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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Crossover marks the halfway point for the Legislative Session, when bills cross over from one legislative body to the other. During this period, we consider legislation that has passed the House.

I warmly welcome Lynn DeCoite as she joins our Maui County delegation as the Representative for the 13th District. She fills the seat vacated by my late friend Mele Carroll. I know Lynn and believe that she will do an excellent job serving our constituents.

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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



SENATORS HONOR HEROES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES

From Albizia tree removal to fire ants to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, efforts to keep Hawai'i safe from unwanted and invasive species are on-going. Members of the State Senate honored those who are on the front line of this fight on March 2.

Sen. English presented the Maui Plant Quarantine Office with the "Maui MVP Award 2015" for the Department's comprehensive inspection process to detect little fire ant, coqui frogs and miconia.

"Despite a challenging work environment, Department of Agriculture inspectors on Maui regularly go above and beyond to prevent new species from being introduced to the island of Maui," said Sen. English.

Senators Mike Gabbard, Ron Kouchi and Laura Thielen presented the "Greatest Hit Award 2015," the "Kaua'i MVP Award 2015" and the "O'ahu MVP Award 2015" to deserving individuals working to keep Hawai'i safe from unwanted and invasive species.

Other Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) award winners include Charlotte Yamane as "Community Hero" for her hundreds of volunteer hours removing invasive species from forests all over O'ahu. The "Community Hero" honorable mention went to Laurie Loomis for her volunteer work with several community programs to protect and restore native forests on O'ahu.

Hawaiian Airlines was named HISC "Business

Leader" for the company's collaboration with HDOA to prevent the spread of invasive species through air cargo.

The "Hottest Hotline Report to 643-PEST" award went to Rick Yamamoto, a Hawai'i Air National Guardsman who took quick action when he spotted a 24" long juvenile water monitor lizard running across the pavement at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



The infamous Little Fire Ant makes an appearance with Maui Plant Quarentine Officer Marshall Loope and Sen. English. Below - HISC Interagency Coordinator, Randy Bartlett with HISC Award recipients at the State Capitol. March 2, 2015.



STATE SENATORS PASS HUNDREDS OF BILLS TO HOUSE

MEASURES PASSED INCLUDE BILLS ON ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES AND KUPUNA TRUST FUND

State Senators passed more than 300 bills during Third Reading of the Senate Session on March 10. Among the bills that passed the final reading include prohibiting electronic cigarettes to anyone under 18 years of age and creating a trust fund from public and private funding for Hawai'i's elderly population.

Other bills that were cleared by the full Senate include measures that create public and private partnerships to address the State's critical infrastructure including expanding and sustaining broadband internet access and joint emergency management (SB892, SD2); establishes the offense of sex trafficking as a class A felony (SB265, SD1); and continues the funding for the Preschool Open Doors program (SB64, SD3).

These bills crossovered to the House for consideration on Thursday, March 12.

A few of the other bills that passed Third Reading include:

SB1014, SD1 Defines specific rights granted to a person who is houseless including equal access to housing, jobs, and shelters, equal treatment by government agencies, and access to life-sustaining activities and essential services.

SB286, SD2 Establishes the Office of the State Inspector General to investigate complaints alleging fraud, waste, abuse, or corruption by a state agency or quasi-public agency.

SB 287, SD2 Appropriates funds for the implementation and administration of the election by mail program.

SB375, SD2 Authorizes the growing of industrial hemp for certain purposes under specified conditions.

SB387, SD2 Requires the University of Hawai'i to act jointly with the board of regents to establish and enforce an affirmative action consent standard for all policies and protocol relating to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

SB752, SD1 Requires telecommunications carriers to release individuals from shared or family wireless plans, without charge, upon written request in documented instances of domestic violence.

SB715, SD2 Requires the electric utility companies to develop a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goal of 70% and 100% for 2035 and 2040, respectively, and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to investigate the feasibility of updating and extending the RPS requirements to include large self-generators.

SB682, SD2 Allows a qualifying patient, primary caregiver, or an owner or employee of a medical marijuana production center or dispensary to transport medical marijuana in any public place, under certain conditions.

SB1374, SD2 Appropriates funds to study the possibility of exchanging state lands for certain parcels of land owned by Dole Food Company, Inc., that are suitable for long-term diversified agricultural production.

SB 1037, SD2 Establishes a mandatory disclosure program for pesticide use by all persons or entities under certain circumstances.

SB1280, SD2 Requires the public utilities commission to regulate transportation network companies and establishes requirements for persons who operate or serve as drivers for transportation network companies.

SB717, SD2 Repeals the existing requirement that gasoline sold in the state for use in motor vehicles be composed of ten per cent ethanol.

SB416, SD1 Authorize the use of the State highway fund for the establishment of cycle tracks, defines cycle tracks, clarifies the use of cycle tracks, and prohibits mopeds on bikeways.

SB19, SD2 Extends the half percent county surcharge on the state tax to 12/31/2027 to fund Oahu's mass transit project.

SB1014, SD1 Defines specific rights granted to a person who is houseless including equal access to housing, jobs, and shelters, equal treatment by government agencies, and access to life-sustaining activities and essential services.

A complete list of bills that have passed Third Reading by the Senate is available on the Capitol website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.



Pomare IV High School students from Tahiti learn about our political process and the cultural links between Tahiti and Hawai'i. During their week on O'ahu they participated in the Hei Hei Wa'a Race in cultural exchanges with Punahou and Radford High Schools. Feb 25, 2015.

GOVERNOR DAVID IGE APPOINTS LYNN DECOITE TO SERVE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 13



On February 19, 2015, the Governor announced his appointment of Lynn DeCoite to serve as Representative of State House District 13.

DeCoite lives in Ho'olehua on Moloka'i where she is the owner of L&R Farm Enterprises and R.J.'s Snacks and co-owner of V-8 Ranch. In 2012, she won the

First Annual Ka'anapali Fresh Best in Show and in 2007 she won the Maui County Mayor's Small Business Award.

In addition to her business enterprises, DeCoite has been an active member of the community serving as Chairperson of the Farm Service Agency (Maui County) and President of the Moloka'i Homestead Farmer's Alliance. She is a former board member of the Moloka'i Planning Commission and former PTSO President – Moloka'i Middle School, and she was part of the Moloka'i Workforce Development Agricultural Working Group. DeCoite resigned her position on the State Board of Agriculture, a post she has held since 2012, to take up her new responsibilities.

"I'm confident in Ms. DeCoite's ability to represent House District 13," said Sen. English. "She has deep roots in the community, knows the issues facing the district and will listen to her constituents to address their concerns."

"I'm deeply honored to serve the community in this capacity," DeCoite said. "This is an opportunity for me to help address issues like drought, food gathering and security, emergency response programs, and the promotion of economic development for small and large businesses."



SENATE CONFIRMS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Members of the State Senate unanimously confirmed James Nishimoto as the Director for the Department of Human Services Development (DHRD) earlier this month on the Senate floor.

"Mr. Nishimoto's extensive experience and dedication to government service makes him an ideal candidate to lead the Department of Human Services Development" said Sen. English. "I am confident that he can enhance services and support for the State's recruitment and management of its workforce."

Nishimoto has 38 years of government service and has served in a wide range of positions, including executive assistant to the President

of the University of Hawai'i; vice president for Budget and Finance/ Chief Financial Officer, University of Hawaii; director of Academic Personnel Administration, Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Hawai'i System; associate director of Human Resources, University of Hawai'i System office; deputy director, DHRD; administrator; Collective Bargaining and Negotiations, Hawai'i State Department of Education.

"I'm just very pleased to be working with an outstanding staff at DHRD," said Nishimoto. "They're a great group of people, so dedicated to public service and getting the job done. I'm looking forward to working with them in trying to move the State forward."



James Nishimoto with his family and friends after being confirmed as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development. March 5, 2015.

J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

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Committee on Tourism &
International Affairs

...

Member, Senate Committee
on Transportation

...

Member, Senate
Committee on Ways & Means

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Hawai'i State Legislature
Bill Status and Documents
www.capitol.hawaii.gov/

HOW TO REACH US

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 205
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
ph 808-587-7225
fax 808-587-7230

From Maui, toll free 984-2400 + 77225
From Moloka'i and Lāna'i,
toll free 1-800-468-4644 + 77225
e-mail: senenglish@capitol.hawaii.gov

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**SENATE CONFIRMS ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR**

State Senators unanimously voted on March 12, to confirm Douglas Chin as the Attorney General of the Department of Attorney General.

Chin most recently served as Managing Partner at Carlsmith Ball since 2013. He previously spent 12 years with the Honolulu prosecuting attorney's office.

"This is a huge honor and I'm really looking forward to getting back to public service and serve all the citizens of the State of Hawai'i," said Chin.

Senators also voted by unanimous consent to confirm Nolan Espinda as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

"We are pleased to confirm these two nominations," said Sen. English, "Mr. Chin brings to the State extensive and meaningful legal experience in public and private practice, while Mr. Espinda's thirty two years of service to the State are indicative of his dedication to public service. Both

have demonstrated excellent leadership skills and we are confident in their ability to serve the State."

Espinda said he was relieved to have the confirmation process behind him and was looking forward to getting down to the business of running the Department.

"We want to make sure we standardize all the operations of our institutions, continue the good practices that are in place, expand them to other places, and deal directly and quickly with operations and practices that can use improving, and there are a lot of them," said Espinda.



Nolan Espinda and his family on the Senate floor after being confirmed as the Director of the Department of Public Safety. March 12, 2015.



Douglas and Kathleen Chin, Governor Ige and members of the Senate at his confirmation. March 12, 2015.



Senators English and Baker with participants of the annual Developmental Disabilities Day at the Capitol. March 12, 2015.