



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

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To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

From: Aphirak Bamrungruan
Executive Director, Office of Language Access

Date: April 6, 2022

Subject: **GM 674** - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYDIA PAVON, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

Hearing: Friday, April 8, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Agency's Position: The Office of Language Access (OLA) **supports** the nomination of **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, 2024.

Purpose and Justification: Consideration in support of confirmation of the LAAC Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Lydia Pavon.

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.

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 state agency or covered

entity training of employees who are likely to have contact with LEP persons; policies and procedures for language services; competency in working effectively with interpreters and translators; and understanding of the dynamics of language services between clients, providers, and interpreters.

Ms. Pavon is currently working as a Housing Manager – Survivor Advocacy Services at the Domestic Violence Action Center, an advocacy organization that provides services to LEP individuals. 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 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 those who work with them.

Furthermore, Ms. Pavon has been serving on the LAAC since 2019. As an active council member, she has provided valuable input and direction to advance OLA goals and objectives. Her desire to continue serving on the LAAC is a reflection of her passion and commitment to the issue of language access.

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 testimony to this committee.

GM-674

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 4:14:32 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nanci kreidman	Testifying for domestic violence action center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Ms Pavon is a trustworthy, wise, dependable, compassionate, hard working member of our community. In her service with Domestic Violence Action Center, we always count on her for good ideas, thoughtful engagement and compassion. The Advisory Council can expect the same. We support her appointment.

We shall look forward to favorable action on this nomination.

thank you.