



# 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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## MESSAGE FROM KALANI

With the rate of COVID-19 vaccinations increasing across the country, we are seeing tourism return at a rate that is comparable to pre-pandemic numbers. I am committed to continue working with county and state agencies to explore options to better manage the impact of the visitor industry in our communities. .

*J. Kalani English*

## LĀNA'I RESIDENTS VACCINATED

Sen. English and Rep. DeCoite joined a team from Maui Health, Lāna'i Community Hospital, the Lāna'i police department, Lāna'i Emergency Operations Center team, and other community leaders to host a drive-through vaccination clinic on Saturday, March 27.

The Maui Health team administered the vaccinations to all residents 16 years and older who wished to be vaccinated with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The Lāna'i team assisted with traffic control, observing recently vaccinated individuals and providing further instructions to community members.

The event was supported by the State Department of Health (DOH) and the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i in a focused effort to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all residents, regardless of current state vaccination Phase. The DOH deemed it vital for all eligible Lāna'i residents to be vaccinated to help prevent any future COVID-19 outbreak on the island. As a small community, Lāna'i would benefit from its residents being vaccinated, which would allow residents to remain healthy, avoid straining the limited health care resources on the island if an outbreak would happen, and help get island life back to some sense of normalcy.

on April 17 the Maui team will travel back to Lāna'i to provide the second dose of the vaccination. They will also provide any first dose vaccinations to those remaining residents who wish to be vaccinated.

"The vaccination event was a great success due to the coordinated effort of all the health teams and providers, police and community leaders," emphasized Sen. English. "More importantly, mahalo to the many residents who came to be vaccinated because they will make a difference in returning to pre-COVID status on Lāna'i."

For more vaccine information go to: [www.mauhealth.org/covid-19/lanai-community-vaccine-clinic/](http://www.mauhealth.org/covid-19/lanai-community-vaccine-clinic/)



*Top: Sen. English; Dr. John Janikowski, Straub Medical Center- Lāna'i Clinic; Rep. Lynn DeCoite; and Tish Kuskulis, RN- Lāna'i Kina'ole. Lāna'i City, Lāna'i. March 27, 2021.*

*Above: Sen English and Rep. DeCoite with the vaccination team. Lāna'i City, Lāna'i. March 27, 2021.*

## HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY IDENTIFIES TOURISM “HOTSPOTS” ON MAUI, MOLOKA’I AND LĀNA’I

Senate Concurrent Resolution 175 (**SCR 175**) and Senate Resolution (**SR 140**), Request the Hawaii Tourism Authority to develop an implementation plan based on tourism hot spots identified in County destination management action plans, was introduced by Sen. English to address the adverse impacts that pre-COVID-19 tourism had on the natural resources and communities.

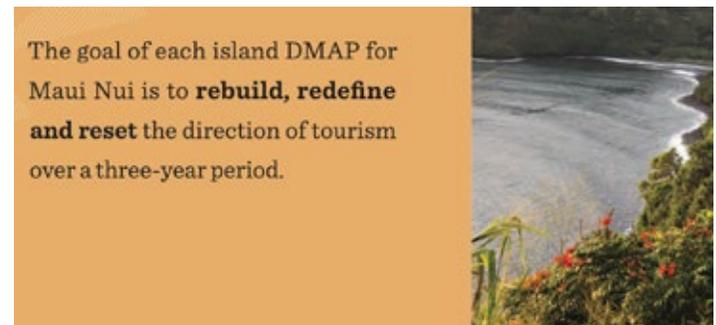
The Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) in partnership with the counties and visitor industry has developed community-based Destination Management Action Plans that aim to rebuild, redefine and reset the direction of tourism. The focus is on stabilization, recovery and rebuilding of the desired visitor industry for each island with particular focus on “hot spots”. HTA identifies “hot spots” as an area that attracts visitors because of its popularity, resulting in overcrowding, congestion, degradation of resources, safety hazards and a negative experience for all.

The HTA’s 2020-2025 Strategic Plan was organized around four concepts: Natural Resources, Hawaiian Culture, Community and Brand Marketing with an emphasis on addressing tourism impacts and destination management. The Plan defined Destination Management to include: Attracting and educating responsible visitors; advocating for solutions to overcrowded attractions, overtaxed infrastructure, and other tourism relating problems, and working with responsible agencies to improve natural and cultural assets valued by both residents and visitors.

In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic increased awareness of the opportunities and vulnerabilities of tourism, the idea of “**regenerative tourism**” gained support. The model for this concept was “**sustainable tourism**” that was environmentally friendly, culturally sensitive and has less impact than high numbers of visitors.

“The HTA plan begins the process to improve tourism management in our communities,” noted Sen. English. “Visitors have already returned to our islands and we need to expedite some of these initiatives to ensure that we do not return to the way tourism was prior to the pandemic.”

For more information on the Destination Management Action Plan 2021-2023 for Maui Nui go to: [www.hawaiitourismauthority.org/media/6860/hta-maui-action-plan.pdf](http://www.hawaiitourismauthority.org/media/6860/hta-maui-action-plan.pdf)



## SBA LAUNCHES PORTAL TO BEGIN ACCEPTING SHUTTERED VENUE OPERATORS GRANT APPLICATIONS ON APRIL 8

The U.S. Small Business Administration is launching a splash page for the **Shuttered Venue Operators Grant** (SVOG) application portal in anticipation of opening applications for the much-anticipated critical economic relief program on Thursday, April 8, 2021.

The SVOG program was established by the Economic Aid to Hard Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits and Venues Act, which appropriated \$15 billion for it. The American Rescue Plan Act, signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021, appropriated an additional \$1.25 billion, bringing the program funding to a total of \$16.25 billion, with more than \$16 billion allocated for grants.

To ensure eligible venues do not miss a window to receive assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the American Rescue Plan Act also amended the SVOG program so entities that apply for a PPP loan after Dec. 27, 2020, can also apply for an SVOG, with the eligible entity’s SVOG to be reduced by the PPP loan amount. The PPP loan applications have been updated to reflect this.

As the SBA builds and prepares to open the program, the dedicated SBA website, [www.sba.gov/svogrant](http://www.sba.gov/svogrant), which includes frequently

asked questions, video tutorials and other SVOG details, is the best source for information for those looking to apply for a grant.

To prepare in advance of the SVOG application portal opening on April 8, potential applicants should get registered in the federal government’s System for Award Management **SAM.gov**, as this is required for an entity to receive an SVOG, and reference the preliminary application checklist and eligibility requirements.



## VACCINATION ELIGIBILITY EXPANDED

The Hawai'i Department of Health announced on March 25 that the state will extend COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to people age 60 and older beginning Monday, March 29.

Previously, vaccines have been reserved for those in phase 1a and 1b of the state's vaccination program as well as those age 65 and older, those being treated with oxygen for severe respiratory conditions, those on dialysis, chemotherapy or other infusion therapy, as well as essential workers at hotels, restaurants, and bars.

For those qualifying, a vaccination clinic can be arranged through employers, or individuals may schedule directly with one of the sites listed and choose their location and vaccine.

Elementary, middle and high school teachers, as well as preschool and day care personnel may register for vaccinations at a participating pharmacy or other community sites. Visit [www.mauhealth.org/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/](http://www.mauhealth.org/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/)

## FUNDS RELEASED FOR CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Governor recently announced the release of more than **\$165 million** for capital improvement projects (CIP) to fund critical public infrastructure projects that contribute to building a better home for our kūpuna, keiki, and the residents of Hawai'i. In District 7, some of the projects include:

**\$1,405,000** Traffic Operational Improvements at various locations

**\$750,000** Roof and gutter replacement at Kaunakakai Elementary School

**\$464,731** Reconstruction of Runway 3-21 Lāna'i Airport **\$464,731**

**\$10,405,000** Design and Construction of field improvements to the baseball and softball fields at King Kekaulike High School.

"The release of these funds are important for our district," said Sen. English. "These projects allow us to address critical issues relating to infrastructure while also creating work for many in our community."

## MICRO-GRANT PROGRAM FOR SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURE OPENS

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is now accepting applications for the Micro-Grants for Food Security Program, which provides support for small-scale gardening, herding and livestock operations to help produce food in areas that are insecure.

In August 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded Hawai'i a total of \$1,938,556.80 for this grant program which was established under the 2018 Farm Bill.

Information on the Request for Proposals may be found at the Hawai'i State Procurement website at: <https://hands.ehawaii.gov/hands/opportunities/opportunity-details/20023>.

The maximum award for an individual is \$5,000 for a project of 12 months, \$2,500 for a six-month project. Under the grant program rules, religious organization, food banks and food pantries may also apply. Applications/proposals must be emailed to [hdoa.addrfp@hawaii.gov](mailto:hdoa.addrfp@hawaii.gov) and received by noon, April 23, 2021.

Examples of the types of activities that may be funded under this grant include:

- Small-Scale Gardening – purchase tools

or equipment, soil, seeds, plants, canning equipment, refrigeration, composting equipment, towers, hydroponic and aeroponic farming.

- Small-Scale Herding and Livestock Operations – purchase animals, buy, erect or repair fencing for livestock, activities or supplies associated with setting up or equipping a slaughter and processing facility, including purchasing mobile slaughterhouses.

- Expanding Access to Food and Knowledge of Food Security – create or expand avenues for the sale of food commodities – includes paying for shipping of purchased items related to growing or raising food for local consumption.

Additional information, including Frequently Asked Questions, are available at the grant portal at: [hands.ehawaii.gov/hands/opportunities/opportunity-details/20023](http://hands.ehawaii.gov/hands/opportunities/opportunity-details/20023)

Eligible proposals will be reviewed by a panel in each county and awards are expected to be announced in May 2021, with first disbursement of funds expected in July 2021.

Questions regarding the application process may addressed to HDOA's Market Development Branch at (808) 973-9595 or email: [hdoa.addrfp@hawaii.gov](mailto:hdoa.addrfp@hawaii.gov)

## ON THIS DAY IN 1946



*Post-tsunami devastation at Hamoa Village. Structure deposited in the middle of Hane'o o Road facing north; original rock walls damaged were later rebuilt. Hamoa, Maui. April 1, 1946.*

# J. KALANI ENGLISH Senate Majority Leader

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## 2021 Bill/Resolution Update

The following is the status of all bills and resolutions that Sen. English introduced. For more information on a bill or resolution go to: [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

### **SB696 SD1 Festival of Pacific Arts; Temporary Commission**

Extends the date on which the temporary commission on the thirteenth festival of Pacific Arts shall cease to exist to August 31, 2025. Permits less than a quorum of commission members to discuss matters relating to official board business outside a commission meeting as a permitted interaction under part I of chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to enable them to perform their duties faithfully, provided that the commission holds a meeting at least once a month and discusses the progress of the permitted interaction matter at the next meeting. (SD1)

### **SB697 SD1 HD1 Kalaupapa Month**

Designates January of each year as "Kalaupapa Month". (HD1)

### **SB702 SD2 HD1 Funding Formula; Committee on Weights; Reporting**

Requires the committee on weights to submit a report to the legislature detailing any changes to the funding formula within thirty days of the final report. Effective 7/1/2051. (HD1)

### **SB714 SD1 HD2 Hawaii Publicity Rights Act; Right of Publicity; Deceased Persons**

Clarifies the right of publicity includes the rights of individuals who died prior to the enactment of the Hawaii Publicity Rights Act. Effective 1/1/2050. (HD2)

### **SB715 SD2 HD1 Special Purpose Revenue Bond; Pueo Development, LLC; DHHL; Low-income Housing; Moderate-income Housing**

Authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds for a master planned development proposed by Pueo Development, LLC, on Hawaiian home lands. Effective 7/1/3021. (HD1)

### **SB1344 SD2 HD1 DOA; Seafood Sustainability; State Agriculture Functional Plan**

Requires the department of agriculture, in coordination with the office of planning, to prepare and periodically update the state agriculture functional plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including seafood sustainability, that expand the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source. (HD1)

### **SCR175 Hawai'i Tourism Authority; Implementation Plan; Tourism Hot Spots.**

Requesting the Hawaii Tourism Authority to develop an implementation plan based on tourism hot spots identified in County destination management action plans.

### **SR140 Hawaii Tourism Authority; Implementation Plan; Tourism Hot Spots.**

Requesting the Hawaii Tourism Authority to develop an implementation plan based on tourism hot spots identified in County destination management action plans.

### **SCR176 Department of Health; Community Health Centers; Oversight; Study**

Requesting the Department of Health to explore ways it can exercise oversight over community health centers and other medical service entities when a danger to the community's health exists.

### **SR141 Department of Health; Community Health Centers; Oversight; Study**

Requesting the Department of Health to explore ways it can exercise oversight over community health centers and other medical service entities when a danger to the community's health exists.

