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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

Senate convened on January 20, 2016 with a commitment toward the four themes outlined in our 2016 Senate Majority Legislative Program.

Opening Day at the Capitol, however, was not a festive event for us as the absence of Sen. Kahele was felt deeply. His passing a few days after made us stop for a moment.

Senator Kahele's spirit of service remains with us as we move forward toward these goals for Hawai'i. Mahalo to all who have sent their condolences and who have joined us in reflecting on his dedication to his family, the US Military and Hawai'i.

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH
HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT
HĀNA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I AND KAHO'OLAWÉ



HAWAI'I SENATE MAJORITY ENTERS INTO 2016
LEGISLATIVE SESSION WITH AMBITIOUS PROGRAM

SENATE MAJORITY COMMITS TO PROGRAM BASED ON HAWAIIAN VALUES

The Hawai'i Senate Majority unveiled its priorities for the 2016 Legislative Session, which began on January 20, 2016. The Senate Majority, whose members are Democrats, is committed to a vision and future for Hawai'i that is economically viable and sustains our communities for generations to come.

This is the second year of the legislative biennium. "This is an opportunity to build upon the achievements of the 2015 Regular Session," said Senate Majority Leader, Sen. English, "We are working under the theme 'Mālama No Ke Ola Pono', which means

'creating a better life.' As we move forward this session, we will be mindful of the options in which we can improve our livelihood and the well-being of our State."

The Hawai'i Senate Majority has adopted four priorities for legislation that embrace Hawaiian values and aim to improve the quality of life for our keiki, kūpuna, and nā 'Ohana who are most in need.

The Democratic Majority of the Senate will focus on the following areas during the 2016 Regular Session:

Mālama 'Ohana (Providing for our Families)

Housing - We will focus on strengthening our communities by identifying the State's affordable housing supply and prospective housing alternatives for individuals who are experiencing homelessness or transitioning from homelessness. We will also identify and prioritize strategies to supply sufficient levels of housing for Hawai'i's residents.



HAWAI'I SENATE MAJORITY ENTERS INTO 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WITH AMBITIOUS PROGRAM *CONTINUED*

Resources - We will commit to allocating specific financial resources intended to increase the supply of housing for certain homeless individuals and families within the next twelve months. We will explore options to support nonprofit providers and state and county initiatives to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families, while minimizing the dislocation of homeless individuals, families, and communities.

Health and Social Services - Since homelessness is a multi-faceted issue caused by social, economic, educational, and health factors, addressing this issue will require a creative coordination of several social service and educational strategies. We will support efforts that prioritize the empowerment of homeless individuals through social services that specialize in mental health, employment, housing, and other critical needs. We will also explore alternatives that facilitate and entice our public high school students to enroll in college.

Education - We will support ways to make education accessible for our keiki from pre-school through higher education. We will explore alternatives that facilitate and entice our public high school students to enroll in college.

Mālama Honua (Nurturing the Earth)

The Democratic Majority of the Senate will aim to set specific benchmarks for satisfactory levels of local food production and consumption. We will also ensure that Hawai'i is well-prepared for any disaster, economic disruption, or other external factor by encouraging the production and consumption of locally grown and locally raised food through good agricultural practices and support of local farmers.

Ensuring a sustainable future for Hawai'i will continue to be a priority. Improving energy resiliency and continuing progress in food self-sufficiency will have positive effects on our local job market and economy.

We will continue to focus on renewable energy alternatives that are practical and economical and take into account Hawai'i's unique geographical and topographical characteristics and environment. As Hawai'i makes progress in this area and with our overall clean energy goals in mind, we will further encourage the availability of renewable energy, facilitate processes for the development of renewable energy, and advance projects to improve energy efficiencies.

Mālama Kaiāulu (Sustaining our Communities)

We will strengthen our social safety net to ensure that our keiki, kūpuna, and family care givers are healthy, safe, and supported, while continuing to use the community development process to address housing, agricultural, environmental, and health concerns that arise during proposed development. We believe that relying on smart growth principles will lead to development that balances competing interests for land and maximizes the use or preservation of various types of land.



We will further explore opportunities to protect Hawai'i's natural resources through preservation and protective measures, such as improving agricultural practices, mitigating climate change impacts, and alleviating zoning concerns. Hawai'i's unique geographical features, including coastline, volcanoes, and watersheds, open doors to innovative processes and procedures, as well as new technologies and applications to existing systems, to accommodate Hawai'i residents.

We will focus on efforts to create a holistic overview and understanding for community development in the State, such as transit-oriented development. Because comprehensive community development presents an opportunity for the State to solve many socio-economic challenges, understanding the issues from various perspectives will further synergize the development to meet housing, critical infrastructure, and community needs.

Mālama Aupuni (Good Governance)

We will support efforts to enhance the provision of safe, fair, and effective government services. We will work toward greater efficiency, security, and accountability for government leaders and also for those serving to protect Hawai'i residents.

We will encourage effectiveness, transparency, and accountability across all branches of government by insisting on high standards of conduct, proper training, and fair and reliable systems and procedures.

The Democratic Majority of the Senate will strive to infuse the Hawaiian culture throughout government by fostering the use of the Hawaiian language on certain government documents and records.

We will strengthen and protect government infrastructure by upgrading technology and services to meet the demand of Hawai'i's residents and visitors. We will continue to promote the enhancement of the State's information technology services and incentivize the use of technology to potentially create revenue streams. We will continue to focus on the establishment and expansion of the State's critical technology infrastructure, including broadband.

It is our sincere hope that we can work collaboratively with the House of Representatives and the Governor to achieve all the goals outlined in this Program.

For ongoing updates and information visit:

Senate Majority Website:
www.hawaiisenatemajority.com

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/HawaiiSenateMajority/

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Gil Kahele

1942 - 2016



It is with heavy heart and great sadness that the Hawai'i State Senate reports the passing of Senator Gilbert Kahele, of the First Senatorial District. Sen. Gil Kahele peacefully passed surrounded by family at the Queens Medical Center.

"Gil was a great public servant, a dear friend and brought quiet strength and wisdom to the Senate," said Sen. English. "He personally had a strong influence in my life as a 'grandfather' figure and we shared valuable memories together as we traveled the Pacific over

the years. Through these adventures, I was impressed with his earnestness and resolution to get the most out of life's experiences and to learn as much as possible with each opportunity. These are virtues I respect and try to incorporate into my daily activities. I will miss him dearly."

Sen. Gil Kahele, 73, has served in the Senate since 2011, when he was appointed by Gov. Neil Abercrombie for the 2nd District, encompassing the communities of Hilo, Puna and Ka'u on Hawai'i Island. In 2012, he was elected to represent the community of Hilo, now known as the 1st Senatorial District as a result of reapportionment.

As a visionary and proponent for strengthening Hilo's economy, Sen. Kahele sought ways to help create jobs and business in his district. Among his many accomplishments, Sen. Kahele was instrumental in bringing much needed funding to build the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. He also was a staunch supporter behind the creation of a world-class School of Aviation at the underutilized Hilo Airport and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

The Senate chamber was open on January 27th and 28th, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. for members of the public to pay their respects

to the late Senator Kahele. A condolence book was available to sign and will be shared with the family.

A celebration of life for Senator Kahele will be held on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 5 p.m. at the Hilo Civic Auditorium. A private burial at sea will be held at Kapua Bay.



A fond memory of Senators English and Kahele who pay homage to King Kamehameha the Great in Washington, D.C. Dec. 10, 2014.

SENATOR ENGLISH RESPONDS TO A&B TRANSITION TO DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE



Senator English thanked the Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company workers for their many years of service following Alexander & Baldwin's announcement to close sugar operations. Jan. 20, 2016.

State Senators who represent the County of Maui reacted with reserved optimism for the future of agriculture following an announcement on January 6, 2016, that Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) will be transitioning out of sugar and pursue diversified agriculture.

"I want to thank A&B for their support in sustaining Maui's agricultural industry for so many years," said Sen. English. The Senator said he perceives one positive aspect to replacing sugar is that A&B can be inventive and move Hawai'i towards greater food sustainability and provide more crops for local consumption. "I'm hopeful that A&B will evolve into a successful diversified farm model."

J. KALANI ENGLISH
Senate Majority Leader

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**STATE SENATORS APPLAUD AGREEMENT ON MAUI
REGION HOSPITALS**



Maui's State Senators were in agreement that the recently signed partnership between the State and Kaiser Permanente is a positive collaboration that will benefit both residents and visitors to the island of Maui.

"Establishing this partnership will make certain that residents continue to receive the quality health care they deserve and that health service providers will be retained," said Senate Majority Leader, Sen. English, "It's reassuring that the agreement recognizes the special roles Lāna'i Community Hospital and Kula Hospital have in their communities and I hope to see improved health care services for these areas as well."

**HĀNA PIER TO BE REMOVED FOLLOWING PUBLIC
OPPOSITION TO IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Based on feedback and input received from the Hana community the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) will not proceed with the Hāna Pier rehabilitation project. HDOT reviewed various options for rebuilding the pier and discussed the plans with the community. Given the opposition to the improvements HDOT will remove the Pier.

The estimated cost of the removal is \$3.5 million. The additional \$16.5 million assigned to the project will be returned to the Harbors Division for use in other improvement projects within the state.

"Due to the safety concerns with the aging facility the improvements to the pier are a necessity. Leaving the pier in its current condition is not an option," said Ford Fuchigami, HDOT Director. "However, we have listened to the residents and heard their opposition to commercial use of the facility and will now remove the pier."

Excluding commercial use does not align with the mission of HDOT Harbors Division which is to manage commercial harbors for loading, off-loading, and handling of cargo, passengers, and vessels.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be conducted on the pier's removal. The EIS is anticipated to take a year to complete. The public is allowed to make additional comments to be included in the EIS.

"We put forward our best effort to provide the Hāna community with a new and useful pier," said Sen. English. The Senator had pushed for the improvements for years and had secured funding for the project in order to provide the community access in times of emergency. "Options were presented to residents and after a review of the feedback, this is the overwhelming response from the community, so we will abide by their choice."

In order to gauge the sentiment of the Hāna community, a survey was sent to each household in the Hāna zip code. In addition, multiple community meetings were held in Hāna regarding the project.

The Hāna Pier was built in the early 1920's originally as a commercial harbor under the jurisdiction of HDOT. The facility was transferred to the Department of Land & Natural Resources Boating Division in the early 2000's, then conveyed back to HDOT in 2010. Shortly after the transfer, investigations of the facility determined it unsafe and the pier was condemned and closed.

