



REPRESENTATIVE SHARON E. HAR

# District 40 Update

Royal Kunia - Makakilo - Kapolei - Kalaeloa

JULY 2011

HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hawaii State Capitol

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Dear Friends:

I hope this finds you and your families enjoying the summer months! Though the legislative session is over, I have been busy attending events throughout the community, including the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics Hawaii Summer State Games, and a luncheon to benefit the Mālama Learning Center, featuring Kathy Kohner Zimmerman, the "real Gidget."

I am also pleased to announce that state funding has recently been released or awarded to several projects in our area. Governor Abercrombie recently wrote me to share that the state is releasing \$3.52 million to begin the planning and design for Kapolei Elementary School II, while the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism awarded environmental grants to the Mālama Learning Center and to the Oahu Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in Kalaeloa.

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

Aloha,

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

## 'Ilima at Leihano and Mālama Learning Center Bring Gidget to Kapolei

On June 4, 2011, the 'Ilima at Leihano senior living center, currently under construction in Kapolei, sponsored a luncheon to help raise funds for the Mālama Learning Center, a non-profit organization located on the Kapolei High School campus and focused on sustainable living through hands-on art, culture, conservation and science activities.

The luncheon featured speaker Kathy Kohner Zimmerman, otherwise known as the "real Gidget." As a trailblazing female surfer in 1950s Malibu, Zimmerman inspired her father, Frederick Kohner, to write a popular 1957 novel featuring his daughter's alter ego, Gidget. The book, and the subsequent television shows and movies based on it - including "Gidget Goes Hawaiian" - helped popularize surfing to a new generation, and also helped move surfing from a "boys-only" activity to a co-ed sport. I joined many other community members in Kapolei on June 4, 2011, to hear Zimmerman, still a fit and active surfer at age 70, share her inspiring story and highlight the importance of staying young at heart and caring for the natural resources important to both surfers and our entire community.

'Ilima at Leihano and the Mālama Learning Center are both exciting additions to our community. 'Ilima at Leihano will be a 40-acre, resort-style retirement community with independent and assisted living options with social programs and maintenance services, among other amenities. Its community groundbreaking scheduled for mid-2012 and the first units are slated for move-in by late 2013. The Mālama Learning Center, meanwhile, is raising funds to construct a "green" building for the center on the KHS campus through the resources of private citizens, local businesses and government grants, including

\$775,000 in state grant-in-aid funding I worked to secure in the 2007 legislative session. For more information on 'Ilima at Leihano, visit [ilimaatleihano.com](http://ilimaatleihano.com), and to learn more about the Mālama Learning Center, go to [malamalearningcenter.org](http://malamalearningcenter.org).



Roslyn Vanderford Dayton, Mitch Brown (Chief Development Officer, Kisco Senior Living), Karine Akaka-Folau, Georgette Stevens (back row), Radiance Agtang, Pauline Sato (Mālama Learning Center), Kathy Kohner Zimmerman, Keala Stevens, Rep. Har, and Kimberly Salvador (front row) attended the June 4 event.



Rep. Har honored Kapolei Middle School teacher Tracy Taylor with a congratulatory certificate on June 16, 2011. Mr. Taylor, who teaches the Social and Popular Dance course at KMS, was named the Hawaii 2010 Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year and recently attended the Southwest District/National Convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in San Diego, where he was recognized as one of the top four middle school physical education teachers in the nation.

**Local Non-Profit Organizations Receive State Grants**

On June 22, 2011, the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism awarded \$600,000 in supplemental environmental project (SEP) grants to 11 organizations on the Leeward Coast. The funding for these grants came as part of a settlement agreement between the State Department of Health, the City and County of Honolulu and Waste Management of Hawaii, Inc. concerning the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill. Non-profit organizations who meet the goals of protecting and promoting public health and the environment in Leeward Coast communities were eligible for the grants, and I am pleased that two organizations in Kapolei received funding. The Mālama Learning Center received \$69,000 to support two pilot programs in its "Hawaii Green Collar Institute," which will mentor approximately 30 Leeward Coast students, introduce them to more than 10 "green" career paths, provide volunteer opportunities and create partnerships with local landowners and managers. The Oahu Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, located in Kalaeloa, will use \$20,000 to construct a spay and neuter clinic, with the goal of providing those services at a low cost to residents of the Leeward Coast.



*On June 16, Rep. Har presented congratulatory certificates to Kapolei Middle School students Serena del Banco, Anolani Vilorio and Melody Oki. The students, along with Ashley Cobbs (not pictured), were finalists in Olelo's Youth Xchange Video Competition, which judged 582 videos submitted by more than 1,300 students statewide on technical production and subject impact.*

**Special Olympics Hawaii**



*Rep. Har, along with Sen. Susie Chun Oakland presented a certificate to Special Olympics Hawaii CEO Nancy Bottello (center) at the Special Olympics Opening Ceremony on May 27.*

I was incredibly honored to attend the May 27 opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics Hawaii State Summer Games. More than 1,100 athletes from across the state participated in three days of power-lifting, softball, track and field and swimming events. Since its founding in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has been built on the belief that participation in sports provides enormous physical, social, mental and emotional benefits, particularly for people with intellectual disabilities, giving them an important opportunity to build camaraderie, gain confidence and learn new skills.

Special Olympics Hawaii is beginning work on a sports and fitness complex that will be located in Kapolei. I was very pleased to help them secure \$1.5 million in grant-in-aid funding from the state during this legislative session to move this important project forward, as it truly exemplifies an inspiring culture of respect, acceptance and equality, and will be a wonderful addition to our community.

**Design to Begin on Kapolei Elementary School II**

Governor Abercrombie recently wrote me a letter to inform me that he is releasing \$3.52 million in capital improvement project (CIP) funds to begin the planning and design for Kapolei Elementary School II. I worked to allocate \$40 million in CIP funds (funded by general obligation bonds that do not impact our general fund budget, and help spur the economy through increased construction) for this very important project during this past legislation session. Because of continued growth in our area, the construction of an additional elementary school is a high priority to alleviate overcrowding at Kapolei Elementary School, and the release of this first allotment for planning and design is necessary to move the project forward in a timely manner. I look forward to continuing to work with the administration and the Department of Education as this much-needed project moves toward completion.



*I had the privilege and honor of attending the June 10, 2011 retirement ceremony of Royal Kunia resident Col. Danny Melton aboard the USS Missouri. Col. Melton is retiring after a distinguished 31-year career in the United States Marine Corps, most recently serving as the Force Inspector General, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific. Pictured are Col. Melton's daughter Michelle, Rep. Har, Col. Melton, wife Yong Yol "Sonny" Melton, and son Jonathan.*