

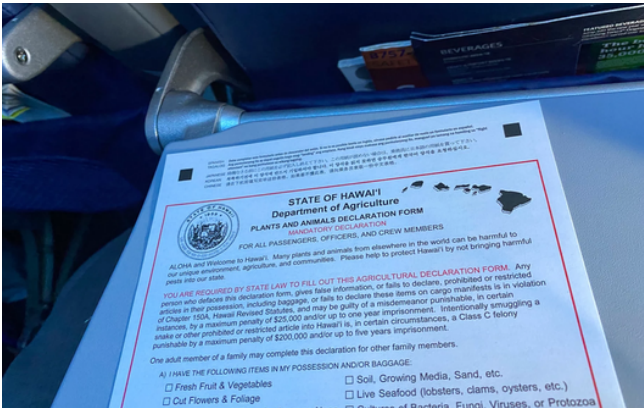
MAY 2024

# SENATOR GLENN WAKAI



PUNAPUNA, AIRPORT, SALT LAKE, ALIAMANU, WILSONVILLE, HICKAM, PEARL HARBOR, AND PORTIONS OF HONOLULU AND PEARL CITY

## DIGITIZING THE PLANT AND ANIMALS DECLARATION FORM



For 67 years, those flying to Hawai'i from the mainland have filled out a paper agriculture form. The Department of Agriculture declined to digitize their paper forms on flights, so Senator Wakai passed a bill mandating these forms to be completed electronically. That will get the state timely and better data, at a lower cost to taxpayers.

"It provides us a false sense of security regarding invasive species coming to the islands. In my opinion, the best time to educate a traveler about what not to bring to Hawai'i is before they get on the plane, not when they're on the plane," said Senator Wakai. "To have an amnesty bin when they arrive to throw in their contraband, I thought, was a backwards approach to trying to fight invasive species coming to the islands."

## REESTABLISHING THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL



Hawai'i will soon have a State Fire Marshal again, 45 years after the position was replaced with the volunteer-based State Fire Council. This left us as the only state in the country without one.

Sen. Wakai authored [SB2085](#), which re-establishes the office effective July 1 and places it within the state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The devastation on Maui could have been diminished with better coordination and oversight.

"This common-sense proposal will provide dedicated support for wildfire prevention and allow Hawai'i the same protections that already exist in every other state in the nation," Alice Lee, Maui County Council chair, wrote in her testimony supporting the legislation.

## DISTRICT 15 HIGHLIGHTS

A Capital Improvement Project for Kalihi Kai Elementary School to plan, design and construction for repairs to the parking lot (**\$660,000**) was included in the Final Executive Budget bill that was passed in May 2024.

