



Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Hawaii State Senator



Hawaii State Senate

District 22

Serving Mililani Mauka, Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, Waipi'o Acres, Wheeler, part of Poamoho—and the State of Hawaii

May 2015

Chair, Committee on Government Operations

Member, Committees on Ways and Means; Economic Development and Technology; Education; Transportation

You can view Senator Dela Cruz's senate website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov. If you would like to receive our monthly newsletters and quarterly updates via email, we suggest that you email us your request via the Senate website.

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DISTRICT 22—CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)

The District 22 CIP requests for 2015 have been included in HB500, a bill Relating to the State Budget, that was adopted. Senator Dela Cruz reports that funds in the amount of \$10 million have been allocated for the acquisition of agricultural land that will be used for the Whitmore Project. The lands that the State is seeking to acquire are Castle & Cooke and Dole lands located in Whitmore Village and Mililani Mauka. Senator Dela Cruz worked to secure these funds because acquisition of these parcels by the state will assure the preservation of agricultural lands and prevent them from being used for development projects. This will then enable local farmers to acquire long term leases allowing agriculture to be a viable industry and thereby reducing our dependence on imported produce.

Also included in the budget bill is \$500,000 to investigate the feasibility of exchanging state land for agricultural parcels currently owned by Dole Food Company. Dole has listed over 15,000 acres of land for sale of which more than 5,000 acres are fallow agriculture land. As a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Dela Cruz worked with the Chair and was able to secure this funding for the due diligence of a land exchange.

In addition \$1 million is allocated in the budget for planning and design of a new science building at Leilehua High School.

Senator also reports that \$250,000 has been allocated in grants-in-aid funds to the Leilehua Alumni and Community Association (LACA) for positions within the ODE Leilehua complex.

A measure introduced by Senator Dela Cruz and passed is SCR185 which requests that the Department of Education organize and coordinate out-of-school programs for kindergarten through twelfth grade. Also known as after school programs, the intent is to provide structured care and activities for children who may be home alone and susceptible to risky behaviors and other dangers. Hawaii is one of the most costly states for child care and out of reach for many working families. After school programs are intended to provide affordable care and ensure that Hawaii's children are in safe and nurturing environments in the after school hours.

NOTICE OF AWARD

Senator Dela Cruz was informed that the contract for work at Wahiawa Intermediate School has been awarded. The amount of \$428,612 has been awarded to reroof and replace storm louvers. Construction is expected to begin in the near future.

SENATOR KEEPS BUSY



Senator with Bullit Hatchery owner Alex Kanamu and family. Bullit Hatchery is one of the farmers located in the Whitmore Agri-



Senator has been working with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) on identifying different crops that could potentially be farmed in the Central Oahu region. Here he works with CTAHR Extension Agent Jari Sugano on identifying different varieties of Mamaki –a native plant used to make tea.



Senator speaks to members of the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association on the need to market our local industries, such as agriculture and ag-tourism, to visitors as an attraction.



Senator tours Mililani Middle School to discuss options to address the challenges of their multi-track calendar.



Senator tours the Lion Coffee facility in Mililani Tech Park. Joining the Senator were Department of Education Institutional Analyst Camille Matsutomi, Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua Complex Area Resource Teacher, and Leilehua High School Robotics Teacher Chris Kawabata. The purpose of the site visit was to discuss creating a career pathway connecting education and future manufacturing job demand.



Senator pictured with members and guest at the Wahiawa Historical Society Annual Lunch Meeting.