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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Sometimes we must reflect on the nature of humanity and the conditions in which we live. St. Damien helps us to consider the greatness of our abilities in the face of extreme adversary. His example illuminates some of our greatest tragedies today: homelessness, disease and despair.

Have we created policies that criminalize the homeless just for being? Have our policies put the economics of the medical system before people? Have we sacrificed hope and instilled despair across our society?

All of these questions come to the fore when we take the wisdom of St. Damien's message for today. That is why the co-naming of 33rd Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues in New York City is important. That is why our residents from Kalaupapa, their kokua and supporters traveled from Hawai'i to New York City. And, that is why we passed SCR 165.

So let us consider these issues as we move ahead. If we can find a way to take care of our people without criminalizing them, without taking their dignity from them, and instilling hope, we will have remembered St. Damien's message to the world.

J. Kalani English

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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



HAWAI'I STATE SENATE
REORGANIZES LEADERSHIP

A majority of State Senators agreed to have Senator Ronald Kouchi preside as its President on May 5.

Senator Ronald Kouchi assumed the office of the President of the Senate. Senator Will Espero will continue to serve as Vice President of the Senate.

"Organizing a body composed of 25 very independent minds is always a challenge," said Senate Majority Leader, Sen. English, "However, past experience has shown that we are able to handle these transitions with respect for our colleagues and the integrity of the Senate."

Changes are being made in committee leadership, with the focus toward making the best use of the Senate member's experience, knowledge, and interests. Committee assignments will be announced when confirmed.

Sen. Kouchi was elected to the State Senate in 2012. He has served as the Senate Vice President, and has been Vice Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Vice Chair of the Committee on Tourism, and the Majority Caucus Leader. Prior to being elected to the State Senate, he served 22 years on the Kaua'i County Council, including 12 years as Council Chair. He is a former director of the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative and the Kauai Visitors Bureau.

"All of us would like to thank Senator Kim for

her leadership over the past three legislative sessions. She has served our State, our community, and our chamber well," said President Kouchi.

The Hawai'i State Senate announced a new line up of committees and committee chairs as part of its recent reorganization.

"This new alignment is consistent with our policy of making the best use of our members' skills and interests," said President Kouchi. "We believe these assignments will make us more effective as a body moving forward."

The following are the new committees and the assigned Chairs:

Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health (CPH)

- Chair: Sen. Rosalyn Baker
- Vice Chair: Sen. Michelle Kidani

Economic Development, Environment, and Technology (EET)

- Chair: Sen. Glenn Wakai
- Vice Chair: Sen. Sam Slom

Education (EDU)

- Chair: Sen. Michelle Kidani
- Vice Chair: Sen. Breene Harimoto

HAWAII STATE SENATE REORGANIZES LEADERSHIP CONTINUED

Government Operations (GVO)

Chair: Sen. Donna Mercado Kim

Vice Chair: Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.

Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)

Chair: Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro

Vice Chair: Sen. J. Kalani English

Human Services (HMS)

Chair: Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland

Vice Chair: Sen. Gil Riviere

Higher Education and the Arts (HEA)

Chair: Sen. Brian Taniguchi

Vice Chair: Sen. Gilbert Kahele

Housing (HOU)

Chair: Sen. Breene Harimoto

Vice Chair: Sen. Brickwood Galuteria

Judiciary and Labor (JDL)

Chair: Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Vice Chair: Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro

Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs (PSM)

Chair: Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara

Vice Chair: Sen. Will Espero

Tourism and International Affairs (TSI)

Chair: Sen. Gilbert Kahele

Vice Chair: Sen. J. Kalani English

Transportation and Energy (TRE)

Chair: Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye

Vice Chair: Sen. Mike Gabbard

Water, Land, and Agriculture (WLA)

Chair: Sen. Mike Gabbard

Vice Chair: Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara

Ways and Means (WAM)

Chair: Sen. Jill N. Tokuda

Vice Chair: Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Additional Committee Chairmanships and assignments are still being considered.

The new confirmed committee assignments are effective immediately.

As the Senate reorganizes, members of Senate leadership will not act as committee chairs. This division of duties allows the Senate to more broadly balance and distribute power within this chamber and better respond to the needs of our state. Senate leadership will be as follows:

Senate President: Sen. Ronald Kouchi

Senate Vice President: Sen. Will Espero

Majority Leader: Sen. J. Kalani English

Majority Floor Leader: Sen. Josh Green

Majority Caucus Leader: Sen. Brickwood Galuteria

Majority Whip: Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz



\$165 MILLION APPROPRIATED FOR MAUI CIP

State budget funding supports needed renovation projects across Maui County

Hawaii lawmakers passed the State budget bill, **HB 500 HD1 SD1 CD1** that includes \$165 million in Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) for the County of Maui.

Among the important projects included in the budget is \$20 million for FY2015-2016 for repairs and maintenance projects at Maui Memorial Hospital and \$12 million for FY2016-2017 to be used towards improvements at Kula Hospital and Lana'i Community Hospital.

Maui Senators were instrumental in ensuring the important concerns and needs of the residents in their districts were addressed in the biennium budget.

"I'm glad to see significant transportation upgrades in Hana, including over \$33 million for Hana Airport and over \$6 million for roadway improvements. All of that really speaks to our commitment to protecting the health and safety of our residents, which is a worthwhile investment," said Sen. English.

The budget includes \$10 million for an 8 classroom building at Lahainaluna High School, the oldest school west of the Rockies, and \$2.25 million for emergency dredging and replacement of buoys at Lahaina Small Boat Harbor.



SENATE APPROVES 205 BILLS IN FINAL READING

The full Senate passed 205 bills including measures to protect undeveloped land on O'ahu's North Shore, increase the food/excise tax credit, and ensure funding to care for Hawai'i's elderly during final reading on May 5.

"I am proud of the Senate's accomplishments this session," said Sen. English, "We resolved a number of lingering issues, including Turtle Bay. We also provided support for some of our most fragile members of our community; the homeless, our seniors, our preschoolers, as well as provided safeguards for our natural resources."

Senators also approved several measures that include provisions to support the Senate's Legislative Agenda set forth at the beginning of the 2015 Session to move Hawai'i towards a more resilient and sustainable State.

"The budget that was passed today is one that is fiscally prudent, yet addresses many of the priorities of the Senate and the House. Although we were working with a lean budget, we were able to position the State to be in a better position not just for this biennium, but for years to come," said Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair of the Senate Ways and Means committee. The State budget bill **HB500 CD1** approved nearly \$6.6 billion in general funds for FY2015-2016 and \$6.862 billion in general funds for FY2016-2017.

A few of the bills that the Senate approved today include:

Autism Coverage: SB791 CD1 would mandate that insurance companies cover up to \$25,000 a year in treatment until a child turns 14.

Turtle Bay: SB284 CD1 allows the state to enter into an agreement with the owners of Turtle Bay that would protect 665 acres of undeveloped land on the North Shore of Oahu.

Free Dual Credit Programs for High-Schoolers: SB374 CD1 would waive college tuition for high school students in dual credit programs, such as Running Start and Jump Start, at the University of Hawai'i's community colleges.

Health Connector Assistance: SB1028 CD1 would provide \$2 million next year for the health insurance marketplace.

Food/Excise Tax Credit: SB555 CD1 would increase the food/excise tax credit, which hasn't been changed since it was established in 2007.

Preschool Open Doors: SB64 CD1 would restore \$6 million necessary to run the Preschool Open Doors Program, the statewide school readiness program, next year.

Community-Based Renewable Energy Projects: SB1050 CD1 would establish a community-based renewable energy program, which allows electric utility customers to participate in renewable energy projects that produce electricity, which they can sell back to electric utility companies.

Barrel Tax: SB359 CD1 would fund the Environmental Response Revolving Fund with the general fund instead of the barrel tax to ensure there is a consistent stream of funding that supplies investments in clean energy, local agricultural production and environmental emergency responses.

Kupuna Care: SB964 CD1 would provide an additional \$3 million to fund the Kupuna Care program in fiscal year 2016, which is in addition to the base budget of \$4.8 million.

Sex Trafficking: SB265 CD1 would ban sex trafficking and raise the penalties to a class A felony and promote the concept of treating prostitutes as victims rather than criminals.

Homeless ID cards: SB273 CD1 would allow homeless people to apply for state identification cards even without the required state and federal documents if a social service organization, attorney, member of the clergy, correctional institution staff or health professional presents a signed statement certifying their personal information. It would waive fees for homeless individuals.

Ethanol Repeal: SB717 CD1 repeals the existing requirement that gasoline for motor vehicles be composed of 10 percent ethanol.

Hawai'i Resiliency and Sustainability: SB892 CD1 appropriates funding for Hawai'i resiliency and sustainability strategy in the areas of broadband, energy efficiency and smart grid, and water and sewer infrastructure.

Affirmative Consent: SB387, CD1 would establish an affirmative consent task force to review and make recommendations on the University of Hawai'i's executive policy on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

Multi-Track: SB1345 CD1 would require the Department of Education to develop a transition plan to end multi-track schedules in public schools.

The bills approved were also approved by the House and were sent to the Governor for his signature, veto, or passage without his signature.



J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

COMMITTEES

Vice Chair, Senate
Committee on Tourism &
International Affairs

...

Member, Senate Committee
on Transportation

...

Member, Senate
Committee on Ways & Means

...



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

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Vol.15 Issue 9 pg.4 • May 15, 2015

SEN. ENGLISH JOINS FLEMISH GOVERNMENT IN HONORING SAINT DAMIEN IN NEW YORK



Sen. English introduced resolutions acknowledging the people of Kalaupapa and supporting co-naming part of 33rd Street to Father Damien Way in New York City.

The Aloha spirit was well-represented during a ceremony held May 12, on the streets of New York City where a portion of 33rd Street was co-named **Father Damien Way** in honor of Saint Damien De Veuster. The portion of the street named after the Belgium Saint is located near the Mid-Atlantic Regional Hansen's Disease Center at Bellevue Hospital, which provides testing and treatment of the disease.

Sen. English was among those attending the inauguration honoring the legacy of the Belgium priest, along with Kalaupapa residents, members of the Catholic Diocese of Hawai'i and New York, local community and business leaders, and government officials from Belgium.

"Saint Damien's selfless work caring for Hansen's disease patients in Kalaupapa on the island of Moloka'i is an inspiration for all of us," said Sen. English. "I was elated to be a part of this celebration recognizing this remarkable man."

Sen. English introduced **Senate Concurrent Resolution 165** which was passed this legislative session, supporting the co-naming of a section of 33rd Street in New York City to **Father Damien Way**. Sen. English also introduced SCR 208, which the Hawai'i State Legislature passed in 2008, which acknowledges the sacrifice of the people of Kalaupapa and apologizes for the harsh restrictions of which people with leprosy endured in the years between 1866 and 1969.

Born Jozef De Veuster, the 19th-century Roman Catholic priest from Belgium entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Leuven, took the name of Damien, and left for Hawai'i as a missionary in 1864. For 16 years, Father Damien ministered to those who had

been exiled to the Kalaupapa colony because of Hansen's disease, also known as leprosy, until he eventually contracted the disease and succumbed to it in 1889. Father Damien was canonized by the Vatican on October 11, 2009.

About Flanders House NY

Established as a non-profit organization in the United States, Flanders House NY is the official representation of and funded by the Government of Flanders, a regional government of Belgium in the U.S. Flanders House promotes a better understanding of the region of Flanders through the arts, science, technology, and education in U.S.



Above: Sen. English addresses the distinguished guests in The Metropolitan Club with His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, (left) and The Honorable Geert Bourgeois, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders (right).

Below: Musicians Andy Wang, Claudia Goddard, and Chris Teale serenading guests with traditional Hawaiian tunes and Hula. May 12, 2015.

Photos by Nersa Miller

