

GM656

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, LINDA NULAND-AMES, for a term to expire 06-30-2017.

Report Title: Language Access Advisory Council

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

From: Helena Manzano
Executive Director, Office of Language Access

Date: March 24, 2016

Re: Letter of Support for GM656 regarding the confirmation of **Linda Nuland-Ames** to the **Language Access Advisory Council** to represent the county of Kauai and has shown interest in language access

(9am Agenda – Conf. room 229)

My name is Helena Manzano, Executive Director of the Office of Language Access since February 2015. The Office of Language Access (“OLA”) appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter of support for the confirmation of Linda Nuland-Ames to the Language Access Advisory Council (LAAC) to fill the seat of “one representative residing in the county of Kauai who has shown interest in language access” pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 321C-7(11).

Ms. Nuland-Ames became acquainted with LAAC in her capacity as the EEO/ADA Coordinator for the County of Kauai. She has extensive experience and expertise in a range of civil rights matters – especially as it relates to government compliance. She is an attorney with international experience and a demonstrated commitment to ensuring everyone in our community has access to all government and government-funded programs and services – regardless of race, disability, or national origin.

She has been instrumental in assisting OLA with several outreach and training activities in the County of Kauai. Through her involvement and engagement, she has demonstrated keen vision, skillful networking, and strong abilities to listen, understand, and collaborate in

measurable ways that are advancing OLA goals. She also has attended recent language access advisory council meetings.

Given Ms. Nuland-Ames's position in county government, we believe that her insights and contributions will be immensely valuable, as our counties are also obligated to comply with both federal and state language access laws if they receive federal or state funds. Her unique perspective will inform our office on how we can best assist our county agencies in their compliance efforts.

The purpose of OLA is to address the language access needs of limited English proficient persons (LEP) and ensure their meaningful access to services, programs, and activities offered by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government, including departments, offices, commissions, boards, or other state-funded agencies. OLA provides oversight, central coordination, and technical assistance to state agencies in their implementation of language access obligations – a civil right under both state and federal law.

OLA appreciates this committee for its commitment to language access and for the opportunity to provide this letter of support.

Linda Nuland-Ames
Nuland08@gmail.com
lnuland@kauai.gov
808-652-3379

March 20, 2016

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

I want to be an effective voice for the people of Kauai – those who have limited English and whose lives will benefit from improved language access as well as those who need to be aware of the importance of providing that access.

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

Attend and participate in Board meetings, serve on its subcommittees, research areas of concern, and provide support and advice to the Office of Language Access.

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

Currently, I provide training to employees of the County of Kauai on language awareness and the process for obtaining interpreter and translator services. I intend to expand language access education to more people, both consumers and organizations.

- (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.

Skills and experience are listed in detail on my submitted resume. Specifically regarding serving as a Board member, I have chaired two boards on Kauai – Kauai Community Children’s Council and the Mayor’s Advisory Committee For Equal Access. While a resident of the Big Island, I served on the Board of Directors for the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii and for the Hawaii State Bar Association. Additionally, my experiences as a lawyer and a mediator will contribute to the Board through understanding and explaining applicable statutes and case holdings as well as contributing to consensus building.

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

I believe I will information that will benefit my community while contributing to OLA's mission, particularly outreach to our LEP community members.

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

Commitment to civil rights

Team player

Dependable

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

When I provided legal advocacy to people with disabilities, I worked with immigrants who had limited English, particularly the written word. These experiences educated me about the struggles and too often poor outcomes that our LEP community members face.

- (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?

I don't foresee any conflicts of interest. However, if any questions should arise, I will seek advice from OIP and/or the State Ethics Commission.