

GM219

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



DARWIN L.D. CHING
DIRECTOR

COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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March 5, 2010

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Date: March 9, 2010
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

**GM 219 – TIN MYAING THEIN
Language Access Advisory Council**

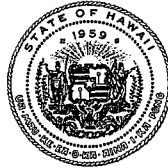
The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations strongly supports the confirmation of DR. TIN MYAING THEIN.

Dr. Tin Myaing Thein is the Executive Director of Pacific Gateway Center, a nonprofit organization that assists immigrants, refugees, and low-income residents. An important part of the Center's mission is to provide bilingual services. As such, the Center has already served as an important resource for the Office of Language Access' translation needs in developing multilingual signage for government offices to use.

Dr. Thein has served national and international communities as a strong advocate of minority small business for over 25 years. She is very aware of the obstacles and communication barriers that immigrants and limited English proficient persons are often faced with. She also knows the challenges involved when immigrants try to start their own businesses. Throughout her work, Dr. Thein is dedicated, passionate, and committed to assisting low income and disadvantaged minority individuals to realize their dreams of starting their own businesses. In addition, she has a wealth of experience in program planning and fundraising.

Dr. Thein has been serving on the Language Access Advisory Council for nearly 3 years and has demonstrated that she is a strong asset to the council and their goals.

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March 5, 2010

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 219 (TIN MYAING THEIN)**

HEARING: Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 9:30 a.m., Room 016

Good morning, Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor :

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am Serafin "Jun" Colmenares, and I am the Executive Director of the Office of Language Access (OLA). The Office of Language Access strongly supports the reappointment of Dr. Tin Myaing Thein to the Language Access Advisory Council.

Dr. Tin Myaing Thein is a current Council member who has over 35 years of experience in community and economic development, administering and implementing programs for both national and international organizations. Since 1986 when she began her work with Child and Family Services, he has dedicated much of her life to community service and has first hand knowledge of the needs and issues faced by Hawaii's immigrant communities. Dr. Myaing earned her Master's Degree in Public Health/Population Studies from the University of Pittsburgh and her Ph.D. in Medical Sociology from Columbia University.

As the Executive Director of the Pacific Gateway Center for the past 13 years, Dr. Myaing oversees 14 community-based programs assisting immigrants, refugees and low-income individuals to succeed in their efforts to become economically and socially self-sufficient. As a result, Dr. Myaing is aware of the much needed services for and issues faced by low-income families, isolated elderly immigrants and refugees, and people and families who are homeless. More importantly, Dr. Myaing has hands on experience in working with the immigrant

communities of Hawaii, which are the communities who often face language access issues when seeking government services.

As a current member of the Language Access Advisory Council, Dr. Myaing is the Chair of the Council's Committee on Special Projects. She has brought her expertise and knowledge to the Council's work and has actively participated in the planning and implementation of the annual statewide conferences on language access and the language access month activities. She has continually endeavored to advocate for the limited English proficient population of Hawaii and is an ardent supporter of immigrant and language access rights. Dr. Myaing is a dedicated, active and contributing member and we are confident that she will continue to be an important asset to the Council.

For these reasons, the Office of Language Access strongly supports the reappointment of DR. TIN MYAING THEIN to the Language Access Advisory Council.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 8, 2010

JGO
Tue, March 9,
9:30 AM

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair of Judiciary and Government Operations Committee

Re: GM 219
Nomination of Tin Myaing Thein to the Language Access Advisory Council

It is my privilege and pleasure to support the nomination of Tin Myaing Thein, Ph.D., to the Language Access Advisory Council, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Dr. Myaing is the executive director of the Pacific Gateway Center (PGC), formerly known as the Kalihi Palama Immigrant Center. Dr. Myaing has decades of experience working with people of limited English skills in Hawaii and knows exceedingly well the issues, strengths, and shortcomings of the human services sector in dealing with people with limited English language skills.

PGC is a leader in advocating for these people and, in its effort to be part of the solution, operates a language bank which provides translators to many government and non-profit agencies.

For purposes of disclosure, I am member of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Gateway Center.

Mahalo for your favorable consideration.

Karl Rhoads

Karl Rhoads ~ Chair, Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Member of Committees on Education, Higher Education, Public Safety and Transportation
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Dr. Myaing, Language Access Advisory Council, 030810 /Letters 2010

From: Amy Agbayani [agbayani@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 3:37 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: rhoads3-Bertrand
Subject: march 9 testimony on GM 219: Tin Myaing Thein

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010

TESTIMONY ON GM 219: TIN MYAING THEIN NOMINEE TO THE LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

SUBMITTED BY: DR. AMY AGBAYANI
CO-CHAIR, HAWAII FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS
VICE CHAIR NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILIPINO AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

My name is Amy Agbayani and I strongly endorse the nomination of Dr. Tin Myaing Thein to the Language Advisory Council. In my professional work at the University of Hawai'i and the immigrant community, I have had many opportunities over the decades to work with Dr. Tin Myaing Thein on issues related to civil rights and governmental services for immigrants. Her knowledge of problems of access to state services for individuals who are not native speakers of English will make her a valuable member of the Language Access Advisory Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Tin Myaing Thein for her competence and for her willingness to serve on this important council.

Finally, my mahalo to Chair Taniguchi and the committee for their continuing support of programs serving our immigrant community.