

JANUARY 2022

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI

Kalihi • Salt Lake • Foster Village



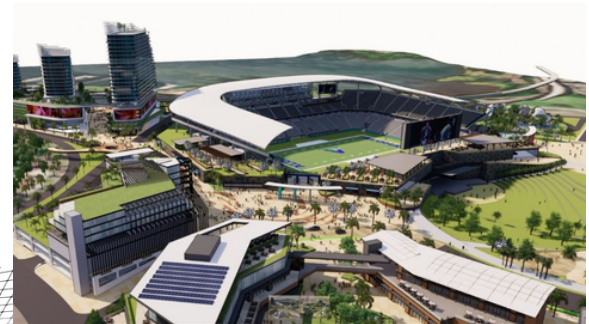
Diversifying Our Economy

COVID showed how dependent Hawaii's economy is on tourism. Two years after COVID sent Hawaii's unemployment skyrocketing from 4% to 24%, not much has changed. As the 2022 Legislative Session gets underway, Senator Wakai is introducing bills to advance his Triple A Economic Plan: Aquaculture, Alternative Energy, and Aloha Stadium.

His aquaculture bills will give the Department of Agriculture the power to engage in ocean leases, provide more personnel to the three-person division, and shift responsibilities to grow the shellfish industry.

For renewable energy, Sen. Wakai is pushing for more firm renewable power to replace the coal plant, allow for the private sector to transmit power, and incentivize new renewables like hydrogen.

The last "A" culminates a 12-year effort to monetize 98 acres in Halawa. A new stadium will provide a much needed entertainment venue and the mixed use around it will bring in tens of millions of dollars in lease payments.



Dollars for DOE

The state needs to look at its facilities with a wider lens and see educational assets as revenue generators. Sen. Wakai is introducing a bill allowing the DOE to rent out facilities, like the Farrington football field and auditorium. The money raised will be put into a special fund which can be tapped for future repair and maintenance, instead of begging lawmakers to appropriate funds.

Farrington has an excellent theatrical program. Sen. Wakai was successful in bringing the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra to Moanalua High School last month and he's working on getting the Hawaii Opera Theater and Ballet Hawaii into other state venues



Investing in Our Schools



Ongoing improvements ensure that students have quality facilities that support their learning. Kalakaua Middle School is requesting a portable classroom to help with the lack of classroom space. Without this additional classroom, students will have to meet in areas which are not ideal for learning.

Kalihi Kai Elementary is requesting retiling of their bathroom floors and replacing covered walkways. Replacing missing tiles on bathroom floors will make the drains operable and fix water leaks which are causing a safety and health risk. Coverings for walkways provide coverage for students walking to and from classes and for parents attending meetings in the cafeteria from weather and overhanging trees.