

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, April 08, 2009
DLIR Conference Room 320

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M. with quorum (10 council members) 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
- Nāmaka Rawlins Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Betty Brow Language Access Advisory Council Member

Excused:

- Lito Asuncion Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Alohalani Boido Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Canisius Filibert Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Sr. Earnest Chung Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Francine Wai Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio
- Mary Santa Maria 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

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Approval of minutes of March 11, 2009 meeting

- Motion to accept the meeting minutes approved unanimously.

4. Executive Director's Report – See attached

- Update on training workshop – OLA received approval for all day training workshops free for state and county workers to be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 and Friday, May 15, 2009 at the State Capitol conference room 325. Trainers are Ms. Dew Kaneshiro and Dr. Suzanne Zeng. The May council meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2009 was cancelled and council members were invited to attend the training workshops.
- A & B Foundation Grant proposal was submitted through Pacific Gateway Center.
- The Executive Office on Aging has agreed to include language access training and GPS mapping of elderly LEP individuals in their federal grant.
- Update on LA poster – per Dr. Zeng it will take more time than expected to work on it.

5. Update on Language Access Conference Planning

- The conference theme was changed from “Ho’oponopono to Ho’o pono-to make things right” which more accurately describes what the conference will be trying to accomplish.
- Save-the-date flyer was emailed to council members and other agencies.
- Grant updates-with assistance from U’I, the HMSA application for \$6000 was submitted.
- Bank of Hawaii Foundation Grant-Betty Brow will help walk it through.
- The Office of Minority Health Regional Office needs more details of what is being discussed at the conference.
- The committee is asking UH Students Excellence, Equity and Diversity (SEED) for \$500 to assist with student scholarships.
- Letters of invitation to a number of possible keynote speaker have been sent out, to date nothing has been confirmed, replies still pending.
- At least ten vendors are being sought for the conference and there will be a small exhibition fee. A suggestion was made to send out a call for sponsorship with different levels of sponsorships. There was an ethics issue raised regarding private sponsorship. Language Line has asked to be a sponsor in exchange for display and to be a presentation speaker at a luncheon.
- Acknowledgement and thank yous for letters of support to grant proposals to Dr. Myiang, Dr. Sue Zeng, Mr. Canisius Filibert, Sr. Earnest Chung, and Mr. Dominic Inocelda.

6. Legislative Matters: “Language Access Month”

- The HB813 LA Month passed the Senate hearing with amendments. Went back to the original wording of the bill.
- HCR194 Resolution establishing a task force to deal with language access in the tourism industry also passed.
- Congratulations to four members of the LAAC, Namaka Rawlins, Alohalani Boido, Mary Santa Maria, and Lito Asuncion, for their confirmation.
- Three LAAC Council members, Azi Turturici, Betty Brow, and Jennifer Li, are waiting for confirmation by the Senate.

7. Appointment of Nominations Committee for the Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- Dominic Inocelda announced that according to council by-laws nominations must be submitted by May for June elections. Nominations to be sent by email and elections will be done at the June meeting.

8. Amendment of By-Laws

- It was proposed that the term of office of Chair and Vice Chair be changed from one year to two years. Motion passed unanimously.

- A change in the monthly meeting schedule was also proposed but the council voted to keep the schedule as is.

9. Announcements

- Elder Fraud Conference, Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the Hawaii Convention Center, sponsored by the Executive Office on Aging. OLA to organize panel discussion on Protecting Our Kupuna Through Language Access with Gerald Ohta, moderator, and Dr. Myaing and Jun Colmenares as members of the panel.
- IAC update – the Chair reported that there will most likely be no move of OCS to DHS
- Gerald Ohta will meet with New York City Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene, LA coordinator and Lifenet (24 hour hotline) coordinator is asking if there are any questions for LA emergency situations from the council members. How are they funded?
- Dr. Zeng said she went to Domestic Violence and Abuse Center (DVAC) to talk to staff and their support about working with interpreters regarding LA issues and how to improve their services to LEP individuals.
- May 13, 2009 LAAC meeting cancelled, instead the council was invited to attend the OLA training workshops.
- Next LAAC meeting will be held Wednesday, June 10, 2009.

10. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:18 AM.