

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Wednesday, October 09, 2013

DLIR Conference Room 320
830 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

746 Hele Mauna Street
Hilo, Hawaii

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. with quorum by council Vice Chair Gerald Ohta. The Neighbor Island council members from Kaua`i, Maui and Hawai`i islands joined the meeting via teleconferencing.

1. Attendance

Present:

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|------------------------------------|---|
| – Gerald Ohta | Language Access Advisory Council, Vice Chair |
| – Serafin “Jun” Colmenares | Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio |
| – Livia Wang for Bill Hoshijo | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio |
| – Kristine Pagano for Francine Wai | Executive Director, Disability and Communication |
| – Melba Bantay | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Mindy Emmons | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Patricia Harpstrite | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Margarita Hopkins | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Mary Santa Maria | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Rebeca Zamora | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Excused:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| – Dominic Inocelda | Language Access Advisory Council, Chair |
| – Lito Asuncion | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Jennifer Dotson | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Dr. Ruth Mabanglo | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Dr. Tin Myaing Thein | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Guests: None

Staff: None

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

- The Chair welcomed all present including those participating by teleconferencing.

3. **Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2013 Meeting**

- Approved as corrected.

4. **Executive Director's Report**

- The Executive Director distributed a written report on updated OLA activities. Some highlights included the Kuka Kuka Outreach Project Statewide with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, receiving the 2013 Hawai'i Equal Opportunity Award from NASWA (National Association of State Workforce Agencies), and the proposed legislation on language access.

5. **Report of the Chair**

- The Chair reported he was a panelist at the Kuka Kuka Community Forum in Honolulu.

6. **Reports of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees**

- **Legislative Committee.** Three possible legislations: restoration of three OLA positions, additional funding for the LARC, and funding for production of medical glossaries and training/certificates for medical interpreters.
- **Special Projects Committee (Untold Stories Project).** Becky Gardner to continue when she returns to work.
- **Plans Review Committee.** No meeting yet.
- **By-Laws Committee.** No meeting yet.
- **Permitted Interaction Group – 7th Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access.** Jennifer Dotson, Chair, conference is scheduled for August 5-7, 2014, still working on theme which could revolve around “literacy”.
- **Permitted Interaction Group for Language Access Month.** No meeting yet.

7. **Update on Neighbor Island Outreach Project with Office for Civil Rights, Region IX and OLA.** Dates: September 16 through 20, 2013, Jun, Gerald and Dominic gave a report on the community meetings. Attendance on the neighbor islands were as expected but the Honolulu meeting was poorly attended. Discussions were, however, lively and wide-ranging and the panelists were able to get good feedback about the language access issues facing the communities. A request for a list of neighbor island feedback was made.

8. **Other Upcoming Events.**

- Dominic Inocelda announced that Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC) received funding from the Office of Community Service to establish the Immigrant Resource Center which will provide services for new immigrants. They will work in partnership with Child & Family Services, Pacific Gateway Center, and Catholic Charities. The grand opening will be Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at Kuhio Park Terrace (KPT).

9. **Announcements.**

- Next LAAC meeting – November 13, 2013 @ 9:30 same location.

10. **Adjournment.** -Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

