



## Senator English Elected Vice President of Association of Pacific Island Legislatures



*The newly elected officers of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for the 2006-2007 term are, from left to right, Delegate William Ngiraikelau (Republic of Palau), Secretary; Senator Sabino Sauchomal (Federated States of Micronesia State of Yap), President; Senator J. Kalani English, Vice President; Senator Judith Won Pat (Guam), Treasurer.*

Senator J. Kalani English was elected Vice President of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) at the organization's General Assembly, held from June 5-7 in Saipan. The topic of the conference, which included representatives from APIL's 12 member states, was "Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources for the Pacific Islands." Sen. English, Chair of Hawai'i's Senate Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs, delivered a major address to the conference on energy self-reliance. "It was a great honor to be asked to speak to this important body," Sen. English said. "Hawai'i's government policies are studied throughout the Pacific, as local governments formulate their own policies to address the energy needs of small island nations. I was very happy to learn that a number of the APIL members states have adopted the language of energy bills we have drafted at home in Hawai'i for use in their own legislation."

**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

Aloha,

This issue of our newsletter includes a look at what we in Hawai'i can learn from our Pacific Island neighbors – and what they can learn from us. The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is an organization that is taking on added value with each passing year, as it becomes clear that we have shared concerns, and are in a unique position to help one another.

*J. Kalani English*



# Energy Costs a Growing Concern Throughout the Pacific



## From Sen. English's Speech to the APIL General Assembly:

The problems associated with energy are problems that are not going to go away... and our ability to band together, as Pacific friends and neighbors, will determine our energy future. The answer – for all of us – is energy self-sufficiency. Island societies, especially, need to take a close look at energy -- how it is produced, where it comes from, and how much it costs. Each of us here today has been forced to adapt to rising costs – and has been forced to look for solutions. Like all of us here today, I live in a place where sources of renewable energy are abundant. I also live in a place where powerful financial interests have worked hard to keep us away from energy self-reliance. As island communities, we should be thinking about what the world can learn from us – and not the other way around. As smaller communities find ways to take advantage of the abundant solar, wind, and wave energy around them, new technologies can be developed. Then, the significant cost savings of renewable energy take effect. Larger communities can then benefit from those examples.

That's the key to the opportunity we have. We begin with small examples -- such as a home with solar panels that can power everything within it. Then we build communities of those homes. Then, those homes generate excess energy that can be sold back to the utility. Then we build wind farms, we harness wave energy... then we are burning less fuel overall, and our cost of living goes down. Larger communities want those same benefits – and a mindset begins to change.

As Chair of Hawai'i's Senate Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs, I have introduced legislation over the past several years. These bills were aimed at:

- reducing Hawai'i's dependence on fossil fuels;
- moving the state toward the use of renewable energy, and setting realistic deadlines for meeting that goal;
- creating incentives for private industry to develop alternative sources of energy; and
- mandating the application of energy efficient, environmentally sound practices to the construction of new State buildings.

We need to understand that self-sufficiency is not the same as isolation. If we all can become our own best sources of energy, we can stabilize our economies, increase our security, and address our primary responsibility as government leaders – and that is our responsibility, to leave a better world behind for the next generation.



## Senator English Meets With Government Leaders from Micronesia to Washington, D.C.



The government of Tahiti Nui is granting new autonomy to the country's 48 provincial mayors. At the 21st Congress of Municipalities in Uturoa on the island of Ra'iatea from May 9-12, government leaders met to discuss the new governance structure. Sen. English is shown here with (from left to right) Tahiti Nui President Oscar Manutahi Temaru, French High Commissioner Anne Boquet, and Bora Bora Mayor Gaston Ton Sang.



Joseph Mendiola, President of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Senate, greeted Hawai'i's Rep. Glenn Wakai, Rep. Helen Hale, and Sen. English at the Association of Pacific Islands Legislatures (APIL) General Assembly. Rep. Hale, who retired this year from the post of APIL Treasurer, was honored for her years of service to the Pacific Island community.  
<http://www.cnmi.net/>



Sen. English meets with Joseph J. Urusemal, the Sixth President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Emiliana Musrasrik, Director of Administration for the FSM Supreme Court, is at the Senator's left. President Urusemal took office in 2003 after serving in the FSM Congress for sixteen years.  
<http://www.fsmgov.org/>



Sen. English attended the "Take Back America" Conference from June 12-14 in Washington D.C., sponsored by the Center for Policy Alternatives. The Center is a non-partisan not-for-profit organization "working to strengthen the capacity of state legislators to lead and achieve progressive change." Wisconsin State Rep. Mark Pocan is at left; Minnesota State Senator D. Scott Dibble is on the right.  
<http://www.stateaction.org/>

## Hawaii Energy Policy Forum Reviews Accomplishments of 2006 Session

Members of the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum met at the State Capitol on June 28 to look back at a legislative session that brought about significant advances in State energy policy. Participants agreed that a high level of consensus had been reached among its members during the session and resolved to build on this year's progress in 2007. Sen. English spoke to the group about an "unintended consequence" of legislative success: the fact that Pacific Island governments have begun to adopt the principles and the language of bills drafted for Hawai'i. Some provisions of the bills may not be appropriate for those countries. He passed out copies of a measure drafted by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and asked the group to review its language and offer the Commonwealth any assistance it may need. The Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum's website is [www.hawaiienergypolicy.hawaii.edu/](http://www.hawaiienergypolicy.hawaii.edu/).



*Sen. English briefs the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum on the runaway costs of energy in Pacific Island nations, whose dependence on imported fossil fuel is severely hurting their economies.*



*On June 22, Christopher Clair of the Public Interest Research Group read a statement from Sen. J. Kalani English at a news conference marking the release of "The Carbon Boom," a new analysis of global warming data. Pollution from global warming jumped 179 percent between 1960 and 2001. Sen. English's statement said, "the 'Carbon Boom' report is a valuable document that should serve as a warning signal to an entire nation. This extensive study makes clear that carbon emissions are increasing at a faster rate than anyone expected – and that global warming is a force powerful enough to destroy our planet."*

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