



**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

### DISTRICT 22—CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)

**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](http://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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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.

Further, the budget bill also includes \$1.5 million to plan and design 15 additional classrooms at Mililani Middle School. Senator Dela Cruz and Senator Kidani co-sponsored SB 1345 to transition multi-track campuses to single-track by building additional classrooms and giving overpopulated schools priority for capital improvement project funding to develop facilities. The Senate and House worked to secure the funding to add classrooms to allow Mililani Middle to transition from a multi-track to a single-track school.

Mililani Middle School was designed for 1,300 students, however, the current enrollment is at nearly 1,800 students and the campus can accommodate only two-thirds of those students per day. It was determined that compared to those on a single-track calendar, students on multi-track were losing critical instruction time and the system has also created a hardship for some working parents.

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.

# SENATOR KEEPS BUSY



Senator joins Mililani Mauka Neighborhood Board Chair and colleagues at the Chef-All Stars event .



Senator presents a plan to address the challenges of Mililani Middle School's multi-track school year calendar. The plan would include developing additional classrooms.



Senator speaking at the Central Oahu Youth Baseball League Opening Day.



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



Senator greets and speaks to Mililani Ike students visiting the capitol.



Senator discussing leadership training with Mililani Complex students.