

*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



January 2018

## Happy New Years!

**Chair:** Committee on Ways and Means

**Member:** Committee on Education



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



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Aloha All,

The beginning of a new year is often a time of reflection of the year gone by and we count our blessings and be thankful for family, friends and countless others who support us throughout the year. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet many people who support my initiatives and the work that I am doing and trust me to work in their behalf. My efforts are always dedicated and committed to be worthy of their trust in me.

As we begin a new session, our State continues to be faced with many challenges. These difficult times call for strong leadership and challenging work. I look forward to this opportunity to serve and to ensure we take on these challenges. My colleagues and I will continue to focus on improving and diversifying our economy, expanding programs in our public education system reversing the brain drain, and improving our quality of life through services, programs, and redevelopment.

Also, I am encouraged by the progress of the initiatives we have embarked on. The Whitmore Project has made great strides in its movement to succeeding phases and we continue to move in the direction of making Central Oahu an agricultural hub. Over the past three legislative sessions, over \$65 million was appropriated to purchase and protect agricultural lands in Central Oahu. Soon, the State will have acquired over 3,000 acres of agricultural lands between Central Oahu and the North Shore.

Included in this purchase was the 92-acre parcel in Kipapa Gulch. This parcel sits south of Mililani Mauka. By purchasing agricultural land around Mililani, the State can protect and preserve this open land in perpetuity.

The First Responders and Cyber Security Campus at Mililani Tech Park has also made much progress. Since the State closed on the purchase this past August, the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation has been working with the state and county first responder agencies to develop a timeline. Also, a project manager will soon be tasked to oversee the design and construction of the project.

As we celebrate the positives of the past year, we also look forward to the New Year with hope and enthusiasm for greater accomplishments and we reaffirm our hopes and ambitions for the future. We were challenged at times to make the right decisions and tough decisions had to be made. New challenges undoubtedly await us in the New Year as we continue to work toward making our state a place where residents are proud to call home and where succeeding generations have opportunities.

## Working for You!



**(Left)** Congratulating and recognizing the Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy's Graduating Class 47 on their completion of the five-month program. The Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy focuses on training its Cadets to be successful members of society by providing learning skills, job training, and mentorship.



**(Above Left)** My colleagues and I join together for the Opening Day of the 2018 Session. **(Above Right)** As the Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, I have been meeting with state departments to review their upcoming budget requests.

I am pleased to announce that the following schools in the Leilehua Complex will be critical projects move forward at its campus:

### Helemano Elementary School

- MJ Construction Inc.: \$306,000 for various repair and maintenance projects

### Kaala Elementary School

- United General Contracting Inc.: \$215, 618 for various repair and maintenance projects

Please bear in mind that there will be some disruption and disturbance during the construction period. For more information, please contact the Department of Education Facilities Development Branch.