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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

As the interim months at the Senate come to an end, I and my staff are gearing up for an effective and productive 29th Legislative Session. Over the last few months, I have been meeting with leaders in all levels of local, national, and international governments in an effort to forge strong working relationships that will benefit Hawai’i’s economy, and solidify our role in combating Climate Change and sea level rise. In the weeks ahead, I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues as we continue to ensure a better quality of life for the residents of Hawai’i.

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



SENATE CONFIRMS DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

A Special Session of the Senate was held from September 13 - 14, to confirm two judicial appointments, one for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit – Hawai’i Island and one for the District Court of the Fifth Circuit – Kaua’i

On September 2, Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald appointed Dakota K.M. Frenz to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit and Michael K. Soong to the District Court of the Fifth Circuit. To fill the District Court vacancies, the Chief Justice of the Hawai’i State Supreme Court selects an appointee from a list of not less than six nominees submitted by the Judicial Selection Committee.

Pursuant to Hawai’i State Constitution, Article IV, Section 3, the Senate has 30 days from the date of the appointment to consider and confirm the judgeships. The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor held a hearing on the appointments on Sept. 12. The Senate convened for the first day of the Special Session on Sept. 13. The next day, the Senate unanimously voted and confirmed Ms. Frenz to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit and Mr. Soong to the District Court of the Fifth Circuit; both judgeships for a term of office for six years

Ms. Frenz was most recently a sole proprietor of her own private law practice in Hilo specializing in criminal law, family law, and civil litigation/collections. Prior to opening her own law practice, Frenz was a partner at Laubach & Frenz, AAL, LLC, where she focused her legal practice in the same areas of law. Prior to entering private practice, Frenz served as deputy prosecuting attorney in the County of Hawai’i where she handled cases in the District, Family, and Circuit Courts. In addition to her legal experience, she serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Ku’ikahi Mediation Center, a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawai’i County Bar Association, an arbitrator with the Court Annexed Arbitration Program, a member of the County of Hawai’i Bench Bar Committee and Hawai’i State Bench Bar Committee. She also volunteers with the Friends of Drug Court and the Self-Help Center in East Hawai’i. Frenz is a graduate of Whittier Law School and was admitted to the Hawai’i State Bar in 2006.

“Ms. Frenz has a reputation as an intelligent, hard-working advocate with substantial trial experience as a former county prosecutor and as a private attorney,” said Sen. English “She will be an excellent addition to the District Family Court, one of the most challenging assignments for a Judge.”



(1st photo) - The Hawai’i State Senate unanimously confirmed Dakota K.M. Frenz to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. (2nd photo) - The Hawai’i State Senate unanimously confirmed Michael K. Soong to the District Court of the Fifth Circuit. Sept. 13, 2016.

SENATE CONFIRMS DISTRICT COURT JUDGES CONTINUED

Mr. Soong has nearly 30 years of trial experience and has been in private practice since 2009 focusing on criminal law, personal injury and plaintiff litigation. His work in the public sector includes being elected to two-consecutive terms as Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kaua'i. Prior to his tenure as the Prosecuting Attorney, he served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kaua'i, a Deputy Public Defender, and Deputy Corporation Counsel. Mr. Soong serves as a Board member of the Friends of the Kaua'i Drug Court, and is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He also currently serves on the Royal Order of Kamehameha, Kaumuali'i Chapter, Hokule'a-Kaua'i Crew member of the Polynesian Voyaging Society and member of Na Kalai Wa'a 'O Kaua'i. Soong is a graduate of Southwestern University School of Law and was admitted to the Hawai'i State Bar in 1986.

"Mr. Soong has a reputation of being fair, hard-working and compassionate to those who are less fortunate," said Sen. English. "His knowledge of the law, commitment to his community, and his character makes Mr. Soong a very good addition to the District Court, where most residents encounter the judicial system."

SENATE PRESIDENT'S FORUM

Sen. English and Senate Pres. Kouchi attended the Summer Senate Presidents' Forum in Montreal, Quebec from July 7-10. Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre welcomed the Forum to Montreal and commented on the warm hospitality that characterizes his city and stressed the value of partnerships to work together for the benefit of all citizens.

Forum discussions included: 1) Opportunities and challenges presented by the partnership of the US and Canada, focusing on the common values and the political, economic, and security interests that the neighboring countries share; 2) The extensive bilateral relationships between the US and Canada, with bilateral trade accounting for more than \$2 billion a day in goods and services. 3) The impacts of issues such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and other trade and economic factors; 4) Challenges for balancing openness and security across the US – Canada border; 5) Energy and environmental policy decisions in either the US or Canada having immediate impacts on both nations; 6) New energy sources and the impacts and challenges of changing energy sources.

"The Forum provided awareness and knowledge of political, economic, energy, environmental and security issues by experts from both Canada and the United States that otherwise would not be accessible here in Hawai'i," said Sen. English. "Furthermore, both Quebec and Hawai'i have two official languages. So, it was impressive to visit firsthand a country where both languages are imbedded in everyday life."

The Senate Presidents' Forum is a nonpartisan, non-ideological, nonprofit educational organization, established in 1994. The Forum's mission is to provide a nonpartisan environment where State Senate leaders meet to consider potential solutions to critical problems facing the states.

The Forum hosts three educational conferences each year, where legislative leaders engage in open and productive discussions, leveraging their shared experiences and gaining insight from globally recognized experts. The Forum is noted for respectful discussion of divergent viewpoints, collaborative strategies to find common ground, and evidence-based problem-solving for the common good.



SENATOR ENGLISH APPLAUDS PLANNED CONSTRUCTION OF PORTABLE CLASSROOMS AT MAKAWAO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sen. English called the DOE notice on July 8, announcing construction to begin on two portable classrooms at Makawao Elementary School as "much welcomed news."

"With so many public schools throughout the state in urgent need of repair and maintenance, every year it's a challenge finding the money to address the concerns in each of our communities," said Sen. English. "I know my colleagues in the Legislature agree that investing in our keiki is a priority and I'm pleased they recognized the critical need for more learning space at Makawao Elementary. It's definitely much welcomed news to know the students and staff at the school will soon have more space to thrive."

Maui legislators were able to secure \$1.2 million for the design and construction of two portable classrooms at Makawao Elementary School. It is a portion of more than \$460 million in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding appropriated for various projects throughout the Maui district in 2014.

Makawao has experienced tremendous growth in recent years. The expected enrollment is 541 students for the upcoming school year at Makawao Elementary. The additional portable classrooms

will relieve the problem of overcrowding at the 80-year-old school and in anticipation of new housing projects in the area.

"We try to keep our classroom size down so that our students have the optimum opportunity for one-on-one instruction," said Makawao Elementary School Principal Robyn Honda. "Having this additional facility benefits our students who will be more comfortable in their learning environment, as we provide experiences to stretch learning for all of our students. It also benefits our resource staff who support our classroom teachers in encouraging our students to reach their fullest potential."

"I'm so thankful to our legislators for recognizing the need on our campus and supporting our students," added Principal Honda.

The contract for construction was awarded to Banks Pacific Construction, Inc. Construction on the project is scheduled to begin in October and be completed at the end of March 2017.



NEW AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD OPENS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC AROUND KAHULUI AIRPORT

A blessing ceremony held on July 22, marked the opening of a new access road around Kahului Airport that will relieve traffic congestion and help separate the airport users with community motorists.

The new Airport Access Road connects Hāna Highway to Lanui Loop, relieving traffic congestion along Dairy Road, which is the only roadway that leads to the airport from south Maui via Puunene Avenue and west Maui via Kuihelani Highway.

Senators English, Gil Keith-Agaran and Rosalyn Baker were on hand for the opening ceremony along with House Speaker Joseph Souki, Mayor Alan Arakawa, and representatives of the Governor's office, Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) Airports Division and Hawai'i Dredging Construction Company.

The \$56 million construction costs for the Kahului Airport improvements is fully funded by the rental car customer facility charges collected by rental car companies at the airport.

The access road improvements coincides with the current construction of the new Consolidated Rent-A-Car (Conrac) facility at Kahului Airport. The Conrac will enhance aesthetics and also improve the flow of traffic around the airport terminal building.

According to the HDOT, Kahului Airport is home to more than a dozen airlines that serve an average of nearly 8,000 passengers per day. Kahului Airport rents the most cars of all the airports in the state with an average of 2,200 cars rented every day, more than twice the amount at Honolulu.

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE DELEGATION MEET WITH TAIWAN OFFICIALS

Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi, Sen. English, along with Senators Gil Keith-Agaran and Gil Riviere met with members of the Taiwan Council of Indigenous Peoples (CIP) to establish a formal relationship with Taiwan to bolster tourism in Hawai'i and economic development partnerships.

Through this meeting, a formal invitation was extended for Taiwan's participation in the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture which is being held in Hawai'i on June 11-27, 2020. The event is held every four years and is hosted by the Pacific Cultural Council.

The Taiwan CIP Minister reported that this year, a performance group was sent to Hawai'i Island in March for the Merrie Monarch Festival. The Minister also led a delegation of 37 township Mayors to Hawai'i in February. A performance group from Hawai'i was invited to the Taiwan International Indigenous Festival in August. CIP also has welcomed a representative from Kapiolani Community College to Taiwan to discuss education and training projects in September.

SINO-US STATE AND PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



Tourism relations between China and Hawai'i was deepened with the signing of the Tourism Cooperative Agreement between the Jiangsu Tourism Administration and Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

The significant cooperative agreement was reached at the first Sino-U.S. State and Provincial Leadership Summit held June 25-26 in Honolulu. The agreement was the end result of thorough discussions on legislature, tourism, trade and economic partnerships between Hawai'i and Jiangsu, a province which harbors a population of 79.7 million.

"With the declaration of 2016 being 'U.S.-China Tourism Year' by President Obama and China President Xi, it marks a significant tourism milestone for both countries and this memo of understanding further encourages collaboration for the future advancement of tourism," said George D. Szigeti, president and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. "Jiangsu Province is one of China's most prosperous regions accounting for one-tenth of its GDP. This partnership between Jiangsu Tourism Administration and HTA serves our mutual interest and we look forward to welcoming more Chinese citizens from the province and other parts of the country to Hawai'i."

The summit was part of the fourth annual Conference of State Majority Leaders with the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF). Majority leaders of state legislatures from across the country were in Hawai'i for the meeting. Sen. English and State House Majority Leader Rep. Scott Saiki were co-hosts of the conference.

"The impact of these meetings are substantial on so many levels," said Sen. English on the success of the summit. "This was immensely important not only for building tourism in Hawai'i, but also for furthering U.S. – China relations. This agreement marks just the beginning of meaningful conversations and deepening state-level cooperation between the United States and China."

The Sino-US State and Provincial Leadership Summit is a direct result of an agreement reached between President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping last September during President Xi's visit to the U.S. The agreements endorsed by both Presidents included language specifically mentioning SLLF as a partner with the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and is the sole organization that the Chinese will deal with at a state and local level. Sen. English and Rep. Saiki traveled to China with 12 legislative leaders and a small contingent of SLLF Advisory Council members and staff in March of this year to initiate these friendship agreements.

For more information on SLLF, visit www.sllf.org



(Photo Left to Right)

Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,
 Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair of the Senate Human Services Committee,
 Senator J. Kalani English, Majority Leader of the State Senate,
 Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, President of the State Senate,
 Mr. Icyang • Parod, Minister of Council of Indigenous Peoples,
 Mr. Yapasuyongtr • Poiconu, Deputy Director of General Planning Department,
 Mr. Luo Wen-Ming, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department,
 Ms. Luo Mei-Jing, Senior Executive Officer of Education and Culture Department and
 Mr. Alex C. Lei, Director of State of Hawai'i Office in Taiwan. August 24, 2016.

STATE LEGISLATURE HIGHLIGHTS CONSERVATION POLICIES DURING IUCN WCC

In what was considered the most well-attended conference in the history of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), its World Conservation Congress (WCC) attracted more than 10,000 participants from 192 countries to the conference held September 1-10 at the Hawai'i Convention Center.

This was the first time the Congress, convened by the IUCN, was held in the United States. The topics discussed ranged from ocean management to wildlife protection to ecotourism.

Several State Senators participated in the events at the WCC. Sen. Pres. Ronald Kouchi, who along with House Speaker Joseph Souki and Rep. Ryan Yamane, hosted an event titled "The State of Conservation in the Hawaiian Islands" which highlighted legislative efforts to promote conservation.

The Legislature allocated \$8 million to host the event, which proved to be a valuable investment for the state. It is estimated the WCC generated as much as \$62 million in total economic impact for Hawai'i. It also provided an opportunity to showcase the beauty and depth of biodiversity

of the Hawaiian Islands to the world.

Further, the Legislature has passed a number of policies promoting sustainability and conservation. Last Session, Lawmakers passed laws protecting three state animals and passed the most comprehensive law against wildlife and ivory trafficking in the U.S. Since 2015, state lawmakers have provided the protection of 33,000 acres of land in Hawai'i through legislation.

Additional areas of progressive conservation policies by the Legislature include:

- Over \$7 million invested to expand fisheries management
- More than \$50 million invested in projects to improve stream flow statewide, protect drinking water supply, and manage stormwater through canal and stream irrigation
- \$2 million allocated to create a statewide invasive

species tracking database and support pest management to control the interisland movement of species

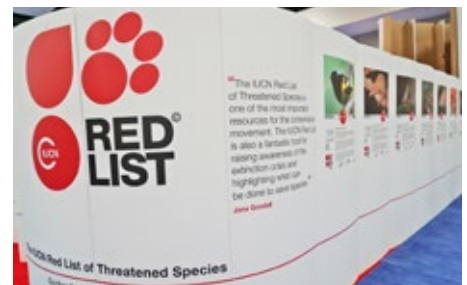
- \$1.5 million financed to eradicate and control Albizia trees statewide
- Passed a comprehensive legislative package of 14 water policies including auditing our statewide water supply and encouraged public-private partnerships to increase our water security
- Initiated a statewide Water Infrastructure Loan "Green Bonds" program
- More than \$16 million invested to improve and upgrade dams and reservoirs statewide



- Over \$252 million allocated to the State Department of Land and Natural Resources

"Since ancient times the inhabitants of the Hawaiian archipelago have protected the surrounding ocean and islands and practiced sustainable and conservation methods that have withstood the ravages of time," said Sen. English, "So, I am pleased that Hawai'i was selected by IUCN to hold the Congress, which was a huge success and great investment for Hawai'i. More importantly, our efforts to promote conservation was presented to the world."

More photos from the IUCN-WCC can be viewed on the Hawai'i Senate Majority Flickr site: flickr.com/hawaiisenatemajority



PACIFIC ISLANDS CONFERENCE OF LEADERS

Sen. English was among the largest assembly of Pacific Island nation leaders gathered on the veranda of the historic Washington Place on the evening of Aug. 30 for a welcome reception of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL).

The PICL is made up of heads of government representing some 20 different island countries, states and territories from the Pacific Islands region, including Hawai'i. The Conference meets once every three years. The members of the PICL are here to attend the Pacific Ocean Summit which is an international conference being held congruent with the IUCN World Conservation Congress. The summit seeks to build upon estab-

lished relationships and new commitments from Pacific Island leaders, Mayors and Governors and CEOs to mitigate climate change and act for a sustainable Pacific Ocean.

"As residents and stewards of the Pacific Ocean, we are at the front lines of climate change and its global impact. It's critically important that we work in partnership with our Pacific Island neighbors to ensure the survival of our island nations," said Sen. English. "We build upon our relationships and establish joint commitments from countries, states, territories, and cities around the Pacific Rim for a sustainable Pacific Ocean at Summits such this."



Sen. English among the many dignitaries at the reception of Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders. August 30, 2016.

PACIFIC OCEAN SUMMIT CONVENES

Leaders representing more than 20 Pacific Island nations along with heads of international environmental agencies assembled on Sept. 1 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village for an afternoon session reviewing current actions and forge commitments to mitigate emissions and create a sustainable Pacific Ocean.

The Pacific Ocean Summit was billed as the core platform for action on the Pacific Ocean and held congruent with the IUCN World Conservation Congress. It also provided an opportunity to convene the first 2030 Pacific Ocean partnership and coalition for action, starting in 2016 and convening every three years to add more partners and track progress on the path toward the goal of a sustainable and healthy Pacific Ocean by 2030.

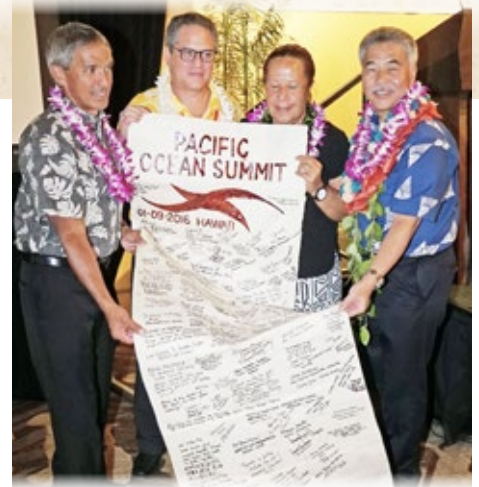
The discussion in the afternoon session focused on a variety of issues ranging from increasing ocean resilience and the action being taken to

impact climate change, to the role indigenous people have in building resilient coastal communities and developing a solid financial mechanism to support protected areas in the Pacific.

Sen. Kalani English moderated the final panel discussion on the next steps needed to warrant the actions and commitments are followed through to ensure a healthy ocean and that the voice of the Pacific region is visible and heard.

"I was honored to be invited to play such an important role in a gathering of Pacific Island leaders," said Sen. English. "The Summit was instrumental in moving a platform that acknowledges climate change and promotes partnerships to work together to ensure sound environmental policies for a sustainable and healthy Pacific for future generations."

Master Navigator Nainoa Thompson, President of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, called participants to action and to step beyond the comfort of their own lands and have the faith and courage to forge ahead to make a change. Thompson was given a kapa signed by all the participants in the Pacific Ocean Summit, which served as a visual commitment of support for the mission of the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage and the collective partnership to care for the ocean.



The outcomes from the Pacific Ocean Summit are being built upon the initiatives laid out in the Paris Agreement reached in 2015 at COP21 and can be reported into the global UN Ocean Summit in 2017.



J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

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Committee on Tourism &
International Affairs

Vice Chair, Senate Committee
on Hawaiian Affairs

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on Transportation & Energy

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STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS FOUNDATION (SLLF)
FALL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

From September 22-24, national legislative leaders including Sen. English met in Arlington, Virginia for the 2016 SLLF Leadership Summit. George Washington: Lesson from the Master was the theme of the Summit and the last installment of the Presidential Leadership Series. The Summit was held at George Washington Leadership Institute in Mount Vernon, Virginia.

The participants examined the Political Leadership of George Washington, analyzed the problems Washington faced from grand strategy and constitutional change to crop rotation. Among the facts they learned about Washington was how he maximized his strengths and overcame his flaws to become one of America's greatest leaders; the strength of his reputation for honesty and integrity; the core values that drove Washington's thoughts and actions.

The Summit also included tours of the following: The Washington Library, where they viewed first-hand authentic documents and letters, learning more about the character of Washington through his own words; The Washington Mansion, which was enlarged over 45 years from a plantation house to a 21-room grand residence.

"The Summit was a very inspirational experience" said Sen. English. "Washington's innate strength of character and core values guided the course of his life, leadership abilities and achievements; for any leader he is definitely someone to emulate."

BAKU INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN FORUM

Sen. English was among the global participants at the V Baku International Humanitarian Forum in The Republic of Azerbaijan from September 29-October 1. Roundtable discussions featured the following topics: Different models of multiculturalism – from theory to humanitarian practice; The importance of preserving the human capital in conditions of mass migration as a basis for sustainable development; Transforming journalism for the Information Age and its role in ensuring inter-civilization dialogue; sustainable development and ecological civilization; Molecular biology; Biophysics, biotechnology and issues of personnel training in modern medicine; and Converging technologies and predictions for the future – the main challenges of the 21st Century.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a secular country and is a highly inclusive and tolerant society as well as a model of multiculturalism and interfaith harmony that showcases the possibility of peaceful co-existence between Muslims, Christians and Jews. Their form of government consists of a presidential democracy with a unicameral parliament. Azerbaijan is one of the fastest growing economies in the region of South Eastern Caucasus along the Caspian Sea. The capital of Baku has a population of 9.5 million inhabitants.

Since 1998, Honolulu has enjoyed a sister-city relationship with Baku's Yasamal district.

"I was honored to be invited to attend the Baku International Humanitarian Forum and share my perspectives with the participants on important topics affecting many people globally," said Sen. English. "More importantly, we the diverse people of Hawai'i have so much to offer the world due to our record of working together to make this a more sustainable world and conserving it for future generations."



Amy Hanaialii Gilliom, Kumu Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Sen. English and Clifford Nae'ole, (Director of Culture at the Ritz Carlton Kapalua Hotel) along with many Pacific Leaders were welcomed on to Kahanamoku Beach at the Hilton Hawaiian Village by the traditional landowners and the Governor of Hawai'i with a call for action on Climate Change and a Sustainable Pacific Ocean. Moana Pasifika Welcome Ceremony, September 1, 2016.