Updates/Activities:

- Sonya Chung-Hirano’s last day at OLA will be on May 4, 2012; she has been hired by the Girl Scouts. Rebecca Gardner, OLA senior legal analyst, will start on May 16, 2012.

- Spring 2012 issue of the OLA Newsletter has been distributed.

- The 5-day training on community interpretation held last March 12-16, 2012 was very successful. 28 out of the 29 participants passed the written assessment. OLA is considering holding a Training of Trainers (TOT) toward the end of this year.

- Met with the ad hoc committee on the 5th Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access on March 20, 2012 to discuss topics and speakers. The following speakers have confirmed: Deeana Jang of DOJ, Michael Leoz of DHHS OCR Region IX, Kleber Palma of New York City DOE, Jason Reed of Washington State DSHS, Dr. Sue Zeng of UHCITS, Larry Foster, Tom Steele, Pat Harpstrite, Alohalani Boido, and Mindy Eamons.

- Arranged and attended a meeting of the Micronesian community with Kapiolani Medical Center/Hawaii Pacific Health on March 22, 2012 at KMC to discuss possible collaboration on how to address KMC’s language access needs and training needs of interpreters.

- Attended the IAC meeting on March 28, 2012 at the Susannah Wesley Community Center and gave a report/update on OLA.

- Submitted testimonies and met with several legislators (Senate and House) to get support for the passage of HB2374. The bill was approved by the Senate with amendments. Waiting for House to agree with Senate.

- DOH and DAGS are looking for a new physical location for OLA; visited OLA on April 16, 2012 to check space requirements. Possible site is SHPDA.

- All advisory council appointments (Inocelda, Ohta, Dotson, Santa Maria, Bantay and Hopkins) were approved by the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor on April 11 and 12, 2012; being sent for confirmation by the full Senate. Submitted testimonies for all.

- Will be making a PowerPoint presentation on language access at the meeting of the advisory committee of the Senior Medicare Patrol program at the Executive Office on Aging today at 1:30 p.m.