



Representative Sharon E. Har
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Capitol Spotlight

Representative Sharon E. Har

2012 Legislative Session

Aloha Friends,

I hope this message finds you and your family in good health. This newsletter will provide you with an update on the results of this year's legislative session. With the flurry of news and the minute-by-minute commentary available in the Information Age, it is important to see where all the cards have fallen when the dust finally settles. It was a grueling 3-1/2 months of work that culminated with the House and Senate attempting to reconcile two very different plans for the economic recovery of our island home.

This year, the Speaker of the House asked me to participate in House leadership by serving as majority whip. This opportunity gave me more insight and ability to shape and strengthen legislation not just for the betterment of Hawaii, but to improve the quality of life for all residents of West Oahu. I shared with House Leadership what you have all told me. The quality of life in West Oahu is suffering because the cost of living grows every day. The infrastructure that was promised many years ago to improve our quality of life is not being built fast enough. Our schools in West Oahu are overcrowded, our local roads are congested, and hours that could be spent with family are instead spent on the H-1.

This session, I strongly supported using our limited government resources wisely. There is no room for redundant government services, and our tax dollars should be used only for core government services. I supported closing tax loopholes that have been exploited by people who do not want to contribute their fair share. During these hard economic times, we have all had to learn to do more with less, and my message to my colleagues was that government is not an exception to this.

Thank you all for the honor and privilege of serving you as your State Representative for the 2011 and 2012 Legislative Sessions. I hope to see you around West Oahu during the coming months. Please do not hesitate to contact me (586-8500, or rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can be of assistance.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sharon E. Har
 Representative, District 40 - Kapolei, Makakilo, Royal Kunia and Kalaeloa

Your Votes Were Counted

At the beginning of this session, I sent out surveys asking what we felt were the best uses of our taxpayer dollars. The results were tabulated and Public Safety was our district's top choice. I appreciate the time that many of you took to fill out the January surveys and the additional comments that you provided. Your thoughts guided me during the legislative session to work towards a better future for West Oahu.



Rep. Har and members of the House Finance Committee finalize the state budget on Sat., April 28, 2012, at 3:00 A.M.



The Hawaii National Guard's Youth Challenge Academy visits Rep. Har at the State Capitol in May.



Rep. Har congratulates longtime friend and mentor, Justice Sabrina McKenna, recognized as part of the 40th anniversary of Title IX.



The Kapolei High School Social Norms team was honored with an Ola Pono Award for their anti-drinking and drugs message, earning a \$1000 prize.

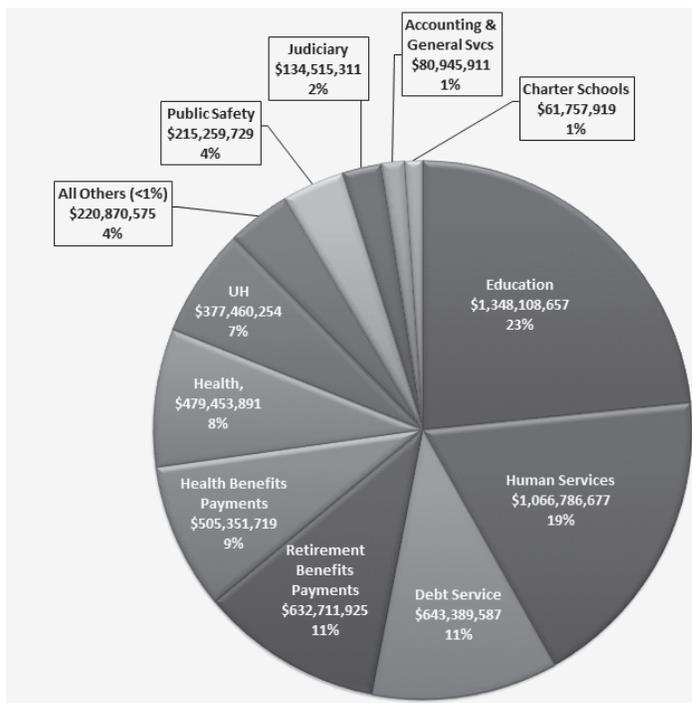
Getting Where You Need to Go - Safer and Quicker

Here in West Oahu, we know all too well that every moment we are sitting in traffic is one minute that we are not spending with our family. Here are some highlights of transportation projects that are recently completed or are underway:

- **H-1 corridor lighting:** Work has commenced to restore lighting between the Kunia and Kapolei interchanges.
- **Wakea Street interchange:** Additional H-1 freeway access has opened at Wakea Street (next to Zippy's).
- **Kapolei Interchange:** \$24.8 million authorized by the 2012 Legislature for improved freeway access for Kapolei & Makakilo.
- **Kualakai Parkway extension:** \$15 million in funding authorized in the 2012 supplemental budget by the Legislature to extend Kualakai Parkway between Kapolei Parkway and Roosevelt Avenue.
- **Zipper Lane Extension Study (HB 2684 HD2 SD2 CD1):** I cosponsored this bill which requires DOT to conduct a study on the feasibility of extending the morning zipper lane to Kapolei.
- **Ignition Interlock:** (HB 2320 HD2 SD2 CD1) Requires repeat offenders & those with lifetime revocations to install ignition interlock.

2012 Budget-in Brief

Below you will find a brief summary of how state government plans to use your taxpayer dollars this upcoming fiscal year.



It's a "Good Day for Bad Government"

Several measures were proposed this session to ensure that government is spending wisely, the money with which you as taxpayers have entrusted us with. These measures contained language that was heard separately at more than four hearings (far more than other measures heard before the Legislature). This legislation preserved all environmental protections, while eliminating repetitive government review.

Unfortunately, all of these bills died. The question, therefore, is why is state government conducting reviews of projects that have already fulfilled stricter federal review?

In a surprising move, 'tax-and-spend' environmental groups (that also supported proposals to (1) increase the barrel tax, (2) place a fee on plastic bags, and (3) litigate against a person who accidentally injures a native plant species) fiercely opposed legislation intended to fix government where it was not working correctly. It was not good enough that the environmental protections would be just as strong under the proposed legislation. It was not good enough that supplemental cultural and historic preservation reviews would still be conducted. Nor was it enough that public input was preserved. These environmental groups opposed legislation that would fix bad government.

We all love and take care of the environment as our island home, but while the Legislature proposed solutions, special-interest groups managed to hijack the discussion. Enough members of the Legislature caved to these special interest groups to defeat the measures. Despite the best efforts of myself and House leadership, duplicative government review goes on for another year and will continue to absorb tax dollars. It's a good day for bad government.



(left) Kapolei resident, Jennifer Wong (shown with friends and family) is honored for her presentation at the Leeward Science & Engineering Fair for uncovering a chemical precursor to liver disease. (center) Rep. Har honors Kapolei resident Kristie Kodama as one of the 2012 State of Hawaii Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year finalists. (right) The "We the People" team at Island Pacific Academy practiced early on Saturday morning with guest judges including Rep. Har to prepare for their competition. This year the team placed second overall.



Rep. Har shown with members of law enforcement and Mothers Against Drunk Driving at the opening of the first ignition interlock installation facility in Pearl City.

Ignition Interlock & Safer Roads

As you may recall, I introduced Act 171 which requires an interlock device placed into the cars of those arrested for drunken driving. Only seventeen months after the law was enacted, it is my pleasure to inform you that new laws governing the use of ignition interlock systems by drivers under the influence of alcohol have made our roads and our highways a safer place. As a victim of a drunken driving crash, driving under the influence (DUI) is absolutely unacceptable.

Ignition interlock systems prevent the vehicles of previous DUI offenders from starting if their measured blood alcohol level is above .02.

After the first year alone, 3,748 vehicle trips were prevented by offenders who consumed alcohol. Of that number, the driver was over the legal limit in 466 of those cases. And on 72 occasions, the driver was twice the legal limit.



(left) Rep. Har and her husband, Vince Todd, celebrate Makakilo resident Laura McDowell's graduation from Kapolei High School. (right) Rep. Ito (Kaneohe) shares his insights on the state budget with Rep. Har during session.



\$227 million in capital improvements coming to West Oahu!

West Oahu has suffered because we lack the infrastructure that government promised us. Overcrowded schools and congested roadways are all symptoms of this overarching problem. Since being elected, I have pushed for more infrastructure funding to help our community. You elected me to find solutions, and I believe that these investments made in the 2011-2012 biennium are a very good start:

University of Hawaii @ West Oahu	\$8,150,000
<i>Building construction, planning & design of campus facilities (Academy of Creative Media & an Allied Health Building), Farrington Hwy. road improvements and photovoltaic panel installation.</i>	
Kapolei High School	\$4,700,000
<i>The design and construction of a new locker room and showers for the athletic department.</i>	
East Kapolei High School	\$3,300,000
<i>Planning, design and land acquisition for a new high school serving West Oahu.</i>	
East Kapolei Middle School	\$2,500,000
<i>Design and site improvements for a new middle school serving West Oahu.</i>	
Royal Kunia Elementary School	\$375,000
<i>Planning of a new elementary school to serve Royal Kunia.</i>	
Makakilo Elementary School	\$484,000
<i>Design & construction of a portable special education building and site improvements.</i>	
Kapolei II Elementary School	\$40,000,000
<i>Land acquisition, design & construction of a new elementary school serving Kapolei & Makakilo.</i>	
Malama Learning Center	\$400,000
<i>Construction of a LEED-gold certified learning facility on the Kapolei High School campus.</i>	
Kapolei & Makakilo area schools	\$2,200,000
<i>Repair and maintenance to existing facilities at Barber's Point, Kapolei and Mauka Lani Elementary Schools, Kapolei Middle School and Kapolei High School.</i>	
Seagull Schools	\$3,000,000
<i>Classroom building construction at the Kapolei Elementary campus.</i>	
Honouliuli Internment Camp	\$100,000
<i>Funds an advisory group and educational center at the former Honouliuli Internment Camp.</i>	
Hawaii Army National Guard	\$79,300,000
<i>Planning, design and construction of new building in addition to electrical improvements and sustainability infrastructure at Kalaeloa.</i>	
Kalaeloa Harbor	\$27,200,000
<i>Planning, design and land acquisition for improvements to Kalaeloa Harbor.</i>	
H-1 Freeway Access	\$24,800,000
<i>Improvements to the Kapolei interchange to improve access to/from the H-1 freeway.</i>	
Kualakai Parkway extension	\$15,000,000
<i>Construction of a 1/2-mile extension of Kualakai Pkwy. between Kapolei Pkwy. and Roosevelt Ave.</i>	

(left) Rep. Har presented a lei to Army Private First Class Edward Barut on behalf of the House of Representatives in recognition of his service and sacrifice. He was awarded a Purple Heart Medal and a Combat Action Badge.