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1 RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND REPRESENTATION

2 PROCEEDINGS

3 EMCEE HOWARD: Good morning, everybody.

4 THE AUDIENCE: Good morning.

5 EMCEE HOWARD: Let me try again. Good morning,  
6 everybody.

7 THE AUDIENCE: Good morning.

8 WELCOMING REMARKS

9 BY EMCEE HOWARD:

10 (Speaking in foreign language.) All right. Welcome  
11 to our second day of our Micronesian Voices in Hawai`i  
12 conference. I would like to welcome you all back and thank you  
13 for coming. Before we start, I would like to just remind you of  
14 some housewarming.

15 By the way, my name is Jocelyn Howard, and I will be  
16 your emcee for today. It's going to be very tough coming after  
17 Canisius Filibert. So if I need help, I will call upon his help  
18 again.

19 But anyway, some housewarming announcements. The rest  
20 rooms are on the bottom, both sides, this side and that side.

21 And without further ado, I'm going to humbly ask  
22 Dr. David Hanlon to introduce our speaker this morning.

23 Introduction to State Senator J. Kalani English

24 BY CPIS DIRECTOR HANLON:

25 Aloha kakou. Good morning, everyone. It's good to

1 see you all here and back in such strong numbers. Our apologies  
2 for being a little late this morning. As I think most of you  
3 know, there was an accident involving a pedestrian. That tied  
4 up traffic, especially traffic coming into the university. And  
5 so to give everyone a little more time, we decided to push back  
6 the start of this morning's session.

7 I have the honor and the privilege to introduce to you  
8 the first speaker of the morning. And it is indeed, not only an  
9 honor and a privilege, but as a source of considerable pride  
10 because Senator J. Kalani English is a graduate of our program.  
11 He has an MA in Pacific Island Studies. I think that's worth a  
12 hand.

13 (Audience applause.)

14 There are a lot of other reasons why Kalani deserves  
15 our applause, but that certainly is something special to our  
16 hearts, the Center for Pacific Island Studies.

17 Kalani represents the sixth senatorial district which  
18 includes Maui, Moloka'i, Lana`i, and Kaho`olawe. He represents  
19 more islands in the Hawai`i state senate than any other senator,  
20 and that also is something to be impressed about.

21 Kalani has been involved in community issues. He's  
22 been involved in Native Hawaiian issues and he's been  
23 particularly devoted to Pacific Island issues. He is just back  
24 from Majuro where he attended a series of meetings involving the  
25 Compact involving Micronesian immigration. So we're catching

1 him, in some ways, at a very good time.

2 It's also a difficult time for Kalani because a lot  
3 has been happening. I think some of you are aware about the  
4 problems with Moloka'i Ranch, the closing of Aloha Airlines, and  
5 the most recently, ATA's demise. So Kalani has been busy in  
6 meetings and on the phone. But that hasn't kept him from being  
7 here this morning with us.

8 One other point I would want to make about Kalani.  
9 He's been very active in promoting the Association of Pacific  
10 Island Legislators. He has been their vice president of late.  
11 And in May next month, he will become the president of that  
12 Association. And one point to note, all of the Micronesian  
13 governments are members of the Association of Pacific Island  
14 Legislators.

15 With that said, will you please join me in welcoming  
16 Senator J. Kalani.

17 (Audience applause.)

18 Presentation by State Senator J. Kalani English

19 SENATOR ENGLISH: And I'm very proud and extremely  
20 humbled to have the opportunity to address you all this morning.  
21 So aloha. Aloha.

22 AUDIENCE: Aloha.

23 BY SENATOR ENGLISH:

24 As a graduate of the Center for Pacific Island Studies  
25 and having worked with the Government of Federated States of

1       Micronesia many years back -- and I'm getting older, so I have  
2       to take off my glasses. You're all blurry, but I can actually  
3       see what I --.

4                I'd like to take a few minutes to give you my insights  
5       and share my thoughts and my own experiences and observations  
6       about the region. Frankly, it's always a little bit  
7       intimidating for a statesman to stand before a group of  
8       academics. So I hope that you will see me instead as a son of  
9       Hawai`i and a friend of Micronesia.

10               Given my place within the government of Hawai`i and my  
11       strong ties to Micronesia, I have worked to serve as a strong  
12       advocate for the full recognition and implementation of the  
13       Compact of Free Association. In my eyes, Compact is more than a  
14       mere treaty. It is the embodiment of our debt to the people of  
15       Micronesia: People who stood steadfast when there was danger,  
16       gave support in a critical time of need, and assisted our nation  
17       in a just cause -- all at a time when it would likely have been  
18       easier and safer simply to just wait.

19               It is an expression of a spirit of joint concern and  
20       mutual respect, the (indiscernible) of people who shared a  
21       moment of sacrifice. The relationship that grows out of our  
22       Compact should be based on the spirit of sharing and joint  
23       endeavor. Any reading of the Compact on the part of the U.S.  
24       Government that has, as its principal purpose, a limitation of  
25       the duties of our government and the rights of Micronesians

1 violate that spirit.

2 But what hits close to home to me is the disservice,  
3 such as limited reading does to Hawai`i's long history of  
4 acceptance of new residents from all over the world.

5 I wish I could say that our (indiscernible) welcome  
6 and acceptance was without challenges. It has been a human  
7 history, marked by the unique new steps that mark so many human  
8 endeavors. And yet, we have shown time and time again that we  
9 can rise above these momentary lapses and make a place in our  
10 culture and our hearts for new brothers and sisters who bring so  
11 many new experiences, new views on the world, and new texture  
12 into our complex lives. We stand ready to do that again.

13 This should be the ultimate goal of the Compact and  
14 the meaning we give it, to provide opportunities for us to  
15 demonstrate our capacity for acceptance, an opportunity for  
16 those who seek to live among us and share the immense benefits  
17 of our state, our nation, and our cultures to make their  
18 contributions to our lives.

19 I'm confident that through joint efforts and shared  
20 commitments through deeper understanding, we can guide the  
21 meeting and -- (audience interruption) -- to those higher  
22 levels. I'm also confident that those Micronesians who choose  
23 to join our society and culture will embrace their own  
24 responsibilities.

25 We value education, and we make our learning resources

1 available to all. Join us in our efforts to build an educated  
2 society.

3 We value tolerance and offer you understanding. Join  
4 us in building a more tolerant society.

5 We value individual efforts that builds strong  
6 community, a strong community for all. Join us in building a  
7 more productive society.

8 We as nations, states, and individuals do not need  
9 more reasons to see ourselves as different. We have lots of  
10 that already. We need the commitment that focuses on how we are  
11 the same. We decided this today should be saying, this is all  
12 that I'm required to do. Both sides should be seeing an  
13 opportunity to do more.

14 As we examine our rights and responsibilities, let's  
15 not forget that we accomplish more with a heart filled with hope  
16 than with pages filled with words. Let's keep alive the spirit  
17 that makes us brothers and sisters, and let's advocate for an  
18 approach to these challenges that maintain our focus on what we  
19 do together, rather than what we do apart.

20 I hope today's conference is filled with deep insights  
21 for all of you and that your experiences here will follow these  
22 principles that I've laid out, the idea that we are really the  
23 same, that we are one nation, Pacific Island nations. We are  
24 together in this, and we are partners.

25 So as you go throughout the day, please know that from

1 my perspective as a senator in the State of Hawai'i and as a  
2 friend of Micronesia, I will be there to help guide this  
3 process, help provide resource, provide support, and most  
4 importantly, provide you with my understanding and my years of  
5 experience to think through some of these very complicated  
6 issues. Good luck on the conference today.

7 Please understand that it is a very trying time for us  
8 in Hawai'i state government. I don't know if you saw the papers  
9 today; but with the demise of ATA, we're looking at a very, very  
10 huge drop in tourists, and that equals a drop in revenues.  
11 Huge. We're looking at maybe \$900 million drop in revenue.  
12 So I lay this out because you may not have the governor with you  
13 this afternoon because we do meet with some very, very tough  
14 economic issues before us.

15 So on behalf of all of the people of Hawai'i, welcome  
16 to the state, welcome to our islands, and please know that we  
17 mean that. Welcome to these islands. Thank you very much.

18 \* \* \* \* \*

19 (Audience applause.)

20 EMCEE HOWARD: Thank you so much, Senator Kalani  
21 English, for such a heart-warm welcoming and insightful  
22 heartfelt remarks this morning.

23 To continue on for the day, I would like to start  
24 out with a quote from Melody (voice fades). And it says --  
25 'cause I just feel that it describes the Micronesians. It also

1 describes what has been done yesterday and all the hard efforts  
2 that we people have put into this, and it's all because of  
3 gratitude.

4                   Gratitude on the (indiscernible) of life in terms  
5 of (Indiscernible) and more. We (indiscernible) denial into  
6 acceptance; chaos into order; confusion into clarity. It turns  
7 problems (indiscernible); failures into success; the unexpected  
8 into perfect timing; and mistakes into important events; tries  
9 to makes sense of our past; brings peace to today, and creates a  
10 vision for tomorrow.

11                   Yesterday we have heard from different, many  
12 different Micronesians who have worked in this community on  
13 different programs. And the most amazing thing that stood out  
14 for me is the fact that we come from different parts of  
15 Micronesia.

16                   Yesterday was mentioned that we have different  
17 cultures in Micronesia, but I didn't see that yesterday. I saw  
18 that people were working together. People were putting aside  
19 the differences and bringing -- you know, working together to  
20 make a new Micronesian Hawai`i, to building a new community in  
21 Hawai`i.

22                   So we talked about building communities. We  
23 talked about, you know, building programs to improve  
24 communications. We also talked about building programs in the  
25 Department of Education and the Department of Health. From all

1 that too, we learned that the government of Hawai`i, aside from  
2 hearing it from Senator English this morning, is doing a lot to  
3 help us, especially here in Hawai`i.

4 So like Melody (indiscernible) states, gratitude  
5 makes sense of our past, brings peace to today, and creates a  
6 vision for tomorrow.

7 Before we continue on today with our agenda on  
8 responsibilities, rights, and responsibilities in our community  
9 efforts, I would like to bring us to the past and try to make  
10 sense of it so that we have, when we go forward with this  
11 vision, you know, we have a good vision to take and to work on.

12 So right now, I would like to humbly ask our  
13 (indiscernible) representative James Naich to please come and  
14 (indiscernible) -- sorry, I'm a little bit nervous, as you can  
15 see that -- and our (indiscernible) justice and former Compact  
16 negotiator Andon Amaraich to the stage. Thank you.

17 (Audience applause.)

18 EMCEE HOWARD: I would like to ask Ambassador Naich if  
19 you can go, right at this point, to go ahead and introduce his  
20 panel members. And they will talk to you about the  
21 (indiscernible) the association, and why we are here.

22 Compact Negotiations, Expectations, Hopes  
23 Introduction by James Naich

24 BY MR. NAICH:

25 How do you introduce a man who appears for who is like