

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



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Chair: Committee on Ways and Means

Member: Committee on Education



You can view Senator Dela Cruz's senate website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.



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Live, Learn, Work And Play

Nationwide rural communities are facing a common situation, population loss of our graduates and a dwindling labor market. Add to it Hawaii's high cost of living, and you have the cycle of youth saying aloha to the Aloha State in search of other opportunities.

The purpose of Live, Learn, Work, Play (LLWP) is to provide a pipeline from curriculum to workforce readiness. LLWP has developed a process that aligns industry and curriculum. This helps close the skills gap that has been a challenge to many industries and further helps to reverse the brain drain. Specifically in Wahiawa, the Leilehua Complex is focusing on cybersecurity and computer science to reverse these trends.

Why cybersecurity?

We have coordinated a partnership between the National Security Agency/Central Security Service Hawai'i (NSA/SCC) and the Department of Education Leilehua Complex. Through this partnership, a Cybersecurity and Computer Science was established at Leilehua High School. This pathway aligns it with the skillset needed for a career with the NSA and other high paying jobs that will keep our graduates in Hawaii. a solution to reversing the brain drain, diversifying the economy, and allows students to get an education linked to an industry within their community and provides the opportunity for them to remain in Hawai'i.

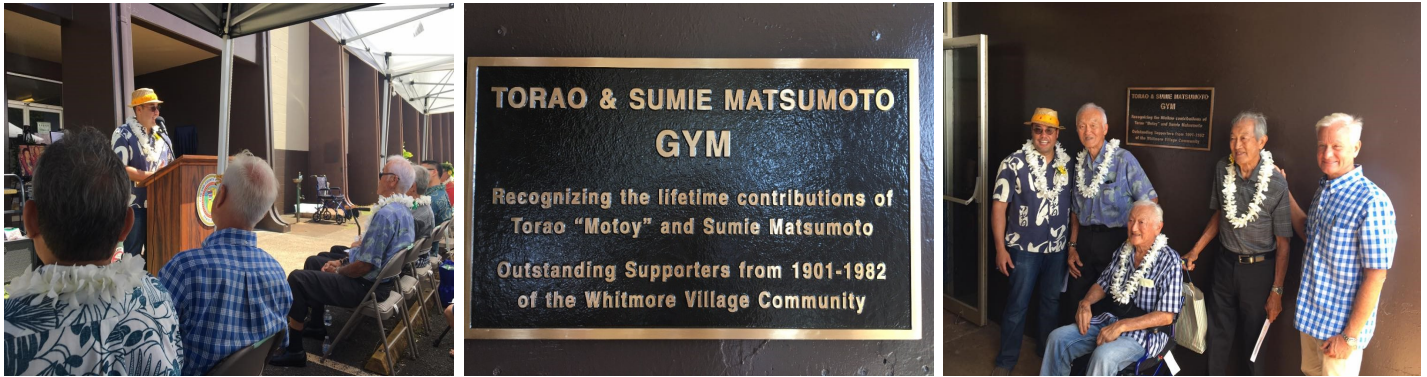
Included in the pathway is the opportunity to participate in the NSA's High School Work Study program which is open to all high school students entering their senior year.

What have we accomplished?

As a result of our efforts, I am pleased to announce that the work study not only one of our LLWP students that participated in the work study program were offered positions, but two. We have had two students participate in the work study program, one of them has since been offered a hired position at NSA!

We also have a Cyber Security Event coming up, where this year's student who is participating in the NSA's High School Work Study Program will be recognized for their achievements.

Working for the Community!



Whitmore Village couple honored with gym's renaming (Courtesy of Rob Shikina at Star Advertiser)

City officials renamed a Whitmore Village gym to recognize a couple for their contributions to the community. Two of the couple's sons helped unveil the plaque bearing the facility's new name: Torao & Sumie Matsumoto Gym. Affixed to the outer wall of the gym at Whitmore Community Park, the plaque describes the Matsumotos as "outstanding supporters" of Whitmore Village.

The Matsumotos ran Whitmore Supermarket, the only grocery store in Whitmore Village at the time, just a stone's throw from the gymnasium. (Another market now stands where the Matsumotos' store was.) Their store was a gathering place for the community for decades, providing services such as cashing checks for plantation workers and allowing community members to buy groceries on credit. (The family is not related to Matsumoto's Shave Ice.)

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz introduced a resolution to rename the gym after the Matsumotos when he was still a city councilman. The resolution was passed in 2010, but the renaming ceremony was stalled by other priorities. Dela Cruz, who grew up in Whitmore Village, said when he introduced the resolution he wanted to do something so people would remember the history and values of the community.

He recalled walking to the store in the '80s as a young boy, and said the Matsumotos were compassionate, generous, disciplined, hard-working and humble. "No task was beneath them," Dela Cruz said.

"They would lead by example. They showed a lot of humility by doing some of the most difficult tasks themselves," Dela Cruz said.

He said Whitmore Village is a tight-knit community formed by plantation camps that were merged in the '40s and '50s and that the Matsumotos' store played a central role.

One of the Matsumotos' four sons, Toraki Matsumoto, served as a Honolulu city councilman for 17 years before his death in 2015. He helped secure the funding for the gymnasium that now bears his parents' names.

City Managing Director Roy Amemiya, who also grew up in Whitmore Village, recalled signing his name to buy groceries on credit at the store as an 8-year-old in the '60s. He recalled one summer when the Matsumotos helped the neighborhood kids attend the Summer Fun program in Wahiawa. The kids didn't have transportation because their parents were working, so the Matsumotos bought a used school bus and had their son take the kids to the program and bring them back. "They were just pillars of this community," Amemiya said.

Harold Matsumoto, who helped run the store, said his parents allowed customers to buy on credit "just to make sure they didn't starve." He said he was honored by the renaming ceremony. "I didn't think this would happen," he said.