**PRESENT:** Aphirak “A.P.” Bamrungruan, Ex-officio, Robin Wurtzel for Bill Hoshijo, Ex-officio, Cristina Arsuaga, Charlotte Huang, Linda Nuland-Ames, Shirl Schumacher, Cari Uesugi, Jade Wong, Terrina Wong, Interim Chair, Valentina Yarovaya, Suzanne Zeng, Interim Vice-Chair

**EXCUSED:** Tulpe Day, Lydia A. Pavon, Colin Whited for Kirby Shaw, Disability & Communication Access Board, Ex-officio

**GUESTS/STAFF:** OLA Staff: Edward Wada, Wei Geng Lum, Gail McGarvey

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<th>AGENDA ITEM</th>
<th>DISCUSSION</th>
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<td>1. Call to Order</td>
<td>Terrina Wong, Interim Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:49 AM with quorum.</td>
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<td>2. Welcome and Introductions</td>
<td>Terrina Wong welcomed the council to the Zoom meeting.</td>
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| 3. Approval of Minutes of December 09, 2020 | • Motion was made to approve the meeting minutes by Cristina Arsuaga. Seconded by AP Bamrungruan. No discussion. 
• Minutes for December 09, 2020 approved. 
• MOTION CARRIED. |
| 4. OLA Executive Director (ED) Report | ED reported on the following: 
• **Governor’s Budget Proposal.** Governor Ige’s budget proposal eliminates the Office of Language Access, all 5 positions and $300,000 of its $469,292 budget. It recommends moving three positions, that would be placed under DOH OPPPD (Department of Health, Office of Planning, Policy and Program Development) with $169,668 for personnel and no budget for operating costs. The other two eliminated civil service positions would be subject to a bumping system based on job seniority. Questions will be saved for later discussion under item number 7. |
| 5. Report of the Interim Chair | Terrina Wong, Interim Chair, said the Coalition for Immigrant Rights Group has been discussing the impact of the proposed state budget cuts for all state agencies and are trying to see how they can advocate for state agencies as well as for themselves. For today she would like to propose an LAAC position statement she has drafted which |
strongly advocates for OLA. She asked the council to review the draft statement and give feedback so that it can be finalized and quickly sent to the governor’s office, DOH administration and the appropriate legislature committee chairs.

| 7. Items for Discussion | **Strategic Planning Retreat.** Due to the budget crisis and the uncertainty of OLA’s future the ED is asking LAAC to postpone planning a retreat right now.  
| Motion to Postpone Strategic Planning Retreat | • ED made the motion to postpone the Strategic Planning Retreat. Seconded by Terrina Wong. No discussion. Motion unanimously approved.  
| Motion approved | • **Motion carried.**  
| Motion to Select the Chair and Vice-Chair | • **Selection of the LAAC Chair and Vice Chair.** Call to vote on an official chair and vice-chair for the council. ED nominated Terrina Wong for the chair and Suzanne Zeng was nominated for the vice-chair. Terrina Wong and Suzanne Zeng consented, respectively.  
| Motion approved | • Motion to accept nominated chair and vice-chair was made by Robin Wurtzel. Seconded by Jade Wong. No Discussion.  
| Motion carried. |  
| Motion to Accept Council’s Position Statement for OLA | • **OLA Fiscal Year 22-23 Budget.** Council heard what will happen to OLA this legislative session with the Governor’s budget proposal and discussed what steps can be taken to support and keep the office from being eliminated. Terrina Wong had a draft position statement for LAAC, advocating for OLA. The council was asked to review the draft. There was discussion of what will happen to OLA if it becomes a program under DOH as proposed, and what options there are for OLA. Robin Wurtzel pointed out that this is just in its preliminary stage and it is going to change back and forth. We should wait for the next draft. She also said that OLA as an attached agency of DOH, means the ED will have to work with the DOH administration to work things out in this legislative session.  
| Motion approved | • The position statement will be sent out immediately after final revisions to Governor Ige, key legislatures and DOH administration. Suggestion was made for Terrina Wong to sign as Chair on behalf of the council and list council members’ names. Following discussion motion was made to accept the position statement with modifications that were brought up. ED abstained from voting.  
| Motion to Create PIG for FY 22-23 | • Motion to vote to accept council’s position statement with the modifications discussed for OLA to the State Legislature leaders made by Robin Wurtzel. Seconded by Sue Zeng. No discussion. Approved.  
| Motion to Create PIG for FY 22-23 | • **Motion carried.**  
| Terrina Wong said there is a language access ad hoc committee that is part of the Hawaii Coalition of Immigrant Rights. She is asking the LAAC council if they would be interested in helping this ad hoc committee to collect LEP stories to share with the media and the Legislature. Through sharing these stories people can understand
| Motion approved | language access and what it means to our LEP community. They hope to use these documented stories to help advocate for OLA and language access.  
- ED suggested creating a PIG (Permitted Interactive Group) to include discussions like these and various others.  
- Motion made by Terrina Wong to create a PIG that will be used as an umbrella to discuss items for FY 22-23. Seconded by Cristina Arsuaga. No Discussion. Approved.  
- **Motion carried.** Volunteers: Cristina Arsuaga, Linda Nuland-Ames, Cari Uesugi, Valentina Yarovaya, Terrina Wong and Suzanne Zeng. |
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<td>8. Next Meeting</td>
<td>Next council meeting date Wednesday, February 10, 2021 via Zoom, same time.</td>
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<td>9. Announcements</td>
<td>No new announcements. On hearing of the recent passing of Francine Wai, Terrina Wong has offered to send a sympathy card on behalf of the council to Francine’s family.</td>
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<td>10. Adjournment</td>
<td>The Chair, Terrina Wong officially adjourned the meeting at 10:58 AM.</td>
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Respectfully submitted by Gail McGarvey