

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI



PUNAPUNA, AIRPORT, SALT LAKE, ALIAMANU, WILSONVILLE, HICKAM, PEARL HARBOR, AND PORTIONS OF THE ISLAND OF PEARL CITY

PRESSURE ON MILITARY TO CLEAN UP RADFORD AND MAKALAPA



Area lawmakers met with Col Pevey at the State Capitol on Wednesday, April 3.

The Army Corp updated area legislators on their efforts to remediate a WWII era dumpsite. From 1939 to 1957, the Navy used the Makalapa Crater as a salvage yard – dumping chemicals, vehicles, and munitions.

When Sen. Wakai and former Rep. Johanson secured \$2.3 million to build a new football field and track in 2013, the State determined there was dangerous debris underground. The project was halted. The Navy spent another \$8 million to clean up the site and the project went forward in 2015. Subsequently, the Navy handed over further remediation efforts to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Nothing was done for the next eight years to address the ground under Radford’s practice field, tennis courts, baseball field, and Makalapa’s playground. In 2023, the State pushed the Army Corps to move forward on a cleanup process. A preliminary assessment was done in March. The next step is a feasibility study in 2025, to look at potential remedial actions. Actual cleanup of the hazardous materials is expected to begin in 2028.

“While I appreciate the Army Corps finally taking responsibility of the dumpsite, I am dissatisfied with the paralysis they displayed for years,” says Sen. Wakai. “I will be keeping a close eye on their cleanup process and push them to move faster. The military’s initial Red Hill mitigation plan was supposed to take 22 years. The State got it shut down in 9.”

HAVING A BALL PURIFYING THE WATERWAY



Dozens of volunteers had a hand in tossing Genki Balls into the Salt Lake Waterway

The Salt Lake Waterway is a step closer to being cleansed following the tossing of more than a thousand Genki Balls on March 23.

The bacteria-eating spheres will remove toxins from the water, similar to the Ala Wai Canal project. In a few months, we will be testing the water quality again to see how much of a difference the Genki Balls made.

Sen Wakai secured more than half of the \$6,000 cost for materials and testing. There will be two more making and tossing of Genki Balls in the waterway later this year.

CONSTITUENT SPOTLIGHT: AUNTY BEV



Salt Lake resident, Beverly Wong, came to the Capitol to advocate on behalf of the American Cancer Society