

# LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
830 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Wednesday, September 11, 2013**

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

Agency on Elderly Affairs, Piikoi Building, Suite 330  
4444 Rice Street  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

746 Hele Mauna Street  
Hilo, Hawaii

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:42 A.M. with quorum by council Chair, Dominic Inocelda. The Neighbor Island council members from Kaua`i, Maui and Hawai`i islands joined the meeting via teleconferencing.

### 1. **Attendance**

#### ***Present:***

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| – 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 |
| – Livia Wang for Bill Hoshijo | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio   |
| – Lito Asuncion               | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Melba Bantay                | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Jennifer Dotson             | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Mindy Emmons                | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Patricia Harpstrite         | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Margarita Hopkins           | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Dr. Tin Myaing Thein        | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Mary Santa Maria            | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Edelene Uriarte             | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Rebeca Zamora               | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |

#### ***Excused:***

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| – Kristine Pagano for Francine Wai | Executive Director, Disability and Communication Access Board, Ex-officio |
|------------------------------------|---|

- Dr. Ruth Mabanglo Language Access Advisory Council Member

**Guests:** None

**Staff:**

- Gail McGarvey, OLA secretary

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

- The Chair welcomed all present including those participating by teleconferencing.

3. **Approval of Minutes of July 24, 2013 Meeting**

- Melba Bantay moved to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Jun Colmenares. The July 24, 2013 meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

4. **Executive Director’s Report**

- The Executive Director distributed a written report on updated OLA activities. Some highlights were as follows.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawai`i Conference on Language Access was a big success, with very positive feedback from both speakers and participants.
- The executive director was selected as a recipient for the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) William J. Harris Equal Opportunity Award and will be going to Denver, Colorado on September 19, 2013 to accept the award.
- Prepared documents for the five Language Access Resource Center (LARC) positions to be filled.
- Per written notice from DAGS, there will be no move for OLA whose permanent location will be the present address/location.
- The formal launching of the Hawai`i Language Roadmap Initiative will be held at UH Mānoa on Monday, September 16, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.
- “Kuka kuka” Community Forums on Language Access will be held in Hilo, Kona, Wailuku, Honolulu, and Lihue from September 16-20, 2013. Michael Leoz, regional manager, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Region IX, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Gerald Ohta and Jun Colmenares are panelists.
- Pending confirmation if OLA will be a co-sponsor and host for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters in Honolulu 2014.
- At the DOH DEC August 27, 2013 meeting the executive director gave a brief presentation on the Office of Language Access.
- Dr. Ruth Mabanglo was unexpectedly hospitalized and underwent surgery; the office will be sending a card and will include any get well wishes that are submitted from council members.
- OLA will collaborate with the Office of Community Services (OCS) in the training of Immigrant Research Center (IRC) staff on language access.
- The OLA newsletter will combine summer and fall editions and come out in October.

5. **Report of the Chair**

- The Chair will be attending the Hawai`i Language Roadmap Initiative on Monday, September 16, 2013, with the executive director.
- Thursday, September 19, 2013, the Chair will do the presentation at the Honolulu Kuka Kuka Community Forum for the executive director who will be off island.

6. **Reports of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees**

- **Legislative Committee.** The committee has not met yet but it plans to discuss new bills with DOH, propose to reestablish 3 positions for OLA and request additional monies for the LARC.
- **Special Projects Committee (Untold Stories Project).** Becky Gardner to continue when she returns to work.
- **Plans Review Committee.** No meeting yet.
- **By-Laws Committee.** No meeting yet.
- **Permitted Interaction Group – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access.** Jennifer Dotson, Chair, gave recognition to OLA staff, Gail McGarvey, for her hard work for and during the conference especially due to the staff shortage. The feedback this year was overwhelmingly positive, “excellent to good, enjoyed the speakers”. Areas for improvement include: would like to have more time to network, more time between workshops/sessions, in general more time to interact with their colleagues. Vendor feedback was also positive; they enjoyed meeting so many people in related fields. There was a suggestion to follow up with more evaluations, maybe send a thank you letter with an evaluation form attached. Feedback on the food suggested having more fresh fruits. Day Day Hopkins suggested making wi-fi access available at the conference. Mary Santa Maria suggested a shorter time period for the speaker during the lunch hour with more time for attendees for networking. Jun Colmenares said the medical terminology workshop was filled to overflowing and there was a time conflict with other presentations, the feedback received was to hold the workshop on a separate day as well as to provide more medical terminology training.
- **Permitted Interaction Group for Language Access Month.** No meeting yet.

7. **Update on Neighbor Island Outreach Project with Office for Civil Rights, Region IX and OLA.** Dates: September 16 through 20, 2013. Everything is set for the neighbor island community forums. Suggestions were made to send out reminders in an email blast to state, county agencies and other possible contacts/organizations.

8. **Other Upcoming Events.**

- Livia Wang told us about the Hawai`i Civil Rights Office and the U.S. EEOC public training on October 29, 2013 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm at Neil Blaisdell Exhibition Hall, open to the public, with a small registration fee of \$25.00, this will be about training, recruitment and hiring for employers, it is also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State Fair Employment Law.
- Mary Santa Maria said UH Maui Community College, Kahului, will be offering Introduction to Medical Interpreting classes, this Fall 2013.
- The Maui Workforce Development Office is collaborating with Maui Community College to provide 40 hours of training through OLA’s Bridging the Gap (BTG) license and Mary

Santa Maria, to help people who want to take the medical certification program. Mindy Emmons asked if training was only on Maui. Mary said she would be willing to travel as a trainer to neighbor islands. Jun Colmenares said that OLA would be able to do training statewide for other agencies. Mindy asked if BTG was replacing the Cross Cultural Communications (CCC) Training of Trainers (TOT) training. Yes it does, Mary has taken BTG training certification program and is eligible to be a trainer.

- On Tuesday, September 24, 2013 there will be a panel discussion on Mexicans as newcomers to the Aloha State based on results of research conducted by Migration Policy Institute and UH at the Architecture auditorium, UH Mānoa campus @ 6:00 p.m.
- Dr. Myaing announced that Pacific Gateway Center will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday evening, November 24, 2013 at the Disabled American Vets (DAV) hall at Keehi Lagoon.
- Dominic Inocelda announced that Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC) received funding from the Office of Community Service to establish the Immigrant Resource Center which will provide services for new immigrants. They will work in partnership with Child & Family Services, Pacific Gateway Center, and Catholic Charities. The grand opening will be Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at Kuhio Park Terrace (KPT).

9. **Announcements.**

- Next LAAC meeting – October 09, 2013 @ 9:30 same location.

10. **Adjournment.**

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM.