

YES on Measure OO and Measure UU!

Funding Violence Prevention Programs

For the past 2 years, FAA's youth development projects, Asian Pacific Islander Youth Promoting Advocacy & Leadership (AYPAL), and Regional Alliance for Community Empowerment (RACE), have been working on winning resources for violence prevention programs in Oakland and Union City respectively. Their work is culminating November 4th in ballot Measures OO in Oakland and UU in Union City.

In Oakland, The Kids First measure that was passed by voters in 1996, established the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth and required the city to make the well being of kids a top priority by dedicating a small portion of the Oakland city budget for youth programs, such as AYPAL.

Thanks to Kids First, funding for after-school mentoring, arts, job training and pre-school programs have produced the following effects: 86% of participants at 25 schools improved their academic performance and test scores; 70% said this program helps them stay safe; and 89% of parents were satisfied with the quality of service their kids received.

Measure OO proposes to maintain funding for the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth at 1.5% of Oakland's general fund for the next two years, then increase in the third year to 2.5% – without raising taxes. With more funds for children's services, Measure OO will make it possible to serve an additional 20,000 kids a year. If we don't vote YES on Measure OO, the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth will be cut and 5,000 kids will lose after-school programs! Oakland is facing some big challenges.

In Union City, RACE has worked closely with Congregations Organizing for Renewal (COR) and many other Union City community members have been addressing the concerns of youth violence in Union City through the Youth Violence Prevention Coalition.



Union City youth and city officials show their support for Measure UU at a "ROCK THE VOTE NIGHT" at Paddy's Coffee House in Union City, CA. (Top Row: second from the left, Union City Mayor Mark Green, second from the right New Haven School Board Member Gertrude Gregorio, sixth from the Right - Human Relations Commissioner Sarabjit Chemma.

Measure UU would provide approximately \$500,000 annually for funding for violence prevention programs such as outreach community workers, bi-lingual counselors, job placement coordinators, and data-crime statistics.

RACE is taking a lead in getting the Union City youth involved in the campaign. RACE Interns, Justine Santos says, "Even though some of us are not old enough to vote, the youth should be informed of what's going on." Marvin Aceberos chimes in with, "This Measure is important to us! Youth are concerned about violence and it is important that youth are involved with the process."

AYPAL and RACE will be organizing youth to participate in precinct walks, phone banking, press conferences, and meeting with local and school officials to pass Measure OO in Oakland and Measure UU in Union City this coming November 4th.

For more information on Measure OO, please visit www.YESonOO.com! For more information on Measure UU visit www.putsafetyfirst.net. To get involved in Oakland, please call us at (510) 465-9876 or in Union City, please call (510) 487-8552.

YES on Measure OO (Oakland) and Measure UU (Union City) !

Increased Enforcement Taking Toll on Immigrants

With the ongoing war in Iraq, the mortgage and financial institution meltdowns, and growing unemployment, the issue of immigration policy has been overshadowed in the November 2008 elections. For immigrants, however, the election period has been far from quiet. On the contrary, among immigrant workers and in immigrant communities, the past year has been marked by increasing fear of workplace raids or 'visits' at home by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents. Additionally, in San Francisco the U.S. Attorney is trying to dismantle immigrant-friendly policies, like the Sanctuary Ordinance and municipal ID cards for immigrants.

According to Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, arrests in worksite cases have jumped from a total of 850 in 2004 to 4,940 in 2007. As of May 31, 2008, ICE has already arrested 3000 people for immigration violations and 875 more on criminal charges. Locally, raids at El Balazo restaurants in the San Francisco Bay area rounded up 63 workers, and an unknown number, including some Filipino home care workers in Union City have been visited at their workplace by ICE agents asking for proof of authorization to work.

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

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MISSION STATEMENT

Filipinos for Affirmative Action's mission is to build a strong and empowered Filipino community by organizing constituents, developing leaders, providing services, and advocating for policies that promote social and economic justice and equity.

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Mobilizing Filipino Voters to the Polls

Use your Right to Vote November 4th

2008 has been a busy election year with an historic presidential contest sparking an interest in politics and resulting in more Americans becoming registered voters and using their right to vote. In fact, the foreign-born population in California, within the next 5-10 years, is poised to become a significant political force according to a recent report from Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR). Their analysis reveals that more than 2 of 3 foreign-born California residents (6.5 million) are either citizens or eligible to naturalize and vote. Immigrant communities have a tremendous opportunity to play a growing role in challenging bad and detrimental policies that so often directly affect them on multiple fronts. The California State legislature for example, recently introduced 32 anti-immigrant proposals, requiring our attention for the remainder of 2008 and into 2009-2010.



Youth volunteers hit the streets in Union City last June to talk to Filipino voters about Measure K.

FAA ran voter mobilization and Get Out The Vote campaigns to increase voter participation on the primaries, the various ballot initiatives, and local measures. During the June mid-term elections, the Union City youth showed a strong motivation to get involved. Volunteers made significant strides to pass Measure K (a parcel tax for violence prevention programs and public safety) in Union City. We also worked to defeat state Prop 98 (protection of renters' rights) and pass Prop 99 (eminent domain reform). So far this year, we have recruited and trained more than 45 volunteers ranging from youth to seniors to get involved in Union City and Oakland. They made over 1,600 telephone contacts and met face to face with many neighbors during 3 precinct walks. While we shared victories with Props 98/99, Measure K lacked fewer than 300 votes to capture the 66% majority needed to pass. In a post-election meeting, youth reported being energized about their community and proud of their GOTV accomplishments despite not passing Measure K. Many reported they are ready to volunteer again.

In addition to the presidential election, the November ballot contains no less than 13 state initiatives and numerous local and county measures and contests, which can overwhelm even the most devoted voters. FAA volunteers will be on the phones and will hit the streets in Union City once again to talk to Filipino voters. We are also mailing a Voter Guide to over 17,000 Filipino registered voters in Alameda County. If you want to learn more about how to get involved, contact us at (510) 465-9876 in Oakland or (510) 487-8552 in Union City; email at galcid@filipinos4action.org.

On November 4th, Don't Forget to Vote:

NO	State Proposition 6 The Runner Bill: Criminalizes youth, particularly immigrant youth
Yes (Oakland Residents)	Measure OO Increase funds for after school and safety programs.
Yes (Union City Residents)	Measure UU Establishes fund for youth development services and public safety

Manilatown Heritage Foundation honors FAA Executive Director



For her leadership in defending civil and human rights, FAA Executive Director, Lillian Galedo, received the Bill Sorro Award for Social Justice, from (left) Emil de Guzman Manilatown Heritage Foundation Board President and Ron Muriera (right) Manilatown Executive Director.

FAA's Homecare Organizing Project Builds Community Support for Immigrant Workers

In a St. Anne's church's meeting room on August 2nd, Filipino homecare workers, faith leaders, and lawyers gathered to discuss worker and immigrant rights and building a community network for home care workers in Union City.

FAA organized the Homecare Community Forum & Training after months of outreach to homecare workers about their concerns and to help them improve their working and living conditions. Outreach focused primarily on live-in caregivers in Union City, where Filipino immigrant workers staff almost all of the 90+ home facilities visited. Union City is a microcosm of the booming homecare industry, its growing foundation of Filipino immigrant labor reflected in the 266.7% increase in Filipinos leaving the Philippines to work as caregivers in the U.S. in 2006 alone.

In surveys and during home visits with workers, immigration-related problems emerged as a primary issue. In recent months the Asian Law Caucus (ALC) received a trickle of intakes from live-in homecare workers from Union City and Hayward who had been placed on detention and deportation orders after being seized at their jobs by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials. The cases indicated a focus on Filipino live-in homecare workers and raised suspicions about small ICE raids targeting group homes and senior care facilities in South Alameda County.

FAA worked with ALC and St. Anne's social justice committee to increase homecare worker outreach and education efforts culminating in the Homecare Community Forum & Training. After an opening greeting from Fr. Geoffrey, the workshop began with the sharing of personal stories of migration and perceptions of the root causes for displacement from the Philippines. Workers continued by identifying problems they faced in the U.S., among them: no compensation for work injuries; lack of benefits; the withholding of wages; exploitation at work related to immigration status; difficulty getting employment authorization; lack of recognition of prior experience and skills obtained in the Philippines; and feelings of isolation and depression.

In the discussion that followed, workers' harsh living and working conditions stood in stark contrast to their outstanding contributions as immigrant workers to both the U.S. and Philippine economies. The workshop continued with training on knowing and advocating for your rights as workers. The meeting ended with a dialogue focused on pinpointing the homecare workers' pressing needs, resources each individual and group could offer, and identifying next steps as a network of homecare workers, church leaders and community organizations. Workers and organizations made plans to bring the conversation back to their networks, some aiming to strengthen local church support for immigrant worker rights and others committing to mobilizing more workers to participate in future meetings and trainings.

Within the broader context of raids; the strengthening of community support to defend the rights of workers and immigrants is more critical. The home care worker project has planted the seeds for building the community power necessary to advance justice for workers and immigrants.



Cheryl Andrada of the Asian Law Caucus conducts workers' rights workshop for home care workers in Union City.

Economic Crisis Affecting Filipino Workers Globally

PAWIS Vice-Chair Hector Arcangel, 79-years old, has worked at Oakland International Airport for nearly 15 years. He's a hard worker and tireless advocate of worker and immigrant rights. In early September he received a memorandum from the Department of Health & Human Services informing him they could no longer cover the costs of his medical services resulting in the loss of MediCAL assistance critical to meeting his health needs. "We have come to hard times in this economic situation," Hector asserts, "It's getting to be tighter and tighter for working people, especially for an old man like me."

Hector's lay-off is only one sign of difficult economic times where California struggles to meet a \$15.2 billion budget deficit and a sub-prime mortgage crisis skyrockets U.S. foreclosure rates. The economic crisis is affecting low-wage workers like Hector with lay-offs and loss of housing.

This past year, passenger services jobs at the Oakland airport were reduced in Terminal 1 from 70 positions to only 13, and in Terminal 2 only 30 positions remain. As a group, older Filipino immigrant workers make up the majority of the workers displaced.

"Walang trabaho, mahal ang mga bilihan, tumaas lahat! [There are no jobs, everything is expensive, all the prices have gone up!]," exclaims Emiliana Acopia, 75, who lost her job as a ticket reader after working at the Oakland airport for 12 years. Her family is among the many working families forced to move after their home was foreclosed upon last month. "This is bad for the Filipinos because many of us are sending money to the Philippines." A mother of 7 children, 3 of whom live in the Philippines, Emiliana is more and more hard-pressed to send monthly remittances to help her son pay for his diabetes medicine and to put her grandchildren through nursing school. With the Philippine economy dependent on remittances from overseas workers, and on the

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Fil Vets Bill Runs Out of Time, the Struggle Continues

The final days of the campaign to restore U.S. veterans' status to Filipino WWII veterans in 110th Congress did not net the results we hoped for. S. 1315 the "Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act" containing a provision to provide benefits for Filipino WWII veterans, which passed in the Senate 96 to 1, was finally taken up and passed in the House of Representatives WITHOUT (incredibly!) the provisions for Filipino veterans. In an effort to pass the bill in the waning days of Congress, mandatory expenditures like the Filipino provision was dropped from the bill.

The following day the House passed by a vote of 392-23, HR 6897, legislation that provides a lump sum payment to Filipino WWII Veterans in the amount of \$15,000 for veterans in the U.S. and \$9,000 for veterans in the Philippines. This bill must still go to the Senate but the likelihood of action is slim given how late we are in the legislative year.

Advocates are outraged that the House version of S. 1315 does not contain the provisions for Filipino WWII veterans. We have also expressed our objections to HR 6897. This lump sum alternative is lacking for a number of reasons: it does not rescind the infamous Recession Act of 1946, which dismissed Filipino service in the U.S. military as being 'not in the service of the U.S.', it doesn't resolve the issue of equal status for Filipino WWII veterans, the amounts are not sufficient to sustain a veteran for even a year, and the influx of cash will mean a break in their eligibility for Medicare and disability benefits.

Senator Akaka's (D-Hawaii) attempt to convene a conference committee to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of S. 1315, was blocked by Senator Burr (R-No. Carolina). Senator Burr and House Representative Buyer (R - Indiana) have led the opposition to equal status for Filipino WWII veterans.



Filipino WWII veterans lay a wreath at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., on the anniversary of the Bataan Death March last Spring.

Call Senator Burr (1-202-224-3154) and Representative Buyer (1-202-225-5037) TODAY. Our message: Stop the ongoing discrimination against Filipino WWII veterans. Restore equal status for Filipino WWII Veterans.

Please also urge Senators Akaka and Reid in the Senate and Speaker Pelosi and Representative Filner in the House not to give up the fight, continue their efforts to restore equal status to Filipino WWII veterans. Call the Capitol Switchboard telephone number and you will be connected to their offices: 1-202-221-3121.

For more information call FAA at 510-465-9876; or contact Ben de Guzman National Coordinator of the National Alliance for Filipino Veterans' Equity (NAFVE) at 1-202-422-4909 or by e-mail at nafve2007@gmail.com.

Immigration from page 1

Nationally, raids have separated children from their parents, arrestees have not been afforded the right to due process, and local communities, especially relatives including legal permanent residents and U.S. citizens, have been left to cope with the aftermath. Speaking on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Bishop John C. Wester, chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Migration, urged the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and President Bush to reexamine the use of worksite enforcement raids as an immigration enforcement tool.

"We have witnessed first-hand the suffering of immigrant families and are gravely concerned about the collateral human consequences of immigration enforcement raids on the family unit," says Wester in the statement. "Many families never recover; others never reunite." The bishops urged the two presidential candidates "to engage the issue of immigration in a humane, thoughtful, and courageous manner" and to turn away from enforcement-only methods.

Representing a coalition of immigrant rights organizations, including FAA, the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) issued a Statement on Immigration that asserts, "A new presidential administration must turn away from the repressive and mean-spirited policies and practices that are being played out against immigrant workers, families and communities The immigrant rights movement must continue to raise its voice for fairness and justice for all immigrants."

Immigration policy should address the need for:

- 1) An immediate end to raids, detentions and deportations and the creation of humanitarian programs that integrate immigrants into the U.S.
- 2) The restoration of due process rights and equality under the law for all persons, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status.
- 3) The passage of fair and just immigration reforms that ensure human rights and labor protections for all immigrants, broad opportunities for legalizing the undocumented, protects family unity as the core of immigration policy, resolves the family petition backlogs, de-militarizes border regions, ends temporary worker programs, and fairness in refugee and asylum processes, among other needed policies and programs.

We need to reject the "comprehensive immigration reform" strategy of the past few years that resulted in a body of proposals that undermined fair and just legalization, and called for increased enforcement and temporary worker programs. We have to de-link immigration policy from the national security framework and the corporate-driven "need" for exploitable labor. Framing the immigration debate around the "war on terror" manipulates public fear and produces heavy-handed, misguided and costly enforcement policies and practices that are inhumane and enables further exploitation of migrant labor.

Contact FAA for an expanded copy of this statement.

35 Years of Service and Leadership

FAA celebrated our 35th anniversary, *Balikan sa Pinagmulan: Returning to Our Roots* where we paid tribute to Bill Tamayo, the first Asian American to serve as the Regional Attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, San Francisco District, and a former FAA board president. We are proud of Bill for his dedication to immigrant and civil rights. In the spirit of *Balikan sa Pinagmulan*, Bill and many other FAA alumni “came home” to celebrate our milestone anniversary. Lillian Galeo, Executive Director, Chris Cara, Youth Services Director and Don Rodis, board member celebrated their own milestones with FAA. Chris started as an intern, and has been a staff person with FAA for 8 years. Lillian celebrated her 60th birthday and 28th year with FAA. And, Don has been with the FAA board for 15 years. Erica Nalani of Famoksaiyan, Canadian Idol finalist Mikey Bustos and DJ Eratic provided the celebration’s musical entertainment.

We also had a chance to reflect on FAA’s 35 year history as an anchor institution for the Filipino community and the many social justice campaigns we have worked on such as: *recognition and equal benefits for Filipino WWII veterans; decent wages, working conditions and access to health insurance for low-wage airport workers; youth leadership development; voter engagement; and just immigration reform.* This event was not only a celebration and chance to honor important community leaders but also raised funds to support projects aimed at the more vulnerable in our community. Thank you to all who helped make our event a great success!



Special Thanks to Our Sponsors:

Kasama: Kaiser Permanente;

Kapangyarihan: The California Endowment; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 595; United Way of the Bay Area;

Kalayaan: California Nurses Association; Ray Colmenar and Fatima Angeles; Manilatown Heritage Foundation; SEIU United Healthcare Workers West; Verizon Wireless;

Katarungan: Jesiros “Don” Bautista; Robert Bonta; Family Bridges; KTSF 26; Maurice Lim Miller; SEIU Local 1021;

Pagkakaisa: Alameda Labor Council—AFL-CIO; Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), AFL-CIO; Asian Health Services; David Bacon; Evangeline Canonizado Buell; Edwin and Gigi Cruz; East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation; Engineers and Scientists of CA, Local 20, I.F.P.T.E, AFL-CIO & CLC; First California Realty & Home Loans; Dan and Linda Gonzales; Grant & Smith, LLP; Kennedy Helm; Mel and Belle Orpilla; Port of Oakland; Newcal Industries; Marie Rivera-Yip; UNITE HERE Local 2850; Eduardo and Ester Valladares; and Trina Villanueva.

To view our 35th Anniversary slideshow and event photos, please check out: www.filipinos4action.org/35thAnniv.htm.



Airport Layoffs from page 3

U.S. as a top export and investment partner, the financial crisis affects Filipino families across the globe.

For those who have remained employed at the airport in this tightening economy, they still suffer from great instability. Workers airport-wide have faced cuts to their hours, unreliable schedules and constant anxiety over whether or not they will lose their jobs. In Terminal 2, workers received a memo from their employer Aviation Safeguards stating that although there have already been significant lay-offs, the company expects to eliminate even more jobs. Adding to the workers’ anxiety, management is monitoring them closely and constantly evaluating them based on whether they are working hard enough or are doing enough to “help out.”

Hector describes PAWIS’ (a worker led group) role as ‘minimizing the misery and, as much as possible, holding administrators and politicians accountable. They haven’t been doing their homework.’

PAWIS is organizing a membership meeting to provide moral support for displaced workers, and discussion of their concerns and the economic situation. The meeting will precede an informational on resources for displaced workers in collaboration with the Employment Development Department (EDD) and EASTBAY Works. PAWIS plans to invite local elected officials to raise awareness and garner support for the struggle of workers in the current economic crisis.



Agnes Briones Ubalde (2nd to Right), Vice president, Sr. Community Development Officer, Community Relations Manager of Wachovia Corporation presents Filipinos for Affirmative Action with a grant to support FAA's Caring for Home Care Workers Project. FAA staff pictured include from the left, Lillian Galedo, Chris Cara, Judith Olais, Elaine Kamlley and Ed Valladares.

Immigration Application Fee Waiver

Did you know that it now costs \$675/person to apply for naturalization? There is relief for those who qualify for the fee waiver program and can demonstrate an inability to pay.

Per US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) guidelines, qualified applicants must demonstrate hardship situations by meeting some of the criteria below:

1. The applicant is qualified for, or has received a federal means-tested (meets poverty guidelines) public benefit within the last 180 days;
2. The applicant's household income is at OR below poverty guidelines level;
3. The applicant is elderly (65 years or older);
4. The applicant is disabled;
5. There are other family members applying for the same benefits concurrently with the applicant;
6. Humanitarian or compassionate reasons, either temporary or permanent, which justify granting of the request;

The applicant should provide documentation to establish all that applies in addition to an affidavit. The applicant must include this statement: "I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct." The documentation and the sworn statement should be submitted with the application. If the fee waiver request is denied, the application package will be returned to the applicant, who must re-file the application with the appropriate fee.

If you need more information or assistance with filing a fee waiver request, call Ed Valladares (510) 465-9876 x 304.

Donate to FAA to support filipino youth, workers & newcomers!

- Donate through United Way (FAA's # is 3092)**
- Use a credit card online at www.filipinos4action.org
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- Donate frequent flyer miles, furniture or equipment
- Include us in your will or life insurance policy
- Send a check payable to "FAA" to:

310 Eighth Street, Suite 306,
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Call 510-465-9876 for more information.

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