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Hawai'i legislating language access



HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

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Version presented at 2008 Federal Interagency Conference
on Limited English Proficiency, Bethesda, MD

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Hawai'i connections

(unsung women and clients), Pat McManaman, Jennifer Rose, Deanna Jang, Shari Dela Cuadra, Jun Abinsay, Jake Manegdeg, Sister Earnest Chung, Nelson Befitel, Frances Lum, Colleen LaClair, Laura Coronado, Sister Grace Dorothy Lim, Amy Agbayani, Bill Hoshijo, Charlene Cuaresma, Bill Clinton, Kinney Lau, Helena Manzano, Sheila Forman, Jo Chang, Emmy Davison, Mark Forman, Dominic Inocelda, James Hardway, Linda Lingle, Debi Tulang-DeSilva, Herita Yulo, and many more.

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Hawai'i can't do it without each other

immigrant rights attorneys, domestic violence specialists, legislators, API advocates, church charity workers, appointed political leaders, state attorneys, party insiders, federal enforcers, state enforcers, president, governor, plaintiffs, bureaucrats, ethnic community reps, court administrators, coalition leaders, bilingual workers, LEP individuals, family members, service providers, and on and on...

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Hawai'i the little engine that could

We think we can, we think we can

- Domestic Violence Clearinghouse
- Interagency Council for Immigrant Services
- Na Loio
- Filipino Coalition for Solidarity and others
- Community and public agencies
- OCR-HHS and ...

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Hawai'i bones or clones

Who do we look to?

- Title VI
- EO 13166
- Prior history in Hawai'i
- SF, DC, NY

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Hawai'i carrots and sticks

Education and enforcement - option A, B, or

- Information
- 'Internal' complaint
- Administrative complaint
- Court complaints

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Hawai'i druthers

Administrative versus Legislative

- Executive Order/Administrative Directives
- Bill for an act (HB and SB)
- Resolutions (HR, HCR, SR, SCR)

HB 2778, HD2, SD2, CD1
A bill for an act relating to Language Access

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Hawai'i a good time

For everything there is a time?

- Prior commitment to act
- Confluence of need
- Personal histories of actors

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Hawai'i spam and rice

Spam musubi. Hawai'i adapts

- Justice and rights
- Administrative burdens
- Legal implications
- State and federal laws - conflict or consistent

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Hawai'i stories tell the story

Power to the people

- Framing the issue
- Making it real
- Showing it's not isolated
- Bringing it home

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Hawai'i focusing attention

Attention setters

- Constituents
- Newspaper articles
- Other internal and external media

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Hawai'i doing the right thing and \$

Working relationships

- Cajoling committee chairs
- Orienting leadership
- Explaining the "bottom lines"

Advocacy and/or explanation

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Hawai'i draft and redraft

Losing count

- Pre-session drafts at least 3
- Session drafts stopped counting at 7
- Official versions stopped at 6

Mirror versus outline.
Teasing out objection and clarifying meaning

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Hawai'i sticking points

Sticking points

- Too many federal specifics
- Cause of action
- Administrative complaint
- Oversight
- Words and terms

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Hawai'i same and different

Finally after draft after draft after....

- Guided by EO 13166
- All, not just some, state/state aided
- LEP person decides LEP
- Hiring bilingual person for public contact
- 'Friendly' persuasion
- OLA

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Hawai'i language access, law at least



Governor Lingle signed a bill to improve language access for immigrants with limited English proficiency and presented ceremonial copies to immigrant service providers and advocates.

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A dark teal slide with a faint background image of a scale of justice. The text is centered and reads: "Hawai'i language access, law at last", "Act 290", "July 10, 2006", "Language Access", and "critical mess to critical mass?". At the bottom, it says "September 22, 2016", "Health, Affirmative Action, Hawai'i", and "17".

**Hawai'i
language access, law at last**

Act 290
July 10, 2006
Language Access

critical mess to critical mass?

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A dark teal slide with a faint background image of a scale of justice. The text is centered and reads: "Hawai'i Language Access law to last?", "an ending, a beginning", "a never-ending quest", and a list of achievements and challenges. At the bottom, it says "September 22, 2016", "Health, Affirmative Action, Hawai'i", and "18".

**Hawai'i
Language Access law to last?**

an ending, a beginning
a never-ending quest

First Executive Director, Dr. Serafin Colmenares, Jr.
Current Executive Director, Ms. Helena Manzano
17-member State Language Access Advisory Council
9 Annual Language Access Conferences
Transferred from DLIR to DOH, 2012
Language Access Resource Center*
Roster of Spoken Language Interpreters and Translators*
Multi-lingual Website*
Loss of staff positions* (*funding shortfalls)

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