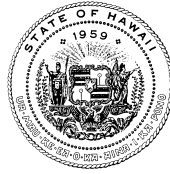


**HEARING  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
OCTOBER 29, 2013  
8:35 A.M.  
ROOM 225**

**GM-21**



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 322  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-8730 / Fax: (808) 586-8733

To: Sen. Josh Green, Chair  
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health

From: Serafin Colmenares Jr.  
Executive Director, Office of Language Access

Hearing: October 29, 2013, 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

Re: **Testimony in Support of REBECA ZAMORA**  
Language Access Advisory Council

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Good morning, Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Serafin “Jun” Colmenares, the Executive Director of the Office of Language Access (OLA). The OLA strongly supports the confirmation of Rebeca Zamora to the Language Access Advisory Council representing a professional interpreter organization.

Rebeca is from Costa Rica where she was born and raised. Rebeca has been a member of Hawai`i Interpreters Action Network (HIAN) since 2009. She is also a registered court interpreter, tier 3, in Spanish with Hawai`i's State Judiciary.

Currently she works for the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center as a Community Consultant in the Hispanic Family Violence Awareness Project, as well as with Lionbridge Technologies as an interpreter at individual hearings for the Executive Office of Immigration Review.

She was appointed as member of the Council a few months ago but since then she has been active in various OLA activities, including her participation at OLA’s annual conference.

She has also volunteered at the Office of Language Access, helping out with the preliminary work in preparation for the conference.

Ms. Zamora has been an excellent addition to the Language Access Advisory Council and should be confirmed as a member.

**Date:** October 21, 2013

**TO:** The Senate Committee on Health

**FROM:** Dominic Inocelda, Current Chair of the Office of Language Access Advisory Council

**RE: Testimony in Support of Ms. Rebeca Zamora, Hawaii Judiciary Court Interpreter, for Senate Confirmation to Serve as a Member of the Office of language Access Advisory Council**

My name is Dominic Inocelda, a member and current chairperson of the Office of Language Access Advisory Council. I would like to write in full support of Ms. Rebeca Zamora's confirmation by the Senate Committee on Health. In the short time that Ms. Zamora has served as an interim member of the advisory council, she has demonstrated a solid commitment to the work of the advisory council. Her input and feedback has been thoughtful and useful in our discussions. Her willingness to serve was demonstrated in her involvement in the Office of Language Access Annual Conference which was held in August of this year. She has been diligent in attendance at our scheduled meetings and has added to the council's effectiveness.

In addition, Ms. Zamora's working experience as a Spanish speaking interpreter provides a perspective of one who has worked and dealt with the joys as well as difficulties of an emerging field. Her input comes with real life understanding of what language interpreters experience as they do their work to promote accurate and effective communication.

I would again like to express my full support for the confirmation of Ms. Zamora as a member of the Office of Language Access Advisory Council. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Dominic Inocelda  
Member and Chairperson  
Office of Language Access  
Advisory Council

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Health

From: Kelly Nash Montone

Re: Supporting Testimony of Rebeca Zamora to Language Access  
Advisory Council

Dear Senate Committee Members,

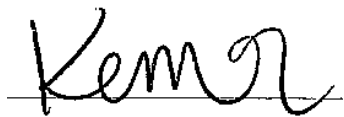
I am thrilled to learn of the nomination of Rebeca Zamora for the Language Access Advisory Council and to make an honest recommendation.

When I first met Rebeca in 2008, we were both new to the island and working hard to make this beautiful island home. I met her at work and there our relationship bloomed into a great friendship. Over the last five, almost six, years I have watched her succeed professionally and socially, while continuing to follow her passion.

Because I know Rebeca on two levels, I can say straight forward that she is a promising candidate. Her professionalism, drive in the work force, open attitude and wisdom make her the best. As a friend, she has never let me down. As an employee, she is determined to make it the top experience for everyone involved.

I strongly recommend Rebeca Zamora for the Language Access Advisory Council based on her eagerness to learn, enthusiasm and participation in the community and being able to utilize her natural abilities and life experiences to help serve the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kelly E Nash Montone", written over a horizontal line.

Kelly E Nash Montone

Mindy Emmons  
2125-B Manawale`a Street  
Lihue, HI 96766  
808-245-9936  
[mindyemmons@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:mindyemmons@hawaii.rr.com)

To: Members, Senate Committee on Health

From: Mindy Emmons

Re: Support for appointment of Rebeca Zamora to Language Access Advisory Council

Dear Senate Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to recommend Rebeca Zamora for an appointment to the Hawaii Language Access Advisory Council.

I have been a resident of Hawaii for over nine years. In that time, I have been active in language access affairs, as the Vice President and now the President of the Hawaii Interpreter Action Network. I have trained court interpreters since the Judiciary began its certification program in 2007. I have been on the Hawaii Supreme Court Committee on Court Interpreters and Language Access since 2008 and was appointed to the Language Access Advisory Council earlier this year. I have worked full-time as an interpreter and/or translator for thirty-four years.

I have known Rebeca for about a year and have found her to be very interested in language access issues. She has worked as an interpreter since 2009. She has a good understanding language access issues and of the interpreting profession.

I strongly support Rebeca Zamora's nomination as a member of the Hawaii Language Access Advisory Council.

TO: Sen. Josh Green, Chair; Vice Chair Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia Harpstrite  
Interpreter-Translator (Spanish-English)  
Federally Certified Court Interpreter  
Hawaii Judiciary Master Certified Interpreter  
Tel.: 247-3578, E-mail: [harpstrij001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:harpstrij001@hawaii.rr.com)

HEARING: October 29<sup>th</sup> 2013

RE: **SUPPORT GM 21 Confirmation of Rebeca Zamora's appointment to  
the Language Access Advisory Council**

Chair, Senator Green Vice Chair Senator, members of this Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Rebeca Zamora's confirmation as the representative from Hawaii Interpreter Action Network (HIAN) to the Language Access Advisory Council.

I am Patricia Harpstrite, Federally Certified Court Interpreter, Hawaii Judiciary Master Certified Court Interpreter, and representative for the island of Oahu on the Language Access Advisory Committee. I am a founding member and currently Vice-President of HIAN (Hawaii Interpreter Action Network).

I am happy to testify in support of Rebecca Zamora's confirmation as HIAN's representative to the Language Access Advisory Committee. Originally from Costa Rica, Rebeca is fully bilingual in both English and Spanish. With her education in Mass Communications and work experience in the hospitality industry, she brings a unique perspective to Language Access in Hawaii.

Since coming to Hawaii, Ms. Zamora has dedicated herself to developing her skills and knowledge to help immigrants, victims of domestic violence and other members of Hawaii's growing Spanish-speaking community. She has contributed as a volunteer for Adult Friends for Youth and the Domestic Violence Action Center, where she was qualified as a Certified Victim Counselor.

Rebeca has taken advantage of interpreter training programs offered by the Hawaii State Judiciary, the Domestic Violence Action Center, the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center and HIAN. In 2009, she passed the rigorous examinations developed by the National Center for State Courts' Consortium for Language Access in the Courts and attained the level of Hawaii Judiciary Approved Interpreter (Tier 3). Since then she has worked as an interpreter for Immigration Court, the Hawaii State Judiciary, and Pacific Gateway Center, and has done telephonic interpretation for Language Select.

In addition to the above qualifications, Ms. Zamora is articulate, energetic, goal-oriented, and able to work cooperatively with others. I am confident that she will make a valuable contribution to the work of the Language Access Advisory Council, and I urge you to confirm her appointment as the HIAN representative on the Council.