

# GM598

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, AUGUSTINA TAKASHY, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

Report Title: Language Access Advisory Council

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):

**Governor's Message 598:**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation  
to the Language Access Advisory Council,  
Gubernatorial Nominee AUGUSTINA TAKASHY  
for a term to expire 06-30-2018**

**Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair; Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
March 1, 2016, 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 229

**Testimony in Support**

It has been my honor to know Augustina "Tina" Takashy for more than 40 years.

My wife and I served in the Peace Corps in Chuuk from 1974-76 and lived in a house owned by and next to her parent's home on the island of Tonowas. We developed a close relationship with her parents, siblings, and extended family members. Tina is part of a remarkably industrious and entrepreneurial family.

While we were in Chuuk, Tina herself was in the U.S. at college and we saw her only briefly during her visit home. But since we moved to Hawaii in 1978, we have known Tina well, as family, and remained in close contact over the years as she developed her academic and professional skills in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific Islands region.

Her numerous accomplishments have tremendous range. But within that variety is a common thread focused on commitment to community service and to the welfare and advancement of Micronesians and other Pacific Islanders.

Tina Takashy will be a valuable resource as a member of the Language Access Advisory Council, especially given Hawaii's growing Micronesian population, her international and intercultural knowledge, and her expertise in Asia-Pacific language, health, social, cultural, and development issues.

I strongly encourage you to confirm the appointment of Augustina Takashy to the Language Access Advisory Council. Thank you.

Aloha,



Greg Knudsen  
1205 Kaeleku Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

February 25, 2016

Testimony for Tina Takashy

To whom it may concern:

My name is Joshua Phillip. I work at the Department of Health Services as the Project Coordinator for Hawaii's new Partnership For Success (PFS) grant. I'm a friend of Tina Takashy. Ms. Takashy had asked me provided a brief testimony for her regarding her appointment or nomination to your board, which I am more than happy to do.

I've known Ms. Takashy for several years as a colleague and friend while we were both employed at the Department of Health Services in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in the 1990's. I knew right away how smart, wise, dedicated, hardworking and engaging she was. She loved working with and helping people, and advocating for the under-served and under-privileged. She has always been an activist for social fairness and equality for all people. She loves to empower people to do and be the best they can. After 15 years since our FSM days, she is still the same person, doing the things she loves.

I'm proud and happy to be her friend and am most certain that her many fine qualities will be beneficial to the board which she's being nominated or appointed to. I support her wholeheartedly. Should you need more information, I will be glad to provide them.

Sincerely,

Joshua Phillip

**From:** [kandhi.a.elieisar](mailto:kandhi.a.elieisar)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tinatakashy@hotmail.com](mailto:tinatakashy@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** In Support of Ms. Tina Takashy's Membership on the Governor's Language Access Advisory Council  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 1:52:25 PM

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Dear Honorable Senators/Representatives,

I am delighted to submit this testimony in support of the proposed nomination of Ms. Tina Takashy to be a member of the Language Advisory Council. The Micronesian community here in Hawaii joins me in seeking your kind treatment of Ms. Takashy's nomination to this important council. We take pride in the nomination accorded to Tina and are pleased that Tina herself has accepted the honor placed in her by the good governor to serve our people on the council.

I have known Tina for years working alongside her at home government and here in Honolulu. In my view, there is no one more suitable and capable to undertake such responsibility on the council than Tina who possesses the experience, the education and the temperament required to effectively carry out the roles and responsibilities of a council member. She is uniquely fit for the position given her bilingual and bicultural background, which are further enriched by her exposure through years of social networking and advocacy between the Micronesians and their host communities. She exhibits interpersonal and collaborative skills that can be useful in a client-interpreter-provider relationship.

Tina is also a respected prominent citizen through her faith and strong involvement on issues aimed at empowering our people to be productive and law-abiding citizens. She is actively engaged on pressing issues in our contemporary society including the language barrier. I have no doubt that Tina will represent our people well. And I am confident that she will be a tremendous asset and partner on the council.

I look forward to your favorable consideration, and please do let me know if I can be of more help in this regard.

Sincerely,  
Kandhi A. Elieisar  
Consul General  
FSM Consulate General in Honolulu

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Karen Knudsen](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB GM598 -- Testimony in support of Augustina Takashy  
**Date:** Sunday, February 28, 2016 10:43:52 PM

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Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee,

I'd like to offer this testimony **in support** of Augustina "Tina" Takashi's nomination to serve on the Language Access Advisory Council (LAAC).

I've had the honor and pleasure of knowing Tina for nearly 40 years having first met her in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia where I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer with my husband, Greg. We were "assigned" to Tina's family on the island of Tonowas. Although Tina returned to college in the United States during our two-year stint in Chuuk, we kept in close contact with her over the years, often working personally and professionally on issues affecting the residents of the Freely Associated States.

Tina has held a number of responsible positions in the FSM and Hawaii - in the non-profit realm, educational institutions and social service agencies. Her passion for assisting those in need and helping to empower those with dreams of a brighter future is admirable.

I'm happy to provide additional information if requested.

Sincerely,

Karen

Karen Knudsen

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

The Board is the most appropriate and strategic mechanism to effectively articulate COFA and LEP community's language access concerns and needs and to ensure that they equal access to State funded services.

- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

Generally, it is to advise the Office of language Access Executive Director on implementation matters vis-à-vis, its mandate as provided by the Hawaii Language Access Law.

- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

Limited ability to read, write, speak and understand English is a stumbling barrier to many from participating in their communities and prevents them from becoming self-reliant members of their communities. My role is to help narrow this gap by educating the COFA and LEP Communities about their rights under the Hawaii Language Access Law as a starting point. Thereafter, I will do whatever I can to help OLA with its compliance and technical assistance as provided in the Hawaii language Access Law.

- (4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position?

Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board. 1<sup>st</sup> .I have over 30 years living and working experience with the LEP people from Micronesia, Asia and the Pacific and I know how difficult it is to access services, work, schooling, and so forth because of their LEP status. Once they achieve language proficiency, they become successful members of nations and communities. 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am well familiar with the LEP multi-cultural and cross-cultural language diversity challenges first hand as a foreign student in the US institutions of higher learning and later on as an educator in Micronesia, US and Pacific, so I am deeply motivated and passionate to bridging this gap for the LEP people in Hawaii. 3<sup>rd</sup>, years of public service and not-for-profit community outreach services helped me to understand the needs, concerns and aspirations of the LEP persons and worked with them to mainstream these into public and civic policy-making, planning and programming. I hope to help the LEP consumers become more resilience and productive in our Hawaii Community.

- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

My goals are: 1) to see OLA put in place a Hawaii State Medical Certification program to professionally certified language interpreters/translators from the COFA nations, 2) to see OLA and covered entities to hire COFA Language Navigators or Translators in their agencies and 3) Hawaii to have a certified Pool of professionally certified language interpreters and translators. These three goals are in line with implementation and compliance of the Hawaii Language Access Law.

- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

Three qualities I live by and base my life work on are 1) Service for others, 2) Advocacy for justice and development and, 3) Empowering others through mentoring and role modeling. I hope I can share my experiences using these skills to help OLA and LAAC fulfill their implementation and compliance.

- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

East West Center Alumni Executive Board, serving as a Micronesia EWC Alumni Representative for 3 years.

- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest? No but if there is, I will follow LAAC rules and regulations and Hawaii Sunshine Law to appropriately deal with "conflict of interest" as they arise.