

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

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

4444 Rice Street, Suite 330
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

Maui District Health Office, State Office Building
54 South High Street, Room 415, Wailuku, Hawaii 96703

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M. with quorum by Chair, Dominic Inocelda. Neighbor Island council members from Kauai and Maui joined in via videoconferencing.

1. Attendance

Present:

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| – Dominic Inocelda | Language Access Advisory Council, Chair |
| – Gerald Ohta | Language Access Advisory Council, Vice Chair |
| – Serafin “Jun” Colmenares | Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio |
| – A.P. Bamrangruan for Bill Hoshijo | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio |
| – Kristine Pagano for Francine Wai | Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio |
| – Lito Asuncion | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Melba Bantay | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Patricia Harpstrite | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Dr. Tin Myaing Thein | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Mary Santa Maria | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Azi Turturici | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Excused:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| – M. Alohalani Boido | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Jennifer Dotson | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Margaret Hopkins | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Dr. Ruth Mabanglo | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Edelene Uriarte | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Guests:

- Dwight Takamine, Director, DLIR, Lorraine Suankum, ASL Interpreter,
- Marlene Q. F. Young, State Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights
- Sako Uemura, Susannah Wesley Community Center and graduate student at the University of Hawaii School of Social Work.

Staff:

- Rebecca “Becky” Gardner
- Gail McGarvey

2. Welcome and Introductions

- The Chair welcomed all present including those participating by videoconferencing. Introductions were made of the council and guests.

3. Director Dwight Takamine

- Although not on the agenda, Director Takamine asked if he could say a few words to the council. He wanted to give the council recognition for their hard work and commitment through the rough economic times and to say thank you for the good work they are doing. He also wanted to assure them that during the transition period a space for the Office of Language Access (OLA) would be maintained at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) until a new location could be found for OLA with Department of Health (DOH).

4. Approval of minutes of the August 08, 2012 meeting

- The August 08, 2012 minutes were approved as presented.

5. Executive Director’s Report

- Executive Director Jun Colmenares submitted a written report.
- Jun Colmenares thanked the council for their help and support of the conference.
- Pat Harpstrite has been appointed to replace Betty Brow (representing Honolulu county), while Lito Asuncion has been appointed as at-large member. Still looking for a replacement for Nāmaka Rawlins (representing Hawaiian language advocacy organization).
- Commissioning ceremony for council members (Inocelda, Ohta and Dotson) is scheduled for September 20, 2012 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. at Washington Place. Deadline to RSVP is September 14th.
- No news yet as to where and when OLA is moving - new location still being discussed.
- OLA staff attended the meeting with the Office of Health Equity group at DOH on September 4, 2012.
- OLA strategic planning retreat is scheduled for November 7, 2012, location to be announced.

6. Report of the Chair

- Dominic Inocelda, Chair, had nothing to report.

7. Reports of Ad Hoc Committees

- **5th Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access.**

- Becky Gardner reported on the conference evaluations, the total number of conference attendees was 240+, 70 evaluations were turned in, of these 54 agrees that the conference was successful. Marlene Q.F. Young agreed that the conference was successful and well planned.
- **2012 Language Access Month – Fall Law Forum –**
 - The law forum’s tentative date Friday, November 16, 2012.
 - Becky met with Dina Shek of the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawaii based at UH Law School; Jennifer Rose, Gender Equity Specialist at the University of Hawaii; and Calleen Ching, of the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center with Legal Aid Society – to discuss implementation and a theme for the forum. It was suggested that Office on Equality and Access in the Courts (OEAC) be included and possibly have continuing legal education (CLE) credits for the attorneys who attend. The forum would be for students, attorneys and community leaders.
- 8. **Senator Susan Chun-Oakland**, although the Senator was not present she was on the agenda to discuss ideas for translating services and to look at coordinating language access and translations in Hawai`i. She would like to invite Mr. Kleber Palma, our conference speaker from the Translation and Interpretation Unit of the New York City Department of Education to help with Hawai`i’s translation of vital documents.
- 9. **New Business**
 - The OLA retreat will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2012. Jun Colmenares reported that they are looking for a place to hold the all day retreat.
 - Purpose of the retreat is to revisit Hawaii’s language access laws; look at the role of the council as defined in the law; and the strategic plan looking at OLA’s goals and objectives.
 - Still looking for a facilitator with a background in language access, several names were suggested.
- 10. **Announcements**
 - Inter-Agency Council (IAC) will meet Wednesday, September 26, 2012 at Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC) at 2:30 p.m.
 - From Melba Bantay, there will be a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Workshop on October 6, 2012 at Trinity United Methodist Church, to help undocumented youths who were under 16 when they arrived in the United States and are without documents. The workshop will show them how to apply for jobs. The same workshop on Maui was a success, there is a workshop also planned for the Big Island.
 - Next Language Access Advisory Council Meeting date is Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The following council members will not be able to attend: Melba Bantay, Mary Santa Maria and Gerald Ohta.
- 11. **Adjournment**
 - Meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.