

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, June 17, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
HIOSH Conference Room, 4th Floor

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome & Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes of April 28, 2008 Meeting
4. OLA Executive Director's Report
5. OLA Strategic Planning Update
6. Update on Legislative Initiatives
 - Language Access Month Activities
 - Feasibility Study on Centralized Language Access Resource Center
 - Changes in the Language Access Law
 - Language Access Advisory Council Membership
7. Announcements
8. Adjournment

If you have special needs due to disability or limited English proficiency, please contact the Office of Language Access (OLA) at 586-8730.

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MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Attendance:

Present:

- Serafin "Jun" Colmenares Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio
- Dominic Inocelda Language Access Advisory Council, Chairperson
- Dr. Suzanne Zeng Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Nāmaka Rawlins Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Lito Asuncion Language Access Advisory Council Member

Excused:

- Alohalani Boido Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Bill Hoshijo Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio
- Gerald Ohta Language Access Advisory Council, Vice Chair
- Sr. Earnest Chung Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Canisius Filibert Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Dr. Tin Myaing Thein 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
- Livia Wang Hawaii Civil Rights Commission

3. Approval of minutes of April 28, 2008 meeting.

- Chairperson Dominic Inocelda deferred the approval of the minutes to the next meeting when a majority of council members are expected to be present.

4. Executive Director's Report

- See Attached Report.
- Executive Director Colmenares advised that due to budget cuts, OLA will lose \$85K, about a 15% decrease. An additional 4% reduction may occur in the following fiscal year.

- Future planned projects will be smaller or slower but OLA has some savings which can be utilized.
- Legal Analyst Uilani Pauole de Sa was asked to share about agency language access complaints, which the OLA has received recently. She disclosed that there have been six informal complaints and one formal written complaint. These concerned DHS agencies such as the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. The complaints centered on housing issues and entailed not providing translated materials (eg. eviction notices) or an interpreter. Languages involved were Chuukese, Vietnamese, and Marshallese. The respective agencies have been advised to take a more proactive approach and provide appropriate training for the staff.

5. Strategic Planning Update

- The next Strategic Planning meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 30th, from 1-4 P.M. at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Director Conference Room #320.
- Dr. Michael Cheang is overseas currently and unable to be contacted. The meeting will go on with or without his presence.
- The purpose of the meeting is to finish the objectives of all the goals. OLA will e-mail all council members what the office has completed by the end of this week.

6. Legislative Initiatives.

Language Access Month

- Executive Director Colmenares shared that for “Language Access Month” in September, the following are some ideas in regards to publicity and events:
 1. Governor’s Proclamation of Language Access Month at the end of August or early September.
 2. Create radio public service announcements in 14 languages.
 3. Have a message by the Governor regarding “Language Access Month”, placed on state paycheck “notes” section during the month of September. Lito Asuncion advised that the Mayor of each county should also be contacted to do the something similar on City & County paychecks.
 4. Advertise in local newspapers such as the Star Bulletin, Honolulu Advertiser, Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, etc.
 5. Hold a one day community forum highlighted by one or two speakers.
- Namaka Rawlins suggested possibly having someone speak on the morning news or have celebrities representing various ethnic groups do the weather in different languages.
- Lito Asuncion suggested buying ads in a newspaper and in return have a story written regarding language access.
- Dominic Inocelda proposed pitching the Language Access Cards and talking with Norman Pang of the Honolulu Advertiser in regards to articles.

Language Access Advisory Council Membership

- Executive Director Colmenares advised that if anyone has potential candidates for the Advisory Council, encourage them to apply. The four new county seats need to be filled as soon as possible since quorum will be based on the enlarged group number. Applications were e-mailed to Advisory Council members a few weeks back.

7. Announcements

- Executive Director Colmenares shared that the OLA staff plan to attend two conferences on the mainland later this year. One in Washington D.C. and the other in Wenatchee, Washington.
- Frances Lum advised that the Language Access Advisory Council has been working under the assumption that Ex-officio members had no voting powers. However, this may be incorrect. In working on legal matters with other organizations, she found that their statutes specifically state that Ex-officio individuals “sit as non-voting members.” The Hawaii Language Access Advisory Council’s statutes do not contain such language. Therefore, a better interpretation is to assume that Ex-officio’s do have the power to vote.

8. Adjournment

- As there were no further discussions, meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.