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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Now, that the 29th Legislature has adjourned, my colleagues and I have more time to spend in our communities and focus directly on its specific needs. Currently, Rat Lungworm disease has forced our district to take action to curb its increase among us.

Also, at this time, we review and examine the bills and resolutions that were passed, such as the \$28 billion biennium budget as well as other major issues that remain. This is also the period when the Governor is reviewing the bills we passed. So, we wait in anticipation to see which bills will become law.

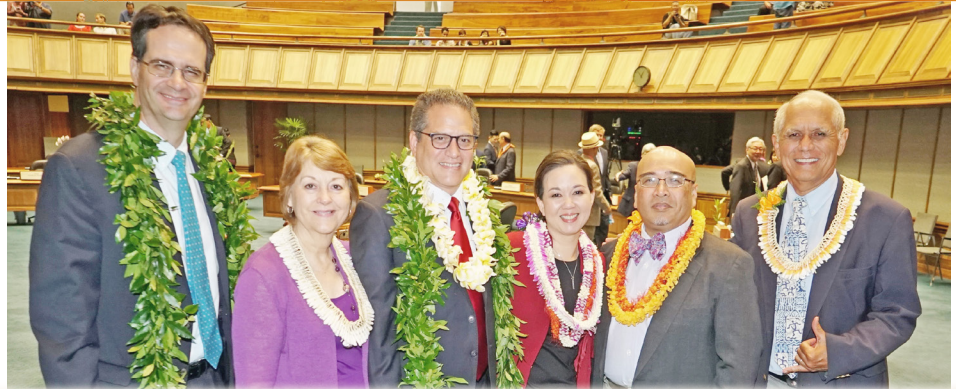
As we move forward into the Legislative interim, my staff and I remain dedicated to serving the people of Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i.

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 ADJOURNS 2017 SESSION

The Hawai'i State Senate adjourned the 2017 regular session on May 4 taking action on a number of priority areas including agriculture, health-care, education, and the environment. These priorities align with the Senate's commitment to the Legislative Program set forth at the start of the 2017 session.

Mindful of the Council of Revenue minimizing the general fund tax revenue growth rate forecast from 3 per cent to 2.5 percent for fiscal year 2016-2017, the Legislature passed a fiscally prudent budget that balances the needs facing the State.

A total of \$3,040,625 was allocated for agriculture that includes funding for the Agricultural Loan Revolving Fund; Food Safety Certification Program; and pesticides compliance, regulation and licensing.

In education, the Senate's priority was reflected with the allocations of \$90 million to address conditions for school facilities statewide; \$2.8 million in general funds was set aside in FY18 for the Hawai'i Keiki Healthy and Ready to Learn program; \$1 million in general funds was appropriated in each fiscal year for the Early College High School Initiative; and \$1.8 million in funding in each FY for the Hawai'i Promise Program that will help qualified students with financial needs to pay for in-state college tuition.



For the environment, funds were allocated to fight invasive species such as the Little Fire Ant and to provide support in the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death response. Also, included was \$400,000 in general funds for each FY for the fire protection program and \$3 million for rockfall and flood mitigation at sites statewide. In recognizing the threat that Rat Lungworm disease may become in our communities, 1 million was appropriated to address the disease.

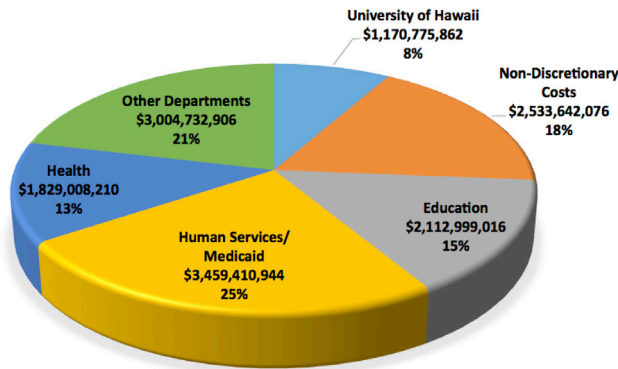
"I'm pleased with the work done over the last 60 days," said Sen. English "There were certainly challenges throughout this session, particularly in the area of the budget, where tough choices had to be made. However, my Senate colleagues always kept in mind the best interest of the people of Hawai'i. I'm hopeful that what issues remain unresolved at the end of this session, we can work together to find solutions and move forward."

FISCAL BIENNIUM BUDGET

The Senate passed a State Budget that appropriates \$14.1 billion in total operating funds for fiscal year 2018 and \$14.3 billion for fiscal year 2019. The budget includes \$2.9 billion for critical capital improvement

projects in every county across the state. The charts below illustrate the State Budget allocations:

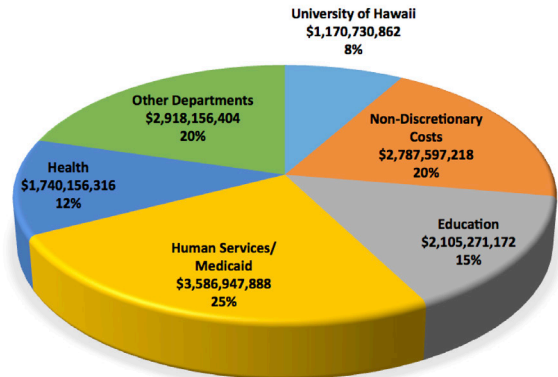
HB100 HD1 SD1 CD1, TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS, ALL FUNDS, FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018



**Total Appropriation:
\$14,110,569,014**

University of Hawaii	\$1,170,775,862
Non-Discretionary Costs	\$2,533,642,076
Education	\$2,112,999,016
Human Services/Medicaid	\$3,459,410,944
Health	\$1,829,008,210
Other Departments	\$3,004,732,906

HB100 HD1 SD1 CD1 TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS, ALL FUNDS, FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019



**Total Appropriation:
\$14,308,859,860**

University of Hawaii	\$1,170,730,862
Non-Discretionary Costs	\$2,787,597,218
Education	\$2,105,271,172
Human Services/Medicaid	\$3,586,947,888
Health	\$1,740,156,316
Other Departments	\$2,918,156,404

SEN. ENGLISH CONVENES RAT LUNG WORM MEETING

In an effort to coordinate a statewide plan to combat Rat Lung Worm disease (RLW) in our communities, Sen. English held a meeting in his office with the following: Suzanne Case, Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Scott Enright, Chair of the Board of Agriculture; Dr. Virginia Pressler, Director of the Department of Health; RLW researchers and staff members.

RLW is a disease that affects the brain and spinal cord and is caused by a roundworm parasite. The adult form is only found in rodents. The infected rodents pass the larvae of the parasite in their feces. Snails, slugs and certain other animals can become infected by ingesting the larvae. Humans become infected by eating raw or undercooked produce or food containing the parasite.

At the meeting, the group agreed that the first step should be to educate the public about RLW since the disease is preventable through careful handling of produce or food that may

come in contact with the parasite. More importantly, since rodents are the primary carriers of the parasite, the elimination of rodents should be a primary effort in stemming RLW.

The legislature appropriated \$608,000 to the Department of Agriculture for the construction of mobile hot-water treatment units to be used for RLW disease control and \$1 million to the Department of Health as well as funds for 6 permanent positions in the Department for vector control. In consideration of these factors, the group members have been tasked

with contributing whatever resources that is available to them to combat RLW.

"I commend the group for swiftly coming together to coordinate a plan of action to fight rat lungworm disease," said Sen. English. "I have seen firsthand how our community comes together in the face of challenges during the Dengue outbreak in Hāna and because of the community's quick response we were able to prevent further spread of the disease with the available resources."



HAWAI'I HOSTS THE 2020 FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS



In 2020, Hawai'i will have the honor and great opportunity to host The Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC). The festival is the largest gathering in which Pacific peoples from twenty-seven Pacific Island nations and territories share and exchange their creative ideas and cultures. Visitors from around the world come to the festival to appreciate the work of artists, performers and cultural practitioners from different nations in Oceania. The gathering creates a global market for art, ideas and indigenous products.

In preparation for the 2020 festival, Sen. English introduced **SB545**: Relating to The Festival of Pacific Arts. The bill appropriates \$500,000 to create a temporary commission that will plan for the historic event to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020. The bill passed through the legislature and is on its way to the Governor's desk for approval.

"As tourism remains a vital industry in Hawai'i, venues such as the Festival of Pacific Arts provides a unique avenue for marketing the diversity we have to offer to the world," said Sen. English. "More importantly, this is an indigenous festival for and by the peoples of the Pacific."

For information, or to read SB545 in its entirety, please visit http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=545&year=2017

LEGISLATURE TAKES A STAND ON CLIMATE CHANGE

One of the highlights of the 2017 Legislative Session was the passage of **SB 559**: Relating to Climate Change. This bill, introduced by Sen. English, draws on previous legislation to "promote a statewide response to climate change collaboration" and calls for Hawai'i's strategies to be aligned with those in the 2016 Paris Agreement.

The bill establishes the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. The commission will be responsible for providing policy direction, facilitation, coordination and planning among State and County agencies, federal agencies and other appropriate partners in areas relating to climate change.

"The effects of climate change are real, as seen primarily with sea level rise in the Pacific. Climate change requires a two-pronged approach — reduction of activities that contribute to global warming and adaptations to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the State,"

said Sen. English. "This bill aims to dispel the Federal Administration's environmental goals and provide the State with a guide to planning and statewide implementation using the latest scientific analysis and risk assessment to monitor and forecast climate change impacts at the regional, State and local levels."

For more information, or to read **SB559** in its entirety, please visit http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=559&year=2017

UPDATED LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

The following is a list of the recent changes to leadership in both the House and Senate as a result of reorganization:

The House of Representatives

Speaker:	Scott K. Saiki
Vice Speaker:	Della Au Belatti
Majority Leader:	Cindy Evans
Majority Floor Leader:	Dee Morikawa
Majority Policy Leaders:	Kaniela Ing Jarrett K. Keohokalole
Majority Whips:	Henry J.C. Aquino Aaron Ling Johanson Chris Lee Mark M. Nakashima Justin Woodson
Speaker Emeritus:	Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker Emeritus:	Joseph M. Souki
Minority Leader:	Andria P. L. Tupola
Minority Floor Leader:	Gene Ward
Minority Whip:	Lauren Matsumoto
Assistant Minority Leader:	Bob McDermott

Assistant Minority Floor Leader:

Cynthia Thielen

Minority Policy Leader and Minority Leader Emeritus:

Gene Ward

Senate Leadership changes:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz will be the new Ways and Means committee chair with Senator Gil Keith-Agaran serving as the Ways and Means committee vice chair.

The current Senate committee on Judiciary and Labor will be divided into two committees with Senator Brian T. Taniguchi chairing the Judiciary committee and Senator Jill N. Tokuda chairing the Labor committee.

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele is the new Majority Whip.



FUNDS FOR KAUPŌ COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

\$975,000 in funds were released to the Kaupō Community Association to be used to restore the Old Kaupō School so that it may serve as a community center and emergency shelter. The Office of Community Services in the Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations, the expending agency for the grant, will be working with the Community Assoc.

When the restoration of the two-room classroom and teacher cottage built in 1922-23 is completed, the building will be a community gathering place for events, meetings, health and cultural classes and a showcase for historic photos and artifacts of Kaupō history. More importantly, the old school may serve as a shelter and command post for flooding, fires and other events that sometimes cut off Kaupō from the rest of the island.

"I have been working with the Kaupō Community for a number of years to secure funds for the restoration of the old school," said Sen. English. "I am glad that funds have been released so that the project can become a reality and serve the community who have been waiting for a long time for something like this to happen."

J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

COMMITTEES

Vice Chair, Senate Committee on
International Affairs and the Arts

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/

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NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY (NDU) VISITS THE CAPITOL



Senior officers from over 60 countries with the International Fellows Program from The National Defense University visited Hawai'i in early May. The National Defense University International Fellows Program is a U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff initiative that invites 100 plus senior international military officers to attend a yearlong, Master's-degree granting program at one of NDU's four colleges. During the course of their academic year, these International Fellows participate in a Field Studies Practicum program that takes them to 10 different cities across the United States with the goal of introducing these officers to American culture, society, institutions, and ideals.

Of these 10 cities, one of the most topically significant is Honolulu, Hawai'i. The International Fellows spent five days in Hawai'i attending briefings at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Strategic Studies (DKI APCSS), the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Hawai'i State Capitol, among others. Through these visits, the International Fellows explore Hawai'i's rich history, cultural diversity, and current challenges as well as strengthen relationships that they will utilize upon returning to positions of authority in their respective home countries.

While at the Capitol, Hawaiian scholars from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Dr. Willy Kauai, Dr. Davianna McGregor, Dr. Ty Kawika Tengan and Law Professor Melody Mackenzie provided the fellows with an overview of Hawaiian history and the current socio-political issues affecting Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i today.

Sen. English was invited to close out the panel by speaking on the challenges of Hawaiian sovereignty and how the political process is being used to advocate for Hawaiian issues both domestically and internationally. He also touched upon the multi-ethnic society that exists here in the islands.

"Hawai'i is unique because we are multi-ethnic and there is no majority," said Sen. English. "In Hawai'i, everyone is a minority. Because of this, we have developed a sense of appreciation and respect for each other's culture, something you may not find in many parts of the world."

For more information on the International Fellows Program from The National Defense University, please visit:

<http://ismo.ndu.edu/Incoming-Students/The-International-Fellows-Programs/History-of-the-IFP/>



Sen. English receives a Certificate of Appreciation from an NDU Senior Officer. Hawai'i State Capitol. May 5, 2017.

