

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 322  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 30, 2018

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Aphirak Bamrungruan, Executive Director

Subject: **SB 2511, SD2, HD1 – RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 1:30 PM  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

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**Agency's Position:** The Office of Language Access (OLA) supports the intent of the measure, provided that the measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Governor's Executive Budget Request.

**Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of the measure is to appropriate funds for the establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.00 FTE) permanent program specialist positions within the Office of Language Access to assist state agencies and state-funded agencies in implementing the requirements of Hawaii's language access law.

Hawaii is one of the most culturally diverse states and has one of the highest proportions of non-English speakers in the nation. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, the total population in the state of Hawaii was 1,413,673. An estimate of 25.7% or 339,539 of Hawaii residents, 5 years and older, speak a language other than English at home. Of those, 166,949 or 12.6% indicated that they speak English "less than very well."

English proficiency (or lack of) has strong impacts on people's economic and social activities, health literacy and wellness, access to education, employment, and important public assistance, benefits, programs and services. In 2006, the Hawaii State Legislature passed the Hawaii Language Access Law (Codified under Hawaii Revised Statutes 321C) and OLA was established in 2007 to address the language access needs of limited English Proficient (LEP) persons 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 (including the counties). In 2013, Act 217, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, gave OLA further responsibilities to establish and operate a Language Access Resource Center.

Under the Hawaii Language Access Law, OLA's task is to provide highly specialized technical assistance and to coordinate resources to reduce the burden of implementing language access obligations. OLA is charged with providing oversight, central coordination, and technical assistance to all state and state-funded agencies in their implementation of language access compliance – a civil right under both state and federal law.

OLA began with six positions but lost five positions in 2009 due to the Reduction-In-Force. In 2012, OLA received enough funds to restore two of the five lost positions and has been operating with only three authorized full-time equivalent positions until the present time. The lack of personnel has limited OLA's ability to fully perform its mandated functions. Additional staffing will enable OLA to better assist state agencies in complying with language access laws and performing its statutorily mandated compliance and technical assistance functions.

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



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance**

Representative Sylvia J. Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 1:30 p.m. (Agenda #4)  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

by

Debi Tulang-DeSilva  
Program Director  
Office of Equality and Access to the Courts

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 2511, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Language Access.

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds for the establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.00 FTE) permanent program specialist positions within the office of language access to assist state agencies and state-funded agencies in implementing the requirements of Hawaii's language access law.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary supports Senate Bill No. 2511, S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

This measure appropriates funds for the establishment of two full-time permanent positions within the Office of Language Access (OLA) to assist state agencies and state-funded agencies in implementing the requirements of Hawai‘i’s language access law. The Judiciary recognizes that many people who require or receive Judiciary services may not be able to meaningfully participate due to limited English proficiency (LEP). Thus, the Judiciary has prioritized its resources over the years to enhance the language access services it provides for LEP court customers. Through its Office on Equality and Access to the Courts, the Judiciary is committed to providing meaningful access to court processes and services to persons with LEP. Since its establishment, the OLA has been extremely supportive of the Judiciary’s efforts to promote language access and has been a valuable collaborative partner on many language

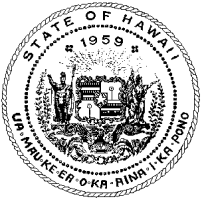


Senate Bill No. 2511, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Language Access  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 1:30 p.m. (Agenda #4)  
Page 2

access projects. In order to sustain the assistance and support that the OLA provides the Judiciary and numerous other state agencies, the Judiciary supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 2511, S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

We appreciate the Legislature's action to support efforts that promote access to justice and respectfully request your support of Senate Bill No. 2511, S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



# HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

April 3, 2018  
Rm. 308, 1:30 p.m.

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair  
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

## S.B. No. 2511, S.D.2, H.D.1

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state-funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5. The HCRC is also an ex-officio member of the Language Access Advisory Council for the Office of Language Access (OLA).

The HCRC supports S.B. No. 2511, S.D.2, H.D.1, which provides for establishment of two permanent full-time positions in OLA, with an appropriation to fund those new positions. The HCRC supports this measure, provided that its passage does not impact the priorities detailed in the Governor’s Executive Budget.

Language is a characteristic of national origin and ancestry. Denial of access to federal and state-funded services for LEP individuals is unlawful national origin / ancestry discrimination, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and H.R.S. Chapter 321C.

OLA is responsible for oversight, central coordination, and technical assistance to state agencies in implementation of language access requirements. To date, OLA’s primary work has been in lending technical assistance to covered entities in developing language access plans required by law, and planning and organizing annual conferences on language access. In this work, OLA’s capacity has been severely

limited by under-staffing.

S.B. No. 2511, S.D.2, H.D.1, expands OLA's capacity by establishing two new positions in OLA, with an appropriation. The HCRC supports this measure, provided that its passage does not impact the priorities detailed in the Governor's Executive Budget.



TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY: FAYE KENNEDY, CHAIR HFCR

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2511, sd2, hd1  
RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights supports programs and policies that ensure equal access and support diversity and inclusion in the state. HFCR supports SB 251, sd2, hd1 requesting two positions to meet the objectives and mandate of the law that established the state Office of Language Access. HFCR supports OLA's mandate regarding non-discrimination and equal access and equal treatment to government services. Language access is a civil right. Many community members with limited English proficiency face barriers to equal opportunity and access to state services. These barriers to equal opportunity are often related to a person's race, color, ethnicity, or national origin. Limited language access may deny civil rights to many persons in Hawai'i. Although most residents living in Hawai'i read, write, speak, and understand English, a significant percentage in the state are second language learners and have limited English proficiency. To have equal access to state services and full participation in the community, persons who are second language learners and limited English proficiency require language assistance.

HFCR supports SB2511, sd2, hd1 as we believe that language access to state services is a civil right and OLA is an important state agency that needs to meet its mandates relating to equal access and non-discrimination.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2511sd2 hd1 RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS  
SUBMITTED BY AMY AGBAYANI, CHAIR FILIPINA ADVOCACY NETWORK (FAN)

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee.

Filipina Advocacy Network (FAN) strongly supports SB2511 sd2, hd1 providing two positions for the Office of Language Access. The Hawai'i State Legislature passed legislation establishing the Office of Language access to ensure access to state-funded services for persons with limited English proficiency. This important agency is under-funded and cannot effectively implement its mandate without additional resources. Language access to state services is a critical government responsibility and a civil right. The Office of Language Access is the state agency that can help other state agencies provide appropriate language assistance that will benefit our community in multiple ways. Non-discrimination, equal access, appreciation of diversity and need for inclusion are the basis for funding OLA.

Obtaining government information and access to state services should be available to all persons in the state. Although not the same, limited English speakers encounter similar problems and need similar programs available to deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Our recent problem with the incorrect missile alert warning highlights the needs of individuals who are unable to read or understand English messages. At this time, there is inadequate communication protocols to warn our multilingual communities of hurricanes and other natural disasters.

“According to the American Community Survey data collected for five years from 2010 to 2014, around one-in-four people aged 5 and older during the period spoke a language other than English at home in Hawaii. Speaking a non-English language at home does not mean that the person cannot speak English. About half of the non-English speakers at home were fluent English speakers describing their English speaking ability as “very well”, while another 30 percent rated their English speaking ability as “well”. However, 19 percent of the non-English speakers in Hawaii, or about 62,000 people, spoke English “not well” or “not at all”. At the household level, 6.3 percent of total households in Hawaii, or about 28,400 households, had no one aged 14 and older who could speak English very well in the household. “  
Hawai'i has a significant percentage of people in all counties who are unable or have only a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English. Without language assistance, these residents face barriers to government information and services and unable to fully participate in the economy and community activities.”

A large percentage of persons in Hawai'i do not speak English or have difficulty using English. For example, 40 percent of persons of Vietnamese ethnicity and 35 percent of persons of Chinese ethnicity have either limited ability or are unable to speak English. Among Filipino ethnic groups, 26 percent of Ilocanos are not fluent in English and 15 percent of Pacific Islanders have limited English proficiency.

Non-English language speaking at home was more prevalent in Honolulu County than in the neighbor island counties. The proportion of non-English speakers was highest in Honolulu County at 28 percent and lowest in Hawaii



County at 19 percent. Ilocano, Tagalog, and Japanese were the top three most common non-English languages spoken at home in Hawaii. Speakers of these three languages made up about half of non-English speakers at home in Hawaii.

See these reports for more information on language use in Hawai'i:

[http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/reports\\_studies/non-english-speaking-population-in-hawaii/](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/reports_studies/non-english-speaking-population-in-hawaii/)

[http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data\\_reports/Non\\_English\\_Speaking\\_Population\\_in\\_Hawaii\\_April\\_2016.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/Non_English_Speaking_Population_in_Hawaii_April_2016.pdf)

Maraming salamat po for your consideration and support to members of our community who need language assistance for state services. OLA needs these two positions to effectively meet its objectives and mandate. Please support sb2511 sd2, hd1.

**SB-2511-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 10:44:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2018 1:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                          | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Serafin Colmenares  | State Health Planning and Development Agency | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

In behalf of the State Health Planning and Development Agency, I am writing in support of SB2511. The Office of Language Access needs additional staff to enable it to assist state and state-funded agencies meet the requirements under Hawaii's language access law. I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Ryan H. Engle  
Board President

Angela Kuo Min  
Executive Director



**VOLUNTEER LEGAL  
SERVICES HAWAII**

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. No. 2511 SD2 HD1  
RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS**

**Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, April 2, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308**

CHAIR SYLVIA LUKE, VICE CHAIR TY J.K. CULLEN, AND MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE:

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii supports the passage of S.B. No. 2511, SD2, HD1 and the recommendation to appropriate funds relating to the Office of Language Access.

In the last thirty-six years, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii has provided legal assistance to the low- and moderate- income community of Hawaii; many who identify themselves as English not being their first language and/or being limited in English proficiency. Our office recognizes the needs for interpreter and translator resources to continue serving the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural community of Hawaii, and to provide all residents of Hawaii meaningful access to justice.

I support S.B. No. 2511, SD2, HD1 to increase staff at the Office of Language Access.  
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Angela Kuo Min  
Executive Director



## HAWAII INTERPRETER ACTION NETWORK

P.O. Box 236024  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96823-3519

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[hawaii.interpreters@gmail.com](mailto:hawaii.interpreters@gmail.com)

To: Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke; Vice-chair, Rep. Ty J. K. Cullen  
Members, House Committee Finance

From: Marcella Alohalani Boido, M.A.  
Hawaii Judiciary Certified Spanish Court Interpreter, Tier 4  
President, Hawaii Interpreter Action Network

Re: SB 2511 SD 2, HD 1, **SUPPORT**

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 1:30 p.m., Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Committee Members: Thank you for hearing SB 2511 SD 2 HD 1. This measure is important to continue the process of improving language access in Hawaii. Hawaii needs to do this both to comply with state and federal law, and out of a simple sense of justice, compassion, and inclusiveness for our people and guests.

Please notice that I did not limit myself to immigrants. We do have Limited-English Proficient (LEP) people needing services who are speakers of an indigenous or other language found in US territories. Hawaiians from Niihau still speak Hawaiian, and we now have a generation coming up for whom Hawaiian is a first language. We also have people from Puerto Rico and Guam, which are US territories, as I'm sure all of you know.

Hawaii's guests, i.e., tourists, also sometimes need an interpreter, or a written translation. People who travel to Hawaii to get married may need some documents translated before the Department of Health will issue a marriage license. Newly arrived residents, including members of the military, may need documents translated to obtain a driver's license. Some residents need interpreters to access these and other government services. We also have medical tourism, particularly from Japan. Regardless of where they come from or the how and why of how they come to be here, LEP individuals need interpreters for medical situations.

Hawaii Interpreter Action Network (HIAN) is a professional association of interpreters and translators. Since 2002, we have worked to advance standards of performance and ethics, and to improve conditions of work and pay in Hawaii. Our members interpret for and provide written translations to government entities, medical facilities, international conferences, and private individuals. Some of our language professionals are so highly skilled that they are flown to interpret not only in other states, but sometimes, in other countries, as well.

From the first effort in the middle 1990s to create the Hawaii State Office on Language Access (OLA), via a bill that was crafted by Bill Hoshijo, until many years later, in 2006, when the bill to create OLA passed, with Patricia McManaman as the main lobbyist, I have personally testified in support of these efforts to improve language access in Hawaii.

OLA first opened its doors in 2007 under the leadership of Dr. Serafin "Jun" Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D. At that time, OLA had a staff of six (6) people.

From 2007 to 2013, I was an appointed member of the Language Access Advisory Council, holding the seat for the representative from a professional association of interpreters. HIAN appreciates that CPH recently gave its approval to Cristina Arsuaga (GM 547) for that position.

In 2009, all staff except for Dr. Colmenares had to leave. We owe it to Dr. Colmenares, big time, that he kept the doors open. We also owe it to Ms. Gail P. McGarvey, OLA's Secretary. She continued to come to work as a volunteer several days a week. Jun and Gail will always have my deep appreciation and respect for keeping OLA going under extremely adverse conditions.

Eventually, in 2012, Gail was re-hired, and Rebecca "Becky" Gardner was able to join the team as OLA's Legal Analyst. (See: <http://health.hawaii.gov/ola/about-us/> for current staff.)

However, **OLA is still severely understaffed in relationship to its purpose and obligations.** As OLA's current Executive Director, Aphirak "AP" Bamrungruan, JD, has so carefully and eloquently explained in his previous testimony, Hawaii needs a more fully functional Office of Language Access. The Legislature has given OLA additional responsibilities, but to date, no additional staff to carry them out. That is untenable. It is crippling to Hawaii's efforts to be more inclusive of our LEP residents and guests, and to comply with applicable laws.

My thanks go to the Filipino Caucus for introducing this bill. Our Hawaii history of inclusion and community integration is one we can be proud of. It was a struggle to achieve this. It took a lot of effort and sacrifice over a long period of time. Hawaii should honor its history of having created a tremendously multi-racial and multi-cultural society. We are pioneers. No matter our flaws and problems, we are still way ahead of a lot of other places.

Hawaii's sons and daughters have risen to local and national positions of leadership. Our homeboy, in great part the product of this environment, did us proud. Now, as his birthplace, and to honor our history of pioneers, we need to keep our heads on our shoulders in the current storm of anti-immigrant feeling and rhetoric. We need to continue working towards our Hawaii vision of a good society.

We need to attend to the parents and relatives of the next generation. Among the valuable lessons of Hawaii's history, is that groups which are marginalized, and sometimes, for long

periods of time, will eventually be able to vote. They tend to vote with their memories of Hawaii's history in mind. Let us do our best now to create good memories.

Aphirak "AP" Bamrungruan is a sincere advocate for language access. Current OLA staff are terrific. Now, OLA needs more "hands on deck," so that Hawaii can continue to sail toward a more equitable future.

Respectfully, HIAN asks that you please pass and fund SB 2511 SD 2 HD 1. *Mahalo*, and thank you.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 (1:30 p.m., Conf. Room 308)

RE: **IN SUPPORT OF SB 2511, SD 2, HD1, Relating to Language Access**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) supports SB 2511, SD2, HD1, Relating to Language Access, to appropriate funds for two (2) full-time equivalent permanent positions within the Office of Language Access.

CCH recognizes the excellent and important work that OLA does to ensure that individuals with Limited English Proficiency are able to access information and resources. OLA plays a vital role in supporting state agencies and their contracted providers, like CCH, to meet the Federal and State requirements for language access.

This bill will add two full-time permanent program specialist positions so that the office may successfully carry out its important role in promoting language accessibility, improving the understanding of laws related to language access, responding to complaints about lack of language accessibility for limited English proficient individuals, and providing support for covered entitled with the development and implementation of language access plans.

For more information or questions, please feel free to email Melba Bantay, Program Director and member of the OLA Advisory Board, at [melba.bantay@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:melba.bantay@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) or via phone at 527-4711.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2511, SD2, HD1.



## TINALAK FILIPINO EDUCATION COUNCIL

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 (1:30 p.m., Room 308)

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Tinalak Filipino Education Council

RE: Support for SB 2511, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Language Access

The Tinalak Filipino Education Council was established in 2012 to serve as an advisory council to the Dean of the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa College of Education. We are composed of the COE’s tenure track Filipino faculty and doctoral students. Our mission is to recruit and retain Filipino educators and to foster Filipino culture and linguistic diversity in education.

**We support SB2511,SD2,HD1**, for the establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.00 FTE) permanent program specialist positions within the Office of Language Access to assist state agencies and state-funded agencies in implementing the requirements of Hawaii’s language access law and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

About 1 in 4 of Hawai‘i residents speak a language other than English at home and about 1 in 8 indicated that they speak English “less than very well.” In terms of our Multilingual/English learner (EL) students, the most home languages spoken are Filipino (Tagalog, Ilokano, Pampangan, etc) at 30%. With this statistic, we have a vested interest in providing the necessary language services for our multilingual Filipino families who have limited English proficiency. This would help state agencies like the HODOE better serve the needs of our families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President, Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President  
c/o 728 Nunu St., Kailua, HI 96734

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2511 SD2 HD1  
House Committee on Finance  
April 3, 2018, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 308

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair and Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Jake Manegdeg, President and Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President  
Filipino American Citizens League

Report Title: Office of Language Access; Program Specialist Positions; Appropriation (\$)

Filipino American Citizens League President Jake Manegdeg and I are proud to strongly support this bill. The League was formed nearly twenty years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

Funding of two FTE positions for the Office of Language Access is vital for the ability of our government agencies to assure equal access and non-discrimination of state-funded programs and services that are not only essential for people's survival today, but also for their ability to fully participate in, and contribute significantly to, society's daily economic transactions. See the attached American Immigration Council report. It shows when immigrants, whose first language is not English, do well and are civically engaged in their daily lives, our society does well. In other words, the prudent compliance monitoring, planning, coordination, and management expertise that the Office of Language Access can offer our state agencies translate into mutually beneficial public health and economic vitality for all of Hawai'i's communities.

Clearly, adequate staff positions to implement the provisions of Act 217 of the language access law are more cost effective than the cost of litigation for non-compliance of civil rights laws due to the failure to hire staff for the language access resource center.

Thank you very much for hearing this bill and for your consideration of its merit.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg and Charlene Cuaresma

May 2015

**NEW AMERICANS IN HAWAII:**

**The Political and Economic Power of Immigrants, Asians, and Latinos in the Aloha State**

Immigrants, Asians, and Latinos account for growing shares of the economy and electorate in Hawaii. Over 1 in 6 residents of Hawaii are immigrants (foreign-born), and more than half of them are naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote. “New Americans”—immigrants and the children of immigrants—account for 18.1% of registered voters in the state. Immigrants are not only integral to the state’s economy as workers, but also account for billions of dollars in tax revenue and consumer purchasing power. Moreover, Latinos and Asians (both foreign-born and native-born) wield \$31.9 billion in consumer purchasing power, and the businesses they own had sales and receipts of \$18.9 billion and employed nearly 116,000 people at last count. Immigrant, Latino, and Asian workers, consumers, and entrepreneurs are integral to Hawaii’s economy and tax base—and they are an electoral force with which every politician must reckon.

***Immigrants and their children are growing shares of Hawaii’s population and electorate.***

▪ **The foreign-born share** of Hawaii’s population rose from 14.7% in 1990, 2000, 2013, 2013.<sup>1</sup> to 17.5% in <sup>2</sup> to 17.6% in <sup>3</sup> according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Hawaii was home to 246,464 immigrants in 2013.<sup>4</sup>

▪ **56.7% of immigrants (or 139,732 people) in Hawaii were naturalized U.S. citizens in 2013<sup>5</sup>**—meaning that they are eligible to vote.

▪ Unauthorized immigrants comprised roughly **2.4% of the state’s population** (or 35,000 workers) in 2013, according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.<sup>6</sup>

▪ **18.1% (or 99,209) of registered voters** in Hawaii were “New Americans”—naturalized citizens or the U.S.-born children of immigrants who were raised during the current era of immigration from Latin America and Asia which began in 1965—according to an analysis of 2012 Census Bureau data by the American Immigration Council.<sup>7</sup>

***Nearly half of all residents of Hawaii are Asian or Latino.***

▪ **The Asian share of Hawaii’s population** was 37.8% (or 531,218 people) in 2013.<sup>8</sup> **The Latino share of the population** grew from 7.4% in 1990 to 9.8% (or 138,064 people) in 2013,<sup>10</sup> according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

▪ **Asians accounted for 41.9% (or 201,000) of Hawaii voters** in the 2012 elections, and **Latinos 5.2% (or 25,000)**, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>11</sup>

▪ In Hawaii, **88% of children with immigrant parents were U.S. citizens** in 2009, according to data from the Urban Institute.<sup>12</sup>

- In 2009, **94.7% of children in Asian families** in Hawaii were U.S. citizens, as were **98.9% of children in Latino families**.<sup>13</sup>

*Immigrant, Asian, and Latino entrepreneurs and consumers add tens of billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs to Hawaii's economy.*

- **The 2014 purchasing power of Asians in Hawaii totaled \$28 billion**—an increase of 129.3% since 1990. **Latino buying power totaled \$3.9 billion**—an increase of 308% since 1990, according to the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia.<sup>14</sup>
- Immigration boosts housing values in communities. From 2000 to 2010, according to the Americas Society/Council of the Americas, the value added by immigration to the price of the average home was \$1,728 in Honolulu.<sup>15</sup>
- Hawaii's 56,872 **Asian-owned businesses had sales and receipts of \$18.2 billion and employed 111,924 people** in 2007, the last year for which data is available. **Latino-owned businesses had sales and receipts of \$671.7 million and employed 3,977 people** in 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners.<sup>16</sup> The state's 4,374 **Latino-owned businesses had sales and receipts of \$671.7 million and employed 3,977 people** in 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners.<sup>17</sup>
- From 2006 to 2010, there were 15,997 new immigrant business owners in Hawaii, and they had total net business income of \$772 million, which makes up 19.8% of all net business income in the state, according to Robert Fairlie of the University of California, Santa Cruz.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2010, 22.5% of all business owners in Hawaii were foreign-born, according to the Fiscal Policy Institute.<sup>19</sup>

*Immigrants are essential to Hawaii's economy as workers and taxpayers.*

- Immigrants comprised **20.5% of the state's workforce** in 2013 (or 150,209 workers), according to the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>20</sup>
- Latinos in Hawaii paid **\$468 million in federal taxes and \$259 million in state/local taxes in 2013**, according to the Partnership for a New American Economy. In particular, foreign-born Latinos paid \$88 million in federal taxes and \$47 million in state/local taxes.<sup>21</sup>
- The federal tax contribution of Hawaii's Latino population included **\$324 million to Social Security and \$76 million to Medicare in 2013**. Foreign-born Latinos contributed \$59 million to Social Security and \$14 million to Medicare that year.<sup>22</sup>

*Unauthorized immigrants are important to Hawaii's economy as workers and consumers.*

- Unauthorized immigrants comprised roughly **3.7% of the state's workforce** (or 25,000 workers) in 2012, according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.<sup>23</sup>
  - If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Hawaii, **the state would lose \$2 billion in economic activity, \$900.3 million in gross state product, and approximately 8,460 jobs**, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the Perryman Group.<sup>24</sup>
- Unauthorized immigrants pay taxes.*
- Unauthorized immigrants in Hawaii paid **\$31.2 million** in state and local taxes in 2012, including \$19.8 million in sales taxes, \$6.3 million in personal income taxes, and \$5 million in

property taxes, according to data from the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy.<sup>25</sup>

- Were unauthorized immigrants in Hawaii to have legal status, they would pay **\$41.2 million** in state and local taxes, including \$21.8 million in sales taxes, \$13.8 million in personal income taxes, and \$5.5 million in property taxes.<sup>26</sup>

***Immigrants are integral to Hawaii's economy as students.***

- Hawaii's 4,388 **foreign students contributed \$107.1 million** to the state's economy in tuition, fees, and living expenses for the 2013-2014 academic year, according to NAFSA: Association of International Educators.<sup>27</sup>
- Foreign students contribute to Hawaii's metropolitan areas. From 2008 to 2012, according to the Brookings Institution, 5,723 foreign students paid \$77.3 million in tuition and \$60.9 million in living costs in the Honolulu metropolitan area.<sup>28</sup>
- Foreign students also contribute to innovation in Hawaii. In 2009, "non-resident aliens" comprised 27.7% of master's degrees and 42.9% of doctorate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, according to the Partnership for a New American Economy.<sup>29</sup>

***Naturalized citizens advance educationally.***

- The number of immigrants in Hawaii with a college degree **increased by 24.1%** between 2000 and 2011, according to data from the Migration Policy Institute.<sup>30</sup>
- In Hawaii, **86% of children with immigrant parents** were considered "English proficient" as of 2009, according to data from the Urban Institute.<sup>31</sup>
- The English proficiency rate among **Asian children in Hawaii was 93.4%**, while for **Latino children it was 96.3%**, as of 2009.<sup>32</sup>

- 1 U.S. Census Bureau, *The Foreign-Born Population: 2000*, December 2003.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 2013 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Jeffrey S. Passel, D’Vera Cohn, and Molly Rohal, *Unauthorized Immigrant Totals Rise in 7 States, Fall in 14* (Washington, DC: Pew Research Center’s Hispanic Trends Project, November 18, 2014), p. 29.
- 7 Walter A. Ewing and Guillermo Cantor, *New Americans in the Voting Booth: The Growing Electoral Power of Immigrant Communities* (Washington, DC: American Immigration Council, October 2014), p. 25.
- 8 2013 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).
- 9 U.S. Census Bureau, *The Hispanic Population: 2000*, May 2001.
- 10 2013 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).
- 11 2012 Current Population Survey, Table 4b. Reported Voting and Registration, by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin, for States: November 2012.
- 12 The Urban Institute, data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2005 - 2009 American Community Survey.
- 13 Ibid.
- 14 Jeffrey M. Humphreys, *The Multicultural Economy 2014* (Athens, GA: Selig Center for Economic Growth, University of Georgia, 2014), pp. 22, 24.
- 15 Jacob Vigdor, *Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market* (New York, NY: Americas Society/Council of the Americas, 2013).
- 16 U.S. Census Bureau, *Estimates of Business Ownership by Gender, Ethnicity, Race, and Veteran Status: 2007*, June 2011.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 Robert W. Fairlie, *Open for Business: How Immigrants are Driving Small Business Creation in the United States* (New York, NY: Partnership for a New American Economy, 2012), p. 32.
- 19 David Dyssegaard Kallick, *Immigrant Small Business Owners: A Significant and Growing Part of the Economy* (New York, NY: Fiscal Policy Institute, 2012), p. 24.
- 20 2013 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).
- 21 Partnership for a New American Economy, *The Power of the Purse: The Contributions of Hispanics to America’s Spending Power and Tax Revenues in 2013* (New York, NY: 2014).
- 22 Ibid.
- 23 Jeffrey S. Passel, D’Vera Cohn, and Molly Rohal, *Unauthorized Immigrant Totals Rise in 7 States, Fall in 14* (Washington, DC: Pew Research Center’s Hispanic Trends Project, November 18, 2014), p. 29.
- 24 The Perryman Group, *An Essential Resource: An Analysis of the Economic Impact of Undocumented Workers on Business Activity in the US with Estimated Effects by State and by Industry* (Waco, TX: April 2008), p. 69.
- 25 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, *Undocumented Immigrants’ State and Local Tax Contributions* (Washington, DC: April 2015).
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 NAFSA: Association of International Educators, *The Economic Benefits of International Students to the U.S. Economy: Academic Year 2013-2014* (Washington, DC: 2014).
- 28 Neil Ruiz, *The Geography of Foreign Students in U.S. Higher Education: Origins and Destinations* (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 2014).
- 29 Partnership for a New American Economy, *Help Wanted: The Role of Foreign Workers in the Innovation Economy* (New York, NY: 2013), p. 21.
- 30 Migration Policy Institute Data Hub, Hawaii: Language & Education.
- 31 The Urban Institute, data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2005 - 2009 American Community Survey.
- 32 Ibid.

**SB-2511-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 1:07:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2018 1:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja       | Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2511-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 1:13:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2018 1:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                            | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deanna Espinas      | Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

House Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 308  
April 3, 2018, 1:30 pm

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative, Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Dina R. Yoshimi  
98-2051 Kaahumanu Street  
Aiea, HI 96701

April 2, 2018

I am Dina Rudolph Yoshimi, a faculty member of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa (UHM) for the past 26 years, and Director of the Hawai'i Language Roadmap Initiative (housed in the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature at UHM) since September 2013. Today I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in support of SB2511, SD2, HD1, Relating to Language Access.

Over the past three years, I have become quite familiar with the exceptional work OLA undertakes to support the development of language access plans for State agencies, monitor compliance with State and federal civil rights laws regarding language access, and educate all sectors of the State -- legal and medical personnel, interpreters/translators, etc. -- regarding requirements for federal compliance and, most critically, updates on changes in best practices, which are constantly under review and revision by federal agencies. In light of the growing interest from and involvement of the US Department of Justice in matters associated with language access and language discrimination, Hawai'i is truly fortunate to have had the foresight to establish an Office of Language Access to promote ethical practices and just procedures in the State's activities.

This essential work falls upon the (very able and very willing) shoulders of the current staff of three employees -- three employees to supervise the civil rights compliance of an entire state, a state where one in four residents speaks a language other than English at home. These numbers don't add up in any language. I strongly encourage you to fully fund SB2511, SD2, HD1. Support for this bill will make a significant difference statewide, both for those who work with and provide services to our multilingual population, and for those who depend on meaningful and effective language access plans and well informed State workers, for access to basic needs including education, health services, housing, and nutritional assistance, among other critical services. Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and for your service to the people of Hawai'i.