

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

DLIR Unemployment Insurance Conference Room 325
830 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Piikoi A Conference Room
4444 Rice Street, Lihue, Hawaii

DLIR Hawaii District Office
75 Aupuni Street, Room 108, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Maui District Health Office, State Office Building
54 South High Street, Room 301, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:27 A.M. with quorum by Chair, Dominic Inocelda. Neighbor Island council members 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 |
| - Livia Wang for Bill Hoshijo | Executive Director, HI 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 |
| - Sr. Earnest Chung | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Kristine Pagano for Francine Wai | Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio |
| - Alohalani Boido | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Dr. Suzanne Zeng | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Jennifer Dotson | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Excused:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| - Gerald Ohta | Language Access Advisory Council, Vice-Chair |
| - Canisius Filibert | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Betty Brow | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Nāmaka Rawlins | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Dr. Tin Myaing Thein | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Others Present:

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

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Approval of minutes for the August 12, 2009 meeting

- Alohalani Boido made the motion to approve the minutes and this was seconded by Jun Colmenares. Motion carried.

4. Executive Director's Report – See attached

- Council members discussed amending the Hawaii Language Access Law such that not only the Executive Director's position but OLA staff positions be included as well.
- A draft of the letter to the Governor regarding saving the OLA staff was distributed. Copies were sent to the Neighbor Island members via fax and email during the meeting.
- Besides editing portions of the letter, a recommendation was made to emphasize the potential monetary cost of not having an OLA office. The OLA was created to be a "safe harbor" in order to prevent lawsuits that will ultimately cost the state time and money. Alohalani offered to add statements pertaining to these money saving implications.
- LAAC members agreed that the letter should be sent to the Governor and Department of Labor & Industrial Relations Director, Darwin Ching, with a listing of council member names and their affiliations.
- Copies should also be sent to media contacts such as the Star-Bulletin, Honolulu Advertiser, neighbor island newspapers, legislature, etc. Kristine Pagano advised that the Senate and House each have one central email address, whereby messages received can be distributed to all the legislative members. She will send Dominic this information.
- The letter writing effort will be conducted by LAAC members only and not involve the OLA staff.
- A final draft will be sent to all LAAC members and responses should be sent to the council chair only.

5. MPI Webinar on Language Access and Emergency Preparedness

- The scheduling of this webinar conflicted with the LAAC meeting but can be accessed through the MPI website in the near future.
- The OLA will send council members information received from MPI related to this event.

6. Update on Language Access Conference Planning

- About 227 people have registered, which is over the OLA's goal. Late registrations are not being accepted due to limitations on the maximum auditorium seating capacity.
- Program and folder materials were sent to the Office of Minority Health (San Francisco) for printing.
- There are currently 6 exhibitors, Pacific Interpreters, viaLanguage, Hawaii Hispanic News, Fluency, Pacific Gateway, and the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center.

- Four exhibitor spots are still available on a first come, first serve basis. Neighbor island agency representatives are welcome.
- Ten volunteer slots are available as well to assist with the conference.

7. Announcements

- The Inter-Agency Council (IAC) meeting is next Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 1:30 P.M. at the Susannah Wesley Center.
- The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission will present a conference, "EEO in Hawaii: Recent Developments" on October 7, 2009 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Registration is \$30 for attendees and the deadline is September 30th. More information is available at the HCRC website.
- The next LAAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2009 @ 9 A.M. Videoconferencing is planned again for the Neighbor Island members. Recommendations were made to send any relevant documents ahead of time to these members on the other islands, speakers should identify themselves first before talking, and there should be additional microphones or a better speaker phone in place to improve the communication quality.

8. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

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 | 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 |

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.

**Language Access Advisory Council Meeting
September 9, 2009
Report of the Executive Director**

Budget Status:

- Furlough for executive director starts September 16, 2009; 3 days per month for 2 fiscal years.
- Latest Council on Revenues forecast showed an additional \$100m shortfall.
- Second round of lay-offs started.
- State-HGEA binding arbitration hearings started this month.

Operations:

- No activity for language access month.
- Staff busy preparing 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 IAC meeting on August 26, 2009.
- Staff attended training on Adobe web cast which will be used for future advisory council meetings.
- Attended seminar sponsored by Hawaii Community Foundation and Castle Foundation on “The Non-Profit Economic Climate: Managing Through a Downturn” on September 1, 2009.
- Prepared PowerPoint presentation on “Language Access Plan Implementation in Hawaii” for language access conference.
- Cancelled state language access coordinators’ meeting for this month; to resume in October 2009.
- Prepared draft legislative proposal on OLA staffing.

Update on Poster

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