



Senator J. Kalani English 6th District

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



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Chair of Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment

Leading by Example

Resolutions Urge Positive Changes to Federal Water Standards

Some residents of Maui have resorted to drastic measures to escape from the "upcountry itch," a condition alleged by many to come from additives meant to reduce lead levels in the upcountry water supply. While some go to friends' houses to bathe, others import bottled water from purified sources at an additional cost to their monthly county water bills. Complicating the search for a solution is the fact that water quality is regulated by Federal standards, particularly those included under the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Water Act Lead and Copper Rule.

Since June of 2001, upcountry water systems in Maui have been using additives to reduce the high lead levels found in some of the systems supplied primarily by surface waters. The acidic nature and low mineral content of some surface waters in Hawai'i can result in an increased pro-

pensity to leach lead from pipes in homes. Despite following all of the prescribed treatment methods set forth by the EPA, the upcountry water system is still unable to consistently reduce lead to safe levels.

Concerned about the lack of flexibility and leadership offered by the EPA, Senator English introduced a Resolution on March 24, 2004 urging the EPA to quickly address the shortcomings of federal water quality regulation. Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 185 and Senate Resolution (SR) 102 emphasize providing federal water quality standards based on sensitivity to varying local environmental conditions and on providing flexible treatment plans that are practical, effective, and beneficial to the health of residents. Currently under federal law there is no specific mechanism for stopping mandatory treatment of water through the use of additives once it has begun even where it has been

demonstrated that the additives have not been effective in controlling the problem. These resolutions urge a change from this rigid framework, to one that is more sensitive to local needs and circumstances.

While the exact cause of the alleged "upcountry itch" has not been identified, what is certain is that lead levels in the upper Kula water system have not consistently met the safety standards set by the EPA, despite the County efforts to follow all of the prescribed treatment methods.

The text of SCR 185, SD1 can be viewed at: http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/scr185_sd1.htm.

The text of SR 102, SD1 can be viewed at: http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sr102_sd1.htm.

Hawaiian Used in Committee Hearing

Hawai'i is one of two states having two official languages. The other state is New Mexico, with English and Spanish as the two official languages. Some other states outlaw the use of any other language but English for official documents and instruction. Hawai'i's official languages are English and Hawaiian, although the use of English became dominant in the late twentieth century. With the more recent availability of Hawaiian language

classes, and especially Hawaiian immersion schools, the Hawaiian language is being heard again more often.

During the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee hearing concerning the appointment of a circuit court judge, Senator English had the opportunity to listen to the testimony of interested parties from the Big Island and their discussion spontaneously shifted into Hawaiian, bringing Hawaiian to life once again in the legisla-

ture. An attorney from the Big Island joined the conversation speaking 5 or 6 sentences in Hawaiian. Ola ka 'olelo Hawai'i. (The Hawaiian language lives.)

Mo'o and Lolo's Hawaiian dictionary is on-line at; <http://www.hisurf.com/hawaiian/dictionary.html>. This on-line dictionary contains close to 5,000 Hawaiian-English and English-Hawaiian words.

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: english4@capitol.hawaii.gov



Mr. Chatt G. Wright, President of Hawai'i Pacific University, Presents Award to Senator English

Senator J. Kalani English Receives the 2004 Paul C.T. Loo Professional Achievement Award

Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) honored Senator English as a distinguished alumnus with their Paul C.T. Loo Professional Achievement Award for his accomplishments over the years. The awards are presented in three categories: the Professional Achievement Award, the Alumni Service Award, and the Young Alumni Award.

Senator English honed his skills in Chinese and foreign relations as an undergraduate student at Hawai'i Loa College, which later became Hawai'i Pacific University. He went on to graduate school at the University of Hawai'i, where he earned a Master of Arts in Pacific Island Studies, a degree that would later give him ample opportunity to utilize his language skills in Hawaiian, Chinese, and English.

On tour of the HPU campus, Senator English saw many old friends and mentors. One person shared a story about a barefoot Hawaiian boy from Maui who tried to sell her a Ni'ihau shell lei so he would have enough money for a cab ride into Waikiki. Being relatively new to the islands she confessed that at the time she didn't recognize the value of either the lei or the young man, and while she remains impressed with his considerable achievements over the years, she is still kicking herself about not buying the lei.

Senator English's professional accomplishments leave a wide trail across the globe. As a Maui County Council Member, he represented the County's delegation to Rapa Nui in 1999 to finalize the Sister-City Relationship agreement with the government and people of Rapa Nui. He was actively employed by the United Nations and participated in conferences around the world on environment, human rights, and sustainable development of small island States. The U.S. Department of State appointed Senator English in 1999 as a U.S. Permanent Mission Advisor to the U.N. He was also later appointed to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee.

Senator English sits or has sat on 10 different boards dealing with business, culture and the arts, Native Hawaiian and women's issues, and aging. He has authored newspaper and magazine articles, been an editor and lecturer on Hawaiian history, policies and culture, and is the founding president of Hui 'Aina O Hana, a native Hawaiian land conservation organization.

The distinguished alumni awards were presented on April 16, 2004 and are named after Paul C.T. Loo, one of the University's founders, to honor exceptional alumni.

Hawai'i Government Employees Association Maui Members Get Results

"It was probably the best legislative visit we have ever had and the most effective," said Wes Yoshioka, appraiser for the real property tax division for the county Maui, about the April 14, 2004 visit of 11 HGEA members with Senator English. The Maui HGEA members were concerned about the issue of their pay package. They wanted to find a way to set the record straight with the public. KHON Channel 2 news was present during the meeting. "The fact that Senator English was willing to talk to us in front of the TV cameras was fantastic," said Yoshioka to KHON staff reporter, Gregg Takayama.



Left to right: Candie Mattos, Wes Yoshioka, Anne Trygstad, Sharon Char, Keala Han, James Anderson, Elizabeth Williams, Mary Ellen Boteilho, Senator English, Leilani Soakai, Molly Imoto (front), Geri-Lynn Gaspar and Gail Fujimoto.

Visit Senator English's Web Site

at

www.kalanienglish.com

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at

english4@capitol.hawaii.gov