



**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**



Senator English Looks Back at 2005 Session

Progress in the areas of environmental regulation and the eradication of invasive species, a historic measure to ensure the dignity of patients at Kalaupapa, and a wide variety of Capital Improvement Projects for the 6th District were hallmarks of the 2005 Legislative Session for Sen. J. Kalani English. Sen. English, who represents Hana, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i, and Kaho'olawe. In an interview the day after the May 5 adjournment of the session, Sen. English looked at recent accomplishments and future goals.

Cruise Ship Standards

For the first time, Hawaii will have a law on the books that sets standards for discharges of waste materials from commercial passenger vessels into the marine waters of the State. Sen. English said, "We started out with ambitious goals, and one of the most important was getting control of cruise ship discharge by bringing it under the rule of law." Up to now, cruise ship discharges in Hawaii have been governed by a Memorandum of Understanding that does not carry legal penalties. "The cruise ship industry is growing rapidly, and it has the potential to be a major industry in Hawaii," Sen. English says. "But we need to be able to assure people here that the environment will be protected as the industry grows. If we put in the right safeguards we can grow the industry and protect the environment." Cruise lines that currently operate in Hawaii have generally complied with the guidelines, Sen. English says, but "We have to have something in place that companies can choose to look at before they come here and say, 'Okay, we can live up to that.' Today there is first-class technology available to treat waste, and this legislation will encourage them to take advantage of it."

A "Delicate Balance"

"There is a delicate balance to be struck between tourism and the environment," Sen. English says. "It's not an either-or situation, the way I look at it; it's an all-encompassing, inclusive package. The environment is our economy. The main thing we sell – the basis of our tourism – is the culture and the environment, and that's the basis of the cruise ship industry. People come here because we have a spectacular environment to look at. We have a unique cultural experience – and if you don't protect that, you're actually hurting the economic engine that brings people here. Look at what happened to Waikiki a few years back when it was in decline. People didn't want to come there because it looked like everywhere else. It became a homogenized resort area, and Waikiki had to go through a

A Message From Kalani

Aloha,

This is the last newsletter of this year's legislative session, a busy and productive time that brought benefits to Hawaii's 6th District in the form of repairs to our roads and schools, environmental benefits, and seed money for affordable housing. My staff and I want to remind you that we are on the job year-round, and we are standing by to learn more about your needs and concerns.

Please feel free to get in touch. . .



reinvention of itself to be unique again. So I don't draw a distinction between the environment and the economy. It's all one, and that's how I looked at all the legislation that we did this session. We cannot sacrifice either."

Coqui Eradication

The threat of invasive species is another key environmental concern. In a year when few environmental bills passed and funding was scarce. Sen. English was able to get a State appropriation for coqui frog eradication in Maui County. The species spreads rapidly, but Sen. English believes it can be stopped on Maui before it can become entrenched. "I think we have a great chance in Maui. It's a slim window; it's \$100,000 out of a \$300,000 statewide allocation – but if you combine it with all the other efforts it will have a major impact. They could use this money to buy hydrated lime, or sprayers, and get into the valleys and get rid of these frogs. So while we didn't get as much money as I would have liked, this amount goes a long way to help."

Affordable Housing

One of the Capital Improvement Projects approved for this year is intended for affordable housing in Hana. Sen. English said, "I know for a fact just how acute the housing crisis is. The original amount that I asked for was \$5.6 million. We were fortunate to get \$1.6 million in the State Budget to support a project in Hana. Hana Ranch has donated some land, and with the values of land, this donation is huge. I'm hoping that this money can be used to put in infrastructure to help lay the groundwork for affordable housing to be built. I'm hoping this attracts some non-profits and other philanthropic organizations to chip in and help to create a project that's viable. I think that people will be very satisfied with a modest home and a small plot of land that is their own. With this kind of positive development it creates great opportunities for

families who have been there for generations to continue to live in Hana."

"On the other side of it, I want to continue to support the subsistence economies in my district: Hana, Moloka'i, Lana'i –places where the productivity of people is honored, and the ability of people to raise their own food, gather their own food, and redistribute it among the community is not lost."

The First Bill of Its Kind

Former Hansen's Disease patients at Kalaupapa continue to struggle against centuries-old prejudices, and a law to ensure that they will be treated with

dignity and respect is being hailed as one of the first of its kind anywhere. Sen. English introduced a measure that had been crafted through the efforts of Kalaupapa residents and former Rep. Sol Kaho'ohalahala that says, "the Legislature declares its intent to ensure that all residents at Kalaupapa are treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and sensitivity."

The bill is being called a historic measure by international Hansen's Disease advocacy organizations. Anwei Law, International

Coordinator for IDEA, the International Association for Integration, Dignity, and Economic Advancement, said, "I don't think there is a law like this anywhere in the world. From my experience, this is the first of its kind. We all have inherent dignity. This is a legislative body requiring people to treat others with dignity."

Sen. English hopes the bill can set a precedent. "I hope organizations like IDEA can use this bill to go to other parts of the world, to governments that still isolate Hansen's Disease patients, and say 'This is what an enlightened society can do.'"



As Chair of the Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs and a member of five other committees, Sen. English has a wide range of issues cross his desk.

6th District Capital Improvement Project Funds Aimed at Roads, Harbors, Schools

This year's State Budget includes more than \$20 million in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds for Sen. J. Kalani English's 6th District. The appropriations include essential funding for schools, health care facilities, agricultural projects, and highway and airport upgrades. Several of the appropriations listed below allow the State to qualify for federal matching funds.

Moloka'i Irrigation System Improvements	\$750,000
Planning, design, construction, and equipment for improvements to the Moloka'i Irrigation System.	
Upcountry Maui Watershed	\$1,500,000
Planning, land acquisition, design, construction, and equipment for the installation of pipeline for the Upcountry Maui Watershed Project, Kula, Maui.	
Hui No'eau Center, Land Acquisition, Maui	\$500,000
Land acquisition to acquire land in Kalaunau, Maui to prevent displacement of the Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center.	
Hāna High School, Maui	\$500,000
Design and construction for the upgrade of the electrical system; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.	
Kaunakakai Elementary School, Moloka'i	\$500,000
Design and construction for electrical system upgrades; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.	
Makawao Public Library	\$744,000
Land acquisition for the expansion of the Makawao Public Library and parking area.	
Hāna Ranch Affordable Housing Development, Maui	\$1,500,000
Planning, design, and construction to develop affordable housing in Hāna.	
Moloka'i General Hospital, Moloka'i	\$1,600,000
Design and construction to expand and improve Moloka'i General Hospital.	

Moloka'i General Hospital, Moloka'i	\$750,000
Indigent Care Services.	
Hāna Airport, Part 139 Improvements, Maui	\$56,000
Planning, design, and construction for an environmental assessment, and part 139 compliance improvements to aircraft rescue and fire fighting (ARFF) station, perimeter fencing, and other related improvements. Qualifies for \$659,000 in federal funds in the coming fiscal year.	
Moloka'i Airport ARFF Station Improvements, Moloka'i	\$915,000
Construction for the Moloka'i Airport Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Station improvements, including site work, demolition, reconstruction and/or replacement of a building, utilities, driveway with a parking area, and other related improvements. Qualifies for federal aid financing and/or reimbursement in the amount of \$1,200,000.	
Moloka'i Airport, Part 139 Culvert Improvements, Moloka'i	\$20,000
Design for culvert improvements at Moloka'i Airport, including site work, installation of a drainage system and box culvert. Qualifies for federal aid financing and/or reimbursement in the amount of \$200,000.	
Kalaupapa Airport, Part 139 Improvements, Moloka'i	\$56,000
Plans, design, and construction for an environmental assessment and Part 139 compliance improvements to aircraft rescue and fire fighting (ARFF) station, perimeter fencing, and other related improvements. Qualifies for federal aid financing and/or reimbursement in the amount of \$659,000 in the coming fiscal year.	
Lāna'i Airport ARFF Station Improvements, Lāna'i	\$600,000
Construction of the Lāna'i Airport Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Station improvements including site work, demolition, reconstruction and/or replacement of a building, utilities, driveway with a parking area, and other related improvements. Qualifies for federal aid financing and/or reimbursement in the amount of \$550,000 in the coming fiscal year.	

Capital Improvement Project (CIP)

Kaunalapau Harbor Improvements, Lānaʻi	\$500,000
Design and construction for improvements to the pier, yard, lighting, utilities, structures, and other related improvements.	
Hāna Highway Rockfall Mitigation, Huelo to Hāna, Maui	\$4,700,000
Construction to remove overhanging, protruding, and/or unstable rocks from the slopes above Hāna Highway at various locations.	
Guardrail and Shoulder Improvements on state Highways, Molokaʻi	\$220,000
Design and construction to build asphalt concrete paved shoulders and installing and/or upgrading existing guardrails. Qualifies for federal aid financing and/or reimbursement in the amount of \$480,000 in the coming fiscal year.	
Hāna Community Health Center	\$750,000
Indigent Care Services.	

Kamehameha V Highway, Kawela Stream Bridge Replacement, Molokaʻi	\$125,000
Land acquisition for replacement of Kawela Stream Bridge to include sidewalks and other improvements. Qualifies for federal aid financing and/or reimbursement in the amount of \$495,000 in the coming fiscal year.	
Kamehameha V Highway, Makakupaia Stream Bridge Replacement, Molokaʻi	\$130,000
Land acquisition and design for the replacement of Makakupaia Bridge to include bridge railings and other improvements. Qualifies for federal aid financing and/or reimbursement in the amount of \$520,000 in the coming fiscal year.	
Kamehameha V Highway, Culvert Improvements at Mile Post 12.5, Molokaʻi	\$90,000
Land acquisition and design to upgrade the existing culvert, other drainage improvements in the vicinity of Mile Post 12.5.	
Oral Health Institute of the Pacific	\$200,000
Dental Services for the indigent.	



The Regular Session of the Twenty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii adjourned on May 5, 2005.

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