



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

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

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: MAUREEN NAMAOKALANI RAWLINS
Language Access Advisory Council ("OLA")**

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations ("Department") strongly supports the confirmation of Ms. MAUREEN NAMAOKALANI RAWLINS.

Namaka Rawlins is the Director of the private non-profit Native Hawaiian language education organization, 'Aha Punana Leo, Inc. This is the oldest state-wide native organization in the United States that provides education through the Language Nests and Language Survival School model. As a language advocate, Ms. Rawlins has been actively involved in the promotion and preservation of the Hawaiian language for over 20 years.

Ms. Rawlins obtained her Bachelor's degree in Hawaiian studies from the University of Hawaii. In addition to her work at 'Aha Punana Leo, she is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Hawaii-Hilo's College of Hawaiian Language, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani and is the Chairperson of the Native Hawaiian Education Council.

Ms. Rawlins qualifies to serve on the OLA as representative of a Hawaiian language advocacy organization.

In summary, Ms. MAUREEN NAMAOKALANI RAWLINS is well-qualified and deserving of confirmation for the OLA.

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Office of Language Access

Testimony in Support of
Language Access Advisory Council Nominee:
MAUREEN NAMAOKALANI RAWLINS

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 MAUREEN NAMAOKALANI RAWLINS to the Language Access Advisory Council.

Namaka Rawlins is the Director of the private non-profit Native Hawaiian language education organization, 'Aha Punana Leo, Inc. This is the oldest state-wide native organization in the United States that provides education through the Language Nests and Language Survival School model. As a language advocate, Ms. Rawlins has been actively involved in the promotion and preservation of the Hawaiian language for over 20 years.

Ms. Rawlins obtained her Bachelor's degree in Hawaiian studies from the University of Hawaii. In addition to her work at 'Aha Punana Leo, she is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Hawaii-Hilo's College of Hawaiian Language, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani and is the Chairperson of the Native Hawaiian Education Council.

Based on her experience, OLA believes that Ms. Rawlins' has strong background to bring to the Council the perspective of a Hawaiian language advocacy organization. Thus, the Office of Language Access supports the appointment of MAUREEN NAMAOKALANI RAWLINS to the Language Access Advisory Council.