



Energy Reform Measures Continue to Advance in 2006 Session



The legislative process is moving ahead, with the end of the 2006 session just weeks away. As bills from the two branches of the Legislature are reviewed by the other chamber, their contents can shift from one measure to another.

"It's important to keep the key concepts in mind, rather than the specific bill number," Sen. English says. "It's not uncommon for a provision that was in one bill at the beginning of the session to end up in another by the time conference committees are convened."

In a year that has seen an unprecedented focus on energy reform, a number of energy bills introduced by Sen. English are still in play. With newfound support for energy measures from the administration, it is likely that 2006 will be remembered as the year Hawai'i took its first meaningful steps toward energy self-sufficiency.

The "key concepts" cited by Sen. English include:

- promoting energy efficiency in State buildings;
- creating tax incentives for vehicles that operate on clean fuels;
- establishing a statewide energy efficiency utility and energy efficiency portfolio standards;
- creating a renewable hydrogen program and a hydrogen investment capital special fund;
- ending the energy utility's practice of passing fuel cost hikes directly to the consumer;
- supporting the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum.

"Hawai'i is poised to become a leader in energy reform," Sen. English said. "We're a long way from that goal today, but the political will is there. At long last, the state is on the right path."

Chair, Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs
Committee Memberships:
Intergovernmental Affairs;
Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs;
Media, Arts, Science, and Technology;
Water, Land, and Agriculture;
Ways and Means



A Message From Kalani

Aloha,

This issue of our 6th District newsletter includes a piece about the work that continues at home, even during the height of the legislative session. Keeping in touch with the people of our multi-island district means lots of interisland travel, but the rewards are many.

I hope you'll take the opportunity to say "Hello" at the next community meeting or event.

J. Kalani English



At Home in the 6th District: the Story of a Senate Resolution

Hawai'i's 6th District may be the most geographically diverse in the state. Keeping in touch with population centers on three islands, along with responsibility for Kaho'olawe and



Molokini, keeps Sen. J. Kalani English on the move. During the legislative session, he travels through the district almost every weekend. In recent weeks, he has taken part in community meetings on Lana'i and Moloka'i,

hiked the trail to Kalaupapa and made a trip to upcountry Maui, to help the people at Ha'iku School honor a beloved member of their community.

Jean Suzuki (above) served her community for generations. The idea for a Senate certificate in her honor was born at the Ha'iku Ho'olaule'a and Flower Festival (below).



A Senate Resolution introduced by Sen. English reads, "Whereas, Jean Nobuku Kurahara Suzuki... was the cafeteria manager at Ha'iku Elementary School until 1988 and it is believed her thirty-six years of service to Ha'iku Elementary School make her its longest-serving employee..."

"Both thrifty and generous, Jean Suzuki nourished the children with midmorning soups prepared with the prior day's leftovers, shared her own children's hand-me-downs with them, and let them share a ride into town when she left for the day..."

The resolution calls for the school's cafeteria



to be renamed for Mrs. Suzuki.

Ha'iku Elementary Principal Bernice Takahata says, "We felt that she was such a great influence as a positive role model in the community, and so many people wanted to do something for her. She earned the respect and admiration of peers, colleagues, and students." The idea came together when Sen. English came to the Ha'iku Ho'olaule'a And Flower Festival on March 11. At the ho'olaule'a, Principal Takahata said, "So many people spoke about her that Kalani suggested that we should name the school cafeteria after her – and said he would sponsor a resolution in the Senate." Sen. English says, "The resolution to honor Jean Suzuki is an example of the work that goes on year-round in the district: visiting a community, talking with friends and neighbors, and helping the people of the 6th District meet a goal that is important to them."

The Arc Legislative Intern Program: Inclusion, Involvement, Independence

“The Arc in Hawaii is committed to helping Hawaii’s people with mental retardation secure the power to choose where and how they live, learn, work and play. “ That’s the principle behind the Arc Legislative Intern Program, a week-long internship at the State Capitol for ARC clients and volunteers. In the third week of March, 2006, the program brought Jeremy Richmond and Arc volunteer Esmerelda Esperanza to the office of Sen. J. Kalani English. There’s always plenty to do in a busy Senate office, and Jeremy and Esme lost no time pitching in.

In a brief ceremony at the end of the week, Sen. English presented Jeremy with a Senate certificate thanking him for his help.



Jeremy Richmond and Esmerelda Esperanza help Research Assistant Sidney Iaukea prepare a bi-weekly delivery of the 6th District newsletter.



from left to right: Sen. English, Jeremy Richmond, Arc in Hawaii Executive Director Colleen Kojima, and Arc volunteer Esmerelda Esperanza.

From the Arc website:
“The Arc in Hawai’i is part of the largest national organization devoted solely to working on behalf of people with mental retardation.
“An estimated 7.2 million Americans have mental retardation or a related developmental disability. Through aggressive advocacy at the local and national level, The Arc ensures that these individuals have access to the services and support they need to grow, develop and participate in communities across the country.”

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\$2.3 Billion in Upgrades Planned for State Airports

On March 24, Sen. English attended a briefing on the \$2.3 billion State Airports Modernization Plan, a series of “short- and long-term upgrades to every major airport in the state with the goal of ensuring the airports are modern, efficient, passenger-friendly and secure.” The administration says that “The proposed upgrades will be paid for entirely by airport fees and federal funds and will not utilize any state or general funds.” Plans for Kahului Airport include an expanded ticket lobby, expanded parking, and improvements to the airport perimeter road and runways. At the Capitol briefing, Sen. English asked to be provided with additional information: a review of plans for the state’s smaller airports -- particularly those in the 6th District. That information will be outlined in the next edition of this newsletter.



The Administration unveiled its airport expansion plans in a presentation at the State Capitol Auditorium March 24.



Sen. English shows a group of Moloka'i students the original document of the Sister Island Compact between Rapa Nui and Maui Nui, a resolution he introduced in 1998 as a member of the Maui County Council. The students are members of the National FFA Organization, which was founded as the "Future Farmers of America" in 1928 in Kansas City, Mo. In 1988, the official organization name was changed to The National FFA Organization to reflect the broadening field of agriculture, which today encompasses more than 300 careers in everything from agriscience to biotechnology to turf grass management. From left to right above: Sen. English, Matt Isuec, Moloka'i High School Technology Educator Weldon Wichman, Arthur Borden, and Tiffany Yagin.

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