

6th District
HĀNA, EAST & UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I & KAHO'OLAWÉ



Senate Ways & Means Committee visits Upcountry Maui and Lāna'i

As part of its statewide site inspections, the Senate Ways & Means Committee recently visited parts of the 6th district to assess the needs of the region and to see the progress of programs funded by the legislature in the past. "I am excited to showcase our islands" Sen. English said. The Committee will spend time on Maui and Lāna'i during this round, and will tour Moloka'i sometime in November.



Project EAST participants show Senators their work at King Kekaulike High School. Pictured with the students (left to right) are: King Kekaulike High School Principal Susan Scofield, Senators Gary Hooser, Donna Mercado Kim, Shan Tsutsui, Roz Baker and Carol Fukunaga.

Lāna'i from an Island Perspective

The Ways & Means Committee got a special treat when they visited Lāna'i. Leaving Lahaina on the Expeditions Ferry service in the morning, they were met at Manele Small Boat Harbor by Harbor Agent Sherry A. Menze, who led the Senators on a quick tour of the new additions to the harbor. She told the committee, "there is still much more work that needs to be done, and a few more projects that need funding, yet what is happening is a great start to overall improvement to all of Hawaii's ports." When completed, the new facilities at Manele will include a new ferry docking station, administrative offices, piers, loading docks, new utilities, comfort stations, and overnight parking. Manele Harbor handles at least 80% of Lāna'i's inter-island traffic.

The Senators spent the day visiting other state facilities on the island, including a special meeting at the Lāna'i Community Hospital to see how the \$1.2 million the legislature gave them will be spent. Dr. John Schaumburg,

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▶ Chair, Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

▶ Member, Committee on Ways and Means

▶ Member, Committee on Economic Development and Taxation



A Message From Kalani

We are blessed to live in the 6th District, and I have been busy visiting Lāna'i, Moloka'i, Upcountry Maui and Hāna to touch bases with our people. In many ways, the uniqueness of each region gives strength to our individual areas. In this issue of our newsletter, we will explore some of the district, visit with people and see programs first-hand.

As always, please keep us informed of your events, your thoughts and your suggestions. Aloha,



the administrator of the facility, took the time to explain the unique medical needs of Lānaʻi and to discuss the improvements to the entire medical complex.

Later on, Lānaʻi High and Elementary School hosted the committee to a visit on the campus and to a wonderful lunch prepared by the students of the culinary arts program. The school is asking for a new 6-classroom building from the legislature.

Sen. English thanked “all those who helped to make the visit a success, especially Martha Evans for overall planning and John Ornellas for being a terrific tour guide.”

“I am very pleased that the committee took the ferry to Lānaʻi. It gave the senators a whole new perspective on what it takes the residents to get on and off the island” Sen. English pointed out.

INNOVATION IN UPCOUNTRY

There is a lot of excitement in Kula as the new **Institute for Astronomy (IFA) Advanced Technology Research Center** opens. This new state of the art facility offers many opportunities for education and future employment. Dr. Joe Ritter, a Physicist at the IFA briefed the committee on the goals of the facility. Sen. English noted, “astronomy is a clean industry, and one that will bring billions of dollars to Maui if we manage it correctly.” During the briefing, Dr. Ritter showed prototypes of materials for creating new, lightweight telescopes. Additionally, the IFA hopes to bring the community into its work by partnering with students from Maui Community College and other local organizations.

The EAST Initiative, a nonprofit organization that provides new ways of learning for students by utilizing student-driven service projects through the use technology adds to the excitement. Project Manager Isla L. Yap facilitates the program and makes sure students have access to state-of-the-art servers, software, GPS/GIS mapping tools, 3D animation suites, and much more. Students identify problems in their local communities, and then use these tools to solve them. Sen. English was proud of the work the students and faculty have done, and how the program has empowered the students with technical skills that can keep them on the island after they graduate.

“I hope that at some point all the new science and technology can come together for the entire community.” Sen. English said. “I am truly amazed by the possibilities. The students at King Kekaulike are very fortunate to have this opportunity.”

MARSHALL ISLANDS & FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA ATTORNEYS GENERAL ATTENDS HAWAIʻI'S FIRST COMPACTS TASK FORCE MEETING



Senator English confers with Posesi Bloomfield, Attorney General of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) after the first Compacts of Free Association Task Force meeting.

Posesi Bloomfield, Attorney General of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Johnson Asher, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Acting Attorney General joined Hawaiʻi State Senator and Vice President of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), J. Kalani English as he called for support for a Hawaiʻi State policy on its relationship with the Freely Associated States in the Pacific region. These countries, The Federated States of Micronesia, The Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau, have treaty rights for their citizens to live and work in the US as if they were Americans. Attorneys General Bloomfield, Asher and Senator English attended the first of several planned meetings of the Compact of Free Association Task Force on September 25, 2007.

Senator English was very pleased that high-ranking officials from the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia could attend this pressing meeting. “The Task Force meeting was a powerful event and produced encouraging results,” Senator English said. “I am hopeful that the Task Force will provide the legislature with draft legislation that will spell out precisely what we hope to accomplish for the community.”

Attorney General Bloomfield added, "Our presence at the meeting is indicative of the RMI Government's commitment to assist the taskforce." Senator English has also provided practical advice on what legislators are looking for in the report the Task Force is preparing. The Task Force has an internal deadline for an interim report to the Legislature, which is December 15th. The final report is due to the 2008 Legislature by December 20th of that year.

Attorney General Bloomfield made valuable suggestions to the task force to keep in their awareness when doing the report. "Its important to remind you not only of the valuable contributions that the Marshallese (and Micronesians) people are making today throughout the US as civilians, but also the sacrifices made by the many serving in the US armed forces."

FSM Acting Attorney General Asher added, "We are committed to working with the Task Force in Hawai'i to better the conditions of our citizens in this state."

The Task force, lead by James Walther, the Deputy Attorney General for Hawai'i, was created in response to [Senate resolution 142 Senate Draft 1](#) that was passed

in the [2007 Legislative session](#) to investigate and coordinate the provision of medical and social services to migrants from Freely Associate States living in Hawai'i.

Over 50 people were in attendance and included foreign, federal and local government agencies, Universities, private entities, and constituents from the community. Many of the agencies are involved with the Micronesian community on a daily basis.

Senator English also raised important questions about the FAS census, "I would like to know if the National census' in the FSM, RMI and Palau will include their citizens living abroad in their count, and for the U.S. census, would the department of Interior allow for a 'FAS Bubble' on the census forms to accurately count the migrants from FAS in Hawai'i and the US?"

The next Compact of Free Association Task Force meeting will be held on October 25th at 1pm at the DLIR (Department of Labor and Industrial Relations), Princess Ruth Keelikolani Bldg., 830 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, HI 96813, Conference room 313 & 314. For further information, contact James Walther and Carol Zenigami at (808) 587-3050.

Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement Empowers People

Senator J. Kalani English recently attended the three-day, 6th Annual Native Hawaiian Convention at the Hawai'i Convention Center in Honolulu. "As one of two native Hawaiians in the Senate, it is very important to encourage Hawaiians to become active in the business community," said Sen. English. Coordinated by the **Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement** (CNHA) this historic gathering was the largest of its kind bringing together hundreds of community development practitioners from the Hawaiian and Asian Pacific American community. Robin Danner, President & CEO of CNHA, was happy with the large turnout, "We keep growing each year, and this year was one of our best conferences yet. The more we help ourselves, the better it is for everyone."

The theme of the conference was "Communities United - Our Passions, Our Strengths, Our Future" and this year's celebration featured the life and times of Princess Nahienaena and other Maui Ali'i. CNHA thanked Senator English for being present at their banquet and for participating in the conference. Sen. English noted the large amount of young participants "I am honored to be a part of this empowering event, and I look for-



Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa members work at their booth at the CNHA Conference in Honolulu. (Left to Right) Pauline Hess, Sen. English, Ivy Kahilihiwa, Boogie Kahilihiwa, and Piolani Motta.

ward to seeing all these young people leading the state in the future."

The convention offered a variety of workshops to participants. For example: voter mobilization training for community organizers, economic development for young entrepreneurs, helping the communities to develop a justice-based approach to home ownership,

self-help housing and affordable housing rentals. Indigenous banking and financial management education were also highlighted in the workshops.



Auntie Ku'ulei Bell from Kalaupapa poses with Sen. English at the CNHA Conference.

Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the memory of the people of Kalaupapa Settlement made a moving plea to the community: "please don't forget us" Auntie Ku'ulei Bell reminded the audience. Everyone felt the power of the moment, and many people came forward to share their stories of

family who were sent to the Hansen's disease Settlement in the past. Sen. English serves on the board of Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa and has been working with the residents of this district to maintain their dignity and memory now and in the future. "The kupuna (elders) of Kalaupapa have taught me a lot. They are like my own grandparents. We love each other very much," said Sen. English as he talked with conference attendees after the presentation.

Vaccine Season



While on Moloka'i for their Aloha Festivals parade last weekend, Sen. English was called into Dr. Emmett Aluli's office in Kaunakakai to get his flu vaccination. "Emmett has been my physician since I was in high school, and when I did not have any health insurance he would still see me" Sen. English explained. "It is not often that a doctor will call you in from a parade to make sure you are vaccinated!" he pointed out.

This is the flu season, and vaccinations are being offered all over the district. "I encourage everyone to get their shot" Sen. English told the people waiting outside Dr. Aluli's office as he returned to the parade a few minutes later.



Senator English visits the Kaheawa wind farm with Ways & Means Committee members. In this photo (from left to right) are Senators Gary Hooser, Jill Tokuda, J. Kalani English, Roz Baker and Ron Menor.

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