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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

I enjoyed a very fruitful discussion with HSTA members from Moloka'i and Lana'i, as we compared the educational needs of the rural areas. It is impressive when groups and organizations are thoughtful in their presentations to the Senate.

There are many issues facing us now, one of the most important is climate change and sea level rise. **S.B. 559:** Relating To Climate Change, a bill I introduced, passed the joint Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, Government Operations and Transportation and Energy. The bill is now in the committee on Ways and Means.

Please follow us and stay current on the issues by going to the following link: www.capitol.hawaii.gov

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



HSTA MEETS WITH SENATOR ENGLISH

Hawai'i State Teachers Association's (HSTA) members from Moloka'i, Lāna'i and Maui travelled to O'ahu on February 3rd for the annual HSTA Lobby Day. This annual event attracts HSTA members to the Capitol to meet with legislators on issues that are important to both students and teachers statewide. "Teachers are the single most important factor in determining student success," said Sen. English. "If we expect our students to succeed academically, we need to ensure that we support our teachers to the fullest extent."

This year, HSTA Government Relations Committee members Pat Niibu, Laura Buller and Romeo Eleno met with Sen. English to discuss an array of issues including the impact of weighted student formulas on small rural schools. In 2004, Act 51 established a weighted student formula to allocate moneys to schools according to the different costs of educating students with different needs. Despite its intent, the weighted student formula has placed small, remote schools at a disadvantage. In the case of Hāna High and Elementary school, the budgetary shortfall has resulted in the loss of several well-qualified teachers and has threatened the school's ability to offer minimum course requirements for students to earn high school diplomas.

In response to this issue, Sen. English introduced SB 553, relating to the weighted student formulas. The bill passed out of the Senate Committee on Education. The bill requires that funding allocations for remote schools be determined by categorical allotments rather than the weighted student formula. This would include all schools in rural districts on Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i.

"The bill offers students in the 7th District the required courses needed for graduation so students will not have to travel a great distance to the closest public high school," said Sen. English. "This will help in ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed academically."

KA MAHINA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I

HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE MONTH

'Auhea 'oukou e ka po'e 'olelo mākuahine o nā hono a Pī'ilani. Mai ka mauna ki'eki'e o Haleakalā a hiki i ke kai o Kalohi, aloha mai kākou!

'O Pepeluali ka mahina no kākou a pau e ho'omaika'i a e paipai aku ai i ka 'olelo Hawai'i. 'O ka 'olelo Hawai'i kekahi o nā 'olelo kūhelu 'elua o ka moku'āina o Hawai'i. I ka makahiki 2012, ua ho'oholo via ai 'o Pepeluali ka "Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i".

I ko'u mau makahiki e hana nei i ka 'Aha Kenekoa, ua makemake wau e ho'okomo ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i i nā wahi like 'ole, 'o ia nō ma ke kapikala nei. Akā, mau nō ka pilikia i ka'u makemake e ho'okomo ai ka 'olelo Hawai'i no ka mea, 'o wau ke kenekoa wale nō me ka ho'omaopopo 'ana o ia 'olelo nei. No laila, eia ka nīnau nui: me ka hapa nui o nā kenekoa e ho'omaopopo 'ole ai i ka 'olelo Hawai'i, pehea e ho'oki'eki'e ai ke kūlana o ka 'olelo Hawai'i i nā papahana aupuni?

Inā kākou e ho'omaopopo ai ko kākou mo'olelo o ia aupuni nei, 'o ka 'olelo Hawai'i ka 'olelo kūhelu i ka wā o Ke Aupuni a me ka Panalā'au o Hawai'i. Ua ho'ohana lākou ka 'olelo Hawai'i i nā papahana aupuni a pau. Inā makemake kākou e ho'oki'eki'e ai ke kūlana o ia 'olelo nei, pono kākou e ho'opaipai ko kākou mau hoa (a me nā kānaka 'ē a'e) e ho'ohana ka 'olelo Hawai'i i kā lākou mau hana.

Nui ko'u mahalo iā Kenekoa Karl Rhoads no kona makemake e ho'ohana 'ia ai ka 'olelo Hawai'i i kā kāna kōmike 'aha ho'olohe. Maopopo iā ia ka waiwai i ka ho'okomo 'ana o ka 'olelo Hawai'i i nā papahana nei. Inā hiki i ka lehulehu e 'ike 'ia ka 'olelo Hawai'i ma nā palapala, hiki paha lākou ke ho'ohana i ka 'olelo Hawai'i i kā kakou mau wahi hana, i ko kākou mau 'ohana a pēlā aku nō. 'O ia ka waiwai o kēia papahana a nui ka mahalo iā Kenekoa Rhoads no kona alaka'i 'ana i kēia papahana e ho'ola hou ai ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, 'o ia nō i nā papahana o ke aupuni.

No laila, mau nō ka hana ma mua o kākou a pau no ka ho'oma'ama 'ana o ka 'olelo Hawai'i. Akā inā hiki kākou ke ho'okomo ka 'olelo Hawai'i i nā wahi like 'ole, he manawa kūpono no ia e a'o aku i ia mea nei i ka lehulehu i mea a kākou e ho'oikaika ai ke kūlana o ko kākou 'olelo mākuahine.

No ka mea hope loa, makemake wau e waiho aku iā 'oukou me ka mana'o mai nā kūpuna mai. Eia kekahi mana'o mai ka nūpepa 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Ka Hōkū o Hawai'i) mai no kākou a pau e ho'omana'o ai, "E ala e, e apo i kā kākou 'olelo mākuahine a i mua ho'i a loa'a iā kākou ka lanakila, ma o ka loa'a 'ana o ka mākaukau i ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i."

E ola mau ka 'olelo Hawai'i!

English Translation:

During the month of February, we are celebrating and encouraging the use of the Hawaiian language as one of two official state languages. The 2012 amendment to the Hawai'i Revised Statutes provided that the month of February be designated as "Ōlelo Hawai'i Month." We look forward to reinforcing this directive by encouraging the use and practice of our native language in government affairs.

I have continued to advocate for the implementation of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i here at the State Capitol and in various capacities since joining the Senate in 2000. However, as I am the only Senator who speaks the language, I continue to face many obstacles with the implementation of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. Therefore, I am faced with a big question: how do I continue to best advocate for the implementation of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i if a majority of the Senators do not speak the language?



I recognize the efforts of Sen. Karl Rhoads for his implementation of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in all of his committee hearing notices. I want to thank Sen. Rhoads for his leadership in this effort to revitalize and normalize the Hawaiian language, especially here at the Capitol. He understands the value of implementing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in our work at the State Capitol. It is my belief that if people begin to see more of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, perhaps they may begin to implement it in their work place and daily use.

During the Hawaiian Kingdom and Territorial eras, all government operations were conducted in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. Our rich historical legacy mandates that we continue governance in the path of those that have come before us. The implementation of the language is an important aspect, and I believe we must encourage

our colleagues (and others) to begin using bits and pieces of it in our everyday affairs.

There is still much work to be done to normalize the Hawaiian language. However, if we begin to use Hawaiian in various capacities, it is a great opportunity to teach the general public so that we may be able to strengthen the value of our mother language.

I want to leave you with this excerpt from the Hawaiian language newspaper Ka Hōkū Hawai'i: "Rise, grasp our mother tongue and go forth and let us be triumphant by being proficient in the Hawaiian language."

Long live the Hawaiian language!

SEN. ENGLISH PRESENTS CERTIFICATE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL (RETIRED) DAN LEAF

On February 6, Sen. English was honored to present a Certificate of Recognition to Lieutenant General (Retired) Daniel P. Leaf, who recently retired from his position as Director of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS); serving as the director for seven years. Lt. Gen. Ret. Leaf is also distinguished for his contributions to enhance security cooperation among government and non-government professionals during a critical period of national rebalance to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. "Under Lt. Gen. Ret. Leaf's leadership, the APCSS has become the premier institution for development of new ideas and relationships affecting regional security," said Sen. English. "Lt. Gen. Ret. Leaf has also fostered a strategic partnership with the Senate, a relationship that we at the Senate value very much."

Prior to APCSS, Lt. Gen. Ret. Leaf worked in the defense industry as vice president of full spectrum initiatives at Northrop Grumman Information Systems. Formerly the Deputy Commander of U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM), he retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2008 after more than 33 years of service.

"I am honored to know Dan for these many years," said Sen. English. "The Senate is appreciative for his dedication and service to the people of Hawai'i."

For more information on the DKI APCSS, visit www.apcss.org



SENATE LAUNCHES HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE HEARING NOTICE PILOT PROJECT

The Hawai'i State Senate began posting the hearing notices for two standing committees in both the English and Hawaiian language as part of the Senate's continuing initiative recognizing the State's official languages.

The Senate Committee on Water and Land (WTL), chaired by Senator Karl Rhoads and the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN), chaired by Senator Maile Shimabukuro are the piloting the initiative to have the hearing notices posted in both languages.

"Through our legislative materials, this project reflects the responsibility and role of the Senate in showing respect for our host culture," said Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi. "It makes sense these two important committees would be the first to expand on our Hawaiian language initiative."

The Senate Order of the Day has been posted in dual languages along with the usage of Hawaiian diacritical markings in its public records since the Senate initiative on Hawaiian language was instituted in 2015.

"Government operations were conducted in the Hawaiian language up to the 1920's so we have an entire lexicon that is the basis for all of our laws today," said Sen. English. "This initiative proudly reflects the language revitalization in Hawai'i."

To view all current committee hearing notices in the 2017 Legislative Session, visit <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

MOLOKA'I HIGH SCHOOL UNVEILS NEW SCIENCE BUILDING

Moloka'i High School proudly unveiled its new Science Building on January 27, 2017. This \$4.7 million, state of the art building, is the result of a decade-long operating and capital improvement appropriation at the Hawai'i State Legislature. "I allotted funds for the building in the fiscal biennium 2007-2009 budget," said Sen. English, "And I am pleased our work at the Senate could allow for this important addition to Moloka'i High School." The design, construction, and equipment for two new science classrooms has finally come to fruition in this exciting new science space for Moloka'i students. The model classrooms of the Science Building will now serve as a state-wide example of environmental sustainability for all schools.

The building itself features a rooftop water and catchment system that irrigates the school grounds, while the classrooms work to create natural lighting with an environmentally friendly classroom layout. The new building will also act as an important component to the schools' growing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program. Students here are already making their mark on the STEM program as the students have been recipients of numerous STEM awards over the years. This building will, without doubt, continue to inspire the next generation of science enthusiasts.

J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

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International Affairs and the Arts

Member, Senate Committee
on Hawaiian Affairs

Member, Senate Committee
on Transportation and Energy

Member, Senate Committee
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SEA LEVEL RISE
VULNERABILITY & ADAPTATION



The second Sea Level Rise Vulnerability & Adaptation workshop was held on January 31 at the Japanese Cultural Center. Numerous organizations from around the State attended the workshop to network and collaborate on the topic of climate change. "The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is in the process of developing a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability & Adaptation Report (SLR Report) that is to be submitted in anticipation of the 2018 Hawai'i State Legislature," said Sen. English. "These workshops are a valuable tool in helping us to address major climate change issues."

The SLR Report is the first state-wide assessment of the impacts of sea level rise on Hawai'i's coastal areas. The SLR Report will assist in preparing Hawai'i for future sea level rise and present recommendations to reduce exposure to SLR hazards such as erosion and extreme flooding. The report also provides a roadmap for SLR adaptation that strives to improve resilience in the face of rapid global changes.

The main goal of these workshops is to help in refining the recommendations presented in the report. The gathering of individuals and organizations from the Native Hawaiian, scientific, architectural and engineering communities help in providing technical/professional expertise in regards to additional recommendations and implementation. The cooperation of government, nongovernmental and private sector communities also help in solving cross jurisdictional and intergenerational problems associated with climate change.

"We are already experiencing coastal flooding and erosion in low-lying areas of the State, especially in certain areas of Maui," said Sen. English. "These types of workshops and initiatives are important first steps in bringing awareness to the issue of climate change."



Sen. English was honored to formally recognize Dr. Ernest James Harris on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal for his service as one of the first African-Americans in the United States Marine Corps. February 7, 2017.