



REPRESENTATIVE SHARON E. HAR

District 42 Update

Kapolei - Makakilo

APRIL 2013

HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hawaii State Capitol

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Dear Friends:

I hope you and your families are well.

It is hard to believe that as of this printing there are only two weeks left of our 2013 legislative session. We have begun the conference committee process to reconcile differences between House and Senate versions of bills.

There is still much to be done before we adjourn on May 2nd and 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.

Please join me at my Talk Story on May 25, 2013 when I will provide a wrap-up of the 2013 Legislative Session.

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

Aloha,

Sharon Har
Representative, District 42
Kapolei, Makakilo



Talk Story with Rep. Har
NEW DATE:

Saturday, May 25 2013

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Kapolei High School
Teachers' Lounge

Did you forget to go paperless on the last newsletter? Help us save paper and postage! Send us an email at rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov to sign-up.

At the Capitol

While we are in the final days of the Legislature, the status of many bills (both good and bad) is still up in the air. If you were not able to come by the Talk Story I held in March, you should know that many bad bills appear to be dead for this year. This includes the legalization of marijuana and various tax increases (including the general excise tax and the transient accommodations tax). A previous version of the state budget (HB200) included several new additions to the budget that I had requested. This came in the form of funds for UH-West Oahu for new buildings, additional infrastructure and funds to hire additional staff. Look for my end-of-session newsletter when the budget has been finally voted on for my breakdown of how government plans to allocate your tax dollars.

Standing Up Against the Legalization of Marijuana

On March 27th, Rep. Har participated in a rally to raise awareness regarding the grave criminal and social effects of marijuana legalization. More than 250 representatives from law enforcement (Honolulu and Maui Police Departments), the Attorney General's office, students, small business, the faith-based communities, and labor rallied to dispel myths being used to rush laws legalizing marijuana through the Legislature. Marijuana is still a federally controlled substance, therefore possession is a federal crime. A press conference several days earlier by Smart Approaches to Marijuana (<http://learnaboutsam.com/>) highlighted research that demonstrated that marijuana legalization so far has only exacerbated the problems that it attempted to resolve. Currently, the only people who stand to benefit from legalization are big tobacco companies, and taxpayers will be stuck with the social ramifications. Legalization of marijuana will not solve the problem—the only solution is education. Rep. Har's work to keep the public safe culminated with the defeat HB699 and SB472.



Kapolei Elementary School - Read Aloud



On April 2, Representative Har joined other community members in participating at the Read Aloud event held at Kapolei Elementary School. At this event, Rep. Har shared her experiences with 4th graders in Mr. Tokumi's and Ms. Karnuth's (shown to the left) classes by answering questions about her responsibilities and duties as a representative of Kapolei and Makakilo. Rep. Har selected Lisa Matsumoto's How the B-52 Cockroach Got its Wings for its positive message that each individual has a special talent (even a roach) - and that talent is what they contribute to the world.

This event stresses the importance of taking the time to read aloud to our keiki for fifteen minutes every day to develop valuable skills in reading comprehension, vocabulary and English proficiency and the valuable role that we all play in the education of our children outside of the classroom.. For more information on Read Aloud, go to <http://www.readaloud.org>.

Home-Schoolers Get Involved at the Capitol



Students from Generation Joshua came to the Capitol this past month and met with Representative Har to discuss issues they were concerned with that the Legislature was considering. Generation Joshua provides leadership training opportunities for home-schooled teenagers so that they can be a positive influence in their communities and nation. Also shown above (center, behind Rep. Har) is UHWO student and Legislative Intern, Kourtney Katzenberger, who spent her Spring Break working for Rep. Har at the Capitol.

Kalaeloa Solar Farm Facility Blessing

On Friday, March 8, Rep. Har and other community members welcomed one of our newest neighbors to the community and Kapolei. Many of you might have noticed the array of black solar panels while driving down Makakilo, looking out over Kalaeloa. The 5-megawatt solar power plant is a great example of a public-private partnership between the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL), Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) and Renewable Energy LLC. This project is a shining example of the green-energy economy that we are establishing in the state. Those in attendance included Gov. Neil Abercrombie, newly appointed DHHL Director Jobie Masagatani and Robbie Alm, executive vice president at HECO.

The Kalaeloa Solar Farm will generate clean, renewable solar energy on DHHL land to be sold to HECO. The 5-megawatts of energy produced will help to satisfy Oahu's daytime energy needs while generating revenue that will benefit the Native Hawaiian Community. Construction of the 36-acre facility was completed by three local small businesses. Complete with sun-tracking technology, these solar panels will be collecting the maximum amount of sunlight available, regardless of the time of day, preventing the consumption of 400,000 barrels of oil over its twenty year life span.

For more information about the Kalaeloa Solar Farm and its partners, visit: <http://dhhl.hawaii.gov/2013/03/08/five-megawatt-kalaeloa-solar-farm-now-generating-power-on-oahu/>



(Shown L-R) Maluohai Resident's Association President Homelani Schadel, Representative Har and Kapolei Community Development Corporation (KCDC) President and Founder Shirley Swinney at the Kalaeloa Solar Farm Facility Blessing on March 8, 2013.