



SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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



OPENING DAY OF THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Message From Kalani pg 1
- ▶ Opening Day 2017 Legislature pg 1
- ▶ 2017 Senate Legislative Program pg 2
- ▶ Bills Sen. English Introduced pgs 3, 4
- ▶ Meeting with Bikini Atoll Officials pg 5
- ▶ Hawai'i State of the State Address pg 5
- ▶ Senate Recognizes Cherise Imai pg 5
- ▶ King Kekaulike Construction Begins pg 5
- ▶ Opening Day Highlights pg 6

People from all over the State gathered at the Hawai'i State Capitol on January 18th, 2017 to participate in the Twenty-Ninth Legislature's Opening Day ceremonies. The opening session commenced with an oli by kumu hula Leina'ala Pavao and included an invocation by Kahu Curt Kekuna, Pastor of Kawaiaha'o Church. The Kahalu'u Ukulele Band and Nā Hōkū Hanohano nominee Shar Carillo and Kaua'i artists Loke Sasil and Shay Marcello also provided entertainment during the program.

Sen. English invited close friends, family and supporters to join him on the Senate Floor for the opening day festivities. "It was very special to be surrounded by loved ones as we begin a new legislative session," said Sen. English. "As I embark on my 18th year of serving the people of the 7th Senatorial District, I remain committed to addressing important issues that affect all of us living in Hawai'i."

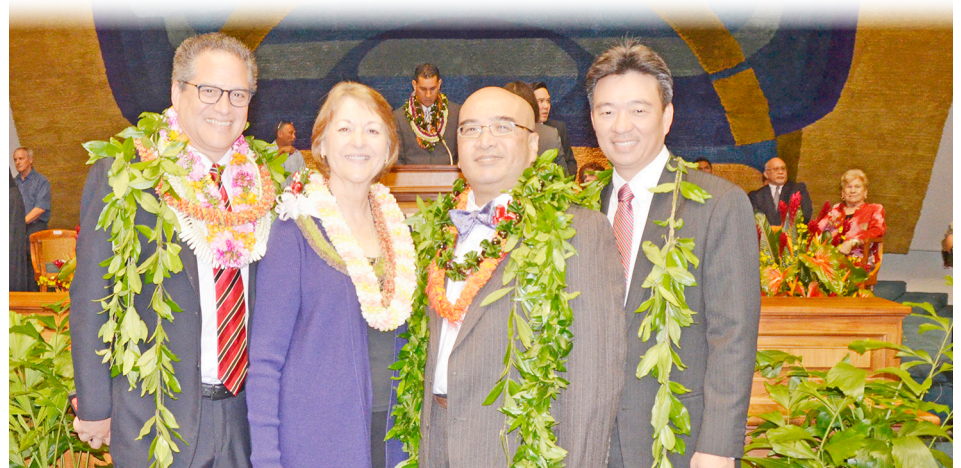


Legislative offices were open to the public and provided food and refreshments while individuals met with their Senators and Representatives. Sen. English greeted dozens of guests that included former legislators, students, community leaders, union members, and constituents.

MESSAGE FROM KALANI

As we open the 2017 Legislative Session, I feel fortunate to have this opportunity to find solutions which address the many challenges facing the state and our community today. For our District, among the measures I introduced this session include funding to help our economy, measures to support our schools and improve access to healthcare. Thank you for entrusting me with your support and I look forward to a productive year ahead.

J. Kalani English



HAWAI'I STATE SENATE UNVEILS THE 2017 SENATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



The Hawai'i State Senate unveiled its priorities for the 2017 Legislative Session, which began on January 18, 2017. The Senate is committed to a vision for Hawai'i that are viable and will sustain our communities for future generations to come.

As we enter the Twenty-Ninth Legislative Biennium, we are mindful of the significant effects a new President and Federal Administration may have on the residents of Hawai'i and present our four over-arching themes for the upcoming legislative session. Our legislative priorities embrace Hawaiian values and aim to improve the quality of life for our keiki, kūpuna and nā 'ohana.

The 2017 Legislative Program for the Hawai'i State Senate is as follows:

Ola Lehulehu – People and Communities

• **Education** – We will collaborate with educational leaders and interested stakeholders to identify and focus on priority educational needs and opportunities. We will strive to produce workforce-ready graduates to provide opportunities to cultivate and diversify the workforce and economy of Hawai'i.

• **Affordability** – We acknowledge Hawai'i's extremely high cost of living and the financial stress this places on many individuals and families. We will therefore explore options to increase affordability for residents, including avenues to better support low-income wage earners in Hawai'i.

• **Social Services** – We will support the State's core functions, including strengthening our social safety net to ensure our keiki, kūpuna, families, and individuals are protected. We will also continue to support the creative coordination of social service and educational strategies that address the multi-faceted nature of homelessness.

• **Health Care** – We will support collaborative efforts to ensure that funding for Native Hawaiian health care continues. We will further support Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders by focusing on essential social and cultural determinants that improve health

outcomes amongst our indigenous population. We will also encourage options to improve health care for our keiki and our residents in rural areas and will support collaborative efforts to provide better dental care for keiki and adults throughout our communities.

• **Food Security** – We will further explore opportunities and policies that support our local farmers, encourage good agricultural practices, and increase our local food production. Efforts that support food self-sufficiency will have positive effects on our local job market and economy.

Aloha Kaiāulu Ho'oulu - Preparedness

• **Community Development** – We will work diligently to understand and promote smart community development, in particular transit-oriented development. We recognize transit-oriented development as a unique opportunity to address many socio-economic challenges. Because land along public transportation corridors presents an opportunity for the State to maximize land development, we support collaboration with interested stakeholders, including private businesses and non-profit organizations. We are also committed to supporting affordable housing and necessary infrastructure to strengthen our community.

• **Government Services** – We will focus on improving the efficiency and modernization of government services, including election participation. We will continue to encourage the enhancement of the State's information technology systems and incentivize the use of technology. We will also support efforts to advance innovation-oriented projects that improve living standards in Hawai'i, while streamlining resources to most efficiently and effectively promote innovation and economic growth.

• **Financial Analysis** – The Hawai'i State Senate is committed to analyzing tax credit cost information provided by state agencies; assessing the viability of existing tax credits, exemptions, and exclusions; and determining whether each tax credit, exemption, or exclusion continues to be useful and beneficial to the State.

Aloha Honua - Climate Change and Energy

• **Environment** – We will protect and preserve Hawai'i's natural resources by explor-

ing ways to improve agricultural practices and mitigate climate change impacts. We are committed to supporting the preservation of Hawai'i's unique geographical features, including coastlines and watersheds. In addition to supporting existing conservation and enforcement efforts, we will encourage the use of innovative technologies to combat invasive species, address biosecurity risks, conserve the State's water resources, address changing sea levels, and protect the State's fragile marine ecosystem.

• **Sustainability** – We will continue our commitment to renewable energy alternatives that are practical and economical for the State and take into account Hawai'i's natural environment and terrain. With recent progress and clean energy goals in mind, we will further encourage the availability of renewable energy and advance projects to improve energy efficiencies.

Pono Kaulike - Transforming Justice

• **Rehabilitation** – We will explore alternatives to incarceration and options to reduce the recidivism rate amongst our incarcerated population, through means such as strengthening community ties. We will support efforts that enable incarcerated individuals to develop useable skills that will help in their transition back into their communities.

• **Public Safety** – In an effort to promote continued public safety, we will encourage effectiveness, transparency, and interagency collaboration, and insist on higher standards of conduct and appropriate training.

It is the Hawai'i State Senate's sincere hope that we can work collaboratively with the House of Representatives, the Governor, and the Judiciary to achieve all the goals outlined in this Program.



2017 SUBSTANTIVE BILLS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ENGLISH

Sen. English is the primary introducer of the following bills. To search for the content and status of a bill go to the following link: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

- [SB 545](#)** Creates a temporary commission on the thirteenth festival of Pacific Arts to plan for the event to be held in Hawai'i from June 11 to June 27, 2020.
- [SB 546](#)** Requires a biotechnology company that sells a genetically modified animal, plant, or seed that the company knows or has reason to believe will be used to produce an agricultural commodity to provide written disclosure of possible risks from the use of such an organism; written notice does not waive any liability a biotechnology company may have toward a purchaser.
- [SB 547](#)** Allows for several factors to be weighted for the weighted student formula including but not limited to student characteristics, enrollment trends, and optimal student-teacher ratios. Requires the committee on weights to incorporate into the weighted student formula weights that account for special education teachers and support staff, enrollment increases, and the optimal student-teacher ratio at each grade level.
- [SB 548](#)** Legalizes the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specified quantity. Requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. Subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.
- [SB 549](#)** Requires remote schools to be allocated funds using categorical allotments, rather than through the weighted student formula. Defines a remote school as any public school that is a high school located at least a one-hour drive away from the next nearest high school or a high school located on the island of Lana'i, Moloka'i, or Ni'i'hau.
- [SB 550](#)** Prohibits the planting of a genetically engineered seed or plant part in an open field. Allows the chairperson of the board of agriculture to grant an exception where such planting is done in a controlled environment.
- [SB 551](#)** Establishes, beginning January 1, 2018, labeling requirements for any food or raw agricultural commodity sold in the State that contains a genetically engineered material, or was produced with a genetically engineered material; establishes exceptions; establishes violations; requires director of health to adopt rules.
- [SB 552](#)** Mandates the department of agriculture to take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent, or minimize the adverse effects of biotechnology and genetic engineering.
- [SB 553](#)** Requires remote schools to be allocated funds using categorical allotments, rather than through the weighted student formula. Defines a remote school as any public school that is a high school located at least a one-hour drive away from the next nearest high school or a high school located on the island of Lana'i, Moloka'i, or Ni'i'hau. Specifies minimum number of teachers for Hāna high and elementary school.
- [SB 554](#)** Exempts the gross proceeds of any qualified small farmer from the general excise tax.
- [SB 555](#)** Prohibits the issuance of new building permits unless it is established that the building will be furnished with equipment that allows for the collection and use of gray water for irrigation. Provides for exemptions. Takes effect on 1/1/2018.
- [SB 556](#)** Clarifies when pedestrians may enter a crosswalk equipped with a countdown timer.
- [SB 557](#)** Allows disclosure of government records in cases where a police officer has been suspended or discharged in a disciplinary action.
- [SB 558](#)** Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, Maui branch, for invasive species technician positions in east Maui to address invasive plants and animals.
- [SB 559](#)** Enacts relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement as Hawaii state law. Makes an appropriation.
- [SB 560](#)** Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to translate the Hawai'i state constitution into the Hawaiian language.

2017 SUBSTANTIVE BILLS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ENGLISH CONTINUED

- SB 561** Requires the Department of Education to establish policies to prohibit bullying. Requires those policies to include anti-bullying classes for students found to have engaged in bullying and the parents or guardians of those students. Requires suspension of any student found to have engaged in bullying until the student and the student's parent or guardian have successfully completed an anti-bullying class at the parent's or guardian's expense.
- SB 562** Makes Act 170, SLH 2002, which provides limited liability protection for county lifeguards and counties providing lifeguard services on beaches or in the ocean permanent.
- SB 1030** Provides exemptions from vehicle registration, safety inspection, and driver licensure requirements for marine terminal equipment. Allows the operation of marine terminal equipment on a highway between terminal locations.
- SB 1031** Requires weigh-in of commercial maritime cargo vehicles with cargo of 55,000 pounds or more immediately upon departing a commercial harbor. Requires report to Department of Transportation on every container or load of such poundage that arrived in a State harbor for transport on state highways.
- SB 1032** Appropriates funds for the continued support of Hāna Health in Hāna, Maui.
- SB 1034** Exempts members of a county council from the limitation on the number of members that may attend an informational meeting or presentation on matters relating to official board business, including a meeting of another entity, legislative hearing, convention, seminar, or community meeting. Clarifies that such meetings shall be open to the public for purposes of permitted interactions.
- SB 1149** Expands the range of manufactured medical marijuana products that may be produced and sold to include certain edible products. Authorizes eight companies to partner with medical marijuana dispensaries to produce manufactured marijuana products, subject to certain conditions. Establishes requirements for manufacturing, handling, and packaging manufactured marijuana products.
- SB 1150** Prohibits the use or application of sunscreen, sunblock, or cosmetic containing oxybenzone while on a beach or in the ocean.
- SB 1151** Appropriates funds for Capital Improvement Projects in the 7th Senatorial District.
- SB 1152** Requires the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.
- SB 1234** Corrects an error in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016 to clarify that the Kaho'olawe island reserve commission is affiliated with the county of Maui, rather than the county of Hawai'i.
- SB 1235** Appropriates funds as a grant for the continued support of Hāna Health in Hāna, Maui. Appropriates funds as a grant to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center for operation of its twenty-four-hour emergency room. Requires funds necessary for the operation of Hāna Health and Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center's emergency services to be included in the department of health's base budget beginning with the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
- SB 1236** Stipulates that the auditor will contract with a suitable entity to conduct of study of closed claims in the workers' compensation system, that includes the study of processing time for closed claims. Extends the deadline for the study to 11/30/2018 and the deadline for the legislative report to twenty days prior to the regular session of 2019. Makes an appropriation for the study.
- SB 1237** Exempts individuals selling only insurance for property stored at a self-service storage facility from obtaining a license as an insurance producer provided that specific requirements are met.
- SB 1238** Makes an appropriation for a two-year temporary patient navigation program based at Moloka'i General Hospital for patients with chronic disease in medically underserved rural communities.

2017 HAWAII STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

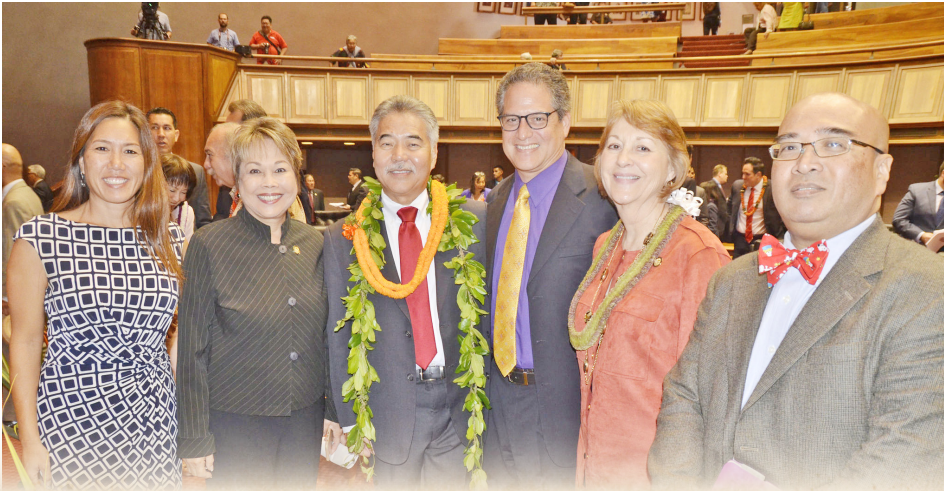
Governor David Ige presented the State of the State Address to the 29th Legislature meeting in joint session on January 23.

The governor's address focused on:

- Transforming our schools to better prepare our keiki for the future
- Reshaping our economy to allow for more

innovations in all of our industries in this knowledge-based, technology-driven world

- Building more affordable homes for our families and addressing homelessness
- Making government more efficient, effective and accountable so that it works for the people



Kili/Bikini/Ejit (KBE) Local Government Visits The State Capitol

Sen. English recently met with Mayor Anderson Jibas and members of the Kili/Bikini/Ejit (KBE) local government to share and discuss continued visions for cultural revitalization and celebration, alongside revisiting pertinent issues like climate change, repatriation, federal compensation, and national survival in the face of these global issues. KBE infrastructure concerns demand immediate attention, and the meeting between Mayor Jibas and Sen. English was fundamental in continuing to address these concerns for all Oceanic peoples.

The dialogue began in earnest eight years ago with a meeting between Sen. English and Jibas' father, the former Mayor of Bikini Atoll. "Mayor Jibas and I have remained in close contact over the years and I am very familiar with the dire issues faced by the people of Bikini Atoll," said Sen. English. "The desire of these native islanders to preserve and return to their island home is similar to native Hawaiians who have a deep connection to the lands of their ancestors. I applaud their efforts to protect this beautiful part of the Pacific."

Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands has remained uninhabitable since 1946 after being used as a site for nuclear testing by the United States. Residents of Bikini Atoll were relocated to other islands in Micronesia and some emigrated to the U.S. Since 1975, the U.S. government has provided \$150 million in compensation for damage caused by the nuclear testing program and the KBE residents displacement from their home island. However, former residents of Bikini Atoll have filed a federal lawsuit seeking a complete scientific survey of Bikini and the Northern Marshall Islands in an effort to clean the island of radioactive debris.

The continuing relationship between governments is important to protecting and maintaining basic quality of life concerns for present and future generations of all island peoples. "The courtesy visit with Senator English was really good and very positive," said Mayor Jibas. "We are thankful for his hospitality and eagerness to start work with Bikini Atoll Local Government and the people of Bikini Atoll."

THE SENATE RECOGNIZES CHERISE IMAI

On January 19, the Senate recognized Cherise Imai for her work with Hawaii's State Department of Education where she served as the Military Liaison under State Superintendent of Education, Kathryn Matayoshi. Since June 2016, Cherise has been with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission where she serves as the new executive director.



KING KEKAULIKE HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN

The Department of Education (DOE) has awarded a contract to Maui Kupono Builders, LLC. in the amount of \$3,377,780.00 to complete facility improvements on the schools track and field.

We are pleased to inform you that construction on the project will be initiated shortly.



J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

COMMITTEES

Vice Chair, Senate Committee on
International Affairs and the Arts

Member, Senate Committee
on Hawaiian Affairs

Member, Senate Committee
on Transportation and Energy

Member, Senate Committee
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HOW TO REACH US

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 205
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
ph 808-587-7225
fax 808-587-7230

From Maui, toll free 984-2400 + 77225
From Moloka'i and Lāna'i,
toll free 1-800-468-4644 + 77225
e-mail: senenglish@capitol.hawaii.gov

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OPENING DAY OF THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HIGHLIGHTS



A wonderful Opening day at the State Capitol. Mahalo for all who traveled to visit and participate in the festivities.

The public can access more information on hearings and session activities on the Hawai'i State Legislature's website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov

