

FEBRUARY 2025

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI



... PUNAPUNA, AIRPORT, SALT LAKE, ALIAMANU,
... VILLAGE, HICKAM, PEARL HARBOR, AND PORTIONS
... AND PEARL CITY

Rolling the Dice, Coming up Craps



HPD estimates there are 60 gambling houses on Oahu, many of them in Kalihi. They pull in more than \$220 million in bets each year. Hawaii and Utah are the only two states with no legal forms of gambling.

In an effort to shine a light on these illegal gambling houses and bring in new revenues, a bill was introduced (SB893 SD1) that would grant 20-year licenses for casinos in the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District and Hawaii Convention Center. It would also establish the Hawaii Gaming Control Commission, impose a 15% tax on wagers, which would then fund education and a compulsive gambler program.

"Las Vegas is the number one vacation destination for locals. This is an effort to bring the Ninth Island back home and push gamblers into regulated casinos," said Sen. Wakai.

On February 13, SB893 SD1 was heard by the Economic Development and Consumer Protection Committees. After overwhelming opposition, the measure was deferred indefinitely.

Empowering the Next Generation



Room packed with 20 Governors!

The next generation of leaders met with Sen. Wakai last month at the Secondary Student Council. Students pitched their desires for more trees in Kalihi and more food production.

No Beating Around the Bush: Pu'uhale Bushes Beautified



A concerned resident contacted our office regarding the overgrown foliage along Nimitz Highway in front of Pu'uhale Elementary, near the bus stop. She reported seeing someone lying down, but the dense bushes obscured them, making her feel unsafe while passing by.

In response, our office reached out to the DOT, which facilitated the clearing of some of the foliage. Please continue to reach out to our office with questions/concerns.