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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

During the interim, legislators remain busy attending various conferences to improve our capabilities as policy makers. Events like the National Conference of State Legislators Symposium (NCSL) and the Regional Educational Laboratory of the Pacific enable us to gain valuable knowledge and firsthand experience from fellow legislators from across the country. This is an invaluable resource for us when crafting innovative legislation or necessary refinement to our current laws.

In this issue, we honor King Kamehameha the Great in Washington D.C. for a lei draping ceremony commemorating Kamehameha Day in Hawai'i, we take a look at the NCSL Symposium and a "Taste of Hawai'i" in our nation's capital that showcased Hawai'i's unique culture and highlight a few new laws that affect the County of Maui.

J. Kalani English

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

HANA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI, MOLOKA'I, LANA'I AND KAHO'OLAWA



ANNUAL KING KAMEHAMEHA I LEI DRAPING CEREMONY CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER, EMANCIPATION HALL, U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING

Sen. English joined various dignitaries and legislators on June 7 to celebrate Kamehameha Day in Washington, D.C. The Hawai'i State Society of Washington sponsors the event each June and prepares lei using many local and mid-Atlantic plants. The lei are presented and draped on the statues of King Kamehameha I and Saint Damien in a private ceremony in Emancipation Hall of the U.S. Capitol.

The Hawai'i State Society (HSS) of Washington was founded in 1950 to promote statehood for the then Territory of Hawai'i. Public Law 82-293, signed by President Harry Truman on April 3, 1952, chartered the National Conference of State Societies (NCSS) to which the HSS has remained a member. Since those early days, the mission of the Society has evolved to producing events that reflect the diverse culture, rich history, and unique geographical location of the Hawaiian Islands for the enjoyment of their members. The Society's elected officers,



Sen. English, U.S. Senator Hirono, Kaua'i Mayor Carvalho, U.S. Representative Takai, Kehaulani Butts and Senate President Kouchi at the annual Kamehameha I Commemoration and Lei Draping Ceremony in Emancipation Hall of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C. June 7, 2015.

At-Large members, and volunteers each serve without compensation.

Additional info can be found here: <http://www.hawaiistatesociety.org/up-come.htm>

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS (NCSL) SYMPOSIUM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



Sen. English was honored to attend the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) Symposium for Legislative Leaders at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. from June 10-12. The meeting was held exclusively for legislative leaders from across the nation to meet with top congressional leaders in the Capitol and attend a

White House program featuring conversations with key cabinet secretaries. Sessions at this conference focused on the 2016 political outlook, transformational leadership and parliamentary rules used by Congress.



NCSL provides the tools, information and resources to craft the best solutions to the difficult problems that State legislators encounter. They are committed to the success of legislators and staff with a mission to improve the quality and effectiveness of State legislatures; promote policy innovation and communication among them; and ensure State legislatures a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system.

"I obtained invaluable information and skills at the symposium that will fur-

ther my effectiveness as majority leader," said Sen. English. "Dialogue with other State and Federal legislative leaders provides a depth of knowledge that can only be obtained at a large gathering of colleagues in a historic and national setting. Events like these help to prepare us for the many challenges that lie ahead."

Additional info can be found here: <http://www.ncsl.org>



Sen. English attends U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono's 2nd annual Hawai'i on the Hill Policy Summit. June 10, 2015.

ANNUAL TASTE OF HAWAI'I – CAPITOL HILL



Top: Uncle Willie K and Sen. English take a selfie.

Top right: Leslie Campaniano, Sen. English, Adrian Kamali'i, Amy Hānaiali'i, Enrico Fontana and Sherry Menor-McNamara enjoying a taste of Hawai'i.

Right: Legislators, musicians and friends of Hawai'i singing Hawai'i Pono'i, a traditional custom at gatherings in the islands. June 10, 2015.

While in DC, Sen. English also attended the Annual Taste of Hawai'i hosted by the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation on June 10. This event featured the unique culture of Hawai'i by showcasing the 50th State's melting pot cuisine, customs, industries and ideas.

The popularity of this event grows each year and we look forward to its progress and continued success in the years to come.



ANNUAL TASTE OF HAWAII – CAPITOL HILL CONTINUED



Sen. English, Rep. Mizuno, Rep. Saiki, U.S. Senator Hirono, Sherry Menor-McNamara and Rep. Fukumoto Chang at the Annual Taste Of Hawaii on the Hill. Washington, DC. June 10, 2015.

CESSPOOL TAX CREDIT AND COMPOST TOILET BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

Sen. English was especially pleased with the signing of House Bill 1140 for what it will do to provide financial support for the waste disposal issue the State and the Counties have been struggling with for years.

The Governor signed HB 1140 into law, creating Act 120, which provides a temporary income tax credit for the cost of either upgrading, converting a qualified cesspool to a septic system or connecting to a sewer system or an aerobic treatment unit system.

For many years as the Senator whose majority of constituents reside in rural communities, Sen. English has been looking for alternatives to address the lack of waste disposal systems both within his district and throughout the State as concerns have been raised about cesspools being a contamination source for the State's streams, groundwater, and ocean.

"Installing sewer systems in remote areas has been prohibitively expensive for Counties across the State. This measure will help many residents, especially those living in the remote areas such as Hāna, Moloka'i and Lāna'i, to convert old cesspools to modern septic systems," said Sen. English. "I am hopeful that homeowners living close to the sea or a river will take advantage of this tax credit as a way to maintain the integrity of our waters and oceans."

As another alternative to the waste disposal issue, Sen. English also introduced Senate Bill 878 which authorizes the Counties to approve the installation and use of composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems. SB878, CD1 was signed by the Governor on July 1 and is now law as Act 187.

"I am encouraged that use of compost toilets will finally become a reality in the more remote parts of my district, especially where sewer lines are impractical to run," said Sen. English. "Compost toilets are ecologically and environmentally sound and are operable without the use of water, which is a valuable resource and also not easily accessible to many in these areas."



J. KALANI ENGLISH Senate Majority Leader

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REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY OF THE PACIFIC (REL) GOVERNING BOARD MEETING



Sen. English attended the REL board meeting on June 17-18 at the Hawai'i Prince Hotel in Honolulu, O'ahu. The U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences established and continues to fund REL Pacific. The work of REL is carried out through a region-wide network of research alliances located in: the Federated States of Micronesia – Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap; Marshall Islands; Palau; Guam; American Samoa; Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and includes the Hawai'i Partnership for Educational Research Consortium.

The meeting objectives were: 1) Enhance understanding of the purpose and work of the research alliances; which is comprised of a diverse group of educators, organizational and community

members and other parties that share a common interest; 2) Enhance understanding of how REL Pacific work can assist with achieving goals of strategic plans; 3) Enhance understanding of the status of research alliances and the role of data in framing and supporting the work of the research alliances; and 4) Enhance understanding of how the unifying theme of language and culture plays out in the current and future REL Pacific work within the jurisdictions.

"I am honored to be on the Board of REL," said Sen. English. "The Pacific region is significant in the stability of global economics, climate change and world peace. As such, the REL research alliances have a critical role in educating and developing leaders and community members from this region with the skills and knowledge they will need to thrive in the future."

REL Pacific has identified 4 top priority issues in the region: 1) Strengthening teacher effectiveness by increasing teachers' qualifications, identifying effective teachers and best classroom practices; 2) Engaging families and communities in education; 3) Ensuring college and career readiness by preparing students to enter the workforce or pursue college or technical education; and 4) Optimizing data systems by developing, maintaining and using data systems effectively and efficiently to impact student achievement.

For more information about REL Pacific go to: <http://relpacific.mcrel.org>

SEN. ENGLISH LAUDS HEALTHCARE REFORM BILL

Governor Ige signed into law House Bill 1075, creating Act 103, which took effect immediately after the signing on June 6. The bill authorizes the Governor, Maui Regional System Board and the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) to enter into an agreement with a private entity to transfer any one or more of the facilities of the Maui Regional System, which includes Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital & Clinic, and Lāna'i Community Hospital, to a new non-profit management entity to provide health care services.

The core mission of HHSC is to ensure access to high quality health care for all Hawai'i residents. With the cost of operating hospitals continually rising, being proactive today will help to create a sustainable health care system guaranteeing that Maui County residents can expect high quality care in the future.

"We hope with the signing of this important legislation, quality health care will no longer be an uncertainty in the future for the residents of Maui. Establishing a public-private partnership will ensure that health service providers are retained and residents will continue to receive the health care they need," said Sen. English.

The Maui Region of HHSC serves over 11,000 inpatients and sees over 45,000 people in the emergency room each year. With over 1,500 employees, Maui Memorial Medical Center is Maui County's only full-service, acute medical care facility and is the only hospital outside of O'ahu that provides a full range of cardiac services, including open-heart surgery and angioplasty.

For more information visit MauiMemorialMedical.org