

COMPASSION AT THE CENTER OF BILLS ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA



SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE ▲ 6TH DISTRICT

HANA ▲ EAST & UPCOUNTRY MAUI

MOLOKA'I ▲ LANA'I ▲ KAHOLA'ONOA

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A MESSAGE FROM KALANI

One of the great insights of Kamehameha the Great was his recognition of the duty of our government to respect and preserve the right of all citizens to enjoy safety and security in their lives. Malama-hoe kanawai, the 'Law of the Splintered Paddle,' now codified in our state constitution, stands as a unique and living symbol of our state's concern for public safety. But we must be willing to take that further and see safety and security in a broader light.

Whenever we look at capital improvement projects throughout our communities, we must realize that we are witnessing more than simply another construction project. Rather, this is a reflection of our government's commitment to the safety and quality of life for our residents.

Whatever economic challenges our state may be facing at this moment, we must continue to invest in our

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Senator English introduced legislation to decriminalize the possession of an ounce or less of marijuana, thereby reducing the costs of enforcement of existing laws, and eliminating the cost of prosecuting and incarcerating those who possess small amounts of marijuana not intended for sale or distribution. **Senate Bill 2450** would impose a fine of not more than \$100 for possession of an ounce or less; the fines would be deposited into the "early intervention special fund" to expand and enhance early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or at biological or environmental risk.

Nineteen other Senators joined English in signing the proposed legislation. "Let me make this clear: we are not talking about legalizing marijuana," said English. "Possession would still be against the law. But possession of less than an ounce of marijuana would be a civil violation, meaning paying a fine like a speeding ticket, rather than a criminal matter requiring prosecution."

By making the possession of small amounts of marijuana a civil violation, rather than a criminal violation, Hawai'i would join states such as Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska and New York, and cities in Michigan and Missouri that have taken similar action to decriminalize marijuana possession.

"I believe we have come to the point where the benefits of establishing a civil violation for the possession of small amounts of marijuana for outweigh the costs and benefits of the current criminal treatment of the offense," said English. "Studies of other states that have decriminalized possessing small amounts of marijuana have found that decriminalization caused no increase in marijuana use. Also, decriminalization had virtually no effect on the choice or frequency of using alcohol or harder drugs like cocaine. On the other hand, these locales have seen a significant reduction of expenses for arrests and prosecutions."

"Clearly it is time to re-examine our priorities," English continued. "We know the current law doesn't have any deterrent effect. Studies tell us that. At the same time, enforcing those laws is costing us money that could be better spent on other, more pressing problems."

"I know that this is a provocative proposal and something that is 'out of the box' for a lot of people in our community. I hope it opens up a discussion because it's a discussion we need to have in terms of our criminal justice system, our public policy priorities, and our financial priorities."

Senator English also joined other Senators in introducing **Senate Bill 2213**, which would allow the counties to establish "compassion centers" to dispense medical marijuana to qualified patients and primary caregivers registered with the department of public safety. "Our state made an important decision to allow for the medical use of marijuana," said Senator English. "We know and recognize the medical benefits. This bill answers very practical concerns for those who have been properly prescribed medical marijuana, but cannot provide their own supply. It is the right and compassionate thing to do."



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communities. No single community should be asked to shoulder the burden of inadequacy. 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.

Public safety, economic security, and progress, all comes together whenever we complete a capitol improvement project like the Honoapiilani Highway Widening or Hana highway improvements. They serve as symbols of what we in government and the community should aspire to, and can accomplish together.

J. Kalani English



Aloha from your 2010 Legislative staff:

Cissy, Alan, Sen. English, Aunty Libby, and Sharon, Lauraine and Jean (not pictured).



The abbreviated version of 2010 Opening day ceremonies at the State Legislature allowed Sen. English and his colleagues to get down to business and act fast on the issues at hand.....very fast.

SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH INTRODUCES BILL TO TRANSFER KALAUPAPA TO DEPT. OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS

Senator J. Kalani English (District 6 - Hana, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i and Kaho'olawe) has introduced a bill in the State Senate to transfer management of Kalaupapa Settlement to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands when there is no longer a resident patient population at the settlement.

Senate Bill 2771 would also prevent the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Health - which now administer Kalaupapa Settlement - from transferring any parcels in Kalawao County pending consideration of this measure.

"Once there are no more patients receiving care at Kalaupapa, there really is no reason for the Department of Health to be involved," said English. "This would more properly fall under the Department of Hawaiian Homelands."

Hawai'i law already treats the county of Kalawao, which includes Kalaupapa, Kalawao and Waikolu and is commonly known as the Kalaupapa settlement, as a county of its own; it is not a part of the County of Maui. Under **Senate Bill 2771**, Kalawao county would have powers specifically granted by state law. An Executive administrator of Kalawao County would be elected by members of the Hawai'i Home Commission.

English believes that the administration of Kalaupapa Settlement needs to consider the likely increased interest in Kalaupapa, and an increase in visitors, following the canonization of Father Damien in 2009. "Once there are no more patients receiving care at Kalaupapa, the character of the settlement will change. We can expect many more visitors who have an interest in Saint Damien and the work he did among those who had been exiled to the colony. Kalaupapa has always been unique in Hawai'i, but the combination of historical, cultural and religious significance of the settlement will give rise to unique challenges. Especially in light of the cultural and historical concerns, DHHL is the right agency to administer the area."

MOLOKA'I CLUBHOUSE TO REMAIN OPEN

There was growing concern on Moloka'i that Governor Lingle planned to close the Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division's Maui Community Health Center's (MCHC) Moloka'i Clubhouse/drop-in program. In quick response, Maui Senators J. Kalani English, Roz Baker, and Shan Tsutsui urged the Governor to continue its operation by releasing funds for staff positions.

Moloka'i Clubhouse provides a unique, voluntary, member-driven psychosocial rehabilitation program for adults who experience the challenges of mental illness. Program members are offered services that improve their quality of life through meaningful work and positive relationships. Last year, the Metro Honolulu Rotary Club generously provided \$100,000 in funds to make the clubhouse safe and functional.

In a letter sent to the Maui Senators, Governor Lingle stated that at no time was there a plan or intent for the Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division to close the Moloka'i Clubhouse/drop-in program. In the wake of the Reduction In Force (RIF) process, one position was affected and two other staff members resigned from the clinic, which may have sent the wrong impression that the Clubhouse may close.

Due to the staff shortage on Moloka'i, the Maui CMHC has initiated a plan for temporarily supporting the drop-in program with staff from Maui until current Molokai staff positions could be extended or recruited thereby keeping the Clubhouse open.

SENATE PAPERLESS INITIATIVE REDUCES WASTE WHILE IMPROVING PUBLIC ACCESS

In the face of the state's declining economic condition, and recognizing that everyone - including the legislature - must do their part to share the burden, we are all looking at ways we can reduce our budget by trimming operational and personnel costs.

In the Senate, we have reduced costs by reducing our reliance on paper for many of our core functions. In addition to streamlining the legislative process, going paperless has reduced waste and increased public access. We now provide online access to all hearing notices and testimony, drafts of bills, and committee reports, meaning that we print far fewer copies and the public no longer has to travel to the capitol to gain access to information. Staff is now free to do other things and acquire new skills; professionalizing staff lets us accomplish more with fewer bodies. You can reach the Capitol website at: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>



Senate Paperless Initiative Presentation, State Capitol. Jan. 2010

In the Senate, we cut the payroll budget by \$568,000 in 2009, an 11.4% payroll reduction, and a 9% reduction overall. We are further proposing to reduce our budget by \$650,000 in 2010 (14% payroll reduction; 11% overall).

The combined savings for 2009-2010 is over \$1.2 million, which means we will have reduced our budget by roughly 25 percent over the last two years. Most importantly, we have been able to realize these cuts and savings without reducing the quality of service. In fact we have maintained and even improved our services largely in part due to the Paperless Initiative.

A new documentary about the Senate Paperless Initiative is available on YouTube, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5VfCRKw1U0>



Jimmy Kaho'okele welcomes Sen. English to the Nahiku community Association Meeting in lower Nahiku, Hana. Jan. 31, 2010



Nahiku Community Association meeting, Nahiku, Hana. Jan. 31 2010

Senators J. Kalani English, Roz Baker and Shan S. Tsutsui began another Season of **Maui Manao**. Taping of discussions with our Maui Senators began on February 3rd at 'Olelo Community Media's mini studio and will air on 'Olelo TV. You can also view the segments on Sen. English's YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/kalaniEnglish#p/a/u/0/5BQ7POnzSyw>

Please visit and subscribe to receive updates.

If you have topics suggestions or question's you would like to hear discussed on future episodes, please contact host Alan Teixeira at 808.587.7225.



Senator English of Hawai'i conveys his condolences to Pwerech Amaraich, wife of Federated States of Micronesia's Chief Justice Andon Amaraich at his funeral services. Honolulu, HI, Jan. 2010.

SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAII STATE SENATE ▲ 6TH DISTRICT

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Hawai'i State Legislature Bill Status and Documents

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KUALAKA'I PARKWAY COMPLETED, WEST OAHU

The state Department of Transportation (DOT) and contractor Goodfellow Bros., Inc. opened the final phase of the H-1 Freeway North-South Road today, following a dedication ceremony by state, federal and city officials.

The new North-South Road includes an interchange and a four-lane highway that spans from Kapolei Parkway, Farrington Highway and the H-1 Freeway. The construction costs were 80 percent federally funded with the remaining 20 percent paid by state highway funds at a total cost of \$155 million.

This highly anticipated road has been unveiled as Kualaka'i Parkway. Kualaka'i was traditionally meant to unite new people in a new land, and after consultation with some community groups and kupuna all accepted Kualaka'i Parkway as an appropriate name.

'Everyone in public service has been reminded of the saying that 'the wheels of government turn slowly.' Perhaps.' said Sen. English. 'But I am pleased that at last we can make it possible for the wheels carrying the people of Kapolei to turn much more quickly. This is a testament to the hard work of many people in the Governor's office, the Department of Transportation, and in the community who have continued to push forward despite the challenges this project met over the years. I also want to commend my colleagues in the legislature for acknowledging the importance of this project to our community, and appropriating the funds that made this day possible.'



Sen. Gabbard; Lt. Gov James Aiona; Brennon Morioka, State DOT Director; Kaulana Park, DHHL Director; Steve Goodfellows, Pres. Goodfellow Bros. Inc.; Rep. Karen Awana; Sen. English; Rep Kymberly Pine; Kahu Kelekona Bishaw; Sen. Pres. Colleen Hanabusa attend the dedication of the long awaited Kualaka'i Pkwy. Oahu, February 11, 2010.

