#### 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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Aloha and Happy New Year!

The legislature opened the 2016 legislative session on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 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 Mililani Mauka areas. Tenants of the Whitmore Project have begun to prep and plant their first crops!

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 careers that can be found here in Hawaii. For more about the Live, Learn, Work, Play model.

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



Page 2 District 22—Update

### COMMUNITY UPDATES



(Left) I joined Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi on Bytemarks Café to discuss Live, Learn, Work, Play and how we are aligning curriculum to career pathways. Precise alignment between education and industry will ensure that Hawaii retains its local graduates so they can earn living wages and remain in their communities.

## **District 22 Capital Improvement Projects**

I am pleased to updated you on recent projects that were awarded funding:

### **Helemano Elementary School:**

\$226,000 for repairs and maintenance

# **Wahiawa Elementary School**

• \$35,000 for repairs and maintenance

To view a list of all CIP projects for District 22, please go to www.capitol.hawaii. GOV and click on my member's page.





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