

*Working for You...*  
AND THE STATE OF HAWAII

# Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

HAWAII STATE SENATE - DISTRICT 22  
Mililani Mauka • Wahiawā • Whitmore Village • Waip'ō Acres • Wheeler • Poamoho



**February 2016**

## Majority Whip

**Vice Chair:** Committee on Ways and Means

**Member:** Committees on Education; Government Operations; Water, Land and Agriculture.



You can view Senator Dela Cruz's senate website at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov).



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## What is Hawaii 3-to-6?

Approximately seventy-four percent of all children in Hawaii are raised by working families. Parents and the High Cost of Child Care (2015) reports that Hawaii is the fourth least affordable state for the cost of before-school or after-school care for a school-aged child in a child care center (\$8,919 in 2014) as a percentage of median income for married couples (\$87,567). The Afterschool Alliance reports that thirty-nine percent, or 59,057, of all Hawaii children who are not enrolled in an afterschool program would be likely to participate in a program if one were available in the community.

Out-of-school programs can be aligned with the school day to complement, but not duplicate, learning and can expose students to the arts, culture, literacy, fitness, math, science, character development, and community service. The purpose of out-of-school programs is to provide quality care and a quality learning experience while preventing Hawaii's youth from engaging in risky behaviors. Many out-of-school programs offered by community organizations are expensive and often inaccessible due to the high demand for services driven by the lack of out-of-school programming throughout the State. The State has a responsibility to provide its youth with a variety of educational out-of-school activities that build character and self-esteem.

Hawaii has been recognized by Afterschool Alliance as one of the top ten states for providing out-of-school programs. Numerous reports confirm that quality afterschool programs inspire and motivate children to learn, support children's social and emotional growth, and help raise academic achievement. A study of outcomes associated with participation in afterschool programs found that students regularly participating during the elementary school years showed a variety of gains, including: narrowing the math achievement gap at grade five between high-income and low-income students; improving work habits and self-sufficiency; and reducing the number of school absences. Furthermore, seventy-two per cent of parents surveyed in Hawaii agree that afterschool programs help working parents to keep their jobs.

However, each day after the school day ends, seventeen percent or approximately 36,474 of Hawaii's youth in grades K-12 are responsible for taking care of themselves.

States have supported polices known as Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs), to offer structured learning environments outside of the traditional school day hours through before- and after-school programs. They provide a range of enrichment and learning activities in various subjects, including, arts, civic engagement, language, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

During the interim, I worked with my colleagues, the Department of Education, and after-school program providers to introduce **SB3099** that would establish the Hawaii 3-to-6 program. The approximate total to fund out-of-school and after-school programs is \$21,000,000. Recognizing the importance of these programs, we are looking to at proposing a phased funding plan over the next three fiscal years, as follows:

1. Phase I, fiscal year 2016-2017: \$9,000,000

Middle schools (54 public middle schools and thirty public charter schools);

2. Phase II, fiscal year 2017-2018: \$11,000,000

High schools (44 public high schools); and

3. Phase III, fiscal year 2018-2019: \$1,000,000

Elementary schools (173 public elementary schools and 7 public charter schools)

SB3099 was recently passed out of the Committee on Education and is now in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means. I ask for your support throughout the session on **SB3099** by submitting testimony in support and forwarding this information to your family and friends.

### **District 22 Capital Improvement Projects**

#### **Mililani Mauka Elementary School:**

- \$226,000 for repairs and maintenance

To view a list of all CIP projects for District 22, please go to [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) and click on my member's page.

Participants in the Agricultural Leadership Program joined me on a site visit to learn more about the Whitmore Project. Food safety and scale of production are big issues when it comes to providing local produce for the local market. Without scaling a product, farmers are unable to justify large investments for a food safety facility.

