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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

We've reached a critical time of the Legislative Session when bills that have passed three readings by the Senate are headed for "crossover" to the House chamber for consideration. If these bills that the Senate has moved forward are passed by our colleagues in the House, then the bills have a chance to become law with the Governor's signature. There are more than 260 measures the Senate has passed, many of which align with the 2016 Legislative Package we established as priorities before Session began. The Senate understands the concerns and needs of our constituents and are continually working to make our State a better place. A complete list of the bills passed by the Senate to date this biennium is available on the Capitol website at: www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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



SENATORS HONOR HEROES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES

Whether it's Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD), Miconia, or the Giant Day Gecko, there are individuals in our state who are tackling these unwanted environmental threats head on. Hawaii State Senators were on hand to honor these heroes who have been instrumental in the fight against invasive species.

On February 26, Sen. English presented an award on behalf of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to shipping company, Young Brothers, LTD. for their initiative and response to stop the spread of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. The actions of the company to stop shipments of 'ōhi'a products from Hawai'i Island showed foresight and understanding of the implications of a Statewide spread of ROD. The full affect and extent of their actions may not be known, but HISC said in any "outbreak" scenario, rapid response and containment are extremely important. Nathan Kapule, Safety and Environmental Manager at Young Brothers, accepted the award on behalf of the company.

Sen. English also presented the award for Maui County MVP to Dr. James Leary for his efforts relating to controlling the spread and impact of invasive species in Hawai'i. Best known for his development of Herbicide Ballistic Technology (HBT), Leary continues to seek improvements and expand the list of species for which it can be used. In 2015, James Leary organized a county-wide weed workshop on

Maui, bringing together more than 50 field staff from conservation organizations to share their successes and offer solutions to identified problems. He supports professional development of staff in conservation organizations and willingly shares his knowledge and expertise with key conservation funders and elected officials. His efforts to streamline and improve HBT application methods resulted in the control of over 3000 Miconia plants in difficult to access areas of East Maui.

Sen. Mike Gabbard (Dist. 20 – Kapolei, Makahilo, and portions of 'Ewa, Kalaeloa, and Waipahu) presented the O'ahu MVP award on behalf of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to Paul Zweng for outstanding leadership and cooperation in controlling invasive species on O'ahu and setting an example for landowners to be actively engaged in invasive species control. Zweng has been controlling invasive plant species and restoring native forest at his 1,400-acre property at Waikāne Valley since 2010. With an infectious enthusiasm for habitat restoration, Zweng freely shares his passion with the many volunteers he coordinates. The Ōhulehule Forest Conservancy, which Zweng founded, is an active member of the Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership. Zweng is also a founding member of the O'ahu Weed Working Group, an alliance of land management agencies, which aims to increase greater continuity of invasive weed control on the

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HEROES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES CONTINUED



Sen. English presented an award to Dr. James Leary for his efforts in controlling the spread and impact of invasive species. Nathan Kapule of Young Brothers Ltd., was also honored for the company's initiative and quick response to stop the spread of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. Feb. 26, 2016.

Island of O'ahu.

Sen. Gabbard also presented the award for Hottest Pest Report to Laura Hew for her efforts relating to reporting and stopping the spread of the Giant Day Gecko. As a proactive community member, Hew promptly reported sightings of these environmentally hazardous reptiles to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. Her actions demonstrate the success of the 643PEST reporting system, and highlight how the community can personally take actions to protect Hawai'i.

Other awards included:

- Kay Howe, the Community Hero awardee, for her dedication to increase public awareness and education on the dangers of rat lungworm disease.
- Judith Houle, recognized as the Hawai'i County MVP, for her community efforts and her volunteer work controlling invasive species in Hawaiian Paradise Park.
- J.B. Friday, Flint Hughes, and Lisa Keith, honored for their efforts in the combat and research of ROD.
- Menard recognized as the Kauai County MVP for his efforts to protect watershed areas and control the spread of invasive species on the Island of Kaua'i.

The awards culminated Hawai'i's 4th Annual Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness week.

KA IPU KUKUI FELLOWS MEETS WITH THE HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE



Ka ipu kukui Fellows is a year-long program developed to train community-identified future leaders. It is designed to promote and develop tomorrow's leaders through a community-based program designed to address planning for Maui's future.



This year, the Fellows met with Senator English and the Maui lawmakers from both branches of the legislature for a lunch meeting in the Lt. Governor's Office on February 18, to discuss the legislative process, personal observations as a public official and current issues regarding the Country of Maui and the State as whole.

"I look forward each year to our Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows luncheon meeting," said Sen. English. "This is a great opportunity to gain insight and perspective on the issues and concerns important to our young leaders."

2016 GIA 7TH DISTRICT APPLICANTS

Aka'ula School (Aka'ula) is an independent private school located in Kualapu'u, Moloka'i that was established in 2003. Aka'ula provides students with an alternative to attending Molokai's sole middle and high school. The school serves students from grades 5 through 12 who come from diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds. Currently, there are 38 students attending Aka'ula, 78% of whom are Hawaiian or Part-Hawaiian.

The purpose and goal of their GIA request is to obtain funding to finance phase one of the school's long term objective of purchasing the 2-acres of land that the school is currently occupying. The complex is known as the Kualapu'u Business Center. The school occupies one of the buildings that was built in 1953 and has been well maintained throughout the years. A variety of office and retail businesses fill the other spaces.

Hale Mahaolu is the sponsoring agency for Hale Mahaolu Ewalu. Since 1967 Hale Mahaolu has owned, sponsored, developed and managed 14 properties in Maui County that provides housing and support services to low and moderate income elderly and families in the State of Hawai'i.

The grant-in-aid will be used to develop a senior affordable rental housing campus at the Kula-malu Town Center Subdivision. The development will consist of a senior center, adult day care center, a maintenance shop, and affordable rental housing units. The project will serve the elderly population, those 62 years of age or older, who meet the very-low income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and are capable of achieving an independent living status with little or no supportive services. These services will allow the elderly to age in place and avoid premature placement into a nursing home.

2016 GRANTS IN AID (GIA) 7TH DISTRICT APPLICANTS CONTINUED

Hui No'ēau (Hui No'ēau) Visual Art Center is an educational organization dedicated to sharing the visual arts with the entire community. The Hui's programs, exhibitions, facilities and outreach projects benefit over 20,000 artists, youth, educators and community members in Maui County.

The objective of Hui No'ēau's request is to preserve the historic buildings and properties, the Kaluanui Preservation & Stewardship Program, that house Hui No'ēau. Appropriately maintained facilities and grounds improve accessibility to the arts and a piece of living history and provide a safe, efficient work and learning environment. Without arts oriented universities or private art schools on Maui, Hui No'ēau provides an essential and unique visual arts education resource. The entire community will benefit from the preservation, enhancement and increased sustainability of the 25-acre estate.

Kalamaula Homesteaders Association (KHA) – Kalamaula was the first Hawaiian Homestead community developed in 1921 after the establishment of the Hawaiian Homes Act. KHA was founded in 1961 and has been a non-profit since January 2010. KHA was established to: challenge and inspire youth who live on homestead land to achieve their full potential; promote better health for the community; preserve and protect the natural environment; restore historic buildings; improve Kiowea Park; ensure fire safety for the community; development of live-stock ventures and plays a critical advocacy role for the community.

Funds from the grant will be used to build a new larger sheltered pavilion; update restrooms and septic system; establish a community business and retail incubator for the community; and install alternative energy resource technology. The redevelopment of the facilities will provide an avenue for the fulfillment of social, cultural, economic and educational needs of the community.

Kaupo Community Association (KCA) – Residents of Kaupo have been gathering for years to prioritize their community needs and to find a way to utilize and restore the Old Kaupo School property. The Association was formed in 1997 as an ad-hoc community organization. In 2015, the KCA was incorporated as a non-profit to acquire a long-term lease to the Kaupo School parcel, which includes a classroom building, teacher's cottage and other improvements.

GIA funds will be utilized for the restoration of the Old Kaupo School for a community center and disaster mitigation use for the remote Kaupo community. The on-site structures have not been used for years and have fallen into severe disrepair. Therefore, they are currently dangerous for public use. There are no electrical infrastructure or public facilities available in the Kaupo area. The intent of KCA is to restore the buildings to serve as a community gathering place. Also, during severe weather or emergencies the community and the visitors to the area will have a safe shelter and a place to find vital information and supplies.

Moloka'i Homestead Farmers Alliance (MHFA) was organized in 2006 by a group of homestead farmers to advocate for the protection of water rights for homestead farmers. Since then, MHFA has provided

education to our farmers and community by updating them on laws pertaining to food and safety, water issues, certifications, agriculture laws, trainings and innovative technology tools for farmers to expand their produce and product.

The proposed project will provide improvements and renovations to the Lanikeha Center, which is the only large facility in the Ho'olehua, Moloka'i area. The Center is a priority for many farmers and community members for events, meetings and fundraisers. The request also includes funds for a certified kitchen to allow for small food business owners to prepare food, small and large farmers to prepare their produce and product to ship out to neighbor islands. The Center holds workshops about regulations and policy, such as food safety and water issues. The Center will also be renovated to serve as the Community Emergency Center.

The Moloka'i Land Trust (MLT) is a federally recognized public charity created in 2006 to preserve and restore Moloka'i's unique natural and cultural resources and to benefit the island's population. MLT has embarked on an ambitious program to restore roughly 2,000 acres it presently owns to pre-settlement natural habitats and to protect and make accessible the valuable archeological resources on its lands.

GIA funds will be used for the development of environmental science education facility for MLT in Kualapu'u, Moloka'i. The target population to be served is the K-12 school children of Moloka'i and their teachers. Secondly, the facility will affect the adult volunteers who help organize these programs and support the children and the teachers. The goal of MLT is to transform the educational programs thus far implemented by MLT into a solid STEM related environmental science education program for all schools on Moloka'i.

Pacific Historic Parks (PHP) is a non-profit association that supports and funds educational and interpretive programs for the National Park Service and State Park sites within Hawai'i and the Pacific. PHP was founded in 1979 as the Arizona Memorial Museum Association. Over the years, the organization has expanded to include other large parks that includes Kalaupapa National Historical Park (KNHP).

In 1987, PHP entered an agreement with the NPS to support and fund education programs, museum displays and exhibits, and interpretive programs at KNHP. PHP is seeking funds for 2 projects:

1) Bayview Historic Preservation & Asbestos Removal. The complex is in a neighborhood that was once home to several patients with advanced stages of Hansen's disease. During the repair process of a dormitory in 2014, asbestos was found in the plumbing, which halted all ongoing and planned historic preservation projects. For health and safety reasons, asbestos abatement is necessary.

2) Pali Trail Hazardous Material Removal. The old Kalaupapa Lookout at Pālā'au State Park at the top of the Pali Trail is the only location in the park where staff can interact with visitors younger than 16. The area serves as an entry way to the park for most visitors. An old metal pre-fabricated shed and associated hazardous material is hampering the development of the gardens and outreach facility. Immediate removal of the shed and hazardous materials is needed for health and safety reasons and to improve the aesthetics at the main visitors' entry point.

J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

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HAWAI'I TOURISM DAY

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association (HLTA) hosted the first ever "Tourism Day at the Capitol" on February 23rd from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on the 4th floor of the State Capitol.

Tourism Day was a combination of education and advocacy, the two main missions of HLTA. The three main components of this event consisted of an educational seminar, a hospitality expo and a legislative meet and greet.

The morning opened up with an educational session highlighting the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the association's legislative priorities, tourism today and building a strong future for tourism. Guest speakers included Sen. English, as the Senate Tourism Vice-Chair; Mufi Hannemann, President & CEO, HLTA; Rick Egged, Waikiki Improvement Association; Bitsy Kelley, Outrigger Enterprises Group; Mark McGuffie, International Union for Nature of Nature, and Principal Keith Hayashi, Waipahu High School.

"To ensure that the tourist industry in Hawai'i remains vibrant," notes Sen. English. "Integrating sustainability concepts and practices as well as Hawaiian culture into the tourism experience is necessary."

From 10:00 am to 1:00 pm the fourth floor foyer of the State Capitol was turned into a tourism expo, featuring exhibits by HLTA, hotels and other tourism businesses, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions. The day ended with a meet and greet held by HLTA, giving our government leaders and key industry stakeholders an opportunity to meet over lunch.



ISLAND AIR DISCONTINUES FLIGHTS TO LĀNA'I

"I'm both dismayed and disappointed by Island Air's announcement to discontinue service to Lāna'i," said Sen. English, whose Senate District 7 includes Lāna'i. "While I understand the financial challenges that played into the decision, my main concern is for the residents of Lāna'i who depend on air travel for essential activities such as business and medical appointments. Significant steps are being made towards revitalizing Lāna'i to become a prominent tourism destination and I hope this doesn't deter from that progress. My hope is that reliable air service will continue to Lāna'i and as Island Air works to stabilize its business, the company will reconsider resuming interisland flights to the island."