

MDA[®]

Helping Jerry's Kids

**Presentation before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
April 15, 2009,
Jennifer Lani Li
Language Access Advisory Council**

Chair Taniguchi, members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, thank you for this opportunity to present background about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council.

I was born and raised in Hawai`i. I grew up in Hawai`i Kai and graduated from Punahou School. I also received a Bachelor of Science from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. majoring in International Relations as well as a Master of Science from the London School of Economics majoring in Comparative Politics.

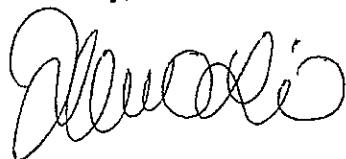
My mother's side of the family is first generation from Vietnam and Japan, while my father's side of the family is first generation from Hong Kong and Shanghai. Thanks to my family's diverse ethnic background, I speak fluent Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese.

In the course of my professional life, I had the wonderful international opportunity to work for the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong as well as the U.S. Embassy in London. Currently, I serve as the Health Care Care Services Coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association – an organization I've been involved with for 19 years beginning as a student volunteer and then as an employee for the past five years.

A position with the Language Access Advisory Council would give me the opportunity to work on an important range of issues that affect constituencies with limited ability to speak, read, write or understand the English language. I am able to draw upon my experience in working with over 500 children and adults living with neuromuscular diseases in Hawaii that need access to State agencies for services. Many of these families do not speak English as a first language and I am able to assist them as they seek resources from organizations that receive state funding. It would also be a unique opportunity for me to serve the Office of Language Access (OLA) in their goal to provide centralized oversight, coordination, and technical assistance regarding the implementation requirements of Hawai'i's Language Access Law.

My personality, background, education and experience give me the practical tools to succeed in this role. For these reasons, I humbly ask for you to support my nomination to the Language Access Advisory Council. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



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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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 GM511 (JENNIFER LANI LI)**
Language Access Advisory Council

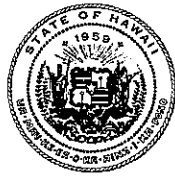
HEARING: Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Room 016

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am Serafin "Jun" Colmenares, the Executive Director with the Office of Language Access (OLA). The OLA strongly supports the confirmation of Jennifer Lani Li to the Language Access Advisory Council to represent a bilingual case management worker employed by a state-funded immigrant service agency.

Ms. Li is a new Council member who obtained her Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and Master's degree from the London School of Economics. Her family is first generation from Vietnam. Ms. Li speaks fluent Cantonese and studied Mandarin Chinese at Beijing Teacher's College, National Chengchi University in Taiwan and at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Previously, Ms. Li worked at the U.S. Embassy in London and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. She currently advocates language access for limited English and non-English speakers living with neuromuscular diseases and volunteers as a reading tutor for Hawaii Literacy. Currently, Ms. Li is the Health Care Services Coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, Ms. Li is an excellent addition to the Language Access Advisory Council and should be confirmed as a member.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Date : April 13, 2009
TO : Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

FROM: Rep. Barbara Marumoto *Bem*

RE : CONFIRMATION of JENNIFER LANI LI
LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL – GM511
Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Room 016

I am in strong support of the confirmation of Jennifer Lani Li to the Language Access Advisory Council

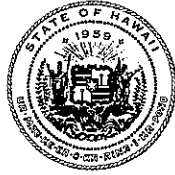
Ms. Li obtained her Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a Master's degree from the London School of Economics. Her family is from Vietnam. Ms. Li speaks fluent Cantonese and studied Mandarin Chinese at Beijing Teacher's College, National Chengchi University in Taiwan, and at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Ms. Li worked at the U.S. Embassy in London and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. Currently, Ms. Li is the Health Care Services Coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Hawai'i where she is a case management worker. She helps patients living with neuromuscular disease who have language access issues such as very limited English.

I have worked with Jennifer for the past 10 years as fellow members of the Honolulu Junior League. She is an efficient organizer with extraordinary leadership potential. She is upbeat and genuinely cares for her friends and her community.

Ms. Li would be an excellent addition to the Language Access Advisory Council. Please confirm this intelligent young woman. Mahalo!

Representative Barbara Marumoto
State Capitol Room 304, Honolulu HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-6310, Fax: (808) 586-6311
Email: repmarumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DATE: April 14, 2009

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

RE: **Testimony in Support of GM511 (JENNIFER LANI LI)**
Language Access Advisory Council

HEARING: Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 10:00am, Room 016

This is a letter in support of Ms. Jennifer Lani Li to the Language Access Advisory Council to represent a bilingual case management worker employed by a state-funded immigrant service agency for a term to expire on June 30, 2011.

Ms. Li is a new Council member who obtained her Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and Master's degree from the London School of Economics. Her family is first generation from Vietnam. Ms. Li speaks fluent Cantonese and studied Mandarin Chinese at Beijing Teacher's College, National Chengchi University in Taiwan and at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Previously, Ms. Li worked at the U.S. Embassy in London and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. She currently advocates language access for limited English and non-English speakers living with neuromuscular diseases. Currently, Ms. Li is the Health Care Services Coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Hawai'i.

I humbly ask your favorable consideration in confirming Ms. Li to this Council.

Sincerely,

Representative Roland D. Sagum III
Hawaii State House of Representatives
District 16

Date April 10, 2009
VIA FAX 586-6659

TO:

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

FROM:

Mr. Chester F. Kahapea
ALS patient
Muscular Dystrophy Association

RE:

**Testimony in Support of GM511 (JENNIFER LANI LI)
Language Access Advisory Council**

HEARING:

Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Room 016

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

My name is Chester F. Kahapea. I am a patient of the Muscular Dystrophy Association since being diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease) on March 14, 2008. I strongly support the confirmation of Jennifer Lani Li to the Language Access Advisory Council to represent a bilingual case management worker employed by a state-funded immigrant service agency.

Ms. Li is a new Council member who obtained her Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and Master's degree from the London School of Economics. Her family is first generation from Vietnam. Ms. Li speaks fluent Cantonese and studied Mandarin Chinese at Beijing Teacher's College, National Chengchi University in Taiwan and at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Previously, Ms. Li worked at the U.S. Embassy in London and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. She currently advocates language access for limited English and non-English speakers living with neuromuscular diseases. Currently, Ms. Li is the Health Care Services Coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, Ms. Li is an excellent addition to the Language Access Advisory Council and should be confirmed as a member. Thank you.

Sincerely,



JAYSON H. TAKATA, M.D.

BOARD CERTIFIED PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION
BOARD CERTIFIED ELECTRODIAGNOSTIC MEDICINE
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4/11/09

[VIA FAX 586-6659]

TO:

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

FROM:

Jayson H. Takata, M.D.
1329 Lusitana Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE:

Testimony in Support of GM511 (JENNIFER LANI LI)
Language Access Advisory Council

HEARING:

Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Room 016

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

I, **Jayson H. Takata, M.D.**, strongly supports the confirmation of Jennifer Lani Li to the Language Access Advisory Council to represent a bilingual case management worker employed by a state-funded immigrant service agency.

Ms. Li is a new Council member who obtained her Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and Master's degree from the London School of Economics. Her family is first generation from Vietnam. Ms. Li speaks fluent Cantonese and studied Mandarin Chinese at Beijing Teacher's College, National Chengchi University in Taiwan and at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Previously, Ms. Li worked at the U.S. Embassy in London and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. She currently advocates language access for limited English and non-English speakers living with neuromuscular diseases. Currently, Ms. Li is the Health Care Services Coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, Ms. Li is an excellent addition to the Language Access Advisory Council and should be confirmed as a member. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ronald Yamaoka, MD
Medical Director, Hawaii Market
TriWest Healthcare Alliance
3375 Koapaka Street Suite C310
Honolulu, HI 96819

April 12, 2009

TO:

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

FROM:

Ronald M Yamaoka, MD
Medical Director
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

RE:

Testimony in Support of GM511 (JENNIFER LANI LI)
Language Access Advisory Council

HEARING:

Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Room 016

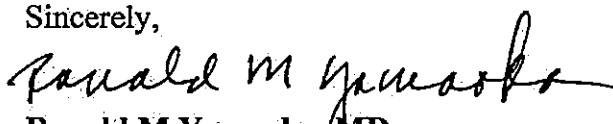
Good morning, Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I, **Ronald Yamaoka, MD of TriWest Health Alliance**, strongly support the confirmation of Jennifer Lani Li to the Language Access Advisory Council to represent a bilingual case management worker employed by a state-funded immigrant service agency.

Ms. Li is a new Council member who obtained her Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and Master's degree from the London School of Economics. Ms. Li speaks fluent Cantonese and studied Mandarin Chinese at Beijing Teacher's College, National Chengchi University in Taiwan and at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Previously, Ms. Li worked at the U.S. Embassy in London and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. She currently advocates language access for limited English and non-English speakers living with neuromuscular diseases. Currently, Ms. Li is the Health Care Services Coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Hawai'i.

Ms. Li would be an excellent addition and an asset to the Language Access Advisory Council and should be confirmed as a member.

Sincerely,


Ronald M Yamaoka, MD

CARLSMITH BALL LLP

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April 14, 2009

VIA EMAIL JGOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

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

RE: Testimony in Support of GM511 (JENNIFER LANI LI)
Language Access Advisory Council
HEARING: Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Room 016

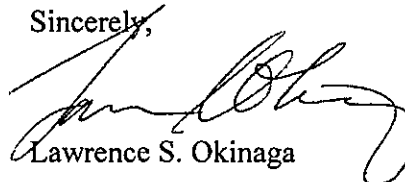
Dear Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I am writing to strongly support the confirmation of Jennifer Lani Li to the Language Access Advisory Council. I have known Jennifer for at least 10 years, as she has been very active with the Georgetown Club of Hawaii and as a Georgetown alumni.

Ms. Li is a new Council member who obtained her Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and Master's degree from the London School of Economics. Her family is first generation from Vietnam. Ms. Li speaks fluent Cantonese and studied Mandarin Chinese at Beijing Teacher's College, National Chengchi University in Taiwan and at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Previously, Ms. Li worked at the U.S. Embassy in London and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. She currently advocates language access for limited English and non-English speakers living with neuromuscular diseases. Currently, Ms. Li is the Health Care Services Coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, Ms. Li is an excellent addition to the Language Access Advisory Council and should be confirmed as a member. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lawrence S. Okinaga

LSO/soa