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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

The last weeks of each session are a hectic scramble to meet our legislative deadlines. The Senate conferenced on roughly 330 bills, confirmed a number of the Governor's appointments to various departments and agencies and focused on passing a balanced State budget.

Lead by the Ways and Means and Finance Committee Chairs, the Senate applied a disciplined approach in passing a trim budget that still ensured our schools, our hard-working families, our seniors and those in need of assistance would get the help they need. This year in the budget we also invested in businesses that promote sustainability and resilience; provided funds to non-profits that enhance the beauty of Hawai'i and allocated funds to build and maintain our infrastructure, aging facilities and hospitals.

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



STATE SENATE PASSES NEARLY 200 BILLS ON SECOND CROSSOVER

The State Senate passed 135 House bills for second crossover on April 16, 2015. These bills address areas of domestic violence, beach protection, education, public safety, energy, and a number of other measures aimed at ensuring the health and well-being of the residents of Hawai'i. A total of 197 bills have passed third reading by the Senate and was returned to the House. A majority of the bills go into conference committees where the House and Senate conferees convene to settle differences between the House and Senate drafts to negotiate a final amended version.

Among the most substantial bills passed by the Senate: **HB321, HD1, SD2** establishes a system of medical marijuana dispensaries and production centers; **HB134, HD1, SD2** extends the half percent county surcharge on State tax for two, ten-year extensions to fund additional Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) transit routes; **HB290, HD2, SD1** appropriates funding for the construction of the Kona Judiciary Complex; and **HB365, HD1, SD1** appropriates money for body cameras for police officers.

"The Senate was prudent in passing out responsible House bills," said Sen. English. "These are reasonable proposals and we're looking forward to conference to work out the details."

Other significant House measures passed by the Senate include:

HB124, HD2, SD2, relating to elections. Requires the office of elections to implement elections by mail in a county with a population of less than 100,000, beginning with the 2016 primary election; and in each county with a population of less than 500,000, beginning with the 2018 primary election. Beginning in 2020, requires all federal, state, and county primary, special primary, general, special general, and special elections to be conducted by mail.

HB58, HD1, SD2, relating to protective orders. Establishes a protective order card pilot program within the Honolulu family justice center to issue protective order cards upon request of individuals holding a long-term protective order issued by a court of the first circuit of the State.

HB464, HD1, SD1, relating to health. Appropriates funds for the purchase of an additional ambulance unit for the Kakaako community, **HB1063, HD2, SD1**, which provides funding for an additional ambulance for the Moanalua, Aliamanu, Red Hill, Salt Lake and Foster Village community, and **HB481, HD1, SD1** that makes an appropriation for an ambulance based in Makalei on the island of Hawai'i.

HB444, HD3, SD2, relating to beach protection. Authorizes the use of certain transient accommodations tax revenues for beach restoration and conservation.

STATE SENATE PASSES NEARLY 200 BILLS ON SECOND CROSSOVER CONTINUED

HB1042, SD1, relating to important agricultural lands. Appropriates funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for identifying and mapping important agricultural lands, preparing the final submission package to the land use commission, and assistance with exploring county incentives for important agricultural lands.

HB1489, HD1, SD2, relating to special license plates for national parks. Authorizes the issuance of special license plates for Haleakala National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

HB858, HD2, SD2, relating to domestic violence. Permits the termination of residential rental agreements in cases of domestic violence.

HB538, HD2, SD2, relating to domestic violence. Requires wireless telecommunications service providers to release individuals from shared or family wireless plans, without charge, upon written request in documented instances of domestic violence.

HB1112, HD2, SD2, relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Requires the auditor to conduct a financial and management audit of HHSC every five years. Authorizes HHSC to negotiate master collective bargaining agreements for its employees. Authorizes a regional system of the Hawaii health systems corporation, in collaboration with a private entity, to transition any one or more of its facilities to management and operation by a new nonprofit management entity. Appropriates an unspecified amount to the department of budget and finance for an unspecified number of positions to coordinate the review of documents and examine the fiscal implications posed by a transition of any Hawaii health systems corporation facility to management and operation by a nonprofit management entity.

HB1354, HD1, SD2, relating to housing. Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to several state agencies for the purposes of improving and increasing the existing public and affordable housing stock in the State. Requires a report to the 2016 and 2017 legislature on the set-aside plan for upkeep and maintenance of the housing facilities to be constructed.

SENATE CONFIRMS SIMON RUSSELL TO BOARD OF AGRICULTURE



Members of the State Senate confirmed on Tuesday, April 27, Simon Russell to the Board of Agriculture.

Russell is the owner of Hui 'O Mālama 'Aina in Makawao, a business that promotes commercial, organic, and sustainable agriculture and agricultural tourism operations. He previously worked as Chief Engineer for Atlantis Cyberspace, Inc., where he supervised shipping and receiving of electronics hardware, built prototypes, and beta tested hardware for the dismantled warfare training of the United States National Guard and Marines. Currently, Russell serves as the State Vice President and Legislative Chairman of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United.

"Mr. Russell's background, experience and dedication to public service will truly benefit the State with his appointment to the Board of Agriculture," said Sen. English. "His position will also ensure the interests and concerns of Maui will be heard."

The State Board of Agriculture is an executive board consisting of ten members - one from each of the counties of Hawai'i, Maui and Kauai; three at-large members; the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture; Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; and the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i. It is charged with establishing broad operating policies for the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.



Sen. English enjoyed another spectacular Ha`iku Ho'olaule'a & Flower Festival. April 25, 2015.

HOUSE AND SENATE CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS ON STATE BUDGET

House and Senate conferees met to conclude negotiations on a final version of **HB500**, the state budget bill. The conferees opened discussion on the state budget last week on Tuesday, April 21st, and closed discussions four days ahead of the deadline for all fiscal bills to pass out of conference committee.

The House Conferees were: Representatives Sylvia Luke, Chair; Romy Cachola, Ty Cullen, Lynn DeCoite, Aaron Johanson, Jo Jordan, Jarrett Keohokalole, Bert Kobayashi, Nicole Lowen, Scott Nishimoto, Richard Onishi, James Tokioka, Kyle Yamashita, Feki Pouha, Gene Ward.

The Senate Conferees were: Senators Jill Tokuda, Chair; Ron Kouchi, Suzanne Chun Oakland, Donovan Dela Cruz, Kalani English, Brickwood Galuteria, Breene Harimoto, Lorraine Inouye, Gil Riviere, Russell Ruderman.

HB500 CD1, which appropriates funds for operating and capital improvement costs of the Executive Branch for the current biennium, fiscal years **FY2015-2016 and FY2016-2017**, will now go before the full House and Senate for a final vote, and if approved will be sent to the Governor for his signature.

The bill offers nearly \$6.6 billion in general funds for **FY2015-2016** and \$6.862 billion in general funds for FY2016-2017. A final version of HB500 CD1 will be available on the Capitol website after the conference draft has been filed.

“We passed a fiscally prudent budget that achieves many of the priorities of both the House and Senate”, said Sen. English. “As always, our top priority is what is in the best interest of the State and careful consideration of the interests and needs of our residents.”

It was particularly important to create fiscal policies that put us in a better position not just for this biennium, but for years to come.

Included in the budget bill is the consolidation of the purchasing power for the State’s technology projects under the office of the Chief Information Officer. The policy will allow the new CIO to develop IT projects more efficiently and reflects government transparency.

The committee also recognized the importance of natural resource protection and spent considerable time focusing on the Department of Land and Natural Resources’ budget and providing safeguards to ensure DLNR is in the best position to meet its mission.

The committee highlighted several additional budget items upon which there was agreement in the House and Senate budget drafts.

Operating Highlights

- \$50 million, in each year, for the Rental Housing Trust Fund
- \$21 million in operating funds for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation
- \$2.4 million FY16 and \$5 million FY17 for the Department of Education weighted student formula
- \$1.5 million FY16 for the Housing First Program
- \$7.5 million, in each year, for University of Hawaii system wide operating expenses and costs associated with the Violence Against Women Act and Title IX
- \$500,000 FY16 for the viability study of a Central Oahu land swap
- \$1 million, in each year, for the A+ Afterschool Program
- \$3.164 million FY16 and \$2.741 FY17 for costs associated with Halawa Correctional Facility repairs and improvement

- \$250,000 FY16 for the prevention and treatment against the invasive macadamia felted coccid
- \$2.414 million FY16 in general and federal funds for the Veteran’s Cemetery
- \$647,400 FY16 and \$319,048 FY17 for the new Nanakuli Public Library
- \$9,632,000, in each year, for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands administrative and operating expenses
- \$1.5 million, in each year, for albizia eradication and control along public state highways

CIP Highlights

- A total of \$165.8 million FY16 and \$70 million FY17 in lump sum funds to the Department of Education for building conditioning and program support
- \$44.43 million for the University of Hawaii system capital improvements program
- \$10 million FY16 for the University of Hawaii Community Colleges capital improvements program
- \$40 million FY16 for the Rental Housing Trust Fund
- \$4.15 million, in each year, in lump sum funds for public housing improvements and renovations
- A total of \$62.8 million FY17 for a veterans long-term care facility
- \$1.4 million FY16 and \$500,000 FY17 for statewide health, safety, code, and other requirements at the Department of Agriculture
- \$12 million, in each year, in lump sum funds for the maintenance of existing state facilities
- \$20 million FY16 and \$12 million FY17 in lump sum funds for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation
- \$3 million, in each year, for rockfall and flood mitigation
- \$1 million, in each year, for the Department of Land and Natural Resources watershed initiative
- \$4 million FY16 for the Department of Land and Natural Resources Maui office annex building
- \$8.5 million FY16 and \$12.5 million FY17 in lump sum funds for the Department of Public Safety
- \$129.139 million FY16 (revenue bonds) and \$86.811 million FY17 (special funds) for rental car facility improvements statewide
- \$250 million FY16 (revenue bonds) for Kapalama Military Reservation improvements at Honolulu Harbor
- A total of \$30 million, in each year, for the Department of Transportation to perform major pavement improvements statewide

Budget worksheets detailing the appropriations in the overall Executive, Judiciary and Office of Hawaiian Affairs budget bills are available on the Capitol website at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/budget/2015budget.aspx>.

J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

COMMITTEES

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Committee on Tourism &
International Affairs

...

Member, Senate Committee
on Transportation

...

Member, Senate
Committee on Ways & Means

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1.8 M IN GRANTS IN AID FUNDS
APPROPRIATED FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI

Residents of Maui County will have improved health care facilities in Hāna, a community center for Pa'ia, and a park for Kalamaula Home- steaders on Moloka'i after a panel of state law- makers reached an agreement Tuesday on the overall state budget for the current biennium, fiscal years FY2015-2016 and FY2016-2017.

The current draft of the state budget bill in- cludes \$1.825 million in funding for several key Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for Grants-in-Aid (GIA) programs and \$350,000 in operating GIA projects for Maui County.

"These projects are incredibly important for the islands of Maui and Moloka'i and will truly benefit the residents by providing much need- ed improvements in their communities," said Sen. English.

Included on the list for CIP GIA:

- \$500,000 for the plans and construction of an improved health center for Hāna Health, the only health care provider in the district.
- \$300,000 for the construction of a cultural resource center for Heritage Hall, Incorporated

in Pa'ia. The center will allow the public to ex- perience hands-on learning about the Portu- guese and Puerto Rican culture and its ties to Hawai'i history.

- \$525,000 for the construction of new admin- istration facility for Maui Youth and Family Services to support the agency's efforts to ex- pand its residential substance abuse treatment capacity on Maui.

- \$500,000 for the plans, design and construc- tion for the much needed improvements of the Kiowea Park facilities on Kalamaula Home- stead on Moloka'i.

To assist with operations, \$200,000 is being ap- propriated for Hale Mahaolu. The funding will help the Kahului-based agency with the per- sonal care services for disabled and chronically ill adults to assist them in maintaining a safe, independent lifestyle in their homes.

\$150,000 in operation funding is being allotted for Hui Malama Learning Center to assist with providing educational services to at-risk youth in Maui County.

SENATE CONFIRMS DISTRICT COURT, FIRST CIRCUIT JUDGE

Members of the State Senate confirmed William M. Domingo to the judicial office of District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. Mr. Domingo replaces Judge Leslie Hayashi who retired on November 1, 2014.

Domingo is a Farrington High School alumnus and a graduate of the University of Hawai'i un- dergraduate and law schools. He has more than 28 years of criminal law experience. Since 2005, he has been the sole practitioner of his own private law practice focusing on criminal defense representation in state and federal court in a variety of matters from traffic offenses to murder cases. Prior to going into private practice, he served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the District of Hawaii where he focused on criminal defense representation in high profile federal crimes, including drug conspiracies, white collar corruption, and violent crimes. He also served as a Deputy Public Defender for the Office of the Public Defender where he completed over eighty jury trials.

"Mr. Domingo's extensive experience, professionalism and ethics qualify him for this position," said Senator English. "He has received support from both Prosecutors and members of the Crimi- nal Defense bar who testified to his professional and respectful treatment of everyone. These are the attributes we support in a nominee to serve our citizens in the judiciary."

