

Working for You...
AND THE STATE OF HAWAII

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

HAWAII STATE SENATE - DISTRICT 22
Mililani Mauka • Wahiawā • Whitmore Village • Waipio Acres • Wheeler • Poamoho



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Majority Whip

Vice Chair: Committee on Ways and Means

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



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Wahiawa Wastewater Reclaim Project and Pumped-Storage Hydroelectricity

Researching the history of Lake Wilson, I came across the following quote:

"The greatest irrigation proposition ever undertaken in the Hawaiian Islands is the Wahiawa dam, which will soon be under course of construction in the Wahiawa valley, some miles from Honolulu...It will also be used for irrigating fruit lands to a colony of settlers in the immediate vicinity of the dam and for generating electric power."

No acknowledgment as to whom made that statement back on September 19, 1904 but I found it very relevant even over a century later. Lake Wilson is a huge economic asset. It has the potential to help redevelop a community through renewable energy and recreation and create and diversify an industry through agriculture. I recently had the privilege to present to the Hawaii Community Foundation and the Fresh Water Council on two projects in Central Oahu which involve Lake Wilson: 1.) the Wahiawa Wastewater Reclaim Project; and 2.) Pumped-storage hydroelectricity.

This past legislative session I introduced a resolution to encourage the Agribusiness Development Corporation to develop a plan to acquire the dam and spillway of Lake Wilson for hydroelectricity. In addition, meeting with different groups and state departments, there is potential for a system not just at the dam and spillway, but along the stream a system or system could be developed where there is a significant drop.

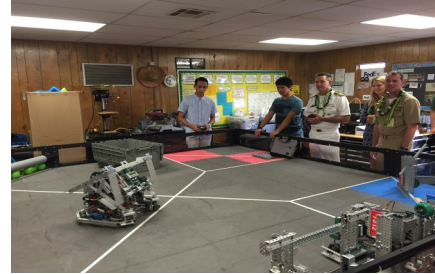
With the Governor signing Act 97 (the Renewable Portfolio Standards which require the State to be on 100 percent clean energy by the year 2045) into law this past June, pumped-storage hydroelectricity can be a significant piece in the overall plan to accomplish this goal. It is estimated that all reservoirs statewide have the potential to generate 100 – 200 megawatts through hydroelectricity. Not only would a hydro-system at Lake Wilson help us achieve the Renewable Portfolio Standards, it would also provide low energy cost to farmers in the Central Oahu region.

Another benefit of Lake Wilson is that it can also provide over 2 million gallons of irrigation water per day. In 2014, \$2.5 million was included in the state budget for the planning and designing of a system to capture the current outfall of 2 million gallons and pump it to a reservoir located on a site that the Agribusiness Development Corporation owns. From there, the water would be distributed to other reservoirs and farmers in the region.

Currently, farmers rely on potable water or water pumped up from wells. By redirecting the treated wastewater from the lake to farmers, we would be saving over 2 million gallons of water pumped up from our aquifers. I've been working with the Agribusiness Development Corporation, the Department of Environmental Services, and the Board of Water Supply in drafting a Memorandum of Understanding.

Lake Wilson has the potential of being a multi-purpose boon for Central Oahu as well as all of the island if we can get the process moving to utilize its great potential.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



The National Security Agency/Central Security Service Hawaii visited the Leilehua High School campus. Capt. Cliff Bean and his team discussed their cybersecurity program and discussed the opportunities and careers their agency has for Leilehua High School seniors. I've been working with the Dept. of Education and the NSA/CSS on the Leilehua Complex Career Pathway which connects industry and curriculum. Our first partnership is with and between the NSA/CSS and Leilehua High School Complex.



Daniel K. Inouye Leaders in Action: Careers in Public Service Event at University of Hawaii—Manoa.

The Daniel K. Inouye Leaders in Action at the University of Hawaii-Manoa was newly formed at the beginning of this semester, dedicated to the legacy of leadership and service of the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye. Events such as this throughout the year will both engage students to be more civically engaged as well as give them the opportunity to learn more about leadership and service. Senator Dela Cruz was one of ten legislators and leaders in public service invited to participate in this inaugural event and participate in roundtable discussions with students to engage in discussions regarding a career in public service, critical issues facing Hawaii and civic engagement.



The Senate Committee on Ways and Means came out to the Whitmore Project as part of their statewide site visits. The group visited the Whitmore Agribusiness Tech Park, the Whitmore Annex, the site for workforce housing, and the CTAHR Poamoho Research Station as well as Kahuku High School and Turtle Bay. The Governor recently released \$10 million in Capital Improvement Project funds to purchase three parcels of ag land from both Dole Food Company and Castle & Cooke. Two of the parcels are located in Whitmore Village and a third parcel is located in Mililani Mauka. These parcels will add over 500 acres of ag land to the Whitmore Project's current inventory. I look forward to the committee's continued support of approving funds to purchase ag land. In 2014 we worked on a plan to purchase and preserve over 650 acres of land at Turtle Bay and place in conservation. The purchase process is nearing completion and is a result of the public and private coming together with State, City, and a non-profit combining funds to make this happen. At Kahuku we visited the athletic field, portable classrooms and the Olelo studio.