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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

During the Legislative Session, each month brings its own challenges. March was no exception as the Senate heard House Bills and the House heard bills from the Senate.

March was also a time for public gathering, sharing and celebrating at the Capitol; a time for contemplating spring and new growth and for renewal as we prepare for the work that still lies ahead.

Follow us and stay current on the issues as we continue our work by going to the following link: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

*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



HONORING EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP DURING EDUCATION WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

The Senate recognized a number of Honorees March 17 and 18th during Education Week at the Capitol. Congratulations to Joy Takatsuka for being Maui Teacher of the Year.

Other recipients include:

Winston Sakurai on being named a National Association of Secondary School Principals Digital Principal for the Year 2016.

Principal Dean Cevallos on being named the 2015 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award Winner.

Kaelepulu Elementary School, Hahaione Elementary School, and Palisades Elementary School on being nominated as 2015 Blue Ribbon Schools.

Haleiwa Elementary Principal Malaea Wetzels on being named Hawai'i's 2015 National Distinguished Principal.



## UH MĀNOA SCHOOL OF PACIFIC AND ASIAN STUDIES HONORS SENATOR ENGLISH WITH INAUGURAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



Sen. English was recognized as the inaugural recipient of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Pacific and Asian Studies Distinguished Graduate Award in Pacific Islands Studies.

At a ceremony held on March 9, at the Center for Korean Studies at the East-West Center, Sen. English was honored for his accomplishments serving his community for nearly 20 years as a Senator and Maui County Councilmember, and for his work as an advisor, advocate and active member of committees and organizations that promote understanding of the Pacific Islands and issues of concern to Pacific Islanders.

"We selected Senator English to receive this prestigious award because he exemplifies our center's mission," said Terence Wesley-Smith, PhD, Professor and Director for the Center for Pacific Islands Studies. "We are impressed by Senator English's record of public service in Hawai'i, as well as his many efforts to further relations with countries across the Pacific Islands region."

"I'm deeply honored to receive this award," said Sen. English. "This field of study has much more potential in areas such as law, social sciences, economy, communications, and government. The fact that the Pacific Islands are gaining in influence as one community and one large economic and social block only signifies the impact this program can have in this state, in this world, in the future."



Sen. English earned his B.A. in Pacific Islands Studies from Hawai'i Loa College in 1989. He is an alumnus of the East-West Center's Institute of Culture and Communication, and completed graduate studies at UH Mānoa in 1995 with an M.A. in Pacific Islands Studies. He was an adviser to the Permanent Mission of Federated States of Micronesia to the UN, served as Former President of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, and as a member of the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators, American Council for Young Political Leaders, and Council of State Governments West Executive Committee.



Bilingual in English and Hawaiian languages and proficient in Mandarin, Sen. English served on the Maui County Council before joining the Hawai'i State Senate in November 2000. He currently serves as the Senate Majority Leader and vice chair of the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Tourism and International Affairs, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Transportation and Energy.

The School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS) has more than 1,800 alumni worldwide who have gone on to be successful in industry, research and in their communities. The award was established to profile, highlight, acknowledge and recognize SPAS alumni.

*Left center, Sen. English & Terence Wesley-Smith, Director, Center for Pacific Island Studies, Univ. of Hawai'i at Mānoa. March 9, 2016.*

*Left Bottom: Sen. English & Dr. R. Anderson Sutton, Dean, School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS), UH Manoa. March 9, 2016.*

*Right bottom: Dr. Lonny Carlile, Director, Center for Japanese Studies, Chizuko Endo, Taiko Center of the Pacific, Sen. English and Terence Wesley-Smith. March 9, 2016.*



**King Kekaulike, Track & Field Facility  
Improvements**

\$1 million was released by the Governor for improvements at King Kekaulike High School to replace the aged track and grass field. The school was established in 1995 with a freshmen class of 383 students, a grade level was added each year to include grades 9-12. By 1999, the student body consisted of 1,311 students. The first boys Maui Interscholastic League (MIL) Championship was for soccer in the 1999-2000 season; since then the school has won numerous MIL titles in different sports.

“Our communities have grown tremendously over the past decade,” said Sen. English. “Replacing the track and grass field is needed to provide our increasing number of athletes adequate facilities in appreciation of their dedication to sports.”

**Moloka'i Irrigation System Improvements,  
Department of Agriculture**

\$38,000 was released to fund design of a main circuit breaker and control connection required by Maui Electric Company for the Moloka'i Irrigation System's (MIS) planned hydro plant. The 25-mile long Moloka'i irrigation system, owned and managed by the State Department of Agriculture, provides water to residents, homesteaders and farmers on Moloka'i's central plains.

“The MIS is a major consumer of electricity used for pumping water in the Waikolu Stream and from wells into the system,” states Sen. English. “Hydroelectric power generation could reduce the costs of operating and maintaining the system and reducing the amount of electricity purchased to pump water into the system. Also, small hydro-power projects would reduce our dependency on imported oil and support sustainability.”

As the Twenty-Eighth Legislative Session enters its last month before Adjournment Sine Die on May 5, the following are the remaining bills that Sen. English introduced in January.

**SB 2583** Relating to Composting Toilets - Act 187, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2015, authorized the counties to approve the installation and use of composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems. This Bill mandates the counties to approve the installation and use of composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems.

“Composting toilets are practical and makes sense in areas where water is scarce or in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems,” notes Sen. English. “Many parts of my district are remote, composting toilets would be practical in those areas; such use promotes sustainability principles.”

**SB 2585**, SD1 Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code – This Bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), sec. 291C-33 (Pedestrian-control signals) to reflect current traffic signals in use today that utilizes countdown timers. The section was last amended in 1981 and still refers to “Walk” and “Don't Walk” traffic signals and does not have any reference to signals with count down timers.

“Pedestrian safety remains an issue if HRS sec. 291C-33 is not amended to reflect use of count-down timer traffic signals,” said Sen. English. “Hawai'i is considered one of the most unsafe places in America for pedestrians. In the 7th District we may not be aware of this statistic as much as people on O'ahu. Nevertheless, all of us should know the law when it comes to when to enter a crosswalk with countdown timers. However, the law is silent on the matter.”

**SB 2788** Relating to the Moloka'i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board – The Bill authorizes Molokai Irrigation System water users advisory board members to designate an agent, officer or employee and removes the requirement that members be an active general excise tax licensee.

“For generations, the people of Moloka'i have lived a subsistence lifestyle,” said Sen. English. “Removing the requirement that the advisory board member shall be an active general excise tax licensee opens up the board membership and representation to the many non-commercial farmers and water users subsisting on the products of their labor and the āina of Moloka'i.”

*Sen. English welcomes Hawai'i's young representatives of Breath Aloha movement for a tour of the Capitol during "Kick Butts Day". Kids in Hawai'i are standing up to Big Tobacco and are joined by thousands of young people nationwide for the 20th annual Kick Butts Day. The theme this year focused on the youth's policy priority: smoke-free cars for our keiki. More than 1,000 events were planned nationwide for this day of youth activism, sponsored by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. March 24, 2016.*



**J. KALANI ENGLISH**  
Senate Majority Leader

**COMMITTEES**

Vice Chair, Senate  
Committee on Tourism &  
International Affairs

Vice Chair, Senate Committee  
on Hawaiian Affairs

Member, Senate Committee  
on Transportation & Energy

Member, Senate  
Committee on Ways & Means



Hawai'i State Legislature  
Bill Status and Documents  
[www.capitol.hawaii.gov/](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/)

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**SENATE & HOUSE SHARE EASTER ALOHA  
TO INSTITUTE OF HUMAN SERVICES**



*Top: Sen. English, Mr. Easter Bunny and Naomi Ku'ailani. Below: Senate & House members presented a colorful bounty to the Institute Of Human Services. March 24, 2016.*



More than 120 Easter baskets filled with useful items were donated to the Institute of Human Services (IHS) in hopes of making a difference in the lives of individuals and families in need. State legislators, along with House and Senate staff, donated the baskets as part of the 2016 Women's Legislative Caucus' annual IHS Easter Donation Drive. These baskets were packed with everything from socks and school supplies to coloring books, crayons and health care products. Keeping in tradition and in the spirit of the holiday, the Easter Bunny stopped by to help load the baskets into a delivery truck. Interestingly, the Easter Bunny looked very similar to State Rep. Scott Nishimoto.

**8TH ANNUAL ART AT THE CAPITOL**

The public was invited to the State Capitol on Friday, April 1 for the annual Art at the Capitol. This free event, now in its eighth year, had Legislators opening their doors to the public to view the collection of work from local artists that adorn their offices.

The theme this year, "Marks of Accomplishment," reflects on the saga and controversy surrounding the Father Damien Statue and the sculptor, Marisol Escobar. A documentary video to debut that evening tells the story behind the statue.

Featured this year was an exhibit that featured self-portraits created by State Legislator. Artist from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the public chose their favorite portrait. The winner was Rep. Tom Brower.

Art at the Capitol began with an opening program at 4:30 p.m. in room 329 that included an introduction of artists and special guests. Self-guided tours started at 5:00 p.m. and the Senate and House galleries were open to view the video, "Marks of Accomplishment," and videos shown in past Art at the Capitol events. Throughout the evening, music was provided by the Hawai'i Youth Symphony Woodwind Quintet and String Quartet. The program ended at 7:00 p.m., however the public was invited to continue the celebration of local art and music at the Hawai'i State Art Museum, which was open until 9:00 p.m.

Art at the Capitol is sponsored by the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts.