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Hawai'i Residents

- 1 in 4 speak a language other than English at home.
- Nearly 1 in 5 are immigrants.
- 51% of immigrants speak English less than "very well."

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Hawai'i Residents

- Around 1 in 8 residents is limited English proficient (LEP).
- More than 130 languages are spoken in Hawai'i.



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Goal

- Facilitate access to justice for limited English proficient (LEP) persons

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Need

Limited English Proficient (LEP) parties and witnesses are not able to meaningfully participate in court cases or understand court directives

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Judiciary Response

1992 Current Office on Equality and Access to the Courts formed to focus on eliminating barriers and increasing access for court users

1995 Supreme Court Committee Court Interpreters formed, Judge Melvin Soong first chair

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Judiciary Response

OEAC's projects included:

- Dissemination of legal information in English and other languages
- Videos on small claims and traffic proceedings in English, Ilokano & Korean.
- Multilingual Lawline (telephone) with 5 recordings in 7 languages
- Bilingual Attorney Directory

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Judiciary Response

Established Court Interpreter Program in mid-1990s.

In order to interpret in court, interpreters had to:

- Submit an application and
- Take an optional Court Interpreter Ethics Exam

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Judiciary Response

Established formal Court Interpreter Certification Program in 2007

In order to interpret in court, interpreters must:

- Submit an application
- Attend 2-day Basic Orientation Workshop
- Pass Written English & Basic Ethics Exams
- Clear Criminal Background Check

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Court Interpreter Certification Program

- Tier 1 / Registered interpreters may take an Oral Exam in their language
- Interpreters are classified into tiers based on their performance on objective testing instruments

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Court Interpreter Certification Program

GOAL:

To provide the most qualified, reasonably available interpreter for each court assignment.

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Top 15 Languages (FY 2015)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Chuukese | 9. Tongan |
| 2. Ilokano | 10. Samoan |
| 3. Marshallese | 11. Cantonese |
| 4. Korean | 12. Mandarin |
| 5. Spanish | 13. Pohnpeian |
| 6. Vietnamese | 14. American Sign Language |
| 7. Tagalog | |
| 8. Japanese | 15. Kosraean |

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Challenges

- Limited pool of interpreters, especially in Pacific Island languages
 - 10,592 interpreted proceedings (FY15)
 - 11 Certified Interpreters (8 Spanish, 1 Ilokano, 1 Mandarin, 1 Laotian)
 - 3,258 Chuukese proceedings 9 interpreters (Oahu, Hawaii Island)
 - 925 Korean proceedings 26 interpreters (Oahu)

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Need

Implement planning and coordination for language access initiatives

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Judiciary Response

Developed a Language Access Plan to guide Judiciary effort in this area

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Judiciary Response

Developed a Language Assistance Policy to express the Judiciary's commitment to providing language access services for LEP court customers

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The Judiciary's Language Assistance Policy

The Hawai'i State Judiciary is committed to providing meaningful access to court processes and services to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP).

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The Judiciary's Language Assistance Policy



In all case types, the Judiciary shall reasonably provide, free of charge, and in a timely manner, competent court interpreters for parties, witnesses and individuals with a substantial interest in a case.

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The Judiciary's Language Assistance Policy

It shall also provide language assistance services at points of contact with the Judiciary, including over-the-counter and over-the-telephone encounters for all Judiciary-related business.



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The Judiciary's Language Assistance Policy



The Judiciary shall notify the public of the Judiciary's language assistance commitment.

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Need

Develop multilingual resources to help LEP persons meaningfully communicate and access Judiciary services

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Judiciary Response

Develop Language ID Cards in English and 14 non-English languages

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Language ID Cards

- In English and 14 non-English languages
- Available on the Judiciary website, and at courthouses statewide



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Language ID Cards

- Language ID Card Display Holders placed in all courthouses statewide
 - Kauai Courthouse 1st Floor



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Judiciary Response

Provide information on “How to Request an Interpreter” in English and non-English languages

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How to Request an Interpreter

HOW TO REQUEST AN INTERPRETER FOR A COURT HEARING
[Korean/Chuk \(Chosŏnmal\)](#) • [Ishana/Polynesian](#) • [Cantonese](#)
[Kauai/Marshallese](#) • [English/Spanish](#) • [Tongan/VIET/Vietnamese](#)

Language Services in the Hawaii State Courts
 The court provides free interpreters for all participants in court hearings.
 The court also provides free language services to help you communicate with court staff outside of the courtroom.
 If you need help in your language when you visit or call the court, tell court staff you need an interpreter.
 Information about language services is available on the Judiciary website at http://www.courts.state.hi.us/services/language_assistance_services.html

How to Request an Interpreter for a Court Hearing

1. You must go to the court to see the Judge on your hearing date.
2. At the hearing, you may:
 - Ask the Judge for an interpreter.
 - Give the Judge a letter asking for an interpreter.
 - Show the Judge your [Language ID Card](#), available at all courthouses statewide and on the Judiciary website at http://www.courts.state.hi.us/services/language_assistance_services.html.
3. Your attorney may ask the Judge for an interpreter for you, orally or in writing.

At your hearing, the Judge may ask you questions. The Judge will decide whether you may have an interpreter. If an interpreter is provided by the Judge, the interpreter is free.

For more information about language services, contact:
 Office on Equality and Access to the Courts
 423 Queen St. 4th Fl., Honolulu, HI 96813
 Phone: (808) 539-4860
 Email: oeac@courts.hawaii.gov
www.courts.state.hi.us/services/language_assistance_services.html

Content produced by the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission.

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Judiciary Response

Develop LEP Defendant / Witness Information Brochure in English and 7 non-English languages

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How to Use a Court Interpreter

Available at: http://www.courts.state.hi.us/loc/loc/interpreter/how_to_use_a_court_interpreter.pdf

ENGLISH	CHUKCHEE - KAPAEEN CHUK	ILUKANO	JAPANESE - 日本語
<p>HOW TO USE A COURT INTERPRETER</p> <p><i>How to use a court interpreter:</i> Chosŏnmal • Ishana • Japanese • Korean Marshallese • Spanish • Vietnamese</p> <p>The most important job of an interpreter is to help you understand what the judge and other people in the courtroom are saying. The interpreter will not take sides. The interpreter's only job is to interpret what you say into English and interpret what others say into your language.</p> <p>It is important to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LISTEN carefully to the interpreter. 2. WAIT for the interpreter to finish talking before you speak. 3. SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY in your language so the interpreter can hear everything you say. 4. SPEAK directly to the attorney or the Judge, not to the interpreter. 5. Do not interrupt when others are talking. You can speak when it is your turn. 6. Do not ask the interpreter for advice or information about your case. 7. If you have any questions or cannot understand the interpreter, tell your attorney, court staff, or the judge at once. <p>The Judiciary (State of Hawaii) Office on Equality & Access to the Courts 423 Queen St. 4th Fl., Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: (808) 539-4860 www.courts.state.hi.us/loc/loc/interpreter</p>	<p>IFA USUN OMW KOPWE NOUNOU CHON-AFFEULON KAPUNG</p> <p><i>How to use a court interpreter:</i> Chosŏnmal • Ishana • Japanese • Korean Marshallese • Spanish • Vietnamese</p> <p>The most important job of an interpreter is to help you understand what the judge and other people in the courtroom are saying. The interpreter will not take sides. The interpreter's only job is to interpret what you say into English and interpret what others say into your language.</p> <p>It is important to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LISTEN carefully to the interpreter. 2. WAIT for the interpreter to finish talking before you speak. 3. SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY in your language so the interpreter can hear everything you say. 4. SPEAK directly to the attorney or the Judge, not to the interpreter. 5. Do not interrupt when others are talking. You can speak when it is your turn. 6. Do not ask the interpreter for advice or information about your case. 7. If you have any questions or cannot understand the interpreter, tell your attorney, court staff, or the judge at once. <p>The Judiciary (State of Hawaii) Office on Equality & Access to the Courts 423 Queen St. 4th Fl., Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: (808) 539-4860 www.courts.state.hi.us/loc/loc/interpreter</p>	<p>KASANO NGA USAREN TI INTERPRET/AGIPAT ARUS ITI KORTE</p> <p><i>How to use a court interpreter:</i> Chosŏnmal • Ishana • Japanese • Korean Marshallese • Spanish • Vietnamese</p> <p>The most important job of an interpreter is to help you understand what the judge and other people in the courtroom are saying. The interpreter will not take sides. The interpreter's only job is to interpret what you say into English and interpret what others say into your language.</p> <p>It is important to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LISTEN carefully to the interpreter. 2. WAIT for the interpreter to finish talking before you speak. 3. SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY in your language so the interpreter can hear everything you say. 4. SPEAK directly to the attorney or the Judge, not to the interpreter. 5. Do not interrupt when others are talking. You can speak when it is your turn. 6. Do not ask the interpreter for advice or information about your case. 7. If you have any questions or cannot understand the interpreter, tell your attorney, court staff, or the judge at once. <p>The Judiciary (State of Hawaii) Office on Equality & Access to the Courts 423 Queen St. 4th Fl., Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: (808) 539-4860 www.courts.state.hi.us/loc/loc/interpreter</p>	<p>法廷通訳を利用する際は</p> <p><i>How to use a court interpreter:</i> Chosŏnmal • Ishana • Japanese • Korean Marshallese • Spanish • Vietnamese</p> <p>The most important job of an interpreter is to help you understand what the judge and other people in the courtroom are saying. The interpreter will not take sides. The interpreter's only job is to interpret what you say into English and interpret what others say into your language.</p> <p>It is important to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LISTEN carefully to the interpreter. 2. WAIT for the interpreter to finish talking before you speak. 3. SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY in your language so the interpreter can hear everything you say. 4. SPEAK directly to the attorney or the Judge, not to the interpreter. 5. Do not interrupt when others are talking. You can speak when it is your turn. 6. Do not ask the interpreter for advice or information about your case. 7. If you have any questions or cannot understand the interpreter, tell your attorney, court staff, or the judge at once. <p>The Judiciary (State of Hawaii) Office on Equality & Access to the Courts 423 Queen St. 4th Fl., Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: (808) 539-4860 www.courts.state.hi.us/loc/loc/interpreter</p>

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Challenges

- Translation process
- Pacific Island languages
- Fiscal budget constraints

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Need

Ensure Judiciary staff and judges are aware of procedures and resources for providing language services

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Judiciary Response

Conduct mandatory language access training for all judges

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Judiciary Response

Conduct mandatory Staff Training on Language Access Services for all Judiciary staff statewide

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Mandatory Staff Training



3rd Circuit - Kona

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Language Access “Benchmark” for Judiciary Staff

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Need

Develop multilingual resources and language services within existing budget constraints

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Judiciary Response

Collaboration:

- Develop resources
 - Hawaii Access to Justice Comm’n “How to Request an Interpreter”
 - State Civil Defense Language ID Cards

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Judiciary Response

Collaboration:

- Publicize resources
 - Inter-Agency Council for Immigrant & Refugee Services
 - Prosecutors – Victim Witness
 - Community groups

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Judiciary Response

Collaboration:

- Share resources
 - City & County of Honolulu Language ID Cards
 - Arizona State Courts How to Use a Court Interpreter

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Judiciary Response

Collaboration:

- Training for Pacific Island Judicial Council (judges and court staff in Pacific Islands)
- Training for Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations staff

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Judiciary Response

Collaboration:

- Training for neighbor island Legal Aid providers
- Informational Briefings for Criminal Justice Stakeholders
- Community Briefings

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