



**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 Hawai'i

April 2015

### CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) BUDGET REQUEST

**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 request for 2015 has been included in HB500, a bill Relating to the State Budget. Funds in the amount of \$10 million have been allocated for the acquisition of an additional 500 acres of agricultural land that will be used for the Whitmore Project.

The lands that the State is seeking to acquire are Castle & Cooke/Dole lands located in Whitmore Village and Mililani Mauka. By purchasing these parcels the state will be able to preserve agricultural lands from being used for development projects and provide local farmers with long term leases allowing agriculture to be a viable industry and thereby reducing our dependence on imported produce.

The Legislature is entering the conference phase, which means that both Senate and House committees select members to be on the conference committees to discuss bills to reach a consensus. Conferees for the conference committee comprised of members of the House Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means have been selected. Senator Dela Cruz is a member of this conference committee. They will meet over the next couple of weeks to discuss the specifics and form a consensus on the state budget. Included for discussion is HB500. Hopefully, this bill will emerge from conference allowing the acquisition of the lands by the state.

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### LAND EXCHANGE BILL

The land exchange bill has been passed by the Senate and referred to conference committee. The conferees for this committee have not been selected as yet.

### RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

\$200,000 has been released by the Governor's office for resurfacing of the Mililani Mauka Elementary School parking lot surface which has deteriorated.

## UPDATES

### Multi-track Campuses: SB1345—Relating to Public Schools

The purpose and intent of this measure is to transition public schools away from the multi-track schedule and give overpopulated schools priority for capital improvement projects in order to develop facilities to accommodate the student population. Support for this bill includes the Department of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association.

The multi-track schedule is not driven by educational outcomes, but is simply a strategy for accommodating a larger number of students by always having one track of students on break, and utilizing facilities year-round. Transitioning schools from a multi-track schedule will likely require a number of actions which may include construction of new classroom buildings on existing campuses. Cafeterias, gymnasiums, and auditoriums will also need to be evaluated to determine whether modifications would be necessary to accommodate a greater population of students.



Senator discussing at the Mililani Mauka Neighborhood Board meeting the Mililani Middle School multi-track system and the proposal to expand the school campus to accommodate students without using the multi-track system.



Senator discussing the expansion of Mililani Middle School campus with DOE superintendent and other executives.

### LFA:

The eradication program for the little fire ant (LFA) infestation in a Mililani Mauka neighborhood is showing early signs of success. After completing five of the eight planned treatments in the six-acre infestation zone, spot surveys have not detected LFA.

Mililani Mauka was the first infestation in a residential area on Oahu. After the Department of Agriculture sent out survey teams and identified 22 properties, the department went to work. Treatment of the infested areas included baiting in trees and ground treatment using approved pesticides. The state will administer three more treatments and continue to monitor the area for another 2-3 years.

For more information on LFA in Hawaii, go to the HDOA website: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/main/lfainfo/>



Senator at speaking at the LFA community meeting in Mililani Mauka. Present were state officials to address any concerns.