

## Preface

Sixty years ago in 1936, Roman R. Cariaga, who initiated Filipino American studies in Hawai'i, published an article on "Some Filipino Traits Transplanted" in the second volume of *Social Process in Hawaii*. This year, 1996, we are pleased to be able to devote an entire volume of the *Social Process* journal to *Filipino American History, Identity and Community in Hawai'i*. This year is especially significant because it marks the ninetieth anniversary of Filipino immigration to Hawai'i which began in 1906. This collection of articles is intended as the authors' collective contribution to the "Pagdiriwang (celebration) '96" anniversary commemoration. One of the contributors to our volume, Leonard Andaya, is co-chair of the Pagdiriwang '96 Coordinating Committee that has been planning and organizing the ninetieth anniversary observance, and a few other authors are committee members.

One of the major ninetieth anniversary events is a statewide series of monthly forums addressed to significant issues confronting the Filipino American community. These issues include sex, drugs and youth; employment patterns; the changing role of women and the family; political participation; educational access and achievement; and ethnic identity expression. These public forums, which are being led by University of Hawai'i faculty and community leaders as resource persons, provide a timely and unique opportunity for Filipinos as a community to reflect upon and discuss their collective achievements, concerns, problems and aspirations in the above and other relevant areas.

Certainly, ninety years after their arrival in Hawai'i to labor in the plantation fields for low wages, the 169,000 Filipino Americans in the islands representing 15 percent of the state population remain a socioeconomically disadvantaged minority. United States census data for 1990 indicate that Filipinos are still greatly overemployed in blue collar work as service workers, operatives/laborers, and agricultural workers and continue to be significantly underrepresented in professional and executive/managerial employment. While they rank third in median family income (\$42,000 after Japanese and Chinese), which can be attributed to the prevalence of extended family households especially among immigrants, both male and female Filipino Americans are among the lowest ranked groups in median personal income (before African Americans and Samoans). In education, Filipinos (12%) are well below the state median (23%) in terms of the percentage of persons 25 years and over with a bachelor's degree or higher, and some of these college graduates received their education in the Philippines before immigrating to Hawai'i. Nonetheless, higher education is one of the encouraging areas in the socioeconomic status of Filipino

Americans since 1980 insofar as they are at the state median (30%) for 18 to 24 year olds enrolled in college, and at 20 percent they are the largest group in the UH community college system, although they are still underrepresented among undergraduate students at UH Mānoa (12%). As Filipinos prepare to enter the next millenium, our volume represents an effort towards greater appreciation and understanding of their history, identity and community in Hawai'i.

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Guest Editor