

# SENATOR GLENN WAKAI

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

September 2025 Report



## FRESH, FAST, AND FLYING

In a bold move that promises to reshape Hawai'i's agricultural future, Maui Gold Pineapple Company forged a groundbreaking partnership with Amazon Air to airship its famed pineapples to the U.S. mainland—faster, fresher, and more cost-effectively than ever before.

This innovative shipping deal was initiated by Senator Wakai. After discovering that Amazon's cargo planes often returned empty after delivering goods to Hawai'i, Wakai boldly asked, "What do they take back to the mainland?" Their reply: "Nothing." Undeterred, "I approached Amazon saying, 'nothing is unacceptable—let's fill them with locally made products,'" Sen. Wakai recalled.

Months of planning with stakeholders—including the Department of Agriculture, Maui Gold, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau, and Amazon—culminated in a formal agreement to move forward with air shipments.

"This is a really big game changer for us," said John White, CEO of Maui Gold. He envisions this model supporting other Hawai'i-made products—such as ukuleles, aloha shirts, and local baked goods—in breaking into mainland markets.

"It's more than just what comes out of the ground... this model can help Hawaii manufacturing diversify away from tourism," said Sen. Wakai.



## New Jersey to Japan

The University of Hawaii's TOE-kyo born placekicker, Kansei Matsuzawa, has become the most recognized Warrior in America.

The self taught kicker honed his talents on YouTube and worked his way onto the UH roster. Matsuzawa has been perfect after three games, 7 for 7, and his story has drawn international media attention.

This past Saturday, Matsuzawa debuted a uniform nameplate written in Japanese kanji — a visible nod to his heritage and a visual connection to fans in Japan.

Senator Wakai compelled UH to change his jersey. "This is a step in my grand plan to cultivate a fan base in Japan and go after corporate sponsorship in Asia," said Sen. Wakai. "UH has to pay its athletes to stay competitive. Instead of fishing for money on the mainland, we need to fish on the other side of the Pacific."



Rocking the kanji, Kansei style

## Going the Extra Mile

Congratulations to Farrington High School math teacher Lynn Otaguro on being the recipient of The Sheraton Hawaii Bowl's \$1,000 gift card as part of this year's Extra Yard for Teachers Week.

A dedicated math teacher for over 30 years, Otaguro is known for her teaching excellence, care, and commitment to her students in and out of the classroom. She faithfully dedicates time after school for tutoring, and can also be seen at many Farrington sporting events to cheer her students on.

When asked what she will use the funds for, Otaguro said she will provide the students snacks and other math supplies.



Farrington High School teacher Lynn Otaguro