

GM 845



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor

April 11, 2012

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Nominee, Margarita Hopkins (GM 845)
As a Member of the Language Access Advisory Council

Wednesday, April 11, 2012
10:00 a.m., Rm 016, State Capitol

Testimony of Dwight Takamine, Director,
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

The department supports the confirmation of Margarita Hopkins to the Language Access Advisory Council. The Language Access Advisory Council serves as an advisory board to the executive director of the Office of Language Access (OLA), which provides centralized coordination and assistance to State agencies and organizations to ensure that no person is denied access to State or State-funded services due to their limited ability to speak, read, write, or understand the English language.

Ms. Hopkins is currently an Economic Development Specialist with the Department of Research and Development in the County of Hawaii and has worked as Director of Research and Development. Her prior employment includes academic positions at the College of Business and Economics at UH Hilo, a Marketing Specialist/Economist with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and Assistant Professor at Central Luzon State University. Ms. Hopkins has also held various staff positions at the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management, Department of Fisheries, and Bureau of Fisheries in Alabama and the Philippines.

Ms. Hopkins has been active in the Big Island Resource Conservation and Development

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Council, the Hawaii Forest Stewardship Advisory Council, the Sea Grant Advisory Committee, and has held various positions as President and Board member of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Congress of Visayan Organizations, Big Island Filipino Community Council, and Hilo Visayan Club. She has also authored or co-authored six papers in international journals and symposia proceedings, book chapters, and published articles and technical reports. Ms. Hopkins is the recipient of several government service, community service, hall of fame, and service awards in the community.

Her involvement in the Filipino community and her proficiency in Cebuano Visayan, Tagalog, and Spanish would be an asset if appointed to serve on the Language Access Advisory Council.

I urge you to confirm Margarita Hopkins to the Language Access Advisory Council where she would make a valuable contribution to the Council and hence the state.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

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TO: Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Serafin “Jun” Colmenares, Executive Director, Office of Language Access

RE: **Testimony in Support of GM845 (MARGARITA HOPKINS)**
Language Access Advisory Council

HEARING: Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Room 016

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am Serafin “Jun” Colmenares, Executive Director of the Office of Language Access (OLA). The OLA strongly supports the appointment of Margarita Hopkins as member of the Language Access Advisory Council representing the Big Island.

Margarita Hopkins has worked for the Hawaii County Department of Research and Development since 1988 as the Economic Development Specialist in charge of the agriculture program and provides vital coordinative and clearinghouse services for the many agricultural communities and individuals on this island. She has a Master’s degree in Agricultural Economics from Xavier University in the Philippines and has completed all the coursework for a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Oregon State University.

Dayday is very active in the community, having been an officer of the Big Island Filipino Community Council, the Big Island Filipino Chamber of Commerce, and past president (two

terms) of the Congress of Visayan Organizations, among others. She speaks Cebuano (Visayan) and has been very supportive of language access, volunteering as an interpreter and teaching the Visayan language at the University of Hawaii-Hilo.

Ms. Hopkins brings a lot of knowledge and experience, as well as a fresh perspective to the Language Access Advisory Council. This, coupled by her commitment to language access and her knowledge of the community, would make her a valuable addition to the Council.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 845

Senate Committee on Health
April 11, 2012 10:00 a.m.
Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 016

To: Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee Members: Sen. Mike Gabbard,
Sen. Les Ihara, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Past President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, MARGARITA HOPKINS, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Dear Sen. Hee, Chair; Sen. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair; and Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee Members:

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As past president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I strongly support the confirmation of Governor Abercrombie's nominee, Margarita Hopkins, to the Language Access Advisory Council. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aims are to work for social justice issues and to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, social action and service.

Ms. Hopkins has been a tireless and passionate advocate for immigrants and other vulnerable communities for decades as a leader in the Congress of Visayan Organizations. The Coalition believes that her knowledge of rural and neighbor island issues is invaluable to the Council's charge to provide capacity building guidance to government agencies for language access that will enable English language learners the ability to become strong and contributing members to ensure Hawai'i's vital economic recovery and thriving civil society.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide our strong support for Ms. Hopkins' confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma
Past President
Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

99-1325 Aiea Heights Drive, Aiea, Hawaii 96701

To: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Jane Clement, President

Date: April 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

Re: Testimony on GM845 (Margarita Hopkins)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of GM845 appointing Margarita Hopkins as member of the Language Access Advisory Council. My name is Jane Clement and I am the president of the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO), the umbrella of Visayan organizations in the state of Hawaii.

Margarita Hopkins has worked for the Hawaii County Department of Research and Development since 1988 as the Economic Development Specialist in charge of the agriculture program. She has a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics from Xavier University in the Philippines and has completed all the coursework for a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Oregon State University.

Dayday is very active in the community, having been an officer of the Big Island Filipino Community Council and the Big Island Filipino Chamber of Commerce, and past president (two terms) of the Congress of Visayan Organizations, among others. She speaks Cebuano (Visayan) and has been very supportive of language access, volunteering as an interpreter and teaching the Visayan language at the University of Hawaii-Hilo.

Ms. Hopkins brings a lot of knowledge and experience, as well as a fresh perspective to the Language Access Advisory Council. This, coupled by her commitment to language access and her knowledge of the community, would make her a valuable addition to the Council.