

A MESSAGE FROM KALANI

With the end of the 2009 Legislative Session approaching, I invited my office staff to join me in the festivities of the East Maui Taro Festival. Alan, Aunty Libby, Sharon, Cissy, Lauraine, and our friend Jeni made the trek to Hana where we enjoyed a weekend of good friends, good food and some long overdue yard work. We returned to wrap up what will be remembered as an exciting and challenging Legislative Session.

To review the Legislative Bills, visit:
<http://capitol.hawaii.gov/>

Recent improvements have occurred at our airports, harbors and highways. However, past neglect has compromised the State's basic transportation infrastructure. Further, the global economic downturn diminishes resources to address critical statewide needs. Therefore, I had to take extraordinary steps when the "Highway Modernization Bill" failed to pass by inserting the capital improvement projects contained within the Bill into the state budget. Initiation of the projects will provide jobs for our citizens, make traveling safer, and improve the quality of life for all our residents through reduced time spent on the roadways and more time with our ohana.

I thank all of my constituents who have offered solutions to solve the many critical issues we face and ask that all of you continue the inherent practice of aloha.

A hui hou,

J. Kalani English

GROUND BROKEN ON LAHAINA BYPASS AT LONG LAST



*The DOT road construction crew of Maui County with State officials; (left - right) Lt. Governor Duke Aiona, Sen. J. Kalani English, State Representative Angus McKelvey, and Transportation Director Brennon Morioka.
April 4, 2009*

Forty years after beginning the initial planning stages for the Lahaina bypass, the project has now entered Phase 1A.

In an effort to alleviate traffic congestion in West Maui, the four-lane Lahaina Bypass highway is designed to link Launiupoko to Honokowai. The next phase will extend from Lahainaluna Road to the Launiupoko area.

The Federal Highways Administration provided 80 percent matching funds on this \$50 million design-build contract. Hawaiian Dredging Company, Inc. has been awarded the construction contract for this phase of the project.

State Sen. J. Kalani English, D-East Maui, Molokai and Lanai, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, said he hopes this new bypass will improve the quality of life for residents. "It'll help bring more time for your families," he said. "Helping you to safely get where you want to go."



SENATOR ENGLISH BRINGS THE CAPITOL STAFF "HOME" FOR THE WEEKEND

What employees of the State Legislature call their boss "my friend, Kalani?" We do. What State Senator brings his staff to his neighboring island district for a weekend of home style grinds and traditional cultural festivities? Ours does, and we each have something to share about that:

I enjoyed the food and the beautiful arts and crafts, flowers, quilts and especially the friendly people. I enjoyed my trip to Hana with our staff and it was nice meeting Kalani's friends and family. It was nice to see Lauraine in Hana too. The drive was too much though. Ha!Ha! A hui hou, Malama pono.

Aunty Libby

I was impressed by the number of people that came to the festival. It was nice to see a diverse community made up of grandparents, parents, children and infants. Also, the exhibits were very informative. The taro burgers were excellent. The bamboo shirts were of the highest quality and very unique. The performers performed their best. All in all, the organizers and the community of Hana should be very proud to have produced such a hit even though the weather looked threatening on Saturday.

Aloha,
Sharon

My adventure started at the Maui airport where there was much excitement at the gate. Someone was calling 'Anake Kapi'o, what you doing here? It was our new Aloha Miss Hula Cherissa Henoheanapuikawaokele Kane, who I knew very well from UH Hawaiian Studies. I got to let her know how ha'aheo we are of her and how she made her dream come true.

I got to watch the sunrise in Hamoa. I never get to see a sunrise as it is usually up already by the time I get up. Took in some sun at the beach while Aunty Libby & Sharon were picking Opihi which we cooked on the fire and had pupu's. Ohana went fishing that day and dropped off some for us to share. Made a lot of new friends and very fond memories of Hana.

A hui hou,
Cissy

As a Waimanalo country boy, relocated to the hustle and bustle of Oahu's city life, going to Hana, Maui for the first time was a brief but needed refuge from Honolulu's concrete jungle. I found myself feeling like a kid again staring at the stars in the sky for the first time. Being in this beautiful community has reminded me of my youth and some of the valuable lessons taught to us by our families and parents. Lessons that we should seek to carry on today for the children of tomorrow. Be mindful of others and always take only what you can use, even with Hana's abundance of Opihi. Always have aloha for others, there is no shame in waving hi to everyone. Take care of your neighbors, you may never know when you might need an egg or sugar or poi.

Aloha,
Alan



(Clockwise from top) Senator English, Cissy Rees, Sharon Lum Ho, Aunty Libby, Alan Kekoa Texeira, Jeni Carrell.

As I wandered through the Taro Festival I watched how the people of Hana greeted each other like old family friends. The entertainment was wonderful and the food ono. The people were friendly and willing to share information. It was truly a delight to go to.

Hana is a beautiful and peaceful place. At night I was just astounded by how many stars I could see in the sky. It was so clear and beautiful. During the day time we enjoyed ourselves exploring and visiting more new friends.

I gotta admit, it is a trial to get to paradise, and that's kind of what makes it worth the tribulation. The Maui road crew sure works fast to clear mudslides.

Jeni



Aunty Libby and Sharon Lum Ho collected Opihi from the beach for Sunday lunch. April 25, 2009

I caught up with my Capitol crew on Sunday at Sen. English's humble abode. The team that tends to the function of the State Legislative Sessions at the State Capitol had simpler goals on this day: eat, laugh, and laugh some more."

The highlight of the day for me was watching Sharon come back from surfing at Hamoa Beach. Her joy was infectious. It was a rare sight to see Alan relaxing with his feet up, cap on backwards

and a book in his lap - a vision of relaxation. Friends old and new hui with Kalani's serene ohana in Hana.

Senator English's district is vast and diverse and requires many forms of transportation and hours of travel to accommodate. Perhaps the most challenging and beautiful journey he makes regularly is the one going "home."

Aloha,
Lauraine

17TH ANNUAL EAST MAUI TARO FESTIVAL



Senator English and his staff enjoyed visits with AKAKU TV as well as Pacific Networks TV. (left) Sen. English, Aunty Libby, Sharon Lum Ho, Cissy Rees. (right) Johann Hironui Kalani Charles Bouit and Sen. English. April 25, 2009



Sen. English shares his appreciation for the art of Lauhala weaving, one of the many crafts and games being demonstrated during the East Maui Taro Festival.

The East Maui Taro Festival was celebrated at the Hana Ballpark April 25th and 26th under pleasant weather conditions. People from all over came to celebrate the Hawaiian food staple and the legend of Haloa (taro). Musicians, food vendors, and farmers all provided tribute to the Kalo, it's mana, nutritional value and it's powerful symbolism.

Emcees Kanaido and Fawn Helekahi-Burns introduced entertainment from: Two Fathers Two Sons, Pekelo, Leokane Pryor, CJ & Friends, One Vibe, Simply Solid and Hula Halau Noenoe 'O hana.

Robert Mitnick returned to the Taro Festival with the popular taro burger. With 20 food booths serving all manners of food, each featuring a kalo dish, it was assured that no one went home hungry.

There were demonstrations of Hawaiian musical instruments, toys, agricultural concepts, and Arts & Crafts. Everyone was more than welcome to participate in poi-pounding.

"The sociocultural farming practices of Taro are as important as the agriculture. The principles have taught whole communities the value of stewardship for the land and the family," said Sen. English. "The deep historical roots of this tradition will reach into our future of sustainability on Maui."



Sen. English with Sharon and Jacob Mau of Makawao.



East Maui Taro Festival
PO Box 295, Hana, HI 96713
(808) 264-1553

For more information visit: <http://www.tarofestival.org/>

SENATOR ENGLISH ATTENDS NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS



Sen. J. Kalani English, Linda Sikkema, Irene Kawanabe, and Shannon James Augare meet in Seattle for the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators. April 4, 2009

For more information visit: **National Caucus of Native American State Legislators**
www.nativeamericanlegislators.org



ROAD IMPROVEMENTS CONNECT HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS COMMUNITIES ~ KONA HAWAII



(Left - Right) Kahu Brian Boshard; Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Director, Micah Kane; Executive Director La'i'opua 2020, Craig "Bo" Kahui; Governor Linda Lingle, Elizabeth Lee, Mayor Billy Kenoi, and Sen. J. Kalani English gather for the traditional Hawaiian blessing and an untying of a maile lei at the Keanalehu Drive Road Dedication Ceremony. April 23, 2009

The DHHL segment of road extension was constructed by CTS Earthmoving at a cost of \$3.46 million. To learn more about the developments of the Dept. of Hawaiian Homelands visit: <http://hawaii.gov/dhhl/development-projects>



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- ▶ **Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**
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