



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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March 5, 2008

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: March 7, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

**GM 405 - SISTER EARNEST CHUNG**  
**Language Access Advisory Council ("OLA")**

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations ("Department") strongly supports the confirmation of SISTER EARNEST CHUNG.

Sister Earnest Chung has over 30 years of experience addressing the needs and issues faced by Hawaii's immigrant communities. Sister Earnest's activities include: bilingual outreach worker, consumer education specialist, and community services advisor. In 1984, Sister Earnest earned her Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Hawaii and became the first Executive Director of Catholic Charities Elderly Services the same year.

As the Executive Director of Catholic Charities Immigrant Services (1995) and Social Policy Director for Catholic Charities Hawaii (1999), Sister Earnest gained experience coordinating the advocacy efforts of Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH). As a result, Sister Earnest is aware of the much needed services for and issues faced by low-income families, isolated elderly immigrants and refugees, and people and families who are homeless. More importantly, Sister Earnest has hands on experience in working with the immigrant communities of Hawaii, which are the communities who often face language access issues when seeking government services.

Today, Sister Earnest continues her endeavors to support and advocate for the elderly immigrant communities in Hawaii and is very active in the Chinese community. She is an ardent supporter of immigrant and language access rights and has been a productive member of the OLA

In summary, SISTER EARNEST CHUNG is well-qualified and deserving of confirmation for the OLA.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



DARWIN L. D. CHING  
DIRECTOR

COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

SERAFIN P. COLMENARES JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
**OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS**

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March 5, 2008

TO: Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Honorable Clayton Hee, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Serafin "Jun" Colmenares, Executive Director, Office of Language Access

RE: **Testimony in Support of GM 405 (EARNEST CHUNG)**

HEARING: Friday, March 7, 2008, 10:00 a.m., Room 016

Good morning, Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor :

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am Serafin "Jun" Colmenares, and I am the Executive Director with the Office of Language Access (OLA). The Office of Language Access strongly supports the appointment of Sister EARNEST CHUNG to the Language Access Advisory Council.

Sister Earnest Chung is a current Council member who has dedicated over 30 years of her life to ministry for the elderly and has first hand knowledge of the needs and issues faced by Hawaii's immigrant communities. Since 1973 when she began her ministry with Catholic Charities, Sister Earnest has served the communities in Hawaii, including as a bilingual outreach worker, consumer education specialist, and community services advisor. In 1984, Sister Earnest earned her Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Hawaii and became the first Executive Director of Catholic Charities Elderly Services the same year.

As the Executive Director of Catholic Charities Immigrant Services (1995) and Social Policy Director for Catholic Charities Hawaii (1999), Sister Earnest gained experience coordinating the advocacy efforts of Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH). As a result, Sister Earnest is aware of the much needed services for and issues faced by low-income families, isolated elderly immigrants and refugees, and people and families who are homeless. More importantly, Sister Earnest has hands on experience in working with the immigrant communities

of Hawaii, which are the communities who often face language access issues when seeking government services.

Today, Sister Earnest continues her endeavors to support and advocate for the elderly immigrant communities in Hawaii and is very active in the Chinese community. She is an ardent supporter of immigrant and language access rights.

For these reasons, the Office of Language Access strongly supports the appointment of SISTER EARNEST CHUNG to the Language Access Advisory Council.



# CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 405

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
March 7, 2008, 10 a.m. Conference Room 016

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, gubernatorial nominee, EARNEST CHUNG, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

To: Hon. Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Hon. Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair  
Hon. Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: Margarita Hopkins  
President, Congress of Visayan Organizations

My name is Margarita Hopkins, President of the Congress of Visayan Organizations, which is a statewide umbrella organization that represents 22 unit organizations of Visayan ancestry.

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee, I testify in strong support of Sr. Earnest Chung's confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council. Her dedication to improving the lives of immigrants and refugees is an asset for planning. She has a strong sense of social justice with which to oversee policy and capacity building in the implementation of Act 290. We look to her diplomatic ways to build bridges and bring together strategic thinkers and action-oriented language access leaders and constituents to implement the spirit of the law.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Sr. Earnest in my testimony. Please consider doing the same in your vote.

For the President:

Serafin Colmenares Jr.  
Executive Vice President

# Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

A HAWAII RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP • FOUNDED IN 1990

c/o 728 Nunu St. • Kailua, HI 96734 • <http://www.philippinesonline.org/thecoalition/>

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 405

Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor  
March 7, 2008, 10 a.m. | Conference Room 016

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, EARNEST CHUNG, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

To: Hon. Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Hon. Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair  
Hon. Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I am submitting testimony in support of Sr. Earnest Chung's confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

Sr. Earnest has tirelessly served Hawai'i's immigrant and refugee families for generations. I serve on the Inter-Agency Council for Immigrants and Refugees with her. Sister Earnest's community organizing and policy experience also includes her ability to mobilize colleagues and community leaders with skills and expertise that can enhance the strategic planning process, policy analysis, and facilitation needed for true community and systems participation to ensure access to government services of limited proficient communities and individuals.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure. Thank you for considering to support Sr. Earnest's confirmation.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma  
President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 405

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
March 7, 2008, 10 a.m. | Conference Room 016

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, EARNEST CHUNG, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

To: Hon. Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Hon. Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair  
Hon. Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

My name is Amy Agbayani. I serve as Assistant Vice Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. NaFFAA Region XII is an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

NaFFAA is happy to support the nomination of Sr. Earnest Chung for confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council. We urge her to use her wide network of language access stakeholders to serve as resource persons to the Advisory Council to ensure a wide range of critical analysis to determine best practices for implementing the spirit of the law. Thank you the opportunity to testify. Please support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chair, NaFFAA Region XII



# OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 • Honolulu • Hawaii 96817

## Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential  
Carehome Administrators  
Aloha Saguisib Cultural  
Foundation, Inc.  
Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii  
Annac ti Batac  
Annac ti Caoayan 2002  
Annak ti Kailokuan iti  
America  
Annak ti Sinait iti Hawaii  
Asingan Organization of  
Hawaii  
Badoo-Pimili Aid  
Association of Hawaii  
Banna Association of  
Hawaii  
Bannatiran Association of  
Hawaii  
Batangas Association of  
Hawaii  
Bulacan Circle of Hawaii  
Caballeros de Dimasalang  
Cabugao Sons & Daughters  
of Hawaii  
Candonians of Hawaii  
Caoayan ISAH  
Cavitenians of Hawaii  
Dingras Association of  
Hawaii  
Divine Word College  
Alumni Association  
FilAm Sports USA  
Fil American Citizens  
League  
Filipino Business Women's  
Club  
Filipino Nurses Organization  
of Hawaii  
Filipino Women's Civic  
Club  
GUMIL Hawaii  
GUMIL Oahu  
Hawaii Filipino Women's  
Club  
Hawaii Council of Bilingual  
Educators  
ILAH  
Ilocos Norteniens of  
America  
INCAT Alumni Association  
of Hawaii  
International Filipino  
Society of Hawaii  
Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.  
La Union Circle of  
Hawaii  
Lingayen Gulf Club of  
Hawaii

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 405

Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor  
March 7, 2008, 10 a.m. | Conference Room 016

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
EARNEST CHUNG, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

To: Hon. Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Hon. Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair  
Hon. Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: Franklin Borromeo, President  
Oahu Filipino Community Council

My name is Franklin Borromeo, president of the  
Oahu Filipino Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella  
organization comprised of sixty-two members (62) that  
represent a network of non-profit civic groups with a  
unified vision to improve the lives of our Filipino  
communities.

The Oahu Filipino Community Council supports  
the confirmation of Sr. Earnest Chung to the Language  
Access Advisory Council. Through her decades of work at  
Catholic Charities, she is knowledgeable of barriers and  
solutions to provide immigrants and refugees access to  
government services.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this  
testimony. The Oahu Filipino Community Council  
appreciates your consideration of her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Franklin Borromeo, President, OFCC

## Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of  
Hawaii  
Narvacan/San Antonio Club of  
Hawaii  
Nueva Vizcaya Association of  
Hawaii  
Pasuquinos Association of  
Hawaii  
Philippine Cultural Foundation  
Philippine Nurses  
Association of Hawaii  
Piddig Association of Hawaii  
Sanchez Mira Association of  
Hawaii  
San Manuel Pangasinan  
Association of Hawaii  
San Nicolaneos USA  
San Nicolas Goodwill  
Foundation  
San Nicolas Teachers of  
Hawaii  
Santa Lucia Association of  
Hawaii  
Sarrat Association of Hawaii  
Sarrat International Inc.  
Sinait Nt. High School Alumni  
of Hawaii  
Solsona of Hawaii  
Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii  
TPCP  
Kalihii Ballroom, Inc.  
Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii  
Samar Leyte Association of  
Hawaii  
Sampaguaita/Sunflower Club of  
Hawaii  
San Juan Association of  
Hawaii  
San Nicolas Nat. High  
Santa Marians of Hawaii  
School Alumni  
Santa Nicolas Nat. High  
School Bingao Annex  
Tagalog Association of Oahu  
United Bacarreños of Hawaii  
United Group of Home  
Operators  
United Pangasinan of Hawaii  
United Urdaneta Club of  
Hawaii  
United Vintarinians of Hawaii  
Vigan Association of Hawaii

**2007-2008 OFCC OFFICERS & BOARD** President: Franklin Borromeo | 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Cirvalina Longboy | 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
President: Carlotta Ader Secretary: Jean Jeremiah | Assistant Secretary: Veronica Esteban | Treasurer: Faye Cudal | Assistant  
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Funtanilla • Jake Manegdeg • Estrella Pada-Taong • Danny Villaruz • Amado Yoro | Legal Counsel: Alfredo Evangelista

March 5, 2008

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
and Members of the Committee

From: Dr. Tin Myiang Thein, Executive Director  
Pacific Gateway Center

Re: GM 405, Sister Earnest Chung  
Reappointment to Advisory Council, Office of Language Access, DLIR  
GM 406, Dominic Inocelda  
Reappointment to Advisory Council, Office of Language Access, DLIR  
GM 407, Gerald Ohta  
Reappointment to Advisory Council, Office of Language Access, DLIR

(Public hearing scheduled for Saturday, March 7, 2008, 10:00 am, Rm 016)

I strongly support Sister Earnest of Catholic Charities, Dominic Inocelda of Susannah Wesley Community Center, and Gerald Ohta of State Department of Health Affirmative Action Office, who are highly experienced, most knowledgeable, superb people working in key agencies involved in language access. These three people are as highly qualified as any in all of Hawaii for the language access program.

Two main points:

1. Experience, knowledge of three superb people - All three have at least 25 years of experience each in their respective agencies and positions. They know the issues and territory of language access [and much more in the health and social services arena] as much as anyone in Hawaii and bring long years of hands-on experience, wide perspective, tremendous knowledge with them.
2. Key agencies – All three have each worked for their respective agencies and in their respective positions for at least two or more decades. Their agencies are large and important agencies in the health and social services, again like the three individuals, as important as any in Hawaii for their respective missions.

Again, I strongly support Sister Earnest, Dominic Inocelda, and Gerald Ohta for reappointment to the Advisory Council of the Office of Language Access, DLIR.





# UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

P.O. BOX 498, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0498

## OFFICERS 2006-2007

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\*2006-07

\*\*2007-08

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 405

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
March 7, 2008, 10 a.m. | Conference Room 016

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, gubernatorial nominee, EARNEST CHUNG, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

To: Hon. Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Hon. Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair  
Hon. Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: Bryan Andaya, President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii

The Oahu Filipino Community Council supports the confirmation of Sr. Earnest Chung to the Language Access Advisory Council. Her community knowledge and bilingual expertise that spans over four decades of serving immigrant and refugee populations through the Catholic Church and Catholic Charities contribute to the advisory council's ability to form partnerships for capacity building with both community and systems stakeholders for language access.

Founded in 1959 to help Filipinos in Hawaii play a larger role in the State of Hawaii, the mission of the Council is to promote a sense of unity, friendship, camaraderie and mutual assistance among Filipinos in Hawaii while promoting and perpetuating the Filipino heritage and culture. Today, the Council consists of six Island Councils with jurisdiction over 100+ Filipino organizations and a combined membership of about 10,000 from every major island in the State.

Thank you very much for hearing this testimony. Your conscientious legislative work is much appreciated by the Filipino community. Please vote yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Andaya, President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii



**LATE**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From:

  
Jerome E. Rauckhorst  
President & Chief Executive Officer

Date: Friday, March 7, 2008

RE: **Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, EARNEST CHUNG, for a term to expire 6-30-2012**

I strongly support the Confirmation of Sr. Earnest Chung to continue as a member of the Language Access Advisory Council for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

I have known Sr. Earnest Chung for over 10 years. She has a commitment to social justice for immigrants in Hawai'i and is a passionate advocate for fair treatment and to ensure that they are treated fairly and have full access to the services that they are entitled to receive.

During her tenure as the Executive Director of Catholic Charities Elderly Services and later as Executive Director of Catholic Charities Immigrant Services, Sr. Earnest fought very hard to ensure that language was not a barrier for persons with Limited English Proficiency to receive services that they needed and were qualified to receive. She advocated for the passage of the Language Access bill which is now a part of State law.

There is no one more qualified to serve effectively on this advisory council. As a member of the Language Access Advisory Council, Sr. Earnest Chung can continue to provide the state with knowledge and commitment to issues affecting persons with Limited English Proficiency. I fully support her confirmation. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

