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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Our communities have worked very hard to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Maui Nui and our efforts are beginning to pay off. As the State begins to look at plans for reopening our economy, we must remain vigilant and continue to adhere to safe social distancing protocols. If we work together, I know we will beat this virus!

*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



STATE OF HAWAII  
SAFE TRAVELS

STATE IMPLEMENTING NEW TRAVEL SYSTEM FOR VISITORS

The State of Hawai'i is implementing a new, mandatory online Safe Travels system beginning on September 1. The system will modify the current County of Maui application process.

This new digital application, which collects the required health and travel information, is critical to protecting the health of our residents and visitors. The system is one part of a multi-layered screening process which includes arrival temperature checks, and secondary screening for those with symptoms or temperatures of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

Travelers are encouraged to enter their information and trip details well in advance of their flight. Once their health information is entered within 24 hours of departure, travelers will receive a QR code via email on their mobile device or printed on paper, which is scanned by the airport screener upon arrival.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/2YYYYZ08>



## GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The Governor recently announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved the State's application to participate in the unemployment insurance plus up program called the Lost Wages Assistance Program.

Additional information regarding the Lost Wages Assistance Program is pending, but individuals will be able to collect an additional \$300 per week.



## CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

**\$2,089,138** was awarded for infrastructure improvements at Kualapu'u Elementary School.

**\$646,300** was awarded to finance additional construction management costs to improve the inbound baggage handling system at Kahului Airport.



## MEO HONORS SENATOR ENGLISH AT THE 48TH ANNUAL KŪPUNA ALOHA CELEBRATION



At its 48th Annual Kūpuna Aloha Celebration on August 28, the Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc honored Sen. English as one of its 2020 Kūpuna Advocates of the Year. Roy Katsuda, former Executive Director of Hale

Mahaolu was also honored at the event.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and in the interest of protecting the health and safety of the kūpuna, this year's celebration was held virtually via Zoom. The annual event celebrates our Kupuna and thanks them for their contribution to the community.



"I'm very honored to receive this recognition by MEO as one of its outstanding Kūpuna Advocates. This truly means a lot me," said Sen. English. "As someone who was raised by my grandparents, I've spent my entire legislative career fighting to make sure that our kūpuna are taken care of and have the necessary resources to live comfortably. I'm committed

to working with my colleagues in the Legislature to continue providing for our kūpuna during these challenging times."

## MAUI COUNTY EXPANDS CONTACT TRACING TEAM

The Maui District Health Office and Hawai'i National Guard are expanding contact tracing capacity for COVID-19 cases in Maui County. Currently, the Maui District Health Office has 24 staff and public health nurses to conduct contact tracing. The Hawai'i National Guard has provided an additional 28 personnel to assist with investigations.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) System will be providing 12 additional workers, through the UH system to join the contact tracing team. UH Maui College will also be providing its auditorium, two offices and parking spaces for expansion of contact tracing and operations. Under the partnership, the college also will be providing phones and computers to investigators, along with access to the facilities on holidays and weekends.

"This type of inter-agency partnership is critical to curbing the spread of COVID-19 in Maui County and across the State," noted Sen. English. "The recent surge of new cases is a cause of concern and we need to do what we can to protect our residents and mitigate any risk of potential spread in our county."

# GOVERNOR RELEASES INTENT TO VETO LIST

The Hawai'i State Constitution requires the governor to notify the Legislature of the bills he intends to veto not later than the 35th day after adjournment. On August 31, the Governor notified legislative leaders and key lawmakers of his Intent to Veto the following 6 measures:

## **HB1523 - Relating To The Department Of Education Budget:**

This measure provides funding to the Department of Education (DOE) utilizing Coronavirus Air, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding to purchase devices for schools with student populations of fifty per cent or greater or reduced price lunch for the period from July 1 to Dec. 30, 2020.

Rationale: This measure is not necessary because the DOE has received funds via the Governor's discretionary funding for this purpose which does not limit the schools that are eligible.

## **HB1846 - Relating To Energy Efficiency.**

This bill mandates that all State facilities with an area of ten thousand square feet or more (not including Aloha Stadium) implement all cost-effective energy efficiency measures by Jan. 1, 2024. The State Energy Office is tasked with collecting all utility bill and energy usage data for State-owned facilities monthly and making such information available in a publicly accessible format. Beginning July 1, 2020, if feasible and cost-effective, designs for all new State building construction must maximize energy and water efficiency, energy generation potential, and use of building materials that reduce the project's carbon footprint.

Rationale: The State is already in the process of implementing the energy efficiency changes that the bill addresses. The bill does not clearly define energy efficiency and the word "all" creates a possibly unrealistic expectation that could open the State to lawsuits. Additionally, there are concerns that contractors employed under this legislation will be able to benefit from both the contract paid for by tax-payer dollars as well as tax credits associated with the kind of work done with no assurance that the overall cost of the project will be adjusted appropriately.

## **HB2124 - Relating To The Code Of Ethics.**

This measure Amends the State Ethics Code to prohibit the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and other high-level government officials from representing any person or business for a fee or other compensation regarding any legislative or administrative action for 12 months after termination from respective position.

Rationale: The additional restrictions put on volunteer boards and commissions members who fulfill an important role in protecting our community through their service will make it significantly more challenging to recruit for already difficult positions to fill.

## **SB2206 - Relating To Homelessness.**

This bill authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources to issue revocable month-to-month temporary permits for the emergency sheltering of homeless persons on State lands up until ninety days after the emergency relief period specified in the Governor's final Supplementary Proclamation relating to the COVID-19 emergency, irrespective of any separate proclamation terminating the disaster emergency relief period in the Governor's final Supplementary Proclamation relating to the COVID-19 emergency.

Rationale: Under emergency proclamation, the Governor already has the ability to take the necessary actions to implement the purpose of this bill. As written this bill exposes the State to liability.

## **SB2523 Relating To Public Safety.**

This requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to expend certain appropriated funds during fiscal year 2020-2021 for the community-based work furlough program for female inmates.

Rationale: The measure is not required because the DPS is already in the process of awarding a contract to a community-based furlough program. Furthermore, enacting this measure would jeopardize public safety as it restricts the department from expending payroll and operating costs.

## **SB2638 Relating To Domestic Violence.**

This bill establishes a 5-year pilot program intended to strengthen government response to domestic violence and increase offender accountability; amends the offense of abuse of family or household members to provide for a petty misdemeanor offense; allows a deferred acceptance of guilty or no contest plea in cases involving petty misdemeanor or misdemeanor abuse offenses; requires the court to revoke the defendant's probation or set aside the defendant's deferred acceptance of guilty plea and enter an adjudication of guilt in specific instances outlined.

Rationale: Currently any person convicted of an abuse offense is prohibited from owning or possessing any firearm. Of grave concern with this bill is that abusers who are granted and complete a term of deferral would not be subject to the firearm prohibition because a deferral is not a conviction. This would allow abusers to own and possess a firearm.

**J. KALANI ENGLISH**  
Senate Majority Leader

**COMMITTEES**

Vice Chair, Senate Committee  
on Technology

Member, Senate Committee  
on Transportation

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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# HAWAII RENT RELIEF AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Recently, the State launched the Rent Relief and Housing Assistance Program, funded by Federal CARES Act appropriations, which assists Hawai'i renters who have experienced a reduction in income because of unemployment or a reduction in work hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are at risk of eviction.

Applications are currently being accepted for housing payments due between August 1, 2020, and December 28, 2020. To apply for the State of Hawai'i Rent Relief and Housing Assistance Program, you can visit [www.hihousinghelp.com](http://www.hihousinghelp.com) or contact either Catholic Charities Hawai'i (Phone: 808-521-4357) or Aloha United Way (Phone: 2-1-1). Both partners will assist you through the process and ensure that applicants meet all eligibility requirements for program assistance.

**Eligibility**

Full-time Hawai'i residents with proof of valid and current tenancy for their primary residence must show a loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have a gross household income that does not exceed 100% of the HUD Area Median Income for 2020. You can apply for the Rent Relief and Housing Assistance Program if you:

- Are a full-time Hawai'i resident.
- Have proof of valid and current tenancy for a primary residence in the State of Hawai'i.
- Are 18 years of age or older.
- Demonstrates a loss of income directly resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Demonstrates that your current household income does not exceed 100% Area Median Income.

**Rent Relief and Housing Assistance Program Details**

Housing assistance payments can be made in lump-sum amounts for August 1 through December 28, 2020. Payments will be made directly to landlords.

**Rent Payments**

- Monthly rent payments of up to \$2,000 per household residing in the City and County of Honolulu, or \$1,500 per household residing in the Counties of Hawai'i, Maui, or Kaua'i.
- Rent payments will not exceed the actual rent owed.

**Counseling**

• The program may also provide additional support through financial and housing counseling services to prevent eviction.

More information about the Rent Relief and Housing Assistance Program, including frequently asked questions (FAQs) and a list of required documentation, is available at [www.hihousinghelp.com](http://www.hihousinghelp.com).

## LĀNA'I QUARANTINE ASSISTANCE GROUP

If you need to quarantine and need help with errands, The Lāna'i Quarantine Assistance Group offers help for free.

For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/2QO2C4T>