

OLA Conference on Language Access: Navigating Towards a New Normal

August 29, 2023

Dina R. Yoshimi, Director, Hawai'i Language Roadmap, UH-Mānoa

Proficiency assessment as a resource for professional development

Establishing a shared understanding of proficiency and how to assess it

- A starting point: Self-assessment of one's own proficiency
- I'm fluent.
- I'm a native speaker.
- I'm bilingual.

- A sticking point: Shared understanding of how to evaluate bilingual proficiency

Self-assessment may create uncertainty

I got a 4.0 in my major, but can I use the language in the real world?

I learned my additional language at home: Is it good enough?

I've only been in the US for a year: Is my English good enough?

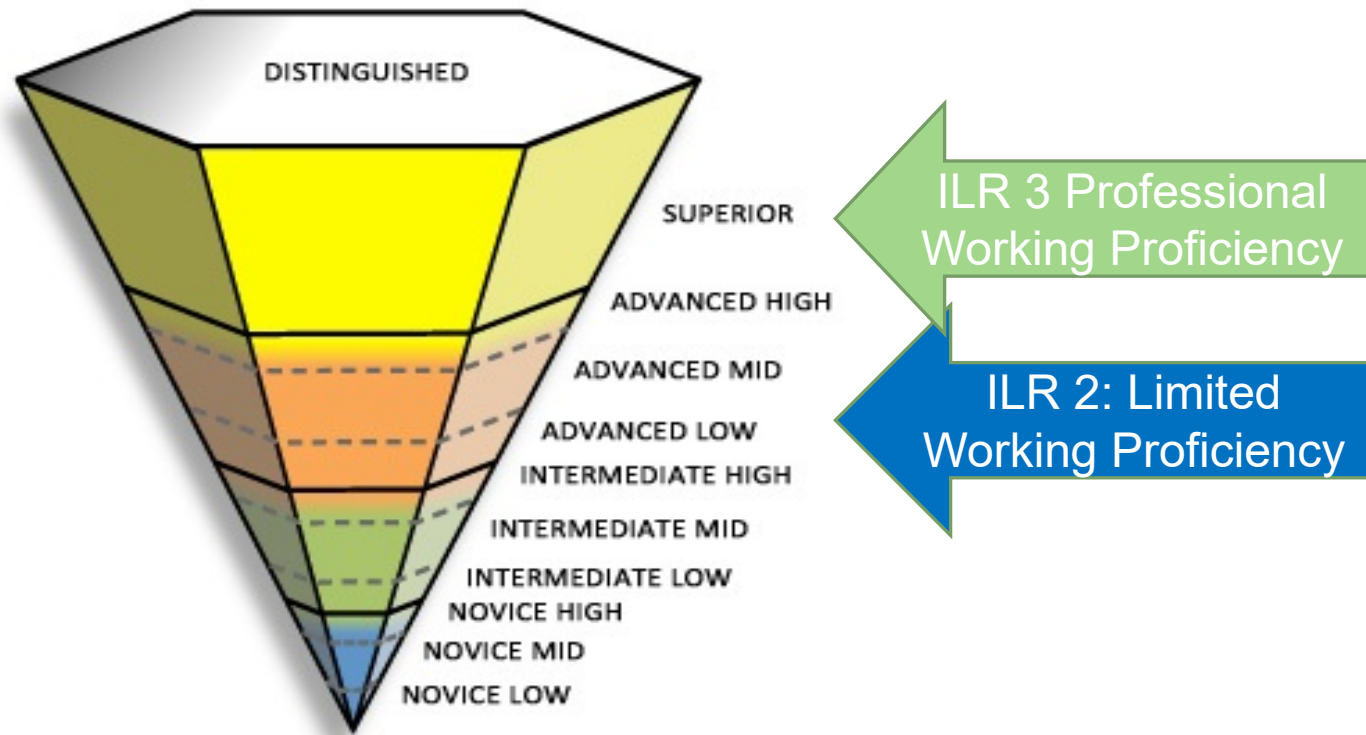


Language proficiency assessments

- Evaluate oral and writing proficiency (2 skills) or oral/aural and reading/writing proficiency (4 skills).
- Allow for assessment in English and an additional language.
- Share a consistent set of assessment criteria and proficiency levels up to the Superior/Professional Proficiency level.
- Available in a broad range of languages, including those most commonly spoken in Hawai'i
- Flexible options for taking the assessment.

Consistent evaluation criteria and proficiency levels

ACTFL's nationally-recognized standards for language proficiency assessment



➤ Proficiency assessments available

- Cantonese
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Chuukese
- Filipino
- French
- German
- Ilokano
- Japanese
- Korean
- Kosraean
- Marshallese
- 'Ōlelo Hawai'i
- Pangasinan
- Pohnpeian
- Russian
- Samoan
- Spanish
- Tongan
- Vietnamese
- Visayan
- Yapese

▸ Credentialing Language Proficiency: **The Global Seal of Biliteracy**

- ❖ Certifies language proficiency at one of three levels (Functional, Working, Professional)
- ❖ Provides an individually-recorded credential with a unique serial number for each recipient
- ❖ Documents employee language skills for hiring or for receiving extra pay (for some US employers)
- ❖ Awarded and recognized internationally





GLOBAL SEAL OF BILITERACY

WORKING FLUENCY

English & French

This certifies that

Your Name

has earned the 2020 Global Seal of Biliteracy.

Your School/Organization/Company

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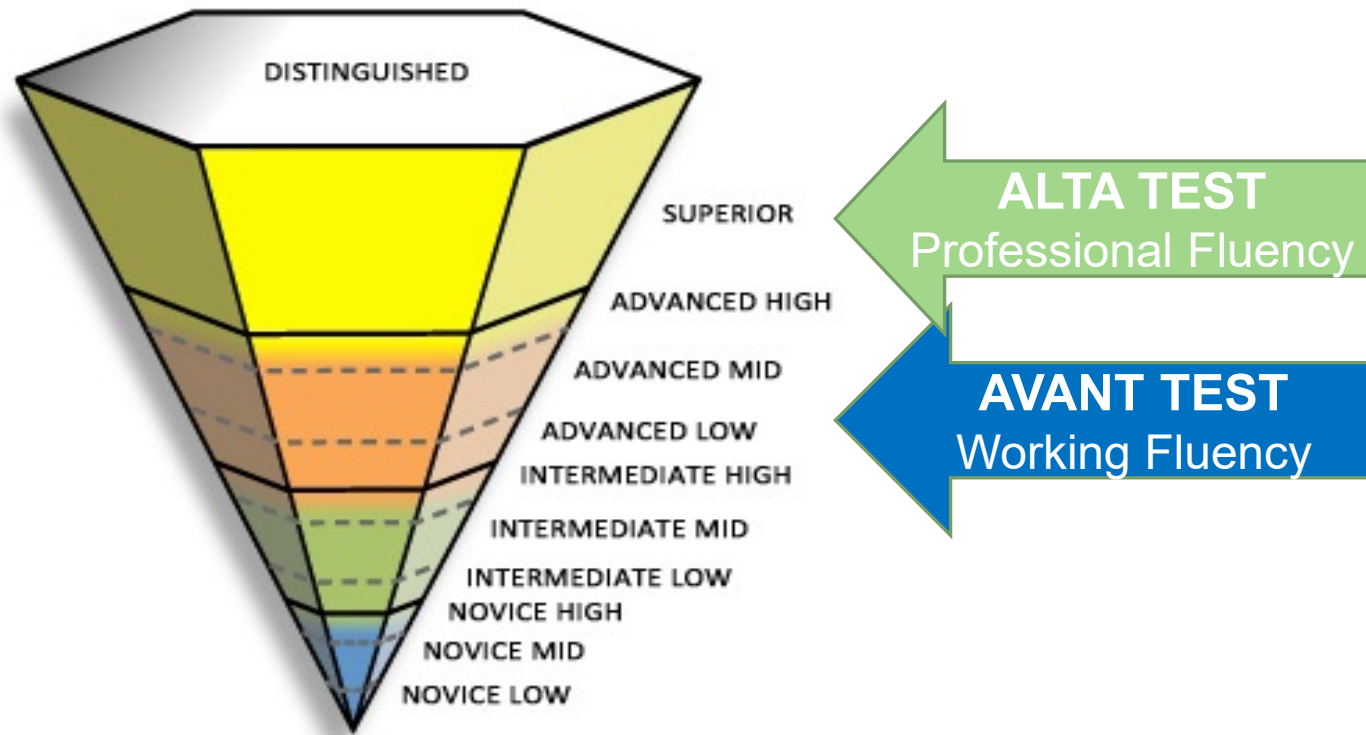
LINDA EGNATZ
Global Seal Executive Director



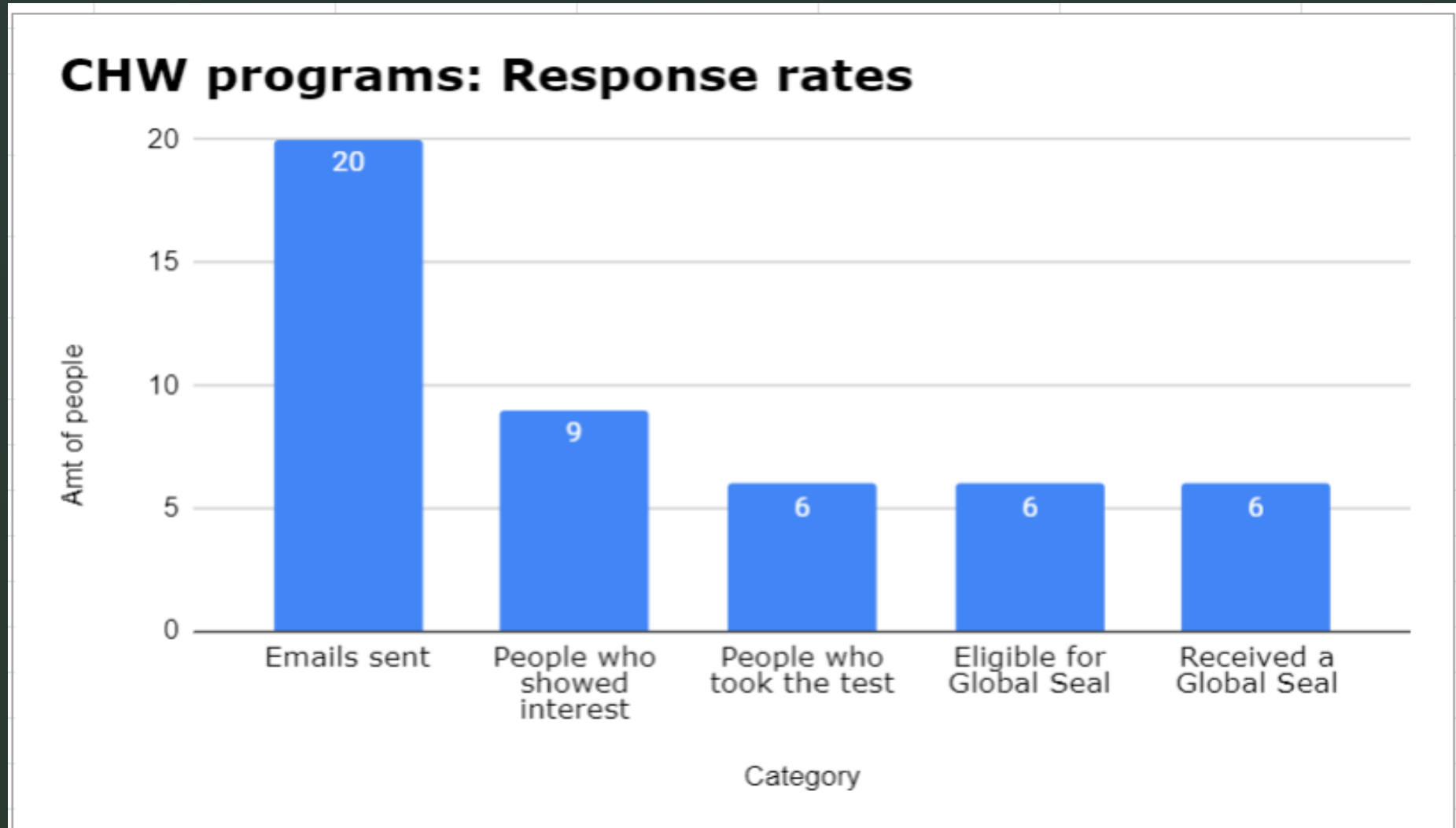
REPRESENTATIVE

Consistent evaluation criteria and proficiency levels

ACTFL's nationally-recognized standards for language proficiency assessment



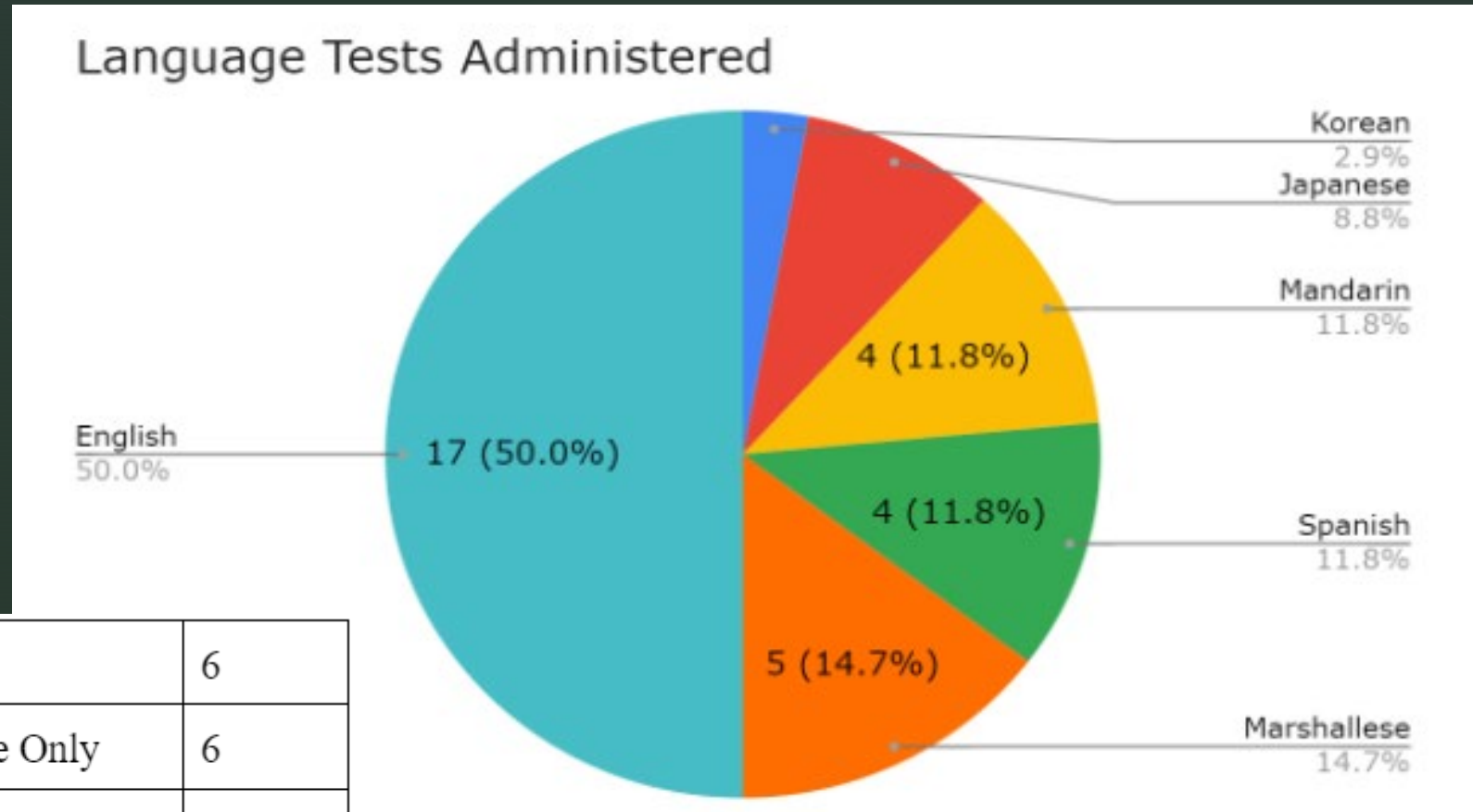
➤ CHW Testing Program



▶ Pilot program: CHW Global Seal of Biliteracy Awards

Functional	3 (Japanese, Samoan, Spanish)
Working	3 (Ilokano, Tagalog, Korean)
Professional	1 (Dutch)

Roadmap Interpreter Testing Program OLA Interpreter Training Participants August 21, 2021–June 1, 2022



English Only	6
Additional Language Only	6
Both languages	11
Expressed interest/did not test	14

OLA **Interpreter Training** Participants

Global Seal of Biliteracy Awards

Functional	6 (Marshallese x2, Spanish x3, Mandarin)
Working	6 (Mandarin x2, Japanese x2, Marshallese, Korean)
Professional	0

- a) 15 test-takers (out of 23) were eligible for the Seal; only 12 applied for the award.
- b) No candidates qualified for Professional Fluency testing.

Testing location:

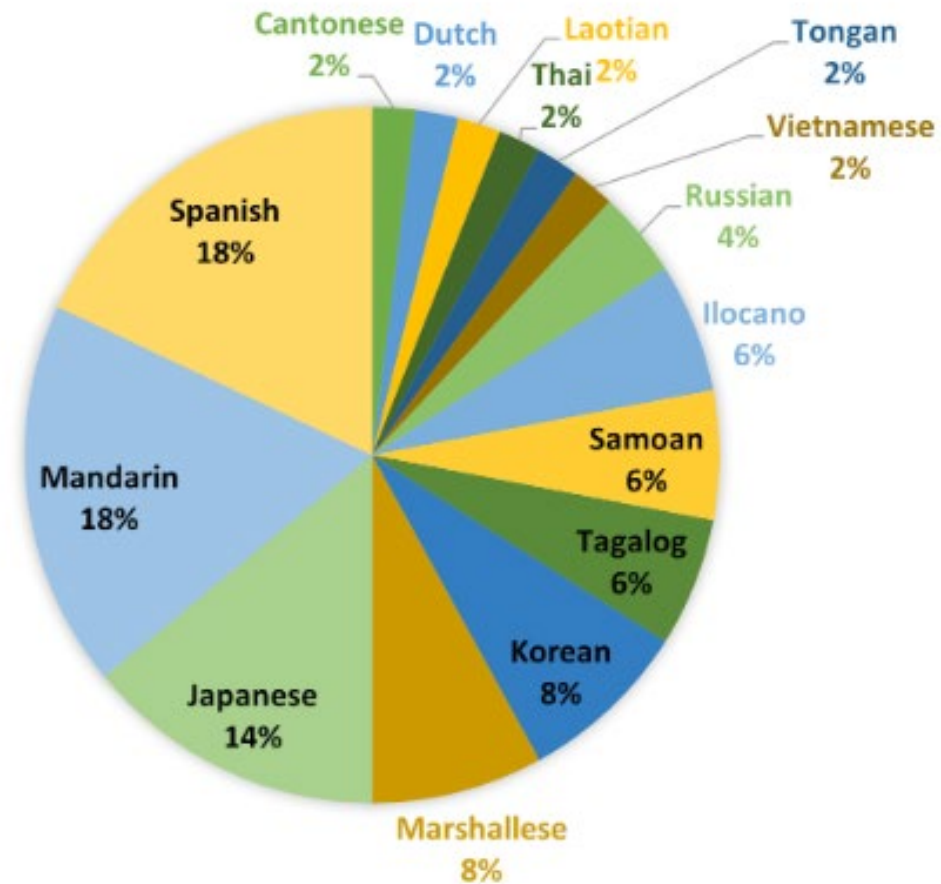
UHM: 20 people (2 from off-island)

Hilo AJC: 3 people

Note: Remote testing was not available for this cohort of test takers and tests for languages of lesser diffusion were not yet available.

Roadmap Interpreter Testing Program April 2021-August 2023*

LANGUAGES TESTED

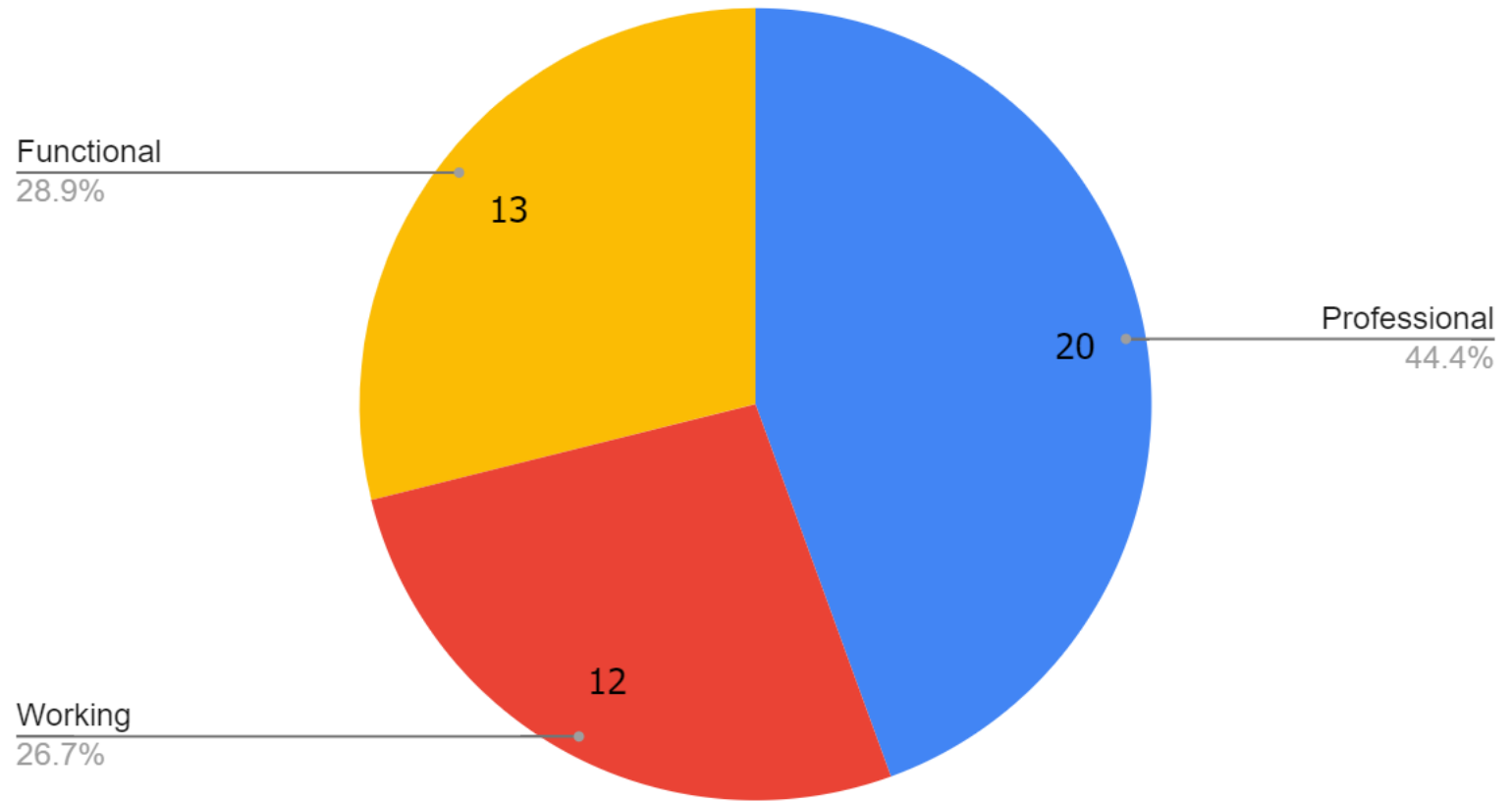


*i) Does not include English testing.
ii) Includes both successful and unsuccessful test-takers.

Roadmap Interpreter Testing Program Outcomes April 2021-August 2023

58 people tested
48 qualified for the Seal
45 received the Seal

Fluency Levels



► Credentialing Language Proficiency: The **Hawai'i State Seal of Biliteracy**

- Class of 2017: 37 seals <1% of high school completers
- Class of 2018: 129 seals 1% of high school completers
- Class of 2019: 246 seals 2% of high school completers
- Class of 2020: 361 seals 3% of high school completers
- Class of 2021: 399 seals 4% of high school completers
- Class of 2022: 431 seals (not available)
- Class of 2023: 556 seals (not available)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JKON3m2fLW69PIU1N_YG6MSwVILrzULDHe9MGDkAN5Q/edit#heading=h.ieb5wwzegn3

Hawai'i's future bilingual workforce is ready and waiting to be noticed!

- Heritage learners who earn a Seal of Biliteracy have greater confidence in their home language/heritage language proficiency (Castro, 2014).



Mahalo nui loa!



HAWAII LANGUAGE ROADMAP INITIATIVE
Bringing Employers and Educators Together to Shape Hawai'i's Future Multilingual Workforce

 UNIVERSITY of HAWAII'
MĀNOA

 THE LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP