



Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Hawai'i State Senator



Hawaii State Senate

District 22

Serving Mililani Mauka, Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, Waipi'o Acres, Wheeler, part of Poamoho—and the State of Hawai'i

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Transitioning Multi-Track Campuses to Single-Track

Chair, Committee on Government Operations

Member, Committees on Ways and Means; Economic Development and Technology; Education; Transportation

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Dane Wicker, Committee Clerk
(808) 586-7108
d.wicker@capitol.hawaii.gov

David Cho, Legislative Aide
(808) 586-6697
d.cho@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dot Fujinaga, Office Manager
(808) 586-6090
d.fujinaga@capitol.hawaii.gov

Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St., Rm. 202
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: 808-586-6090
Fax: 808-586-6091

Email:
sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov

Mililani Middle School is one of four campuses still on the multi-track system. Adopted over 10 years ago, the system establishes a calendar in which different groups of students start their school year in different periods of time throughout the calendar year.

This system has resulted in a burden on families and especially parents juggling several schedules between work and their child's school schedule but ultimately, this has resulted in a negative impact on the student as they lost up to 42 instructional days per school year by the year 2019 if certain issues are not addressed.

The multi-track school year was instituted as a solution to address overcrowded campuses. However, coordinating a mandatory instructional school year schedule along with a constant rotation of students and staff throughout a twelve-month year, has not been easy. The problem still lies with campuses lacking an adequate inventory of classrooms to accommodate their student population.

Working with my colleagues, we introduced SB 1345 which will require the Department of Education to develop a transition plan to end multi-track schedules in public schools and prioritize capital improvement spending on campuses that are overcrowded. The bill was scheduled for first reading and passed out of the Committee on Education. It will then be heard in the Committee on Ways and Means.



At Mililani Middle School Senator with DOE and school officials and legislators discussing multi-track and new classrooms.

LAND EXCHANGE

This session, along with my colleagues, we introduced SB 1374, which requests funds to investigate the possibility of exchanging state lands for 15,000 acres of former pineapple lands between Wahiawa and the North Shore owned by Dole Food Company that the company has listed for sale. These parcels include agriculture and conservation areas.

The state owns land along the Honolulu rail corridor such as the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) site in Kalihi. The state has been looking at building a new jail facility next to Halawa prison to replace the old and overcrowded OCCC facility. However, funding was not immediately available.

The land exchange would allow the state to give Dole the OCCC site in Kalihi, along with other state-owned land along the transit corridor for additional value and have the company pay for the new prison in Halawa. What this would accomplish is the state having a new prison without spending any money and at the same time acquire ag land to allow farmers the chance to acquire long-term leases and enable them to obtain funding to make investments in their operations.



Senator discusses the future of agriculture and long term leases for farmers on land acquired by the state and the possibility of the state acquiring additional acres

SENATOR 'S PRESENTATION BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII--MANOA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



Senator was invited to do a presentation to the School of Architecture at the University of Hawaii. The title of his presentation was "If Government Has Lost Its Appreciation for Architecture, Who Designs the future?"