



REPRESENTATIVE SHARON E. HAR

# District 40 Update

Royal Kunia - Makakilo - Kapolei - Kalaeloa

APRIL 2012

HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hawaii State Capitol

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### Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I hope this finds you and your families well. It is hard to believe that there is only one more month left in our 2012 legislative session. Here in the House we have been very busy hearing bills that have crossed over from the Senate, as the Senate is working on hearing bills which originated in the House. Soon we will begin the conference committee process to reconcile any differences between House and Senate versions. There is still much to be done before we adjourn on May 3rd. I will continue to work on ways to improve all measures that come before me and fully address the diverse issues that are important to the people of our state.

Though we are in a much better budgetary situation this year than last, one of our most challenging and important priorities is still the state budget. We are focusing on spending wisely and creating a functional and comprehensive plan that both addresses Hawaii's immediate needs and also provides stability and opportunity for growth in the future.

As always, please feel free to contact me at [rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov) or 586-8500 with concerns or questions.

Aloha,

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

### Recognizing Jennifer Wong's Spirit, Dedication and Strength

On March 22, 2012, on behalf of the Hawaii State House of Representatives, I was honored to present a certificate of recognition to Kapolei High School student Jennifer Wong, for her outstanding academic achievements and groundbreaking discovery of a chemical precursor to the common liver disease, Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH). As I learned more about Jennifer, I was not only astounded by her research, but extremely moved by her triumphs over personal adversity.

Jennifer comes from a very humble background; her parents, both non English speaking immigrants from Hong Kong, came to this country seeking a prosperous life for their children. Upon their arrival in Hawaii, both parents faced the difficulties of the language barrier and were limited to minimum wage jobs. Her parents worked around the clock, instilling in both Jennifer and her older brother, the value of education and a dedicated work ethic. Sadly in 2006, when Jennifer was only 11 years old, she lost her father to a battle with liver cancer. This heartbreaking loss deeply affected her small family unit. Shockingly, less than a year later in 2007, Jennifer's older brother who helped raise her, died in a tragic motorcycle accident on Nimitz Highway. Such tragic losses are devastating, but to have occurred in such a short period of time must have been horrific.

Despite facing tremendous setbacks, Jennifer has exhibited a strength that is uncommon among adults and teenagers. Through her tragic experiences, she has found an incredible power to persevere. Jennifer was recently awarded First Place Overall at the 27th Leeward District Science & Engineering Fair for her project, "Human Hepatocellular Liver carcinoma cell line Hep-G2 cells: Inflammation response," which was inspired by her father's death. Jennifer's research, identified for the first time, a chemical precursor to the liver disease, NASH. She will compete at the Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair, which will take place April 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>, and has automatically qualified for the International Science and Engineering Fair which will be held May 13<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Jennifer has displayed tremendous resilience; rather than being held back by personal challenges she has turned them into inspiration and motivation. Her creativity, determination, and drive to help others are shown in her award winning project and her entire academic career.

I am extremely proud of Jennifer and her family. She is an outstanding and inspirational West Oahu student who serves as an example to our community and state.



From L to R: Mr. Reynon (teacher), Reisha (friend), Calvin (cousin), Ziwei (aunt), Samantha (friend), Danxia Wong (mother), Ms. Inouye (teacher), Jennifer Wong, Representative Sharon Har, Speaker of the House Calvin Say

### Certificates of Recognition for Eagle Scouts and the Aloha Council District Award of Merit

On March 9th, 2012, the Aloha Council Boy Scouts of America held their 2012 Ko Olina District Recognition Dinner at the JW Marriot Ihi-lani Resort. The evening celebrated the achievement, effort and fellowship of our Ko Olina district scouts and volunteers. A total of 18 volunteers were awarded certificates of recognition for their service, and Tyler Cain, Jared Kaonohi, and Christian Wilding were recognized for earning the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Additionally, two community volunteers were awarded the Aloha Council District Award of Merit which is the highest volunteer award presented at the district level. I was honored to present to Captain Stuart Hee of Makakilo Engine 35, the Aloha Council District Award of Merit, as well as a joint Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Hawaii State Legislature.

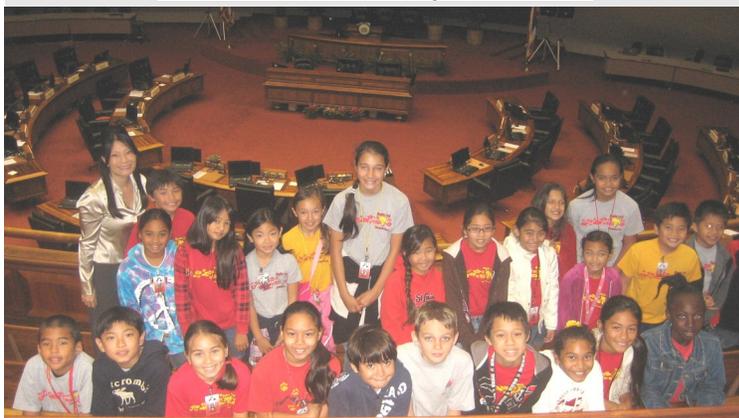
Captain Hee has been actively involved in fire exploration and safety since his senior year at Radford High School, and has dedicated much of his life to educating and protecting his community. In 1981 he became a member of the first Honolulu Fire Department Boy Scout Fire Explorer Post 331, which was formed at the Kalihi Kai fire station. On April 16 1986, Captain Hee became the first Fire Explorer to be hired by the Hawaii Fire Department and has since remained dedicated to the Fire Explorer program. He was reunited with the program by serving as a committee board member and later as a board member at the Nanakuli Fire Station Post 428. In January of 2011, along with his fellow crew members, Hee created the Makakilo Fire Explorer Post 235, where he now serves as the Post Advisor.

Today, Captain Hee and his crew devote significant time and energy to promote a hands-on youth program that combines fun with strong respect for fire safety. Captain Hee serves as an inspiration to us all by exemplifying the Boy Scouts of America mission statement: "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." Our Second City and the Honolulu Fire Department congratulate Captain Hee and his family for being recognized with the Aloha Council District Award of Merit and we are grateful for his service to the community as a firefighter and mentor to our keiki.



Standing L to R: Captain Stuart Hee, Lexi Hee (daughter), Joanne Hee (wife), Representative Sharon Har  
Seated L to R: Leatrice Sakuma (Stuart's mother in law), Janet Hee, George Hee (Stuart's parents)

### Mauka Lani Elementary 5th Graders



On March 7th, 2012, I had the opportunity to host Ms. Domingo's 5th Grade Class from Mauka Lani Elementary School during part of their visit to the Capitol. While showing them the House Chambers I was able to field some questions from the group about how our government works, and I could not have been more impressed with their thoughtful questions, high level of understanding, and positive attitudes. This was a great chance for me to get to meet some future leaders from West Oahu and I hope that they enjoyed themselves as much as I did.

### Go Paperless!

Check out my online newsletter at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=har> or send an email to [Har1@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:Har1@capitol.hawaii.gov) with the subject line "E-Newsletter Only" and we will add you to our email list (your address will be kept confidential) so you will receive the newsletter and updates via email rather than a hard copy in the mailbox.

Thanks for doing your part to save trees.

I would like to extend my **congratulations to Kapolei High School teacher Matthew Deeley** for his achievement of National Board Certification in the area of English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood. The certification process is arduous and demanding and his achievement of this certification is a testament to his character and will. I am glad to have Mr. Deeley as an asset to the students of our community as a teacher of English Language Arts, and Adolescence and Young Adulthood and I thank him for all he does for our students. and community.

### **Save the Date: Talk Story with Rep. Har**

I would like to thank everyone who joined me for my last Talk Story on Saturday, February 18. Please join me for the next Talk Story at **9:00 am on Saturday, May 12, 2012** at **Makakilo Elementary School Cafeteria**.