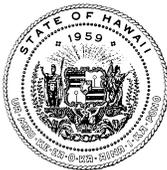


# GM527

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, JADE WONG, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Language Access Advisory Council

Current Referral: CPH



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
**OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS**  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 322  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 27, 2019

To: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Aphirak Bamrungruan, Executive Director

Subject: **GM 527** - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, JADE WONG, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Hearing: Friday, March 29, 2019, 9:30 AM  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

---

---

**Agency's Position:** The Office of Language Access (OLA) strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Jade Wong to the Language Access Advisory Council (LAAC) to fill the seat of "one representative residing in the city and county of Honolulu who has shown interest in language access," pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 321C-7(a) (13) for a term to expire June 30, 2021.

**Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation of the LAAC Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Jade Wong.

The mission of OLA is to address the language access needs of Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons 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, and 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 a state agency's or covered entity's training of its employees who are likely to have contact with LEP persons; its

policies and procedures for language services; its competency in working effectively with interpreters and translators; and its understanding of the dynamics of language services between clients, providers, and interpreters.

Ms. Wong received her Juris Doctor from the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law and is a member of the Hawaii State Bar Association. Ms. Wong is currently residing in the city and county of Honolulu and is employed as a compliance officer at 'ike. In this position, Ms. Wong is responsible for the development, review, and monitoring of the company's existing compliance policy to ensure that it is in compliance with rules and regulations which include language access requirement under both state and federal law.

Ms. Wong also has experience in state government, having employed as an investigator at the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. Such experience lends to her ability and efficacy at fostering collaborations between the private and public sectors. Furthermore, Ms. Wong is also court registered interpreter who has undergone training in both the court and healthcare systems.

Ms. Wong's desire to serve on the LAAC demonstrates her passion and commitment to the issue of language access. As a lawyer, healthcare worker and interpreter, we are confident that Ms. Wong would be a valuable member for the LAAC.

Therefore, OLA respectfully requests your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of Ms. Jade Wong to the LAAC.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support.