STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND TOURISM

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN
INTRODUCTION
Hawaii’s population is a diverse blend of people and cultures with many speaking a language other than English at home. They may have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) has developed this plan to exhibit commitment to ensure equal access to Limited English Proficiency (LEP) customers.

LEGAL AUTHORITY
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (“Title VI”) serves as the basis for Executive Order 13166. Title VI provides that no person shall “on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” DBEDT receives Federal funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and other Federal agencies, so Title VI applies to DBEDT operations. Accordingly, we seek to implement the initiatives set forth in this LEP Plan to meet its obligations under Title VI. The purpose of this LEP Plan is to take reasonable steps to ensure persons with limited English proficiency gain meaningful access to DBEDT services and programs.

The President signed on August 11, 2000, Executive Order 13166, on Improving Access to Services for Persons With Limited English Proficiency.” All agencies receiving federal funds shall examine the services they provide, identify any need for services, and develop and implement a system to provide those services so LEP persons can have meaningful access to them.

The Hawai‘i State Legislature enacted the Hawai‘i’s Language Access Law on July 10, 2006 to further reduce language barriers that can preclude individuals who have LEP from meaningful access to services, programs, and activities offered by the State of Hawai‘i or by state-funded programs. Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 321C, Office of Language Access, requires each State agency or covered entity to establish a language access plan.

DEFINITION OF LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT PERSONS/CUSTOMERS
For purposes of this LEP Plan, LEP persons or LEP customers mean individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. Such persons may be eligible to receive language assistance with respect to a particular service, benefit, or encounter, including vital agency-specific information related to COVID-19.

RELEVANT FACTORS
The U.S. Department of Justice LEP Guidance requires recipients of Federal and State funds to take reasonable steps to provide effective and meaningful access to LEP persons to agency programs, services, and vital agency-specific information related to COVID-19. To determine if language access services must be provided, and if so, the extent of those services, requires an
individualized analysis that balances the following 4 factors (68 FR 32290, 32294 May 29, 2003):

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program;

2. The frequency with which LEP persons come into contact with the program;

3. The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program to LEP persons; and

4. The resources available to the program and the costs of providing interpretation/translation services.

The touchstone of this four-factor analysis is reasonableness, measured by balancing:

1. The size, needs, and the nature of assistance to the LEP population served; and

2. DBEDT’s capacity and available resources.

The analysis can result in a combination of LEP services. Oral interpretation (in person or via telephone) and written translation are examples of main ways to provide language services. Decisions regarding oral interpretation and written translation services under the following LEP Plan shall be guided by the analysis.

**Summary**
This LEP Plan is comprised of seven (7) components that are explained on the following pages:

1. Development of a reporting system designed to obtain key information about the LEP population who use DBEDT services;

2. Compilation of multi-lingual listing of our employees;

3. Notice of interpretation/translation services for qualified LEP customers;

4. Providing interpretation/translation services for qualified LEP customers;

5. Designation of a LEP Plan Coordinator;

6. Training our staff on the implementation of this plan; and

7. Seeking stakeholder’s input, review, and revision of the LEP plan.

**LEP Plan**

1. **Development of a Reporting System to Obtain Key Information About the LEP Customers Who Use DBEDT Services**
In order to provide meaningful access to LEP customers, we will first seek to gather information about what languages they speak, what DBEDT services they use, and the frequency in which they use these services.

A survey form was designed to collect the information necessary to enable us to render meaningful access to LEP customers who use our services. This form seeks to collect, among other things, the following information: (1) the kinds of languages that LEP customers need translated; (2) the kinds of DBEDT services used by LEP customers; and (3) the frequency in which LEP customers use certain DBEDT services. DBEDT Personnel Staff is responsible for establishing a procedure for our Divisions/Agencies/Offices to complete the form, compiling the data on a semi-annual basis, and providing a report to the LEP Plan Coordinator. This data is used to complete the Language Access Reporting Tool (Appendix A).

II. COMPILATION OF MULTI-LINGUAL LISTING OF DBEDT EMPLOYEES
To effectively service LEP customers, we must ascertain what language skills and resources DBEDT may already have available through its employees.

We will be gathering information on languages that DBEDT employees can speak and/or read, the degree of fluency in those identified languages, and contact information for those employees. The information is listed as Appendix E. An employee on the list may be contacted when a LEP customer of DBEDT services needs language assistance.

Although an employee may not be fluent in a particular language, depending on the circumstances, that employee’s language skills may facilitate a certain comfort level that may contribute significantly to meeting a LEP customer’s needs.

III. NOTIFICATION OF INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION SERVICES FOR LEP CUSTOMERS
A. OFFICE NOTICE
LEP persons have the right to free language assistance in their spoken language. The Hawai‘i Office of Language Access (OLA) developed a poster listing languages that are likely to be the primary languages spoken by LEP persons in Hawai‘i. The intent of the poster is for the LEP person to point to the poster indicating the language they understand. The poster indicates that DBEDT provides free interpretation services and shall be placed in a prominent place in our offices having contact with the public. A copy of this poster is attached as Appendix D.

B. NOTICE FOR REQUESTING WRITTEN TRANSLATION
Additionally, a written notice will be attached to documents that each Division/Agency/Office Administrator believes is important and/or believes, through the experiences of his/her program, needs to be translated. The notice will invite a person who needs translation of a DBEDT document to contact our
IV. PROVIDING INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION SERVICES FOR LEP CUSTOMERS

A. ORAL INTERPRETATION

In the course of serving our LEP customers, situations may arise where they are unable to negotiate through DBEDT programs without the assistance of interpreters in their preferred language. To ensure that the inability to communicate in English does not deprive the public of rights and privileges, we will provide an interpreter, at no cost to LEP customers, pursuant to the following procedures:

1. In Person

   If a customer approaches a DBEDT employee and appears to be asking for help, but has difficulty communicating what he or she needs, then the employee should attempt to determine what language that person speaks. If that language cannot be readily determined, the employee should use the poster mentioned in III.A. to find out what language the customer speaks. The employee should encourage the customer to point to the language for which he/she needs an interpreter.

   As a general rule, a competent, in-person interpreter is preferred over a telephone one. Accordingly, if the customer points to a language on the poster, then the DBEDT employee should refer to the multi-lingual listing of our employees mentioned in II. and contact an available interpreter within the employee’s own office. If no one is available to interpret within that office, then the employee should attempt to contact an interpreter in the proximity of his/her own office (i.e., on the same floor). If no one in the proximity of the office is available, then the employee should contact an interpreter within DBEDT. If no one is available within the Department, then the employee should contact an approved language service vendor (Appendix F).

   DBEDT has contracted and made available telephone interpreters for use department wide to assist LEP persons (Appendix F). The employee will call an approved language service vendor and give the account number (if needed) and the interpreter will be connected to the call. The cost for oral interpretation shall be covered by the Division or Agency.

   At the end of the service provided, the DBEDT employee shall do a Limited English Proficiency Questionnaire (Appendix B). DBEDT Divisions/Agencies/Offices shall complete the questionnaire and submit it to our LEP Plan Coordinator within 15 days after the end of each month.

2. Telephone Calls

   If a DBEDT employee receives a telephone call from a LEP customer or a
representative of a LEP customer needing oral translation, then the employee should attempt to determine what language that person speaks and contact an available interpreter within the employee’s own office. If no one is available to interpret within that office, then the employee should attempt to contact an interpreter in the proximity of his/her own office (i.e., on the same floor). If no one in the proximity of the office is available, then the employee should contact an interpreter within DBEDT. If no one is available within the Department, then the employee should contact an approved language service vendor (Appendix F). The employee shall fill out a LEP Questionnaire after the service.

B. WRITTEN TRANSLATION
As indicated in III.B, a notice regarding a request for written translation shall be attached to important documents in order to provide meaningful access to LEP customers and/or sent with documents that DBEDT staff have sufficient reason to believe are addressed to a LEP customer.

For example, in a matter concerning business opportunities, a flyer on product promotion events in China is a document that might necessitate access to DBEDT services. Or with regard to exporting, information on Foreign Trade Zone services might be another such document.

When a request for a written translation is received by the LEP Plan Coordinator, the Coordinator shall notify the Division/Agency/Office which sent the document that such a request was made. The Coordinator and the Administrator of that Division/Agency/Office shall decide whether or not the request should be granted using the four-factor analysis discussed in the “RELEVANT FACTORS” section. It is at the discretion of the Coordinator and the Administrator to select a qualified translator.

If additional staff is required to provide language access to our LEP customers, as determined by the “RELEVANT FACTORS,” then DBEDT will hire qualified personnel who are bilingual to fill existing, budgeted, and vacant public contact positions. (Appendix F)

V. DESIGNATION OF LEP PLAN COORDINATOR
A staff from the DBEDT Administrative Services Office shall serve as the LEP Plan Coordinator. The Coordinator will be primarily responsible for, among other things:
1. The overall implementation of the LEP Plan;
2. Responding to any inquiries or comments/complaints regarding the Plan and its implementation;
3. Making revisions and modifications to the Plan as necessary;
4. Informing DBEDT staff of the Plan;
5. Serving as the primary contact for LEP customers who need a written translation of important DBEDT documents; and
6. Coordinating efforts to implement, monitor, and evaluate the Plan.
VI. TRAINING DBEDT STAFF
The LEP Plan Coordinator will be responsible for training DBEDT staff on the Plan. The primary purpose is to impart the necessary background and understanding to implement the objectives of the Plan.

VII. SEEKING STAKEHOLDER’S INPUT, REVIEW, AND REVISION
The LEP Plan Coordinator will seek input from DBEDT Programs that assist LEP customers. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact the LEP Plan Coordinator directly.

This LEP Plan shall be reviewed and revised as needed every two years in light of comments from LEP customers, their representatives, interested stakeholders, and DBEDT employees. The provisions of this Plan shall remain in place until a revised one is adopted. The Plan will be filed with the Executive Director of the Office Language Access.

All DBEDT Division and Administratively Attached Agencies shall comply with this LEP Plan.
APPENDICES

A. Language Access Reporting Tool
B. Limited English Proficiency Questionnaire
C. Language Access Notice
D. Language Poster
E. Multilingual DBEDT Employee Volunteers
F. Interpreter – Translation Services
**LANGUAGE ACCESS REPORTING TOOL**

**LEP Services by Language**

**Department:** Business, Economic Development & Tourism

**Contact Person:** Steven Sung

**Email:** steven.s.sung@hawaii.gov

**Phone:** 586-2562

**Period Covered:** January - June 2022

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**Language** | **# of Oral Language Encounters** | **Oral Language Service Utilized (#)** | **Translated Documents (#)** | **Translator Used (#)** | **Totals (Columns 2 & 4)**
---|---|---|---|---|---
Cantonese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Chhuksese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Hawaiian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Ilokano | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Japanese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Korean | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Kosraean | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
LEP Hearing Impaired | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Mandarin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Marshallese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Portuguese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Samoaan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Spanish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Tagalog | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Thai | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Tongan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Vietnamese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Visayan (Cebuano) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Other Total # * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0

**Totals**

0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

*Specify Type of Other Language on a Separate Sheet

**Expenditures:**

- Interpretation Total: $238.74
- Translation Total: $0.00
- Interpretation & Translation Total: $238.74
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Questionnaire

This questionnaire is to be completed by DBEDT employees each time they provide services to or encounter a person with LEP. Completed questionnaires are to be sent to the LEP Plan Coordinator (Departmental Human Resources Officer) within 15 days after the end of each month.

Employee Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Division/Agency/Office: ___________________________

Name of LEP person if known: ___________________________

1. What is the primary language spoken by the LEP person?
   (e.g. Mandarin, Cantonese) Ilocano, Tagalog, Japanese, Korean, Samoan, etc.)

2. List the dates and types of program services you provided this person?
   (e.g. program information, processed application, etc.)

3. Was the program service provided within the same time frame as services provided to non-LEP clients?
   (Yes or No: if No, please indicate if the delay was due to need for LEP assistance?)

4. How often did you provide services to or encounter this person?
   (e.g. one time event, weekly, monthly, etc.)

5. What type of LEP services did you provide this person?
   (e.g. oral interpretation in person or by phone, written translation, none)

6. Who provided the interpreter services?
   (e.g. bilingual staff, contracted interpreter, telephone interpreter service, community volunteer, LEP person's family member, friend, OVIITI interpreter, etc.)

7. Was this person satisfied with the interpreter services provided?
   (Yes or No; if No, please explain the dissatisfaction)
This document contains important information. If you need language assistance at no cost to you, please contact us by telephone or in person immediately.

Daytoy nga dokumento ket addaan ti importante nga impormasyon. No masapul mo ti mangipatanus nga libre, pangngaashin ta awagan na kami ti telepono wennu unay na kami kitaen nga daras.

Ang dokumentong ilo ay nagtalaman ng importanteng impormasyon. Kung nangangailangan kayo ng libreng utong para maintindihan ilo, mangyaring makipag-ugnay sa amin sa pamamagitan ng telepono o makipagkita kagaad sa amin.

Este documento contiene información importante. Si necesita los servicios de un intérprete sin costo alguno para usted, por favor llame de inmediato por teléfono o contacte con alguna persona de nuestra oficina.

メイアーアイのメトロメトは、ノクスケルのメトロメトを含む、ロクメトのメトロメトを含む。メイアーアイのメトロメトを含む、ロクメトのメトロメトを含む。

Ilo pepa in ewor melele ko aorok. Ne kwoj aikuj jiban na ukok ilo ejjelok wonen, jouj im kokkeitaak kem ilo talboon ak ilo wobij e len eo emakaaj tata.

이 문서는 중요한 정보가 포함되어 있습니다. 무료로 언어 연락이 필요하시면, 바로 문의 하시거나 오세요. 상담하십시오.

Tài liệu này bao gồm các thông tin quan trọng. Nếu bạn cần hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí, xin vui lòng đến gặp trực tiếp chúng tôi hoặc liên lạc qua điện thoại ngay lập tức.
Please point here if you need an interpreter in this language (at no cost to you).
**APPENDIX E**

**DBEDT Bilingual Volunteer Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Proficiency</th>
<th>Phone #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin</td>
<td>Eugene Tian</td>
<td>READ</td>
<td>Hemeter Building</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>Fluent</td>
<td>586-2474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin</td>
<td>Binsheng Li</td>
<td>READ</td>
<td>Hemeter Building</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>Fluent</td>
<td>586-5829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>Marika Metz-Hall</td>
<td>HSEO</td>
<td>State Office Tower</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>Conversational</td>
<td>587-3991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Joseph Roos</td>
<td>READ</td>
<td>Hemeter Building</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>Fluent</td>
<td>586-2475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Scott Yoshida</td>
<td>FTZ</td>
<td>Pier 2, Ala Moana Blvd</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>Fluent</td>
<td>586-2515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Susan Gray-Ellis</td>
<td>HSEO</td>
<td>State Office Tower</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>Conversational</td>
<td>587-9002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>Yang-Seon Kim</td>
<td>READ</td>
<td>Hemeter Building</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>Fluent</td>
<td>586-5830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin</td>
<td>David Shuai</td>
<td>HSEO</td>
<td>State Office Tower</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>Fluent</td>
<td>586-2478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>Tammy Lam</td>
<td>READ</td>
<td>Hemeter Building</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>Fluent</td>
<td>586-2473</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX F

DBEDT Language Assistance Resources

TELEPHONE INTERPRETERS (ORAL)

1) CTS Language Link
   1-877-650-8014 (Please call DBEDT Personnel for ACCOUNT CODE)
   www.ctslanguagelink.com

2) Language Services Hawaii, LLC (Oral)
   393-7060
   lsh@languageserviceshawaii.com

3) Linguistica International
   801-262-4550

INTERPRETATION (WRITTEN)

1) Language Services Hawaii, LLC (Oral)
   393-7060
   lsh@languageserviceshawaii.com

2) CTS Language Link
   1-877-650-8014 (Please call DBEDT Personnel for ACCOUNT CODE)
   www.ctslanguagelink.com

Braille Transcription

1) Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped
   733-8444
   www.librarieshawaii.org/location/oahu/ibph.htm