

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI

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

July 2026 Report



Japan and Taiwan Delegation Looks to Expand Opportunities for Hawaii College Sports

In the new age of paying college athletes, UH Athletics is at a significant disadvantage. There are no Fortune 500 companies based here and our population of 1.4 million limits the size of TV deals. UH is competing with 360 other Division 1 programs across America for private sector support.

In order to be competitive, Senator Wakai is promoting an "Asian Action Plan." He recently joined UH and HTA officials on a trip to Japan and Taiwan, where they met with athletes, coaches and event promoters. The effort sets the stage for Hawaii to develop a pipeline of players, then stream games to Asia to develop a fan base, and ultimately garner corporate sponsorship.

The idea of using taxes to pay young kids to throw or hit a ball amounts to athletics welfare, it's an unsustainable model," said Senator Wakai, "These kids are using UH as a stepping stone and will be gone after a good season. The private sector should be supporting NIL (name image and likeness), we just need to give them a reason to do so."

Senator Wakai sent the UH baseball team to Japan last year and he plans to send the team to Taiwan this fall. Then the "Asian Action Plan" will move to Korea.



State officials pitch Taiwan entertainment promoters to showcase UH baseball, June 22, 2026.

The Impact of RIMPAC

Due to the strength of our military, we get to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. Senator Wakai joined other lawmakers during a tour of the USS Essex amphibious carrier, which coincided with the 30th edition of RIMPAC throughout the Hawaiian Islands, which is taking place from June 24 to July 31. As the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise with roughly 30 participating nations, RIMPAC is hosted biennially in and around Hawaii to enhance interoperability and tactical proficiency among partner nations, building multilateral trust to ensure the safety of global sea lanes, and boosting the local economy. It generates an estimated \$50 million to \$100 million in direct economic impact for Hawaii every two years.



Sen. Wakai with other area lawmakers aboard the USS Essex amphibious carrier, July 3, 2026.

Electrical Upgrades Coming to Makalapa Elementary School

An enhanced learning environment is coming to Makalapa Elementary School. The electrical upgrades will include upgrading the existing HECO service and electrical distribution system across campus, which will enhance safety, reduce operating costs, and support modern technology. The project is expected to be completed by December 2027.

