



REPRESENTATIVE SHARON E. HAR

# District 40 Update

Royal Kunia - Makakilo - Kapolei - Kalaeloa

JUNE 2011

## HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hawaii State Capitol

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### Dear Friends:

I hope this finds you and your families well! At the Capitol, we completed the legislative session in early May. Throughout the session, our top priority was to find solutions that would balance our budget, as we faced a shortfall of \$1.3 billion. We faced many difficult choices but I believe we found responsible solutions that maintain core governmental services, while cutting more than \$750 million in general fund spending.

Here in West Oahu, the long-awaited H-1 westbound on-ramp in Makakilo opened to traffic on May 16. This new on-ramp, which provides Makakilo residents with easier access to west Kapolei, Ko Olina and Waianae, marks the completion of Phase I, with further construction continuing throughout the summer on Phase II. Please see page 2 for more details on the next section of work.

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

Aloha,

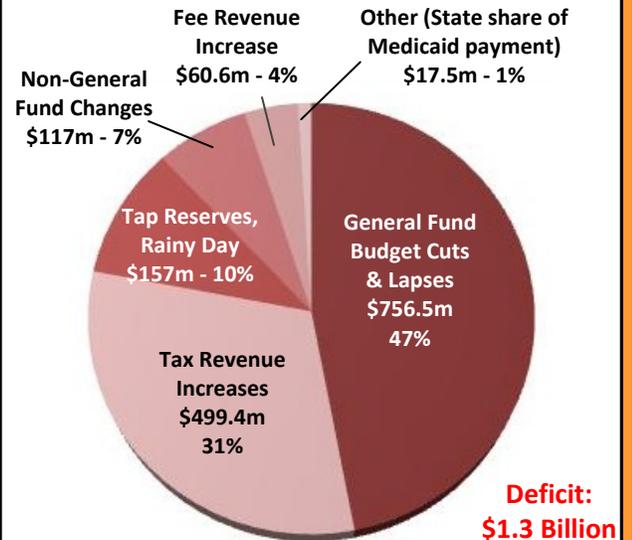
Sharon Har  
Representative, District 40  
Kapolei, Makakilo,  
Royal Kunia, Kalaeloa

### At the Capitol

With the legislative session now behind us having concluded on May 5, I wanted to take this opportunity to give you a brief overview of the state budget. As in the past several sessions, our most difficult task was to pass a balanced budget in light of a significant budget shortfall of \$1.3 billion (\$1 billion for the next two fiscal years, and \$300 million for the remainder of FY11). As a member of the budget (HB200) conference committee, I worked with my colleagues in both chambers to come up with a budget that makes government as efficient and cost-effective as possible, while ensuring we continue to provide core governmental services.

We focused on eliminating redundancies and inefficiencies in government, and made more than \$750 million in general fund budget cuts and lapses. However, in order to continue providing core governmental services, we also passed several measures to generate revenue. Fortunately, we were able to avoid options that included raising the general excise tax and taxing pension income. The measures passed include: repealing GET exemptions for certain business activities over the next two years, eliminating certain tax deductions for higher-income taxpayers, transferring money from special funds and increasing the rental car surcharge for a year.

### How the Budget Was Balanced



Estimates are cumulative over FY12-13 and remainder of FY11, and are subject to change as new information becomes available.

**Solutions:**  
**\$1.6 Billion**

## Save the Date: Transportation Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, June 30, 2011, 7 pm - 9 pm

Kapolei High School Cafeteria

*In response to many community concerns, I am sponsoring a town hall meeting with officials from the State Department of Transportation and the City's Department of Transportation Services to discuss area roadway projects and other transportation issues. I hope you will attend this important opportunity to speak directly with transportation officials about issues concerning our community.*

**New H-1 Westbound On-Ramp Opens**



*Area officials and representatives of the Kapolei Property Development, LLC (KPD) and Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co., Inc., untie the ceremonial maile lei, opening the new H-1 Kapolei Interchange Complex westbound ramps. Bill Wilson, President, Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co., Inc.; Dave Rae, KPD; Sen. Gabbard; Jadine Urasaki, state Dept. of Transportation; Rep. Har; Steve Kelly, KPD; Paul Harker, Federal Highway Administration; and Kahu Kordell Kekoa.*

I was very pleased to celebrate the long-awaited opening of the Makakilo H-1 westbound on-ramp on May 16, 2011. This on-ramp will greatly improve traffic for Makakilo residents, who no longer need to travel through Kapolei to get to Costco, Kapolei Commons and Waianae.

The opening of the Makakilo on-ramp marks Phase I of current construction efforts on H-1. Phase II (the eastbound H-1 on- and off-ramps and the new Wakea St. extension) is anticipated to open in the late summer or early fall. The eastbound on-ramp to H-1 will mean that drivers will not have to go through town to Makakilo Drive to get on H-1.

However, while work on Phase II moves forward, the H-1 Farrington Highway overpass will be closed in both directions between Kamokila Boulevard and the water park, which will lead to some short-term inconveniences as drivers adjust to the temporary new traffic patterns. A special duty officer will be posted at the intersection of Kalaeloa Blvd and Farrington Highway to control traffic and avoid

backups. While this may not completely alleviate the temporary traffic back-ups, I hope that motorists will be patient while Phase II is completed, as it will ultimately result in a much better balance of traffic flow throughout our area in the long term. Finally, I would like to urge area motorists to exercise caution and patience not only in the construction zones of Phase II, but in using the newly opened on-ramp and off-ramp, as all drivers grow accustomed to the changes in area traffic patterns.



*In addition to the Makakilo on-ramp, Phase I also includes a new H-1 westbound off-ramp, pictured here.*

**Free Emergency Preparedness Workshop at Kapolei Public Library**

June marks the start of hurricane season, and now is an important time to reassess your family’s plans in case of hurricanes, tsunamis, severe thunderstorms and other potential emergencies. Hawaii Red Cross and Kanu Hawaii will be sponsoring a free “Get Ready” workshop on **Saturday, June 25, 2011 at 10:30 am** at the **Kapolei Public Library (1020 Manawai St., Kapolei)**. This workshop will teach you how to make an emergency plan to make sure your family is safe, how to prepare a “go bag” and a “stay home” kit, and will cover resources from the city & county, state and federal government that will keep you informed in case of a disaster. There will also be information specific to the Kapolei area, including when and where to evacuate. No registration is required, and a drawing for one free emergency kit will be held at the workshop. For more information, contact the Live Aloha in Your Neighborhood team at Kanu Hawaii at [livealoha@kanuhawaii.org](mailto:livealoha@kanuhawaii.org) or 343-2428.



*On May 20, Governor Abercrombie signed SB2 (establishing a public lands information system) and SB1555 (establishing a public land development corporation) into law. Rep. Har joined (from L to R) Sen. Dela Cruz, Sen. Solomon and Rep. Chang at the bill-signing ceremony.*

**Mauka Lani Elementary Construction Update**

The Department of Education has informed me that construction will begin shortly on a project to improve the electrical system at Mauka Lani Elementary. The contract, in the amount of \$159,225, was awarded to Circuit Builders, Inc.