



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**Senator J. Kalani English
Statement
Molokai Community Health Center
Groundbreaking Ceremony
24 August 2010**

The writer Kurt Vonnegut once said that he could think of no more stirring symbol of man's humanity to man than a fire truck. I agree, because it is a material example of the facilities and effort a community is willing to put forth to help others.

Today, here on Molokai, we are witnessing the birth of another such symbol of humanity. The strength of a community rests in part on the health of its people. The construction of the Molokai Community Health Center illustrates that the residents of Kaunakakai will share in the lifetime benefits of accessible health care.

Across our nation, too many find their access to effective healthcare blocked, whether by economics, distance, or cultural challenges. We are fortunate to live in a time when we our nation is witnessing changes, seeing some of those barriers fall. We owe a debt to Senator Inouye, our Congressional delegation, and the Obama administration for showing courage and discipline in addressing these needs.

But in our own state, especially in the rural areas, effective action to address our community's health care needs will also rely on action at the local level. We must be prepared to take care of our own.

I am pleased that the Molokai Community Health Center has made a commitment not only to delivering an array of health services to Molokai, but also to do it with respect and aloha. Molokai is a special place, closely knit and interdependent. I don't think I can over-emphasize how vital it will be to this facility's success and the community's benefit that the Health Center will reflect the culture and spirit of this unique community.

My thanks and congratulations to the Molokai Community Health Center and the Molokai Community. I look forward to the day when we see this center completed, and delivering services to a community in need.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Kalani English". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

J. Kalani English
Senator, 6th District
Hana, East, and Upcountry Maui
Moloka'i, Lana'i, and Kaho'olawe