



HONOLULU

PR-020-2008

PRESS RELEASE

19 August 2008

**Honolulu Visit of Quezon City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte
and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Secretary Bayani Fernando**

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Secretary Bayani Fernando were in Honolulu from 09 to 14 August 2008 to attend an East-West Center (EWC) Seminar Series on *URBAN ASIA – Challenges of Transition and Governance* entitled "*The Urban Transformation in Asia: Policy Implications of Decentralization*".

Even with their busy schedule at the EWC, Mayor Belmonte and Secretary Fernando found time to meet with the Filipino community. On Sunday, 10 August 2008, they attended Mass at the St. Joseph Parish Church in Waipahu officiated by Father Santiago Ner where both addressed the mostly Filipino-American parishioners. After the Mass, both mingled with the parishioners outside and spoke with them about the Philippines.

The Philippine Consulate hosted a reception for Mayor Belmonte and Secretary Fernando on the evening of Tuesday, 12 August 2008. In attendance were members of Filipino ancestry from the Hawaii State Legislature, and leaders and members of the Filipino-American community of Hawaii. Mrs. Joyce Oliveira, representative of Mayor Mufi Hannemann of the City and County of Honolulu, presented Mayor Belmonte and Secretary Fernando with a message from the Mayor welcoming both as well as commending their "visionary leadership and endeavors to improve" their respective areas of jurisdiction.

The event was also attended by Dr. Aprodicio Laquian, Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia, Dr. Bindu Lohani of the Asian Development Bank, and Attorney Olegario D. Cantos VII, Special Counsel to the Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Justice.



Mrs. Joyce Oliveira, representative of Mayor Mufi Hannemann of the City and County of Honolulu, presented Mayor Belmonte and Secretary Fernando with a message from the Mayor on 12 August 2008.

L to R: Representative Joey Manahan, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Secretary Bayani Fernando, Mrs. Joyce Oliveira, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte, Representative Alex Sonson