



# SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

## HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

HĀNA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI,  
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I AND KAHO'OLAWÉ



### SENATOR ENGLISH ATTENDS ANATOLIAN CULTURE AND FOOD FESTIVAL TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE AND HARMONY

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#### MESSAGE FROM KALANI

During the legislative interim, as Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs my duties require a great deal of travel. During these trips, I meet new government officials and strengthen existing ties in International Affairs as well as learn first hand about new economic, social and political developments abroad. The experience, skills and knowledge I acquire are invaluable legislative tools.

In this issue, we feature the Anatolian Festival, Pres. Remengesau's visit to Maui, new traffic safety measures, funds for airports and highways, the Consular Corps luncheon and the King Kekaulike High graduation.

*J. Kalani English*

Sen. English attended a VIP reception of the Anatolian Cultures and Food Festival on May 18th in Costa Mesa, California. He was invited by the Pacifica Institute to meet with Government officials from the United States and Turkey to further bilateral relations between the State of Hawai'i and the Republic of Turkey.

The festival is an annual four day family oriented event showcasing crafts, dancing, music and the cuisine of Anatolia. Over 40,000 people throughout the United States and from around the world attend the event. Visitors enter the festival area through the "Civilizations Path" which consists of 14 gates each representing different civilizations that existed in the region over the past two thousand years.

Anatolia, also known as Asia Minor, is the westernmost region of Asia that today comprises the majority of the Republic of Turkey. Throughout history, Anatolia has been inhabited by many civilizations and is one of the archeologically richest places on earth. Three dimensional replicas of five different Anatolian cities were highlighted at the festival. The most famous being Istanbul, once the capital of four empires: the Roman, Byzantine, Latin and Ottoman.



"The history of Anatolia proves that governments, countries, and borders keep evolving overtime," said Sen. English, Chair of the Transportation and International Affairs Committee, "Hawai'i, like Anatolia is located at a geographical crossroad between the East and the West, so we can learn much from each other. More importantly, we need to keep the doors open for opportunities to engage in dialogues to promote mutual respect and appreciation in furtherance of democracy and peace for all."

The Pacifica Institute is a non-profit organization located in Los Angeles, California and was established in 2003 by a group of Turkish Americans. Their vision is to create positive connections within disparate social networks to achieve mutual understanding and common commitments in enriching the social good. They seek to engage in a variety of civic activities, such as the Anatolian Culture and Food Festival, and to invite others to share insights and understanding in creating opportunities for mutual respect and appreciation.



## MAUI PRESENTATION BY PRESIDENT THOMAS REMENGESAU OF PALAU

Sen. English introduced President Remengesau to a large and enthusiastic gathering at the University of Hawai'i Maui College on June 2, 2013. The president and his delegation of government and community groups from Palau were visiting as part of the college's ongoing Hawai'i-Palau learning exchange and their trip to Hawai'i was coordinated by the Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i.

President Remengesau is recognized as a global leader, maintaining a presence at the United Nations and advocating for the minimization of climate change in Pacific island nations. His presentation focused on how Palauans manage to balance and preserve their local culture and natural resources against the challenges of economic growth, tourism and climate change.

Palau has long been recognized as one of the "Seven Underwater Wonders of the World" with its vast coral species and varieties of reef fish that attract fisheries and tourists. However, like other Pacific island nations where the environment is the economy, its natural resources are diminishing due to global demands that threaten the very livelihood of the country.

Remengesau is committed to reversing that trend and under his leadership Palau has become a global leader in successfully balancing natural resource conservation with cultural preservation and sustainable economic development. He created enabling modern government conditions in Palau that allowed local communities, fishers and chiefs to establish a network of protected areas to replenish their marine resources.

The President also established a Minis-

try for Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, which signed into law a total ban on shark finning, deep-sea bottom trawling and the live reef fish trade in Palau, and implemented a visitor's "green" fee for funding sustainable conservation and enforcement.



*Sen. English with Thomas "Tommy" Remengesau, the President of the Republic of Palau at 'Ike Le'a Science Building Lecture Hall at UHMC campus. President Remengesau shared stories about how the island nation of Palau is balancing local needs and outside interests, while protecting their natural and cultural resources. The event, hosted by The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i, was well attended. Below left - Mayor Alan Arakawa and wife Ann with Pres. Remengesau, Sen. English and Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran and wife Kallie. Below right - Pres. Remengesau receives a traditional flower lei. June 2, 2013*

In 2005, Remengesau committed his nation to preserving 30 percent of their near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of their terrestrial resources by 2020. The next year, he launched the Micronesian Challenge that inspired countries in Micronesia to match Palau's commitment to conserving nature and culture. This inspired similar conservation challenges in the Caribbean, Coral Triangle and Western Indian Ocean.

Time Magazine honored Remengesau in 2007 as one of its Heroes of the Environment for his leadership and influential role in protecting the planet and minimizing the impacts of climate change. The President warns that the rest of the world will experience his country's plight of bleaching coral, drought and rising sea levels if current consumption rates continue.

"I have known President Remengesau for many years and consider him to be a very good friend. We share similar goals for our beloved Pacific home. Hawai'i like Palau, has seen its natural resources and culture diminish over the years and consequently the tragic affects on our economy and quality of life," said Sen. English, "With that in mind, I too believe that through concerted global effort and commitment to conservation and cultural preservation we can realize our goals."



## TRAFFIC SAFETY MEASURES NOW IN EFFECT ACROSS HAWAII

Governor Neil Abercrombie recently signed two traffic safety measures, Senate Bill (SB) 4 and House Bill (HB) 980, relating to highway safety, into law.

SB 4 requires all front and back seat passengers to be restrained by a seat belt assembly or child passenger restraint while the motor vehicle is being operated upon any public highway. According to the National Highway Safety Administration, seat belt restraints for all occupants increases the safety of all motor vehicle occupants by as much as forty-five percent. Through requiring all front seat and back seat occupants to buckle up, this measure seeks to protect the safety of Hawaii's motor vehicle drivers and passengers.

"Seat belts save lives," said Sen. English, Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs. "The enactment of this measure reinforces what many of us already know, that the importance of seat belt use can't be ignored. By taking a few moments to buckle up, we can each play a vital role in preventing unnecessary tragedy."

Distracted driving is a serious problem with growing national concern. Using cellular phones or other mobile electronic devices while driving creates preventable distractions that pose a risk of harm not just to the driver, but to others in the vehicle or on the road. HB 980 establishes a statewide law prohibiting the use of any mobile electronic device while driving.

"Studies show that mobile phone use while driving can have lethal effects," said Sen. English, "By providing consistent statewide requirements for the use of mobile electronic devices while driving, we are telling drivers that using a mobile device while driving is dangerous and unacceptable. I encourage Hawaii drivers to drive responsibly; the safety of everyone who uses our roads depends on it."



*Sen. English and fellow lawmakers discuss the the wording of SB 4 recently passed by Gov. Abercrombie.*

## SENATOR ENGLISH APPLAUDS GOVERNOR'S RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR AIRPORTS AND HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS

Governor Neil Abercrombie released more than \$21.8 M for capital improvement projects (CIP) at State airports and highways. Projects include allocation of funds for priority projects, identified by members of the State Legislature.

"I am very pleased that Governor Abercrombie has released funds identified by the Legislature as key projects for enhancing the safety, capacity and usability of our airports and highways statewide," said Sen. English, "The State of Hawaii's transportation infrastructure is what connects us, bringing together our Ohana, our local businesses and our travel industry. These appropriations represent new construction jobs and much needed improvements to our roads and airports."

One of the priority projects announced by the Governor included \$395,000 for Statewide Bridge inspection and appraisal, in Fiscal Year 2013. These funds were appropriated for the planning for the bridge inspection and appraisal program to determine bridge needs and the prioritization of those needs.

"The Hanawana Bridge collapse of 2012 serves as a sober reminder of the importance of investing in the maintenance

of our bridges," said Sen. English, "As Hawaii's bridges age, it remains incumbent upon us to repair or replace them to ensure the safety of those commuting across our bridges."

The Governor also announced that the Kahului Airport on Maui will be receiving \$4,750,000 in CIP funding. This funding will include construction for repaving a portion of Runway 2-20 to comply with applicable FAA requirements.

"Construction and repaving of the Kahului Airport Runway 2-20 has been long-overdue," said Sen. English, "I'm extremely thankful that the Governor has approved much needed funding so that the airport can comply with FAA requirements."

Other CIP funds announced by the Governor include funds for the Honolulu International Airport, Kapalua Airport, Kuhio Highway, Kekaulike Avenue, Castle Hills Access Road, Kalaniana'ole Highway Drainage Improvements and other important projects.



**J. KALANI ENGLISH  
HAWAII STATE SENATE  
7TH DISTRICT**

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**CONSULAR CORPS OF HAWAII LUNCHEON**

Sen. English was invited to attend the Consular Corps of Hawaii's (CCH) luncheon on May 15th, 2013 by Australian Consul-General Scott Dewar who also serves as the dean of the CCH. Sen. English addressed the Consular Corps in an attempt to establish closer cooperation between the corps and the Hawaii State Legislature.

The tasks of a consul are manifold and challenging. Among the most important activities, the Consulate General oversees the furtherance of trade; maintains close relations with the State and County governments as well as with the military; advises and helps nationals in Hawaii; and supports culture and the arts.

The Consular Corps of Hawaii was established in 1824 and currently consists of six career Consulates General and thirty-two Consulates General or Consulates ad honorem, embracing all the continents, including Oceania.

More information can be found at: <http://www.consularcorpshawaii.org/>



*Sen. English addresses the members of the Consular Corps of Hawaii.  
May 15, 2013.*



*Tuks Medeiros, Leona Nomura  
and Sen. English at the King  
Kekaulike High Graduation.  
June 16, 2013*



*Members of the King Kekaulike  
graduating class. June 16, 2013.*