

OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS (OLA)
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Date: February 21, 2013

TO: The House Committee on Finance, Representative Sylvia Luke- Chair and Committee Members

FROM: Dominic Inocelda, OLA Advisory Council Chair and Members

RE: **In Support of HB266, Relating to Language Access**

At the Office of Language Access Advisory Council meeting on February 13, 2013, the advisory council discussed HB 266, Relating to Language Access and voted to **support HB266.**

The Advisory Council fully agrees that the need to further identify, train, develop, and improve the quantity and quality of interpreters and translators in Hawaii is vitally needed to make language access a reality for Hawaii's limited and non-English speaking people. The 2010 census data reported that of the foreign born population in Hawaii, 120,793 persons were limited English proficient speakers. This is a 12.7 percent increase from the 2000 census data of 107,205 foreign born persons who were limited English speakers.

Members have expressed varying views of how this common goal is to be accomplished and have offered necessary and vital input that helps the Office of Language Access to promote an accountable and responsible plan and program implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our **support of HB266.**