

Working for You...
AND THE STATE OF HAWAII

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

HAWAII STATE SENATE - DISTRICT 22
Mililani Mauka • Wahiawā • Whitmore Village • Waip'ō Acres • Wheeler • Poamoho



April 2016

Majority Whip

Vice Chair: Committee on Ways and Means

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



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THE SENATE APPROVES A FISCALLY EQUITABLE BUDGET

The Senate passed HB1700, HD1, SD1, which adjusts and makes appropriations to the state budget for fiscal year 2017. The Senate Ways and Means Committee, of which I am Vice Chair, worked diligently to ensure the needs of our communities would be met in the areas of housing, education, and agriculture, while remaining mindful of the current needs of the Administration and the community at large. Capital Improvement Projects for District 22 are included in HB1700.

Mandated by Article XI, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands, the Senate appropriated \$107 million to purchase over 8,000 acres of agricultural between Central Oahu and the North Shore. This will prevent prime agricultural lands from being developed and enable local farmers to receive long-term leases to scale agricultural products which will reduce Hawaii's dependence on imported agricultural goods.

A creative solution to provide assistance to the Wahiawa General Hospital is also included in the Senate Draft. Working with the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Chair, the Senate announced that it would appropriate \$5 million to purchase two parking lot parcels owned by the Wahiawa Hospital Association, with the option of leasing the parcels back to the Hospital at a nominal rate. The Hospital will receive financial assistance while they work to create a sustainable plan for the future. This proposal will ultimately have to be approved by the Hospital Board and the administration.

The Legislature is entering the conference phase, which means that both Senate and House committees select members to be on conference committees. All budget proposals presented by the Senate will now have to be discussed during conference. Conferees comprised of members of the House Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means will be selected to discuss the state budget. As the Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, I will be a member of the conference committee which will deliberate and form a consensus on the state budget. Hopefully, this bill will emerge from conference with funding that will support the communities of District 22.

LEGISLATIVE & COMMUNITY UPDATES

HAWAII THREE-TO-SIX

SB3099, which establishes the Hawaii 3-to-6 Out-of-School Program and Special Fund was passed by the House and will be discussed in Conference Committee. This program will provide dedicated funding for out-of-school programs for grades kindergarten through twelve.

LAND EXCHANGE BILL

The land exchange bill, SB1374, was passed by the House and will be discussed in Conference Committee. This bill proposes exchanging agricultural land owned by Dole Food Company in Central Oahu for state-owned land along the rail corridor.

MILILANI MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION TO SINGLE TRACK

During the 2015 Legislative Session the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, Act 116, which required the Dept. of Education (DOE) to develop a plan to transition multi-track calendar schools to single track calendars and submit a report to the Legislature. Mililani Middle is one of the three schools remaining on a multi-track calendar.

Although this report has not been submitted, documents in this report will allow DOE to begin the acquisition process. Mililani Middle needs 1-acre to build additional classrooms. Our timeline is to simultaneously appropriate funding so work can begin immediately following the State taking possession. Bringing a common calendar to the Mililani Complex will benefit the Mililani community.



The Senate honors Hawaii Teachers of the Year. Mililani Middle School teacher **Lynn Yoshioka** was recognized as the **Central District Teacher of the Year**.



Mililani legislators attend **Tyler Emoto's** Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Sen. Dela Cruz presented Tyler with a Senate certificate for this achievement.