



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 Hawaii

March 2015

PACIFIC TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE ON AGING

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. 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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According to the Executive Office on Aging, between 1980 and 2010, the older population in Hawaii increased by 140% while the total population only grew by 34%. Hawaii's older adult population (60+) continues to increase and demographic studies have shown that Hawaii was growing at a significantly faster pace than the rest of the nation's elderly population. The number of adults 85 years or older grew 432% during the same 30 year period. By 2030, 1 out of 5 individuals will be aged 65 or older. By 2035, the older population (projected to be 474,586 individuals, 60 years or older) will represent 30% of the total population. This increase, is in part, due to lower mortality rates, advances in the medical field and decreased birth rates.

Recognizing this trend, there is a demand for technology and products to assist our kupuna to lead healthy, active lives. In order to meet the needs of this group, more technology and innovation are necessary to develop new healthcare facilities, services and products. What products can we develop or activities can be provided so they can continue to live independently?

Last session I introduced the following measures to spur work on developing the research and development component for our State's aging population:

SB2399: Authorizing the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to create a geriatric research and technology park.

SCR108: Requesting the High Technology Development Corporation, the Executive Office on Aging, and Wahiawa General Hospital to establish a working group to establish a geriatric research and technology park in Central Oahu.

SR54: Requesting the High Technology Development Corporation, the Executive Office on Aging, and Wahiawa General Hospital to establish a working group Hawaii's to establish a geriatric research and technology park in Central Oahu.

HTDC is looking to develop a research and development technology park in Central Oahu at Wahiawa General Hospital or in close proximity that focuses on the state's aging population. The official name of this tech park is the Pacific Technology Institute on Aging and will include technology development to support the many aspects of the aging population through research and development of medical advances in disease treatments, biochemical engineering, personal assisted devices, epidemiology and the social aspects related to working with the aged, as well as tech companies related to geriatric research and development and disability-related tech firms.

HTDC recently released the Request for Proposals (RFP) and is looking for a company that can develop a business model plan for a Geriatric, Disability, and R&D Technology Park and hopes to get started on the project in May.

Working with HTDC, we are making progress on bringing this tech park to fruition.

LAND EXCHANGE

On March 10, the Senate unanimously (25 ayes) voted to move forward SB1374 (Relating to Land Exchange). We reported on this measure in last month's newsletter. This bill was heard in the following committees: Water and Land; Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs; Agriculture; and Ways and Means, which all reported the bill out for passage.

The committee on Ways and Means amended the bill which now focuses on acquiring 6,000 acres of agricultural land with the appropriation coming from the general fund. The bill will now crossover to the House in which the process starts over.

The land exchange plays a critical role in the Whitmore Project and should the state be able to acquire the 6,000 acres, this will be a big boost for our local farmers by: (1) increasing our agricultural land inventory; (2) providing long-term leases for farmers; and (3) providing access to infrastructure and water.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



Senator meets with the Whitmore Seniors.



Senator meets with Wahiawa Rainbow Seniors.



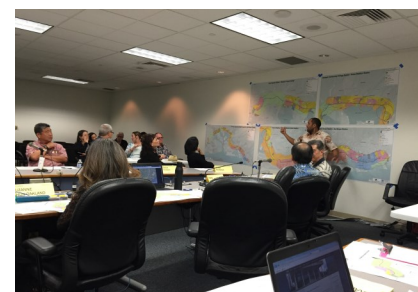
Senator swearing in new officers of the Wahiawa-Waiialua Kenjin Kai



Senator speaking at the Leilehua Complex AVID Leadership Conference at Leilehua High School.



Senator speaks to UH-Manoa College of Engineering students.



Senator speaks at the TOD Task Force meeting