



SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Message From Kalani pg 1
- ▶ Lāna'i Community Health Center pg 1
- ▶ Wastewater System Policy pg 2
- ▶ 2014 CIP Report pgs 2, 3
- ▶ Hawaiian Hale Revival pg 4

MESSAGE FROM KALANI

In this issue, we congratulate the Lāna'i Community Health Center on the construction groundbreaking of their new facility, we provide an update on the status of Capital Improvement Projects across the 7th Senatorial District and we take a look at the revival and perpetuation of indigenous Hawaiian architecture in the State of Hawai'i.

The traditional Polynesian hale is an excellent metaphor for us today. These traditional indigenous building structures are capable of enduring countless storms because of their ability to flex and move with a storm as well as their careful placement and attention to the natural elements. We should always remember the valuable lessons of our ancestors and apply them to today's projects.



LĀNA'I COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER GROUNDBREAKING

Back in 2008, the Lāna'i Community Health Center (LCHC) began providing services to Lāna'i residents when it first opened its doors in a temporary three-room apartment on Houston Street. Over the years, this health center has grown into a diverse, comprehensive health care provider that touches all residents of the island and is the only one that can provide services to the under-insured population.

On September 6, the LCHC broke ground for a new one-story, 6,800 square foot building to consolidate, expand and improve current health care services to the Lāna'i community. Sen. English and his colleagues at the legislature were instrumental in securing funds in the State budget to help fund the project.

"The people of Lāna'i deserve a new center in a prime location to provide better access for those who need these types of necessary healthcare and dental services. With its larger design in a central location, more people in this remote area will receive care from top-notch professionals," said Sen. English.

The new facility will include medical examination rooms, consultation rooms, clinical laboratories, dental, specialty exam rooms, offices and administrative support space. The Health Center is able to treat patients

for primary medical care, dental care, behavioral health services, prenatal care, family planning, nutritional and preventive health education services. These services are open to all, but target the low and moderate income, uninsured and underserved residents of Lāna'i. The Health Center turns away no one due to lack of funds for necessary care and serves individuals of all ages, ethnicity, gender and residency – old timers, part-timers and newcomers.



"The health center providers at LCHC have over the years shown their commitment to the people of Lāna'i. In fact, several of the Center's doctors were named in Honolulu Magazine's Best Doctors in Hawai'i list," said Sen. English. "I applaud the Center's officials and staff on the work they have done to see this new facility come to fruition."

MAUI SENATORS WANT MORE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON WASTEWATER SYSTEMS POLICY CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Senators English, Baker and Keith-Agaran requested the Department of Health (DOH) to hold public hearings on the neighbor islands on proposed wastewater management policy changes and to provide more time for meaningful comment. The proposed changes will affect more than 77,000 homeowners on the neighbor islands and 11,000 on O'ahu. The changes include prohibiting the installation of new cesspools and requiring sewer connections or upgrades of existing cesspools to a septic tank within 180 days after the sale of a property.

"The DOH has consistently pursued this issue over the last few years," said Sen. English, "Their assumption is that everyone in Hawai'i has access to a public sewer system and thus they can force the conversion of existing residential wastewater systems. Of course, for a vast majority of the neighbor islands and many areas of O'ahu this assumption is false. In some cases the city would not allow a connection to the existing sewer system because it was already overloaded."

DOH has scheduled a public hearing for Thursday, October 2 on O'ahu where only about 12 percent of all cesspools in the state are located. Video confer-

encing is also being made available on Kaua'i, Hawai'i Island and Maui. Residents affected on Moloka'i, which has over 1,400 cesspools, will not be able to participate in the video conferencing.

A letter addressed to Director Linda M. Rosen was sent asking the DOH to hold public hearings on all neighbor islands, especially on Moloka'i where access to video conferencing is not available.

"With this proposal DOH is making a flawed assumption that each homeowner has easy access to a public sewer system," said Sen. English. "Many residents in the small and rural communities I represent do not have access to public sewer systems. In fact, the majority of my district does not have any public sewer systems at all. This proposal will impact them the most and they deserve public hearings and enough time to ask questions and share their concerns. Improvements to our wastewater system are necessary, but let's make sure it's done right by giving our communities, especially those who will be most affected, an opportunity to provide input. I call on the DOH to conduct public hearings on these proposed rules in Hāna, Hāi'ku, Kula, Pa'ia, Moloka'i and Lāna'i."

\$45,523,509 IN FUNDS RELEASED FOR 7TH DISTRICT CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

MOLOKA'I		\$2,738,624
Kaunakakai Elementary	Resurfacing	366,000
Kualapū'u Elementary	P1 & P2, Replace Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp	90,000
Maunaloa Elementary	Building A, Replace Ramp	105,000
Moloka'i High	Building C, Renovate boys & girls restrooms & roof repairs	144,624
Moloka'i Middle	Building Q, Extend sidewalk & design for Special Education Portable	95,000
Moloka'i Irrigation System	Plans & design for improvements to the system	200,000
Pala'au State Park	Repairs and renovations in Pavilion, camping and lookout areas; includes repave parking lots, repair bathrooms, improve water pressure, & install park signs	400,000
Moloka'i Community Health Center, Phase II	Renovation of structures, adding central deck, repaving parking lot, installing ADA compliant walkways, irrigation & landscape	500,000
Kaunakakai Harbor	Maintenance dredging of entrance & basin	300,000
Moloka'i State Office Building	Replace chiller & timer	538,000
LĀNĀ'I		\$2,578,000
Lāna'i High and Elementary	Building F, Reroof & rewire fire alarm	445,250
Manele Small Boat Harbor	Construction for ferry service improvements and replace finger piers	2,200,000
Lāna'i Community Hospital	Replace emergency generator	50,000
Lāna'i Airport, Airfield Lighting	Additional construction to add lighting	10,000

\$45,523,509 IN FUNDS RELEASED FOR 7TH DISTRICT CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS CONTINUED

MAUI		\$40,079,635
Hā'iku Elementary	New portables, replace ramp/steps, walkway and reroofing	216,000
Hāna High & Elementary	Unpaid balance for design of six classroom Buildings (Bldgs) & Bldg K reroof Science facilities upgrades & ADA improvements	1,797,635
Kalama Intermediate	Building B, Add retaining wall	65,000
Kekaulike High	Repave parking lot, classroom renovations & construction for a new auditorium	26,617,000
Kula Elementary	Building B, Replace sewer lines & Structural improvements in various Bldgs.	565,000
Makawao Elementary	Building A, Replace porch and ramp	144,000
Pā'ia Elementary	Building A, Replace lift and fire alarm	110,000
Pukalani Elementary	Building D, Reroof	160,000
Heritage Hall, Inc.	Plans, design, construction for Heritage Hall to include multipurpose hall, kitchen and 2 cultural resource centers	1,500,000
Haleakalā Highway	Additional design for widening at Milepost 0.8 and intersection improvements at Kula Highway	1,660,000
Upcountry Watershed Project	Construction for installation of a pipeline	1,500,000
Kahakapao Recreational Area	Construction for new parking area, skills area & pump track	260,000
Na Ala Hele	Plans for trails signage	25,000
Hāna Highway Rockfall Mitigation, Phase 2	Additional construction at milepost 19.18 to 19.52 and phase 2A improvements from Huelo to Hana	2,840,000
Hāna Highway Bridge Preservation Plan	Plans for developing a Bridge Preservation Plan for Hāna Hwy. in the Hāna Preservation District	320,000
Hāna Airport	Design for improvements to meet Federal airfield compliance & Design for new Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting Station	2,300,000



**J. KALANI ENGLISH
HAWAII STATE SENATE
7TH DISTRICT**

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International Affairs**

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**Hawai'i State Legislature
Bill Status and Documents**

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**KUMU FRANCIS PALANI SINENCI AND THE REVIVAL
OF THE HAWAIIAN HALE**

Sen. English honored Kumu Francis Palani Sinenci, a Hāna native, with a Senate Proclamation presented at a ceremony on September 21 at Waimea Valley, O'ahu. Hi'ipaka LLC, dba Waimea Valley a non-profit organization sponsored the event recognizing Kumu Sinenci for his 20 years as a master hale builder and leadership in completing their Kauhale Restoration Project as well as for his role in helping to amend Maui County building rules to allow for indigenous architecture.

After Kumu Sinenci retired from the military and returned to Hāna to realize his life-long goal of building traditional Hawaiian hale he could not obtain a permit to build one because the structures were deemed unsafe and inferior by Western building standards. At that time, Sen. English was still a Maui County Council member and initiated a proposal to amend the building code to allow for the construction of indigenous architecture. The Council collaborated with the Indigenous Architecture Task Force, on which Mr. Sinenci was a consultant. In 2004, the proposal was finally adopted.

"The rules took years to adopt, in part due to the stigma attached to the term "grass huts," said Sen. English, "People were reluctant to consider changes to the building code for fear that huts were unsound and unsafe. Even though, native Hawaiians refined "grass huts" over centuries to withstand storms. So, the term "grass huts" was changed to indigenous architecture to alter the image that was implanted in people's minds."



The rules required that a certified hale builder construct the hale. Kumu Sinenci was enlisted by University of Hawai'i Maui Campus to teach an indigenous-architecture certification course for which he designed the curriculum for teaching the art of hale building. Students learned the craft from top to bottom, gathering materials, tying lashing and soaking wood to protect it from termites. Many students have graduated from the course which requires nine months of training. In August 2013, Kumu Sinenci established Halau Hale KūhiKūhi to continue certifying hale builders to perpetuate this ancient Hawaiian art form for all future generations.

Besides teaching, Kumu Sinenci has contributed tremendously to the construction and restoration of many hale as well as the development of new building techniques and use of non-native materials to adapt to the changing times. His kokua and the sharing of his knowledge has been vital in the revival of traditional Hawaiian architecture. Kumu Sinenci has been involved in projects across Hawai'i and throughout the world, including one in Hainan, China.

"With the passing of many of our kupuna who possessed the knowledge of Hawaiian building practices," said Sen. English, "I became involved so as not to lose this knowledge by changing County and State law. The State Constitution guarantees and protects all subsistence and cultural rights of native Hawaiians including the right to take house timber from the land upon which one resides. More importantly, the revitalization of hale building could not have happened in the past 20 years without the knowledge, skill and ability of Kumu Sinenci."

SB 3180 was the bill Sen. English introduced in 2006 that was modeled after the Maui County code, which became Act 310 and is now codified as HRS §46-1.55.

To view Maui County Indigenous Hawaiian Architecture Structure Rules go to: (Note this may take time to download) <http://www.co.maui.hi.us/documents/20/81/83/IHAStructures.PDF>

For State Law go to: http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol02_Ch0046-0115/HRS0046/HRS_0046-0001_0055.htm