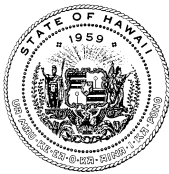


GM525

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYDIA PAVON, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Language Access Advisory Council

Current Referral: CPH



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

March 27, 2019

To: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Aphirak Bamrungruan, Executive Director

Subject: **GM 525** - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYDIA PAVON, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Hearing: Friday, March 29, 2019, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Agency's Position: The Office of Language Access (OLA) strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Lydia Pavon to the Language Access Advisory Council (LAAC) to fill the seat of "one representative from an advocacy organization that provides services to limited English proficient persons." pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 321C-7(a)(4) for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

Purpose and Justification: The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation of the LAAC Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Lydia Pavon.

The mission of OLA is 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, and 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.

The LAAC assists the Executive Director of OLA by providing input on implementation and compliance with Hawaii's language access laws and on the quality of oral and written language services provided under the law. The LAAC also offers feedback on a state agency's or covered entity's training of its employees who are likely to have contact with LEP persons; its

policies and procedures for language services; its competency in working effectively with interpreters and translators; and its understanding of the dynamics of language services between clients, providers, and interpreters.

Ms. Pavon is currently working as an Advocacy Manager at the Domestic Violence Action Center, an advocacy organization that provides services to limited English proficient persons. As an advocate for LEP individuals, Ms. Pavon has had the opportunity to meet with LEP individuals from different communities and cultures which gives her a firsthand knowledge about the challenges faced by our diverse LEP population, especially in language access. These experiences have increased her awareness and respect for the struggles of LEP individuals, as well as for those who work with them.

Ms. Pavon's passion, work experience, and advocacy for LEP individuals are assets she will bring to the council. Therefore, OLA respectfully requests your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of Ms. Lydia Pavon to the LAAC.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support.



invited Ms. Pavon to teach the Ilokano language through the dramatic text that I have prepared. This approach has contributed to the appreciation of our iLaing students of the Ilokano language, the second language the Office of Language Access itself has identified as in need of language access.

In 2006, I started an advocacy group, the Nakem Conferences. This group has grown to become the leading advocacy group in the Philippines, with its clear focus on linguistic justice, cultural democracy, and emancipatory education. Every three or four years, the conference is held in Hawaii, and in all the Nakem conferences we have held at the University of Hawaii (2006, 2009, 2013, 2017). Ms. Pavon had been part of our Steering and Working Committees, and had generously given her time and talent to help us organize and run these conferences.

In her more than thirteen years of work with the Domestic Violence Action Center, I have had the chance of working with her closely. At some point, I was part of the council of advisers of that center, and by way of several projects, we have had the chance to continue our partnership and collaboration. She has, through the years, guided, led, and empowered many of the women that have gone through the difficult experience of intimate partner violence. She has acted as interpreter and translator in many of these IPV situations and have found ways to help empower the survivors of all kinds through programs and interventions that relate to safety and self-sufficiency.

I feel honored and empowered to have worked with Ms. Pavon. Her ability to give herself to others—her sense of other-centeredness—is, I think, what we need most as a member of the council of advisers of OLA. There is so much to be done in the area of language access. Ms. Pavon, I am sure, will be of help in the pursuit of this goal.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please feel free to email me at aurelio@hawaii.edu. My university and work phone is: 808-956-8405.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration to this recommendation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aurelio S. Agcaoili", with the date "3/25/19" written to the right of the signature.

Aurelio S. Agcaoili, PhD
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Ilokano Language, Literature, and Culture Program

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