

FEBRUARY 2025

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI



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

Embracing NASED



NASED developers share their vision and listened to community concerns.

Developers of the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) shared their vision and fresh designs for the 98 acres in Halawa. On February 3, about 75 people from all corners of the island heard from Aloha Halawa District Partners (AHDP) on how they are paying respect to the history of the area, and creating exciting new attractions.

AHDP's proposal has a 25,000 seat stadium as the focal point surrounded by housing, retail, restaurants, and museums. The meeting also gave the public an opportunity to question plans and offer their input. Many of those concerns swirled about traffic, parking, the swap meet and construction disruptions.

"NASED is a transformative project that will create an entire new community with magnetic venues," says Sen. Wakai. "We have a golden opportunity to help solve our state's housing shortage and lack of revenue streams."

Meanwhile, a bill moving through the House of Representatives (HB 1494) will kill the project that the community has been preparing for over the past 15 years.



One of the latest renderings from AHDP

Diffusing Consumer Fireworks



10 people have been arrested in connection with the Aliamanu fireworks explosion that left 6 dead

The six deaths in Aliamanu on New Years Day is the impetus for a multitude of bills focused on fireworks. One of the key bills moving forward is Senate Bill 999, authored by Sen. Wakai. It started out as a total ban on fireworks, imposing significant civil penalties (nuisance abatement) instead of jail time, increasing enforcement, and funded a fireworks education program.

"It costs the state \$112,000 a year to keep an inmate locked up. Prisons should be for violent offenders, not pyromaniacs," says Sen. Wakai, "I rather levy heavy fines. Then on the second offense go after the pyromaniac's house and car as a deterrent."

At a hearing on Wednesday, the Public Safety Committee amended Sen. Wakai's bill to allow for lighting fireworks at cultural events and with a permit, and raised the initial fine from \$500 to \$1,000. All fines and forfeitures would be split between the county and the state.

SB 999 is now awaiting a hearing in the Ways & Means and Judiciary Committees.