



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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October 25, 2007

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: October 26, 2007  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Interim Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

**RE: CANISIUS TKEL FILBERT  
Language Access Advisory Council ("OLA")**

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations ("Department") strongly supports the confirmation of Mr. CANISIUS TKEL FILBERT.

Mr. Filibert originates from the Republic of Palau, one of the Freely Associated States of Micronesia. He obtained his Master's degree in Linguistics from the University of Hawaii and currently works as a Program Director/Specialist for various educational, vocational, literacy, and cultural awareness projects for Pacific Islanders/Micronesians at the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), where he has worked since 1998.

Additionally, Mr. Filibert serves as the Director for the Pacific Workforce Development Program which "supports Pacific jurisdictions that are planning or implementing educational reforms to improve the work readiness and economic productivity of their citizens". Further, he also serves as Principal Investigator for the Territories and Freely Associated States Educational Grant Program, which "assists with grant competitions and provides training and technical assistance to local education agencies in the Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands) and the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the Virgin Islands)."

In addition to his work at PREL, Mr. Filibert serves as an interpreter at the district and federal courts in Hawaii, and is the President of the Micronesian Community Network.

In summary, Mr. CANISIUS TKEL FILBERT is well-qualified and deserving of confirmation for the OLA.

10/25/07

To: Senator Taniguchi

From: Ruth N. Truce *RS*

Subject: Letter of Recommendation

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I fully recommend Mr. Canisius Filibert for that position. He is one of the most knowledgeable educators in Micronesia. I have been working with him for more than five years. We work together in presenting Micronesian culture to Public Schools and private sectors in Hawaii. He works at Pacific Regional Education Laboratory (PREL) to provide services to teachers in Hawaii, American Samoa and Micronesian Islands Schools. He is also a president of the Micronesian Organization called Micronesian Cultural Network (MCN).

He is very dedicated, committed, and responsible person therefore, I recommend him for this position.

If you need additional information about him, you can email me at: [truce@hawaii.edu](mailto:truce@hawaii.edu).

Thank you very much.

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations  
Office of Language Access

Testimony in Support of  
Language Access Advisory Council Nominee:  
CANISIUS TKEL FILBERT

Good morning, Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor :

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am Serafin "Jun" Colmenares, and I am the Executive Director with the Office of Language Access (OLA). The Office of Language Access strongly supports the appointment of CANISIUS TKEL FILBERT to the Language Access Advisory Council.

Mr. Filibert hails from the Republic of Palau, one of the Freely Associated States of Micronesia. He obtained his Master's degree in Linguistics from the University of Hawaii and currently works as a Program Director/Specialist for various educational, vocational, literacy, and cultural awareness projects for Pacific Islanders/Micronesians at the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), where he has worked since 1998. Specifically, he serves as the Director for the Pacific Workforce Development Program which "supports Pacific jurisdictions that are planning or implementing educational reforms to improve the work readiness and economic productivity of their citizens"; and as Principal Investigator for the Territories and Freely Associated States Educational Grant Program, which "assists with grant competitions and provides training and technical assistance to local education agencies in the Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands) and the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the Virgin Islands)."

In addition to his work at PREL, Mr. Filibert serves as an interpreter at the district and federal courts in Hawaii, and is the President of the Micronesian Community Network.

Given his background, OLA believes that Mr. Filibert is an invaluable representative of the limited English proficient population who has an interest in the provision of oral language services. Thus, OLA strongly supports the appointment of CANISIUS TKEL FILBERT to the Language Access Advisory Council.

October 24, 2007

Brian T. Taniguchi,  
Chair Judiciary and Labor Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I would like to strongly recommend Canisius Filibert from Palau, who is currently serving as Director of Pacific Resource and Learning Center (PREL), as a member of your Language Access Advisory Council for the State of Hawaii. Mr Filibert comes with strong leadership skills and knowledge of the Micronesian Community. He serves as the President of the Micronesian Community Network group which was organized to develop leadership from the Peoples of the Freely Associated States to empower the Micronesian Community here to be successful and healthy contributing members of this state. And as Director for PREL, he has facilitated educational seminars for the DOE as well as other agencies to bring awareness about the various cultures of Micronesia. We also appreciate his knowledge and expertise, as an active member of the Nations of Micronesia Committee, which is a state wide committee providing a forum for government agencies and non-profits to network to identify issues, needs and solutions for the Micronesian community. He provides valuable information about his communities' educational challenges as well as the diverse cultural differences of these islands states. Please consider his nomination for this position.

Sincerely,

Barbara Tom PHN  
Chair of the Nations of Micronesia Committee  
Advisor to the Micronesian Community Network