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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

March is a busy time in the Legislative Session. Over 300 bills have passed three readings by the Senate and are headed over to the House Chamber for consideration. Many of these measures crossing over align with our 2017 Legislative Program. As we head into the second half of the Legislative Session, the Senate remains dedicated to achieving our Legislative Priorities.

*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



HAWAI'I STATE SENATE PAUSES TO SUPPORT  
HAWAI'I SAYS NO MORE WEEK

The Hawai'i State Senate paused during the March 9th Regular Session to participate in the Hawai'i Says NO MORE Week challenge. All 25 Senators held up NO MORE placards with handwritten statements like this, "NO MORE Bullying and NO MORE Violence."

NO MORE is a national public awareness and engagement campaign focused on ending domestic violence and sexual assault. Hawai'i Says NO MORE is the island's version of the initiative.

"These issues affect people we love, our family members and our friends," said Sen. English. "They often suffer in silence and we want them to know that we are here and that we support them."

Hawai'i Says NO MORE is a collaboration of individuals, programs and organizations in Hawai'i who are taking action to increase awareness and visibility to prevent and end domestic violence and sexual assault.

For more information, please visit:  
[hawaiisaysnomore.org](http://hawaiisaysnomore.org)



Maui Senators: Keith-Agaran, English and Baker and Sen. English's staff; Sharon, Aunty Libby, Cissy, and Jacob. We stand with you, Maui Nui.



# HONORING THE LATE QUEEN MOTHER HALAEVALU MATA'AOH OF TONGA

On behalf of the Senate, Sen. English presented Annie Kaneshiro, the Honorary Consular Agent, with a Certificate Expressing Condolences and Honoring the Late Queen Mother Halaevalu Mata'aho of the Kingdom of Tonga. The presentation occurred at the Consulate of the Kingdom of Tonga on March 1 in Honolulu.



The Queen Mother will be remembered for the commitment and love she showed to many, including the disabled and less fortunate people of her country. Her legacy endures through her work with the Tonga Red Cross Society and the Alonga Centre. "She will be deeply missed," said Sen. English, "Her memory will live on through the many lives she touched."

Queen Mata'aho frequently visited Hawai'i. The Tongan community of Hawai'i was proud of this and remember her warm and generous nature. She enjoyed seeing how Hawai'i had changed over the years and was always looking

for new ways of doing things to incorporate back home in Tonga.

The Queen Mother Halaevalu Mata'aho was born on 29 May 1926. She was the daughter of Heuifanga Veikune and Noble 'Ahome'e Manuopangai. Queen Mata'aho married Siaoosi Täufa'āhau Tupoulahi, the eldest son of Queen Sālote Tupou III, in 1947. The Queen Mother was the mother of two kings, George Tupou V and the reigning King Tupou VI. Queen Mata'aho is survived by her son HM King Tupou VI and daughter HRH Princess Sālote Mafile'o Pilolevu Tuita, 11 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.



*Sen. English presents Honorary Consular Agent, Annie Kaneshiro with a Certificate Expressing Condolences and Honoring the Late Queen Mother Halaevalu Mata'aho of Tonga. March 1, 2017.*

## 384 SENATE BILLS CROSSOVER TO THE HOUSE

On March 7, Senators approved 318 bills on third reading. Sixty-six bills were approved earlier for a total of 384 measures that have been transmitted to the House for consideration.

The bills align with the 2017 Senate Legislative Program that the Senators recognized as priorities prior to the convening of Session.

"Before the start of the Legislature, Senators worked collaboratively to set out and establish the top concerns for each of our districts and for the State. The Legislative Program provides a directive of how to move forward to achieve our initiatives that will improve the quality of life in our communities and our State," said Sen. English. "Many of these principals are embedded in the bills being transmitted to the House."

The following are a few of the measures that passed on third reading:

### **Ola Lehulehu (People and Communities)**

**SB 964 SD1** - Establishes that emergency shelters may provide partitioned space for homeless persons or families. **SB 912 SD2** - Expands the Down Payment Loan Program to provide greater assistance for eligible borrowers to become first-time homebuyers. **SB 683 SD 2** Proposes amendments to the Constitution to advance the State's goal of providing a public education for the children of Hawai'i by autho-

rizing the legislature to establish a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations. **SB 500 SD2** - Establishes the R.E.A.C.H (resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health) program in the Department of Education's community engagement office to provide a standardized framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools. **SB 534 SD 2** - Requires the executive office on aging to establish the kupuna caregivers program to assist community members in obtaining care for elders while remaining in the workforce. **SB 347 SD1** - Appropriates funds for establishing, staffing, and operating two mobile clinics to serve the homeless population. **SB 624 SD2** - Requires the Dept. of Agriculture to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and exports by 2020.

### **Aloha Kaiāulu Ho'oulu (Preparedness)**

**SB 640 SD2** - Establishes a model project at a location selected by DLNR to designate areas for planting and growing coconut trees. **SB 767 SD2** - Establishes the high-growth grant program and special fund to provide grants to qualified businesses for certain business development activities. **SB 334 SD 2** - Enacts voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020.

### **Aloha Honua (Climate Change and Energy)**

**S.B. No. 559, S.D. 1** Enacts relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement as Hawai'i State law. Requires annual reports. Makes an appropriation. **SB 1150 SD2** Prohibits the use or application of sunscreen, sunblock, or cosmetic containing oxybenzone while on a beach or in the ocean unless the sunscreen, sunblock, or cosmetic is a prescription drug.

### **Pono Kaulike (Transforming Justice)**

**SB 664** - Increases fines for persons who commit the offense of driving a motor vehicle at an excessive speed. **SB 421 SD2** - Establishes requirements for body-worn cameras for law enforcement officers. **SB 424 SD1** - Requires police departments to disclose to the Legislature the identity of an officer upon the officer's discharge or second suspension in a five-year period. **SB 494 SD 2** - Requires persons charged with operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant or habitually operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant to be fitted with a continuous alcohol monitoring device.

A complete list of bills passed by the Senate to date is available at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

## SENATE CONFIRMS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR AND THREE JUDGES

In a unanimous decision, Senators confirmed Pankaj Bhanot as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). Bhanot received a BA in political science and a law degree from the University of Delhi. He graduated in 1991 with an LL.M. degree from Cornell University, School of Law. His career in human and social services began in August 1998 as the Family Development Director with the Kaua'i Economic Opportunity. Bhanot went on to serve as a program specialist with the state DHS Employment and Child Care Program Office of the Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division and the Employment and Child Care Program Administrator. He most recently served as DHS Deputy Director before being appointed to lead the department.



*Nominee for Director of DHS, Pankaj Bhano answers question during his nomination hearing.*

The Senate also voted to consent to Derrick H.M. Chan as an Associate Judge to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Chan was appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in August 2000. Prior to this, he was the First Deputy Prosecutor for the County of Kaua'i. He also served as an attorney for the Hawai'i Carpenters Union, as Deputy Public Defender and Deputy Attorney General for the State. Chan is a 1985 graduate of California Western School of Law. Chan will fill the vacancy created by the retirement in Dec. 2016 of former Associate Judge Daniel R. Foley.



*Senators Keith-Agaran and Rhoads with Judges Catherine Remigio, Keith Hiraoka and Todd Eddins. Missing from picture is Derrick Chan. Feb. 23, 2017.*

Senators gave their unanimous consent to Catherine H. Remigio to the First Circuit Court. Remigio most recently served as Family Court judge after being appointed in 2011. Prior to that, she served in the Judiciary as a Per Diem District Court Judge and Circuit Court Grand Jury Counsel. Remigio practiced law in several private firms, including as a partner at Bryant & Remigio. She also served as a Deputy Public Defender for the State of Hawai'i. Remigio received her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and earned her Juris Doctorate at the William

S. Richardson School of Law in 1992. Remigio replaces former Circuit Judge Steven S. Alm who retired in Aug. 2016.

Keith K. Hiraoka was also unanimously approved to serve on the First Circuit Court. Hiraoka has practiced law for the last 34 years. He has tried many cases and argued appeals before the Hawai'i Supreme Court, the Intermediate Court of Appeals and the Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Hiraoka is a graduate of the University Hawai'i at Mānoa and earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1983. Hiraoka fills the vacancy created by the retirement in June 2016 of former Circuit Judge Karen S.S. Ahn.

The Senate also unanimously consented to Todd Eddins to serve on the First Circuit Court. Eddins graduated from the College of William & Mary and the William S. Richardson School of Law, where he was the executive editor of the University of Hawai'i Law Review. He served as a law clerk on the Hawai'i Supreme Court and was a Public Defender for more than ten years. In private practice he has concentrated on complex civil, criminal, and appellate litigation. Eddins fills the vacancy created by the retirement of former Circuit Judge Richard K. Perkins in June 2016.

"I am pleased that the Senate has confirmed these very qualified nominees," said Sen. English. "They bring the experience and expertise to serve in the public sector and through their duties will help in creating a better life for all of us in Hawai'i."

## MAUI DELEGATION MEETS WITH GRANTS-IN-AID APPLICANTS

Sen. English joined Senate Ways and Means (WAM) chair, Sen. Tokuda, Sen. Keith-Agaran and Sen. Baker on March 4th at the UH-Maui College to meet with State grant-in-aid (GIA) applicants from Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i. The four senators spent five and a half hours on Saturday meeting with dozens of applicants and organizations. "The Senate Ways & Means Committee has done the extraordinary by coming to Maui," said Sen. English. "This is a unique opportunity to meet with all of our applicants so they are able to save on their expenses by not having to travel to O'ahu."

Below is a list of organizations from Senate District 7 who have submitted GIA's:

- Aka'ula School (Moloka'i)
- Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Associatin, Inc. (Kula)
- Hāna Health
- Moloka'i Land Trust
- Hale Mahaolu
- Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa
- Ma Ka Hāna Ka 'Ike (relating to Hāna High & Elementary School)
- Lāna'i Culture & Heritage Center
- La'ākea Foundation (Pā'ia)
- Moloka'i Arts Center
- Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center
- Maui Youth and Family Services, Inc.
- Maui Hui Malama

### \$584,000 RELEASED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS AT KING KEKAULIKE SCHOOL

The Department of Education (DOE) recently announced the release of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds to King Kekaulike High School for Fiscal Year 2016-17. A total appropriation of \$584,000 will go towards various roofing and walkway projects as part of much needed improvements throughout the campus. The roofing project alone totals \$419,000 and was awarded to Tory's Roofing & Waterproofing, Inc. King Kekaulike High School was established in 1995, and the campus has grown rapidly over the years. "The funds we were able to have included in the budget will go towards maintaining the general upkeep and safety of the school," said Sen. English. "These improvement projects should see the school through many more years."

**J. KALANI ENGLISH**  
Senate Majority Leader

**COMMITTEES**

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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  
on Ways & Means



**Hawai'i State Legislature**  
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**HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK**

Hawai'i State Legislators joined Gov. Ige on March 11 to present awards to individuals and agencies who are leading the fight against invasive species throughout the State. The annual Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Week (HISAW) Award winners are selected by the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) which was established in 2003 to provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among international, Federal, State, and County initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species throughout the State of Hawai'i.



Sen. English presented the 2017 Community Hero award to The Pacific American Foundation (PAF) for their efforts to reduce invasive species impacts to the Waikalua Loko I'a in Kāne'ohe, O'ahu. During 2016, the PAF worked diligently to reduce the negative impacts of invasive species to the Waikalua Fishpond. "By positively engaging with the local community, the Foundation has shown an outstanding commitment to the continued protection and preservation of this historic community resource," said Sen. English.

Sen. English also presented the Community of Ha'ikū Hill the award for Maui County MVP for their efforts to control coqui frogs on the Island of Maui. Over the last decade, the Ha'ikū Hill community, made up of 39 property owners, has taken matters into their own hands by purchasing the resources needed to address the coqui infestation on Maui. Residents have sprayed over 1,600 gallons of citric acid throughout their neighborhood and spent countless hours keeping the coqui from spreading from their neighborhood.

"Their efforts not only reduce the frog density in their community, but also helps to stop the spread of coqui to new areas," said Sen. English. "Our responsibility as Legislators is to provide adequate funding to continue a steady fight against invasive species and help support communities such as Ha'ikū Hill in their hard work to protect our environment."



Other HISC Award Winners are:

**Business Leader 2017:** Serina Marchi, Seascapes Nursery on Kaua'i, for her efforts to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive species.

**Hawai'i County MVP:** Carolyn Dillon for her outstanding community efforts in Holualoa and her work controlling Little Fire Ants on Hawai'i Island.

**Hottest Pest Hotline Report:** Shawn Baliaris for his efforts relating to reporting and stopping the spread of mongoose on Kaua'i.

**Kaua'i County MVP:** Kawika Winter for his efforts to protect priority watershed areas and control the spread of invasive species on the island of Kaua'i as part of his role as the Director of Limahuli Botanical Garden and Preserve.

HISC is comprised of the Departments of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Agriculture (DOA), Health (DOH), Transportation (DOT), Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), and the University of Hawai'i (UH).

