April 2018

Chair:

Committee on Ways and Means

Member:

Committee on Education



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



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Senate Draft of State Budget Includes Key Items for District 22

The Senate passed the State Budget bill, House Bill 1900 HD1 SD1, which adjusts appropriations for Fiscal Biennium 2017-19 funding for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

With additional revenues projected by the Council on Revenues and from the arbitration settlement with the tobacco industry, the Senate draft adds \$53.9 million to Act 49, SLH2017 for Fiscal Year 2019. The Senate's total operating budget for the Executive branch is \$14.3 billion, with an additional \$674.8 million in general obligation bonds appropriated for Capital Improvement Projects

This draft reflects Senate priorities such as issues relating to homelessness, health, and education that impacts local residents in each county. Other highlights include funding for:

- Agriculture programs and services;
- Early Childhood Education, Early College, and Hawaii Promise;
- Natural resource preservation;
- Critical Medicaid and adult dental health care services:
- Rapid Re-housing, Housing First, and the implementation of Ohana Zones

The Senate prioritized Kupuna care in response to Hawaii's aging population. By 2035, one-third of the State's population will be over 60. The Senate recognized the need for home and community-based services and included \$3.9 million for Kupuna Care, \$4 million for the Kupuna Caregiver Fund and \$1.7 million for Aging and Disability Resource Centers around the State.

The Senate Draft also includes key projects that are critical for our district. These are capital improvement projects that are included:

- \$4.7 million to acquire agricultural lands in Central Oahu and irrigation wells.
- \$6.5 million for the First Responders Tech Campus & Cyber Security Data Center
- \$1.5 million for plans and design for a new administration building and library at Helemano Elementary School
- \$1.8 million to renovate the Wahiawa Public Library

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate as well as the House to pass a balanced State Budget that provides needed services, invests in economic development as well as job creation for our community.

Working for You



The Ono Loco Restaurant has opened in Wahiawa at the former Takano Store. Mahalo to John and Carla for inviting me to the Grand Opening



Rep. Learmont and I hosted a joint town hall meeting on emergency preparedness. The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Department of Education, and Department of Emergency Management were to present to inform Wahiawa and Whitmore Village residents about how to be prepared for various hazards.



The Senate honored the Leilehua High School Cyber Patriots Team for qualifying for the Cyber Patriot National Championships. This is the second consecutive year the team is headed to the national finals.

Projects for the District

I am pleased to announce the following projects in the district will be moving forward soon:

- Wheeler Middle School: \$520,000 Repair and Maintenance
- ALEA Bridge: \$ 1 million Resource and Navigation Center

Please bear in mind that there will be some disruption and disturbance during the construction period. For more information, please feel free to contact my office.