



## Senator English Calls for Investigation of Power Failure



*More than 12 hours after the earthquakes hit the Big Island, most of Honolulu remains without power, in this photograph looking toward Diamond Head from Makiki. The only light comes from headlights on the H-1 Freeway and a few scattered emergency generator systems.*

Senator J. Kalani English and Senator Fred Hemmings (R-Kailua, Lanikai, Waimanalo, Hawai'i Kai) have called on the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to conduct a thorough investigation of the prolonged power blackout that followed the October 15 earthquakes. Sen. English is Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs; Sen. Hemmings is a member of the committee.

### **Prolonged Power Failure**

Sen. English said, "The people of Hawai'i have a right to know why they were left without electrical power for so long – and why our power grid is so vulnerable. We need to give the Public Utilities Commission the resources to conduct a thorough and independent investigation." Sen. Hemmings added, "We need to know the circumstances behind the catastrophic failure to deliver the most expensive electricity in the nation to the people of our state. The loss of electricity over such a wide area had a far more damaging impact than the earthquake."

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Chair, Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs  
Committee Memberships:  
Intergovernmental Affairs;  
Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs;  
Media, Arts, Science, and Technology;  
Water, Land, and Agriculture;  
Ways and Means



### *A Message From Kalani*

Aloha,

The October 15 power failure that followed the early-morning earthquakes on the Big Island should act as a wake-up call to our entire state. Energy security for Hawai'i is an issue that is not about to go away, and the blackout reminded us that we need to take a hard look at the way our state's power grid works -- how it is built and what we can do to protect it. We'll be working hard to provide answers in the weeks and months ahead.



# Power Failure Raises Security Concerns

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*Sen. English, with Energy, Environment, and International Affairs Committee Co-Chair Sen. Russell S. Kokobun (D-Waiakea Uka, Kalapana, Volcano, Kahuku) at right in the photograph and Sen. Hemmings in the center, told an Oct. 16 news conference the Senate would expect a thorough investigation before the 2007 Legislative Session begins in January.*

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[Sen. Hemmings said] "The people of Hawai'i pay 150 percent of the national average for electrical power, and they have a right to an explanation."

## **A Security Issue**

Both Senators view energy security as a key issue for Hawai'i, a state whose physical isolation and dependence on power plants that burn fossil fuels have given it the highest energy costs in the nation. "We need to be able to get our electrical power up and running far more quickly in the event of a catastrophe." Sen. English said. "To meet that goal, we need to take a hard look at what happened yesterday and learn as much as we can – in order to do better the next time."

## **The Effect on the Economy**

Sen. Hemmings, who watched grocery stores throwing away spoiled food at 3 a.m. Monday morning, said the blackout will have a far-reaching economic impact. "Our citizens are hit hard by the cost of electrical energy, and we need to know how our money is being spent when electrical power is needed most."

## **Energy Reform**

Both senators are longtime advocates of energy reform. As Sen. English wrote in an editorial published in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin and the Maui News

"Energy reform is essential to the security of our economic system: our health care, our food supply and our transportation. Too often we look at energy reform and security as separate areas of concern. It's time to revise our view, and understand that true security for Hawai'i can only come through an overhaul of the ways we import, consume and produce energy." Sen. English added at the news conference that "We should turn yesterday's events into a historic opportunity to improve and safeguard the delivery of electrical energy to the people of Hawai'i."

## **Pacific Business News Guest Editorial**

Sen. English had addressed the energy security issue in an editorial that appeared in Pacific Business News on Sept. 22. In it, he wrote: "A healthy competition is under way to produce renewable, affordable fuels and move Hawai'i toward energy self-sufficiency.

"Until we do, our state will never truly be secure. Our economy, and even our physical safety, will be jeopardized by our need to import fossil fuels. Our physical isolation, combined with our dependence on volatile, undependable outside sources for the energy we need, have created a situation that cannot be allowed to continue...

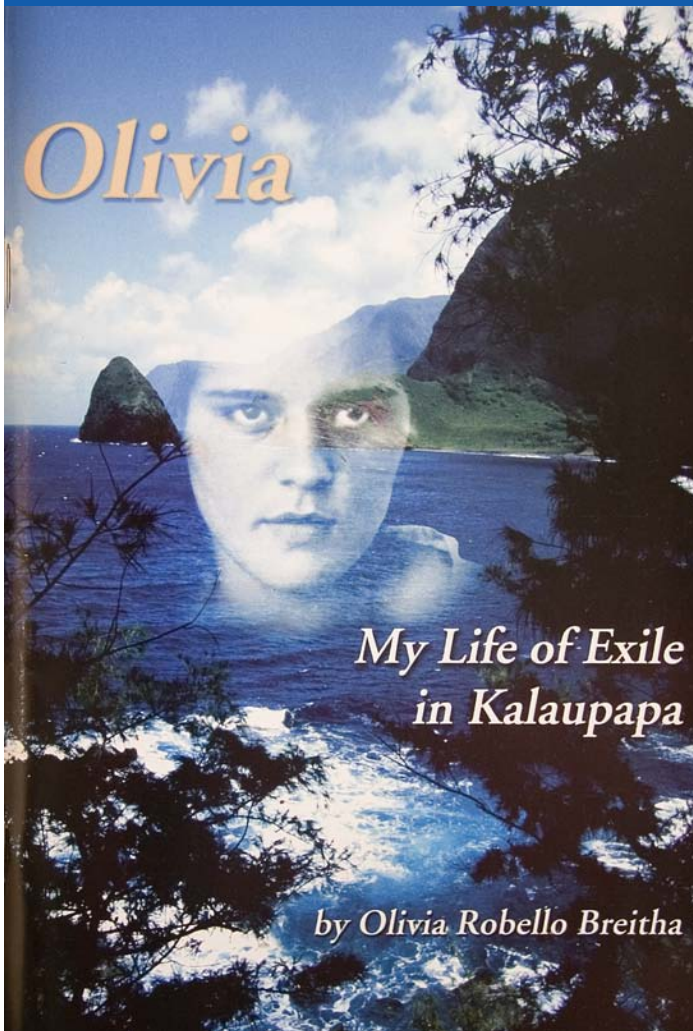
We have an opportunity now to choose the best technologies in the world and adjust them for our islands. Hawai'i, which has lagged sadly behind in alternative energy development, could become a world leader."



*At the October 16 State Capitol news conference, Sen. English said the people of Hawai'i need "to understand how our grid system works, to understand how our power is generated and... why it took so long to come back on."*



# World Community Honors Memory Of Olivia Robella Breitha, “Crusader For Human Dignity”



*Olivia Robello Breitha died September 28, 2006 at the age of 90. The cover of her 1998 memoir is shown above; the image at right also was taken from that volume.*

Olivia Breitha was an inspiration to people around the world. Her death in late September was reported in national and international media; she will be remembered as a person who had devoted her life to advancing the understanding of Hansen’s Disease and its patients.

## **Honoring Her Memory**

Sen. English drafted a State Senate Certificate, to be read at her memorial service, that was entitled, “In Loving Memory of Olivia Robello Breitha, Kalaupapa Resident and Lifelong Crusader for Human Dignity.” It reads: “Olivia Robello Breitha was the kind of person whose memory will live on in the hearts of the people she touched throughout her long life. When she was first brought to Kalaupapa, Hansen’s Disease

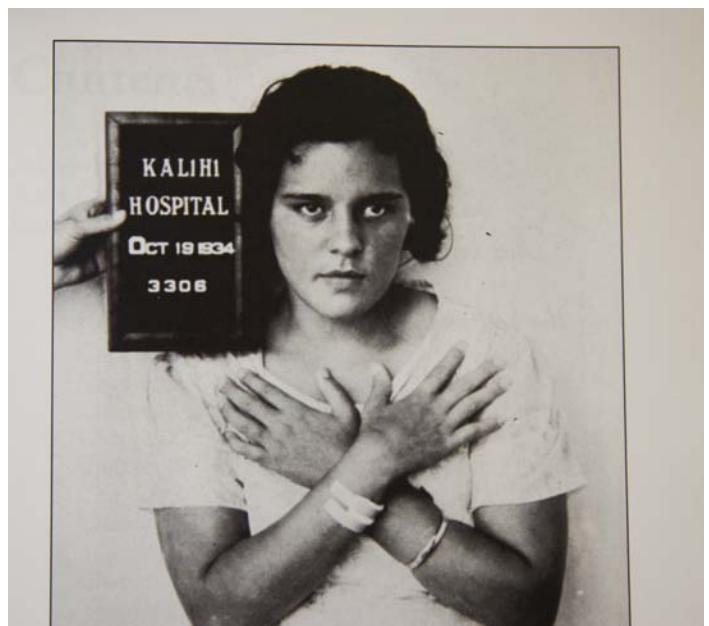
patients were isolated and heavily discriminated against. During the 65 years Olivia lived at Kalaupapa, significant changes occurred in the outside world: a cure was found for Hansen’s Disease; the laws that kept its patients isolated were abolished; and Kalaupapa was designated as a National Historical Park for the education and inspiration of present and future generations.

## **A Legacy of Courage**

“It is a testimony to Olivia Robello Breitha’s courage and humanity that she devoted her life to the struggle to advance the understanding of Hansen’s Disease around the world. Sadly, that struggle is not over. There are still many places in the world where Hansen’s Disease patients are taken from their families, kept in isolation, and separated from their families, their communities, and their friends.

## **“Fighting Ignorance”**

In her autobiography, “Olivia: My Life and Exile in Kalaupapa,” she wrote: “I wanted people to know what I feel, what I felt, how much I struggled, fighting the disease, fighting ignorance, fighting bureaucrats. Trying not to be a statistic - - trying to be a person.” The Senate of the State of Hawai’i, regular session of the Twenty-Third Legislative Session, is proud to honor the memory of Olivia Robello Breitha – and to celebrate her legacy as a tireless crusader for justice and dignity for all people.”



*Olivia Breitha was diagnosed with Hansen’s Disease in 1934 and shipped to Kalaupapa in 1937.*

## Sen. English Sworn in as Vice President of Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

Sen. J. Kalani English represented Hawai'i at the Grand Opening of Palau's national government offices on Oct. 1, 2006, the 12th anniversary of that nation's independence. The new Capitol Building in Melekeok represents a transfer of the seat of power in Palau from the commercial center of Koror State to the smaller State of Melekeok.

Up to now, Koror has been the hub of economic activities for the island. The new capitol is centrally located on the east coast of the main island of Babeldaob.

### Key Meetings

The visit provided an opportunity for Sen. English to meet with representatives of several Pacific Island nations, and to be sworn in as Vice President of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.



*Palau Supreme Court Chief Justice Arthur Ngiraklsong swears in Hawai'i State Sen. J. Kalani English as Vice President of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures in the House Chamber of the Palau National Congress, Koror, on October 1, 2006.*



*Tristan-E. Landry, Consul for Political/Economic Relations and Public Affairs for the Consulate-General of Canada in San Francisco, and his aide, Monica Arriola, met with Sen. English at the State Capitol in late September.*

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