

Senator J. Kalani English

6th District

HĀNA, EAST & UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I & KAHO'OLAWÉ

April 22, 2005



SENATE APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR MOLOKA'I GENERAL HOSPITAL, KAUNAKAKAI ELEMENTARY

An appropriation of \$1,600,000 to help fund Phase II of Moloka'i General Hospital's renovation has been included in the Senate version of the State budget for this year, with another \$700,000 to be used for repairs and facilities improvements at Kaunakakai Elementary School. The appropriations were key elements of Senator J. Kalani English's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) requests for the current legislative session.

The Moloka'i General funding would be used to renovate the hospital's forty-year-old physical plant, which does not meet current building codes. The critical access facility is the island's only hospital, and serves a population of about 8,000 residents and visitors. Senator English said "These renovations will allow the hospital to continue providing the very best in medical care to the people of Moloka'i. With these funds, this vital renovation project can continue without interruption."

An appropriation of \$700,000 for repairs and facilities improvements at Kaunakakai Elementary School will be used to paint the school's interior and exterior, replace louvers and light fixtures, and upgrade the electrical panels. Senator English said, "Students deserve the best possible learning environment we can provide. I'm happy that my Senate colleagues recognize the importance of these repairs to Moloka'i children and their families."



In 2004, Moloka'i General Hospital treated an estimated 4,400 patients. It is the island's only critical care facility.

The need for facilities repairs at Kaunakakai Elementary was brought to Sen. English's attention at a teachers' conference on Moloka'i in July of 2004 by Tania Manaba-Wills, a teacher at the school for 21 years. She followed up that discussion with a letter to the Senator that described how her

classroom reached an average temperature of 90 degrees for months at a time. She said, "Teaching is interactive. If it's 90 degrees in the classroom my kids are so spent they can't learn.... If we want our children to pass these rigorous tests, we have to give them a better learning environment."

Sen. English said, "It's a privilege to be able to support the work of dedicated teachers like Ms. Manaba-Wills. Like so many teachers in Hawai'i, her devotion to her profession and her students goes far beyond the call of duty."

Chair, Committee on Energy,
Environment,
and International Affairs
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A Message From Kalani

This year's legislative session is rapidly drawing to a close, with critically important conference committee meetings scheduled for its last two weeks. Members of both houses of the Legislature take part, working together to iron out differences between House and Senate versions of bills.

This issue of our newsletter focuses on Capital Improvement Project (CIP) requests for the 6th District. It's our pleasure to report that funds for renovations at Moloka'i Hospital and Kaunakakai Elementary School have been included in the Senate's draft of the Executive Budget for this year, along with an appropriation to help the Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center purchase the Makawao site it has occupied for 70 years.

Aloha, 



Hui No'ēau administrators came to the State Capitol to thank Senator English for his help. From left to right: Hui No'ēau Executive Director John Z. Lofgren, Sen. English, Capital Campaign consultant Chris Cowan, Chairman of the Board John Hoxie, Jr.

Senate Appropriates \$500,000 for Hui No'ēau Visual Arts Center

An appropriation of \$500,000 to help Hui No'ēau Visual Arts Center purchase the land for its Makawao site is part of the Senate version of this year's State Budget. If the State House agrees, the State will make an appropriation in the form of a General Obligation (GO) bond. The bond is an innovative funding mechanism created by the Ways and Means Committee after the Hui missed the deadline for a Grant-in-Aid application, which would have taken the form of an outright payment. A GO bond means the funds remain under the control of the State. "Making this work will call for a lot of creative thinking on everyone's part," Sen. English said, "but I am hopeful we can find a way to help retain one of Maui's cultural treasures." Hui No'ēau has had an outpouring of support from private donors, raising more than \$4 million in just a few months through a fundraising campaign. Sen. English said, "We're working hard to make sure the Hui can continue its service to the community for generations to come."

KALAUPAPA DIGNITY BILL HAILED AS FIRST OF ITS KIND

A measure that establishes safeguards for former Hansen's Disease patients residing at Kalaupapa is on its way to the Governor for her signature after passing Third Reading by a unanimous vote in the State House of Representatives. The bill was introduced by Senator J. Kalani English, who represents the Kalaupapa community. Sen. English said, "The swift passage of this bill shows that Hawai'i's legislators are united in their concern for the personal liberty, autonomy, and dignity of patient residents at Kalaupapa."

Anwei Law, International Coordinator for IDEA, the International Association for Integration, Dignity, and Economic Advancement, said today, "I don't think there is a law like this anywhere in the world. From my experience, this is the first of its kind. We will circulate this information around the world, and it will set a precedent. We all have inherent dignity. This is a legislative body requiring people to treat others with dignity." Kalaupapa resident Olivia Breitha said, "I have been a patient here for 70 years – always under the heel of somebody. So I decided to find out what our rights were. I have talked to Sen. English about this repeatedly. I have been praying for this bill."

Sen. English said, "I am a frequent visitor to the Kalaupapa community, and I am grateful to the people there for embracing me as their Senator and educating me about their unique needs and their quest for dignity."

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