

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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



Senator
J. KALANI ENGLISH



THE 2ND ANNUAL HAWAI'I INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK

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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

With the crossover of House bills to the Senate and vice versa, we are on an incredibly tight schedule here at the Capitol. Bills referred to multiple standing committees have to be heard by calendar dates set by the Senate internal timetable. Measures that are not scheduled to be heard by established cut-off dates on the timetable ultimately die in the legislative process.

In this issue, we take a look at the 2nd Annual Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Week held at the Capitol that honored 2 Maui County residents, we describe the Grants in Aid process and some of the Maui groups seeking assistance as well as an update on the status of the measures I introduced this session.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, an interdepartmental collaboration consisting of the State Departments of Land & Natural Resources, Agriculture, Health, Transportation, Business, Economic Development & Tourism kicked off Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Week with a Proclamation and Awards Ceremony at the Capitol Auditorium on March 3. The event featured informational booths, among those represented were: the Department of Agriculture, Malama Maunaloa, the Invasive Species Committees, various agencies and initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations. The booths included presentation boards displaying species that endanger the State's native flora and fauna, informational material, mementos, and even live invasive species such as the ball python and Madagascar hissing cockroach.

The award ceremony recognized distinguished members of the community that have dedicated their time and expertise to combat invasive species problems. Sen. English presented awards to two members from Maui County who have demonstrated such criteria: Masako Cordray and Chevalier Levasa. "I am so proud of Masako and Chevy," said Sen. English, "They

Left - Sen. English presents award to Teya Penniman, Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) manager. Right - Maui Nui MVP 2014 award presented to Chevalier Levasa is a US Department of Agriculture Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist. March 4, 2014.

represent the best of our preventive strategies and have demonstrated a proactive approach to the problem."



Sen. English and the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's "Fire Ant" during the 2nd Annual Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Week at the Capitol. March 4, 2014.

Masako Cordray won the Greatest Hit of 2013 award. Masako is a farmer and award-winning photographer and filmmaker who was recognized for her efforts in the eradication of the little fire ant. When little fire ants were discovered on Maui in 2009, she felt compelled to work with the Maui Invasive Species Committee to create an inspirational video about the ant as a call to action to stop its spread. Production of her film required travel throughout the State and internationally, mostly at her own expense. Masako dis-

covered the early stages of the little fire ant infestation on hapu'u logs at Lowe's in Kahului on December 23, 2013. Later, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of the little fire ant and Masako's discovery set off a state-wide response that led to the discovery of the fire ant in other parts of Maui

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as well as on O'ahu. Thanks to her efforts in controlling the little fire ant population, the island's people, pets, agriculture, and commerce are protected from harm and devastation.

"I have always supported the State's invasive species eradication efforts," said Sen. English, "This is one of the most important aspects of protecting our quality of life in Hawai'i."

Chevalier "Chevy" Levasa won the Maui Nui MVP award. Chevy is a Plant Protection and Quarantine Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. A Moloka'i resident, she is responsible for screening luggage for passengers departing to the mainland and working with local farmers and growers to ensure compliance for fruits and vegetables exported to the mainland. Besides her USDA position, Chevy is part outreach specialist, field crew, agricultural inspector, and planter of butterfly gardens. She has conducted surveys for the University of Hawai'i and the USDA for invasive species not because it was part of her job title but instead as a labor of love for the protection of Moloka'i. Over the last 8 years, she has been a consistent partner with the Moloka'i Invasive Species Committee. Chevy's unconditional dedication to protect Moloka'i through enthusiastically participating in initiatives to monitor the threat of invasive species makes her a valuable player not only to Moloka'i but to the entire State.



Senator English congratulates Scott Enright on his confirmation as the Chair of the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture. March 7, 2014.

Every year, the Legislature awards grants-in-aid (GIA) to numerous organizations that submit an application. Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 42F allows the Legislature to allocate funds to organizations that meet certain criteria. This year, 243 applicants applied for a GIA funding. Last year, the state awarded a total of \$9,980,637 to 59 organizations.

All non-governmental organizations are eligible to apply as long as they meet certain criteria that include: being licensed or accredited in accordance to the statutes, rules, or ordinances set forth by any level of government to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant is awarded; complying with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis outlined in Chapter VII in the Civil Rights Act; such as race, color, religion, and sex; agreeing not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities; and allowing the appropriate state agency, legislative committees, staff and the auditor full access to any documents and information for the purpose of monitoring the effectiveness and proper expending of the grant.

This year, the following organizations from Maui applied for GIA funding, there are 5 from the 7th district, which are underlined and in bold print below:

Maui Family Support Services, Inc. is an organization with island-wide services that ensure a safety net for the most vulnerable members of our Maui County Community. They submitted an application for restoration and expansion of services for families with 0-3 aged children and late-born;

Hale Makua Health Services (HMHS), was established by the Maui Community in 1946 to care for the frail and vulnerable elderly who need 24 hour care and have no family or resources to provide the care. HMHS is the largest long-term care provider on the island of Maui. They are requesting funds for nurse call system replacement.

Hale Maha'olu is an organization that provides affordable rental housing and support facilities for the elderly. They requested funds for Hale Maha'olu Ewalu Senior Housing in Pukalani;

Hana Health is an organization that serves to improve the general health and well-being of the Hana community. Their fund request is for design and construction for their facilities expansion;

Hui Malama Learning Center has been providing educational services for the past 40 years to approximately 25,000 Maui County Residents of which more than ten thousand of them at-risk youth. The academic programs target youth ages 11-24, many who live in single parent households or with extended family or foster placements. Their client base represents the diversity of the island's overall population with students whose ancestry includes, European, Hawaiian, Portuguese, Asian, Filipino, African American, Micronesian as well as other Pacific Islanders. The Center seeks funds for the successful transitioning of at-risk youth from school to work.

Ka Lima O Maui is one of the oldest private, non-profit, community rehabilitation program on the island. Since 1955, the agency has been providing vocational training, individualized habilitation, support and employment related services to the disabled and economically



Sen. English helped to facilitate a meeting with the Hawai'i State Department of Transportation-Harbors, the Hawai'i State Dept. of Agriculture, Young Bros, the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Association and other ranchers to discuss the interisland trans-shipment of cattle and livestock throughout the State. March 7, 2014.

2014 GRANTS IN AID REQUEST CONTINUED

RELEASE OF \$27.4 MILLION FOR TWO 7TH DISTRICT PROJECTS

disadvantaged adult resident of Maui. The agency is seeking funds for the construction of its own facilities and affordable housing for the clients they serve.

Lānaʻi Community Health Center (LCHC) serves low- and moderate-income persons. LCHC has a special focus on those who live below 200% of the federal poverty level – nearly 40%. LCHC seeks funds for the construction of a new facility;

Ma Ka Hana Ka ʻIke is a construction skills training program for high school youth in Hana. The organization is requesting money for the construction and establishment of a licensed child care facility in Hana;

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO) is a community action agency founded in 1965 as part of Pres. Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty." Their mission is to "strengthen the community while helping people in need restore their hope, reach their potential, and enrich their lives." MEO seeks funds to purchase an emergency electrical generator for their transportation center.

Maui Family YMCA was organized in August 1960. The first Y camp on Maui was opened at the YMCA camp in Kanae in 1962. Over the years, the YMCA has expanded its services. They are seeking funds to construct a gymnasium.

Maui High School Band Booster Club, a non-profit organization, was formed in 1986 to assist in promoting a comprehensive program of musical and educational value for the Maui High School students and community. They are requesting funds to assist in the travel expenses for 170 Maui High School Band members, the color guard and a halau to travel to the 2015 Tournament of Reses Parade.

Molokaʻi Homestead Farmer's Alliance is an organization that advocated for the protection of water rights for homestead farmers. They are requesting funds to provide improvements and renovations to the Lanikeha Center and Certified Kitchen facility; and

Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Association, an organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and defending the Hawaiian Homes Land Trust. They are seeking money for the advancement of an ongoing project to develop the Waiohuli Community Center and Park.

\$25.9 million was recently released for the long awaited **King Kekaulike High School Auditorium**. During the 2013 Session, the State Legislature allocated \$14,491,000 for the design and construction of a new King Kekaulike auditorium. Design funds of approximately \$600,000 have been allocated for the initial design of the project. The auditorium has been part of the school's master plan since it opened in 1995. Currently, the school cafeteria and dining area is used to hold assemblies and school events. The new auditorium will be constructed in an open area north of the main entrance, between the administration building and the football field.

The estimated cost of the entire project is \$29 million for phase-one and \$13 million for phase-two. The first phase includes a 400-seat, 22,000 square-foot performance facility with a lobby, house, stage and back-of-house support functions. The second phase includes a building with a space that is approximately 12,300-square-foot that will be used for performances, instructional areas and administrative offices.

"I am pleased that the administration released the funding identified by the Legislature last year for the construction of King Kekaulike High School's auditorium. These funds will ensure students have the appropriate infrastructure for an inviting learning environment and experience during performing arts programs and assembly functions," said Sen. English, "Both Rep. Kyle Yamashita and I diligently worked for years to secure the \$25.9 million to get this project off the ground. Once the auditorium is complete, it will be a great asset to the community, and I am happy to see that it is moving forward. The most valuable investment we can make is in the education of our keiki and this includes upgrading and improving infrastructure for better learning environments."

Heritage Hall, a multipurpose community and cultural resource center in Pāʻia, Maui was the recipient of \$1.5 million in capital improvement funds. The center will use the funds for planning, design and construction for the Heritage Hall facilities. The entire project includes a multi-purpose hall with a kitchen for community use and two cultural resource centers.

The Maui Puerto Rican Association, which was founded in 1980 and the Portuguese Association of Maui founded in 1984, established Heritage Hall as a nonprofit organization to develop and operate two co-existent cultural resource centers. Throughout the years, both associations raised money to build its own building. However, neither organization was able to raise the necessary funds as property value and construction costs continually escalated on Maui. In 2003, Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) offered the associations property in Pāʻia to be used jointly.

A&B's offer was contingent upon the associations creating a federally recognized entity to receive the gift. The Portuguese Association of Maui and the Maui Puerto Rican Association met and agreed to form a partnership and with A&B's assistance was able to proceed with their respective cultural resource centers. In 2006, Heritage Hall was able to purchase the land, which consists of .68 acres in Pāʻia from A&B. The County of Maui awarded Heritage Hall \$300,000 for design and planning in 2008. The County of Maui also pledged \$1.5 million in their 2013 budget to match the State's funds.

"My colleagues and I, at the Legislature, diligently worked to include funding in the budget for Heritage Hall during the 2013 Session because we believe the diverse cultures on Maui should be celebrated and shared," said Sen. English, "Heritage Hall will provide a physical learning site that preserves and honors the proud history and cultures of the Portuguese and Puerto Rican people on Maui. Additionally, it will provide the much needed public-use community meeting rooms."



Ma Ka Hana Ke Ike testifying before the WAM-FIN Joint Committee Informational Briefings for their GIA. March 7, 2014.

**J. KALANI ENGLISH
HAWAII STATE SENATE
7TH DISTRICT**

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UPDATE OF THE 2014 MEASURES INTRODUCED BY SEN. ENGLISH

The following bills that Sen. English introduced as co-sponsor, first primary and primary introducer have crossed over to the House of Representatives for consideration. To view the bills go to: <http://1.usa.gov/1hdPpYR>

SB 2726 Allows all-terrain vehicles and utility-terrain vehicles to be driven on any street as farm equipment under certain conditions. Establishes a penalty for a violation.
SD2

SB 2727 Extends the sunset date of Act 46, SLH 2012, to authorize the Department of Transportation to extend the term of an airport concession, and to modify and amend the terms of any concession contracts, leases, and permits in exchange for revenue-enhancing improvements that are made or paid for by the concession.
SD2

SB 2728 Clarifies that the designation of a public trail shall be as provided by law.
SD2

SB 2729 Prohibits the operation of a motor vehicle while using a mobile electronic device held in a person's hand for making or receiving a non-emergency call, texting, or receiving a text message. Adds exemptions, amends penalties and makes violation a traffic infraction.
SD2

SB 2730 Permits driver licensing reciprocity between Hawai'i and foreign countries upon certain conditions. Repeals the driver's license reciprocity committee.
SD1

SB 2731 Establishes a car-sharing vehicle surcharge tax.
SD2

SB 2732 Sets a fine of \$100 for driving or parking a vehicle on a bicycle lane or pathway.
SD2

SB 2742 Establishes the Pacific-Asia institute for resilience and sustainability to provide the structure and opportunity for a new generation of leaders to emerge who possess the ability to address Hawai'i and the Pacific-Asia region's risks from natural and man-made hazards and to develop solutions for sustainable economic growth within the region's unique physical and cultural diversity.
SD1

SB 2743 Authorizes a portion of the conveyance tax revenues to be paid into the Kaho'olawe rehabilitation trust fund for the long-term rehabilitation and maintenance of the island reserve. Repeals the earlier of 6/30/2026 or upon federal and state recognition of the Sovereign Native Hawaiian entity.
SD2

SB 2747 Requires the DOT, DHHL, and DLNR to submit to the counties certain information on parcels located within a subdivision.
SD2

SB 2749 Requires a county to authorize the installation and use of composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems. Defines composting toilet.
SD1

SB 2751 Exempts the operation of concessions for electronic communication services and for advertising from the public concession bidding process.
SD2

SB 2756 Authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Clean Communities, LLC, to process sewage to create sewage derived fuel.
SD1

SB 3008 Authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Anaergia Inc. with the development of facilities for renewable non-fossil fuel energy production in Maui.
SD1

SB 3062 Requires the department of transportation and the University of Hawai'i to complete negotiations and execute an agreement to relocate the University of Hawai'i marine center no later than July 1, 2015. Specifies that current lease at gratis between the DOT and the UH shall be deemed terminated as a matter of law on that date. Requires progress report to legislature before 2015 regular session.
SD1