

LEADERS' DIGEST

Filipinos are everywhere in America – from the East to the West coast. However, as the second largest Asian American community in America, we still have to empower ourselves to become more visible in the political mainstream. Unknown to us, fellow FILAMs are making a difference across the US – as appointed and elected leaders in their respective areas. The Asian Journal Leaders' Digest aims to present to readers these leaders who have made – and continually making a difference for the Filipino American community.

Della Au Belatti

Democratic member of the Hawaii House of Representatives

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
AJPress



versity where she received a BA degree in History.

She came back to Hawaii for Law School. She attended William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii, receiving a J.D.

In law school, she received an Environmental Law Certificate, was President of the Student Bar Association, Captain of the Environmental Moot Court Team,

and Managing Editor, Asian Pacific Law & Policy Journal.

She began her career in politics when she was the Hawaii State Campaign Spending Commission Commissioner.

Among her other achievements, Belatti was a National Scholar, Coca-Cola Scholarship Program (1992), Fellow at the Klingenstein Summer Institute Fellows Program for New Teachers (1998), Semi-Finalist, White House Fellowship Program (2000), Co-Author, Best Overall Brief and Best Appellee Brief, National Environmental Law Moot Court Competitions (2003 & 2002) and Amy C. Richardson Award, Co-Winner, Act 50: The Protections, Pitfalls, and Possibilities of the 2000 Cultural Assessment Requirement for Hawaii's Diverse Communities in 2002. ■

FILIPINO-American Della Au Belatti is a Democratic member of the Hawaii House of Representatives. The 35-year-old represents the state's 25th district, which includes Makiki and Tantalus, along with portions of McCully and Papakolea on the island of Oahu.

Belatti was elected in 2006. "From the very beginning, I have sought to be independent, to make decisions that benefit the greater public interest and not simply special interests, and to earn the confidence and respect of my constituents," she wrote on her campaign website.

Belatti is a dedicated representative. She said her goal is to strengthen all aspects of the community so that families can thrive and succeed.

She plans to develop safe urban communities with open and green spaces; working for educational opportunities and quality schools; ensuring the health and well being of the people of our community; and Creating a sustainable and diversified economy.

As representative, she is a member of the House Committees of Finance, Health, Human Services and Housing, and International Affairs, member of the Filipino Caucus, Women's Caucus, Keiki Caucus, Kupuna Caucus, and Climate Change Caucus Education.

Belattie graduated from Maryknoll School in Hawaii where she was Class President in her junior and senior year.

After graduation, she attended Princeton Uni-

Changing jobs while on pending...

PAGE A5 ment be in the same geographic area as the Form I-140 position. The new employment may be in a different county or state, as long as it is for same or similar occupational classification. Further, the new employment need not comply with the prevailing wage set in the underlying labor certification and Form I-140 petition. However, a substantial discrepancy in the wage rates may be considered for purposes of determining whether the two positions are same or similar.

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Atty. Joel R. Bander is the partner of Bander Law Firm, LLP. With over 15 years of litigation and immigration experience, Mr. Bander is a leading litigator and accomplished trial strategist. He has successfully handled numerous cases before Federal, State, Civil, and Criminal Judges and has participated in hundreds of arbitrations and trials.

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