

6th District
HĀNA, EAST & UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I & KAHO'OLAWÉ



Senator English to Represent Hawai'i in Association of Pacific Island Legislatures



Sen. J. Kalani English, shown here at an Energy, Environment, and International Affairs Committee hearing, is a former United Nations Advisor to the Federated States of Micronesia who holds a Master's degree in Pacific Island Studies from the University of Hawai'i.

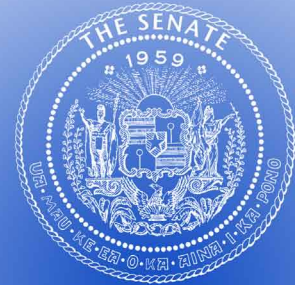
Senator J. Kalani English (D-Hāna, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaho'olawe) has been appointed by Senate President Robert Bunda to represent Hawai'i as a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures. Rep. Helene Hale (D-Puna, Pahoā, Hawaiian Acres, Kālapana) is Sen. English's counterpart in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives. "I am honored to have the opportunity to represent Hawai'i in this important regional forum," Sen. English said today. "Regional governments throughout the Pacific have a great deal in common with one another, and the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) is in a unique position to address the

shared challenges we face." The APIL includes legislative bodies from 12 member states: American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Micronesian states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap, and Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Hawai'i, Kirabati, and Nauru.

The Association is coming to Hawai'i to hold a General Assembly in Honolulu on May 26 and 27. The meeting will convene in the State House Chambers at the Hawai'i State Capitol. Sen. English said, "This gathering will be a welcome opportunity for Hawai'i to strengthen its ties with the other APIL member states. I commend Rep. Hale for the work she has done to bring this important meeting here." The APIL General Assembly last met in Guam in July of 2004.

Sen. English, who is Chair of the Senate Energy, Environment, and International Affairs Committee, is a former adviser to the Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia at the United Nations General Assembly. The APIL's stated goal is "to address, in depth, the substantive regional and international issues facing the emerging Pacific governments." Those issues include economic development, legislation, regional security and defense, communications, cultural appreciation, and tourism. The organization's mission is outlined in detail on its website at www.guam.net/pub/apil/.

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



A Message From Kalani

The legislative session has just passed its midpoint. Bills from the House and Senate have now "crossed over." House bills are being heard by Senate committees, and vice versa. The Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs, and all the House and Senate committees, are busily reviewing a host of measures. In this issue of our newsletter, we look at how one citizen has pushed a bill aimed at coastal light pollution through the Legislature. We also hear some of the concerns of Hawai'i's farming community and talk to a Maui retailer who is finding a way to turn the State's new bottle law to his advantage. As always, we look forward to hearing your comments and concerns.

Aloha, *J. Kalani English*



Farmers Bring Their Concerns to State Capitol

A program aimed at helping Hawai'i's agricultural community develop leadership skills and gain greater familiarity with the workings of government brought two Hawai'i farmers to the office of Senator J. Kalani English for an intensive three-day internship during the eighth week of this year's legislative session. Jim Henderson, foreman at Pu'u O Hoku Ranch, on Moloka'i, and Ranae Ganske-Cerizo, a wetland taro farmer and resource conservationist with the United States Department of Agriculture, came to the Capitol as part of the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Agricultural Leadership Program.



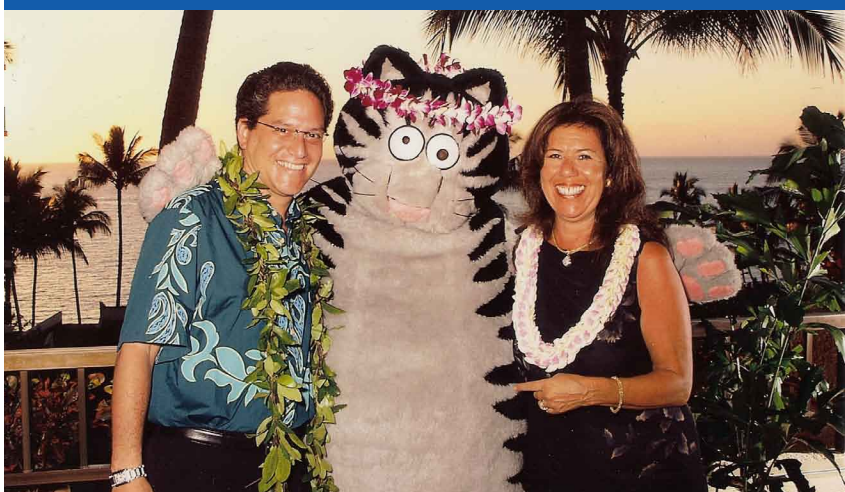
Ranae Ganske-Cerizo, Senator English, and Jim Henderson during a recess in the Senate Chambers.

They shadowed Sen. J. Kalani English through a busy time at the Legislature, sitting in on a hearing of the Committee on Energy, the Environment, and International Affairs and attending Senate floor sessions.

Jim Henderson said the experience "opened my perspective to what the Capitol is all about. I found out how user-friendly the Capitol can be, how to get in the door and become a voice to effect change... I support making agriculture better in Hawai'i in a sensible way." Both he and Ranae Ganske-Cerizo spoke of the need to preserve the quality of the environment and protect Hawai'i's food supply. As Ranae said, "If we don't keep the land healthy, our food won't be."

Ranae described the rising price of agricultural land as a major concern. "It's being sold at a high dollar value. People who can afford it are not real farmers. They're not making commodity crops to feed people here." Jim added, "Food security will eventually be the number one issue. If we don't have any land, we won't have food... We need to make a concerted effort in the direction of food self-sufficiency." Both valued their time at the Capitol. "This is where we build our toolbox," Jim said.

"Fur Ball" Benefits Maui Humane Society



Sen. J Kalani English, Judith Kliban-Bixby, and the Kliban Cat attended the second annual Fur Ball at the Grand Waile'a Resort & Spa on March 5. The event raised some \$25,000 for the non-profit **Maui Humane Society**.

Hawai'i Citizens Eligible for Free Credit Reports

The people of Hawai'i are among the first in the nation to become eligible for free credit reports under the terms of a new federal law. The Fair and Accurate Transactions Act (FACT) allows consumers to check their credit with all three of the principal reporting agencies through a single phone call or Internet request. The report, called a "credit file disclosure," is the information used to calculate a person's credit rating. Under the new law, citizens can gain access to the reports once a year without cost.

Information about FACT (including disclosure requirements and valuable information about preventing identity theft) is available online at www.annualcreditreport.com

Light Pollution Bill Reflects Growing Concern Over Fishing Stocks, Wildlife



Fisherman Wayne Dang testifies at an Energy, Environment, and International Affairs Committee hearing.

“When you’re a fisherman, you see things a lot of people don’t,” Wayne Dang says. One of the things Dang sees is the effect of artificial light on the behavior of nocturnal fish and other wildlife – and he’s concerned about it. Dang has spearheaded a bill (**HB895 HD2**) to address the effects of coastal light pollution. He’s attending hearings and submitting testimony as he tracks the bill’s progress through the Legislature. Although it still has a long way to go, Dang’s experience at the Capitol has shown him just how much difference an individual citizen can make.

At the midpoint of the current session, the bill has “crossed over” to the State Senate, where it was passed with amendments, at a March 22 joint hearing of the Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment, and International Affairs, chaired by Sen. J. Kalani English, and the Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture, chaired by Sen. Russell S. Kokobun. After the hearing, Dang spoke about the bill and the ways a citizen can promote legislation he believes in.

Years ago, Dang began to observe the ways certain fish would stop biting altogether in waters that were lit up at night by artificial light. Waters off Oahu’s Sand Island were once a good place to catch ulua, but now that part of the ocean is lit up by powerful lights from a container yard. The light has driven the ulua away. “[The light] is not a good thing, especially for big predator fish like ulua,” he says. “This is a form of pollution, and somebody’s got to do something.”

Other testimony at the EIA hearing supported Dang’s observation. John T. Harrison of the University of Hawai’i’s Environmental Center spoke of the way coastal birds can become disoriented by bright lights, fly off course, and fall victim to predators and power lines.

A bill aimed at coastal light pollution passed both houses of the Legislature last year, only to be vetoed by the Governor. Although Dang was discouraged, he has come back this session to continue his push for legislation – and he says this year the prognosis is good. As written, the measure does not address all forms of light pollution. Hotels and resorts are exempt under the current wording, for example -- but Dang says “You have to pick battles you can win. If I had my way there would be no light on the water, but you have to start somewhere.”

John Harrison found this shearwater in his Nu’uanu home one evening last fall. It had become disoriented by coastal lights. Harrison took the seabird to a dark section of Lanikai Beach, where it flew off into the night.



Maui Retailer is First to Set Up In-Store Redemption Center



Sen. English at the Ilima Shell Station's reverse vending machine.

Paul Hanada of Kula, Maui is offering a new service to customers at his Kahului convenience stores: an opportunity to turn in recyclable beverage containers and redeem them for cash under the terms of Hawai'i's new bottle law. Hanada has installed reverse vending machines at his two Shell stations that will accept beverage containers, tally up the total deposit, and print out a deposit total that the customer can redeem at the cash register. So far, the response has been excellent.

"Customers are so stoked it's not funny," he says. The machines read the scanning codes on each container, crush the metal and plastic containers, and give each customer a printout of the total. It's a big investment for Hanada, but "There's a tremendous upside to this," he says. "I hesitated, but the public really wants this."

Funds collected from recycled containers are set aside by the State Department of Health in a special fund, and Hanada hopes some of that money can be used to provide tax breaks or other incentives for retail outlets that want to become redemption centers. Genevieve Salmonson, director of the State Office of Environmental Quality Control, says the State is looking at ways to use the beverage container deposit fund to benefit everyone who takes part. "Our concern is to make sure consumers are taken care of, and we are addressing grants for retailers and recyclers," she says.

Aloha Shell Station

110 S. Pu'unene Ave.

Ilima Shell Station

137 Ka'ahumanu Ave.

Hawai'i Beverage Container Deposit Program

www.hi5deposit.com

Recycling Information

Recycle Maui County Hotline:

808-270-7880

Moloka'i 800-272-0117

Lāna'i: 800-272-0125

www.co.maui.hi.us/recycle

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