



Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Hawai'i State Senator



Hawaii State Senate

District 22

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

June 2014

First Responders and Cyber Security Campus

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

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.

Dane Wicker, Committee Clerk
(808) 586-7108
d.wicker@capitol.hawaii.gov

Ken Nakamoto, Legislative Aide
(808) 586-6697
k.nakamoto@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dot Fujinaga, Office Manager
(808) 586-6090
d.fujinaga@capitol.hawaii.gov

Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St., Rm. 202
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: 808-586-6090
Fax: 808-586-6091

Email:
sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Dela Cruz is proposing to situate a centralized and consolidated home for first responders in Central Oahu at the Mililani Tech Park. This would be training facilities for some agencies, headquarters for others and warehouse/storage facilities. The agencies include police, fire, EMS, sheriffs, civil defense, Hawaii National Guard, and the State's data center.

Senator Dela Cruz stated that it would make a lot of sense to do this because there are four military bases nearby and a major airfield across the street. It is also out of the inundation zone.

Thus far, more than \$11 million have been appropriated toward this effort. The plan is to purchase land from its current owner, Castle & Cooke, for the facility which would be situated on 150 acres of land.

Honolulu police and fire departments, EMS, Dept. of Public Safety and state data services support the plan. Currently, the state's computing resources are scattered in various locations and this campus would allow the consolidation and centralization of the data center and allow the sharing of resources and support services.

State Civil Defense is studying the proposal of moving its headquarters from Diamond Head to Mililani Tech Park. This centralized campus will not mean that every agency will move all of its services to this location but for those agencies presently without a headquarters, this will offer them a location for their facilities.

In addition this new campus has the potential of creating jobs. A timetable for this project is currently being worked on and hopefully the Governor will release the funds for the purchase of the land to allow this project to proceed.

Key Election Dates

Below are key dates to remember for this year's Primary and General Election:

Primary Election
Voter Registration deadline: July 10
Absentee deadline: Aug. 2
Election: Aug. 9

General Election
Voter Registration deadline: Oct. 6
Absentee deadline: Oct. 28
Election: Nov. 4

If you know of anyone who has yet to register to vote, or would like to apply for Permanent Absentee voting, please click the link below.

[Wiki Wiki Voter Registration and Permanent Absentee Application](#)

EBT Card Use at Open Markets

Provides low-income families access to fresh, healthy foods

The Department of Human Services (DHS) announced that low-income individuals and families they can now use their SNAP benefits at specific Farmers' Markets and the City's People's Open Markets (POMs) to purchase fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables. SNAP also can purchase breads and cereals, meats, fish, poultry and dairy products at open markets, as well as seeds and plants that produce food that can be eaten. SNAP is the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program formerly known as "food stamps."

The City and County of Honolulu's People's Open Market is at the Wahiawa District Park on Tuesdays, 10:00 –11:00 a.m. and at the Mililani District Park, 94-1150 Lanikuhana Avenue, 11:45 a.m. –12:30 p.m. The Farmers Market is at Mililani High School, 95-1200 Meheula Parkway, on Sundays, 8 to 11 a.m., and Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission, 1067 California Avenue, on Thursdays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

An average of 94,649 households per month received SNAP benefits in FY 2013. An average of 187,062 individuals per month received SNAP; and the State of Hawaii issued an average of \$484.9 million per year in SNAP benefits. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded Hawaii a \$724,134 bonus for the most improved SNAP Program Access Index (PAI) in the United States. The PAI Index measures the average number of number of low-income persons, at or below 125% of the federal poverty line, who receive SNAP benefits.

In addition to ensuring that SNAP beneficiaries have access to fresh food, the ability to process EBT cards also benefits open market vendors and our local farmers. Every \$5.00 in SNAP benefits generates \$9.00 in community spending. The DHS EBT Office has been working with Farmers' Markets to assist with the purchasing of EBT equipment and operating the devices.

To learn more about the Hawaii SNAP and EBT programs, visit the DHS website www.humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/snap.

To apply for an EBT Point of Service call (808) 586-5739 or email ghayes@dhs.hawaii.gov.

To learn more about the Honolulu People's Open Market (POM) Program, visit <http://www.honolulu.gov/parks/dprpom.html>.

For the Mililani Farmers Market, run by the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, call 260-4440 or visit hfbf.org/markets.

For the Wahiawa Hongwanji Farmers Market, call 621-7097.

To learn more about EBT use at Farmers' Markets visit the US Food and Nutrition Service <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

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Senator Dela Cruz conducting a tour of the Whitmore Project areas. Here at the Poamoho Extension Station experimental tea field.



Senator meeting with CTAHR and HDOA staff and community members regarding Wahiawa Freshwater Park.



Senator presents the Whitmore Project to Central DOE principals and agriculture instructors to explain how ag programs could promote a career in agriculture with the re-emergence of agriculture in Central Oahu.