

AUGUST 2022

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI

Kalihi • Salt Lake • Foster Village



Empowering Salt Lake Elementary

Salt Lake Elementary will soon be able to flip the switch on learning. Over the past several years, the school struggled with its electrical system. “We have had power outages because of breakers being tripped and this disrupts teachers’ instruction and causes students to lose instructional time. The solution was to have a complete system wide electrical upgrade,” said SLES Principal Duwayne Abe.

Sen Wakai and Rep. Ichiyama put \$1,595,442 into the state budget for upgrades to the school. On Monday, DOE awarded a contract to Power Constructors. The company will provide a new switchboard, conduits, panels and other electrical improvements.



Higher Energy Costs Ahead

Residents will see their electricity bills increase by an average of \$15 per month starting in October. That is due to the forced shutdown of Oahu’s coal plant on September 1. To fill that 180 MW hole (20% of the island’s capacity), HECO is going to burn more oil.

Last year, Sen. Wakai pushed to have the life of the coal plant extended until more renewable energy projects came online, but that effort garnered very little support. “HECO is replacing cheap coal with expensive oil,” says Sen. Wakai, “If Hawaii became 100 percent renewable tomorrow, climate change will continue. A slow permitting and interconnection process put us in this situation, where the only guarantee is higher electricity bills and potential blackouts.”



This solar-battery project dedicated in Milliani today will provide 39 MW of power. It’s a fraction of the 180 MW of power Oahu will lose at the end of the month.

Continuing to Support our Keiki



Sen. Wakai congratulates Moanalua High class of '19 graduate Allysa Hirai as she completes the Next Gen Summer Internship program.