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**MESSAGE FROM KALANI**

We have reached the first crossover of the 2014 Legislative Session, when legislation originating from the Senate (Senate Bills) go to the House of Representatives for consideration and vice versa. It is an opportunity for each branch of the Legislature to evaluate measures and allow the public to weigh in once more.

In this issue, we honor Sharon Lum Ho for her beautiful artwork that was acknowledged during Hawaiian Affairs Caucus Week at the State Capitol; we promote and remind everyone that it is 'Ōlelo Hawai'i month and encourage the use of the Hawaiian language; we observe students from Hāna and Moloka'i testifying for the Senate Committee on Education via video-conferencing; and we take a brief glimpse into some of the events and meetings I have attended.

*J. Kalani English*

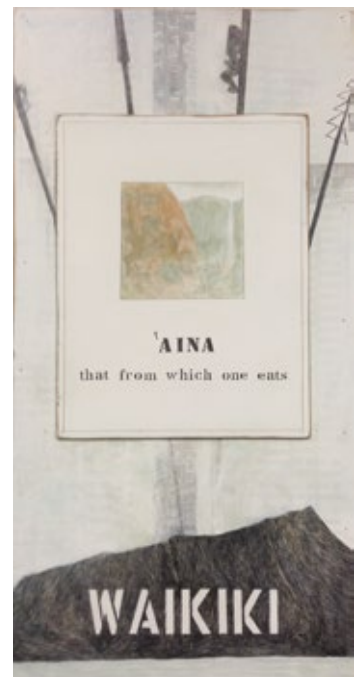


**SHARON LUM HO HONORED**

During the Legislative Hawaiian Affairs Caucus week, members of the State House of Representatives honored Kanaka Maoli artists, educators and leaders from across the State. On January 31, 2014, the following native Hawaiian artists; Sharon Lum Ho, Solomon Enos, Hanalei Hopfe, Minnie Ka'awaloa and Meleanna Aluli Meyer were honored on the House floor for their outstanding native Hawaiian artwork over the years. Sharon Lum Ho, long time committee clerk for Senator English was honored for her numerous artistic prints, drawings, paintings and wood carvings, some of which are featured in the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Collection.

Since childhood, Sharon has engaged in creating different forms of art. Her grandfather was a master woodcarver who created beautiful wooden bowls in Kahului, Maui and she learned the discipline of art from him. At Kamehameha High School she developed her artistic skills and was encouraged to pursue a career in art. She later enrolled at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and graduated with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree and subsequently obtained a Master of Fine Arts Degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art. Although, she has exhibited her prints, drawings and paintings at various venues, today she has focused her artistic impulse on creating the surfboards that she rides on the waves she thoroughly loves.

*Two art pieces from a series of 10 panels created by Sharon Lum Ho and featured at the State Capitol during a recognition ceremony on the House Floor. Left: 'O Lili'u Ē Right: Malama 'Āina. Jan. 31, 2014.*





*Senator English Chairs the Transportation and International Affairs committee in a joint hearing with the Public Safety and Military Affairs and Judiciary committees to pass out legislation. Feb. 4, 2014.*



*As Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs, Senator English serves as a member of the O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization. This body is responsible for coordinating transportation planning on O'ahu. Feb. 10, 2014. For more info visit: <http://www.oahumpo.org/>*

*The HSTA Maui Chapter visited Sen. English on their annual visit to the Capitol. Each year, members of each HSTA district brief their legislators on their priorities for the session. Feb. 7, 2014.*



On February 10, haumana and kumu from Halau Lokahi Charter School gathered on the mauka side of the Capitol lawn to host its very own Makahiki Celebration. The lawn was full of haumana chanting to the beat of the the ipu. Afterwards, the charter school hosted traditional Hawaiian games where they invited members of the community to participate.

The Makahiki Celebration was in conjunction to a special month for Hawaiians. More than a year ago, on January 14, 2013, Governor Abercrombie signed a proclamation declaring February as “‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Month”. The month is meant to recognize the roles of the Hawaiian language and culture in defining Hawai‘i internationally and among the fifty states. In the 2012 legislative session, HB 1984 was introduced as the initiative to recognize February as “‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Month.” The bill passed but was ultimately vetoed. Consequently, Senator English met with the Governor and was assured that the bill was not necessary and that the initiative could instead be enacted with a proclamation.

“‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Month” also has a secondary purpose: to recognize the importance of revitalizing the language after many years of suppression. ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i was almost extinct in the 1980s when fewer than fifty fluent speakers remained. The exponential decrease of Native Hawaiian language speakers was attributed to an 1896 law that required English instruction in Hawai‘i schools, which prevented students from speaking Hawaiian in school.

Although ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is gaining significant traction in its revitalization efforts, the language is still considered endangered. Recent estimates indicate that there are only 30,000 Hawaiian language speakers at varying levels of fluency. In order to get ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i out of that designation, efforts need to be made to educate and encourage the use of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

Fortunately, such efforts exist, which include Aha Punana Leo Hawaiian language immersion preschools, the Department of Education’s Hawaiian Language immersion program, and the Hawaiian language programs of the University of Hawai‘i system. In addition, the Hawai‘i Constitution was amended in 1978 to recognize the Hawaiian language as one of the two official languages of the State. While the Hawaiian language revitalization initiatives have made major strides in the last thirty years, these educational opportunities need to remain steadfast in the commitment to resurrect the vitality of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.



# HĀNA & MOLOKAʻI STUDENTS TESTIFY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE



*Senator English hears testimony from students in Hāna via video conferencing. Feb. 5, 2014.*

“Increasing public access to government has always been a huge priority for me, especially in the remote areas of our State,” said Senator English, “And the utilization of modern technology is an effective way of achieving this goal. The measures before us impact our students and our schools and the policies we draft are strengthened by their input and ideas. I look forward to seeing more individuals use this tool to provide testimony.”

Beginning this legislative session, all Hawaiʻi residents will now have the chance to testify at hearings before the Senate Committees on Education (EDU) and Technology and the Arts (TEC) without physically being there. In January 2013, the Senate began a pilot project to allow neighbor island residents the opportunity to participate in the legislative process without traveling to Oahu. Understanding that access is also a barrier for Oahu residents, the committees now pilot the video conferencing technology statewide.

Senate Bill 2441 establishes the Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (R.E.A.C.H.) program within the Office of Youth Services to provide a standardized framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools. The bill establishes a revolving fund to receive fees and other moneys to supplement the costs of administering and operating the program; appropriates funds for establishing the R.E.A.C.H. program to provide funding for after-school programs in middle and intermediate public schools; and establishes one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to support the program and appropriates funds for that position. Students from Hana High and Elementary School, Waiakea Intermediate School, Mililani Middle School and Molokaʻi Intermediate School testified before the committee on this measure via video conferencing.

In its inaugural year, the Neighbor Island Video-conferencing Program was piloted by the Senate Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts. In its second year, the two committees will continue to pilot this project, increasing the amount of constituents who can be reached and testify through statewide expansion. Hearing notices for the pilot project hearings will indicate that video-conferencing testimony will be allowed and contain a link to instructions for the public on how to participate. Because this is a pilot project, there are some limitations to how many individuals are able to participate. Following the completion of the Legislative Session, the project will be evaluated.

*The Maui County Council and the Maui State Senators meet to discuss issues and concerns within the District. Mike Molina, Mayor Alan Arakawa, Maui Council Chair Gladys Baisa with Senators J. Kalani English, Roz Baker and Gilbert Keith-Agaran. Feb. 3, 2014.*



*Sen. English meets with Bruce Robinson and Niʻihau residents to discuss issues and concerns. There is a bill this session to enable Niʻihau to become its own county. Feb. 3, 2014.*



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

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International Affairs**

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

**Member, Senate Committee on  
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**Hawai'i State Legislature  
Bill Status and Documents**

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

**HOW TO REACH US**

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**MAUI STYLE**



*Rock & Brews Grand Opening. Top left: Sen. English and Mayor Alan Arakawa welcome purveyors of Rock & Roll. Top right: Pulama Collier and friends, Summer Nomura, Leona Bak Nomura and Sen. English. Left: Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley of "KISS" open the doors of new business in Pā'ia, Maui. Jan. 26, 2014.*



*Our Maui Senate Delegation on the top floor of the Capitol: Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, Sen. Roz Baker and Sen. J. Kalani English with Iolani Palace in the background. February 13, 2014.*



*CJ Elazaris explains the extensive native Hawaiian sugar cane collection at Hawai'i Sea Spirits LLC. The cane is processed to produce Ocean Vodka. CJ Elazaris, Leona Bak Nomura and Sen. English in Omaopio, Kula. Feb. 9, 2014.*