



TI PROGRESIBO

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Newsletter of the Union of Democratic Filipinos [K.D.P.]

CONFERENCE CALLED FOR FEB. 23

“Defend Democratic Rights of Immigrants”

The need to protect and defend the rights of Filipino immigrants will be the focus of an educational conference on Saturday, February 23.

The Hawaii Task Force for the Defense of Immigrant Rights has called for the public conference, which is being co-sponsored by several community groups and agencies. It will be held at Harris Methodist Church, at Nuuanu and N. Vineyard Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

This is the first time a broad range of issues will be discussed in such a conference. The SSI issue, the case of the Filipino agricultural trainees on Maui and anti-immigrant legislation will be covered, as well as the overall picture of

(continued on p. 2)

Pagsasaritaanto iti komperensiya inton Pebrero 23 (Sabado), no kasano a masalaniban dagiti lintig ti imigrante a Pilipino. Inorganisar ti Hawaii Task Force for the Defense of Filipino Immigrant Rights daytoy a komperensiya ken ka-sponsorda dagiti kumakuma nga organisasyon a Pilipino ken ahensiya publiko. Maa ngayto dita Harris Methodist Church, dita Nuuanu ken N. Vineyard Blvd., alas 9 a.m. inggana 1 p.m. Mangrugi iti registration into 8:30 a.m.

Daytoy iti umuna nga okasyon nga mapagsasaritaan dagiti linteg ti imigrante ken dagiti problema kas iti SSI, ti kaso dagiti estudianta a Pilipino ti agriculture idia Maui, ken daduma pay.

Agसारितanto da Joe Florendo ken Cathi Tactaquin, dua nga miembro iti Task Force, ken nainbita

(continued on p. 2)

TASK FORCE...
(continued from p. 1)

immigrant rights. Several resource people will be available in workshops after the presentations, to discuss the issues.

Presentations will be made by Joe Florendo and Cathi Tactaquin of the Task Force. Leo Kitkitoy, spokesman for the Filipino agricultural trainees on Maui, has also been invited to speak.

Because of the growing immigrant Filipino population in Hawaii, the issue of democratic

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rights has become more important to the whole community. The community in Hawaii is almost half immigrant, a large number being non-U.S. citizens.

Conferences similar to the Hawaii event are being held throughout the U.S., as part of an effort by the National Task Force for the Defense of Immigrant Rights to educate the community and to introduce the new organization.

The National Task Force was formed last September, at the Filipino People's Far West Convention, held in Sacramento, California. Local groups have been formed in Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, Chicago, New York and Washington D.C.

The Task Force invites all interested members of the community to attend, and encourages people to join the Task Force.

TASK FORCE (Ilocano)...
(continued from p. 1)

ni Leo Kitkitoy, pangulo dagiti estudianta a Pilipino idiyay Maui, nga mang-presenta iti kasaadda.

Gapu ta adu kaniatayo a Pilipino ditoy Hawaii iti mai-kunkuna nga imigrante, importante la unay nga maammuan tayo no ania dagiti linteg ti imigrante.

FILIPINO AGRICULTURAL TRAINEES PROGRAM

U.H. Chancellor Promises Reforms

On Feb. 5, representatives from several Filipino community groups met with U.H. Chancellor Durward Long to discuss the Filipino trainee issue.

During that meeting, Long promised to look into the matter himself, and agreed that significant reforms had to be made in the program. He said it should be an "academic offering" and not just a training program.

Those present were representatives from the Hawaii Task Force for the Defense of Filipino Immigrant Rights; Operation Manong; Philippine Studies and Ethnic Studies at U.H.; KDP; the United Filipino Council of Hawaii; and the Philippine Consulate.

Long indicated he would take two steps. First, there will be a change in the program's administration. Dr. Ken Otagaki, the program director, has been given leave to take another position in Washington, D.C.--apparently to "cool off". He had made several chauvinist and racist remarks about the trainees and the Filipino community, and had called the trainees complaints, "bullshit".

Secondly, Long said he would review the "unusual terms" of the

agreement to see what changes could immediately be made.

The agreement contains several clauses which appear to violate the democratic and constitutional rights of the trainees, and has been called a "throwback to the old plantation contracts." However, the agreement was developed by the Philippine Agricultural Training Council (PATC), which recruits the trainees in the Philippines, so the U.H. may not have direct power to alter the agreement.

The Philippine Consulate has also filed a critical report of the program. Apparently, the Phil. Overseas Employment Development Board will investigate the program abuses.

Several questions have been raised about the financial accountability and role of the PATC, whose council includes representatives from several major Philippine corporations. Ferdinand Marcos himself is honorary chairman of the National 4-H Council of the Philippines, which sponsors the PATC.

In the meantime, community groups intend to closely monitor any actions by the U.H. and the Philippines, and pursue major reforms of the program.

Profiles Reveal Filipino Status

Many basic problems of Filipinos can be seen in these few tables, compiled by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in 1975.

In the areas of schooling, income level and presence in white collar jobs, Filipinos are among the lowest profiles. Even after 75 years in Hawaii!

For all the ethnic groups with the lowest income levels, their years in school are also the lowest. Their absence from white collar jobs indicates that they are also absent, then, from the better paying and more stable jobs. For Filipinos, other profiles show that most Filipinos work in service, domestic, agricultural and construction jobs.

In addition, immigrant profiles indicate that they have the highest unemployment rate, and take the lowest paying jobs.

Median Years of Schooling of Oahu Residents 25 Years Old and Over by Sex and by Ethnicity:
OEO, 1975

ETHNIC GROUPS	Male	Female	Both sexes
Black	11.2	11.3	11.3
Caucasian	12+	12+	12+
Portuguese	10.4	10.2	10.3
Chinese	11.7	11.0	11.4
Filipino	9.4	10.2	9.7
Hawaiian	10.0	10.1	10.1
Part-Hawaiian	10.8	10.7	10.8
Japanese	11.2	11.0	11.1
Korean	12+	10.9	11.4
Puerto Rican	10.0	9.3	9.7
Samoaan	11.0	10.3	10.7
Mixed	11.5	11.3	11.4
Other	11.8	10.8	11.3
TOTAL	11.5	11.2	11.3

Median Income of Employed Oahu Residents 14 Years and Over by Ethnicity, by Sex: OEO, 1975

ETHNIC GROUPS	Male	Female	Both sexes
Black	\$ 8,279	\$ 4,993	\$ 6,484
Caucasian	17,198	7,050	11,011
Portuguese	14,807	5,579	10,759
Chinese	15,763	7,461	11,953
Filipino	9,817	5,049	7,805
Hawaiian	13,155	4,461	9,413
Part-Hawaiian	12,825	6,205	9,518
Japanese	14,947	8,072	11,590
Korean	17,374	8,269	13,608
Puerto Rican	11,875	3,833	8,441
Samoaan	7,813	5,658	6,984
Mixed	11,898	6,363	8,661
Other	15,054	7,725	11,450
TOTAL	\$ 14,342	\$ 6,998	\$ 10,192

Percent of Employed Oahu Residents 14 Years Old and Over in White Collar Occupations by Ethnicity and by Sex:
OEO, 1975

ETHNIC GROUPS	Male	Female	Both sexes
Black	29.5	70.6	51.5
Caucasian	64.8	79.2	71.4
Portuguese	29.7	70.5	43.5
Chinese	64.3	70.4	67.0
Filipino	20.0	50.0	32.4
Hawaiian	20.9	45.3	29.8
Part-Hawaiian	29.2	67.1	44.0
Japanese	50.3	72.5	60.4
Korean	59.7	59.9	59.8
Puerto Rican	27.5	50.5	33.1
Samoaan	19.6	56.5	33.4
Mixed	29.3	74.4	49.3
Other	37.0	64.6	47.7
TOTAL	46.2	70.5	56.8

AALA PARK BLUES

By Mila Medallon (1972)

shivering
in rain-drenched clothes
he staggers to park bench
his lips curled up
in a toothless grin
to taunt the bus stop crowd
in repartee to their
squeamish look.

turning
his sun-baked brow
toward the somber sky,
he ponders over a dismal
thought -
how swift his years
slipped by.

he came
on a boat at eighteen
with castles in his mind:
visions of Promised Land
softened his silent fears
and eased the pains of
parting.

he stayed
to toll the cane fields
his back arched from dawn
to dusk -
not a slave shackled to
a yoke,
but a free man
kept in his place
by the roving luna,
by the contract he signed
with an x
by his fears, his dreams.

he spent
his nights in dim-lit
dancehalls
in pursuit of short-lived
pleasures
for the long plantation
nights
were far merciless than
the haunting smile
in a faded portrait.

now alone
in a nightmarish wait
between senility and
the grave,
he holds his crumbled
castles
in the palm of his
trembling hands.

(Mila Medallon is an active
member of the Home Care Op-
erators Assn., and is an out-
spoken advocate of rights
for the elderly.)

6

LAWRENCE FUCHS TO VISIT

NAT'L. IMMIGRATION COMMISSION REP. HERE FEB. 28

Lawrence Fuchs, staff director of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, will be in Honolulu on Feb. 28 to discuss immigrant issues here.

The Ethnic-Cultural Task Force and the Interagency Council for Immigrant Services will co-host an open luncheon meeting with Fuchs at 1 p.m. at the Lanakila Health Center. There will be a grassroots panel discussion by representatives of various immigrant communities and service agencies.

The Commission has been appointed to review U.S. immigration laws and policies, and make recommendations for changes to

the U.S. Congress.

Several meetings are being held with Commission members throughout the country. Although Honolulu is a major port-of-entry, it is not a site for one of the full Commission meetings.

The Commission has already been advised about the controversial SSI issue, in which permanent residents receiving SSI benefits are being excluded from readmission to the U.S. after trips abroad. Honolulu is the main port where these permanent residents (70% of whom are Filipino) are being singled out. The issue will undoubtedly be one of the topics raised during Fuchs' visit here.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEB. 23 -- Educational conference on Filipino Immigrant Rights. Harris Methodist Church, Nuuanu & N. Vineyard. 9-1 p.m. Registration begins 8:30. Free.

Feb. 28 -- Meeting with Lawrence Fuchs, Select Commission on Immigration & Refugee Policy. Lanakila Health Center at 1 p.m.

Philippine slideshow, video tapes. Available for home showings. Contact Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines, P.O. Box 27406, Hon. 96827, or call 847-6678.

FEEDBACK/SUPPORT

TI PROGRESIBO welcomes your comments--criticisms, suggestions, contributions. We want feedback! We hope the TI PROGRESIBO can heighten community awareness around a variety of issues, so we encourage input from all parts of the community.

TI PROGRESIBO is also self-sustaining, so we look forward to your financial support as well. If you find the newsletter useful and interesting, we hope you will subscribe and make a contribution to keep it going.

UNION OF DEMOCRATIC FILIPINOS (KDP)

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