



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS**

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To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

From: Dominic Inocelda
Chair, Office of Language Access – Language Access Advisory Council

Date: February 4, 2015, 1:15p.m.
State Capitol, Room 414

Re: Testimony on S.B. 266
Relating to the Office of Language Access

The Office of Language Access (“OLA”) appreciates the opportunity to testify in on S.B. 266 Relating to the Office on Language Access. My name is Dominic Inocelda, and I am the Chair of OLA’s Language Access Advisory Council, testifying on behalf of OLA in lieu of its Executive Director, as this position is currently vacant. OLA strongly supports the intent S.B. 266 which would ensure sufficient funding for the effective operation of the Language Access Resource Center (LARC) and Multilingual Website Pilot Project.

The Language Access Resource Center and a pilot multi-lingual website project were created by the legislature through Act 217, Session Laws Hawaii 2013. These are arms of OLA which enable state and state-funded agencies to better serve the LEP population and assist them in complying with applicable federal and state language access laws.

When Act 217 went into effect on July 1, 2013, OLA set into motion the steps to hire staff and begin the work of the LARC and the Multilingual Website Pilot Project. However, OLA is unable to fully execute these initiatives as intended because the appropriation given by the 2013 legislature was less than half that was projected and requested. The delay of the release of funds prevented the timely hiring of staff.

OLA appreciates this committee for its commitment to language access and for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

To: Sen. Josh Green, M.A., Chair; Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair;
All members, Senate Committ on Health

FROM: M. Alohalani Boido, M. A., Hawaii Judiciary Certified Court Interpreter;
Chair, Legislative Action Committee, Hawaii Interpreter Action Network
Affiliate, Pacific Media Workers Guild, Local 39521

HEARING: Feb. 4, 2015; 1:15 p.m., CR 414

RE: **SUPPORT, SB 266, Relating to the Office on Language Access**

Chair, Vice-chair, and all members of this Committee, thank you for hearing this bill. I am Marcella Alohalani Boido, a certified Spanish court interpreter and a founding member of Hawaii Interpreter Action Network (HIAN), an affiliate of the Pacific Media Workers Guild, Local 39521. We represent the interests of Hawaii's professional interpreters and translators. We are also deeply concerned with issues related to language access. We are the people who provide language access. We are also often painfully aware of the various ways in which language access is not available.

SB 266 addresses multiple issues, several of which have previously appeared in different bills brought before this legislature: the Language Access Resource Center (LARC) within the Office on Language Access (OLA), and a multi-lingual web site. Additionally, there is the need to provide staff for OLA and the LARC.

Genuine language access requires staffing, expertise, and resources. That the Hawaii State Office on Language Access (OLA) should have a multi-lingual web site in order to provide language access seems obvious. How can Limited-English Proficient residents and tourists access the OLA web site when there is no on-line text except in English?

“If the Legislature does not fund these issues this year, they will re-appear next year—and the year after—and so on. **The problems driving this bill will not go away on their own.**” (Excerpted from HIAN testimony to WAM last year regarding HB 1740.)

Respectfully, we ask you to please support SB 266. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mindyemmons@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB266 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:38:41 AM

SB266

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mindy Emmons	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.

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