

Representative Sharon E. Har
HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES



Member, House Committees on Consumer Protection and Commerce; Culture, Arts, & International Affairs; and Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

HAWAII STATE CAPITOL

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Aloha Friends,

To those of you who completed our community survey that was sent out last month, thank you. I appreciate your input and continue to keep in mind your thoughts on the issues before the Legislature. As always, your survey responses will be tallied and reported to all of you in our end of the legislative session newsletter.

So far this year, Hawai'i has experienced our highest numbers of COVID-19 infections to date, along with the highest number of deaths. But the spike has now leveled, and I remain positive that we have turned the corner. As we did in 2020 and 2021, we will persevere as a community to overcome any future obstacles 2022 may present. Although the COVID-19 case counts have dropped dramatically, we are not out of the woods yet. Please continue to exercise proper social distancing, avoid large social gatherings, wear a mask, stay home if you are sick, and wash your hands frequently.

It remains the greatest honor to serve as your voice in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives. Please feel free to reach me at (808)586-8500 or rephar@capitol.hawaii.gov, should you have any questions or concerns.

With warmest aloha,

Sharon



VILLAGES OF KAPOLEI ROADWORK UPDATE



I am pleased to announce that Grace Pacific completed the road paving on Kapolei Parkway between Ft. Barrette and Kualakai Parkway. Grace Pacific started road paving earlier this month at Kealanani Avenue (between Farrington Hwy and Kumu Iki.)

With this update, Grace Pacific will be able to re-arrange their schedule to mitigate school traffic when they pave Kapolei Parkway eastbound lanes. The hope is to accomplish critical demolition work during the week of spring break, between March 14 and 18, 2022. Please be advised that "No Parking" signs at Kumu Iki Street will be put up in the upcoming weeks. Upon completion of repaving work, road signs will be installed or replaced. Should you see any missing street signs, please report them to VOKA at 808-674-4444.

FIREWORK BILLS MOVE THROUGH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



I am proud to inform you that the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce passed the following bills earlier this month:

[HB1695](#) - Increases from \$2,000 to \$5,000 the maximum fine that may be assessed against certain fireworks-related violations;

[HB1969](#) - Mandates each county to offer a monetary reward to individuals who report the illegal use of fireworks and to pay the reward under certain conditions;

[HB2273](#) - Specifies that certain violations of the Fireworks Control Law shall be considered a violation of noise control rules under the Hawaii noise pollution laws, punishable by civil penalties and subject to citations under those respective laws;

[HB2275](#) - Establishes an expeditious adjudication system for the processing of fireworks infractions.

While these bills still have a long way to go in the legislative process, I supported all of these measures as "additional tools," in combatting the problem of illegal fireworks. Please continue to track these bills as we all try to address the illegal fireworks issue as a community.



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RENTAL AND UTILITY RELIEF NOW AVAILABLE

The banner features three circular logos on the left: the State of Hawaii seal, the City and County of Honolulu seal, and the Rental and Utility Relief Program logo. To the right, there is a list of links: "Reopening Strategy (Honolulu's 9er System)", "Rental and Utility Relief Program", "COVID-19 Testing", "Vaccine Information", "Masks", "Travel Information", "City Proclamations, Orders, and Rules", and "Calendar". Below these links is the text "Contact Us" and "Join our team!". On the far right, there is a yellow button that says "Frequently Asked Questions". The background of the banner is a dark, leafy pattern.

Rental & Utility Relief Program

The City and County of Honolulu's Rental and Utility Relief Program (RURP) changed to allow more O'ahu residents to qualify. Since the program started in April 2021, more than \$115 million in federal funds have helped O'ahu residents. New funding rules from the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program allow residents to get support for 18 months instead of 12.

You may qualify if:

- You experienced economic hardship due to the pandemic since March 13, 2020.
- You had less income due to losing a job or work hours being cut.

OR

- You had an increase in household expenses.

For more information, please visit www.oneoahu.org/renthelp, or call 808-768-CITY (2489) from 8a.m. to 4:30p.m.