

IMPROVE EDUCATION
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES
ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES
MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR
MAUI ISLANDS
NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

Our Heritage: The Filipinos

On December 20, 1906, onboard the SS Doric, the first group of 15 sakadas, or contract laborers, recruited by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, arrived to work on the sugar plantations.



Not the first Filipinos in Hawai'i — others known as "Manila Men" were in Hawai'i at the time of the monarchy. They were cooks and musicians, of whom at least six were involved with the Royal Hawaiian Band.

But the arrival of the sakadas marked the beginning of an aggressive campaign to recruit Filipino plantation labor. When they reached Hawai'i the oppressive plantation system was already entrenched. Between 1906 and 1930, the HSPA brought in approximately 120,000 Filipinos, and by 1930 the sakadas had become the majority of the plantation workforce, replacing the Japanese. The last group of 6,000 sakadas arrived in 1946, shortly before Philippine independence was regained from the United States. After that the quota was limited to 50 a year, later increased to 100. It was only toward the late 1950s that immigration laws enabled Filipinos already in Hawai'i to get their families beyond the quotas. And in 1965, immigration laws were liberalized to admit not only family members but also professionals, including doctors, nurses, engineers, lawyers, accountants, teachers, health technicians and others with college educations and marketable skills. Today more immigrants come to Hawai'i from the Philippines than from any other country.

About 36,000 Maui County residents are of Filipino ancestry. For over a century their growing influence in labor, business, education, and government has enriched the unique fabric of our Maui Nui community.



"If there is any hope that we, as a unified, humble, and powerful Filipino community on Maui will grow and prosper, we must honor our past ..."

~Megan Bagoyo
Granddaughter of a sakada
From ANAK A Tribute to Maui's Filipinos

"Filipinos...
we're always
trying to avail
ourselves,
to make that
difference in
other people's
lives."

~ Danny A. Mateo
First council member of
Filipino descent to be
elected as Maui County
Council chairman.

What is your favorite Filipino food?



RECORD YOUR COMMENT AT 808.270.6801 or POST ON THE FOCUS MAUI NUI FACEBOOK PAGE MAHALO!