



Senator J. Kalani English 6th District

HANA, EAST & UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LANA'I & KAHO'OLAWÉ



Volume 4, Issue 6
April 15, 2004

Chair of Senate Committee
on
Energy and the Environment

Improving the Quality of Life

Conference Period Marks 11th Hour in Legislature

People often think of the legislative session as divided into three distinct time periods. We are now entering into the third period called conference. If the Senate and the House pass different versions of the same bill, the bill goes to conference where members of the House and Senate have the opportunity to compromise and create a draft of the bill that members from both sides of the Legislature can agree on. If they are successful, the bill must pass a final vote by all members of the House and Senate before going to the Governor for signature. Conference is a time when Legislators from both the House and Senate work together closely, and is also their last opportunity to make refinements to legislation.

Rural Residents Receive Boost in Funding and Services

The 6th Senatorial District has an especially high number of residents living in rural areas, who face challenges distinct from residents of more urban districts. Often people in rural areas have to travel great distances to reach adequate medical and other important services.

Health services in the 6th district have received particular support under the conference version of the budget. Moloka'i General Hospital currently has \$750,000 in funds for operating expenses, as well as \$320,000 for redevelopment and renovations. Janice Kalanihūia, Chief Administrator of the hospital said, "The support Moloka'i General Hospital receives from the State of Hawai'i is essential to the provision of care on this rural island. Without the subsidy, programs and services will close and residents will either forego care or receive care off-island without the family support we know to be vital to healing."

On Maui, \$16.25 million has been set aside for the construction and operation of the Kulamalu long-term care facility. Wayne Fairchild, CEO for Kula Hospital commented, "The

need for post acute-care beds is the greatest healthcare issue for Maui County. The issue is not that hospitals don't have enough resources, but that patients are overloading acute-care beds because of the lack of a long-term facility to meet their post acute-care needs. The new Kulamalu long-term care facility will provide the beds to meet this need and free-up existing hospital resources for their intended use."

In the remote town of Hana, \$750,000 and \$250,000 have been reserved for operating expenses of the vital Hana Community Health Center, and for the construction of a nutrition training center. Residents in the Hana district will also benefit from the \$100,000 allocated to the Self-Help Housing Corporation of Hawai'i to provide technical services that assist low income families to build and own their own homes.

Transportation services and infrastructure improvements have also remained in the spotlight, with \$37.5 million allocated for the complete Pa'ia bypass highway. Lance Holter long-time resident of Maui and propo-

nent of the Pa'ia bypass highway said, "Thank God for Kalani because he understands this traffic issue well. It's an economic imperative that we have this bypass mauka of Pa'ia town so that we can get our residents home quickly and safely. It will provide a future opportunity for affordable, community-based housing for Maui residents along its path." \$3 million in state funds and \$3.25 million in matching federal funds have also been provided for the upcountry dual agricultural water line, and \$1.35 million has been allocated for improvements to the Hana Wharf and Small Boat Harbor.

Senator English commented, "I am pleased that my colleagues have recognized the challenges particular to our rural districts. In many instances residents of Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i have to travel great distances to reach adequate educational and medical services. I am committed to addressing basic human needs and to providing them with the local infrastructure and services that other residents in Hawai'i enjoy."

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 205
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI, 96813
Phone: 808 587 7225
Fax: 808 587 7230

From Maui toll free: 984 2400 + 77225
From Moloka'i and Lana'i: 1 800 468 4644 + 77225
E-mail: senenglish@capitol.hawaii.gov
Web Site: www.kalanienglish.com
Subscribe at: english4@capitol.hawaii.gov



**Prudential honorees with their mothers
from left to right Irene Pavao,
Mika'ele Pavao, Senator English, Tiffany Chou
and Joanne Chou**

Maui Students Receive Top Honors

Tiffany Chou, a 17 year old senior at Seabury Hall School on Maui, and Mika'ele Pavao, an 18 year old senior at Hana High and Elementary School in Hana, were each named as honorees of the top youth volunteers in Hawai'i for the year 2004 as part of the ninth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Tiffany was honored for her "Dancing Palette Project", a weekend social program offering art, drama and dance activities for special needs students and their teenage mentors. Mika'ele was recognized for

directing a project to build an outdoor pavilion at his school so students attending cultural classes outdoors would be sheltered from Hana's morning rains.

The prestigious Spirit of Community award is presented by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School principals to honor young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their communities.



**Karen de Brum,
Senator English,
Liane Otani-Nakagawa
and Elizabeth Delyon**

**Teachers
Never Stop Learning**

Liane Otani-Nakagawa, a librarian at King Kekaulike High School, Elizabeth Delyon, a third grade teacher at Makawao Elementary School, and Karen de Brum, the Secondary Language Arts Teacher at Lana'i High School, were all honored with National Board Certification for the year 2003.

The Board for Professional Teaching Standards establishes

rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do, certifying teachers through an intense assessment process. It also addresses education policy and reform issues including teacher education, professional development, teacher recruitment, and school environment enhancement. Candidates undergo a rigorous series of examinations, construct a voluminous portfolio of classroom work, and take part in exercises designed to help tap into the knowledge, skills, dispositions, and professional judgment that distinguish the teaching profession.

**Hydrogen to Fuel
Around-the-World Relationship**

In a recent informational briefing between the House and the Senate, Professor Thornstein Sigfusson of the University of Iceland updated the Legislature on Iceland's progress to convert from a fossil fuel based society and economy to one powered by hydrogen. Many challenges await this small but dedicated country in its effort to become the first nation to have zero emissions of gases that cause global warming.

The island State of Hawai'i has similar characteristics to its distant cousin island of Iceland, and according to Professor Sigfusson we share the same type of magma composition in our volcanoes. While Iceland is using renewable energy generated from hydroelectric and geothermal sources to create its hydrogen supply, Hawai'i has the potential to draw upon its considerable renewable resources of wind, solar, geothermal and ocean-wave power to generate its own supply. Once in use, hydrogen has only one byproduct, water vapor.

Professor Sigfusson, an instrumental force behind the hydrogen experiment in Iceland, was excited to share his work with the Legislature, and expressed strong sentiment about forming a relationship with Hawai'i as it takes steps towards the future. The relationship could benefit Hawai'i greatly, saving time and resources by learning from the successes and failures of its faraway northern neighbor. Joining the growing network of states and nations with hydrogen goals could position Hawai'i well for the future and assure that energy independence is not an idle dream.



**Professor Thornstein Sigfusson
Briefs Senator English on the
Future Possibilities of Hydrogen**

**Get our Newsletter electronically.
Subscribe at:**

english4@capitol.hawaii.gov