



**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**

Energy Reform Bills Earn Bipartisan Support



Ted Liu, Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (at left) testifies at a joint hearing of the Consumer Protection and Housing (CPH) and Energy, Environment, and International Affairs (EIA) committees. Committee Chairs Sen. Ron Menor and Sen. J Kalani English are in the foreground; Gov. Linda Lingle and Senior Policy Adviser Linda Smith are in the front row.

Energy reform is in the air at the State Capitol. Many of the initiatives proposed by Sen. J. Kalani English over the years – moving Hawai'i toward energy self-reliance through the use of renewable fuel sources, energy conservation, and "green" building standards in new construction – have earned increased support from the administration and the private sector. "A number of bills are in play this session that provide a realistic framework for energy reform in Hawai'i," Sen. English said. "It's impossible to say at this point which bills will be chosen, but some very progressive ideas are being discussed, and that's good news for the state." At a February 14 joint hearing of the Consumer Protection and Housing (CPH) and Energy, Environment, and International Affairs (EIA) committees, it was clear that the past year's fuel cost increases have forced stakeholders to take a hard look at Hawai'i's dependence on imported fossil fuels. Ted Liu, Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) spoke of the "rapid rise in utility rates due to the rise in global oil prices" and said "Hawai'i has no choice but to pursue an energy diversification strategy."

Sen. English's energy reform bills, along with others bills he has introduced this session, are listed on page 3 and 4 of this newsletter. In the online edition, the bill numbers are hyperlinked to the text of each bill.



A Message From Kalani

Aloha,

This issue of our newsletter includes a list of bills I have introduced for this legislative session. In the electronic edition, you can click on the bill number and read the document online.

Tracking the progress of bills during the session is a fascinating look at the way government works. At its best, the system ensures that no bill can become a law until it has been reviewed carefully -- and citizens have made their voices heard.

J. Kalani English





Author Patricia Grace and Sen. English had an opportunity to discuss their shared interest in Pacific Island culture when they met at the Capitol Feb. 7. Sen. English has introduced several measures over the years to preserve Hawaiian language and culture. SB3160, introduced this session, requires that State documents include both state languages, with the Hawaiian language placed above English translation, and establishes a Hawaiian language interim task force.

The Oxford Companion to New Zealand Literature says Patricia Grace "has gained wide recognition as a key figure in the emergence of Maori fiction in English since the 1970's... Her work, expressive of Maori consciousness and values, is distinguished also for the variety of Maori people and ways of life it portrays and for its resourceful versatility of style and narrative and descriptive technique."

Sen. English presented Ms. Grace with a Senate certificate that honored her for "her contributions to contemporary literature and the global community."



A delegation of educators from the Hawaii State Teachers Association came to the Capitol Feb. 10 to alert lawmakers to the impact on their schools of the state's new Weighted Student Formula, which allocates dollars directly to schools on a per-pupil basis. In practice, the formula takes funds away from some rural schools, especially on Moloka'i and Lana'i. The HSTA group met with Sen. English and the House and Senate Education chairs, Rep. Roy Takumi and Sen. Norman Sakamoto. From left to right: Steve Harman, Jeanine Tsuchiya, Rod Sugamit, Eric Nagamine, Sen. English, Carlo Marchetti, Bob Underwood, Weldon Wichman, and Petra Rose.

Free Tax Preparation Assistance Offered for Moloka'i

The Department of Taxation (DOTAX) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will offer personal assistance to Moloka'i taxpayers on:

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

DOTAX and IRS employees will be at the Moloka'i State Tax Office, 35 Ala Malama St., Suite 101, Kaunakakai. To make an appointment, call (808) 539-2099 (IRS) or (808) 533-5541 (DOTAX).



Friends from Hana came to visit for the Senate's Opening Day ceremonies. From left to right: Kenneth Moiha, Wesley Kamai, Sen. English, Mike Woosner.

HOW TO REACH US

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Bills Introduced by Senator J. Kalani English 2006 Legislative Session

SB3152 -- Appropriates funds for the Hāna Community Health Center.

SB3153 -- Appropriates funds for Hāna Health Nutrition Training Center.

SB3154 -- Appropriates \$623,724 as a grant-in-aid for Hāna Health for a hemodialysis facility in Hāna.

SB3155 -- Appropriates funds for capital improvements of the Moloka'i General Hospital. Provides that funds shall be released as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs provides funding at \$1 for every \$2 of the appropriation.

SB3156 -- Appropriates funds to Moloka'i General Hospital for operating costs during fiscal year 2006-2007.

SB3157 -- Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and makes an appropriation to expand the Moloka'i Public Library.

SB3158 -- Appropriates \$60,000 for Lāna'i Community Hospital for two vehicles for patient and other transport uses, to be expended by the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.

SB3159 -- Appropriates funds to install renewable energy systems for a model *kahua kauhale* or encampment on Kaho'olawe -- and to enable ongoing evaluation of renewable resources for the island.

SB3160 -- Requires that all new and replaced letterheads and documents of the State include both state languages, with the Hawaiian language placed above English translation. Establishes a Hawaiian language interim task force. Appropriates funds.

SB3161 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards
Description: Allows the Public Utilities Commission to establish standards that prescribe what portion of the renewable energy standards are to be met by specific types of resources; provided that at least 50 percent of the renewable portfolio standards are met by electrical energy produced by wind, solar energy, hydropower, landfill gas, waste to energy, geothermal resources, ocean thermal conversion, wave energy, biomass (including municipal solid waste), biofuels, or fuels derived from renewable energy, or fuel cells where the fuel is derived from renewable sources.

SB3162 -- Renewable Energy Credits Trading; Chicago Climate Exchange -- requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish a renewable energy credits trading program. Requires DBEDT to review the feasibility of the State becoming a member of the Chicago Climate Exchange. Establishes an advisory committee to assist the PUC and DBEDT to establish a renewable energy credits trading program.

SB3163 -- Requires the installation of renewable energy systems in state facilities and authorizes the issuance of revenue bonds for the financing thereof.

SB3164 -- Hawai'i Public Procurement Code; International Trade Agreements -- prohibits state officials from binding the State to government procurement rules of an international trade agreement without legislative action.

SB3165 -- Establishes the petroleum industry monitoring, analysis, and reporting special fund to be funded by appropriation from the environmental response revolving fund. Establishes a petroleum industry information reporting system to be maintained by the PUC.

SB3166 -- Authorizes the issuance of revenue bonds for energy efficiency and renewable energy use in state facilities.

SB3167 -- Requires the State to install fully shielded lighting fixtures when replacing highway and street lights. Requires the counties to follow the same lighting standards as the State when installing new highway or street lights or replacing existing ones.

SB3168 -- Allows each county to grant, sell or otherwise dispose of easements for chilled water and seawater distribution systems for renewable energy seawater air conditioning district cooling systems by negotiation without public auction.

SB3169 -- Authorizes issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning LLC for the purpose of planning, designing, and constructing a seawater air conditioning district cooling system in Waikiki.

SB3170 -- Clarifies definition of "renewable energy producer" to include thermal energy sold to customers of district cooling systems, for purposes of leasing public lands.

SB3171 -- Allows the sale of cooling from seawater air conditioning district cooling systems to qualify for State Enterprise Zone benefits.

**Bill numbers are hyperlinked;
click on the text to read
the bill document online.**

Bills Introduced in 2006

SB3172 -- Requires each electric utility company to establish an energy efficiency portfolio standard that acquires additional energy efficiency equivalent to a designated percentage of the electric utility company's annual growth in demand.

SB3173 -- Establishes an alternative fuels portfolio standard, requiring a percentage of all new motor vehicles sold in the State to be powered by alternative fuels, starting in 2008.

SB3174 -- Allows each county to retain fines collected from vehicle abandonment violations occurring in their respective county.

SB3175 -- Establishes environmental courts as divisions within the circuit court to handle complaints, administrative appeals, and other judicial proceedings of an environmental nature.

SB3176 -- Requires DLNR to map burial sites that are inadvertently discovered using a global positioning system device and record the location of the burial site and the site to which the remains are reinterred, if any.

SB3177 -- Provides a tax incentive for the purchase of passenger vehicles or light trucks that operate on clean fuels.

SB3178 -- Clarifies that any decision of the State, the Department of Transportation, the counties, or any officer, employee, or agent thereof, to select or apply flexible highway design shall not give rise to a cause of action or claim against them.

SB3179 -- Regulates the sale, distribution, and use of fertilizers, soil amendments, and liming materials in the State.

SB3180 -- Requires counties to adopt ordinances to allow buildings designed using practices, styles, customs, and materials from indigenous Hawaiian architecture.

SB3181 -- Amends the definition of deposit beverage container to allow the redemption of two liter (67.7 fluid ounces) bottles.

SB3182 -- Requires a phased reduction of methyl tertiary-butyl ether in gasoline sold or imported in the State with levels no greater than .15 volume per cent by January 1, 2009.

SB3183 -- Directs the DOH to develop greenhouse gas emission standards and adopt rules that achieve the maximum feasible reduction of greenhouse gases emitted by passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks and any other vehicles determined by the department to be vehicles whose primary use is noncommercial personal transportation in the State.

SB3184 -- Increases public utilities commission commissioners' salary. Authorizes Public Utilities Commission chairperson to appoint utility analysts and legal assistants exempt from chapter 76. Requires the PUC to refund to the public utilities all moneys in excess of \$3,000,000 remaining on balance in the public utilities commission special fund on June 30 of each year.

SB3185 -- Establishes a statewide energy efficiency utility and energy efficiency portfolio standards.

SB3186 -- Appropriates funds to reconvene the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum to develop an action plan, timeline, and benchmarks, and to further engage Hawai'i's leaders and stakeholders in implementing the Forum's visions, concepts, and recommendations for Hawai'i's preferred energy future.

SB3187 -- Authorizes the issuance of \$25,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, installation, and improvement of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in state facilities.

SB3188 -- Provides tax credit to encourage development of fuel handling facilities on neighbor islands; provides temporary waiver of wharfage fees for qualified fuel handling facility.

SB3189 -- Requires distributors to report container numbers sold and make fee payments on that basis. Specifies redemption center operating hours. Permits calculation of redemption value by container count in certain instances. Allows refusal of refund for previously baled or biscuited containers.

SB3190 -- Authorizes any person acting as a private attorney general to commence a civil action against a person or entity that is in violation of the noise pollution law.

SB3191 -- Prohibits use of power of eminent domain to take private property and transfer it to a private entity that had expressed interest in purchasing the same property for development purposes or other private use.

SB3192 -- Statutorily establishes a Hawai'i sister state committee to recommend sister state or province relationships for the legislature's action.

SB3193 -- Prohibits the manufacture, sale, and distribution of televisions, computers, furniture, mattresses, and mattress pads containing commercial decabromodiphenylether.

To receive this newsletter by e-mail, send your request to vandercook@capitol.hawaii.gov.