



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 675** - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLOTTE HUANG, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

GM 676 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLOTTE HUANG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

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 **CHARLOTTE HUANG** to the Language Access Advisory Council (LAAC) to fill the seat of "One member from the limited English proficient population who has an interest in the provision of oral language services," pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 321C-7(a)(5) for a term to expire June 30, 2026.

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

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. Huang is an immigrant from China. She is multi-lingual and fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin, with English as her second language. Currently, she is self-employed, and pursuing a new career path which started in 2021 during the pandemic. Prior to that, Ms. Huang was working with Child and Family Services for more than 16 years where she provided services to limited and non-English speaking clients. Ms. Huang helped immigrant families and their children to assimilate into the community where they live, assisted them with immigration issues, placed them in employment with the right employers, and linked them to community resources, so they could become self-sufficient.

Ms. Huang is uniquely fit to fill this seat on the LAAC, given her multi-lingual and multi-cultural background. Her background was further enriched by her exposure through personal experience as an LEP individual and through years of work experience and advocacy for LEP individuals. Ms. Huang'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. Charlotte Huang to the LAAC.

April 6, 2022

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair and Members of the Senate
Committee on Health,

I am writing in support of Ms. Charlotte Huang's nomination to the Office of Language Access Advisory Council. As a registered court interpreter and language access advocate in the community, I know and believe in the importance of the council's work to provide support, community input, and guidance regarding language access.

I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Huang in many aspects especially due to our work with the immigrant and refugee populations. We both have also been long time members of the Inter-Agency Council for Immigrant and Refugee services. I see in Ms. Huang a passion in serving people. Her skills in finding resources as well as being a resource herself, allows her a great capacity to help those in need of language access.

The Office of Language Access Advisory Council would definitely benefit from Ms. Huang's nomination. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my words of support on her behalf.

Sincerely,



Belinda Fagin