



Konsulado Panlahat ng Pilipinas

*Consulate General of the Philippines
Honolulu, Hawai'i*

PR-013-2008

Press Release on the Implementation of the Machine Readable Passport (MRP)

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu informs all Filipinos citizens in the State of Hawaii and the Territory of American Samoa that it will begin accepting and processing applications for the new Machine Readable Passports (MRP) on 02 June 2008.

The MRP is a project of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, in compliance with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). With the new MRP, the processing of travelers at the various airports' immigration clearances is faster because data in the MRP can be read by a machine and stored automatically in the database of the immigration officers.

ALL APPLICANTS, whether for the renewal of a passport or applying for the first time, **ARE REQUIRED TO APPEAR PERSONALLY AT THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE**. This is necessary for finger-printing, signature capture, and data verification. Applications by mail will not be accepted.

Applications filed at the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu and other Philippine consulates and embassies must be sent to the main office in Manila to complete the procedure for passport processing. Only the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in Manila prints the MRPs. In view of the transit and printing time, **passports will be released to an applicant SIX WEEKS from the time his/her application is received.**

The requirements for the new MRP are: duly accomplished application form, your old Philippine passport, proof that you have not acquired US citizenship, US\$50 passport fee, PLUS:

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS:

- Background – ROYAL BLUE
- Quantity – Three (3) photos
- Straight frontal shot (no tilting of head)
- "Medium" smile is allowed
- Both ears visible
- Prescription eye-glasses allowed, provided there is no glare
- Collared shirt / decent attire (no sleeveless or spaghetti strap)
- Size – 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm (1.77 in x 1.37 in)
- Pose - image of applicant is 70-80% of the photo

Photos that do not comply with standards set by the Department of Foreign Affairs will not be accepted. Among the reasons photos can be rejected include: applicant wearing excessive make-up, large earrings, colored contact lens; the use of dark eyeglasses or shades, photos with "red-eye" effect, poor print quality, and digitally altered photos or distorted image.

If you currently hold a valid Philippine passport (i.e. an unexpired green-covered passport), there is no need to worry as the **green Passport will still be honored as a valid travel document issued by the Government of the Philippines until its expiration date.**

If you need any clarification on the MRPs, please contact the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu at (808) 595-6316 extension 234 or via email at honolulu@hawaii.rr.com. END

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