STATEWIDE COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Compiled 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 "Amelia Casamina Cabatu 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, Amy.

FEBRUARY 11, 2018
Lady in Red Ball in conjunction with the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) STERLING BANQUET. Honoring the TOPS "Ten Outstanding Filipino Students" & the OFCC Sterling Scholar. Hokulei Ballroom at Dole Cannery in Iwilei. 6:00 - 11:00 pm Contact Person: Event Chair, Zhoclyd Magossay (808) 478-8962 (TOPS) Alyin Parudur Lum (808) 226-1228, Co-Chairs - Engala Pagaosum (808) 258-8542, Evelyn Muzikami (808) 372-6326

MARCH 4, 2018
The Fil-Am Courier Community Hour on 1270 KNDI AM Radio with your host Amelia Casamina Cabatu 9:30 – 10:30 PM Hawaii Standard Time. Special guest appearances with community news and events. Contact Person: Amelia Casamina Cabatu 282-2033

MARCH 10, 2018
Gumii Hawaii and Anak Ti Kalikasan ti America (AKA) Presents: FIESTA ILOCANDIA 2018 Pomaikai’s Ballroom at the Dole Cannery iwesti 735 Iwilei Road Honolulu, HI Cost: $65.00 It’s the Grand Coronation of Ilocana Fiesta Queens and launching of the latest book published by GUMIL entitled “Rangtay” (Bridge). Contact Persons: Pacita Saludes 799-6678; Frobel Garcia 386-6857. Raymond Sebastien 799-6670; Lilo Del Rosario 389-4650

MARCH 21, 2018
Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCC) Annual Golf Tournament Awa Golf Course. 484 Kapahulu Ave Honolulu, HI Contact Person: Eddie Agas 733-3227

MAY 5, 2018
26th Annual Filipino Fiesta & Parade 2018 Venue to be determined 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. For more information, contact the Fil-Com Center (808) 680-0451

MAY 26, 2018
Philippine Nurses Association of Hawaii (PNAH) Induction Gala Aia Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom. 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI 6:00 PM Contact Person: Erlinda Ferret 121-1501, Ramon Sumibcay 489-7148

JUNE 2, 2018
Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii (PCCCH) in cooperation with the Philippine Consulate General Honolulu celebrates Philippine Independence Day Gala Sheraton Hotel & Resorts Waikiki. 6:00 PM. Themes: Celebrating the Culture, Fashion and the Arts of the Philippines. For more information and sponsorship opportunities, Contact Bennett Misalucha (808) 398-5988, Cecilia Villafuerte (808) 780-4985

JULY 14, 2018
Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Installation Gala Von Hawaiian Village Resorts 2005 Kalia Road Waikiki, Coral Ballrooms 1, 2, & 3, 6:30 PM Contact Person: Blas Del Rosario 389-0517; Vanesa Kap 256-0370; Gala Graziano 999-9805; Co-Chairs 808-780-4985

JANUARY 23, 2018
Filipino Consulate General Honolulu is hosting an "Aloha Welcome Reception" for Tarlac City Mayor Cristina Angeles and her delegation at the Philippine Consulate General Honolulu 9:30 PM Special request for all the Tarlac organization leaders to contact May Mizuno at 588-6950 for more information.

JAN. 29 – FEB. 12, 2018
Kannawidian 2018 Bicentennial Ilokano Grand Reunion, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur Philippines Special Participation by the ISAH (Ilocos Suran Association of Hawaii) on January 31, 2018 President Elpidio Quirino Humanitarian & Leadership Awards. Vigan Convention Center Awards: Mrs. Maria Elstra, Amado Yoro, Former Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson and Congressman DV Savellano. For more information Contact: Danny Villaruz 778-0233

JANUARY 31, 2018
Quad Chamber Financial Seminar presented by First Hawaiian Bank at the First Hawaiian Bank Bishop Street 6th Floor Cafeteria 6:00 PM Registration Form: 6:30 PM Presentation Free to members with seats limited to 25 members per Chamber Refreshments will be served & Complimentary validated parking (entrance on Merchant Street). Please RSVP to your respective Chambers by January 22, 2018. Filipino Chamber of Commerce: Brandon Dela Cruz 389-0517, Chinese Chamber of Commerce: Lucia Liang 533-3811, Korean Chamber of Commerce: Daniel Puy 526-0899, Japanese Chamber of Commerce: Wayne Ishihara 949-5531

JANUARY 31, 2018
Workforce Career Fair hosted by the Neal Blaisdell Center 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Blaisdell Exhibition Hall, Suites 1-12, Blaisdell Center 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. For more information and sponsorship opportunities, Contact Billingio Misalucha 938-5988, Korea Chamber of Commerce: Lucia Liang 533-3811, Korean Chamber of Commerce: Daniel Puy 526-0899, Japanese Chamber of Commerce: Wayne Ishihara 949-5531

FEBRUARY 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

FEB. 7 – MAY 30, 2018
NCLEX Nursing Licensure Review Classes, Every Wednesday, 4:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Tech Center from 4:30-8:30 PM. Contact Person: Bea Ramos-Razon (808) 778-6291, $100 Registration Fee. Visit www.filcom.org to download Registration Form

FEBRUARY 10, 2018
Tekniqlingz 10th Anniversary Kultura Filipino Night Gala: 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Doors open at 5:00 PM. Tekniqlingz Community Center, 94-428 Mokuola Street Waipahu, HI. Contact Person: Bea Ramos-Razon (808) 778-6291, $65 Registration Fee. Visit our website www.tekniqlingz.org

FEBRUARY 18, 2018
JANUARY 27, 2018
Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii 2018 Awards & Installation Gala Registration 5:00 PM. Program begins at 5:30 PM Polo Lawn Landing Resort at Popu on Kauai. Cost: Chamber members: $65.00, Non-Members $75.00, $75.00 after January 24 and at the door. Attire: Filipina Wear on Black & White. Program will be recognition of 2018 Awardees & Installation of Board Members Guest Speaker: The Honorable ROVY ANNE DIPAYA CARRYING SON MARVY & BOYFRIEND MARIO GARCIA (FRONT COVER JANUARY 2018 ISSUE) WITH MARIA ETRATA, PRESIDENT ELPIDIO QUIRINO HUMANITARIAN & LEADERSHIP AWARDEE WITH CHARMAINE, AMELIA, ESPI AND VANESSA
January 13, 2018 started out like any other Saturday in Hawai‘i nei. Many families left their homes early to ferry their children to the ubiquitous soccer, basketball or volleyball game, their minds likely filled with thoughts about the potluck to be shared after the game. Some were already at the beach, or hiking, or exercising, or expending physical energies in all forms, all ultimately enjoying the beautiful Hawai‘i weather that other states envy at this time of the year. A number of residents must have been shopping at their friendly supermarket near by, and as they pushed their grocery cards through the maze of colorfully packaged ingredients, they mentally checked off the ingredients for adobo or lumpia, preparations necessary for the family picnic later that day. Others, however, were still lounging in bed, exhausted after working the late shift, or perhaps feeling a little beaten, after a Friday all-night of partying.

It was after all, a long weekend, and people were all looking forward to the promise that long weekends normally bring.

As we all know, shortly after 8:00 am, an emergency alert was inadvertently sent by the Department of Civil Defense, advising people about an incoming ballistic missile that was headed for Hawai‘i on that fateful Saturday. For 38 long minutes, there was limbo on whether the threat was real. Thankfully, the fears were eased as the word was released, that it was all a grievous mistake.

As we go to press, government officials, from the federal to the state to the counties, have asked for some accountability: who committed the error, how such an error of this magnitude could have been committed without some review, and most important of all, how can we ensure that it does not happen again.

And we say as all pray that something disastrous of this magnitude never happens, preparation for any kind of disaster—whether nature-generated or provoked by men—is ultimately, an objective for all of us.

LEADING IN TIMES OF THREATS, IN TIMES OF CHANGE

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Like goal posts in our collective history, we are certain that this unforgettable day, will be etched in our minds as a very long period. Where were you when the ballistic missile alert was sent?—those stories will likely be shared by the office cooler, or while sitting on Costco beach chairs on the soccer field, or at the next family gathering.

So in this issue of the Fil-Am Courier, we asked readers to share their stories with us in our Communi- ty Pulse column, as gathered by our Assistant Editor Radiant Cordero. Check out whether your reaction mirrors those that were shared.

The mistaken-alert story highlights what we in Hawai‘i already are aware of: we are living amidst a time of threat, a time of change. The socio-political dynamics in Asia has dramatically changed in the past eighteen months and the threat to our national security has increased. One can argue that sure, change is inevitable and that threats are always part of our lives. Yes, they are.

But what makes them tolerable is good leadership.

I am reminded of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was our Rock of Gibraltar during the Second World War. During his radio broadcasts, called Fireside Chats, President Roosevelt prepared the nation psychologically for the inevitable loss of lives that war usually brings. His calm voice became a source of comfort for many. His soothing manner of speaking gave people assurance that there was a steady hand on the wheel.

A good question to ask is: do we have good leadership at the helm? From the White House to the state, to the counties, can we count on our leaders to have a steady hand at the wheel?

In the Garden Isle, change— good change—is also coming to the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce. And what makes everyone appreciate these changes are dynamic leaders like past President Bobby Ayonon and incoming President Laurie Yoshida.

These new set of officers for the Kauai Filipino Chamber will be installed on January 27, 2018 at 5:00 pm during an Installation gala to be held at the Kolua Landing Resort at Poipu Beach.

The past two years brought positive milestones to the organization, under the leadership of Ayonon, who instituted some needed reforms. Incoming President Yoshida hopes to build upon these changes to move the Chamber forward.

The Fil-Am Courier is proud to share this cover story of the dynamic leadership that will propel the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce to greater heights. We support the efforts of the Kauai Filipino Chamber, one of the stalwart business organizations in this beautiful Island, and its officers and members who work hard to bring all the plans into fruition.

Congratulations to both Ayonon and Yoshida for their commitment to the community and for blazing leadership trails.

Surely, in this, the Chamber’s time of change, we welcome their steady hand on the wheel.
KAUA'I FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAI'I
Bringing Business Focus First

BY BENNETTE ESPINELI MISALUCHA
Fil-Am Courier Managing Editor

There is excitement in the air at the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. The last two years under the leadership of businessman Bobby Ayonon has established a solid framework for the organization, and now as Incoming President Laurie Yoshida takes over the helm, folks on the Garden Isle are banking on the promise that Yoshida, the first non-Filipino to lead the Chamber, will bring a new perspective as well as her wealth of corporate and community experience to the forefront, and set new heights for the Kauai Filipino Chamber.

The 2018-2019 officers will be installed this month during an evening gala on Saturday, January 27, 2017 at Koloa Landing Resort in Poipu. The event starts at 5 pm with cocktails and Kauai's government, business and civic Who's Who are expected to attend the prestigious gathering. Newly-installed State Transportation Director Jade Butay will be the keynote speaker at the gala. During the event, the Chamber will also recognize outstanding local Kauai businesses.

The Kauai Filipino Chamber celebrates its 17th anniversary this month and was established, not only to help promote businesses on Kauai but also to bring the "best opportunities for leadership, personal development, volunteerism and community service." It is a 100% volunteer organization.

The group meets quarterly, usually during the last week of the month with speakers that have been invited from all over the State.

Amongst the many activities it sponsors is the Scholarship Golf Tournament which raises scholarship funds for deserving Kauai students of Filipino ancestry. The tournament was started in 2001 and has now become a signature event for those wanting to support the program. The KFCC scholarship program has awarded more than $100,000 to students from various college disciplines as well as vocational trades.

One of KFCC's milestones the last few years is their contribution to the community wide effort to build a Filipino Cultural Center which will be a gathering place for all on the Garden Isle. This had been a dream of many, and with strong support, the dream will soon become reality with the first phase of the Center already under construction in Lihue. When the Kauai Filipino Chamber had donated $37,000 gross.

More recently, KFCC has focused on fundraising purposes. Third, the Chamber has put forth a gathering place for all on the Garden Isle. This had been a dream of many, and with strong support, the dream will soon become reality with the first phase of the Center already under construction in Lihue. Towards this end, the Kauai Filipino Chamber had donated $30,000 to this effort. It is the largest contribution thus far from a Kauai-based Filipino organization.

The Chamber has also been invaluable in organizing forums on timely and relevant topics that affect the community. During elections, for instance, they had sponsored candidate forums that have helped educate voters on making appropriate choices.

Throughout his life, Ayonon said that he has always been the guy who comes from behind and surprises everyone with what he has accomplished. “When I make a decision to do something, I pretty much can overcome challenges. I push, I pull, I don’t wait for things to just happen. People get tired of me and my persistence, so in the end, things get done.”

Ayonon led the Chamber for two years (2016-2018), and as he hands over the mantle of responsibility to incoming President Laurie Yoshida, there are certainly accomplishments he can point to that were quite remarkable.

He pointed to three things that his team had put on the books: “We were able to update the Chamber’s by-laws so now we are sure that our governance structure is on solid ground. Second, the Chamber now has a Chamber Foundation which is important for fundraising purposes. Third, we raised the most money in the history of the Scholarship Golf Tournament, to the tune of $37,000 gross.”

Two years ago, Ayonon also initiated a new program called “Business on the Week-end”, which drew potential members to join. The concept capitalizes on giving new businesses an opportunity to tell their story. “Everyone has a gift of knowledge to share,” Ayonon explained, “and the Membership Committee has really taken that concept and ran with it.”

Ayonon acknowledged the help of the Committee Chairs who worked hard to make it happen, including Norma Doctor Sparks for the By-laws and...
The virtues of community service became even more emphasized when Yoshida served as President of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce (1995-1999) and more so, when she got selected as one of the second class of the Pacific Century Fellows program.

"At the Kauai Chamber, I became exposed to broader aspects of our workings of our community. The PCF program allowed me to understand the contexts of how everything is related in our community."

Yoshida became active in the Chamber in 2015 and was recruited by Marynell Valenzuela and Lesther Calipjo, who she knew from various affiliations on Kauai. She credited Past President Eddie Topenio for having the foresight to do a strategic planning session which laid out the present needs of the organization, and also laid out a vision for the future.

"Immediate Past President Ayonon took the anchor goals and implemented them the past two years. He deserves the credit for those," Yoshida said.

"Now that we are more organized, we can move forward to implement the more aspirational aspects of our strategic plan. There is so much more that the Chamber can do. We want to provide educational opportunities to our members, especially to those small businesses who may not be able to have access to training opportunities on topics that will make their business stronger," Yoshida explained.

"I would like the Chamber to serve as a strong advocate for businesses and for our community. We need to make sure our government officials listen to our issues, and understand our challenges."

"I also want to ensure that our members participate in the electoral process. It is sad that there is apathy and only a small part of the community usually weighs in during elections. The business community can take the lead in turning things around. I do not mean endorsing, because the Chamber will not do that this election. But the chamber has to be the center point for information so our Chamber members can make informed decisions."

"And of course, the Chamber has to help preserve the culture," she added.

Yoshida feels close to the Filipino culture as her husband, Vernon is half-Filipino; his mother, Faye Sarita has roots in both Ilocos Norte and Cebu. Yoshida had visited the Philippines at least three times with her family. "I love visiting the country. I love the food and the scenery. My favorite cities are Tagaytay and Manila."

Laurie and Vernon have two children: Chris, 28 who got recently engaged and is a manager at Kauai Backcountry Adventures, and Brittney, 19, a sophomore at UNLV.

All the Chamber’s lofty goals may intimidate those with weak resolve, but not Yoshida, who had cut her leadership teeth through such prestigious leadership programs like Rotary International. She became first involved with Rotary in 2001 and rose to become Rotary District Governor for the State in 2011-2012.

Yoshida also owned and operated a successful consulting company which specialized in event planning and community outreach and en
engagement services. She served as the Governor’s Liaison from 2003-2010.

Today, Yoshida is the Communications manager for DuPont Pioneer in Hawaii. She serves on the Kauai County Cost Control Commission and volunteers for numerous community groups and advocacies.

When asked about what challenges she faces at the Chamber this year, Yoshida was unequivocal: “We need to beef up our membership. It is not as easy as it sounds, because membership is actually linked to many aspects of our organization. We need to bring value to be able to attract new members. The businesses need to see the value of our voice. We have to determine what opportunities the chamber can provide so people would want to join. And bottom line, our membership is linked to our budget and our long term viability,” Yoshida added.

Yoshida feels blessed to have a strong board who understand the journey that needs to be navigated. “This is a 100% volunteer organization. The challenge for any leader is motivating people — who are leaders in their own right — to fully support the Chamber’s objectives. The key is finding out what they are passionate about, and aligning those passions with the Chamber’s needs. I am committed to have a fully-engaged, vibrant Chamber board that is attuned to the community’s needs. My experiences have taken me this far. I am ready.”

For more information about the Kauai Filipino Chamber’s installation gala, please contact Juno Apalla at junoapalla@gmail.com or by visiting the website at kauaifilipinochamber.org.

We bid aloha to one of our most prolific columnists at the Fil-Am Courier, Dr. Alfred Sison. Dr. Sison is a licensed clinical psychologist who has written regularly for the Courier since July 1, 2014.

In his column, A Piece of Mind, Dr. Sison has tackled such issues as depression, meditation, dealing with stress and leading healthy lifestyles.

In the first column he ever wrote for the Courier, he discussed the “Art of Letting Go”. He quoted the writer Ann Landers who said: “Some people believe holding on and hanging in there are signs of great strength. However, there are times when it takes much more strength to know when to let go and then do it.”

Dr. Sison further wrote in that column, “Why do you think it’s so hard for people to let go and trust that maybe life has better plans for us?”

How apt, even as we bid aloha to Dr. Sison as he pursues other endeavors in his career. We have certainly benefited from his wisdom and knowledge throughout the past three and a half years. We will miss him and his sage advice but we wish him well on his life’s journeys.

Mahalo, Dr. Sison!
Thank you for your business and continued support!

Selling or Buying in Hawaii or the Philippines, call us today!

PACIFIC CENTURY REALTY

DAVID CORDERO (R)
CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES, CNE
Principal Broker

MARY CORDERO (RA)
CRS, GRI
Laurie Yoshida is currently the Communications Manager for DuPont Pioneer in Hawaii. Laurie has extensive experience in communications and community relations on Kauai. Prior to joining DuPont Pioneer, Laurie owned and operated a successful consulting firm, offering event planning and community outreach and engagement services for more than 14 years on Kauai. She was the Governor’s Liaison for Kauai during the Lingle Administration from 2003-2010 and is a former President of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce from 1994-1999. Laurie is also a Past District Governor for Rotary in Hawaii. She serves on the Cost Control Commission for the County of Kauai. She also volunteers in numerous community groups and organizations. Born and raised in Hawaii, Laurie has spent many years advocating on behalf of several organizations on many issues.

VP – VONELL RAMOS

Vonn Ramos is currently the Executive Director of Hale Opio Kauai’s Inc. A member of the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce since 2009, Vonn will be taking the role of Vice President for the years 2018-2019. Vonn is a Past Social and Scholarship Committee Chair. Von enjoys volunteering and Zumba.

SEC – EVELYN RILEY

Rose Ramos-Benzel has been on the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce Board for two years and is currently the Assistant Secretary. She returned to Kauai in 2014 when she was recruited by the University of Hawaii Foundation for the Director of Development position at Kauai Community College, where she raises private funds for scholarships, programs and special projects. Rose has over 30 years of marketing experience, and had her own marketing firm on Kauai from 1992-97. She was Co-Chair and Publicity Co-Chair of the Visitor Industry Charity Walk in 1996. In addition, she served as Co-Chair and Publicity Co-Chair of Kauai’s Aloha Thanksgiving Feast, an event that fed 10,000 people after Hurricane Iniki. From 2004 – 10, Rose owned an award-winning gourmet confection company. She is on the Board of Directors for the Rotary Club of Kauai and teaches PIYO at Hoola Fitness and at Kauai Community College.

TREASURER – JUNO APALLA

Robert “Bobby” Ayonon is the Assistant Treasurer 2016-2018 and Chair for the Scholarship Committee 2014-2018 for the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce. She has been involved in the chamber for 15 years and has served on the board for the past 10 years in various capacities as Secretary for 4 years and Assistant Secretary for 4 years. Besides serving on the KFCC, Cyndi serves as the Vice Chair of the Board for the Kauai Government Employees Federal Credit Union. She has been on the board for the past 5 years and served in various positions. Prior to serving on the Board, Cyndi served as the Chair of the Marketing Committee and has volunteered for the credit union for over 29 years. After graduating from the University of Hawaii, Manoa with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Journalism and Minor in Radio Broadcasting, Cyndi was the news editor for the UH student newspaper, Ka Leo and interned at KKUA radio. She worked for the City & County of Honolulu part-time for the Transportation Department in public relations particularly to inform the community about the proposed rail mass transit system. A fulltime public relations position opened up at Meadow Gold Dairies where she worked for 10 years prior to moving back home to Kauai where she was raised. She worked as the County Public Information Officer under former Mayor Tony Kunimura, was a News Reporter for KONG radio, as a Legislative Analyst for 19 years for the Kauai County Council and since 2008 is currently the Administrative Assistant to Kauai Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr. Cyndi is married to husband, Bobby and they have a son, Colby who has returned from college in Portland, Oregon and since then, along with his wife Maja, has expanded their business, Kauai Airconditioning and Refrigeration. The Ayonons want to travel to the Philippines this year.

Asst. Treasurer – Cyndi Ayonon

Robert “Bobby” Ayonon is the Immediate Past President of the KFCC and served as its President for the past two years 2016-2018. He became involved as a member of the chamber 15 years ago. He served on the board as Vice President 2014-2016 and has been actively involved in the Scholarship Committee for the past four years. Bobby also serves on the County of Kauai Workforce Investment Act Board as its Chair and initiated the first Apprenticeship Recognition Day in conjunction with WIA Administrator Kaeo Bradford, and Kauai Community College last year. Bobby graduated from Honolulu Community College in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration and has taught at KCC. His goal is to offer more skills and opportunities for our youth. In 2010 Bobby received the KFCC Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding Entrepreneurship. He considers the following as his mentors: former KFCC Executive Director and founder Oscar Portugal, Past President Ernesto Passion, Board Members Dr. Amilullo Diaz, Eugene Jimenez and Past President Marynel Valenzuela.

DIRECTORS:

Laurie Yoshida

Angel Acorda has been involved with the Kauai Filipino chamber of commerce for the past 17 years and currently serves as a director. He chaired the annual golf tournament scholarship fund raising last year, the only fundraising event of the KFCC. Currently, Angel works at HPHA, LLC, providing building maintenance for the island of Kauai. He is very involved with the community and volunteers as a board member and chair of the land site committee for the Kauai Philippine Cultural Center, a member of the board of Governors for the United Filipino Community council (2017 -2019) as well as East Kauai Lions club First Vice President. For the last sixteen years, Angel has served as the President of the Bacarrenos of Kauai and was recently named as the new President of the Immaculate Conception Church Filipino Catholic club.

EMMA LAUDENDECKER

Emma Laudendecker is a Director with the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce and has been with the organization since her arrival in Kauai just under four years ago. She became active with KFCC because she is an entrepreneur and also wants to learn more about the history of Filipinos in Hawaii. Born in the Philippines, Emma grew up in California and she has come to recognize that Filipinos in Hawaii have unique concerns living here on the islands and would like to help. She looks forward to working with KFCC to provide solutions to the issues that our community faces. Emma uses her negotiation experience and people skills in real estate transactions with her company, Aloha Houses Kauai, at KW Kauai Realty in Lihue.
Chuck Lasker has been a Kauai Filipino Chamber member since 2011, and a Director since 2016. A former electrical engineer, Chuck has been an online marketing consultant for over 20 years. As owner of Social Kauai, Chuck helps Hawaii organizations get results from their online presence by improving or creating their website, advising on social media, and optimizing for search engines. Chuck has been married since 1982 with two adult sons. Active in the community, Chuck helped found Kauai nonprofit, Keiki to Career Kauai, served as Vice President of the Board of the Kauai Independent Food Bank, serves on the PR Committee of Kauai United Way, and volunteers with Kauai Community Players, Women in Theatre, Kumu’s Cupboard, Kauai Guildas Backpack and Holiday Brigades, and the Lights on Rice Parade. Chuck is a member of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce, and Director of the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce.

MIKE MARTINEZ

Mike Martinez has served as a Kauai Filipino Chamber board member for five years. He took a year break and is now back on the board. He helped sponsor the Vocational Scholarship and is a committee member for the Business on the Weekend (BOW). Mike also serves as Chair for the Kauai County Fire Commission and was re-appointed to a second term by the County Council. In addition, Mike is active in the Kauai Chamber of Commerce, where he volunteers as a member of the Small Business Committee. A member of the Kapaa Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mike retired from the US Army after serving for 20 years. Mike and his beautiful wife Wendy moved to Kauai eight years ago and started his own State Farm Insurance business in Kapaa. They have been married for 34 years and they are blessed with three children and eight grandchildren.

CRISTETA OWAN

Born and raised in the Philippines, Cristeta Owan earned her BBA degree with an emphasis in accounting from LMU in Los Angeles. She worked as an accountant in a private and non-profit organization on the mainland and in Kauai prior to joining the KFCC in 2008. Cristeta served both as an asst. Treasurer or Treasurer for a number of years and most recently, a Director. Her entrepreneurial skill has blossomed while with the chamber where she was recognized as an “entrepreneurial” spirit as well as an outstanding officer of the year. As an Enrolled Agent since 2003, owns and operates a successful tax preparation business, Paradise Tax & Accounting Services LLC, which serves over 500 clients and growing every year. With her husband, Alan, they had been in the franchise business for over 10 years which include their Subway stores and commercial cleaning business. They are blessed with three wonderful children, Cara, Ryan & Erica and a very precious granddaughter, Chassity Rae, who is currently in kindergarten.

EMILY MANUEL

Marynel Valenzuela has been involved with the Filipino Chamber for the past 12 years, serving as its President from 2012-2013. She is currently the president and owner of Inkspot Quality Printing Corporation, a commercial print shop in Lihue, serving Kauai for 30 years. Marynel is also the founder and owner of the signature red carpet event, Kauai Fashion Weekend / KFW Hawaii. She is the division head of Fiscal & Billing sections. She is currently employed as Waterworks Controller of the Department of Water, County of Kauai. She is the division head of Fiscal operations overseeing the Accounting and Customer Care & Billing sections. She is currently serving her 2nd year as a board member of the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce (KFCC). She served as Assistant Treasurer of the chamber in 2015 and as Treasurer in 2016-2017. She has been a member of the KFCC since 2008 representing her company as managing and co-owner of two Subway franchise stores, Subway Lihue and Subway Hokulei. Running the two Subway stores brings her rewarding challenges as she trains and coaches young adults and new immigrants who are new comers into the workforce. To her, watching them transform and become responsible adults and accomplished workers is very gratifying. She enjoys ballroom dancing and PiYO classes with her business partner and husband, Thomas D. Yano, ESQ.

MARITES YANO

Marynel Valenzuela serves as a Director for KFCC, and has been involved in the Chamber since 2015. She has been involved in the Kauai County Emergency Medical Services. Starting out as a Navy Corpsman, he is a State and nationally certified EMT with 24 years of experience for AMR and its predecessor companies. He also has a B.S. degree in business management. Mr. Villanueva is a member of the State Health Planning and Development Agency Kauai Sub-area Council and a member of the Kauai’s Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition. Amongst his many affiliations are the Wilcox Hospital stroke committee, Hawaii health system corporation-Kauai region board member, HHSC Kauai region CQI committee, Kauai fil-am chamber of commerce board member, Prevent suicide task force, Violence prevention coalition, child death review board, and the Kauai fire dept. EMS committee.

TITO VILLANEUVA

Tito Villanuev has been involved with the Kauai Filipino Chamber for the past 12 years, serving as its President from 2012-2013. He is currently the president and owner of Inkspot Quality Printing Corporation, a commercial print shop in Lihue, serving Kauai for 30 years. Marynel is also the founder and owner of the signature red carpet event, Kauai Fashion Weekend / KFW Hawaii. She is the division head of Fiscal & Billing sections. She is currently employed as Waterworks Controller of the Department of Water, County of Kauai. She is the division head of Fiscal operations overseeing the Accounting and Customer Care & Billing sections. She is currently serving her 2nd year as a board member of the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce (KFCC). She served as Assistant Treasurer of the chamber in 2015 and as Treasurer in 2016-2017. She has been a member of the KFCC since 2008 representing her company as managing and co-owner of two Subway franchise stores, Subway Lihue and Subway Hokulei. Running the two Subway stores brings her rewarding challenges as she trains and coaches young adults and new immigrants who are new comers into the workforce. To her, watching them transform and become responsible adults and accomplished workers is very gratifying. She enjoys ballroom dancing and PiYO classes with her business partner and husband, Thomas D. Yano, ESQ.

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Asst Sec: Evelyn Riley
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Asst Treasurer:  Juno Apalla
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Addison Bulosan
Emma Laudendecker
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Emily Manuel
Mike Martinez
Cristeta Owan
Eddie Topenio
Marynel Valenzuela
Tito Villaneuva

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Community Pulse

Ballistic Missile Threat: Reactions, Actions, and Lessons Learned

Terry Dellapenna

My original plans were to relax at home and do some household chores. After I received the updated news on the “Ballistic Missile Inbound to Hawai’i” being a false alarm, I began reading other Facebook posts relating to the situation, which included people’s reactions and the government officials’ responses. Also, my cousin (Mary) was diligent in providing me with a video clip which included vital information in the event of a nuclear attack situation. Of course, I was relieved upon learning it was a false alarm. Yet, on the other hand, I began to think about the “what if” scenarios and how I would’ve reacted if it was really true. I realized how unprepared I was, from knowing the “Ballistic Missile Inbound to Hawai’i” being a false alarm. After the incident, I am definitely going to make sure they were aware of the alert and were safe, then, I woke up my household, started to prepare for the worst. After hearing it was an error, I was relieved but angry that someone was solely responsible for causing such chaos. Now, I am going to prepare and always have a stocked up bag ready to go in the event of an emergency. I recently moved back home to O’ahu and I am happy that I did because now I have more time to spend and cherish my loved ones because you never know what could happen.

Anela Keko’olani

This past Saturday, I was participating in a farm-to-school professional development course for educators at Waialae Public Charter School. Once I got the alert, I had a huge feeling that it was a false alarm, I heard no sirens so I definitely knew something was missing. I screenshot the message and started sending it to all my group chats and area representatives, basically sending the message to my friends who work in government to find out if it the threat was real. After a while, people through social media were already informing the public about the false alarm, so, I did feel a sense of relief that it was a false alarm. After the incident, it really made me think about the power of technology and communication. It can be super helpful and also very destructive. I am definitely going to start preparing my home for necessary things in the case of an attack. I want government officials to look and think about the action plan of ensuring the safety of our citizens.

Ryan Mandado

This past Saturday, I was participating in a farm-to-school professional development course for educators at Waialae Public Charter School. Once I got the alert, I had a huge feeling that it was a false alarm, I heard no sirens so I definitely knew something was missing. I screenshot the message and started sending it to all my group chats and area representatives, basically sending the message to my friends who work in government to find out if it the threat was real. After a while, people through social media were already informing the public about the false alarm, so, I did feel a sense of relief that it was a false alarm. After the incident, it really made me think about the power of technology and communication. It can be super helpful and also very destructive. I am definitely going to start preparing my home for necessary things in the case of an attack. I want government officials to look and think about the action plan of ensuring the safety of our citizens.

Ashley Castillo Mitchell

Chris (Ashley’s husband) and I were sleeping in that morning. By the time my phone sent the “false alarm” alert, I thought it was our alarm to wake up. My phone got the original alert saying to take shelter, but it did not vibrate or sound off. We slept through the whole terrifying 38-minute ordeal most of the island went through. When we got the second alert, Chris woke up and read the “false alarm” before the “BALLISTIC MISSILE” alert. We immediately checked our social media accounts to see any news of what happened, Chris started light of it saying how we would’ve died in our sleep. Which, personally, isn’t a bad way to go. I still have a lot of plans for my life and I don’t like thinking about losing my family and friends. But my sense of mortality hasn’t really changed. As far as I know, I’ve lived my life to the fullest. But since it was a false alarm, I can learn from it. I’ve gotten memos at work about what to do in case a missile is launched towards Hawai’i, but this “wake-up call” has helped me realize we need to stock up on our emergency supplies and to have a better plan for my family. Friends have posted about how to be prepared and I’m taking it to heart.

Risé Doi

My boyfriend and I were still in bed, and he reacted first and I looked at my phone to see the same alert that said, “THIS IS NOT A DRILL”. I remembered that we had only 15 minutes to take shelter and we live in a high rise with no basement, 2.5 blocks away from the Capitol. I suggested we try to get to the Capitol chamber level. I stuffed my essentials into a backpack and we ran as fast as we could down King Street and across Punchbowl Street, darting and avoiding cars. I don’t run that often so my heart was pounding by the time we reached the Capitol elevator. About 100 people were also in the Capitol chamber, some of us were scared, most remained calm. I tried texting my sister and mom who said that they heard it was a false alarm. We waited and finally there was an announcement that it was a false alarm. Although I was relieved about the false alarm, I remain angry that we live in a world where we actually have to worry about a missile being launched towards us. Trump constantly provokes Kim Jong Un. Two years ago if I saw a missile alert, I probably would have shrugged it off and thought it was an error message. The false alarm reminded me that tomorrow is not promised and that anything can happen. It gave me time to reflect and be grateful that my family and friends were still safe. The incident also reminded me that it is imperative to be prepared.

By RADIANT CORDERO

Anela Keko’olani

This past Saturday, I was participating in a farm-to-school professional development course for educators at Waialae Public Charter School. Once I got the alert, I had a huge feeling that it was a false alarm, I heard no sirens so I definitely knew something was missing. I screenshot the message and started sending it to all my group chats and area representatives, basically sending the message to my friends who work in government to find out if it the threat was real. After a while, people through social media were already informing the public about the false alarm, so, I did feel a sense of relief that it was a false alarm. After the incident, it really made me think about the power of technology and communication. It can be super helpful and also very destructive. I am definitely going to start preparing my home for necessary things in the case of an attack. I want government officials to look and think about the action plan of ensuring the safety of our citizens.

Risy Doi

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Radiant Cordero

I was reading a book in the morning when I received the emergency alert. The message was startling, and the only thing that raced through my head was, “This is surreal.” However, immediately after, I thought of my friends and family, and felt “peace” fall over me. I called my Mom and texted my best friends. Then I got my bible and prayed. I realized at that point that I had lived a life that is filled with little regret. I thanked God for that opportunity to not only have been able to serve and have some achievement in that service, but also to live in a way that all of my friends and family know I love them, and I was ready to accept what came. Once the “all clear” was given, I hopped online and saw a slew of criticism and fear. It’s unfortunate that we live in a world where we devote so much time to live, and have little to devote to feeling alive. I was grateful in knowing that this incident would bring people to the realization, and to reflection, in how they are living. It’s true that any day could be the day we die, but how many of us are truly prepared to go in a way that we can look back and say that we made the best of it, and that we weren’t just living, but truly alive?

Aeron Basilio

Before I got the alert, I was sitting at the dining table eating breakfast before going to school for my play rehearsal and then I had plans to work on a math project for school. When my family got the alert, I immediately lost my appetite as it was unexpected and I became very nervous then I ran to my room to start packing to prepare to leave home if I needed to, because I felt like Kalihi would be one of the places affected. I then told my family I loved them and then prayed until we got the word it was a false alarm. After that, I jumped on my bed happily and prayed that it was just an accident by someone. Now, I want my whole family to be prepared for any incident.

Chris Wong

I was reading a book in the morning when I received the emergency alert. The message was startling, and the only thing that raced through my head was, “This is surreal.” However, immediately after, I thought of my friends and family, and felt “peace” fall over me. I called my Mom and texted my best friends. Then I got my bible and prayed. I realized at that point that I had lived a life that is filled with little regret. I thanked God for that opportunity to not only have been able to serve and have some achievement in that service, but also to live in a way that all of my friends and family know I love them, and I was ready to accept what came. Once the “all clear” was given, I hopped online and saw a slew of criticism and fear. It’s unfortunate that we live in a world where we devote so much time to live, and have little to devote to feeling alive. I was grateful in knowing that this incident would bring people to the realization, and to reflection, in how they are living. It’s true that any day could be the day we die, but how many of us are truly prepared to go in a way that we can look back and say that we made the best of it, and that we weren’t just living, but truly alive?
The Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) celebrated its 30th or Perlas (Pearl) Anniversary last December 17 and hosted the annual Pasko Celebration at the Honolulu Museum of Art. Since 2004 the Bank of Hawaii has sponsored a Family Sunday at the museum on the third Sunday of every month, with a program of family activities and entertainment.

The FAUW’s Pasko celebration was the museum’s Family Sunday program for December 2017. Besides the making of parols (Christmas star lanterns), Christmas ornaments, and other popular crafts, the activities included a pabitin (piñata) game for the children and the serving of traditional Filipino sweet delicacies such as pastillas, yema, and pulvoron.

The festive celebration also featured live entertainment — ukulele performances by Buddy Gendrano and the Kilauea Strummers, traditional Filipino dances performed by the Bulacan Circle & Associates of Hawaii Dancers, a combination of traditional and hip-hop styles of the tinikling bamboo dance by the Tekniqlingz Dance Crew, and vocal performances by the Southside Vocals of Campbell High School Atilla Grace. The well-attended Pasko event was chaired by FAUW member BeyLontoc.

Angie Dytioco Santiago, our Gathering Place columnist, is a U.H. Manoa graduate. Angie is currently a Governor of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH) and the Recording Secretary of the Bulacan Circle & Associates of Hawaii (BCAH). She served as an Assistant Treasurer for the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH) in 2016, Assistant Auditor for the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii (PCCCH) from 2015 to 2016, as 1st Vice President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) from 2013 to 2014, and as BCAH President from 2010 to 2012. She is the daughter of Angel & Rubing Dytioco and is married with two sons. She enjoys photography, hiking, and participating in cultural and social activities and events.

Beautiful parol lanterns were made by kids of all ages.

A little one decorating her star cookie with icing and sprinkles.

Small child looks at her Mom with awe as she creates an ornament.

Father and daughter pose in the bahay kubo with their finished “Parol.”

Children jump in the air to snatch up a prize during “pabitin” game.

Photo credit: FAUW
Enticements for Christmas Celebrations

Rainy weather and traffic in every corner of town did not dampen die-hard Christmas party goers. Perhaps it is the delicious foods awaiting our enjoyment, or the fun of dressing up in our best holiday attire just to win a prize or bragging rights for being the “Most Festive” in apparel. Or perhaps what entices us to venture out is the fun and festive spirit, the holiday singing, and the often very competitive party games and the laughter that accompanies them.

More than anything, and despite the stress and commercialism of the holiday season, what we enjoy most about Christmas is spending time with our family and friends. The season helps us appreciate the love in our lives which we sometimes take for granted. As the year 2018 proceeds, let’s continue to share kindness and compassion to one another. Here’s wishing you and your loved ones a Happy New Year! And may this year be joyful, loving, and peaceful for us all!

Bennette Misalucha (fourth from the left) installed as 2018 PCCCH Chairperson.

Santa makes an annual visit to Helen Santiago’s home for a photo with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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By Radiant Cordero

Tekniqlingz holds 10th Anniversary Gala

On Saturday, February 10, 2018 from 6 pm - 10 pm, Tekniqlingz will hold its 10th Anniversary Kultura Filipina Night Gala at the Filipino Community Center’s Casamina-Flores Ballroom.

The evening’s theme of Tradition and Modernization celebrates the organization’s 10 years of educating, empowering, and entertaining the community by blending and infusing Filipino music and dance with hip hop.

On top of this, the Gala will also recognize vital supporters, including the University of Hawaii at Manoa’s Filipino and Philippine literature program, it’s affiliate - the Katipunan Club, and the Filipino Junior Chamber since their 2008 inception.

The celebration features a memorable dinner, silent auction, and diverse entertainment representing traditional and modern Filipino folk dance.
Tekniqlingz invites the community to a satisfying dinner program while enjoying local Filipino entertainment. Keynote speaker will be Brandon Dela Cruz - current President of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH), a stalwart and exemplary leader within the Filipino community.

The fun doesn’t stop here - attendees have an opportunity to win an item from a silent auction or door prize through a raffle drawing! Proceeds raised from the event helps support the program while enjoying community to a satisfying dinner.

Gabe Torno, Founder and Executive Director of Tekniqlingz says he hopes “to raise awareness so that the community can learn about the Filipino culture in many ways … [particularly] through art, music, and dance.”

He added, “we want to get the message across that engaging in Filipino dance isn’t just vital for one’s cultural identity, it can be a lot of fun, too”

Tekniqlingz’s vision focuses on maintaining an ongoing environment to preserve the use of Filipino cultural arts forms that activate cultural pride in one’s racial and ethnic heritage through the participation and practice of creating art and entertainment.

With the development and energy of the Tekniqlingz dance crew program, participants gain a deeper sense of ethnic identity and cultural awareness.

History
Founded in the Spring of 2008 and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in the Fall of 2016, Tekniqlingz emerged from the 2008 Tinikling Filipino bamboo dance workshops sponsored by the Filipino and Philippine Literature Program’s Kalpunan Club within the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Tekniqlingz focuses on showcasing traditional and modern Filipino folk dance which preserves and perpetuates the Filipino American youth culture through creative arts and entertainment.

With its foundation based on modernizing traditional Philippine folk dances, the Tekniqlingz is an organization which seeks to inspire and influence new innovations to the world of hip-hop and dance.

As a dance crew, they have opened for and shared stages with notable celebrities, including: Filipino-American comedians Augie T and Rex Naverette as well as performers Mikey Bustos and Apl. De. Ap of the Black Eyed Peas.

Individual tickets for the Tekniqlingz’s 10th Anniversary Kultura Filipino Night Gala are available for $75 or qualifying reduced prices.

To make a donation, please contact Gabe Torno, Tekniqlingz Founder and Executive Director at (808) 232-1466 or visit www.tekniqlingz.org.
The start of a New Year always seems like the perfect time to set new goals, which is probably why many people choose to create New Year’s Resolutions. Crafting goals can be one of the most powerful tools to help create and manifest the life you want; yet 80% of New Year’s resolutions fail by February.

Here are a few common mistakes when crafting a resolution for the New Year. Being aware can help you stay on track.

• Not writing down your goals - Research shows that you are 40% more likely to commit to your goals if you write them down. The reason? Writing them down on paper forces your brain to translate your complex thoughts into an actionable plan.

• Not knowing your why - You need to know precisely why it is you want the things you want. Setting goals is a very personal process. Your dreams are your dreams. If they’re not, they won’t inspire you enough to really pursue them.

• Being all about work and no play - Many times, we craft goals that will boost our careers or bring us wealth. These types of goals are great, but make sure they truly inspire the adventure within you. Set goals that will bring awe, wonder, thrill, love and fun in your life. This will help inspire and energize you in ALL areas of your life.

In order to have the things you’ve never had, you must be willing to do the things you’ve never done. If you know what you truly want, then it will be worth every sweat or tear.

WEIGHT LOSS?

We all know that weight loss can be tricky — in order to drop the weight, we need to eat fewer calories than we burn, but sometimes, even when we do all the right things, weight loss can come to a screeching halt. Here are 4 of the most common reasons you’re NOT losing weight.

1. You’re stressed - This is especially true when it comes to weight loss. Stress releases cortisol (often simply referred to as “the stress hormone”). Cortisol reduces muscle tissue and encourages the storage of body fat.

2. You’re not getting enough sleep - Sleep helps to reduce levels of cortisol, but also produces growth hormone (GH). GH helps to encourage fat loss, supports your immune system, and helps to keep your organs functioning properly. Sleep also balances the hormones that control hunger. While it varies from person to person, most of us should aim to get 7 to 9 hours of sleep each night.

3. You’re not drinking enough water - There are many benefits to drinking enough water, one of which is proper kidney function. Dehydration impairs your kidneys, and when your kidneys aren’t working properly, your liver has to pick up the slack. Your liver is responsible for the metabolism of fat, which means fat cannot be metabolized as efficiently when your liver has to work twice as hard to remove toxins.

4. You’re not eating enough fiber - Fiber aids in digestive health and helps to create a sense of fullness, which makes consuming fewer calories easier. Most of us assume we’re getting enough fiber from grain-based products like bread and cereal, but the reality is these highly processed foods have been stripped of their nutrients and fiber. Instead, eat more fruit and vegetables, and opt for whole grains, like brown rice and steel-cut oatmeal.

If you are committed to getting in better shape for 2018 consistency is key. The most important aspect in becoming and staying fit is to be persistent. You can exercise every day for a week, but if you follow that week with a month of no exercise then you’ve lost all ground. Find an exercise program that you are able to consistently do and then stick with it.
As 2017 draws to a close, most of us tend to reflect on our highlights, lowlights and everything else in between.

This year has been a pretty interesting one as I have experienced my educational and professional milestones, my personal struggles and even the passing of those who were close to me.

In addition to the passing of my friend and University of Hawai‘i at Mânoa’s College of Education colleague Niki Libarios, my family had experienced the loss—through cancer—of one of the most influential matriarchs to a younger generation of Barbados and Jumawans.

In a way, most family reunions occur when a family member passes, however I find this particular family reunion a very interesting one.

In addition to reconnecting to distant cousins that I haven’t seen in decades, I was introduced to a new generation of family members I haven’t met. It just amazes me how Hilario and Santiago, two brothers who immigrated from the Philippines to Hawai‘i in the 1920’s to work in the sugar plantation, would have so many descendants living in various parts of Hawai‘i and the United States almost a hundred years later!

The story of the Jumawan brothers’ immigration to Hawai‘i began in the early 1920s when Hilario was the first to be recruited by the Hawaii Sugar Planters’ Association (HSPA).

He was an ideal candidate that the HSPA was looking for: Physically strong and uneducated and with no intention of leaving the plantation. Hilario ended up moving to the island of Maui to work in the sugar plantation.

A few years later, Santiago was recruited and reunited with Hilario. They both lived together in the plantation camp and worked at the sugar plantation until they got into a disagreement over their living situation.

Santiago left Maui to O‘ahu and worked for Dole Plantation in Wahiawa. Hilario eventually moved to O‘ahu to reconcile with Santiago and both of them met their wives and they started a family.

Hilario was not able to work in the plantation due to a health issue, however he lived and settled in the Waialua plantation camp with his wife Emilia and they both raised six daughters and one son.

Santiago eventually settled in the Helemano Plantation Camp in Wahiawa with his wife Lillian to raise his three sons, a step son and daughter. They divorced right after their 4th son was born and Santiago became a single parent. Through the next few decades, Hilario and Santiago lived through World War II and grew and expanding their families with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

They each remained in the plantation camps until their passing in the early 1990s. Today, with the sugar plantation gone and pineapple not being a major force in Hawai‘i’s economy, the majority of the Jumawan descendants now live in Waialua, Haleiwa, Mililani and Wahiawa, mostly in communities that were once plantation fields and camps.

What is unique with our family tree is that Santiago is my father and he married my mother after he retired from Dole and had my younger brother and me. My half siblings are at least five years older than my mom and the majority of my nephews and nieces are older than me.

Growing up, my father had a lot of expectations for my brother and me to do well academically since he was not able to read and write.

In addition, none of my half siblings or my first cousins ever earned a 4 year degree giving my brother and me more pressure to succeed.

I am proud to say that in the spring of 2019, I will defend my dissertation and earn my PhD in Learning Design and Technology.

With this accomplishment, I hope to inspire the next generation of Jumawans and other Filipino plantation family descendants to go far with their career through higher education.

Frank Jumawan is the Web Conferencing Administrator and Instructional Support at the University of Hawai‘i at Mânoa College of Education and also a doctoral student in the Learning Design & Technology program. He received his Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science & Health Management and Masters of Education in Educational Technology at the University of Hawai‘i. Frank was born and raised Wahiawa, O‘ahu and his hobbies and passions include photography, fitness and technology.
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