

F O L L O W - U P   P H A S E

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G L O S S A R Y

## FOLLOW-UP PHASE

Sariling Gawa hoped that as a result of the series of conferences, the participants would take the initiative to create Sariling Gawa groups in their own communities. The sole purpose for these groups would be to coordinate and implement activities to solve problems in their communities.

In the main conference, a consultation session was held with each delegation from the eight communities. In these sessions, the delegates and the Sariling Gawa planning committee discussed possible activities or courses of action that could be taken after they leave the main conference. (The results of these consultations can be found in the main conference section of these proceedings.) In these sessions, there was a common interest -- to form a Sariling Gawa Chapter in each of their communities. Sariling Gawa did not ask the delegates to become chapters. But the delegates saw the sincerity of Sariling Gawa in relation to its goals and objectives so that they volunteered to create chapters of Sariling Gawa in their own communities.

At this writing, three months have passed, the communities have formed chapters. More importantly, they have become active in their communities.

The Hilo Chapter was the first to report its activities. (See Exhibit A) They have formed into an organization, elected their officers and are now in the process of recruiting an advisor. They felt that by formally organizing as a group, they would establish credibility and have an easier time implementing their projects and activities.

In the meantime, the conference planning committee became the Sariling Gawa Coordinating Council and has promised the island chapters a lending hand at anytime. As passed in the resolutions, this body will see to it that a yearly Filipino youth conference be held and that it will provide communication networks among island chapters.

On the other side of the Big Island, Kona, the delegates had their first meeting with the community. (See Exhibit B) A member of the Leeward Oahu delegation was asked to attend that meeting to help the Kona delegation make their presentation to their parents and families. The presentation

## *Follow-Up Phase*

focused on what happened in the main conference but more importantly, the meeting was held to ask the parents to support future projects of these promising young adults.

The Lanai delegation recently reported that they also had organized as a chapter and had recruited several other young adults. They made a presentation on what happened at the main conference to the Lanai Filipino Community Association and received a host of praise and good impressions from the members. The Association was so impressed with the report that they expressed the desire to send more delegates to the next Sariling Gawa statewide youth conference. The Lanai delegation also presented some of the major issues and problems they were concerned about. In return, the Association helped them work out some solutions to those problems and issues. The delegates also became active in the community's recent Reyna Elena event. They danced "Tinikling" and had so much fun that they now want to start their own dance troupe.

On Oahu, the delegates from Honolulu, Leeward Oahu and Central Oahu have been helping the Sariling Gawa Coordinating Council in various activities such as fund-raising and other cultural events.

A monthly newsletter is being organized by the Sariling Gawa Coordinating Council and will be the major form of communication and sharing of information with the chapters and other interested individuals and groups. All chapters are encouraged to submit articles regularly.

This document, the conference proceedings, is one of the major items in the follow-up phase. It is hoped that it will serve as a meaningful and useful resource for future activities and projects related to the Filipinos in Hawaii. These conference proceedings will be distributed statewide -- to the conference participants, to libraries, and other interested individuals and groups. The Governor's Office on Children and Youth has been furnished a copy in order that the findings and recommendations will be reflected or taken into account in their planning of a Statewide Conference on Children and Youth.

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## CONCLUSION

A good feeling has emerged from this conference series. The Filipino youth have shown a genuine concern for the future of the Filipinos in Hawaii and are willing to assume the challenge and responsibility.

This project was essentially the search for the elusive Filipino young adult. Do they exist? What are they doing for the Filipino community and the community at large?

We were impressed by these young men and women and especially touched by their humanistic concerns. This was the first opportunity for Filipino young adults to get together as Filipinos. The first chance to share ideas and concerns and to voice their frustrations and desires. They all realized that there is a common bond between them; they all are Filipinos. However, self-identity is a constant struggle. Stereotypes have resulted in confusing Filipinos, especially the young. What is a Filipino? What does it mean to be a Filipino in Hawaii? Why do other people hate Filipinos?

"I want to attend the conference to learn about Filipino culture and the history of Filipinos in Hawaii" was a common response on the conference application forms. The youth themselves honestly expressed their own needs and shortcomings but also showed the desire to learn.

These young adults showed a very positive attitude about the task before them and strongly believed that they can make a difference. Together they may find the problems easier to solve and the goals within reach.

The youth are ready to try, but is the rest of the Filipino community willing to make a commitment? Good leadership does not wholly come from individuals, but with the support of the people. If the task of the youth is to prepare themselves educationally and culturally for roles of leadership, then what is the task of the Filipino community?

This type of project needs the active and monetary support of the Filipino people. The Filipino community can and should financially support a project

*Conclusion*

that benefits them, not relying on grants and portuguese sausage sales.

A voice has sounded for youth and young adults to get up and prepare but a siren wails for the Filipino leaders and prominent citizens to step forward and show the way, provide guidance and the much needed role models that the youth squint to find.

A shout goes out to the government officials to lend more than an ear and lip service to the cries of the Filipino community.

Our goal to develop Filipino leaders and conscious citizens must first start with a better self-image of the Filipino by Filipinos. The next question is: Will the general community of Hawaii give us the chance to prove ourselves?

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Organizations and programs providing services to children and youth must recognize and meet the special and unique needs of children whose backgrounds are different from that of the majority populations in Hawaii.
- Programs like TESL, Multicultural Studies (ESAA), YMCA-sponsored projects targeting at immigrant youths should be sufficiently and permanently funded and staffed with bilingual and bicultural workers.
- The Department of Education's curriculum on ethnic studies, American studies, and language classes should focus on the struggles, contributions and cultural heritage of the various ethnic groups in Hawaii. Such a curriculum will enhance the ability of students to appreciate or cope with cultural differences.
- The Filipino community in Hawaii, its business people, religious groups, professionals, community organizations and associations, the Filipino island councils, the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, the Philippine Consulate, parents, and other youth groups must all join hands in supporting the objectives of Sariling Gawa, and the activities of the Filipino young adults in various communities.
- Professional guidance and advice, monetary donations, in-kind contributions and training of potential leaders must be initiated and provided primarily by the Filipino community while welcoming support from the community at large. This project warrants this support in order for the Filipinos to make greater contributions to Hawaii and to make it a better place to live.
- Filipino parents must provide all the nurturance and support for the social and cultural development of their children. Encouragement and guidance must equally (if not more) meet economic necessities.
- Filipino youth must continually re-assert themselves, their roots, their history, their potentials and their future. They should be

*Recommendations*

encouraged and given the opportunity to become more active in the many dimensions of community life.

- Teachers should be required to attend in-service training and related workshops dealing with students from different backgrounds.
- In the event that a larger project, public or private, emerges as a result of the conference series, every effort must be made to hire people who come from the communities where the project will be implemented.

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## GLOSSARY

- Adobo -- a favorite Filipino meat dish of which the basic ingredients are chicken or pork, vinegar, garlic, salt and peppercorns
- Bagoong -- a fish sauce frequently used to flavor Filipino foods
- College Opportunities Program -- an undergraduate minority students recruitment program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa which focuses on economically disadvantaged groups
- DOE -- Department of Education, State of Hawaii
- Filipino Fiesta -- a weekly hour-long television program produced by Mr. Faustino Respicio. This program is 27 years old and features local Filipino talents.
- Gabing Pilipino -- (Translation: Filipino Night) A cultural program which features Philippine dancing, singing, music, and so forth. This program is annually presented by the Filipino-American Students' Association of the University of Hawaii at Manoa.
- Hawaii Filipino News -- A newspaper featuring news of Filipinos in Hawaii and the Philippines. It is published bi-monthly.
- Ilokano (or Ilocano) -- a dialect of Filipinos from the Ilocos Region in the Philippines.
- KISA -- the first Filipino radio station in Hawaii
- LFCA -- Lanai Filipino Community Association
- NFIRO -- National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization
- Operation Manong -- a program at the College of Education, University of Hawaii at Manoa that provides tutorial and recreational assistance to immigrant students in several public schools on Oahu
- PTA -- Parent-Teachers Association
- PTSA -- Parent-Teachers-Students Association
- SWCC -- Susannah Wesley Community Center, a social service agency located in Kalihi
- Tagalog -- a dialect of Filipinos in the urban areas of the Philippines such as Manila and its surrounding cities
- TESOL -- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages; a class at most public schools where newly arrived immigrant students learn to speak English
- YMCA -- Young Men's Christian Association

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