



DIRECT FROM DONOVAN ...

STATE SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ

State Teams Up With Project Vision To Support Keiki

Do you remember receiving vision screening when you were in school?

I'm glad to announce that the state is partnering with Project Vision Hawai'i to bring vision screening back for our keiki.

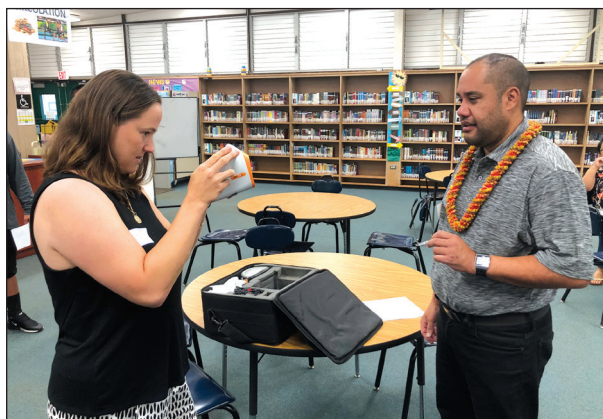
Project Vision has the only mobile health-screening programs that provide statewide services in communities with significant access-to-care challenges related to income, lack

of insurance, geographical location or cultural conflict. To date, Project Vision has provided free medical screening services to more than 115,000 patients across the state, including high populations of seniors, children from low-income families, immigrants and individuals with disabilities.

Students with uncorrected

vision problems often avoid reading, suffer headaches and have trouble focusing on class discussions. These symptoms make affected children less likely to reach the important educational milestone of reading proficiency by the end of third grade, making them more likely to fall behind in classes and drop out of school. The problem is particularly prevalent in low-income and rural areas of Hawai'i.

The organization's four mobile screening units travel to communities statewide, and have digital imaging equipment that take high-quality photos of the eye in less than 10 minutes. Using these photos, ophthalmologists can review the images to detect eye conditions like cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and



(Above left) Elizabeth "Annie" Valentin, executive director of Project Vision, gives the author a quick lesson on vision screening. (Above right) Valentin and the author join Ursula Kawaguchi (right), Wahiawā Middle School principal, for a group photo while on campus. **PHOTOS COURTESY STATE SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ'S OFFICE**

macular degeneration.

Since I've joined the state Senate, we've dedicated nearly \$1 million to Project Vision to provide free vision screenings. We're focusing on Title I schools to ensure that services go to our most needy students.

In August, we were at Leilehua High and Wahiawā Middle schools, screening all students in grades 6-12. In October, Project Vision and I will return to Wahiawā Middle School to provide prescription glasses to those



who need them.

To learn more, find me on Facebook or Instagram (@senatordonovandelacruz). We will be sharing photos from the event.

Contact state Sen. Donovan

DeLa Cruz (District 22 – Mililani Mauka, Launani Valley, Wahiawā, Waipi'o Acres, Wheeler, Whitmore Village) at 586-6090, send-elacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov or in person at Room 208 at the state Capitol.