

# LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, August 12, 2009  
DLIR Conference Room 320

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 A.M. with quorum by Vice-Chair, Gerald Ohta.

### 1. Attendance

#### *Present:*

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| - Dominic Inocelda            | Language Access Advisory Council, Chairperson             |
| - Gerald Ohta                 | Language Access Advisory Council, Vice-Chair              |
| - Serafin "Jun" Colmenares    | Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio |
| - Livia Wang for Bill Hoshijo | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio   |
| - Azi Turturici               | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Mary Santa Maria            | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Lito Asuncion               | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Betty Brow                  | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Sr. Earnest Chung           | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Francine Wai                | Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio                      |
| - Dr. Tin Myaing Thein        | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Alohalani Boido             | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| - Nāmaka Rawlins              | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |

#### *Excused:*

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| - Canisius Filibert | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Dr. Suzanne Zeng  | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| - Jennifer Dotson   | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

#### *Others Present:*

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| - Frances Lum         | Department of the Attorney General              |
| - Kendall Zukeran     | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access     |
| - 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 July 8, 2009 meeting

- Minutes approved unanimously. Motion carried.

#### **4. Executive Director's Report – See attached**

- The executive director reported that all four OLA staff received letters informing them that they were being terminated and their positions abolished effective November 13, 2009. Due to the uncertain future of the OLA, Council members were asked to provide input regarding what steps to take.
- Suggestions were made to write letters to the Governor, Legislature, and DLIR Director, describing the importance of the office and why it should remain.
- Sr. Earnest Chung was asked to work on a list of officials to contact.
- The Visayan community will have its convention this weekend and will probably present a resolution on language access.
- Francine Wai shared that her agency (DCAB) went through similar struggles as the OLA but with the support of community members, letters, etc. only her funds were cut. Staff positions remained intact.
- The Council will write a letter, with the assistance of OLA, detailing the accomplishments of the office, impact statements, etc. In addition, a one page fact sheet relating to language access in Hawaii should be made to help the Council and other supporters when they address the media.
- It was suggested that community and Council members should write letters to newspaper editors and other media sources, informing the public of what is happening. The OLA should not be directly involved and staff members should not be interviewed since the media often misquotes or slants what is said. Moreover, staff could put their positions in further jeopardy by going public. It would be fine for Council members to be interviewed and express their opinions.
- The Council's position should be that the OLA staff positions stay on the books and remain filled.
- Any other suggestions or recommendations should be directed to Jun and he can then decide what actions to take.

#### **5. Language Access Month Activities**

- Suggestions were made to either have one activity or pass for this year due to the state budget crisis.
- Community members have proposed having a rally for language access. The OLA cannot spearhead such an effort.
- Suggestion was made to have a newspaper article regarding language access in general, the OLA conference, and status of the office. Journalists from the Honolulu Advertiser, Star-Bulletin, and Maui News were recommended.

#### **6. Update on Language Access Conference Planning**

- About 180 people have already pre-registered for the conference.
- Goal is to have 225 people registered since it is estimated that 10% will not show.
- Sponsors thus far are the Bank of Hawaii, Office of Minority Health, and ViaLanguage. The Annie Casey Foundation, Migration Policy Institute, and Federal Government are covering the costs for their respective employees. Jeremy will work with Betty Brow regarding the BOH breakfast sponsorship.

#### **7. Census Bureau Presentation**

- Manny and David from the U.S. Census Bureau shared the agency's 2010 goals with the Council. These are to increase Hawaii's response rate and deliver a consistent message. During the 2000 census, Hawaii's response rate was 60%, which was one of the lowest in the nation. To achieve better results, the Bureau will partner with community groups, faith-based organizations, shelters, and conduct an informational campaign utilizing special language media agencies, to convey the importance of the census and safety in completing the questionnaire. There will only be 10 questions asked and should only take 10 minutes to complete versus the long form utilized in the past. More information can be found at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

**8. Announcements**

- The IAC is discussing the latest change in the Quest plan to a new basic health plan for Micronesian immigrants effective September 1, 2009. Cancer care and dialysis is not included in the new plan.
- The Next LAAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2009. Videoconferencing is planned so that neighbor island members will not have to fly to Oahu.

**9. Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.