

**SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH**  
HAWAII STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT  
HĀNA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI,  
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I AND KAHO'OLAWÉ



**2015 NCSL SUMMIT:**

**DELVING INTO THE ISSUES AND MAKING CONNECTIONS**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- ▶ Message From Kalani pg 1
- ▶ 2015 NCSL Summit pg 1
- ▶ Waiohuli Community Center Complex pg 1
- ▶ Conference of State Majority Leaders pg 2
- ▶ Sen. English Appointed to Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and Hawai'i Language Resources Task Force pg 2

**MESSAGE FROM KALANI**

Hurricane season this August has forced us to recognize the importance of our own disaster preparedness. Today's technology enables us to be alerted in advance to any possibility of Hawai'i being impacted by natural phenomenon. With four hurricanes moving through the Pacific this month, special thanks must be given to all of our valiant and dedicated civil service personnel, working diligently to keep Hawai'i's residents safe and up to date.

To our brothers and sisters in Saipan and Taiwan devastated by typhoons, we extend our love and aloha and wish them all a speedy recovery.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Kalani English".

Whether the issue revolved around child welfare, transportation or education, Hawai'i Senators were at the forefront of the discussion on significant policy matters affecting states across the country. These topics were just a few of among a long list of sessions on hot-button political issues held at the 2015 National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit in Seattle.

"This was an invaluable opportunity for Hawai'i's Senators to delve deeper into the challenging issues facing our state and engage with lawmakers from other jurisdictions to get insight, ideas, and possible solutions to utilize here at home." said Sen. English.

Sen. English delivered remarks before the 2015 Child Welfare Fiscal and Policy Leaders Roundtable on the impact on Hawai'i's social services by residents of the Federated State of Micronesia as part of the federal Compact of Free Association (COFA) treaty. Sen. English briefed lawmakers on the how other states across the country

will eventually confront these same challenges as mainland-based companies recruit members of this community to work at low wages; and solutions must be found on how best to provide care for the children from this population.

"The impact on our state's social services is significant and we are struggling with how best to humanely help this population, yet I felt it was important that other states were made aware of this situation so they are prepared," said Sen. English.

More than 5,000 state legislators, legislative staff, government officials, business representatives, and educators attended the three-day summit at the Washington State Convention Center in August. This is the largest and most substantive meeting of state legislators in the nation where Republicans and Democrats join to work on the nation's most pressing public policy issues.

**FUNDS RELEASED FOR WAIOHULI COMMUNITY CENTER COMPLEX**

The governor released \$1,500,000 in funds to the Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Association (WHHA) for the design and construction of Phase II of the WHHA on 17 acres of land in the Waiohuli Homelands. Phase I has been completed, allowing residents to begin using the site by providing a community kitchen, a Hale Halawai meeting structure and other site improvements. When the multi-phased community center is completed the complex will include a large dining hall, meeting rooms, a childcare center, athletic facilities and an amphitheater for hula performances.

The community center is part of the WHHA's 2005 strategic plan that integrates sustainable principles and practices for the economic development of small entrepreneurs in the area as well as to provide a place for social activities, cultural practices and educational programs that benefit the Kula community.

## J. KALANI ENGLISH Senate Majority Leader

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## STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS FOUNDATION CONFERENCE OF STATE MAJORITY LEADERS

Sen. English was honored to attend the third annual State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF) Conference of State Majority Leaders in Portland, Oregon earlier this month. The summit brought together Legislative Majority Leaders and distinguished faculty from across the nation to share experiences and learn from one another. "This is truly a unique conference that specializes in assisting Legislative Leaders," said Sen. English. "This is a rare opportunity to gain insight and ideas on the various problems facing our State in collaboration with Legislators dealing with these same issues first hand."

Established in 1972, the SLLF is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to the professional development of all Senate Presidents, Speakers of the House, Majority Leaders, Minority Leaders, and Pro Tempore. All SLLF programs focus on two categories: strengthening leadership skills and examining critical public policy issues. SLLF is the only nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that represents all Senate Presidents, Speakers of the House, Majority Leaders, Minority Leaders and Pro Tempore.

Our nation's state legislative leaders occupy a truly exemplary position in the American political system. In addition to their primary responsibility as lawmakers, they must be capable managers, articulate spokespersons for their political party, chamber, and the legislature as a whole, effective mediators of dispute and architects of compromise, and tireless fundraisers and campaigners for their political party, as well as themselves.

### SEN. ENGLISH SERVES ON THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL AND THE HAWAII LANGUAGE RESOURCES TASK FORCE

Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §194-2, Sen. English was appointed by the Senate President to serve on the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) representing the County of Maui. The President selects four Senators, one from each County. The selected members of the legislature provide advice and assistance to the voting members of the Council.

HISC is a State interdepartmental collaboration established in 2003 by the State Legislature. It was authorized by HRS 194 to provide policy level direction, coordination and planning among State departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control, eradication and prevention of harmful invasive species infestations.

HRS 194 was enacted in response to a 2002 State Legislative Reference Bureau study identifying the need to address a number of gaps in invasive species management throughout the state. The voting membership of HISC consists of the chair, director, or designee of the following Departments: Land and Natural Resources; Agriculture; Health; Business, Economic Development & Tourism; Transportation; and the University of Hawai'i.

The Council provides direction to HISC support staff and is housed within the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources for administrative purposes only. The program is administered by the Invasive Species Coordinator and is supported and staffed within the Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

For more information go to: [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol03\\_Ch0121-0200D/HRS0194/HRS\\_0194-0002.htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol03_Ch0121-0200D/HRS0194/HRS_0194-0002.htm)

Sen. English was also selected as a member of a task force to examine establishing Hawaiian language resources for the State of Hawai'i Judiciary pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 217, HD1 SD1, passed by the 28th Legislature in the Spring.

"For decades I have been a passionate advocate for the revitalization of the Hawaiian Language in our daily lives not only for Hawaiians, but for those who call Hawai'i home and visitors alike," said Sen. English, "So, I am gratified and pleased to be a Hawaiian Language task force member. In particular, I foresee that this is just the beginning of an expansion of the use of the Hawaiian language and the creation of jobs for those proficient in Hawaiian in new areas and venues, such as the Judiciary."

The Hawai'i State Constitution, Article XV, sec. 4, affirms that both English and Hawaiian are the official language of the State. Other countries with more than one official language provide access to government services and documents in all official languages. By providing public access to the Judiciary website and legal documents in the Hawaiian language would further the intent of the State Constitution and further acknowledge the State's respect for the native language of these islands.

The task force is requested to conduct a feasibility study to: Examine the scope and cost of implementing Hawaiian language resources on the Judiciary's public website as well as legal forms and documents; Develop a plan to ensure that updated information contains the accurate, appropriate and authentic Hawaiian language version of all documents; and conduct other business necessary to carry out the purpose of HCR 217.

The taskforce will form sub-committees and convene three general meetings before submitting a final report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016.