

# SENATOR GLENN WAKAI

KALIHI, MAPUNAPUNA, AIRPORT, SALT LAKE, ALIAMANU, FOSTER VILLAGE, HICKAM, PEARL HARBOR, AND PORTIONS OF AIEA AND PEARL CITY

February 2026 Report



## Pushing for Lowering Electricity Rates, Improved Reliability

More than 110,000 electricity customers suffered power outages during this past weekend's storm. In the meantime, Hawaiian Electric customers pay more than two times the national average for electricity. "We need to rebalance this situation," said Sen. Wakai, who introduced legislation (SB3326) to focus HECO on strengthening grid reliability, improve public safety, and bring down the nation's highest electricity rates. This bill separates electric generation from transmission and distribution.



*Downed poles and electric lines as a powerful storm surged across the state over this past weekend*

"We have 70 year-old diesel generators powering 65% of our electricity needs on Oahu. That is flirting with disaster," said Sen. Wakai. "HECO is in junk bond status, which means no one wants to loan them money to make improvements. Hawai'i needs outside investment to make sure our lights stay on."

## Bots, Brains, and Brilliance



*Salt Lake Elementary School's State Champion Robotics Team*

Salt Lake Elementary School is celebrating a huge victory as the school's robotics team took first place in the State Robotics Tournament held on Feb. 1 at McKinley High School. They outperformed 39 other teams from across Hawai'i. The win marks a historic first for the Dolphins and earns the team an invitation to compete against teams from across the globe at the FIRST Championship in Houston, Texas on April 29.

"This is our first-ever state championship, and we couldn't be prouder of our students," said Troy Okumura, the school's Tech Coordinator. "Their hard work, teamwork, and perseverance truly paid off."

The trip is expected to cost about \$20,000, covering airfare, lodging, registration, and travel expenses for students and coaches. The school has launched fundraising efforts and is seeking community partners and sponsors to help make this once-in-a-lifetime experience possible.