

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



May 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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## SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Aloha!

As the 2016 regular session came to a close, Senators, along with their House counterparts, highlighted the challenging issues that we addressed over the past several months. Each year we are faced with new challenges, the call for assistance, or to decide on policy that can shape an industry, the state for generations to come. The Legislature made significant progress in the areas of health, agriculture, and education.

Earlier during the session, Wahiawa General Hospital (WGH) announced that it was in danger of closing its doors and ending all operations if it did not receive emergency assistance. Serving over 20,000 residents and visitors per year, WGH is the largest private job center and the only major medical facility that provides emergency medical services to Central Oahu and North Shore communities. The Legislature recognized the importance of preserving WGH and included **\$2.5 million** in the state budget for **Wahiawa General Hospital** to continue operations while it develops a sustainable plan. The **Wahiawa Center for Community Health** was also awarded **\$700,000** to **renovate the Wahiawa Medical Building** and provide services to low-income residents.

Working with my colleagues, we secured **\$31 million** to purchase over **900 acres of agriculture land** between Central Oahu and the North Shore. Since 2012, Dole Food Company Inc. listed for sale over 15,000 acres of agriculture and conservation land that have been inactive since the downsizing of their pineapple production. The continuing role of the State in acquiring agriculture land moves us closer to a sustainable future in agriculture and decreases Hawaii's dependence on imported foods. Bringing farming production back onto these fallow lands will create jobs in our community. Also, there is **\$13 million** to upgrade and improve the **Galbraith Irrigation System**. Tenants of the Whitmore Project will now have diversified access to water. I remain committed to a shift towards food independence through the acquisition of land and the creation of job opportunities for our local residents.

In addition, the Legislature provided **\$1.1 million** for the planning of a **High Technology Workforce Development Center** in Central Oahu. This center will provide the workspace and environment for students and adults to train or re-train so they can find a job here in the community. I will continue to propose and support options that brings jobs back to our community, jobs, for our children so they can live, learn, work, and play in the community they call home.

I want to thank you all for your support this legislative session and I look forward to our continued work through the interim.

## LEGISLATIVE & COMMUNITY UPDATES

### DISTRICT 22 PROJECTS

I am pleased to update you on recent projects that were awarded funding:

#### **Kaala Elementary School:**

- \$127,000 to recoat the kitchen floor of Building E

#### **Wheeler Elementary School:**

- \$26,178 to repair portable fire alarms

#### **Wheeler Middle School:**

- \$1,546,588 for miscellaneous repair & maintenance

#### **Upper Poamoho Stream Bridge:**

- \$1,400,250 to finance the design to upgrade or replace the Upper Poamoho Stream Bridge. Project is expected to be completed by March 2021.



*The Senate adjourns sine die for the 28th Legislative Session. During the final days before sine die, the Legislature passed **272 bills** which are now headed to the Governor for enactment. The Governor has until **July 12, 2016** to sign or veto legislation. Bills that are not acted upon will become law without the Governor's signature.*



*Senate Ways and Means Chair Jill Tokuda, House Finance Chair Sylvia Luke, and I, as the Vice-Chair of Ways and Means join colleagues and staff to sign the committee report for HB1700, a bill relating to the state budget.*

*Senate District 22 Major Budget Highlights:*

- **\$700,000** for the Wahiawa Center for Community Health
- **\$2.5M** for Wahiawa General Hospital
- **\$13M** to upgrade the Galbraith Irrigation System
- **\$31M** to acquire 900 acres of land between Central Oahu and North Shore