



REPRESENTATIVE SHARON E. HAR

District 40 Update

Royal Kunia - Makakilo - Kapolei - Kalaheo

OCTOBER 2010

HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I hope you and your families are well as we enter fall.

This month's newsletter includes several updates on openings and events in West Oahu. I was honored to attend last month's opening of the Parents and Children Together Economic Development Center in Kapolei, which will provide important economic services to low- and moderate-income families in West Oahu.

I also toured the Kunia Agricultural Research Station and learned much about the facility, which employs up to 400 area residents. Additionally, this newsletter contains information about a new supermarket coming to our area and a new traffic signal to alleviate problems near Kapolei Middle School, along with details on a few upcoming community events in October and November.

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

Aloha,

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

Parents and Children Together Economic Development Center Opens

Last month, I attended an open house and blessing for the West Oahu office of the Parents and Children Together (PACT) Economic Development Center, located at 1001 Kamokila Blvd., suite #106 in Kapolei. The Economic Development Center is designed to help Oahu residents who are unemployed, underemployed or whose income is low-to-moderate, and is dedicated to helping these individuals and families realize their economic potential.

Services offered at the center include home-ownership counseling and business start-up training, with an emphasis on core business training, business plan development, financial literacy and "one-on-one" coaching. The center also offers free job placement services, such as interview skills, resume workshops, job counseling and advice on strategic job searching. You can call the Kapolei office at 674-4233 to determine eligibility and to learn more about the services.



Pictured at the grand opening of PACT's Economic Development Center are Program Manager Woodrow Moore, Rep. Har, Program Director Catherine Lee Loy, Sen. Gabbard, and CEO Ruth Ann Quitquit.

Kunia Agricultural Research Station

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit the Kunia Agricultural Research Station, located on the ewa side of Kunia Road. Though Royal Kunia residents drive past this area daily, many may be surprised to learn about what goes on at the facilities located on this 2,300-acre parcel of land, where as many as 400 people are employed.

Only 50 percent of the area is actually tillable, with only a portion of that area in production at any given time. The remaining area is not usable for agriculture and is kept as open space. At the facility, Monsanto Hawaii focuses mainly on developing improved varieties of seed crops such as corn and soybeans. The facility is LEED-certified for its inclusion of a variety of green building features. The Kunia Research Station also features an employee building and a facility that processes seed from Kunia, Kunia Mauka and Haleiwa fields. The seed corn processed here is mostly grown for livestock consumption, rather than the sweet corn you see in farmers' markets and grocery stores.

Left-Turn Traffic Signal Installed Near Kapolei Middle School

In response to concerns from parents and community members, I worked with the Department of Transportation Services from the City and County to install a left-turn signal for drivers on Kama’aha Avenue who are headed makai and turning onto Kapolei Parkway.

As many area drivers know, the lack of a left-turn signal at this intersection has led to traffic backing up on Kama’aha Avenue, particularly when children are coming to and from school utilizing the crosswalk across Kapolei Parkway. The work was completed at the end of September, and should make a significant difference in alleviating the traffic concerns at that intersection.

Tamura’s Supermarket Coming to Kalaeloa

Many of you may have seen in the news that Tamura’s Supermarket will be coming to the old Barbers Point Navy Commissary by the end of this year. I know many residents of West Oahu will be pleased to have another grocery store option available! The roughly 13,000-square-foot facility will be a full-service grocery store, with produce, meat, general groceries, liquor and seafood, including poke.

Tamura’s expects to hire about 50 full- and part-time employees for the Kalaeloa store. Because the former commissary was left in nearly turnkey condition, the opening will take place relatively quickly, with a larger grand opening planned for the next three to four months, after a liquor license is obtained.

Fundraiser to Raise Awareness on Dyslexia

On Saturday, October 9th, the Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii (DTCH) will host its second annual fundraiser at Wet ‘n’ Wild Hawaii in Kapolei. Rides will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and after 4:00 p.m., carnival games for the keiki and live entertainment will take place in the Luau Lagoon.

DTCH, which is located in Ewa Beach, provides tutoring services for individuals with dyslexia, and this fundraiser gives the community the opportunity to support DTCH’s important mission, all while enjoying the fun and excitement of a full day at Wet ‘n’ Wild.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling DTCH at 676-5515.

Free Native Hawaiian Plants Workshop

As part of its Arbor Day project, the Hoakalei Cultural Foundation is hosting a free mini-workshop for the community on November 6, 2010. Participants will receive a free kit of three Native Hawaiian Plants. The kit will include a ground cover called ‘Ākia (Wikstroemia uva-ursi), a shrub called Kulu’i (Achyranthes Splendens) and a Hawaiian Gardenia tree called Nā’u (gardenia brighamii).



Each session at Keone’ula Elementary School’s cafeteria (91-970 Kaileolea Dr. in Ewa Beach) will include a brief presentation by Certified Arborist Roxanne Adams from Native Pathfinders on caring for the native plants and how to incorporate them into landscaping designs. Participants will learn about the traditional uses of these plants and will also be able to ask questions of the experts.

Workshops will take place at 8, 9, 10 and 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 6. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, please e-mail the foundation at kupuna@hoakaleifoundation.org by November 1.