

Representative Sharon E. Har

HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Member, House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Member, House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Member, House Committee on Public Safety

Member, House Committee on Transportation

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Mark Your Calendar

Mid-Session Talk Story with Rep. Har

Saturday, March 7, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Kapolei High School Teacher's Lounge

Hear the latest Capitol & District News

Kapolei Keiki Wellness Day

Saturday, March 14, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Kapolei High School

Free, fun, family event featuring keiki IDs, helmet fitting, entertainment & more

After-Tax Shred Day

Saturday, April 25, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Kapolei High School Parking Lot

Reduce post-tax day stress and clutter!

Take advantage of free, bulk document shredding

End of Session Talk Story with Rep. Har

Saturday, May 9, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Kapolei High School Teacher's Lounge

Re-cap highlights of the 2015 legislative session

Aloha Friends,

As we near the second half of the 2015 legislative session, I want to provide you with an update of what is going on at the Capitol. The House is finalizing bills which have passed their first and second committees and are now being reviewed in their final committee. We are also preparing for the 'First Crossover' on March 12th and have a number of important bills which we will be sending to the Senate at that time. As the legislative session continues, I encourage you to access the latest information by visiting the Legislature's website at: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>.

Although this has been a productive session, my colleagues and I still have much to do before the session adjourns on May 7, 2015. In the meantime, I hope you will join me at several upcoming events in our district. On March 7, 2015, please join me at my **Mid-Session Talk Story** from 9:00-10:00 a.m., in the Kapolei High School Teacher's Lounge where we will discuss the latest updates on legislation and issues of importance to our community.

On March 14, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. - Noon, we will hold our **2nd Annual Kapolei Keiki Wellness Day** on the football field at Kapolei High School. This **FREE**, fun, family event will feature keiki IDs, helmet fitting, entertainment and more!

As always, should you have any questions or comments to share with me, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Mahalo for allowing me the privilege of serving as your representative in the House of Representatives.

Mahalo,

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department of Human Services Announces Application Period for Preschool Open Doors Program

The Department of Human Services (DHS) will be accepting applications for its Preschool Open Doors (POD) program between March 1 and April 30, 2015. Applications received during this period will be considered for preschool participation between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

POD is a DHS child care subsidy program that provides statewide services to eligible low- and moderate-income families sending their children to a licensed preschool, prior to kindergarten entry. The goal of POD is to promote school readiness and to provide children with the opportunity to gain essential foundational skills they need to be successful in life.

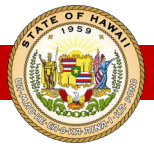
Families are reminded that a child must be five years old on or before July 31 to enter kindergarten. Families with children born between August 1, 2010 and July 31, 2011 are encouraged to apply for the POD program. Underserved or at-risk children will receive priority consideration for the 2015-2016 POD year.

POD applications will be available from the DHS contractor, PATCH, beginning March 1, 2015. To reserve your packet on Oahu call 791-2130. For more information, please visit: <http://www.patchhawaii.org/families/paying/preschool/>.

2nd Annual Special Abilities Social Event & Craft Fair

The Keiki Education Living Independent Institute (K.E.L.I.I.) will be holding their 2nd annual fair on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at SECOH Founders, 708 Palekaua Street in Honolulu.

This **FREE** event will have entertainment, games, food, face painting, free massages and more. For more information, visit: <http://www.keliifoundation.webs.com/>.



LEGISLATION

The following bills may be of interest to you and your family and are currently alive (as of the date of this newsletter's printing) and are being prepared for crossover to their respective chambers. For up-to-date information on these and other bills visit: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>.

HB329 - RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

Amends the refundable food/excise tax credit. Ties the credit to increases in the Consumer Price Index.

HB448, HD1 - RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Requires the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct reviews of domestic violence fatalities, near-deaths, and suicides. Authorizes DOH to enter into memoranda of understanding to obtain information relating to near-deaths resulting from intimate partner violence. (HB448, HD1)

HB445, HD1 - RELATING TO TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT.

Authorizes the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to offer loan guarantees to encourage affordable housing as part of transit-oriented development. (HB445, HD1)

HB849 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Amends Hawaii's Right to Farm Act to ensure that counties cannot

enact laws, ordinances, or resolutions to limit the rights of farmers and ranchers to engage in agricultural practices.

HB1092 - RELATING TO TAXATION.

Excludes income received from deferred compensation retirement plans from the state income tax for taxpayers who meet certain income requirements.

HB1153 - RELATING TO VETERANS.

Exempts qualifying totally and permanently disabled veterans from paying the State motor vehicle registration fee. Requires the office of veteran's services to report the number of qualifying veterans to the legislature and department of taxation. Applies to motor vehicle registration occurring on or after September 1, 2015.

HB1160 - RELATING TO RELIGIOUS RIGHTS.

Prohibits the State or any county from burdening any person's right to exercise religion absent that burden being the least restrictive means of furthering a compelling governmental interest.

HB1248 - RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT.

Mandates a Family Court to terminate the parental rights to any child of a natural parent if the natural parent is convicted of rape or sexual assault and that rape or sexual assault resulted in the conception of the child.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Top left: On February 10, 2015, **Kapolei Middle School** students participating in the SkillsUSA competition at the Hawai'i Convention Center visited the State Capitol and met Reps. Har and Cullen.

Top right: Rep. Har presented a congratulatory certificate to **Ms. Sinita Uluave** and her staff at the grand opening of their Primerica financial services office in Kapolei on February 21, 2015.

Left: On January 30, 2015, Rep. Har read *Animal Doctors* to preschoolers at **Kama'aina Kids in Kalaeloa**. Mahalo to the Good Beginnings Alliance for coordinating this special occasion.