



IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Opening Day at the Capitol pgs 1,2
- ▶ Message from Kalani pg 1
- ▶ Ways and Means Hearing pg 2
- ▶ Maui Judge Confirmation pg 3
- ▶ Road Safety pg 3
- ▶ President Temaru Visits pgs 4,5,6

MESSAGE FROM KALANI

The 2012 Session has begun and we at the legislature are busy reviewing and introducing various legislation for the State of Hawai'i. As our State continues to feel the effects of a slow economic recovery, the legislature decided to scale back the traditional opening day festivities and treat this day as a regular work day. Family and friends were not seated on the Senate floor nor was there entertainment during session.

In this issue, we look at the Senate majority package, which details our priorities for the 2012 legislative session and we welcome the President of French Polynesia, His Excellency Oscar Temaru as he travels here to explore economic opportunities between Tahiti and Hawai'i. In addition, the Senate confirmed Maui attorney, Mimi DesJardins as a new District Court Judge for the Second Circuit on Maui.

*J. Kalani English*

SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE • 6TH DISTRICT

HĀNA • EAST & UPCOUNTRY MAUI • MOLOKA'I • LĀNA'I • KAHO'OLAWĒ



HAWAI'I STATE SENATE MAJORITY CAUCUS SETS PRIORITIES FOR THE 2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

With the opening of 2012 Regular Session, the Hawai'i Senate Majority unveiled its priorities for this Legislative Session. The Senate Majority, consisting of the 24 Democratic members are committed to improving the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i.

As the Senate moves forward in the second year of the Twenty-Sixth Legislative biennium, the Senate Majority has identified the following priorities:

**Job Creation & Creating a Sustainable Economy**

Creating jobs and putting people back to work will be critically important. The Senate Majority has created an aggressive FY13 General Obligation Bond-funded \$500 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP) package aimed at investing and stimulating our local economy from all corners of the

state, from Hilo to Hanalei. The program will create shovel-ready jobs for all trades in the construction industry – from carpenters to consultants. It'll put money in workers' pockets and give companies confidence to begin hiring again.

Projects to be considered will focus on smaller repair and maintenance projects to address aging infrastructures and to extend the useful life of existing state-owned assets and facilities. Projects will also include those that address health and safety code concerns. These are not newly identified projects, rather it's a plan to eliminate projects that have been backlogged. Funding will be provided throughout State departments. The permitting, approval and procurement process in both the private and public sectors to facilitate expedient movement would be streamlined and/



Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi, Sen. English and Senate President Shan S. Tsutsui celebrate the beginning of 2012 Legislative Session. Jan. 18, 2012



Sen. English congratulates Jennifer Chow, newly confirmed Assistant Clerk of the Hawaii State Senate and former staffer for Sen. English. Jan. 18, 2012

continued on pg. 2

or simplified to ensure that government is able to provide services to the public in the most efficient manner.

### Sustainability and Renewable Energy

When it comes to sustainability and renewable energy, the Senate Majority will continue to strive to make Hawai'i a model for the rest of the country by continuing the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative. The Senate Majority will make it a priority to develop sustainable and renewable energy strategies and initiatives throughout our state agencies. The Senate will strive to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption at state facilities, such as schools, hospitals, and state office buildings.

### Retooling Government

In the area of technology, the Senate Majority Caucus package calls for investing in the State's information technology infrastructure in order to improve government and to better serve the public. The investment in IT upgrades aims to increase productivity, making government more efficient.



*The Associated Students of the University of Hawaii, Hilo Campus with Sen English. Jan. 18, 2012.*

### People and Children

As a result of strengthening the economy and putting more people back to work, the safety net would be secured and all basic needs of all citizens would be met. The Senate will also continue its strong support for education. From Hawai'i's youngest keiki to wisest kupuna, ensuring access to the highest quality educational opportunities will remain a top priority, which will make them competitive in the global economy.



*Our Maui County team - Sen. English, Sen. Roz Baker and Senate President Shan Tsutsui. Maui no ka 'oi. Jan. 18, 2012.*



*Toni Marie Davis, Executive Director, Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii; Carol Reimann, Executive Director, Maui Hotel & Lodging Association; Sen. English; Pamela Tumpap, President, Maui Chamber of Commerce; Terry Vencl, Executive Director, Maui Visitors Bureau. Jan. 18, 2012.*



Sen. English has been a long time member of the Senate Ways and Means (WAM) Committee. This is the "Money Committee," the destination for all fiscal bills. The purview of this committee includes: those programs relating to state financing policies, revenue enhancement, taxation, other revenues, and cash and debt management; statewide implementation of planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation; and government structure and finance.

Each year in January, the WAM committee in conjunction with the House Committee on Finance conduct numerous informational briefings for all State departments to review and assess their biennium budgets. State Departments like the Department of Education, the Judiciary, the Office of the Governor and each of the Counties must come before both committees to describe budget requests or changes and answer any questions the Legislators may have concerning the departments.

For more information visit:  
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/committeepage.aspx?comm=WAM>



## HAWAII STATE SENATE CONFIRMS MAUI ATTORNEY AS DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

## SAFETY AND OUR ROADS



*Senate President Shan S. Tsutsui, Sen. Roz Baker, Second Circuit District Court Judge Mimi DesJardins and Sen. English. Jan. 20, 2012*

The Hawaii State Senate today confirmed the appointment of Mimi DesJardins as judge for the District Court of the Second Circuit, located on Maui. Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald appointed DesJardins to fill the vacancy left by the Honorable Rhonda Loo, who was promoted to the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit.

"Judge DesJardins has the reputation of being a person with great integrity and character," said Senate President Shan Tsutsui, "We are honored to confirm her to Maui's District Court."

"Judge DesJardins has established herself as a hardworking and fair-minded jurist who has keen knowledge and understanding of complex issues," said Senator J. Kalani English, who represents Hana, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i and Kaho'olawe.

"The people of Maui will be well-served with Judge DesJardins's experience combined with her preparation and even temperament. I believe the qualities that she exhibits are both

rare and admirable," said Senator Roz Baker, who represents South and West Maui.

DesJardins currently has her own private practice, concentrating in family law, including the areas of paternity, guardianship, divorce, custody, and visitation; child protective proceedings; custody evaluations and guardian ad litem appointments; and juvenile proceedings. She also has extensive practice experience in the area of criminal defense, including felony and misdemeanor jury trials; and family and district court bench trials. Prior to entering private practice, DesJardins served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Deputy Public Defender, and Deputy Corporation Counsel, all in the County of Maui. Since 2006, she has served as a Per Diem Judge for the District Court of the Second Circuit.

DesJardins received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, and her degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Puget Sound School of Law.

On January 30, 2012, the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs heard several Senate Bills relating to transportation. The bills ranged from Senate Bill 61, which requires motorists to "move over" when passing a stationary emergency vehicle on a highway, to Senate Bill 2968 which allows motor vehicle insurers to offer insurance premium discounts for completion of a state-approved driver safety course.

*To view the complete list of bills heard at today's hearing visit:*  
[http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2012/hearingnotices/HEARING\\_TIA\\_01-30-12\\_.HTM](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2012/hearingnotices/HEARING_TIA_01-30-12_.HTM)

With more than 750 state-owned bridges in Hawai'i, the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs is taking a closer look at the integrity and condition of the structures. The Department of Transportation (DOT) presented the committee with a report that includes the analysis of safety, utility and structural standards of bridges.



*The Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs was briefed by the Department of Transportation on the conditions of Statewide bridges. Jan. 19, 2012.*

*Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs Chair J. Kalani English talks about the importance of maintaining state-owned bridges. View video here:*  
<http://bit.ly/yniaFG>

*Study the D.O.T. proposed HANA HARBOR FINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN*  
<http://1.usa.gov/zqW1ci>

# OSCAR TEMARU, PRESIDENT OF FRENCH POLYNESIA VISITS HAWAI'I

An official weeklong visit by His Excellency **Oscar Manutahi Temaru**, President of French Polynesia, concluded Friday (13 January 2012) with an official press conference at the Hawai'i State Capitol. Also in attendance were members of the French Polynesia delegation, Hon. **Temaui Foster**, Minister of Marine Resources, Hon. **Kalani Teixeira**, Minister of Agriculture and the delegation's official host, Hawai'i State Senator J. Kalani English.

"Reaching out to our cousins in the Pacific is important – we share lineal and cultural bonds for hundreds, if not thousands of years," said President Temaru, the island nation's highest leader, "To continue to fulfill our obligation to this body of water we share, we must find ways to enhance our home and build partnerships and strengthen the current relationships."

## STATE OF HAWAI'I PARTNERSHIP

The South Pacific President and his delegation initiated their stay with an official visit with Hawai'i **Governor Neil Abercrombie**. Both President Temaru and Governor Abercrombie agreed to initiate a memorandum of understanding between the two governments to increase synergistic partnerships and provide an ability for more French Polynesian students to study here in Hawai'i. "Obtaining visas are difficult," President Temaru mentioned while speaking with Hawai'i leaders, "We must travel to Fiji – the only U.S. Embassy in our part of the Pacific – the logistics to work or study abroad is difficult."

State of Hawai'i Senate President **Shan Tsutsui** and members of the State Senate also hosted an event for the delegation where President Temaru echoed much of his sentiments shared with Governor Abercrombie.

Throughout the week the President met with key leaders from the State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Hawai'i Convention Center and the University of Hawai'i.

"Tahiti and Hawai'i Island have a direct connection – a submarine communications cable from Kawaihae that extends to Tahiti among other islands in French Polynesia. We want to make sure we provide the best use and that it brings our cousins from Hawai'i closer to us," declared President Temaru.

## MEETING WITH BUSINESS EXECUTIVES

President Temaru and his delegation spent much of the week building relationships to assist creating more opportunities for the Country's people and increase accessibility both for visitors and necessities alike. Meeting with executives from Hawaiian Airlines and Matson Navigation allowed the delegation to discuss lift capacities for the five archipelagos in French Polynesia and a potential port for Matson. "Currently we see visitor numbers of 170,000 individuals," said **Hiria Ottino**, Advisor to President Temaru, "Our goal is to reach 250,000 individuals."

*continued on pg. 5*



*Hon. Temaui Foster, Minister of Marine Resources, President Temaru and the delegation's official host, Sen. English. Jan. 11, 2012.*



*Hiria Ottino, Advisor to the President; President Temaru and Gov. Neil Abercrombie. Jan. 9, 2012.*



*Mark Dunkerly, President & CEO of Hawaiian Airlines and President Temaru. Jan. 9, 2012.*



*Sen. English; Gerry Finin, Codirector, Pacific Islands Development Program - East-West Center; President Temaru; Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, Associate Professor, Center for Pacific Islands Studies and Terrence Wesley-Smith, Director, Center for Pacific Island Studies as they interview the President for the Contemporary Pacific Journal. Jan.11, 2012.*

## FRENCH POLYNESIAN PRESIDENT VISITS HAWAII CONTINUED



*Sen. English and President Temaru with his delegation, tour the U.S. Pacific Command at Camp Smith on Oahu. Jan. 11, 2012.*



*The Pacific Disaster Center in Kihei, on Maui briefs President Temaru and his delegation on their work in the region. Jan. 12, 2012.*

President Temaru and his advisors also met with NBC Universal and Comcast executives to build French Polynesia as a viable destination for the film industry.

Officials from the Honolulu Marathon Association and Maui Marathon lent the French Polynesian delegation advice on building more support for the Tahiti Moorea Half Marathon now in its twenty-fourth year.

### VISIT TO ISLAND OF MAUI

An official visit to Maui, where the delegation was greeted by Maui Mayor **Alan Arakawa**, allowed the group to visit with the National Tropical Botanical Garden's Breadfruit Institute in Hana. The delegation was able to see firsthand how the organization is assisting in research to develop crops to respond to critical global food security issues and potentially develop an emerging industry in French Polynesia.

While meeting with the Maui Invasive Species Committee, the delegation was able to see firsthand, how the committee addresses invasive flora on Maui. "Many of our main islands like Tahiti or Moorea have many invasive species – this meeting allowed us to discover new ways to deal with our invasive species," said **Teua Temaru**, Advisor to President Temaru.

*continued on pg. 6*



*President Temaru, meets "Hawaii's Guitar Hero" Makana. Jan. 11, 2012*



*President Temaru and Minister Foster are briefed by Art Vento, CEO of the Maui Arts & Cultural Center on their new Photo-voltaic system. Kahului, Jan. 12, 2012.*



*President Temaru visits Tahitian student Jean Napuauhi at the Maui Language Institute at UH Maui Campus. Kahului, Jan. 12, 2012.*

**STATE SENATOR  
J. KALANI ENGLISH  
HAWAII STATE SENATE  
6TH DISTRICT  
COMMITTEES**

**Chair, Senate Committee  
on Transportation and  
International Affairs**

**Vice Chair, Senate Committee  
on Energy and Environment**

**Member, Senate Committee on  
Hawaiian Affairs**

**Member, Senate Committee on  
Ways and Means**



**Hawai'i State Legislature  
Bill Status and Documents**

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

**HOW TO REACH US**

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 205  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
ph **808-587-7225**  
fax **808-587-7230**

From Maui, toll free 984-2400 + 77225  
From Moloka'i and Lana'i,  
toll free 1-800-468-4644 + 77225  
e-mail: [senenglish@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senenglish@capitol.hawaii.gov)

To receive this newsletter by  
e-mail, please send your request to:  
[english4@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:english4@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**FRENCH POLYNESIAN PRESIDENT VISITS HAWAII** CONTINUED

"While we may be separated by nationalities, we share the same ocean, we live on islands and our environments are similar. We must find ways to continue to work together and collectively solve problems and succeed together. Tahiti is our direct neighbor to the South, and we have a great opportunity now for closer business" said Senator English, "We have the opportunities and we must reach out and engage."

President Temaru said "I look forward to continuing our discussions and relationships and will work efficiently to act on the opportunities created by a productive week, we shall create mutually beneficial relationships."

Senator English ended by saying, "It was my honor to have arranged the President's visit to Hawaii, and commend him and his delegation for adhering to the grueling and ambitious schedule."



*Kamaui Aiona, Director of the National Tropical Botanical Gardens' Kahanu Gardens, explains the history of Pi'ilani Hale Heiau to President Temaru in Hana, Maui. Jan. 12, 2012.*

