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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Although the last few weeks in the Legislature have been preoccupied with the issue of Honolulu's rail project, be assured Maui's priorities are not being neglected. Work is being done to oversee the responsible management of Moloka'i's watershed, to curb the spread of Rat Lungworm disease and to recognize and encourage the next generation of conservationists on Maui. As we move through the summer, I'll be continuing to focus on ways to strengthen the state's economy and sustainability goals.

J. Kalani English

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

HĀNA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I AND KAHŌ'OLAWĒ



SENATE CONVENES FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF 2017

During the week of August 28, pursuant to the power vested in Article III, sec. 10 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, and at the written request of two-thirds of the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Legislature convened Special Session for the purpose of considering legislation and to discharge any further business.

By the end of the week on September 1, members of both the Hawai'i State Senate and House passed **Senate Bill 4** on third reading to provide funding to complete construction on the City and County of Honolulu's rail transit project. SB4 addresses the City and County of Honolulu's rail construction shortfall of \$2.378 billion by extending the General Excise Tax (GET) on O'ahu for three additional years through December 31, 2030 which will provide \$1.046 billion. It also raises the Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT) by one percent to 10.25 percent for 13 years, to December 31, 2030. This will provide \$1.326 billion. SB4 permanently increases the counties' share of the TAT from \$93 million to \$103 million and allows the County Councils a vote to raise the GET by .5% for transportation infrastructure. The measure reduces the State Department of Taxation's administrative fee on the GET surcharge from 10 percent to one percent. The measure creates a Mass Transit Special Fund to review and disburse funds to the city for its costs on the rail project. It also requires a state run audit of the rail project and annual financial reviews.

The Senate completed their legislative duties by confirming 58 gubernatorial appointments to 35 boards and commissions. Among those confirmed were: James Griffin, to the Public Utilities Commission; Douglas Shinsato to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents; Robert Masuda as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Representative Marcus Oshiro as Chairperson of the Public of Hawai'i Labor Relations Board (HLRB). In addition, the Senate passed Senate Bill 2 and Senate Bill 3, both of which provides appropriations for collective bargaining cost items and other public employment costs for fiscal biennium 2017-2019 under previously negotiated contracts.

"I always supported rail from the beginning with the caveat that it doesn't take away money from the neighbor islands and that's why I voted no," said Sen. English. "The Senate accomplished a monumental task during the one week of Special Session with the addition of 58 confirmations and the passage of 3 bills."

A complete list of actions taken during the Special Legislative Session can be viewed at: www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Above: The Senators with Marcus Oshiro after his confirmation as Chair to HLRB during the 2017 Special Session. September 1, 2017.

EAST MOLOKA'I WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP SITE INSPECTION



On August 1, Sen. English and Rep. DeCoite joined Ed Misaki, Director of The Nature Conservancy's Moloka'i Program and Stephanie Dunbar-Co, staff member on a helicopter inspection of the East Moloka'i Watershed Partnership's (EMoWP) managed lands, which includes the proposed Pāku'i project.

The helicopter inspection included the following sites:

- Kawela and Kamalō, the first areas protected by the EMoWP. Fences in these areas were built in 2000 and 17 years later they have allowed the native forest to restore itself. These fences were constructed by local staff and are some of the steepest built in the State.
- Pēpē'ōpae bog, the only bog system on Moloka'i, where The Nature Conservancy's boardwalk follows and protects the North/Shore ancestral trail. Recently, the entire 700 acre habitat surrounding the bog has been fenced and protected

from feral ungulates which has significantly accelerated restoration in the area.

- Kamakou peak, Moloka'i's highest peak, which is normally covered in clouds, but on this occasion offered them a clear view of the entire East Moloka'i mountain range.
- Pāku'i watershed rainforest - the last, best unprotected native forest remaining in Moloka'i. These rainforests offer a rich, albeit vulnerable, home to a number of rare plant and animal species. Pāku'i's forests also sit atop the U'alapu'e aquifer sector, which is the primary source of fresh water for East Moloka'i residents. To help protect Pāku'i's forests, in 2013 the EMoWP developed the Pāku'i Watershed Project, which continues to move forward with strong community and agency support. Funding is needed so that fencing, animal and weed control, monitoring and restoration can begin.
- The North Shore of the island to Oloku'i Natural Area Reserve, which is widely considered the healthiest remaining native rainforest in all of Hawai'i because it has never been impacted by feral ungulates. Oloku'i's sea cliffs are the highest in the world.
- Pelekunu Valley and Stream. There are very few continuous perennial streams remaining in Hawaii - Pelekunu Stream is considered one of the best. The stream is home to all five native 'o'opu fish species, and the wind of the valley, Pu'upilo, speaks to the abundance of hīhiwai in the stream. TNC bought Pelekunu Valley in 1986 to protect the stream from possible diversion.
- The 800 acre Pua'ahala ahupua'a, which DLNR-

DOFAW is in the process of acquiring to protect watershed and coastal resources on the property. The ma uka portions of the property are part of Pāku'i.

"Work that has been done by the Nature Conservancy on Moloka'i to protect our natural resources is impressive," said Sen. English. "Protecting our watersheds, streams, coastal resources, native forests, plants and animals all fall within our Senate goal of Aloha Honua and following among the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: 6) Clean water and sanitation, 12) Responsible Consumption and Production, 13) Climate Action, 14) Life Below Water, (15) Life on Land, and 17) Partnerships for the Goals. We are mindful that our residents and visitors rely on our natural resources to provide us with food and clean water. More importantly, we are preserving it in perpetuity for our children and future generations."

To view one of the sites, the Pāku'i Project go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTM5MYCAGnw



STATE CAMPAIGN TO HALT SPREAD OF RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE

With an increase in the number of rat lungworm cases throughout the State, Sen. English joined the Governor, the Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture and other State agencies on August 2, as they announced the beginning of a two-year campaign aimed at curbing the spread of the disease.



\$500,000 in each of the next two fiscal years have been appropriated to the Department of Health, the lead agency on this campaign, to combat the recent spike in reported cases. Much of the funds earmarked for the first year, about \$300,000 will be devoted to a statewide public awareness campaign to produce education materials such as brochures, door hangers and flyers, as well as media buys for commercial spots. The Department of Health will also use some of the funds to hire two temporary staffers to coordinate the campaign among the State's partners, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"This collaboration between the Legislature and other State agencies will accelerate our efforts in combating the spread of rat lungworm disease," said Sen. English. "The funds will provide for stronger educational efforts on preventative actions, such as proper food handling safety and support for further investigation as well as vector control measures of the disease."

CONSERVATION LEADERS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Nā Hua Ho'ohuli i ka Pono Internship Program (NHHP) recognized Jessica Atwood, Amy Frate, and Kalena Lee-Acgaoli on their successful completion of their summer internship program. The interns each worked with the Maui Invasive Species Committee, Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project, and the Nature Conservancy. The field work they participated in consisted of invasive species removal, endangered seabird monitoring, overnight camping and watershed protection. They also participated in the program's leadership development component which included daily assignments and Saturday meetings. In their final week of the program, interns went on huaka'i around Maui, working and learning with other entities such as 'Auwahi Wind Farm. The NHHP leadership team and partners are proud of the work the interns accomplished in this new leadership-focused internship program.



Top photo: Nā Hua Ho'ohuli i ka Pono Summer 2017 intern graduates and leadership team. From Left to Right: Hōkū Hu (Program Assistant), Jessica Atwood (MISC Intern), Kalena Lee-Acgaoli (TNC Intern), Amy Frate (MNSRP Intern), Kūhea Asiu (Program Director), and Serena Kaldi (Program Coordinator). Below: Outstanding in the field - Kalena Lee-Acgaoli, Jessica Atwood, and Amy Frate.

Nā Hua Ho'ohuli i ka Pono will be recruiting for its eight week 2018 summer internship, and seven month 2018-2019 Year Round internship this coming January 2018. Positions will be available with host agencies such as the Maui Invasive Species Committee, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project, The Nature Conservancy, and more. College-level students on the island of Maui who are interested in careers in conservation while developing their leadership skills are encouraged to apply. Teachers, organizations, and clubs that are interested in hosting NHHP to give a presentation about the program to a group of interested students may contact the coordinator, see contact information below.

"I am pleased that such an internship program exists to develop leaders in the field of conservation," emphasizes Sen. English. "This ensures that the importance of protecting our ocean, streams and environment from invasive species and destructive environmental practices will continue for another generation."

The Nā Hua Ho'ohuli i ka Pono program is funded by Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation, and established in partnership with Kupu, Tri-Isle Resource and Conservation Development Council, and UH Maui College.

For more information and to obtain an application packet, please visit www.nhhphawaii.org or contact the Program Coordinator at serena@nhhphawaii.org or (808) 727-2184.



PACIFIC ISLAND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM OPENING CEREMONY

For the past five years, the East-West Center has hosted the Pacific Islands Leadership Program (PILP), a collaborative initiative with Taiwan designed to provide opportunities to enhance the leadership capacities of individuals in the Pacific Islands region and build a network of young leaders who will contribute to lasting relationships across the Pacific, Asia, and United States.

Sen. English, a former East-West Center grantee and other Pacific Island leaders and scholars

attended the opening ceremony for the 2017 PILP cohort that was held on August 23 at the Hawai'i Imin International Conference Center. Those in attendance were able to hear from the 27 PILP participants who represent over 10 Pacific Island nations.

The participants will spend approximately two months engaging in experiential learning exercises at the East-West Center's campus in Hawai'i, in addition to a month of field study in Taipei at

the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs. The program curriculum includes such topics as applied leadership skills, future scenario planning, social entrepreneurship and risk analysis, climate change and environmental stewardship, international relations, and public health.

"I am very impressed with the quality of participants in this year's Pacific Islands Leadership Program cohort. They all possess high leadership potential and commitment to serve the development needs of their countries," said Sen. English. "I wish them the best of luck as they continue on their journey to serve their country and the Pacific region."



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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FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS PLANNING MEETING



Over thirty community leaders and organizations gathered at the Ka'iwakiloumoku Cultural Center on the Kamehameha Schools Kapālama campus on July 31 to attend the first planning meeting for the Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC). Hosted by Kumu Hula Vicky Holt Takamine, Executive Director of the PA'I Foundation, the purpose of the meeting was to begin discussions for preparation of the 15th Annual Festival of Pacific Arts that will be held in Honolulu from June 11-27, 2020.

Individuals met in various groups where discussions were around many of the different areas of planning such as programming, logistical support, housing for delegates, and communications. Sen. English also shared with the audience his work at the Legislature in passing **Senate Bill 545 (Act 104)** that appropriates \$500,000 to create a commission that will oversee the planning for the festival.

"It is very exciting to work with leaders from various sectors of our community in planning for this monumental event," said Sen. English. "I look forward to further collaborations in our efforts to make FESTPAC 2020 a major success."

SENATOR ENGLISH RECEIVES THE TRANSFORMATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN ENERGY POLICY AWARD

Sen. English was presented with the 2017 Award for Transformational Achievement in Energy Policy and Legislation by The Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum (HEPF) at its 9th Annual Hawai'i Clean Energy held at YWCA Laniākea in Honolulu.

The award recognizes Sen. English's leadership in introducing SB 559: Relating to Climate Change, signed by Governor Ige as Act 32. Anticipating the President's withdrawal from the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and, recognizing Hawai'i's vulnerability to climate change, Sen. English pursued legislation to establish a legal commitment to combat climate change by systematically reducing greenhouse gas emission.

Act 32 continues the Paris commitment, and expands on it to provide strategies and mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; establishing the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to develop strategies and goals and to conduct and report on implementation; and funding a coordinator beginning in FY2017.

In his acceptance speech, Sen. English expressed the importance of the **17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** (SDG) which are voluntary international calls to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Many of these goals, more specifically, Goals: 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 17 (Partnerships For The Goals) directly relate to clean and sustainable energy, transportation and policy making.

"I commend the work of The Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum for its role in bringing together public and private partners to sit down and collaborate on seeking smart energy solutions for Hawai'i," said Sen. English. "I am very honored for the recognition and I look forward to a continued relationship with HEPF in achieving our State's sustainability goals."

Established in 2002 as a unique experiment in collaborative energy planning and policy making, the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum (HEPF) is an organization of over 40 representatives from the electric utilities, oil and natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, academia, and federal, state and local government - all working together to seek smart energy solutions to sustain a healthy, prosperous, and secure Hawai'i.

For more information, please visit www.hawaiienergypolicy.hawaii.edu/about/index.html



From left to right: Gov. Ige, Sen. English, Sharon Moriwaki and Michael Hamnett.
August 28, 2017.