

## LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Workforce Development Council Conference Room 417  
830 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

181 Hawaiiana Street  
Kapaa, Hawaii 96766

Aging & Disability Resource Center  
1055 Kino'ole St., Suite 101, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

### MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:42 A.M. with quorum by Chair, Dominic Inocelda. Neighbor Island council members from Kauai and the Big Island joined in via videoconferencing.

#### 1. Attendance

##### *Present:*

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| - Dominic Inocelda                   | Language Access Advisory Council, Chairperson             |
| - Serafin "Jun" Colmenares           | Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio |
| - Azi Turturici                      | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Jennifer Dotson                    | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Dr. Tin Myaing Thein               | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Sr. Earnest Chung                  | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Dr. Suzanne Zeng                   | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Betty Brow                         | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Edelene Uriarte                    | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Alohalani Boido                    | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Lito Asuncion                      | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Livia Wang (for Bill Hoshijo)      | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio   |
| - Kristine Pagano (for Francine Wai) | Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio                      |

##### *Excused:*

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| - Namaka Rawlins   | Language Access Advisory Council Member             |
| - Mary Santa Maria | Language Access Advisory Council Member             |
| - Gerald Ohta      | Language Access Advisory Council Member, Vice Chair |

**Others Present:**

- Adele Ching Senior Medicare Patrol Program, EOA
- Rowena Lao Interpreter (Washington State)
- Yuri Ogura Interpreter
- Lani Tamar Sign Language Interpreter (Hawaii Interpreting Services)

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

- Those in attendance introduced themselves.

**3. Approval of minutes of the January 19, 2011 meeting**

- Minutes were approved as presented.

**4. Executive Director's Report – See attached**

- Executive Director reappointed until December 1, 2014.
- Request to establish and fill two restored OLA positions approved by DLIR Director and being reviewed by Budget and Finance.
- Training workshops for Oahu nonprofits to be held in April 2011.
- List of state language access coordinators being updated.
- OCS-OLA joint conference to be held on August 30-31, 2011 at East-West Center.
- Request from OCS for bilingual volunteers to help in the Senior Food Program.

**5. Report of the Chair**

- Letter to Governor re establishment and filling of two restored OLA positions sent.

**6. Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Presentation**

- Adele Ching, coordinator of the Senior Medicare Patrol program of the Executive Office on Aging informed the group about SMP's objective of protecting seniors from Medicare fraud; she also discussed a collaborative project with OLA re the hiring and training of bilingual volunteers for the program as well as the holding of outreach events in the Neighbor Islands. This project is dependent on the availability of OLA staff. She also talked about the possibility of the council serving as an advisory group to the project. It was recommended that since the language access advisory council is a creation of law and has its own mandated functions, that the Interagency Council for Immigrant Services be approached and asked to serve as the project's advisory group.

**7. Language Access Advisory Council Application**

- The Office of the Governor is in the process of accepting online applications for membership in boards and commissions. Members whose terms were expiring (Jennifer Dotson and Sue Zeng) were reminded to submit their application.

**8. Update on the Multilingual Poster**

- Waiting on Burmese and Khmer translations; resolving some font issues. Draft poster was passed around. Members asked to review and submit comments or corrections (using Word format).

**9. Update on Legislative Proposals**

- OLA is tracking the following legislations: HB298 (exempts court interpreters from parking violations for expired meters – being heard on Friday, February 11, 2011 by the

- House Judiciary committee at 2:00 p.m. in Room 325 – OLA to submit testimony in support); HB1452 (requires OCS, in coordination with other relevant state agencies, to provide social services for survivors of human trafficking – referred to House Labor, Judiciary and Finance committees); SB997 (companion bill to HB298 – referred to Senate Judiciary and Labor committee); SB1139 (appropriates monies to community health centers – passed Senate Health and Human Services committee on February 2, 2011); and SB1503 (relates to special education; establishes criteria for persons who provide interpretation services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and certain students with disability – referred to Senate Education and Ways and Means committees).
- There was also discussion about the use of the rainy day fund, the loss of monies for social service programs and its impact on service providers and the community.

**10. Training for Non-Profit Agencies on Oahu**

- OLA is scheduling two one-day trainings on Oahu for non-profit agencies on Serving LEP Individuals Through Interpreters and The Role of Bilingual Staff. The trainings will be held in April and will be held at the DLIR multipurpose conference rooms as well as at another site towards the west. Probable sites are Susannah Wesley Community Center, Honolulu Community College, Leeward Community College, and Child and Family Services in Kapolei. Information flyers will be sent out as soon as the dates and locations are firmed up.

**11. Planning for Language Access Month and 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Language Access Conference (August 2011)**

- August is Language Access Month in Hawaii. In addition to the language access conference, other activities may be held during the month, depending on OLA getting additional staffing. Meanwhile, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Language Access Conference will be held in conjunction with a Strategic Planning Conference to be held by the Office of Community Services. The 2-day joint conference will focus on: Eliminating Barriers to Employment and Economic Self-Sufficiency for Low-Income and LEP Individuals. Most of the funding will be provided by the Office of Community Services.
- Jennifer Dotson was volunteered to serve as conference chair again; Sue Zeng, Sr. Earnest, Dominic, and Alohalani also volunteered to help. A meeting of the planning committee (with members from OCS) will be held soon.

**12. Announcements**

- IAC Update – Dominic to inform the group on when the next meeting is; Adele Ching of SMP will be invited.
- Kristine announced an upcoming conference sponsored by DCAB, Sprint Relay Hawaii and the Pacific ADA Center on The Power and Influence of Accessible Communication on March 16, 2011 at the Japanese Cultural Center. Registration fee is \$50 and includes lunch. Parking is \$5 and limited scholarships are available. Registration deadline is February 23, 2011. She also announced that she is again pregnant and due in August so she will not be able to attend meetings starting summer.
- Next council meeting: March 9, 2011, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., place to be determined.

**13. Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

**Language Access Advisory Council Meeting  
February 9, 2011  
Report of the Executive Director**

**Updates:**

- **Executive Director has been reappointed effective February 5, 2011 until December 1, 2014.**
- **Request to establish and fill the two restored OLA positions (senior legal analyst and clerk) has been approved by the DLIR Director and is awaiting approval from Budget and Finance and the Governor.**
- **Training for non-profit agencies on Oahu is scheduled for end of March or early April 2011.**
- **Attended the Language and Cultural Access Summit sponsored by the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii on January 25, 2010 at the Ohana Honolulu Airport Hotel, with Deeana Jang, Chief of the Federal Coordination and Compliance Section, Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice as speaker/resource person.**
- **Memo for all state agencies re designation of language access coordinators is being sent out. Note: Terry Visperas, program specialist at the Office of Community Services, has been designated as DLIR's language access coordinator.**
- **Tracking of legislation related to language access and submission of testimonies, as needed, are on-going.**
- **Collaborating with the Office of Community Service re holding of a joint conference on August 30-31, 2011 at the East-West Center. Preliminary title is "Eliminating Barriers to Employment and Economic Self-Sufficiency for Low-Income Individuals: 1<sup>st</sup> Statewide Strategic Planning Conference and 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference on Language Access." OCS will be providing most of the funding.**
- **Assistance is being sought for bilingual volunteers to help in the Senior Food Program (OCS and Hawaii Food Bank). Volunteers will be going to senior housing and other locations where seniors congregate.**