PURR-fect Prison Companions

At the Women's Community Correctional Center in Kailua, second chances come with tiny paws and big hearts. Through a new pilot program with the Hawaiian Humane Society, incarcerated women are fostering kittens in need of love and care. They help the animals prepare for adoption, while the women gain compassion, confidence, and responsibility.

Transforming Animal and Incarcerated Individuals' Lives (TAIIL), a year-long program, was initiated by Senator Wakai, who secured \$50,000 to launch the program last week.

"This is such an innovative and cost effective way to rehabilitate broken lives," says Sen. Wakai. "This is step one. We plan to take dogs into Halawa Prison next year."



Pawsitive changes in progress!

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Rocking the kanji, Kansei style

New Jersey to JapanThe 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 is 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."

Combatting Alcohol During Pregnancy

Advocates, families, and community members gathered at the Hawai'i State Capitol last Tuesday for the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Rally — a powerful call to action during FASD Awareness Month.

FASD affects thousands in Hawai'i, but too often go unseen. This rally was a vibrant reminder: awareness matters. So do resources, support, and policy change.

September is FASD Awareness Month. Recent legislation sought the following:

- better screening and diagnosis
- more education and resources
- -stronger support systems for affected individuals and families.



Sen. Wakai has been supporting Foster Village resident, Darlyn Scoval for 9 years