

M A I N

C O N F E R E N C E

MAIN CONFERENCE

A Brief Introduction

The main conference that was held at Camp Harold Erdman on Oahu on March 6, 7 and 8, 1981, was the culmination of the series of eight community conferences held at various locations in Hawaii. It became the real arena for further exchange of ideas particularly the development of methods and activities to carry out solutions of problems that were previously identified in the community conferences.

The conference planners selected a camp site for the main conference to minimize outside influences and distractions, thereby creating a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and to facilitate the learning and teaching of Filipino culture, history, leadership skills, lobbying processes and positive self-development.

Activities and topics discussed at the main conference were based on the issues and concerns that emerged from the previously held community conferences. Halfway through the completion of the community conferences, it became apparent to Sariling Gawa that certain topics must definitely be addressed at the main conference. So the search and confirmation of the most appropriate and qualified speakers, resource people and activities was quickly finalized.

Funds for the main conference came from two basic sources: some of the island Filipino councils and associations, and private individuals and concerned groups. Roundtrip air fares of neighbor island delegates were raised through the support of private sponsors, Filipino councils and associations and in the case of the Big Island delegates, the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the 75th Anniversary and the ESAA Project. The Oahu Filipino Community Council had formed a committee to help Sariling Gawa raise funds to cover the expenses incurred at the main conference.

Participants to the main conference were selected through an application process. Prerequisites for applying were: 1) they had to be young adults, ages 16 to 24 and 2) they had previously attended at least one community conference. Final selection of participants were decided together by Sariling Gawa and the community liaisons. The criteria for selection was based on an

essay written by each applicant reflecting on their involvement or desire to learn more about Filipinos in Hawaii and their commitment to return to their respective communities to share what they would have gained from the main conference.

A total of 62 delegates of which 27 were from the neighbor islands was selected as participants to the main conference. They did not have to pay for board and lodging during their two and half day stay at the camp. But they had to pay \$3.00 for insurance and for the "lechon" that was served as the last meal. Prior to their coming to the main conference, all delegates were sent the rules and guidelines for the camp and a list of items to bring.

Aloha committees were formed to meet and transport the neighbor island delegates from the airport while Waialua and Wahiawa delegates greeted arriving participants at the camp site.

At the camp, the delegates were housed or assigned to a cabin in a mixed pattern keeping the same sexes together but mixing age, place of residence, and birthplace. Each delegate was also assigned a "baranggay" or a discussion group, headed by a Sariling Gawa conference planner. Each baranggay group was composed of eight to ten delegates from various communities. These baranggay groups were the mechanisms by which problem solving and discussions were conducted. They were also planned to increase interaction among participants and to establish friendly and trusting relationships.

In the Philippines, the term "baranggay" means a political unit that comprises a town. It also characterizes a community of united groups and shared decision making. So the conference planners thought that by placing the conference delegates in a baranggay atmosphere they would naturally form a network of alliances and learn how to make decisions on a consensus basis.

Other activities that enhanced delegate interactions were a "feeling good time" of group exercises and campfire activities led by the Camp Erdman staff.'

The following pages present the speeches, activities and workshops that were held in the main conference.

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SELECTED ESSAYS

The following essays were selected from approximately 60 essays that main conference delegates were required to submit with their application to the conference. These selected essays reflect the kind of interest generally projected toward the main conference and Sariling Gawa. All of the essays were written during February 1981.

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Lanai's majority population are Filipinos. Though we have a lot of Filipino people here, the Filipino culture is not well known to the youth.

I have experienced going to my land of ancestry, the Philippines. At first I pictured a world of villages and natives walking around half naked, like in books which showed pictures of the Philippines and her people. During my stay there I realized I was wrong. The Philippines is a beautiful place and so are the people there.

By going to the camp I hope to learn more about the Filipino heritage and come back to Lanai and teach what I've learned. I know that being a leader isn't easy. It takes patience and hard work. Going to Camp Erdman will prepare me better to be a better leader.

I'm really proud of being a Filipino and I hope other locals, who are Filipinos, will soon learn to be proud also. I hope to contribute to this. I'll try my best to prove my pride in me. After high school, I'm planning to become a Sariling Gawa Coordinator. It's a good job for a good and beautiful cause. My admiration goes to all the Sariling Gawa Coordinators!

I'm eager to show the rest of the world what we Filipinos really are -- and that's hard workers!! I know I can do it, we all can if we stick together..."Our Own Work" will be done!

Written by Miss Carmela Camero

(Miss Camero is 16 years old and a junior at Lanai High School. She was born and raised in Lanai City.)

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I believe that by attending the main conference I could help and be helped.

I have always wanted to organize a group of young Filipinos in our locality for the purpose of keeping the Filipino culture and values alive within ourselves. There is a very great possibility of losing one's cultural identity through exposure to other groups of people. This holds true most especially for those who are of Filipino descent but were born and/or raised here in Hawaii because we have a tendency to easily adapt to the ways of our colleagues. I believe that creating an organization where the members are reminded of their culture and values will be of help. The group can make cultural presentations where they exhibit folk dancing, sing folk songs, present plays or anything Filipino. With enough effort from each participating member, we can maybe help promote tourism and fellowship among other people.

This group will at the same time be of social relevance. I see a great need to organize the young Filipinos to help one another cope with everyday living. This time, I am pointing at those who have just arrived from home. The older members, those who have come earlier, can help the ones who are new here adjust to their new environment. We can show them around so that they will get familiar with places, introduce them to new friends to make them feel more comfortable. In general, we can help them in their adjustment stage.

These are only a few of the goals that the group should have. If led by competent leaders, the group would be a success and will be of socio-cultural value. But competence would mean knowledge of modern and practical techniques in leadership. It would call for a leadership training of an aspirant and that is what is motivating me to attend the main conference. There, I will be able to interact with more people making myself emotionally and mentally prepared for leadership. Joining the main conference will surely improve my leadership capabilities.

Written by Miss Joy Ofamen

(Miss Ofamen is 18 years old and was a senior at Konawaena High School at this writing. She was born in the Philippines and has been in Hawaii for 2 years.)

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I want to participate in the main conference for I feel it is part of my duty to get involved not only because of my Filipino ancestry but also because these issues we face today may affect our future in Hawaii.

Participating in Kauai's community conference, I have become much more aware of the problems and issues on Kauai. I thought it was a worthwhile conference for we were able to bring to open many problems we, as Filipinos, confront in our daily lives. Our group discussion was very interesting that it now gives me an even better reason to get involved.

Therefore, if I am selected as a participant to the main conference, I will make it a point to use what I know to gain even much more knowledge and to use it in the future. For instance, it will give me a chance to voice my concerns and listen to and respect those of others from the many communities in Hawaii. I believe, at the same time, the workshops will give me the opportunity to learn more about my Filipino culture, history and so forth than I would have ever been able to.

I feel, I really appreciate my culture and I am proud to be what I am, but because of many differences such as discrimination, stereotypes, etc., it is very often hard to openly express it at all times. Therefore, I want to help in the efforts of encouraging the attitudes of others to respect and preserve each other's cultures and heritage. Also, to encourage us, Filipinos, to look into the future as the leaders.

Nevertheless, if I am selected, I will be more than willing to share what I have learned back home with my friends and family. The first step I would take is to get the school clubs also involved as a group.

Finally, I truly support your cause and wish it continues in the future.

Written by Miss Myrna Macugay

(Miss Macugay is a 16-year-old junior at Kapaa High and Intermediate School on Kauai. She was born and raised in Kauai.)

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What an exciting Saturday morning!

During the local conference of Sariling Gawa in Hilo, I was challenged to see fellow Filipino youths participate in the discussion of the present and future challenges of Filipino young adults in Hawaii.

That same day I made a personal commitment to get involved in this great effort. I am not saying this out of an emotional response but rather as an answer to a long felt need.

I firmly believe that the Filipino youths of today will be the Filipino leaders of tomorrow. I also believe that leaders are made and the making of good leaders takes time. I feel that it is time to grab the bull by its horns. To start and actively participate in the parade of life. We have been spectators long enough.

I am convinced that the leaders of Sariling Gawa take pride in their heritage. They have the education and the skill. Above all, they show a firm commitment, a strong determination, a natural willingness and warm enthusiasm to make things happen...whatever it takes.

I would like to learn from them.

In closing, I would like to share something I have read concerning leadership. It goes like this...

"To Achieve, the leader must set goals
To set goals, he must make decisions
To reach goals, he must plan
To plan, he must analyze
To analyze, he must implement
To implement, he must organize
To organize, he must delegate
To delegate, he must administrate
To administrate, he must communicate
To communicate, he must motivate
To motivate, he must share
To share, he must care
To care, he must believe
To believe, he must set goals that inspire belief and
the desire to achieve
Thus, the process of leadership begins and ends with goals!"

Written by Mr. Timothy J. Rodriguera

(Mr. Rodriguera is 24 and a Senior at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. He was born in the Philippines, lived in the Mainland for 6 years and has been in Hawaii for the past 3 years.)

* * *

Although growing up in a multi-cultural environment such as Hawaii has tremendously enriched my own personal growth, it had also created a temporary identity crisis where the pride and meaning of being Filipino was not a part of my total being as it is today. I remember as a youngster, wishing to be Spanish or Hawaiian or even Black simply because having those kinds of ethnic backgrounds was "in," "hip." As I reflect on those times, I realize that I probably felt that way because I lacked the influence of a positive Filipino role model. With so many different racial groups in Hawaii, it was difficult to have everyone ethnically and culturally defined as one (aside from being American, of course). The task of "finding" an identity was further complicated by the fact that the mass media focused their attention on other ethnic groups; there was no Filipino hero in any of the television programs I grew up with, nor were there any books available that depicted Filipinos in positive roles. Furthermore, there wasn't a positive role model within the community I grew up in; Filipino organizations did not flourish during those times.

Needless to say, there were many factors working against the development of a healthy self-image but luckily, I got enough encouragement at school and I developed an avid interest in Filipino affairs. In high school, I participated in gathering oral histories of the many immigrant Filipino sugar cane laborers in Paauilo for a Bicentennial project and I learned much from our elders. Later, in college, I did a number of papers on the Moro culture in the Philippines and on different aspects of the Filipino immigration here in the 1920's and 1940's. In addition, I have taken three trips back to my dad's barrio in the Philippines; each time gathering more contemporary literature about our culture and customs, each time enriching my own knowledge, each time gaining more respect, admiration and strength in knowing how good it is to be Filipino.

And while I know there are many people much more knowledgeable in Filipino affairs than I, I hope I will still be considered for the main conference since I offer much youthful enthusiasm and energy and a sincere concern for the expansion of Filipino awareness and pride in my community.

I remember all too vividly the confusion I experienced as a teenager and I see many of our young people today in the same kind of situation. I want to utilize the knowledge I have now, as well as anything I can absorb from the main conference on Oahu to somehow make their teenage years a little less

turbulent by being a positive role model for them. I suppose this can be accomplished by the formation of agencies, organizations or clubs for the benefit of the Filipino community here.

There is much to be done. I neglected to mention earlier that I have also tutored immigrant college students in English and just that brief contact has been enriching for me as well as the tutee. If the community could be encouraged to reach out and help those around us, many positive things can happen.

Sariling Gawa is perhaps the first step in this direction. It has generated a lot of positivism and enthusiasm in me and I hope others have also been affected the same way.

It is a progressive movement and I hope to be part of it. Strength is derived from unity -- may we all grow strong from this effort.

Written by Ms. Nancy Jimenez

(Ms. Jimenez is 22 years old and attends the University of Hawaii at Hilo. She was born in Honokaa, Hawaii.)

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1981 -- Afternoon

REGISTRATION, ROOM ASSIGNMENTS, CAMP TOUR, BARANGGAY FORMATION, CAFETERIA DUTY

2:00-6:00 p.m., Room 2,
Sariling Gawa Headquarters

DINNER

6:00-7:00 p.m., Dining Room

OPENING SESSION

7:00-7:30 p.m., Dining Room

VIDEO PRESENTATION: FILIPINO HISTORY IN HAWAII

7:30-8:00 p.m., Theater Round

By Mr. Dean Alegado, Instructor,
Ethnic Studies Department, University
of Hawaii at Manoa. Limited reactions
are welcome.

BARANGGAY DISCUSSION GROUPS

8:00-8:45 p.m., Theater Round,
Rooms 3 and 5

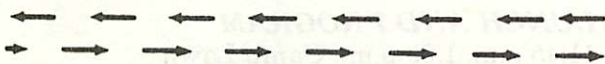
Reactions to slide presentation and
getting acquainted with baranggay
members.

CAMPFIRE ACTIVITIES

9:00-Bedtime, Campfire Area

More introductions, icebreaker games,
campfire, Filipino folk singing, etc.
Campfire by YMCA Camp Erdman Staff,
Salvador "Bully" Gemeno, Camp Director.

BLACKOUT!!! -- 11:30 p.m.



SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1981 -- MORNING

FEELING GOOD TIME

6:30-7:30 a.m., Camp Lawn

By Timmy Gemeno, YMCA Camp Erdman
Staff.

BREAKFAST

7:45-8:30, Dining Room

CONFERENCE LOGISTICS

8:30-8:45 a.m., Dining Room

PRESENTATION: SOCIAL ISSUES

9:00-9:30 a.m., Theater Round

By Atty. Joe Florendo, Legal Aid
Lawyer and Co-coordinator of the
National Filipino Immigrant Rights
Organization, Hawaii Chapter. An
analysis of Filipino immigration to
Hawaii and the United States and its
social implications.

WORKSHOP: LEADERSHIP TRAINING

9:30-10:30 a.m., Theater Round

By Mr. Ronnie Menor, Legal Researcher
for Chief Justice Richardson and volun-
teer counselor at Mililani High School.
The session will provide skills in
conducting a group meeting without
hurting personalities and how to be a
productive group member. Assertiveness
and other characteristics of effective
leadership will be covered. Change
processes and problem solving tech-
niques will also be discussed.

BARANGGAY DISCUSSION GROUPS

10:30-11:30 a.m., Theater Round, and
Rooms 2, 3, 5

Conference participants will experience
group techniques as presented in the
Leadership Training Workshop.

LUNCH

12:00-12:30 p.m., Dining Room

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1981 --
AFTERNOON

**SPEECH: HOW TO MAKE EFFECTIVE
USE OF THE LEGISLATURE TO MAKE
APPROPRIATE CHANGES IN THE
COMMUNITY**

12:45-1:15 p.m., Dining Room

Presented by Senator Benjamin Cayetano.

**ESCRIMA DEMONSTRATIONS &
LESSONS**

1:30-2:20 p.m., Rotary Hall

Conducted by Tobosa School of Escrima.
Basic moves will be taught.

LANGUAGE LESSONS

2:30-3:20 p.m., Rooms 2 and 5

ILOKANO (Room 5) by Ms. Precy Espiritu, Instructor, Indo-Pacific Languages, University of Hawaii-Manoa. Assisted by Lito M. Asuncion.

TAGALOG (Room 2) by Dr. Teresita Ramos, Associate Professor, Indo-Pacific Languages, University of Hawaii-Manoa. Assisted by Conrad Legaspi.

FOLK DANCING LESSONS

3:30-4:20 p.m., Rotary Hall

Instructions by Ms. Vicky Ramil, member-dancer of the Pamana Dance Company. Basic dance movements and a chance to learn "Tinikling." Assisted by Butch Santos, Maribel Doles and members of the Filipino-American Students Association of the University of Hawaii-Manoa.

FREETIME for swimming (in the pool only!), tennis, volleyball, table tennis, basketball, etc.

DINNER

5:30-6:15 p.m., Dining Room

SPEECHES

6:30-7:30 p.m., Dining Room

ASPIRATIONS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT by Mr. Ronnie Menor

COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY -- THE WAIALUA EXPERIENCE by Mr. Isabelo Palalay, President of the Waialua Filipino Community Association.

GROUP CONSULTATIONS WITH DELEGATES

7:30-Bedtime, Room 5

CAMP ACTIVITIES

7:30-Bedtime, Campfire Area

Community delegates will meet with members of Sariling Gawa's conference planning committee to discuss and plan courses of action in implementing activities to solve community problems.

BLACKOUT!!! - 11:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1981 -- MORNING

FEELING GOOD TIME

6:30-7:30 a.m., Camp Lawn

PRELIMINARY CABIN CLEAN-UP

7:30-8:30 a.m.

BREAKFAST

8:00-8:30 a.m., Dining Room

PRESENTATIONS: ETHNIC IDENTITY AND GROWING UP AS A FILIPINO IN HAWAII

8:30-9:15 a.m., Dining Room

Speakers: **Mr. William Domingo** focuses on his experiences growing up as a Filipino in an urban setting such as Honolulu. He has a Bachelor's degree in Philippine Studies. **Ms. Gloria Galvez** presents life events in a plantation community. She is from Kekaha, Kauai and holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Development.

BARANGGAY DISCUSSION GROUPS

9:30-10:15 a.m., Theatre Round and Rooms 2, 3, 5

Discussion on the question -- What does it mean to be a Filipino in Hawaii?

CULTURAL SIMULATION GAME

10:30-11:45 a.m., Assembly Hall and Rotary Hall

BaFa BaFa will be conducted by Dr. Amy Agbayani, Director of Operation Manong, University of Hawaii-Manoa. Participants will experience what it is like in a new culture.

LUNCH AND PROGRAM

11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Camp Lawn

Cultural entertainment provided by each baranggay group while viewing the last minute roasting of a "lechon."

CLOSING SESSION

1:00-1:45 p.m., Theatre Round

CABIN CHECK OUT AND "PAALAM"

2:00-2:30 p.m.

MAIN CONFERENCE

Participant List

CENTRAL OAHU

1. Irene Dicion
2. Agnes Alegado
3. Tessie Tapeç
4. Edwin Bayudan
5. Lornita Sagaysay
6. Darielou Salvador
7. Danny Layugan
8. Imelda Layugan
9. Julie Barsatan
10. Zeny Layugan
11. Nancy Villena
12. Jimmy Valenzuela

HILO

13. Corazon Tubana
14. Nancy Jimenez
15. Tim Rodriguera
16. Susan Ventura
17. Elvira Ranan
18. Erlinda Arca

HONOLULU

19. Margie Andres
20. Jesse Tano
21. Marilyn Macugay
22. Conrad Legaspi
23. Cynthia Cabot
24. Laarni Saludes
25. Helen Galvez
26. Janet Lagat
27. Jesse Balmares
28. Eddie Topenio
29. Melinda Jose
30. Emily Jose
31. Sa Angasay
32. Raul dela Cruz
33. Wilfred Yago
34. Pauline Sato

KAUAI

35. Myrna Macugay
36. Scott Lardizabal
37. Felina Jornacion
38. Virginia Narciso
39. Aida Riofta
40. Sharon Gatiuan
41. Adela Cruz
42. Charles Stutz

KONA

43. Joy Ofamen
44. Lydia Varron
45. Ann Claravall
46. Guy Gines

LANAI

47. Mela Camero
48. Lydia Barsatan
49. Joan Camero
50. Alex Bueno
51. Tom Obado
52. Davie Felipe
53. Magno Magaoay

LEEWARD OAHU

54. Maribel Doles
55. Arnold Sabado
56. Ernesto Nicolas
57. Merlina Bayang
58. Rhoy Sadiarin
59. Purita Monegas
60. Peter Espinosa

MOLOKAI

61. Alice Cabaël
62. Deltarose Gomez
63. Romeo Cariaga

PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Lito Asuncion
2. William Domingo
3. Milli Macugay
4. Lerina Galvez
5. Adrian Galvez
6. Barbara Saguid
7. Butch Santos
8. Helen Toribio
9. Domingo Los Banos

GUESTS

1. Mr. Dean Alegado
2. Atty. Joe Florendo
3. Ms. Precy Espiritu
4. Dr. Terry Ramos
5. Mr. Raymond Tobosa & Tobosa School of Escrima (6)
6. Sen. Ben Cayetano
7. Mr. Belo Palalay
8. Dr. Amy Agbayani
9. Mrs. Shirley Matutino
10. Ms. Gloria Galvez
11. Ms. Vicky Ramil
12. Mr. Mariano Hernando
13. Ms. Beverly Calizo
14. Atty. Ronnie Menor
15. Ambassador Juan Dionisio
16. Mr. Manuel Guillermo
17. Mr. Bully Gemeno
18. Mr. Timmy Gemeno
19. Mr. Marty Williams
20. Mr. Nestor Asuncion
21. Mr. Frank Alip

A brief description of these participants can be found on the next page.

Description of the Participants

There were 62 delegates, 27 guests and resource people and 9 members of the conference planning committee, totalling 98 participants, that attended the main conference on Present and Future Challenges of Filipino Young Adults in Hawaii.

Of the 62 delegates, almost two thirds (63%) were born in the Philippines while 31% were born in Hawaii. There were 3 delegates who were born in the U.S. Mainland and one born in Guam. Two thirds of the delegates (66%) were in high school while 27% were at the college level, 2.1% attended vocational schools and 5% were in the intermediate grade level. Twenty-seven (43.5%) of the delegates represented the neighbor islands (with the exception of Maui) and the remaining 35 came from Honolulu proper, the Leeward and Central of Oahu. There was a good mixture of delegates representing various ages, educational levels, places of birth and places of residence (urban and rural).

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Being a Filipino in Hawaii is having fun and getting to know a lot of people from different ethnic backgrounds.
(Kauai delegate, Age 15)

Being a Filipino in Hawaii is going to a Filipino wedding and getting to eat pansit, adobo, papaitan and dinardaraan.

(Kauai delegate, Age 15)

OPENING REMARKS

Presented by Mr. Lito M. Asuncion

'Magandang gabi, naimbag a rabiiyo, maayong gabi and welcome to the first statewide conference on the Present and Future Challenges of Filipino Young Adults in Hawaii.

"We would like to thank you all for showing a strong interest in this project. We hope that your interest and commitment do not end here at Mokuleia. Judging from the enthusiasm of the various communities we have visited, we will surely have another conference next year, the year after, and hopefully, year after year. We ask of you that when you go back to your respective communities, you will share with your peers, friends, relatives and families what you will learn during the next two days.

"We are fortunate tonight for this is the first time in the history of Filipinos in Hawaii that young adults from different backgrounds have seriously come together to exchange ideas, learn from one another and prepare themselves as better members of the community. I am sure that when we all have reached our own goals and dreams in life, someday, we can reflect to March 6 through 8, 1981 at Camp Erdman and proudly say that we have contributed to the growth of the Filipino community as well as the state of Hawaii.

"Time and time again, many of us have heard the phrase that the youths of today will be the leaders of the future. I am convinced that such a saying is only one half of the true message it tries to convey. I strongly believe that leaders are made not born. We do not inherit leadership skills or abilities. They are shaped through our different ways of upbringing, education and involvement in the community. We must educate ourselves of the day to day issues and events that affect us. We must actively participate in the making of decisions that shape our own destiny. More importantly, we must organize, unite and make our concerns be publicly heard.

"I know that your participation in this conference is a key step in the development of future leaders in our community. We hope that you will make this event worthwhile and that you will go back to your communities as more informed Filipinos or individuals.

"This conference would not have been possible without the support of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the Filipino 75th Anniversary Commemoration Commission, our dedicated resource people, you as participants, some of the island Filipino councils and organizations and equally important are the diligent, sacrificing and hardworking conference planners: Mr. Domingo Los Banos, Adrian and Lerina Galvez, Milli Macugay, Butch Santos, William Domingo, Helen Toribio and Barbara Ann Saguid...and myself.

"I'd like you to meet them now. Mr. Los Banos is our advisor and fundraising chairman, Helen and Barbara co-chair the publicity committee, Butch is also in fundraising. Adrian is in charge of hospitality, transportation and accommodations, William is the vice president and I am the president. Both William and I are responsible for the conference format. Milli is the project coordinator and also the secretary/treasurer of Sariling Gawa, and Lerina is the administrative assistant.

'Maraming salamat and aloha!'

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To be a Filipino we should recognize the way of our folks, our moral ways (religious, superstitious, etc.) and our laws as a Filipino...and to know the Filipino delicacies, different kinds of food. We should not change our own culture but get more involved. We should also share our ideas with other ethnic groups.

(Hilo delegate, Age 19)