



IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Message From Kalani pg 1
- ▶ Annual Ag. Awareness Day pg 1
- ▶ Hawaiian Caucus Legislative Luncheon pg 2
- ▶ Aviation Caucus Convenes pg 2
- ▶ Annual Tourism Day at the Capitol pg 2
- ▶ \$5.85 Million For Hāna Highway Improvement Projects pg 3
- ▶ Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows pg 3
- ▶ Kaupō Community Assoc. Meeting pg 4
- ▶ Pā'ia Community Meeting Draws Opposition pg 4

MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Over the last two weeks, four important sectors of our society – agriculture, aviation, Hawaiian Affairs and tourism – have hosted successful events at the Capitol. On our island, I have attended two diverse County meetings – one in Kaupō and the other in Pā'ia. I always appreciate these events as great learning opportunities to engage with the community. Please enjoy some of these highlights.

*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



ANNUAL AGRICULTURE AWARENESS DAY

Organizations representing the diverse agricultural industry in Hawai'i gathered on February 23 at the State Capitol for their 12th annual event that showcases the importance of agriculture in our State. Sen. English enjoyed visiting with the many groups, organizations and farmers at their displays. "We have so much going on in agriculture," said Sen. English. "It is always good to see some of this first hand."



Visit your local farmers: (Clockwise from above)  
 Ho Farms - located in Kahuku, O'ahu [www.hofarms.com](http://www.hofarms.com)  
 Howard Takishita – President and Grower at Howard's Nurseries Inc. located in Kula – HDOA [hdoa.hawaii.gov/add/main/howards-nurseries-inc](http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/add/main/howards-nurseries-inc)  
 Glenn Shinsato of Shinsato Farms [www.shinsatofarm.com/about.html](http://www.shinsatofarm.com/about.html)



## 2017 HAWAIIAN CAUCUS LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

The Native Hawaiian Legal Corps, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Pūko'a Council sponsored the 2017 Hawaiian Caucus Legislative Luncheon on February 17. This annual event provided a unique opportunity for legislators to interact with the Hawaiian



community in a non-formal gathering. Sen. English enjoyed hearing from students, professors and advocacy groups on the efforts to empower and promote Native Hawaiian interest. "This event is a great opportunity for my Senate colleagues to hear from the



Native Hawaiian community on the issues that are important to them," said Sen. English. "I look forward to continue collaborating with Native Hawaiian advocacy groups on ways to better our community."



### AVIATION CAUCUS CONVENES AT CAPITOL

Sen. English and a bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives gathered on February 21 with pilots and aviation enthusiasts at the Capitol for the first meeting of the newly formed Hawai'i Aviation Caucus. The Caucus was established to foster and promote all forms of aviation, to support legislation that creates jobs, improve transportation between the islands and beyond, and bolsters the aviation business climate in Hawai'i.

"Aviation holds the key to our State's economic well-being," said Sen. English. "The aviation industry produces over 4,100 jobs and adds \$742 million into our economy. Therefore, it is critical that the legislature collaborates to ensure that both commercial and military air travel remains robust."

In his remarks to the Caucus, Sen. English requested their support for the rural airports and stated, "I especially want to point out the need to keep Hāna Airport open. We can't allow this airport to close."



### SECOND ANNUAL TOURISM DAY AT THE CAPITOL



Hawai'i as a sports and entertainment venue and establishing an airport authority to oversee all aspects of the airport system.

"Tourism Day at the Capitol is an overwhelming success," said Sen. English. "Industry leaders, legislators and the public have responded positively to this annual event. We welcome the HLTA to the Capitol and thank them for partnering with the legislature."

Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism (HLTA) hosted Tourism Day at the State Capitol on February 21. Sen. English was among the legislators, HLTA members and the general public who gathered on the fourth floor of the Capitol for this event. The entire foyer was transformed into a tourism expo, which featured over 20 exhibits by HLTA, hotels and other tourism businesses, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions.

The day began with an educational session with presentations by industry leaders. Legislators were informed about the top legislative priorities of the Tourism Industry, which includes regulating transient vacation units, promotion of



## MAUI TO RECEIVE \$5.85 MILLION FOR HĀNA HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Hāna Highway will be getting much needed improvements that will increase safety and accessibility with \$5.8 million in capital improvement project funding released by the Governor on February 18.

The CIP funding for Hāna Highway was included in the 2015-2016 biennium State Budget at the request of Sen. English. The bulk of the funding will be used for rockfall mitigation and slope stabilization of the roadway, which is the only paved all-weather road to the Hāna and Ke'anae communities. This funding continues the second phase of the project to improve the 32-mile length of highway from Huelo to Hāna that included renovating existing drainage facilities to decrease maintenance costs and provide a safer roadway.



"I'm pleased that the funds we worked hard to secure are being released to complete the work on this critically important roadway," said Sen. English. "The recent storms that caused rockslides, hastened erosion and caused the highway to be closed numerous times highlights the importance of this project. We'll continue to collaborate with the state Department of Transportation to ensure a permanent, safe fix to Hāna Highway."



Photos courtesy of Tony de Jetley, AIM - Arial Images Maui

## KA IPU KUKUI FELLOWS



This year, Sen. English and Maui lawmakers from the Senate and House met with individuals from the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows at a luncheon hosted by Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui on February 16. Ka Ipu Kukui translates to crucible of light; the year-long Fellows program is designed to train future community leaders on Maui.

Each month, the content of the program focuses on the different challenges on Maui. Participants in these monthly learning experiences known as Hālāwai develop an appreciation and understanding of these unique challenges. Some of the topics that have been covered monthly, included: Identifying Maui Nui's Assets for Good Decision Making; The Importance of Relationships and "Social Capital"; 5 Choices to Leadership Greatness; Planning for Community in Paradise; Agriculture & Economic Sustainability in Maui County; Governance – participants are exposed to Maui County's unique political climate as well as visit the State Capitol to observe the Legislature in Session; Tourism & Economic Development; and the importance of water on Maui.

"Many individuals have gone through this excellent program and have gone on to contribute much to our community," notes Sen. English. "I look forward to what this year's fellows have to offer Maui Nui."



Senator English with Lāna'i Fellows Noemi Barbadillo and Roger Alconcel. Hawai'i State Capitol, Feb. 16, 2017.

**J. KALANI ENGLISH**  
Senate Majority Leader

**COMMITTEES**

Vice Chair, Senate Committee on  
International Affairs and the Arts

Member, Senate Committee  
on Hawaiian Affairs

Member, Senate Committee  
on Transportation and Energy

Member, Senate Committee  
on Ways & Means



Hawai'i State Legislature  
Bill Status and Documents  
[www.capitol.hawaii.gov/](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 Lāna'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)

Join us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/HawaiiSenateMajority](https://facebook.com/HawaiiSenateMajority)

**SEN. ENGLISH PARTICIPATES IN KAUPŌ  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING**

The Kaupō Community Association held its quarterly meeting on February 11 to share the recent news regarding the project to renovate and restore the old Kaupō School. Dozens of individuals, community leaders and organizations attended the meeting expressing support for the renovation project. Since the closure of the school in 1964, the buildings have been abandoned and no longer operation. However, in recent years, with strong leadership from the Kaupō Community Association, the community has rallied around the goal to transform and renovate both the classroom building and teachers cottage into a community center and a shelter to provide safety during storms, floods, earthquakes and other emergencies. With strong support from Sen. English and other community leaders, the preservation project received a Grant in Aid from the Legislature of \$975,000, matched by County of Maui funds of \$20,000 and a preservation grant of \$70,000 through the Historic Hawai'i Foundation. "The school remains a significant part of Kaupō as both a gathering place and a link to the community's rich history," said Sen. English. "I will continue to push for operations money, especially emergency preparedness funds."



**Pā'IA COMMUNITY MEETING DRAWS  
HUNDREDS IN OPPOSITION**



Hundreds of residents packed the Pā'ia Community Center on February 13 to speak out against a project that has been billed as a sustainable renovation project of the Old Maui High School. The organization, TEACH (Technology, Education, Agriculture, Community and Health) began searching for groups in 2014 to repurpose the old campus in Hāmākuapoko and transform it into a community hub that would be used for

regenerative agriculture, permaculture, campus housing, an education center, a conference facility, youth programs and camp, a museum, amphitheater, restaurant and centers for wellness, culture, technology and food innovation.

The project is estimated to cost about \$50 million, with the County considering a low-priced, \$1-a-year lease for 60 years. Throughout the nearly three hour meeting, community members expressed grave concerns regarding additional development to the North Shore green spaces, increased traffic in the area and unanswered questions surrounding the project. Sen. English, who was in attendance, expressed concerns after only hearing about the meeting a week prior. "I am actually leaving with a lot more questions than I came with," said Sen. English. "The real question is, who are they, what are they doing and what do they hope to accomplish? I still don't know."

