



# Let's Talk Story!

We Tell Our Story: Filipino Voices in Hawai'i

Hilo Workshop Participants (Group A)

**Monday, February 3 (07:00 to 08:30PM)**

Hilo Workshop Participants (Group B)

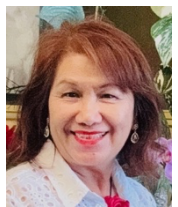
**Tuesday, February 4 (03:00 to 04:30PM)**



**Milli Asuncion** was born and raised on Kauai, lived on Oahu, and currently resides in Hilo. She retired from the Hawaii DOE as teacher, counselor, and student services coordinator. She is the co-founder and board secretary of *Sariling Gawa* Youth Council.



**Rose Bautista** was born in Ilocos Sur and immigrated to the US in 1968 when she was eight. She is an immigration attorney and served as the immigration specialist for the County of Hawaii from 2001-2016. and is an active member of the Big Island community



**Erlinda V Bernardo** was born in the Philippines and migrated to Hawaii in 1990 and worked as an ESL teacher and program coordinator. She is mother and grandmother and very active in her community and the Catholic Church.



**Carol Brown** is a retired schoolteacher. A descendant of Filipinos from Cebu, she was born in Hilo and taught at Hilo Union Elementary School. Her father owned a pool hall and rooming house at Mamo Street in Hilo. She considers herself a "city girl".



**Sandra K Claveria**, is the youngest of 6 children to Harriet Makuakane and Macario Indong Claveria. She is from Ilocos Norte and is a retired professor from the Hawaii Community College!



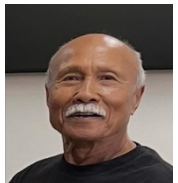
**Phylis "Coochie" Cayan** is a former SHPD History & Culture Branch Chief at the State of Hawaii's DLNR and is now an Intake Specialist at the same department. She received her BA in History from UH West Oahu.



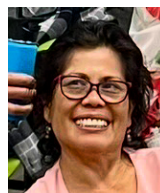
**June dela Cruz** was born in Honolulu and raised on the Big Island. She is a proud descendant of Sakadas: her father and grandfather (maternal). Currently she is an ELL and Performing Arts teacher at Kea'au High School.



**Priscilla Evangelista** was born and raised in the Philippines. She had two dreams: to come to Hawaii and become a registered nurse (RN). Both dreams were realized but with numerous adversities and perseverance.



**Romel Dela Cruz**. Born in the Philippines and grew up on a sugar plantation on the Big Island. He worked for many years as a health care administrator and passionate about sharing stories about the Filipino experience in Hawaii.



**Julita Hara** was born in Batangas province to hardworking farmers in a family of eight siblings. She holds degrees in accounting, psychology, and elementary education. She is a retired elementary school teacher for the Hawaii DOE. She is married and has an adult son.



**Lani Eugenio** is a writer & educator. Her father left the Philippines in 1924, not knowing that they were sent as strike-breakers after the Hanapepe Massacre. He married Roselia Kapela, a hapa Hawaiian Chinese. Her father was a storyteller and with each story were life lessons and advice.



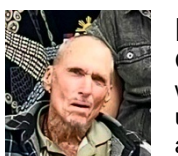
**Frances Recarte** is the 2nd daughter of Marcus Recarte & Minnie Davis Makepal and grew up in a Hawaiian family enriched with the Hawaiian culture and Catholic values. She grew up in Waiahole in Oahu. At 88, she is enjoying retirement as an educator at Saint Ann's in Kaneohe



**Maria Paul** was raised in the mountain town of Baguio, Philippines and hails from the Ibaloi tribe of the Cordillera mountains. She was raised where the extended family took precedence over the individual but has learned to adapt to Western culture.



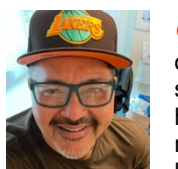
**Beth Sabala** is a retired 3<sup>rd</sup> generation descendant of Filipinos who migrated from the Philippines in the 1920s. She is a former Miss Hawaii Filipina (1984) who settled in Las Vegas where she worked in the hospitality industry. She has 4 children, 6 grandkids.



**Bill Paul** was raised in Hawaii and is Caucasian of English German ancestry. He was raised to emphasize individual uniqueness over group consciousness. He is a father to 2 sons and husband for 50 years.



**Natie Whitlock** is from Kailua-Kona of the Big Island. An entrepreneur at heart, she is affiliated with 101 Financial. She received her degree from the University of Hawaii.



**Our Moderator: Kurt Dela Cruz** is originally from Nā'alehu. He is one of the last sugar workers before the end of that era. He holds a degree in mass communication and a master's degree in higher education leadership and works for UH H



*Our Venue*

**Lyman Museum**  
276 Haili Street  
Hilo, HI 96720 • Ph: (808) 935-5021  
[www.lymanmuseum.org](http://www.lymanmuseum.org)



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*We Tell Our Story: Filipino Voices in Hawaii* is offered by the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW), a non-profit organization that aims to preserve and support the history, art and culture of Filipinos and Filipino Americans. Writing workshops and public forums are supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, through support from the Hawaii Council for the Humanities.