

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A.

Hawaii State Judiciary Certified Court Interpreter, Spanish & English

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TO: Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair; Sen. Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice-Chair
Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee

RE: GM 345, Marcella Alohalani Bornstein Boido, M. A.
Reconfirmation to Language Access Advisory Council

HEARING: Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 016

From the first time that the bill on creating an Office of Language Access was introduced, I have testified and lobbied in its favor. The text on having a representative from an organization of professional interpreters was inserted at my suggestion in 1993. In 1997, I was appointed to that position. Hawaii Interpreter Action Network (HIAN) is supporting my application. Last week I was elected president of this organization.

For three years now I have served as HIAN's Chair of its Legislative Action Committee. In that capacity, I have worked with my colleagues and our many supporters in the community to lobby for a state court interpreter certification act.

In the early 1980s, I started working as a translator and conference interpreter. Starting in 1989, when I began working regularly as a court interpreter, I have been working to improve the "twin professions" of interpretation and translation in Hawaii, with particular attention to issues of ethics and performance standards. My degrees are in Political Science, and I am very interested in language access policy. In 2007 I became one of the first two people to pass the Hawaii State Judiciary court interpreter certification test in Spanish and English.

My mother and maternal grandparents entered the USA via Ellis Island in 1915. They were Polish Jews who had been living in France. As such, they spoke many languages, but English was not among them. They all made a difficult living in the garment trades. My father emigrated from Mexico, and it is thanks to him that I speak Spanish. I was born in Hawaii in 1950, and grew up mostly on Kauai. I saw first-hand the conditions in which our many immigrants lived, and I was very aware of the treatment they received. These are among the many factors that have made me a passionate supporter of immigrants rights in general and language access rights in particular.

I hope this brief introduction will earn your support for my reconfirmation as a member of the Office of Language Access Advisory Council.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer questions.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



DARWIN L. D. CHING
DIRECTOR

COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

SERAFIN P. COLMENARES JR.
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TO: Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

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

RE: **Testimony in Support of GM 345 (MARCELLA ALOHALANI BOIDO)**

HEARING: Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 016

Good morning, Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

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 OLA strongly supports the confirmation of Marcella Alohalani Boido to the Language Access Advisory Council.

M. Alohalani Boido is a current Council member who earned a Masters degree in political science from the University of Hawaii. She speaks Spanish fluently and has served as an interpreter for nearly 30 years. Ms. Boido is the incoming president of the Hawaii Interpreter Action Network, which recommended her to represent them as a professional interpreter's organization on the council.

For these reasons, the Office of Language Access strongly supports the confirmation of Marcella Alohalani Boido to the Language Access Advisory Council for a second term.

HAWAII INTERPRETER ACTION NETWORK (HIAN)
c/o Hawaii Newspaper Guild-CWA
888 Mililani Street, Suite 303
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 15, 2009

TO: Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair; Sen. Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice-Chair
Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee

RE: GMN 345, MARCELLA ALOHALANI BORNSTEIN BOIDO
Support of reconfirmation to Language Access Advisory Council

HEARING: Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 016

On behalf of Hawaii Interpreter Action Network, a professional interpreter's organization affiliated with the Hawaii Newspaper Guild-CWA, I write to express our support of the confirmation of Ms. Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A., as a continuing member of the Language Access Advisory Council. Ms. Boido is an experienced legal, medical, and administrative interpreter and translator with a deep background on interpreter and language access issues. In 2007, she became one of the first two Spanish interpreters in the state to be awarded Court Interpreter Certification by the Hawaii Judiciary.

Ms. Boido has long been recognized among interpreters, both in Hawaii and nationwide, for her expertise on interpreter issues. She was a founder of both of the professional interpreter organizations in our state, the Hawaii Interpreters and Translators Association (HITA) in 1990, and Hawaii Interpreter Action Network (HIAN) in 2002. She served as HITA's representative on the Hawaii Supreme Court Committee on Certification of Court Interpreters, and marshaled HITA's support for the Language Access Bill in 1993, as well as serving as Government Liaison Officer from 1990-1992. She is the only Hawaii interpreter to have served in an official capacity in the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), as a member of the NAJIT Committee on Shared Concerns with the Bench and Bar.

As HIAN's Legislative Action Chair from 2005-2009, Ms. Boido organized our lobbying efforts in support of the Court Interpreter Certification Bill during the past three Legislative sessions, as well as for the Language Access Bill in the 2005-2006 sessions. She was recently elected President of Hawaii Interpreter Action Network for the 2009-2010 term.

Ms. Boido has earned the respect and gratitude of her colleagues as a mentor and educator, and has given workshops and presentations on a variety of professional development topics over the years. Her dedication to interpreter issues is based on her lifelong concern for equal access to justice and due process for speakers of Limited English Proficiency. We are confident that as a member of the Language Access Advisory Council she will continue her valuable contributions to the development of effective language policy and services in our state.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information via phone or e-mail: (808) 531-5455, wcahill@cwahawaii.org. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wayne Cahill
Hawaii Newspaper Guild-CWA

Fax: 586-6659

Testimony in Support of GM 345 Marcella Alohalani Boido

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 9:30am Room 016

From: Tin Myaing Thein, Ph.D. Pacific Gateway Center

Dear Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Marcella Alohalani Boido) to a second term as member of the Language Access Advisory Council (LAAC). I am Tin Myaing Thein, Executive Director of the Pacific Gateway Center and recommends that the Committee confirms Alohalani to the LAAC.

Marcella Alohalani Boido presently serves on the LAAC and has already proven to be a vital force in speaking up for those populations who cannot speak for themselves. She, herself is a Spanish language interpreter for 30 years. She earned her Masters degree from the University of Hawaii in Political Science and is the incoming President of the Hawaii Interpreter Action Network. Alohalani is fearless as an advocate and is very well informed about the issues in the interpretation services nationwide.

She is passionate about the rights of those with limited English Proficiency and will bring another informed, experienced and professional voice to the Council. Pacific Gateway Center strongly supports the confirmation of Marcella Alohalani Boido to the Language Access Advisory Council for her second term. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Aloha,
Tin Myaing Thein

From: Sandra Tsukiyama de Oliveira [bz.woman@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 11:38 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: M. Alohalani Boido
Subject: GM 345 Marcella Alohalani Boido

This testimony in favor of the appointment of Marcella Alohalani Boido to the Language Access Advisory Council.

I began working as a Spanish/English interpreter in the State and Federal Courts in Honolulu in the late 1980s. I came to know Ms. Boido well, through the many DEA drug trials held during those years where both she and I worked as a tandem team. From that time and to the present, she has worked tirelessly as an advocate of the interpreters who provide bilingual services in the courts. There is no other person who has functioned in such a non-stop mode from that time to the present, in my recollection.

Ms. Boido researches and strives to distribute up-to-date information on the work of court interpreters at the national level and is a member in various professional interpreter associations. She actively solicits new candidates for training and works disseminating information for training and orientation sessions for aspiring language interpreters of all languages, especially Spanish and is also active in the Hawaii Interpreters Action Network.

I am absolutely positive in my recommendation that she will continue to fulfill this mission in assisting the courts in providing qualified, well-trained and ethical personnel to provide the limited and non-English-speaking population with their right to interpreter services in the court systems of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely, Sandra A. Tsukiyama de Oliveira



UNIVERSITY
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MĀNOA

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

March 17, 2009

By

Amy Agbayani

Director Student Equity, Excellence & Diversity

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council

Ms. Marcella Alohalani Bornstein Boido, M.A.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Ms. Marcella Alohalani Boido to the Language Access Advisory Council. I have been a colleague of Ms. Boido for decades. She is a highly recognized leader in Hawaii and the nation for her expertise and advocacy on interpreter issues and I am confident that she will continue to be a very valuable member of the Council.

As my community and professional work relates to cross-cultural communications, diversity and equity in higher education I understand the need to provide equal access for individuals with limited English ability and those that are limited through disability. The barriers which exist are formidable for these individuals and it is through the commitment, advocacy and service of professionals like Ms. Boido that these groups receive equal and fair access to services.

Because I am myself an immigrant and have worked with immigrant families for over thirty years, I fully support Ms. Boido's work with limited English speakers. Her personal experience growing up in Hawaii as a bilingual speaker in an immigrant family gives her insight into the barriers that immigrant families and individuals must face. With nineteen years of experience as a court interpreter, and additional expertise as a document translator specializing in legal and medical translations, she has proved to be a valuable asset in the court system. Ms. Boido is also an honorary member of an ASL (American Sign Language) organization which is by invitation only. As a strong advocate for equal access to higher education, especially for students with disabilities, I recognize the critical necessity of providing access to services and am confident that Ms. Boido is a highly qualified professional in her field of interpretation and translation. This competence was recently confirmed when she became one of the first court interpreters to be certified by the Hawaii State Judiciary. Her colleagues have also shown their support for her work by electing her as President of Hawaii Interpreter Action Network. I strongly encourage the committee to confirm her reappointment to the Language Access Advisory Council.

I respectfully request you support Ms. Boido's nomination.

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