



Senator  
J. KALANI ENGLISH



## LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TOURS TURKEY

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### MESSAGE FROM KALANI

With the conclusion of 2013 and the passage of the Marriage Equality Bill, my colleagues and I now prepare legislation for the upcoming 2014 regular session.

This issue combines the events of November and December. We follow my goodwill trip to Turkey with a legislative delegation. We offer a wrap-up of Second Special Session, including confirmation hearings held for a new Maui Judge and Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commissioner. The end of 2013 brings the dedication of another phase of Lāhainā Bypass corridor.

I wish you all a safe New Year's celebration. Hau'oli Makahiki Hou

*J. Kalani English*

As part of the Intercultural Dialog Program with Republic of Turkey and the State of Hawai'i, the Pacifica Institute recently invited Sen. English and a legislative delegation to tour the country.

Turkey and Hawai'i have many common interests and similarities. Tourism, scientific research, business, culture and nature were among the common engines discussed to increase both Turkey's and Hawaii's business and trade together. This was an opportunity to share our many similarities and foster bonds between the Republic of Turkey and the State of Hawai'i.

During the delegation's visit, many projects were shared including "Invest In Turkey", Turkey's European Union membership and international trade relations, Turkey's significant role in the Middle East and changes in the region, and Turkey's interest in investing in the United States and Hawai'i. The delegation's visits included: the Ministry of Tourism & Culture Istanbul Office, the Turkish Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Turkish National Assembly, the Turkish Ministry of Economy and the American Embassy in Ankara.

Over the years, Turkey has been hosting honorable guests from the United States, including legislators and officials from the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, and Oregon. Those trips enriched communication and partnerships between Turkey and the United States.

The Pacifica Institute was established in 2003 as a non-profit organization by a group of Turkish-Americans. Pacifica Institute designs and executes projects covering social welfare, education, poverty, and conflict resolution issues in collaboration with scholars, activists, artists, politicians, religious leaders and communities.

For more information on the Pacifica Institute visit: <http://www.pacificainstitute.org>



*Top: Sen. English and delegation meet with the Governor of Istanbul, Turkey. Above: Hawai'i Delegation visits the tomb of Rumi in Konya, Turkey. Nov. 29, 2013.*



# THE 2013 SECOND SPECIAL SESSION



## Marriage Equality Enacted in Hawai'i

Minutes after the Hawai'i Marriage Equality Act of 2013 (SB1 HD1 ACT 001) took effect on December 2nd a number of same sex couples were married in Waikiki. The weddings ended the controversy that began 23 years ago when same-sex couples in Hawai'i applying for a marriage license led to a court case in which a favorable ruling prompted the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.

In the Second Special Session of 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature resumed the issue and concluded it with the passage of Act 001. The process began when

the Senate passed the Marriage Equality Act, Senate Bill 1 (SB1) unamended and sent the bill to the House of Representatives. The House Finance and Judiciary committees heard more than 55 hours of testimony and amended the bill to expand exemptions for religious groups to protect clergy who refuse to perform wedding ceremonies and religious institutions from being compelled to provide wedding services. The amendment also removed a section on parental rights and changed the effective date to Dec. 2nd to give the Department of Health more time to set up a registration system. After 2 days of debate on the House floor, Senate

Bill 1, House Draft 1 (SB1 HD1), Relating to Equal Rights, was passed by the House of Representatives.

On November 13, 2013, the Governor held a bill signing ceremony to commemorate the historic event. The ceremony was held at the Hawai'i Convention Center which was packed with supporters, legislators and the media. Amy Hānaiali'i and Willie K performed before the official signing to help celebrate the occasion.

Subsequently, opponents of same-sex marriage filed a motion for a temporary restraining order against the implementation of the law legalizing marriage equality. 1st Circuit Judge Karl Sakamoto denied the request. He stated that same-sex marriage is legal in Hawai'i and ruled that the amendment to the State Constitution in 1998 gave the Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples, but that power was not restricted, so lawmakers could allow couples of the same gender to marry.

To view SB1 HD1 (Act 001) go to: [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/splsession2013b/GM44\\_.pdf](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/splsession2013b/GM44_.pdf)



*Kumu Hinaleimoana Wong Kalu delivers the dedication blessing of the signing of equal rights law SB 1 on Nov. 13, 2013.*



## HAWAII STATE SENATE CONFIRMS JUDGE LLOYD A. POELMAN TO MAUI DISTRICT COURT

The Senate voted to confirm Judge Lloyd A. Poelman to the District Court of the Second Circuit, Maui County. Judge Poelman is a Founding Partner at Poelman & Langa. The majority of his practice is focused on civil trial litigation, corporate and transactional work, and bankruptcy matters. Previously, he had his own private practice on Maui, was an Associate Attorney for attorneys in Honolulu and California and was a trial attorney for the Salt Lake City Public Defender in Utah.

Poleman earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah, and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School.

Since 2005, Judge Poelman serves as a Per Diem District Family Court Judge of the Second Circuit and travels to Moloka'i to preside over various cases on the two-day court calendar. As judge he handles hearings relating to divorce, child custody, restraining orders, child protection, guardianship and adoption as well as presiding over Drug Court cases, settlement conferences and juvenile detention matters. "Judge Poelman possesses the experience, temperament, and passion for justice essential to serve on a District

Court," said Sen. English, "I believe that the people of Maui will be well-served under his judgeship."



*Maui Senators congratulate Lloyd A. Poelman on his confirmation to District Court Judge for the Second Circuit, located on Maui.*

## KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

The Senate Committee on Water and Land reviewed the personal history, resume and statement submitted by Hokulani Holt-Padilla and found that she possessed the requisite commitment, sincerity, dedication and qualifications to be nominated to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Senate concurred and confirmed her nomination.

Hokulani received her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies, Human Relations and Organizations, from the University of Hawaii. She is currently the Cultural Programs Director at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center and a lecturer at the University of Hawaii Maui College in Hawaiian language and culture, and a kumu Hula (Pa'u O Hi'iaka) who teaches traditional and contemporary hula as well as Hawaiian his-



tory, culture and language. Previously, she served as Culture and Education Manager for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Site Coordinator for Na Pua No'eau Center for Gifted and Talented Native Hawaiian Children and the Director of the Punana Leo O Maui Hawaiian Language Preschool.

Ms. Holt-Padilla perceives the role of a Commissioner as, "Looking to the needs of the 'āina itself. If we are to be good stewards of the land, then we must use all means possible to bring together great minds and great passion for the benefit of Kaho'olawe. As a member of the Commission we should explore; what are the best practices needed to benefit the island; what must we plan for to further the good work already underway; how can we assure that this special island is cared for into the future; how can we support the work of the staff to execute the goals of the Commission; and how can the Commission strategically work with the community, other government agencies, and those interested in furthering the good work for Kaho'olawe."



**J. KALANI ENGLISH  
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**SENATOR ENGLISH APPLAUDS COMPLETION OF  
SECOND PHASE OF LAHAINA BYPASS**

Senator English participated in the dedication of the completion of the Lāhainā Bypass, Phase 1B-1 project, the second of five phases of the bypass corridor.

Formally titled "Honoapi'ilani Highway Realignment, Phase 1, Lāhaināluna Road to Hokiokio Place," the project involves constructing a two-lane highway within a right-of-way that will ultimately become a four-lane divided facility with sufficient capacity to accommodate future traffic growth.

The successful completion of the second phase of the Lāhainā Bypass marks a significant milestone in the realignment of the Honoapi'ilani Highway," said Sen. English. "The people of Maui and Lāhainā have waited nearly three decades for the completion of this project. By relieving congestion on the existing Honoapiilani Highway through Lahaina town this new segment of bypass will greatly impact the lives and needs of our local residents."

Phase 1B-1 will complete a 1.7-mile segment of the Lāhainā Bypass corridor, extending further south of Lāhaināluna Road to allow motorists an alternate route between Keawe Street and Hokiokio Road.



**KEEP IN TOUCH**

Please stay connected, informed and express your concerns throughout the Legislative session. We hope to hear from you next year. **Hau'oli Makahiki Hou**

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<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx>



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