

8th Annual Hawaii Conference Language Access

“Language Access, Social Justice, and Hawaii’s COFA Residents”

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We Are Oceania
Micronesia Advocacy Network
Micronesia United
FAS-Empowerment
Nations of Micronesians

What’s the plan?

- Language Access as Social Justice
- The COFA healthcare as an example of language access and social justice
 - issue of social, cultural, and language (not mere linguistic) as contested grounds of access and justice
- “Hawaii’s ‘COFA’ Language”– is it a bigger issue of Social Justice?

Civil Right & Social Justice

- BREAKING DOWN BARRIER TO ACCESS
- Language Access and Social Justice
- Long historical connections between the major civil right court actions (Brown) and laws (Civil Right Acts of 1964) and the empowerment of disenfranchised groups: Women, LGBT, Immigrants, LEP, and Persons with Disability

The Unhealthy Burden of Inaccessible Language...

- I.
- Language, as a tool and vehicle of culture, follows cultural protocols
 - Empowering individuals v. Building Community Capacity
 - Trusted Voices and Reliable listeners
- II.
- The COFA Medical and healthcare access are contested grounds of social justice...

WHO IS a “COFA” WHAT IS a “COFA”?

- LANGUAGE as BARRIERS to ACCESS
- “Hawaii’s ‘COFA’ Language” as barrier to Social Justice

Recommendation...

- Part I. Recognize the culturally appropriate channels of language as tool of communication
 - Community oriented language Access
 - Use of community navigator
- Part II.
- We Are All COFA – share responsibility to alleviate the negative burden of COFA label.

MAHALO NUI

- KINISSOU CHAPUR