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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

As we enter the season of Makahiki, I have been elected as Majority Leader to the 28th Legislature convening on January 21, 2015.

I also spent time focusing on our cooperative regional security and resilience during a briefing with APCSS. I learned more about the strides being made toward our food sustainability at the HFUU Annual Conference.

With my neighbors, I celebrated the humble Limu, a traditional and vital Hawaiian food and endangered natural resource at the 6th Annual Limu Festival. This has truly been a season of gratitude for me and a time to honor Lono.

May you all enjoy this holiday season with loved ones and find your own way to ensure productivity and peace in your community.

*J. Kalani English*

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH  
HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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



ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR  
SECURITY STUDIES BRIEFING

As the new Majority Leader for the Hawai'i State Senate, Sen. English invited the entire Senate to the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) in Waikiki for a briefing on international issues and the national trends in Pacific region as well as concerns here at home in Hawai'i.

Major General John L. Dolan, PACOM Chief of Staff for Admiral Locklear also attended to offer his insight and concerns. This was a rare opportunity for the Senators to receive an in depth, cabinet level briefing on United States affairs in the Asia-Pacific Region.



## THE SENATE ELECTS LEADERSHIP FOR 2015

The precursor of the Senate was the House of Nobles originating in 1840 upon the founding of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. The Constitution of the Republic of Hawai'i renamed the upper house the Senate in 1894. The Senate met at 'Iolani Palace until the opening of the Hawai'i State Capitol in Honolulu on March 15, 1969. The Legislative Session opens each year on the third Wednesday of January as mandated by Sec. 10, Art. III of the Hawai'i Constitution. This year Session will convene on January 21, 2015.

Prior to Opening Day the Senators elect their leaders, appoint additional officers and form new committees and assignments. On November 5th, the Senate announced their leadership for the 28th Legislature as follows: Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, **President**; Sen. Will Espero, **Vice President**; Sen. J. Kalani English, **Majority Leader**; and Sen. Sam Slom, **Minority Leader**. (The Hawai'i State Senate is the only state legislative chamber in the United States where the minority party holds only a single seat.)

"The Senate will focus on sustainability and resiliency as an overall theme for the next legislature," said Sen. English. "We will work diligently to ensure that all of Hawai'i's people move forward together."

The leadership team also includes: Sen. Josh Green, Majority Floor Leader; Sen. Les Ihara, Jr., Majority Policy Leader; Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Majority Caucus Leader; Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Majority Whip. The additional Senate officers are: Carol T. Taniguchi, Chief Clerk; Jennifer T. Chow, Assistant Chief Clerk; Bienvenido C. Villafior, Sergeant at Arms; and Daniel Holt, Assistant Sergeant at Arms.

The following 16 Senate Committee assignments were also finalized: **Agriculture (AGL)** - Chair Sen. Russell E. Ruderman & Vice Chair Sen. Gil Riviere; **Commerce & Consumer Protection (CPN)** - Chair Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker & Vice Chair Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi; **Economic Development & Technology (EDT)** - Chair Sen. Glenn Wakai & Vice Chair Sen. Sam Slom; **Education (EDU)** - Chair Sen. Michelle N. Kidani & Vice Chair Sen. Breene Harimoto; **Energy & Environment (ENE)** - Chair Mike Gabbard & Vice Chair Sen. Josh Green; **Government Operations (GVO)** - Chair Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz & Vice Chair Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara; **Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)** - Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro & Vice Chair Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; **Health (HTH)** - Chair Sen. Josh Green & Vice Chair Sen. Glenn Wakai; **Higher Education & The Arts (HEA)** - Chair Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi & Vice Chair Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye; **Human Services & Housing (HSH)** - Chair Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland & Vice Chair Sen. Josh Green; **Judiciary & Labor (JDL)** - Chair Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran & Vice Chair Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro; **Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs (PSM)** - Chair Sen. Will Espero & Vice Chair Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker; **Tourism & International Affairs (TSI)** - Chair Sen. Gilbert Kahele & Vice Chair Sen. English; **Transportation (TRA)** - Chair Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara & Vice Chair Sen. Breene Harimoto; **Water & Land (WTL)** - Chair Sen. Laura H. Thielen & Vice Chair Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; and **Way & Means (WAM)** - Chair Sen. Jill N. Tokuda & Vice Pres. Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi.

For more info & to contact a committee go to: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/senate.aspx>  
To download, print or view the Legislature's 2015-2016 Phone and Fax directory, please visit:  
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2014/docs/SenateDirectory.pdf>

## HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED ANNUAL CONVENTION



Sen. English was honored to attend the Hawai'i Farmers Union United (HFUU) Annual Convention held on November 6, 2014 at the Waikiki Yacht Club. This annual convention was held to elect the HFUU State president and to review and approve their by-laws. It was a great opportunity for Sen. English to hear issues, concerns and priorities from farmers across the State of Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i Farmers Union a state division of National Farmers Union, is recognized and respected in representing a family of farmers here in Hawai'i. Hawai'i Farmers Union empowers island farmers to earn a prosperous living through regenerative stewardship of our lands, waters and communities. Hawai'i Farmers Union serves as a bridge between farmers and consumers through vibrant, local, community Farmers Union chapters in all districts on all islands.

*Left - Alike Atay addresses the State wide gathering of Hawai'i Farmers and supporters in Waikiki. Nov. 6, 2014.*

*Right - Sen. English discussing the business of farming with David Fisher, Finance Chair, HFUU at the Annual Hawai'i Farmers Union United Convention. Nov. 6, 2014.*



*Vice President MFUU, Simon Russell with Sen. English and President MFUU, Vincent Mina at Hawai'i Farmers Union United Convention in Honolulu. Nov. 6, 2014.*

# 6TH ANNUAL HĀNA LIMU FESTIVAL

Friends, family, residents and visitors gathered for The 6th Annual Hāna Limu Festival held at Kapueokahi- Hāna Bay Beach Park on Nov. 21-22. The theme was “Makai to Mauka” (ocean to mountain) and was organized by Nā Mamo O Mū’olea, whose mission is to perpetuate traditional management of the Mū’olea ahupua’a, and to restore and maintain Mū’olea’s natural, cultural, scenic, historic and marine resources for the benefit, education and enjoyment of our community and future generations.

“I am pleased that the Limu Festival has become an annual event in our Hāna community,” said Sen. English. “There are many conservation practices our kupuna taught us that we can share with other communities to make our shorelines productive once again and we are always open to new techniques and strategies for sustainable communities statewide.”

The English word for limu is algae. There are over 100 Hawaiian names for limu. It played an important part in a Hawaiian diet consisting primarily of fish and poi. Limu supplied significant amounts of vitamins and minerals to the diet. Limu was gathered along the shoreline, in tidal pools and in the outer reefs. Today, limu is difficult to find due to over-gathering, pollution, construction in watersheds and the spread of marine alien invasive species. The festival is held annually to convey the plight of limu and the need for its conservation.

On Friday, Nov. 21, at Helene Hall at Hāna Bay Beach Park, the festival featured a talk story session, E Wala’au Kākou, Kūpuna with community leaders, cultural practitioners and limu experts, which included: Kumu Kau’i Kanaka’ole, Hālau O Nakaulakuhikuhi; Henry Chang Wo, Jr., ‘Ewa Beach Limu Project; Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist, DLNR; Wally Ito, ‘Ewa Beach Limu Project; Bill Thomas, Director of NOAA’s Pacific Island Fisheries Services Center; Celia Smith, UH Mānoa Department of Botany; and Sol Kaho’ohalahala, with Ahupua’a O Maunalei.

Dearly missed in the discussions was Dr. Isabella Aiona Abbot, who was from Hāna and passed away

in October 2010. She was the foremost expert on central-Pacific limu and was the first Native Hawaiian woman to receive a PhD in science as well as the first woman on the biological sciences faculty at Stanford University. At the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, she was an ethnobotany professor emerita and was highly regarded for the honor she brought to the campus and the numerous awards she received for her research. The Honpa Hongwanji bestowed her with the name a Living Treasure. Abbot’s passion for limu began as a child while gathering it along-side her mother, who knew the Hawaiian names of most of the edible species. Several species of limu have been named after her along with an entire genus, Abbottella.

“I am honored that Dr. Abbot was a Hāna native,” states Sen. English. “She has brought much acclaim to our community and has elevated the status of limu and has brought attention to its importance in our diet and in the environment.”

Limu enthusiast enjoyed the final day of the event with festivities that included: Hula from Hālau O Nakaulakuhikuhi, under the direction of Kau’i Kanaka’ole, granddaughter of Aunty Edith Kekuhi-kuhi Kanaka’ole and grandniece of Uncle Nakaula; Live music by Kaniale Masoe; Limu identification and touch tank; Cooking demonstrations with native limu by Chef Barry Villiarimo of Barefoot Café; Food booths; Silent auction; T-shirt sales with art by Hank Eharis, Board President of Nā Mamo O Mū’olea; Talk story with kūpuna and limu experts; Craft booths with Hāna-made items; and Keiki games, art projects and interactive science activities.



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

**COMMITTEES**

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International Affairs**

**Member, Senate  
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**Member, Senate Committee on  
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**MAKAHIKI SEASON  
A TIME TO BE THANKFUL**

Sen. English introduced Senate Bill 1035 in 2008 recognizing the historical importance of the next four months, which begins when the Makali'i (Pleiades) rises in the night sky. The bill was enacted and is Hawai'i Revised Statute Section 8-19, which designates November 20th of each year as Makahiki Commemoration Day.

"Although it is not a state holiday, I am pleased that the legislature agreed to set aside a day in recognition of the ancient wisdom of conservation, unity and peace that was exercised during Makahiki season," said Sen. English. "These native practices and beliefs are as relevant today as it was in ancient times."

Lono-i-ka-makahiki, was honored during the Makahiki festival which was held annually in Polynesia. Maka means eye in English and refers to the constellation Pleiades. Hiki means movement; thus, the words put together literally refers to the rising of the Pleiades. The ruling chiefs of Hawai'i worshipped Lono, to protect the kingdom and 'aina (land) against famine, war or rebellion. As the god of fertility and agriculture, Lono was invoked to ensure productivity and peace.

"I learned the precious lesson of taking care of the 'aina from my grandparents and they learned it from their parents," said Sen. English. "I am fortunate to live in Hāna where the land and sea are still productive. Perhaps its geographical remoteness and isolation has kept it that way; but, I like to believe it's because our community believes in sustainable values."

Today, groups from Samoa, Tonga, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Rapa Nui (Easter Island) and the Marquesas Islands gather in Tahiti to celebrate Makahiki. In Hawai'i, people gather on Kaho'olawe as well as on all the major islands to strengthen their ties to the 'aina through ceremonies and festivities.

*November 20 ~ a day in recognition  
of the ancient wisdom of  
conservation, unity and peace.*

