

## January 2016

## **Majority Whip**

Vice Chair: Committee on Ways and Means

Member: Committees on Education; Government Operations; Water, Land and Agriculture.



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



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Email: sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov Aloha and Happy New Year!

The legislature will be opening the 2016 legislative session this Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. As we have already begun to draft and introduce legislation, my focus and priorities will continue to build upon the following achievements we have completed over the years:

With your support over the years we made significant progress in the areas of agriculture and education. This past session we were able to secure over \$10 million to purchase over an additional 400 acres of farmland in Whitmore Village and Milliani Mauka areas. Tenants of the Whitmore Project have begun to prep and plant their first crops!

In addition, working with the Chairwoman on the Committee on Education, Sen. Michelle Kidani, we introduced Senate Bill 1345 (Act 116) to prioritize construction of additional classrooms for overcrowded schools such as Mililani Middle School. We recently held a community meeting updates parents and residents about our plan to construct new classrooms at Mililani Middle School.

I am also working with the committee chairs on the Committee on Education and the Committee on Ways & Means on a bill that would establish an after-school and out-of-school program called "Hawaii 3-to-6". I will explain more about this program in my next newsletter

Lastly, over the interim I've been meeting with various stakeholders and groups on the Live, Learn, Work, Play model, which creates the cybersecurity pathway for the Leilehua Complex. Working with my colleagues we are aligning curriculum with career so our children can graduate with the skills they need for a careers that can be found here in Hawaii. For more about the Live, Learn, Work, Play model please click HERE.

If you would like more information on any of the above mentioned projects, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 586-6090.

I look forward to your continued support as we work to move Hawaii forward this legislative session!

Mahalo

## **COMMUNITY UPDATES**



(Left) Presenting to the Mililani Middle School parents and residents of the community about a plan to construct additional classrooms at the school to alleviate the overcrowded classrooms and transition from a multi-track school year calendar to a single track calendar, which will provide a common calendar for Mililani families.

(Below) Presented Live, Learn, Work Play at the Leilehua Alumni Community Association's NSA Reception where we discussed the partnership between the National Security Agency and Leilehua Complex to build the cyber security pathway. Joined Superintendent Kathy Matayoshi to discuss LLWP and how we are aligning curriculum to career.









(Left) Sugarland Farms, a tenant of the Whitmore Project, has prepped and begun to plant their first crops.