



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Senate Majority Leader J. Kalani English  
Opening Day Remarks  
28th Legislature  
January 20, 2016

Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, members of the Senate.

Mr. President, I'm pleased to present the 2016 Senate Majority Legislative Program, and I'd like to ask that this get inserted into the Journal. I'll also very quickly go over the four overarching themes. As you know, the Majority members met; I'd asked everyone to give us their overarching themes. We discussed this and came up with this consensus document.

But in general, Mr. President, we're talking about Mālama 'Ohana as providing for our families, including the housing issues that you're talking about and a number of other issues.

We're looking at Mālama Honua, which is nurturing the earth: again, food security, energy security, and these types of issues and concerns.

Mālama Kaiāulu, sustaining our communities: taking care of our kūpuna, our children, looking at long-term care, looking at healthcare – these issues that we all will face at some point in our lives.

And finally, Mālama Aupuni, good governance: Quite simply put, transparency and openness. I'd like to point out, members, that we will be broadcasting all of our Senate proceedings and House proceedings live in real time from every conference room, so people will watch as the hearings are being conducted, and this should go out statewide, so this is a huge step forward for transparency. I believe that starts on the 26th of this month.

So I wanted to go over this very briefly; for members of the public, you can find this document at [hawaiisenatemajority.com](http://hawaiisenatemajority.com). Many of our senators have taken this and used this as a template to introduce bills, so you'll see many bills reflecting these values, and we think that this approach is one that will allow for the most collaboration and flexibility for the public and the senators to be creative and innovative in how we tackle the problems facing us today. Thank you, Mr. President.