

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, March 11, 2009
DLIR Conference Room 320

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. with quorum by Chairperson Dominic Inocelda.

1. Attendance

Present:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| - Dominic Inocelda | Language Access Advisory Council, Chairperson |
| - Gerald Ohta | Language Access Advisory Council, Vice-Chair |
| - 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 |
| - Jennifer Li | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Azi Turturici | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Dr. Tin Myaing Thein | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Mary Santa Maria | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Alohalani Boido | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Lito Asuncion | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Nāmaka Rawlins | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Betty Brow | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Francine Wai | Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio |

Excused:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| - Canisius Filibert | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Sr. Earnest Chung | 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 |
| - Kendall Zukeran | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access |

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Approval of minutes of January 11, 2009 meeting

- Motion to approve the minutes made by Mary Santa Maria. Seconded by Gerald Ohta.
- Minutes approved unanimously. Motion carried.

4. Executive Director's Report – See attached

- See attached
- Due to the current economic environment and need for resources, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations has formed a team to research and find grant opportunities. Jeremy Low is a member of this team.
- Regarding the OLA multilingual poster, Dr. Zeng is heading the project and asked for Council Members' input regarding the number of languages that should be included? Have just five or six translations printed and allow agencies to add other applicable ones as needed?
- Recommendation was made to keep all the current languages on the poster, allow agencies to add but not subtract languages, create an electronic copy that can be manipulated, and include phrasing such as "This may require a follow-up appointment."
- The purpose of the poster is to push the demand for language services. Signage should be flexible as new people groups arrive in the islands or other languages need to be added.

5. Update on Language Access Conference Planning

- Jennifer Li, Chairperson, advised that the committee met on February 23rd and will meet again in a few weeks.
- The conference date has been changed to September 28 & 29, 2009. This is due to a conflict with another conference in Guam the previous week, which a number of language access coordinators plan to attend.
- The theme of the Language Access Conference will be "Ho'oponopono: Implementation and Best Practices."
- A "Save the Date" flyer is being created and will be mailed out soon. Three follow-up reminders will be sent in the future.
- About sixteen grants/foundations are being targeted at the moment for possible resource opportunities.
- Invitations to a number of possible keynote speakers have been sent out. This includes such notables as New York City Mayor Bloomberg, First Lady Michelle Obama, and others. The Annie Casey Foundation has already expressed interest in participating.
- At least ten vendors are being sought for the conference and there will be a small exhibition fee. Two mainland vendors have already indicated that they would like to take part in the conference.
- If there are any other individuals or organizations that should be contacted for possible grant opportunities, speakers, or exhibitors, please let Jennifer know by March 25th.

6. Legislative Matters: "Language Access Month"

- The HB813 was approved in the House and has moved to the Senate for hearing.
- SB312 is not being heard and OLA Executive Director Colmenares has spoken with Representative Brian Taniguchi about this. Various options are being considered to revive this legislation.
- Confirmations for four members of the LAAC, Namaka Rawlins, Alohalani Boido, Mary Santa Maria, and Lito Asuncion, will occur on March 17th.
- Three LAAC Council members, Azi Turturici, Betty Brow, and Jennifer Li, should be up for confirmation during the next round of Governor's Messages.

7. Election of Chair & Vice-Chair, and appointment of Language Access Month Sub-Committee Chair

- LAAC Chair, Dominic Inocelda, will think about and decide which council members to appoint for the above positions. Elections will be held in June.

8. Announcements

- Jennifer Li recently got married and will officially change her last name later in the year. Congratulations Jennifer!
- There will be a “Micronesian Conference” on Wailuku, Maui on 4/15/09. This will focus on working with recently arrived immigrants. Sponsors include the Office of Community Services and Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
- The Hawaii Interpreter Action Network will coordinate an interpreter training workshop, “Preparing for the Written English Exam” on 4/11/09. This will be held at the downtown HGEA Building, 888 Mililani Street. Flyers and more information will be mailed out in the near future. Alohalani was elected president of the HIAN. Congratulations, Alohalani!
- Pacific Gateway was awarded \$285,000 from the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. This is for the agency’s business incubator project, which will be constructed to “support immigrants, refugees, and low to moderate income entrepreneurs, who seek to establish their own small businesses as a means of escaping poverty and developing economic self-sufficiency.”
- The Department of Human Services will have an informational hearing on March 12th at the State Capitol, relating to department budget cuts.
- On March 24th, there will be webinar from 8 – 9 A.M. (HST), “Overcoming Language Issues: Working with Refugees and Immigrants.” This is sponsored by The Center for Health and Health Care in Schools. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=39589>. The OLA staff will also view this presentation at the DLIR Conference Room #320 and council members are welcome to join.
- There will be a free two day conference on March 30 & 31st, “Improving Services to Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence and Sex Assault Who Are Limited English Proficient.” This is sponsored by the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center and the event will be held from 8 AM – 5 PM on both days at the Best Western Airport Hotel. For more details and to register, email info@hijcenter.org or call (808) 536-8826.

9. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.