



SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

HĀNA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I AND KAHO'OLAWÉ



SENATE HOLDS FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF 2016

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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Opportunities to promote the culture of Hawai'i and important position throughout the Pacific is an investment towards making our island home a better place to live. I have been fortunate to be able take part in recent events that establish greater cooperation among the Pacific nations and bring better understanding of our unique culture and promote tourism. Through this work, it's become more evident to me how Hawai'i can be a leader when it comes to areas such as the environment, energy, and commerce and I remain committed to make this a reality.

J. Kalani English

During the week of June 20th the Senate held a Special Session to confirm two judicial appointments, one for the District Court of the First Circuit – O'ahu and one for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit – Hawai'i Island.

On June 1, Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald appointed James S. Kawashima to the District Court of the First Circuit and M. Kanani Laubach to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. The appointees were chosen from a list of not less than six nominees for the vacancy presented by the Judicial Selection Committee.

Judge Kawashima served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney and a State Deputy Attorney General in the Medicaid Fraud and Control Unit. In 2002, he established a law firm and has maintained a private legal practice. Since 2010, he has also served as per diem judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

Laubach served as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the City and County of Honolulu and the County of Hawai'i. In 2011, Laubach opened a Law Office in Hilo, Hawai'i and in 2012 she became a partner at the firm Laubach & Frenz. She has extensive experience handling family law cases.

"The Senate may convene in special session at the written request of two-thirds of its members to carry out its responsibilities regarding the appointment of justices and judges," said Sen. English. "Since the judicial appointments were made on June 1, pursuant to the State Constitution, the Senate had 30 days to confirm the judgeships."

Therefore, the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor held a hearing on the appointments on June 21 and subsequently voted to advise and consent to both nominations. The full Senate convened for the two-day Special Session on June 23 and adjourned the following day after unanimously voting to confirm both Kawashima and Laubach as judges to the Hawai'i Circuit Courts.



(1st photo) - The Hawai'i State Senate unanimously confirmed M. Kanani Laubach to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. (2nd photo) - The Hawai'i State Senate unanimously confirmed James S. Kawashima to the District Court of the First Circuit. June 24, 2016.

ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC ISLAND LEGISLATURES (APIL) GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sen. English joined lawmakers from the Pacific Region at the 35th APIL General Assembly held from June 1-3 in Hagatna, Guam. In his welcome message, APIL President Kenneth Kedi, of the Marshall Islands noted the theme of the Assembly as "Strengthening our Past and Uniting Our Blue Continent." At the General Assembly, the participating entities discussed the unique challenges and opportunities facing the Pacific Region. Experts from numerous fields and practices were invited to speak to the members on topics that are relevant to their Pacific home.

"The ocean mass like a continent provides us with food, energy, minerals, transportation, and recreation," said Sen. English. "Most important, it removes carbon from the atmosphere and provides life sustaining oxygen, so it is critical for us to work together to keep our "Blue continent" healthy for generations to come."

The APIL General Assembly is comprised of 12 lawmaking entities that includes: American Samoa; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Federated States of Micronesia-Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap; Guam; the Republic of the Marshall Islands; the Republic of Palau; Hawai'i; the Republic of Kiribati; and the Republic of Nauru.

The General Assembly meets annually to consider matters of mutual interest in areas where regional cooperation, coordination, exchange and assistance would help individual governments achieve their goals through collective action. These interests may include areas of resources and economic development, commerce, legislation, energy, regional security and defense, communications, cultural appreciation, health and social services, education, agriculture, air and sea transportation, aquaculture, sports and recreation, youth and senior citizens, tourism, political status, external relations and development banking.



*Senators English and Brickwood Galuteria present a Koa bowl to APIL President, Senator Kenneth A. Kedi of the National Parliament of the Marshall Islands.
Hagatna, Guam, June 1 - 3, 2016.*

This year's general assembly focused on air and sea transportation, healthcare in the region, and benefits for veterans in the US Armed Forces. Additionally, in response to a super typhoon that ravaged Saipan, that General Assembly is considering a regional plan of action to respond to future states of emergency from natural disasters. The plan would enumerate each island's potential general support, contribution, resources, and cooperation in the event an island is devastated by a natural disaster.

Among the resolutions that the General Assembly adopted, was Sen. English's resolution that was titled: Requesting the governments of the member jurisdictions of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to recognize and support Hawai'i as the host of the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts to be held in Honolulu, Hawai'i, in 2020.

"This was a timely resolution because the 12th Festival of the Pacific Arts & Culture was taking place in Guam during the week of the General Assembly," explains Sen. English. "The upcoming festival is an important way for the entire community of Hawai'i to share our hospitality with the many anticipated participants and visitors and to showcase our native practitioners and their art as well as boost our tourist economy."



*The 35th General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures in Hagatna, Guam.
June 1-3, 2016. photos courtesy of APIL*

12TH FESTIVAL OF THE PACIFIC ARTS & CULTURE

WHITE HOUSE STATE LEGISLATURES LEADERSHIP BRIEFINGS



The 12th Festival of the Pacific Arts & Culture (FESTPAC) was held in Guam from May 22 – June 4. Sen. English and Sen. Brickwood Galuteria attended the closing ceremonies and also participated in receiving the Festival flag from Guam’s Governor Eddie Bazo Calvo. Passage of the flag to the Hawai’i delegation officially designated Hawai’i as the host of the 13th FESTPAC. From June 11-27, 2020, participants from countries throughout the Pacific will converge in Hawai’i for the Festival.

“The success of this year’s Festival can be attributed to the hard work, the numerous volunteers and the entire community of Guam who generously shared their culture and warm hospitality,” said Sen. English. “Hawai’i intends to build upon the success of this significant event and we look forward to showcasing the culture of our native peoples.”

Hawai’i was also represented in Guam by Kumu Hula & Executive Director of PA’I Foundation, Vicky Holt Takamine, Hawai’i Council Representative Kumu Hula Mapuana de Silva, and Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Af-



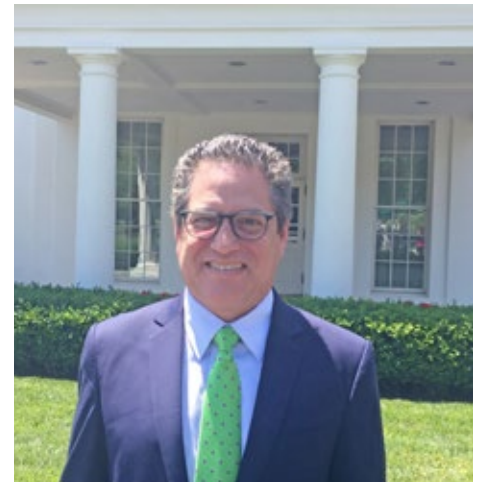
fairs, and Ka Pouhana Kamana’opono Crabbe, who formally acknowledged the host designation. De Silva has represented Hawai’i on the Pacific Arts Council and headed the delegations participating in this prestigious festival since 2000.

The first FESTPAC was held in 1972 with the mission to stem the erosion of traditional cultural practices by sharing and exchanging indigenous culture. FESTPAC is held every four years in a country selected by the Pacific Cultural Council. Previous Festival hosts included: Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, Australia, Cook Islands, Samoa, New Caledonia, Palau, American Samoa, and the Solomon Islands. There are 27 participating island nations that include American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Easter Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawai’i, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Island, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis & Fortuna.

“I look forward to welcoming FESTPAC to Hawai’i,” said Sen. English. “The Festival brings participants and visitors from all over the world. Furthermore, Hawai’i residents will be able to attend and enjoy the festival without having to pay the high cost of distant travel.”

For more information on the Festival for Pacific Arts and Culture, visit <http://www.paifoundation.org/community-initiatives/festpac2020/>

Left (L-R) - Sen. Galuteria, Vicky Holt Takamine, Kalamakuokana’uao Crabbe, Guam Governor Eddie Calvo, Kumu Mapuana de Silva and Sen. English. June 4, 2016. Photos courtesy of Danee Hazama.



Senator English in front of the White House during the National Conference of Legislatures Leadership Briefing, Washington DC. June 10, 2016

Sen. English was among the National leaders in attendance at the June 8-10 National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Symposium held in Washington, DC. The symposium provided state lawmakers an opportunity to network with legislative leadership from across the country and to meet with members of the U.S. Congress and heads of the Departments of Justice and Education. They also were able to hear from executives of some of the nation’s largest corporations on areas of communication, industry and the economy.



J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

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**DELIVERING SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION -
THE ALAKA'INA DIGITAL BUS PROGRAM**

Sen. English attended the unveiling ceremony of the new Maui Digital Bus at the University of Hawai'i - Maui College, Pa'ina Building on June 14. The Digital Bus program is a mobile laboratory with an environmental education program that promotes culturally relevant, experiential learning in grades K-12. The program utilizes the Department of Education (DOE) curriculum, and is aligned to the Hawai'i State Content and Performance Standards for Science and Technology Education.

The Digital Bus program was implemented on Maui in 2005 by the Alaka'ina non-profit Foundation; and because of its success, they expanded the program to Moloka'i in 2010. The goal of Alaka'ina is to ensure that the youth in Hawai'i have the skills and competencies to become effective leaders. The Digital Bus program, provides Alaka'ina with a process through which this goal can be realized.

The mission of the program is to encourage interest in science and technology among the underrepresented student populations in grades K-12. The program goals are met by offering: 1) a state-of-the-art mobile learning platform; 2) offering field-based science projects that incorporates high technology and meet the DOE Hawai'i Content and Performance Standards (HCPS); and 3) ensuring long-term impact through educator professional development opportunities.

"Accessibility to quality education has always been one of my priorities as a policymaker representing some of the remotest areas in the State," said Sen. English. "Additionally, the program offers students a hands-on scientific learning experience that includes ancient wisdom that was accumulated over centuries of observing our unique Pacific island environment."

Since its inception, over 18,500 students on Maui and Moloka'i have been reached by the Digital Bus Program. Each year the program reaches approximately 1,600 students on Maui, and 400 on Moloka'i. Teachers from each school may sign up for projects that meet their class needs, and are provided everything for the projects that includes bus transportation to the field location. The program on Moloka'i established the first Environmental Student Council in the State of Hawai'i for grades 4-8 in all elementary and middle schools.



David Yuan, Educational Coordinator of Digital Bus outreach program for Maui and Moloka'i, gave Senators English and Keith-Agaran a tour of the bus retrofitted as a state of the art, high tech hands on mobile laboratory. June 14, 2016. Please visit <http://www.digitalbus.org> for more information.



"Where once the young men and women in my district were deprived of certain educational opportunities, especially in the sciences," said Sen. English, "The Digital Bus program brings access to the sciences that broadens their educational experience and prepares them for success in the future."