



SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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

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58TH MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC ISLAND LEGISLATURE (APIL) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MESSAGE FROM KALANI

As we bid farewell to 2017, let us give thanks for what we have, remember those who have passed and create hope for the future.

In 2018, let us work together to move Hawai'i toward a sustainable future. With this in mind, I wish each and every one of you prosperity, good health and contentment throughout the new year.

Sen. English was honored to represent the State of Hawai'i at the 58th Meeting of APIL, which was held from Dec. 6-8 in the House Chambers of the Republic of Palau National Congress. During the Opening Ceremony, President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. welcomed the guests from: Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands; Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap); Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Palau and the State of Hawai'i. The mission of APIL is to organize a permanent association of mutual assistance by representatives of the people of the Pacific Islands.

Presiding over the meeting was APIL President Honorable Vice Speaker Robert I. Taulung of Kosrae. The meeting began with opening remarks from each delegation, which was followed by the Executive and Financial Reports. Presentations were given by APIL subsidiaries and partners, which included: "Pacific Islands Development Bank," Aren Palik, President and CEO; "AYUDA Foundation: Programs and Services to Micronesia," Carlotta Guerrero, Ex-

ecutive Director, AYUDA Foundation; "Reach Out Pacific (REPAC): Our Work in Asia and the Pacific," Hawai'i State Senator Glenn Wakai, President, REPAC; "Micronesia Youth Services Network (MYSN)," Ivan Blesam, MYSN Board Vice Chair and Kenny Rekiar, MYSN Member; "Payu-Ta," Eddy Reyes, Vice Chair, Payu-Ta; "Climate Change and Coral Reef" & "Policy Reform to Enhance Management and Fisheries Benefits to Pacific Islanders," Dr. Yimnang Golbuu, Palau International Coral Reef Center and Steven Victor, The Nature Conservancy; and "Digital Society Foundation: Connecting the Blue Continent," Christopher Sampson, President, Digital Society Foundation.

The Report on Hawai'i that Sen. English presented was an overview covering the economy, environment, culture and technology since the Christmas Island Meeting six months ago. The economy shows a strong tourism industry with nine million visitors, upward trends and unemployment less than 2.5 %. Environmentally, Hawai'i acceded to the **Paris Accord**; In June 2017, Act 32 was signed into

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58TH MEETING OF APIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTINUED

law making Hawai'i the first state to enact legislation implementing parts of the Paris Agreement; The Act established the "Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission" (Climate Commission) as well as assigning various tasks to the Commission, which was placed under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for administrative purposes; Commission members attended the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn, Germany from Nov. 6-17. COP23 was the second conference since the Paris Agreement in 2015; and during the upcoming 2018 Legislative Session, the Senate will propose that Hawai'i adopt the **17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**. Culturally, a Commission (**ACT 104**) on the 13th Festival of the Pacific Arts was established and appropriated \$500,000 to plan for the festival. Technologically, the necessity of using Blockchain in Hawai'i was discussed. Blockchain is a distributed database that maintains a continuously growing list of data records that cannot be tampered or revised. Completing the list was the importance of titles and land titles; cryptocurrency and the importance of connectivity.

The final day of the Meeting was dedicated to the introduction of resolutions and assignment to committees, actions and committee reports, adjournment and a group photo. A total of nine resolutions were adopted, they may be viewed at: www.apilpacific.com/currentissues.php

"Since the monthly testing of the statewide warning siren system that includes a newly-activated Attack Warning Tone, intended to warn Hawai'i residents of an impending nuclear missile attack, we are reminded of the need for global cooperation and goodwill," remarks Sen. English. "I am proud because for more than 30 years, the Annual APIL Meetings have brought together Pacific Islanders from nations and states to demonstrate our commitment to the pursuit of regional cooperation, exchange and comradery to achieve the common good for all."

Sen. English with Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr. at the APIL Board Of Directors Meeting. Ngarachamayong Cultural Center, Koror, Palau. Dec. 6, 2017.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATES STATE LEADERS ON CESSPOOLS



On December 12, Sen. English was present at a briefing for State legislators on the issue of cesspool prioritization and replacement held by officials of the Department of Health (DOH). Hawai'i has nearly 88,000 cesspools that release 53 million gallons of raw sewage into the State's groundwater and surface waters every day. Cesspools are an antiquated technology for disposal of untreated sewage that have the potential to pollute groundwater. However, it also presents a risk of illness to island residents and a significant harm to streams and coastal resources, including coral reefs.

The Legislature has begun to address the serious health and environmental impacts of cesspool pollution. During the 2017 legislative session, the Legislature passed Act 125, which requires the replacement of all cesspools by 2050 and directed the Hawai'i Department of Health to investigate the number, scope, location and priority of cesspools State-wide that require upgrade, conversion, or connection based on each cesspool's impact on public health.

In upcountry Maui, there are more than 7,000 cesspools. Groundwater nitrate levels as high as 8.7 mg/L have been measured, which is very close to the drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCL) of 10mg/L. DOH conducted an investigation to determine the extent, magnitude and source of the nitrate contamination in the area. Nearly all of the wells sampled had nitrate concentrations higher than what could be accounted from natural and agricultural sources. The conclusion of the DOH investigation is that while nitrate in the groundwater captured by the current drinking water sources is significantly less than the MCL, parts of the aquifer are degraded by on sight disposal systems contamination and that water from a well installed in these locations would require expensive treatment to meet drinking water standards.

"Since cesspools pose a real threat to our drinking water and the environment," states Sen. English. "The informational briefing by the DOH is a sign that the department is taking measures towards ensuring that the hazards of cesspools remain a priority."

FUNDS RELEASED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

\$5,610,000 in funds was released by the Governor for Holdrooms A, B and E restroom improvements at Kahului Airport.

\$230,850 was awarded by the Department of Education, Facilities Development Branch, to Certified Construction for repair and maintenance work at Pukalani Elementary School.

\$20,000 in funds was released by the Governor for Roadway Improvements and Consolidated Car Rental Facility at Kahului Airport.

KILI/BIKINI/EJIT (KBE) LOCAL GOVERNMENT VISITS WITH SEN. ENGLISH

Members of the Kili/Bikini/Ejit (KBE) local government who were on an official visit to Hawai'i to meet with KBE citizens residing in the islands met with Sen. English on December 13. The KBE leaders provided Sen. English with an update on various issues such as climate change, repatriation, federal compensation and national survival. The meeting also provided the KBE leaders with the opportunity to introduce Sen. English to their new attorney, Gordon C. Benjamin, who will be representing the KBE government as a liaison and lead negotiator with the United States federal government.

The dialogue between Sen. English and the KBE Local Government began eight years ago. Since then, Sen. English has remained in close contact with Mayor Anderson Jibas and members of the KBE Local Government on various issues that affect the people of Bikini Atoll.

"It is always a great opportunity to personally meet with the KBE Local Government when they are in Hawai'i," said Sen. English. "The continuing relationship between Pacific Island governments are important to protecting and maintaining the basic quality of life for all who live in the Pacific."



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To participate in the legislative process and for access to more more information go to:

<http://lrhawaii.org/par/>

J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

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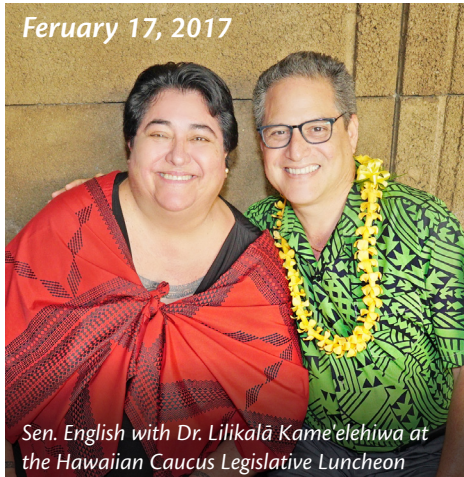
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2017 MEMORABLE MOMENTS



July 28, 2017

Sen. English presents Hawai'i Life-
guards with Senate Proclamation that
recognizes and celebrates the 100th
Anniversary of Lifeguards.



February 17, 2017

Sen. English with Dr. Lilikalā Kame'eleihiwa at
the Hawaiian Caucus Legislative Luncheon



February 21, 2017

Sen. English with Sukit Kanaprach of The
Orchid Lei Co. at Tourism Day at the Capitol.



April 27, 2017

Sen. English and staff with 500 rat traps that
were distributed in East Maui to combat Rat
Lungworm Disease.



March 11, 2017

Invasive species Coffee Borer Beetle and Little
Fire Ant with Senators English and Gabbard at
2017 Community Hero Award Presentations for
Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, HISC.



November 17, 2017

Sen. English with Uncle Bully Ho'opai at the
welcoming of Hōkūle'a into Hāna Bay.



April 2, 2017

Sen. English presents Erin Lindbergh with a
Senate Proclamation upon the Sesquicentennial
Celebration - Ho'olaule'a at Palapala
Ho'omau Church in Kipahulu.