

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (LAAC) MEETING MINUTES

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Director's Conference Room 320
830 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96813

Wednesday, November 09, 2016
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Terrina Wong, Interim-Chair; Suzanne Zeng, Interim Vice-Chair; Helena Manzano, Ex-officio; Livia Wang for Bill Hoshijo, Ex-officio; Kurstin Chun for Francine Wai, Ex-officio; Aphirak “AP” Bamrungruan; Melba Bantay; Linda Nuland-Ames; Patricia Harpstrite; Tina Takashy; Cari Uesugi

EXCUSED: None

GUESTS/STAFF: Shannon Denning, Dominic Inocelda, SWCC, Rebecca Gardner (OLA); Gail McGarvey (OLA)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
1. Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 9:44 am with quorum by Terrina Wong, Interim-Chair.
2. Welcome and Introductions	The Interim-chair welcomed everyone. The neighbor island council members Linda Nuland-Ames and Cari Uesugi who attended via telephone conferencing. Aphirak “AP” Bamrungruan newly appointed council member was warmly welcomed with a lei by Terrina Wong. Guests Shannon Denning and Dominic Inocelda were introduced.
3. Approval of Minutes of September 07, 2016 meeting	Motion to approve the minutes of September 07, 2016, was made by Tina Takashy and seconded by Melba Bantay.
Minutes approved	Motion was carried the minutes were approved.
4. Executive Director's Report Updates/Activities	Executive Director (ED) Helena Manzano, gave an oral report. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative Bills. OLA does not intend to have any bills proposed in the 2017 Session. OLA has submitted funding requests via the Governor's fiscal year 2017-19 biennium budget for four additional OLA positions: three full time program specialists and one office assistant.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ED met with State Procurement Office (SPO) this month to discuss process/procedure for proposing amendments to SPO administrative rules on 103D exemptions. OLA and other state agencies are exploring ways to exempt translation services from procurement. • OLA Brochures. Procurement of translation services for OLA written materials is under way. • WASCLA Summit XI Travel Report. Becky Gardner and AP Bamrungruan reported on their travel to the State of Washington to attend the WASCLA (Washington State Coalition for Language Access) Summit XI, a two-day conference and their site visit with the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) LEP program from October 20 to October 23, 2016. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AP said the purpose for the trip was to look to DSHS as a model for language access initiatives. DSHS has a budget of 6-8 million per year for language assistant services. Interpreters are available immediately. Some interpreters are stationed in offices; when they are not interpreting, they work on translating written materials. ○ Interpreters must pass a DSHS language test to work at the department. ○ Bilingual staff who qualify to use their language skills receive 5% pay differential. Assessments of their skills are done yearly. Interpreters in Washington State are unionized. ○ Becky said DSHS has advanced technology/tools (e.g. dual phones for telephonic interpretation. There is a set schedule for when interpreters in certain languages are made available; and the LEP communities know what times are blocked for their language. ○ The practical things learned on this DSHS site visit will be shared with other state agencies.
<p>5. Report of the Interim-Chair</p>	<p>Longline Fishermen. The Associated Press (AP) printed a story in September about Hawaii longline fishermen who are confined to the boats cannot set foot on American soil and are not protected by American labor laws. There are labor issues involving the foreign fishermen, foremost being they are forced to sign contracts only in English and many do not know what they are signing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are reports of lack of adequate food, medical care, and water for the fishermen. ○ Because the fishermen recruited from foreign countries have no visas, they cannot leave the boats and are confined to the fishing vessels while docked in Hawaii. ○ At an informational briefing with State legislators, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), administrators were unfamiliar with Hawaii’s Language Access Law and its requirements. ○ Vessels are American owned but the work is in open international waters so legal jurisdiction is an issue. ○ Senator Mazie Hirono has introduced legislation to give foreign fishermen in Hawaii greater labor protection.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Melba Bantay said that when foreign fishermen complain, they are sent back home. ○ Terrina Wong said the Hawaii State Seafood Council has come up with a universal contract for agents to use. ○ Tina Takashy said the government of Kiribati has recruiters who are supposed to be translating the contracts before the fishermen get on board but this is not being done and the fishermen do not know their rights. AP Bamrungruan added that the immigrants do not act on their own; they must go through the agent. ○ Becky Gardner said Dean Aoki/DLNR is the language access coordinator for the agency. It was suggested to invite him to a LAAC meeting to answer questions regarding DLNR's language access policies/procedures, etc.
<p>6. Items for Discussion</p>	<p>2016 Conference Evaluations. The evaluations had very good data and feedback from the OLA annual conference which was highly successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sue Zeng found the responses very comprehensive and it was a very useful compilation of data. ○ Feedback for the sessions on the Feds – some council members thought the breakout sessions went well; however, people did not want to miss other parts of the conference. <p>Speakers Bureau. ED suggested forming a Speaker's Bureau to do public awareness on language access. OLA has purchased air time on ethnic radio stations thru Ethnic Education Foundation. Interviews can be live or pre-recorded. Speakers should talk in plain language on LEP individuals' rights to language access when accessing government funded services and programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tina Takashy said KNDI radio station for Pohnpeian and Tongan may offer free air time. She volunteered to take calls and questions from callers. ○ Terrina Wong knows Lorene Godfrey at KNDI radio, which may provide grant and/or free air time. ○ Sue Zeng suggested two other possibilities; one of her students has a music program in Korean and another student in Cantonese. ○ Volunteers for Speaker's Bureau were Tina Takashy, Terrina Wong and Sue Zeng. ○ In a discussion on languages spoken in Hawaii, Melba Bantay noted there was a list of languages with Tagalog as the top spoken language. She pointed out the top spoken language should be Ilocano. ○ Shannon Denning, guest, commented that on our Point to Your Language poster, the proper name for the Hawaiian language is ʻōlelo Hawaii. <p>Training for State/County Employees on Working with LEPs (Maui, Oahu). In early September, OLA and UH CITS provided its first training on working with LEPs to Department of Human Services (DHS). About 50 frontline employees and their supervisors attended. Department of Labor and Industrial Relations</p>

	<p>(DLIR) will be the next agency to be trained in January 2017. The DLIR Director made attendance at this training mandatory for direct services staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On Maui, Cari Uesugi is helping OLA to schedule a January training for DHS and DOH. ○ The City & County of Honolulu (C&C) requested for this training. C&C offered the use of Neal Blaisdell Center as a venue at no cost to OLA or the State. The 2-hour training will be open to State and C&C employees. Capacity of the venue is 300 people; two time slots (morning and afternoon) will be offered. <p>Language Access Plan Reviews – OLA will be conducting compliance and monitoring beginning in early 2017. OLA has requested 26 state agencies to submit their updated/revised language access plans by November 30, 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ED suggested that a PIG Language Access Plan (LAP) Committee be established to assist OLA staff in reviewing LAPs. LAAC members agreed to put PIG LAP Committee up for a vote at the next council meeting. <p>LAAC Vacancies Update. Vacancies remain the same as reported in the last council meeting.</p>
<p>7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invite Dean Aoki/DLNR for questions and answers for the council. ● Vote to establish PIG Committee on LAP Review.
<p>8. Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IAC (Inter-Agency Council) meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 @ 2:30 PM at Susannah Wesley Community Center. ● Pacific Gateway Center will be providing free citizenship classes. Orientation is on Monday, November 21, 2016, 83 N. King Street (between Maunakea and Smith Streets in Chinatown). Please contact Terrina Wong for more details (phone 851-7001). ● Next LAAC meeting Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 9:30 AM, same location? Gail McGarvey will send an email to survey if that date/time is okay for everyone.
<p>9. Adjournment</p>	<p>The Interim-Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am.</p>

Respectfully submitted by: Gail McGarvey