



OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE SHARON E. HAR

DISTRICT 42—KAPOLEI AND MAKAKILO | NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2014

Representative Sharon E. Har

HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Majority Whip

Vice Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Member, House Committee on Consumer
Protection and Commerce

HAWAII STATE CAPITOL

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Mark Your Calendar

Mid-Session Talk Story With Rep. Har

Saturday, March 8, 2014

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 15, 2014

10 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Kapolei High School Cafetorium

*Free, fun, family event feat. keiki IDs,
helmet fitting, entertainment & more*

After-Tax Shred Day

Saturday, April 26, 2014

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 3, 2014

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Kapolei High School Teacher's Lounge

*Re-cap highlights of the 2014
Legislative Session*

Aloha Friends,

Happy 2014! I hope that you and your families enjoyed a safe, happy holiday season, and that the new year is off to a wonderful start. As we begin a new year, we also marked the start of a new legislative session on January 15th. While the outlook is generally positive, it appears that many of my colleagues have already forgotten the austere times we just returned from and are already proposing new ways to tax and spend instead of finding ways that government services can be offered more efficiently.

Thank you to those of you who contacted me to suggest ideas for legislation. While I was not able to accommodate all of your requests, I hope you will find that the legislation I am introducing on behalf of Kapolei and Makakilo will reflect your input. I am a firm believer that government works for the people, not the other way around. As taxpayers, we are entitled to the services that are promised to us and are entitled to know that our money is being spent wisely. Government has failed when it asks for a tax increase (pension taxes, income taxes, general excise taxes, etc.) without first fixing wasteful spending and government inefficiency. For example, the state's HI5 recycling program alone has paid out more than \$6.2 million for recyclable materials that cannot be accounted for. To that end, I have introduced two bills that will correct the major deficiencies in the HI5 program.

There are many issues that are expected to crop up this legislative session, including: a minimum wage increase, marijuana legalization, and universal preschool education. While my guiding principle is to vote with the interests of ALL Kapolei and Makakilo residents in mind, I find it helpful to directly seek out your input on some of the most controversial issues. I hope you will both consider the survey that I have enclosed, but will take the opportunity to respond and let me know your thoughts. To save paper and postage, you may fill the survey out online (visit <http://tinyurl.com/kowrgf6>), respond by email (rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov) or by fax (586-8504).

I am honored and privileged to serve as your representative this year. Should you have any issues, questions or comments to share with my, please do not hesitate to contact my office using the contact information on this page.

Mahalo,

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rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov to sign up for our eNewsletter.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Kapolei Fire Station Grand Opening

Kapolei celebrated the grand opening of Honolulu Fire Station 43 on Thursday, January 16th. Already in operation for the past year, the new, state-of-the-art facility boasts a four-story training tower, an emergency depot, and features solar water heating, central air conditioning, a fire apparatus exhaust filtration system, an equipment decontamination room, a modern alerting system and more. Construction for the 23,400 square foot, station began in June of 2011, and took less than two years to complete. Station 43 is the first regional station for the HFD which will enable faster response time to our district and West Oahu overall.



Kapolei Fire Station



For up-to-date information on bills, hearing schedules, live streaming broadcasts of session committees, hearings, and more, visit www.capitol.hawaii.gov

2014 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES SURVEY

Your opinions on state and community-related issues are very important to me. Please take a moment to complete the survey below. Your responses will help me to better represent our district at the Capitol. I encourage you to contact me at anytime throughout the legislative session with your input, questions, comments and suggestions. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your participation.

In order for your survey results to be counted in our poll, you must include a valid name and district address. You may fill this survey out online at <http://tinyurl.com/kowrgf6> or email your responses directly to our office at har1@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

The State of Hawaii is currently experiencing a surplus of general funds and debating what should be done with the extra tax dollars. Please rank the following spending priorities from lowest (8) to highest (1):

Rank	Issue
	Replenish the Rainy Day and Hurricane Relief funds
	Statewide preschool education
	Watershed & invasive species protection
	Local agricultural Initiatives
	Transportation improvements (highway, public transit, etc.)
	The University of Hawaii System improvements
	The Dept. of Education - Public school improvements
	Return it (tax refund)

Please respond to the following statements by selecting the most appropriate response:	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1) I would be willing to pay more in taxes to ensure that all children have access to preschool education.					
2) Government should be able to use tax dollars to privately run pre-schools to offer tuition-free preschool education to eligible children					
3) I believe that government should support all farmers in the State of Hawaii so that at least 80% of our fruits and vegetables are locally produced.					
4) We should tax retiree pensions in excess of \$100,000.					
5) The State should raise the minimum wage.					
6) In addition to increasing the minimum wage, the state should also increase the tip credit.					
7) State government should spend surplus tax dollars on new programs.					
8) The state should collect the General Excise Tax (GET) on all online (Internet) transactions.					