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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

As we head into the fall season, the Senate is busy gearing up for the upcoming Legislative session. Over the last several weeks as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, I visited neighbor island capital improvement sites, which help guide us as we make important financial decisions. I am pleased to report that many of our 7th District Projects received funding this year. I was also fortunate to participate in the 2017 Ministerial Dialogue in Fiji in which the goal is to build a global coalition for climate change. It always makes me proud to represent Hawai'i, as we continue to be a leader in addressing climate change and renewable energy. Of course, I am most proud to represent you and our beautiful community.

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

HANA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI, MOLOKA'I, LANA'I AND KAHOLAWE



ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Sen. English attended the first meeting of the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission on October 11. The Commission was established when **Senate Bill 559**, which was introduced by Sen. English, was signed into law by the Governor in June as Act 32. Upon the signing of the Bill, Hawai'i became the first state in the nation to enact legislation implementing part of the Paris climate accord.

The Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Director of the State Office of Planning jointly head the Climate Change Commission. The Commission is required to work with stakeholders to address the challenges of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emission and improve the state's resiliency utilizing the principals and goals adopted in the Paris climate accord. The Commission will also provide direction, facilitation, coordination and planning among state and county agencies, federal agencies, and other partners about climate change mitigation and resiliency strategies, which includes sea level rise adaptation, water and agricultural security, and natural resource stewardship.

The evidence presented in a preliminary report at the meeting on Hawai'i's sea level rise is compelling and will be reported to the State Legislature at the end of the year. According to NASA, the planet's average surface temperature has risen about 2.0 degrees Fahrenheit since the late

19th century, which is a change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide and other man-made emissions into the atmosphere. It is estimated global sea levels will rise another 1 to 4 feet by 2100 because of added water from melting land ice and the expansion of seawater as it warms. This will result in coastal erosion, increasing groundwater flooding and drainage failure, and an increase in the intensity and frequency of hurricanes. The statewide economic impact of a 3.2-foot sea level rise will be about \$19 billion in loss of land and structures, not including loss of critical infrastructure.

*"Climate change is real and addressing the challenges now is critically important not just to our generation, but our future generations,"*

said Sen. English. "I am proud to be a part of this effort in moving the state forward toward meeting our renewable energy goals and taking the lead on seeing Hawai'i become a role model on climate change mitigation."



Above: Sen. English emphasizing the importance of enacting climate change legislation at the meeting. Right: (L-R) Senators: English, Roz Baker, Lorraine R. Inouye, and Mike Gabbard. Oct. 11, 2017.

# SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS (WAM) HAWAII ISLAND SITE VISIT



The WAM site visits allow the members to view and discuss the Capital Improvement Projects for which funds were allocated. Sen. English and the other WAM members went to Hawaii Island from Oct. 26 to the 28. (For a complete list of all the members, go to: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/committeepage.aspx?comm=WAM&year=2017>)

The following is a summary of their visit:



The first site the members visited was the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA). They toured the facilities and viewed the improvements and upgrades to the seawater system and research campus. The gymnasium at Kohala High School was the next site they visited since funds were allocated for the plans and design of a new gymnasium. The members had lunch at the Kohala Institute where they discussed sustainable food and water systems in Kohala. That afternoon, the members viewed the cooling chamber and refrigeration system at the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant and the Waimea Middle Public Charter School the site for



construction of a specialty classroom building. Lau Ola a medical marijuana dispensary was the last site they visited. There they viewed the packing house and discussed the requirements and unknowns of the industry.

On Friday, the members toured Bayan Drive in Hilo and discussed the development plan for the area. The Hawaii Community College was next on the agenda; there they discussed campus expansion plans. At the University of Hawaii at Hilo, the members visited the Rat Lungworm Lab and received updates of various CIP projects. Next, the members had lunch at Waiakeawaena Elementary School. During lunch, they discussed the Lt. Governor's Farm-to-School Program and the plans to build a new cafeteria. The members then visited Lanakila Homes and viewed the completed units and the plans for 4 new buildings. At the Hawaii Community Correctional Center, the members discussed overcrowding, future relocation to an alternative site and the plans, design and construction of new housing, support building and a new electronic security system. The members ended the day at the Hilo Medical Center where they discussed funding needs to complete a cardiac catheter lab rather than medivac patients to Maui or O'ahu, the creation of a telehealth unit and air conditioning systems upgrades.

The last day of the visit included a tour of Kea'au High School and discussion about the Space Shuttle Aerospace Laboratory and Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems. After, the members went to Kua O Ka La Public Charter School where it was family engagement day. There they discussed the construction of a community kitchen. A visit to Puna Geothermal Venture plant facilities was their next stop. Following this, the members toured Puna Papaya Farmers. The members toured the Pahoia Library after lunch and discussed the plans for a new regional library located in Pahoia. The final stop of the Hawaii island site visits was at the Puna Community Medical Center. The members discussed the limited access to medical services and the plans and design for a new free-standing emergency room.



"WAM site visits are a necessary part of the legislative funding process and are very rewarding for the recipient and the legislators as well," said Sen. English. "During the visits, the projects become more than an idea on a piece of paper, we actually see the site on which the project will be built and the actual facility and its use by the community."

## FUNDS RELEASED FOR THE 7TH DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIPs)

The following funds were released by the Governor for CIPs in the 7th District:

**\$75,036,200 to Kahului Airport** for land acquisition of parcels near the airport;

**\$8,750,000 to Kahului Airport** to fund an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for structural improvements and long term rehabilitation of the runway;

**\$1,000,000 to Kahului Airport** for design costs for taxiway intersection improvements.

**\$2,550,000 to Lāna'i Airport** for pavement improvements at the airport;

**\$975,095 to Lāna'i High & Elementary School**, which was awarded for Repairs and Maintenance.

**\$8,635,000 to Moloka'i Irrigation System** for the design and construction of improvements to the system;

**\$1,950,000 to Kaupō Community Association** for design and construction for restoration of the Old Kaupō School to serve as a community center;

**\$3,971,000 to Kalaupapa Settlement** in design funds to determine which buildings need improvements;

**\$22,222,000 for Hana Highway Improvements** to complete construction beginning at Huelo;

**\$1,000,000 to Kula Elementary School** for the design and construction to install a water filtration system; and

**\$200,000 to Makawao Elementary School** for the design and construction of covered walkways.

## PACIFIC LEADERS CONVENE FOR PRE-COP 2017 IN FIJI

Sen English was invited by the Prime Minister of Fiji, Voreqe Bainimarama, to participate in a pre-Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting in Denarau, Fiji from October 17-18. Over 300 delegates from 64 countries were in attendance.

Joining Prime Minister Bainimarama, who is the incoming COP 23rd President were political leaders and ambassadors. The pre-COP is an important chance for various countries to provide insights on key issues relating to the operations of the Paris climate agreement, increased climate change mitigation, adaptation and finance. The outcome of the pre-COP will be discussed at the upcoming COP23 that will be held in Bonn, Germany from November 6-17.

Prior to the start of the two day session, Sen. English attended "Partnership Day" which was held on October 16. The objective of the Day was to build on the outcomes of the Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) Conference held in Suva in July 2017, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Climate Action Agenda, and on international efforts to help build a grand coalition for climate action.

"Partnership Day" sessions focused on outcomes from the following: various grand coalition activities; the UNFCCC Climate Action Program; the Climate Action Pacific Partnership; Climate Finance and Risk Management activities; UNFCCC Observer constituency groups and the potential development of an ocean health/climate action pathway.

"The issues of climate change and sea level rise continues to be a major issue in both Hawai'i and across the Pacific," noted Sen. English. "Assemblies such as Pre-COP 2017 serve as important platforms for Pacific leaders to collaborate and take action on climate change. It also allows Pacific governments to caucus on key political deliverables ahead of the convening of COP23 in Germany."



Above (L-R) Sen. English; Georg Borsting, Policy Director of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Taholo Kami, Fiji Government COP23 Presidency Advisor; and Penehuro Lefale, Climate Advisor, Tokelau Government. Denarau, Fiji. Oct. 18, 2017.

## REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY (REL) OF THE PACIFIC GOVERNING BOARD MEETING



On October 4-6, Sen. English attended the REL Pacific Governing Board Meeting at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Alana in Honolulu. REL Pacific is one of the 10 Regional Educational Laboratories established and funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. The laboratories work with partnerships and alliances within their respective region to develop research and provide technical assistance to support evidence-based educational outcomes.

The objectives for the meeting were: 1) To explore the topics of professional learning, college and career readiness and success and the plans to address both topics in the region through the REL Pacific portfolio of work; 2) To learn more about Improvement Science and working in the Networked Improvement Communities including the rationale for the approach, its promise and what would be required of leaders to support this kind of collaboration; 3) To meet the local Technical Working Group (TWG) experts for the REL Pacific and explore opportunities to work together; and 4) To plan for the Year I REL work and continue to provide feedback on the five-year vision for REL Pacific.



Improvement science and networked community planning in the Pacific was a major initiative shared with the members in attendance. REL Pacific aims to deepen the capacity of Pacific stakeholders to use data, evidence and research to inform policy and improve education outcomes. To help partners achieve this goal, REL Pacific will use the Carnegie Foundation's Networked Improvement Community (NIC) framework to address challenges and leverage opportunities identified in prior work.

The NIC framework are scientific learning communities distinguished by four essential characteristics that are: 1) Focused on a well specified aim; 2) Guided by a deep understanding of the problem, the system that produces it, and a theory of improvement relevant to it; 3) Disciplined by the rigor of improvement science; and 4) Coordinated to accelerate the development, testing, and refinement of interventions and their effective integration into practice across varied educational contexts.

The Carnegie Foundation has been testing this approach through its own NICs, Tennessee's Early Literacy Network (TELN), Carnegie Math Pathways (CMP), Building a Teaching Effectiveness Network (BTEN) and the Student Agency Improvement Community (SAIC). Positive outcomes from these NICs have prompted REL Pacific to implement this framework for Improvement Science and support for NIC's in the REL Pacific region.

"The approach of using the NIC framework to address challenges and leverage opportunities will be very beneficial in deepening the capacity of Pacific stakeholders," said Sen. English. "It will allow for the development of highly specific aims and timelines that will ultimately drive the work of partnerships throughout the Pacific."

### Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Every October the Men's March Against Violence seeks to bring together everyone opposed to violence against women and children. On October 12, hundreds gathered at the State Capitol Rotunda to take part in a short rally and march that continued to Skygate Park at Honolulu Hale.



**J. KALANI ENGLISH**  
Senate Majority Leader

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# FESTIVALS OF ALOHA-MAUI NUI STYLE



The Festivals of Aloha, Maui Nui Style are events on Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i that honor and celebrate Maui County's rich history and heritage. This year's theme, "Aloha Ka Ho'i A Ka Holokahiki - Beyond Is The Sailors Return Home," celebrates the return of Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia, our Polynesian voyaging canoes, that sailed across the Earth's oceans.

Events on Lāna'i took place on September 30 at Dole Park with the "True Hawaiian Spirit Celebration" Ho'olaule'a that included live entertainment from Rai'atea Helm and Nathan Aweau. There were cultural demonstrations, free keiki activities, crafters, artisans and a lot of great food.

Moloka'i displayed their "Spirit of Aloha" with a two day celebration from October 6-7. The events included investiture of the Royal Court, a Poke Contest, Aloha Attire Contest, Youth Night featuring a keiki musical talent contest and a contest featuring delicacies made of kalo, ulu, 'uala (taro, breadfruit, sweet potato). The highlight of the festivities included an all-star musical lineup that included: A Touch of Gold, Kuana Torres Kahele and Nā Hōku Hanohano nine-award winners, Keauhou.

The Festivals of Aloha culminated in Hāna, Maui with a week of events from October 7-14. Many participated in the weeklong festivities that began with a parade through Hāna town on the first day of the events.

The week of activities also included: 'Ohana Beach Day with a keiki/wahine fishing tournament; Sports Night at the Park; ti-leaf lei making; ukulele lessons; coconut husking; hula lessons; cultural history walks; teen night; movie in the Park; country night; purple pasture golf; and sailing on Maui's double haul sailing canoe, Mo'okiha o Pi'ilani at Hāna Bay.



Sen. English joined Rep. Lynn DeCoite at the annual kūpuna luncheon on October 10 that was held at the Hāna Hotel. This year's luncheon honored Carol Kapu of Hāna.

"The Festivals of Aloha-Maui Nui Style provides a special occasion for residents and visitors of Maui County to gather and learn more about the language and traditions of our host culture," said Sen. English. "I have always been a proud supporter of the festival and am always delighted to participate in the celebrations with friends and family."

Top: Sen. English joins kūpuna. Above: (L-R) Sen. English, Rep. DeCoite, Kanani Kahalehoe and John Kahalehoe at the Festival of Aloha Kūpuna Luncheon, Hotel Hāna Maui Dining Room. Hāna, Oct. 2017.



Left - right: Martha Mizner, Dot Pua, and Winona Diego with Sen. English at the Festival of Aloha Kūpuna Luncheon, Hotel Hāna Maui Dining Room. Hāna, Oct. 2017.