



REPRESENTATIVE SHARON E. HAR

# District 40 Update

Royal Kunia - Makakilo - Kapolei - Kalaheo

MARCH 2011

## HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street, Room 438

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 586-8500 • Fax: 586-8504

E-mail: rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov

### Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I hope this finds you and your families well!

As you may have seen, the Honolulu rail transit project officially broke ground in Kapolei in February, so construction will now be underway on the westernmost station, the first of 21 that will eventually run to Ala Moana.

At the Capitol, we are hearing hundreds of bills as we work to balance the budget and meet the projected budget deficit of approximately \$770 million over the next two years. I encourage you to continue to contact me regarding the various proposals to raise revenues and cut spending.

Finally, the "Graffiti Paint Out" event I'm sponsoring is coming up on Saturday, March 19th. Please call or e-mail to volunteer or with any questions.

As always, please contact me at rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov or 586-8500 with concerns or questions.

Aloha,

Sharon Har  
Representative, District 40  
Kapolei, Makakilo,  
Royal Kunia, Kalaheo

### Honolulu Rail Transit Project Breaks Ground

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, I was thrilled to join community members and other elected officials, including U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka, U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz and Mayor Peter Carlisle, for the groundbreaking of the Honolulu Rail Transit Project in Kapolei. The ceremony took place near the site of the Kroc Center on Kualakai Parkway, where the first of the 21 rail stations will be built. The 20-mile elevated rail system is planned to run from Kapolei to Ala Moana, with stops to include Wai-pahu, Aiea and Chinatown.



*On behalf of the Hawaii State House of Representatives, Rep. Har presented a certificate and offered brief remarks at the Kapolei groundbreaking of the rail.*

As long-time residents of Oahu know very well, a high-speed rail system has been under discussion for Honolulu for more than 40 years, under the tenure of five mayors, but it was not until the summer of 2010 that the City and County of Honolulu issued contracts for the initial designs of rail stations. In addition to giving our area an important economic boost over the coming years, the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project marks a new era in meeting the growing transportation needs of the residents of and visitors to Oahu. It is also a crucial step in the development of Kapolei as a true "Second City." While the rail is not meant as a "silver bullet" that will eradicate our traffic issues, it is sure to alleviate congestion by providing a significant transportation alternative for thousands of residents.



*Representative Har participated in the annual "Read Aloud" event at Kapolei Elementary on January 26, 2011, in which dozens of community members visited the school to read to students. Rep. Har read to Miss Leslie Lekarczyk's 2nd-grade class, pictured here.*

**At the Capitol**

At the Capitol, the legislative session is well underway. Governor Abercrombie presented his budget to the legislature in late February, with his plans to address the approximately \$770 million shortfall our state is facing over the next two fiscal years. As a member of the House Finance Committee, I have been spending long nights in hearings on all of the bills that have financial implications for our state, and I will continue to scrutinize all of these proposals throughout the session as we work towards a balanced budget.

We are also nearing “crossover,” when the House must pass bills over to the Senate for its consideration, and vice versa. At this writing, several bills I have introduced are still under consideration in the House:

**Digital Media Infrastructure:** [HB1308](#) encourages the growth of a digital media industry in our area by creating an enterprise subzone centered around the coming University of Hawaii-West Oahu campus in Kapolei and tax credits to promote the building of digital media facilities in the area.

**Homeowners Renovation:** [HB1307](#) provides a temporary tax credit for home renovation expenses on a single residential property, which will help homeowners build equity while creating jobs in construction.

**Privatization of Public Buildings:** [HB1505](#) establishes the State Facility Renovation Partnership Program, which would create revenue by allowing the state to sell certain state buildings to private developers, who could then perform renovations and maintenance without the need for government bonds.

**Ignition Interlock:** With the Ignition Interlock law going into effect on January 1, 2011, [HB1435](#) offers some clarifications to the law, and allows repeat offenders, who are not currently allowed to install ignition interlock devices, to do so, along with extending the ignition interlock task force so that further recommendations can be made, if needed, now that the program is in place.



*The Cole Academy, an early childhood care and learning facility for children ages 6 weeks through 5 years, with facilities throughout Oahu, broke ground on its Kapolei campus on February 19, 2011. Pictured here at the groundbreaking ceremony are (L to R) Cole Academy founders Doug Ewatt and Gina Mangieri, their son Cole, Mufi Hanneman, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Councilman Nestor Garcia and Rep. Har.*



*On January 22, 2011, Rep. Har served as a judge for the Island Pacific Academy’s AP Government class as it prepared for its “We the People” competition. Rep. Har is pictured here with IPA students, staff, faculty and fellow judges.*

**Graffiti Paint-Out**

Mark your calendar! I will be sponsoring a community graffiti paint-out event on **Saturday, March 19th, 2011** from **9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** If you or your community organization is interested in volunteering for this event, know of any areas that could be painted, or have any questions, please contact my office at 586-8500 or [rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov) .