



**Donovan M. Dela Cruz**  
Hawai'i 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

Aloha!

As we near the end of the session with a couple of weeks to go till Sine Die, the Senate is currently in conference committees with the House to resolve differences in bills each hopes to get passed. Some good legislation may have to be introduced again next year as passage this year seems dim as differences could not be resolved while others were passed with changes agreed on by both chambers. I was happy to be chairing a new committee this session, the Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing as it gives me the opportunity to promote my agenda for economic revitalization for my district through the revival of agriculture as a dominant industry. I also want to see more affordable and workforce housing and have government operate more efficiently. Through my committee we will continue to work to accomplish this.

A Hui Hou,



# 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  
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### More for Agriculture

Senator Dela Cruz received a communication from the Governor informing him that funds are being released for the following project in Central Oahu. Senator Dela Cruz was pleased to be informed of this as this is another component of the Whitmore Plan that is needed to support those farmers who will be farming on the Galbraith lands the state recently acquired.

**State Packing and Processing Facility** - \$3,500,000 for a state packing and processing facility. The projected facility is on a 24-acre parcel located in Whitmore Village on lands currently owned by the Castle & Cooke Company. Last year, the State finalized the sale of 1,700+ acres of prime farm land known as the Galbraith Estate. With the State moving closer to finalizing the transaction to add another 24 acres, the infrastructure and warehouse facilities currently on these lands will assist farmers with storage, processing, and packaging and will be another step to having the Whitmore Plan implemented. Senator Dela Cruz stated that each step will bring reality of agricultural revival in Central Oahu that much closer. The goal is to increase agricultural productivity and make the state less dependent on imported food.



Former Dole facilities in Whitmore Village



### Transportation Improvements

Senator Michelle Kidani, Representative Ryan Yamane and Senator Dela Cruz held a transportation town hall meeting recently in Mililani to discuss various transportation issues with the pertinent departments. The big news for Mililani residents is the resurfacing of streets. Work will be done in three sections—lower Mililani (below Kamehameha Highway), middle Mililani (Mililani Town) and upper (Mauka)—and is expected to start later this year. Contracts have been awarded and the entire project will take approximately one and a half years to complete. The last road to be done will be Meheula Parkway as it has extensive damage caused by tree roots and will involve a different approach to resurfacing. Various other issues were addressed and updates given which will be addressed in another issue of the newsletter.



Senator Dela Cruz discusses transportation issues with Mililani residents.



Senator Dela Cruz and Representative Yamane



Senate President Donna Mercado Kim, Senator Dela Cruz and Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, with Coach Spiridigliozzi, David Williams and Seth Allen.

## Leilehua High School Cyberpatriots

Senator Dela Cruz presented a Senate certificate to the Leilehua High School Cyberpatriots who won the top U. S. Army Service Award at CyberPatriot V, the nation's premier high school cyber defense competition in Washington, D.C. Students from all 50 states competed with over 800 teams competing. The Leilehua High School Army JROTC Cyberpatriot team has won this award for the second consecutive year. Team members are Sharon Thpsenavong, Michael Grajales, David Williams, Seth Allen and Kawika Lavarias, and Coach LTC (Ret.) Nicholas J. Spiridigliozzi.



Senator Dela Cruz greets farmers.

## Ag Day at the Capitol

The Hawaii Farm Bureau hosts its annual Ag Day at the State Capitol where the agriculture industry displays, sells and provides samples of its variety of products. This year Ag Day was held on March 28. Senator Dela Cruz, as an advocate of farmers and agriculture, supports this annual event to enhance public awareness of the importance of local grown produce, aquaculture, livestock and poultry.



Senator Dela Cruz discusses agriculture with farmers.

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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## Wahiawa Town Hall Meeting

With Senator Dela Cruz and Representative Marcus Oshiro



## In the Community



Blessing and Rededication of Whitmore Circle Apartments



Senator presenting his Whitmore Plan to the Mililani/Melemanu/Waipio Neighborhood Board