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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

During this portion of the Legislative Session, lawmakers spend countless hours advocating for their districts, ensuring funding for programs and maintaining the difficult balance of operating the State. These moments are not lost on me, in fact it reminds me of my upbringing in Hāna. Everyone comes together. We find solutions for difficult issues. Like our close-knit communities made up of generations of our families, we sit down and figure out the hard tasks. While we still have large issues to over come, I am hopeful we will find amicable solutions.

Stay up to date on legislation that you are interested in at the Capitol website: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

*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



HAWAI'I MAJORITY LEADERS VISIT CHINA

The two majority leaders of the Hawai'i State Legislature traveled to China in late March in an effort to facilitate formal relations between the United States and China at both the state and local levels. Sen. English and Rep. Scott Saiki, joined 10 other U.S lawmakers who traveled at the invitation of the Chinese government.

The March 25-April 1 program, which was held in Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai, arose out of a memorandum of understanding penned in December between the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF) and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The memorandum established a permanent partnership between the two organizations.

Sen. English said the trip could lead to increased Chinese tourism to Hawai'i, thanks to visitor industry ties already established between China and Hawai'i, and an interest in Sun Yat-sen, the early 20th-century Chinese revolutionary who spent significant time in the islands. "The Chinese are very interested in that connection with Hawai'i, and I believe, as do they, that there is a huge potential to come here," said English, who noted that Sun spent time in Honolulu and on Maui. "The Chinese revolution was formulated out of Honolulu and funded out of Hawai'i."

The partnership is a direct result of an agreement reached between President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping last September during Xi's visit to the U.S. The agreements endorsed by both Presidents included language specifically mentioning SLLF as the Friendship Association's partner in hosting programs for US state legislative leaders and Chinese provincial and national leaders to enhance sub-national exchanges and cooperation between China and the U.S. The U.S. foundation is the only organization that the Chinese will deal with at a state and local level. In China, those levels of government include 22 provinces, four autonomous regions, four cities and two special administrative regions.

The next phase of the new partnership is the fourth annual conference of majority leaders that will meet in Honolulu June 22-25, and English and Saiki are the co-hosts. As that meeting concludes, more than 100 Chinese leaders will arrive in Honolulu to meet with Hawai'i leaders for several days.

Currently, about 140,000 Chinese visit Hawai'i annually, and they are known to be big spenders. But a lack of direct flights between China and Hawai'i limits access.

# SENATE PASSES MORE THAN 250 BILLS FOR SECOND CROSSOVER

*Measures include teacher travel exception, water rights, assistance for displaced Maui sugar workers*

On April 12, Members of the State Senate passed 150 House bills that addresses areas of the environmental protection, economic development, crime victim protections and water rights.

More than 250 bills have passed third reading on the floor of the Senate and will be returning to the House ahead of the final crossover deadline of Thursday, April 14, 2016. A majority of the bills will move into conference committees where the House and Senate Conferees will convene to discuss the House and Senate drafts and come to an agreement on a final version.

“We attempted to move forward measures we felt reflected the priorities of the Senate,” said Sen. English, Senate Majority Leader. “There are a number of areas in which the House and Senate share a mutual concern. We’ll work on the details in conference and I’m hopeful the outcome will be responsible bills.”

A top priority for the Hawai‘i Senate Majority concerns homelessness and housing. A number of measures that focuses on these issues were passed by the Senate, including [HB2647 HD2 SD2](#), which establishes a three-year Work for a Day pilot program to be administered by the City and County of Honolulu that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and [HB2244 HD1 SD2](#) which appropriates funds to support housing programs.

Measures passing third reading that protect the environment, another priority of the Senate program, include [HB1050 SD2](#) which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to address the interisland spread of invasive species and [HB2646 HD2 SD2](#) that creates a permanent fuel tank advisory committee to study, monitor, and address fuel tank leak issues.

The Senate also passed bills that support good governance including [HB1653 HD1 SD1](#) implementing election by mail beginning with the primary election in 2018 and [HB2632 HD2 SD2](#) which requires

firearms owners who are diagnosed with a significant behavioral, emotional, or mental disorder or for treatment for organic brain syndromes, or due to emergency or involuntary hospitalization, to immediately surrender their firearms and ammunition to the Chief of Police.

Other significant House measures passed by the Senate include:

[HB260 HD1 SD1](#) establishes motor vehicle insurance requirements for transportation network companies and transportation network company drivers.

[HB1072 HD1 SD2](#) enables the board of psychology to accept applications for prescriptive authority privilege and grant prescriptive authority to prescribing psychologists who meet specific education, training, and registration requirements.

[HB1700 HD1 SD1](#) adjusts and requests appropriations for Fiscal Biennium 2015-17 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

[HB1713 HD2 SD2](#) exempts extracurricular service of employees from the state ethics code if certain conditions are met. Defines detached remuneration and extracurricular service.

[HB1787 HD3 SD2](#) creates and appropriates funds for Erin’s Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention, and report recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula.

[HB1902 HD2 SD1](#) replaces the term “promoting prostitution in the first degree” with the term “sex trafficking,” as a class A felony and establish that prosecution is required to prove only that the person committing the offense of sex trafficking acted negligently if the person knowingly advanced or profited from prostitution of a minor. Includes the offense of sex trafficking in the department of the attorney general’s

statewide witness program.

[HB1907 HD2 SD2](#) requires all law enforcement agencies and departments charged with maintenance, storage, and preservation of sexual assault evidence collection kits to conduct an inventory of all kits they store and transmit a report of the number of untested sexual assault evidence kits they possess to the department of the attorney general.

[HB2263 HD1 SD1](#) appropriates funds for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to conduct an economic assessment study on the development and economic viability of a small satellite launch and processing facility on the Island of Hawai‘i.

[HB2501 HD2 SD2](#) requires that where an application has been made for a lease to continue a previously authorized disposition of water rights, a holdover may be authorized annually until the pending application for the disposition of water rights is finally resolved or for three years, whichever is sooner. Requires that the holdover is consistent with the public trust doctrine and any applicable law.

[HB2605 HD1 SD2](#) appropriates funds to establish, administer, and support on-the-job training for individuals who are unemployed and dislocated due to the closure of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company and the Makena Beach and Golf Resort on Maui.

A full list of the House bills passed by the Senate can be found on the Hawai‘i State Legislative website [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov).

The Hawai‘i Senate Majority’s Legislative Program can be viewed at [www.hawaiisenatemajority.com](http://www.hawaiisenatemajority.com).



## REAL ID ACT AND FOREIGN DRIVER'S RECIPROCITY ACT

Sen. English attended the signing of **SB2934 SD2 (Act 15)**, a law that conforms the requirements for Hawai'i driver's licenses and state identification cards with those of the REAL ID Act. In the aftermath of 9/11, a Commission was established to recommend standards for the issuance of identification cards. Consequently, an Act was enacted to set standards for the federal agencies to accept, for official purposes, licenses and identification cards from other states and foreign countries that meet these standards.

Although Hawai'i driver's licenses and State identification cards have been enhanced to comply with the Real ID Act, existing law does not require that a renewed driver's license contain a photograph of the licensee. Thus, Act 15 was enacted for this primary purpose.

A vital component of this new law enhances our overall economy by enabling visitors, stu-

dents and workers with the ability to drive using their non-Hawai'i driver's licenses. The law allows the Director of Transportation to waive the written test for applicants with recognized licenses from other jurisdictions if certain requirements are met.

"In this modern age of cross-border commerce and cooperation, this will be instrumental in increasing tourism and bolstering our economy by making it easier for visitors to drive throughout our state," said Sen. English, who had been a supporter of the Bill from his time as Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. "Hawai'i driver's license holders will also benefit from this Act by allowing our citizens traveling in foreign countries to be able to drive abroad."

In 2015, Sen. English introduced SB 871, which was enacted into law as Act 131. The Bill established the reciprocal licensing privileges to any person who holds a license from

another country. The Act also abolished the driver's license reciprocity committee that was cumbersome, costly, and complicated to administer; which was primarily the reason the law had never been used since its enactment by Act 314, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2012.

"I have worked for many years on legislation to allow drivers from other countries the same driving privileges here if their countries provide Hawai'i drivers with the same driving privileges," said Sen. English. "I am pleased that this year we passed a law that implements the process that I put in place last year. Finally, the countries that have been waiting to have the reciprocal driving privileges such as Australia, Korea, Japan and Taiwan can be included among those enumerated in the new law."



*A rare, joint session of both Houses of the Legislature was held on April 22 in the House chamber to appoint Robin K. Matsunaga as Ombudsman, Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, and Leslie H. Kondo as Auditor. Their terms shall commence on May 1, 2016. Left - Speaker of the House, Joe Souki with Senate Majority Leader, Sen. English. Middle - Sen. English announces the appointment of the Ombudsman, LRB Director and Auditor. Right - Senator English welcomes Les Kondo. April 22, 2016.*



*The West American Turkic Council organized the Turkish-American Friendship Reception at the Hawai'i State Capitol. April 13, 2016.*



*Senate Leadership welcomes the West American Turkic Council. April 13, 2016.*

**J. KALANI ENGLISH**  
Senate Majority Leader

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**MAUI SENATORS ASSIST IN INSTALLATION  
OF CAR RENTAL FACILITY**



Top Left to right: Rep. Justin Woodson; Marvin Moniz, Kahului Airport Manager; Mayor Alan Arakawa; Ross Higashi, HDOT Airports Division Deputy Director; Governor David Ige; Gerry Majkut, President of Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company; Sen. English; Sen. Keith-Agaran.  
Below Left to right: Marvin Moniz, Kahului Airport Manager; Ross Higashi, HDOT Airports Division Deputy Director; Rep. Justin Woodson; Mayor Alan Arakawa; Governor Ige; Sen. English; Sen. Keith-Agaran; GerryMajkut, President of Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company  
Photos courtesy: DOT. April 15, 2016.

Maui Senators English and Keith-Agaran were on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony for a state-of-the-art rental car facility at Kahului Airport on April 15.

The new Consolidated Rent-A-Car (Conrac) is a multi-level structure that will house more than a dozen rental car companies in a single location close to the main terminal. An electric tram powered by solar energy will transport customers to the facility, providing convenience for customers, relieving congestion and be energy efficient. The design of the Conrac will incorporate landscaping and water features that provide beautiful scenery as well as irrigation.

Senate Majority Leader, Senator J. Kalani English, in 2010 while Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, introduced Senate Bill 2461 (Act 204), that provided funding for rental car improvements statewide.

"We recognized the need for improvements for motor vehicle rental concessions years ago," said Sen. English. "The Maui Conrac will be an example of how the facility charge is a worthy investment that enhances the visitor experience in Hawai'i."

"Maui accounts for 35% of car rental revenues statewide, so the convenience and efficiencies provided by this Conrac will support our visitor industry," said Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran (Dist. 5 - Wailuku, Waihe'e, Kahului). "Already 70% of our economy, tourism jobs will play a bigger part with the closure of Maui's sugar operations."

According to the Department of Transportation, the facility will employ more than 200 people on the site and a total industry employment of more than 500 jobs.

See the future of Kahului OGG Airport and Maui Conrac - Consolidated Car Rental Facility here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyRSOaSh0A&feature=youtu.be>

