

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

DLIR Unemployment Insurance Conference Room 325
830 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Piikoi A Conference Room
4444 Rice Street, Lihue, Hawaii

DLIR Hawaii District Office
75 Aupuni Street, Room 108, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Maui District Health Office, State Office Building
54 South High Street, Room 301, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:27 A.M. with quorum by Chair, Dominic Inocelda. Neighbor Island council members joined in via videoconferencing.

1. Attendance

Present:

- Dominic Inocelda Language Access Advisory Council, Chairperson
- Serafin “Jun” Colmenares Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio
- Livia Wang for Bill Hoshijo Executive Director, HI 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
- Sr. Earnest Chung Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Kristine Pagano for Francine Wai Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio
- Alohalani Boido Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Dr. Suzanne Zeng Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Jennifer Dotson Language Access Advisory Council Member

Excused:

- Gerald Ohta Language Access Advisory Council, Vice-Chair
- Canisius Filibert Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Betty Brow Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Nāmaka Rawlins Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Dr. Tin Myaing Thein Language Access Advisory Council Member

Others Present:

- Frances Lum Department of the Attorney General
- Uilani Pauole de Sa Senior Legal Analyst, Office of Language Access
- Kendall Zukeran Research Analyst, Office of Language Access
- Jeremy Low Research Analyst, Office of Language Access

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Approval of minutes for the August 12, 2009 meeting

- Alohalani Boido made the motion to approve the minutes and this was seconded by Jun Colmenares. Motion carried.

4. Executive Director’s Report – See attached

- Council members discussed amending the Hawaii Language Access Law such that not only the Executive Director’s position but OLA staff positions be included as well.
- A draft of the letter to the Governor regarding saving the OLA staff was distributed. Copies were sent to the Neighbor Island members via fax and email during the meeting.
- Besides editing portions of the letter, a recommendation was made to emphasize the potential monetary cost of not having an OLA office. The OLA was created to be a “safe harbor” in order to prevent lawsuits that will ultimately cost the state time and money. Alohalani offered to add statements pertaining to these money saving implications.
- LAAC members agreed that the letter should be sent to the Governor and Department of Labor & Industrial Relations Director, Darwin Ching, with a listing of council member names and their affiliations.
- Copies should also be sent to media contacts such as the Star-Bulletin, Honolulu Advertiser, neighbor island newspapers, legislature, etc. Kristine Pagano advised that the Senate and House each have one central email address, whereby messages received can be distributed to all the legislative members. She will send Dominic this information.
- The letter writing effort will be conducted by LAAC members only and not involve the OLA staff.
- A final draft will be sent to all LAAC members and responses should be sent to the council chair only.

5. MPI Webinar on Language Access and Emergency Preparedness

- The scheduling of this webinar conflicted with the LAAC meeting but can be accessed through the MPI website in the near future.
- The OLA will send council members information received from MPI related to this event.

6. Update on Language Access Conference Planning

- About 227 people have registered, which is over the OLA’s goal. Late registrations are not being accepted due to limitations on the maximum auditorium seating capacity.
- Program and folder materials were sent to the Office of Minority Health (San Francisco) for printing.
- There are currently 6 exhibitors, Pacific Interpreters, viaLanguage, Hawaii Hispanic News, Fluency, Pacific Gateway, and the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center.

- Four exhibitor spots are still available on a first come, first serve basis. Neighbor island agency representatives are welcome.
- Ten volunteer slots are available as well to assist with the conference.

7. Announcements

- The Inter-Agency Council (IAC) meeting is next Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 1:30 P.M. at the Susannah Wesley Center.
- The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission will present a conference, “EEO in Hawaii: Recent Developments” on October 7, 2009 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Registration is \$30 for attendees and the deadline is September 30th. More information is available at the HCRC website.
- The next LAAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2009 @ 9 A.M. Videoconferencing is planned again for the Neighbor Island members. Recommendations were made to send any relevant documents ahead of time to these members on the other islands, speakers should identify themselves first before talking, and there should be additional microphones or a better speaker phone in place to improve the communication quality.

8. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.