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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

As more people in our community receive the COVID-19 vaccine, it is very important that we don't let our guard down. We must continue to remain vigilant, wear a mask and practice social distancing. The new variant found here proves to be even more contagious and we must do our part to protect our friends and family.

*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



SENATE CONFIRMS TWO JUDGES TO THE SECOND CIRCUIT COURT OF MAUI

The Senate voted on February 11 to advise and consent to the judicial appointments of Christopher Dunn to the District Court of the Second Circuit and James Rouse to the District Family Court of the Second Circuit.

Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald made his appointments from the nomination lists that were presented to him by the Judicial Selection Commission on December 17 and notified the Senate of his appointments on January 15.



Dunn was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Judge Kelsey Kawano. He has 25 years of trial experience representing private and court-appointed clients in District, Family and Circuit Courts, and administrative proceedings. Dunn is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School, in Washington, D.C. and was admitted to the State Bar in 2002. He has been in private practice on Maui for the past 18 years.

Rouse fills the seat of retired Judge Lloyd Poelman. He is currently a Deputy Attorney General adjudicating Family Court matters and is an associate with Coates and Frey Law Firm, the Law Office of David Sereno as well as a Maui County Prosecutor. Rouse is a graduate of Golden Gate University School of Law, in San Francisco and was admitted to the State Bar in 1994. Rouse previously served as a Deputy Public Defender for twenty years.

"I am confident that Judges Dunn and Rouse are two well-qualified jurists and will serve the people of Maui County well," said Sen. English.



# PEPELUALI - MAHINA 'OLELO HAWAI'I (FEBRUARY – HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE MONTH)

The month of February in Hawai'i is dedicated to preserving the Hawaiian language. Sen. English introduced SB 469 in 2013, which in part designated the month of February as "Ōlelo Hawai'i Month" to celebrate and encourage the use of Hawaiian language. This part of the bill was enacted as ACT 28 that year.

'Ōlelo Hawai'i, or the Hawaiian language, is the native language of the Native Hawaiian people. While once spoken throughout Hawai'i by Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i was considered to be nearly extinct by the 1980s, when fewer than fifty fluent speakers under the age of eighteen were left. A major reason for the deterioration of the Hawaiian language was an 1896 law that required English instruction in Hawai'i schools. In practice, this law functioned to "ban" students from speaking 'Ōlelo Hawai'i at their schools.

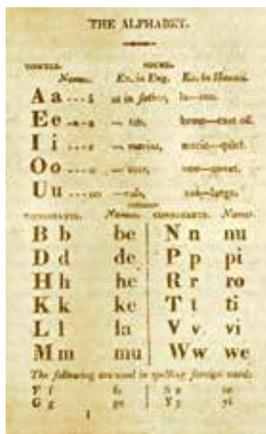
To save the Hawaiian language, a number of historic initiatives were launched, including 'Aha Pūnana Leo's Hawaiian language immersion preschools, the department of education's Hawaiian language immersion program, and the Hawaiian language programs of the University of Hawai'i system.

In 1978, the Hawai'i constitution was amended to recognize the Hawaiian language as one of the two official languages of the State. Furthermore, several important gubernatorial proclamations on 'Ōlelo Hawai'i were issued in the 1990s. In 1994 and 1995, gubernatorial proclamations, written in both Hawaiian and English, were issued recognizing February 1994 and February 1995 as "Hawaiian Language Month in Hawaii." The proclamations urged people to participate in the Hawaiian language activities held in February. Hawaiian language events held in

February at that time included Lā 'Ohana, Lā Kūkahekahe, and O'ahu's Ho'omau concert.

The following year, another gubernatorial proclamation was issued that recognized 1996 as "Year of the Hawaiian Language" in observance of a century passing since the enactment of the 1896 law that prohibited speaking Hawaiian language in Hawai'i schools.

While the Hawaiian language revitalization movement has made major strides in the last thirty years, for 'Ōlelo Hawai'i to not just survive, but to also thrive, more people need to speak Hawaiian. According to the State data there are about 20,000 Hawaiian speakers today.



This year, Sen. English introduced **SB 711**, relating to Hawaiian Language, this is the second part of **SB 469** (2013). The bill Requires all letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems of the State and other political subdivisions that include Hawaiian words or names to include accurate and appropriate Hawaiian names, spelling, and punctuation. Establishes references for accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation. Clarifies that the full text of bills and other official documents are not required to be written in Hawaiian and that misspelled or incorrectly punctuated Hawaiian words and names shall not invalidate the documents or render them unenforceable and no cause of

action shall arise accordingly.

The bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Judiciary. For more information and to support the bill go to: [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure\\_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=711&year=2021](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=711&year=2021)

## FCC OFFERS LOW COST INTERNET SERVICE FOR RESIDENTS

In advance of the opening of the Legislature, 'Ōlelo Community Media premiered its weekly "Live at the Legislature" show on Tuesday, January 19 at 8:30am.

The show was first launched in January 2018 and today continues to focus on the issues, legislation and topics of importance that emerge each session. Each week, State Senators and Representatives provide a variety of perspectives on the issues from both sides of the aisle and chamber.

As in years past, "Live at the Legislature" is available to viewers on Hawai'i Island, Maui and Kaua'i, they will be able to view 'Ōlelo's cablecast on community-access stations Nā Leo TV, Akakū and Hō'ike.

"In partnership with 'Ōlelo Community Media, we're bringing the State Capitol virtual with live interviews every week," said Sen. English. "Live At The Legislature' provides a great opportunity for the public to hear from lawmakers about the issues that are being discussed during the legislative session."

The live-stream of the weekly show will also be found at 'OleloNet at [www.olelo.org/49](http://www.olelo.org/49). For on-demand viewing at a later date, each "Live at the Legislature" show will be available at [www.youtube.com/olelocm](http://www.youtube.com/olelocm).

## PRE-PAID DEBIT CARD STIMULUS PAYMENTS ARRIVE IN MAIL

Some Hawai'i residents are receiving stimulus payment debit cards from the IRS instead of check or direct deposit.

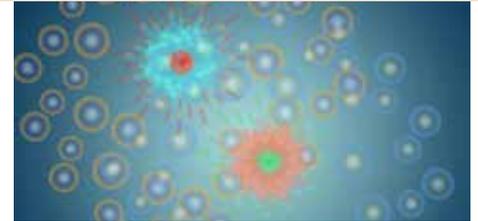
The federal government began issuing nearly 8 million of the pre-paid cards, stating that this may differ from what some received during the first round of relief payments. Legitimate cards will have the words "VISA" and "DEBIT" on the front, along with the issuing bank, MetaBank, N.A., shown on the back. The envelope has the U.S. Department of the Treasury seal displayed.

Some private information will be required to activate the cards, including a person's Social Security number. Those who receive the cards can use it to make purchases, or get cash from ATMs. Funds can also be transferred to a personal bank account without incurring any fees. Instructions are included with the card.

For more information on the EIP cards, click here: <https://cca.hawaii.gov/ocp/eipcards/>.



## COVID-19 VARIANT DETECTED IN HAWAII



The Department of Health's State Laboratories Division (SLD) identified nine cases of the Covid-19 variant L452R in Hawai'i.

Of the nine variants identified so far, one was from Maui, one from Kaua'i, and seven were from O'ahu. Four individuals carrying the variant had a history of travel to or from the continent (three to California, one to Utah), including two returning residents. Investigation is ongoing into one Maui case and four O'ahu cases that had no history of travel.

"The presence of this variant is concerning, and I encourage everyone to continue practicing social distancing and refrain from traveling to the continent," emphasized Sen. English. "This new strain is highly contagious, and we must do what we can to prevent any further spread."

For more information go to:

[governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/hawaii-covid-19-joint-information-center-daily-news-digest-feb-5-2021/](https://governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/hawaii-covid-19-joint-information-center-daily-news-digest-feb-5-2021/)

## MAUI COUNTY'S WEB PAGE FOR REVIEW OF PROJECT APPLICANTS

A web page for public review of project applications pending planning commission review was recently launched by the Planning Department.

The page can be found at <https://www.mauicounty.gov/2421/Pending-Applications>. A link to the Pending Applications page can be found under "hot topics" on the Planning Department's main web page at <https://www.mauicounty.gov/121/Planning-Department>.

From the Pending Applications page, the public can see complete applications in community plan areas. Each area has a list of project applications available for review. The page is updated regularly.

The projects are pending planning commission action.

Commission agendas are posted at <https://www.mauicounty.gov/1128/Supported-Boards-Commissions>. Agendas provide meeting dates and instructions for providing public comment and listening to digital meetings via the bluejeans.com platform.

For information on specific applications, contact the staff planner assigned to the project. The department's Current Planning Division can be reached at (808) 270-8205.

**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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**2021 SUMMER HAWAII YOUTH  
CONSERVATION CORPS**

Kupu is an environmental non-profit organization that operates throughout Maui, Moloka'i, Kaho'olawe and across the State helping to restore the 'āina, and empowering the next generation of environmental stewards.

While COVID has impacted our typical outreach, Kupu is currently looking for passionate young adults within the community to

take part in our upcoming 2021 **Summer Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps**:

Program Dates: June 7th - July 23rd.

Deadline to apply February 26

For further information contact:

E: [hyccsummer@kupuhawaii.org](mailto:hyccsummer@kupuhawaii.org)

P: 808 - 735 - 1221 Ext 2001

[www.kupuhawaii.org/hycc-summer](http://www.kupuhawaii.org/hycc-summer)

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



**HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS  
SUMMER PROGRAM**



Serve your community with a committed team to restore Hawai'i's unique and precious environment.

**AVAILABLE POSITIONS**

Team Members, must be 17+ by June 2021  
Team Leaders, must be 21+ by June 2021

**PROGRAM DATES**

June 7th - July 23rd (7 weeks)  
Team Leader Training Week starts May 31st

Benefits include  
\$500.00 Monetary stipends, CPR/First Aid Certification and a \$1311.00 AmeriCorps Education Award (similar to a scholarship)

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 26**

**APPLY ONLINE**

[www.kupuhawaii.org/hycc-summer](http://www.kupuhawaii.org/hycc-summer)

For further information contact us

E: [hyccsummer@kupuhawaii.org](mailto:hyccsummer@kupuhawaii.org)

P: 808 - 735 - 1221 Ext 2001

