



IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Message From Kalani pg 1
- ▶ CSG-West Meeting pg 1
- ▶ Pacific Islands Dev. Forum pg 2
- ▶ Hāna Warning Siren pg 3
- ▶ Memorial Stone Ceremony pg 3
- ▶ Tourism Conference pg 4

MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Interim provides Legislators the opportunity to address various constituent and community concerns rather than the streamlined focus on legislation typical during session. The numerous conferences and forums we attend enable us to stay abreast of the trends and issues relating to our State, our communities and committee purviews.

In this issue, we showcase the 66th Council of State Governments-West annual meeting that brings Western Legislators together to share ideas, cooperate on regional issues and engage in professional development training. We also take a look at a Pacific Islands Development Forum in Fiji, which focused on green/blue practices throughout the Pacific region and a tourism conference in Honolulu describing the present and future of Hawai'i's tourism industry. I am also proud to announce that work will begin on a new disaster warning siren for the Hamoa area.

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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



66TH COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS (CSG)-WEST ANNUAL MEETING

The Nevada Legislature welcomed Sen. English and lawmakers from the CSG-WEST, which includes: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, to the annual meeting that convened on July 30 - August 2 in Las Vegas. The theme "Bright Lights: Shining on the Progress of the West" reflected the city as well as the dynamism of the West.

CSG-WEST is a nonpartisan organization that brings Western Legislators together to share ideas, cooperate on regional issues and engage in professional development training. Their annual meeting draws several hundred people including numerous elected officials, academics, policy makers and international partners from Canada and Mexico. The gathering provides a broad programming base to share policy concerns ranging from agriculture and rural affairs, economic development and trade, education reform, energy and public lands, health care, water and the environment, urban concentration to the future of Western Legislatures.

The meeting offered a wide range of topics, such as: Mastering the Intergenerational Puzzle, Growing Exports-Developing Markets, The Wisdom of Investing in Early Childhood, The Federal Agenda: and the West, Housing = Jobs, Making Technology Work for Voters, Health Insurance Exchanges-Addressing the Challenges Ahead, Higher Education Finance in the Western State, Weather and Climate Extremes: How Will They Affect our Water Supplies? For the complete list go to: <http://www.csgwest.org/presentations.aspx#AG>

"CSG-WEST annual meetings offer legislators the professional and developmental opportunities that otherwise would not be available," said Sen. English, "The meetings also offered policy tours that are stunning as well as informative. Since Upcountry Maui has been experiencing a prolonged drought, I toured Hoover Dam for an enhanced understanding of water management in the Southwest as it relates to the drier parts of the 7th District."

PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT FORUM IN FIJI

“Leadership, Innovation and Partnership for Green/Blue Pacific Economies” was the theme of the inaugural Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) three day meeting that began on August 5th in Fiji. The mission of PIDF is to create a platform for global dialogue and partnership to build, nurture and defend a Pacific that is progressive in improving the wellbeing of its people and safeguarding its unique cultural diversity, spirituality and identity.

Prime Minister Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama of the Republic of Fiji welcomed government, private sector and civil society participants from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Cuba, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Morocco, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, People’s Republic of China, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

In his address, Prime Minister Bainimarama described the progressive platform by stating, “We need to listen more to our people and the common sense towards problem solving that comes with grassroots participation. We need to listen more to our business communities, whose investment generates the jobs we need to raise living standards and improve the lives of our people. So for the first time, we are bringing all these stakeholders together to discuss common solutions to our common problems in a practical and holistic way.”

The meeting followed with presentations and interactive discussions on key issues including: efficient use of the Pacific’s natural resources; pathways to industrial growth; challenges in the transition to green economies; innovations and partnerships needed in agriculture and tourism; transportation infrastructure; disaster prevention; and the characteristics of leadership and the workforce needed for a successful green/blue economy.

Sen. English co-facilitated the section on Transportation and Infrastructure. The participant’s recommendations were: sub-regional transportation arrangements, hydrography chart development and promoting people-centered, green/blue economy infrastructure standards and designs.



“Many Pacific Islanders are faced with the catastrophe of climate change as a consequence of global actions. The need for Pacific peoples to take ownership and control of developing a path to our future is paramount,” said Sen. English, “The geographical confines of an island, especially here in the Pacific, dictate cooperation in order to thrive. Therefore, I am pleased that the PIDF meeting emphasized the participation of the very people who are most affected by government decisions but have been historically excluded from the decision making process that affect their daily lives.”

For more detailed information on the PIDF meeting go to: <http://pacificidf.org/category/press-release/>

Above: The welcome ceremony for the inaugural Pacific Islands Development Forum in Fiji. August 5, 2013.

Below: Sen. English with His Excellency Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste at the Pacific Islands Development Forum. August 5, 2013.



WORK TO BEGIN ON NEW HAMOA AREA DISASTER WARNING SIREN

Sen. English has been working with the State Department of Defense (DOD) to install a disaster warning siren within the Hamoa area. It is the DOD's responsibility to install and maintain state-wide disaster warning sirens and they currently possess a priority work list of 241 siren sites that need new or replacement warning sirens. Thanks to Senator English, the Hamoa area siren is on the list and work will finally begin on the installation of a new siren. The chosen site for the siren was selected due to its open area and will not impact existing users or the natural environment.

Last month, the Department of Land and Natural Resources issued an easement and right-of-entry to the DOD, Civil Defense Division for installation of the new siren at an estimated cost of \$80,000. The structure will be approximately fifty feet high with omni-directional siren speakers and be powered by photovoltaic panels and a battery.

In addition, Sen. English asked Major General Darryll Wong, Adjutant General and Director of Civil Defense to provide him with clarification of the construction of the new siren and the status of the existing sirens in the area since it was last in April 2011 when George Burnett of the Civil Defense Division came to visit the area and survey possible locations for the new siren, (see Newsletter **Vol. 11 Issue 4 pg. 4 April 9, 2011** online at

<http://www.kalanienglish.com/pdf/senenglish-2011-report4.pdf>). "The modernization of the public outdoor warning system is a major state-wide initiative which is ongoing," responded Major General Darryll Wong, "The installation of the new siren in the Hamoa area is part of our state-wide siren upgrade program. The existing siren in Hamoa was reported as not sounding in June, July and early August of this year. Since then, the siren was retrofitted with Satellite/Cellular data controller and was physically confirmed as functioning under the new control system. "

"The three sirens in Hana at Waianapanapa, Hana High School and Hamoa were all retrofitted with new Satellite and Cellular data controllers during the August 19-22 period. This standardizes these sirens with the new computer controlled activation system being fielded state-wide," adds General Wong, "The Hana School Siren was damaged by high wind in 2012 and WASA Electric replaced the solar power panels which had blown off the siren. That job was completed in December, 2012."

"A warning siren is the initial method for alerting the public of an impending emergency condition such as a hurricane, tsunami or other natural or man-made emergency," said Sen. English, "I want to ensure that the public has ample time to prepare for such an emergency so that we do not have a tragedy here at home."

MEMORIAL STONE DEDICATION CEREMONY



State Legislators and representatives from the Taipei Economic Cultural Office in Honolulu unveil the new memorial stone at Punchbowl. August 19, 2013. For more info. visit: <http://www.taiwanembassy.org/US/HNL/mp.asp?mp=42>

It was an honor for Sen. English to attend the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu's dedication ceremony donating a memorial stone to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. The memorial stone pays tribute to the noble sacrifice and dedicated service of American military members during World War II as well as the efforts of the United States military during the 1958 Taiwan Strait Crisis.

The United States and Taiwan share a long history of mutual friendship and support. The memorial stone symbolizes mutual collaboration and understanding for stability and peace throughout the Asia-Pacific region as well as further consolidating the strong ties between Taiwan and the United States of America. "It was an honor for me to be a part of this historic event," said Sen. English, "This generous donation demonstrates our continuing friendship and mutual support between our countries."

**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**



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Vol.13 Issue 8 pg.4 • Aug. 31, 2013

**2013 'Aha 'Oihana Ho'omāka'ika'i, Hawaii'
Tourism Conference**

Sen. English was happy to participate in the Hawaii'i Tourism Authority's (HTA) 2013 'Aha 'Oihana Ho'omāka'ika'i, Hawaii'i Tourism Conference on Aug. 22-23 at the Hawaii'i Convention Center. The conference focused on "Defining the Next Chapter," in tourism and offered insightful market intelligence and tourism trends for the visitor industry as well as revealing Hawaii'i's global marketing activities for 2014. The Conference is attended by all stakeholders of the Hawaii'i travel and tourism industry working together to attain the State's vision for a Hawaii'i that is the best place to live, work and visit.

Hawaii'i is at record levels for arrivals and visitor expenditures and continues to receive high visitor satisfaction ratings. The conference had attendees think about where we go from this point forward. Conference sessions consisted of a wide array of topics including: Air-line routes and facility challenges, incorporating social media, the hotel industry, marketing, future forecasts and growing globally.

The Hawaii'i Tourism conference also provided HTA the opportunity to present their Tourism Legacy Awards which recognizes individuals and organizations for their invaluable contributions in perpetuating the Hawaiian culture in our community.

For more detailed information on the 2013 'Aha 'Oihana Ho'omāka'ika'i, Hawaii'i Tourism Conference meeting go to:

<http://www.hawaiiitourismauthority.org/about-hta/hta-events/tourismconference/>



Sen. Kahele, HTA President Mike McCarthy, Sen. English and Maui District Airport Manager Marvin Moniz at the 2013 HTA conference in Honolulu. August 22, 2013.



Senators Kahele and English at the tourism conference's first general session on defining the next chapter for Hawaii'i's visitor industry at the Hawaii'i Convention Center. Aug. 22, 2013.