

Working for you...
AND THE STATE OF HAWAII

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

HAWAII STATE SENATE - DISTRICT 22

Mililani Mauka • Wahiawā • Whitmore Village • Waipūo Acres • Wheeler • Poamoho



May 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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Legislature Sine Dies for 2018 Session

During this past session, as Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, I worked with my Senate and House colleagues to pass a balanced budget which addresses issues the Legislature prioritized relating to agriculture, homelessness, health, education and higher education.

One of my priorities this year was to address the needs of **Helemano Elementary School**. Currently, the school uses two classrooms as its school library and there is shortage of office space. Working with my colleagues, the Legislature included **\$1.5 million** in the state budget to plan and design a new school library and administration building. I am hopeful that investing these funds will provide our students and teachers with 21st Century facilities.

In addition, the State saw that it was prudent to provide more support for our Alternative Learning Centers. The Central District's **High Core/Storefront program** serves at-risk teens from the **Leilehua and Mililani Complexes** who require additional support and attention. Statistics show students from the ages of 12-16 have the highest chances of participating in risky behavior. Alternative teaching methods have proven to positively affect their outcome. Believing in the program's effectiveness, the Legislature appropriated **\$4.5 million** for new and existing Alternative Learning Centers. By providing direct funding, the current weighted student formula funds are able to remain with the complexes.

The state budget also includes key projects for Wahiawa and Whitmore Village. The projects below will go a long way to benefit our community:

- **\$6.5 million** to grade and prepare lands in **Mililani Tech Park** for the First Responders Tech Campus & Cyber Security Data Center
- **\$4.7 million** to acquire agricultural lands in **Central Oahu** and add water access for irrigation
- **\$3 million** for a multi-agency building to include a new public library, Department of Education offices, and community college classrooms
- **\$1.8 million** to address immediate repair and maintenance of the **Wahiawa Public Library**
- **\$1.5 million** to renovate the **Intensive Learning Centers Portables at Leilehua High School**
- **\$800,000** for repair and maintenance at **Wahiawa General Hospital**
- **\$800,000** to address invasive and hazardous plant mitigation on the **Galbraith Lands**
- **\$500,000** to renovate the **Wahiawa Center for Community Health**
- **\$200,000** for **ALEA Bridge** to conduct homeless outreach services in **Central Oahu**
- **\$180,000** for **pilot telehealth projects** in rural areas which includes **Wahiawa**
- **\$150,000** for the **Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization** to develop community projects in the district

Finally, I am happy to announce the Governor released the \$1 million grant-in-aid to ALEA Bridge for a Navigation and Resource Center. The center is a much needed asset and will provide emergency and bridge housing options, onsite supportive services, and a hygiene facility for homeless individuals. We are actively addressing the community's concerns by supporting outreach organizations that provide services to homeless individuals.

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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 (left)

Kaala Elementary's Junior Mahiai Parent Night where students are showcasing crops that they've been growing and testing healthy recipes with the ingredients! Mahalo to Principal Bennett for encouraging new programs! (right)



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. (left)

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.