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TO: Honorable Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair
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Members of the Committee on Human Services & Housing

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

RE: **Testimony in Support of HCR128/HR110**
Hearing: March 17, 2008, 8:30 p.m., Room 329

The Office of Language Access (OLA) supports HCR128/HR110, which support federal financial assistance for persons in the United States under the Compacts of Free Association.

There has been a large influx of COFA migrants in Hawai'i. Most of the COFA migrants do not speak English as their primary language. Consequently, they have a significant need for language assistance in meeting their basic needs in education, housing and health. Federal financial assistance would benefit COFA migrants by helping to ensure that those needs are met.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.