

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, August 12, 2009
DLIR Conference Room 320

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 A.M. with quorum by Vice-Chair, Gerald Ohta.

1. Attendance

Present:

- Dominic Inocelda Language Access Advisory Council, Chairperson
- 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
- Azi Turturici Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Mary Santa Maria Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Lito Asuncion Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Betty Brow Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Sr. Earnest Chung Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Francine Wai Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Dr. Tin Myaing Thein Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio
- Alohalani Boido Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Nāmaka Rawlins Language Access Advisory Council Member

Excused:

- Canisius Filibert Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Dr. Suzanne Zeng Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Jennifer Dotson Language Access Advisory Council Member

Others Present:

- Frances Lum Department of the Attorney General
- Kendall Zukeran Research Analyst, Office of Language Access
- Jeremy Low Research Analyst, Office of Language Access
- Uilani Pauole de Sa Senior Legal Analyst, Office of Language Access
- Gail McGarvey Clerk Typist, Office of Language Access

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Approval of minutes of July 8, 2009 meeting

- Minutes approved unanimously. Motion carried.

4. Executive Director's Report – See attached

- The executive director reported that all four OLA staff received letters informing them that they were being terminated and their positions abolished effective November 13, 2009. Due to the uncertain future of the OLA, Council members were asked to provide input regarding what steps to take.
- Suggestions were made to write letters to the Governor, Legislature, and DLIR Director, describing the importance of the office and why it should remain.
- Sr. Earnest Chung was asked to work on a list of officials to contact.
- The Visayan community will have its convention this weekend and will probably present a resolution on language access.
- Francine Wai shared that her agency (DCAB) went through similar struggles as the OLA but with the support of community members, letters, etc. only her funds were cut. Staff positions remained intact.
- The Council will write a letter, with the assistance of OLA, detailing the accomplishments of the office, impact statements, etc. In addition, a one page fact sheet relating to language access in Hawaii should be made to help the Council and other supporters when they address the media.
- It was suggested that community and Council members should write letters to newspaper editors and other media sources, informing the public of what is happening. The OLA should not be directly involved and staff members should not be interviewed since the media often misquotes or slants what is said. Moreover, staff could put their positions in further jeopardy by going public. It would be fine for Council members to be interviewed and express their opinions.
- The Council's position should be that the OLA staff positions stay on the books and remain filled.
- Any other suggestions or recommendations should be directed to Jun and he can then decide what actions to take.

5. Language Access Month Activities

- Suggestions were made to either have one activity or pass for this year due to the state budget crisis.
- Community members have proposed having a rally for language access. The OLA cannot spearhead such an effort.
- Suggestion was made to have a newspaper article regarding language access in general, the OLA conference, and status of the office. Journalists from the Honolulu Advertiser, Star-Bulletin, and Maui News were recommended.

6. Update on Language Access Conference Planning

- About 180 people have already pre-registered for the conference.
- Goal is to have 225 people registered since it is estimated that 10% will not show.
- Sponsors thus far are the Bank of Hawaii, Office of Minority Health, and ViaLanguage. The Annie Casey Foundation, Migration Policy Institute, and Federal Government are covering the costs for their respective employees. Jeremy will work with Betty Brow regarding the BOH breakfast sponsorship.

7. Census Bureau Presentation

- Manny and David from the U.S. Census Bureau shared the agency's 2010 goals with the Council. These are to increase Hawaii's response rate and deliver a consistent message. During the 2000 census, Hawaii's response rate was 60%, which was one of the lowest in the nation. To achieve better results, the Bureau will partner with community groups, faith-based organizations, shelters, and conduct an informational campaign utilizing special language media agencies, to convey the importance of the census and safety in completing the questionnaire. There will only be 10 questions asked and should only take 10 minutes to complete versus the long form utilized in the past. More information can be found at www.census.gov.

8. Announcements

- The IAC is discussing the latest change in the Quest plan to a new basic health plan for Micronesian immigrants effective September 1, 2009. Cancer care and dialysis is not included in the new plan.
- The Next LAAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2009. Videoconferencing is planned so that neighbor island members will not have to fly to Oahu.

9. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Wednesday, July 8, 2009
DLIR Conference Room 320

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 A.M. with quorum by Chairperson Dominic Inocelda.

1. Attendance

Present:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| - Dominic Inocelda | Language Access Advisory Council, Chairperson |
| - 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 |
| - Jennifer Dotson | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Azi Turturici | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Mary Santa Maria | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Lito Asuncion | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Betty Brow | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Sr. Earnest Chung | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Excused:

- | | |
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| - Canisius Filibert | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Dr. Suzanne Zeng | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Francine Wai | Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio |
| - Dr. Tin Myaing Thein | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Alohalani Boido | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Nāmaka Rawlins | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Others Present:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| - Frances Lum | Department of the Attorney General |
| - Jeremy Low | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access |
| - Uilani Pauole de Sa | Senior Legal Analyst, Office of Language Access |
| - Kendall Zukeran | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access |

2. Welcome and Introductions

- The newly confirmed LAAC members were welcomed.

3. Approval of minutes of April 8, 2009 meeting

- Minutes approved unanimously. Motion carried.

4. Executive Director's Report – See attached

5. Update on Language Access Conference Planning

- Jennifer Dotson, Conference Chairperson, advised that planning is going well and there have been some important changes:
 1. The conference will be a one day event (September 28, 2009) rather than 2 days.
 2. The location has changed to the State Capitol Auditorium.
 3. There is no registration fee for attendees.
- There will be one continuous track with three sessions ~ Hawaii Overview, Implementation, and Promising Practices.
- Jennifer would like to involve LAAC members in the conference as much as possible.
- Breakfast and lunch sponsors in the form of food or monetary donations are still being sought for the conference. Otherwise attendees will need to bring or buy their own lunch. The lunch break will be 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- Betty Brow advised that BOH may be able sponsor part of the lunch but needs to work out the details.
- The Office of Minority Health (San Francisco) will be the material sponsor. They will help the OLA with the print materials, brochures, etc.
- Jun and Ui are checking with the Ethics Commission in regards to receiving sponsorships.
- There was a suggestion that for future events, the OLA consider establishing a separate "agency fund."
- A recommendation was made to have the general registration and sponsorship forms on separate pages rather than together on the same page. Send these out ASAP because it takes time for sponsors to file the necessary paperwork, obtain the proper approvals, etc.

6. Legislative Matters

- August has been designated as "Language Access Month" (*Act 69/HB813 HD1 SD1 CD1*) and the OLA is planning activities but would like to do more outreach to various LEP groups or communities. If council members have any specific groups or contacts that the OLA should consider working with, please let the office know by 7/15/09.
- *HR157* was passed by the House of Representatives requesting the establishment of a task force consisting of members of the Legislature, Hawaii Tourism Authority, Department of Transportation, OLA, and tourism-related private sector industries such as the hotels, car rental agencies, and restaurants.
- A concurrent resolution (*HCR13/HR17*) requests the Executive Office of Aging and Center on Aging at UH Manoa, to continue their research and analyses and report on developing a cash and counseling model as well as apply for related grants.
- Vice-Chair Gerald Ohta, shared regarding the passage of the "Complete Streets" law (*Act 54*) during the past Legislative session. This act "requires the Department of Transportation and county transportation departments to seek to reasonably accommodate access and mobility for all users of public highways, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and persons of all abilities. Establishes a temporary task force to review certain highway design standards and guidelines."
- Gerald made a motion to have the OLA write a letter to the Department of Transportation Director, Brennon Morioka, indicating the office's interest in having a representative on this task force. The motion was seconded by Betty Brow and all council members were unanimous in favor of this. The motion was carried.

**Language Access Advisory Council Meeting
August 12, 2009
Report of the Executive Director**

Budget Status:

- All four staff members to be laid off and their positions abolished effective November 13, 2009.
- Status of office unclear.

Operations:

- Held state language access coordinators' meeting on July 22, 2009, with Betty Brow of the Bank of Hawaii International Banking Division as guest speaker.
- Continue planning for September 28, 2009 language access conference.
- Follow up with remaining state agencies receiving federal funds re submission of their revised language access plans (deadline was July 1, 2009).
- Attended meeting of SMP Advisory Council on August 6, 2009.
- Met with representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau on July 20 and August 7, 2009 re community outreach for Census 2010.
- Discussing with staff as to what needs to be done between now and November 13, 2009.

Update on Training Project

- Request for funding from DOH for additional language access training is being reconsidered.

Update on Poster

- Awaiting update from CITS on the revisions of the poster.

OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

830 Punchbowl Street Rm. 320

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

DinoCelda
@susannahwesley
.org

ROLL CALL/ ATTENDANCE

AUGUST 12, 2009

9:00 AM TO 10:30 AM

Name/Guest	Signature	
Dominic Inocelda Inter-Agency Council on Immigrant Services; Chair	YES	
Gerald Ohta Department of Health; Vice-chair	YES	
Serafin "Jun" Colmenares Office of Language Access Ex Officio	YES	
Bill Hoshijo Hawaii Civil Rights Commission Ex Officio	YES	/LIVIA
Lito Asuncion Hawaii County Office on Aging	YES	
Alohalani Boido Hawaii Interpreter Action Network	YES	
Betty Brow BOH, International Banking Center	YES	
Sr. Earnest Chung Catholic Charities Hawaii	YES	lv at 9:45 am
Canisius Filibert Micronesia Community Network	NO	
Jennifer Dotson Muscular Dystrophy Association	YES	
Dr. Tin Myaing Thein Pacific Gateway Center	YES	
Francis Wai, Disability & Communication Access Board, Ex Officio	YES	
Nāmaka Rawlins Aha Punana Leo; UH-Hilo Hawaiian Language Center	YES	
Mary Santa Maria Maui District Health Office	YES	
Azi Turturici Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs	YES	
Dr. Suzanne Zeng UH Center for Interpretation and Translation Services	NO	Excused

over

