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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

The start of the 27th Legislative Session brings great expectations for the people of Hawai'i. An ever higher standard of co-operation and unity is unique to the Aloha State. I am proud to serve with my colleagues at the Senate to improve the quality of life and preserve that which makes Hawai'i such an exceptional home. Together we are better.

We begin this year and this issue with the annual Ways & Means Finance (WAM-FIN) informational briefings on all State Department budgets. The Capitol Improvement Project funds released for our district are listed on pg 2. We also bring you an update of what we have learned of the tragic airplane crash at Kalaupapa.

Have a happy, fulfilling and safe 2014.

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH
HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

HĀNA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I AND KAHŌ'OLAWĒ



ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BUDGET INFORMATIONAL BRIEFINGS

Each year, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Finance Committee conduct a series of joint informational briefings over a couple of weeks, on the State's fiscal projections and the budget requests for the various State departments. This session, the committees held the revenue forecast briefing with the Council of Revenues earlier than usual, December instead of January, to expedite the compilation the Hawai'i State budget.

On December 18, 2013, committee members were briefed on the administration's fiscal year (FY) 2015 Executive Supplemental Budget and Multi-Year General Fund Financial Plan by Kalbert Young, Director of the Budget and Finance Department. His testimony stated that the State's financial footing has substantially improved during the last three fiscal years and generated a healthy and unprecedented preliminary general fund ending balance of \$844 million for FY 2013. There were five strategic financial plan goals when shaping their budget decisions: build the State's financial structure and fiscal health; rebuild reserves; build and manage positive ending balances; fund programs for sustainability; and address long term liabilities.

Kurt Kawafuchi, Chair of the Council on Revenues presented the latest current tax revenue forecasts for the State of Hawai'i. For FY 2013 the State's General Fund tax revenues grew by 9.9%, to \$5.47 billion from \$4.97 billion in FY 2012. The general excise tax, which makes up almost half of the State's total general fund tax revenues increased by 9.1% in FY 2013, to \$2.94 billion from \$2.70 billion in FY 2012. The Council has forecasted that general fund tax revenues will grow by 3.3% for fiscal year 2014.

The Senate WAM and House FIN committees held 2 informational briefings a day to receive the various budget requests for each department. The major departments and agencies included: Budget and Finance, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Labor and Industrial Relations, Accounting and General Services, Hawaiian Homelands, Transportation, Health, Education, Defense, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Agriculture, the Judiciary, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Public Safety and the University of Hawai'i.



DOT Director Glenn Okimoto and Airports Deputy Director Ford Fuchigami provide information to the WAM and Finance committees during a joint informational briefing. Jan. 9, 2014.

7TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) UPDATE

A total of **\$17,908,876** in State funds were released for the following Capitol Improvement Projects in 2013 for the 7th Senatorial District.

MAUI

Kahului Airport Access Road

The State Department of Transportation broke ground on the Kahului Airport Access Road, Phase 1, on November 8, 2013. The road will provide an alternative route to alleviate traffic congestion and provide direct access to and from the airport.

Once completed, the road will begin at Pu'unene Avenue and end at the Kahului Airport and will be parallel to Dairy Road and Ho'okele Road. The total project will be paid for with a split of federal and state funds of which \$10 million was released by the Governor. The anticipated completion of the project will be in approximately one year.

Project construction consists of demolition, resurfacing, installation of asphalt; concrete pavement and gutter, guardrail, retaining wall, signing, lighting and drainage improvements.

Kahului Airport Restroom Renovation

\$600,000 in funds were released to upgrade and renovate the public restrooms as part of the overall appearance, safety and sanitary enhancement of the Kahului Airport.

Kekaulike Avenue

\$1,109,000 for land and construction to improve drainage in vicinity of Milepost 7.8.

Kōlea Reservoir

\$1 million additional labor and materials for the removal of the reservoir in Hāna. The structure was built in 1901 to divert irrigation water and is no longer in use.



LĀNA'I

Lāna'i Community Hospital

\$200,000 was released for design, construction and equipment for repairs to patient rooms, kitchen and support areas of the hospital. The hospital is 40 years old and in need of immediate repairs.

Lāna'i Airport

\$550,000 for Master Plan and Noise Compatibility Program update.

MOLOKA'I

Moloka'i Airport Taxiway Safety Area Improvements

In addition to \$1,346,210 in federal funds, the State released \$298,476 in funds for construction to bring the airport taxiway safety area into compliance with federal requirements. This project will provide the design for a new box culvert and/or trench drain of nearly 800 feet in length to replace the existing ditch currently adjacent to the taxiway.

Kalaupapa Settlement, Closing of Landfills

Since the National Park Service is no longer disposing waste into the landfill and transporting the waste off island, the landfill needs to be closed. \$121,900 was released for design for closure and construction of a final cover of the landfill.

Kahale Mua

\$4 million for construction costs for the Federal and State Site & Building Modernization of the Public Housing.

Kamehameha V Highway, Makakupaia Stream Bridge

\$29,500 for design and land (land funds for staff non-labor costs only.)



Dr. Andres Roemer, the Mexican Consul General visits Hawai'i and was hosted by Sen. English while on the Island of Maui. December 26, 2013.

HAWAI'I 2014 FOOD SUMMIT AND CAUCUS

Senator English was invited to attend 2 events focused on agriculture and farming. The 2014 Food Summit was held on Tuesday, January 7, at the Hawai'i State Capitol. This all day event was organized by the Hawai'i Farmers Union United (HFUU), the state division of the National Farmers Union who advocates for family farmers and ranchers on all the Hawaiian Islands. HFUU showcased their ideas and concerns to the gathered legislators. The topics included: increasing local food production, farming practices that improve soil health, on-farm mentoring, invasive species, land use and State management opportunities.

Senator English also attended the Local Food Caucus on Thursday, January 9, at the Hawai'i State Capitol. This event included all interested parties in an effort to pass legislation beneficial to local food growers. The Local Food Caucus' legislative package contains 37 bills on various farming and agricultural subjects that they are advocating for passage this legislative session. Some of the prospective bills would establish: an agriculture innovation grant program; Hawai'i origin products commission; the Hawai'i youth agricultural corps and an on-farm mentoring program.



Senator English and Bill Greenleaf, State Board Treasurer of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United Maui Chapter at the 2014 Food Summit. Jan. 7, 2014.



Senator English and members of the Legislature listening to the concerns of local food growers and the Local Food Caucus meeting. Jan. 9, 2014.

REALTORS' DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Senator English met with members of the Maui Realtors Association to discuss their concerns and priorities for the upcoming session. Each year, the Hawai'i Association of Realtors hold a Realtors day at the Capitol, inviting realtors from across the State to meet with and initiate dialog with the various members of the Legislature.

This year, Keoni Ball and other Maui Realtors met with Senator English to highlight Maui concerns to be addressed this session.



**J. KALANI ENGLISH
HAWAII STATE SENATE
7TH DISTRICT**

COMMITTEES

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

**Member, Senate
Committee on Agriculture**

**Member, Senate Committee on
Economic Development, Govern-
ment Operations and Housing**

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



**Hawai'i State Legislature
Bill Status and Documents**

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INVESTIGATION INTO THE CESSNA CRASH OFF KALAUPAPA CONTINUES

Minutes after a Makani Kai Air single engine plane departed from the Kalaupapa Airport on December 11, 2013, the pilot and passengers said they heard a loud bang and the air craft lost all power. The pilot quickly responded by gliding the plane into the water below. He then helped the passengers fasten their life vests and enter the ocean as the plane was sinking.

All nine people aboard survived the initial impact. One survivor swam to shore while the others drifted in the current and were rescued by members of the Maui Fire Department and the U.S. Coast Guard. The only casualty was Loretta Fuddy, Director of the State Department of Health and Mayor of Kalawao County on the Kalaupapa Peninsula of Moloka'i. In the 1880's, the area was set aside as a colony for sufferers of Hansen's disease. In 1905, Kalawao was set aside as a separate County administered by the Department of Health.

Director Fuddy flew to Kalaupapa to perform her governmental duties and attend the last community meeting of the year. At her memorial service, Director Fuddy was remembered fondly by family, friends and colleagues and was praised for her honorable service to the community and the State. Sen. English, who represents Kalawao County in the Legislature, said, "On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, I would like to extend my most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Director Loretta Fuddy, who tragically passed away. Loretta was a true public servant and friend of the people. As the Director of Health, Loretta demonstrated an unwavering support for Hawai'i and the people she served. She will be dearly missed."

The cause of the plane crash continues to be investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board. The Cessna Grand Caravan involved in the crash is notably one of the safest and most reliable means of transportation in the world. Furthermore, Makani Kai Air in its more than 20-year history had no prior accidents. For more investigative information go to: <http://www.nts.gov/aviationquery/index.aspx> and submit the NTSB Status Accident Number: **wpr14fa068**.

The airline offers daily service between Honolulu and Kalaupapa six days a week and one round trip on Sundays. Makani Kai Air began service in January 2012 after being awarded the Essential Air Service (EAS) contract in December 2011 due to the numerous complaints about unfair and exorbitant pricing and inconsistent service by the former airline holding the contract. EAS is a U.S. government program enacted to guarantee that small communities in the United States were serviced by certified airlines at a minimal level that otherwise would not be profitable.

"Reliable, affordable and safe transportation by certified airlines into the small and remote communities that I serve provides them with vital access to goods and services," said Sen. English. "However, the safety of our traveling public is a top priority for us. By providing a thorough understanding of this tragedy I hope that we will be able to learn from this event and take steps to prevent similar events in the future."

