



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

September 2014

PROPOSED ARMY CUTBACKS IN WAHIAWA

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.

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There have been recent reports of the proposed cutbacks to Army personnel in Hawaii, specifically at Fort Shafter and Schofield. The Army, along with other government entities, faces challenges in adhering to savings required by the Budget Control Act of 2011, and troop reduction is a consideration in meeting the savings required by the Act. As a result, Fort Shafter and Schofield are two of the 30 Army installations nationwide targeted for reduction.

The potential combined reduction of 19,800 Army personnel from both installations could result in a significant socioeconomic impact to Hawaii as the military is the second significant impact on our economy after tourism. The Army's presence at Schofield definitely impacts the economy of Wahiawa as the community has depended on the Army for economic stability especially after the demise of the plantations. Further, the Army has partnered with the community on many community projects and especially at our public schools where they provide academic help through tutoring and mentoring.

Troop reduction continues to be an issue as long as budget shortfalls need to be addressed. We need to recognize that Schofield, as a major Army installation in Hawaii, will potentially continue to be targeted for troop reduction because of the numbers there. This is why we need to diversify the economy to allow us to sustain our economy so we are not significantly impacted by reduction in military personnel or as happened with the plantations.

Projects we are currently working on will help us to maintain economic stability. The Whitmore Project, which will create an agricultural hub in Central Oahu; the Pacific Center on Aging, which will focus on research and development of products for geriatric care; and the First Responders Technology Campus, which will provide headquarters, training facilities and a data center for several state and county agencies.



Senator meets with state, community and private sector officials regarding the Pacific Center on Aging.



Senator meets with first responders and cyber security officials regarding the First Responders Technology Campus.



Senator takes group on Whitmore Project site visit to the Poamoho Agricultural Research Center.

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING REGARDING THE REPAIR AND REPAINTING OF KARSTEN THOT BRIDGE

The State Department of Transportation will be conducting a public informational meeting on its plans to repair and repaint the Karsten Thot Bridge. Work will involve repair of the deteriorated steel bridge framing and connections, railings, and repainting of the steel bridge. The presentation will include project need, overview of the work required, construction information program, construction schedule, temporary traffic control, followed by a question and answer session.

The department has filed a Noise Variance with the Department of Health to allow construction during night hours. They are doing night work to minimize any disruption of traffic.

Thursday, September 18, 2014

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Wahiawa District Park—Hale Hookipa Building Multipurpose Room

Questions regarding the meeting—please call Li Nah Okita at 692-7581

PROJECT AWARDS...

Wahiawa Elementary School: \$558,170 for a student drop-off area and parking.

Wheeler Elementary School: \$2,454,761 for temporary facilities.

Work to begin soon, on both projects, if it hasn't already started.

Mililani Middle School: \$300,000 for design and construction to resurface parking lot. Governor released funds for this project.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH 75TH ANNIVERSARY



Senator presents a Senate Certificate to Father Richard McNally.



Senator with guests at the 75th anniversary celebration.



AYSO OPENING DAY



Senator hands out green beans.



Senator by his booth helping to hand out shave ice and popcorn.

