

GM 848



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
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April 11, 2012

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Nominee, Mary Santa Maria (GM 848)
As a Member of the Language Access Advisory Council

Wednesday, April 11, 2012
10:00 a.m., Rm 016, State Capitol

Testimony of Dwight Takamine, Director,
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

The department supports the confirmation of Mary Santa Maria to the Language Access Advisory Council. The Language Access Advisory Council serves as an advisory board to the executive director of the Office of Language Access (OLA), which provides centralized coordination and assistance to State agencies and organizations to ensure that no person is denied access to State or State-funded services due to their limited ability to speak, read, write, or understand the English language.

Ms. Santa Maria currently works as Public Health Educator in the Maui District Health Office of the State Department of Health (DOH) where she works on chronic disease and related issues. As part of her work within DOH, she was formerly a HIV Counselor/Tester Trainer and Quality Assurance Coordinator, HIV Prevention Educator, and worked on healthy communities projects, family planning, and physical fitness promotion. Her former employment included working as a hepatitis B demonstration project coordinator for Kokua Kalihi Valley Community Health Center, kinesiology instructor, fitness trainer, and Peace Corps volunteer.

Among her many community activities, Ms. Santa Maria has been actively involved with

the Maui County Healthy Volunteers, Maui AIDS Foundation Board, Board of Parents Inc., and the Board of Directors of the Maui Office of the American Heart Association. She has been a Community Clinic Spanish Interpreter, Red Cross HIV Counseling Trainer, Trainer for drug addiction, and speaks Spanish and Italian.

Ms. Santa Maria has been awarded the Governor's Outstanding Team Award as a member of the Dengue Response Team and honored as Outstanding Young Woman of America. Her professional associations include the National Peace Corps Association, Maui Interpreter Hui, Hawaii Public Health Association, and the Maui Rotary Club, among others.

Ms. Santa Maria earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education/Health Education from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master's of Science Degree in Athletic Administration/Adult Education from Texas A&I University, and a Master's Degree in Public Health in Health Education/Environmental Education from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

In addition to Ms. Santa Maria's various educational, community and professional achievements and experiences, her work and knowledge in language access, medical interpreting training, and health services access for limited English-proficient persons at community and State agencies enable her to make valuable contributions to the Council.

I urge you to confirm Mary Santa Maria to the Language Access Advisory Council where, if appointed, she will continue to serve the Council and the public's interest well.



STATE OF HAWAII
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TO: Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

RE: **Testimony in Support of GM848 (MARY SANTA MARIA)**
Language Access Advisory Council

HEARING: Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Room 016

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am Serafin "Jun" Colmenares, Executive Director of the Office of Language Access (OLA). The OLA strongly supports the reappointment of Mary Santa Maria as member of the Language Access Advisory Council representing Maui.

Ms. Santa Maria is a Public Health Educator with the Maui District Health Office and the Chronic Disease Prevention Branch of the Department of Health. She is involved with language access, medical interpreting training, and health services access for Limited English Proficient persons at community and state agencies. Ms. Santa Maria holds a Master's degree in public health from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is a certified trainer for Cross Cultural Health's "Bridging the Gap" medical interpreters training. She teaches a course on interpretation at Maui College and recently completed the 5-day training/workshop on Community Interpreting conducted by Cross Cultural Communications. We urge the committee to confirm her reappointment.