



IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Message From Kalani pg 1
- ▶ Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission Meeting pg 1
- ▶ Upcoming Hāna Meeting On Rat Lungworm Disease pg 2
- ▶ Funds Released For Capital Improvement Projects pg 2
- ▶ Hawai'i Bids Farewell To Director General Wallace Min-Gan Chow For Taiwan pg 2
- ▶ Hawai'i Welcomes The Secretary General Of The Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor pg 3
- ▶ Kula Community Voices Concerns to the Department Of Health Cesspool Meeting pg 3
- ▶ Tourism Day At The Capitol pg 4

MESSAGE FROM KALANI

The framers of our State Constitution envisioned a period of time during the Legislative Session for Legislators and the public to review all bills. This is commonly called the recess period. Over the last week, we have been in recess, with the major committees holding hearings and Senators spending time reviewing all bills before final reading. At this time, we continue to meet with our constituents, attend other meetings and ensure that funds for our districts are released.

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

HĀNA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI, MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I AND KAHO'OLAWÉ



HAWAI'I CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION COMMISSION MEETING

Sen. English attended the meeting of the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission) on Feb. 27. The Senate created the Climate Commission to address the effects of greenhouse gases on the environment and sea level rise, recognizing the need to stand in accordance with the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the **17 Sustainable Development Goals** set forth by the United Nations. The protection and sustainability of the people, communities, natural resources, and economic prosperity of Hawai'i is foremost among the Senate's priorities.

Discussions included a variety of topics: including a presentation on a carbon budget for Hawai'i; greenhouse gas reduction goals for ground transportation; an update on sustainability legislative bills that are making their way through this legislative session, and recommendations from the **Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report**.

"It was a successful meeting that incorporated policy makers and scientists, which sets the tone for future meetings that will continue to address development and sustainability," remarked Sen. English. "We need to change our consumption patterns and look at how we can exceed U.S. national standards. I look forward to the work the Climate Commission can do to provide direction, facilitation, coordination and planning among state, county and federal agencies as well as partners about climate change mitigation and resiliency strategies."

The Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Director of the Office and Planning head the Climate Commission jointly. They will meet again on May 22, September 4, and November 22 for the remainder of this year.



*The Hawai'i Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Commission meet at the Kalanimokū Building in Honolulu. Sen. English shares the Senate Legislative Program with the members of the Hawai'i Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Commission and provides an update on SB3068: Relating to Climate Change. Feb. 27, 2018.*



## UPCOMING HĀNA MEETING ON RAT LUNGWORM (RLW) DISEASE

The East Maui RLW Task Force invited the Department of Health (DOH) to a meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 5:30 - 7:00 pm at Helene Hall in Hāna to give an update to the community on their activities regarding Rat Lungworm Disease. Dr. Lorrin Pang and Marc Nishimoto, DOH Planner in Emergency Preparedness will be presenting. Vector control supplies will be available.

For more information contact Scott Crawford, RLW Response Coordinator, 808-281-2021 or [coordinator@EastMauiRLW.com](mailto:coordinator@EastMauiRLW.com).

**RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE**  
Hāna Community Update Meeting



## FUNDS RELEASED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

\$1,000,000 in funds were released for design and construction for repair and maintenance of 90 acres of designated archaeological preserve areas in the Hawaiian Home Lands at Keokea and Waiohuli, Maui.

\$2,000,000 in funds were also released for design and construction for Phase 1 of a non-potable agricultural water system at the Hawaiian Home Lands in the Keokea Farm Lots Subdivision in Keokea, Maui.

## HAWAII BIDS FAREWELL TO DIRECTOR GENERAL WALLACE MIN-GAN CHOW FOR TAIWAN

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office hosted their annual lunar New Year reception at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza on Feb. 25. The event also served as the farewell reception for Director General Wallace Chow who was selected as Taiwan's next Ambassador to the Republic of Palau.



During his two-year assignment in Hawai'i, Director General Chow worked tirelessly to enhance Taiwan's relationships with Hawai'i by bolstering bilateral ties in economic, educational and cultural affairs.

*Sen. English with the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Wallace Chow and his wife, Samantha. Director General Chow was chosen to become the next Taiwanese Ambassador to the Republic of Palau. Below: VIP guests on stage after the lion dance. Lower left: Ringing in the Chinese New Year with a traditional lion dance. Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Honolulu. Feb. 25, 2018.*



Under his leadership, he worked with state officials to secure a reciprocal driver's license agreement, which would allow Taiwan nationals residing in Hawai'i to obtain a class 3 (standard) driver's license without having to take a road test or written exam.

2018 also marks the 25th Anniversary of Hawai'i's sister-state relationship with Taiwan. Sen. English introduced SB2887: Relating to International Affairs, which would appropriate funds for events recognizing the anniversary.

Ambassador Michael Y.K. Tseng will succeed Ambassador Chow as the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu. He is an experienced and respected diplomat with extensive relations in Palau, Vancouver, Bangkok and Singapore.

"I extend my aloha to Director General Chow and his wife, Samantha as they embark on their next diplomatic journey to serve their country in the Republic of Palau. I look forward to a continual relationship between Hawai'i and Taiwan under the new leadership of Ambassador Tseng," said Sen. English.



## HAWAI'I WELCOMES THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM, DAME MEG TAYLOR



A “talk story” teatime with Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum was held on February 23rd at the East-West Center. Sen. English was among the distinguished guests. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center for Pacific Islands Studies and the East-West Center Pacific Islands Development Program hosted Dame Meg Taylor. She visited Hawai'i to speak with students, faculty and other Pacific leaders while enroute to Majuro in the Marshall Islands, where she will attend a meeting with Micronesian leaders to discuss issues affecting the region. At teatime, a variety of issues were discussed that included China's presence in the Pacific, climate change adaptation and mitigation for small island nations, and disaster preparedness.

“My relationship with Dame Meg spans over thirty years, since her first visit to Maui and to my home in Hāna to see my grandparents,” said Sen. English. “She is well-respected throughout the Pacific region for her work as Papua New Guinea's Ambassador to the United States, Mexico and Canada (1989-1994) and at the World Bank Group as Vice President and Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (1999-2014).”

Dame Meg Taylor is a national of Papua New Guinea. She studied at the University of Papua New Guinea, Melbourne University in Australia and Harvard University. In 2014, she was appointed as Secretary General to the Pacific Islands Forum, a political grouping of 16 independent and self-governing states; she is the first woman to hold this post. She was recently appointed to serve on the High Level Steering Committee

on Every Women, Every Child by the Secretary General of the United Nations. She is currently the Pacific Oceans Commissioner for the Pacific Islands Forum.

For more information on the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, visit: <http://www.forumsec.org/>



*Dame Meg Taylor, Sen. English and East-West Center President Richard R. Vuylsteke. Dame Meg Taylor is the first woman to serve as Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum.*

*Below: Students, faculty and Pacific community leaders pose for a picture following Dame Meg Taylor's lecture. Feb. 23, 2018.*



## KULA COMMUNITY VOICES CONCERNS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Sen. English was among the approximately 250 people in attendance at a meeting held by the the Department of Health (DOH) at the Kula Community Center on February 21. The meeting focused on recent studies that identified Upcountry Maui as a top priority area for cesspool contamination of drinking-water wells. Upcountry has 7,400 cesspools that health officials deemed potential threats to drinking water. Much of the concern is in regards to a new state law that requires residents to replace them with a septic tank or hook up to a sewer system by 2050.

Robert Whittier, a wastewater hydrogeologist, presented the DOH's report on the investigation of Upcountry water quality and identified the Baldwin Ranch Estates well and the Pukalani Golf Course well as two wells with elevated nitrate levels, which are chemicals found in fertilizer and sewage.

The Baldwin well located below Hali'imaile recorded levels up to 8.9 milligrams a liter and serves as a drinking water source for a new development. The Pukalani well was evaluated for a proposed development and recorded levels up to 6.8 mg/L. The legal limit is 10 mg/L, but the normal concentration in Hawai'i aquifers is less than 3 mg/L. The water is safe to drink, but it can be fatal for infants under two months old if levels exceed 12 mg/L. Elevated nitrates also pose a threat to the ocean environment, which can cause accelerated algae and plankton growth.

Health officials concluded that Upcountry Maui needs to reduce the maximum groundwater nitrate levels by about 25 percent. Nitrate removal from cesspools appears to be minimal based on groundwater data, but a septic tank would remove about 30 percent along with another 25 to 60 percent via a leach field.

“In listening to the voices of Upcountry Maui, many people are concerned about the financial cost of removing each cesspool, which can cost upwards of \$30,000 per cesspool,” noted Sen. English. “I am dedicated to working with the community, the Department of Health and the private sector to find innovative solutions that will address the potential threats to our drinking water.”

**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



**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)

# TOURISM DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Sen. English was among the many attendees at the 3rd annual Tourism Day, which was held at the State Capitol on February 21. The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association sponsored the event with the assistance of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association. Legislators, staff and the public gathered to learn about Hawai'i's leading industry through exhibits that educate and inform.

Participating exhibitors ranged from the hospitality industry to transportation, food and beverage companies as well as other non-profit organizations. They included A-1 Textiles & Hospitality Products, Alaska Airlines, Aqua-Aston Hospitality, Enterprise Rideshare, Family & Friends of Agriculture, HART, Hawaii Ecotourism Association, Hawaii Pacific University, Hawaii Visitors & Convention Bureau, Hawai'i.com, Hawaiian Cool Water, HLTA Kauai Chapter, Home of the Brave, Kaimuki High School, Ko Olina Resort, Kyo-ya/Marriott International, Maui Hotel & Lodging Association, Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association, Oahu Resource Conservation & Development Council, Outrigger Hotels & Resorts, Polynesian Cultural Center, Press Reader, Royal Hawaiian Center, the Orchid Lei Company, The Tea Chest, University of Hawai'i, Visitor Aloha Society of Hawai'i, Windward Community College and Tiki's Bar & Grill.

"The Hospitality industry does an excellent job at presenting its many products and services to the public," said Sen. English. "By supporting the industry, we support locally grown products, many local jobs and the vibrant economy it creates."



Sen. English with Lisa Paulson and her staff of the Maui Hotel & Lodging Association.



Above: Sen. English and Sukit Kanaprach, President of The Orchid Lei Company.

Left: Sen. English stops to talk to a vendor at the annual Tourism Day.

Lower left: Sen. English with Daniel Chun of Alaska Airlines.

Lower right: Sen. English with Monte McComber of The Royal Hawaiian Center.

Tourism Day at the Hawai'i State Capitol. Feb. 21, 2018.

