



**Donovan M. Dela Cruz**  
Hawaii 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

February 2015

### LAND EXCHANGE

**Chair**, Committee on Government Operations

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

You can view Senator Dela Cruz's senate website at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov). If you would like to receive our monthly newsletters and quarterly updates via email, we suggest that you email us your request via the Senate website.

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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.

This would be a significant step in our efforts to preserve land in Central Oahu for agriculture and have agriculture once again thrive as an industry, adding jobs and sustaining the economy of the community.



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

## COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE (CRB)

Hawaii residents are being asked to be on the lookout for another invasive species which has been found in certain areas of the island. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is asking Oahu residents to check their mulch piles for possible breeding populations of the coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB).

Adult CRB are dark brown in color and measure 1 ¼ to 2 ½ inches long. Larvae are white in color with a brown head and up to three inches long.

CRB is capable of killing all palm species and has been found attacking banana, taro, pineapple and sugarcane. They live exclusively in decaying plant material such as green waste, mulch, compost and also manure. Residents are urged to not move any green waste or mulch from any location as CRB do not move long distances on its own, but may be transported by humans.

Thus far, more than 2,700 panel traps and 90 barrel traps have been placed all over Oahu to keep tabs on any movement of CRB. About 1,400 adult CRB, 1,600 larvae and 40 pupae have been found. HDOA crews have surveyed 140,000 palms and 300 mulch piles throughout the island. About 130 dead or damaged palm trees have been removed.




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## 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?"