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## MESSAGE FROM KALANI

During the interim, legislators attend various conferences and meetings to learn the current ideas, issues and concerns in their respective committee purviews. These meetings offer a rare educational opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge directly from experts and professionals. Every conference is an invaluable source of possible solutions, innovations and information.

In this issue, we take a look at a legislative delegation to Taiwan, two informational briefings by the State Department of Transportation held in Hana and Honolulu and welcome legislators from across the Pacific for the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures 32nd General Assembly at the Hawai'i State Capitol.

*J. Kalani English*

# SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

## HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

HĀNA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI,  
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I AND KAHŌ'OLAWĒ



## HAWAI'I TO TAIWAN COMMEMORATING 20 YEARS OF SISTER STATE RELATIONS

A delegation of Hawai'i legislators were invited by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to spend a week in Taiwan to attend a series of bilateral meetings, inspections and conferences, focusing on international relations, trade, agriculture, energy and tourism.

This trip commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Sister-State relationship between Hawai'i and Taiwan. It was also a goodwill trip in which Hawai'i Senators had the opportunity to interact with their counterparts in the Taiwan government, observe private sector projects and facilities and learn from their best practices. One example: Hawai'i has spent over \$10 million developing a Tea industry, and Taiwan has the best tea production program in the world. Part of the trip was spent learning how they grow, process, package and market their product so that our industry here in Hawai'i can benefit.

The Hawai'i State Senate Delegation consisted of Senators J. Kalani English, Gilbert Kahele and Russell Ruderman. They visited and met with representatives from the Tourism Bureau of Taiwan, The Ministry of Transportation, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Council of Indigenous People, the Bureau of Energy, the Council for Economic Planning and Development, Taipei Metro Transit Cooperation and the American Institute in Taiwan.

The Senators also visited the State of Hawai'i Office in Taiwan. The Hawai'i State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism maintains this office and the Senators inspected this program to evaluate its functions, programs and value. With the recent addition of Taiwan to the United States Visa Waiver Program and Hawaiian Airlines introducing direct flights to Taiwan, the Senators met with Taiwan tourist officials to promote Hawai'i as a destination to solicit increased business and visitor travel to Hawai'i.



*Sen. English visits the Republic of China Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Taiwan. June 19, 2013.*

## THE COMMEMORATION OF SAMOAN FLAG DAY

Sen. English and Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui were proud to receive the Council of Samoan Chiefs and Orators in Hawai'i (ATOA-O-ALI'I) to commemorate Samoan Flag Day on July 2, 2013 in the Lt. Governor's office. July 11, 2013 is now designated as Samoan Flag Day in Hawai'i.

Samoan Flag Day is celebrated by the Samoan community from July 11 to 13, 2013, in honor of the 113th anniversary of the raising of the American flag over the Territory of American Samoa on April 17, 1900, and the 48th anniversary of the ATOA-O-ALI'I celebrating the event in Hawai'i. Samoan Flag Day reaffirms the ties of friendship, culture and mutual esteem felt between the people of Hawai'i and Samoa.

"It was an honor for me to celebrate this unifying occasion with our brother and sisters across the Pacific," said Sen. English, "We are grateful of the Samoan community in Hawai'i for their unique contributions to the diverse and multicultural fabric of our State."



*ATOA-O-Ali'i, the Council of Samoan Chiefs and Orators in Hawai'i receive a proclamation from Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui and Sen. English. June 11, 2013.*

## SENATOR ENGLISH ATTENDS HĀNA PIER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT MEETING

Sen. English and residents of Hāna met with both State Departments of Transportation and Land and Natural Resources officials to learn about the Hāna pier Environmental Assessment process and to discuss any of their concerns. The assessment is the first step towards improving the pier, which was constructed in the early 1920s and is now in substandard and unsafe condition and was condemned in 2010.

The first step in identifying potential improvements to the pier was the Hāna Harbor Development Plan completed in 2011. The plan worked with the community for direction and consensus on improvements to the pier and provided some preliminary design alternatives. The Environmental Assessment process is the next step in determining the best pier design to construct, based on how well the alternatives respond to the project needs, and by evaluating each design according to a number of specific environmental criteria. It is intended to return the pier to a functional condition to support commercial harbor operations for the Hana community.

Hāna is geographically isolated and has limited access by land and air. Therefore, in the event of a natural disaster the community is at risk of being cut off from goods and services. Under these conditions, an operational pier is a lifeline providing access to food, medical supplies, building materials and other necessities.

Act 200, SLH 2008, addressed the State's aging infrastructure and led to the Harbors Modernization Plan. The measure appropriated \$618 million for statewide improvements, including \$20 million for

Hāna Harbor. Although, the \$20 million lapsed in 2012, Sen. English was able to secure that amount in the 2013 legislative budget to get this project back on track.

"An operational pier is critical for our residents, businesses and visitors," said Sen. English, "Hāna has been a viable community for centuries. We have learned that traditional and modern ways must coexist for the betterment of all and that access is the key to this understanding."



# THE ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC ISLAND LEGISLATURES (APIL) 32ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE

The Hawai'i State Legislature welcomed policymakers from across the Pacific Islands as hosts of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) 32nd General Assembly Conference on June 24-27, 2013 at the Hawai'i State Capitol. This conference is one of the largest for regional policymakers and strives for greater cooperation, reinforced alliances and mutual understanding for the benefit and prosperity of all the unique cultures and heritages represented.

The mission of the APIL is to organize a permanent association of mutual assistance by representatives of the people of the Pacific Islands. The organization was formed in 1981 and is comprised of legislative representatives from 12 island governments, including: American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Island of Guam, FSM State of Chuuk, FSM State of Kosrae, FSM State of Pohnpei, FSM State of Yap, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, State of Hawai'i, Republic of Nauru, and Republic of Kiribati.



*Gov. Abercrombie, Sen. English and House Speaker Souki at the APIL General Assembly Conference held at the Hawai'i State Capitol. June 27, 2013.*

The theme this year was: "Alternative- Renewable Energy and Affordable Health Insurance for our Pacific Communities." During the conference, policymakers met to discuss the unique challenges and opportunities facing the Pacific region. They focused on

the most advanced technologies in alternative and renewable energies and affordable health insurance.

"I am proud to showcase Hawai'i again for our rotation in the APIL General Assembly location," said Sen. English, "As a former President of APIL, I am reminded of the difficulties each member nation singularly faces and how this gathering strengthens our ties and reinforces our past and future actions that impact the global decisions and assumptions of the major industrial countries."



*Above - Members of the 32nd APIL General Assembly which included legislative representatives from 12 island governments: American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Island of Guam, FSM State of Chuuk, FSM State of Kosrae, FSM State of Pohnpei, FSM State of Yap, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, State of Hawai'i, Republic of Nauru, and Republic of Kiribati. Below - Opening ceremony for the 32nd General Assembly done Hawaiian style at the Hawai'i State Capitol. June 27, 2013.*



## \$1,579,500 IN CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP) FOR THE 7TH DISTRICT

Funds for three 7th District Capital Improvement Projects that the Legislature previously appropriated were finally released by Governor Neil Abercrombie. The projects are on Lana'i, Maui and Moloka'i.

\$550,000 was released for the master plan and noise compatibility program update at the Lana'i Airport. This project is part of a statewide plan to work on airport improvements.

Upcountry Maui has experienced tremendous growth in the past twenty years. Consequently, there has been increased pedestrian travel in the area. \$1,000,000 was released for a new sidewalk from Kula Highway to Pukalani Street; this will ensure safe travel for both pedestrians and vehicles in the area.

Funds of \$29,500 for design and land were released for staff and non-labor costs for replacement of Makakupa'ia Stream Bridge on Moloka'i. The Legislature is committed to making Hawai'i's bridges safe and work on this bridge is the beginning of a long statewide process to fix many of the bridges that are in dire need of repair or replacement.

"The Legislative body consists of many competing interests vying for very limited CIP funds," states Sen. English, "I work to secure funds each session for projects in our district, so I am pleased when funds are released to provide jobs and ensure that we are safe at our harbors, airports and on our highways."

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

**COMMITTEES**

**Chair, Senate Committee  
on Transportation and  
International Affairs**

**Member, Senate  
Committee on Agriculture**

**Member, Senate Committee on  
Economic Development, Govern-  
ment Operations and Housing**

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



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

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**SENATOR ENGLISH CHAIRS TRANSPORTATION  
INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING**

The Committee on Transportation and International Affairs (TIA) held an informational briefing by the Department of Transportation to provide the Senate with an update on current work on Interstates H-1 and H-2 that includes: 1) The purpose, timelines, lane closures, cost and method of funding; 2) Information on how major roadway projects are planned, coordinated and implemented; and 3) Major highway projects planned for 2014.

According to INRIX, a national traffic information firm, Honolulu ranks 2nd place, behind Los Angeles, for traffic congestion. Interstates H-1 and H-2 in particular are noted for its constant traffic congestion and related problems. Interstate H1 extends from Kapolei in West O'ahu to Kāhala in East O'ahu. H-2 connects with the H-1 in West Oahu and was conceived as part of the 1960s plan of freeways for O'ahu.

"I take 2 hours to drive the winding road from Hāna to Kahului Airport; sometimes it takes me 2 hours to drive 6.5 miles from the Honolulu International Airport to the State Capitol on the H-1 freeway," said Sen. English, Chair of TIA, "Traffic congestion consumes a good part of daily life on O'ahu. With the steady improvement in the economy, more funds are available to fix our aging and deteriorating highways. Consequently, the constant road work adds to the already existing congestion problems; so an informational briefing provides some answers and relief."

Projects discussed during the briefing included the implementation of an interagency incident management program, an advanced traveler information system to give motorist real-time traffic info (via phone, internet and signs), destination sign upgrades and replacements, interstate improvements and bridge replacements.



*Department of Transportation officials brief Senate President Kim and Senators English and Kouchi. July 25, 2013.*



*Senators Ruderman, Kahele and English meet with the Taiwan indigenous peoples. July 20, 2013.*