

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, September 12, 2007
Multi-Purpose Conference Room 312

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m.

1. Roll Call:

Present:

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| – Serafin “Jun” Colmenares | Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio |
| – Bill Hoshijo | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio |
| – Dominic Inocelda | Language Access Advisory Council, Chairperson |
| – Gerald Ohta | Language Access Advisory Council, Vice Chair |
| – Lito Asuncion | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Alohalani Boido | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Sr. Earnest Chung | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Canisius Filibert | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Nāmaka Rawlins | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Dr. Tin Myaing Thein | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Dr. Suzanne Zeng | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Others Present:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| – Gary Ige | Department of the Attorney General |
| – M. Uilani Pauole de Sa | Senior Legal Analyst |
| – Shari Dela Cuadra | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access |
| – Jeremy Low | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access |
| – Merry Balatico | Clerk |
| – Kim Winegar | Catholic Charities |

2. Approval of minutes of August 7, 2007 meeting.

- On Page 2, number 7f, last two sentences should be amended to read: “Note: Because Hawaiian is the other official language of the State, it should be made obvious on the poster provided by our office. Namaka Rawlins has agreed to translate the information on the poster into Hawaiian.
- Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Mr. Asuncion, seconded by Ms. Rawlins.
- Minutes approved unanimously.

3. Adoption of By-Laws

- As there were no further discussions, a motion to adopt the By-Laws was made by Ms. Rawlins and seconded by Mr. Asuncion.
- The motion carried unanimously.

4. Appointment of Committee Chairs

- Legislative Committee Chair- Sister Earnest Chung
- Special Projects Committee Chair- Dr. Tin Myaing Thein
- By-Laws and Procedures Committee Chair- Ms. Namaka Rawlins
- Planning Review Committee Chair- Mr. Lito Asuncion

Discussion:

- a. Planning Review Committee
 - Scope of review other than monitoring (more of oversight to Act 290)
 - to include survey if process is working.
 - possibly rename “Planning Review Committee” next meeting.
- b. Ms. Boido suggested Language Preservation as another committee.

Members of the Committees, along with OLA staff, were also designated as follows:
 Legislative Committee – Alohalani Boido and Bill Hoshijo (staff: Uilani Pauole de Sa).
 Special Projects Committee – Canisius Filibert and Gerald Ohta (staff: Shari dela Cuadra).
 By-Laws and Procedures Committee – Jun Colmenares.
 Planning Review Committee – Namaka Rawlins and Suzanne Zeng (staff: Jeremy Low).

5. OLA Executive Director’s Report

- See written report.

Discussion:

- a. Set dates for one day Retreat or 2 half days prior to DLIR strategic planning in January.
- b. Regarding the Micronesian issue task force, OLA’s role is to support the (OCS) Office of Community Services.
- c. Up-coming workshops to be held primarily in Honolulu since the majority of the outstanding covered entities that need to attend are located in town.

6. Overview of Proposed OLA Administrative Rules

Monique “Uilani” Pauole de Sa, Senior Legal Analyst, provided the Council with an overview of the rulemaking process (*see attached*). She also wanted a consensus from the Council in regards to getting preliminary feedback from stakeholders prior to preparing the rules.

Discussion:

- a. Gary Ige (AG) suggested to go back to the original stakeholders (groups that pushed for the passage of the language access law) and get their feedback.

7. Community Feedback from Council Members.

- Concern that OLA office requiring covered entities to submit a plan.
- Need for a Language Bank and to centralize resources.
- Need for quality interpretation services, qualified and competent interpreters, need for training and certification
- Budgetary problems- costs for interpreting services

- Staffing issues- would a multi-lingual applicant take precedence over an English speaking-only individual.
8. Survey of Language Access Budgetary Needs of Agencies
- to be discussed at the October 1st meeting of state language access coordinators.
9. Discussion of Agenda for Next Meeting
- Premium Training Services:
 - a. No resources to train
 - b. Affordability of training sessions
 - c. Recruitment of interpreters
 - Mr. Hoshijo suggested that the AG Office could look for any Title VI challenges (suits or complaints) to bring forth to the Legislature as an “affirmative way of looking” to get funds.
 - Funds from Federal Government
 - Outside grants for funding
 - Language preservation, standards, etc...
10. Announcements:
- Training on Sunshine Law
Office of Information Practice (OIP) to be held in March
 - Annie Casey Foundation’s Language Access Convening Group Conference
To be held probably in December 2007
 - Next OLA Advisory Council Meeting to be held on October 2, 2007 at 9:30 am
11. Adjournment:
- There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.