



## *Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.*

*... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.*

NAMI, P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

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Testimony in Strong Support of HB2374  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai`i State Capitol, Room 211  
Mar. 29, 2012, 9 a.m.

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, & Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, President, Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.  
Report Title: Office of Language Access

Description: Transfers the Office of Language Access to the Department of Health, as an  
administratively attached agency. Effective July 1, 2012.

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am proud to submit our strong support for this bill. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people through education, mentoring, advocacy and service.

NAMI actively advocated for Hawai'i's Language Access bill in 2006. We believe that this bill is a step in the right direction. I would like to thank the Dept. of Health for taking on the Office of Language (OLA) as an attached agency. Appreciation is extended to the Dept. of Labor & Industrial Relations for their previous administrative support of OLA.

Thank you to the legislators for this opportunity to testify and for hearing these bills.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA  
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

*Inter-Agency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services*

c/o Susannah Wesley Community Center  
1117 Kaili Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

March 28, 2012

TO: **Senator David Y. Ige, Chair and members of the Committee on Ways and Means**

FROM: Dominic Inocelda, President, Inter-Agency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services and Its Members

RE: TESTIMONY: In **Strong Support of HB 2374**, Relating to Language Access

I and the members of the Inter-Agency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services would like to ask for your support to pass HB 2374, which would transfer the Office of Language Access from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Health as an administratively attached agency.

The Inter-Agency Council has been a strong supporter of language access for Hawaii residents and visitors who speak little or no English. The organization was one of the key partners in the passage of the law which created the Office of Language Access. As such, we have a deep interest in the ability of the office to fulfill its purpose “to affirmatively address, on account of national origin, the language access needs of limited English proficient persons”.

At this current time and circumstance we feel that a transfer of the Office of Language Access from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Health would better serve the purpose of the office. The Department of Health has had a long history of service to the limited English speaking population and has a current focus on ensuring that health related concerns address all of Hawaii’s people. The coverage of health concerns includes a broad spectrum of a person’s life and therefore the Office of Language Access could have a broader impact on the State’s ability to ensure language access. We have a general consensus that the offices’ placement within the Department of Health would provide OLA with a broader base of support that would strengthen its ability to successfully fulfill its mission and to achieve its goals.

Again we ask for your support in the passage of HB 2374. We thank you for listening and providing an opportunity to voice our support of HB 2374.

## Office of Language Access Advisory Council

830 Punchbowl Street, #322

Honolulu, Hawaii 967813

March 28, 2012

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Dominic Inocelda, Chair and members of the Office of Language Access Advisory Council

RE: **Support of HB 2374**, To Transfer the Office of Language Access from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Health

In 2006, the legislature passed and the Governor signed the Language Access Law which created the Office of Language Access (OLA). This law ensures that limited English speaking persons have equal access to state-funded services in Hawaii. The law also created an advisory council to advise and support the work of the office.

The advisory council has reviewed and discussed the current status of the Office of Language Access and has concluded that it would be in the best interest of the office to transfer from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Health. It is felt that at the current time the Department of Health would provide a broad base of support and alignment of goals relating to strengthening language access initiatives for limited and non-English speakers in the State. As we have a commitment to support the success and ability of the office to fulfill its function, the advisory council would like to request your support for the passage of HB 2374.

On behalf of the advisory council I would like to express our appreciation for your review and thoughtful consideration for the passage of HB 2374.

Listed below are the current advisory council members and their affiliations:

### **Advisory Council Members / Affiliation**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Uriarte, Edelene	Limited English Population	
Thein, Tin Myaing Dr.	Bilingual Referring Agency- Pacific Gateway Center	
Brow, Anh "Betty"	Oahu Representative	
Mabanglo, Ruth Dr.	U.H. Dept. of Language	
Asuncion, Llto M.	Hawaii County Representative	
Melba Bantay	Covered Entity	
Inocelda, Dominic	Advocacy Organization	
Ohta, Gerald	State Government	
Santa Maria, Mary F. MS, MPH	Maui County Representative	
Boido, Marcella Alohalani	Interpreter Organization	
Dotson, Jennifer L.	Bilingual Case Management	
Rawlins, Namaka Dr.	Hawaiian Language Organization	
Turturici, Azi	Kauai Representative	
Pagano, Kristine K.H.	DCAB	Ex-officio
Hoshijo, William	Civil Rights Commission	Ex-officio

# Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President  
P. O. Box 270126 ★ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

Testimony in Strong Support of HB2374  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211  
Mar. 29, 2012, 9 a.m.

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, & Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League  
Report Title: Office of Language Access

Description: Transfers the Office of Language Access to the Department of Health, as an administratively attached agency. Effective July 1, 2012.

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Jake Manegdeg. I am proud to strongly support this bill. The League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

I am pleased with the provisions of this bill because the Office of Language Access is important to the equal access and non-discrimination of health and government services that are especially vital to people's survival today. I want to extend my gratitude to the Dept. of Health for their leadership and sacrifice to make this possible. Thank you also to the Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations for their past administrative support.

To our legislators, thank you for hearing this bill. I respectfully request your support to pass this bill.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg  
President, Filipino American Citizens League



## **OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**P.O. Box 17531 · Honolulu · Hawaii 96817**

Testimony in Strong Support of HB2374  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211  
Mar. 29, 2012, 9 a.m.

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, & Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
From: Maria Etrata, President, Oahu Filipino Council of Hawaii  
Report Title: Office of Language Access

Description: Transfers the Office of Language Access to the Department of Health, as an  
administratively attached agency. Effective July 1, 2012.

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am proud to provide strong testimony in support of this bill. My name is Maria Etrata, president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella organization that represents a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities.

OFCC was one of many community groups that advocated for the successful passage of Hawaii's Language Access bill in 2006. We are committed stakeholders in the recovery of our economy. Equal access to health care is an important work force issue.

OFCC would like to thank the Dept. of Health for leading the way to provide equal access to health services through the language access provisions of this bill. Thank you to the Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations for past administrative support of the Office of Language Access.

Thank you to the legislators for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and for hearing these bills. Your kind consideration for the passage of this bill is greatly appreciated and needed.

Sincerely,

Maria Etrata  
President, Oahu Filipino Community Council