



## DIRECT FROM DONOVAN ...

DONOVAN DELA CRUZ

# New Building, Schedule On The Way For Mililani Middle

Opening as the state's first multi-track school in 1998, Mililani Middle School continues to use a year-round calendar to manage more than 1,800 students on a campus built to accommodate 1,350. Students in Mililani inevitably juggle two schedules: single-track in elementary school and high school, and multi-track in middle school.

Families have had their fair share of challenges over the uncommon calendar. Frustrations with having to plan separate after-school

care and coordinating commutes become difficult. Furthermore, students lose an equivalent of five classroom days because of a law that exempts multi-track schools from providing a 180-day, 1,080-hour school year. Transitioning to a single-track schedule would provide a common calendar consistent with all other schools in the Mililani complex, and equity in student hours.

After learning about these issues, state Sen. Michelle Kidani and I introduced Act 116, which requires that the

Department of Education develop a plan to transition all multi-track schools to single-track.

The Multi-Track Transition Study recommended that the DOE acquire a portion of Mililani Mauka Community Park and build additional classrooms. Working with our colleagues, we secured \$11.5 million for an addi-

tional classroom building. The new building and transition will cost \$25 million, according to the DOE.

We also requested that an agreement be reached between the DOE and city. Honolulu City Council recently approved this by authorizing the city to work with the DOE to condemn land for the Mililani Middle School expansion. A little

over 1 acre is expected to be needed for the new building, and both parties have agreed to minimize impact on park usage. Once the transfer is complete, the DOE can begin construction.

Sen. Kidani and I remain committed to securing additional funds so that current and future families of Mililani Middle School can benefit from the transition.

We thank the Mililani community for their support, and look forward to the completion of this project.

Contact state Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, D-District 22 (Mililani Mauka-Waipio Acres-Wheeler-Wahiawa-Whitmore Village) at 586-6090 or email [sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov).

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