



SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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

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SINE DIE, ADJOURNMENT OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

MESSAGE FROM KALANI

With the gavel and adjournment sine die, thus signifies the close of a productive 2016 Legislative Session. Highlighted within this issue is some of the work the Senate accomplished during these last few months, finding solutions on issues that align with the priorities of the Hawaii Senate Majority Legislative Program set forth at the start of Session. Sharing your thoughts and concerns are always welcomed, as in the interim, I, along with my Senate colleagues, will continue to be working towards improving the quality of life for you and your families.

The Hawai'i State Senate adjourned the 2016 regular session with a sense of accomplishment for passing a fiscally responsible budget, addressing priority needs for the state, and tackling a number of challenging issues that concur with the Hawai'i Senate Majority Legislative Program.

Over the course of this legislative session, Senators and members of the House, approved substantial funding to install air conditioning for our public schools, provided an unprecedented appropriation for homeless programs statewide, delivered additional support to meet the housing needs of Hawai'i's families, and improved health care services.

In alignment with the Hawai'i Senate Majority Legislative Program theme of providing for our families (Mālama 'Ohana), a \$12 million lump sum appropriation for homeless programs recognizes this statewide concern and represents a significant opportunity to change the way to approach the homeless problem. In understanding the holistic need to address this crisis, \$160 million in funds was provided for improvements at the Hawai'i State Hospital, along with \$3 million in general funds for the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority and \$75 million allocated toward the rental Housing Assistance Revolving Fund and Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund.

In an investment in our children, lawmakers took a bold step and increased Preschool Open Doors base funding to \$10 million, which will help struggling families with real opportunities for school readiness. Lawmakers also found a fiscally creative solution to fund a \$100 million emergency appropriation for air conditioning and heat abatement measures that will help move forward the Department of Education (DOE) program to cool schools.

In terms of nurturing our earth, (Mālama Honua) lawmakers provided substantial resources to study in-stream flow standards and assess water availability, a number of bills along with \$1.6 million in general funds for various water infrastructure support statewide and more than \$4.7 million in general funds was provided in bills for conservation efforts and the fight against invasive species. More than \$4.8 in general funds in various measures provide a solid foundation to reinforce agriculture as an industry moving forward.

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SENATE APPROVES \$230 MILLION FOR MAUI COUNTY CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

By focusing on growing jobs and our economy, appropriations and measures to provide \$4 million in grants and allocating funds to strengthen our infrastructure and position in the Pacific through the Hawai'i Broadband Initiative, along with \$1 million in general funds to budget for HI-Growth and \$100,000 in matching general funds for the state's Creative Labs program, fall in line with sustaining our communities (Mālama Kaiāulu).

Lawmakers passed measures that reflected good governance (Mālama Aupuni) by making steps toward taking care of our debts and obligations by approving \$150 million for the Rainy Day Fund and \$81.9 million to pay down unfunded liabilities. \$1.15 billion was provided in general obligation bonds and \$2.5 billion for projects funded by all other means of financing for capital improvement projects that will play a vital role in rebuilding our economy and strengthening our social infrastructure.

On the contentious issues this session, such as water rights and transient accommodations tax collection, the Senate displayed its ability to participate in healthy debate, yet continued to collaborate while keeping the best interests of the people of Hawai'i in mind.

"One of the strengths of the Senate is our ability to have differing opinions, yet recognize when to put those sentiments aside to get to work and come up with solutions," said Sen. English. "The measures we passed this session achieved our goal of improving the quality of life for our keiki, kūpuna, and nā'Ohana who are most in need and we will continue to work to ensure what we've put in place this session will continue to move our state forward."

The Hawaii Senate Majority 2016 Legislative Program can be viewed on the website: www.hawaiisenatemajority.com



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Before the close of the 2016 Legislative Session, state lawmakers approved the supplemental state budget that includes \$230 million in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding for various projects for the County of Maui. Significant appropriations have been provided for schools, highways and affordable housing on Maui, Lana'i and Moloka'i.

"These CIP funds will address a variety of concerns not only on Maui, but also Moloka'i and Lana'i," said Sen. English. "These communities will benefit from these projects not just for now, but for years to come."

Notable CIP funding highlights for Maui include:

EDUCATION

- \$37.5 million for design and construction for new high school in Kihei
- \$770,000 for air conditioning and improvements at Lahainaluna High school
- \$1.95 million for improvements at Maui High School
- \$600,000 for amphitheater improvements for King Kekaulike High School
- \$1.4 million for plans and design for a classroom building at Pā'ia Elementary School
- \$4.7 million for plans, design and construction to expand the Moloka'i Public Library
- \$3.4 million for improvements for Baldwin High School

AIRPORTS

- \$21 million for improvements at Kahului Airport
- \$12.3 million for improvements for Hāna Airport
- \$3 million for runway improvements for Moloka'i Airport
- \$5.2 million for improvements for Lāna'i Airport

HIGHWAYS

- \$7 million for design and construction to mitigate rockfalls and potential landslide areas along Hāna Highway
- \$5 million for construction for a new alignment of Honoapiilani Highway from Lahainaluna Road to the vicinity of Launiupoko
- \$3.5 million for improvements along Makakua-paia Stream Bridge on Moloka'i
- \$1 million for improvements on state highways throughout Maui
- \$250,000 for plans, design, and construction of a crosswalk in Haiku on Hāna Highway
- \$2 million for traffic signal improvements on Pi'ilani Highway at Kulanihako Street

HARBORS

- \$10.5 million for improvements for Kahului Harbor
- \$800,000 for improvements at Ki hei Boat Ramp
- \$3.7 million for plans, design and construction for dredging at Maalaea Small Boat Harbor
- \$500,000 for improvements for Lipoa Point at Honolulu Bay

INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$3.5 million for improvements to the Moloka'i irrigation system
- \$4.5 million for plan, design, and construction for irrigation and water delivery system for East Maui

VETERANS

- \$4 million for plans, design, and construction of a parking lot and installation of a septic tank for Moloka'i Veterans Center

HEALTH

- \$6 million for Maui Health Systems
- \$656,000 for improvements for Kalaupapa Settlement

COMMUNITY

- \$1 million for improvements for Maui Raceway Park

In addition to the executive budget CIP funding, appropriations for Grants-In-Aid (GIA) were also awarded to organizations for the benefit of the Maui community:

- \$1.5 million for design and construction for Hale Mahaolu senior affordable rental housing campus at the Kulamalu Town Center subdivision
- \$1.3 million for plans, design, construction for redevelopment of the Kiowea Park Facilities for Kalamaula Homesteaders Association
- \$1.7 million for design, construction and equipment for improvements and renovations of the Lanikeha Center and commercial kitchen for Moloka'i Homestead Farmers Alliance
- \$975,000 for design and construction for the restoration of old Kaupo School for a community center
- \$600,000 for improvements for J. Walter Cameron Center

Maui region non-profit organizations were also awarded operating GIA including:

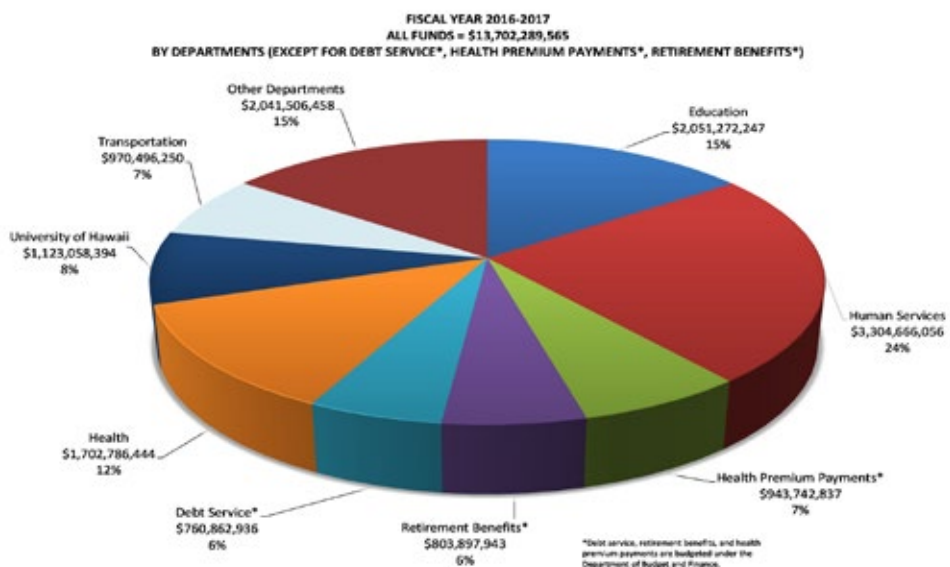
- \$350,000 for Hale Makua Health Services
- \$246,550 for Women Helping Women program services for Lana'i

END OF SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

State Budget [HB 1700 CD1](#): Adjusts the Fiscal Biennium 2017 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects to \$13.7 billion in State spending. Includes \$23.9 million in funding for the state Department of Hawaiian Home Lands administration and operations; \$81.9 million to pay down the unfunded liability for public workers and retiree health benefits; \$12 million for homeless programs; \$10 million for the Preschool Open Doors program; and eliminates \$1.5 million in general funds for vacant positions across various departments.

In Education, [HB 2317 CD1](#): Appropriates \$150 million for the State's "Rainy Day" budget reserve fund and SB 3126 CD1: Appropriates \$100 million to install air conditioning and other heat abatement measures in public school classrooms. [HB2494 \(Act 10\)](#): Authorizes Department of Education employees to volunteer to administer or assist a student with blood glucose monitoring. [SB2607 \(Act 40\)](#): Limits the ways in which the operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application working with the Department of Education can use student data.

For Labor, [HB2605 CD1](#): Appropriates funds to establish, administer, and support job training for individuals who are unemployed and dislocated due to the closure of the Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company and the Makena Beach and Golf Resort on Maui. And, [HB1689 CD1](#): Establishes an organic foods production tax credit of up to \$50,000 for farmers, ranchers, and producers seeking to obtain organic certification starting on January 1, 2017. [SB2675 \(Act 38\)](#): Authorizes the Board of Dental Examiners, Hawai'i Medical Board, Board of Nursing, and Board of Pharmacy to deny a license to an applicant or impose disciplinary action against a licensee who has been disciplined by another state or federal agency. [SB3110 CD1](#): Appropriates funds to Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to provide \$2 million in grants to assist small businesses conducting innovative research with their efforts toward commercialization and promote manufacturing.



Regarding judicial matters, [HB1055 HD2 SD1](#): Requires on an application to register to vote, a Hawaii driver's license number or a Hawai'i state identification card number or, if no license or identification card has been issued, the last four digits of the applicant's social security number. If the applicant does not have a social security number, requires an election official or county clerk to assign the applicant a unique number for voter registration purposes. Takes effect on 1/1/2018.

Relating to health, [HB2707 CD1](#): Amends Hawai'i's medical marijuana law to ensure the efficient and responsible operation of medical marijuana dispensaries. Also allows advanced practice registered nurses to certify patients for medical marijuana use. [SB2392 CD1](#): Takes steps to reduce opioid-related drug related overdoses in the State by encouraging the use of opioid antagonists to assist individuals experiencing or at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose. [SB2560 CD1](#): Requires and appropriates \$500,000 for the Department of Health to provide treatment and care for homeless individuals with serious and persistent mental health challenges as a part of its comprehensive mental health system.

Bills relating to other subject matters:

[HB1850 CD1](#): Allows transient accommodations brokers to register as tax collection agents with the state and enter into an agreement to collect taxes owed on vacation rentals.

[SB2559 CD1](#): Makes available more emergency and transitional shelter space by establishing minimum requirements for emergency shelters and transitional shelter space and establishing positions and funds to assist in the operation of the homeless program.

[HB2086 HD2 SD2](#): Appropriates \$37 million

into the state highway fund as a subsidy to continue certain highway maintenance and capital improvement projects and ensure funding for emergency repairs.

[HB2391 CD1](#): Addresses the problem of overcrowding of jails by authorizing the Director of Public Safety to release pretrial or convicted misdemeanor offenders to relieve overcrowding in Hawai'i jails. People who has been arrested for a violent crime or whose bail is set at more than \$5,000 are not eligible for release.

[HB1907 CD1](#): Requires all law enforcement agencies and departments charged with maintenance, storage, and preservation of sexual assault evidence collection kits to conduct an inventory of all stored kits and report to the Attorney General. Requires the Department of the Attorney General to report to the Legislature on the number of untested sexual assault evidence collection kits being stored, plans and procedures for the disposition of new and untested kits, and related information.

[SB3084 CD1](#): Amends the cesspool upgrade, conversion, or connection income tax credit by making it available for cesspools within a tax map key area in which more than one residence is connected to a large-capacity cesspool.

[HB2030 CD1](#): Prohibits the discharge of treated or raw sewage into state waters after 2026 except when used for a beneficial purpose as provided by law.

For a complete list of all the bills that passed the Legislature go to: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/advreports/main.aspx>, scroll down and click on: Bills that Passed the Legislature. This Report will be complete after all the bills are sent to the Governor.

J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

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FREE MEAL PROGRAM EXPANSION

On May 3, Sen. English applauded the Hawai'i State Department of Education for expanding the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) from seven schools to 30 statewide.

"I'm extremely pleased with the DOE's decision to expand the CEP program which has proven to be very successful," said Sen. English. "With most of the pilot schools in my district, I have seen these students thrive thanks to the meals provided for them. Now with the expansion, more students and their families will benefit from the program, and that's certainly a smart investment towards our future."

The 7th District schools in the pilot program included:

- Kaunakakai Elementary School, Moloka'i
- Kilohana Elementary School, Moloka'i
- Maunaloa Elementary School, Moloka'i
- Moloka'i Middle School, Moloka'i
- Moloka'i High School, Moloka'i



The additional 7th District schools being added to the CEP program are:

Hāna High & Elementary and Lana'i High and Elementary.

Details on the DOE CEP program expansion, visit: <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/MediaRoom/PressReleases/Pages/CEP-Expansion.aspx>

FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVE

The Farm to School Information Session and Mixer was held on April 27, at the Hawai'i State Capitol.

While sharing information about their products and farm, farmers were able to learn how they can become a qualified vendor and increase their supplies with the State. Additionally, those in the agriculture community will have a chance to connect with the Department of Education's food service branch.

About Farm to School Initiative:

The goal of the Farm to School Initiative is to address the supply and demand issues surrounding the purchasing of local food for our school cafeterias. The Initiative aims to systematically increase State purchasing of local food for our school menus as well as connect our keiki with their food through the use of products from the local agricultural community. Across the nation, farm to school programs are reconnecting students to a better understanding of the food system and where their food comes from. Farm to school programs introduce students to healthier eating habits and help them become familiar with new vegetables and fruits that they and their families will then be more willing to incorporate into their own diets.

For more information on the State's Farm to School Initiative, please contact Jayson Watts, Senior Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor. Phone: (808) 586-0255 Email: jayson.watts@hawaii.gov



Sen. English speaks to farmers and DOE officials on the farm to school initiative in the Lt. Governor's office. April 27, 2016.