



Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Hawaii State Senator

Chair, Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing

Vice Chair, Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

Member, Committees on Ways and Means; Agriculture; Water and Land

Happy New Year!

Following the reapportionment, 2012 elections, and other events that happened, the Senate has undergone some changes with new senators and a new President. There are also some committee changes. My new committee, now the Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing, will allow me to promote my agenda for economic development, especially for rural Oahu, and my desire to see more workforce and affordable housing. I also want to explore economic development opportunities for small businesses and agriculture. My dedication continues to be focused on working to improve our economy, creating job opportunities, increasing the supply of affordable housing and have government operate more efficiently. We want to give every resident an opportunity to be self-sufficient, gainfully employed and with a place to call home. To achieve this, we need to maximize government services. We may not be able to resolve all the problems, but whatever we are able to accomplish will certainly pave the way. My best wishes for a great new year.



Hawaii State Senate

District 22

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

January 2013

The Senate Majority Unveils Its Priorities for 2013

This year's Senate Majority theme is *No Na Mamo*, which means for all generations. The Senate Majority is committed to a vision and future for Hawai'i that will stabilize our economy and ensure a high quality of life for all generations.

This, being the first year of the Twenty-Seventh Legislative biennium, the Senate focuses on three areas and priorities for legislation that will move us toward self-reliance and sustainability.

These are:

Food and Energy Resiliency

- take steps toward developing a strong foundation that will enhance the food and agricultural self-sufficiency of our State. Currently about 85 percent of our food is imported. We hope to reduce our reliance on food imports and increase our food security.
- committed to meeting the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative's benchmarks. Resiliency in food and energy will have positive effects on our local job market and economy. We continue to support Hawai'i's farmers and small businesses..
- advance the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative. Significant progress has been made towards our goal of increasing the amount of locally produced renewable energy.
- align government regulations and policies with clean energy goals, facilitate processes for developing renewable energy, deploy renewable generation and grid infrastructure, and explore next generation technologies and new applications of existing technologies.
- encourage food resiliency across Hawai'i, by increasing production and consumption of locally grown food. The Senate will examine the progress and goals of the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative and consider replicating those efforts and goals into a workable Food Resiliency Initiative.

Supporting People, Strengthening Communities

- continue to support programs for those most in need and will continue to ensure that our keiki, kupuna, families, and individuals are protected by supporting organizations that provide essential education, health, housing, and welfare services.
- education of our keiki will remain a top priority for the Hawai'i State Senate. Collaborating with educational leaders and interested stakeholders to identify and focus on several priority educational needs and opportunities will help prepare our students to reach their potential and encourage them to be successful, productive members of the community.
- support and strengthen Hawai'i's public higher education system, being mindful that each of our ten campuses statewide is helping to prepare our students for college and career success.

Government Efficiency and Accountability

- work toward greater efficiency across all branches of government by streamlining collaboration and communication at the County, State, and Federal levels and stakeholders, including private businesses and non-profit organizations.
- support accountability and transparency of government by insisting on high standards of ethical conduct and open decision-making.
- encourage long-term planning and efficiency efforts to fundamentally change the character and delivery of government services.
- draw upon the recommendations of the Senate Special Committee on Accountability for the improvement of the operational and financial management of the University of Hawai'i and continue to support the University of Hawai'i as it carries out those recommendations and initiatives.

Updates...

Karsten Thot Bridge

Structural work on the bridge is completed and the corrosion will be painted in October of this year. Work is anticipated to be done during the evening or weekends.

Galbraith Land Purchase

The state closed the purchase of the Galbraith Estate lands and remediation of the soil to prepare it for agriculture will soon be underway.

Senator Dela Cruz speaking at Press Conference on Galbraith Estate in Governor's Office



Present for the press conference in addition to the Governor were Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Lea Hong from Trust for Public Lands, Russell Kokubun, Director of Dept. of Agriculture, officials from the military and OHA.

You can view Senator Dela Cruz's senate website at www.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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2012 in Recap

Senator encourages our next generation of leaders.



Promoting Agriculture

Senator presents his Whitmore Village Agricultural Development Plan to various organizations and groups



Agribusiness Development Corporation



Wahiawa Neighborhood Board



WCBA



UH-Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources