

LATE TESTIMONY

Hawaii Interpreter Action Network  
c/o Hawaii Newspaper Guild  
888 Mililani Street, Room 303, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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TO: Rep. Rida T. R. Cabanilla, Chair; Rep. Karen Leinani Awana, Vice-chair  
House Committee on International Affairs

FROM: M. Alohalani Boido, M. A., Chair  
Legislative Action Committee, Hawaii Interpreter Action Network  
Tel.: 946-2558, E-mail: boido@hawaii.edu

HEARING: February 4, 2008; 8:35 a.m., Rm. 329

RE: **SUPPORT, HB 3398**, Relating to Foreign Language Programs

I am Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A., a Hawaii Judiciary Certified court interpreter (Spanish & English) and a founding member of Hawaii Interpreter Action Network (HIAN). HIAN is dedicated to representing Hawaii's court interpreters. We work to elevate professional standards of competence and ethics, and to improve working conditions.

The bill itself states the reasons why it should be enacted. We are in support because the majority of demand for language services in Hawaii is for Filipino languages.

Formal study in school is needed to develop the high level of language knowledge necessary to provide competent bilingual services. "Bilingual services" includes bilingual personnel as well as interpreters and translators.

"Kitchen" or "mother's knee" level in a language is how we describe the level of a person who learns their heritage language at home. It is not sufficient. To create high-level Hawaii-raised and Hawaii-educated speakers in these languages, we need these formal opportunities for schooling.

These Hawaii-raised and Hawaii-educated people are among those most likely to go on to provide very needed bilingual services in government and non-profit offices as staff, as well as interpreter and translator services to government offices. Such services are essential to providing language access to government services and linguistic due process in the courts.

**Please support HB 3398.** We need this bill. Thank you.