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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

In our effort to expand opportunities for better public participation, the Legislature has launched the Hawai'i Statewide Public Access Network-HSPAN. We hope you will use this new tool as we move ahead.

Bills have been moving in the Senate and shortly all surviving bills will be in their second committees for consideration. Our process continues and with the Senate's paperless initiative, we encourage you to go to: www.capitol.hawaii.gov to track measures and receive notification of pending actions on bills.

Finally, if you are still receiving this newsletter in the mail, please consider switching to our electronic version. Simply send us an e-mail at: english4@capitol.hawaii.gov, and include your mailing address. We will then add you to our email list and delete your paper mailing address.

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAII STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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

"The Senate has long been an advocate of government transparency and has strived to increase public participation in the legislative process."



'ŌLELO COMMUNITY MEDIA AND HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE LAUNCHES NEW STATE CAPITOL TELEVISION SYSTEM AND OCEANIC ON-DEMAND CHANNEL 50

In the Hawai'i State Legislature's Auditorium on Jan. 26, 2016, the Hawai'i State Legislature and 'Ōlelo Community Media unveiled a new statewide on-demand channel called HSPAN that will significantly increase the coverage of Capitol activities available to the public.

HSPAN – the Hawai'i Statewide Public Access Network – was created to provide cable subscribers throughout the State with expanded access to the Legislature's meetings and is already available for viewing. In addition to legislative hearings, the State executive offices, executive branch agencies, and the Judiciary will have access to provide content on HSPAN.

New remote-controlled Sony HD cameras have been installed in 16 conference rooms, both the House and Senate Chambers and the Capitol Auditorium. This will allow for multiple hearings to be captured simultaneously and distributed on HSPAN, Oceanic Time Warner Cable's digital Channel 50.

The new statewide on-demand channel is in addition to the live coverage currently provided by

Capitol TV, which airs on 'Ōlelo Channel 49 and 54, and other community access stations across the State: Hō'ike on Kauai, 'Akakū on Maui and Nā Leo TV on Hawai'i Island. Capitol TV is a State-contracted production company.

The new service will offer Hawai'i residents sig-

nificantly increased access to coverage of legislative activities. Committee hearings, floor sessions and any special sessions in the chambers, auditorium and hearing rooms can be archived on HSPAN for on-demand viewing.

'Ōlelo partnered with Oceanic and the State of Hawai'i to design and build the necessary infrastructure:

- Oceanic provided fiber optic cable throughout the Capitol to connect all 16 conference rooms' audio, video and data lines for the remote camera controls to the control room
- The clerk's office and information technology staff designed and executed the recording and uploading workflow to be fully supported by their departments
- 'Ōlelo developed the master plan for the design, purchase and roll-out of the hardware and software; installed over 30 Sony HD cameras; and designed and installed the upgraded control room

"The Senate has long been an advocate of government transparency and has strived to increase public participation in the legislative process," said Sen. English, Senate majority leader. "HSPAN follows our initiative to effect good governance and allows for our constituents, particularly on the neighbor islands, unfiltered accessibility to legislative action at the Capitol."

NEW STATE CAPITOL TELEVISION SYSTEM CONTINUED



Senator English receives a plaque from Sanford Inouye, President & CEO of 'Ōlelo Community Media commemorating the launch of 'Ōlelo Channel 50 on Oceanic Cable. Jan. 26, 2016.

About 'Ōlelo Community Media

Established in 1989, 'Ōlelo Community Media is a private, nonprofit provider of community access television services and resources on O'ahu. It is committed to building, convening and

strengthening communities and providing a voice for people to share their stories and ideas about issues of importance to foster community engagement and well-being.

'Ōlelo airs programs of special community interest on its four cable channels: 49, 53, 54 and 55.

On-demand programming is also available on Oceanic Channel 50 (State Government) and Channel 52 (public).

'Ōlelo's mission is to strengthen our island voices and advance community engagement through innovative media. For more information, visit www.olelo.org.



Senators Roz Baker and J. Kalani English with Jay April, President and CEO of 'Akakū TV Maui. Jan. 26, 2016.

MEETINGS AT THE STATE CAPITOL



Top - State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF) planning meeting for the 2016 SLLF Majority Leaders Conference to be held in Honolulu later this year. Feb. 11, 2016.

Right - Sen. English met with the Maui County members of the Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA). Clockwise from lower left - Mike Landes (red shirt), Romeo Eleno, Laura Buller, Sen. English, Pat Niiibu, Ann Anusewicz, Justin Hughey, Lester Kunimitsu, and Lokelani Han. Feb. 5, 2016.

Right - Sen. English met with the Board of Directors for the newly chartered Micronesia Resource Research Institute. (From L to R) Luhk en Lengso, (Ricky Carl) Secretary/Treasurer; Glen Hayashida, President; Senator J. Kalani English, Member; Luhkpein en Lengso, (Emeliana J. Musrasrik) Vice President; Nanei Nett, (Elizabeth Hadley) Member. The institute was chartered in the Federated States of Micronesia to help with bilateral issues. Feb. 9, 2016.



STATE SENATE BIDS FAREWELL TO SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE



The Capitol Ohana from the Senate, House, and Executive Office, along with family, friends and former colleagues in a number of State Departments, participated in a stirring tribute and outpouring of love for the late State Senator Gilbert Kahele. The brief ceremony outside the Capitol on February 2, 2016, included Ke Kahili Nui (Hawaiian feathered standards), kani pu (conch blowers), and the Kanikau (mourning chant). After the ceremony, the motorcade continued on to the

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl for a flag-folding ceremony. The late Sen. Kahele was flown to Hilo in the afternoon, where a motorcade traveled through Hilo. Community members and school students paused to pay their respects as the motorcade passed by.

The following is an excerpt of the Moment of Contemplation shared by Sen. Brickwood Galuteria on the floor of the Senate:

"It is rare that all three branches of government gaze in the same direction at the same time, but we did this morning. And when an anuenu (rainbow) appeared joined by soft ua (rain), the farewell was complete, because that was Gil saying aloha to us."

2016 SUBSTANTIVE BILLS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ENGLISH

Sen. English is the primary introducer of the following bills. To search for the content and status of a bill go to the following link: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

- [SB 2571](#)** 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 high 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'i'hau. Specifies minimum number of teachers for Hāna high and elementary school.
- [SB 2572](#)** Allows for several factors to be weighted for the weighted student formula including 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 2573](#)** 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 high school located at least a one-hour drive away from the next nearest high school or a high school located on the island of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau.
- [SB 2574](#)** 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 2575](#)** Prohibits the planting of a genetically engineered seed or plant part in an open field.
- [SB 2576](#)** Mandates the department of agriculture to take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent, or minimize the adverse effects of biotechnology and genetic engineering.
- [SB 2577](#)** Beginning January 1, 2017, requires labeling requirements for any food or raw agricultural commodity sold in the State that contains a genetically engineered material, or was produced with a genetically engineered material.
- [SB 2578](#)** Beginning on December 1, 2016, requires the removal of certain 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 to the date of the request for the abstract.
- [SB 2579](#)** Designates certain state waters surrounding the north coast from Kalaupapa to Halawa head of the island of Moloka'i as the Moloka'i Community-Based Fishing Area.
- [SB 2580](#)** Adds deer to the list of animals included in the theft of livestock offense.
- [SB 2581](#)** Legalizes the personal use of marijuana in a specified quantity. Requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. Subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.
- [SB 2582](#)** Appropriates funds to the Kahō'olawe Island Reserve Commission for restoration and preservation projects.
- [SB 2583](#)** Mandates the counties to approve the installation and use of composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems.
- [SB 2584](#)** Requires the department of commerce and consumer affairs to allocate all unencumbered revenues derived from collected franchise fees for the establishment of a Hawaiian language television channel.
- [SB 2585](#)** Clarifies when pedestrians may enter a crosswalk equipped with a countdown timer.
- [SB 2787](#)** Provides the authority, procedures, and licensing requirements related to the production of industrial hemp as an agricultural product. Requires the department of agriculture to promote industrial hemp research and development of markets for industrial hemp. Requires the possession, use, sale, or transfer of industrial hemp for research and development purposes to not constitute certain offenses involving a detrimental drug.
- [SB 2788](#)** Authorizes Moloka'i irrigation system water users advisory board members to designate an agent, officer, or employee. Removes requirement that members be an active general excise tax licensee.
- [SB 3016, SD1](#)** Repeals the confidentiality protection afforded under the Uniform Information Practices Act for certain information regarding misconduct of police officers that results in suspension. (The bill was heard by the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs on February 4 and was passed with technical amendments and a defective, effective date for further discussion by subsequent committees.)
- [SB 3017](#)** Appropriates funds to the John A. Burns School of Medicine to fund medical residency programs to help alleviate the shortage of primary care physicians in rural O'ahu and neighbor island communities.
- [SB 3018](#)** Creates a pilot project to transfer maintenance and repair functions of state highways from the state department of transportation to counties with populations that are divided among at least three islands.
- [SB 3019](#)** Prohibits the issuance of new building permits unless it is established that the building will be furnished with equipment that allows for the collection and use of gray water for irrigation.
- [SB 3120](#)** Exempts the gross proceeds of any qualified small farmer from the general excise tax for a maximum of 5 years.
- [SB 3121](#)** Authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist PQ Energy LLC and to be formed special purpose entities with the development and construction of renewable energy plants within the State of Hawai'i.
- [SB 3122](#)** Appropriates funds for capital improvement projects in the 7th senatorial district.
- [SB 3124](#)** Requires the chairperson of the PUC to obtain concurrence of at least one other commissioner in order to appoint, employ, and dismiss an executive officer. Authorizes each commissioner of the PUC to appoint up to five professional staff and other assistants, at least one who shall serve as an attorney to the commissioner.

J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

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STATE SENATE BIDS FAREWELL TO SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE



Hawai'i's State Senators journeyed to Hilo on the evening of Feb. 8 for a memorial service celebrating the life of Senator Gilbert Kahele. Songs and stories, along with smiles and tears, filled the Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium for "An Evening of Aloha" to remember the Senator.

The program reflected the many aspects of Sen. Kahele's life. The Star Spangled Banner and Hawai'i Pono'i sung by Danny Kaleikini and a Flag Folding and Presentation Ceremony recognized Sen. Kahele's service in the U.S. Marine Corps. Musical performances of "Great Hawaiian Man" by Brother Noland Conjugacion and "Miloli'i" by Kuana Torres-Kahele and Auntie Diana Aki honored the late Senator's passion and commitment to support and perpetuate the Hawaiian culture. The program also included words of remembrance from Kahu Daniel K. Akaka, Jr., Governor David Ige, Hawai'i Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, and Hawai'i Island Mayor Billy Kenoi.

Sen. Kahele had represented District 1 since 2011, when he was appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie. He was subsequently elected for a second term in 2012. He was 73.

More photos from "An Evening of Aloha" can be viewed here: flickr.com/hawaiisenatemajority