

# SENATOR GLENN WAKAI

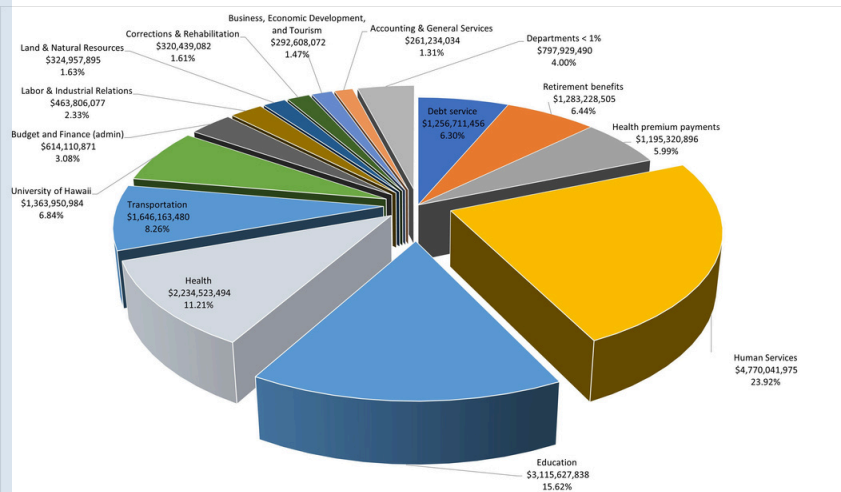
KALIHI, MAPUNAPUNA, AIRPORT, SALT LAKE, ALIAMANU, FOSTER VILLAGE, HICKAM, PEARL HARBOR, AND PORTIONS OF AIEA AND PEARL CITY

SESSION 2025 RECAP



## How Did Lawmakers Spend Your Money?

During the 2025 Session, the Legislature appropriated nearly \$20 billion over the next biennium for essential services and to enhance government operations. Monies were allocated to various departments and agencies to upgrade our airports and prisons, improve education and to protect our environment. Sen. Wakai focused his energy and efforts on getting you more reliable and cheaper electricity and growing the state's economy. For more information, you can access the budget worksheets [here](#).



## Bright Futures: From Interns to Graduates



Sen. Wakai and Farrington High School intern Kay Mabang celebrate her offers from several Ivy League Schools

Over the past 3 years, Sen. Wakai had the privilege of mentoring Kay Manabag, an exceptional intern from Farrington High School whose dedication, intellect, and heart has left a lasting impact in his office. This year, Kay's hard work was recognized with offers from both Yale and Harvard — a testament to her perseverance and talent.

"Seeing her growth and journey to this point has truly been inspiring, and I am filled with pride knowing that the future is in the hands of young leaders like her," said Sen. Wakai. "We celebrate these incredible achievements and look forward to seeing all the ways she will make a difference throughout the world."

# Sparking Safety From Fireworks

In response to New Year's fireworks incident that occurred in Aliamanu, Sen. Wakai advocated for bills during session that would strengthen the state's laws on enforcement and prevention:



- **HB550:** authorizing the use of drones to support investigations
- **HB806:** funding for sting operations and a new explosives and firearms laboratory
- **HB1483:** establishing various criminal offenses and penalties to fireworks or articles pyrotechnics, amending multiple definitions and penalties for fireworks offenses, and adding fireworks infractions to the existing adjudication of infractions process for traffic and emergency period infractions

"Lawmakers are taking aggressive steps to go after illegal importers and users," said Sen. Wakai. "The state lacked the resources to present evidence in trials. With these new laws provided the funding, resources and processes to charge those involved with illegal fireworks, we will have a much quieter and safer opening to 2026."

## Strengthening NASED for a Better Hawai'i

A contract for the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) is expected to be signed in July, with demolition of the current stadium to follow this fall. The state is still only putting \$350 million into the project, but the facility and new district that is to come is estimated to cost about \$500 million. After concerns were raised in discussions with the Stadium Authority and developer regarding difficulties in raising additional revenues, the Legislature passed the following bills to address these issues:

- **SB583:** allowing the naming rights of the Stadium facility to be leased to any public or private entity, with any revenues derived from advertising or marketing in or on the Stadium Facility to be deposited into the Stadium Development Special Fund
- **HB1007:** authorizing the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) to cooperate with or assist public and private sector entities to engage in projects that improve the State and issue bonds to finance the development of infrastructure outside of HCDA's community development districts



"SB583 and HB1007 will generate revenues and attract more investments for NASED, which will ensure that the new Stadium facility and the entertainment district can thrive and provide what the surrounding community needs, leading to a better and brighter future for the entire state," said Sen. Wakai.