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FROM THE EDITORS

We are roughly one-third of the way through session, as Senate Bills are crossing over to the House and vice-versa. The Governor has just provided the Legislature with the 2011-2013 State of Hawai'i Fiscal Budget, allowing Legislators time to work-on and analyze its content before the end of session.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter as we update you on the Senate confirmation process, Capitol Improvement Projects for the 6th Senatorial district and some interesting meetings and legislation from Senator English.

SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE • 6TH DISTRICT

HĀNA • EAST & UPCOUNTRY MAUI • MOLOKA'I • LĀNA'I • KAHO'OLAWĒ



THE HAWAI'I SENATE CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Article V, section 6 of the Hawai'i State constitution requires that certain gubernatorial nominations receive the advice and consent of the Senate in order to be confirmed. During the 2011 Legislative session, with a new administration, many new Directors for various State Departments needed to be confirmed. This confirmation process begins after the Governor and Chief Justice transmits their appointments to fill executive agencies and judicial seats to the Senate President. These transmissions are then numbered and referred to an appropriate committee for consideration.

Next, a committee hearing is scheduled to offer the public a chance to provide testimony supporting or opposing the nomination. Senator English, Chair of the Transportation and International Affairs Committee (TIA) and committee members held a hearing to evaluate Glenn Okimoto as the Director of the State Department of Transportation (DOT). After receiving testimony in strong support of his nomination, the

committee recommended that the Senate confirm Okimoto.

Once the appropriate committee either confirms or rejects a nomination, confirmed nominations must go before the entire Senate. The Senate Committee on Ways and Means recommended the confirmations of Kalbert Young, as the Director for the State Department of Budget and Finance and Fred Pablo, as the Director for the State Department of Taxation. Due to their experience and expertise in their respective

fields as well as Senators speaking in support of their appointment the Senate voted unanimously to confirm them.

Article VI, section 3 of the Hawai'i State constitution also requires that the appointment of justices and judges must also receive consent of the Senate. The Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee heard testimony in overwhelming support of Judge Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice for the Supreme Court.

The committee recommended confirmation of her appointment and the Senate unanimously confirmed her nomination.

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Sen. English welcomes new Associate Justice, Sabrina Shizue McKenna. February 16, 2011.

TAIWAN RELATIONS

The Taiwanese community throughout Hawai'i shares a special history in our islands, contributing in many aspects as doctors, business members, professionals and citizens. Recently, Senator English received two guests from the Taiwan city of Ping Tung, Alexander Chang and Elizabeth Hsu as part of the Sister-County program. Alexander and Elizabeth are Chairmen of the English Drama Sister-County program of which Maui County and Ping Tung are Sister-Counties. To strengthen our unique bonds and form a relationship perpetuating mutual prosperity, the State of Hawai'i and Taiwan established a Sister-State relationship in 1993.

As Sister-States, Hawai'i and Taiwan and as Sister-Counties, Maui and Ping Tung have much in common and there is much that we can learn from one another economically and culturally. As Chair of the Senate Transportation International Affairs Committee, Senator English recognizes the importance of perpetuating international relations in today's global community and maintaining our status as a Sister-State and County.



Sen. English receives guests Alexander Chang and Elizabeth Hsu during their visit from the Taiwan city of Ping Tung as part of the Sister-State and Sister-County program. Feb. 11, 2011.

SENATE CONFIRMATION PROCESS (CONTINUED)



Grace Yamashiro, Denise's mother; Denise Yamashiro, Associate Justice's partner; Tyler, Emily and Sage, children; Sabrina Shizue McKenna, Associate Justice and Sen. English. Feb. 16, 2011.



State Department of Taxation Director, Fred Pablo and wife Louise Braun; Sen. English; Cindy Young, wife of State Department of Budget and Finance Director, Kalbert Young. Feb. 15, 2011.

To date the Senate has also confirmed Russell S. Kokubun as Chair of the Department of Agriculture, Dwight Takamine as Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Keali'i S. Lopez as Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and Albert Nahale-a as Chairperson for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.



Matsue Okimoto, mother; Hope Okimoto, wife; Glenn Okimoto, State Department of Transportation Director and Sen. English. Feb. 7, 2011.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAII'I LONG LIVE THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Currently, moving through the 2011 Legislative session, is [Senate Bill 1130](#), a measure introduced by Sen. English that would require all letterheads, documents, symbols and emblems of the State and other political subdivisions to include both State languages of Hawaiian and English. Prior to the censorship of the Hawaiian language in 1898, it was common to see official documents and announcements in Hawaiian. Sen. English feels it is only fitting to reinstitute this custom considering today's resurgence of our language.

This bill seems a long time in coming, considering the Federal Government enacted similar legislation ten years ago. Senate Bill 1130 requires that

State and County documents, letterheads, symbols and emblems, when newly created, replaced, or reprinted, contain the accurate, appropriate and authentic Hawaiian names and language. The Hawaiian National Park Language Correction Act of 2000 changed the names of several Hawai'i national parks to observe the correct Hawaiian spelling. For example, "Haleakala National Park" is now spelled with the kahako above the last letter "a."

Sen. English said, "Providing the public with official documents and announcements in Hawaiian not only broadens its use and meaning, but ensures its preservation for all generations to come."

HONORING STATEWIDE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS

Community Action Programs throughout the State were honored on the Senate floor by Senator J. Kalani English and colleagues. Senator English presented Lyn McNeff, Executive Director of Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. (MEO), with a Senate Proclamation commending her organization's efforts. Representatives from Kauai Economic Opportunity (KEO), Hawai'i County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC) and the Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) were each presented with their own proclamations. These Community Action Programs consistently advocate on behalf of low-income individuals, helping them to change their lives by becoming self-sustaining. These organizations and the individuals that comprise them truly embody Hawai'i's aloha spirit by selflessly helping their fellow man.



Senate President Shan Tsutsui, Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Lyn McNeff, Executive Director Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. and Sen. English .Feb. 11, 2011.

"Our lives rest upon a sense of place. For all of us who call the Pacific region home, and who wish the best for the future of our special part of the world, I offer my dearest hope that it is a very long - and very prosperous - future. "
~ Sen. English, 2009.

HAWAI'I AND CHINA RELATIONS AND EXCHANGES

Senate President Shan Tsutsui and Transportation and International Affairs Chair, J. Kalani English welcomed the Los Angeles based Consul General, Ambassador Qiu Shaofang of The People's Republic of China. Accompanying the Consul General were Vice Consul, Mao Yizong; Chief of Political & Press Section, Ingrid Luo Wang; Director of the Commercial Office, Shu Luomei and Consul of Overseas Chinese Affairs, Wang Peng.

The main topics of this meeting were education, exchange programs and maintaining favorable international relations. Specifically discussed was the possibility of reopening Hawai'i Chinese Language immersion schools, which existed prior to WWII but were never reopened after the conclusion of the war. The People's Republic of China has offered an exchange program and scholarship opportunities that would enable students from Hawai'i and other parts of the United States to travel to China and obtain bachelor's degrees, master's degrees



Sen. English welcomes Chinese Consul General, Ambassador Qiu Shaofang. Feb. 18, 2011.

and even PhD's.

The People's Republic of China and Hawai'i have a long history, which over the years has created intricate ties between these two regions. Hawai'i's unique culture has in large part been influenced by the migration of Chinese nationals to Hawai'i and this exchange student program offered to Hawai'i students is yet another example of the strengthening of international ties between Hawai'i and The People's Republic of China.



Wang Peng, Consul of Overseas Chinese Affairs; Senate President Shan Tsutsui, Sen. English, Ambassador Qiu Shaofang, Consul General; Shu Luomei, Commercial Office Director; Ingrid Luo Wang, Chief of Political and Press Section; Mao Yizong, Vice Consul. Feb. 18, 2011.

SENATOR ENGLISH MEETS WITH FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA OFFICIALS

James Naich, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to the U.S.; Alik Alik, FSM Vice President; Sen. English and Henry Shrew, Acting Honolulu FSM Consul General. Dec.13, 2011.



**STATE SENATOR
J. KALANI ENGLISH**
HAWAII STATE SENATE
6TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES

**Chair, Senate Committee
Transportation and In-
ternational Affairs**

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

**Member, Senate Committee on
Hawaiian Affairs**

**Member, Senate Committee on
Ways and Means**



**Hawai'i State Legislature
Bill Status and Documents**

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011/>

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SIXTH DISTRICT ~ CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ~ 2011

MAUI

TOTAL: \$25,095,000

Hana Health Center (Plans for medical center expansion)	1,350,000	King Kekaulike High (Design and construction for a new auditorium)	3,600,000
La'akea Foundation (Plan, design, construction for Sunrise farm community)	400,000	Makawao Elementary (Plans & design for expansion of cafeteria)	400,000
Upcountry Watershed (Plan, design, construction of a pipeline)	3,400,000	Upcountry Ground Water Well (Plan & design new test well)	150,000
Kula Hospital (Plan, design, equipment and construction of new long term care facility)	5,000,000	Hana Highway, Huelo to Hana (Improving, upgrading & repairing roadways, bridges, walls and drainage)	2,930,000
Haleakala Highway (Widening at milepost 8)	2,105,000	Hana Highway, Uakea Road to Keawa Place (Widening)	2,010,000
Hana Boat Ramp (Repairs & renovation)	3,500,000	Nahiku Community Center (Plan and design for improvements to center)	250,000

KAHO'OLAWÉ

TOTAL: \$400,000

Hakioawa Shelter and Kitchen (Design and construction of new hale & alternative energy infrastructure)	400,000
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LANA'I

TOTAL: \$75,000

Lana'i High & Elem. School (Soil test for the New Classroom building)	75,000
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MOLOKA'I

TOTAL: \$20,150,000

Moloka'i Campus, Maui Community College (Land acquisition)	500,000	Kamehameha V Highway (Drainage)	2,400,000
Kamehameha V Highway (Kawela Stream bridge replacement)	10,000,000	Kamehameha V Highway (Makakupaia Stream bridge replacement)	3,750,000
Moloka'i Irrigation System (Improvements)	2,500,000	Moloka'i Ohana Health Care (Plan, design, construction to expand facility)	1,000,000

\$45,720,000 TOTAL