

*U.S. House of  
Representatives*

*2nd Congressional  
District of Hawai'i*

*110th U.S. Congress*

The American Association of University Women congratulate **Congresswoman Hirono** on receiving a 100 percent voting rating in their recently published Congressional Voting Record for the 110th Congress, First Session.



#### **By the Numbers:**

Congresswoman Hirono ranked #4 among 56 freshmen and #43 among all 435 members of the House of Representatives for her success in securing funding for the state of Hawai'i in the fiscal year 2008 appropriations cycle.

Source: Congress Daily  
Feb. 15, 2008

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# From The Office of Congresswoman Mazie Hirono

Spring 2008

[www.hirono.house.gov](http://www.hirono.house.gov)

## Transportation Chair Gives Hawai'i A Major Boost

The chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Congressman Jim Oberstar (8th-MN), toured Hawai'i's 2nd Congressional District with Congresswoman Mazie Hirono (2nd-HI) to get a first hand look at a number of high-priority transportation projects in Honolulu and in Maui County.



Transportation Chairman, Rep. Jim Oberstar and Congresswoman Mazie Hirono prepare to tour projects in Hawai'i.

The two lawmakers flew by helicopter over Maui's Honoapi'ilani Highway, the closed section of Pi'ilani Highway, as well as Kahului and Hana Harbors. In addition, Rep. Oberstar visited the island of Lana'i.

Chairman Oberstar also threw his full support behind the City and County of Honolulu's proposed rail transit system by pledging to fight for some

\$900 million in federal funding.

The estimated cost of Honolulu's rail system is \$3.7 billion. Groundbreaking on the project is expected to take place at the end of next year.

## Hirono's House Highlight — PRE-K Act (H.R. 3289)

Congresswoman Mazie Hirono is a leading proponent of increasing high quality early education opportunities for America's children.

Her bill, Providing Resources Early for Kids, or "PRE-K" Act of 2007 (H.R. 3289), is based on the latest research that shows children, espe-

cially those from low income families, who enroll in a high quality preschool, dramatically increase their chances of succeeding in school and in life.

"I'm working to get the PRE-K Bill passed by the House," Hirono said.

Continued on page 2.

## Preserving Hawai'i's Coastal Areas A Priority

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently updated Congresswoman Mazie Hirono on the latest efforts to maintain and preserve the popular Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge on the island of Kaua'i.

"One of my priorities in the U.S. Congress is to preserve Hawai'i's natural resources, particularly on the coastal areas," Hirono said. "It is a commitment of mine and a commitment shared by many here on Kaua'i."

Congress has already given the authorization

to acquire the land for expansion of the national wildlife refuge.

Federal funds are now being sought to make that purchase.

The refuge currently covers some 300 acres. The expansion will head eastward to include the Kilauea River Estuary and neighboring coastline.



Congresswoman Hirono inspects latest coastal survey data on Kaua'i

### PRE-K (continued)

***The PRE-K Act is one of the best investments we can make in our children.***

The PRE-K Act establishes a partnership between the federal government and the states to improve preschool programs serving children 5 years of age and younger.

The bill authorizes \$1 billion a year over a five year period to strengthen existing preschool programs based on each state's particular needs.

States could use the funds to train teachers, provide children with health services, or extend the number of hours per day centers are open, among other quality improvements.

"The PRE-K Act is one of the best investments we can make in our children," said Hirono.

## Hawai'i Needs Energy Independence, Solutions

It's no secret that Hawai'i's residents face some of the highest energy costs in the nation, dealing with soaring electric bills while, in some places, paying more than \$4 a gallon for gas.

"I have listened to numerous families and business owners in Hawai'i, and their anxiety over our uncertain future is both real and widespread," said Hirono. "How can we not be troubled when the cost of gas increased threefold in less than eight years?"

Congresswoman Hirono is working to pursue innovative solutions to solve the energy crisis, with a keen eye to reduce our island state's dependence on foreign oil.

"There are a number of efforts under way to take advantage of Hawai'i's year-round tropical climate — exciting work that'll pave the way for our future energy needs," said Hirono.

Continued on page 4.

## 2008 Congressional Art Contest Winners Announced



Above: Maui Mayor Charmaine Tavares, Baldwin Art Teacher Janet Sato, 2nd place winner Amanda Bowers, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono. Upper Right: Art of 1st place winner Anna Dobos, of Hilo High School, titled, "Awaiting the Ride Home." Left: Art of 3rd place winner Chy Ann Raymond, of Kapolei High School, titled, "Life Cycle."

Congresswoman Mazie Hirono has announced that Hilo High School junior, Anna Dobos, is the grand prize winner of the 2008 Congressional Art Contest, "Kaha Ki'i: An Artistic Discovery."

Dobos' winning work, titled, "Awaiting the Ride Home," representing the 2nd Congressional District, will be displayed for a year at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

"This art contest is one of

the ways we can encourage the creativity of our young people," said Hirono. "It's critical in this fast-changing world, which is why supporting creativeness in our young people is more important than ever."

The congresswoman also congratulated Amanda Bowers, of Baldwin High School on Maui, for her second place entry, titled, "Pollution," along with Kapolei High School's Chy Ann Raymond who

took third place for her work, "Life Cycle."

Dobos and Hilo High School art teacher, Gale Wallace received a round-trip visit to Washington, D.C. to participate in an unveiling at the Capitol Building.

In all, 134 students from, Kaua'i, Maui, Oahu, and the Big Island entered the prestigious contest.

***Congresswoman Hirono extends a heartfelt "Mahalo" to this year's participants, teachers, donors, and corporate sponsors for helping make this year's Kaha Ki'i Congressional Art Contest a resounding success.***

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NOTE: For quicker service,  
please send postal mail to  
Mazie's Hawai'i office.

**COMMITTEES:**

Education and Labor  
Committee

Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee

Small Business Committee

**Mazie Reminders:**

*Registration Deadline  
for Primary Election  
August 21, 2008*

*Registration Deadline  
for General Election  
October 8, 2008*

*Absentee Ballot  
Applications  
Begin July 22nd*

**Voter Registration Info:**

[www.hawaii.gov/elections](http://www.hawaii.gov/elections)

**Energy Solutions (continued)**

In addition to producing energy from solar, wind, and fuel cell technology, we can take advantage of the ocean as a potential energy source. Energy generated from waves and the production of biofuel from marine algae, which thrives in seawater, are just two examples. Development of homegrown bio-fuels is critical for us to wean ourselves from oil over the long term.

"I've held meaningful discussions with Hawaiian Electric and the Kauai Island Utility Co-Op on this critical issue and most recently received an update from the Gay & Robinson Plantation on its work to utilize some 7,500 acres of sugar cane fields to produce energy," said Hirono.

The congresswoman's meetings with constituents and groups in Hawai'i have translated into action on Capitol Hill. "I am an original co-sponsor of a

bill that provides more than \$8 billion in long-term tax incentives for electricity produced from renewable energy sources," said Hirono.

The bill, H.R. 5351, passed the House recently. "In addition, I am proud of landmark energy legislation that passed Congress and has just been signed into law. This comprehensive measure establishes a new vehicle fuel economy standard (35 mpg by 2020), expands the renewable fuels standard, supports alternative energy research and development, invests in training opportunities, funds cutting-edge energy research for 'green' jobs, and sets new energy efficiency standards for appliances, lighting, and buildings."

"The energy crisis is not new. We have experienced gas shortages and high energy costs before. What's new is the convergence of need, new technology, and our collective will to secure our energy future," said Hirono.

**"Congress On Your Corner" Visits Rural Oahu**

Nanakuli and Oahu North Shore residents shared their thoughts and concerns with Congresswoman Mazie Hirono during recent "Congress On Your Corner" events in March.

People gathered at Haleiwa Elementary School to raise issues such as the economic stimulus package, coastal protection, and bringing an end to the war in Iraq.

Nanakuli residents took advantage of the intimate, face-to-face setting to also share their views on renewable energy, the Iraq war, while also expressing their frustrations over the traffic gridlock commuters face along



Congresswoman Hirono discusses constituent concerns.

the Waianae Coast.

Congresswoman Hirono has held numerous "Congress On Your Corner" gatherings in Hawai'i's 2nd Congressional District, including locations in Kahului, Kaneohe, and Kona.