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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

As 2017 comes to a close, let us take the opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past year; from combating rat lung-worm disease in our district, holding three Special Legislative Sessions, enacting major climate change legislation and securing funding for our district. As we are preparing for the second biennium of the 29th Legislative session, I am eager to introduce new legislation that would implement the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into a local framework that aims to improve the quality of life for all of Hawai'i.

During this holiday season, I send each and everyone of you my warmest regards and best wishes. Hau'oli makahiki hou.

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



HŌKŪLE'A VISITS HĀNA DURING THE 9TH ANNUAL HĀNA LIMU FESTIVAL



Sen. English was among the many residents, students and visitors gathered along the shoreline, chanting and singing a warm welcome to the Hōkūle'a and her crew as it sailed into Hāna Harbor.

Upon disembarking, crew members joined the community in celebrating the 9th Annual Hāna Limu Festival, a community event organized by Nā Mamo O Mū'olea to promote a deeper understanding of limu and to educate the public about their role in ensuring the sustainability of ocean resources. This year's theme is *Mālama Honua*.

Hāna was the first neighbor island port Hōkūle'a visited during its *Mahalo Hawai'i* tour of the islands in recognition and celebration of the contributions that families, employers and communities made to help on the voyaging canoe's historic trip around the world.

The two-day festival included a talk story session with crew members sharing information about their worldwide voyage. Community members shared information about subsis-

tence fishing areas and the success of East Maui voluntary 'opihi rest areas. Other activities included: live music and hula; tide pool touch tanks to learn to recognize native limu; a silent auction benefitting the Isabelle Aiona Abbott Scholarship for the keiki of Hāna; hand-made crafts by local artists; games and food.

"I was proud to stand among the many people who gathered on the beach to welcome the Hōkūle'a to Hāna," reflected Sen. English. "It was a historic event that will inspire the next generation to journey beyond our shores and reach for the stars."

Hāna born Nakua Konohia-Lind, captain for Hōkūle'a's sail into Hāna, and crew are welcomed at Hāna Bay. November 17, 2017.



CELEBRATING MAKAHIKI COMMEMORATION DAY



Sen. English introduced SB 1035 in 2008, which became Act 68, establishing each November 20th as Makahiki Commemoration Day. Although, it is not a state holiday, honoring Makahiki is significant. The rising of the Makali'i, Pleiades, marks the beginning of the Season that covers four consecutive months. Conflict and war were set aside and unity and peace prevailed. After harvesting their crops, the people offered food in tribute to the chiefs and the akua, god, Lono for their wisdom and wise stewardship because without that knowledge the land would become barren.

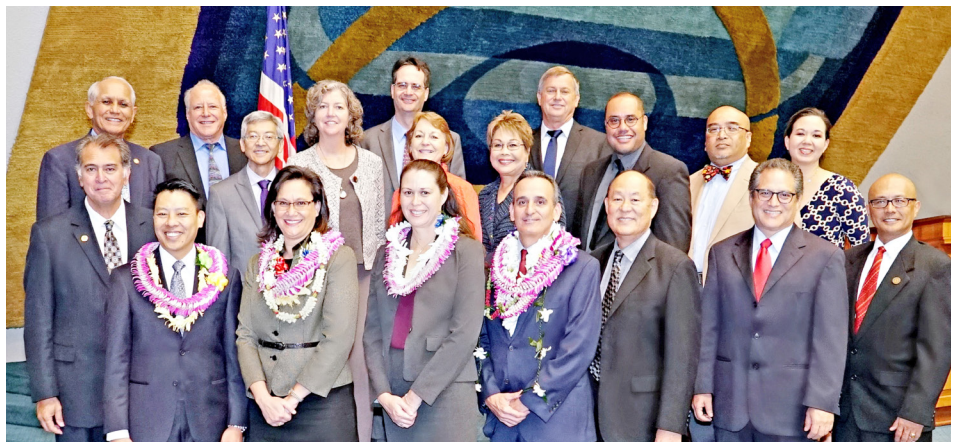
"Regional governments throughout Polynesia celebrate the Makahiki Season to perpetuate the ancient wisdom of land conservation, abundance, unity and peace," noted Sen. English.

"We are fortunate to have a day in commemoration of the four month Season that reminds us to celebrate our blessings, practice sustainable principles and live in unity and peace."

FUNDS RELEASED FOR LANA'I AIRPORT

\$1,015,000 was released for restroom improvements and for a master plan and noise compatibility program update at the Lāna'i Airport.

SENATE HOLDS THIRD SPECIAL SESSION TO CONFIRM JUDICIARY APPOINTMENTS



During the week of November 13, the Senate convened the Third Special Session of 2017 to consider four judicial appointees. Pursuant to the Hawai'i State Constitution, Article VI, Section 3, the Senate has 30 days from the date of the appointment to consent to the appointments.

On November 1, the Senate received three letters of appointment from the Governor naming Paul B. Wong, Matthew J. Viola, and Rowena A. Somerville to serve as judges of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. The Senate also received a letter of appointment from Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald naming Jessi L.K. Hall to serve as a judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit. The appointees were selected from a list of candidates submitted by the Judicial Selection Commission.

The Senate Committee on Judiciary conducted a full hearing on all four candidates on November 13 and recommended to advise and consent. On November 15, the Senate voted to confirm Wong, Viola and Somerville as judges to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit; and Hall to serve as a judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

Since his appointment in May 2012, Judge Paul B. Wong has served as a judge on the District Court of the First Circuit. Prior to his appointment, he was a Partner with the law firm of McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon, LLP, and a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu.

Judge Matthew J. Viola was appointed as a family court judge in August 2010 and has served as the presiding judge of the Juvenile Drug Court of the First Circuit and most recently served as the lead judge of the domestic division of the District Family Court of the First Circuit. Prior to his appointment as a family court judge, he was in private practice and served as a part-time family court per diem judge and as a contract attorney for the City and County of Honolulu Ethics Commission.

Rowena A. Somerville has been an attorney for more than twenty years, and served as a law clerk with the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission and District Court of the First Circuit. Most recently, she has been serving as an Administrative Hearings Officer for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Previously she served as a Deputy Attorney General in the Land and Transportation Division and as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu.

Jessi L.K. Hall most recently has been legal Counsel with Kleintop & Luria, LLP focusing on family law. She previously served as an associate attorney at Coates & Frey, AAL, LLLC where she handled family law cases. During her career, she has served on numerous boards and committees, including Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i, Hawai'i Justice Foundation, and the Mediation Center of the Pacific.

"These judges have established themselves with great integrity, judicial competence and diligence," said Sen. English. "We are honored to confirm Judges Wong, Viola, Somerville and Hall. I believe that the Circuit Court of the First Circuit and the District Family Court of the First Circuit will be well-served under their judgeship."

HAWAI'I REPRESENTED AT COP 23 IN GERMANY

World leaders met in Bonn, Germany from Nov. 6 -17 for the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Each year countries convene to assess progress in dealing with climate change. At COP21, held in Paris in November-December 2015, the parties negotiated the Paris Agreement, which established specific actions and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, and financing mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries.

During the past legislative session, Sen. English introduced SB559 (Act 32) which requires the State to expand strategies and mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions statewide in alignment with the principles and goals adopted in the Paris Agreement. Despite President Trump's announcement to withdraw the United States from the historic agreement, Hawai'i was the first state to pass a law committing to the goals and limits of the Paris Agreement.

In alignment with Act 32 to expand climate change strategies, representatives from the Department of Land and Natural Resources traveled to Germany to observe and attend the climate negotiations.

Key outcomes from COP 23 includes the following: 1) The 2018 Talanoa Dialogue is an inclusive and participatory process that will allow countries, as well as non-state actors, to share stories and showcase best practices in order to urgently raise ambition in nationally determined contributions; 2) Launch of Ocean Pathway Partnership is a partnership to encourage the climate negotiations process to address the relationship between climate change and the ocean; and 3) The Finalization of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform that will provide direct and comprehensive means to give a greater voice to indigenous people in the climate negotiations and allow them to share their traditional knowledge and best practices on reducing emissions, adapting to climate change and building resilience.

"Rising ocean temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns and rising sea levels are affecting our islands and its ecosystems," said Sen. English. "Climate change is an imminent threat to our island lifestyle and it is important for Hawai'i and other Pacific Islands to be present alongside other world leaders in discussions relating to climate change."

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS (WAM) KAUA'I ISLAND VISIT



Sen. English along with seven other members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means visited Kaua'i from November 6-7 to discuss Capital Improvement Projects for which funds were allocated.

The first site the members visited was the Moloa'a Irrigation Cooperative. They toured the proposed facility project site that would include plans for the construction of a water well that would serve as an alternative energy source to power the well and an onsite, post-harvest facility. The Homestead Tiny Home Pilot Project by The Homestead Housing Authority, a statewide non-profit that wants to increase the inventory of affordable housing in Hawai'i with tiny homes in Anahola, was the next site they visited. The project is an initiative of the Homestead Housing Authority geared at reducing homelessness and expediting the pace at which beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act move off the waitlist and into a home of their own that they can reasonably afford. The members had lunch with leaders of the hospitality industry where they discussed industry matters on the island. That afternoon, the members met with principals from various Kaua'i Schools to discuss facility's needs, teacher recruitment and retention support. Kaua'i Community College was the last site that they visited. There they discussed projects that received CIP monies: the photovoltaic system, the food innovation center, the veteran's center and the tiny house project.

On Tuesday, the members began the day meeting with the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative to receive updates on projects regarding renewable energy and pump storage hydro. A meeting with Kaua'i County Councilmembers was next on the agenda; there they discussed major priorities for the island. The members then attended a lunch hosted by the Kaua'i Chamber of Commerce. At the Kaua'i Economic Opportunity, Inc., the members met with the Sephanie Fernandes, Director of Housing and Homeless Programs to discuss their homelessness programs. The final stop for the Kaua'i Island visits was to the Department of Transportation Harbors-Kaua'i Division to receive updates from Darrel Young, Deputy Director-Harbors Division and Robert Crowell, Kaua'i Harbors District Manager.

"As legislators from the different islands, we do not always have the chance to see the progress of CIP projects outside of our district," noted Sen. English. "The WAM site visits to Kaua'i provided a unique opportunity to visit projects on the Garden Isle that received funding from the legislature."



*Top: Ways And Means (WAM) members at Nāwiliwili Harbor.
Above: WAM members in front of the Kaua'i State Office Building.
Below: Members in Anahola pose before a tiny house.
November 6-7, 2017.*



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



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2017 HIGHLIGHTS



January 18, 2017

Senators: English, Baker, Keith-Agaran with Lt. Gov. Tsutsui at the convening of the 29th Legislature.



February 23, 2017

Sen. English and Sen. Tokuda on Ag. Day at the Capitol.



April 4, 2017

Volcom Hawai'i was recognized on the Senate floor for their philanthropy and deep commitment to Hawai'i's communities.



October 12, 2017

Men's March Against Domestic Violence at the Capitol.



August 2, 2017

Rat Lungworm News Conference at the Capitol.



April 22, 2017

Sen. English and Rep. DeCoite present Teresa Shook with Senate Proclamation in recognition of her vision and creation of The Women's March.



August 28, 2017

Sen. English was recognized for his leadership in introducing SB 559, relating to climate change, signed by the Governor as Act 32.



June 25, 2017

Sen. English planting erosion resistant coconut trees during the APIL's General Assembly on Kiritimati Island, hosted by the Parliament of Kiribati.



September 1, 2017

Sen. English met with students and teachers from Lāna'i High and Elementary School and members of the Center for Tomorrow's Leaders (CTL) in the chamber of the State Capitol.