



By: KIT ZULUETA
(Maui)

Panel reactors, lunch speaker announced for Fil-Am Young Leaders Summit

WAIPAHU, Hawai'i – The FilAm Young Leaders Program announced the delegation of panel reactors and ROVAIRA DASIG of Pulse.ph as the lunch speaker to participate in the FYL Summit. The public is invited to attend the Summit on Saturday, May 3 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the FilCom Center in Waipahu and register at www.fylsummit.com.

Dasig moved to the United States as a child who grew up to be class president, valedictorian then study economics at Wellesley College, a top-ranking women's university in Boston. After a life-changing trip the Philippines, she decided to move back in 2011 and co-founded The PULSE Group - Creative Partners, Inc., where she currently serves as president. Pulse is a creative firm based in Manila which helps individuals build passion-driven creative careers in the Philippines.

She is also the creator and co-producer of MNL - A FilAm TV Original Production and serves on the board of TIGRA Philippines, an organization dedicated to provide an "exit strategy" support to Fil-Am immigrants.

Dasig will be the Summit's lunch speaker on May 3rd.

A group of reactors selected from a wide list of Hawai'i young leaders are individuals that may provide resources, feedback and insight during the breakout sessions. The sessions will cover a range of topics from politics, culture & arts, education, entrepreneurship, to ways on how to give back to the community.

Panel reactors include:

- **CARMILLE LIM** is the executive director of Common Cause Hawai'i. Lim worked as development and advocacy manager for the YWCA of Oahu and she serves as board member for the National Association of Commissions for Women.
- **NICOLE VELASCO** is the executive secretary of the Honolulu City and County's Neighborhood Commission, overseeing 33 neighborhood boards island-wide. Velasco worked as a government affairs specialist at Ashford and Wriston, LLP, and as an analyst for the State Office of the Auditor.
- **JEFFREY ACIDO**, a Student Regent at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, is currently pursuing his Ph.D. After graduating from Farrington High School, he attended UH and earned a B.A in Religion.
- **IRIS GIL VIACRUSIS** is an artist, a fashion designer and a cultural warrior whose discerning eye and talent creates amazing masterpieces. Iris



has been designing dresses for over 15 years, under his own brand Iris Gil Design, specializing in Filipiniana and Hawaiian attire.

• **GABRIEL TORNO** has led the award-winning Tekniqlngz Crew, a traditional and modern Philippine folk dance group which perpetuates the Filipino American youth culture through the creative fusion of traditional Philippine folk dances and the world of hip-hop.

• **JANE CLEMENT** is the President of the Congress of Visayan Organization Foundation and the President of the Kona Visayan Club. She is a legislative assistant to Councilmember Dru Kanuha, hosts "Truly Pinoy," a Filipino television show on the local cable channel and is a column writer for the *Fil-Am Courier*.

• **ROUEL VELASCO**, an educator and advisor, is the student life coordinator at the University of Hawai'i West Oahu campus. His passion lies in creating opportunities for young people to self-actualize their potential

and be an "agent" of change for their self, families, communities, and the world beyond.

• **JASON UBAY** is the managing editor and social media manager for *Hawai'i Business* magazine, the oldest regional business magazine in the United States reaching more than 58,000 business decision makers each month. He is also the president of the Asian American Journalists Association-Hawai'i chapter.

• **DAVID AQUINO** is a project specialist for Blue Planet Foundation. He graduated with a B.A. in Environmental Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, where he led the Energy Team of Sustainable UH. Aquino's team engaged campus groups in energy efficiency efforts, training them in how to assess the energy consumption in their campus facilities.

• **DESIREA AGUINALDO** - is the CEO of OneSource, Inc., which provides businesses the opportunity to outsource human resources functions such as payroll and workers'

compensation. She has been named *Pacific Business News'* 2012 Young Business Leader of the Year.

• **JOEFFREY CUDIAMAT**, a USC Summa Cum Laude, owns Structural Builders Hawai'i, Inc., a general contracting company and Cudiamat Design and Engineering Services, an outsourced architectural and engineering firm based out of Cubao, Quezon City. He was a former Chief Engineer for the City and County of Honolulu and the current president of the Filipino American League of Engineers and Architects.

• **MARIA ANDREA JURADO** is currently a senior at Waipahu High School. Jurado excels in academics, most especially in history and in science and technology. Jurado is a 2013 Alexander Hamilton Leaders Academy scholar and won Reiyukai America's Letter to my Parents contest.

• **DANIEL EISEN, PH.D.** started his work on the subject of Filipino ethnic identity while earning his Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Hawai'i. Eisen is currently an assistant

professor of sociology and assistant dean of strategic initiatives at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon.

- **ZHOYDELL MAGAOAY** is the current president of the Honolulu Filipino Junior Chamber of Commerce and is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership at Argosy University. He is an active member of the Hawai'i State Teachers Association, serving as Vice-President Elect for 2014-2016 for the Honolulu Chapter.

- **PATRICIA ESPIRITU HALAGAO, PH.D.** is an associate professor of multicultural education and social studies in the College of Education at UH Manoa. Her scholarship focuses on culturally responsive curriculum and pedagogy, particularly the education of Filipino Americans. She is co-founder of Pinoy Teach and recipient of two Smithsonian Institution grants to develop their Centennial online and multimedia Filipino American curriculum, iDeepney.com.

Invited guest speaker for the Summit is San Diego successful entrepreneur and U.S. *Gawad Kalinga* Chairman TONY OLAES, who considers himself a 'born-again' Filipino after a life-changing experience in the Philippines.

"This summit is a chance for our Hawai'i Fil-Am community to network and engage with leaders from across the U.S." Summit chair 2012 FYLPro delegate from Hawai'i Kit Zulueta said. *"Most importantly, the event is an opportunity to get inspired, or get re-inspired, by discussing issues that are close to our hearts as Filipinos."*

"I strongly urge our young professionals, students, and all those who care about our community to join us at the summit."

The Summit intends to bring leaders together to empower, inspire and discuss solutions on how to advance Filipino-American advocacies in similar communities across the nation.

There is no age limit for those wishing to attend the summit. Participants are invited to register online at www.fylsummit.com. A registration fee of \$50 will include conference packets and lunch.

The Fil-Am Young Leaders Summit is part of FilCom Center's *Flores de Mayo* celebration.

For other inquiries and student rates contact Kit Zulueta at (808) 291-9407 or email faylshawai@gmail.com