



Representative
 Sharon E. Har
 State Capitol, Room 438
 Honolulu, HI 96813



People First

Representative Sharon Har

2012 Legislative Session

Dear Friends:

Happy 2012! I hope that you and your families enjoyed a safe, happy holiday season, and that the new year is off to a wonderful start. On a personal note, this year has started very memorably for me, as I celebrated my wedding to Vince Todd on January 15, 2012. Vince is a UH-West Oahu professor, and you may have met him over the last few years as he accompanied me to many community events. We consider ourselves very fortunate to be embarking on the next chapter of our lives together.



Rep. Har and her husband Vince were married at Makakilo Baptist Church and hosted their reception at Lanikuhonua in Ko Olina.

Here at the legislature, the 2012 session began on January 18. We are excited this year to continue working on a number of important issues we addressed last year, as well as facing some new challenges and opportunities. As you may remember, we have dealt with significant deficits of \$2.1 billion, \$1.2 billion and \$1.3 billion over the past three legislative sessions. Fortunately, as the economy has continued to slowly improve, we are not anticipating another sizable deficit and may in fact see a slight surplus. (The Council on Revenues will meet again in March to give us a more detailed picture of the state's financial situation).

Even if there is a surplus, however, we still have some challenging work ahead of us as we work to stabilize our state's economy, promote growth and ensure that government's core functions of health and welfare, public safety and education are adequately fulfilled following several years of difficult cuts. As a member of the Finance Committee, my top priority will be reinforcing our state's economy by introducing bills to create jobs, to minimize government regulations impeding small business, and to ensure no new taxes from state government on businesses and residents. I will also be introducing a number of bills on a variety of topics, including strengthening penalties for uninsured and unregistered drivers, bringing creative industry jobs to Hawaii and streamlining procurement procedures. As we begin this legislative session, I also hope that you, my constituents, will take time to share your thoughts and priorities on our state's budget and other issues by completing the survey on page two.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov or 586-8500, and please visit my website, <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=har>, for information on the bills I am introducing, my latest newsletters, links to community resources and other updates. Thank you once again for the incredible privilege of serving as your representative in the Hawaii House of Representatives.

Mahalo,

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



Rep. Har, along with Sen. Gabbard, presents an honorary certificate to Dr. Heidi Kuehnle, President and CEO of Kuehnle AgroSystems, at the opening of its algae production demonstration site at the Chevron refinery in Kapolei on January 10, 2012.

2012 Talk Stories with Representative Har

Join me to talk story about community and legislative issues at 9:00 a.m. on the following Saturdays:

February 18, 2012
 Kapolei High School Teacher's Lounge
 91-5007 Kapolei Parkway, Kapolei

May 12, 2012
 Makakilo Elementary School Cafeteria
 92-675 Anipeahi St., Kapolei

Community Survey 2012: What Would You Do?

While our state is not facing the significant budget deficits that we confronted over the last three legislative sessions, we will still be focusing on achieving a balanced budget, boosting our state’s economy and making sure government services are adequately funded to meet the public’s basic needs of safety, education and health and welfare. As I strive to ensure that my approach to these challenges reflects the opinion of my constituents in the best way possible, I would like to know what you would do during this legislative session if you were the governor or a state legislator.

1. If you were the legislator for our district, what would be your top priority this session? Are there any other issues that you would like to see addressed this session? Are there any alternative funding sources you would explore as a state legislator?

2. In order to achieve and maintain a balanced budget, it is necessary to prioritize various government programs. How would you rank funding for the following programs? Please number these programs with 10 as the most important and 1 as the least important to you:

- _____ Education (K-12)
- _____ Education (Higher)
- _____ Health (Including Long Term Care)
- _____ Public Safety (Crime/Drug Abuse)
- _____ Environment
- _____ Economic Development (Jobs)
- _____ Transportation
- _____ Human Services/Welfare
- _____ Agriculture
- _____ Renewable Energy

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Would you like to join my community e-mail list, with my monthly newsletter and periodic updates on community events? _____

Thank you for your participation in this survey. Understanding your priorities helps me do my job in the best way possible for our district.

Funding Released for Area Projects

New state funding has been released for a number of projects in and around our district. The Department of Civil Defense has assigned \$2.2 million for improvement of Army Guard and National Guard Facilities statewide, including Buildings 46 and 1784 at Kalaeloa. In addition, the Hawai’i Community Development Authority will be undertaking improvements on Coral Sea Rd., Roosevelt Ave, Philippine Sea St., Eisenhower Rd, and Tripoli St, including the installation of signs, pavement markings, minor grading work, and lane realignment.

2012 Session Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to my staff for the 2012 session.

Alexis Chapman, my legislative aide/community liaison and will be working closely with constituents and community organizations. Alexis has lived in Hawaii since 2007 and is a graduate of the University of Sydney. **Ronson Dela Pina** will be serving as a part-time legislative aide. A 2011 graduate of Kapolei High School, Ronson interned in my office during the 2011 legislative session and we are pleased to have him back on our staff. **Samantha Howell** is my committee clerk, handling Water, Land and Ocean Committee responsibilities, along with work on bills I introduced. Samantha recently returned home to Hawaii after graduating from the University of Southern California.

Finally, my office manager **Melissa Nilles**, whom many of you have met at community events or spoken to when calling the office over the past few years, will be departing my office in February as her husband, a Naval officer, is being stationed in Yokosuka, Japan for the next few years. **Spencer Yim** will be taking over as office manager. Spencer, born and raised in Hawaii, is a University of Washington graduate, and previously worked as a committee clerk in the Senate during the 2011 session.



Along with Hawai’i Renewable Energy Development Venture Project Director Maurice Kaya, Sen. Gabbard, Gov. Abercrombie, House Speaker Say and Gas Company CEO Jeff Kissel, Rep. Har attended a December 15, 2011 blessing ceremony for the Gas Company’s new renewable natural gas plant in Kapolei.