

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, October 08, 2008
DLIR Conference Room 320

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 A.M. by Chairperson Dominic Inocelda.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Francine Wai, Executive Director of the Disability & Communication Access Board (DCAB) was introduced.

2. Attendance

Present:

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| - 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 |
| - Canisius Filibert | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Dr. Tin Myaing Thein | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Dr. Suzanne Zeng | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Serafin "Jun" Colmenares | Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio |
| - Livia Wang for Bill Hoshijo | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio |
| - Francine Wai | Executive Director, Disability & Communication Access Board, Ex-officio |

Excused:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| - Sr. Earnest Chung | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Mary Santa Maria | Language Access Advisory Council Member (new) |
| - Nāmaka Rawlins | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Others Present:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| - Frances Lum | Department of the Attorney General |
| - Jeremy Low | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access |
| - Uilani Pauole de Sa | Senior Legal Analyst, Office of Language Access |
| - Gail McGarvey | Clerk/Typist, Office of Language Access |

3. Approval of minutes of September 24, 2008 meeting

- Motion to approve minutes with no revisions made by Alohalani Boido. Seconded by Gerald Ohta.
- Minutes approved unanimously.

4. Executive Director's Report – attached

- OLA has submitted impact statements for 10%, 15%, and 20% budgetary cuts.
- OLA has started pre-monitoring visits to state agencies, checking for signage, posters.
- Fall issue of OLA Quarterly newsletter has been completed and ready for review.
- 2008 Federal Interagency Conference on LEP, September 3, 2008, Washington, D.C. – both Serafin “Jun” Colmenares and Gerald Ohta were panelists on two panel discussions, which were well attended due to interest in states that have developed and implemented language access laws
- Conference content to be posted to the U.S. Department of Justice website
- “Childhood in Translation” video about how language barriers affect the well being of immigrants and their children, free DVD available online at Migration Policy Institute (MPI)
- Feedback on Language Access Month Community Fair at Capitol Rotunda on September 26, 2008 from council members included:
 - a. some of the vendors were disappointed not enough people attended
 - b. feedback that more interpreters were needed to assist in filling out information for the Civil Defense Language Access Cards
 - c. although a lot of cards were given out by Civil Defense, not many were filled out by the public who attended
 - d. choice of time and week day issues were brought up; 10:00-2:00 pm on a work day - not many people who work during those hours are able to attend
 - e. council discussed the possibility of other locations and dates that would have more people in the community attending i.e. a place within their community, a weekend

5. Language Access Advisory Council Membership Update

- Mary Santa Maria is the newest appointed council member. She is a Public Health Educator with the Maui District Health Office of the Department of Health.
- Kauai appointee pending background check.
- Two other Oahu candidates pending governor's approval.
- Hope to have a full board by the next meeting; total membership=16; quorum = 9.

6. September 2009 Conference Planning

- Planning continues but pending statewide budget cuts which may alter plans. There are plans to look for support from other agencies and the private sector.
- Dr. Myaing requested that because Pacific Gateway is planning on celebrating its 35th anniversary on September 9, 2009 that the OLA conference not be scheduled before that day.

7. Compliance Issues: DHS settlement, Oakland Lawsuit, OLA complaints

- On September 2, 2008 Hawaii DHS voluntary agreement was reached; in summary very similar to Hawaii's Language Access Law, this settlement now a template for others to follow.
- Oakland sued by four nonprofit organizations for failing to meet its obligations requiring language access for people with limited English skills to city services; handout is attached.

- OLA complaints; no formal complaints, individuals have come to the office to ask for interpreters. Request for learning English are being referred to Department of Education (DOE) Community School for Adults. Someone heard that in order to register for a class, a valid passport is required. Council is questioning if this would be a civil rights issue, it will be put on the agenda for next meeting. Canisius Filibert volunteered to follow-up on this with DOE; Gerald Ohta will also help follow-up.

8. Announcements

- Dr. Suzanne Zeng announced that money is available for scholarships in the state job training programs; applicants must meet requirements of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). They need to be laid off or low income to qualify.
- Francine Wai invited council members to come to a public hearing for testimony on proposed amendments for community access and sign language administrative rules, on Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. at DCAB, 919 Ala Moana Boulevard, in conference room 103. Included in the proposed amendments are changes to the fee schedules for interpreters and adding new national credentials. Their website address: www.state.hi.us/health/dcab/home/
- Gerald Ohta extended an invitation to anyone wanting to see the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) webinar on October 16, 2008 starting at 9:00 A.M. Hawaii time, to join him in his office.
- Gerald Ohta also announced that starting on Monday, October 13, 2008, his building, Kinau Hale, will be on a four day work week, Mondays thru Thursdays, 7:15 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. closed Fridays.
- The next Language Access Advisory Council meeting will be, on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 9:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.

9. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.