



Senator
J. KALANI ENGLISH

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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

We are in the final weeks of the 2012 Legislative Session and things are moving very quickly. This issue is a brief snapshot of our work.

For up to the minute details you can visit the Capitol website at: www.capitol.hawaii.gov to track daily changes to bills as they progress through conference committees.

SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE • 6TH DISTRICT

HĀNA • EAST & UPCOUNTRY MAUI • MOLOKA'I • LĀNA'I • KAHO'OLAWĒ



HAWAIIAN LAND SETTLEMENT NOW LAW

Governor Abercrombie signed **Senate Bill 2783**, relating to public trust lands, into law on April 11, 2012 in a ceremony at Washington Place.

"Although today symbolizes a small amount of justice for the Hawaiian community, it is still a monumental day to be celebrated," said Sen. English.

The State and Office of Hawaiian Affairs, (OHA), agree that a \$200 million approximate settlement amount represents a reasonable compromise of the disputed claims. To satisfy that \$200 million amount, the State is conveying contiguous and adjacent parcels in Kaka'ako Makai. The parcels are near Kaka'ako Waterfront Park, including Fisherman's Warf.

Act 15 will take effect on July 1, 2012. Under the Act, all disputes and controversies relating to OHA's portion of income and proceeds from the public



Sen. English congratulates Ali'i Sir Edward Akana, KGCK of the Royal Order of Kamehameha I. April 11, 2012

trust lands will be extinguished and discharged as well as bar all claims, suits, and actions for the period November 7, 1978 through June 30, 2012.

"Senate Bill 2783 empowered Hawaiians to get their voices heard and the signing of the measure into law is a small step for Hawaiian rights," said Sen. English.



HA'IKU HO'OLAULEA & FLOWER FESTIVAL

The 19th annual Ha'iku Ho'olaule'a and Flower Festival was held at the Ha'iku Community Center and Ha'iku Elementary School on Saturday, March 31, 2012. The festival highlighted local plants and produce, Maui arts and crafts, historical displays, entertainment, community service information, keiki games, floral design contests and great local cuisine. This year's theme "From Our Farms to Your Table" promoted sustainability, local culture, education and the environment.

Sen. English was proud to present a Senate proclamation honoring the festival, the organizers and the community. "This event is a great way for the Ha'iku community to unite and



Sen. English and Marty Dread enjoy a favorite Ha'iku tradition - The Ho'olaulea & Flower Festival. March 31, 2012.



Sen. English and Mayor Arakawa visit the vendors of Maui's local produce and products in the big tent. March 31, 2012.



support our schools and keiki," said Sen. English, "while highlighting our exquisite local agriculture."

The annual Ho'olaule'a and Flower Festival is a collaboration of three non-profit organizations: the Ha'iku Parent Teacher Association, the Ha'iku Boys and Girls Club and the Ha'iku Community Association, who work in harmony to support Ha'iku's keiki. Funds raised by the event are used primarily to support educational enrichment programs at Ha'iku Elementary School, programs like art enrichment, drama and music, creative movement, science, physical education, technology, field trips, playground equipment, classroom supplies and special education.

SEN. ENGLISH WELCOMES NEW INTERN



For the month of April, Sen. English was happy to accept a new intern from the **Mari-El Republic** in Russia to observe and learn the Hawai'i State Legislative process. The Intern, Olga Leontieva is a participant of the Legislative Fellows Program (LFP) which is supported by the U.S. State Department and administered through the American Councils for International Education.

The LFP affords promising young professionals from The Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia the opportunity to gain practical experience in, and exposure to, United States government. The knowledge and interest of these young Eurasian professionals in American political processes will be expanded through short-term fellowships in state legislatures and city halls across the United States, as well as on Capitol Hill.

At her home town of Yoshkar-Ola, (Mari El Republic, Russia) Olga works at the Department for Ethnic Affairs in the Ministry of Culture, Media and Ethnic Affairs for the last 7 years. Her main responsibility, is to implement the ethnic cultural policy in the Mari El Republic. "Our region is inhabited by many indigenous ethnic and religious groups which have a specific local dimension," said Olga, "nowadays unique cultures, languages, lifestyles, attitudes and world-views are still preserved in our local communities. Thus for us the correct social legislation policy is very important, because it is a way not only for preserving cultural diversity and developing harmonious inter-ethnic relations in our country, but also for establishing a better interaction between civil society and public authorities."

WORKERS FROM NEW YORK CITY'S HAWAIIAN ROOM HONORED



Sen. English welcomes former employees of Lexington Hotel's Hawaiian Room as they mark the room's upcoming 75th Anniversary. April 5, 2012.

The Hawai'i State Senate marked the upcoming 75th Anniversary of the Lexington Hotel's Hawaiian Room with a presentation of a Certificate of Recognition to former employees and supporters of the room. TeMoana Makolo, Leonani Akau, Mona Joy, Leialoha Kaleikini, Koko Amoy, Nani Camacho and Manu Gloria Kanemura Bently were presented with certificates.

"Although the Lexington Hotel is located in New York City, it still had the ability to play an integral role in sharing and perpetuating the Hawaiian culture and traditions," said Sen. English, Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs. "The Hawaiian Room was the hub of all things Hawaiian in the Big Apple, and these people were the ambassadors of Hawai'i to America."

From 1937 to 1966, The Hawaiian Room served as a gathering place for those with Hawai'i ties to share the knowledge and broaden the exposure of the Hawaiian culture and practices throughout the East Coast. This further reinforced the appeal and fascination Americans continued to have with Hawaiian mele and hula. The Hawaiian Room received national attention during the 1930's, 40's and 50's, garnering large and diverse audiences; it was the place to be and be seen for America's celebrities.

A long list of talented Hawaiian performers who took the stage at the Hawaiian Room include: the famed bandleader Andy Iona; the revered Hawaiian musician Ray Kinney; top-rated hula dancers Ululani Holt, Mapuana Bishaw, Pualani Mossman and Jennie Napua Woodd, grandmother of beloved local musician Amy Hanaiali'i Gilliom.

Other notable artists who performed at the Hawaiian Room include singing comedienne Clara Inter, known as "Hilo Hattie," Kui Lee, known for his beautiful compositions such as, "I'll Remember You," and Keola Beamer served as a choreographer, singer and dancer.

Alfred Apaka, Johnny Pineapple (David Kaonohi), the McIntyre Brothers, Tutasi Wilson, Mona Joy Lum, Mahi Beamer, Emma Veary, Lei Becker Furtado, Olan Peltier Carpenter, TeMoana Makolo and Leonani Akau to name just a few, also shared their talent at the Hawaiian Room.

"Over its 30-year run, the Hawaiian Room brought the beauty and romance of the Islands to those who could not travel here," said Senator English. "It provided Hawaiian ambience and scenery, dress and cuisine and above all, Hawaiian hula and mele."

MAUI YOUTHS OF THE YEAR

The Senate recently honored members of the Maui Boys and Girls Club for being named the 2012 Youths of the Year for each of their respective clubs. This year Leah Kinores, of the Upcountry Club; Raquel Zane, of the Central Club; Courtney Galarita of the Lahaina Club; Tiera Conley of the Haiku Club and Lopaka Mattos, of the Paukukalo Club were so honored.

The Boys and Girls Club's Youth of the Year program has brought hope and opportunity to hardworking and deserving young people who have overcome enormous odds. The organization's premier character and leadership program, Youth of the Year is a comprehensive, nationwide program that identifies and recognizes outstanding young people 14-18 years of age for behavior that warrants celebration. It promotes and celebrates Club members' service to Club, community and family; academic performance; ethical values; life goals; poise and public speaking ability. The program is an effective year-round tool for fostering young people's personal growth and leadership qualities.

Local Clubs in Hawai'i recognize Youths of the Month, followed by the selection of their Club Youth of the Year. These individuals participate in a statewide competition, followed by the winner moving on to the regional competition. Five regional candidates will then compete for the National Youth of the Year honors.

Shortly after receiving his Senate Certificate of Recognition as a finalist of the Youth of the Year program, Baldwin High School junior Lopaka Mattos was selected as the Boys and Girls Club of Hawai'i's 2012 Youth of the Year and will represent our State at the regional level. "I congratulate Lopaka for this wonderful accomplishment as well as all the Maui Youths of the Year. Their dedication, sense of community and volunteerism are role models for us all," said Sen. English.



Maui Senators congratulate members of the Maui Boys and Girls Club. (L to R) Raquel Zane, Leah Kinores, Lopaka Mattos, Sen. English, Sen. Baker, Sen. Tsutsui, Courtney Galarita and Tiera Conley. April 5, 2012.

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE RECOGNIZES INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEES

The Hawai'i State Senate honored the county-based Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and Dr. Mohsen Ramadan of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) biological control program recently on the Senate floor. The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC), Moloka'i Invasive Species Committee (MOMISC), along with its counterparts from each county, were recognized for their work to guard their islands from invasive species.

MISC was the first Invasive Species Committee to form in 1999. The group works to protect the Valley Isle from coqui frogs, pampas grass, veiled chameleons, and miconia. Many of MISC's original founders still participate today in meetings to share information and set priorities. The partnership brings together scientists, resource managers, foresters, botanists, wildlife biologists, and representatives from county, state, and federal agencies to contribute their time and expertise. MISC works island-wide with a Hana-based crew that focuses almost exclusively on miconia. Other MISC staff work out of their headquarters in upcountry Maui to tackle 20 differently species of invasive plants and animals.

"It is important to recognize all of the invasive species committees, especially the Maui and Molokai committees because they are on the front lines of protecting Hawai'i's ecosystem from invasive species," said Sen. English.

"We appreciate the work of the Maui Invasive Species Committee. They are helping to ensure the survival of our native species," said Senator Roz Baker, who represents District 5, (South and West Maui).



Maui Senators congratulate members of the Maui and Moloka'i Invasive Species Committee. (L-R) Sen. Shan Tsutsui, Sen. Roz Baker, Lori Buchanan, Teya Penniman, and Sen. J. Kalani English. April 4, 2012.

"The Maui Invasive Species Committee have been working to protect our native ecosystem and we commend them for their efforts in keeping invasive species from changing our environment," said Senate President Shan Tsutsui, who represents District 4, (Wailuku, Waihee, Kahului, Paia, and Lower Paia).

The Invasive Species Committees are projects of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i. The ISC's are island-based partnerships on Kauai (KISC), Oahu (OISC), Maui (MISC), Molokai (MOMISC), and the Big Island (BIISC) that work with government agencies, non-profit organizations, private businesses and landowners to protect each island from the most threatening pests with a proactive approach.

HAWAI'I & RABAT-SALE-ZEMMOUR-ZAER, MOROCCO BECOME SISTER STATES

Gov. Abercrombie and M. Bouamor Taghouan, President of the Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer Region Council, Kingdom of Morocco recently signed a formal declaration entering into a sister-state relationship. In commemoration of this occasion, the Kingdom of Morocco has donated a fountain to the people of Hawai'i.



Groundbreaking for the construction of the Moroccan fountain at the Hawai'i State Art Museum. April 2, 2012.

The Moroccan delegation that came to Hawai'i for this historic signing included Ambassador to the United States, Mohamed Rachad Bouhhal; Moroccan Minister of Interior, Saad Hassar; President of the Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer Region Council, M. Bouamor Taghouan; Director General of the Agency of the South, Ahmed Hajji; and Secretary General of Economic and Social Council of Morocco, Driss Guerraoui.



SENATE ADVANCES BILLS SUPPORTING JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The Hawai'i State Senate advanced several bills that align with its 2012 Legislative Session priorities: job creation, economic recovery and restoring the safety net. The overarching themes and priorities set forth also align with Governor Abercrombie's "A New Day in Hawai'i." Creating jobs and putting people back to work has been critically important to the Senate. The Senate passed House Bill 2145, which includes the Senate's flagship initiative, known as "The Invest in Hawai'i Act of 2012." The measure is an aggressive \$500 million general obligation bond-funded Capital Improvement Program package aimed at creating jobs by investing and stimulating our local economy from all corners of the state.

The Invest in Hawai'i Act of 2012 would give a big boost to the economy and put people to work by appropriating funds for shovel-ready jobs for all trades in the construction industry. The measure would appropriate funds for much needed repair and maintenance projects that would extend the useful life of our aging facilities and infrastructures. According to estimates by DBEDT's job multiplier, this measure could create or sustain more than 5,000 jobs.

"This bill puts investment toward renewable energy and information technology upgrade initiatives throughout our schools, hospitals, and office buildings, which will lead to future cost savings and a reduction in the State's carbon footprint," said Sen. English.

The Senate today also passed its version of the \$11.1 billion supplemental budget for the State of Hawai'i, House Bill 2012. The Senate's version of the budget is both responsible and responsive to the governor's budget requests. Most of the governor's initiatives have been funded as they pertain to maintaining the safety net and restoring the ability of government to perform necessary functions.

As a result of the mild economic recovery, the safety net could be strengthened. Additional funds for child welfare, domestic violence shelters, Medicaid, and various shortfalls across the Department of Human Services were included. Additionally, \$18.2 million were directed to the temporary assistance for needy families program and \$3.6 million to information technology initiatives to modernize the Department of Human Services.

The Senate also continues its strong sup-

port for education. Notably, the Senate has underscored education as a top priority by adding \$44 million to the Department of Education's budget. Specifically, the Senate's budget focuses on key areas of investment in education, including: the weighted student formula, student meals, the community school for adult program, early learning and student transportation. The budget also includes \$20M for the new high school in Kihei. In the area of technology, the Senate calls for investing in the State's information technology (IT) infrastructure in order to improve government and to better serve the public. The investment in IT upgrades aims to increase productivity, making government more efficient. The governor's budget includes funding to significantly improve the infrastructure for IT throughout state government, an area in which the Senate has led by example. The Senate's budget includes more than \$27 million dollars for critical infrastructure IT projects that will support increased efficiency in the transformation of state government. The Senate also supports the governor's broadband initiative to improve services and deployment of broadband to ensure that each and every citizen has access.

HANAWANA BRIDGE REPAIR COMPLETED

In the last issue we reported on the collapse of the Hanawana Land Bridge during storms in March. Sen. English visited the community isolated by the impassable road and sought immediate action from the County to assure a safe and expedient reconstruction of the bridge.

On April 13, 2012, Sen. English announced that repair work on the bridge was complete.

Gina McLain, a member of the Hanawana community, said "all of the families here in Hanawana are grateful for how responsive Sen. English and the Director of Public Works, David Goode, were when it came to the Hanawana Bridge."

The new bridge construction by passed the original collapsed area and was

started and completed within a month. A plan was implemented that allowed residents to pass safely from home to work and school each day during construction.

"I feel 'we' as the public are always ready to have to 'battle the red tape' but that was not the case this time," said Gina. She further offered, "the partnership between the land owners, neighbors, responding county agencies, and most definitely Senator English was amazing. We had immediate and personal contact with Senator English and he came to the site to meet with us. During this process, he made us feel taken care of and that he would see it through to the end with us."

"I am pleased that the repairs have been completed," said Sen. English. "I commend everyone involved in making

sure this project was expedited quickly. This brings much relief for many of the residents."



Hanawana new bridge construction completed April 13, 2012. Photo courtesy Gina McLain

**STATE SENATOR
J. KALANI ENGLISH
HAWAII STATE SENATE
6TH DISTRICT
COMMITTEES**

**Chair, Senate Committee
on Transportation and
International Affairs**

**Vice Chair, Senate Committee
on Energy and Environment**

**Member, Senate Committee on
Hawaiian Affairs**

**Member, Senate Committee on
Ways and Means**



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HAWAII STATE SENATE HONORS SENATOR AKAKA

On April 3, 2012, The Hawaii State Senate presented the honorable U. S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka with a Certificate of Recognition for being selected as a recipient of the Harry S. Truman Award. The Harry S. Truman Award is the highest recognition given to a lawmaker by the National Guard Association of the United States.



The Senate congratulates Senator Akaka, who is surrounded by family members. April 3, 2012.

MAUI RESIDENTS CONFIRMED TO HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Hawaii State Senate confirmed Maui residents Jonathan Starr and Ted Yamamura to the Hawaii State Commission on Water Resource Management on April 17, 2012. Yamamura and Starr were both nominated by Governor Abercrombie and were subject to Senate confirmation.

"I feel confident that Mr. Yamamura and Mr. Starr understand the complexities of water issues and will serve the Commission and State effectively," said Sen. English.

Starr has over forty years of experience in water source development and resource management projects. Additionally, he studied and has expertise in traditional Hawaiian and Polynesian water resource management techniques. He is also active in his community, having served a four-year term on the Maui Board of Water Supply and a five-year term on the Maui Planning Commission, including two years as the Commission's Chairperson.

Yamamura is one of the founders of ACM Consultants, Inc., which is one of the largest and most experienced independent real estate consulting,



Maui Senators congratulate Jonathan Starr as a newly confirmed member of the Hawaii State Commission on Water Resource Management. (L-R) Sen. English, Jonathan Starr, Sen. Roz Baker. Senate President Shan Tsutsui. April 17, 2012.

valuation, and research companies in Hawaii. In addition to his work experience, Yamamura is actively involved in his community. He has been a past member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources from 2001-2006, former president of the International Right of Way Association, Hawaii Chapter No. 30 in 2004, member of the County of Maui Board of Water Supply since 2008, and the past president of the Hawaii Chapter of the Appraisal Institute in 2010.