



HIRONO'S HISTORY. Senator Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, in this September 25, 2018 file photo. Hirono, the senate's first Asian-American woman and only current immigrant, is working on a memoir. Viking announced that the book, currently untitled, will be released in 2021. Hirono, age 72, will write about emigrating at age eight to the United States after her mother fled an abusive marriage in Japan. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawai'i is writing memoir, due in 2021

NEW YORK (AP) — Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawai'i, the senate's first Asian-American woman and only current immigrant, is working on a memoir.

Viking announced that the book, currently untitled, will be released in 2021.

Hirono, age 72, will write about emigrating at age eight to the United States after her mother fled an abusive marriage in Japan. In a statement issued through Viking, Hirono said the book was a tribute to her mother's spirit.

"My deep emotional connection to my mother, a remarkable woman who made a hard choice to save her children, and who valiantly struggled to care for us as a

single parent, is the current that has driven my entire life," Hirono said in a statement. "Now, because she can no longer bear witness for herself, I am choosing to bear witness on her behalf by telling the story of the daughter she inspired to live boldly and to fight for the promises of this country."

Hirono, a Democrat, is currently serving her second term in the senate. She made news last year as a leading critic of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, who faced allegations of sexual harassment and attempted assault. Kavanaugh, who was narrowly confirmed, denied the allegations.

Pacific bird refuge struggles as ocean garbage patch grows

By Caleb Jones
The Associated Press

MIDWAY ATOLL, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands — Flying into the uninhabited Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Midway Atoll appears out of the vast blue Pacific as a tiny oasis of coral-fringed land with pristine white sand beaches that are teeming with life.

But on the ground, there's a different scene: plastic, pollution, and death.

With virtually no predators, Midway is a haven for many species of seabirds and is home to the largest colony of albatross in the world.

But Midway is also at the center of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a vast area of floating plastic collected by circulating oceanic currents. The Hawaiian Islands act like a comb that gathers debris as it floats across the Pacific. A recent analysis found that the patch is accumulating debris at a faster rate than scientists previously thought.

Midway is littered with bird skeletons that have brightly colored plastic protruding from their decomposing bellies. Bottle caps, toothbrushes, and cigarette lighters sit in the centers of their feathery carcasses.

"There isn't a bird that doesn't have some (plastic)," said Athline Clark, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's superintendent for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which Midway is part of. They "fill their bellies up with plastics instead of food and eventually either choke or just don't have enough room for actual nourishment and perish."

Papahānaumokuākea, which quadrupled in size under President Barack Obama in 2016, is the world's largest marine conservation area and was inscribed in 2010 as a UNESCO mixed World Heritage site.

"Papahānaumokuākea is both a



PERILOUS PLASTIC. Dead seabirds lie on a pier with plastic debris on Midway Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Midway is littered with countless bird skeletons that have brightly colored plastic protruding from their now decomposing intestines. Bottle caps, toothbrushes, and cigarette lighters sit in the centers of their feathery carcasses. In the right photo, ocean garbage patches are seen on a map of the area. (AP Photo/Caleb Jones)

biologically rich and culturally sacred place," Clark said. "The Hawaiians call it a place of abundance, or *aina momona*."

But circulating currents now bring an abundance of plastic and other trash from all around the Pacific Rim to Hawai'i's beaches. The debris ranges from tiny microplastics that nearly every animal in this marine ecosystem ingests to huge fishing nets that gather plants, animals, and other debris while bulldozing across fragile coral reefs.

"The estimates are that there's about 57,000 pounds of marine debris that washes ashore within this part of the archipelago annually," Clark said.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Kelly Goodale lives and works on Midway, the site of a decisive World War II battle, and said the plastic that washes ashore there each year is just part of the problem.

"Not only are our beaches getting it, but also our albatross will bring it and feed it to

ABC's "Fresh Off the Boat" series finale set for February

By Lynn Elber
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — ABC's "Fresh Off the Boat," the first network TV comedy in two decades to focus on an Asian-American family, is coming to an end after six seasons.

The network said the sitcom starring Randall Park and Constance Wu will wrap with an hour-long finale on February 21, making this a truncated last season.

The show about a couple and their three children in 1990s Florida is based on chef Eddie Huang's memoir of the same name.

In a statement, ABC Entertainment president Karey Burke lauded the show as "game-changing" with its focus on an Asian-American family.

Women, minorities dominate Boston's once-white city council

BOSTON (AP) — Boston's city council is getting a new look: its first female majority and a more racially diverse lineup than ever before.

Voters elected the council's first Latina. They also voted in a slate of female candidates.

Starting in January, the 13-member council will have eight women. Seven councillors will be minorities, the council's most ever.

Asian-American city councillor Michelle



SERIES FINALE. ABC's "Fresh Off the Boat," the first network TV comedy in two decades to focus on an Asian-American family, is coming to an end after six seasons. In the photo, the cast of "Fresh Off the Boat" celebrates its 100th episode. (Photo courtesy of ABC)

While the TV industry has gradually embraced diversity, it's been slow to include characters of Asian descent in the mix. Comedian Margaret Cho's "All-American Girl" ended in 1995 after one season.

A possible spinoff with characters to be introduced on "Fresh Off the Boat" is being considered. It would

focus on an Indian family whose daughter is one of Eddie's (Hudson Yang) classmates.

Wu, who starred in "Crazy Rich Asians," apologized earlier this year for a Twitter outburst lamenting the show's renewal this season.

She said it was an

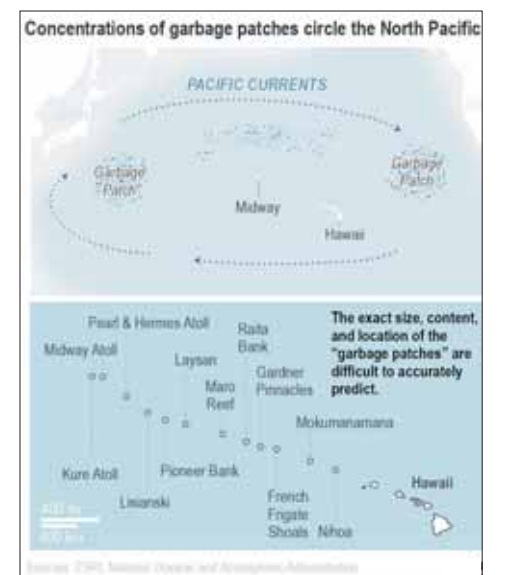
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Wu says it's the "new face" of Boston politics.

Voters also rejected a ballot question to change the name of Dudley Square in historically black Roxbury to Nubian Square.

And a candidate has requested a recount in one of the council races.

The council was a white male bastion for decades, but Boston is now a "majority minority" city where whites comprise roughly 47% of the population.



It's important to understand the relationship between the oceans, marine life, and humans, Clark said.

She shared a Native Hawaiian proverb: *Ma o ke kai pili ai kakou*. It means, "The ocean connects us all."

\$400K+ in opioids shipped from India to New Jersey

HAMILTON, N.J. (AP) — Authorities say they have seized more than \$400,000 in opioids and painkillers that were shipped from India to a home in New Jersey.

Mercer County prosecutor Angelo Onofri said his office received information about the shipment from U.S. Homeland Security.

Members of the county's narcotics task force were waiting when the package arrived at a home in Hamilton Township on November 1. Authorities found 12,000 Tramadol pills, 2,000 Tapentadol pills, 530 Oxycodone pills, and 20 bags of heroin.

The woman who took delivery of the shipment was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance and possession with intent to distribute it.