



## Legislative Session Opens With Emphasis on Renewable Energy

The 2006 Session of the Hawai'i State Legislature opened Wednesday, January 18, with a renewed focus on energy issues. Energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources have been the goals of measures introduced over the years by Senator J. Kalani English, who says he welcomes the opportunity to promote statewide energy reform.



*Sen. English briefs reporters on energy issues at a Jan. 12 State Capitol news conference. Energy reform has won renewed support this session from both the administration and the private sector.*

"Hawai'i's energy situation is critical," he said, "and we welcome the opportunity to partner with the state to turn things around. Our dependence on fossil fuels must be addressed. Hawai'i burns more oil to produce electricity than any other state – and that makes us dependent on forces beyond our control.

Energy reform has been a priority for me and for my committee for years."

Sen. English is Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs. He has introduced legislation over the years aimed at reducing Hawai'i's dependence on fossil fuels, moving the state toward the use of renewable energy, creating incentives for private industry to develop alternative sources of energy; and calling for energy-efficient construction of new state buildings.

These ideas were all part of the administration's energy package, which was announced at a State Capitol news conference Jan. 12. Gov. Lingle thanked Sen. English, saying, "Sen. English has been involved in these issues for a long time. We appreciate you and your efforts on advising us as we put our energy package together."

**Chair, Committee on Energy,  
Environment,  
and International Affairs**  
**Committee Memberships:**  
Intergovernmental Affairs;  
Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs;  
Media, Arts, Science, and Technology;  
Water, Land, and Agriculture;  
Ways and Means



## A Message From Kalani

The 2006 Legislative Session is officially under way, and my staff and I are preparing for a busy and exciting time in the months ahead. This is the first issue of our newsletter, which we will publish every two weeks for the duration of the session.

Our newsletter has a dual purpose: to keep you informed and to encourage you to get in touch with us about the issues and events that concern you.

To be effective, representative government should be built on effective two-way communication – so, please, let us hear from you. We welcome your comments and look forward to working with you.

Aloha, *J. Kalani English*





*Singer Blaine Kamalani Kia (at microphone in center) sang the Star-Spangled Banner and Hawai'i Pono'i at the start of Opening Day ceremonies in the State Senate Chamber on Wednesday, Jan. 18.*

## 6th Senate District Legislative Staff Brings Wide Range of Experience

Senator English's office staff for the 2006 Legislative Session comes from a wide variety of backgrounds:

**Ainoa Naniole**, office manager, is from Hilo. He's a 1997 graduate of the Kamehameha Schools who earned his Bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. He worked at the Legislature as a staffer for Representative Hermina Morita during the 2001 and 2004 legislative sessions.

**Chris Vandercook**, communications director, has been Executive Producer for KGMB-TV News, a news producer for KHON-TV, and communications director for Governor Ben Cayetano's 1998 re-election campaign.

**Sharon Lum Ho**, committee clerk, is a 1967 graduate of the Kamehameha Schools with a B.F.A. from U.H.-Mānoa, an M.F.A. from the Maryland Institute College of Art, and a Juris Doctor degree from the John F. Kennedy University School of Law.

**Sydney Iaukea**, research analyst, is a Ph.D. candidate in the Political Science department at U.H.-Mānoa. She has worked as a lecturer in Political Science at Mānoa for seven years, where she focuses her courses on international relations and Hawai'i politics.

**Edith Libby Leina'ala Kimball** ("Auntie Libby") was born and raised on Moloka'i. She has been a legislative aide and receptionist at the State Senate for the past six years.

**Elisha Kemp** is this session's legislative intern. She's a student at U.H.-Mānoa who has a dual major in Political Science and French. She has a special interest in environmental politics and plans to earn a law degree after college.



*Sen. English's staff, from left to right: Auntie Libby Kimball, Sharon Lum Ho, Chris Vandercook, Elisha Kemp, Sydney Iaukea, and Ainoa Naniole.*

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