

## LAND AGREEMENT PRESERVES ULUPALAKUA AS A WORKING RANCH

The rolling green hills of Ulupalakua represent one of Maui's most iconic views. But as with so many cherished parts of our heritage, there has long existed a tension between the value of the land as an iconic reminder of the beauty that has inspired generations, and the value of the land as a financial asset, susceptible to the kind of development that puts money in the pockets of the few, while depriving the many.



*Sumner Erdman, Sen. J. Kalani English and Pardee Erdman celebrate the signing of Ulupalakua Ranch's preservation of 12,000 acres of land on Maui. Nov. 28, 2009. For more details on Maui Coastal Land Trust and its protected lands, call 808.244.5263 or visit: [www.mauicoastallandtrust.org](http://www.mauicoastallandtrust.org).*

Now, an agreement between the nationally-accredited Maui Coastal Land Trust (MCLT) and the Erdman family, owners of Ulupalakua Ranch, has created the largest voluntary easement donation in the State of Hawai'i. This perpetual easement will ensure that the Ulupalakua lands are forever preserved for agricultural activities. The land trust, as the holder of the easements, will ensure in perpetuity that all future owners abide by the terms of the covenants, and legally defend any violation of those terms.

The current owners of the easement are giving up most of the potential subdivision and residential development entitlements available to these lands, while reserving the right

to develop renewable energy projects, farm dwellings, and agriculturally-appropriate commercial and non-commercial endeavors; all of these uses are permitted under principal, accessory and special uses for agricultural districts according to Maui County Code Chapter 19.30A.

The easement agreements apply to two large parcels: One includes 6,000 acres on the western slopes of the ranch, while the other consists of the entire 'Auwahi ahupua'a, a 5,328 rectangular parcel, of which the Mauka portion is home to the 'Auwahi Habitat Restoration Project and is part of the Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership.

The Erdman's decision to partner with MCLT grew out of a vision to safeguard their family-run ranching operation and Ulupalakua's natural beauty and open space. "Fifty years ago as a young geologist I was sent scouting all over the island. Standing down in what is now Wailea, I remember looking up the hill to admire the view. I didn't know I'd be saving it someday," reflects Pardee Erdman, owner of Ulupalakua Ranch.

"Thank you to the Erdman Family and the Maui Coastal Land Trust for organizing this rare and inspiring act," said Sen. English, "The Erdman's agreement with the Trust is an accomplishment that will benefit all the people of Maui for generations, while preserving the integrity of the land."

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## A MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Across our nation, within our State, in our district and in our homes, 2009 was a hard year. We didn't have to read about it; we felt it. We in Hawai'i, as an island State, faced unique challenges. The ways in which we chose to adapt to and overcome these challenges will be a unique history to relate in years to come.

In the darkest hours we witness the brightest stars of hope. Prosperity is not always measured in dollars. The land preservation agreement ensuring nearly 12,000 acres along the leeward slopes of Haleakala will benefit future generations. Our continued insistence on preserving the social safety net that represents our commitment to the less fortunate in our community withstood pressures to make across-the-board cuts. And the way so many of us stood together to help one another through hard times is a testament to the core values that have made Hawai'i a special and resilient place.

It has been an honor to serve as your Senator and share this commitment to preserving our 'aina and lifestyle, and our heartfelt recognition that we are each a part of a unique community that deserves our respect and best efforts. I look forward to representing Hawai'i's 6th district through the 26th legislative session and beyond.

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou,

## STATE COMMITMENT TO SAFETY OF RESIDENTS ON HAWAI'I ROADWAYS

Sen. English, who serves as chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs, initiated two more improvements to Hawai'i State roadways.

Lahaina community celebrated the groundbreaking of Honoapi'ilani Highway Widening Project on November 6th. When the project is completed, residents on the makai side of the highway will be able to enjoy walking along a new sidewalk and crossing the highway through an improved Shaw Street signalized intersection. Paved shoulders on both sides of the highway will also improve access for the many bicyclists who travel this route.

To reduce excessive traffic noise along school and residential properties, a noise wall barrier will also be constructed on both sides of the highway. The noise wall barrier will have a natural rock pattern on both sides of the wall, to maintain the neighborhood's sense of place.

The Ewa community of O'ahu celebrated the groundbreaking of the Fort Weaver Road widening project on December 10th. Sen. English congratulated the Hawai'i Department of Transportation, the Lingle administration, and the people of Ewa for coming together to help make this project a reality. He also commends his colleagues in the legislature for acknowledging the importance of this project to these communities, and appropriating the funds that made these possible.

"Whatever economic challenges our state may be facing at this moment, we must continue to invest in our communities. No single community should be asked to shoulder the burden of inadequate roads. Beyond that, our continued commitment to capital improvements helps move our economy forward, injecting cash into the marketplace and keeping our people on the job," said Sen. English.

## IMPROVEMENTS TO HANA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Current economic conditions have severely impaired the State's ability to serve all of the critical needs of Hawai'i's residents. It is imperative however, to continue improvements to infrastructure across the State to keep people working while improving our communities at the same time. The Hawai'i State Department of Transportation is currently working on projects to improve Hana's infrastructure.

This year, over 8 million dollars were awarded to these projects:

Hana and Haleakala Highway, \$1.7 million, Traffic operational improvements:

Hana Highway, \$2.7 million, Resurfacing Kahalaowaka Bridge to Oliwai Bridge:

Hana Highway, \$4.2 million, Kalahu to Hana, Resurfacing.

"Projects like these show that the Administration and the Legislature can work together in the face of pressing needs to keep our workers on the job and improve



*Beginning of Hana Highway*

the quality of life for thousands in our community," said Senator English, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, "Investing in infrastructure demonstrates our commitment to improving Hawai'i's transportation requirements."

The Hana community has long awaited repairs to the Hana Small Boat Harbor. Legislative appropriations for the Hana ramp improvements, rock revetment and boat ramp approach are lower than current prospective construction bids which have delayed this project further. The scope of repairs may need to be cut and focus solely on the boat ramp improvements. The Department of Land and Natural Resources hopes to reach an agreement with the construction companies by February 2010.



*Hana Boat Ramp*



*Hana Small Boat Harbor*



Sen. English celebrates the release of "Ka Mahina" first CD by contemporary Hawaiian musician, CJ (Boom)

Helekahi of Hana.

Hana Tropicals, Wakiu, Hana. Dec. 18, 2009.

For more info. about Boom and his music visit his Facebook pg. at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/CJ-Helekahi/186495576356>

Photo by Tom Johnson, Hamoa Beach Creative



ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC ISLAND LEGISLATURES'  
RESOLUTIONS ADDRESS SAMOAN INDUSTRY,  
SERVICES TO COFA NATION CITIZENS



Senators: Shan Tsutsui, J. Kalani English and Roz Baker. Aug. 2009.



Sen. English atop Moa'ulaiki on Kaho'olawe during Legislative Access to Kaho'olawe. Sept. 2009.



Sen. English receives the warm blessings and a mele (song) from students visiting on the first day of Legislative Session. Jan. 2009.

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' (APIL) Board of Directors ended a two-day session in the Hawai'i State Capitol's Senate chamber after passing resolutions addressing some of the most pressing issues facing its member States. It was the Board's fiftieth meeting.

**Resolution No. 50-BOD-02** extended APIL's full support to the efforts of American Samoa and its delegate to the U.S. Congress in advancing the American Samoa Protection of Industry, Resources and Employment proposal now before Congress. The proposal will provide greater stability to the fragile state of American Samoa. The resolution also recognized the "clear economic interconnectivity between island nations of the Pacific, and the successes of one island nation benefits from another as travel and trade [are] more frequent and the sharing of resources becomes common."



Sen. English, President of The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, meets with other members and policy makers of the Pacific nations at the APIL conference held in Honolulu, Hawai'i. December 2 - 4, 2009  
For more info., visit APIL on the web: <http://www.apilpacific.com/>

**Resolution No. 50-BOD-04, CD1** strongly urged the United States Department of the Interior and the U.S. Congress to provide federal aid to American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the State of Hawai'i for the provision of essential services to migrants from the Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations.

"The obligations of the U.S government under COFA have been a matter of ongoing concern," said Hawai'i Senator J. Kalani English, who also serves as president of APIL. "The Compacts of Free Association allow for the free migration of citizens of Micronesia and the Freely Associated States throughout the United States and the Territories and Commonwealths, in recognition the contributions and sacrifices COFA citizens have made in the past. Too many people look at it as a handout, when it is actually a legitimate obligation. APIL's' concern is simply to see that these obligations are met, and that the states and territories have the resources to provide vital services."

In other resolutions, the APIL Board extended its condolences to the family of the late Honorable Liufau Te'o

Tanielu Sonoma Unutoa, a Senator serving American Samoa (**Resolution No. 50-BOD-02**) and expressed its gratitude to the Hawai'i State Legislature for the use of its facilities (**Resolution No. 50-BOD-02**).

The next meeting of the APIL will be held in Kiribati next summer.

Established in 1981, the **Association of Pacific Island Legislatures** is an organization of Pacific island nations, states and territories that meets periodically to consider matters of mutual interest. It's members include twelve Pacific Island states: American Samoa; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Federated States of Micronesia states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap; Republic of the Marshalls; Republic of Palau; State of Hawai'i; Island of Guam; Republic of Nauru; and Republic of Kiribati.

**HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE CANCELS  
TRADITIONAL OPENING DAY  
CEREMONIES WITH RESPECT TO  
CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS**

This year, the House and the Senate have decided to refrain from customary opening day ceremonies in the interest of economy and with respect to the individuals, businesses and families sacrificing during this economic crisis.

On Jan. 20th, there will be an abbreviated introduction in both chambers as we get down to traditional business of hearings, informational briefings and focusing on the pressing issues facing our State: the economy, healthcare, education and safety.

We will miss seeing all of your enthusiastic faces and greetings this year but we look forward to working alongside these mutually sustainable goals toward a celebration next year.

With Aloha from Sen. English and office staff - Alan, Aunty Libby, Sharon, Cissy, and Lauraine.

**LESS PAPER - MORE TREES**

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**MAKAHIKI DAY INSPIRES HAWAII**

**TO PURSUE PEACE AND SUSTAINABILITY**

With Hawaii’s second observance of Makahiki Day in 2009, we were reminded again of the traditional Polynesian values that still inspire us today.

The most common impression of the traditional Makahiki celebration may still be images of games and feasting. There was much more to the four-month Makahiki season, and I think these are the aspects that we should focus on today.

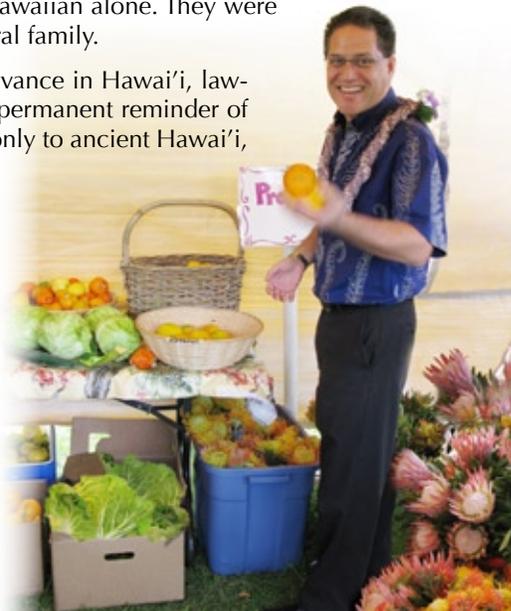
For these four months, wars ended and peace endured. This stood as proof of the importance of the observance: everyone and every group, regardless of their position or political power, simply stopped fighting. As unimaginable as it may be to us in the modern world, this willingness to put aside all conflict for fully a third of the year demonstrated great discipline and a respect for cultural practices that took precedence over what we often view as the irrepressible human impulse to gain power.

At the same time, throughout the Makahiki season, fields were allowed to lie fallow. A respect for the land and a recognition of the need to preserve and protect natural resources mandated a time for the fields to regain their strength. Recent reports have indicated that fields across pre-contact Hawaii fed as many as one million residents. Working without modern technology, those who fostered the times’ food-producing resources had a deep understanding of and appreciation for what we would now call sustainability: using natural resources in a way that ensures that they will continue to provide for not only this generation, but for all generations to come.

These practices existed across Polynesia. The cultural practices and beliefs that lay at the foundation of Makahiki were not Hawaiian alone. They were deeply ingrained in our extended cultural family.

In making Makahiki a permanent observance in Hawaii, lawmakers have provided our state with a permanent reminder of the season’s value and importance not only to ancient Hawaii, but to modern Hawaii as well. Now we, as individuals, have a chance to draw regular inspiration from the spirit of Makahiki: acknowledging the value of culture over personal gain, respecting the importance of sustainability, and valuing our connection to our Polynesian neighbors.

Makahiki Day exists as a one-day observance in Hawaii today, but we as individuals have the power to extend it through what was once a full season of acting as our better selves. Join us in making Makahiki more than a day; let’s make it a part of our lives.



**COMMITTEES**

- ▶ **Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs**
- ▶ **Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**
- ▶ **Member, Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**
- ▶ **Member, Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

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