



Senator  
J. KALANI ENGLISH

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## MESSAGE FROM KALANI

My heart goes out to the families of Tremaine Balberdi, Kathleen Kern and Richard "Dick" Rooney, who lost their lives in the tragic plane crash on Lāna'i last week. As I reflect on their service to Maui County, I want to take a moment to acknowledge all government workers who must fly between our islands to provide services to our people. Thank you for your dedication. Our unique County-Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i and Kaho'olawe- is truly blessed.

In this issue, we grieve with the families of those who lost their lives during the tragic plane crash on Lāna'i, we take a look at all the bills passed by the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs and highlight some meetings and events around the Capitol.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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



## MAUI NUI GRIEVES LOSS ON LĀNA'I

Sen. English released the following statement after learning of the tragic plane crash that occurred on Lāna'i on February 26, 2014:

"It is with great sadness that I extend my most heartfelt condolences to the friends and families of those who passed in the fatal plane crash on Lāna'i. I continue to keep the survivors who are currently under the care of Queen's Medical Center in my thoughts and prayers.

We lost two Maui County Department of Planning employees, one of them was a dear friend and mentor and the other was a promising planner who began her public service career only five years ago. The pilot of the charter plane also perished while three other passengers were seriously injured. They were on their way back from a Lāna'i Planning Commission meeting that ended at 8:30 p.m. Their flight left around 9:05, about an hour after the last commercial flight leaving Lāna'i. The Maui Planning Department employees played an integral part in development of the county and will be remembered for their service to the community.

Maui County has endured great tragedy in just a few months. We are still grieving the loss of Loretta Fuddy, a Hawai'i State health director, to a plane crash off the shores of Kalaupapa, Moloka'i.

As a unique and isolated county, small chartered planes are necessary for travel within the county. As such, air travel safety is an issue that is highly important to us. Maui Air had a previously unblemished record and I trust that a thorough investigation of the crash will occur. For those traveling by air to and from Lāna'i, I want to assure you that services are safe and will continue.

We are grateful to the first responders in the crash and for their continued commitment to protecting Hawai'i and those who visit our state.

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Senate, I offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of those who lost their lives and will keep the survivors in our thoughts and prayers."

The Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows met with Senator English and fellow Maui lawmakers for a lunch meeting in the Lt. Governor's Office on February 13, 2014. Senators J. Kalani English, Roz Baker and Gilbert Keith-Agaran along with Representatives Justin Woodson and Kaniela Ing joined Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui in discussing matters of interest with the members of the 2014 Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows.

This year's class traveled to O'ahu to observe the Legislative Session in both the House and Senate chambers in addition to touring the Hawai'i State Capitol and meeting with Legislators. Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows is a year-long community-based program developed and designed to promote and groom tomorrow's leaders through a program designed to address planning for Maui's future.

During the luncheon, they were able to ask the legislators and the Lt. Governor a variety of questions regarding the legislative process, their reasons for accepting the responsibilities of public service and the unique problems that Neighbor Island Legislators face while working at the Capitol throughout the year. The lawmakers answered each question with their unique perspectives and expertise, and they all emphasized the significance of mutual cooperation to effectively serve Maui County and the State.



Chair English and committee members heard and passed the following bills. To view the bills go to: <http://tiny.cc/TIABills>

- SB 2042** Establishes the Puerto Rican exchange commission to coordinate a cultural exchange program between Hawai'i and Puerto Rico to honor and recognize the contributions of the Puerto Rican people and commemorate the arrival of the Puerto Ricans to Hawai'i.
- SB 2138** Aligns the definitions of "neighborhood electric vehicle" in the bill for consistency and increases the maximum weight rating requirement in both definitions to 3,000 pounds.
- SB 2324** Establishes an annual electric vehicle user fee, which shall be deposited in the state highway fund.
- SB 2329** Authorizes the examiner of drivers to waive the actual demonstration of ability to operate a motor vehicle for persons who have a valid provisional license from another state and who have completed the same requirements of a provisional license in Hawai'i.
- SB 2488** Appropriates funds for the traffic signal capital improvement project at the intersection of Pi'ilani highway and Kulanihako'i street in Kihei, Maui.
- SB 2582** Requires individual consent or search warrant to track an individual through the use of unmanned aircraft systems. Prohibits the repurposing of data without a search warrant. Prohibits unmanned aircraft systems from carrying weapons onboard. Requires the police departments to implement guidelines of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Aviation Committee.
- SB 2589** Transfers the law enforcement functions of the harbors division of the Department of Transportation to the Department of Public Safety, effective July 1, 2016.
- SB 2608** Prohibits the use of unmanned aircrafts, except by law enforcement agencies, to gather information and establishes certain conditions for law enforcement agencies to use an unmanned aircraft to obtain information. Requires all law enforcement agencies using unmanned aircrafts and the courts to report on their activities relating to unmanned aircrafts.
- SB 2726** Allows all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and utility-terrain vehicles to be driven on any street if the ATV or utility-terrain vehicle is being used as farm equipment, if the operator holds a current category (3) license or a commercial driver's license, and if the operator and passengers wear safety helmets secured with a chin strap.
- SB 2727** Extends the sunset date to authorize the Department of Transportation to extend the term of an airport concession, and to modify and amend the terms of any concession contracts, leases, and permits in exchange for revenue-enhancing improvements that are made or paid for by the concession.
- SB 2728** Clarifies that the designation of a public trail shall be as provided by law.
- SB 2729** Prohibits the operation of a motor vehicle while using a mobile electronic device held in a person's hand for making or receiving a non-emergency call, texting, or receiving a text message. Adds exemptions, amends the penalties, deems a violation to be a traffic infraction.
- SB 2730** Permits driver licensing reciprocity between Hawai'i and foreign countries upon certain conditions. Repeals the driver's license reciprocity committee.
- SB 2731** Establishes a car-sharing vehicle surcharge tax, sets a flat rate per day and prorated on an hourly basis.

*continued on pg. 3*

## 2014 BILLS PASSED BY THE TRANSPORTATION & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (TIA) COMMITTEE CONTINUED

## ISLAND CONSERVATION DINNER

- SB 2732** Sets a minimum fine of \$100 for driving or parking a vehicle on a bicycle lane or bicycle pathway.
- SB 2742** Establishes the Pacific-Asia institute for resilience and sustainability to provide the structure and opportunity for a new generation of leaders to emerge who possess the ability to address Hawai'i and the Pacific-Asia region's risks from natural and man-made hazards and to develop solutions for sustainable economic growth within the region's unique physical and cultural diversity.
- SB 2747** Requires the DOT, DHHL, and DLNR to submit to the counties certain information on parcels located within a subdivision.
- SB 2761** Specifies that a government agency does not assume ownership or jurisdiction over a disputed road solely through maintenance or repair activities. Authorizes the State to quitclaim ownership of roads in favor of counties. Establishes necessary funding for the maintenance and repair of disputed roads through the authorization of a county surcharge on state tax at a rate of one-half percent for counties that have not adopted an ordinance.
- SB 2898** Amends or deletes statutes containing federal commercial driver's licensing requirements that are addressed in Hawai'i Administrative Rules.
- SB 2901** Amends or deletes statutes containing federal requirements that are addressed in Hawai'i Administrative Rules or are unnecessary.
- SB 2902** Expands authority of the director of transportation over required motor vehicle and motor carrier vehicle inspections in the State.
- SB 2903** Makes an emergency appropriation to replenish security funds that were used to cover the costs associated with the operations and maintenance of the outbound baggage handling and explosive detection systems.
- SB 3062** Requires the Department of Transportation and the University of Hawai'i to complete negotiations and execute an agreement to relocate the University of Hawai'i marine center no later than July 1, 2015. Specifies that current lease at gratis between the DOT and the UH shall be deemed terminated as a matter of law on that date. Requires progress report to legislature before 2015 regular session.

Senator English recently spoke at the Island Conservation (IC) Board dinner held at the Bishop Museum on February 28, 2014. He shared his knowledge of the state's efforts for the conservation of endangered species throughout our islands. He specifically covered the recent attempts to remove invasive species such as rats and feral cats on Kaho'olawe, Lehua Island, the Palmyra Atoll, and other affected islands throughout the Pacific.

Island Conservation is an organization dedicated to preserving the natural flora and fauna of the islands through conservation projects. The organization has a long history of collaborating with environmental government organizations to assist in various conservation efforts. Their first project, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), involved the removal of invasive European rabbits from Lehua Island in 2005.

Island Conservation recently received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to help support an assessment of the Lehua rat eradication project which they began in 2005. They will partner with USFWS and DLNR to plan another attempt at exterminating the rats there. Currently, the organization is working with the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission to remove feral cats, mice, and rats that live on Kaho'olawe.



The Maui Humane Society's Hana Spay and Neuter Initiative provides free services that include: spaying, neutering, pet licensing, microchip planting and vaccinations for pets of Hana residents. February 22, 2014.



Sen. English gives a speech at the Island Conservation Board dinner held at the Bishop Museum. Feb. 28, 2014.

For more information visit:

<http://www.islandconservation.org>

**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  
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**Hawaii State Legislature  
Bill Status and Documents**

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

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**STUDY HAWAII DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL**

The 2014 Study Hawaii Day at the Capitol provided a rare opportunity to showcase the State's positive impact and importance for all students furthering their education. The 2nd and 3rd floor lanai were transformed into an educational expo promoting international students, international student organizations, colleges and university programs from around the state. Draped on the balconies were banners and international flags to make the event as visible as possible for all legislators, staff, and community members. This day-long event was organized by the State Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

Participating institutions included: the University of Hawaii Maui Language Institute, University of Hawaii Maui College, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Pacific and Asian Affairs Council, and Mid-Pacific Institute. Representatives of each organization hosted tables and offered information about how their respective programs impact and positively affect the diverse body of international students that steadily arrive in Hawaii every year. Their tables were decorated with colorful pamphlets, candy, and memorabilia.

International students strongly contribute to both the state's diverse culture and economy. According to the Institute of International Education (IIE), international students brought an estimated \$109 million to the state. Their contributions will most likely rise as the IIE estimated that this school year saw an increase of international students to nearly 4,500. The international students gravitate towards Hawaii Pacific University, Chaminade University, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa - three institutions that are in the nation's top five most diverse campuses by CollegeFactual.com due to their ethnically and geographically diverse student body. Although, international students come from around the world, a majority are from Japan, South Korea, China, Scandinavia, and Taiwan.



*The Hawaii State Senators J. Kalani English, Roz Baker and Gil Keith-Agaran and participating members of Maui Language Institute. Feb. 13, 2014*

