



Chair, Committee on Energy,
Environment,
and International Affairs
Committee Memberships:
Intergovernmental Affairs;
Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs;
Media, Arts, Science, and Technology;
Water, Land, and Agriculture;
Ways and Means

State's Energy Policy Addressed in Forum

Senator J. Kalani English and Rep. Hermina Morita provided a legislative update to members of the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum at a March 28 meeting that looked at the concerns of energy providers and environmentalists regarding Hawai'i's energy future. Sen. English is Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs (EIA), and Rep. Morita (D-Hanalei, Anahola, Kealia, Kapa'a, Waipouli) is Chair of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee (EEP). Among the topics addressed were State procurement policies, tax credits, and the Energy Forum's mission statement.

One questioner asked Sen. English why the State's Department of Accounting and General Services purchased untreated lumber, which is vulnerable to decay and insects, instead of longer-lasting treated lumber, for its construction projects. The root of the problem, Senator English said, is State procurement policies that award contracts to the lowest bidder. He described the policy as a short-sighted one that often saddles State government with higher maintenance costs (such as the costs of termite control) years after the initial contract has been awarded.

Another question to Sen. English concerned a measure that was held in a March 22 meeting of the committee he chairs. The bill, [HB410, HD 1](#), establishes tax credits for the conversion of fuel storage terminals to blend ethanol with gasoline. The bill was held by EIA, the Senator explained, because no one had provided figures to indicate how much tax revenue the State would lose if the measure were passed. Without such figures, he said, the bill could not hope to pass the Legislature's money committees.



Sen. English fields questions from Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum members.

The Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum is sponsored by the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa's College of Social Sciences. Facilitator Donna Ching asked forum members to take a look at their mission statement, which addresses a "preferred energy vision" for Hawai'i. She said the ideal mission statement would "compel people – make them want to move. There's a natural tension among energy, the environment, and the economy. Our goal is to bring balance to all three."



A Message From Kalani

With only a month remaining before the scheduled end of this year's legislative session, the pace of events is picking up here at the State Capitol. This issue of our newsletter includes an updated report on the Akaka Bill, a measure that would allow Native Hawaiians to create a federally recognized governing entity. The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, of which I am a member, hosted a briefing by the members of Hawai'i's Congressional delegation.

We also look at the progress of a bill to make the state's emergency environmental work force permanent. I sponsored the bill that created the original workforce (as well as the current measure), and have worked hard since then to create a permanent entity to fight Hawai'i's invasive species.

Issues of concern to the people of the 6th District are issues of concern to us, so my staff and I hope you will take every opportunity to get in touch. Aloha,

Congressional Delegation Briefs Lawmakers on Progress of Akaka Bill



Rep. Ed Case, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, and Rep. Neil Abercrombie present an update on the Akaka Bill to House and Senate members.

Chances are good for passage of the Native Hawaiian Recognition Act in Congress this year, according to the members of Hawai'i's congressional delegation. Rep. Ed Case, Sen. Daniel Inouye, and Rep. Neil Abercrombie came to the State Capitol on March 31 to bring Hawai'i's state lawmakers up to date on progress of the measure, which is known as the Akaka Bill. Hawai'i Senator Daniel K. Akaka, the primary sponsor of the bill, sent a written statement.

Rep. Ed Case told the gathering the Akaka Bill is the single most important piece of federal legislation since Statehood for Hawai'i. He said it is important for the people of the state to keep up a united show of support for the bill as it moves through Congress. "This is not the time for

divisive debate," he said. "Our number-one goal has to be federal recognition, and we need an atmosphere of consensus."

Hawai'i Senior Senator Daniel K. Inouye asked the State Senate and House of Representatives to draft a new resolution of support for the Akaka Bill, which creates a process for federal recognition of a Native Hawaiian governing entity. He said he would be asking Native Hawaiian organizations to do the same, in order to show members of Congress that the measure is supported by a broad cross-section of Hawai'i's people. He said that, although hope is good for passage, "The process that follows will be lengthy." He recalled that some Native American tribes that have already won federal recognition "have been negotiating for 50 to 100 years on some points."

In a statement read to the gathering by Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Chair Sen. Colleen Hanabusa, Sen. Akaka outlined the scope of the bill. "It's not about redress and never was," he said. "It's about process and opportunity, and it's one of many steps as we move forward." He said chances were good for a roll call vote and Senate floor debate by August 7 of this year.

Senators Clarence K. Nishihara (D-Waipahu, Pearl City, Manana), Shan S. Tsutsui (D-Wailuku, Waihee, Kahului, Pā'ia, Lower Pā'ia) and J. Kalani English listen to a briefing by Warden Joe Keffer after a tour of Honolulu's Federal Detention Center. The Senators reviewed the facility's inmate housing, recreational facilities, food service, and medical operations. The Federal Detention Center currently houses about 600 inmates who are awaiting trial in the federal system.



Environmental Workforce Measure Passes Key House Committee

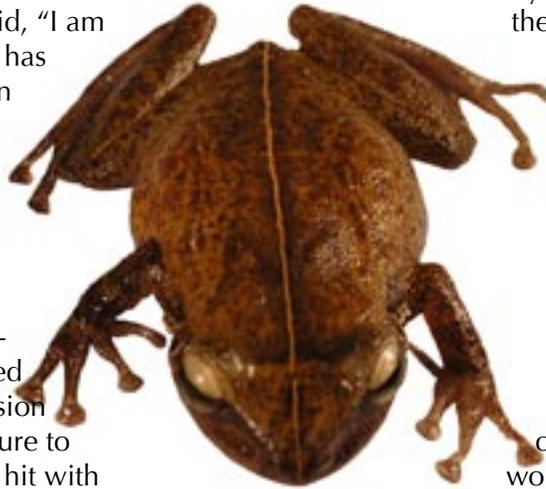
A bill that would create a permanent environmental workforce for the state of Hawai'i has passed a key House committee. The measure, SB 1554, SD 1, HD1, would make the state's emergency environmental workforce into a permanent entity. It passed the House Finance Committee by a unanimous 19-0 vote. The bill, which was introduced by Senator J. Kalani English, assists the counties in their fight against the invasive species that threaten Hawai'i's environment. Sen. English said, "I am pleased to see that this bill has met with such strong support in the Legislature. It shows that my colleagues are aware of the importance of addressing a state-wide problem that continues to grow."

The original emergency environmental workforce was established during the Third Special Session of 2001 as a temporary measure to assist state residents who were hit with reduced work schedules or layoffs in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. It was cited for its effectiveness in containing the dengue fever epidemic, controlling the

spread of the miconia plant and other invasive species, and reducing coqui frog and fire ant populations. "It is now clear that the work force needs to be made permanent, because the problem of invasive species will not go away soon," Sen. English said, "and it won't go away at all unless we take this kind of decisive action." The environmental workforce would continue to be administered by the research corporation of the University of Hawai'i in collaboration with the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council.

It would, in the language of the bill, "provide labor to assist the counties with preventing the introduction of, controlling, and eradicating invasive species throughout the State."

The State Department of Agriculture, the Nature Conservancy, and the Maui County Council have submitted testimony on support of the environmental workforce bill. The bill will now go to the House floor for a vote. If it passes, House and Senate members will then work out an agreement on final language for the bill in conference committee.



One of the Environmental Workforce's principal tasks will be the eradication of the coqui frog, an introduced species whose mating calls can reach a deafening volume. The number of reported coqui sites on Maui increased 150 percent between 2002 and 2004.

Sen. J. Kalani English with student artists Bailey Onaga (left) and Mary Klein. The students are winners of the Goose that Laid the Golden Egg Contest for Nēnē Goose Awareness Day, a contest sponsored by the Nēnē Preservation and Awareness Society and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.



Mary Klein, a fourth-grader at Makawao Elementary School, is the first-place winner in the art division of the contest. Bailey Onaga, an eighth-grader at the Kamehameha Schools' Maui campus, is the first-place winner in the contest's logo division. More than 400 students statewide took part. In remarks on the Senate floor, Sen. English said, "These students have shown their artistic talent as well as their awareness of Hawai'i's endangered species. The dedication of young people like Mary Klein and Bailey Onaga reminds us of our commitment to the preservation of native Hawaiian wildlife."



Senator English greets Auntie Genoa Keawe, a member of his 'ohana, in the Capitol Rotunda, where she performed in support of the Alzheimer's Association – Aloha Chapter. Auntie Genoa is one of Hawai'i's most honored musical artists. In the year 2000, she was presented with the nation's highest honor in folk and traditional arts, the National Heritage Fellowship, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Aloha Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association's mission is "to eliminate Alzheimer's Disease through the advancement of research and to enhance care and support for individuals, their families and caregivers." It provides support with managing the disease, information on available programs and services, and research and treatment information. The Alzheimer's Association offers a 24-hour support and information line at (800) 272-3000. Its website is <http://www.alzhi.org>.

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Preschool students from Punana Leo O Honolulu, a Hawaiian Immersion school, sang the invocation in Hawaiian before the April 1 Senate floor session. Sen. J. Kalani English and Senator Clayton Hee, the two State Senators of Hawaiian ancestry, introduced the group in the Hawaiian language. The first Punana Leo preschool was founded on Kauai in 1983; there are now eleven around the state.

Sen. English has sponsored a number of bills to promote the correct use of the Hawaiian language, including **SB 1429**, which requires that all State letterheads and documents include both state languages, with the Hawaiian language placed first. Another measure, **SB 1001**, requires the use of the kahakō and the 'okina in county and state government documents.

