

JANUARY 2025

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI

WAKAI'S DISTRICT INCLUDES PUNAPUNA, AIRPORT, SALT LAKE, ALIAMANU, KAILUA, KAILUA-VILLAGE, HICKAM, PEARL HARBOR, AND PORTIONS OF KAILUA AND PEARL CITY



Cutting the Fuse on Fireworks



Devastation at the home on Keeka Drive in Aliamanu

The Aliamanu blast seen across the globe has ignited calls for a ban on fireworks. Sen. Wakai is working with the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) to draft a bill to end all fireworks, except for permitted public displays.

Instead of stuffing our prisons with fireworks dealers and enthusiasts, Wakai will go after civil forfeitures. Violators will be cited and sent a letter of nuisance abatement. On the second offense, the state has the right to sue and seize the violators' home or place of business.

There are numerous fireworks laws on the books, but very little enforcement. DLE is now the agency in charge of investigating and intercepting the movement of fireworks. They are asking for 8 staffers and a \$2 million laboratory to take more cases to trial. Wakai supports those budget requests.

Last Friday, the Fireworks Task Force issued its report highlighting the seizure of approximately 187,000 pounds of illegal fireworks from shipping containers in 2023. And another 40,000 pounds in 2024.

So far two men have been indicted with felony illegal distribution of aerial fireworks to undercover officers. Both pled "No Contest" and await sentencing.

Time to Thrive in '25



Opening Day of the 33rd Legislature starts on **Wednesday, January 15 at 10:00 am** at the Capitol. The public is invited to watch the festivities and then visit with Senator Wakai in room 407 after 11:00 am.

Flipping Switch on Committees



Sen. Wakai is Chairman of the new Energy Committee and will be handling legislation affecting the future of HECO – its solvency, reliability, and affordability.