



Senator J. Kalani English 6th District

HANA, EAST & UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LANA'I & KAHO'OLAWÉ

Chair of Senate Committee
on
Energy and the Environment



Volume 4, Issue 4
March 19, 2004

Talking with the People



Senator English addresses The Maui Chamber of Commerce Hana chapter. Hatota Tehiva and U'ilani Philip—Tehiva look on with Bob Filipe.

Legislative procedures and protocols can be intimidating, and members of the community can feel cut off from participating in government. Senator English is committed, through his community outreach efforts, to making government more accessible. Residents of areas remote from the legislative process can access the State legislative website to view bill status, text, and committee reports, as well as other types of useful information at: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>.

Part of the Senator's outreach efforts focus on updating rural residents about issues that directly affect them, including SB 3068, SD2, a health and human services omnibus bill

that includes vital funding for the Hana Community Health Center and Moloka'i General Hospital, among others. Also in play were Senate Bills 3117 and 2465, SD1, which respectively appropriate funds for repairs to the Hana wharf and small boat harbor and for the construction of a permanent administrative building at Hana Elementary and High School. Though both bills were deferred in the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Senator English is working hard to gather support for the needed funding to be inserted into the budget.

After introducing and viewing an investigative documentary film about the war in Iraq at the Kipahulu Community Association's movie night, Senator English concluded his community outreach weekend, commenting, "Our communities, and the democratic process, triumph a little bit more with each outreach seminar we hold. The health of our society depends upon the participation of its individuals, and I want to do everything possible to empower communities through knowledge, an effort that I think fosters individual choice and participation in the legislative process."

Frogs—Power—Bypass Issues Explained in Plain English

Senator English's community outreach also included a stop at the Ha'iku Community Association to participate in a community meeting encompassing hot topics such as renewable energy, invasive species issues, and the Pa'ia bypass highway.

Senator English updated the community on the progress of important legislation, such as Senate Bill 3206, SD1, which appropriates funds to eradicate the Coqui frog on Maui and SB 2134, which directs funding to the Emergency Environmental Workforce to provide much needed manpower in the fight against invasive species threats, including the Coqui frog.

Senator English also addressed another important issue at the community meeting - energy independence. A bill that Senator English introduced, SB 2474, SD3 requires Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) in Hawai'i of 20 percent by 2015 and 30 percent by 2020. The immense potential Hawai'i has to harness its renewable energy resources will be encouraged through the mandate of these RPS standards, the highest in the nation. SB 2474,

SD3 was transmitted from the Senate to the House on March 11, 2004.

As a long time proponent of the Pa'ia bypass highway, Senator English voiced his concerns with the length of time it has taken the State Department of Transportation to authorize and release the needed funding for planning and construction of this vital infrastructure improvement.

Being a resident from the rural town of Hana, Senator English is intimately familiar with the larger issues affecting the rural communities in his District, and is working to provide for those needs.



Gregg Blue, President of the Ha'iku Community Association introduces Senator English.

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

From Maui toll free: 984 2400 + 77225
From Moloka'i and Lana'i: 1 800 468 4644 + 77225
E-mail: senenglish@capitol.hawaii.gov
subscribe at: english4@capitol.hawaii.gov

Ha`iku Ho`olaule`a & Flower Festival



Carol Choda, owner of Exotic Orchids of Maui Inc., and Marian Zajac with Senator English share "Flower Power."

At Maui's tenth annual Ha`iku Ho`olaule`a and Flower Festival, Senator English presented a certificate commending Ha`iku School's Art Exploratory teachers, local artist Jan Welda Fleetham, Monica Riker, the Art Program's Director, and the students of the three fourth grade

classes, for creating a permanent wall mural depicting eighty-one of the thousands of endemic, Native Hawaiian plants and animals, insects, birds and sea life.

Senator English gave an informative speech, highlighting the value of the eight-week Art Exploratory Program, which is funded through the Ha`iku School PTA. He also spoke of the importance of each child learning more about the endemic Hawaiian plants and animals, those that only exist here in the Hawaiian Islands - from the Nene and `Ahinahina (SILVERSWORD) to the Hawaiian Happy Face Spider, He`e (Hawaiian octopus) and native Wiliwili.

Maui Constituents Visit Capitol

On Wednesday, March 3, 2004, the Developmental Disabilities Council made its annual visit to the State Capitol. They spent the day meeting with Legislators and advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.

Senator English met with members and discussed the bills he introduced this session that provide services and access for people with disabilities as well as other measures of interest to the members.

Senator English always enjoys meeting with the Developmental Disabilities Council, and seeks out any opportunity to assist the disabled communities of Maui County. Recently, Senator English sent a letter to the

Maui News urging the newspaper to set up an electronic feed to the National Federation of the Blind that would then translate the paper into an audio form accessible via telephone.

Through legislative action and community involvement, Senator English is in a unique position to work for the rights of people with disabilities. The recent visit from the Developmental Disabilities Council was a welcome opportunity for the Senator to reconnect with the needs and interests of that community.

Bills Move To House

As many of us learned from the old cartoon "School House Rock", the path that a bill must endure before becoming a law is a difficult one that few survive. Out of the one hundred fourteen Bills that Senator English introduced this session, forty nine have made the journey over to the House where they will face further scrutiny by State Representatives. The following is a sampling of some of Senator English's bills that the State House of Representatives will be considering over the next few weeks.

SB 2134 [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2134 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2134.htm) Provides funding for the Emergency Environmental Workforce to fight against invasive species.

SB 2477 SD1 http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2477_sd1_.htm Helps protect Hawaii's environment from the Brown Tree Snake by authorizing the department of agriculture to refuse shipments from Guam that were not inspected before being shipped to Hawaii.

SB 2247 SD 1 http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2247_sd1_.htm Provides funding to the department of agriculture to fight against invasive species such as the fireweed, the coqui frog, fire ant, myrica faya tree, and the nettle caterpillar.

SB 2474 SD 3 http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2474_sd3_.htm Mandates that the electric utilities get 20% of their energy from renewable sources by 2015 and 30% by 2020.

SB 2139 SD 1 http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2139_sd1_.htm Creates a Committee to study the feasibility of starting a Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance.



Maui Developmental Disabilities Council Members Larissa Gorospe, Casey Haydon, Heather Proud and Forest Taniguchi visit with Senator English.

Get our Newsletter electronically Subscribe at: english4@capitol.hawaii.gov
Visit Senator English's website at: www.kalanienglish.com