

MOLOKA'I AND LANA'I DEPEND ON TRADITIONAL PHARMACY SERVICES

A new policy implemented by the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) requires members on maintenance medication to fill their prescriptions through a mainland mail order firm, Informed Rx. Moloka'i Drugs, the only prescription drug provider on the island, faces possible closure as EUTF customers account for twenty percent of their clientele.

"This was a statewide decision that did not take into consideration these islands' remote location and their unique health-care needs," Sen. English said. "Such an area does not enjoy the luxury of available alternatives if unforeseen complications arose in a mail order program." Sen. English immediately requested an exemption for Moloka'i and Lana'i as remote areas, adding that, "Losing access to their only pharmacy as a condition of their enrollment in the EUTF program is not a reassuring option for the people of Moloka'i and Lana'i."



Sen. English visits friends at the only Pharmacy serving the islands of Moloka'i and Lana'i.

David Mikami, RPh; Kelly Mikami Go, RPh; Sen. English; Nina Greenleaf; Jocelyn Lani Collier; Jon Mikami, RPh; Hokulani Alcon. July 13, 2009

On July 15, the EUTF Board met to decide whether to grant an exemption to mandatory mail order policy for Moloka'i and Lana'i members. The Board did not decide that question but instead voted to encourage Moloka'i Drugs and Informed Rx to reach a compromise that will be beneficial to all.

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A MESSAGE FROM KALANI

All of the many communities of the 6th District are directly impacted by the slowdown of our ailing economy. Essential services that we have relied upon - pharmacies, school libraries, law enforcement, environmental protection, and housing assistance - are in jeopardy. So many jobs were created out of necessity, and while evaluation is called for, they are not expendable. Rather than blame the economy and its failures, now is the time to utilize our ingenuity to create a new and sustainable economy. This is not a leap of faith but rather an evolution of our awareness and reactions. We continue to improve roads and infrastructures, creating jobs statewide.

My colleagues and I in the Senate have rallied to defend and protect the many bills we crafted this year from the Governor's veto. It is imperative we find alternatives to address our food and energy security, balance our budget, secure our education and health care services.

In this partnership with you, the individuals and organizations of my district and beyond the Pacific, I seek to honor this time of exponential change. Many of you have intelligent and resourceful ideas. I am listening.

Aloha,

J. Kalani English

SENATOR ENGLISH ATTENDS UNION RALLY AT THE CAPITOL



Larry Sagario, DHHL; Wade Nakayama, Moloka'i Wastewater Treatment Plant worker; Lahela Aiwahi, UPW Maui; Sen. English; Sandra Arce English, DOE Cafeteria worker; and Solomon Naeole, County of Maui Mechanic, gather at the State Capitol Union Rally. June 30, 2009.

SENATOR ENGLISH ATTENDS NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS



(Front row, left-right) Shelly McDonald (Washington); Irene Kawanabe (NCSL); and Linda Murakami-Sikema (NCSL). (Back row, left-right) Rep. Reggie Joule (AK); Rep. Karen Awana (HI); Rep. Shannon Augare (MT); Caucus Chair Rep. John McCoy (WA); Sen. English (HI), Delegate Talmadge Branch (MD). June 25, 2009. For more information visit:

[National Caucus of Native American State Legislators
www.nativeamericanlegislators.org](http://www.nativeamericanlegislators.org)

SENATOR ENGLISH SENDS A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE DOE TO SAVE HANA LIBRARY

As a result of the Governor's budget cuts to the Hawaii State Public Library System, Hana Library was slated to close by the end of 2009. The Department of Education (DOE), in determining which libraries to close, created a formula that includes usage, proximity to other libraries, circulation, and operational costs. Based on this formula, State Librarian Richard Burns recommended five library closures, of which Hana Library was one.

Sen. English sent a letter to Mr. Burns asking him to reconsider his recommendation to close Hana Library. "Hana Library is remote and should be treated like the Moloka'i and Lana'i Libraries. Access to the educational, recreational, and technical resources that the Hana Library provides is essential for a vibrant, informed community," wrote Senator English.



Maui Board of Education Member, Mary Cochran with two Hana Library fans.

Sen. English met with Mr. Burns to discuss his recommendations and attended the Board of Education's (BOE) General Business Meeting on July 16. The BOE has decided not to close any libraries that are part of a public school (Hana, Ewa, & Pahala) as they deliberate alternatives that do not require any Library closures. Hana Public Library will remain open to provide its many services to our community.



Hana residents and students gather in the Hana Public School Library to rally against its closure. July 16, 2009.

Photo courtesy of Holly Braffet.

SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH RECOGNIZED BY AARP FOR COMPLETE STREETS LEGISLATION



Sen. English receives a certificate of recognition from Jackie Boland of AARP. July 7, 2009. Contact cgarcia@aarp.org for more information.

On July 7th, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) presented to Sen. English a certificate in recognition of his "complete streets" legislation, **SB718** (ACT 54), that requires state and county transportation departments to accommodate access and mobility for all users of public highways regardless of age or ability.

The new law requires the state Director of Transportation to form a task force charged with reviewing standards on highway design and making appropriate recommendations to establish a "complete streets" policy. The purpose of such a policy is to insure the

safe co-existence of motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit-users, including the disabled.

"I am very pleased that this legislation is now law," said Sen. English, "We need to acknowledge, up front, that our roads are shared spaces for everyone - cars, bikes, and pedestrians. I look forward to the design standards from the task force."



(front row) Jana Lynott, AARP National Policy Advisor on Livable Communities; Marvin Paularena, AARP Area Team Leader; Michelle Paularena, AARP Volunteer. (back row) Sandra McGuinness, NPAC; Dave DeLeon, NPAC; Mike Morris, CEO, Maui Family YMCA and NPAC Chair; Tony Fisher, President, AARP South Maui Chapter; Representative Joe Bertram; Sen. English; Diane Logsdan, President, AARP Kula Chapter; and Mayor Charmaine Tavares. July 7, 2009

SENATE HONORS MAKAU FOSTER IN TAHITI



French Polynesia Senator Richard Tuheiava joins Senator J. Kalani English and Jean Napuauhi, Jr. in honouring Makau Foster.



*Sen. English and Jean Napuauhi, Jr. recently honoured Tahitian dance leader Makau Foster with a Senate Proclamation for her promotion of polynesian dance in Tahiti and polynesia. Her group, **Tamariki Poerani**, celebrated its 10th anniversary on 14 June 2009. "I attended the celebrations to acknowledge Makau's great work in the region and long-time connection to Hawai'i." said Sen. English.*

For more information visit: <http://tamarikipoerani.com/>

LET'S BE EVEN GREENER

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Mahalo to you all.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE H-1 FREEWAY, KAPOLEI INTERCHANGE

Sen. English, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Gov. Lingle, State Dept of Transportation (DOT) officials and representatives of the development and construction companies celebrated the groundbreaking of the first phase of the Kapolei Interchange. This multi-phased project will ease the flow of traffic in this congested area and is funded entirely by the federal government. The project will help to stimulate our overall economy, creating jobs in construction and related industries.

As the Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, Sen. English noted, "This interchange acknowledges Kapolei's importance as O'ahu's 'Second City' and I am pleased to reaffirm the Senate's support of this important region in Hawai'i."



Rep. Kymberly Pine, Rep. Karen Awana, Rep. Sharon Har, HDCC President Bill Wilson, Sen. Mike Gabbard, DOT Director Brennon Morioka, Sen. English, Gov. Linda Lingle, U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Abraham Wong, David Rae, Sen. Will Espero. Blessing by Kahu Cordell Kekoa. July 2, 2009.



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- ▶ **Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**
- ▶ **Member, Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**
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