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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Sustainability & Resiliency A New approach

A new Legislature, a new administration and a new approach- that is what the Hawai'i State Senate Majority considered as we developed this Legislative Program for the 28th Legislative Session. On behalf of the 24 members of the Senate Majority, I am pleased to present our hopes and goals for all of Hawai'i.

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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



2015 SENATE MAJORITY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

We of the Democratic Majority of the Hawai'i State Senate, are committed to a vision and future for Hawai'i that will stabilize Hawai'i's economy and improve our quality of life for generations to come. We have a unique opportunity to serve the people of Hawai'i. In that spirit, the Senate Majority is committed to being open, inclusive, and collaborative in its decision-making on behalf of the people of the State of Hawai'i.

We enter the first year of the Twenty-Eighth Legislative biennium with three over-arching themes and priorities for legislation that will improve the quality of life for ever one in Hawai'i, including our keiki, kūpuna, and nā 'Ohana who are most in need.

Energy and Food Resiliency

Ensuring a sustainable future for Hawai'i will continue to be a priority. Improving energy resiliency and food self-sufficiency will have positive effects on our local job market and economy.

We will focus on renewable energy alternatives that are practical and economical for the State that take into account Hawai'i's unique geographical and topographical circumstances. As Hawai'i continues to make progress in this area and with our overall clean energy goals in mind, we will encourage the availability of renewable energy, facilitate processes for the development of renewable energy, and advance projects to improve energy efficiencies.

We will ensure that Hawai'i is well-prepared for any disaster, economic disruption, or other external factor by encouraging the production and consumption of locally grown and locally raised food through good agricultural practices and support of local farmers.

2015 SUBSTANTIVE BILLS INTRODUCED BY SEN. ENGLISH

Sen. English is the primary introducer of the following bills. Click on the bill number to view its content. For bill status go to: http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/advreports/advreport.aspx?report=intro&year=2015&leg=English&rpt_type=first_pri

- [SB 867](#) Provides that a portion of the conveyance tax be used to replenish the Kaho'olawe rehabilitation trust fund.
- [SB 868](#) Requires county liquor commissions that choose to regulate, adopt or amend rules regarding dancing.
- [SB 869](#) Prohibits retailers from imposing credit card surcharges in certain instances.
- [SB 870](#) Requires the bills of telecommunications carriers to contain only charges for products and services that are authorized by the subscriber. Specifies prohibited cramming practices in phone bills.
- [SB 871](#) Establishes driver licensing reciprocity privileges between Hawai'i and foreign countries.
- [SB 872](#) Clarifies that electronic copies shall be construed in the same manner as an original document.
- [SB 873](#) Legalizes the personal use of marijuana. Requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. Subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.
- [SB 874](#) Prohibits the planting of a genetically engineered seed or plant part in an open field. Allows an exception where such planting is done in a controlled environment.
- [SB 875](#) Establishes labeling requirements for any food or raw agricultural commodity sold in the State that contains a genetically engineered material; establishes exceptions and violations.
- [SB 876](#) Establishes the office of Hawaiian education within the department of education to provide instruction to students on Hawaiian culture, history, and language. Appropriates funds.
- [SB 877](#) Includes only buildings, structures, objects, districts, areas, or sites that are significant in Hawaii's history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture in the definition of "historic property". Requires the department of land and natural resources to provide the counties with a list that identifies the types of projects that have no potential to affect a historic property and the types of properties likely to be eligible for inclusion in the Hawai'i register of historic places; develop a plan for completing a comprehensive inventory of historic buildings in the State; and submit a plan, together with a proposed budget, to the legislature.
- [SB 878](#) Requires the counties to authorize the installation and use of composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems. Defines composting toilets.
- [SB 879](#) Establishes a civil violation and a fine of \$100 for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana.
- [SB 880](#) Requires the removal of certified traffic abstracts records of all alleged moving violations for which the disposition of the case was "dismissed with prejudice" or "not guilty" that occurred more than ten years prior.
- [SB 881](#) Specifies that a government agency does not assume ownership or jurisdiction over a disputed road solely through maintenance activities.
- [SB 882](#) Requires the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources and the Hawaii Public Health Assoc. to appoint members to a climate change and health working group to examine various potential health impacts of climate change and assist the State's health professionals in effectively and efficiently preparing for and responding to the various potential health impacts.
- [SB 883](#) Requires remote schools to be allocated funds using categorical allotments, rather than through the weighted student formula. Defines a remote school as any public school that is a school located at least a one-hour drive away from the next nearest high school or a high school located on the island of Lana'i, Moloka'i, or Ni'ihau and includes high schools combined with any lower level of schooling.
- [SB 884](#) Requires a biotechnology company that sells a genetically modified organism that the company knows or has reason to believe will be used to produce an agricultural commodity to provide written disclosure of possible risks from the use of such an organism.
- [SB 885](#) Mandates the department of agriculture to take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent, or minimize the adverse effects of biotechnology and genetic engineering.
- [SB 886](#) Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance the plans and designs for a new small boat harbor in Puko'o, Moloka'i.
- [SB 887](#) Establishes the board for offshore high technology park review within the high technology development corporation. Authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to develop and implement the park and cable landing sites throughout the State.

2015 SUBSTANTIVE BILLS INTRODUCED BY SEN. ENGLISH CONTINUED

- [SB 888](#) Requires each county to establish compassion centers for the dispensing of medical marijuana. Requires that centers shall only provide service to qualifying patients and primary caregivers registered with the department of public safety. Makes centers subject to the general excise tax and imposes a registration fee on centers. Imposes a general excise tax on marijuana sales.
- [SB889](#) Authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to support the development of the joint emergency management center, including planning and land acquisition.
- [SB 890](#) Appropriates funds to the Pacific-Asia institute for resilience and sustainability to continue in its collaborative research efforts in exploring methods to improve energy efficiency and grid operations in all of Hawai'i.
- [SB 891](#) Appropriates funds to the department of business, economic development, and tourism to establish broadband cable landing sites and island-specific environmental impact studies.
- [SB 892](#) Makes various appropriations for the Hawai'i resilience and sustainability strategy.
- [SB 893](#) Appropriates funds for research on water and sewer distribution systems on each island and a pilot study for advanced monitoring of water systems.
- [SB 894](#) Allows for several factors to be weighted for the weighted student formula including but not limited to student characteristics, enrollment trends, and optimal student-teacher ratios. Requires the committee on weights to incorporate into the weighted student formula weights that account for special education teachers and support staff, enrollment increases, and the optimal student-teacher ratio at each grade level.
- [SB 895](#) Requires that all letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems of the State and other political subdivisions include accurate and appropriate Hawaiian names and language.
- [SB 896](#) Requires remote schools to be allocated funds using categorical allotments, rather than through the weighted student formula. Specifies minimum number of teachers for Hāna High and Elementary school.
- [SB 897](#) Appropriates funds for the 2016-2017 fiscal year to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission for management, restoration, and preservation the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve.
- [SB 898](#) Appropriates funds for Capital Improvement Projects in the 7th senatorial district.
- [SB 1041](#) Authorizes Haleakala National Park special license plates and provides that an owner of a passenger motor vehicle, who is a resident of the State may be issued a special license plate for the vehicle to observe the importance of Haleakala National Park.
- [SB 1042](#) Authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to SunStrong LLC, a renewable energy developer, for the provision of electric energy and installation of renewable energy projects.
- [SB 1254](#) Authorizes issuance of GO bonds for relocation of the Clear Channel antenna, including design and construction, equipment and appurtenances, and ground and site improvements.
- [SB 1353](#) Requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to allocate a percentage of the unencumbered revenues derived from collected franchise fees for the establishment of a Hawaiian language television channel.
- [SB 1354](#) Authorizes the governing body of each county to adopt, as appropriate, the most recent internationally and nationally recognized codes and standards if the state building code council has not adopted new model building codes and standards.



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Hawai'i State Legislature
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2015 SENATE MAJORITY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM CONTINUED

Community Well-Being and Smart Growth

We will strengthen our social safety net to ensure that our keiki, kūpuna, family care givers, and all members of a family are healthy and safe, while continuing to work together in the community development process of any and all lands to address housing, agricultural, environmental, and health concerns. Smart growth allows for future thinking on how to best utilize the different types of land available for Hawai'i's myriad of communities and their needs.

We will explore opportunities to protect Hawai'i's natural resources through preservation and protective measures, including addressing agricultural practices, climate change, and zoning concerns. Because of Hawai'i's unique geographical features, including coastline, volcanoes, and watersheds, we can implement innovative processes and procedures, as well as explore new technologies and applications to existing systems, to accommodate Hawai'i residents for today and the future.

We will focus on efforts to create a holistic overview and understanding for community development in the State, such as transit-oriented development. Because comprehensive community development presents an opportunity for the State to solve many socio-economic challenges that face Hawai'i's residents, understanding the issues from various parties will further synergize the development to meet housing, critical infrastructure, and community needs.

Government Effectiveness

We will support efforts that ensure that the government is providing effective services in which residents are well-served, safe, and protected. We will work toward greater efficiency, security, and accountability.

We will encourage effectiveness, transparency, and accountability across all branches of government by insisting on high standards of ethical conduct, proper training, and reliable systems and procedures.



We will strengthen and protect government infrastructure by upgrading technology and services to meet the demand of Hawai'i's residents and visitors. We will continue to promote the enhancement of the State's information technology services and concentrate on our critical infrastructure such as broad band.

It is our sincere hope that we can work collaboratively with the House of Representatives and the Governor to achieve all the goals outlined in this 2015 Senate Majority Legislative Program.



Sen. English addresses students from Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in Yangling, China as they tour the Hawai'i State Capitol. Feb. 9, 2015.