



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH
STATEMENT
WORLD MARITIME DAY
16 OCTOBER 2009

Hawai'i is probably the most ocean-dependent spot on Earth. Our history begins with the story of brave seafarers who crossed endless miles of open ocean to settle on these islands nearly a thousand years ago. Our early economy was built upon the import and export of first goods and later visitors by sea. Even today, with other means of travel and transport available, our economy and the lives of our residents rely on shipping across the ocean from East and West.

At the same time, the Hawaiian recognition of the importance of our natural environment and our special ties to preserving our world are deeply ingrained in our culture. Living on these small islands, drawing our sustenance from the land, sea, and air have taught us that what is lost is difficult—sometimes impossible—to regain. Life, livelihood, and our notion of community grow from the Earth's resources.

And so, this World Maritime Day, with its celebration of the contributions of our maritime industry, and the industry's acknowledgment of its role in preserving our environment, has particular significance here at the Honolulu waterfront. We're glad you're coming around to our way of thinking. Actually, we're proud to be a part of this event and to offer our assistance and support as the maritime industry moves forward with these vital efforts.

I want to thank the International Maritime Organization for showing true leadership in helping develop a modern maritime industry that simultaneously serves such vital needs and demonstrates good corporate citizenship. To the North American Marine Environment Protection Association and the other organizations that have made this event possible, thank you for helping to spread the word. And to the U.S. Coast Guard, of course, no amount of thanks will ever be enough to express our community's gratitude for all that you provide us.

Warm Personal Regards,

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