

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

April 11, 2012; 10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol - Conference Room 016

RE: GM 846 – Nomination of Dominic Inocelda to the Office of Language Access Advisory Council – In Support

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee:

My name is Todd Inafuku, **testifying in strong support of GM 846**, which nominates Dominic Inocelda to the Office of Language Access Advisory Council.

Although we attended the same high school together, it wasn't until the last 10 years that I have come to know Dominic Inocelda very well as we worked together on projects, have mutual friends and share a love for music. Dominic is an excellent communicator, a great listener, compassionate and understanding. He will be a great asset for the Office of Language Access Advisory Council and a champion for those who seek access to State or State-funded services but are unable to effectively communicate due to a limited ability to speak, read or write the English language. Because Hawaii is the melting pot of the Pacific and it is our diversity that is our strength, we need the qualities of people like Dominic Inocelda to serve on the Advisory Council for the Office of Language Access to ensure that we all have a voice in the land of Aloha. Please confirm Dominic Inocelda's nomination to the Advisory Council for the Office of Language Access.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Todd K. Inafuku
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Susannah Wesley Community Center

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TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Ronald Higashi, Executive Director
Susannah Wesley Community Center

DATE: April 10, 2012

RE: In Support of GM 846, the Governor's nomination of Mr. Domenic Inocelda as a member of the State Language Access Advisory Council

My name is Ronald Higashi. I am the executive director of Susannah Wesley Community Center. I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Mr. Inocelda as a member of the State Language Access Advisory Council.

It has been my privilege to work with Dominic for over 30 years. During his long tenure at the center, he has demonstrated the highest degree of professionalism and personal integrity.

Under his leadership the agency has provide many services that work and help those with limited English speaking capacity. He has truly been an advocate for those of which English is not the primary language.

Domenic has been a "champion" for human rights and was recognized by the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter a few years ago as the Social Worker of the Year for Social Justice.

Again I without reservations support his nomination as a member of the State Language Access Advisory Council.