



Senator J. Kalani English 6th District

HANA, EAST & UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LANA'I & KAHOLA'OLE



Volume 4, Issue 2
February 20, 2004

Chair of Senate Committee
on
Energy and the Environment

Working Together For You

Release of Air Ambulance Funds Brings Needed Care to Remote Areas

Senator English, mindful of the fact that timely emergency medical care was not available to remote corners of Maui County, has been part of a team of Maui lawmakers who dedicated themselves to bringing air ambulance service to their districts.

The funding had been vetoed by Governor Linda Lingle in 2003; as a result Senator English, Senators Roz Baker and Shan Tsutsui, Representatives Sol Kaho'ohalahala, Joe Souki and Bob Nakasone worked together to persuade the Governor that the State must keep all Maui County residents supplied with adequate medical services.

At the Maui Chamber of Commerce's luncheon the Governor's release of the necessary funding was applauded. "I am delighted that the Governor has revised her position on this important matter. As a resident of Hana, I know firsthand how important an air ambulance will be to the people whose lives will be made safer by the addition of this important service. The rural areas of our county Moloka'i, Lana'i, and East Maui will all benefit," said Senator English after being congratulated by the Governor.



Senator English, Governor Linda Lingle, Senator Roz Baker, and Senator Shan Tsutsui celebrate the release of funds for Maui County's air ambulance

Lawmakers Talk Story in Hana

Senator English, Representative Sol Kaho'ohalahala, and Congressman Ed Case were co-hosts of a recent "Talk Story Town Meeting" in Hana, offering local residents the opportunity to discuss local and national issues. Senator English said, "Meetings like this are very important to us as elected officials. In order to represent the people effectively, we need to hear from them directly about their needs and concerns."

Asked about the nation's skyrocketing debt under the Bush Administration, Congressman Case said, "You can't have massive decreases in taxes, which means massive reductions in revenue, and massive increases in spending, both military and non-military, and still have a balanced budget."



Senator English, Representative Kaho'ohalahala and Congressman Ed Case talk story at Hana High Cafeteria

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 205
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI, 96813
Phone: 808 587 7225
Fax: 808 587 7230

From Maui toll free: 1 800 984 2400 + 77225
From Moloka'i and Lana'i: 1 800 468 4644 + 77225
E-mail: senenglish@capitol.hawaii.gov
Web Site: www.kalanienglish.com

Get our Newsletter electronically Subscribe at: english4@capitol.hawaii.gov

Our Bills for 2004

This session, Senator English introduced 101 Bills for consideration by the Legislature. For a full listing of these bills, go on-line to <http://kalanienglish.com/pdf/SenEnglish-2004-Bills.pdf>. Highlighted below in seven categories is a sampling of our bills.

Education

SB2071 Creates a teacher national board certification incentive program. Appropriates funding to provide national board certified teachers with \$5,000 per year. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2071 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2071.htm)

SB2657 Authorizes the board of education to establish personal financial management education programs within the department of education for grades kindergarten through 12. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2657 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2657.htm)

SB2789 Appropriates \$32 million for teacher annual increment step increases. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2789 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2789.htm)

SB3205 Requires the department of education, subject to the availability of funds, to reduce the ratio of students to teachers in kindergarten to grade six to not more than twenty students to one teacher, over a period of years. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3205 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3205.htm)

SB3240 Implements education reform and decentralization measures; establishes a student weighted formula for providing operating moneys to individual public schools. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3240 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3240.htm)

Energy

SB2080 Provides a 20 per cent tax credit for the total cost of a hydrogen system placed into service after December 31, 2004 and before January 1, 2014 that have an unspecified nameplate capacity. Provides a 20 per cent tax credit for the total cost of a hydrogen system placed into service after December 31, 2004 and before January 1, 2014 that have an unspecified nameplate capacity. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2080 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2080.htm)

SB2474 Requires electric utility companies to establish additional renewable portfolio standard goals; requests the public utility commission to study the feasibility of implementing a rate structure to encourage the use of renewable energy and an incentives program to reward electric utility companies meeting renewable portfolio standard goals. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2474 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2474.htm)

SB2682 Requires energy efficient water heating in new construction of dwelling units. Defines "dwelling unit". Directs PUC to change its utility rebate rules and requirements to exclude new residential construction. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2682 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2682.htm)

SB3162 Amends HRS 235-12.5 to provide that when tax credits for the installation of renewable energy technology systems exceed a taxpayer's income tax liability, the excess may be carried over and used as credit toward the taxpayer's liability in subsequent years, until the credit is exhausted. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3162 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3162.htm)

SB3193 Amends the proposed maximum pre-tax wholesale and retail price of regular unleaded gasoline by determining the baseline price according to the national spot price, as reported by the Oil Price Information Service, and establishes maximum pre-tax wholesale and retail prices for mid-grade and premium gasoline and diesel fuel. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3193 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3193.htm)

Environment

SB2134 Establishes the emergency environmental workforce to assist the counties in their fight against invasive species. Appropriates funds. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2134 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2134.htm)

SB2791 Provides for procedures to protect non-genetically engineered plant life from their genetically engineered counterparts. Establishes the liability of manufacturers and growers of genetically engineered plants, plant parts, or seeds. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2791 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2791.htm)

SB3052 Sets forth policies and procedures for identifying and managing important agricultural lands and directs the agribusiness development corporation to convene a task force to develop incentives for important agricultural lands. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3052 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3052.htm)

SB3115 Establishes a Hawaii Housing and Conservation Trust Fund to finance affordable housing and conserve and protect important agricultural lands and historic properties. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3115 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3115.htm)

SB3116 Establishes standards for the discharge of treated sewage, graywater, other wastewater, and air emissions from cruise ships and commercial passenger vessels into the marine waters of the State. Prohibits the discharge of untreated sewage from commercial passenger vessels into the marine waters of the State. Provides for record keeping and monitoring. Provides criminal penalties. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3116 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3116.htm)

SB3206 Appropriates funds to eradicate the coqui frog on Maui. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3206 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3206.htm)

Get our Newsletter electronically Subscribe at: english4@capitol.hawaii.gov

Governance

SB2440 Allows nine hundred ninety-nine year homestead leases to be assigned to hanai and adopted first cousins. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2440 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2440.htm)

SB2442 Precludes owners of firearms who have a restraining order against them from transferring title of the firearm to another person. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2442 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2442.htm)

SB2460 Limits land use commission jurisdiction over district boundary amendments to those involving land areas greater than 50 acres except in the conservation district. Gives counties sole authority over district boundary amendments involving land areas less than 50 acres, except in conservation districts. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2460 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2460.htm)

SB2466 Exempts drivers license applicants who are enrolled in public school on Molokai and Lanai from the requirement of completing a driver education course, if the examiner of drivers finds that there are insufficient drivers' education teachers on those islands. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2466 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2466.htm)

SB2702 Increases the conveyance tax and divides the increase in revenue between assisting the homeless, providing affordable housing, and assisting the State Historic Preservation Program. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2702 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2702.htm)

Health

SB2456 Allows deductions for health care costs (which includes long-term care insurance premium costs) for amounts in excess of 0.5% (rather than 7.5%) of adjusted gross income. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2456 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2456.htm)

SB2465 Appropriates funds for the Hana Community Health Center [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2465 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2465.htm)

SB2473 Appropriates funds to Molokai General Hospital for operating costs during fiscal year 2004 and 2005. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2473 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2473.htm)

SB2683 Appropriates funds to DOH to pay for primary medical, dental, and behavioral health services for uninsured Hawaii residents through nonprofit, community-based primary health care centers. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2683 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2683.htm)

SB3045 Authorizes DHS, pursuant to the Hawaii Rx program, to purchase prescription drugs from and negotiate manufacturer's rebates with Canadian pharmaceutical companies for the benefit of non-Medicaid eligible persons and government program beneficiaries. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3045 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3045.htm)

SB3234 Makes appropriations for crystal methamphetamine treatment, prevention, rehabilitation, and education to department of health; makes appropriations to the judiciary to expand services provided by the drug courts; makes appropriations to the department of public safety for treatment services for first time nonviolent drug offenders and to expand canine drug interdiction efforts; makes appropriations to county government for grass root community mobilization efforts provided federal forfeiture funds are matched to state funds; makes appropriations to the office of community services to coordinate the drug abatement efforts to fight the ice epidemic; provides tax credits for drug rehabilitation homes and substance abuse prevention education and employment; establishes a substance abuse treatment monitoring program requiring state agencies to collect data and access program effectiveness; establishes a multi-agency task force to respond to the effects of ice on children and makes appropriation for expenses. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3234 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb3234.htm)

Infrastructure

SB2098 Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the design and construction of the Kulamalu Long-Term Care Facility in Kula, Maui. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2098 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2098.htm)

SB2414 Issues general obligation bonds to finance an agricultural water use and development plan. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2414 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2414.htm)

SB2464 Facilitates the establishment of an agricultural dual line water system in upcountry Kula, Maui by authorizing \$3,000,000 in general obligation bonds. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2464 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2464.htm)

SB2467 Authorizes issuance of GO Bonds for Manele small boat harbor improvements. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2467 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2467.htm)

SB2468 Amends existing appropriation of capital improvement funds to provide for the design, construction, and equipment for the improvements to the Molokai irrigation system. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2468 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2468.htm)

Business

SB2452 Raises the income tax standard deduction and personal exemption amounts to 80% of the federal amount for 2004, 90% for 2005 and 100% for 2006 and thereafter. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2452 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2452.htm)

SB2457 Grants tax credit to small businesses at the lesser of 50% of premiums or \$500 per employee for purchase of long-term care insurance for its employees. Defines small business as businesses employing less than 100 full-time or part-time workers. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2457 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2457.htm)

SB2453 Repeals income tax for taxpayers at lower income brackets. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2453 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2453.htm)

SB2606 Amends brewpub licensing law to authorize brewpubs to sell beer for consumption off-premises. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2606 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2606.htm)

SB2696 Increases wharfage fees at state harbors for cruise ships to improve harbor infrastructure for removal systems for wastewater and solid waste. [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2696 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2696.htm)



Pa'ia Chevron is First in the Nation to Pump B-20 Fuel

Senator English joined members of Maui Oil Company and Pacific Biodiesel, Inc. for the opening celebration for the nation's first joint venture production of B-20, a clean burning alternative fuel.

"The real heroes are Senator English, his fellow State Legislators and members of the Maui County Council, who together were committed in making this possible through legislation," said President of Maui Oil Company, Alec McBarnet.

From left to right: Representative Joseph Souki, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Council Member Joe Pontanilla, Terry McBarnet, Vice President, Maui Oil Company, Council Member Charmaine Tavares, Senator English, Representative Sol Kaho'ohalahala, Kelly King Marketing Director, Pacific Bio Diesel, Bob King, President, Pacific Bio Diesel, Anne Arakawa, Mayor Alan Arakawa, Alec McBarnet, President Maui Oil Company, Mary Jane McBarnet, Chairman of the Board, Maui Oil Company, and Don Walker, General Manager, Chevron Hawaii

National Bird Flies Over Hawai'i

"Challenger," an American Bald Eagle who performs free-flight demonstrations all over the country, made his first visit to Hawai'i recently, and Senator English was proud to introduce our national symbol to his fellow Hawai'i State Senators. Watching the eagle fly over the Senate Chambers, Senator English said, "I am proud that such a majestic symbol for our country was able to visit Hawai'i. It was a breathtaking experience to see this majestic bird, a distant cousin of the Hawaiian 'Io."

Senator English, Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment, added, "Like the 'Io, the Bald Eagle is a bird whose very existence is threatened. Challenger's visit to Hawai'i should remind us all of the responsibility we all have to preserve our natural environment."



Senator English and Al Cecere, President of the America Eagle Foundation with first time visitor, America's Bald Eagle "Challenger"

Senator English Intervenes in Desecration of Burial Site

Senator English's office took quick action when a caller informed him that a human skull from an ancient Hawaiian burial site at Ka'anapali was being sold on E-bay. Such a sale is a violation of federal law.

Senator English mobilized his staff, who made a series of calls to get to the bottom of the matter. "My concern was to help repatriate the remains to Ka'anapali," he said. The seller said he stole the skull from a Bishop Museum excavation site on the beach, which came from a bloody battle involving King Kamehameha in the 1790's.

The seller's story was soon discredited. Eddie Ayau, coordinator of the Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawai'i Nei, said no such battle occurred. Ayau is now working to get the skull returned to its rightful place. "This theft was an act of desecration, and I am proud that my staff and I were able to correct the wrong that was done. Such a sale is a violation of federal law." Senator English said.



Senator English and Board of Education Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto