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SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH

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In This Issue

Message from Kalani

Members of the Legislature are busy preparing for the opening of the 2012 Regular Session in January. It is a time to focus on and review possible legislation that will benefit the great state of Hawai'i and our residents.

In this issue, we are proud to announce the inception of the first-of-its-kind, U.S.-Japan Smart Grid demonstration project on the island of Maui. This project will improve the integration of variable resources and prepare Maui's electric system for wide spread electric vehicles. I was honored to be a part of the unveiling of two statues dedicated to Dr. Sun Yat-sen at Kepaniwai Park in Iao Valley and Sun Yat-sen Park in Keokea. I traveled to Amman, Jordan for an American Council of Young Political Leaders Alumni Summit and took a look at some local renewable energy sources in Haiku.

Happy New Year to all, I wish you the very best in 2012.

J. Kalani English

Hawai'i and Japan Memorialize Smart Grid Plan

Hawai'i State government and energy officials joined Governor Neil Abercrombie and Japan-based New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) President Hideo Hato at the State Capitol this past November. The two leaders signed a memorandum of understanding to memorialize ongoing efforts between the State of Hawai'i and NEDO. NEDO is an arm of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and is set to build a first-of-its-kind smart grid demonstration project on the Island of Maui. The multi-million dollar project is aimed at improving integration of variable renewable resources, such as solar and wind power, and preparing the electric system for widespread adoption of electric vehicles.

The project is part of the Hawai'i-Okinawa Partnership on Clean and Efficient Energy Development and Deployment, which was signed by the U.S. Department of Energy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, State of Hawai'i and Prefecture of Okinawa in June 2010. The partnership is intended to foster the development of clean and energy efficient technologies needed to solve global energy security and climate change challenges. Japan and the United States designated Hawai'i and Okinawa as the representatives for this groundbreaking partnership due to their demonstrated leadership and experience in clean energy and energy efficiency.

Hawai'i's clean energy goal is one of the most aggressive in the world and has become a major catalyst for new business growth and innovation in the state. With at least 66 renewable energy projects in various stages of development, Hawai'i is fast becoming a major player in the global clean energy economy. Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, blessed with year-round sun, consistent trade winds, and home to one of the earth's most active volcanoes, Hawai'i is one of the few places in the world capable of harnessing solar, wind, geothermal and ocean thermal energy, all within a 200-mile span.

"This project is a great opportunity to showcase Hawai'i's advantages in and commitment to clean energy," said Sen. English, Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment who was in attendance for the MOU signing, "With projects and partnerships of this level we hope to become the model for clean energy throughout the Asia-Pacific region and across the globe."

Installation of the smart grid technology is expected to begin in late 2012, with the project becoming operational in 2013. The demonstration project is scheduled to run from 2013-2015.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen Statue Dedication

Following the events of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation conference on O'ahu, Taiwan government officials traveled to Maui to honor Dr. Sun Yat-sen, a Chinese revolutionary leader who lived in Kula more than a century ago.

Sun Yat-sen came to Hawai'i at age 13 and lived for a time with older brother Sun Mei. He later studied at Iolani and Punahou schools on Oahu. As an adult, Sun Yat-sen became a modernizer and rebel in China and in exile. In October, 1895, Sun Yat-sen's first uprising failed, making the Sun Yat-sen family fugitives of the Qing Imperial Dynasty. It was then that the family moved to Maui to seek refuge with Sun Mei. During his exile on Maui, Sun Yat-sen helped organize the Chinese revolution with the support of his brother, Sun Mei.

The year 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of the success of the Chinese revolution against the emperor, orchestrated by Sun Yat-sen who became the first president of the Republic of China. Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission Minister Wu Ying-yih of the Republic of China in Taiwan, along with his delegation, descendants of Sun Yat-sen and government officials from Maui County and the State, dedicated two bronze statues of Sun, one at Sun Yat-sen Park in Keokea and the other at Kepaniwai Park in Iao Valley.

Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commissioner Minister, Wu Ying-yih, Dr. Sun Yat-sen's grandaughter, Lily Sun and great-grandson, Charles Wong gather with Maui Officials and friends in Keokea, Kula. Nov. 14, 2011.

In addition to the bronze statues at both parks, the Keokea park received two stone lions in granite and a stone Chinese gate, also granite, all donated by the Sun Yat-sen Foundation for Peace & Education and installed with the help of Maui volunteers and the County of Maui.

Kepaniwai Park also received two stone lions, and granite panels inside the Chinese pavilion which tell the history of the Chinese in Maui and of Sun Yat-sen and Sun Mei. Decorative panels were also put on the outside of the pavilion.

American Council of Young Political Leaders Middle East Alumni Summit in Jordan

The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) was established in 1966 with strong support from the United States government. Young American political and policy leaders began to travel to the Soviet Union and Western Europe while the United States welcomed reciprocal international delegations. Today this is a bi-partisan, non-profit educational exchange organization dedicated to fostering relations between nations across the globe.

As an alumnus of two previous American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) missions to the Middle East to Morocco and Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Senator English was invited to participate in ACYPL's Middle East Alumni Summit in Amman, Jordan this December. This delegation, consisting of 27 Americans and 40 International ACYPL alumni from Egypt, Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Morocco, Syria and Algeria was selected to promote understanding and cultivate lasting political, economic and cultural relationships with other delegates and their respective countries.

Sen. English enjoys a camel ride to the ancient city of Petra in Jordan. December 16, 2011.

Distinguished alumni include members of the U.S. Congress, Cabinet officials, diplomats, government ministers and parlimentarians.

"These exchanges have enriched a deeper understanding among my peers in political leadership roles. We share many common issues as we face divergent concerns. The histories of each of our cultures inform our unique contemporary policy making challenges." said Sen. English

Sen. English with fellow delegates of ACYPL Alumni Summit in Jordan. Dec. 11 - 19, 2011. To learn more visit: **acypl.org**

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GROWING ENERGY IN HAIKU

Recently, Sen. English had the opportunity to meet with Haiku neighbor, Eric Bryant, entrepreneur solar farmer.

Eric and his family have dedicated a large section of land along the Peahi coast to the production of solar energy as part of a larger vision towards land and energy conservation.

In addition, Eric has a variety of sustainable activities and ventures planned for the near future. Beginning with the solar farm, he adds, "Harvesting this abundant resource of solar energy is just one example of how the private and public sectors of our society can work together for the betterment of the entire community."

HNU Energy, an energy solution provider and engineering firm based in Wailuku, began construction in Oct. 2011.

"Both systems utilize Abound Solar AB-1/70 modules which are Cadmium Teluride thin film panels designed to utilize the enhanced low light characteristics that enable these panels to produce more power than their silicon counterparts," said HNU Energy Vice President Chauncey Brown as he describes the 2 projects.

Sen. English and Haiku resident Eric Bryant discuss the devlopment and construction of a two level, large scale Solar Farm on Ulumalu. Nov. 18, 2011. (Below) The completed installation of first stage solar arrays.

The first project Ulumau Energy, consists of 70 panels covering 71,580 square feet, with an annual production potential of 442,581 kWh. Ho'omana Energy, the second project, uses a variable panel and inverter that covers 29,523 square feet with an annual production potential of 179,289 kWh

"I support this project because it is the praxis of all that we as a society have been talking about: local, clean, indigenous energy." said Sen. English. He continues, "This private venture will help all of us on Maui achieve our goal of energy independence."