

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Wednesday, February 08, 2012

DLIR Conference Room 320
830 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

4444 Rice Street, Suite 330
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

Aha Punana Leo
96 Puuhonu Place, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Maui District Health Office, State Office Building
54 South High Street, Room 415, Wailuku, Hawaii 96703

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 A.M. with quorum by Chair, Dominic Inocelda. Neighbor Island council members from Kauai, Maui and the Big Island joined in via videoconferencing.

1. Attendance

Present:

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| – Dominic Inocelda | Language Access Advisory Council, Chair |
| – Gerald Ohta | Language Access Advisory Council, Vice Chair |
| – Serafin “Jun” Colmenares | Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio |
| – Jennifer Dotson | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Lito Asuncion | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Alohalani Boido | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Dr. Ruth Mabanglo | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Azi Turturici | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Namaka Rawlins | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Dr. Tin Myaing Thein | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Mary Santa Maria | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Betty Brow | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Livia Wang (for Bill Hoshijo) | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio |
| – Kristine Pagano (for Francine Wai) | Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio |
| – Melba Bantay | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Excused:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| – Edelene Uriarte | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
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Guests:

- Bruce Coppa, Governor’s Chief of Staff
- Jaron Nocon, HCC student, Human Resources major
- Pam Martin, EEOC, DLIR
- Beverly Bownds, ASL Interpreter

2. Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting began with introductions of all present. Guests were Bruce Coppa, Chief of Staff from Governor Neil Abercrombie’s office, Jaron Nocon, student at Honolulu Community College, Pamela Martin, EEOC for DLIR, and Beverly Bownds, ASL interpreter. Gail McGarvey, newly hired Office of Language Access (OLA) Secretary, was introduced.
- This was Mr. Coppa’s first visit to our council meeting; he wanted to learn more about language access, the council, and its activities. He assured the council of the governor’s and his continuing support.

3. Approval of minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting

- As there were no corrections to the 1/11/2012 minute meetings, a motion was made by Gerald Ohta to approve the minutes seconded by Betty Brow. The January 11, 2012 minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Executive Director’s Report

- Executive Director Colmenares submitted a written report. He requested council members to submit testimony in support of HB 2374, sponsored by Rep. Ryan Yamane, transferring OLA from DLIR to DOH at Friday’s hearing at the State Legislature.

5. Report of the Chair

- Dominic Inocelda, Chair, will continue to help support OLA with Legislature hearings/bills.

6. Reports of Ad Hoc Committees

- **5th Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access.** - The planning committee will have a save-the-date flyer coming out soon. Committee Chair Jennifer Dotson reported this will be the second time there will be a 2 day, multi track conference. Dates are August 22 and August 23, 2012. Track #1 will focus on translators; track #2 will focus on those who use translators. Right now the committee is looking for new themes, new ideas, and names/suggestions for speakers. The committee will welcome any contributions and they are also looking for people who want to help with the conference. Committee to meet and continue discussing plans immediately after the council meeting today. Next meeting is on February 27, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the OLA office.
- **2012 Language Access Month** – Proposed activities: program with OLELO, putting a paragraph on language access on state employees’ paycheck statements, UH panel discussion on language access and civil rights, and community gatherings.
- **CCC Training/Workshop** - Professor Ruth Mabanglo reported that there were 70 applications submitted, after review they are planning to add another category for “late applicants”. The Ad Hoc Committee on Training will be sending out an official letter of acceptance/confirmation by next week. The reason the workshop is limited to 30 participants

is due to the nature of the training requiring one on one interaction. It is anticipated that those attending the workshop will become future trainers in Hawaii. One of the criteria is the applicant must already be working in the health care community and serving a large number of persons. There will be observers also attending. Will need volunteers to help with workshop registration, etc.

- **Legislative Committee** - The Executive Director Colmenares has met with and talked to several legislators and everyone is supportive of the OLA bills. Gerald Ohta made the motion to have Dominic Inocelda, Chair, represent LAAC at the upcoming hearings and testimonies at the Legislature, seconded by Melba Bantay, the motion was unanimously approved. The executive director asked LAAC members for written testimony from their respective organizations/agencies for support. There is a draft support letter that Mr. Colmenares will be sending out to all members today. Hearing is to be held this Friday, February 10, 2012 at 10:45 AM, room 329 at the Capitol.

7. **Update on OLA Brochures**

- Still working with printing company on layout.
- The Executive Director brought up the question on whether Pidgin English can be included as one of the LEP languages. Gerald Ohta mentioned that under Title VI federal criteria Pidgin-English is not considered a separate language. Kristine Pagano said the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) has a special designation for Hawaiian sign language – HQAS+H = Hawaii Quality Assurance System + H (Hawaiian Creole English).

8. **Announcements**

- Pacific Global Health Conference will be held October 10-12, 2012 at the Ala Moana Hotel, topics of related interest re language access. (Gerald Ohta)
- IAC, Inter-Agency Council for Immigrant Services, President Dominic Inocelda said at the last meeting, 1/26/12, the council voted to support OLA's transfer to the DOH. Next IAC meeting is scheduled on February 22, 2012 at 2:30 p.m.
- Next language access advisory council meeting date moved to Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 9:30 AM.

9. **Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.