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AND THE STATE OF HAWAII

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

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



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Chair:

Committee on Ways and Means

Member:

Committee on Education



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Wahiawa Freshwater Park Community Charrette

The Department of Land and Natural Resources State Parks Division and the University of Hawaii Community Design Center (UHCDC) held a Community Charrette to discuss new ideas for the Wahiawa Freshwater State Recreation Area better known as Wahiawa Freshwater Park.

Attendees participated in three different activities to give feedback and express their ideas on the

future of Wahiawa Freshwater Park. One of the activities was a "Talk Story Map" where each person was able to share their favorite memory at the park, their favorite thing about Wahiawa, and cultural/historical locations in Wahiawa. The other activities were a "Park Access & Town Connection Diagramming" and "Park Experience Visioning" where participants provided suggestions on potential alternate entrances, different uses and activities at the park, and share many other ideas the community has and would like to see incorporated into a new master plan.

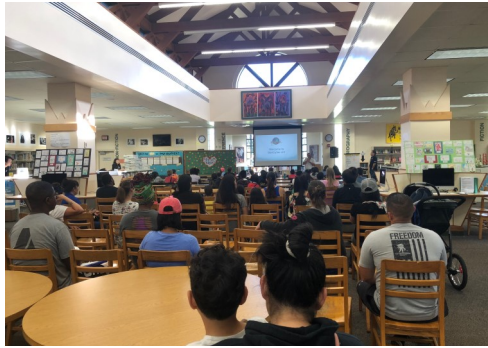
The Wahiawa Town Master Plan from 1994 recommends that we upgrade and improve park facilities to meet current and future demands for a growing population that will maintain the beauty of the environment. To support this vision, my colleagues and I secured \$250,000 in the state budget so the Department of Land and Natural Resources – State Parks Division could partner with the University of Hawaii Community Design Center and work with the community to develop the proof of concept master plan. Once the proof of concept is complete DLNR will begin design and construction.

Taking components from the original Fresh Water Park Master Plan (1975), Wahiawa Town Master Plan (1994) and input from the community and park users, the new master plan may include walking paths, areas for picnicking, camping and/or lodging, and activities such as frisbee disc golf and park golf are also being considered. By increasing recreational activities, we can bring jobs and revenues into the community. At the end of the day we all would like to live, work, play in Wahiawa, and the future freshwater park provides the opportunity to do just that.

Mahalo to everyone who came out and participated in the Community Charrette! Can't wait to see what the future holds.

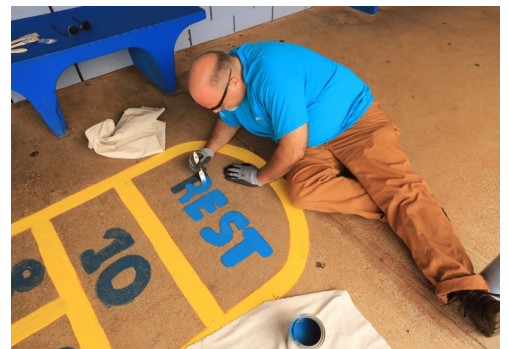


Leilehua Complex Hosts 1st GenCyber Jr. Camp



This week, Leilehua hosted the first ever GenCyber Jr. Camp for grade levels from 5 to 7. Thanks to the partnerships with the National Security Agency, the University of Hawaii, and the Department of Education, the GenCyber Jr. Camp is free to all students. The skills they learned over the three-day camp will help with building a workforce for the growing need in computer science and cybersecurity jobs. Whether they decide to seek employment or continue onto college, this program will help our students become globally competitive.

Community Day at Iliahi Elementary School



Each year, the Lendlease Foundation chooses a project around the island that benefits local families. This year, I worked with the Foundation to host their Annual Community Day at Iliahi Elementary School. Providing a list of small projects that could be done for Iliahi, we gathered 30 volunteers who came together to power wash roofs, repaint walls, repair tables, and add hopscotch courts throughout the school. As students return from Fall Break, they will be able to enjoy these activities and faculty will return to a beautified campus.

Whitmore Village Community Meeting

The Whitmore Economic Development Group (WEDG) and Wahiawa Fresh hosted a community meeting on Friday, October 12 at Helemano Elementary School so residents could learn more about both organizations, hear from the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and ALEA Bridge, and receive updates on the Whitmore Project.

The meeting was held because ADC sent a letter at the Attorney General's recommendation to residents living on Circle Mauka St. and Dr. encroaching on State property. Inspections showed that homeowners built unpermitted structures and that they needed to be removed from the land. Working with the community, ADC is searching for solutions to address issues of public safety and health.

WEDG and Wahiawa CBDO are scheduled to host additional meetings to continue communication with the residents and develop a future use for the area.