

VOL.20 ISSUE 8

May 15, 2020



IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Message From Kalani pg 1
- ▶ Legislature Convenes To Tackle State Funding Issue pg 1
- ▶ Safety Protocol At The Capitol pg 2
- ▶ Funds Released For Capital Improvement Projects pg 2
- ▶ Every1ne For One Hawai'i Provides Free Masks For Maui, Moloka'i And Lāna'i Residents pg2
- ▶ Community Health Centers Receive Federal Funds For COVID-19 Testing pg 3
- ▶ Maui County Retail Stores Allowed To Reopen With Guidelines pg 3
- ▶ Senate Committee On COVID-19 Makes Recommendation To Improve Passenger Quarantine Enforcement pg 3
- ▶ East Maui Sweet Potato Distribution pg 4

MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Mahalo to everyone for abiding by the stay at home mandate. Because of our efforts, we were able to keep the Covid-19 count from continuing to rise. Most important, our death rate remains low. As the five Counties begin to open, please remain vigilante and wear a mask where ever you go. Stay home if you're sick and keep up social distancing while the disease is still active in the islands.

I am committed to do everything in my power to ensure that we have food, access to health-care and security. Together, we will get through this.

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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



LEGISLATURE CONVENES TO TACKLE STATE FUNDING ISSUE

The State Legislature reconvened the 2020 Regular Session on May 11 after recessing on March 16 due to the COVID-19 virus. Legislators will focus on the State budget and bills relating to the budget in consideration of a \$1 billion shortfall in revenues. The Senate will also conduct hearings on gubernatorial nominees for various departments, agencies, boards and commissions.

Pursuant to **Senate Resolution 197**, the Senate implemented the use of technology to allow for remote participation by members who are not able to physically attend the floor sessions and committee hearings during a catastrophic event.

"We have never been here before, so the Senate amended our rules to allow for remote participation in our deliberations," noted Sen. English. "We are using all available technology to allow public participation in this time of global pandemic."

All hearings were broadcast live on 'Ōlelo and Akaku and aired on other neighbor island public access networks as well as streamed live online. Legislators held daily press conferences via Zoom. These are available to the public on the Hawai'i State Senate Facebook page. Acceptance of testimony and both broadcast and press conferences and will continue for the duration of the Session.

Written testimony was accepted at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>.



SAFETY PROTOCOL AT THE CAPITOL

Safety measures are now in place at the Capitol to slow the spread of COVID-19. Members of the National Guard and Sheriff's office are securing the building. Only elected officials, staff, persons pertinent to a hearing and those who have official appointments are allowed into the building.

Authorized personnel with valid identification are required to enter the Capitol through the main glass doors on the chamber level and pass a temperature screening. The Capitol will remain closed to the general public in accordance with the Governor's stay-at-home order, which remains in effect through May 31 and for public health reasons.



FUNDS RELEASED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



\$750,000 was released for a barrier fence at Māliko Gulch to prevent the spread of invasive coqui frogs to neighboring areas on Maui's North Shore.

\$500,000 was released to replace metal irrigation lines at the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agricultural and Human Resources Kula Agricultural Station.

EVERY1NE FOR ONE HAWAII PROVIDES FREE MASKS FOR MAUI, MOLOKA'I AND LĀNA'I RESIDENTS

As part of their state-wide #Mask4allHawaii initiative, [Every1ne Hawaii](#) procured 1.6 million masks for communities across Hawai'i, with 160,000 recently distributed across Maui County.

The group, which describes itself as a "collaborative team composed of nextgen influencers from all facets of the Hawai'i community" includes Maui-born pro surfers Kai Lenny and Ian Walsh.

Sen. English joined forces with the group as they set up mask distribution drives in Upcountry Maui and in various communities across East Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i.

"I am very proud of our nextgen community leaders, such as Kai Lenny and Ian Walsh for stepping up and using their collective skillsets to help provide needed supplies for our communities," explained Sen. English. "Many people were unable to find face masks so this donation is very much appreciated. We distributed 20,000 mask for East Maui, 6,000 for Lāna'i and 12,000 for Moloka'i. Upcountry, Pukalani and Kula areas were included in Maui United Way's distribution program."



Sen. English, Ian Walsh and Kai Lenny receive the shipment of masks at the Hawaiian Airlines Cargo facility. Kahului, Maui. April 24, 2020.



Sen. English and Kai Lenny receive 20,000 face masks at the National Guard checkpoint for communities in East Maui. Hāna Highway, Maui. April 28, 2020.



COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS FOR COVID-19 TESTING

A total of 14 local health centers across the State will receive \$3.8 million to expand coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and contact tracing.

Health centers will be able to use the new federal funding to expand the range of testing and test-related activities to address their needs. Funds may be used for: purchase of personal protective equipment, staff training, procurement and administration of tests, laboratory services, notifying identified contacts of infected patients of their exposure to COVID-19, and the expansion of walk-up or drive-up testing capabilities.

In District 7, the following health centers are set to receive the following: **Hāna Community Health Center** - \$126,904; **Lāna'i Community Health Center** - \$130,714; **Moloka'i 'Ohana Health Care** - \$134,119.

"These funds will ramp up testing as we work to stabilize our districts," said Sen. English. "Our rural community health centers play an important role in providing quality healthcare for our residents and these funds will give our community the resources to provide more testing, conduct contact tracing and help stop the spread of COVID-19."

MAUI COUNTY RETAIL STORES ALLOWED TO REOPEN WITH GUIDELINES

Retail stores and other shops located in shopping malls were allowed to open on May 11 with strict modification.

Guidelines for businesses include, but are not limited to: Thorough cleaning and sanitization practices; physical distancing of 6 feet or more; capacity limits for facilities; services by appointment only; delivery/pick-up services; face coverings should be worn by all employees and customers; no person-to-person (physical) contact; and employees who have symptoms of COVID-19 should be sent home immediately.

The following are NOT permitted to open in shopping malls: food-court dining areas (except for delivery or take-out); play areas; entertainment areas; common areas (except to access and depart from a retail business); arcades and game rooms; beauty, hair and nail salons; and theaters.

Auto dealerships and real estate services will also be allowed to operate by appointment and with modifications. These services had previously been restricted to urgent situations only.

Photographers and photo studios are also permitted to open for operation.

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 MAKES RECOMMENDATION TO IMPROVE PASSENGER QUARANTINE ENFORCEMENT

The Special Committee on COVID-19 recently issued a report with recommendations to improve passenger quarantine enforcement procedures, following an oversight visit to the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport and discussions with the Attorney General, Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA), and the State Department of Transportation (DOT) officials.

On May 1, DOT Director Jade Butay, Deputy Director Ross Higashi and Administrative Services Officer Ford Fuchigami updated the committee on its current process for disembarking passengers, including the necessary Department of Agriculture, HTA, and inter-island declaration forms.

The committee indicated its intentions to work with the impacted departments to ensure that these forms could be updated to collect further information that will help to close gaps in the current screening and enforcement process. This would include additional information to allow the DOT and HTA to verify the dates of departures for visitors.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) confirmed that they would be working with DOT and HTA to make adjustments to its forms.

CEO Chris Tatum of Hawaii Tourism Authority indicated that the agency is working with stakeholders to contract a database application to more efficiently gather, sort, and store the information currently collected through its forms and the State's Safe Travelers application (app). The database would be searchable, and access would be provided to all law enforcement agencies.

Current cost projections for this app are \$26,000 and will be paid by the HTA, then reimbursed by HIEMA with CARES Act funding.

Attorney General (AG) Clare Connors also provided an update on State and County procedures for the enforcement of the state's 14-day quarantine, including specific cases of violations.

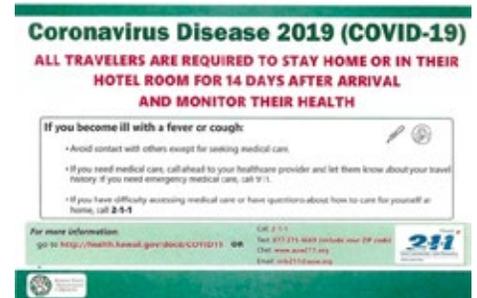
Citing the AG's presentation, the Special Committee requested that her office consider moving towards immediate fines, in an effort to strengthen the deterrence for violations. The committee also requested that the AG consider levying fines on hotels and homeowners tied to violations of the quarantine order.

The committee also conveyed enforcement suggestions, some of which have come through proposals from the public. One such example is to have hotels withhold room

keys, so visitors are unable to come-and-go without alerting hotel staff. Both the AG and HTA indicated that they believed such an approach would be legally sound under the current requirements of the 14-day quarantine and would aid in the enforcement of the order.

Additionally, the committee suggested that visitors be barred from renting cars during the quarantine period. The AG stated that she believes that suggestion would also be legally sound under the Governor's proclamation.

The committee added that exemptions from fines and leasing rental cars should apply to essential workers.



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/

HOW TO REACH US

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 205
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
ph 808-587-7225
fax 808-587-7230

From Maui, toll free 984-2400 + 77225
From Moloka'i and Lāna'i,
toll free 1-800-468-4644 + 77225
e-mail: senenglish@capitol.hawaii.gov

To receive this newsletter by
e-mail, please send your request to:
j.aki@capitol.hawaii.gov

Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/HawaiiSenateMajority

EAST MAUI SWEET POTATO DISTRIBUTION



Sen. English collaborated with Maui Best Inc., Ho'omana Farms LLC and the Ho'omana Project in Hāna to coordinate the distribution of twelve tons of sweet potatoes to communities from Ha'ikū to Kanaio.

Above: Moke Kahiamoe 'ohana meet with Sen. English on the Hāna Highway to receive distribution of sweet potato for the Huelo community. Huelo, Maui. May 4, 2020.

Below: Organization of the distribution of sweet potato in Hāna for the various communities of East Maui. Hāna, Maui. May 4, 2020.

"Without the generosity and hardwork of Amy Lam and Hanalei Colleado this food distribution would not have been possible," expressed Sen. English. "Amy's company generously donated the sweet potatoes that fed about 6,000 people. Hanalei and his family coordinated the delievery to all of the remote communities in East Maui. No one should go hungry and by working together we are able to distribute food to the most remote communities on Maui. The people of East Maui are truly appreciative!"



Sen. English with volunteers from Ho'omana Farms LLC and the Ho'omana Project in Hāna redistribute sweet potatoes donated by Maui Best Inc., . May 4, 2020.