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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

In this, the season of Makahiki, we reflect on a year of progress, changes and loss. Our thoughts are of dear friends, including Representative Mele Carroll, who have contributed so much to the spirit of service in our community. 2015 brought worldwide recognition to Hawai'i's representative of humanity, Saint Damien, with the naming of a NYC Street in his honor.

As the year comes to a close I've been focused on the well-being of this region from Education and State Governing to our precious 'aina management and protection. We look forward with great expectations toward another year of progress. Mahalo to all who have found ways to contribute to the greatness of Maui Nui.

May you all enjoy this holiday season with loved ones and let them know how you feel about them. I wish you all a safe New Year's celebration. 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



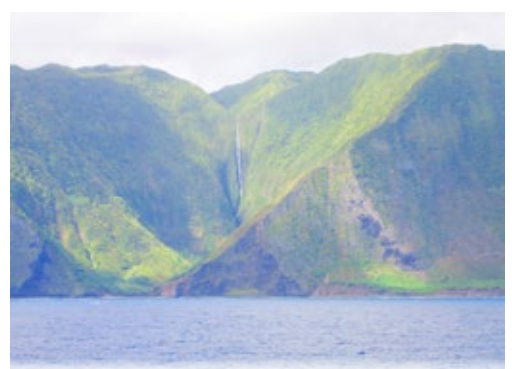
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DLNR) MAUI AND MOLOKA'I SITE VISIT

Sen. English joined Senators Gabbard, Keith-Agaran, and Riviere on Nov. 12-13 to visit various DLNR Maui and Moloka'i Legislative sites. DLNR staffers and Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) branch managers and staff organized the trip that included and overnight stay at Puu Kukui on Maui.

The visit began with a one hour helicopter tour of Moloka'i to view invasive species control, watershed restoration, erosion reduction, endangered species protection and Capital Improvement projects from the air. Upon returning to Maui, the Senators had lunch and with DLNR Director and staffers rode to Pu'u Kukui cabin, where they spent the night.

Pu'u Kukui Preserve is a significant water source for West Maui residents and industries. Native vegetation is an essential component of the watershed system. Forest cover protects mountain soil from erosion and absorbs heavy rains that fall in the area. Unique bog and stream ecosystems and native forests and shrub lands dominate the landscape. Since a significant amount of fresh water comes from the watershed it is critical for the area to be actively protected from damage by feral animals and invasive weeds.

"The State of Hawai'i through DLNR is tasked with the management of thousands of acres of forestry and wildlife that are in the most inaccessible and remote areas of our islands," notes Sen. English. "The rugged terrain, steep cliffs and tall waterfalls we saw from the helicopter ride to Moloka'i reminds us of the formidable job the DLNR has in the management and protection of these wilderness areas. More importantly, spending the night at Pu'u Kukui reminds us of the balance we must maintain in protecting what remains in our fragile environment."



The final day of the tour included a helicopter fly around East Maui and Haleakala to view coastal and marine restoration, new areas proposed for public hunting, watershed protection, and endangered bird restoration projects.

"Site visits provide us with another dimension in our decision making as Legislators," said Sen. English. "To see the projects first hand and to see many come to fruition and the subsequent benefits to our communities is very rewarding."

J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

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STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL FOUNDATION

As one of a select few national legislative leaders, Sen. English participated the State Government Affairs Council Foundation (SGAC) leader's policy conference in Loews Miami Beach, Florida on November 21-24. Both State Legislative leaders and business experts come together for the annual conference focusing on critical issues, innovative skills and solutions for the future.

"The Heat is On: Burning Issues in State Governments" was the theme of the conference. Among the topics included in the General Sessions were: 2016 Election Preview; Trust and Civility, leaders learn skills necessary to set goals and take action while fostering an environment necessary to effectively legislate; Jail Diversion and Mental Health Parity, examining what leaders can do to improve the care and safety of citizens and how parity can improve lives, reduce costs, and achieve high levels of productivity; Millennial Legislators, examining why they chose to serve, how they communicate with constituents and the commonalities that set them apart; Opportunities and Risks in the Global Economy, examining the world economy as it recovers from the global financial crisis, the Euro-zone crisis remains unresolved, slowing economy in China, emerging markets remaining vulnerable to economic shocks, will economies cope with a steady rise in interest rates; and

The Power of American Energy, examining why access to reliable and affordable energy is the lifeblood of the American economy and our standard of living.

At the breakout sessions, the focus was on the states' role regarding the critical issues facing the nation such as:

- Budget and Tax Policy and Government Accountability and Efficiency, issues faced during every legislative cycle. Panelist discussed trends, incentives, efforts at reform and the challenges and realities that the States face; and
- A Balanced Approach to Energy and the Environment: Do Today's Environmental Regulations Conflict With Our Energy Needs? Panelist discussed how environmental rules impact business decisions and how the energy industry is balancing the need for increased development with the desire to protect and preserve the environment.

"The conference is an opportunity to learn new perspectives on issues that many of us in state government encounter and must resolve," states Sen. English. "Since Hawai'i is an island state that is severed from the North American continent by at least 2,000 miles of ocean, the annual conference is also an opportunity to meet other state leaders and form collegial bonds to get things done."

**REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY OF THE PACIFIC
(REL) GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

Sen. English attended the REL Governing Board meeting in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia on Oct. 20-21. Highlights of this meeting included the following: College and career readiness in American Samoa and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, family and community engagement in Guam; Teacher effectiveness in Palau, and Building capacity for data use in the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and American Samoa.

REL Pacific staff also presented and led discussions of the governing board members and locally based consultants on each of the studies that have been completed. Discussions included both how the studies would be integrated into the Year 5 work in each entity and how the studies might have implications more broadly in the region. REL Pacific staff also presented the proposed technical assistance projects for each entity for Year 5 and received feedback on the plans from governing board members and locally based consultants. The meeting closed with board members and REL Pacific staff discussing how the REL work might be sustained beyond the REL contract, possibly through inclusion in strategic plans or support of alliance or partnership work through the ministries of education or other entities.

"Access to good education has always been a priority to me," said Sen. English. "The overall quality of education in the Pacific region impacts our entire State because so many of our public school students come from places throughout the Pacific. Our ultimate goal is to provide all students with the best education possible."