



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 322
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor/ola
Phone: (808) 586-8730 / Fax: (808) 586-8733
Email: dlir.ola@hawaii.gov

To: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukoro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Serafin Colmenares Jr.
Executive Director, Office of Language Access

Hearing: April 10, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

Re: **Testimony in Support of GM985 (MINDY EMMONS)**
Language Access Advisory Council

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Serafin "Jun" Colmenares, the Executive Director with the Office of Language Access (OLA). The OLA strongly supports the confirmation of Mindy Emmons to the Language Access Advisory Council to represent the County of Kauai.

Ms. Emmons holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish; a Master of Arts degree in Linguistics; and a Certificate in Translation and Interpretation. She worked full-time as a court interpreter in Los Angeles County for over twenty-four years. She is certified by the American Translators Association to translate from Spanish to English and is a court interpreter certified by the Federal, California, and Hawai'i Courts. She has been living on Kaua'i for eight years and now works as a freelance translator over the internet, mostly of legal documents. She is one of the court interpreter trainers for the Hawai'i Judiciary and is a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Court Interpreters and Language Access. She is currently the president of the Hawai'i Interpreter Action Network and has served as its vice-president since 2007.

She has also been active in various OLA activities, including her participation as a presenter at OLA's annual conference and has assisted our work as a member of various OLA subcommittees.

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



Gregory S. Miller

Interpreter Training and Testing Specialist

224 Stockbridge Avenue
Alhambra CA 91801-2930
Phone 626.458.0515
E-mail gregory.miller.123@gmail.com

April 8, 2013

TO: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair; Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro , Vice-Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Gregory Miller

HEARING: April 10, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Conf. Rm. 016

RE: **SUPPORT GM 685, Mindy Emmons**
Language Access Advisory Council, Kauai seat

Mindy Emmons had been a colleague of mine for over 30 years. She is an excellent interpreter and translator with very high ethical standards. Her ATA, state and federal certifications speak to her professional accomplishments. She has also served as an exam rater for the FCICE (Federal Court Interpreter Certification Exam.)

I have no hesitation in recommending her for the Hawaii Language Access Advisory Council.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory S. Miller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Gregory S. Miller

Ríos Translations

Madeline Newman Ríos

492 GEORGIA COURT, CLAREMONT, CA 91711

PHONE: (909) 621-9600 / (909) 581-4980

FAX (909) 524-4383 CELL: (909) 263-4579

email: Riospanish@aol.com

*Official Certified Interpreter and Translator for the
California State and U.S. District Courts
Certified (S>E) by the American Translators Association*

Recommendation for Mindy Emmons

To the Hawaii Senate

I am writing to recommend Ms. Mindy Emmons for the Hawaii Language Access Advisory Council.

I have known Ms. Mindy Emmons in my capacity the owner of Ríos translations, as an ATA certified translator, as an official interpreter for the U.S. Federal Courts, as a continuing education trainer approved by the Judicial Council of California, and as a former board member of SCATIA, the former Southern California Translators and Interpreters Association.

Ms. Mindy Emmons is a highly competent translator and interpreter and has been actively involved in maintaining and improving professional standards in the translation and interpretation profession. She is one of a select group of linguists in the U.S. who has been certified both by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts as an interpreter for the federal judicial system and also as a translator by the American Translators Association. What this means in practical terms is that she has demonstrated mastery of both written and oral language conversion skills and is familiar not only with their application in the criminal realm, but also in the civil realm.

During my four years of service on the SCATIA Board, I also witnessed Ms. Emmons's devotion to the profession, since she often volunteered to help organize professional training sessions for other interpreters. In this work, she continually demonstrated technical skill and commitment.

I have known Ms. Emmons for well over 10 years and can attest to her rigorous ethics in her professional work and in her relations with her colleagues.

Thank you for your consideration,



Madeline Rios

Owner, Ríos Translations

Corinne Edelson Cline

1564-A Fitzgerald, Pinole, CA 94564

Tel: 707-235-1684

COURT INTERPRETER•EDUCATOR•CONSULTANT

TO: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair; Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro , Vice-Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Corinne Cline
California and Federal Court Certified Interpreter

HEARING: April 10, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Conf. Rm. 016

RE: **SUPPORT GM 685, Mindy Emmons**
Langauge Access Advisory Council, Kauai seat

Dear Senate Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to recommend Mindy Emmons for an appointment to the Hawaii Language Access Advisory Council.

I have known Mindy for over 35 years and have found her to be professional, trustworthy, reliable and very thorough in all of her endeavors. Mindy and I have worked together in courtroom settings as interpreters, in classrooms as instructors and in training sessions for the Federal Court Interpreters Exam. I am also the Translation Project Manager for the Autism Research Institute and I have been able to hire Mindy for several projects. She has always turned around the work in a very prompt and accurate manner. When I taught Court Interpreting at the University of Massachusetts I was able to call upon Mindy to assist in the development of Court Interpreter Exams and she also turned out all work in a prompt and accurate manner.

Mindy understands language access issues and has a thorough understanding of the Interpreting profession and its challenges. I know that whatever the task may be that is set before her, she will act conscientiously keeping in mind the best interests of the State of Hawaii.

I strongly support Mindy Emmon's nomination as a member of the the Hawaii Language Access Advisory Council.

Sincerely,

Corinne Cline

Corinne Cline

April 8, 2013

TO: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair; Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro , Vice-Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Mr. Bruce H. Inouye

HEARING: April 10, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Conf. Rm. 016

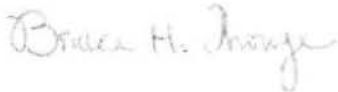
RE: **SUPPORT GM 685, Mindy Emmons**
Language Access Advisory Council, Kauai seat

Dear Senators,

I am writing as a personal friend of Mindy Emmons who was nominated by Governor Abercrombie to serve on the Hawaii Language Access Advisory Council and whose nomination is subject to Senate confirmation. I have been friends with Ms. Emmons for approximately 10 years and I strongly support her nomination to the Language Access Advisory Council, Kauai seat. During the time that I've known her, Ms. Emmons has proven to be an honest person and is one who exhibits high integrity.

I believe that the appointment of Ms. Emmons to the Language Access Advisory Council will truly benefit the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,



Bruce H. Inouye

TESTIMONY OF MINDY EMMONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
On
April 10, 2013

GM685

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, MINDY EMMONS, for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

Chair Hee and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I want to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I truly consider this an honor and a privilege to be considered as a member of the Language Access Advisory Council.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone that submitted letters of support on my behalf and to everyone here in attendance giving me their support.

I moved to Hawaii nine years ago. Since then, I have been very blessed to be part of the Hawaii community through professional, community, church, and social involvement.

I know that my work experience as an interpreter and translator and my volunteer work in various professional organizations qualifies me to be a member of this Council. An essential part of language access is having qualified and ethical interpreters and translators to serve the Limited English Proficient population. I would like to help ensure that the LEP community receives the language services they need.

In closing, I would like to thank this Committee for the hard work you do for the State of Hawaii and for giving me the opportunity to be here today. Thank you for considering my nomination.

At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

6510 Olohena Road

Kapa`a, HI 96746

April 6, 2013

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, and Sen Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Andrew F. Bushnell, Emeritus Professor of History, Kaua`i Community College

HEARING: April 10, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Conf. Rm. 016

RE: Support GM 685, Mindy Emmons

Language Access Advisory Council, Kaua`i seat

Dear Senators,

I am a life-long resident of Hawai`i. I taught History at Kaua`i Community College for thirty-seven years and have now been retired for six. I have served on a number of boards and commissions, including the Kaua`i County Planning Commission, the Kaua`i Historic Preservation Review Commission and the board of the Hawai`i Council for the Humanities, so I am familiar with the kind of work required by these important bodies.

I have known Mindy Emmons for more than a year and a half as we paddle together regularly. Since our crew is a very informal group, we spend almost as much time talking (*wala`au*) as we do paddling. Thus I have gotten to know Mindy quite well and can attest to the fact that Mindy is a bright and articulate woman who is interested in what is going on, both on Kaua`i and in the world at large. She is thoughtful of others and extremely reliable and a pleasure to work with.

As a translator and interpreter in the local court system she has been very interested in ensuring that all people appearing before the courts have fair representation, and that includes language access, being able to understand and be understood in the legal proceedings.

Mindy has experience in a wide variety of translating and interpreter work beyond the courts, and she has served as a trainer of interpreters as well. Her combination of personal characteristics, skills and experience suggest that she will have much to offer as a member of the Language Access Advisory Council. I recommend her highly!

Aloha nō!

LAW OFFICES OF NANCY J. BUDD
4374 Kukui Grove Street, Suite 103
Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
(808) 245-5343

TO: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair, Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: NANCY J. BUDD

HEARING: April 10, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Rm. 016

RE: **SUPPORT GM 685**
APPOINTMENT OF MINDY EMMONS
to the Language Access Advisory Council

I am writing to express my full and enthusiastic support for **Mindy Emmons** to be confirmed to the Language Access Advisory Council. I have known Mindy for more than six years in both a professional and personal capacity. Mindy has an extensive background in providing language access to our courts and those in need of assistance in navigating our judicial system. She transforms that knowledge into leadership opportunities that open additional avenues of access. I have full confidence that Mindy will serve as Kauai's representative with professional integrity and passion. Please confirm Mindy Emmon's appointment to serve on the Language Access Advisory Council.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy J. Budd
Attorney at Law

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A.
Hawaii State Judiciary Certified Court Interpreter
Spanish & English

2733 Kaaha Street A5
Telephone: 946-2558

Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-4736
E-mail: boido@hawaii.edu

TO: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair; Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro , Vice-Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

HEARING: April 10, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Conf. Rm. 016

RE: **SUPPORT GM 685, MIndy Emmons, M. A.**
Langauge Access Advisory Council, Kauai seat

Although I was born in Honolulu, I spent most of my childhood on Kauai. When Mindy Emmons moved there, I was happy to learn that my home island would have such an outstanding interpreter available to serve Kauai's Spanish-speaking population. She has a history of leadership in California. Before long we asked her to take on leadership responsibilities here, too. She has done so with a quiet grace. We rely on her.

Mindy holds both California and federal court interpreter certification. She is certified as a Spanish-to-English translator by the American Translator Association. This combination of high-level credentials is extremely rare.

I asked Mindy to please serve on the Language Access Advisory Council. She brings a depth of experience in the fields of interpretation and translation that are unequalled in Hawaii. Her high level within the professions has resulted in valuable connections to colleagues and sources of information on the mainland for us. She has won our hearts with her clear, grounded vision and warm, friendly ways. Her point of view is based on profound understanding of the field and an ability to do the necessary research so that she can advise the Office on Language Access and its Advisory Council appropriately. Hawaii, OLA, and the LAAC need her depth of professional experience and her dedication to and understanding of these professions. Her humble, terse ways and immersion in the issues make her a tremendously valuable addition to the LAAC. We will be very fortunate to have her on the Council.

Please support MIndy Emmons for the Kauai seat on the Language Access Advisory Council. *Mahalo, mil gracias,* and thank you!

TO: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair; Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro , Vice-Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Diana J. Austin

HEARING: April 10, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Conf. Rm. 016

RE: **SUPPORT GM 685, Mindy Emmons**
Language Access Advisory Council, Kauai seat

I have know Mindy Emmons over twenty years. Both of us were members of Twentieth Church of Christ, Scientist, Los Angeles California and worked together to support the church organization in serving the community.

Mindy served in several executive positions of the church: member of the Board of Directors; First Reader, Secretary and Treasurer. In each of these positions she made outstanding contributions to the church organization and the members were very grateful for her services. When she moved to Hawaii and left us, we felt a great loss.

Mindy and I are also personal friends and I have always appreciated this friendship and grateful to have know her.

I am sure that in every activity and manner of employment she will made a valid contribution to that organization.