



TI PROGRESIBO

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Newsletter of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (K.D.P.)

Mabuhay! 75th Anniversary Of Hawaii Filipino Community

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The celebrations of the 75th anniversary of Filipino immigration to Hawaii officially opened on December 20th, 1980. The following is an excerpt from a flyer that was passed out by the Concerned Filipinos for the 75th, a group which opposed the participation of Imelda Marcos at the opening ceremony and strongly encouraged the 75th Commission to

re-affirm the intent of the 75th anniversary celebration which is to honor the contributions Filipinos have made in Hawaii.)

AS WE observe this historic event, let us not forget that the celebration of our heritage in Hawaii only becomes meaningful if we learn the lessons from our past struggles and use these lessons to build our future. Most of all, we should fully appreciate the spirit and determination of those who pioneered the Filipino immigration to Hawaii in the early 1900's. Let us say:

MABUHAY! to the tens of thousands of Filipinos who crossed the Pacific Ocean, leaving their families and friends to come to Hawaii with nothing but their dreams and hopes for better life,

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to work for the plantations;

MABUHAY! to our brave Filipino pioneers who struggled to build a community and root our culture and traditions in Hawaii, despite the hardships of not having the traditional Filipino family and kinship system;

MABUHAY! to the thousands of courageous Filipino workers who dared to struggle against injustice and exploitation to join the historic fight of Hawaii's underdogs - the working people of different races and nationalities - for their dignity and rights in days when the voice of the employers was the law.

MABUHAY! to those Filipino workers whose sweat, blood and tears soaked the fields and docks of Hawaii for the noble cause of improving the living and working conditions of all working people in Hawaii. Let us especially pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the 1924 Filipino strike: the victims of the Hanapepe Massacre on Kauai whose common grave site remains unmarked;

MABUHAY! to the Filipino women who stood strong and struggled side-by-side with others in the fight for human dignity and equality and who are always in the forefront of organizing the civic affairs of the community;

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MABUHAY! to the tens of thousands of Filipinos who continue to persevere and make great sacrifice even if they have to work two or three jobs, just so their family and children will have a better future;

MABUHAY! to those Filipinos who continue to organize and provide leadership in our community's fight for democratic rights...and arouse the Filipino community to seek solutions to its needs in employment, housing, education, immigrant rights, etc.'

Filipinos must build strong and active community organizations which will educate all Filipinos about the critical issues that

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75th Anniversary Opens Without Imelda... Without Filipino Community...

Neither Imelda Marcos nor the Filipino community from O'ahu showed up at the opening ceremony of the 75th anniversary at Iolani Palace on December 20th, 1980.

Two years of work on the part of the 75th Commission and its Planning Committee did not show either.

No publicity was printed nor announced in the local media except KISA radio.

Instead, the 400 people who attended the program were mainly local leaders and their families, government officials, invited guests, and members of the small group of community organizations. (The number that came varies according to those who attended.

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affect all the people of Hawaii. We must change our community from being conservative and passive to one that actively seeks to share in the responsibility for building a more just society and government that puts the welfare of all people, regardless of race or nationality, above the interests of a few.

Nevertheless, the number was disappointing compared to the thousands who might have attended.)

The "community atmosphere" and the "fiesta spirit" were clearly missing. A plain and simple program marked by the usual number of speeches, band music, cultural dances, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony opened the beginning of the "decade of the Filipino."

The luncheon-reception at the Hilton Hawaiian Village was no different as 700 came to hear speeches from Filipinos who have "made it" and are today holding important government positions. (See related article on "Filipino Leaders Message").

It seems that if the 75th anniversary celebrations throughout 1981 turn out to be successful, it will not be because the 75th Commission and the Planning Committee did their work. The 75th anniversary commemoration will be successful because the Filipino community throughout Hawaii chose to do the work of making a worthwhile celebration

National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization Formed!

(Adapted from Ang Katipunan)

The first Filipino national organization for the defense of immigrant rights was founded in a 2-day conference attended by 50 participants at the Dimasalang House in San Francisco, November 23 and 23, 1980.

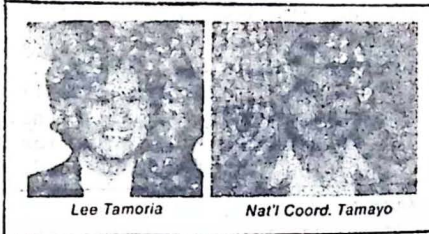
The National Filipino Immigrants Rights Organization (NFIRO) was formed to educate and organize the Filipino community throughout the U.S. on its rights as immigrants in this country.

Resolutions were passed which will make the NFIRO a working organization within the community. These resolutions include conducting a study on the case of undocumented (illegal) workers, supporting the National Alliance for Foreign Nurse Graduates in a lawsuit against the licensure exam and the INS, fighting for bilingual education and services, and supporting the rights of refugees as immigrants and residents of the U.S.

Attorney Bill Tamayo, of the KDP working at the Asian Law Caucus, gave the keynote speech. "Our task is to mobilize our community to understand that no immigrant

standing alone is safe from INS abuses and deportation. No immigrant standing alone will get bilingual education. No immigrant standing alone will get public benefits. Instead, only if an immigrant feels that the community is backing him or her up all the way can they begin to break with their fears and to take up issues they face."

Tamayo was elected to be the National Coordinator with an eight member National Council that will guide and coordinate the policies and activities of the NFIRO.



Representing Hawaii, Lee Tamoria, a private attorney and member of NFIRO-Hawaii, said, "The presentations like bilingual education, H-1 (visa) nurses and undocumented workers were very

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Filipino Leaders' Message: "Have Credentials To Succeed"

Federal Judge Alfred Laureta and State Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, Joshua Agsalud, encouraged the Filipino community to get credentials and mainstream into the general community.

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educational. Although the problems of undocumented workers and H-1 nurses exist in Hawaii, the issue of bilingual education and services is a top priority for us. Hawaii has a large immigrant community - Samoans, Koreans, Filipinos, etc. and all of them face the problems as immigrants. As a lawyer, my daily cases are almost immigration cases. They are often in critical need of certain services: housing, health care, employment, etc. However, they find these services inaccessible because of the language barrier. I'm awfully worried; there's a lot of hard work ahead but I think the goals can be met."

Marvie Tacazon, a part-time teacher at Kalakaua Intermediate, said, "The forming of the NFIRO is a victory for the Filipino community. The conference helped me to understand the role immigrants have played and continue to play in building America, especially of the hardships and struggles they continue to go through."

In their messages given at the luncheon on the opening day of the 75th anniversary celebration, Laureta gave himself as an example of a Filipino who gained "credentials" and who had "doors open" to him throughout his career; and Agsalud shared his hopes of a Filipino community in the future that would have "mainstreamed" into Hawaii's multi-ethnic society.

Missing from their speeches was any mention of the situation faced by the majority of Filipinos in Hawaii today: low paying and unstable jobs and low educational level among many other social and economic problems.

Filipinos have been in the "mainstream" for 75 years as laborers on the plantations, dockworkers, hotel workers, doctors, nurses, teachers, etc., and have given their sweat and blood to the making of modern Hawaii like other working people, but have not shared equally in the fruits of their labor.

Despite having made important progress in the struggle against discrimination and racism, these twin evils continue to be real barriers to many Filipinos today.

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Demonstrators Block Nukoli'i Construction Site

Thirty-two demonstrators were arrested on December 15th for blocking the construction site at Nukoli'i, Kaua'i. The demonstrators, mostly Kauai residents, were among 60 people who formed an early-morning picket to protest the construction of a new hotel and condominium which is considered illegal by the Committee to Save Nukoli'i.

On November 4th, Kaua'i residents voted against the construction and elected to re-zone the land at Nukoli'i back to agricultural land. This referendum voting was supposed to have been the final decision on the controversial site.

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The history of Filipinos in the U.S. have shown that Filipinos often had to open the doors themselves instead of depending on others to "open doors" for them. This was the experience of the first wave of Filipino immigrants when they had to organize into unions to demand fair wages and better working conditions in the plantations. Filipinos today still find themselves in a similar situation as many third wave immigrants face not only discrimination in jobs but have had to suffer harrassement and intimidation from immigration officers as well.

It's misleading to think that doors will open for us just because we have credentials. Credentials

are not necessarily guarantees to high-paying secure jobs. Professionals from the Philippines have often been forced to take jobs as bookkeepers and nurses aides when they already have degrees and experiences as accountants and registered nurses.

The main lesson we can learn from our pioneer immigrants who arrived in the early 1900's is that they organized as Filipinos and as workers to succeed in getting fair wages and secure jobs. The present Filipino community will have to look back on this lesson if we are to have doors open to the entire community and not just a few.

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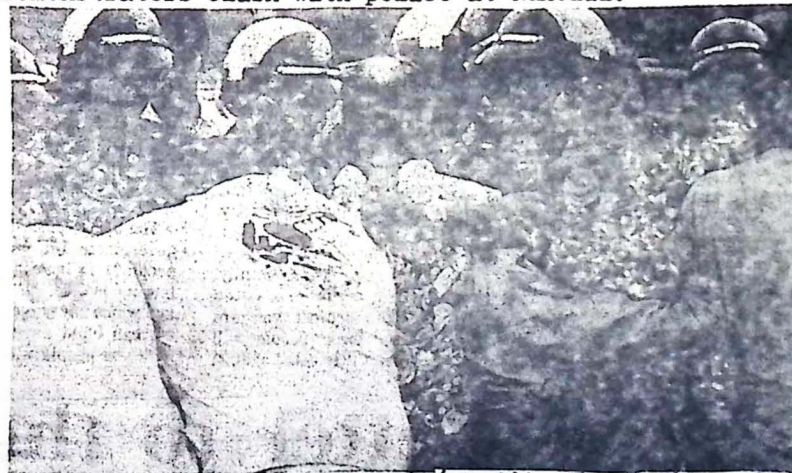
However, the Kauai County government has allowed the construction to continue. Mayor Eduardo Malapit, a son of Filipino immigrant parents, has received heavy public criticism for not enforcing the decision made by Kauai's voters. Election results were 10,794 against the construction and 5,618 for.

Mayor Malapit, who won his fourth term as mayor under the slogan "Voice of the People," has been pressured to pull out the construction permit given to the Nukoli'i developers. But he and other county officials have continued to say that the decision is now up to the court.

The building permit was given by the county the day before elections although both the developers and county officials knew about the referendum voting the next day.

While the court listens to both sides of the issue, the construction continues. Save Nukoli'i feels that the Kauai County Charter law should be applied immediately to stop the construction. Section 1.09 of the Charter reads, "If a majority of the voters voting upon a referendum ordinance (Nukoli'i development in this case) shall vote against it, the ordinance involved shall be considered repealed (illegal) upon certification of the elections results."

Demonstrators clash with police at Nukoli'i. continued p. 8



(credit: The Garden Isle)

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The developers, however, claim they have "vested rights" on the project since they have already begun construction. Save Nukoli'i would like to know just how much the developer's "vested rights" really amounts to, but was denied the right by Circuit Court Judge Kei Hirano to examine the financial records of Graham Beach Partners, Hasegawa Komuten, and Real Estate Finance Co., developers of Nukoli'i.

Workers at the site, on the other hand, have claimed that the construction provides them with jobs to support their families. "Will Hawaii's workers have to depend on the land developers for jobs until the developers control both our land and our workers?" said a Save Nukoli'i supporter.

Save Nukoli'i believes that they are not only challenging the

developers of Nukoli'i but are also challenging a state political-corporate machine that's made up of top government and corporate names which includes Mayor Malapit and AMPAC executive C.F. Stoner.

Save Nukoli'i plans to step up the struggle and gather more state-wide support. Activities will include leafleting at the local airports on January 16, 17 and 19, a demonstration in February, and a resolution to introduce in the Kauai Council.

The arraignment and trial for the 32 arrestees is scheduled for February 13. Interested supporters for Nukoli'i should call the Modern Times Bookstore for further information: 946-9243 in Honolulu.

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Celebrating José Rizal

Rizal Day is observed in many Filipino communities in Hawaii every year. It has become an important community affair that has served to bring together Filipinos who, despite many years away from the native land, still hold nationalist feelings in their hearts.

What Rizal means to us today is that he was among the first and best patriots who aroused national sentiment against colonial tyranny and broke the feudal relationship between the church and the state which had brutalized the Filipino people for over 300 years.



Rizal was among the 'ilustrado' intellectuals like Marcelo del Pilar and Antonio Luna who built a propaganda movement for reforms against the abuses of Spanish rule. Their writing inspired revolutionaries like Andres Bonifacio to take part in a revolution that would free the Philippines from foreign rule and win complete independence for Filipinos.


In Noli Mi Tangere, which Rizal dedicated to "mi patria" (my motherland), he wrote,

"Uncover the cancer, so sensitive to the slightest touch, which is eating away at the vitals of Philippines society. Once its diseased condition

is laid open, a remedy for this social cancer can be found, and the fatherland can be restored to health and vigor."

While Rizal's place and contribution in Philippine history is secure, his weaknesses cannot be hidden for they also serve as lessons to the present generation of Filipinos who are continuing to finish the revolution started in 1896 that would free the Philippines from foreign domination.

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KATIPUNAN 

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The main weakness of the reform movement of the ilustrados was that they did not fight for full independence, but demanded that the Philippines become a province of Spain. They did not see that equality must be based on national freedom and independence for all Filipinos and not just for a small part of a colonial society.

In the end, when asked by Bonifacio to join the Katipunan, Rizal refused. Rizal denounced the 1896 Revolution because he did not think that revolutionary violence could lead to freedom and independence. While the ilustrados waited for Spain to make the reforms, the masses of Filipinos already proclaimed the revolution.

Before he was executed by the Spanish on December 31, 1896, Rizal was made to face court martial and blamed for starting the revolutionary movement of the Katipunan. He was found guilty because of his stories in *La Solidaridad* and his novels. But the death of Rizal, according to Apolinario Mabini, "did not stop the advancing surge of revolution. Rizal was only a personality of the times. If Rizal had not existed somebody else would have played his role. The movement for change was slow and imperceptible but it already existed. It became violent only when it realized that reform could not be achieved by asking for it from the oppressor."



SARILING GAWA ANNOUNCES THE
COMMUNITY CONFERENCES FOR
FILIPINO YOUNG ADULTS;

Leeward Oahu-Leeward Comm.
College, Rm. GT 105, Jan. 31
9:00a.m. to 12 noon

Kauai; Kauai Comm. College
Jan. 31, 9:00a.m. to 12 noon

Information: Leeward Oahu-
Ernie Libarios, 455-0242;
Kauai-Alfred Lardizabal,
245-6947; or Rosalina Arzadon,
245-3780 (eves).

(Editor's note: The following is one of the many poems written by Jose Maria (Joema) Sison while imprisoned under the Marcos dictatorship. His poems express his deep love for the homeland and an undying hope that the Philippines may one day be free from foreign control.)

the central plains

josè maria sison

I love the green expanse of ricefields,
The sunlight that strikes it reveals
The myriads of golden beads.
I love the sturdy stand of the canefields,
The sunlight that strikes it reveals
The golden wands of sweetness,
The breeze sweeping the plains carries
The rhythm of toil of peasants and farm workers.
I love the clangor on the road and in shops
As workers make do with some machines.
I love the blue mountains yonder;
They give hope to all the toilers.

announcement

TI PROGRESIBO needs your continued support. By May 1981, TI PROGRESIBO will change into a newspaper. We feel this will be an important change because of the need for a progressive newspaper in the Filipino community that will address those issues that affects us as immigrants and workers in Hawaii.

We ask for your continued support by subscribing to the TI PROGRESIBO, by giving donations, and by participating in our fundraisers. Although we will be including advertisements to help the TI PROGRESIBO, you, our readers will be its main support. We will inform readers about subscription costs when the TI PROGRESIBO becomes a newspaper. For now we ask for any donation you can give to continue the TI PROGRESIBO newsletter. \$1 will be enough from each reader to produce and mail the TI PROGRESIBO until April.

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