

## LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, August 10, 2011

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

Aging and Disability Resource Center  
1055 Kino-ole St., Suite 101, 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 9:40 A.M. with quorum by Vice Chair, Gerald Ohta. Neighbor Island council members from Maui and the Big Island joined in via videoconferencing.

#### 1. Attendance

##### *Present:*

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| - 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                   |
| - Betty Brow                        | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Edelene Uriarte                   | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Lito Asuncion                     | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Mary Santa Maria                  | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Melba Bantay                      | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Kanani Mariano (for Bill Hoshijo) | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio   |

##### *Excused:*

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| - Dominic Inocelda                   | Language Access Advisory Council, Chair |
| - Dr. Tin Myaing Thein               | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Kristine Pagano (for Francine Wai) | Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio    |
| - Namaka Rawlins                     | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Azi Turturici                      | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Alohalani Boido                    | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Ruth Mabanglo                      | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

##### *Others Present:*

- None.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**
  - Melba Bantay was introduced as a new member of the Council.
3. **Approval of minutes of the July 13, 2011 meeting**
  - Minutes were approved as presented.
4. **Executive Director's Report**
  - Related moves and activities to get support from community leaders and organizations in support of the retention of OLA which culminated in the Governor's pronouncement that OLA will not be abolished.
  - There is consensus that OLA needs to be transferred to another agency whose purposes are attuned with that of OLA. Transfer to be part of the administrative legislative package.
  - Any OLA budget cut will be known on August 18 and hiring of staff dependent on state's financial situation by end of first quarter (September).
  - Multilingual poster being checked for possible errors.
  - Language access conference committee has continued to meet. As of today, 122 have registered.
  - The 2011 summer issue of the quarterly OLA Newsletter came out on July 18.
  - Attended IAC meeting on July 20 and reported on OLA status.
5. **Report of the Chair**
  - In the absence of the chair, the vice chair reported on the IAC meeting of July 20, 2011.
6. **Production of the Multilingual Poster**
  - It was suggested that since there are still questions about the translations, a semi-final version be printed and distributed at the conference for feedback from the public.
7. **Update on the Status of OLA**
  - The executive director reported that as a result of community action and through the help of Amy Agbayani, the governor has declared that the OLA will not be abolished and that it will be given budgetary support and moved to a more appropriate administrative home.
8. **2012 Legislative Proposals**
  - OLA will work on the amendments to the language access law provisions on the requirements for advisory council membership. Will present proposal to Council for discussion.
  - OLA will also work on legislation that would transfer OLA to another department or agency (as part of the administrative package). Will identify possible agencies and propose the same for discussion by the Council.
9. **Planning for 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Language Access Conference (August 31, 2011)**
  - Keynote speakers confirmed: Adrienne Pon of San Francisco and Christina Lagdameo of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Panelists for the community panel and the two tracks have been identified; need to follow up for confirmation. Conference program booklet is being worked on. Since the governor cannot make it to the conference, it was suggested that the Lieutenant Governor be invited.

**10. Announcements**

- IAC Update – no August meeting; next meeting in September.
- Maui County Civil Defense, Office of Immigration and Department of Health will be holding a disaster training for the community this month and have come up with a translated training brochure on emergency preparedness for LEPs. The training will follow a train-the-trainer format.
- Immigration outreach is being held in Hilo today.
- Next council meeting: September 14, 2011, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., same time and place.

**11. Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

**Language Access Advisory Council Meeting  
August 10, 2011  
Report of the Executive Director**

**Updates:**

- **With the recommended closure of OLA, the executive director wrote letters to, contacted, and held several meetings with community leaders and organizations, legislators, and other stakeholders. A core group, including the executive director, started to meet to plan out a strategy. As a result, several letters were received by the office of the governor, including one from a group of legislators (senators and representatives); one senator also wrote to the DLIR director. An email blast was sent out to the community informing them of the impending closure of OLA and calling on them to contact the DLIR office. A resolution was passed by the United Filipino Community Council during its annual convention on July 15, 2011 calling on the governor not to abolish OLA. The OLA Quarterly was emailed out, and the Hawaii Hispanic News published a news item in its July issue. In the meantime, a meeting between Amy Agbayani and the governor was eventually arranged. Amy Agbayani met with the governor and his chief-of-staff Amy Asselbaye on July 19. The following statement was issued after the meeting:**

**“Tues July 19, the Governor re-stated his continuing commitment to language access, services to immigrants and low income communities. OLA and OCS will be asked to work with Governor’s office and the community to strengthen services provided by OLA and OCS staff, i.e. recommend budget support and optimal administrative home so OLA and OCS functions are more aligned and supported.”**

**The governor reiterated this message in a community meeting in Hamakua, Big Island on July 21 (with the DLIR director in attendance).**

- **There is consensus that OLA needs to be transferred to another department whose purposes are attuned to that of OLA. Transfer to be pursued as part of the administration’s legislative package and as a separate bill.**
- **Update on budget – decision to be made on August 18 on the 5% cuts. Of the \$50 million needed, \$34 million has been recouped from savings, so what is being sought is \$16 million in cuts for this fiscal year.**
- **Filling of OLA’s two restored positions dependent on state’s financial situation by the end of the first quarter (end of September).**
- **Lay-out of multilingual poster is finalized; being checked for possible errors.**
- **Language access conference committee has continued to meet. Second and third flyers sent out. As of today, 122 have registered. Target: at least 200.**
- **The 2011 summer issue of the quarterly OLA Newsletter came out on July 18.**
- **Attended IAC meeting on July 20 and reported on OLA status.**