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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

2021 brings new changes to our legislative process. Since the closure of the Capitol in March 2020, we've been working to ensure that the general public has access to the Legislature during this pandemic. You can now participate in committee hearings, watch live proceedings and follow us virtually anywhere.

*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



HAWAI'I STATE SENATE ANNOUNCES OPERATIONAL CHANGES AHEAD OF 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Hawai'i State Senate recently announced the following new operational changes:

**Safety Protocols:** The Senate is reinforcing pre-existing protocols and implementing several new measures to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining an open and transparent legislative process.

**Protocols include:**



- Workplace best practices: all employees must wear a face mask, practice social distancing, limit physical contact, and practice good personal hygiene.
- Cleaning and disinfecting conference rooms and the Senate chamber before and after each use.
- Providing employees with personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies.
- Installing protective sneeze guards, signage, hand sanitizer dispensers, and air purifiers and reconfiguring work areas.
- Conducting meetings, hearings, floor sessions, and staff training virtually.
- Conducting new employee orientation online with minimal personal interaction.
- When possible, allowing employees to work remotely to reduce the number of individuals physically present at the Capitol.

**Public Access:** Since the State Capitol building will be closed to the public, the Senate will be conducting all committee hearings and floor sessions virtually. Members of the public will have the opportunity to provide testimony in writing and via videoconference, allowing broader participation by those who previously were not able to get to the State Capitol.

**Some changes include:**

- The Senate will be using Zoom as its online meeting platform.
- Committee Chairs will have the option to conduct hearings 100% remotely or offer their members a hybrid set-up with some Senators participating from Senate conference rooms and some joining the hearing remotely.
- Written testimony and videoconference testimony registration will be accepted through the Legislature's website. No in-person testimony will be allowed.
- Testifiers will be given the option to submit remote virtual testimony once written testimony is submitted. Individuals must register no later than 24 hours prior to the committee hearing in order to be added to the remote virtual testimony list.
- All Senate standing committee hearings will be live streamed on YouTube. This is a significant improvement in public access over previous years when only selected

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## HAWAII STATE SENATE ANNOUNCES OPERATIONAL CHANGES AHEAD OF 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION (CONTINUED)

hearings were broadcast on cable television and streamed over the internet. In addition to the live streams, the Senate will continue to work with public access television providers on all islands to broadcast Senate committee hearings and floor sessions. All live streams will be available online and on demand at [youtube.com/hawaiisenate](https://www.youtube.com/hawaiisenate).

**Legislative Timetable:** Both the Senate and House have agreed on a modified timetable that has the legislative session convening on January 20 and adjourning sine die on April 29.

Modifications to the timetable include:

- Shortening conference by one-week.
- Reducing the number of recess days from thirteen to nine.

These new practices and protocols have been adopted in accordance with CDC guidelines, the City and County of Honolulu's tiered re-opening system and are subject to change.



"Participation is vital to any democracy and we have made significant operational changes at the Senate that will ensure the public has access to all stages of the legislative process. We encourage everyone wishing to participate in the 2021 session to utilize these new procedures," said Sen. English

More information will be made available on the Capitol website: [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov).

## HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PREPARES FOR SECOND PRIORITY POPULATION GROUP TO BEGIN RECEIVING COVID-19 VACCINE

As vaccines become more widely available, the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) has suggested moving towards the second allocation phase for the COVID-19 vaccine.

This means that the following Phase 1b essential workers will be given initial priority at this time:

- First responders, including police officers, firefighters
- Corrections officers
- Emergency services dispatchers
- Critical transportation infrastructure workers at the harbors, docks, and public transportation.)
- Critical utilities (energy and water.)
- Teachers and childcare and educational support staff (childcare, early education, K-12, post-secondary)
- Those essential for federal, state, and local government operations
- U.S. Postal Service employees

The following lists describe the population groups of each allocation phase:

### Phase 1a:

Health care personnel: Includes paid and unpaid personnel serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials (5% of population)

- Long-term care facility residents: Adults who reside in facilities that provide a range of services, including medical and personal care, to

persons who are unable to live independently (1% of population)

### Phase 1b:

- Adults 75 years of age and older (9% of population)
- Frontline essential workers: Includes first responders, and frontline essential workers, defined as workers whose duties must be performed on-site and require being in close proximity to the public or coworkers, and are essential to the functioning of society (11% of population)

### Phase 1c:

- Adults aged 65-74 years (10% of population)
- Persons ages 16-64 years with high-risk medical conditions: Individuals of all authorized vaccine eligible ages with underlying conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 (30% of population)
- Essential workers not recommended for vaccination in Phase 1b: Essential workers that were not included in Phase 1b (7% of population)

### Phase 2:

All persons aged 16 years or older not previously recommended for vaccination: • All other persons residing in Hawaii aged 16 years or older not already recommended for vaccination in Phases 1a, 1b, or 1c (27% of population)

For more information, visit <https://hawaicovid19.com/vaccine/>.

## SEN. ENGLISH AND REP. DECOITE ISSUE STATEMENT REGARDING DEER SITUATION ON MOLOKA'I

In response to the recent deer deaths on Moloka'i, Sen. English and Rep. DeCoite issued the following joint statement:

"Early on, we recognized the potential impact that this issue would have on our community. That's why in 2019, we introduced HB265 to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the management of the axis deer population and substantial reduction of these invasive species. Due to opposition from certain Moloka'i community members, the bill died and no funding was appropriated.

Moloka'i is now faced with a severe public health crisis; a situation that we were trying to avoid back in 2019.

Severe drought conditions have led to the starvation and widespread death of thousands of deer on Moloka'i. The inability to control and properly manage these invasive species have led to an overpopulation of deer and further degradation of our watersheds and other natural resources.

We are working closely with Governor Ige, Maui Mayor Victorino and other state, county and community agencies to remove the carcasses, implement an effective management plan and get this situation under control."



## MAUI HEALTH EXPANDS COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC TO QUALIFYING MAUI RESIDENTS

Maui Health recently announced that it is expanding its COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic to include vaccinations for residents that fall within the CDC identified Phase 1A and Phase 1B vaccine prioritization timeline.

This includes:

- Healthcare Workers
- Frontline Essential Workers
- Adults ages 75+

**The Maui Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic** is held in the main lobby of Maui Memorial Medical Center located at 221 Mahalani Street in Wailuku.

The Vaccine Clinic is open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and has begun accepting appointments for these identified groups.

For more information, visit: <https://www.mauihealth.org/covidvaccine/>



## SEN. ENGLISH RESPONDS TO WASHINGTON D.C. INSURRECTION ON JANUARY 6

In response to the insurrection that occurred in Washington D.C. on January 6, Sen. English issued the following statement:

"The scenes that occurred at the United States Capitol on January 6 raise serious concerns over the integrity of democracy in our nation. The reckless behavior of those who have incited violence is unacceptable," said Sen. English,

*"We value our democracy and will not let it be destroyed."*



**J. KALANI ENGLISH**  
Senate Majority Leader

## COMMITTEES

Vice Chair, Senate Committee  
on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental and  
Military Affairs

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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Vol.21 • Issue 1 • pg.4 • Jan. 1, 2021

## 2021 SENATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM PRIORITIZES TEN UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As part of its 2021 Senate Legislative Program, the Senate will be focusing on ten of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Senate has bipartisan dedication to the protection and sustainability of the islands' people, communities, natural resources, and economic prosperity through advancing these goals.



We, the Hawai'i State Senate are dedicated to the protection and sustainability of our people, communities, natural resources, and economic prosperity. To this end, we are committed to advancing the **17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** as a framework to achieve a prosperous and sustainable Hawai'i.

Hawai'i has established itself as a global leader in addressing sustainability and climate change challenges. The Senate's prioritization of the **17 Sustainable Development Goals** over the past three years has led to policy changes and fostered partnerships between government and various organizations to promote and enhance a coherent statewide policy for sustainable development. In 2020, the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic heightened these development goals, by shedding light on key areas that must be addressed to further our sustainable development goals and create a more resilient Hawai'i. We will continue to work with organizations and the public in Hawai'i to recover from the effects of the pandemic and remain on the path to sustainable development.



*"In extraordinary times, we are called upon to take extraordinary actions. By working together with public, private and community sector partners, we will tackle the tough issues ahead and emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever." ~ Senator English*