The Fateful Days of February ‘86—
The Ouster of a Dictator and Exile to Hawai’i
Eyewitness accounts of the EDSA People Power Revolt that ended Martial Law
February 25, Friday @ 4 p.m. (Hawaii) and February 26, Saturday @ 10 a.m. (Philippines)

Alex Brillantes is the Secretary General of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) and professor at UP Diliman’s National College of Public Administration and Governance (UPNCPAG), where he started as research assistant in 1977 and served as dean for two terms. He is Chair of the Board of the School of Entrepreneurial and Experiential Development (SEED) and Gawad Kalinga. He is on the Board of Trustees of the Local Government Academy of DILG and on the Board of Visitors of the Philippine Military Academy. He received his Doctor of Public Administration (honoris causa) from Polytechnic University of the Philippines (2019), his MP A (1979) and AB (1976) from the UP Diliman, and a PhD (1985) and MA (1981) from UH Manoa. He was named an Outstanding Alumnus and Volunteer Service Awardee from the East West Center in Honolulu and Outstanding Alumnus from St Theresa’s College, Baguio City—among his many awards and recognitions.

Raymund Llanes Liongson is a retired professor at the UH Leeward. Throughout his career as an educator, he has created venues for experiential progressive education for the youth. He is a former member of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, the Board of Directors of the Filipino Community Center and is currently the Area Commander of the Knights of Rizal, State of Hawaii. He is a past president of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Hawaii and the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, a civil rights group in Hawaii. He obtained his PhD in Education from the University of the Philippines at Diliman. Raymund is a recipient of various awards for his contributions in education and services to the community. In 2011, UP awarded him the Distinguished Service Award for an Alumni. The Filipino Community Center recognized him with an Excellence in Education Award in 2019.

Patricio “Jojo” Abinales is a professor at the UH Manoa’s Department of Asian Studies. He grew up on the northwestern side of the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. He graduated with a degree in History from the University of the Philippines-Diliman (UP), and Ph.D. in Government and Southeast Asian Studies from Cornell University. He taught at the Department of Political Science at Ohio University from 1997 to 1999 before moving to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University in 2000. From 2010-2011, he was a visiting scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC, where he did research on the political economy of US economic assistance in Muslim Mindanao. Apart from his academic work, he also writes political commentaries and book reviews for two e-magazines – Rappler in the Philippines, and Positively Filipino, based in San Francisco.

Belinda A. Aquino received her B.A.in English from the UP Diliman and her M.A. in Political Science and Public Administration from UH Manoa. She was an East West Center grantee in the early 1960s before going back to teach in the Philippines. While teaching at UP, she was offered a grant to further her studies at Cornell University, where she received her PhD in Political Science. When Martial Law was declared in 1972, she found out that she was on the regime’s “black list”, her passport revoked, her student visa expired and unable to return home, stranded in Hawaii. While in Hawaii in the 1970s, she was offered to complete a feasibility study on the creation of a Center for Philippine Studies at UH which was established a few years later with Dr. Aquino as its director. In 1989 to 1991, she served as UP’s vice president for public affairs and returned to CPS in 1991 as its director until her retirement in 2010.

Sherry Broder serves as a mediator, arbitrator and hearings officer for government agencies, Hawaii Supreme Court, and private parties. She was the first woman president of the Hawaii State Bar Association and is President Elect of the Federal Bar Association for the District of Hawaii. She graduated in 1970 from Wellesley College as a Wellesley Scholar and in 1975 from U.C. Berkeley Law School with highest honors. She is the founder and Executive Director of the Jon Van Dyke Institute of International Law and Justice which has sponsored symposium, workshops and publications on International Ocean Law, International Environmental Law, Human Rights and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She is an Adjunct Research Fellow at the East-West Center. Ms. Broder served as class liaison counsel for the 9,500 victims of torture during the dictatorship of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and with the team won a $2 billion verdict, believed to be one of the largest personal injury verdicts in U.S. history. This case has been presented as a case study and cited in many textbooks on International Law.