

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

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

4444 Rice Street, Suite 330
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

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 9:45 A.M. with quorum by Chair, Dominic Inocelda. Neighbor Island council members from Kauai, Maui and the Big Island joined in via videoconferencing.

1. Attendance

Present:

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|---------------------------------|---|
| - 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 |
| - Azi Turturici | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Jennifer Dotson | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Alohalani Boido | 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 |
| - Livia Wang (for Bill Hoshijo) | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio |

Excused:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| - Dr. Tin Myaing Thein | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Betty Brow | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Kristine Pagano (for Francine Wai) | Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio |
| - Namaka Rawlins | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Melba Bantay | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Ruth Mabanglo | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Others Present:

– Frances Lum

Deputy Attorney General

2. Welcome and Introductions

– There were no guests to introduce.

3. Approval of minutes of the June 08, 2011 meeting

– Minutes were approved as presented.

4. Executive Director's Report

- Received language access plan and letter from the County of Hawaii Office of Housing and Community Development requesting a review and a determination as to whether the plan meets federal and state language access requirements.
- Received a call from Kahuku Hospital requesting technical assistance in the establishment of their language access plan; also inquired about language access resources.
- Received a call from the Workforce Development Council re inclusion of interpreter training and certification as part of a grant proposal for the development of health professionals. Referred to the UH Center for Interpretation and Translation Studies.
- Resubmitted request to fill two restored OLA positions to DLIR.
- Met with DLIR Director (with Dominic Inocelda) on July 5, 2011 to discuss proposal to abolish OLA. Also met with the DLIR Director on July 6, 2011 and was officially informed of his decision to abolish OLA.
- Lay-out of multilingual poster is almost finalized.
- Language access conference committee has continued to meet. Registration form posted on OLA's website and save-the-date flyer sent out. As of today, 43 has registered.
- OLA has two volunteers, courtesy of the Asian-American National Cancer Awareness, Research and Training (AANCART) project and the UH Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) office. Melvin Balantac (BA in Health Science from HPU) comes every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., while Jovanie de la Cruz (BA Political Science, UH) comes every Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They will be helping OLA with the conference.
- Gail McGarvey, former OLA clerk who continued to help out with OLA while working at the DLIR Director's office, has been terminated effective July 1, 2011. But she will continue to volunteer for OLA and will come on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- The 2011 summer issue of the quarterly OLA Newsletter is coming out this week.

5. Report of the Chair

– The chair reported on the meeting with DLIR Director Dwight Takamine, and on the governor's memo. He has also written a letter to the governor requesting for a meeting to discuss the proposed abolition of OLA.

6. Production of the Multilingual Poster

– Need Khmer script for the word "Khmer" and corrections to Hawaiian diacritical marks.

7. Proposal to Abolish OLA

- The executive director reported that the DLIR director has submitted his recommendation to the Department of Budget and Finance to abolish OLA. The final decision can be made by the end of this month. Question: can the office, having been established by law, be abolished without legislation? Possibly not, but the administration can defund the office by terminating the executive director and not filling the position. Another scenario is for the functions of the office to be given to another agency or distributed to several agencies. Best recourse for the office, if not abolished, is for it to be transferred as an attached agency to another department whose functions or target population are aligned with that of OLA's. Placing it under the governor's office is prohibited by the constitution. Need to identify which department it is going to be transferred to and then prepare legislation. It was suggested that we drum up support for OLA through a letter-writing and informational campaign involving community groups, legislators and the media. In the meantime, efforts are being made to hold a meeting between Amy Agbayani and the governor.

8. 2012 Legislative Proposals

- OLA will work on the amendments to the language access law provisions on the requirements for advisory council membership.
- OLA will also work on legislation that would transfer OLA to another department or agency.

9. Planning for 4th Annual Statewide Language Access Conference (August 31, 2011)

- A second flyer with a tentative list of keynote speakers has been sent out. One keynote speaker has confirmed (Adrienne Pon of San Francisco); awaiting responses from Deean Jang of DOJ and Christina Lagdameo of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The conference will have two tracks – one on first responders (police, fire, EMS and ocean safety) and another on hospital emergency room personnel. Some panelists have been identified; still looking for community panelists, a moderator, and an emcee. It was suggested that a brief training on the basics of interpreting will be given before the break-out sessions. Funding from the Office of Minority Health for the printing of the conference program has been confirmed. Fiscal office also gave the go signal for support for two mainland speakers.

10. Announcements

- IAC Update – meeting of the council is scheduled on Wednesday, July 20, 2011 at the Susannah Wesley community center at 2:30 p.m.
- The Office of the Boards and Commissions has informed the executive director that Melba Bantay, program director of Catholic Charities Immigrant Services, has been appointed member of the council.
- Next council meeting: August 10, 2011, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., same time and place.

11. Adjournment

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

**Language Access Advisory Council Meeting
July 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. Meanwhile, 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).

- **Met with DLIR Director on August 2.**
- **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, 79 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.**