

# SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAII STATE SENATE • 6TH DISTRICT

HANA • EAST & UPCOUNTRY MAUI • MOLOKA'I • LANA'I • KAHO'OLAWA



Senator  
J. KALANI ENGLISH

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Message From Kalani pg 1
- ▶ Maui Festivals of Aloha pg 1-2
- ▶ Hana Back Packs pg 2
- ▶ Palau Proclamation pg 3
- ▶ NCSL Conference pg 3
- ▶ Samoan Head of State pg 4



## FESTIVALS OF ALOHA ~ MAUI NUI STYLE

The Aloha Festival is the oldest cultural festival held in America. The first Festival in 1946, was modeled after the celebrations of the Makahiki season of ancient Hawai'i. "Aloha Week" was the initial festival and included a parade, pageants, hula shows and a service at Kawaihāo Church. In 1991, Aloha Week expanded into the Aloha Festivals that now includes at least 300 events on six islands beginning in September and ending in October. The mission of the Aloha Festivals is to preserve and perpetuate Hawaiian culture while also celebrating the diverse customs of Hawai'i and the Aloha spirit.

The Festivals of Aloha, Maui Nui Style are events on Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i and Kaho'olawe that honor and celebrate not only the State's rich history and heritage, but includes Maui County's as well. E Kupuohi I ke Aloha, "Flourish with Aloha," is the theme for 2012 and is symbolized by the Kamehameha Butterfly (the State Insect).

One of the most challenging festival events is the Maui Nui Canoe Race held on Oct. 19-21st. This undertaking takes 3 days to complete and includes over 100 miles of paddling. The first leg of the race begins at Maliko Bay on Maui to Moloka'i. The 2nd leg runs from Moloka'i to Lana'i and the last leg is from Lana'i back to Hanakao'o Beach Park, Maui. This race is a tribute to the ancient voyagers who braved the treacherous channels between the Hawaiian islands.



Sen. English enjoying the Hana Aloha Parade Festivities with his cousin, Naomi Kuailani and Jean Napuauhi, Jr. Photo by Barton Hrast. Oct. 19, 2012.

## MESSAGE FROM KALANI

November is a time of reflection, celebration and Thanksgiving. Ours is the only "canoe district," that includes four islands, each with its own style and community perspectives. As this issue illustrates the diversity in our district, let us take a moment to appreciate how we all work together in our own ways to better our communities.

We take a look at the Festivals of Aloha across each island, unique in their approaches, but working together towards the same goal. We honor the independence of Palau and the re-appointment of the Samoan Head of State as well as a look at a conference on wireless technology.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

## FESTIVALS OF ALOHA ~ MAUI NUI STYLE CONTINUED

Events on Lana'i took place on Sept. 21st and 22nd. The public was invited to enjoy Hawaiian music and hula, demonstrations and ancient Polynesian crafts. A community parade was held through the streets with pa'u riders and keiki organizations. A Ho'olaulea followed and the festival ended with Kanikapila Night full of live entertainment at the Lana'i Lodge.

The "Friendly Isle" of Moloka'i displayed the spirit of Aloha with 3 days of celebration from Oct. 11 to the 13th. The events included investiture of the Royal Court, a Poke Contest, Aloha Attire Contest, Youth Night featuring a keiki musical talent contest and a contest featuring delicacies made of kalo-ulu-'uala (taro-breadfruit-sweet potato). The highlight of the festivities was a one-of-a-kind parade with pa'u riders and country style floats passing through Kaunakakai town. Everyday there were lots of delicious local food, traditional Hawaiian displays and spectacular entertainment at the Mitchell Paoule Center.

The Festivals of Aloha culminated in Hana, Maui with a week of events from Oct. 20 – 27th. The entire town participated in a parade on the first day of events. The Hana Royal Court was featured followed by traditional ceremonies. All day long, there were Hawaiian culture and crafts demonstrations, makahiki games for the keiki, live entertainment, 'ono food concessions and crafts booths.

The week of activities also included: 'Ohana Beach Day with a keiki/wahine fishing tournament; Sports Night at the Park; Travaasa Hotel Hana offered daily cultural activities that included: Ti-leaf lei making, ukulele lessons, coconut husking, hula lessons, cultural history walks, Hawaiian throw-net fishing and more; Keiki Aloha Attire Contest; Movie in the Park; a Kupuna Luncheon; a Talent show; Dancing under the Stars; Cross Country Golf; Ho'ike Night; and for Festivals of Aloha

ribbon holders, a free unguided tour during the week of the National Tropical Botanical Gardens.

"I have been a supporter of the Aloha Festivals, now called the Festivals of Aloha since I was a Councilmember for the Maui County Council 15 years ago," said Sen. English, "These events provide a special occasion where communities can get together and learn about traditional Hawaiian culture and crafts while enjoying local food and entertainment. Each year, the festivals present a rare opportunity for older generations to pass on their knowledge to younger generations and help preserve our unique Hawaiian culture."



*Hana High School Dragons football team participating in the Hana Aloha Week parade. Oct. 19, 2012.*

## BACKPACKS FOR HANA STUDENTS

In tribute to Children and Youth Month, Senator English donated 50 backpacks, each with some school supplies inside to Hana Elementary School for disadvantaged and at-risk students. The backpacks were provided by the Office Depot Foundation in partnership with the National Foundation for Women Legislators.

In 1993, the Hawai'i State Legislature and Governor established Children and Youth Day in Hawai'i, which was celebrated every first Sunday in October to celebrate and honor our children and youth and the contributions they make in our communities. In 1997, Act 30 was signed into law establishing October as Children and Youth Month.

The Office Depot Foundation donates these backpacks in

keeping with their mission – Listen Learn Care. Their goal is to place backpacks into the hands of the children who need them the most as they start the new school year and raise awareness about the importance of providing children with the resources they need to be successful.

"The entire State benefits when keiki who are disadvantaged and at-risk are given an opportunity to fully participate in the classroom," said Sen. English, "Adequate school supplies means that keiki will be able to have the tools necessary to be successful in acquiring the skills that will prepare them for higher education and a career that ensures a better life."

## PALAU INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION HELD IN HAWAI'I



Chair J. Kalani English and Vice-Chair Will Espero of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs were proud to present a Senate Proclamation to the Palauan community in Hawai'i to celebrate the 18th Anniversary of Palauan independence on Oct. 6, 2012.

The Palauan Independence Day celebration in Hawai'i showcased the Palauan culture. More importantly, it expressed a recognition of our common bonds, respect for human rights and the fundamental values for peace and security in the Pacific Region. "Hawai'i's central location in the Pacific Ocean provides many opportunities to promote and further International Affairs and relations among the Pacific Nations and the Countries along the Pacific Rim," said Senator English, "As Chair of the Transportation and especially, the International Affairs Committee, it is encouraging to see other Pacific Island Nations celebrate and engage in political, economic and cultural activities in Hawai'i."

In the 18th Century, Palau was visited by Europeans and like Hawai'i, subsequent political events eventually led to the loss of independence and incorporation into the United States as

a governed Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Palauans were able to obtain full sovereignty in 1994 under a Compact of Free Association with the United States.

Although Palau or "Belau", the name for the islands in the Palauan language, is geographically part of the Pacific Ocean region of Micronesia, in 1979, the Palauans voted against joining the newly formed Federated States of Micronesia. As an independent nation under the Compact of Free Association, the U.S. provides Palau with defense, funding and access to social services. Over the years, the Palauan community in Hawai'i grew and the State of Hawai'i became a leader in providing services to the Palauans.



*Palauan dancers at the 2012 Palau Independence Day Celebration in Honolulu. Oct. 6, 2012.*

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Senator English attended the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Wireless University 2012 Communications Policy Seminar held in San Diego, California on October 8th-10th, 2012. The Wireless University Communications Policy Seminar is a partnership project intended to educate state legislators about the basics of wireless and broadband technology. The number of wireless customers, over 300 million, surpasses the number of Americans with landline telephone service. While the Federal Communications Commission has the authority to regulate the wireless industry, states have the authority to monitor the wireless industry with regard to consumer protection issues as well as placement of towers and the ability to impose taxes.

The 2012 Wireless University covered a broad range of issues and featured some of the most important voices in the wireless and broadband world today. This three day seminar covered developing communications topics and provided a forum for legislators to share best practices and enhance access to these services for their constituents. Topics included:

Core Network & Government/Regulatory Standards; What Makes Wireless Work; The Roles of Federal, State, and Local Governments; Issues in Wireless Taxation; Making Commerce Mobile: Strategy and Trends of Mobile Commerce; and Financing Wireless Infrastructure.



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## HIS HIGHNESS TUI ATUA TUPUA TAMASESE EFI REAPPOINTED AS HEAD OF STATE OF SAMOA

In July, the Hawai'i State Senate presented His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi with a proclamation congratulating him for his reappointment as Head of State of the State of Samoa, the first small island country in the Pacific to become independent in 1962. His Highness was officially sworn in as the Head of State on July 25, 2012, for the second time. He began his first five year term in June 2007 and was re-elected in July to serve another 5 year term as the O le Ao o le Malo, literally "the chieftain of the government."

At the time the Samoan Constitution was adopted in 1960, it was anticipated that future Heads of State would be chosen from among the four Tama-a-Aiga "royal" paramount chiefs. Since this is not a requirement, Samoa is considered to be a republic rather than a constitutional monarchy like the United Kingdom. Although, both are parliamentary democracies, Samoa has modified its government to incorporate traditional customs.

The position of O le Ao o le Malo is considered a ceremonial president. The actual power is held by the Prime Minister, whom the O le Ao o le Malo appoints on the recommendation of the Fono, The Samoan Legislative Assembly. While the O le Ao o le Malo does not play an active role in government, he can dissolve the Fono, grant pardons and no act of parliament will become law without his approval.

His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Tupuola Tufuga Efi began his political career in 1966 in the Fono as a member of the Christian Democratic Party and became leader of the Opposition following his Party's defeat in 1982. His Highness also served two prior terms as Prime Minister of Samoa. He

is the elder son of His Highness Tupua Tamasese Mea'ole, who served jointly with His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II as one of the founding joint Heads of State. Upon the death of his father in 1963 His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II became the sole holder of the office until his death in 2007.

Besides his political career, His Highness Tui Atua is the scion of the paramount family of Sa Tupua and is married to Her Highness Masiofo Filitilia Tamasese. After attending primary school in Samoa, His Highness contin-



*His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi receives a Senate Proclamation congratulating him for his reappointment as Head of State of the State of Samoa.*

ued his education at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. His Highness Tui Atua has held several academic posts and is a leading authority on Samoan culture, language and tradition and has published extensively in both Samoan and English and has been described as a defender and proponent of the Samoan language.

"His Highness Tui Atua brings a long and distinguished political career to the position of Head of State of Samoa," said Senator English, "More importantly, his heritage, love of his people, culture and country ensures that His Highness Tui Atua will be a successful leader and will be highly regarded and respected thorough out the world like his predecessor."