

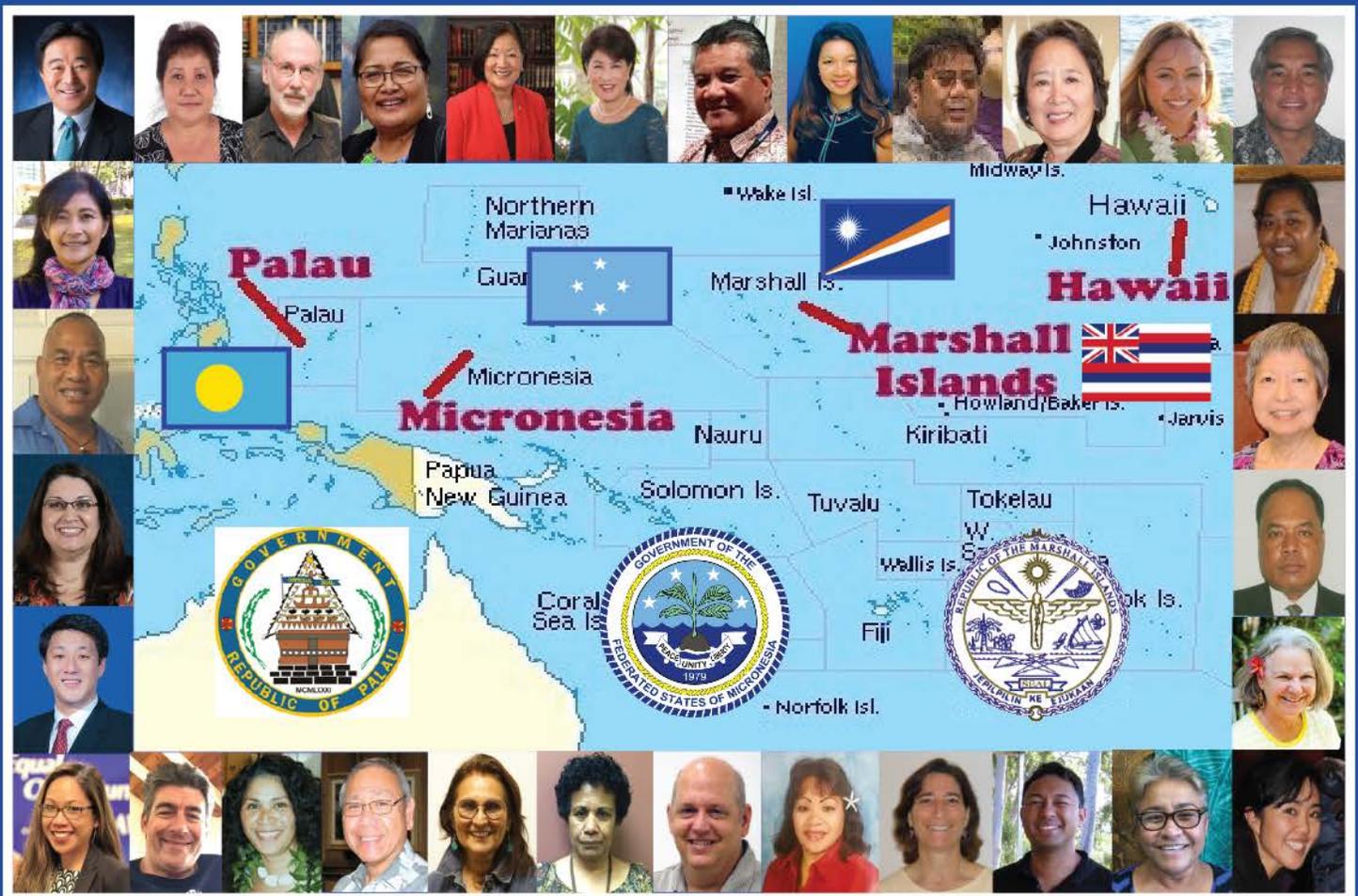
8TH ANNUAL HAWAI‘I CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE ACCESS



FRIDAY—AUGUST 14, 2015
MANOA GRAND BALLROOM — JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER
2454 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET HONOLULU, HI 96826



Language Access, Social Justice & Hawaii‘i’s COFA Residents



This conference will explore the challenges to achieving language access and social justice for Hawaii’s residents from the Compact of Free Association (COFA) states: *the Federated States of Micronesia (Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, & Kosrae); the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and the Republic of Palau*—with a special focus on HEALTH CARE, HOMELESSNESS, and EDUCATION.



Office of Language Access

830 Punchbowl Street, #322

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Phone: (808) 586-8730

Fax: (808) 586-8733

Hawai'i's Language Access Law was first enacted by the Legislature in 2006 and amended in 2008, 2012 and 2013. The purpose of this law is to affirmatively address, on account of national origin, the language access needs of limited English proficient (LEP) persons to ensure equal access to state services, programs and activities. It requires state agencies and covered entities to assess the need for providing language services and take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to its services, programs and activities by LEP persons, provide oral language services in a timely and competent manner, offer written translations of vital documents into the primary language of LEP persons, and establish a language access plan. The Law also established the Office of Language Access (OLA) as an administrative attachment to the Department of Health to provide oversight and central coordination of state agencies, as well as technical assistance to state agencies and covered entities in their respective implementation of language access requirements. The OLA also monitors and reviews state agencies for compliance with the law and investigates complaints of language access violations using informal methods. The OLA's executive director is advised by a 17-member Language Access Advisory Council.

Hawai'i State Department of Health

Kina`u Hale

1250 Punchbowl Street

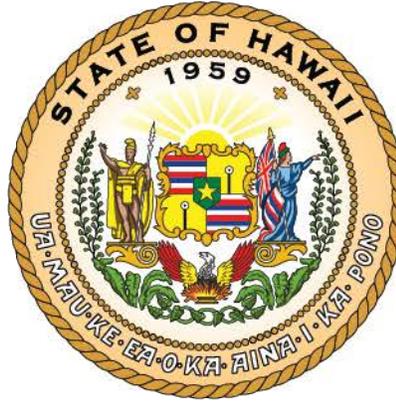
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Phone: (808) 586-4410

Fax: (808) 586-4368



The Department of Health is a multi-disciplinary, multi-program statewide public health agency. It is the state level public health agency in Hawai'i responsible for developing, assessing, and monitoring programs that impact health here and serve as a resource in the Pacific Islands. It administers programs in behavioral health, environmental health, and public health resources to harness and advance proven and promising practices to provide people with choices and tools to not only prevent disease but promote resiliency and survival in times of personal or social uncertainty. Through its Foundations for Healthy Generations initiative, it addresses social determinants of health, or the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. It works with other agencies and the community to incorporate health as an integral part of all state policies. It works to assure that our island home promotes lifelong health and wellness in a sustainable and clean environment. The Department connects with people across the lifespan starting before birth through adolescence and onto adulthood and the senior years with approaches appropriate to the unique and rich diversity that is Hawai'i.



Special Message from Governor David Y. Ige

Presented to

The Office of Language Access

August 14, 2015



On behalf of the people of the State of Hawai'i, and in recognition of August as Language Access month, *aloha* and welcome to the **8th Annual Hawai'i Conference on Language Access**.

This year's theme, "*Language Access, Social Justice & Hawai'i's COFA Residents*," focuses on the three critical areas; health care, homelessness, and education, enabling our conference participants to fully understand, appreciate, and make strides in tackling the tremendous challenges faced by Hawai'i's residents from Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations.

Language Access is foundational to ensuring that our government and government-funded services meet the basic needs of our COFA brothers, sisters, and their families. I applaud all of you and your commitment to ensure this vulnerable population is safely sheltered, has adequate health care, and meaningful educational opportunities so that they may thrive in the Aloha State.

Established by law in 2007, the OLA was created to address the language access needs of the state's limited English proficient population, provide oversight, central coordination and technical assistance to our state and state-funded agencies. OLA's goal is to ensure that no person is denied access to these services due to their limited ability to speak, read, write or understand the English language. OLA's mandate could not be more essential than it is to Hawai'i's COFA population.

Mahalo to the COFA community leaders who are presenting today, and to those who have played an integral part in planning this conference. I am heartened to know that their involvement has ensured today's conference reflects their insights and perspectives.

Aloha again to the participants of the **8th Annual Hawai'i Conference on Language Access**. I wish you all a productive and successful conference.

With warmest regards,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KIRK CALDWELL



I send my warmest aloha to everyone attending the 8th Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access on August 14, 2015, at the Japanese Cultural Center.

The Hawaii Conference on Language Access speaks to relevant issues facing Hawaii's residents from Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations. The theme, "Language Access, Social Justice & Hawaii's COFA Residents," addresses homelessness, healthcare, and educational opportunities – issues that are critically important to the success of residents who have emigrated from other countries to the United States.

Mahalo to the Office of Language Access (OLA) for its commitment to bringing this discussion to the table each year. Your efforts to address language access barriers facing the state's limited English proficient (LEP) population by providing oversight, central coordination, and technical assistance to state and state-funded agencies are appreciated and valued.

Welcome to the participants of this annual conference representing a broad spectrum of the community in the fields of health, law, education, social services, interpretation and translation, immigration, law enforcement, and other government and private sectors. Your continued involvement is critical to ensuring that both public and private sectors continue to work towards providing equal access and full participation in services, programs, and activities for all Hawaii residents.

Thank you all for your commitment to serve our diverse population. On behalf of the people of the City and County of Honolulu, I extend best wishes for a dynamic and productive forum.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Caldwell".

Kirk Caldwell

BRIAN SCHATZ
Hawaii



Suite 7-212
300 Ala Moana Boulevard
Honolulu, HI 96850
(808) 523-2061



Message from Senator Brian Schatz

Presented in Recognition of the
8th Annual Hawai'i Conference of Language Access
Office of Language Access

August 14, 2015

I extend my personal greetings to everyone in attendance at the 8th Annual Hawai'i Conference on Language Access. It is an honor to be a part of today's event.

Since its inception in 2007, the Office of Language Access (OLA) has taken a proactive role to empower Hawai'i's non-English speaking and recent residents as they transition to life in our great state. Their work has served as a springboard for members of underserved groups and communities, facilitating access to reliable health care, affordable and stable housing, and quality education.

The theme for this year's event, "Language Access, Social Justice & Hawai'i's COFA Residents," speaks to our collective dedication to promote literary and fairer opportunities for hardworking individuals through effective public programs and robust community participation. Throughout these years, we have made significant progress to help many Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants and their families address the English language barrier, as well as overcome other challenges that come with assimilating into a new environment.

There is great value in today's conference, as it brings together leaders from the public sector and from the community to better understand the challenges. At the same time it is an opportunity to broaden our knowledge of the rich and diverse cultures of the people throughout Micronesia. Through this better understanding we can move forward and build a preferred future.

Mahalo to OLA, its partners, and our COFA community leaders for your unwavering commitment to advance our social justice priorities and broaden opportunities for local residents. Congratulations on your outstanding work. Best wishes for a productive conference.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Schatz".

BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1104

MESSAGE FROM U.S. SENATOR MAZIE HIRONO

In Recognition of the 8th Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access

August 14, 2015

Aloha and welcome to all who are attending the 8th Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access.

In the history of our country, migrant groups have experienced challenges as they work to assimilate in their new communities and to their host culture. As an immigrant myself, I understand how difficult it is for a child whose first language is not English to navigate the expectations and cultural differences of a new school and to make friends. As a nation of immigrants, the strength of our country is based on our diversity. We need to embrace this diversity and welcome individuals and their families who come to the United States for an opportunity to seek a better life.

The United States entered into a Compact of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau because of the strategic importance of these island nations to U.S. national security interests. This relationship allows citizens from these Freely Associated States to travel, work, and live in the United States. Those who journeyed to Hawaii in pursuit of educational and employment opportunities and critical health care are now faced with resettlement challenges like the immigrants who preceded them.

Hawaii's healthcare providers, educators, employers, and social service providers agree that the most common challenge to serving and empowering this growing community is the language barrier. The Office of Language Access serves as a bridge by providing resources, training programs, and opportunities to learn best practices from other states. On the horizon, We Are Oceania and the Partners in Development Foundation are working to build capacity in order to play an important role with Hawaii's newest residents.

The doors of social justice should be open and accessible to everyone. Thank you to the Office of Language Access and all of you here today for your commitment to breaking down language barriers and ensuring that everyone has equal access to services.

I wish you all the best for an inspiring and productive Conference on Language Access.

Aloha,



Mazie K. Hirono
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

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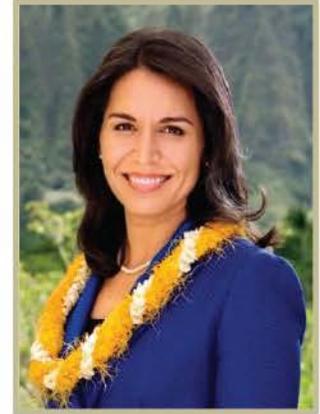
Congress of the United States

A message from

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TULSI GABBARD

in recognition of the

***8th Annual Hawai‘i
Conference on Language Access***



Aloha kākou,

Welcome to everyone gathered here at the 8th Annual Hawai‘i Conference on Language Access! Approximately one quarter of Hawai‘i residents speak a language other than English. Your work today and every day goes a long way to seeing that language differences are not barriers to housing, food, job training, or medical coverage. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that no one living in the Aloha State is denied their right to the important services we provide just because they are unable to speak or read English.

The majority of persons immigrating to Hawai‘i come from Asia and the Pacific Islands, and those using state and federal services are usually the most vulnerable and most in need of assistance in order to survive. Thanks to the Office of Language Access, interpretation services and translated documents are readily available to these immigrants and residents that have a limited ability to read or speak English. Today’s conference expands on these opportunities and will focus on health care, homelessness, and education.

Everyone in the room today, whether here as a panelist, instructor, facilitator, or member of the audience, is motivated by the aloha spirit and a strong desire to serve those in need. I wish you the very best for a productive conference as you work to explore the challenges to achieving language access and social justice for Hawaii’s residents from the nations of the Compact of Free Association—Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae of the Federated States of Micronesia; the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and the Republic of Palau. Mahalo nui loa for everything you do to uphold the cultures of these nations while breaking down the barriers of common insider-outsider perspectives. You’re changing lives every day!

With aloha and gratitude,

Tulsi Gabbard

*Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard
Serving the People of Hawaii’s 2nd District*

Presented on this 14th day of August 2015



U.S. Representative Mark Takai
1st Congressional District of Hawaii
*In Honor of 8th Annual Hawaii Conference on
Language Access*

August 14, 2015

On behalf of Hawaii's 1st Congressional District, it is my pleasure to send a warm aloha to the Department of Health, Dr. Virginia Pressler, Office of Language Access (OLA), Executive Director Helena Manzano, and today's guests. The focus of this year's conference is on achieving language access and social justice for Hawaii's residents from the Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations. I commend OLA and today's guests for their dedication to ensuring equitable access to services by our friends, neighbors, and family members from COFA nations.

Hawaii has more than 140,000 limited English proficient (LEP) individuals. These LEP residents should not be denied essential services due to communication barriers with our State agencies and service providers. Among this population are members of our COFA migrant community. Earlier this year I introduced legislation to restore Medicaid eligibility for the people of Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. It is important that the Federal Government honor the commitment it made years ago. However, inadequate language access complicates the delivery of services and may induce further issues. Breaking down these substantial barriers is imperative to ensuring health equity for the residents of our home.

Our great State has often been commended for its vibrant and diverse communities. This unique character of Hawaii has helped strengthen our home and shape it into the state it is today. While this diversity has been a defining aspect of our home, it has not come without its challenges. As you gather today, I offer my sincere hope that your dialogue and discussions may lead to the creation of solutions for achieving language access and social justice for our COFA residents. I extend my sincere thanks to today's conference guests for your commitment to providing equitable access to healthcare and other essential services.

It is an honor to be invited to attend this important discussion. However, my legislative schedule in Washington, D.C., precludes me from joining you. Please accept my warm wishes on this important occasion.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Takai".

Mark Takai
Member of Congress



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Message from Health Director Dr. Virginia Pressler

August 14, 2015



On behalf of the Hawai'i Department of Health, I extend my warmest welcome and *aloha* to the presenters and attendees of the **8th Annual Hawai'i Conference on Language Access**.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the Office of Language Access (OLA) and all those involved in organizing this year's conference in tackling "**Language Access, Social Justice & Hawai'i's COFA Residents.**" This is a timely theme as addressing the health needs of Hawai'i's migrants from the Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations serves as one of our biggest public health challenges to date.

August is "Language Access Month," and this August marks OLA's 3rd year as an agency administratively attached to the Department of Health. Although OLA's purview extends over all state and state-funded departments and agencies, we appreciate the focus and commitment that OLA and all of you have dedicated to understanding and addressing the complex history and current circumstances that compromise the health of our COFA communities.

Through the partnerships forged at this conference, we hope to find ways we can improve the rates of homelessness and education, as these are inextricable social determinants of health.

Achieving health equity for all the people of Hawai'i is one of our primary goals. This great state's collective health is only as strong as our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with all of you and applaud your energy and devotion to supporting our COFA friends.

Mahalo and my sincerest wishes for a successful and productive conference.

Sincerely,

Virginia Pressler, MD

Virginia Pressler, M.D.

Director of Health

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



HELENA Y.L. MANZANO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 322
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813
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August 14, 2015

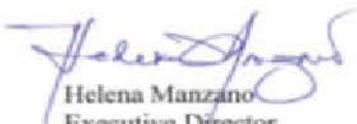
Nesor annim! Mensang mwahu! Fal'e kadbul! Lotu wo! Yokwe in jibbon! Ungil Tutau!

We greet you "Good Morning" in the languages of the Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations and welcome you to the **8th Annual Hawai'i's Conference on Language Access!**

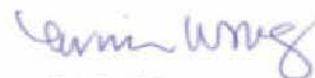
The distinct languages of Hawai'i's citizens from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau remind us of the linguistic and cultural diversity of populations in these Pacific Island nations. Today, we gather to reflect and gain a deeper understanding of the implications of such diversity when COFA residents migrate to Hawai'i and become part of the fabric of our local community.

This year's conference theme - "*Language Access, Social Justice and Hawai'i's COFA Residents*" - seeks to enlighten our community and stakeholders on the importance of language access for Hawai'i's COFA residents with respect to healthcare, homelessness and education. Our guest speakers will provide information and resources that can increase our understanding of these issues and encourage us to ask probing questions on how to effectively support Hawai'i's COFA residents. This conference also offers many opportunities for networking and resource-sharing so that we may meet their critical needs. Meaningful language access is essential to our collective goals.

We thank our presenters, partners, exhibitors, members of the Language Access Advisory Council, OLA staff and volunteers for their contribution. We deeply appreciate the COFA community leaders who gave their invaluable time and input (their "insider's perspective") in planning this conference. Here's to a productive learning day that will open eyes, minds and hearts!


Helena Manzano
Executive Director
Office of Language Access


Rebeca Zamora
Co-Chair
2015 OLA Conference


Terrina Wong
Co-Chair
2015 OLA Conference



LANGUAGE ACCESS, SOCIAL JUSTICE & HAWAII'S COFA RESIDENTS



MANOA GRAND BALLROOM - JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2015 8:30 AM TO 4:45 PM

AGENDA

8:00 – 8:30

REGISTRATION

8:30 – 9:00

Welcome & Introductions; Primer on Language Access Law

- ‘Oli: **Monte McComber** - Director of Education, Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
- Welcome: **Helena Manzano** - OLA Executive Director
- Opening Address: **First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige**
- Opening Remarks: **COFA Consular Offices**
- Primer on Hawaii’s Language Access Law: OLA Legal Analyst

9:00 – 10:00

Geopolitical and Cultural Background of COFA Nations and People

- **Daniel R. Foley** - Associate Judge, Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals; Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau
- **Sheldon Riklon, MD** - Family Physician; Chair, Micronesia Health Advisory Coalition

10:00 – 10:15

BREAK

10:15 – 11:15

Panel: Challenges to Providing Health Care to COFA Residents

- **Joakim Peter** - Doctoral Candidate, UH Manoa; COFA Community Advocacy Network
- **Neal Palafox, MD/MPH** - Professor, Dept. of Family Medicine & Community Health, JABSOM
- **Megan Inada Hagiwara, MPH** - Doctoral Candidate, UH Manoa
- **Barbara Tom, RN/PHN** - Chair, Nations of Micronesia Committee
- Moderator: **Christina Perez** - Consultant, Office of Minority Health, U.S. DHHS

11:15 – 12:15

Panel: Homelessness and COFA residents

- **Rev. David Gierlach** - Founding Member, FACE; Rector, St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church
- **Mark Chandler** - Director, Community Planning & Development, U.S. HUD
- **Jun Yang** - Executive Director, Office of Housing, City & County of Honolulu
- **Tina Takashy** - Advocate/Consultant, Devint Micronesia
- Moderator: **Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland**

12:15 – 1:00

LUNCH (Cultural presentation - Chuukese Stick Dance—Adult Friends for Youth Group)

1:00 – 1:15

Special Addresses from Hawaii Congressional Delegates

- **U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard** (VIDEO Address)
- **Riley Fujisaki** for **U.S. Representative Mark Takai**
- **Charles Freedman** for **U.S. Senator Brian Schatz**
- **U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono**

1:15 – 2:15

Panel: Education for COFA residents - Across the Lifespan

- **Suzanne Mulcahy** - Asst. Superintendent, DOE Office of Curriculum
- **Mary Santa Maria, MS/MPH** - Public Health Educator, DOH; Health Care Interpreter Trainer
- **Tina Tauasosi-Posiulai, PhD** - Specialist, Office of Multicultural Student Services, UH Manoa
- **Tamera Heine**, Community Outreach Coordinator/RMI Consulate; Marshallese Education Day
- Moderator: **Dina Yoshimi**, Director, Hawaii Language Roadmap Initiative, UH Manoa

2:15 – 2:30

BREAK

2:30 – 3:30

Panel: Service Providers and Effective Outreach to COFA Residents

- **Darlene Kutara** - Community Relations Officer, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
- **Glory Gervacio Saure** - Director, U.S. EEOC Honolulu Office
- **Joanne Loeak** - Paralegal/Outreach Advocate, Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at LASH
- **Kalista Marbou** - Program Coordinator, Parents and Children Together
- Moderator: **Dominic Inocelda** - Susannah Wesley Community Center; OLA Advisory Council

3:30 – 4:30

Panel: Message from Hawaii’s COFA Community Leaders

- **Josie Howard** - Executive Director, We Are Oceania
- **Innocenta Sound-Kikku** - Program Manager, KKV Comprehensive Family Services
- **Xavier Fethal** - Oahu Leader, Remathau Organization of Hawaii
- **Tulpe Day** - Assistant, Immigration Information Office, County of Hawaii
- Moderator: **Joakim Peter**

4:30 – 4:45

Q&A and Closing



ADULT FRIENDS FOR YOUTH (AFY)

ADULT FRIENDS FOR YOUTH (AFY) is focused on redirecting young lives through advocacy and empowerment so that the youth may experience well-being and success by leading healthier lifestyles. This also helps to promote safer communities and schools; and enhances the potential for all youth to achieve a rewarding life and become productive members of society. AFY has engaged the youth in specific activities, such as:

- Neighborhood programs where AFY clinicians visit communities and schools to provide weekly therapeutic counseling services that address such issues as education, anger management, peer pressure and role modeling;
- Youth rugby program (in July, twenty-three youth, including many from this group, participated in a national youth rugby tournament in Oregon);
- Fitness group, "Hirobuilt," where the youth participate in challenging weekly workouts and nutrition sessions conducted by a certified trainer through which they learned healthy habits that prepared them for the National Rugby Tournament; and

- Student Anti-Bullying and Violence Convention where these young men volunteered to act as student guides and mentors for over 4,200 of Hawaii's youth that participated in the convention at the Polynesian Cultural Center.

AFY has been working with this group of young men for the past 3 years to help redirect destructive behaviors into constructive behaviors. These young men hope to showcase their pride in their cultural heritage through today's performance of a traditional Micronesian dance.



DAWN AMANO-IGE

DAWN AMANO-IGE became the First Lady of Hawaii when her husband, Governor David Ige, was sworn in as the 8th governor of the State of Hawaii on December 1, 2014. Mrs. Ige was born in Ewa, Hawaii. She received her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Hawaii, where she met her husband. She also earned a Master's degree in business from Chaminade University in Honolulu.

She began her career as an account executive in a public relations agency and later joined a local medical center where she served as the director of marketing. As a mother of three children, she chose to return to school for a professional diploma in elementary education. She started her career as a teacher in 1997 and is now a vice principal of an elementary school. Throughout her life and professional career, the first lady has dedicated herself to community and public service through education and health care. The Ige's three children, Lauren, Amy, and Matthew are currently attending college.



MARK A. CHANDLER

MARK A. CHANDLER is the Community Planning and Development (CPD) Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Field Office. As CPD Director, Mr. Chandler serves as the lead program official for HUD's community development programs in the State of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands. He has responsibility for a wide variety of federally assisted community, economic development, and homeless program activities throughout the jurisdiction. His major responsibilities include participating with state and local governments and nonprofit organizations to provide housing and community development assistance to low- and moderate-income individuals and families.



Senator SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND

Senator SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND has served in the Hawaii State Legislature since 1990. She currently serves as Chair of the Senate Committee on Human Services, which focuses on child welfare, adult protection, long term care, affordable housing, public housing, vocational rehabilitation, public assistance, and early childhood. She also is a member of the Ways and Means, Transportation and Energy, and Education Committees. She is co-founder and co-convenor of the Keiki and Kupuna Caucuses, co-convenor of the Women's Caucus, chair of numerous legislative task forces and working groups, and member and officers of various community organizations' boards. She has provided invaluable support to human and social service organizations such as Blueprint for Change, Sex Abuse Treatment, Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, Susannah Wesley Community Center, Kalihi-Palama Culture and Arts Society, and Hawaii Children's Trust Fund.

Senator Chun Oakland is a proud graduate of McKinley High School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa, double majoring in Communications and Psychology. She is the daughter of retired Kalihi YMCA Executive Director Philip Chun and retired social worker Mei-Chih Chun. She and her husband of 19 years, Michael Oakland, have three children, Mailene, Christopher and Lauren. She has six grandchildren.



TULPE TOSIE DAY

TULPE TOSIE DAY, a citizen of Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia, currently works as the Assistant to the Immigration Information Specialist for the County of Hawaii (COH). She began her employment with the COH in December 2014. Her office provides US Immigration information to the constituents of Hawaii County and serves as the county’s liaison to United States Citizenship and Immigrant Services (USCIS formerly INS) at the Honolulu District Office. Her past employment includes being an Employment Counselor of the Employment Core Service for Immigrants at Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, a Program Support Specialist and an Interim Director for the Hawaii Island Community Office of Catholic Charities in Hilo, and a small business owner of a Video Store in Pohnpei, Micronesia.

Ms. Day immigrated to Hawaii from Kosrae in 2007 when she came to pursue her college education after raising two teenage daughters. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Hawaii at Hilo in 2010. She currently lives in Hilo and is an active member of Micronesian United Big Island (MU-BI), serving as a Member At-Large and past Secretary.



KANDHI A. ELIEISAR

KANDHI A. ELIEISAR was born on April 18, 1957 on Namoluk Island; and grew up and attended primary schooling on Kuttu and Namoluk Islands in the Mortlocks Group of Islands of Chuuk State, in the Federated States of Micronesia. He went to Xavier High School, a Jesuit-run school, for four years and graduated with a diploma. He left Federated States of Micronesia in 1979 for post-secondary schooling at Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri; and transferred to the University of California, Berkeley, where he received in 1983 a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology. He later pursued post-graduate schooling in Public Administration, having completed the academic requirements for that in 1985.

He returned home to work at the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia in 1985 as an Administrative Officer for six years, before beginning a career in foreign service in 1991 at the Department of External Affairs as a Foreign Service Officer III. He later served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information and Research; Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs; and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Pacific Affairs before assuming a division head position as Assistant Secretary for Pacific, Asia, Africa and Multilateral Affairs from 2000 to 2013. He took up his first overseas assignment in 2013 as Consul General at the FSM Consulate General in Honolulu – his current position.

He is married with four children, six brothers and two sisters. His mother is 78 years old and alive; and his father passed away at the age of 54 in 1994 from carcinoma. His family is Roman Catholic. His favorite

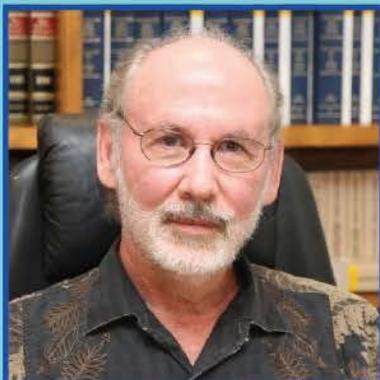
hobbies are playing basketball, spear and line fishing, and jogging.



XAVIER FETHAL

XAVIER FETHAL comes from the Islands of Ulithi - neighboring islands in Yap State (home to Grand Master Navigator Papa Mau Piailug), in the Federated States of Micronesia. Mr. Fethal attended Hawaii Pacific University and has been residing on the island of Oahu for the past 31 years. He is an entrepreneur, a business owner, a musician, singer and song writer. He is married to Juliana Yalemur, an Entomologist who works for the State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture; together they have 6 kids.

Mr. Fethal is also a proud member and leader of the Remathau Organization of Hawaii--a small organization that aims to preserve and maintain its valuable Remathau culture and traditions; and empower its people by ensuring work and stability for the newly migrated members of its community. He is also an active member of various Micronesian clubs and organizations in the State of Hawaii; and in PTA clubs, local Catholic churches, and other organizations in the Pearl City area. He is an Instructor for “101 Financial System,” which helps Micronesians and locals alike to organize their financial lives, build a positive credit history, maintain a debt-free lifestyle, and most importantly, teach people how to save thousands of their hard earned dollars.



DANIEL R. FOLEY

DANIEL R. FOLEY has been an Associate Judge at the Intermediate Court of Appeals, State of Hawaii, since October 2000 and a part-time Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau since 2013. He is also chair of the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission and has served on the commission since its creation in 2008. He received his B.A. in 1969 and his J.D. in 1974 from the University of San Francisco. Prior to his appointment as a judge, he was a partner for eleven years in the law firm of Partington & Foley where he handled federal and state civil rights cases. He was also an Adjunct Professor of Civil Rights at the William S. Richardson School of Law. From 1984 to 1987, he was legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, and from 1975 to 1983, he was counsel to various Micronesian governmental bodies, constitutional conventions, and organizations.



Rev. DAVID J. GIERLACH

Rev. DAVID J. GIERLACH has been the Rector of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church since 2009. St. Elizabeth's is located in Palama near several public housing projects and has been intimately involved in immigrant issues like housing, health care, education and acculturation since 1902. St. Elizabeth's has, in cooperation with Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP), a Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) program that runs daily throughout the year; an active outreach program to neighborhood teens; an after-school tutoring program; community garden; and is a founding member of FACE. Fr. David served as Chairman of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors from July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2015. He is a licensed attorney and former per diem judge in the Family Court. Prior to law school, he served as Program Director for the Hina Mauka Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Center in Kaneohe.



REBECCA GARDNER

REBECCA GARDNER joined the Office of Language Access as its Senior Legal Analyst in May 2012. Prior to that she served as a Staff Attorney for the Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee of the State of Hawaii - House of Representatives; and as a law clerk at both the First Circuit Court and the Intermediate Court of Appeals. She has a bachelor's degree in Social Work from Cornell University and a law degree from the University of Hawaii-William S. Richardson School of Law with a certificate in Pacific-Asian Legal Studies. She is licensed to practice law in the states of Hawaii and New York.



GLORY GERVACIO SAURE

GLORY GERVACIO SAURE is the Director of the Honolulu Local Office for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). In her capacity, Ms. Gervacio Saure oversees the EEOC's operations in the State of Hawaii and the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, Wake Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Prior to her selection to the position in 2015, she had worked as an Enforcement Investigator at the EEOC's Honolulu Local Office for 14 years and continually provides outreach and educational assistance to various communities in her jurisdiction.

Ms. Gervacio Saure was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. She graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. She has been the recipient of several awards, including the 2014 EEOC Chair's Bronze Medal Award for Advancing Equality through Excellence.



TAMERA HEINE

TAMERA HEINE was born and raised in the Marshall Islands until 2006 when she moved to Honolulu to pursue her bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is currently working on her master's in Public Administration while working as the Community Outreach Coordinator at the Marshall Islands Consulate. Tamera is an advocate of social and civil rights for migrants, particularly those from the Freely Associated States living in the Hawaii. She serves as a member for the Marshallese Education Day committee and is involved in many other community driven initiatives.



US SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO

US SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO became the first woman to represent Hawaii in the United States Senate On January 3, 2013. She is also the first Asian-American woman and the first immigrant of Japanese ancestry in the Senate. Senator Hirono currently sits on five committees key to the people of Hawaii: The Senate Committee on the Armed Services, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Senator Hirono began her career as an elected official in the State House of Representatives and went on to become Hawaii's Lieutenant Governor from 1994 – 2002. In 2007, she was elected to represent Hawaii's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Senator Hirono lives in Honolulu with her husband, Leighton Oshima, and her mother, Laura Hirono.



JOSIE HOWARD

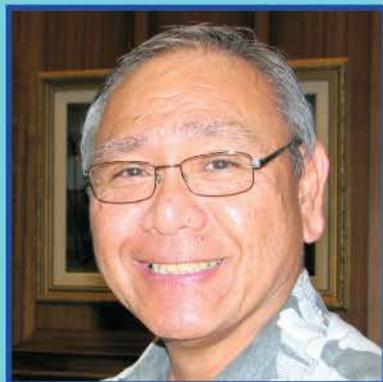
JOSIE HOWARD graduated from Xavier High School in Chuuk, Micronesia and attended the Community College of Micronesia. In 1989, she transferred to the University of Hawaii at Hilo, where she earned a Minor in Biology, BA in Anthropology, and a Certificate in the Pacific Island Studies. Ms. Howard served her Hawaii community for over 10 years before earning her Master of Social Work and is now working as the Executive Director of We Are Oceania under the mentorship of Partners In Development Foundation. She is a native of Onoun Island in Micronesia and speaks Chuukese, Onounese, and English fluently.



MEGAN INADA HAGIWARA

MEGAN INADA HAGIWARA graduated from the University of Hawaii with a Master's in Public Health, Epidemiology in 2005. She worked on a bioterrorism and natural disaster preparedness grant that allowed her to travel to Micronesia and gain a deeper understanding of the unique cultures and lifestyles throughout Micronesia. In 2007, Megan joined the Kokua Kalihi Valley (KKV) Comprehensive Family Services as the Tobacco Programs Coordinator, working to strengthen the clinic's internal clinical structure to better support tobacco cessation and prevention efforts by training staff, creating culturally sensitive education materials and programming, and setting up a referral system across all departments. She also created and conducted several youth programs, including a peer leadership program supporting high schoolers to mentor their peers regarding substance abuse. She outreached to community members about the dangers of tobacco and betel nut use at churches, parks, and beaches. She served as the community policy chair for the Coalition for Tobacco Free Hawaii, partnering with other organizations to advocate for policies that protect the community from harmful effects of tobacco. She also worked with the Hawaii Primary Care Association to share KKV's programs with other community health centers across the State. Her time with KKV taught her the true meaning of patient-centered care and community partnership and gave her the perspective that tobacco use was not the problem but a result of larger issues, including discrimination.

Megan is currently a doctoral candidate in the University of Hawaii's Public Health Department's Translational Research Program. Her dissertation is focused on the effects of racial discrimination on the health and healthcare access of Micronesians in Hawaii. She volunteers with COFA-CAN and is learning so much from its members about community organizing and advocacy.



DOMINIC INOCELDA

DOMINIC INOCELDA is Chairman of the Office of Language Access Advisory Council, State of Hawai'i. He is the president of the Interagency Council for Refugee and Immigrant Services (IAC) which was instrumental in the passage of the language access bill in July 2006. He has a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Hawai'i. He is employed by the Susannah Wesley Community Center where he has served in various program management and administrative functions since 1982. He has worked with limited and non-English speakers, the elderly, public housing residents, and persons with serious mental illnesses.



DARLENE KUTARA

DARLENE KUTARA is the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Community Relations Officer (CRO) for District 26, which includes Hawaii, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Prior to becoming a CRO, Darlene was an Immigration Inspector and Training Officer with the former Immigration and Naturalization Service at the Honolulu International Airport for 26 years. She became a founding member of the Department of Homeland Security soon after she transferred to the Honolulu District Office where she was an Adjudications Officer for 10 years. To discuss immigration related outreach and information sharing opportunities in the community, please email: Darlene.K.Kutara@uscis.dhs.gov



JOANNE LOEAK

JOANNE LOEAK was born and raised in the Marshall Islands. With the birth of her youngest daughter, she chose to migrate to Hawai'i in hopes of a better future for her new baby girl. Here, she started off at Small Island Networks where she worked as their parent-teacher liaison, working to bridge connections between Micronesian families and Hawai'i teachers at Queen Ka'ahumanu Elementary. She then turned towards a career in Early Childhood Education for ten years before gearing her interests towards the COFA community and its social issues. In 2014, she was recruited by the Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center (HIJC) at Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i as its Marshallese paralegal outreach advocate. As a fluent Marshallese speaker, Mrs. Loeak has used her bilingualism and knowledge of culture to remain active in the community. Along with being a paralegal, she is also a community interpreter and a member of various groups aimed towards empowering Micronesians. She is a member of COFA Community Advocacy Network (COFA-CAN), the Micronesian Health Advisory Coalition (MHAC), a Marshallese women's group named Lejmaan Juri, and the Marshallese Education Day (MED) Committee, in which she was involved for seven years before becoming the Chairperson last year. In her free time, she likes to travel to her home-island, Majuro, and play with her new grandson.



HELENA MANZANO

HELENA MANZANO is the Executive Director of the Office of Language Access (OLA). Prior to her appointment to OLA in February 2015, she was the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Project Manager for the Department of Human Services (DHS). The LEP Project was established from the ground up in 2013 to assist in creating and implementing policies and practices that promote meaningful access to DHS programs and services for LEP persons. Previously, Ms. Manzano was a Criminal Justice Planning Specialist for the Department of the Attorney General's Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, where she administered Hawaii's federal grants from the Office on Violence Against Women and the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. Her work in the non-profit sector include: Program Manager responsible for developing and implementing cultural/linguistic-specific services for immigrant and underserved victims of domestic violence and sex assault; and Clinical Case Manager providing direct services to children and adults with serious mental health issues. She has a BA in Psychology and Master of Social Work from the University of Hawaii-Manoa.



KALISTA MARBOU

KALISTA MARBOU has worked at Parents And Children Together (PACT) for the past eight years as a Program Coordinator. Ms. Marbou helped to create the Sundays Project—a program for Micronesians, created by Micronesians, and designed to engage families to promote academic achievement for Micronesian youth. She now runs the project and provides family engagement workshops, coaching, and support to parents. She received her BA in Education from United States International University (USIU) at the Republic of Palau. Prior to working for PACT, she held several positions working in the English Language Learner community. She was an ELL instructor for adults, a case manager, a tutor/instructor for CBASE, and an eligibility worker with the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services. Before moving to Hawaii, she spent three years in Saipan and twelve in Palau, always working in education and community service. She is now a mother of five and a grandmother of nine.



MONTE MCCOMBER

MONTE MCCOMBER is the Director of Education Services for the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association, overseeing training and staff development offerings aimed at enhancing businesses throughout the state. He graduated from Kamehameha Schools in 1994; the University of Puget Sound in 1998 with a BA in Political Science; and Gonzaga University in 2002 with an MA in Education. He is a 2003 Fellow of the Pacific American Foundation's National Pacific American Leadership Institute. He has served as a classroom teacher, administrator, and director of a non-profit. His community involvement includes being a Commissioner for the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, Steering Committee member for the Kamehameha Schools Ka'iwakiloumoku Hawaiian Culture Center, Director on the Board of Directors for the Kamehameha Federal Credit Union, President of Nā Pua A Pauahi Inc., 2nd Vice President of the Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association - O'ahu Region, and Event Chair for Relay For Life. Outside of work, he helps with Relay For Life as one of his passions is to give back to the community at large.

Monte was born and raised in Nanakuli. He was fortunate to have been able to spend a lot of time with his paternal and maternal grandparents, as well as his great-grandfather and great-grandmother while growing up. His kūpuna taught him the ways of their kūpuna; passing down generational knowledge. Many of the kūpuna he grew up with, especially those from church, were mānaleo (native speakers); 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian Language) being their first language.



SUZANNE MULCAHY

SUZANNE MULCAHY was appointed July 1, 2015 as the Assistant Superintendent for the Department of Education's Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support. Prior to that, Ms. Mulcahy was the Complex Area Superintendent of Kailua-Kalaheo from 2010 following her tenure as principal of Kailua Intermediate School for over six years. As a vice principal at Castle High School, she was responsible for the oversight of special education and fine arts. With more than fifteen years of experience in the classroom, she has taught regular and special education at the elementary and intermediate school levels in Hawaii, California, and Colorado. She has served on the Educator Effectiveness System Joint Committee and Technical Advisory Group, Great Teachers Great Leaders, and the Joint Venture for Education Forum where she was a board member and the Deputy's designee. As the superintendent's designee as the Chair for the Committee on Weights (COW), she has lead COW VII, VII, and IX as they determine the formula for distribution of funding to every public school in Hawaii. She earned her bachelor's degree in piano performance and music education from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California. She completed her master's degree in educational administration at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is pursuing her Ph. D. in educational administration.



NEAL A. PALAFOX, MD/MPH

NEAL A. PALAFOX, MD/MPH is presently Professor of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i. He received his medical degree from the University of Hawai'i and obtained his MPH from Johns Hopkins University. From 1983 to 1992, he worked in the Marshall Islands (RMI) as a physician and medical director of a US funded program to care for the radiation affected people of RMI. Between 1997 and 2009, Dr. Palafox was the Principal Investigator for a Congressionally-mandated program to provide medical care for those who were exposed to fallout from the Bravo hydrogen bomb detonation in RMI.

The last 25 years of his career has focused on reducing health disparities in Hawaii and the US Affiliated Pacific Island (USAPI) Jurisdictions of American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau. This work has been done through health workforce development, affecting health policy regarding standards of care, systems-based development utilizing a community-based participatory approach and developing key partnerships with health leadership and policy-makers. These efforts have resulted in each of the USAPI jurisdictions and the USAPI Region in receiving CDC-funds for their cancer programs and registry.

Dr. Palafox has published numerous journal articles, and given many presentations on social determinants of health, cultural competency, and USAPI health issues to organizations such as the President's Cancer Panel, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and Union for International Cancer Control.



CHRISTINA L. PEREZ

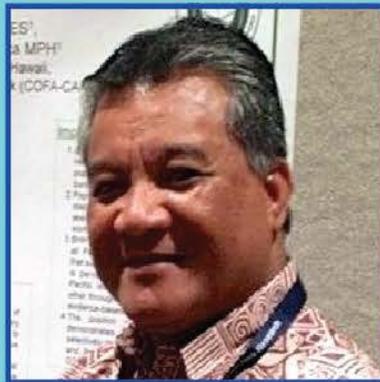
CHRISTINA L. PEREZ works within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Office of Minority Health in Region IX, and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health as the Regional Minority Health Consultant. She is specifically responsible for advising on Department activities directed towards improving the health status of racial and ethnic minority populations in the Region which includes Arizona, American Samoa, California, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Hawaii, Nevada, the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse regions in the Nation. She practiced for 19 years as a nurse practitioner in public and private settings before joining the U.S. Public Health Service. She holds a Masters in Nursing and Advanced Family Nurse Practitioner and Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner from UCLA, and 3 year RN Diploma from Los Angeles County Medical Center School of Nursing.



JOAKIM "JOJO" PETER

JOAKIM "JOJO" PETER is a doctoral student in the Special Education program at the College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) and community advocate for COFA Community Advocacy Network (COFA-CAN), Micronesia Health Advisory Coalition (MHAC), and We Are Oceania (WAO). He is from Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia and attended Xavier High School. He has two master degrees from UHM in Pacific Islands Studies and History. He served as director and faculty member at the College of Micronesia-FSM Chuuk Campus for 15 years before returning to UHM to pursue his doctorate, which focuses on immigrant families of children with special needs in Hawai'i.

In 2011, Jojo and fellow community advocates founded COFA-CAN, a community advocacy network that provides awareness and support for crucial legislative and legal initiatives that affect the lives of the Freely Associated States citizens living in Hawai'i and the United States. Jojo has lectured at UHM and Kapi'olani Community College. In 2012 and 2014, Jojo worked with the Department of Ethnic Studies and the Center for Pacific Islands Studies to organize two symposia – "Micronesia Connections" and "Oceanic Connections" – that sought to bring together community members, educators, and students to develop strategies for empowerment and sharing among Oceanic peoples. Recently, the Micronesia groups have been conducting outreach to collect stories of healthcare issues and challenges among the COFA populations in Hawai'i.



SHELDON RIKLON, MD

SHELDON RIKLON, MD is a Marshallese family physician, born and raised in the Marshall Islands. He is one of only two Marshallese in the world who has completed medical school and residency training at an accredited program in the United States. After high school graduation, he moved to the State of Hawaii where he received his B.A. degree in Biology from the University of Hawaii at Hilo in 1989. He completed the Imi Ho'ola Post Graduate Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and matriculated through the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) where he received his MD in 1998. Upon completion of his family medicine residency training in 2001, he returned home to the Marshall Islands where, among other duties, he served as a primary care physician at Majuro Hospital, chaired the national medical referral committee, chaired Majuro Hospital's Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee, was a member of the institutional review committee, and directed the Special Medical Care Program that provided healthcare to the radiation affected population in the Marshall Islands. In 2009, he returned to Hawaii and is a faculty member with JABSOM's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and serves as the Family Medicine Clerkship Director.

Dr. Riklon continues to be actively involved among the Marshallese and other Micronesia populations in Hawaii as one of the founding members and current chair of the Micronesia Health Advisory Coalition ("MHAC"). MHAC aims to educate Micronesians residing in the State of Hawaii and the rest of the United

States on health issues affecting them, to advocate for Micronesians on current health inequity issues and to collaborate with other Micronesia advocacy groups.



MARY SANTA MARIA, MS/MPH

MARY SANTA MARIA, MS/MPH has been representing Maui on the Language Advisory Council since 2008. She works with the Chronic Disease Management Branch at the Maui District Health Office as Public Health Educator. She has trained many Maui residents on Community and Medical Interpretation in partnerships with UH Maui College, Maui Interpreter's Hui, Maui Memorial Medical Center and many other community based programs. She has had many opportunities to work with the COFA community on Maui and is passionate about ensuring equal access to services through language access for these and all LEP residents. She is the current trainer for The Bridging the Gap Medical Interpreter Training that is sponsored by the OLA.



INNOCENTA SOUND-KIKKU

INNOCENTA SOUND-KIKKU is Micronesia Chuukese and currently works at Kokua Kalhi Valley Comprehensive Family Service as Lei Hipu'u Community Organizer and Outreach Program Manager. She wears many hats in her community: as a poet, storyteller, Advisor to the Micronesia Community Network, Vice-President for Micronesia Health Advisory Coalition and COFA Community Advocacy Network, and Founder of JOIN SERVICES LLC – a Chuukese Consulting and Interpreting agency. Innocenta is also an alumnae of Xavier High School and a retired Police Officer II from Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. She is a passionate social justice advocate at the forefront of healthcare access issues, navigating the system on behalf of COFA migrants. Her strong spiritual and cultural values and her pride in her Micronesia heritage and ancestry allow her to be hopeful and optimistic about life in general.



TINA S. TAKASHY

TINA S. TAKASHY is a long time civil society, gender, human rights and social justice advocate in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Pacific and now in Hawaii. Ms. Takashy has extensive public service experience working for the Federated States of Micronesia National and Chuuk State Governments in key management and community empowerment positions. She served on a number of key advisory and policy decision-making Boards and Committees in Micronesia, the Pacific and Hawaii, representing the voice of the marginalized Micronesian communities.

Ms. Takashy is a professional development consultant specializing in public policy advocacy and health, education and social justice empowerment. Her consulting business, Devint Micronesia, provides a one-stop-COFA language interpretation, translation, and logistical support services for COFA migrants and Service Providers in Hawaii. She also founded and managed the Hawaii Freely Associated States Empowerment (FASE) Organization to help FAS-COFA residents adjust successfully to life in Hawaii through leadership and policy dialogues with COFA, Hawaii and Federal Government officials on current and emerging compact-impact challenges facing COFA migrants, their host communities and the State of Hawaii. FASE is a key dialogue partner with Hawaii non-profits on COFA issues relating to homelessness, healthcare, and language access. Ms. Takashy has a BA in psychology (Rhode Island College), a Masters of Public Health (UHM and East-West Center Population Institute) and a post-graduate diploma in non-profit management (UNITEC, New Zealand). She has 3 children and 5 grandchildren living in Hawaii, and a son living in Los Angeles with his family.



TINA TAUASOSI-POSIULAI, PhD

TINA TAUASOSI-POSIULAI, PhD currently works as Community Partnership and Research Specialist at University of Hawaii-Manoa (UHM), Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS). Since 2008, she has established various outreach programs to enhance college access and success of Pacific Islanders (PI) in Hawaii. She is also the Project Coordinator for Pasefika Passion Pipeline (3P) to help increase recruitment of Pacific Islander (PI) youth and adults to pursue college education at UH-Community Colleges. Recently, she spearheads the Pacific Islander Students Tuition Petition at University of Hawaii to bring attention to financial challenges faced by PI students, and especially COFA students at UHM.

Dr. Tauasosi-Posiulai was born and raised in Samoa. She received her MA degree from Australian National University in Canberra and her doctoral degree from UHM. Before leaving Samoa in 2001, she managed various social and economic research projects implemented in Samoa and other Pacific Island countries. She worked closely with governments of Samoa, Australia, New Zealand, as well as international organizations such as United Nations, Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Health Organization (WHO), and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in New Caledonia, and Fiji. She never anticipated living permanently in Hawaii. She wanted to return to Samoa to serve her people and her country. But her late husband was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in 2007 and therefore, decided to stay in Hawaii to raise her three beautiful young children. She is blessed to have a career at UHM-OMSS which allows her to support and to elevate her PI communities in Hawaii.



BARBARA TOM, RN/PHN

BARBARA TOM, RN/PHN is Chair of the Nations of Micronesia Committee. This statewide community committee serves as a forum for communicating information to the Micronesian Community and providers from health, labor, government, and non-profits. She also serves as the Advisor for the Micronesian Community Network and the Micronesian Health Advisory Coalition, both of which she helped to establish during her tenure as a Public Health Nurse with the Department of Health. She was also Chair of the Waipahu Community Coalition (WCC) for 3 years while helping to establish its non-profit status. Now retired, she continues to guide WCC's mission to develop a safe and healthy environment in Waipahu. She serves on the advisory board of organizations that work to promote the health and well-being of communities, including the Waipahu Weed & Seed Steering Committee, Waipahu Community Coalition, and University of Health Alliances Foundation Grant Committee; and as Board of Director for the Institute of Human Services, Ho'omaka Hou Learning Center, Waipahu High School's Health and Science Pathway, and Punawai 'O Pu'uhonaua.



Senator GLENN WAKAI

Senator GLENN WAKAI launched into politics in 2002 by winning a seat in the State House of Representatives. He stepped up to the Senate in 2010. Today, he chairs the Senate's Economic Development and Environment Committee. Prior to a life in politics, Glenn spent 11 years as a television news reporter. He landed his first journalism job in Guam in 1991, then moved to Saipan to build a news station from scratch in 1993. He returned to Hawaii in 1995 as the business reporter for KHON FOX2, then moved to KHNL News 8 in 1999 to cover court cases.

Glenn is a graduate of the University of Southern California with degrees in Journalism and Sociology. He also obtained a minor in Business Administration. Outside of the Capitol, Glenn has his own public relations firm, High Impact Communications. He also runs a non-profit, Reach out Pacific (REPAC), which takes surplus medical and educational supplies to Micronesia. He is the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Palau. He also serves on the boards of Goodwill, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and MeneMac Advisory Group (video production at Moanalua High School).



JUN YANG

JUN YANG was appointed as Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing by Mayor Kirk Caldwell in February of 2013. Jun attended the University of California, Berkeley. He lived and work in the San Francisco Bay Area for many years before moving back to Southern California to work as a community organizer for the grassroots community organization People Organized for Westside Renewal (POWER) in Santa Monica, California. His role at POWER focused on affordable housing advocacy and low-income housing development. In 2008, Jun moved to Honolulu to work with Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE) as a community organizer dealing with affordable housing policy, tenant rights and advocacy. During his time at FACE, he worked to preserve Kukui Gardens as an affordable rental development, worked on the redevelopment of Kuhio Park Terrace, and on foreclosure prevention legislation for our island families, which became Act 48 in 2011. He is married to his beautiful wife, Seunghye, and has a wonderful daughter, Abigail.



DINA RUDOLPH YOSHIMI, PhD

DINA RUDOLPH YOSHIMI, PhD (Applied Linguistics, University of Southern California) is Director of the Hawaii Language Roadmap Initiative, and Associate Professor of Japanese at UH-Mānoa. She specializes in pragmatics in Japanese language learning and pedagogy, with applications for proficiency-oriented instruction of everyday language use, as well as language use in business and professional settings. Her most recent work (2014, co-authored with A. Haeusler) proposes a protocol for specifying language proficiency needs in the workforce. She is also engaged in expanding off-campus service learning and internship opportunities for UHM students who are proficient in more than one language. Dr. Yoshimi served as Director for several NFLRC-NRCEA co-sponsored Summer Institutes on Teaching Pragmatics in the JFL (2002; 2003) and CFL (2004) Classrooms, and as Co-chair for the 2006 Conference on Pragmatics in the CJK Classroom, as well as the 2007 International Conference on Pragmatics and Language Learning.

HAWAII'S LANGUAGE ACCESS LAW – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Hawaii Revised Statutes: §321C-3 - Oral and written language services.

(a) Each state agency and all covered entities* shall take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to services, programs, and activities by limited English proficient persons, which will be determined by a totality of circumstances, including the following factors:

- (1) The number or proportion of limited English proficient persons served or encountered in the eligible service population;
- (2) The frequency with which limited English proficient persons come in contact with the services, programs, or activities;
- (3) The nature and importance of the services, programs, or activities; and
- (4) The resources available to the State or covered entity and the costs.

(b) Subject to subsection (a), each state agency and covered entity shall provide competent, timely oral language services to limited English proficient persons who seek to access services, programs, or activities.

(c) Subject to subsection (a), each state agency and covered entity shall provide written translations of vital documents to limited English proficient persons who seek to access services, programs, or activities, as follows:

- (1) Written translations of vital documents for each eligible limited English proficient group that constitutes five per cent or one thousand, whichever is less, of the population of persons eligible to be served or likely to be affected or encountered; or
- (2) If there are fewer than fifty persons in a limited English proficient group that reaches the five per cent threshold in paragraph (1), written notice in the primary language to the limited English proficient language group of the right to receive competent oral interpretation of those written materials, free of cost.

(d) To the extent that the State requires additional personnel to provide language services based on the determination set forth in this section, the State shall hire qualified personnel who are bilingual to fill existing, budgeted vacant public contact positions.

(* **“Covered entity”** is defined under **§321C-1** as: “a person or organization receiving state financial assistance, including grants, purchase-of-service contracts, or any other arrangement by which the State provides or otherwise makes available assistance in the form of funds to the person or organization for the purpose of rendering services to the public. It shall not include procurement contracts, state insurance or guaranty contracts, licenses, tax credits, or loan guarantees to private businesses of general concern that do not render services on behalf of the State.”)

Hawaii Revised Statutes: §321C-4 - Additional obligations.

(a) Each state agency and covered entity shall establish a plan for language access.

(b) Each state agency's plan for language access shall be established in consultation with the executive director and the state agency's coordinator for language access. State agencies receiving federal financial assistance that did not file an initial language access plan pursuant to former section 371-34(b) by July 1, 2007, shall file an initial language access plan with the executive director no later than July 1, 2013, and every two years thereafter. All other state agencies that did not file a language access plan pursuant to former section 371-34(b) by July 1, 2008, shall file a language access plan with the executive director no later than July 1, 2014, and every two years thereafter. Agencies that filed initial language access plans pursuant to former section 371-34(b) by July 1, 2007, and July 1, 2008, shall continue to file their plans with the executive director every two years thereafter.

(c) Each state agency shall designate a language access coordinator who shall establish and implement the plan for language access in consultation with the executive director and the language access advisory council.

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Language Access Advisory Council assists the Executive Director of the Office of Language Access by providing input on: implementation and compliance with Hawaii's language access laws; the quality of oral and written language services provided under the law; and the adequacy of a state agency or covered entity's dissemination and training of its employees likely to have contact with LEP persons, its policies and procedures for language services, its competency in working effectively with in-person and telephone interpreters, and its understanding of the dynamics of interpretation between clients, providers, and interpreters.

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Dominic Inocelda, Inter-Agency Council on Immigrant Services, Chair, *representing an advocacy organization that provides services to limited English proficient persons*
- Gerald Ohta, Department of Health, Vice-chair, *representing state government*
- Helena Manzano, Office of Language Access, *Ex Officio*
- Bill Hoshijo, Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, *Ex Officio*
- Francine Wai, Disability and Communication Access Board, *Ex Officio*
- Lito Asuncion, *member at large*
- Melba Bantay, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, *representing a covered entity*
- Jennifer Li Dotson, *representing state-funded immigrant service agency or program*
- Mindy Emmons, *representing Kaua'i County*
- Patricia Harpstrite, *representing City & County of Honolulu*
- Margarita Hopkins, *representing Hawai'i County*
- Dr. Ruth Mabanglo, UH Institute of Pilipino Language and Literature, *representing an accredited institution of higher learning who provides professional training in interpretation and translation;*
- Mary Santa Maria, *representing Maui County*
- Terrina Wong, Pacific Gateway Center, *representing a bilingual referral service or program*
- Rebeca Zamora, Hawai'i Interpreter Action Network, *representing a professional interpreter's organization*
- Limited English Proficient (LEP) community representative – Vacant
- Hawaiian language advocacy organization representative – Vacant

MAHALO TO OUR PARTNERS



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII



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AT THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII



‘O ka ‘ōlelo ke ola – Language is Life