

LATE

baker3 - James

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 5:48 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: terrina@pacificgatewaycenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2284 on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM
Attachments: Leg Testimony_OLA_SB2284_Feb 2016.docx

SB2284

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terrina Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

baker3 - James

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 10:10 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: Dinocelda@susannahwesley.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2284 on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM
Attachments: LegislativeTestimony.OLA.February2016.docx

SB2284

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dominic Inocelda	Office of Language Access Advisory Council	Support	No

Comments: The Office of Language Access Advisory Council is in full support of SB 2284.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Legislative Testimony

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Senator

From: Terrina Wong

Date: February 9, 2016, 9:00 a.m. State Capitol, Room 229

Re: Testimony on S.B. 2284 Relating to Office of Language Access and appropriating funds for three full-time equivalent permanent positions within the Office of Language Access

As a concerned citizen and professional who works daily with limited-English proficient persons (LEPs) in our community and as an ESL teacher, I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2284.

LEPs represent one of the key disenfranchised groups in our community. I am keenly aware that language access represents one of the most daunting challenges that underscore civil rights, social justice and health issues. Given that approximately 1 out of every 5 persons in our community is foreign-born, language access is a compelling issue of great magnitude.

We are deeply grateful for the existence of the Office of Language Access (OLA). Community stakeholders such as government agencies, health entities, law enforcement, interpreters and translators, and non-profits dedicated to working with immigrants and refugees need the work and support of OLA.

As someone who works with and supports LEPs in the community, I have first-hand knowledge of the time and effort it takes to assist these individuals in navigating key systems (governmental, medical, and educational to name a few) that are instrumental to their well-being and their successful transition into our community.

I strongly support SB 2284, which seeks to increase the current staffing of the Office of Language Access with the addition of three additional staff persons. This action will be very cost-effective in minimizing social costs related to language access problems in all aspects of our community.

The passage of this bill will support the OLA office and strengthen language access for the community in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2284.

