader and a familiar face, often hosting community events and celebrations. She is a veteran radio announcer and hosts the "FIL-AM COURIER COMMUNITY HOUR" on 1270 KNDI Radio every 1st Sunday of the month. In addition to other affiliations, Amelia is the former Chair of the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii. She owns and operates an adult daycare business and is happily married to Arnold Cabatu. They live in Salt Lake and are blessed with one daughter, Armay. Please send your event information to acmina808@gmail.com or call her at (808) 362-2033.

OAHU

NOVEMBER 2, 2018
Unified Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFC) Sulong Filipino... Onward UFC 2018 Re-Affirmation of Commitment Ceremonies & Progress Awards Banquet. 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, Fil-Com, Center Ballroom Waipahu Contact Persons: Leo Gozar: 630-6268, Raymond Sebastian 799-6080.

NOVEMBER 3, 2018
Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls celebrates their 20th Anniversary with Awards & Musical Revival Presentation Noblesse Oblige. 8:30 PM; Farrington High School Auditorium. 1564 N. King Street Honolulu, HI 96817. A Doctors-On-Stage Musical. Donations: $25.00 - $75.00 for tickets Call or Text 888-674-7624 or ask your BCWW Provider. A fundraising event for the uninsured medical immigrants.

NOVEMBER 4, 2018
The Fil-Am Courier Community Hour on 1270 KNDI AM Radio with your host Amelia Casamina Cabatu 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM. Hawaii Standard Time, Special guest appearances with community news and events. Contact Person: Amelia Casamina Cabatu 282-2033.

NOVEMBER 6, 2018
General Election For questions and information, call 808 788-3800 or on the internet at www.honoluluelections.us

NOVEMBER 10, 2018
CRD Caregivers Recognition Day & Gala Night Alia Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI 96814 Hibiscus Ballroom. 5:00 PM. Contact Persons: Esther Pascual 842-0227, Nanneth Gaylord 227-7173, Maria Etrata 392-2962, Lemmy Maluyo 382-0203. Contact Person: Carolynn.alhambra@fjchamber.org

NOVEMBER 15, 2018
Filipino Junior Chamber General Membership Meeting and Election of 2019 Board of Directors Siam Paradise. 1336 Dillingham Blvd. Honolulu, HI 96817 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Members are free. General admission $5.00. Contact Person: Carolynn.alhambra@fjchamber.org

NOVEMBER 17, 2018
HINAMI Hawaii Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc. 17th Anniversary Celebration, 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM. FilCom Center, 94-426 Mukulua St. Waipahu, Hawaii Contact Persons: Bea Ramos-Razon (808) 778-6291, Jun Obaldia (808) 277-7445, Bong Curameng (808) 383-0135.

NOVEMBER 18, 2018

NOVEMBER 18, 2018
Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) Presidents’ Ball: A Night of Reaffirmation & Recognition. 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Filipino Community Center, Waipahu Cost: $70.00. Contact Persons: Raymond Sebastian 799-6080. Froebel Garcia 386-6857, Susie Berardy 392-7083, Emelyn Damo 222-4702, Amy Dela Cruz 841-0563.

NOVEMBER 19, 2018
FAMES 14th Annual Scholarship & Fundraising Gala Inspire to be Inspired. 6:00 PM; Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom 4 & 5, 2005 Kalia Rd. Honolulu, HI 96815. Dinner, Entertainment & Dancing Evening Attire Admission $100.00, 501(c)3 Non Profit with 50% Tax Deductible Contact Persons: Joni Redick Yunit 781-5905, Cynthia Altman 284-0272, Yoni Malig-On 497-7543.

NOVEMBER 20, 2018
International Filipino American Cultural Association of Hawaii (IFAACAH) 7TH Anniversary Coronation and Induction Ball Pagoda Hotel, 1525 Rycroft St. Honolulu, HI International Ballroom: 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM, Lunch At 11:00 AM; Donation: $45.00; Contact Persons: Wilma Ibay 221-2407, Renilda Cordero 499-7408, Fely Balboa 780-0573, Rudy Bayb 542-3167.

NOVEMBER 23, 2018
The Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii (IASH) Re-Affirmation of Officers. Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom. 5:00 PM – 12:00 Midnight; Donation: $70.00; Contact Persons: Davelyn Quijano 489-8782, Myrna Peralta 291-0103, Emelyn Damo 222-4702, Loida Yamamoto 678-1940

NOVEMBER 24, 2018
La Union Circle of Hawaii Presents Mr. & Mrs. La Union Hawaii International Fun Dance & Coronation, Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom. 5:30 PM – 12:00 Midnight. Interested candidates contact Baybee Huffman Ablan 753-5616, Conrad Valdriz 953-8888, Lolita Domingo 295-1387.

DECEMBER 1, 2018
Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCC) Annual Christmas Celebration Pagoda Hotel, 1525 Rycroft St. Honolulu, HI. 6:00 PM; Contact Persons: Elsa Talaver 358-8984, Vanessa Kop 250-0370.

DECEMBER 2, 2018
The Fil-Am Courier Community Hour on 1270 KNDI AM Radio with your host Amelia Casamina Cabatu. 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM. Hawaii Standard Time, Special guest appearances with community news and events. Contact Person: Amelia Casamina Cabatu 282-2033.

DECEMBER 7, 2018
AFHA annual Christmas Celebration & Installation of Officers Hilton Hawaiian Village Resorts. 6:00 PM – 12:00 Midnight; Coral Ballroom. Formal Attire Cost $85.00. Contact Persons: Manibel Tan 384-2249, Naty Miyat 782-4956.

DECEMBER 12, 2018
Kristian Lei in concert “The Best of Hawaii with Kristian Lei” Mamiya Theatre. 7:30 PM; Saint Louis School Campus, 3142 Wai'alae Avenue Honolulu, HI 96816. Featutr Master of Ceremonies Kimo Kahakalo & Special Guest Hoku Award Winner: Mihana Souza Tickets on sale at Eventbrite.com Sponsored by Dr. Lawrence Tseu.

DECEMBER 21, 2018
Cebuano Association of Hawaii Annual Christmas Dinner featuring an hour presentation of Pasko sa Sugbo & Nativity Play 6:00 PM Saint Therese Parish Hall 712 N. School Street Honolulu, HI 96817 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM FJC Members are free, General admission $5.00. Contact Person: Carolyn.alhambra@fjchamber.org
The Fil-Am Courier asked members from the community their sentiments on the UniteHere! Local 5 hotel workers strike that has now entered its third week of picketing during the negotiations between the union and Kyo-ya Hotels and Resorts and Marriott Corporation?

Compiled by
RADIANT MARIE CORDERO & LINDA MARIE NUNES

AMANDA YBANEZ
Kalihi, Hawai’i

Strikes are done to protect Union members and their family’s interest. For example, pay benefits, job security and so on. Everyone wants to protect themselves and their own family, so that is why the strike has continued this long. Hawai’i is a unique place on earth that many travel to for a once in a lifetime experience and to build precious memories. Tourists, government officials, business leaders and many others travel to Hawai’i for their weddings, engagements, celebrations, vacations, summits, conventions, charity work and so on. The travel industry here in Hawai’i is the fruitful bread basket of Hawai’i, without it we would all completely suffer. The tourism industry produces the great majority of tax revenue that our entire state depends upon to function. Therefore, it is up to management groups, corporations, business owners, government officials, Unions, the Tourism Authority and community allies to push for an amicable and agreeable contract agreement as soon as possible.

KASSANDRA PASCUAL
Honolulu, Hawai’i

Work is often the place we spend a majority of our time, and when workers believe that working conditions are unfair, they have the right to speak up. I believe that this is what UniteHere! Local 5 hotel workers are fighting for. They are fighting not only for themselves, but also for their families, and for most of them, providing for their family requires holding more than one job. This situation not only is mentally and physically draining, but it also takes time away from loved ones. Life is tough as it is… Working one job should be enough.

JANELLE PAPIN
Salt Lake / Moanalua

The cost of living in Hawai’i is astronomical but wages are not proportional. Corporations that profit off the hard work of locals should pay a living wage.

DIOREME NAVASCA
Kalihi, Hawai’i

As a fellow resident struggling to make ends meet with just one job, I share the same sentiments as with the hotel workers on strike. It is a shame how the reality for most people living in Hawai’i is making a choice between quality of life (ample rest, family time, personal growth, passion and hobbies, etc.) and taking on another job (or two) just to afford rent and other living necessities. I hold a Master’s Degree and not even holding two diplomas is enough to strive in Hawai’i. Hawai’i may have one of the country’s lowest unemployment rate but that’s because a large portion of residents juggle two or more jobs in order to survive. Rent shouldn’t equate half of a family’s income. Many households shouldn’t have to resort to exceeding the healthy number of tenants living under one house just because sharing the rent or mortgage is the only way to have leftover money. The economic growth in some parts of Hawai’i (with the increased number of condominiums, revenues from tourism, high-end stores in Waikiki, etc.) are just not being felt elsewhere. It’s as if the “richer” Hawai’i got, the harder life became for the people that live here. Yes, the strike is a great inconvenience. It is noisy, it adds to the already traffic Waikiki streets and it makes Hawai’i visitors uncomfortable. However, that inconvenience is nothing compared to the inconvenience of living in poverty that many Hawai’i residents face every single day. I say exercise your civil rights, engage in your civic duty and make more noise to catalyze positive change.

RAYTAN VARES
Honolulu, Hawai’i

Too many Hawai’i families, including my own, are working multiple jobs and still struggle to keep up with Hawai’i’s high cost of living. This is unacceptable and should not become the norm for life in Hawai’i. UNITE HERE! Local 5 is taking aim at this very issue through its Marriott Strike for a livable wage. I support them because their cause is all working people’s cause.

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AMANDA YBANEZ
Kalihi, Hawai’i

Strikes are done to protect Union members and their family’s interest. For example, pay benefits, job security and so on. Everyone wants to protect themselves and their own family, so that is why the strike has continued this long. Hawai’i is a unique place on earth that many travel to for a once in a lifetime experience and to build precious memories. Tourists, government officials, business leaders and many others travel to Hawai’i for their weddings, engagements, celebrations, vacations, summits, conventions, charity work and so on. The travel industry here in Hawai’i is the fruitful bread basket of Hawai’i, without it we would all completely suffer. The tourism industry produces the great majority of tax revenue that our entire state depends upon to function. Therefore, it is up to management groups, corporations, business owners, government officials, Unions, the Tourism Authority and community allies to push for an amicable and agreeable contract agreement as soon as possible.

KASSANDRA PASCUAL
Honolulu, Hawai’i

Work is often the place we spend a majority of our time, and when workers believe that working conditions are unfair, they have the right to speak up. I believe that this is what UniteHere! Local 5 hotel workers are fighting for. They are fighting not only for themselves, but also for their families, and for most of them, providing for their family requires holding more than one job. This situation not only is mentally and physically draining, but it also takes time away from loved ones. Life is tough as it is… Working one job should be enough.

JANELLE PAPIN
Salt Lake / Moanalua

The cost of living in Hawai’i is astronomical but wages are not proportional. Corporations that profit off the hard work of locals should pay a living wage.
A GUIDE TO THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

Who Can Vote: Those who are US citizens, 18 years old or older, are registered to vote and not a convicted felon.

Location

County of Hawaii
Location
Conference Room
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 1
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

West Hawaii Civic Center
Community Room (Building G)
74-5044 AneKeohokalole Highway
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740

Waimea Community Center
65-1260 Kawaihau Road
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

Pahala Community Center
96-1149 Kamani Street
Pahala, Hawaii 96777

Pahoa Community Center
15-3022 Kauhale Street
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

County of Maui
Location
Velma McWayne Santos Community Center
395 Waena Place
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Mitchell Pauole Center
Conference Room
90 Ainoa Street
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748

County of Kauai
Location
Historic County Annex Building
4386 Rice Street
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

City & County of Honolulu
Location
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Kapolei Hale
Conference Rooms A – C
1000 Ulunia Street
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

VOTER REGISTRATION

Q: How do I register to vote?
A. Same day registration allows same day eligible voters to register and vote, either at one of the early Walk In Voting location in their county; or on election day itself (November 6) at their assigned precincts.

Q: How do I check if I am registered to vote?
A: You can verify your voter registration online by providing a Hawaii Driver’s License or State ID, and Social Security Number. You may also contact the Office of Elections at 808-453-VOTE (8683). Neighbor Islands may call toll free at (800) 442-VOTE (8683). Please be prepared to provide name, residence address, and date of birth in order to verify your status.

Q: Do I have to register before each election?
A: No, once you have registered to vote, you do not have to re-register for each election. Re-registration is required only if you have moved or legally changed your name.

Q: I recently moved, do I have to update my registration?
A: Yes, re-registration is required if you have moved or legally changed your name. You can re-register online, or by submitting a Voter Registration & Permanent Absentee Application by mail or in-person.

Q: The deadline to register has passed, can I still update my registration?
A: Yes, you still have time to update your existing registration. Re-register ASAP.

VOTING BY MAIL

Q: Where is my mail ballot?
A: To find out if your ballot has been mailed, received and accepted, please contact your County Clerk’s office. See phone numbers in the box.

Q: When are mail ballots sent out?
A: Ballots are mailed approximately 20 days prior to an election by the Clerk’s Office.

Q: My mail ballot has not arrived, is lost, or damaged. What can I do?
A: Contact your Clerk’s Office regarding the status of your mail ballot or to request a replacement ballot.

Q: When must the voted ballot be returned?
A: Mail ballots must be received by close of polls at 6:00 pm on Election Day to your Clerk’s Office or at any polling place within your county.

Q: What if I make a mistake while voting my ballot?
A: If you make a mistake on your ballot do not attempt to correct it or use whiteout. Contact your Clerk’s Office to request a replacement ballot.

Q: Will my vote still count if I forget to put my ballot in the secrecy envelope?
A: Yes, ballots contained in a valid return envelope will be counted regardless of whether they are sent back in a secrecy envelope.
A GUIDE TO THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

Who Can Vote: Those who are US citizens, 18 years old or older, are registered to vote and not a convicted felon.

Election Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2018
Polls are open from 7 am to 6 pm
Early Walk-in elections will start on October 23
Deadline to request a Mail-in Ballot is October 30
Early Walk-In ends on November 3

ABSENTEE BALLOT
To request a permanent mail ballot, download and complete the Voter Registration & Permanent Absentee Application or submit the request online.
https://elections.hawaii.gov/voters/early-voting/
To request a mail ballot for a specific election or election cycle, download and complete the Absentee Application. Permanent mail voter status is terminated if any one of the following occurs:
- Voter fails to return a voted ballot by 6:00 p.m., close of polls in both the primary and general election.
- Voter dies, loses their voting rights, registers to vote in another jurisdiction, or is otherwise disqualified from voting.
- Voter’s ballot, notification card, or any other election mail is returned as undeliverable for any reason.
- Voter requests in writing that their permanent status be terminated.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY
Q: Where is my polling place?
A: You can find your polling place by calling 808-453-VOTE (8683).
Q: Am I entitled to time off for voting on Election Day?
A: If you are working on Election Day, you may be entitled to a maximum of two consecutive hours off from work in order to vote. Voters shall not be subject to any penalty, rescheduling of normal hours, or deductions from salary or wages because of such absence. The law does not apply to employees whose work hours include a period of two consecutive hours while the polls are open when the employee is not working for the employer. Polling place hours are 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.
Q: What identification can I bring to the polling place?
A: Forms of acceptable identification include a valid photo ID (Drivers License, State ID, etc), a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or other government issued document that shows your name and address.
Q: What time are the polls open on Election Day?
A: Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. If you are in line at 6:00 PM, you will be allowed to vote.
Q: I did not receive my yellow card.
A: Contact your Clerk’s Office to find out the status of your Voter Notification and Address Confirmation (Yellow Card).
Q: Do I have to vote according to party affiliation?
A: Voters are not required to declare a political party preference prior to voting. However, voters should know that Hawaii conducts a single party primary election in which voters select candidates from the party of their choice. A voter’s choice of party and candidates remain secret as provided by the Hawaii State Constitution.
Q: I will be out of town on Election Day. How can I vote?
A: You can request a mail ballot by completing an Absentee Application and submitting it to your Clerk’s Office. You can also vote at an early walk-in location – dates and locations are available closer to elections.

COUNTY ELECTION DIVISIONS

CLERK’S OFFICES

County | Address/Contact
--- | ---
County of Hawaii | 25 Aupuni Street
Stewart Maeda | Room 1502
County Clerk | Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: (808) 961-8277
Fax: (808) 961-8673

County of Maui | 200 South High St.
Danny Mateo | Room 708
County Clerk | Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Phone: (808) 270-7749
Fax: (808) 270-7171

County of Kauai | 4386 Rice Street
Jade Fountain-Tanigawa | Room 101
County Clerk | Lihue, Hawaii 96766
Phone: (808) 241-4800
Fax: (808) 241-6207

City & County of Honolulu | 530 South King Street
Glen Takahashi | Room 100
City Clerk | Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 768-3800
Fax: (808) 768-3835

Source: State of Hawaii Office of Elections
The Filipino Women's Civic Club Foundation presented the 47th Annual Maria Clara Ball on October 6 at The Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom. President – Cecilia Villafuerte and Event Chair – Rose Galanto coordinated a beautiful evening with several VIP's in attendance including The First Lady of the State of Hawaii, Mrs. Dawn Ige, Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Mayor of Kauai – Bernard Calvalho, Mayor of Candon, Ilocos Sur, Philippines – Mayor Ericson Singson, MD and others. Al Waterson emceed this special evening and Bernadette Dario Fajardo was awarded the 2018 Excellence in Civic Service Award Presentation.

The Hyatt Regency Hotel in Waikiki will kick off the holiday season with their tree lighting ceremony on November 30 at 5 p.m. in the center area of the hotel – ground level. Jordan Segundo will be the emcee for this festive occasion and the public is welcome.

Happy Thanksgiving! It's a time to be grateful for family, friends and life!

For now, That's Entertainment!

By NANCY BERNAL

Sheryn Regis provided a great concert on October 20 at The Farrington High School Auditorium accompanied by her husband, Earl on keyboards. Presented by V & V Productions, Sheryn celebrated fifteen years of success in the entertainment industry with performances around the world. Much to her delight, a surprise ceremony of fifteen roses presented by male friends onstage and fifteen candles presented by female friends onstage was the finale of the show along with a special video. Another unexpected treat for the audience was a special duet performance of “The Prayer” by Jordan Segundo and Sheryn Regis. Jordan and Sheryn performed on the mainland together years ago and have remained good friends. It was a wonderful evening for Sheryn and the audience.

Congratulations to Lyric Medeiros – Winner of the KITV4 “Island Idol” Silver Ticket singing competition. Lyric was one of six finalists chosen by a panel of judges that made it to the final round of performing at Windward Mall on October 20. By popular vote, Lyric was awarded the Grand Prize of an audition in front of the “American Idol” producers in early November in L.A. along with roundtrip airfare transportation for two and hotel accommodations. Inspired by her father, Glenn Medeiros (Pop Star from the 80's), this talented seventeen year old young lady is following in his footsteps as a singer. Winning a singing competition launched Glenn’s career when he was a teen and this competition may also open doors for Lyric’s future as a professional singer.

A Top Seven Finalist from the 2018 “American Idol” Season – Jurnee - was in Hawaii in October as a Special Guest Entertainer in The Gay Pride Festival in Honolulu. Jurnee lives in Colorado and enjoyed her first visit to the 50th State. During her stay, she visited the KITV4 Morning Show, since “American Idol” airs on the ABC station. Former “American Idol” Finalist, Jordan Segundo had the pleasure of hosting the interview with her. Jurnee loves Hawaii and hopes to return next year.

Kelly Hu (Internationally and Nationally-Acclaimed Actress) hosted The Best Buddies “Friendship Jam” with Emcee – Al Waterson on October 17 at The Artistry. It was a very successful fundraiser for this non-profit organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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Happy Thanksgiving! It’s a time to be grateful for family, friends and life!

For now, That’s Entertainment!

If you would like to submit entertainment information, please contact Nancy Bernal at 947-5736 or e-mail her at NancyBernal@aol.com
Have you ever wondered who are those highway volunteers picking up litter along the 2-mile stretch of highway from Kalihi Street and Dillingham Boulevard up to Likelike Highway near the Kalihi Valley? They are members of the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC), the United Filipino Community Council (UFCH), and various unit member organizations. These volunteers, wearing bright orange safety vests, walk along the side of the road filling their trash bags with everything from fast-food wrappings and plastic and styrofoam cups and containers to worn-out tires, dilapidated bicycles, old car batteries, clothing, plastic bags, and other trash of all sorts and odors. They do this to help keep our aina, roadways, and environment clean and litter-free.

In partnership with the Department of Transportation’s (DOT) State Highways Division, this Adopt-a-Highway Litter Control Project is a public service undertaken by the OFCC pursuant to Resolution 2010-001 adopted in 2010. The quarterly project was proposed by past OFCC presidents Amado Yoro, Felipe “Jun” Abinsay, and Danny Villaruz at the UFCH Convention in Lahaina, Maui. DOT provides free orange vests and trash bags, and arranges to haul away the trash. Interested groups or individuals who would like to volunteer their time may contact the DOT’s Adopt-a-Highway at 831-6712.

OFCC/UFCH Help to Keep Aina Litter Free

Litter and trash are picked up by volunteers along a two-mile stretch along Kalihi Street to Likelike Highway.
CATHEDRAL OF PRAISE

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FILCOM CENTER CELEBRATES 16th ANNUAL BAYANIHAN GALA

The Filipino Community Center, which is nestled in the historic town of Waipahu, held its 16th annual Bayanihan Gala on October 13, 2018, with community leaders in attendance.

The event was held at the Filcom Center to showcase the center as a gathering place in the West Oahu corridor, where it has been a witness to family and community life since it was inaugurated in 2002.

This year, the Gala’s theme was “Celebrating the Joys of Service”, and the Center honored four deserving recipients: Community leader Cecilia Villafuerte, former YMCA executive Don Anderson, community Advocate Nic Musico and the group Himig at Indak, which, in addition to being the resident musical group at Filcom, also volunteer their services at the Center.

Also presented with awards of recognition were Consuelo Foundation, Eddie and Elaine Flores and Roland Casamina (which was received by daughter Celine Casamina).

As in prior years, the proceeds of the event are intended for Filcom’s annual operations.

Filcom’s mission is to develop, own and operate a community center that provides social, economic and education services and to promote and perpetuate Filipino culture and customs in the State of Hawaii.

PHOTO CREDITS: Mark Salondaka and Gabe De Liso

By BENNETTE ESPINELI MISALUCHA

One of the awardees was Himig at Indak, a group that has been a loyal supporter of Filcom from inception. Led by Roland and Edith Pascua, it also donates any funds they raise back to Filcom.

Leaders from Consuelo Foundation with board members AJ Halagao and Bennette Misalucha

Maggie Domingo with Cecilia Villafuerte, one of the awardees.

One of the awardees was Himig at Indak, a group that has been a loyal supporter of Filcom from inception. Led by Roland and Edith Pascua, it also donates any funds they raise back to Filcom.
Former Filcom Executive Director Toy Arre, Maria Jo Farina and Anita Acohido.

Awardee Nic Musico flanked by Filcom Executive Director Donnie Juan and Chair of the Board Edmund Aczon.

The team from Kaiser Permanente

Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Emme Tomimbang, Mary Rivera, Tim Johns

Celine Casamina accepts a plaque of appreciation on behalf of her father Roland Casamina, from Filcom Executive Director Donnie Juan.

Eddie and Elaine Flores accepted a plaque of appreciation from Filcom Chair Edmund Aczon. The Flores’s couple presented a check for $250,000 to the Filcom that night.

Roland Pascua, one of the leaders of Himig and Indak expressed appreciation for the group’s support.
Did you know that October is Filipino American History month? Not many people do. Filipino American History month was first introduced in 1992 by Dr. Fred and Dr. Dorothy Cordova. Then, later acknowledged through a resolution by the United States Congress in 2009.

According to the Filipino American National Historical Society, Filipinos arrived in California in the late 1500's, and are the second largest Asian American Group in the U.S. Yet, despite the large and extensive presence, Filipino Americans as part of this movement and acknowledgement of their history was helping my “woke” me up about my ethnicity and culture and my awakening from my parents. I attribute this to wear, food to eat, and roof over our heads, clothes time away from us, their experiences deeply affected physically, I still felt their presence. My parents labored diligently and were always on the go. They sacrificed their children so we could have a roof over our heads, clothes to wear, food to eat, and educational opportunities. These childhood experiences deeply affected me and shaped me. As I witnessed my parents’ struggles and challenges, I have gained good work ethics, values, and learned the importance of being resilient when obstacles occur. In addition, my parents did a great job at making sure that my siblings and I never felt any less, especially through financial difficulties. As an adult today, I am grateful to my parents, Federico Ramos and Susana Ramos, for not only giving me the gift of education, but the gift of hope. Through their own time and humbly begginings, they have allowed me to reach for my dreams and aspirations.

Jennifer Padua. My children and I had the honor to volunteer with the UH Manoa’s College of Education Student Association and Varona Village residents to repaint the bus shelter in Ewa Plantation.

The bus shelter is a gathering place for the village. It not only provides much needed shade, but it is also a comfortable place to sit for bus riders. On this day, we had history lessons. We learned how Varona Village residents have been waiting for decades for the city to help revitalize their homes.

We also learned about the history of the Sakadas, how Manny Pacquiao is a positive role model beyond his athletic ability, and how food, language and strong work values are being passed from one generation to the next in this neighborhood, which is predominantly Filipino.

I also witnessed the generosity of residents who voluntarily bought ladders, paint supplies, and provided food and water for the volunteers.

There were many people to thank for their contributions to this Varona Village service project: CESA members, Dr. Agnes Malate, Akeyo and Amanda Garcia, Luz Tapaoan, Crescencica Malate, Harmony Calamaan, Jared and Shayla Somera, and Cheyenne Blue. As educators, we bring these stories to you as a way of sharing the impact of Filipinos in our lives and in the community. We invite you to spread your personal and professional narratives of how Filipino Americans contribute to the history of the U.S.

**Authors BIOS**

**Talissa Noriega** is an undergraduate student in the College of Education, majoring in Elementary Education and Multilingual Learners (MLL). Talissa is expected to graduate in May 2019. She is from the diverse place that is the Bay Area in California and hopes her degree will inspire and motivate our future students.

**Diane Ramos** is an undergraduate student in the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (UHM), majoring in General Elementary Education with an expected graduation date of May 2019. Diane is a UHM Regents and Presidential Scholar recipient and one of the executive board members for the College of Education Student Association.

**Jennifer M.F. Padua,** Ph.D., is an instructor at the Institute for Teacher Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. Her professional experiences include working in Hawai‘i and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. Currently, she works with teacher candidates who are pursuing their undergraduate degrees and professional teaching license in elementary education.
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With Towers of Koho Park scholars and management team of Michaels Development

At Farrington High School, which has been converted to a shelter for affected residents during Hurricane Lane.

Attended St. John, the Baptist School graduation.

Some important legislations he authored & passed over the years-

- Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) that further enhanced Hawaii tourism industry.
- Operation Nightingale—a bill that resolved Hawaii’s critical nursing shortage.
- Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund—saved reinsurance premiums about $230 million
- RPT Reduction—Reduced a 4-fold increase in Residential Property Tax (RPT) in Commercial/Industrial zoned areas from $3.75 to $3.50 per $1000.00.
- Sandy Beach Case—Resolved case to save over $200 Million dollars

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JEREMY ZAMAN (RA)
(808) 229-7081