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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

As we come to the final weeks of the 2016 Legislative Session, the Senate faces the formidable task of confirming the remaining governor's nominees to the various departments, boards and commissions, passing a balanced State budget and completing conference hearings on all bills before the end of Session in May.

During this decisive and hectic time period, bills can change drastically. As policy makers we must weigh the benefits of each measure carefully, to balance the needs of each area of our districts as well as the needs of each and every resident throughout the State of Hawai'i. Be sure to stay up to date on legislation that you are interested in at the Capitol website: <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



FUTURE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERS STUDY HAWAIIAN CULTURE & SOVEREIGNTY



Sixty-one select senior officers from 53 nations with the International Fellows Program at the National Defense University (NDU) were at the State Capitol for a closer look at Hawai'i's history and to learn the legal, cultural, and social issues that persist on the islands today.

The first ever visit to the Hawai'i State Capitol is part of the American Studies program that takes them to 10 locations across the U.S., of which Oahu is one.

NDU is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's premier university for joint professional military education funded by the Department of Defense. The fellowship is intended to prepare future leaders of the Armed Forces and civilian agencies, provide an understanding of factors and considerations that shape U.S. security policy and strategy, and develop firsthand knowledge of the social, political, and economic factors that shape U.S. institutions.

"We've always wanted to learn more about the history of U.S. and Native Hawaiian relations, but we've never given it full attention until this year and felt it was important to do," said Russ Thacker, NDU Director of Academic Programs for the International Defense Program. "Part of the objective of the program is to educate the Fellows on American society and institutions, our diversity as a society, our ideals, as well as our history and let them see all sides of America. At the end of the day we want them to have a balanced understanding of who we are as American people so when they go back to their countries, they have that insight and awareness and can form partnerships that will last throughout the rest of their careers."

Sen. English, was asked to speak on the challenges of Hawaiian sovereignty and how the political process is being used to advocate for Hawaiian issues both domestically and internationally. He shared that despite Native Hawaiians being divided by Federal law and a continuing struggle to establish an accepted form of self-governance, there is an aspect unique and prevalent in Hawai'i's society.

"There is a general tolerance accepted here. Because we're multi-racial, there is no majority in Hawai'i," said Sen. English. "In other words, everyone is a minority in Hawai'i. Everyone learns to respect the other culture. That's one of the things that gives us hope."

A panel of University of Hawai'i professors in the fields of Political Science and Social Sciences were also invited to speak and provide an overview of the history of the Hawaiian Islands and the current social issues affecting Hawai'i's society.

In order to meet the objectives of the American Studies program, the fellows travel across the U.S. where visits are tailored to the following objectives: Human Rights, Law of War, International Peace & Security, U.S. Government Institutions, Political Processes, Judicial System, Free Market, Media Education, Health & Human Services and Diversity & American Life.



Brigadier General Hussein Bani-Yassein of Jordan presents a commemorative picture to Sen. English. April 8, 2016.

# SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE PROPOSES FISCALLY EQUITABLE BUDGET

*Supplemental budget reflects community priorities, representative of needs statewide*

The Senate Ways and Means (WAM) Committee introduced and passed budget amendments in **HB1700 HD1 SD1** that reflects the priorities facing our communities, yet broadly represents and addresses needs across the state.

The Governor's operating budget proposed to add approximately \$335 million in general funds for fiscal year 2016-2017. The Senate draft reduced this amount by approximately \$215 million in general funds, resulting in a total operating budget add of \$120 million in general funds for fiscal year 2016-2017. The Senate draft did not include 100% pre-funding of Other Post-Employment Benefits, which was included in the Governor's draft, and amounted to approximately \$163 million dollars.

"The WAM Committee identified ways to increase efficiencies and better utilize base appropriations to do more with less, without unsustainably adding to our budget." Said Sen. English. "Our Senate draft of the budget balances priority needs with existing resources to ensure programs and services can be maintained over time."

The Senate draft reflects a significant investment in operating support for homeless programs, totaling over \$7.3M. These include the following:

- \$3,000,000 in general funds for the Housing First Program
- \$1,100,000 in general funds for Homeless Outreach Services
- \$2,000,000 in general funds for Rapid Re-housing Services
- \$450,000 in general funds for a new homeless shelter in Kakaako
- \$200,000 in general funds for a Stored Property Program

In addition, the Senate draft included operating and capital improvement projects to increase the supply of affordable housing statewide. These include:

## Operating

- \$3,000,000 in general funds for the State Family and Elderly facilities' operations, deferred maintenance, and repair.
- (36) positions and \$2,703,581 in revolving funds for the Multi-Skilled Worker Pilot Program in the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority. These funds will be used to repair vacant public housing units.
- (29) positions and \$1,125,584 in general funds for the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to issue more housing vouchers and secure additional federal funds.

## Capital Improvements Projects

- \$29,150,000 in general funds and \$6,000,000 in general obligation bond funds to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority
- \$50,000,000 in general obligation bond funds for the Rental Housing Trust Fund

- \$33,289,000 in general obligation bond funds for the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund

Working with the housing agencies in each county, an additional \$59,612,000 in revolving funds was provided for shovel ready housing projects statewide, which will provide for the renovation of 850 current units and the creation of an additional 1,600 units for our communities.

The Senate draft also provides extensive support for hospitals and healthcare needs for the State, including:

## Operating

- \$10,000,000 in general funds for the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, to be used at the discretion of the Board in allocating to the regions as well as for any necessary seed capital for the Maui Health System
- \$7,900,000 in general funds for the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation in order to meet the shortfall of the corporate allocation costs due to the Maui transition, which would have otherwise been assessed to the regions without additional funding support
- \$21,000,000 in general funds for an operating subsidy to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation to continue to provide healthcare services statewide

## Capital Improvement Projects

- \$160,000,000 in general obligation bonds is provided for the Hawai'i State Hospital for a new forensic facility to house the high-risk patients
- \$5,000,000 in general obligation bond funds for the purchase of two parcels owned by the Wahiawa Hospital Association, resulting in an immediate cash infusion ensuring greater financial stability for the hospital. The intent is for the State to provide a long-term lease to the Wahiawa Hospital Association at a nominal rate.

Other operating and capital improvement funding highlights include:

## Department of Agriculture

Funding for efforts to support Hawai'i farmers

## Operating:

- \$500,000 in general funds for pesticide regulation expenses
- (1) position and \$98,800 in special funds for General Administration for the Farm to School Program

## Capital Improvement Projects:

The Senate draft includes \$107,074,000 in general obligation bond funds to purchase over 8,000 acres of agricultural land which will help support local farmers, decreasing Hawai'i's dependence on importing agricultural products and another \$33,700,000 in general obligation bond funds for upgrades and improvements to water infrastructure systems statewide.

## Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

Funding for programs that are sustainable and bolster the economy

## Operating:

- \$30,000 in general funds for repair and maintenance for the statewide film program for Creative Industries Division
- \$100,000 in general funds for Creative Industries Division for Creative Lab Program
- \$150,000 in general funds for unmanned aerial systems test site for Office of Aerospace Development
- (1) temporary position and \$100,000 in general funds for Hawai'i broadband initiative
- \$5,000,000 in general funds and \$5,000,000 in revolving funds for HI Growth initiative for Hawai'i Strategic Development Corporation

## Capital Improvement Projects:

Focused on reversing the brain drain, creating jobs, diversifying our economy, the Senate draft includes investments of \$3,000,000 in general obligation bond funds to develop the Entrepreneur's Sandbox in Kakaako, \$5,200,000 in general obligation reimbursable bond funds to the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i in Kona, \$6,000,000 in general obligation bond funds for infrastructure upgrades at Kalaheo, and over \$38,800,000 in general obligation bond funds for a Creative Media Facility at the University of Hawai'i West Oahu.

## Department of Defense

Funding to support and recognize Hawai'i veterans

## Operating:

- (7) positions and \$160,036 in general funds for multi-skilled worker team to provide services at the Hawai'i State Veterans' Cemetery
- \$500,000 in general funds for veterans' memorials and commemoration events

## Department of Education

Funding to provide student services support, transportation and libraries

## Operating:

- \$10,000,000 in general funds for Weighted Student Formula for English Language Learners
  - \$16,537,791 in general funds for Weighted Student Formula
  - v\$1,000,000 in general funds for classroom supplies and equipment for new facilities
  - v\$6,984,689 in general funds for Public School Transportation Services
  - \$5,215,919 in general funds for Utilities
  - \$200,000 in general funds for repair and maintenance backlog for public libraries statewide
  - Add \$250,000 in general funds and \$250,000 in special funds for Hawai'i State Public Library System
- ## Capital Improvement Projects:
- \$358,175,000 in general obligation bond funds, \$30,603,000 in federal funds and \$4,349,000 in gen-



# SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE PROPOSES FISCALLY EQUITABLE BUDGET

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eral funds for funding Department of Education projects including \$30,000,000 in general obligation bond funds to address the cooling and air conditioning needs of public schools, \$40,000,000 in general obligation bond funds for a new secondary school in Kapolei and \$38,000,000 in general obligation bond funds for the continued construction costs for new high school in Kihei.

## Office of the Governor

Funding to provide staff support

### Operating:

(2) temporary positions and \$300,000 in general funds for Office of Military Affairs and Federal Grants Maximization

## Department of Human Services

Funding to ensure social safety nets and improve IT infrastructure for better service delivery

### Operating:

- \$6,000,000 in general funds for Preschool Open Doors Program

- \$4,799,926 in general funds and \$7,664,177 in federal funds for preventive adult dental benefits

- \$4,294,333 in general funds and \$3,343,667 in federal funds for increased cost of Medicare Part B supplements

- \$4,878,120 in general funds and \$5,721,880 in federal funds for services to Medicaid recipients through age 6 with Autism Spectrum Disorder

- \$8,000,000 in general funds and \$9,383,746 in federal funds for Medicaid recipients with chronic Hepatitis C infections

- \$1,553,559 in general funds and \$1,775,971 in federal funds for increase in nursing home payments by the Data Resources Incorporated Rate

- \$5,905,962 in general funds and \$17,717,886 in federal funds for Department Enterprise System maintenance and operations

- \$770,000 in general funds for A-Plus Program fee subsidies for employed low-income families

- \$3,196,346 in general funds and \$17,714,682 in federal funds for information technology for the Department of Human Services

## Department of Human Resources Development

Funding to increase effectiveness

### Operating

- \$250,000 in general funds for workers' compensation claims

## Department of Health

Funding to support healthcare services, assist in fight against Dengue Fever, address Red Hill Consent Order

### Operating:

(33) positions and \$1,777,362 in general funds for the management of the dengue fever outbreak and newly emerging public health threats

(3) positions and \$88,362 in general funds for Red Hill Administrative Order of Consent for Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch

- \$2,829,923 in general funds for the home and community based services waiver

### Capital Improvement Projects:

To continue to provide quality healthcare services for our communities, \$31,982,000 in general obligation bond funds and \$19,704,000 in federal funds to address critical repairs and maintenance for health safety needs statewide.

## Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Funding to provide support to ensure protection of civil rights

### Operating:

(1) position and \$25,388 in general funds for Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

## Department of Land and Natural Resources

Funding for protection of land and wildlife, small boat harbor access

### Operating:

- \$3,000,000 in special funds from transient accommodation tax to Special Land and Development Fund for various programs

- \$1,700,000 in special funds from conveyance tax to Land Conservation Fund for land acquisition

- \$400,000 in special funds for beach restoration

- \$600,000 in general funds for wildfire contingency Aloha+ initiatives

- \$250,000 in general funds for endangered species management

- \$1,500,000 in general funds for United States Geographical Survey study on Hawai'i streams

(18) positions and \$617,544 in general funds for operation of small boat harbor facilities six days a week

## Department of Public Safety

Funding to enhance safety enforcement

### Operating:

- \$869,165 in general funds for the Department of Public Safety Administration building and State Narcotics Enforcement Division offices

## Department of Taxation

Funding to reinforce ability to bring in revenues for the state

### Operating:

(9) positions and \$503,327 in general funds for Investigation Branch

(2) positions and \$69,462 in general funds for Criminal Investigation Section

(1) position and \$21,684 in general funds for Audit

Branch Maui

(1) position and \$21,684 in general funds for Audit Branch Hawai'i

(1) position and \$21,684 in general funds for Audit Branch Kauai

## Department of Transportation

Funding to support requests that are sustainable and targeted

### Operating:

#### Honolulu International Airport

- \$402,500 in special funds and \$1,132,500 in federal funds for motor vehicle replacement

- \$252,500 in special funds and \$682,500 in federal funds for motor vehicle replacement

#### Hilo International Airport

- \$580,000 in special funds for airport seating replacement

#### Kahului Airport

- \$402,500 in special funds and \$1,132,500 in federal funds for motor vehicle replacement and other current expenses

#### Lihue Airport

- \$613,500 in special funds for routine maintenance contracts

#### Harbors Administration

- \$1,000,000 in special funds for pier and wharf insurance

#### Kauai Highways

- \$800,000 in special funds for replacement of bridge inspection equipment

#### Highways Safety

- \$517,000 in federal funds for highway safety improvement program flex funding

#### University of Hawai'i

Funding to support UH Cancer Center, UH West Oahu

### Operating:

- \$3,000,000 in general funds for University of Hawai'i Cancer Center for faculty and administrative support

(4) positions and \$197,604 in general funds for University of Hawai'i, West Oahu Campus

### Capital Improvement Projects:

Acknowledging the deferred maintenance and backlog of projects at our University of Hawai'i campuses, the Senate draft provides the funding for the full capital improvement request of the University and its Community Colleges by providing \$224,925,000 in general obligation bond funds, \$113,000,000 in revenue bond funds, and \$5,750,000 in special funds and by granting the University of Hawai'i revenue bond authority.

**J. KALANI ENGLISH**  
Senate Majority Leader

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**KAUNAKAKAI & KILOHANA ELEMENTARY COOL SCHOOLS**

Sen. English was proud to acknowledge the many individuals whose labor, diligence and vision contributed to the donation and installation of 33 solar air conditioning units at Kaunakakai and Kilohana Elementary Schools with Senate proclamations during a ceremony held earlier this month at Kaunakakai Elementary School.

Leonahemaikēkaimalie Crivello, sixth-grader and Student Council President at Kaunakakai Elementary School, inspired the 'Cool Schools' project after a chance meeting with NextEra Energy Hawai'i President Eric Gleason last fall. Leonahē wanted to help in the effort to cool more classrooms at her school, and NextEra Energy Hawai'i was happy to make her vision a reality.

Over the past four months, NextEra Energy Hawai'i worked on the project and installed 33 hybrid solar air conditioning units at Kaunakakai Elementary and Kilohana Elementary Schools. The project was completed in March, resulting in the cooling of 14 classrooms at Kaunakakai Elementary and four classrooms at Kilohana Elementary. The project doubled the amount of AC at Kaunakakai Elementary and replaced two older units. Kilohana Elementary had one classroom with AC, prior to the additional four installed by NextEra Energy Hawai'i.

Senator English provided a senate proclamation to Leonahē Crivello in recognition of her vision and drive to help her school and community as well as NextEra Energy Hawai'i for helping to improve Hawai'i's schools and contribute to the Department of education's heat abatement efforts.



*Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u is a Hawaiian language immersion school named after Joseph Nawahi and is located in Puna on the island of Hawai'i. The school's mission is to secure a school community built upon culturally rooted principles that reflect love of spirituality, love of family, love of language, love of knowledge, love of land, love of fellow man, and love of all people. April 24, 2016.*

