

A MESSAGE

...from the Advisor

The compilation of this conference proceeding is a tribute to the efforts of the conference planners who, since June of 1980, have worked patiently, diligently and with great dedication and sacrifice in accomplishing the project goals for the year. Truly, this project has been a manifestation of their love and faith that there is indeed a "new breed of Filipinos" who can take their places in the life of the greater community.

Reflected in the proceedings of the conference series is the enthusiasm and concerns of the young adults who participated. The establishment of Sariling Gawa chapters on each participating island and their plans to meet identified problems in their communities attest to the success of the conference series and to the planners premise that given the opportunity and encouragement, young Filipinos can rise to the challenge to help themselves.

A debt of gratitude is bestowed upon the many patrons, institutions and organizations that have supported this project. May their example of faith and support signal a rallying of the larger Filipino community to give more than lip service to efforts designed to help prepare young adult Filipinos take their places in the life of the larger community.

It has been a rare privilege to have been in close association with the project planners. You have indeed made an auspicious beginning. May you never lose sight of your mission.

Domingo Los Banos, Jr.
Advisor, Sariling Gawa



The Challenges . . .

. . . Sariling Gawa's Perspectives

Before Sariling Gawa embarked upon the conference series, the planning committee had some notions of the challenges facing Filipino young adults in Hawaii. Some of these were common to various communities and some were not. Although these challenges were not common to all communities, we feel that they are worth sharing with the conference delegates.

...Take an active role in community and civic affairs. Our community still needs dedicated and serious leaders as well as well-informed members of the community.

...To learn from and be proud of your own cultural and ethnic heritage. It is the only unique characteristic that sets you apart from others.

...Respect other cultures and be able to make contributions to the broader Hawaiian community.


...Voice your concerns and make them heard by the government.

...Be motivated, by self or by parents, to aspire and pursue a post-secondary education.

...Balance social events with community service projects.

...Accept the fact that a Philippine-born Filipino and a Hawaii-born Filipino are both true Filipinos.

M A B U H A Y !



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Note: The italicized, boxed-in quotations found throughout this document were written by the delegates at the main conference on March 8, 1981.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

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S A R I L I N G G A W A ' S

A P P R O A C H

INTRODUCTION

Sariling Gawa is proud to present this 1981 Final Edition on the proceedings of our first Main Conference and the Community Conferences.

Sariling Gawa is greatly indebted to the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the Filipino 75th Anniversary Commemoration Commission, and to our community liaisons, patrons and community organizations whose support and material aid made this possible.

We especially express our gratitude to Mr. Domingo Los Banos, Jr. whose unending faith and trust in Filipino young people truly served to characterize this project as "Our Own Work."

And to all the Filipino young adults for whom we established Sariling Gawa and the conferences: this is just the beginning. We have much to contribute to the Filipino community as well as to the community at large. The proceedings in the following pages can be attributed to the potential of Filipino young adults as an emerging source of new leadership in Hawaii.

It is hoped that this document will serve as a meaningful resource to the people of Hawaii.

Overview of the Organization

Sariling Gawa was established in 1980 as a non-profit organization in Hawaii to plan, coordinate and implement educational and cultural activities for Filipino young adults. The organization was formed by young Filipinos from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, students from various high schools on Oahu, and working youths with the blessings of older, respected Filipinos in Hawaii.

The Goal

The long-term goal of the organization is "through community involvement and ongoing education, the group plans to increase the number of well-informed Filipino leaders as well as ordinary citizens who will contribute toward the growth of the community."

Introduction

The Objectives

1. To increase awareness and develop ways to meet the needs and issues confronting Filipino young adults and the community at large.
2. To provide a vehicle for developing leadership skills.
3. To provide a forum for Filipino young adults to voice their concerns and participate in community affairs.
4. To teach the history and the cultural experience of the Filipino in a multi-ethnic community.
5. To instill a positive self-concept on being Filipino.
6. To increase knowledge, appreciation and preservation of Filipino culture and values (language, food, lifestyles, traditions, songs, dances, etc.) through workshops and demonstration classes.
7. To provide insights for career training and development.
8. To maintain an effective communication and social network among Filipino youth groups in the state.
9. To better understand and become involved in our governmental system.

The Activities

1. Annual Statewide Youth Conference. This is to focus on issues and concerns, culture, history, ethnic identity, problem-solving techniques, leadership training.
2. Monthly Newsletter. This is the major form of communication and sharing of information with other youth groups.

Introduction

3. Technical, Information and Referral Assistance
4. Support and Participate in Activities that are consistent with the objectives of the organization.

* * *

Being a Filipino in Hawaii means that I have the chance to have a better life and the chance to see what every immigrant wants to see in the "land of opportunity."

(Waipahu delegate, Age 18)

Being a Filipino in Hawaii means being Hawaiian, Filipino and American all at once.

(Kauai delegate, Age 17)

Being a Filipino in Hawaii means respecting oneself no matter how he or she has been brought up.

(Kauai delegate, Age 16)

SARILING GAWA'S APPROACH

The reappearance of neighborhood boards, health committees, parent advisory councils, community associations, advocacy groups, and other similar groups is a reflection of the resurgence or coming back of participatory democracy through citizen participation in our society. The process that went on in this conference project, its activities and decision making, followed the concept of citizen participation.

The conference planners firmly believed that people in order to be affected by a project or program, such as the conference project, must take an active role in the project. Community people including the youth must be involved from the onset of idea formation, identification of community needs, writing and rewriting of plans, implementation of project activities, and in reviewing and evaluating their own accomplishments and failures. An equally important reason for the conference planners to stick to the concept of citizen participation is that they wanted to avoid a common mistake where results of information gathered are never communicated back to the community. Sariling Gawa subscribed fully to community involvement and made every effort to include community input in the conference project. It is in the process of completing that vital circle with communication of results of its first conference.

The remainder of the text will discuss the process which Sariling Gawa underwent in the planning of the conference project.

The idea of a youth conference was first conceived by a group of prominent Filipinos in the community who called themselves the Hawaii Filipino Plus. The conference was originally intended and planned for the gifted and high achieving Filipino students in Hawaii and to have been called a "Youth Congress." Through the resourcefulness of a former DOE district superintendent, the process of community involvement started. Young adults from the community representing various socio-economic backgrounds and grade levels were called together to exchange ideas, discuss and finalize the direction of the project. This core group was convinced that the conference project must include young participants who represent various backgrounds at a statewide level. Thus, the goal was broadened to include all Filipino youth. A preliminary conference plan was the

result of several meetings. This plan was later presented to various groups such as Filipino community associations, youth organizations, school officials and workers in social service agencies. These presentations generated constructive feedback that were needed in the refinement of the final project plan. The conference project plan was submitted to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and to the Filipino 75th Anniversary Commemoration Commission for funding. Both groups partially funded the project while the remaining cost was raised through solicitations from private individuals and community organizations, and through several fund-raising activities. Some Filipino island councils and associations provided support in terms of travel funds and hospitality accommodations for Sariling Gawa members who conducted the pre-community planning activities and the community conferences.

To maintain an effective and dynamic group, these guidelines for the conference planners were established.

1. The conference planners will be mostly young adults at high school, college and post college levels with guidance from appropriate individuals as they deem necessary.
2. Decisions of the conference planners will be by consensus.
3. They will not endorse political candidates.
4. Capitalize on young adult participation in the preparation of community conferences.
5. Proper recognition will be given to appropriate groups and individuals.
6. Duplication of efforts within community programs will be avoided.
7. The planners will be accountable only to the conference planning group and appropriate conference sponsors.
8. They will focus only upon issues that emerge from the conferences.
9. Planners will be open and receptive to community feedback.

Two consultants were hired to implement the conference project plan, the project coordinator and the administrative assistant. They started the process of identifying, contacting and confirming community liaisons who were later called "community conference organizers." They also took charge of communication, paperwork and travel arrangements. Other members of Sariling Gawa formed

their own committees which were essential in planning the conferences and assisted the consultants in any other tasks that needed to be done.

The conference series project is divided into four phases: 1) the pre-community conference planning stage, 2) the community conferences, 3) a main conference and 4) follow-up activities.

The pre-community conference planning stage involved corresponding with community people in regard to possible support, resources, liaisons, dates and locations of the community conferences. This stage also meant pre-testing the workshop procedures, writing and editing statements of broad issues and concerns, mass producing the printed materials, arranging for publicity and press releases, confirming dates and locations of community conferences and preparing community conference packets. An orientation trip was also conducted for each community participating in the project for a personal meeting with the community conference and a training session for discussion leaders and recorders completed the pre-community conference planning stage.

The second stage consisted of the community conferences themselves which were held at eight locations in Hawaii (three on Oahu, two on the Big Island, and one each on Molokai, Lanai and Kauai). The format of the community conferences included opening remarks by guest speakers or the Sariling Gawa representative, followed by small group workshops and concluded by a reporting session. The workshops were the focus for identifying the needs, issues and problems of Filipino youths in that community. Prioritized issues were also provided with potentially workable solutions by members of the same workshops. Good things and positive aspects of that community that tend to be working for the benefit of Filipino youths were also identified. (The technique used in the community conferences is called the Delbeq* technique.) Findings from these community conferences were later used as building blocks in tailoring the content and context of the main conference.

The main conference at Camp Harold Erdman on March 6, 7 and 8, 1981, marked the climax of the project. Delegates from all of the different communities gathered together to learn more about leadership skills, positive self-development, culture, Filipino history and so forth. Speakers and activities were carefully chosen to reflect the interest and issues which had been brought

Sariling Gawa's Approach

out in the previously held community conferences. More importantly, the main conference became a forum for helping the community delegates to grasp a real and specific concern in their own communities, and to come up with a realistic project directed toward resolution of such concerns.

The final stage of the conference project, is also the follow-up phase, the beginning of further activities. During this period, proposed projects and activities from each community are to be implemented and then shared with fellow delegates through the publication of a newsletter. A Sariling Gawa coordinating council is to be formed, which will provide continuing technical assistance and advice to island chapters.

* * *

*Delbeq technique: an orderly and effective method in conducting group discussions especially identifying and prioritizing needs or problems. See The Community Conferences, A Brief Introduction section for further explanation.

TIMETABLE OF TASKS

	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
<u>Write-ups</u>	By 8/31									
<u>Funding application</u>		By 9/30								
<u>Committees Functioning</u>		By 9/30								
<u>Publicity</u>			By 10/31							
<u>Pre Conference</u>						Begin				
<u>Main Conference</u>								3/6-3/8		
<u>Follow-up</u>									Begin	