

Azi Turturici  
181 Hawaiiana Street  
Kapa'a, HI 96746

**TESTIMONY OF AZI TURTURICI – GM512**

**For Language Access Advisory Council hearing**

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

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Good morning. My name is Azi Turturici and I reside on the island of Kaua'i. I have been nominated to represent our island in the Language Access Advisory Council and I am very excited about it.

Many years ago I came to this country from war-torn Nicaragua with my mother and my two-year old child. To tell you that to start my life all over again was hard would be an understatement. But I spoke English. I attended an American school in Nicaragua and was an exchange student in Wyoming where I graduated from high school before returning to Nicaragua for college.

Most of my fellow Nicaraguans were not so lucky as they had not been exposed to English before. Many professionals (doctors, lawyers, engineers) made their start in the US in humble occupations because as smart as they were, for all practical purposes, they were deaf and dumb as English words had no meaning for them. I understood then that as an immigrant, LANGUAGE ACCESS is paramount.

Language access was needed for health centers, schools, job seeking, immigration, in fact, for everything that we take for granted. I had the opportunity to assist many of my countrymen (and women) and many others for whom English was a challenge through the maze of services available.

As a Council member, I will support the need to extend language access to Limited English Proficient members of our community and will take the necessary actions to reach as many people as possible during my tenure as council member.

I ask for your support and your vote to confirm me as a member of the Language Access Advisory Council.

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 GM512 (AZI TURTURICI)**  
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), which is administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The OLA strongly supports the confirmation of Azi Turturici to the Language Access Advisory Council to represent a resident of the County of Kauai with an interest in language access.

Ms. Turturici is a new Council member who has worked as the Accountant for the Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs for the last fourteen years. As an immigrant from Nicaragua, she speaks Spanish fluently. Her language skills have helped many Spanish-speaking persons obtain access to valuable services. In addition, Ms. Turturici is active in her community. She is a dog handler with the Kauai Search and Rescue, K9 Team and treasurer of the Kauai Toastmasters 2525, an organization dedicated to promote speaking and leadership skills. She has participated for many years in the Tax Counseling for the Elderly, an AARP volunteer program to assist seniors in preparing their income taxes. She heads the lector program and belongs to the Finance Committee at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Lihue, Kauai.

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

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
COUNTY OF KAUA'I  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

April 15, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON **GM 512**, RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE AZI TURTURICI.

TO THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE:

My name is Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor, providing testimony in support of  
Gubernatorial Nominee Azi Turturici to the Language Access Advisory Council (Council).

Ms. Turturici is being nominated to serve on the Board for a term expiring on June  
30, 2013. In addition to serving as a County employee, Ms. Turturici is an active  
community volunteer. Her knowledge of the County organization and the island of Kaua'i  
will be assets to the Council.

We ask you to confirm her nomination, and thank you for the opportunity to present  
testimony on this matter.

**BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.**  
MAYOR



**LUDVINA K. TAKAHASHI**  
EXECUTIVE ON AGING

**GARY K. HEU**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**COUNTY OF KAUA'I**  
**AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

April 13, 2009

Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Judiciary and Government Operations Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

RE: OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

As the Executive on Aging for the County of Kauai, Agency on Elderly Affairs, I support the appointment of Azi Turturici as a representative for Kauai on the Office of Language Access Advisory Council. I have the privilege of working with Azi Turturici on budgets, contracts, policies, procedures and data collection. She is an asset to our agency and will be an asset to the Advisory Council as well. She is very willing, capable and enthusiastic on all she does for our agency.

Azi is very professional and knowledgeable in executing her area of responsibilities including keeping budgets balanced, monitoring expenditures, and providing technical assistance to service providers as well as assisting staff with moving toward paperless record keeping. She has been very instrumental in preparing staff and positioning our agency as the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC).

Since coming to the United States from Nicaragua, Azi has experienced and understands the needs and feelings of persons who are not proficient in English. As such she would be an excellent resource person to provide input and make positive recommendations regarding the Language Access Law.

Azi Turturici will serve well on the Advisory Council. I highly recommend the approval of Azi for the Office of Language Access Advisory Council. Should more information be required I am available at [ktakahashi@kauai.gov](mailto:ktakahashi@kauai.gov) or (808) 241-4474.

Your consideration in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kealoha Takahashi  
Executive on Aging

# Seniors' Law Program

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April 13, 2009

The Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Judiciary and Government Operations Center  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Office of Language Access advisory Council Recommendation  
Azi Turturici

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

As founder and managing attorney of the Seniors' Law Program, I have had the privilege of working with Azi Turturici in her capacity as fiscal officer for the Kauai County Agency of Elderly Affairs for well over 14 years.

In addition, I have for the last two years worked side by side with her as a director of KSR (Kauai Search and Rescue), a non profit corporation offering canine assisted search and rescue services to the island of Kauai.

Azi is quite simply an island treasure. Born in Nicaragua, English is her second language. She knows first hand the professional and personal challenges faced by those working and living in Hawaii with English as a second language and has overcome all of those challenges to become not only one of the folks who care deeply about their community but, one of the folks that everyday "makes a difference".

As a financial offer, as side from being thoroughly versed and facile with any and all financial and contract matters within the scope of her professional duties, she has the unique ability to translate the difficult and confusing language of the accountant to terms understandable to those of us who view the language of finance as a second language.

Always one to speak her mind on issues of fairness and adherence to contract requirements, she still is able to maintain cordial and useful professional relationships with the very individuals with whom she disagrees.

**James Michael Ratcliffe**  
Managing Attorney

James Michael Ratcliffe  
President

Nalani Ka'auwai Brun  
Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors  
Daniel Pyun, Esq.  
Georgia Mossman  
Wallis Punua  
James Countiss, Esq.


April 13, 2009  
The Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi  
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A tireless worker, she and her husband have devoted thousands of hours, trudging through the mud in the backwoods of Kauai preparing for the time when they and their dogs prove to be the difference between life and death for a stranded hiker or victim of natural disaster. Not only is she a front line volunteer for KSAR, she is also a member of the board of directors and one of the key players that has taken a small band of volunteers with search dogs to a place where they are viewed as respected and a valued part of our Kauai Emergency Response Team.

I cannot imagine a more insightful, thoughtful, or powerful advocate for those struggling with language access difficulties or a more useful voice to those charged with the task of crafting the new shape of the language access law. I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending Azi Turturici for the office of Language Access Advisory Counsel.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office should you require any additional information.

Respect,



**JAMES MICHAEL RATCLIFFE**  
Managing Attorney

JMR/slw

Elmer Muraoka  
3252 Inouye Street  
Lihue, HI 96766

April 1, 2009

Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Judiciary and Government Operations Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219  
415 South Beretaina Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

**RE: OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

As a procurement administrator for the County of Kauai, Department of Finance, I have had the privilege of working with Azi Turturici as the fiscal officer for the Kauai County Agency of Elderly Affairs since January 1995. In working with Azi on procurement related matters and contracts, I have found her to be very willing, capable and able to discuss issues and concerns in an amicable and comfortable manner that is easily understood and received.

I have known Azi to be very professional and knowledgeable in executing her area of responsibility as it becomes clearly evident that she has a comfortable command of her highly technical duties and responsibilities when discussing program requirements.

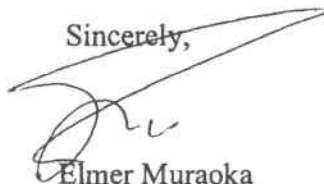
Further, as an adult person coming to the United States from Nicaragua, I believe she has experienced and understands the needs and feelings of persons who are not proficient in English. As such she would be an excellent resource person to provide input and make positive recommendations regarding the Language Access Law.

In closing, it is without reservation that **Azi Turturici** be recommended for the Office of Language Access Advisory Council.

Should more information be required I am available at [emuraoka@kauai.gov](mailto:emuraoka@kauai.gov) or (808) 241-6295.

Your consideration in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Elmer Muraoka

April 14, 2009

Honorable Senators Taniguchi, Takamine,  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
The Senate  
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009

SUBJECT: Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 016  
Testimony in SUPPORT of GM512 AZI TURTURICI

Aloha Honorable Senators,

I write today in strong support of Governor's Message No. 512, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Azi Turturici, for a term to expire 6-30-2013. Mrs. Turturici is a dedicated public servant, serving as the accountant for the Office of Elderly Affairs for the County of Kauai. An immigrant from Nicaragua, she speaks Spanish fluently and can be found offering assistance to Spanish-speaking persons in need of services. Mrs. Turturici is an active member in the community, participating in Kauai Search and Rescue, K-9 Unit, Toastmasters, AARP Volunteer Program and her church in Lihue. Please support and confirm Mrs. Turturici's reappointment to the Language Access Advisory Council.

Mahalo nui loa,

Barbara R. Pendragon