



SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

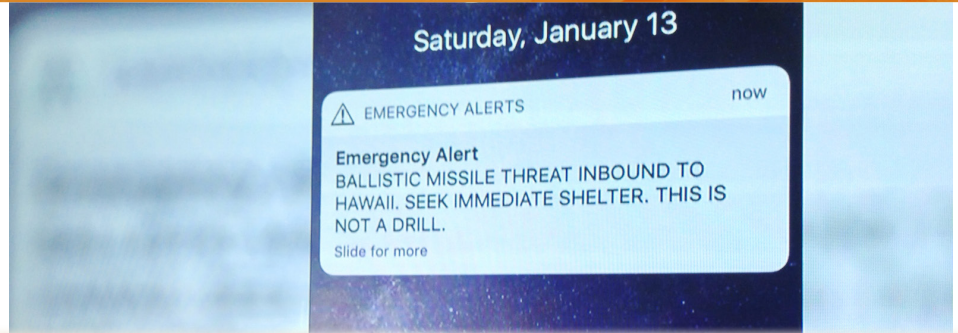
HĀNA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I AND KAHO'OLAWE

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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

38 Minutes! I was terrified with the feeling that at any moment my beloved Islands would be destroyed. I called loved ones, talked and texted with scared constituents while trying to find out what was going on. Senators texted each other for the best information we could give our families and constituents. Then, finally, we heard "false alarm." In these 38 minutes, I saw just how much I love Hawai'i, its people and what we stand for.



FAILED SYSTEM ISSUES FALSE ALARM

On Saturday morning, Jan. 13, during what was supposed to be a routine procedure at the change of a shift at the Emergency Management Agency, a sole employee pushed the wrong button and sent an emergency alert notification to cell phones, television and radio, claiming, "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL."

A full 38 minutes later, a second alert was sent out to phones confirming that the initial message was a false alarm. By that time, the entire state was in upheaval and chaos as residents and visitors sought shelter, which caused extremely dangerous situations especially on the roads and highways. More baffling, some phones did not get the alert and some residents claimed to have heard civil defense sirens.

"I am outraged that a mistake of this magnitude occurred. The initial alert was sent out via Civil Defense at 8:15 a.m. HST and it took the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency over 38 minutes to clarify that the "alarm" was inadvertent and indeed a mistake.



The panic and pandemonium that many in Hawai'i experienced was unwarranted and completely unnecessary," admonished Sen. English. "I will be working with my colleagues in the Legislature to investigate into this matter and to provide the proper oversight to ensure that our state emergency alert system is properly functioning. We need to ensure that this never happens again and I am committed to doing so."

The House Committees on Public Safety and Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts and the Senate Committees on Public Safety, International, and Military Affairs, and Government Operations will convene a public Informational Briefing to review the circumstances surrounding the erroneous release of a statewide emergency alert on Sat., Jan. 13, and corrective actions resulting from this incident. The briefing will be held on Fri., Jan. 19 at 10 am in the Auditorium at the State Capitol in Honolulu. To view the briefing live online go to www.Olelo.org and click on Channel 55. For more information, go to: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2018/hearingnotices/HEARING_PBS-VMI-PSM-GVO_01-19-18_INFO_.HTM

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FACES MAKAWAO ON CESSPOOLS



Left - right: Maui County Council Members: Yuki Lei Sugimura and Stacy Crivello; Sen. English and Gladys Baisa, Deputy Director, Maui County Department of Water Supply. Makawao Maui, Jan. 9, 2018.

The Hawai'i State Department of Health held public informational briefings on the impacts cesspools are having on drinking water and surface waters.

The Makawao meeting was held on Tuesday, January 9 at the Eddie Tam Memorial Center from 6:00pm-8:00pm with over 300 people in attendance. Representatives from the Hawai'i Department of Health included: Keith Kawaoka, deputy director of environmental health; Sina Pruder, chief, wastewater branch; Joanna Seto, chief, safe drinking water branch; Robert Whittier, hydrogeologist, safe drinking water branch; and Barbara Brooks, toxicologist with the hazard evaluation and emergency response program.

"Clearly the report emphasizes the need to address the health and safety risks posed by cesspools now rather than later," said Sen. English. "In Upcountry Maui alone, there are 7,400 cesspools. I am proud of my community members who have weighed in on the findings of the report and provided constructive feedback on action that could be taken to address the cesspools. I plan to work with the health department and my colleagues in the legislature to find some solutions to help homeowners and property owners eliminate cesspools in a manner that is sufficient and financially feasible."

PACIFIC ARTS FESTIVAL COMMISSION ELECTS SEN. ENGLISH CHAIR

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL BRIEFINGS



During the 2017 Legislative Session, Sen. English introduced Senate Bill 545 (Act 104) that created a commission and appropriated \$500,000 to plan for the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC). On Jan. 4 the commission held it's inaugural meeting and selected Sen. English as the Chair

for the FESTPAC Commission. Other Commission members include State Rep. Lynne DeCoite, Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism administrator Dennis Ling, Hawai'i Tourism Association Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs Kalani Ka'ana'ana, Office of Hawaiian Affairs Community Engagement Director Mehana Hind, Mayor's Office of Culture & the Arts Misty Kela'i, and Kumu Hula Mapuana de Silva and Snowbird Bento.

"I'm honored to chair this Commission which has the daunting task of coordinating this festival and ensure that it appropriately and vividly celebrates the richness and diversity of our indigenous cultures and art," said Sen. English. "There's much work to be done, but I'm confident with the caliber of the Commission members we will be able to present an unforgettable experience in 2020."

For more information on the festival, please visit: <http://www.paifoundation.org/festpac2020/>



Prior to Opening Day, this year on Jan. 17, the Ways and Means Committee conducted a series of informational briefings in which each state department presented their concerns and budgetary requirements for the upcoming year.

To access a summary of the briefings and hearing notices for upcoming briefings go to the Hawai'i State Legislature home page and select Ways and Means Informational Briefing Summary or go to Current Hearings: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>



How To SUBMIT TESTIMONY ONLINE

Anyone on a computer connected to the internet can use the Legislature’s web-form to submit testimony.

1. Go to the Legislature’s website www.capitol.hawaii.gov and click on “Sign In” (upper right-hand corner of the screen) and enter your email address and password.

2. Next, click on the orange “Submit Testimony” icon located in center screen.

3. Enter the bill number. (Just the bill number, no draft numbers and no spaces. Ex., enter “SB123” rather than “SB 123 HD1 SD1.”)

The hearing information (committee name, hearing room and date of hearing) will appear. (Note: If there’s not a hearing scheduled for that measure, you will not be able to continue. Check to make sure you typed in the correct measure number. Contact Public Access Room (PAR) at (808) 587-0478 or par@capitol.hawaii.gov if you need assistance.)



MEET SENATOR ENGLISH’S STAFF

Sen. English’s 2017 staff returns for another year to serve the residents of the 7th District. Edith Kimball (Aunty Libby) has been with Sen. English since 2002 as legislative aide. Since 2005, Sharon Lum Ho has been a committee clerk and now provides primarily bills and budget support and assistance. As legislative aide, Cissy Rees has been with Sen. English since 2007. Jacob Ka’ōmaka Aki returns for another year to serve as chief-of-staff and office manager. (Not Pictured – Lauraine Ayers-Briel, Legislative Aide since 2007.)



Left to Right: Sharon Lum Ho, Jacob Ka’ōmaka Aki, Aunty Libby, and Cissy Rees.

FUNDS RELEASED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

\$500,000 were released by the Governor for improvements and to repave the Runway and Taxiway at the Moloka’i Airport.

\$1,500,000 in funds were released by the Governor for Native dryland forest replanting on the upland slopes of Kaho’olawe.

\$364,277 was awarded by the Department of Education, Facilities Development Branch, to BCP Construction of Hawai’i, Inc. for various repairs at Kula Elementary School.



J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

COMMITTEES

Vice Chair, Senate Committee
on Labor

Member, Senate Committee
on Hawaiian Affairs

Member, Senate Committee
on Transportation and Energy

Member, Senate Committee
on Ways & Means



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KUPU Launches Pacific Resiliency Fellowship Program

Kupu, a non-profit organization that was founded in 2007 and based in Honolulu recently announced that it will be launching the Pacific Resiliency Fellows (PRF) program in April 2018. The new fellowship program will target early to mid-career conservation and sustainability professionals across the Pacific region, and will provide mentorship, networking, field-based learning, professional development training and opportunities. The PRF program is a legacy initiative of the 2016 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress.

The nine-month PRF program takes place from April through Dec. 2018. The program includes online curriculum and mentorship that will address sustainability and natural resource management challenges and solutions, identify individual community and organizational needs and develop leadership style and skills. Fellows will receive strategic communication training, tailored mentorship, and guidance in developing individualized action plans to support their organizations' work in their communities.



Kupu will select up to 14 fellows from Hawai'i, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau and Rapa Nui for the inaugural class. Applicants may be in the early to middle stages of their careers in environmental stewardship, conservation or sustainability. They must show aptitude and experience in their respective fields, leadership potential and a desire and commitment to make positive changes in their community and the world.

"I am very excited that fellows from Hawai'i will have the opportunity to interact with others from the Pacific," said Sen. English. "This is precisely what Hawai'i needs at this time, with climate change challenges facing all of us."

Tuition for the program is \$2,500 to cover travel and program costs. Scholarships may be available if the applicant or her/his organization is unable to cover tuition costs. Applications are available online at <https://kupuahawaii.tfaforms.net/137>. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2018. Selected Pacific Resiliency Fellows will be notified by March 20, 2018.

The services and learning programs that Kupu provides are in industries like conservation, renewable energy, agriculture, and sustainability. Kupu has successfully supported and brought partners together from across the State of Hawai'i and the broader Pacific region. The organization is currently working with over 150 partner sites that are comprised of Federal, State, and NGO entities throughout the main Hawaiian Islands, American Samoa, California, Palmyra Atoll, Johnston Atoll, and Midway Atoll. For more information, visit www.kupuhawaii.org.

