

AUGUST 2022

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI

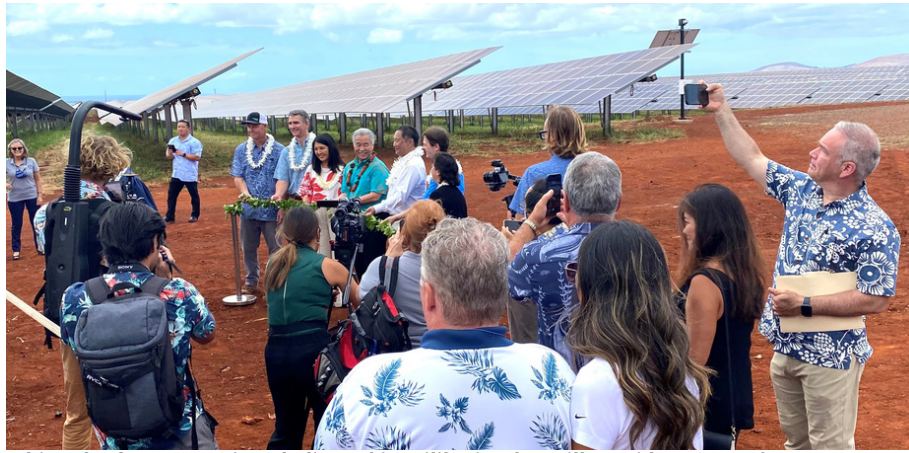
Kalihi • Salt Lake • Foster Village



Higher Energy Costs Ahead

Residents will see their electricity bills increase by an average of \$15 per month starting in October. That is due to the forced shutdown of Oahu's coal plant on September 1. To fill that 180 MW hole (20% of the island's capacity), HECO is going to burn more oil.

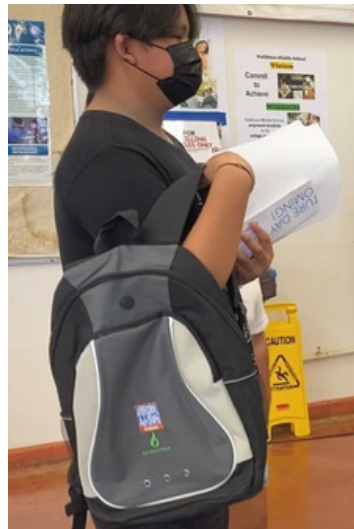
Last year, Sen. Wakai pushed to have the life of the coal plant extended until more renewable energy projects came online, but that effort garnered very little support.



This solar-battery project dedicated in Mililani today will provide 39 MW of power. It's a fraction of the 180 MW of power Oahu will lose at the end of the month.

"HECO is replacing cheap coal with expensive oil," says Sen. Wakai, "If Hawaii became 100 percent renewable tomorrow, climate change will continue. A slow permitting and interconnection process put us in this situation, where the only guarantee is higher electricity bills and potential blackouts."

Back to School With Brand New Supplies



Kalakaua Middle students start their school year with brand new backpacks and school supplies donated by Hawaii Gas & Nomi Health

Three hundred students at Kalakaua Middle began the school year in an unusual manner - they had brand new backpacks and school supplies. Sen Wakai partnered with After School All Stars to provide struggling families with the essentials.

Hawaii Gas donated the \$15 backpacks and Nomi Health donated the \$11 supply kits (paper, pens, pencils, sharpener, glue, tape, calculator, and correction tape). "Many families don't have \$26 to spend on school items," says Sen. Wakai, "I didn't want to give those children recycled donations. They deserve brand new items, like all of their peers."